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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

SENATE—Tuesday, July 26, 2011

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our shelter in the time of storm, our strong tower, we praise Your righteous Name. Lord, preserve this Nation by the power of Your might, leading our Senators through this challenging season of our Nation's history. Keep them from the pit of disunity and discord and empower them to build bridges of cooperation. Give them the courage and humility to do what is right, knowing that You are the only constituent they absolutely must please. Help them to discover the joy of trusting You and the peace of doing Your will, receiving the strength You provide to those who love You.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 26, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. SHAHEEN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will be in morning business until 12:15. The majority will control the first 30 minutes, the Republicans will control the second 30 minutes. At 12:15 p.m. the Senate will be in executive session to consider the nomination of Paul Englemayer to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York and Ramona Manglona to be District Judge for the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be 2 minutes of debate prior to a rollcall vote on confirmation of the Englemayer nomination. The Manglona nomination is expected to be confirmed by voice vote. I would ask my friends on the Judiciary Committee—I am not sure we need the 2 minutes of debate today. It was already debated yesterday. I would hope we can go directly to that vote at 12:15.

The Senate will then recess until 2:15 to allow for the weekly caucus meetings. At 2:15 the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1323, the legislative vehicle for the debt limit increase.

DEBT CEILING PLANS

Mr. REID. Madam President, there has been a lot of talk in the last 24 hours about so-called dueling plans to raise the debt limit and avert a dangerous default to this nation's financial obligations. As far as I can tell, the only dueling going on in Washington today is between the Republican Party's multiple personalities—and there are quite a few.

Last night I introduced an amendment that I thought was fail-safe. It would prevent default using only proposals Republicans have already supported. Yet House Republicans had harsh words for the Democrats' plan yesterday—odd, considering every bit

of our proposal was taken from the Republican playbook. Let me explain the plan.

It would avert default while cutting \$2.7 trillion from the deficit in the next decade. It would cut more money, more quickly, than the competing proposal introduced by Republican leaders yesterday, and it would last for a long time, not just a few months so we would be back in the trenches doing the same thing at Christmastime we are doing now.

The proposal includes no revenues, as House Republicans insisted it must not. It holds harmless even the most wasteful of tax breaks and giveaways to big oil companies and billionaires, which Republicans have vowed to protect even if it costs our economy in the process.

It establishes a joint congressional committee to find additional savings this year and guarantees that the committee's recommendations will be an up-or-down vote on the Senate floor, no amendments, no filibuster, yes or no. We have done this before. It worked well with our base closing legislation a few years ago.

Every single spending cut in the proposal has already been endorsed by Republicans. I repeat: Every single spending cut in the proposal has already been endorsed by Republicans. The cuts have already been voted for by Republicans in both Houses of Congress.

In short, it is everything the Republicans have demanded wrapped up in a bow and delivered to their door. But now Republicans say their demands, which have been met in full, are not enough. They insist instead that we pass their plan, a similar plan in many respects, save for several crucial details.

Their plan also raises the debt ceiling but for only a few months. It cuts spending and includes no revenue increases. These are the major differences: It does not cut as much from the deficit as the legislation I introduced last night—in fact, not nearly as much. It is a short-term fix that Republicans know is untenable to Democrats and the White House and Congress. In short, the Republican plan

they know will not pass the Senate of the United States.

Not long ago, it was untenable for the Republicans. This is what Speaker BOEHNER said about short-term measures in May. Speaker of the House of Representatives JOHN BOEHNER said this in May:

I am not really interested in a short-term increase in the debt limit. Our economy won't grow as long as we continue to trip it up with short-term gimmicks from Washington.

House Majority Leader CANTOR echoed the sentiment in June:

I'm not sure how if we're not willing to make tough decisions now, we'll be willing to make them later. . . . It is my preference that we do this thing one time. . . . Putting off tough decisions is not what people want.

We agree. We agree. Certainly we agree.

This is what the Washington Post said about Republicans' bizarre about-face yesterday: "It seems that perhaps the only meaningful difference between the two plans is that the Democratic plan gets it done in one fell swoop, while the GOP proposal does a short-term deal followed by another a year later, something that financial analysts say could lead to a downgrade of the U.S. credit rating and that Republicans themselves once opposed."

In fact, rating agencies have said as late as last night that the plan that I introduced will not cause a downgrading of our credit. The one the Republicans introduced will.

The Republicans are insisting we relive the endless negotiation and partisan wrangling of the last 6 weeks again 6 months from now with no good outcome guaranteed. I have said a short-term solution is no solution at all. It puts us right back in this untenable position a few short months from now. It gives the markets no stability, it gives the American people no certainty, and it gives the credit rating agencies no choice but to downgrade U.S. debt, a move that would cause interest rates to rise and effectively increase taxes for every American—every American.

Market analysts and credit rating agencies have said a short-term fix would risk many of the same effects as a default, and that is a risk our economy cannot afford. If Republicans continue to oppose the reasonable proposal I brought to the floor last night—and which we will vote on here in the Senate soon—it will be for political reasons driven by the ideological tea party. It will be crystal clear that Republicans do not care if we default on the debt. That is sad but true. After all, we have given them a plan that should, by all rights, be guaranteed to pass the House, and with Senate support here, which we should have, it should pass both Houses. Yet they have trashed it right out of the gate.

Yesterday, the Washington Post called this debate over whether to de-

fault on the full faith and credit of the United States of America "surreal" and "bizarre." Those were their words. This commentary is valid. Reasonable Republicans have been offered absolutely everything they have asked for. Still they refuse to take yes for an answer, all because of a cadre of unreasonable tea-party-driven House Republicans. That is too bad.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12:15, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes, and the Republicans controlling the second 30 minutes.

The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I want to thank Leader HARRY REID for stepping into the breach in this situation and offering us a way out of this what I consider to be a Republican-made crisis. Why do I say that? The debt limit has been increased 89 times since 1939, 55 times under Republican Presidents and 34 times under Democratic Presidents.

Never has either party brought us to this brink of default. Never. Never. Never in the history of America. It is a manmade crisis. It is a Republican-made crisis. It has never happened before. The real challenge we face is clearly with our deficit and our debt. The good news is that we had this crisis before, this challenge before, and we stepped up to the plate. We passed a budget when Bill Clinton was President that not only balanced the budget—and we did not need an amendment to the Constitution to do it, we did it by working it out, by cutting out the waste and the fraud and abuse in government, by choosing to invest in important areas such as education, high-tech—biotech at that time, which created jobs, which created so many jobs in this country—23 million jobs. That was the absolute result of this very good budget.

A budget expresses the hopes and dreams of the people, the priorities of the people. That challenge was met before, so we know how to do it. You sit down, you figure out what is a waste of spending, what is important spending, and you pursue policies that create jobs. We did it before, we can do it again. It is a challenge, but we can do it because we did it.

Others will say in order to do it you have to have a balanced budget amend-

ment to the Constitution. Well, the facts do not back that up. In order to get a balanced budget, you simply have to balance the budget. You simply have to do the hard work to get it done.

This manmade crisis, this Republican-made crisis, is totally unnecessary. I never heard one of these folks who says, let's go into default—I never heard them speak out during the George W. Bush years when we raised the debt ceiling seven times, and some of them were around during the Reagan years, and 18 times the debt ceiling was raised. Under George W. Bush, my Republican friends raised the debt ceiling by 90 percent. President Obama is asking for an increase of about 18 percent. So, America, figure it out. All of a sudden, after putting two wars on the credit card, tax cuts to millionaires and billionaires on the credit card as my Republican friends did, a prescription drug policy which was not paid for—none of it was paid for—they put it on the credit card. And now they say: Oh, woe is me. We have a debt.

Well, they should have discovered that before. In 8 years George W. Bush turned a \$236 billion surplus into a \$1.3 trillion deficit, and that is what President Obama inherited. We have a moment of opportunity here, and I think what Senator REID has done is given us a way out of this mess. We put into place \$2.7 trillion of cuts, and we give a sense of certainty to the marketplace for 18 months that this debt ceiling is taken care of.

Let's get back to business around here of taking care of this long-term deficit and debt challenge, and creating jobs for our people and protecting Medicare and Social Security and all of the rest that we have to do.

We have to build infrastructure. I am the chairman of the committee that is in charge of the highway bill. We have good bipartisan cooperation, but we need to get this resolved.

The Boehner plan is so short term it sends a chill through the marketplace. I used to be a stockbroker many years ago. When the President got a cold, the stock market went down. It is very sensitive to these things. The Boehner plan, according to some commentators, will cause a downgrade of our securities.

I don't think we should be in the business of downgrading America. We should be in the business of lifting America, of letting the people know we are taking care of their business.

The Republicans' interest is going after the middle class, the working poor, to protect the millionaires and the billionaires. Here is where we are with that policy: The 400 richest Americans have more wealth than the first 50 percent of the American people. Imagine, the richest 10 percent of all Americans controls two-thirds of America's net worth. The average CEO

receives 180 times more in compensation than the average production worker. In 1965, CEOs made 24 times more in compensation. Now it is 185 times.

What we hear when we suggest millionaires and billionaires pay just a little bit more to help America get out of this challenge we face is an almost out-of-control defense from the Republicans about why we should not even consider asking them to pay even 2 cents more. They say: Don't tax the job creators. I said to my staff: Let's take a look at who are the job creators and what they earn.

As everybody knows, the small businesses are the biggest job creators. I wish to make it clear that only 1.4 percent of taxpayers with any business income make over \$500,000 per year. What I am saying is, they say don't tax the job creators, and we are looking at taxing people over \$500,000 a person. That is only 1.4 percent of the job creators. We are not touching 98 percent of the job creators. So don't get up there and say we want to tax job creators—not true. We do want to ask millionaires and billionaires to pay their fair share.

On July 21, 200 millionaires signed a letter asking congressional Republicans to consider sealing the budget gap with increased revenue—higher taxes on them. They say:

Despite our willingness to provide additional support to the country financially to assure its continued well-being, despite the overwhelming support of the idea among the American people, despite the reality that millionaires like us are paying lower taxes now than at any other time in the last 60 years, and despite the fact that the Bush tax cuts are the single largest cause of the deficit, you have repeatedly refused to consider reasonable steps to address our country's fiscal challenges.

They say they are reiterating their demand that we look to the millionaires and billionaires. Look, our challenges of deficit and debt can, in fact, be met. We know the road. The road is clear. The road was built by President Bill Clinton and the Democrats at that time and eventually a lot of Republicans came on with us—eventually. In the beginning, they predicted gloom and doom from the Clinton budget.

I have a bunch of quotes from Members who are still here on the Republican side who said the Clinton budget is going to lead to a recession, it is going to lead to unemployment, and it is going to lead to deficits. But we went into a great period of prosperity, with 23 million jobs, a budget in balance, and a debt about to be extinguished down the road. That all got upended by the Republican plan to lower the taxes on the richest Americans and put it on the credit card, to go into two wars and put it on the credit card, pass a prescription drug benefit and protect Big Pharma by saying Medicare cannot negotiate for lower prices. They put that on the credit card.

It is no wonder we face this problem. When President Obama got in, we were

bleeding jobs at 800,000 a month—almost 1 million a month. President Obama and all of us knew there was a frozen banking system. We had to make sure that credit system was working. We had to make sure we created some jobs. We passed the stimulus bill. Despite all the talk about how it didn't work, experts say it stopped a depression. So, yes, we had to add those things as well.

Now it is time to pull together as Americans. This isn't about Republicans or Democrats. The people of this country agree that millionaires and billionaires should pay more. Right now, what Senator REID has said is let's set that aside, get on with our work and get out of this mess and, for 18 months, give a sense of certainty to the marketplace and let's address the issues.

JOHN BOEHNER, who spoke to the Nation last night, is presenting a patchwork quilt that expires in a few months, and we will be back to this nightmare. We face downgrades of our creditworthiness. Let's get behind the Reid proposal and work together and get this country back on its feet. Uncertainty is the worst option.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, this is a historic week in the Senate. She has spelled out what we face. I guess most people around America are looking at Washington and Capitol Hill and asking if there are any grownups left; can't adults sit down there in both political parties and solve our Nation's problems? It is a legitimate question because we are up against the deadline of August 2, the expiration of America's mortgage, the debt ceiling. It means that for the first time in history, if we don't act, we will default on our debt.

That is significant because the United States enjoys a reputation around the world—the highest economic reputation around the world, a AAA bond rating, which is as good as it gets. If a person asks for credit and they have that rating, they are in great shape; they can borrow what they need at a good interest rate. That is what we have today. If we fail to do what we are supposed to do between now and August 2 and default on our debt, it will be the first time it has occurred, it will mean the promise of America to pay its bills has been broken, and it will mean our creditors around the world will have questions about whether we can be trusted. When creditors have questions, they cover the risk by raising interest rates. So if the interest rate on America goes up 1 percent—just 1 percent—it costs us \$130 billion a year, added to our debt; projected over 10 years: \$1.3 trillion for every 1 point interest. So tempting fate and going to August 2 in that circumstance is not good, not just because America's debt

grows but because interest rates around America will then rise with it. So if one is borrowing money for a car, a home or on a credit card, their interest rates will go up. Congress, without passing a tax bill, has just imposed a new tax on us. It will be the tax for defaulting on our debt ceiling.

What we are trying to do this week is to work out some sort of an agreement between Republicans and Democrats, House and Senate, and the President to avoid this crisis. As the Senator from California accurately said, this is not a crisis similar to a natural disaster or even a terrorist attack; this is a manufactured political crisis on Capitol Hill. We don't have to have this. It has never happened before. What we are doing with this kind of a "High Noon" scenario, waiting until the last minute to solve our problem, is creating a problem that will cost us dearly. There are ways around it.

Majority leader HARRY REID is going to come forward on the Senate floor on behalf of the Democrats, and we hope with Republican support, with a plan to deal with this deficit and this debt ceiling. What the majority leader will propose is that we will make cuts in spending, which will reduce our deficit \$1.2 trillion in cuts over 10 years. I think it is a significant indication that we are serious about our debt.

In addition to that, what we will have is an increase of our debt limit until February of 2013. It is only in Washington, as one of my colleagues said this morning, that 18 months is considered a long-term commitment. What we know is that if we don't make a long-term extension of the debt ceiling, we are going to have to go through this scenario—political scenario—again and again. Each time we do, it calls into question the credit status of the United States. So what we are going to try to do this week with bipartisan support is move forward in dealing with this crisis in a responsible way—reducing spending, extending the debt ceiling; and I can say that everything included in Senator REID's proposal, which he brought to the floor, has been either proposed by or voted in favor of by Republicans. It is a bipartisan approach. I think it is an honest approach. I am hoping we can reach an agreement on it.

I see my colleague from Maryland. I ask him if he is asking for time in morning business and how much time.

Mr. CARDIN. Ten minutes.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, how much time remains in morning business on the Democratic side?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There is 13 minutes 40 seconds remaining.

Mr. DURBIN. I will be brief and then yield to my friend from Maryland.

I believe we can deal with our debt responsibly. I say that having been through a year and a half working on

this issue. I am still not an expert, but I know a lot more about it than I did from the start. Democrats and Republicans worked together on the President's deficit commission and came up with a plan supported by 11 out of the 18 members, including myself, and a number of Republican Senators and Democratic Senators, including KENT CONRAD, chairman of the Budget Committee. We all supported it. We believe there is a way to reduce the debt by \$4 trillion over 10 years and in a sensible, balanced way, bringing into consideration not only spending cuts but also reform of our entitlement programs and revenue.

On the entitlement programs, many Senators and many people get nervous when we talk about Social Security and Medicare. I will say I am committed to these programs. I believe in them. The reason I stayed with this conversation is because I wish to make certain that at least one, maybe more, at the table feel as I do about the importance of Social Security and Medicare. I believe we can make reasonable changes in each of those programs, preserve the basic benefit structure, particularly for working Americans, and make sure they have the promise of the security which these programs bring.

I know people in retirement wonder if the savings are going to last, whether their pension will be around. But they know for sure that Social Security will be there. I wish to make sure that promise is kept, not just for 25 years but for 50 years and beyond. We can do it, and making modest changes now can achieve it.

On Medicare, health insurance for the elderly and disabled people, Medicare is a bigger challenge. In 6 years or so, we start running out of money. Let's do things now that will avoid that crisis. We don't want that. We want to make sure people have the peace of mind of knowing they have health insurance. We can do it in a sensible, responsible way. Let's do it together, not with a determination of ending the program. I will never let that happen on my watch. We need to make sure the program has a long solvent life.

When it comes to revenue, there is a way to do this.

Madam President, \$1.2 trillion is lost each year in our Tax Code to deductions and credits and exclusions and special treatment given to some and not to others. We can take a look at that and do it in a way that says we are going to preserve the basics that we need. Yes, we need the mortgage interest deduction. Yes, we need the charitable deduction.

We need to make sure people have health insurance exclusions from their income. We can still do that and lower the amount of tax expenditures and use that money to reduce the deficit. That is a reasonable way of raising revenue in a sensible manner.

Men and women of good faith in both political parties can do this. Let's pass Senator REID's proposal and avert this crisis and tackle the long-term deficit and debt challenge in a balanced way, by putting everything on the table. We did it with the deficit commission. We did it with the Gang of 6. We can do it again with the support of the American people to encourage us beyond our critics—that will always happen—to the kind of conclusion where people will once again feel pride in what goes on in Washington.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, let me first thank our assistant Democratic majority leader for his incredible work on the Bowles-Simpson Commission. Senator DURBIN was a real voice of reason and brought together diverse views. We need that this week. And then with the Gang of 6, with our colleagues in the Senate on both sides of the aisle, he was able to bring us together in achieving two goals—and that is what we need to do—one is we need to raise the debt limit and, secondly, we need a credible plan to deal with the deficit. I think Senator DURBIN has added greatly to accomplishing those goals, reaching across party lines, and understanding that it cannot be what the Democrats want or what the Republicans want but we have to work together.

But I must say that at this moment, we are 7 days away from the August 2 date. So we have two goals. Goal No. 1 is to raise the debt limit so that we don't default on America's obligations. Raising the debt limit needs to be our goal No. 1. We have already incurred this debt. This is not about increasing America's spending; this is for spending that has already occurred, and now we have to pay the bills.

The cost of default is unimaginable to the American people. We will pay more as taxpayers because the cost of government borrowing will go up. We know that. That is not speculation; we know that. But the cost to every American will go up because the cost of home mortgages will go up, the cost of credit card interest will go up, and student loan costs will go up. All of the borrowing costs in America will go up. It will also hurt our economy. It will cost us jobs.

It makes no sense whatsoever to be here without raising the debt limit. Senator REID's proposal does that through 2012. It gets the job done. Speaker BOEHNER's proposal does not get it done—another short-term extension.

We should listen to the experts in the market. Christian Cooper, who is a currency expert and trader, said:

From the markets' point of view, a two-stage plan is a nonstarter . . . There is significant risk of a downgrade with a deal that ties further cuts to another vote only a few months down the road given the significant resistance to do the right thing now.

Speaker BOEHNER's proposal just kicks the can down the road for a cou-

ple more months without resolving the problem. And that is Goal No. 1. The Reid plan accomplishes that.

Goal No. 2 is having a credible plan to get our debt under control. The President was right as he explained last night how we got here. He went through how, under the Bush administration, the previous administration, we took a surplus to a deficit by cutting taxes not once but twice, by two wars that were not paid for, by spending programs that weren't paid for, and now we are in a situation where we have a nonsustainable deficit. That is accurate.

It is our responsibility to make sure we have a credible plan to deal with the deficit. Leader REID's proposal gives us that glidepath. I think all of us would like to see a grand deal, a grand bargain. That is not going to be achieved by August 2. Senator REID's proposal gives us the glidepath for a responsible, credible plan to bring our debt under control. Speaker BOEHNER's proposal does not do that. It just basically says we will deal with it at a later time.

Look at the downpayment. Leader REID gives us \$2.7 trillion of deficit reduction now that we can enact by August 2, while Speaker BOEHNER gives us \$1.2 trillion. It is clear that \$2.7 trillion really gets us much closer to the \$4 trillion goal we all know we need to achieve, but it also gives us a game plan to be able to achieve the \$4 trillion in deficit reductions we all know we need to do.

Madam President, you and I are in agreement on how we can get that done now. We know that. We have a plan. The problem is that we can't get that done by August 2 because we can't get the Republicans in the House to move on a balanced plan. We understand that.

Well, the Reid proposal preserves all options but gives us a way to get to the \$4 trillion of deficit reduction that is clearly needed. It allows the use of a joint committee that will use a balanced approach. We have models they can look at. The Bowles-Simpson Commission is a balanced approach to bring in a credible plan to deal with the deficit. The Gang of 6 gives us a balanced approach in order to deal with our deficits. So we have the model before us in order to get it done.

Let me tell you why I think Leader REID's proposal is the best way for us to proceed 7 days before the August 2 deadline. It gives the Republicans basically what they have asked for. We can't do this by Democrats alone. We need Democrats and Republicans working together. The Reid proposal represents the views of the Members of the Senate on both sides of the aisle. Why do I say that? From the beginning, the Republicans have been saying we have to have a dollar-for-dollar reduction in debt for a \$1 increase in the debt ceiling. There is no relationship between

our current spending and what the debt ceiling represents because, as I said earlier, it represents what we have already spent. But, OK, that has been what the Republicans said we had to do. Leader REID's proposal does that—a \$2.7 trillion reduction in the deficit with a \$2.7 trillion increase in the debt ceiling.

The second thing the Republicans have asked for—not all but many—is that we can't consider revenues in the package. Now, I disagree with that. I don't believe you can have a credible plan to deal with the deficit unless you include revenues, getting rid of the loopholes, getting rid of shelters. We could do that without increasing rates. We have said that many times. But the Reid proposal—what we would vote on by August 2 that accomplishes our goals—will do it without additional revenues. It preserves the right of revenues in order to have a credible plan to reach the \$4 trillion target, but we get our \$2.7 trillion without any revenues—something the majority of Republicans have been asking for.

The third point: The \$2.7 trillion in cuts the majority leader put on the table represents cuts that have been negotiated between the Democrats and Republicans. Madam President, \$1.2 trillion was included with Vice President BIDEN, the \$1 trillion in cuts in regard to our overseas operations was included in the Ryan budget, and the list goes on. So these are cuts that are achievable, that have already been negotiated or agreed to between Democrats and Republicans.

I applaud Senator REID. I think Senator REID understands the seriousness of us moving forward. It allows us to move to increase the debt ceiling and preserve our rights to negotiate and get the grand bargain done and has a fallback mechanism with a joint committee that would have required votes on the floor to make sure we all have a chance to vote up or down. It preserves our options, allows America to move forward, and allows us to concentrate on job growth and security, which should be our focus as we rebound our economy for the future of our Nation. For all those reasons, I hope my colleagues will support the effort of Senator REID to bring us together to avoid the unspeakable default that could occur 1 week from today.

Madam President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Mr. MCCONNELL. Last night, the President explained to the Nation the crisis we face right now as he sees it. His hope was to lift the debate out of the gritty legislative particulars, and we all understand that. Unfortunately, the situation the President described last night bears very little resemblance to the realities on the ground right here in Washington.

I know the President would rather give speeches about our problems than resolve them, but he wasn't elected to talk about the United States; he was elected to lead it. In our system of government, that means working with people and a Congress with which you sometimes disagree. This is not a unique situation. Other Presidents have been in a similar situation where they had to work with a Congress composed of people, many of whom disagreed with them.

Last night, the President rejected not just the only proposal that has passed either House of Congress, he rejected the only plan the Democrats have proposed as well, a plan that would increase the debt limit without raising taxes. Just a few days ahead of a potential default, the President announced that he is the only person in Washington still calling for a massive tax hike, even as his party has dropped their own demands for what we know will make the current unemployment situation even worse.

In short, the President is now clinging to two things we all know Congress can't support: a massive tax hike and the biggest debt limit increase in history aimed, in his own words, at getting himself past the next election. As Speaker BOEHNER said last night, that is just not going to happen. There is bipartisan opposition to it in Congress. So it was deeply irresponsible, in my view, for the President of the United States to present the American people with a false choice last night between tax hikes on the one hand and default on the other.

The real choice is this: a bill that can get us past this moment of crisis, that cuts Washington spending, and that actually gets through Congress, or one that can't. Republicans have offered the only proposal that attempts to get at the root of the problem and that actually has a chance of getting to the President's desk. That is why we will continue to press for the legislation Speaker BOEHNER has proposed, and that is why we will fight against anything that pretends to solve the problem but doesn't. The majority leader proposed a plan yesterday that is nothing more than another attempt to pull the wool over the eyes of the American people.

The decisions we make in the next 72 hours will have a real impact on every American. These decisions should be made based on how they will affect the

people who are struggling to get a job, not how they affect some politician's chances of getting reelected.

The President can claim to be concerned about this impending crisis, but one question continues to linger above every press conference he has called or every speech he has delivered: Where is his plan to resolve it? Republicans have proposed multiple plans that have support in both parties. It is time for the President to put his electoral interest and preferences aside and do what is needed. Americans are waiting. Americans are waiting for the President to do what they elected him to do—not to lecture but to lead.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CUT, CAP, AND BALANCE

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, throughout the course of this debt ceiling debate, the American people have watched in utter disbelief of what they have seen. They understand we need to get our fiscal house in order; they see what has gotten us into this mess; and they want it stopped before they agree to give us blanket authority to raise the debt limit. What they are saying is we must spend within our means just as they have to do.

We have a way to do that. It is the cut, cap, and balance plan. It has already passed the House. The companion bill, with 39 cosponsors, has the support so it should be considered in this Chamber as well. I am proud to say I am one of those 39 cosponsors of the Senate bill. I signed onto the cut, cap, and balance bill because the American people—and more specifically the people of Arkansas—have demanded that we address this crisis now, not later. They know Washington is not good with remembering to follow through on the things they promise to do later.

Some will say this is too simple an answer. They say the fiscal mess in which we find ourselves is a complex problem. It is not though. Just look at the numbers.

This year alone we will spend \$3.7 trillion while collecting only \$2.2 trillion. We borrow 40 cents of every dollar we spend.

President Obama and the Democratic majority in this Chamber will say the way to fix this problem is to raise taxes. They may try to use other words and phrases such as revenue enhancers while talking about raising taxes, but make no doubt about it, they want to put the onus back on the American people.

There is a major problem with this approach. Washington does not have a revenue problem; it has a spending problem. Again, the numbers back this up. Traditionally, government spending is about 19 percent of our gross domestic product. Since President Obama has been in office, government spending has been much closer to 25 percent of our gross domestic product. This administration has raised Federal spending to the highest peak since World War II.

How do we solve this spending problem? We do it through cut, cap, and balance. Cut now—the House bill immediately cuts over \$100 billion in spending; cap for the future—the spending cap mechanism in this bill caps spending over the next 10 years, bringing it down to less than 20 percent of our gross domestic product within the next 5 years—and the balance is for a balanced budget amendment, something our entire Republican caucus supports in the Senate, as do many in the Democratic majority, at least according to their on-the-record statements.

This bill prohibits the Treasury from borrowing unless a balanced budget amendment is sent to the States for ratification. Let's pass a balanced budget amendment and give the people back home the decision about whether they want to require us to operate under a balanced budget amendment. I think you will find they overwhelmingly do. Unfortunately, the Senate majority, with no plan of their own for reining in the out-of-control spending, will not allow us to have a debate on this bill.

Last Friday they moved to table the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act, effectively ending any consideration of the bill. All this reminds me of the debate over the House-passed budget we had a few months ago. The majority over here had strong words of criticism but no budget proposal of their own. Again, strong words of criticism and no plan of their own. Only this time it is worse.

With our Nation on the brink of default, the majority clearly believes it is better to score political points than have a debate on the merits of our proposal. They control the floor, the agenda, and the amendments that are accepted. If any member of their caucus wants to change the bill, they certainly have that option. But instead of having the debate, we get political theater from the majority.

This is not what our constituents deserve. They deserve a real debate. They

sent us here to work together to prevent a catastrophe on par with what has happened in Greece, Ireland, and Portugal. They want to see us get our fiscal house in order. That is what the root cause of this crisis is all about. We are not just having a debate on raising the debt ceiling. If that were all this discussion was about, it would have been over months ago. Nobody wants a default.

The debate that is going on today is about a much bigger problem: the out-of-control spending that has put us in this position time and time again. Cut, cap, and balance is one way to solve the problem. It is a solution that helps us avert an immediate meltdown and brings a sense of fiscal responsibility to Washington where it is so badly needed.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE MILITARY PAY ACT OF 2011

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I rise today to speak about the Military Pay Act of 2011. We were on the brink of closing down government earlier this year, this spring, and we came to a responsible conclusion and continued our government. We were also able to continue the tax cuts that have helped spur our economy as best they could in light of the spending and the debt that has been accumulated. Now we are looking at yet another potential government shutdown. It is so important that we make priorities.

We know what is happening right now in Washington. Everyone is focused on whether there is going to be an agreement to lift the debt ceiling because if there is not, then we have the potential for default, depending on the decision of what gets paid first. We do have revenue coming in that can be spent even if the debt ceiling is not lifted. However, the President can choose the priorities. What I am asking we do today is set some of those priorities. What I am asking is we take our military personnel out of any limbo. Let's go back to what we did earlier this year when we were in the continuing resolution debate which also had the potential for shutting down government. When that happened in April, I joined with my colleague on the House side, Representative LOUIE GOHMERT. We both introduced a bill, the Ensuring Pay for Our Military Act, Senate bill 724. We have 80 cosponsors of that legislation. We have 80 out of

100 in the Senate who stepped up to the plate and said: Yes, we need to take care of our military even if government shuts down. That was April. Since then, I have introduced a new bill. The new bill is Senate bill 1365, the Protecting Military Pay Act of 2011. That one sets two priorities. It sets paying our debt, the interest on our debt and our military. Those are the two priorities. Social Security is in a different account, and it will automatically be paid from that account. I actually am cosponsoring another bill that is also cosponsored by many Senators and many House Members that would require the President pay our debt, interest on our debt, our active-duty military and also Social Security recipients even though that would automatically happen. The legislation I introduced in April that would take care of our active-duty military is supported by the Military Officers Association of America; the AMVETS, the American Veterans; and the National Military Family Association. The new bill I have introduced that has the debt to be paid off along with our military sets the priorities, and here is what it does: It says if we have any kind of government shutdown or we have a situation where we do not lift the debt ceiling and, therefore, we have to prioritize our spending according to the revenue that is coming in, there are two things that will be done: We want to pass the law so there can be no discretion that you will pay the debts and you will pay the military. You will pay the active-duty military. That is what the bill does simply and clearly.

Here is the situation: If the debt ceiling is reached, \$29 billion would be set aside for August to the payment of our debts, \$2.9 billion would be added to that for active-duty military pay. So you are allocating out of the billions that would be coming in in August, you would allocate those as the first two priorities and Social Security would be paid out of the Social Security fund. I am going to ask our majority leader to let these bills come up—at least one of them that says we will pay the debt, we will pay our military, and we know that Social Security will be paid.

It is tremendously damaging for our military to be getting the news in Afghanistan and Iraq of all the upheaval in Washington because they are getting the news, of course. For them to worry: Oh, my gosh, what happens August 2 if my paycheck isn't there for my wife or my husband to be able to use that to pay the mortgage or the basic expenses? I want to put it in perspective. We have people in the military with boots on the ground by the thousands who are making under \$20,000 a year. Those are people who are living paycheck to paycheck. They don't have the luxury of having a big savings account with that kind of income, especially if they have children. My goodness, they are making under \$18,000 a

year, some of these younger junior members of the enlisted corps, so I don't think we ought to make them worry for 10 seconds if they can pay their basic bills for their housing and the food for their families.

In my State of Texas there are 28,000 brave men and women deployed in the support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. There are more than 97,000 servicemembers deployed who are married and have children waiting for them at home. There are 145,000 troops deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan who are working long hours every day in the desert heat to protect our freedom, to make sure we are doing everything we can to root out the terrorists who have attacked America. These men and women all raised their right hand and volunteered to go to defend this Nation. The very least we can do while we are in this kind of budget negotiation, which is making a lot of people nervous—I have faith that we are going to do the right thing in the end, but it is not clear yet and we are a week away. I don't think we ought to make these people think about whether it is going to happen and if there is going to be a delay in a paycheck.

I hope we will be able to bring this bill up. I can guarantee if the majority leader will bring up my bill, it will pass. It has 80 cosponsors. The new bill is the same thing except it makes the debt payment the priority, which you would hope would not have to be done, but nevertheless let's assure that our debtors know we are going to pay the interest on the debt, and our military—who are in harm's way right now—will not worry about their family having the paycheck they need.

We have about a week. All of us had hoped it wouldn't take this long, but we have our different views, there is no question about it. I am one who believes we should raise the debt ceiling only with reforms that will assure the markets not just for the next week or the next 6 months, but for the long term, that not only are we going to pay our debts but we are going to bring down the cost of government so we will not have to raise the debt limit again.

We must take the reform actions we can take right now. We can fix Social Security for 75 years with relatively little cuts in increases with Social Security COLAs and with a trajectory that will put us on an actuarial table for an age that has certainly changed since Social Security passed. Very little change. It wouldn't affect anyone who is in the upper area of going into Social Security. The bill I have introduced wouldn't affect anyone age 58 and above or 55 and above. We can do the big things that will show our debtors and the rest of the world we can live within our means and our democracy can work to do the things that will make us good not for the next week, not for the next 6 months, but

for our children and grandchildren. That is what we ought to be doing right now, and I have faith. We are going to have to do something temporary for the next few months while we work out the details, but I know if we get together, we can do this. I don't want our military to have to worry about it for 1 week or 3 months or 6 months because they deserve better.

Thank you, Madam President.

I yield the floor.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

THE BUDGET

Mr. THUNE. I am happy to cosponsor the legislation of the Senator from Texas. She is absolutely right, there is no more deserving group of people in this country than our military and we need to make sure under no circumstance they are not paid, and her legislation would do that. I hope we can get it to the floor and that it is acted upon very quickly.

We are a week away now from the time in which we would have to request additional borrowing authority in order for our Federal Government to pay its bills. We have known it is coming for some time. We know generally at least when that date is. It strikes me as most Americans observe this debate, the thing they are probably most concerned about is how this is going to impact them and their economic circumstances. Frankly, I think all of us ought to be looking at this with an eye toward how is this going to impact the economy. What is this going to do to get people back to work and to grow the economy? There has been a lot of discussion about that. The President made yet another speech last night in which he tried to claim the high ground in this debate. Frankly, I think the President has relegated himself to the sidelines in this debate simply because many of the things he was proposing to do as a part of this debt limit increase would be very counterproductive when it comes to the economy. I would also add that the President continues to sort of assign blame and blame the previous administration for the circumstances in which we find ourselves and, clearly, he inherited a difficult set of economic circumstances. I think we would all concede that.

What I would argue is the President has made that situation worse. He has made it much worse. If you look at since this President took office, we now have 2.1 million more people unemployed than there were when he took office. We have seen the Federal debt grow by 35 percent since this President took office. The number of people receiving food stamps today has gone up by 40 percent since this President took office. He has added \$11,000

to the debt of each individual in this country since he took office. Gas prices are up. They increased almost 100 percent since this President took office. The cost of health care has gone up 19 percent since this President took office despite assertions during the debate on the health care bill last year that it was actually going to reduce health care costs. We have seen all of these economic circumstances worsen on this President's watch.

It strikes me as we look at this debt debate that we ought to be thinking about what can we do to get out of this economic downturn. We are growing at a very sluggish rate, a little under 2 percent. We have unemployment that is over 9 percent, 9.2 percent. As I said, there are 2.1 million more people unemployed than when the President took office. Clearly the focus of our discussions as we lead up to this vote on the debt limit ought to be about the economy, getting people back to work, growing the economy.

Frankly, I think there are a couple of things we have to do to get out of the debt situation. One is we have to cut government spending. Secondly, we have to get the economy growing and expanding again. So, clearly, that ought to be the focus.

When I said the President, in his proposal—at least as it has been reported because we haven't seen any proposal from him, but in the reporting about his discussions with congressional leadership, it has been suggested that the President has consistently advocated for more revenues, more taxes, and, in fact, as recently as last Friday, when there was still “a big deal” on the table—we were still looking at a possibility of actually striking an agreement—the President upped the ante even further. He moved the goalpost yet again. He wanted \$400 billion more in higher taxes.

It strikes me, and I think most Americans right now, that the worst thing we can do in an economic downturn and when we have 9.2 percent unemployment is raise taxes. There isn't a tax I can think of that will create a single job in this country. It would only make it more difficult and more expensive for our small businesses to create jobs. So that was a nonstarter. I think it became clear over time that it was going to be a nonstarter despite the President's insistence that tax increases be a part of whatever deal gets struck here.

As we find ourselves where we are now, I think it is important to think about where we have come from and to look at the time that has now passed and where we stand today. I think it is important to point out, as we talk about budgets and we talk about spending and we talk about debt, our job is to pass a budget. That is where it all starts. We haven't passed a budget now in 818 days. In fact, the last time the

Senate approved a budget was back on April 29, 2009. So it has now been 818 days since the most recent budget was approved by the Senate.

So we are operating without a budget. Imagine how complicated it would be for any State government, any business in this country, if they continued to operate without a budget. That is what we have been doing in Washington now for 818 days.

So January 6 of this year came around and we knew this debt limit vote was coming and was out there. Secretary Geithner wrote to Congress asking that the debt limit be increased. That was back in January. At that time, the Obama administration was also pushing for a clean debt limit increase; in other words, a debt limit increase that did not include any kind of spending reductions or spending reform. He just wanted a \$2.4 trillion blank check to raise the debt by that amount.

Well, we came to February of this year—of 2011—when it came time for the President to submit his budget to Congress. That budget seemed to be in complete denial of the reality we find ourselves in today because that budget would spend \$46 trillion and add almost \$10 trillion to the publicly held debt over the next decade, as well as increase taxes by somewhere on the order of \$1.5 trillion, \$1.6 trillion. So it had more spending, more debt, and higher taxes at a time when we are in an economic downturn, when we have high unemployment, and we have year over year deficits that are adding massively to the debt in this country. So the President's budget was met with a thud, as one would expect, when it was presented to the Congress.

As we went on in the year, in March of this year—March 31 to be exact—the Senate Republicans introduced a balanced budget amendment. We recognized that in order for us to get our fiscal house in order, to start living within our means, to quit spending money we don't have, we have to have some kind of a discipline imposed on the Congress, a requirement that we balance our budget every year, as do so many States. There are 49 States in this country that have some form of a balanced budget amendment in their constitution, some sort of requirement that forces them to make their books balance at the end of the year. So we introduced a balanced budget amendment, and we still hope at some point to get a vote on that. That hasn't happened yet, but that is certainly something we want to enter into this debate because we think it is important not only to deal with the spending in the near term, but also to come up with a solution in the long term, and a balanced budget amendment would certainly accomplish that.

On April 11 of this year, Chairman PAUL RYAN of the House Budget Com-

mittee introduced his budget in the House of Representatives. Of course, on April 13, right after the submission of that budget, the President then gave a "revised budget" speech. It was interesting because Congressional Budget Office Director Elmendorf later stated that the CBO—the Congressional Budget Office—doesn't score speeches, so they really couldn't attach any sort of numbers to the President's speech because they don't score speeches. We have yet to see any kind of an actual submission of a plan from the President prior to his provisional budget submission, which, as I said, came in with higher taxes, higher spending, and higher debt.

On April 15, in accordance with the schedule required under the Budget Act, the House passed their budget. So the Republicans on the Senate Budget Committee asked the President to submit a revised budget based upon his speech. That revised budget was never submitted. We had a House-passed budget. We had the President's sort of on the sidelines, out of the debate, and then in May of this year Republicans on the Senate Budget Committee—and I am on that Senate Budget Committee—were told to expect a budget markup which never materialized. So we still didn't have a budget in the Senate. The budget passed by the House of Representatives was roundly criticized by the Senate and by Democrats in Washington. But it is the only budget proposal—actual proposal—that has been voted on and that we have literally seen in over 818 days now.

We knew this vote on the debt limit was starting to get closer, so discussions picked up in terms of having some meetings to determine how we might proceed and what we might do to put a package in place that would allow us to raise the debt limit, but do it with significant spending reforms and spending reductions. Vice President BIDEN held his very first meeting on May 5 of this year—2011—and those discussions continued on for some time.

We also had on the floor of the Senate on May 25 of this year the President's budget he submitted to Congress back in February. So we actually had a vote on that. That vote was 97 to 0 in opposition to the President's budget. There wasn't a single Republican or a single Democrat in the Senate who said the President's original budget submission was something they wanted to be associated with or wanted to support. So not a single vote in the Senate for the President's original budget submission.

So we continued on into June, and I think there was hope there would be some agreement between the President and congressional leadership on how to proceed with this debt limit vote that comes up ahead of us now sometime next week. Those discussions contin-

ued, as I said, as recently as last week and finally started to unravel and fell apart, at which point it became clear we were going to need a solution and an answer.

So, again, the House Republicans put together and passed a proposal called cut, cap, and balance which would have cut spending now, immediately, capped spending in future years, and put in place a balanced budget amendment which would ensure that in later years we would have the kind of discipline that is so important and so lacking in Washington. That was on July 19, 2011, when the House passed that legislation.

So it came over to the Senate. We had a vote on it in the Senate on July 22, last week, and the Senate Democrats voted to table the cut, cap, and balance approach and denounced it as not a serious effort to do anything about the fiscal circumstance in which we find ourselves.

We didn't get a chance to debate it and get to an up-or-down vote. We had a tabling motion and a vote on a tabling motion by the Democratic leader and as a consequence it was defeated. So we don't have anything yet in place that would deal with the debt limit coming up ahead of us next week.

So that is where we are today. As I said, the House Republicans have again taken the leadership and put forward yet another proposal, and I expect they are going to vote on it sometime later this week, perhaps as early as tomorrow. We evidently now have before us something the Senate leadership, Senator REID, has put forward we may end up having a vote on this week. But somehow, some way, we have to get to where we solve this before next Tuesday.

I am not among those who believe it is an option for us to get past next Tuesday and then try and figure out what happens next. I believe we need to act. We need to act in a way that is responsible, but we need to act in a way that addresses the real issue, which is not the debt limit but the debt.

I wish to point out when the President originally requested—and I think he reiterated that request in April—a clean debt limit, there was an assumption that Congress would just give him a \$2.4 trillion increase in the debt limit without any kind of attempt to rein in the real problem, which is the debt.

So we have been consistently advocating to try to get spending reductions, spending reforms into this equation. The President has consistently advocated in favor of tax increases. To him, this is defined as a revenue problem, not a spending problem. Most of us see this as a spending problem. When we have spending as a percentage of the entire economy that is literally at the highest level since World War II, we have, fundamentally, a spending problem. It cannot be resolved by raising taxes on small businesses; it needs to be resolved by cutting spending.

When we cut spending, I believe we will also put in place the confidence the economy needs to start picking up and growing again, and we will get the other component, the other element that is so important to getting out of this mess; that is, an expanding, growing, vital economy that is creating jobs and creating greater prosperity for the American people.

So this is where we are. We are in the last week. I think the President is essentially missing in action. His proposal to raise taxes which he talked about again last night in his speech is old news. It is yesterday's news. We know that is not going to pass in the House of Representatives, and it probably wouldn't pass in the Senate. Right now, the simple math is we have to be able to pass something by next Tuesday. We have to put something forward that can secure 217 votes in the House of Representatives and 60 votes in the Senate.

Some of us maybe aren't going to like certain elements of what is going to be put forward. But what I can tell my colleagues is, we have come a long way in terms of steering this debate away from the President's original budget proposal which, as I said, doubled the debt over 10 years, massively increased spending, massively increased taxes, and from the point where the President was asking for a debt limit increase devoid of any spending cuts or spending reforms—simply a \$2.4 trillion blank check that would allow him to raise the debt limit—to a time where we are actually talking about significant reductions in spending both in the near term and in the long term. Whether the proposal that passes the House this week ends up being what we ultimately vote on in the Senate, it is the only viable option out there.

The President doesn't have a plan. He never has had a plan. The Senate Democrats don't have a plan. They haven't had a budget in 818 days and have yet to put forward anything until, as I said, this most recent idea Senator REID came up with. But we are up against the clock. We need to get this done. The American people expect us to get it done. The market expects us to get it done. Not doing so would put at great risk our credit rating and our ability as a great nation to function and to attract the type of credit we need to keep our government going, unfortunately.

I hope in the end what comes out of this is some reforms that will put us on a path where we are starting to take that debt down, where we are not literally borrowing over 40 cents out of every dollar this government spends. That is where we need to end up.

But for now at least we have to get a measure in place by next week that doesn't raise taxes in a way that would hurt the economy; that gets disre-

tionary, nondefense spending, and, for that matter, defense spending under control in the near term and puts in place a process by which we can get a result on reforming entitlement programs and dealing with what we call the mandatory part of our budget.

So that is where we came from. It has been an interesting path to get here, but there is a lot of revisionist history that gets put forward, and I wish to remind my colleagues where we came from because I think it is important and informs the decisions we will make today.

For the President to suggest for a minute that somehow the House Republicans are to blame for where we are today is not consistent—in fact, it is completely contradictory—with the facts. It is the House Republicans who passed a budget on time back in April. It is the House Republicans who passed a plan last week, a cut, cap, and balance plan to deal with this debt limit. It is the House Republicans who tomorrow who will vote on yet another proposal put forward after the President upped the ante last week and made it clear that the only way he would accept a deal would be with significant tax increases on the American people and the American economy at a time when we can ill-afford it.

So I hope as we proceed into this week—and the days are numbered—we will get a piece of legislation on the floor of the Senate that can secure the 60 votes necessary for us to avoid having to meet that trigger next week and to do something that would address the long-term issue of spending and debt, get spending under control, and actually, in my view, put the conditions in place that would enable economic growth and job creation in this country; so we can cut spending and grow the economy, which, in my view, are the two elements we need to put the country back on a better path.

So with that, I ask my colleagues to work with us this week against this deadline to get in place a solution to this problem that deals with the fundamental issue; that is, the issue of Washington's overspending, and start to rein that in.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNET). The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. JOHANNES. Mr. President, I want to start out today by complimenting the Senator from South Dakota. He has gotten it absolutely exactly right. I wish to associate myself with the comments he has made.

We are 7 days away from literally a crisis in our country. We are down to a point where it is getting even difficult to try to figure out, with the timelines naturally built into the process, how you get from here to there in 7 days, and yet that is what faces us.

Last night, like many Americans, I watched and listened to the President

and listened to Speaker BOEHNER. I must admit, when it comes to the comments made by the President, I do not understand where he is coming from. He talks about higher taxes and more revenue when the reality is, at this late date, he is the only one talking about that.

I have been one of those people who has said for a long time we absolutely need to engage in a process of reforming our Tax Code. It is too complicated. It is almost an antigrowth piece of work. I am anxious to work with my colleagues. But with 7 days left to try to suggest there will be a massive amount of new taxes does not make any sense. That is not in the Reid plan. It is not in the Boehner plan. Yet there it is.

Well, here we are. We are literally 7 days away. As I said, as I watched those comments last night, it looked to me like campaign rhetoric. It looked like positioning for the next election. It looked like class warfare. What it did not look like to me was Presidential leadership. Yet our creditors around the world are watching this debt limit debate unfold, and they are as shocked as all of us are by the lack of leadership coming out of the White House.

This weekend, the President was presented a bipartisan approach. I found it reassuring over the weekend to know that our leaders in the Senate here were talking and trying to work their way through this terribly complicated issue, very difficult issue. I thought with that kind of effort, when an approach was presented to the President, he would naturally embrace the approach. With only 1 week left, that made the most sense to me. Yet, surprisingly, the President rejected the approach. The reason? Well, the reason is, as he has said so many times, the President does not want to have to deal with increasing the debt limit next year during his campaign for a second term.

I find that shocking since last night, when he addressed the Nation, he expressed great concern about our debt limit negotiations being in a stalemate. Yet he could have used that opportunity by accepting the bipartisan proposal that had been presented to him a day or so earlier. He had the opportunity to show the type of leadership our country needs and is crying out for, but he decided to reject the plan and retreat to political talking points.

The President also said he would veto Speaker BOEHNER's approach to raising the debt limit for 7 months, claiming it kicks the can down the road—claiming that is what it would be.

Let's look at that. Let's examine what the President is trying to convince this Nation of. Over the last 25 years, Congress has increased the debt limit 31 times. Mr. President, 22 of

those 31 times were for less than a year. Yet the President claims he will veto anything not extending into 2013? It defies logic to decry our debt and then veto anything unless it allows more record-setting debt. That is exactly what he is pledging he will do: veto anything less than the largest debt limit increase in the history of the United States of America—the largest.

His last debt limit increase in January was the largest in history at that point—\$1.9 trillion—yet instead of hitting the brakes and saying, “Whoa, time out, this is getting us in trouble,” the President is doubling down, demanding yet another record-setting budget buster.

Who does the President think is going to pay off all this debt? It will be our children and our grandchildren. Passing multiple trillion-dollar debt limit increases without addressing our addiction to spending does far more to kick the problems down the road. It sends the problems over the cliff, in fact. Yet, despite this reality, the President continues to accelerate, as we get closer and closer to the cliff. The President recently said this:

The only bottom line I have is that we have to extend the debt ceiling through the next election, into 2013.

While numerous issues accompany this line of thinking, let's hit some high points.

Our national debt is more than \$14 trillion, and the President is requesting to increase it to \$16 trillion—the largest in our Nation's history. So why is the bottom line only about the length of the extension, not about spending reductions that put our country back on track?

Unfortunately, the President's only fundamental concern is how do we kick this past the next election. Above all else, not good policy, not what is best for our citizens, but the No. 1 goal is how to get past the next election. This is, unfortunately, his bottom line. Simply astounding that the campaign of hope and change has become such business as usual. Simply raising the debt ceiling absent any meaningful spending reforms will not work.

Now we find ourselves in one heck of a mess. With about a week to go, the latest in the debt limit saga is a proposal that was introduced last night by Senator REID. But here is why this latest plan has so many problems. Policywise, it does not hold together. The plan claims \$1 trillion in savings from reductions in troop forces. These savings assume the troop surge extends into perpetuity, which never was the plan. So it assumes savings from stopping spending that was never scheduled or even requested. It is like reaching into the air and grabbing savings. Essentially, this plan counts savings that were scheduled to happen.

Second, the plan counts \$400 billion in interest savings on that savings rel-

ative to the troop money that was not going to be spent, was not asked for. In other words, not only does the plan count nonexistent savings, it then compounds the policy problem by counting nonexistent interest savings on that savings. You simply cannot count savings that were never intended to happen.

We are dealing with a ticking timebomb here. We have rating agencies saying: My goodness, your debt is so out of control that unless we see a plan, we will not be fooled by the gimmicks. Yet this policy approach does not hold together. You see, the rating agencies, justifiably so, want to see real budget savings that actually help to improve our balance sheet.

We are at a critical time in our Nation's history. With 1 week left, the American people are yearning for bold leadership, not another shell game. Heated rhetoric and charged accusations are not going to fix the fiscal situation.

I stand ready to work with my colleagues on a solution, and I urge the President to do the same. Let's quit defending what is indefensible; that is, worrying about getting the can kicked down the road past the next election, and let's try to figure out how best to address this.

There was a plan that came out recently. It was a plan dubbed from the Gang of 6, and the Presiding Officer and I have had some interest in that plan. But we all acknowledge it is going to take time to put that plan in place, to debate that plan, to bring it to the floor, to do the things that are necessary. We have to take action now. I am a part of a group that says: Look, let's take a long hard look at that plan. Let's see if that is the plan we can move down the field to success.

But we have just 7 days left. We need to face the reality that 7 days from now we will be within hours of hitting our debt ceiling. Incidentally, to those who are arguing: No, it is not August 2, well, if it is not August 2, it is close to August 2. We are facing a real problem where there will not be enough money to pay the bills.

Many say: Pay the interest on the debt. Make sure you get that done. I am not opposed to that. I do not want to default on our debt. But that means we have about 50 cents on the dollar in August, according to a cashflow statement done by the Bipartisan Policy Group, and that means that 50 percent of those out there who would otherwise receive some type of payment from the Federal Government will not get it because there simply is not enough money to pay the bills.

So what does Speaker BOEHNER's plan do?

Well, it is a plan that is realistic. It says, look, we have to come to grips with where we are in the next 7 days or we can simply suspend rational

thought, believe that the record-breaking debt increases to accommodate record-setting debt are somehow a plausible course. It is not.

I am more apt to believe the President's own words. When the debt limit increase was \$781 billion to raise our borrowing authority to \$9 trillion, then Senator Obama was in the place where we are in today, deciding on whether he would vote for a debt ceiling increase, and he called the situation then a “failure of leadership.” He went on to say “increasing America's debt weakens us domestically and internationally.”

Well, we were at \$9 trillion then, an unforgivable amount of money. Today we are at \$14.5 trillion, and the steam engine is firing away, building up more and more debt.

Senator Obama's words were as truthful then as they are today. Yet now he has done a 180. His Presidency has hit the turbo booster when it comes to record debt.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time reserved for the Republicans has expired.

Mr. JOHANNES. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

RAISING THE DEBT CEILING

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, we are now 1 week away from the unthinkable prospect of the United States of America defaulting on its loans for the first time in our history and not making good on promises we have made to families, veterans, senior citizens across the country.

I am deeply disappointed we have gotten to this point. If we cannot come to an agreement by August 2, the consequences for our Nation and our economic recovery will be dire. A few weeks ago, the Bipartisan Policy Center put out a report that was actually authored by a former Bush Treasury official about what would happen if Congress failed to act and if the administration was forced to make desperate spending decisions in August. The scenarios were very grim.

Potentially at risk were the benefits and health care we owe our veterans, loans for struggling small businesses, food stamps for people who are struggling to buy groceries, Social Security checks for our seniors, unemployment benefits for millions of workers who are desperately looking for jobs today, and even Active-Duty pay for our military.

If the debt ceiling is not raised, we also face the very real and frightening possibility of our economy falling back into another deep recession, interest rates going up for our families and consumers, millions of workers losing their jobs, and small businesses being forced to close their doors. These risks

are unacceptable. People are still recovering in this tough economy and they cannot afford to have the rug pulled out from under them.

Many families from my home State of Washington have reached out to my office throughout this debate, trying to figure out what they would do if the support they depend upon to stay in their homes, to put food on their tables is suddenly cut off. They have a pretty simple message: Get it done, compromise, and put American families first.

One letter came from Anne Phillips from Tacoma, WA, who after 18 years of work was laid off during the recession. Anne told me about how she felt she was doing the responsible thing by getting herself up, dusting herself off, going back to college. But now she is worried sick because of the fact that the interest rate she pays on her student loans, which she relies on to pay for school, would shoot up if we default.

In her letter, Anne made clear who the real victims of default would be. She said: "Ultimately people like me, my husband, my family, and all the people I know who are doing their best every day to make the contribution to society will pay the expense."

Anne is not alone in her concern. I have heard from veterans such as Kenneth Huff, a retired master sergeant from Olympia, WA. He spent 28 years serving our country. He told me how through a life in the military he learned the value of compromise and how he is tired of the way the peoples' work is not being done.

He wrote:

I agree. We can cut back on spending. I know we can do a better job. But not on the backs of the very poor, the middle class, veterans and our seniors who are on Social Security and Medicare.

I have also heard from Social Security recipients such as Alisa Terry from Bellingham, WA, who told me how important that monthly check is to her and what it would mean if she did not get it next month. She says:

Social Security is my lifeline. It stands between me and homelessness.

These families and seniors deserve to have the certainty of a Federal Government that stands ready to pay its debt. They do not deserve to turn on the news every day and read about the political games House Republicans are playing with their lives and economic future. Democrats have been at the table. We have been ready and willing to compromise for months and months. We know we need to get this done. We have offered compromise after compromise. We have come to the middle and beyond. We have offered serious and deep cuts in Federal spending—very hard for some of us to do.

We have put it on the table and then we offered even more. But again and again, the House Republicans have said

no. They refuse to compromise, and they refuse to come to the middle. Time and time again, they seem to be more interested in satisfying the most extreme elements of their base than on finding real solutions for the people of this country.

The House Republicans even sent us a bill they called cut, cap and balance that was not only widely understood to be a political gimmick but it had no chance of becoming law, and not only would it have been absolutely devastating for families and seniors across this country but it managed to waste precious time in Congress at a point when that resource is getting scarcer and scarcer.

So we are down to the wire. Political games need to end. They need to stop finding ways to say no and start figuring out what they can say yes to. The bill we introduced last night is a compromise. I do not believe it is perfect, but it gets us where we need to get to protect families and small businesses across America from market uncertainty, not just for a month or two. That is not what American families need. They need to know they have that economic certainty and that we will not be back in this ball game in just a few short months, going through the same process, with people worried about their Social Security checks and veterans worried again and with the markets uncertain.

The legislation that was introduced last night does make deep and serious cuts in government spending, savings that have either been discussed and agreed on in previous negotiations with Republicans or that Republicans have actually used in the budgets they recently passed themselves.

It does protect Medicare and Social Security that was promised to our seniors. It does not increase revenue, something many of us have argued time and time again needs to be a part of a balanced approach to a conclusion. But we understand compromise is important. So it does not increase revenue and that appears to be something my Republican colleagues have almost single-mindedly focused on in this process. So we have given in on that.

It puts our country on a more sustainable fiscal track, and it allows us to continue the important work to reduce the debt and deficit without the threat of economic calamity hanging over our heads such as the current House proposal does.

On this side, Democrats have bent over backward to get this done. We compromised. We compromised again and then again. The bill that was introduced last night on our side is the fruit of many compromises. We did this not because we think this is the ideal way to tackle this issue—Democrats do want a larger and a more balanced package that we believe will address our problems in a responsible way for

years to come—but we put this forward because we know the American people want results, not rhetoric, and we know the consequences of inaction are far too high.

I call on our Republican colleagues to support this legislation, stop playing politics with the American economy, and work with us to solve this problem for the American people.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF PAUL A. ENGELMAYER TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

NOMINATION OF RAMONA VILLAGOMEZ MANGLONA TO BE JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Paul A. Engelmayer, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, and Ramona Villagomez Manglona, of the Northern Mariana Islands, to be Judge for the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I don't intend to use but 1 minute because I spoke yesterday on this nomination, but I would urge my colleagues to support the nomination of Paul A. Engelmayer to be district judge. He is very well qualified, and I would encourage a "yes" vote.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, yesterday I made a statement about the need

for the Senate to consider all 27 judicial nominees reviewed by the Senate Judiciary Committee and now awaiting final action by the Senate. I was disappointed that the votes on Paul Engelmayer to fill a judicial emergency vacancy on the Southern District of New York and Ramona Manglona to fill a 10-year term on the District Court for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, which had already been stalled for 3½ months, were not considered yesterday. These are the kinds of qualified, consensus judicial nominations that in past years would have been confirmed promptly. I hope and trust that at least they will be considered and confirmed today.

After their confirmations, there will be 25 judicial nominations fully considered by the Judiciary Committee awaiting final action by the Senate. Twenty of them were unanimously reported, without a single negative vote. Regrettably, the Senate has not reduced vacancies as dramatically as we did during the Bush administration. Federal judicial vacancies around the country still number too many, and they have persisted for far too long.

By the August recess in the third year of the Bush administration, the Senate had confirmed 143 Federal circuit and district court judges. As we approach the August recess in the third year of the Obama administration, the comparable number after confirmation of Paul Engelmayer and Ramona Manglona today will be only 91.

We have a long way to go to do as well as we did during President Bush's first term, when we confirmed 205 of his judicial nominations. The Senate confirmed 100 of those judicial nominations during the 17 months I was chairman during President Bush's first 2 years in office. So far, as we near the end of President Obama's 30th month in office, the Senate has only been allowed to consider and confirm only 91 of President Obama's Federal circuit and district court nominees. Despite the needs of the Federal judiciary, the delays in confirmation of President Obama's consensus judicial nominees continue to the detriment of the American people.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I yield our time on this side.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Paul A. Engelmayer, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York?

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) is necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 98, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 117 Ex.]

YEAS—98

Akaka	Franken	Mikulski
Alexander	Gillibrand	Moran
Ayotte	Graham	Murkowski
Barrasso	Grassley	Murray
Baucus	Hagan	Nelson (NE)
Begich	Harkin	Nelson (FL)
Bennet	Hatch	Paul
Bigaman	Heller	Portman
Blumenthal	Hoeven	Pryor
Blunt	Hutchison	Reed
Boozman	Inouye	Reid
Boxer	Isakson	Risch
Brown (MA)	Johanns	Roberts
Brown (OH)	Johnson (SD)	Rubio
Burr	Johnson (WI)	Sanders
Cantwell	Kerry	Schumer
Cardin	Kirk	Sessions
Carper	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Casey	Kohl	Shelby
Chambliss	Kyl	Snowe
Coats	Landrieu	Stabenow
Coburn	Lautenberg	Tester
Cochran	Leahy	Thune
Collins	Lee	Toomey
Conrad	Levin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Lieberman	Udall (NM)
Corker	Lugar	Vitter
Cornyn	Manchin	Warner
Crapo	McCain	Webb
DeMint	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Durbin	McConnell	Wicker
Enzi	Menendez	Wyden
Feinstein	Merkley	

NOT VOTING—2

Inhofe Rockefeller

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Ramona Villagomez Manglona, of the Northern Mariana Islands, to be Judge for the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid on the table, and the President shall be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m. today.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:46 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m., and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. WEBB).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The junior Senator from Illinois.

NUCLEAR POWERPLANTS

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, this past Sunday a New York Times editorial entitled "In the Wake of Fukushima" noted:

If nuclear power is to have a future in this country, Americans have to have confidence that regulators and the industry are learning the lessons of Fukushima and are taking all steps necessary to ensure safety.

Following the events at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant in March, it is clear that maintaining America's confidence in the safety of our nuclear reactors is paramount. The disaster at Fukushima should not lead to a freeze of the nuclear industry; instead, it should be an opportunity to upgrade the safety of our nuclear fleet. Both industry and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission assure us that currently there is no immediate threat to the operation of our nuclear plants.

Nuclear power is especially important to my home State of Illinois, where nearly half of all electricity in the State is nuclear. With 11 of 104 operating nuclear power plants and stations in our State, we have more reactors than any other State in the Union.

In the near term, it is my hope that nuclear regulators and the industry will take actions necessary to increase safety measures and integrate emergency operating procedures. Furthermore, nuclear plants should swiftly implement sensible measures to increase flood protections, enhance containment-venting capabilities, install remote monitoring controls of spent fuel pool conditions, and upgrade the ability to cope and maintain operations by a single station sustained for initially 8 hours and eventually up to 72 hours utilizing preplanned and prestaged resources.

Moving forward, one of our top priorities should be enhancing flood protection at reactors. Obviously reactors,

for their cooling, need to be near large bodies of water, subject to flood. Fukushima highlighted the need to take additional protections to guarantee that current backup pumps and generators are also protected against flood or other seismic events. A recent flooding on the Missouri River is a demonstration of the need for such enhancements. Although flood barriers and procedures have so far protected the Fort Calhoun nuclear powerplant in Nebraska, this is not the time to look away from making further efforts on protecting reactors from floods.

One of the ringing lessons of the Fukushima disaster is the need for enhanced capabilities for nuclear operators to cope with prolonged power outages. Every U.S. nuclear powerplant should be able to cope with a prolonged loss of power for at least 8 hours for an initial period and eventually 72 hours using only the resources onsite so that powerplant operators can utilize preplanned and prestaged equipment and muster other resources if necessary. We should be prepared for simultaneous events for multiple reactors onsite and should be able to maintain key power functions in the face of varying circumstances, including debilitated infrastructure, lack of communication, and especially the loss of onsite power.

It is clear that operators' ability to cope with the prolonged loss of power was critical at Fukushima. We know that the tsunami hit the Fukushima Daiichi powerplant and wiped out all alternating power and backup power necessary to provide resources to the cooling pumps. This eventually caused overheating in both reactor vessels and cooling ponds. The ability to perform these critical functions and to monitor them—providing power to fans and pumps and to remotely open and close vents and valves—the inability of the Japanese to perform these functions caused them to lose control of key areas or to maintain cooling to critical spent fuel ponds and reactor vessels.

The Japanese also were unable to remotely monitor conditions, especially in their spent fuel pools, and struggled continuously to pump enough water into the reactors. Operators need to have proper instrumentation at far, remote locations so they can continue to understand what is happening in reactors and cooling ponds if an event occurs.

Furthermore, we need to install proper venting upgrades on all reactors with the Mark II containment design. This is an important step in preventing any kind of overpressurization and in reducing the risk of operations that we saw so clearly at Fukushima.

In the United States, there are 23 reactors with the Mark I containment design. We have known since 1989 that there are flaws with the pressure containment system of the Mark I boiler

reactor. As a precaution, industry upgraded the Mark I containments with the hardened vent to deal with the excessive pressure in the containment.

According to the NRC task force's 90-day report, which examined the safety of U.S. nuclear powerplants, the hardened vents are not universally installed on the Mark II containments in the United States. The task force noted further that because the Mark II containments are only 25 percent larger than the volume of the Mark I, it is conceivable that the Mark II containments, under a similar situation, would suffer the same consequences as Nos. 1 through 4 at Fukushima. We should install hardened vents on all Mark II containment reactors and not allow any more time to pass before making deliberate improvements to address these safety concerns.

As we press forward with nuclear power generation, I believe the NRC should also update our emergency planning zones. This is the evacuation zone that is preplanned around every nuclear powerplant. It seems prudent now, in the light of the experience of Fukushima, that we should expand the emergency planning zone to the Japanese radius of 20 kilometers or 12.5 miles around each nuclear reactor. These EPZs should be updated with the latest 2010 census data of the number of Americans residing around these reactors, and the NRC should require enough radiation dose medication to handle at least two full EPZ evacuations if necessary.

We also know that the spent fuel pools posed a serious threat to the safety of the site. Throughout the crises, Fukushima crews struggled to maintain water levels at the spent fuel pools to prevent an escape of uncontained radiation into the environment. For those of us who know a little bit about reactors, this was a surprise because normally we are totally focused on what is happening inside the reactor, but at Fukushima, as much attention had to be paid on overheating in the spent fuel ponds.

This warning should serve as the beginning of an effort for us to relook at the issue of spent fuel in the United States, especially spent fuel which is stored near our drinking water sources. We all know 96 percent of all the fresh water in the United States is in the Great Lakes, and I am concerned that we store approximately 1,000 tons of highly radioactive spent nuclear fuel just 200 yards from the Lake Michigan shoreline at the now defunct Zion nuclear reactor. Any proposal to stop the permanent disposal of nuclear waste in Nevada is a proposal to continue storing highly radioactive nuclear fuel right next to America's source of 96 percent of its fresh water.

I believe we should now continue to reinvigorate the process of building the Yucca Mountain facility. Any proposal

to not build Yucca is a proposal to pose a clear-and-present, long-term danger to the environmental future of the Great Lakes.

The bottom line is we should not let the lessons learned from the Fukushima disaster become a forgotten story, and that the NRC task force and its 90-day report issued after the Fukushima disaster is a serious document that now should lead not just to further studies and consultant reports but comprehensive action, such as hardened vents, such as making sure we have remote monitoring of spent fuel ponds, and that all reactors be able to operate first 8 and then 72 hours without outside power, and that we take the other measures to upgrade our measure, such as expanding the EPZs.

Tomorrow I will be testifying before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and as the junior Senator of the State of Illinois, the most nuclear State in America, I will carry a strong message: Nuclear power has a strong future in the United States but one that should be going forward in light of the lessons of Fukushima.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

DEBT LIMIT AND TAX INCREASES

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, last night we heard from President Obama in a prime-time address from the East Room of the White House. The topic was raising the Federal debt limit. According to Treasury Secretary Geithner, the Federal Government may breach the statutory debt limit as early as August 2, 2011. That is 1 week from today.

Remarkably, the President, in yet another prime-time address, again hectored the American people about the need for politically charged tax hikes as a cure-all for our deficit and debt problems.

We have to hand it to the President; he is a true believer. For the President, there seems to be no problem in Washington that can't be fixed with tax increases. Even his own party has moved beyond him on this. To be certain, Democrats have not become the party of tax relief. For example, the plan offered by the majority leader does not address the 10-year tax increase of \$3.5 trillion that is said to kick in on January 1, 2013. But last night on CNN, one reporter got it about right. This is how she put it: "Nobody is talking about tax increases except Barack Obama."

For weeks the President and his surrogates on and off Capitol Hill have been talking about tax increases as the solution to our debt crisis, but the President was on his own last night. It was a speech very much divorced from the reality of our situation.

Republicans are insistent that the solution to a spending crisis is not giving

government more money to spend, and here is the dirty secret: Many members of the President's own party are not keen on tax increases either. They know the President's politically driven tax increases, in the context of trillions in deficits and debt, will do little to restore the Nation's fiscal footing. They know more significant tax increases will hit the middle class and small business job creators very hard. But even as his troops have left him, President Obama soldiers on, leading the fight for higher taxes and spreading the wealth around.

The President talked last night about the need for a balanced approach. Here is what he means by that: To balance the budget his way, we will have to raise taxes by roughly \$2 trillion. So what does he think of the plan of the Senate's distinguished majority leader? After all, the majority leader has put forth a plan that does not contain tax increases—or at least that is the claim. Presumably, the President would, therefore, oppose the majority leader's plan as unbalanced. But that would assume the President is not playing politics with this debate. That would assume he is more concerned with solving our Nation's debt crisis than appealing to his base, getting his approval ratings up, and positioning himself for reelection.

Somehow, in spite of his absolute insistence on the need for tax increases and a balanced solution to the debt limit debate, the President supports the majority leader's proposal.

The President likes to present himself as the only reasonable man in Washington. But as he proved again with his latest politically driven inconsistency, he is as partisan as they come. To the disappointment of his campaign advisers, it is clear the American people are demanding a leader who will be straight with them rather than focus on election year positioning.

If the President and his party came clean with the American people, this is what they would acknowledge: Non-defense discretionary spending is at historic highs. The Nation's biggest spending programs are completely out of control and set for bankruptcy. Over the next 10 years, the President's budget would drive this country into debt by an additional \$13 trillion. Most importantly, they would acknowledge that the Nation's problem is principally too much spending, not too little taxes.

I don't envy my friends on the other side of the aisle. They are in a tough place. On the one hand, the liberal base refuses any structural reforms to the spending programs that are driving the country's debt to the brink. On the other hand, absent these structural reforms the middle class and job creators will have to be hit with historic tax increases. Obviously, they cannot be

open about this second point or they risk the ire of American voters.

Those who represent San Francisco and the upper west side might be able to go home and sell these tax increases, but for Democrats responsible to entire States, not just small liberal enclaves, such tax increases are a much tougher pitch.

So what is a Democrat to do? Democrats can't propose meaningful spending reductions, but they can't support job-killing tax increases. So this is what they will do. They choose to ignore the real problem. They offer no plan. They refuse to present a budget—they actually refused to present a budget for more than 800 days. They dodge and weave. One minute the President is for real reforms to Medicare. The next minute he is accusing Republicans of trying to destroy Medicare for recommending reforms, and they hope their friends in the media ignore the failure to offer a real solution.

As we can see from this chart, the problem is spending, and we need a solution commensurate with that problem. As we can see, spending is the red line; taxes happen to be the blue line. Spending as a percentage of GDP is much higher than the historical average. The average level of spending has been around 18 percent since World War II. Since President Obama took office in 2008, spending has surged to over—actually 25 percent at one point of our economy—way above the 18 to 20 percent norm. Tax receipts have dipped, but they are expected to come back. CBO estimates, however, that spending is currently set to stay at around 24 percent.

As we can see, spending is the red line that goes off the charts during 2009, 2010, and on into 2020. Taxes have always been right where they are. They went pretty high, came down, and now they are back up. As we can see from the chart, President Obama's 2012 budget does not help one bit in reducing this level of spending. The President's budget is not balanced by any means.

Again, the problem for the President is this: Even while he was explaining to Joe the Plumber the moral and civic imperative of spreading the wealth around, he was promising not to raise taxes on individuals making less than \$200,000 or families making less than \$250,000. But if he is going to balance the budget by attempting to pay for current levels of discretionary spending that Lyndon Johnson only dreamed of and spending programs that are permanently in the red, he is going to have to hit the middle class hard. He is going to have to break his promise—not exactly a political win.

Even as he talked about moving the Democratic Party to the left and abandoning the comparative moderation of the Clinton administration, he remembers well the fate of Walter Mondale.

When accepting his party's nomination for President in San Francisco in 1984, Walter Mondale promised Americans that he was going to raise their taxes. President Reagan went on to win in a 49-State landslide. President Obama is not going to suffer the same fate as Walter Mondale, so he avoids discussion of the tax increases on the middle class that he really believes in. Instead, in this debate he is focused on a number of politically opportunistic red herrings that will have minimal impact on the Nation's debt crisis.

The purpose of these red herrings is to distract Americans from the real driver of our deficits and debt and the real choices Democrats have to, but are refusing to, make. Let's just look at a few of these examples.

The President has been talking incessantly about the need to tax corporate jets. Well, if we were to raise the appreciable rate on corporate jets from 5 years to 7 years as the Democrats propose, it would yield, at least according to the economists, \$3.1 billion—that is with a "b"—over 10 years.

Just to be clear, as we are discussing these paltry numbers—numbers which the President would have us believe are key to restoring the markets' confidence in the American economy and our ability to manage our debt—the United States will run a budget deficit this year of \$1.5 trillion. Our national debt is \$14.3 trillion. The President's budget assumes an additional \$13 trillion in debt on top of that, and the President is talking about the tax treatment of corporate jets which, if he got his way, would raise \$3.1 billion over 10 years.

This is about as effective as one of my fellow Utahans standing in his driveway in Little Cottonwood Canyon during a blizzard and flicking a snowflake off his shoulder and claiming he was finished shoveling for the day.

To hear the President talk, one would think this proposal is absolutely critical to balancing our budget. To put it in perspective, over the next 10 years of debt this Nation is set to take on it would equate to roughly 20 hours and 23 minutes of debt reduction.

Let's not forget about the essential matter of cutting back the mortgage interest deduction for yachts used as second homes. Again, the President acts as if this is one of a handful of policies that will restore America's prosperity. But if Congress enacted this change, we would cover the 10 years of debt from the Obama budget for all of 15 hours and 47 minutes.

Of course, the Democratic talking points would not be complete without an attack on the oil companies. The President has talked about making American oil companies pay their fair share by reducing or eliminating domestic energy incentives. This proposal would raise \$21 billion in revenue. That would cover a whopping 5 days, 18

hours, and 47 minutes of debt that the President is prepared to take on over the next 10 years.

Then there are the rich. Tax the rich. Make them pay their fair share. This class warfare might be appropriate in Europe and countries with a feudal history, but in the United States, a nation conceived in liberty and the proposition that all men are created equal, families and entrepreneurs just don't buy it—and for good reason. Taxing the rich hits job creators and undermines economic growth. But as deficit reduction policy, it falls short as well.

In the name of bipartisanship, I am going to use data from the Tax Policy Center, or TPC, to demonstrate my point. According to TPC models and estimates for 2011, American households earning more than \$1 million account for 12 percent of the Nation's pretax income and pay 19 percent of Federal taxes and carry an average tax rate of 29 percent. Even more critical from my perspective, these taxpayers also account for 38 percent of all flow-through income. Flow-through income is predominantly earnings from ownership of small businesses.

So raising rates on the rich will hit squarely on those who create and expand the small businesses that need to be the engine for our economic recovery. But let's be clear about something. Higher taxes on these wealthy individuals will not only have adverse economic consequences, it will not even provide the deficit and debt reduction suggested by the left.

Even if all of the income of those earning more than \$1 million a year were confiscated with a 100-percent rate—with the unlikely assumption of no taxpayer behavioral response—for the year of confiscation, these higher taxes would yield about \$893 billion. My gosh, our deficit this year is \$1.5 trillion—just in 1 year. The most we would get is \$893 billion, and that is if we are lucky.

This is a one-shot opportunity. If we confiscated this wealth, those individuals would no longer work, save, create more wealth, and generate more tax revenue. And confiscating all the income from those earning over \$1 million does not even fix 1 year—not even 1 year—of the 10 years of projected Obama debt. It would cover 244 days, 16 hours, and 34 minutes.

All the demagoguery on jets and yachts and oil companies yields about 1 week of deficit reduction from the President's 10-year debt.

Even throwing in a one-time confiscation of all the income for taxpayers above \$1 million, we can only add 244 days. Add it all up, and what the President is proposing amounts to less than one-tenth of deficit reduction from the debt President Obama will add over the next 10 years.

Last night, the President tossed some more class warfare into the mix.

He mentioned taxing hedge fund managers. Here is how he put it:

How can we ask a student to pay more for college before we ask hedge fund managers to stop paying taxes at a lower rate than their secretaries?

The proposal he is talking about would tax carried interest as ordinary income. The Joint Tax Committee has provided an estimate on this, and over 10 years this change in the Tax Code would generate another \$21.4 billion. That is about as much as the oil company tax Obama is proposing of \$21.1 billion. This would cover approximately 5 days and 21 hours of the President's 10-year debt.

This morning, someone on television was bemoaning the fact that Democrats are not going to the mat for tax increases the way the President has. He suggested the congressional Democrats do not have the courage to support tax increases.

With all due respect, the person lacking in courage is the current occupant of the Oval Office. The President had an opportunity this summer. Was he going to lead on the debt crisis or would it be more of the same—red herrings piled on top of straw men in an effort to distract the American people from his own complicity in this debt crisis.

Yet the President chose not to own up to the American people. The quarterback punted. He offered no solutions. Concerns about reelection were of greater priority than the imminent downgrading of the Nation's credit rating—a downgrade that will work as a tax increase on homeowners, students, and the Treasury itself, which is responsible for servicing the \$14.3 trillion in existing debt.

Unable to propose tax increases on the middle class and unable to reform entitlements due to liberal dead-enders, he chose to offer platitudes and class warfare that might play well with some constituencies but do nothing to address the fundamental problem this Nation faces.

This country cannot avoid the choices that are coming. We have to get our spending under control. That is why I supported cut, cap, and balance. That is why I think S.J. Res. 10—the balanced budget amendment I introduced along with my colleague and friend from Utah, Senator LEE, and all 47 Senate Republicans—is absolutely essential. It would fix this problem once and for all.

But the President opposes it. He talks a lot about empowering people. Well, the Founders of this country empowered the American people to make changes to the Constitution. The Constitution provides for that. Why not give them the opportunity to pass this amendment? Remember, if the Democrats do not like it, all they have to do is get 13 States to disagree. We have to get 38 States to ratify. Why not let the

people decide this? Why are they so afraid to let the people decide this?

Let me offer an answer. Because Democrats are terrified the American people would ratify it and their big spending practices would go the way of dinosaurs. The American people are sick and tired of spending. Mothers and fathers understand that the Federal Government is going to bankrupt their children and leave them an America that is less free and less prosperous.

The American people are frustrated. They might not have the data at their fingertips, but they understand what I just laid out quite well. We are not going to solve our problems by raising taxes. Increasingly, the President is an island in his call for more tax increases. Republicans do not support him. Independents do not support him. Now even Democrats do not support him.

It is time to move on. We need to rein in our debt, and we need to act boldly in doing so. So far, the President has failed to lead on this issue, choosing instead politically convenient talking points. But I would remind my dear friend in the White House, it is never too late to mend this problem.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, what is the parliamentary situation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in a period of morning business in which Senators may speak for 10 minutes.

THE DEBT CRISIS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I will be brief. I have been asked by a number of people how I feel about the efforts made to get the United States out of the quandary in which it now finds itself over the debt limit. Let me be very clear. I applaud President Obama and Majority Leader REID for real leadership and persistence over many months in trying to find a bipartisan solution to the debt crisis.

Senator REID has put forward a solution that would end the current crisis and reduce our unsustainable national debt. This is a solution that has the potential to draw support from lawmakers from both parties who are willing to put common sense and the national interests above partisanship and ideology, those who would say rather than party first let's go country first now we have a framework for a solution.

By repeatedly walking away from the table and insisting on their way or no

way, those who are holding the American people and our economy hostage are playing ideological games with serious consequences for everyone else. Through their tactics they threaten great risk to the well-being of ordinary Americans. The longer this goes on, the greater the danger of lasting damage below the waterline of our democracy. Right now Leader REID's \$2.7 trillion debt reduction package is the best chance—really is the best chance this country has—to avoid a default and a credit rating downgrade that would damage our fragile economy. It would also impose a credit tax hike on every American family. If we downgrade our credit rating, we are going to be sending hundreds of billions of dollars in interest to other countries, money they can spend on medical research, on schools, on transportation, and alternative energy. They can spend it in their country—we will be paying the bills—and all because the Congress did not come together on a solution on this issue.

Most people looking at this wonder why have we not moved. Senator REID has a plan that can move. It says we will spend this money—the money we have—not shipping it overseas to other countries but spend it on the needs of our own country. The plan consolidates terms agreed to in the ongoing negotiations. It proposes a solution that ends the current crisis. It accomplishes wide-ranging savings, and has enough bipartisan support to pass.

It would end the roller coaster of unpredictability that shackles our economy by instead offering financial stability through 2012. Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid beneficiaries will be spared a loss of benefits. The American people will begin to recognize these savings from withdrawing from Iraq and Afghanistan. Essential education, job creation, housing, and environmental investments for America's economic recovery and for a strong economic future would be protected from the slashing cuts proposed by House Republicans.

The irony is Republican leaders previously had backed all of the spending reductions called for in Leader REID's plan. I do not agree—I suspect all of us do not agree—with all aspects of this proposed solution. But we are not going to have 100 solutions on this floor, we are going to have 1 we can vote on. I wish this would have included new revenue, especially by ending such costly and outdated tax benefits as those still enjoyed by the biggest oil companies to help us pay off our debt even more quickly.

I want to help pay for the debt incurred by the inexcusable earlier decisions to enter two wars without paying for them. I continue to believe that a surcharge for the wealthiest would mean they would pay more of their fair share after so many years of tax cuts

that tilted far more toward the wealthiest of Americans rather than to the middle class.

I find it interesting when I hear lectures from those who voted for an unnecessary war in Iraq—Iraq, a country that had nothing whatsoever to do with 9/11, a country that before we invaded it had no al-Qaida but has plenty now—say we will vote for this war, and for the first time in our history we will not pay for it, we will borrow the money. We will cut taxes. And to pay for it we will borrow the money. Look where we are now. We will eventually owe \$3.5 trillion for that war.

You know, it is far easier—and I say this to everybody like myself—they may see every single thing they want here—it is far easier to walk away from the negotiating table than to make the hard choices needed on behalf of the American people. We need serious statesmanship on both sides for this to work, both sides to get a solution, and both sides to do it before it is too late.

The economic health of our country, the jobs of thousands of hard-working Americans, should not be mired in politics. It is well past the time—and I realize there is a House faction that is driving much of the decisions there. It is well past time for that faction in the House of Representatives to put politics aside and accept a long-term deficit reduction plan that does not force America's most vulnerable to shoulder the burden.

Just as many Vermont families are forced to make difficult financial decisions, Congress has to be open to considering all available options. We do this in my State of Vermont without gimmicks. We do not have any constitutional amendment on balanced budgets or anything such as that. We just balance the budget.

In that regard, I recall a Member who said: Let's have a constitutional amendment to balance the budget, knowing it would be years from now. But we actually had a balanced budget during the Clinton-Gore administration. Not a single Republican voted for it. Democrats voted for it, and we balanced the budget. We created a surplus. We started paying down the national debt, and created 24 million new jobs. Let's go back to those days. Forget the sloganeering. Forget the bumper sticker solutions. If things were that easy, it would have been done long before now. Start going back to doing what we are elected to do, what we are paid to do, and also what we are expected to do. Seek a solution, not a gimmick; not a deal, a solution that benefits all Americans.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BUDGET COMPROMISE

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I don't need to tell anybody in this Chamber that our Nation is at a crossroads. We are at a crossroads. We have said for many months that we would be at this point, and now we are here. For months, we have said we will need to make tough choices and difficult decisions, and now we are at that very point when we need to make those tough choices and difficult decisions to rein in the debt and the deficit, and to put our fiscal house in order, even as we raise the debt ceiling.

This decision is difficult, tough, and excruciating for us. But it is hardly different than what American families are doing all around this country, and in Connecticut, because I have seen them and I have heard from them. So have you in this Chamber—families who are struggling to make ends meet, to stay in their homes, to keep their families together, to make those cuts in their spending, which we are now required to do in this Chamber for the Nation.

It is a historic responsibility. We cannot keep kicking the can down the road. That is the analogy that has been drawn countless times in this Chamber, around the country, and by the President of the United States himself. The point is that the time for action is now—not delay or indecision, but real action that achieves a credible solution, which will demand compromise.

Compromise is the essence of the American Republic. It is the way our Nation was founded—through compromise, people coming together, bringing differences to the table and resolving them. Families in Connecticut and all across the country are making these kinds of choices every day when they buy a car, a house, decide to go to school, and even marriage requires compromise. Compromise is the essence of the American Republic and the way we do business in this Chamber, in this city, in State capitals around the country, and in places of business and all places where momentous decisions are made.

The American people expect nothing less of us than they do of themselves. There is no avoiding these tough choices and compromises now that will help us get our debt and deficit under control in a meaningful way.

The markets and the Nation need a real plan, not a short-term or stopgap effort. We must demonstrate that we are committed to finding a real solution. A short-term plan would not provide the kind of certainty and reliability the markets are desperately seeking at this point. A short-term or stopgap solution risks many of the same dire economic consequences that would be triggered by a default itself.

A financial Armageddon now, a catastrophic failure to raise the debt ceiling now, is exactly the same risk 6 months from now if we attempt to address our present issues through a short-term, stopgap measure. That financial Armageddon will affect every American family, every American small business, every American worker, and every job seeker. It is about jobs and economic recovery, because a failure to raise the debt ceiling will increase the cost of borrowing for every homeowner, every car buyer, every small business, and every person who has a credit card or otherwise seeks capital or credit in the market. By raising the cost of borrowing, it will simply crush our fragile economic recovery. It will be a job killer for this Nation. It is time now for compromise that will avoid those dire consequences for the American people.

The Reid proposal is a compromise in the best sense of the term. It is a solution that meets all the criteria our Republican friends have been insisting on for weeks. It does not include revenue increases. It includes enough spending cuts to meet the amount of debt ceiling increase, dollar for dollar. It includes spending cuts that have been approved by many Republicans. Many of those spending cuts have been voted for.

Most important, from my standpoint, and from the standpoint of many colleagues on this side of the aisle, it does not make spending cuts on the backs of our seniors and our most vulnerable citizens. It avoids spending cuts to Medicare and Social Security that would imperil or diminish the benefits of those programs.

Let me tell you about this compromise, the Reid proposal. It is not transformational. It is not a grand bargain. It is incremental. It achieves progress step by step by step—the way progress has been made in this great Nation from its founding—step by step by step. It represents, as perhaps one of the columnists might have described it—in fact, this morning in the *New York Times*, David Brooks said there has been an outbreak of sanity. This proposal represents an outbreak of sanity in roiled waters of emotionalism, personality conflicts, political acrimony.

I hope my Republican colleagues will join us in seeking and ensuring stability for the markets and our fragile economic recovery, focusing on what concerns the American people now, and should, which is job growth. It is about jobs. We should get on with that historic path of creating jobs and enabling small businesses to borrow at rates they can afford, without hiking those interest rates as a result of a financial crisis that is truly avoidable. Failure would be the result of our own doing and our own failure in this Chamber.

We need to keep our economy moving in the right direction. I am hopeful,

even confident, that we can come together with good will on both sides to overcome our differences and achieve that compromise that the Reid proposal represents.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, so ordered.

The Senator from Kansas.

BUDGET CRISIS

Mr. ROBERTS. I thank the President. In making these remarks, I wish to emphasize that I am not trying to be presumptuous or disrespectful in any way to the Office of the Presidency or to the President personally. I wish to make that very clear. It is just that I am trying to think of an allegory to try to get my point across, and it seemed to me this might be the way to do it.

We have our national unemployment rate at its highest level all year. We have the debt ceiling rapidly approaching the crisis everybody is talking about, and one would think we could do everything we could to support those industries very critical for job creation and economic development. There is one industry I am referring to in particular; that is, general aviation, and I was trying to think, how could I get my point across.

Since we had Speaker BOEHNER, Leader MCCONNELL, and the distinguished majority leader Senator REID conducting the very best they can to get a solution, perhaps the President, although his time is very valuable, could talk to somebody such as me, a ranking member of a committee, very worried about what is happening with our country, very worried about what we can do to get this debt ceiling fixed and we can get a long-term solution with regard to our entitlement programs. Perhaps he could actually invite me down maybe later—a lot later, certainly no cameras—in regard to a little basketball game of horse because everybody knows the President is a very good basketball player, as a matter of fact an extremely good basketball player. I am not going to make that claim, but there was a day on blind-side picks and a few other things I could do.

But I would emphasize to the President, bouncing the ball to him just on a bounce pass, and say: Your ball, Mr. President. The ball is in your court. I would like to emphasize, while we are playing, that basically he shouldn't be

more concerned with increasing the debt ceiling past the 2012 elections than working on a long-term solution for solving the crisis. That would just be a suggestion. He would probably go to the left corner and sink a three about that time. I would want to emphasize to the President that he is singling out and he seems to be fixated on one specific industry that affects me and other specific industries as well, and I don't know how we pick and choose who should pay more taxes, who should pay more in terms of sacrifice, in terms of picking and choosing industries.

But at any rate, I would tell the President when I had the ball—I would probably be dribbling a lot or trying to, if he wasn't playing tough defense—and I would say: Mr. President, since negotiations started last month on raising the debt limit, you have, on multiple occasions over and over again, singled out the general aviation industry as an example of big business that serves only the wealthy and should contribute more to lowering the deficit. The only problem with this claim is it is not real, it is not factual, it is not correct. Consequently, I don't know whether it is in his head or maybe the writers who write that valuable information for him that general aviation only serves millionaires and billionaires. Then, after I shot and missed it, I would say: Your ball again, Mr. President. I would say as he was trying to drive around me, rather successfully: The truth is, these aircraft actually serve as an essential business tool for a multitude of businesses of all shapes, all sizes, farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, business men and women, to access multiple offices and facilities that are spread across this great Nation. These folks are not fat cats. I would like the President to understand that managers and sales teams and technical experts, those are the people we are talking about who are in that corporate aircraft to be sure, but it is general aviation that serves the general public's welfare. They are often required to visit numerous offices in a short amount of time in regions of the United States that aren't served by large airports.

By that time, the President has scored a couple layups and two more jump shots and I have yet to hit a shot. But I will persevere. I would say to him as we were playing there on the court: Mr. President, in fact, 90 percent of our country's airports aren't even accessible by commercial aircraft—certainly, the Presiding Officer knows that—and I think they represent just those plain folks you have been talking about, just the folks who are in the middle, just the folks who are having a tough time, just the folks who have been laid off.

Then we have a paradox of enormous irony where, in the stimulus bill, there

was a tax incentive for general aviation that helped some of those folks get those jobs back and it is that which you are attacking, which is your own suggestion or at least that of the majority in the Senate.

General aviation employs 1.2 million workers and annually contributes \$150 billion to the U.S. economy. That is a mouthful. By that time, the President has probably stolen the ball and scored another layup. Playing horse, we have five. I would probably ask him to play 10 or spot me 10.

Just last year, I would point out to the President, general aviation delivered 1,334 aircraft valued at over \$7.9 billion, over half attributed to exports, and that is what the President wants to achieve in his trade policy. I would tell him: Sir, your goal is doubling U.S. exports over the next 5 years. You don't do it by calling general aviation fat cats and singling out that industry for political blame.

Let's talk about tough times and tough going. Similar to every other business sector, general aviation has struggled during the recession. At that particular time, I would claim the President fouled me with a sharp elbow and I would take a free shot and I would say: Wait a minute. Unfortunately, this has resulted in layoffs among many high-skilled, high-paying jobs in this industry, and that is a two-shot foul, by the way, so I have a little time. I would say: To help offset these job losses and incentivize the purchase of these aircraft, Democratic Members included a provision in the infamous stimulus bill to accelerate the depreciation schedules for a wide range of capital investments.

In Kansas, for Cessna Aircraft, accelerated depreciation was a key factor for Cessna and its suppliers being able to retain 1,000 jobs. Jobs held by folks whom I would tell the President are not fat cats. Again, they are just folks. They are doing the job to produce a product in the United States that we are very proud of, and we certainly don't want them to go to Mexico or to go to Canada. Some have already left.

So it came as a pretty big shock that you, Mr. President—and I am still on my second shot on the free shot. He is now asking me to quit talking and start shooting. But I would say: It comes as a pretty big shock to those workers that yourself and the Democratic Members in both Chambers would direct an attack on this industry.

This is true. I don't know how many Members of the Senate—not too many but, my word, I don't know how many Members of the House have heard that—corporate jet. Corporate jet. It has a ring to it, I guess. But at any rate, why would you repeal a tax provision that has contributed to job creation at a time of severe economic downturn; in fact, the one you actually suggested.

But there is more. There is more, Mr. President. Your ball. On top of this, budget negotiators are considering implementing user fees on general aviation as a way to generate revenue. We have been down that road. Let me be very clear. If user fees on general aviation are implemented, we could very well see the beginning of the end of this very critical industry.

With all that is going on—and I hate to remind you of this. By the way, I just scored a hook shot, Mr. President. It wasn't very pretty, but it rolled in. So it is about eight to one, something like that. At any rate, I am coming back.

When you mention corporate jets six times in two paragraphs in one speech and that is repeated on the various pundit shows on TV over and over again as a fat cat industry, that is most unfortunate.

I think we need to get serious about spending. I have thought so for some time, and I think every Member here does as well. We have our different ideas on how to do it. But I also believe it makes sense to consider those provisions that would actually have a measurable impact on reducing our more than \$14 trillion national debt.

I would ask as I bounce the ball back to the President and he heads for that left-hand shot in the corner again and I am hustling to try to keep up, I would ask: Do you have any idea, if you just taxed all general aviation, what that would amount to? Just changing these schedules, these depreciation schedules for corporate jets; i.e., general aviation only contributes \$3 billion over 10 years. We borrow around \$40 billion every 10 days. Repealing this tax provision would close our national budget deficit for 1 hour—1 hour—1 hour in terms of a measurable effect. Yet we still pick on general aviation, calling them all fat cats.

Sadly, this isn't the first time we have seen this happen; that the Congress of the United States, a different President has singled out general aviation. In the 1990 budget deal, the majority created a new luxury excise tax that applied to boats and aircraft. The tax was repealed in 1993. Because, as the Democratic-controlled Senate Finance Committee report explained, during the recent recession the boat and aircraft industries have suffered job losses, increased unemployment. I guess those are plain folks, they qualify, not fat cats. It said:

The committee believes it is appropriate to eliminate the burden these taxes impose in the interests of fostering economic recovery in those and related industries.

That is a lot of words, especially when you are out playing horse in weather that is pretty hot. Today—maybe it is better today so maybe it would be a better deal. I couldn't agree more with that. We have been down this road before. I think it is unfortunate.

Last, before I watch him make his last shot and I go down to the T, at least on the court I hope I would have made my argument to the President that singling out general aviation as "fat cats" is simply not accurate, it is class warfare. That is a little tough. Maybe I wouldn't say that on the court, maybe sort of nudge him a little bit when I got underneath the bucket.

At any rate, it is going to take courage to put this country's fiscal house back in order. There is no question about that. But it is absolutely essential for us to do it in a responsible manner and not by scapegoating, not by singling out important sectors of industry that have long played a vital role in the economic development of both my home State of Kansas and our country as a whole. I would simply say: Your ball, your game, Mr. President, but let's not single out general aviation anymore.

It might have been the case if he were on a corporate jet with Kobe Bryant or somebody, maybe a Hollywood actor, maybe going to a fundraiser, maybe he got it in his head everybody who has a corporate jet, i.e., general aviation, as opposed to going from Kansas to North Dakota to check on some farm ground, that that is the case. I hope that is not the case anymore.

That is the end of the ball game but it is not the end of the debate. I hope we have a debate without singling out an industry. That is unfair and not accurate.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KERRY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KERRY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent I be permitted to proceed as in morning business for about 15 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ECONOMIC STEWARDSHIP

Mr. KERRY. Madam President, this is a dangerous time for our country. What amazes me, for the time I have been here and privileged to serve the citizens of Massachusetts for 27 years now, is that never have I seen a moment where the consequences of inaction can have as potentially damaging an effect on our country as the consequences may if we are downgraded in our debt—just downgraded, not even defaulting—yet some of our colleagues in the Congress, particularly on the

other side of the aisle in the House, are, despite all the evidence, all of the judgments made by knowledgeable people—by economists, by business people, by outside observers, about the danger and inadequacy of what they are proposing—despite that, they are insisting, not as a matter of common sense or as a matter of logical economic policy but insisting as a matter of politics and ideology on holding the entire economy of our country hostage and be damned with the risks.

Notwithstanding what that may mean—for 401(k)s, for families, what that may mean for investments that are on the brink because of the fragility of the economy, notwithstanding any of the advice of people who deal with money on a daily basis in terms of investments, these people, many of them who have never served in public life in their lives, never been part of a compromise but have come here with one ideological purpose—these people are putting the entire Nation at risk.

There are a lot of people here, particularly here in the Senate on the other side of the aisle, who know this is dangerous and who know the risks we are taking and who know there are better alternatives. But because of the politics of the situation they are being locked in, not allowed to stand up and exercise—or at least unwilling at this point to stand up and exercise their judgment and, frankly, their responsibility as sworn to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America, to come here and do the business of our country.

The deadline for default may be just a week away but no one should have any illusion that what is happening right now today is already hurting the economy of our country. It is already hurting our country. This is embarrassing for the Nation. It is embarrassing for the United States of America to be having such a dysfunctional display for everybody in the world to see that we who run around the world promoting democracy are unable to make our own democracy work right here at home. The fact is, all you have to do is read today's article in the Boston Globe with the headline "Uncertainty Has Massachusetts Firms Wary Of Hiring."

That is what is happening right now. This is already having a negative impact. Maybe that is what some of the people on the other side of the aisle in the House want. Maybe they want the economy to come down so they can win politically and point to the President and say: Oh, it is his fault we don't have the jobs, even though they are weakening the economy with their obstinacy and with their ideological rigidity.

Today's article says:

Still cautious from the last recession, many business owners worry that government leaders will be unable to reach an

agreement, while others are concerned about exactly the opposite: that any agreement will invariably include spending cuts and weaken an already lackluster recovery.

This is no way to provide economic stewardship. Most important, it is no way to run a government. There are countless institutions that rely on the United States, for us to go out and help other nations to be able to recover economically. I met yesterday with the Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of Greece. Greece is taking enormous steps right now to try to bring its debt down and all of the euro zone has joined in that effort, and Italy and Spain are likewise at risk in their economies. But the IMF is a critical component of that recovery and the United States is a critical component of the IMF efforts and we have a significant amount of our capital at risk in the IMF. What happens there is important to what happens here, but this place is not behaving as though there is that interconnectedness. Let me tell you what I hear from a lot of smart people—smarter than I am—about the economics. I can listen to them, and I can tell they are deadly serious when they say we are playing with fire with respect to the Greek recovery and with respect to Italy and Spain and the rest of Europe. If they start to go down, then we have a cascade, and it begins to have a greater impact on the United States of America. That is what is at risk in this dangerous game of political chicken that is being played by people of such ideological rigidity that they are unwilling to even compromise.

I heard an interview yesterday with one Senator and a television commentator of one of the cable shows who asked him repeatedly: What are you willing to compromise on? In the end, it became clear he was not willing to compromise on the fundamental notions of how we arrive at an agreement. We need to reach out across the aisle—both of us, Democrat, Republican—and come together on a deal, on a solution to a critical problem that challenges all of us where there is a solution staring us in the face. We need to do that before, as a result of the inability of people to make that compromise, before those who take that position of ideological rigidity do greater harm to our economy and to our country's reputation. We need to put an end to the time clocks that are running out how long it is before a default which sends an enormous message of uncertainty and incompetence, of dysfunctional politics on a daily basis. Every tick of that clock drums into people the inadequacy of what is happening here right now.

Back in 1983, President Ronald Reagan, whom many of the people who are taking this position of complete obstinacy revere—they ought to listen to what he said because President Reagan wrote:

The denigration of the full faith and credit of the United States would have substantial effects on the domestic financial markets and on the value of the dollar on the exchange markets. The Nation can ill afford to allow such a result.

Now almost 30 years later some House Republicans have turned their back on the legacy of Ronald Reagan. Instead, they continue to play this cynical game of chicken with the President, with the Congress, with the American people, with our economy, with our reputation, with our future, by refusing to negotiate a clearly achievable, clearly definable compromise agreement that would extend the debt limit, something that happened 17 times under Ronald Reagan. What is their negotiating strategy? Don't negotiate. Do what we say no matter what the danger or how ill thought-out the consequences may be.

David Stockman, the former Office and Management Director under President Reagan, said the following about the House Republican budget:

I think the biggest problem is revenues. It is simply unrealistic to say that raising revenue isn't part of the solution. It is a measure of how far off the deep end Republicans have gone with this religious catechism about taxes.

In taking this extreme approach, the House Republicans have also made a dirty word out of a basic tenet of American democracy—compromise. Do they know nothing about history? Have they forgotten about the Missouri Compromise? Have they forgotten about countless great compromises that brought people together to pass some of the great efforts of our Nation with respect to the social structure of our country? The House Republican Party has taken this approach, even though they know and agree with what Ronald Reagan said 30 years ago, and they know it is true today.

Experts are telling us that even a short-term crisis could lead to a permanent downgrading or stain, if you will, on the Treasuries of our country. It could prove particularly damaging to the willingness of foreign investors to buy Treasury. If foreign investors start to shy away from Treasuries, then they will become much less liquid. As Lou Crandall, who is the chief economist at Wrightson ICAP, said:

You could never get that liquidity premium back if you create a precedent. That's the thing that would be irreparable. The end result of such a scenario: higher interest rates in the United States.

I just met a few moments ago with a businessman who is engaged in major investments in this country and elsewhere, on an international basis, who reinforced to me the danger of what we are facing right now in just the downgrade. What he said to me is that nobody can tell us what the real impact of that downgrade is going to be. What happens to valuations all the way down the economic food chain? What happens to credit? What happens to the

judgments about interest? What happens to the judgments about the auctions and the next market and so forth? Nobody knows. He can't tell me, and he does this for a living and has very successfully for a lifetime. That is what they are worried about.

There is a moment—nobody knows when exactly it is—there is a moment when as we get close enough and the dysfunctionality becomes the overwhelming, dominating feature of this effort, where someone is going to cut and say: OK, time to downgrade. Then what happens? What kind of downward spiral flows out of that? I don't know, but I know we should not be pushing it to the limit and taking that risk.

Why are people taking that risk? Why are people, despite all the commentary that says we ought to be reaching across the aisle, we ought to sit down the way we used to around here, why are they doing this? I will tell you why. They want only one way of approaching this solution—their way. They want to so dramatically cut Federal spending and cut entitlements without increasing revenues at all. No matter how successful people have been at the upper end of our economy, no matter how much money people have made, they say we can't even ask a billionaire for \$100. We can't even ask a billionaire for \$500. Nothing, nada, no. That is it. That is the reason they are willing to take the country to the brink. They know they do not have enough votes to even pass the budget they are screaming about still, but they are not running around trying to find the alternative. They are going to push it anyway, have a vote on it anyway, send a dramatic, stupid message of incompetence to the world and drag the United States of America down with it.

It is stunning what a group of extremists can do who are trying to get their unrealistic and impossible budget passed, which even a lot of Republicans know they are not going to vote for. The Boehner plan would require Draconian entitlement policy changes. To meet the \$1.8 trillion in cuts over the decade without any increase in revenues, policymakers would be forced to cut Social Security and Medicare benefits, and that is not a scare tactic. That is an absolute reality of what would have to happen if we proceed to do those cuts the way they are structuring them, and we would eviscerate the safety net for low-income children, for parents, for senior citizens, and for people with disabilities.

One of the worst and most disturbing components of this plan, the Boehner plan—it is incomprehensible to me—they want to do this whole thing all over again in 6 months. There is no economic reason we have to do it again in 6 months because they purposely left out the money that could come from reducing our engagement in the wars

in Iraq and Afghanistan, which is going to come. They purposely left that money out so it wouldn't show the amount of savings that could get us through next November. The reason they purposely left it out is so they can come back and do this same exercise again next February and make all the discussion in America about debt and deficit, when we are perfectly prepared to have a serious discussion not about raising the debt on it but about solving it, about doing it. We don't need a constitutional amendment to do our duty. We don't need a constitutional amendment to balance the budget. I know what I am talking about on that because I was here when we balanced the budget in the 1990s without a constitutional amendment. We balanced the budget five times since World War II, and we have done it each time without a constitutional amendment.

Let's not have this phony structured setup that is pure politics. I am sure they are raising a lot of money from their base on it every single day, but that is not what this ought to be about. This ought to be about solving the economic problems of our country. A short-term plan is not necessary and it is, most importantly, not wise. If we go through this exercise again in 6 months in the same way we have gone through it in the last few months, we are going to drive this economy right down and down.

Maybe that is what they want so they can then blame President Obama and turn around and blame the Democrats who are responsible in the Senate. There is no other rationale for wanting to come back and do this in 6 months, when we could do this with the joint committees that are in both the Boehner plan and in Senator REID's plan. We have the ability to set up a structure, similar to the BRAC closing commissions, where we have to vote, where we are forced to do this on an accelerated basis, where we tie ourselves into a process that requires the Senate to do its duty and the Congress to do its duty. We can lock that in right now. We are not kicking anything down the road if we do that and require us not to have a balanced budget amendment that goes out all across the country for States to have to ratify but, rather, do the job we were sent to do and do it in the next few months. That is what we could be doing. If we don't do that, then the downgrade that may take place somewhere in the next days could drive up interest rates, and that will have a negative drag on the economy to boot. A student with a student loan will feel that impact. Somebody with a car loan is going to feel that impact. Anybody with a credit card is going to feel that impact. People with mortgages will feel that impact. That will mean more money out of pocket to make up for the dereliction of duty of the Congress.

These are completely dangerous and uncharted waters we are sailing into. I think at a time when the global economy is facing enormous problems, any downgrade of our Nation's credit rating could have disastrous effects for our financial system in terms of those other countries which I have talked about, and I think it is an unacceptable risk. It should require us to find the compromise and find it now. I might add that the Boehner plan is not even supported on Wall Street.

Let me quote Christian Cooper, who is the head of the U.S. dollar derivatives trading in New York at Jefferies & Company. He said:

From the markets' point of view, a two-stage plan is a nonstarter because we know it is amateur hour on Capitol Hill and we don't want to be painted into this corner again.

He went on to say:

There is significant risk of a downgrade with a deal that ties further cuts to another vote only a few months down the road given the significant resistance to do the right thing now.

Frankly, I think that is logical. Every American can understand that. If a person has some money to invest and they are sitting there watching what is happening right now, and then they learn our way of dealing with it is going to be to have another vote in 6 months for the same reason—to lift the debt ceiling—when everybody knows we don't have to do that, would that person say, oh, that is a really good, clear climate for investment; let's go put our money into whatever it is out there because we know Congress is going to do the right thing? No. No way, I say to my colleagues. Everybody knows that.

The fact is, the President has said he is going to veto the Speaker's plan. Senators know he is going to veto it. We know it is a bad plan. We ought to stop discussing proposals that are going to go nowhere and get the job done on something that can bring everybody together.

In an effort to forge a bipartisan compromise, Senator REID has reached way beyond what many Members of our caucus really wanted to do or think is the appropriate balance. But we are acting responsibly in order to try to get the job done. So we are willing to extend the debt ceiling through 2012 without revenues at this time, with the understanding that we will have the ability to come back to the floor with the process of a joint committee providing it is tied to a very clear schedule, with very clear requirements about no filibusters, with very clear requirements about amendments and voting.

Madam President, the spending cuts in Senator REID's proposal are only those to which Republicans have previously agreed. So no revenues, cuts of \$2-some trillion, we go through the

year to give certainty to the marketplace, and we have cuts in there that the Republicans have already agreed to, and, again, a fixed period of time. I think that proposal gives our economy the certainty it needs in order to create jobs now, not 6 months from now and not maybe sometime next year.

Everybody understands how anemic America's job creation is now. The last the job market needs is this kind of brinkmanship, gamesmanship, and cynical effort to hold the entire economy of our country hostage when better proposals are actually on the table and in front of us which everybody can understand.

The majority leader's proposal includes the capacity for that joint committee to include recommendations and legislative language on tax reform. We all know we need tax reform. I believe the Senate and the House ought to do their jobs, both of us. Senator REID's plan actually calls on the Senate to live up to its ultimate responsibility. The Speaker's plan has no such language—nothing that requires that kind of participation.

The deficit commission was chaired by former Republican Senator Alan Simpson. All of that work is being ignored right now. The so-called Gang of 6 did an outstanding job, in my judgment, of helping to put together a bipartisan plan which actually included revenue and I think 20-some Republican Senators were prepared to support a thoughtful, balanced plan that had both revenues as well as cuts. So we can find common ground. We need to find that common ground.

Over the last year, we have seen a number of bipartisan plans put forward on the debt limit. I think the effort of the Gang of 6 exemplified the best tradition of the Senate, where a group of Members reached across the aisle and worked with each other to tackle the tough issues. That is how we got a budget deal in 1990. That is how we got a budget deal in 1997. We have done this before, and we did it growing our economy—creating 23 million new jobs and creating a surplus of \$5.6 trillion. Had we stayed on that course, we would next year be paying down the debt of our Nation completely for the first time since Andrew Jackson was President of the United States. Everybody here knows why we went off track. I don't mean to go through that again now, but I think we will not be able to resolve this current impasse until colleagues on both sides of the aisle—and especially in the House where there seems to be the greatest ideological resistance to common sense right now—decide to put aside their ideology and decide what is best for the United States of America.

We can't be responsible if we don't get serious first. Far too much is at stake for the Senate to do anything less than the Senate was intended to do

at moments such as this. We are called the world's greatest deliberative body. There aren't many Americans who would look at us right now and give us that appropriate moniker. We have to earn it. I think in the next hours we can do that.

I thank the Chair, and I thank my colleagues for their forbearance.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Madam President, may I inquire as to how much time I have allotted?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate is in morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. CORKER. I thank the Chair. I doubt I will do this, but if I get up to 8 minutes, if the Chair would let me know so I will have 2 minutes to wrap up.

The last time I was on the floor was July 14, and I was very concerned—maybe upset—about the fact that it appeared where we were on this debt ceiling discussion was looking for a political way for everybody to raise the debt ceiling without anybody taking ownership. Obviously, that wasn't what I came to the Senate to do. I came down and had choice words for both sides of the aisle in that regard.

I actually come here today with a glimmer of hope. The reason I say that is, to my knowledge, in this debt ceiling debate we may be—I think this is the first time legislation has actually been offered from both sides of the aisle to look at spending reductions over the course of this next year. To me, that is progress. I think we ought to focus on the fact that, finally, here in this body, we are on the right subject. We sort of wandered around in the wilderness for several weeks as this debt ceiling was coming up and focused on many things that were not going to solve the problem. Then, a couple of weeks ago, we focused on trying to figure out a way for us to all usurp—get rid of—our responsibilities in dealing with this.

I am kind of uplifted because, as was mentioned, a Democratic Senator has a proposal, a Republican House Member has a proposal, and now, finally, we are on the topic that matters; that is, we have proposals before us that are beginning to look at what we might do to look at spending reductions.

The fact is, the reason this debt ceiling debate is what it is is because all of us are concerned about future deficits. All of us are concerned about where our country is going. All of us are concerned about the fact that if we don't deal with this issue responsibly, we are going to end up with a downgrade in our debt regardless, even if we make it. If we had a clean debt ceiling vote, which, obviously, is not going to occur now—if we had a clean debt ceiling vote, we would be right back at the

table trying to figure out a way to keep from having a downgrade. So for what it is worth, I am choosing today to come to the floor and to be slightly optimistic because both sides of the aisle are beginning to look at ways of reducing that issue.

As to the rating agencies, actually we don't put a lot of faith in them, I know, but smart people who actually buy Treasuries have said the order of magnitude that we need to deal with as it relates to deficit spending over the next short period of time is a minimum of \$4 trillion, and that \$4 trillion has to be real, and that \$4 trillion needs to be accompanied by entitlement reforms.

What I would say is, right now, I don't think there is any proposal that is being discussed that is strong enough, and I don't say that to knock any of the authors. There is nothing out there that I am aware of that is being discussed by the media or being discussed in either Chamber that really deals with this issue. Most of us have taken the position that we want to use the debt ceiling vote to force dramatic reductions in deficits, dramatic reductions in spending and, fortunately, we have gotten to that place, finally. We have just gotten there in the last 24 hours.

So this is my hope: We know none of the proposals out there now are strong enough. None of the proposals out there—I am talking about in legislative language. There are a lot of people working in other ways to try to come up with a solution, but there is no legislative language out there yet that actually forces us to do the things we need to do to achieve not being downgraded, if you will, after this debt ceiling vote occurs.

So it appears we are going to be voting on a proposal the majority leader has offered. It is very apparent to me it is not going to pass. I know there are some activities that may be taking place in the House over the next 24 hours, but at least we have both sides of the aisle talking about the right topic, finally. It has taken us a while to get here.

I urge us to sit down and figure out a way to make the proposals that are being discussed real—make sure they don't have gimmicks—and that they force us to do those things we need to do to make sure we don't just kick the can down the road and pass something that looks like we have actually taken action, but to pass something instead that actually will address the issues we have before us.

So, again, I have a glimmer of hope. Both sides of the aisle have offered proposals. No doubt in both cases they are not nearly strong enough, but both sides have offered proposals that look at reducing the deficits over the next year or so. So I urge people to sit down—as Members have done recently on other proposals, let's sit down and

figure out a way to make some proposal strong enough so we know that not only have we moved past this debt ceiling vote, but we have also put in place those actions that will cause us to make it through this entire next year, in a way that we know we are not going to be downgraded by the credit rating agencies and have other issues.

There is not a proposal before us today that does it, but both sides of the aisle are talking about proposals. That, to me, is a sign for a degree of optimism. If we need to extend the debt ceiling issue for a week while we work out the details or whatever, let's do it. But let's don't let this opportunity where we finally have both sides of the aisle talking about the right subject, let's don't let this opportunity go by. Let's solve this problem while the focus is on it.

I thank the Chair for allowing me to take to the floor.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNET). The majority leader.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended until 5 o'clock and that I be recognized at 5 o'clock and that Senator SESSIONS be recognized for 10 minutes at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alabama.

THE DEBT CRISIS

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the majority leader, and I appreciate his courtesy, as always, in so many issues that come before the Senate.

I wish to say a couple of things. One is fundamental, and that is that the crisis we face—and I think my Senate colleague from Tennessee would agree—is not the debt limit, it is the debt. It is the surging debt. The debt limit is Congress's power, and it says to the administration: You can't borrow any more money. We only authorize so much money to be borrowed. Like a 102-degree mark in our thermometer, it is not the thermometer that is the problem. It is the underlying fever that the thermometer indicates. So reaching the debt limit so soon after we raised it is an indication we have something unhealthy in our system that needs to be dealt with.

Senator REID has very difficult challenges before him. It is not easy. But as I like to remind him, he asked for the job and, hopefully, he can make progress at this point in time.

But to raise the debt ceiling, the majority leader knows a couple of things must be done. He knows, one, the Republican Congress and the American people want to see changes in our

spending. It is on a reckless path. We cannot continue on this path. So the idea is, shouldn't we change what we are doing that has put us in a situation in which 40 cents of every \$1 we spend today is borrowed?

This year we will pay \$240 billion in interest on our national debt. Under the budget the President submitted to us—which was voted down, I will acknowledge, 97 to 0 in the Senate; but it indicates the debt path we are on—it would cause in the tenth year interest to be paid in 1 year of \$940 billion—a stunning figure. The Federal road program is about \$40 billion. Federal aid to education is about \$100 billion. We would be surging from \$240 billion to \$940 billion in interest on this rising debt, according to the Congressional Budget Office, our experts.

I would note also that President Bush's last year was an extraordinary deficit of \$450 billion—but President Obama's deficits have been \$1,200 billion, \$1,300 billion, and it is expected this year to be \$1.5 trillion—\$1,500 billion—in 1 year. These are the 3 years.

In the first 2 years of President Obama's administration, his non-defense discretionary spending surged 24 percent. This does not count the stimulus of almost \$900 billion that we sent out the door that was supposed to stimulate the economy.

Speaker BOEHNER, and I think with the support of the American people, has said: Well, we can do a long time. We can do a fairly large increase in our debt ceiling to allow the country to continue to borrow or we can do a short one, but we in the House, in the Republican House, believe we have to confront our problems. So I would propose, and he has stated, that the House would vote to raise the debt ceiling but only to the extent to which spending has been reduced an equal amount.

If you reduce spending enough over 10 years, you get an immediate increase in the debt ceiling of an equal amount now. If you reduce spending over 10 years a larger amount, you could increase the debt limit a larger amount. It has become a vehicle, an opportunity for the American people to understand how we are spiraling out of control, and how it is Congress that needs to figure out a way to rein this in. It is unsustainable, the path we are on. So this \$1 increase in the debt ceiling for \$1 reduction in spending kind of caught on. People seem to be going along with that. It seems to be fairly reasonable.

Senator REID claims he has a plan that would reduce spending \$2.7 trillion over 10 years and this would allow him to raise the debt ceiling about that amount, and this would allow us to, in effect, raise it enough that we would not have to talk about this again for almost 2 years—about 22 months.

Well, OK. That sort of seemed to meet what Speaker BOEHNER had suggested. But I am the ranking member

of the Budget Committee. I have been a real critic of what has been going on. I have been predicting we were going to end up at the last minute and a bill was going to be thrown on the floor, and I was concerned it was going to be filled with gimmicks. It was not going to be honest, and we were going to be told if we do not pass it, the Republic is going to fall, and no matter what is in it, we have to pass it. And do not worry about it, trust us on these numbers.

Unfortunately, that is where we are getting. Senator REID, in his \$2.7 trillion in claimed deficit reduction—about \$1.2 trillion of that is savings from the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Well, that has not ever been projected to stay at the current level of \$158 billion a year for 10 years.

Speaker BOEHNER, when he proposes to reduce spending for a shorter term, does not count savings from the declining war expenditure because that is not a baseline expenditure and we have never extended and planned to do that. We never planned to spend \$158 billion a year in the next 10 years. This is inevitably going to drop. Some say it could go to zero, some say to \$50 billion, saving \$100 billion or a little more a year for the next decade. So the Budget Committee Republican staff calculates this is over \$1 trillion in inaccurate estimations of spending reductions. It just is. It should not be counted. Speaker BOEHNER does not count it in his numbers.

Senator REID also claims \$1.2 trillion in deficit reduction from spending caps by capping discretionary spending. Well, those caps are counted from a baseline that ignores the savings that were enacted in the full year CR that we did the year we are in.

What happened was, we had a higher level of spending. There was an election last fall. A new Republican House was elected—huge numbers of people who were elected who said: We have to do something about spending. So we had a fuss over what our spending levels should be this year because we were operating not under authorization of appropriations bills but a continuing resolution, and that number was reduced. So the spending level for this year now is not the same as it was when the year began. The current level of spending is the number we ought to be talking about when we say we are going to save money. Correct? It should not be the number that was higher but has been abandoned and been reduced. That reduces the amount of legitimate claims in discretionary savings to less than \$800 billion. Then he claims \$100 billion in mandatory savings. But it is likely—from our staff looking at them—it would amount to no more than \$60 billion.

The bottom line is, we have looked at this a lot of different ways. I believe the numbers I am going to repeat to

you today will be sustained in any competitive argument about it. I believe these are honest and true numbers. The bottom line is that the total real savings that are proposed by the Reid plan are not \$2.7 trillion but \$1 trillion. If you do \$1 trillion in savings, and you raise the debt limit by \$1 trillion, then that would extend to 6 or 8 months or so into early next year, which is, I suggest, where we ought to be. Because this amount of savings—\$1 trillion—is nowhere near what we need to do to get off the debt course we are on.

As Senator CORKER indicated, most of the financial experts tell us we need at least \$4 trillion in savings, not \$1 trillion. So if we are just going to get \$1 trillion so we can vote in this crisis period to raise the debt limit before August 2 so the checks can go out and everybody can be paid and the government can operate—and I hope we can do that; we need to do that—but if all we are going to get is \$1 trillion, this is just an interim step. This is not a real fix at all, but it is an interim step. If so, we need to be right back on this issue soon. That gives us an opportunity to do so early next year or late this year because we have not solved the problem.

Mr. President, \$1 trillion is not enough. Madam President, \$4 trillion is not enough. Depending on how you calculate the debt that has been projected to accrue over the next 10 years, it is somewhere between \$9 and \$13 trillion. So \$1 trillion is not going to do anything to change the disastrous debt course we are on.

By the way, the President—I want to say this because he was pretty tough last night blaming Republicans for all kinds of problems. Let me say, the Republican House passed—and I voted for in the Senate—a budget for 10 years that changes the debt course of this Republic. It puts us on a sound financial path. It reduced spending by as much as \$6 trillion over 10 years. It even reduced taxes to create more economic growth and make us more competitive in the world marketplace. It was a thoughtful, long-term, serious budget that would do real, positive things for America.

The Senate has not passed a budget, not had one marked up in the Budget Committee. The leadership here in the Senate refused to allow it to happen. Senator REID said it would be foolish to pass a budget. We have gone now over 2 years without a budget. It is unthinkable in the debt course we are on—how disastrous it is, how unsustainable it is, how unlike anything that has ever happened in our history—to have this kind of debt path and we do not have a budget.

The President said a few weeks ago: Well, I have a plan that cuts \$3 trillion. Is it like Senator REID's \$2.7 trillion plan? It was never made public. It was

never spelled out. If he has a \$3 trillion plan to cut spending, well, let's see it. Maybe we could extend the debt limit more, if he is going to cut \$3 trillion in honest numbers. If he has those numbers, as he says he has—in between attacking Republicans for causing all the problems—let's see them. Maybe that would be a basis for something.

But I suspect it is no more accurate than this plan because when the President proposed his budget, as the law required him to do, early in the year, he said: My budget calls on us as Americans to live within our means and to not increase the debt, when according to the Congressional Budget Office, the lowest single budget deficit that would occur under his 10-year budget would be \$750 billion—nowhere close to a balanced budget—and in the out years that deficit would be going up. So I will challenge the President, if he has a \$3 trillion plan, let's see it.

Some people say we need to raise the debt limit for a longer period of time and we cannot afford to have a short term increase. They say this is somehow a wrong thing to do, and so forth. I would point out to my colleagues, it is not unusual at all. A \$2.7 trillion increase in the debt—if that were to occur—would be very high. It would be a 19-percent increase in the current debt limit, putting the debt limit 50-percent higher than when President Obama took office. It would be the largest debt increase in history, the fourth debt limit increase during President Obama's tenure in office, the fourth time it has been raised. So this is not unusual.

I warned from the beginning that if we skirted the legislative process in favor of closed-door White House meetings and so forth, we would find ourselves in the eleventh hour with gimmick-filled legislation being rushed through a panic-driven Senate. This is not responsible governance from our leadership here in the Senate.

As I feared and as I have just described, the majority leader's bill has not achieved close to the promised savings he says it would. From the \$2.7 trillion in cuts claimed, the troop-spending cuts in the proposal are closer to \$1 trillion over 10 years—less than a third of what was advertised—while he is asking for a nearly \$3 trillion increase in the debt limit. Spending cuts next year would be only \$3 billion less than the enacted amount for 2011. This falls short of the idea that a dollar in cuts should accompany a dollar in debt limit increase. Senator REID's proposal is structured in a way that is clearly designed to further degrade and undermine the budgetary process of the Senate, and it allows the majority not to have to come forward and produce a budget plan.

Given the late hour, rather than rush through legislation to the President—the largest debt ceiling increase in his

tory—we should pursue a more responsible approach, a short-term extension with real cuts through the immediate time period the extension covers, not 10 years down the road. Then, using the extra time we have, Congress should pursue a binding framework, such as the cut, cap, and balance plan, to bring these gimmicks to an end and to alter our debt course. We should try the one thing we refused to do from the beginning: open hearings, regular order, and a real legislative process and public participation.

I yield the floor.

IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an editorial from the July 21 edition of the Washington Post. I completely agree with this editorial.

The metric is not how many long overdue individual sanctions are made. We must instead be focused on our goal: preventing the acquisition of a nuclear weapons capability by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

I fear we are spiraling at an accelerating speed to the point when we have but one option left to stop the Islamic Republic of Iran's illegal nuclear weapons ambitions. If that happens, history will judge that we were put into this position by our own failure to avail ourselves of other options while we still had them.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, July 21, 2011]

SANCTIONS AREN'T SLOWING IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRESS

According to a recent story in The Post, the Obama administration is "quietly toasting" the success of international sanctions against Iran. The Islamic republic is having increasing difficulty arranging imports, including food, and the central bank is reportedly short of hard currency. Billions of dollars in foreign investment projects have been canceled, and few banks, insurance companies or shipping firms are willing to do business with Tehran.

There are also signs of political stress. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is bitterly at odds with conservative clergy and a majority of parliament and appears to have lost the support of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Iran's closest ally, the Syrian regime of Bashar al-Assad, is slowly but steadily losing ground to a popular uprising, raising the prospect that Iran's once-firm foothold in the Arab Middle East will be reduced to an isolated Hezbollah militia in Lebanon.

We don't begrudge the White House a toast or two over these developments; the administration has worked hard and relatively effectively to make the sanctions work. But it's important to note a stubborn reality: There has been no change in Iran's drive for nuclear weapons or in its aggressive efforts to drive the United States out of the Middle East.

If anything, Tehran has recently grown bolder. Last month it announced plans to triple its capacity to produce uranium enriched to the level of 20 percent—a far higher

degree of processing than is needed to produce nuclear energy. Western diplomats and experts say that Iran is preparing, and may have already begun, to install a new generation of powerful centrifuges in a plant built into a mountain near the city of Qom. As British Foreign Secretary William Hague wrote in an op-ed published by the *Guardian* last week, it would take only two to three months to convert uranium enriched at Qom into weapons-grade material. That means that Iran could have a "breakout" capacity allowing it to quickly produce a weapon when it chose to do so.

Mr. Hague told the British Parliament last month that Iran also has been secretly testing medium-range missiles capable of carrying a nuclear warhead. Britain believes there have been three such tests since October. Meanwhile, Iranian-backed militias have launched a new offensive against U.S. forces in Iraq. According to Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and other senior officials, Tehran has supplied sophisticated rockets and roadside bombs for attacks on U.S. troops, 15 of whom were killed during June.

Iran's ability to sustain its nuclear program and its meddling in Iraq reflect the fact that these initiatives are controlled by the Revolutionary Guard, which has not been affected by the political feuding in Tehran and has first claim on the oil revenue that Iran continues to reap. Economic and political hardship also has had no apparent impact on Mr. Khamenei, who has maintained the regime's refusal even to negotiate with the U.N. Security Council, much less obey its resolutions.

The bottom line is that the threat from Iran is not diminishing but growing. Where is the policy to reverse that alarming trend?

DEFENSE CUTS

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the *RECORD* a piece from *Politico* by my colleagues in the House, Chairman FORBES, Chairman TURNER, Congressman BISHOP, and Congressman CONAWAY.

I fundamentally disagree with the President when he said in a recent interview with NPR:

A lot of the spending cuts that we're making should be around areas like defense spending as opposed to food stamps.

I wish the President would listen to the advice of Secretary Gates, who said in his AEI speech this May:

I revisit this history because it leads to an important point for the future: when it comes to our military modernization accounts, the proverbial "low hanging fruit"—those weapons and other programs considered most questionable—have not only been plucked, they have been stomped on and crushed. What remains are much-needed capabilities—relating to air superiority and mobility, long-range strike, nuclear deterrence, maritime access, space and cyber warfare, ground forces, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance—that our nation's civilian and military leadership deem absolutely critical.

My colleagues in the House are absolutely right when they wrote:

The time to draw a line in the sand, and go on the offense to support national security must be now.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the *RECORD*, as follows:

[From *Politico*, July 25, 2011]

ON THE OFFENSE OVER DEFENSE CUTS

(By Representatives J. Randy Forbes, Michael Turner, Rob Bishop, and Mike Conaway)

America's all-volunteer military is the most well-trained, well-equipped fighting force the world has ever seen. But the strength of our armed forces should not be taken for granted.

Without sustained investments in our troops and their equipment, the military power our nation now wields in defense of our security—including our economic security—will slowly be hollowed out. The result is likely to be an America that can go fewer places and do fewer things in defense of its global interests.

While that may sound good to those who remain uncomfortable with America's leadership role in the world, starving the military will not make us any safer, given the global demands on our security interests.

The U.S. military confronts readiness shortfalls and a growing array of risks and security challenges. That is why I am deeply concerned about the avalanche of military spending cuts being discussed—from President Barack Obama's \$400 billion proposal to the Senate's Gang of Six proposal that could cut up to \$886 billion.

The time to draw a line in the sand, and go on the offense to support national security must be now.

Let's be clear: Defense spending is not what put us in this position, and gutting the defense budget to pay the bills is unlikely to get us out of it. As a percentage of our gross domestic product, the defense budget remains just 3.6 percent. This figure is low by all historical standards.

Even if we start slashing major portions of the budget—say \$50 billion each year over the next decade—that figure would still only add up to a fraction of the nation's debt. Yet the additional risk to the nation could be substantial.

Today's military is worn out from a decade of operations that have pushed already aging platforms to the edge. More than half the Navy's deployed aircraft are not fully combat ready, as we recently discovered at a House Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee hearing, and approximately one in five of our Navy ships are deemed unsatisfactory or mission degraded.

With known shortfalls in the Navy maintenance accounts, the Defense Department would be severely challenged to meet the expected service life of its equipment. Even more concerning are the assessments from our Combatant Commanders in the unclassified portion of the Quarterly Readiness Report to Congress. This paints a distressing picture of a military stretched thin by nearly 10 years of war and a sustained lack of resources.

Even as our forces have been aged rapidly by the high tempo of operations in the past decade, the president has cancelled a generation of weapons programs in just the last two years. While much of the nation has smart phones and iPads, the Army is still operating on an Atari-like system.

With readiness shortfalls and pressure to modernize aging platforms, how can we pretend we can defend the country with even more defense cuts? Our national defense planning must be based on an open and objective review of the threats we face and the

resources required to meet them. Unfortunately, we now have that process in reverse.

In many ways, it's like a family who is about to purchase a new home. The correct course would be to have an inspector look at the house and tell the family what the problems are and what they will cost to fix. What if, instead, that family told the inspector that they only had \$1,000, and they wanted the inspector to go through and identify only \$1,000 worth of problems to fix?

This is analogous to the way the Defense Department and the Obama administration expect Congress to approach national defense. They dictate how much we will spend on defense without fully and objectively detailing the risks we face, or the choices we must make.

This wouldn't be a sensible course for the new homeowners. So why does it pass as acceptable for managing our national security?

In the past two years, the administration has executed two rounds of defense cuts, with the masthead of another likely on the way as part of an agreement to lift the debt ceiling. With growing readiness problems and a generation of military modernization either cut or on the chopping-block, we are now facing a \$400-\$900 billion defense cut looming over the horizon.

While our armed forces are charged with defending our national security, it is the Congress' responsibility to provide them with the resources to accomplish the tasks we set for them. Our men and women in uniform diligently execute these tasks.

It is time for the Congress to do its job and provide adequately for the common defense.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, July 26, 1990, 21 years ago today, was a great day in our Nation's history. When President George Herbert Walker Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act, we could see the future before us, full of possibility and opportunity for people with disabilities. It was one of the proudest days of my legislative career.

The Americans with Disabilities Act is one of the landmark civil rights laws of the 20th century—a long-overdue emancipation proclamation for Americans with disabilities. The ADA has played a huge role in making our country more accessible, in raising the expectations of people with disabilities about what they can hope to achieve at work and in life, and in inspiring the world to view disability issues through the lens of equality and opportunity.

In these times of often bitter political partisanship, it is valuable to remember that passage of the original Americans with Disabilities Act was a robustly bipartisan effort. As chief sponsor of the ADA in the Senate, I worked very closely with Senator Bob Dole and others on both sides of the aisle. We received invaluable support from President George Herbert Walker Bush and key members of his administration, including White House counsel Boyden Gray, Attorney General Richard Thornburgh, and Transportation Secretary Sam Skinner. Other Members of Congress also played critical

roles in passing the ADA—first and foremost, Senator Ted Kennedy; but also Senator ORRIN HATCH, and Representatives Tony Coelho, STENY HOYER, Major Owens, and Steve Bartlett.

Before the ADA, life was very different for folks with disabilities in Iowa and across the country. Being an American with a disability meant not being able to ride a bus because there was no lift, not being able to attend a concert or ballgame because there was no accessible seating, and not being able to cross the street in a wheelchair because there were no curb cuts. In short, it meant not being able to work or participate in community life. Discrimination was both commonplace and accepted.

Since then, we have seen amazing progress. The ADA literally transformed the American landscape by requiring that architectural and communications barriers be removed and replaced with accessible features such as ramps, lifts, curb cuts, widening doorways, and closed captioning. More importantly, the ADA gave millions of Americans the opportunity to participate in their communities. We have made substantial progress in advancing the four goals of the ADA—equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency.

But despite this progress, we still have more work to do. One of the critical challenges we still need to address is the persistently low employment rates among Americans with disabilities. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, less than a third of working-age people with disabilities—around 4 million individuals—are currently employed.

This is shameful, and we need to do better. In April, at a disability employment summit, I challenged the employer representatives in the room to work to increase the size of the disability labor force by 1 million individuals by 2015. Tom Donohue, president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, endorsed this goal and encouraged his colleagues to meet or exceed the 1 million number because “it’s a good thing to do, and it’s good for business.”

But if we are going to get serious about growing the size of the disability work force, we need to start by recognizing that people with disabilities have been disproportionately impacted by the bad economy. Compared to the general workforce, in the last 2 years, adults with disabilities have left the labor force at a rate six times the rate of adults without disabilities.

I am committed to doing everything within my power to turn these trends around, and to increase employment opportunities for all individuals with disabilities.

If all of us—Members of Congress, business leaders, employers, and people

with disabilities—work together, I believe that we can meet the goal of 1 million new workers with disabilities—and ensure that all individuals with disabilities have real opportunities for employment that meet their goals, interests, and high expectations.

I would like to take a brief moment on this ADA anniversary to remember a leader in the disability community who recently passed away—Max Starkloff.

Max, who acquired his disability at age 21, was a well-known advocate for disability rights, both in his hometown of St. Louis, MO, and nationally.

In the 1970s, while still living in a nursing home, Max founded Paraquad, which became one of the first Centers for Independent Living in this country. Max began his lifetime of advocacy for the rights and independence of people with disabilities long before the ADA, and continued it all the way up until his recent passing.

The examples of his advocacy are too numerous to catalogue, but here are a few examples:

In 1972, he convinced St. Louis officials to install curb cuts in sidewalks.

In 1977, Max’s advocacy led to the use of lift-equipped buses in the St. Louis metro area.

In 1979, Max helped to integrate accessible design in an apartment complex that he and Paraquad opened in St. Louis, including counters that could be moved up and down to accommodate wheelchairs, wide doorways, and stoves that could be used by individuals with limited mobility.

Max, and his wife Colleen, worked tirelessly for the passage of the ADA in 1990.

In 1997, Max’s advocacy over a two year period resulted in the St. Louis Zoo making their facilities accessible for all.

Most recently, Max devoted himself to an issue that is near and dear to my heart—improving employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Although Max Starkloff is no longer with us, his accomplishments and good work live on, and improve the lives of Missourians with disabilities on a daily basis.

So as we celebrate the anniversary of this great civil rights law, we take time to remember the remarkable progress that we have made in the past 21 years.

On July 26, 1990, when he signed ADA into law, President George Herbert Walker Bush spoke with great eloquence. And I will never forget his final words before taking up his pen. He said, “Let the shameful wall of exclusion finally come tumbling down.”

Mr. President, today, that wall is indeed falling. And we must join together, on a bipartisan basis, to continue this progress.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, in an era when Congress is actively debating health care programs that are of enormous consequence to our economy and our collective future, it is important to acknowledge that today, Medicare and Medicaid play an essential role in ensuring access to health and long-term care services for nearly 100 million Americans. In fact, these programs are embedded in the daily lives of nearly one of every three Americans.

Medicaid is the program that currently pays for about half of all long-term care services in our country. Jointly financed and administered by states and the Federal Government, it is a program that all of us—taxpayers and beneficiaries and health care providers alike—have a major stake in seeing continue and succeed.

As chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, I know that for millions of older and disabled Americans who are confronting the need for long-term care services, anxieties are often high. The costs associated with long-term care can be catastrophic, and many families turn to Medicaid for assistance.

In many parts of the country, Medicaid offers only limited choices of where and how to receive services. However, I am pleased and proud that a few States, Wisconsin among them, have developed Medicaid programs that are designed to offer beneficiaries real choices in where they will receive long-term care. The choices usually include nursing homes, assisted living residences, adult daycare, and personal care services delivered at home. Wisconsin and some other states are also increasingly offering beneficiaries the option to self-direct their care through programs that allow them to directly hire an aide—perhaps a family member or a friend—who can provide personal care within the confines of an approved individual budget.

Wisconsin’s Medicaid managed care program that covers long-term services and supports is known as Family Care, and it is one that the state has worked to develop for many years under several administrations, starting with former Governor Tommy Thompson. Family Care is well ahead of where many States are in terms of offering older adults and those with disabilities a real choice of how and where they can receive long-term care services.

Today, one in five Wisconsin seniors and individuals with disabilities are enrolled in Medicaid. A similar proportion in six other States—California, Mississippi, Vermont, Louisiana, New York and Maine, as well as the District of Columbia, rely on the program. In every State, the number of older adults and individuals with disabilities who are enrolled in the program numbers in the tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, or millions. Last year,

321,700 seniors and individuals with disabilities in Wisconsin received coverage through Medicaid.

During the last several weeks, I have heard a great deal from constituents—beneficiaries, aging and disability organizations, and officials—who have expressed concern about recent developments in Family Care. It is my understanding that the state budget that was recently signed into law includes a provision to cap, or freeze, the number of individuals in the program, and thereby remove the ability of those who become eligible in the future to choose whether they wish to receive services in a nursing home, at home, or in a community-based setting such as an assisted living residence.

The State anticipates that the cap could save \$265 million in the 2011–2013 budget. Yet predictions also abound that waiting lists for home and community-based services for newly eligible beneficiaries will begin to rapidly grow again, after a period of years in which the Family Care Program worked to eliminate delays in receiving services. Such delays could prove costly, because when appropriate and cost-effective interventions cannot be accessed by frail elders and individuals with disabilities, more medically intensive services are likely to be required later. Moreover, individuals who wish to receive lower cost in-home services—but who may find that institutionally based care is their only option—are predicted to wind up costing some counties significantly more.

This year, with the first cohort of boomers turning 65, we are launching our Nation's "age wave." It is an exciting era for older adults, and it will be accompanied by new possibilities and challenges for our country. Wisconsin, which is aging more rapidly than many States, has a clear responsibility to continue to provide the best possible long-term care services to each and every one of its older and disabled citizens. In the coming weeks and months, I urge State and local officials to work closely and cooperatively with the Federal Government to keep Family Care strong. Over the last 12 years, Family Care has proven itself to be a valuable, popular, and cost-effective program—one that can be improved, yes, but one that also has a proven track record. It is my hope, and the hope of tens of thousands of beneficiaries of the program, that it will be preserved and carefully protected.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Cambridge International, Inc., the world's largest manufacturer of metal belting and wire cloth, on the occasion of its 100th anni-

versary. Cambridge International is a thriving, dynamic manufacturing company that is a testament to the resiliency of American manufacturing. The company is located in Cambridge on Maryland's Eastern Shore and is a world leader in engineering and manufacturing metal mesh, conveyor belts, wire cloth, filter leaves, and other industrial materials. The company exports its products worldwide, requiring sales facilities in the U.S., Mexico, and Brazil.

Since the company was founded on September 17, 1911, Cambridge International has grown to more than 400 employees and has three divisions: Industrial Belting, Architectural Mesh and, most recently, Environmental Technologies, CET. CET is developing new products to meet the needs of older existing manufacturers. Starting with the firm's own headquarters, CET has completed a \$4.8 million renovation that included installing energy efficient heating, ventilation, and cooling, HVAC, and lighting systems and bathroom and equipment upgrades. Installation of a wood waste gasification system will ultimately allow Cambridge to power new production equipment in its manufacturing facilities. CET product offerings include an electrostatic precipitator, ESP, that functions at an efficiency level above the Environmental Protection Agency's pollution control standards for components for major waste-to-energy projects. Cambridge International is hiring 36 new employees to support its new green manufacturing division and CET is creating a green job market that will continue to grow and offer expanding employment opportunities.

Cambridge International is a valued business and employer in Maryland. As Cambridge International celebrates its first 100 years of manufacturing, I ask my colleagues to join me in looking forward to Cambridge's next century of manufacturing innovation.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:04 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1103. An act to extend the term of the incumbent Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 2:18 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 1103. An act to extend the term of the incumbent Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

At 3:07 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1383) to temporarily preserve higher rates of tuition and fees for programs of education at non-public institutions of higher learning pursued by individuals enrolled in the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs before the enactment of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010, and for other purposes.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and returned to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent:

H.R. 1309. An act to extend the authorization of the national flood insurance program, to achieve reforms to improve the financial integrity and stability of the program, and to increase the role of private markets in the management of flood insurance risk, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 1420. A bill to require that the United States Government prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public, Social Security benefits, and military pay in the event that the debt limit is reached, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, July 26, 2011, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1103. An act to extend the term of the incumbent Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with

accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2636. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Chlorantraniliprole; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 8875-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2637. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Movement of Hass Avocados from Areas Where Mediterranean Fruit Fly or South American Fruit Fly Exist" ((RIN0579-AD34) (Docket No. APHIS-2010-0127)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2638. A communication from the Administrator, Livestock and Seed Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Beef Promotion and Research; Reapportionment" (AMS-LS-10-0086) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2639. A communication from the Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Grapes Grown in a Designated Area of Southeastern California; Section 610 Review" (Doc. No. AMS-FV-06-0185; FV06-925-610 Review) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2640. A communication from the Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Olives Grown in California; Decreased Assessment Rate" (Doc. No. AMS-FV-10-0115; FV11-932-1 FIR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2641. A communication from the Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 3 (Native) Spearmint Oil for the 2010-2011 Marketing Year" (Doc. No. AMS-FV-09-0082; FV10-985-1A FIR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2642. A communication from the Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Mango Promotion, Research, and Information Order; Reapportionment" (Doc. No. AMS-FV-10-0092) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2643. A communication from the Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, De-

partment of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Vidalia Onions Grown in Georgia; Change in Late Payment and Interest Requirements on Past Due Assessments" (Doc. No. AMS-FV-11-0016; FV11-955-1 FR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2644. A communication from the Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Raisins Produced from Grapes Grown in California; Increase in Desirable Carryout Used to Compute Trade Demand" (Doc. No. AMS-FV-11-0013; FV11-989-1 FR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2645. A communication from the Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Irish Potatoes Grown in Washington; Decreased Assessment Rate" (Doc. No. AMS-FV-11-0012; FV11-946-2 FIR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2646. A communication from the Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Watermelon Research and Promotion Plan; Redistricting and Importer Representation" (Doc. No. AMS-FV-10-0093) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2647. A communication from the Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Nectarines and Peaches Grown in California; Suspension of Handling Requirements" (Doc. No. AMS-FV-11-0019; FV11-916/917-5 FIR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2648. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act that occurred within the Operation and Maintenance Army accounts and was assigned Army case number 08-07; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-2649. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act that occurred within the Department of the Air Force and was assigned Air Force case number 10-05; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-2650. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Derwood C. Curtis, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2651. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Bernard J. McCullough III, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on

the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2652. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 12947 with respect to terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2653. A communication from the Under Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act and the Department's applicable regulations with references to or requirements of reliance on credit ratings; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2654. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "In the Matter of Amendment of Parts 73 and 74 of the Commission's Rules to Establish Rules for Digital Low Power Television, Television Translator, and Television Booster Stations and to Amend Rules for Digital Class A Television Stations, Second Report and Order" (MB Docket No. 03-185, FCC 11-110) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2655. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Television Broadcasting Services; El Paso, Texas" (MB Docket No. 11-74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2656. A communication from the Chief of the Policy Division, International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "In the Matter of Reporting Requirements for U.S. Providers of International Telecommunications Services Amendment of Part 43 of the Commission's Rules" (IB Docket No. 04-112) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2657. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for a report entitled "Non-Binding Determination: Superfund Deficient PRP Deliverables Memo" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2658. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, and South Coast Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 9279-3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2659. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Placer County Air Pollution Control District and Feather River Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 9439-1) received in the Office

of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2660. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Determinations of Attainment of the 1997 Fine Particle Standard for the Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle, Johnstown, Lancaster, York, and Reading Non-attainment Areas" (FRL No. 9445-1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2661. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interim Final Determination to Defer Sanctions, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District, California" (FRL No. 9444-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2662. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Highway Use Tax; Filing and Payment for Taxable Period Beginning July 1, 2011" (RIN1545-BK36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2663. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modifications of Certain Derivative Contracts" (RIN1545-K14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2664. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Direct Fee Payment Rules" (RIN0960-H21) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2665. A communication from the Regulations Officer, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Electronic Substitutions for Form SSA-538" (RIN0960-AH02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2666. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a proposed amendment to parts 120, 122, 123, and 129 of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2667. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services to Sweden for the design, development, operation, . . . and sale of the Auxiliary Power and Engine Start System (APESS) for use in the JAS 39 Gripen aircraft and Next Generation Gripen aircraft in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2668. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services to the Rolling Airframe Missile (RAM) Guided Missile Weapon System (GMWS) to the Armed Forces of the United Arab Emirates in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2669. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services to support the Proton launch of the Turksat 4A Commercial Communication Satellite from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2670. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services to support the Proton launch of the SES-6 Commercial Communication Satellite from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2671. A communication from the Manager of the BioPreferred Program, Office of Procurement and Property Management, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Designation of Biobased Items for Federal Procurement" (RIN0503-AA36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2672. A communication from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Identification of Enforceable Rules and Orders" (12 CFR Chapter X) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2673. A communication from the Attorney, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Alternative Mortgage Transaction Parity (Regulation D)" (RIN3170-AA04) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 22, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2674. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Premerger Notification; Reporting and Waiting Period Requirements" (RIN3084-AA91) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2675. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "2010 Status of U.S. Fisheries"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-60. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan memorializing Congress and the United States Drug Enforcement Agency to make it illegal to possess, use, or sell the drugs MDPV and Mephedrone; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 53

Whereas, MDPV (methylenedioxypyrovalerone) and mephedrone are the main ingredients of underground drug products being marketed as "bath salts" or "plant food," and which are being sold online, at convenience stores, and in smoke shops under names like Tranquility, Zoom, Ivory Wave, Red Dove, and Vanilla Sky. According to numerous reports, the chemicals found in these bath salts and plant foods cause effects similar to those caused by cocaine and methamphetamines, including hallucinations, paranoia, and suicidal thoughts. In one case a user was reported to have resorted to self-mutilation after abusing the substance. In several cases, users have died after overdosing or because of violent behavior; and

Whereas, law enforcement personnel need the authority to get MDPV and mephedrone off the streets and prosecute people who are trying to profit from selling these dangerous drugs. State and local law enforcement officials in dozens of states have encountered MDPV or mephedrone in the last two years. Absent restrictions on their possession, use, or sale, law enforcement can only watch as MDPV and mephedrone abuse becomes more widespread; and

Whereas, MDPV and mephedrone should be placed in schedule I of the federal controlled substances list. Schedule I is reserved for the most dangerous drugs, such as heroin and LSD, which have no recognized medical use and a high potential for abuse. MDPV and mephedrone meet the statutory requirements for placement into schedule I and belong in this group; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize Congress and the United States Drug Enforcement Agency to make it illegal to possess, use, or sell the drugs MDPV and mephedrone; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the administrator of the United States Drug Enforcement Agency.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. KERRY for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

*Derek J. Mitchell, of Connecticut, to be Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Burma, with the rank of Ambassador.

*Jeffrey DeLaurentis, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador.

*Jeffrey DeLaurentis, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during his tenure of service as Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations.

*David S. Adams, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs).

*Thomas M. Countryman, of Washington, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Security and Non-Proliferation).

*Frankie Annette Reed, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of the Fiji Islands, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, and the Republic of Kiribati.

Nominee: Frankie Annette Reed.

Post: U.S. Embassy Suva.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: \$1,000, 10/13/2008, Obama Victory Fund.
2. Spouse: Jean Nyame: None.
3. Children and Spouses: Brett Calhoun: None.
4. Parents: Frank Reed—deceased; Anne Reed: None.
5. Grandparents: Sam and Rosa Fulwood—deceased; James and Beatrice Reed—deceased.
6. Brothers and Spouses: No siblings.
7. Sisters and Spouses: No siblings.

*Paul D. Wohlers, of Washington, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Macedonia.

Nominee: Paul D. Wohlers.

POST: Skopje, Macedonia.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.
2. Spouse: Mary Wohlers: none.
3. Children and Spouses: Rachel Ostrye (Wohlers), none; Ryan Ostrye (spouse), none; Julia Wohlers, \$25.00, 7/08, John McCain; Jessica Wohlers, none.
4. Parents: Barbara Wohlers, none; Lester Wohlers—deceased.
5. Grandparents: Dietrich Wohlers—deceased; Camilla Wohlers—deceased; Miller Dashner—deceased; Ethel Dashner—deceased.
6. Brothers and Spouses: Laurence Wohlers, none; Ann Wohlers (spouse), none; Douglas Wohlers, none; Kazuko Wohlers (spouse), none.
7. Sisters and Spouses: n/a.

*William H. Moser, of North Carolina, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Moldova.

Nominee: William H. Moser

Post: Moldova

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, Amount, Date, and Donee:

1. Self: \$100, 2008, DNC; \$100, 2010, DNC.
2. Spouse: Marie C. Moser: \$100, 2008, DNC.
3. Children: Daniel G. Moser, none; Stephen A. Moser, none; Rebecca E. Moser, none.
4. Parents: Grady V. Moser—deceased; Leon S. Moser—deceased.
5. Grandparents: Maternal: William Vernon Sigman—deceased; Mertie S. Sigman—deceased; Paternal: Thurston Henry Moser—deceased; Sarah Hamlin Moser—deceased.
6. Brother and Spouse: Leon S. Moser, none; Carolyn H. Moser, none.
7. Sisters and Spouses: None.

*Earl Anthony Wayne, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Personal Rank of Career Ambassador, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Mexico.

Nominee: Earl Anthony Wayne.

Post: Mexico.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: 0, —, —.
2. Spouse: Pamela: \$600.00, June, Oct. '08, Obama for America; \$200.00, Oct. '08, Democracy for America; \$100.00, Jan. '09, Hillary Clinton Committee.
3. Children and Spouses: Justin A. Wayne, \$130.00, Feb., Mar., April '08, Obama for America. Kristen A. Wayne, \$75.00, September '08, Obama for America.
4. Parents: Deceased.
5. Grandparents: Deceased.
6. Brothers and Spouses: N/A.
7. Sisters and Spouses: N/A.

*Arnold A. Chacon, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Guatemala.

Nominee: Arnold A. Chacon.

Post: Guatemala.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: None.
3. Children and Spouses: None.
4. Parents: None.
5. Grandparents: None.
6. Brothers and Spouses: John Chacon: \$50, 2010, Gary Brown for Detroit City Council. George Chacon: \$25/yr., 2008–2010, Colorado

Democratic Party. George Chacon: \$10, 2008, Hillary for President.

7. Sisters and Spouses: None.

*Sung Y. Kim, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Korea.

Nominee: Sung Y. Kim.

Post: Republic of Korea.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: Jae-eun Chung, None.
3. Children and Spouses: Erica Kim, Erin Kim, None.
4. Parents: Hyunja Kim, Kiwan Kim, None.
5. Grandparents: Deceased, None.
6. Brothers and Spouses: Joon Y. Kim, None.
7. Sisters and Spouses: Sunyoung Nosaka, None; Masaki Nosaka, None; Heakyung Park, None; Youngjin Park, None; Induk Song, None; Alan Song, None.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, for the Committee on Foreign Relations I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORD on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

*Foreign Service nominations beginning with Ross Ellis Hagan and ending with Willem H. Brakel, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 8, 2011.

*Foreign Service nominations beginning with Timothy C. Cannon and ending with Mark Jeffrey Hipp, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 11, 2011.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 1414. A bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to establish a community-supported agriculture promotion program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs.

MURRAY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. AKAKA, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 1415. A bill to establish certain duties for pharmacies to ensure provision of Food and Drug Administration-approved contraception, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 1416. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase the minimum loss ratio required of Medigap policies; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 1417. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the credit for qualified fuel cell motor vehicles and to allow the credit for certain off-highway vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 1418. A bill to authorize appropriations for grants to the States participating in the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 1419. A bill to prevent the use of stored value cards and other electronic fund access means as methods for currency smuggling or money laundering; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. PAUL, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. LEE, Mr. RISCH, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. COATS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELLER, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. KIRK, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. WICKER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. CORKER):

S. 1420. A bill to require that the United States Government prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public, Social Security benefits, and military pay in the event that the debt limit is reached, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. UDALL of Colorado):

S. 1421. A bill to authorize the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. Res. 238. A resolution designating the third week in January 2012 as "Teen Cancer Awareness Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself and Mr. INOUE):

S. Res. 239. A resolution acknowledging the contributions and sacrifices of the young men who served as colonists on behalf of the United States in the Federal occupation of the islands of Howland, Baker, Jarvis, Can-

ton, and Enderbury from 1935 through 1942, facilitating the United States claim of jurisdiction over such islands; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 260

At the request of Mr. THUNE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 260, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation.

S. 510

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 510, a bill to prevent drunk driving injuries and fatalities, and for other purposes.

S. 539

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 539, a bill to amend the Public Health Services Act and the Social Security Act to extend health information technology assistance eligibility to behavioral health, mental health, and substance abuse professionals and facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 866

At the request of Mr. THUNE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 866, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to modify the per-fiscal year calculation of days of certain active duty or active service used to reduce the minimum age at which a member of a reserve component of the uniformed services may retire for non-regular service.

S. 951

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 951, a bill to improve the provision of Federal transition, rehabilitation, vocational, and unemployment benefits to members of the Armed Forces and veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 968

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 968, a bill to prevent online threats to economic creativity and theft of intellectual property, and for other purposes.

S. 1025

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1025, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the national defense through empowerment of the National Guard, enhancement of the functions of the National Guard Bureau, and improvement of Federal-

State military coordination in domestic emergency response, and for other purposes.

S. 1034

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1034, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to equalize the exclusion from gross income of parking and transportation fringe benefits and to provide for a common cost-of-living adjustment, and for other purposes.

S. 1048

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1048, a bill to expand sanctions imposed with respect to the Islamic Republic of Iran, North Korea, and Syria, and for other purposes.

S. 1131

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1131, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to establish and implement a birth defects prevention, risk reduction, and public awareness program.

S. 1167

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1167, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the diagnosis and treatment of hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia, and for other purposes.

S. 1280

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1280, a bill to amend the Peace Corps Act to require sexual assault risk-reduction and response training, and the development of sexual assault protocol and guidelines, the establishment of victims advocates, the establishment of a Sexual Assault Advisory Council, and for other purposes.

S. 1350

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1350, a bill to expand the research, prevention, and awareness activities of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health with respect to pulmonary fibrosis, and for other purposes.

S. 1359

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1359, a bill to make the National Parks

and Federal Recreation Lands Pass available at a discount to members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

S. 1385

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1385, a bill to terminate the \$1 presidential coin program.

S. 1395

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1395, a bill to ensure that all Americans have access to waivers from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. RES. 175

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 175, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to ongoing violations of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Georgia and the importance of a peaceful and just resolution to the conflict within Georgia's internationally recognized borders.

S. RES. 185

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 185, a resolution reaffirming the commitment of the United States to a negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, reaffirming opposition to the inclusion of Hamas in a unity government unless it is willing to accept peace with Israel and renounce violence, and declaring that Palestinian efforts to gain recognition of a state outside direct negotiations demonstrates absence of a good faith commitment to peace negotiations, and will have implications for continued United States aid.

S. RES. 216

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 216, a resolution encouraging women's political participation in Saudi Arabia.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 1416. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase the minimum loss ratio required of Medigap policies; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, the Affordable Care Act helped to ensure that insurance companies spend a substantial portion of premium dollars on medical care and health care quality improvement, rather than on administrative costs and profits. However, due

to remaining discrepancies not all Medicare beneficiaries are afforded the same protection under the law.

Medical loss ratios make the insurance marketplace more transparent and make it easier for consumers to purchase plans that provide better value for their money. Beginning this year, the medical loss ratio provision in the Affordable Care Act requires insurance policies sold in the individual and small group markets to spend 80 percent of premium dollars on medical care. Policies sold in the large group market are required to spend 85 percent of premium dollars on medical care. Insurance companies that fail to meet this standard are required to provide a rebate to their customers beginning in 2012.

The Affordable Care Act also required Medicare Advantage plans to spend 85 percent of premium dollars on medical care starting in 2014 or they would be required to refund the difference to the Federal Government.

Compared to most other insurance products, Medigap policies now have lower statutory minimums for the percentage of premium dollars that must be spent on medical care. Under current law, Medigap policies must meet a minimum medical loss ratio of 65 percent in the individual market and 75 percent in the group market.

In 1990, Congress first passed legislation standardizing Medigap policies and instituting minimum MLR standards in reaction to evidence of widespread sale of duplicative policies with high overhead. Today, more than 9 million Medicare beneficiaries purchase private supplemental Medigap policies to help cover cost sharing and deductibles in traditional Medicare.

The Medigap Medical Loss Ratio Improvement Act updates the MLR standards for Medigap insurers, increasing the percentages to levels put forth in health reform for other products. Specifically, it will raise the MLR from 65 percent to 80 percent in the individual market and from 75 percent to 85 percent in the group marketplace. To give insurers time to prepare for this change, it would not become effective until 2014.

This legislation is endorsed by organizations representing millions of senior citizens and consumers of all ages, including: AARP, AFSCME, Alliance of Retired Americans, Center for Medicare Advocacy, Community Catalyst, Families USA, Health Care for America Now, Medicare Rights Center, National Council on Aging, and the National Senior Citizens Law Center.

In endorsing the bill, AARP highlights that, "AARP supports this change because it will provide greater transparency and accountability for expenditures made by health insurance issuers, and encourage them to become more efficient in their operations to help ensure that consumers receive fair value for their premium dollars."

The reforms in this bill would ensure that Medigap enrollees receive the same value for their premium dollars that is afforded to every other American family. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate to pass this legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 238—DESIGNATING THE THIRD WEEK IN JANUARY 2012 AS "TEEN CANCER AWARENESS WEEK"

Mr. MENENDEZ submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 238

Whereas cancer among adolescents is rare, but is still the leading cause of death from disease in teenagers between 15 and 19 years of age;

Whereas teen cancer patients receive treatment at a number of different medical establishments, including pediatric hospitals, pediatric oncology centers, and adult cancer facilities;

Whereas teen cancer patients may feel out of place in any of these settings if their clinical and psychosocial needs are not met;

Whereas 40 percent of cancer patients aged 14 and younger are enrolled in clinical trials, compared with only 9 percent of cancer patients between the ages of 15 and 24;

Whereas teens with cancer have unique concerns about their education, social lives, body image, and infertility, among other concerns, and their needs may be misunderstood or unacknowledged;

Whereas many adolescent cancer survivors have difficulty readjusting to school and social settings, and experience anxiety, and in some cases face increased learning difficulties; and

Whereas there exists an undeniable need not only to understand the biological and clinical needs of teens with cancer, and to seek the prevention of cancer in teens, but also to increase awareness in the larger community about the unique challenges facing teens with cancer: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates the third week in January 2012 as "Teen Cancer Awareness Week" in order to promote awareness about teen cancers and the unique medical and social needs of teens with cancer.

SENATE RESOLUTION 239—ACKNOWLEDGING THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND SACRIFICES OF THE YOUNG MEN WHO SERVED AS COLONISTS ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE FEDERAL OCCUPATION OF THE ISLANDS OF HOWLAND, BAKER, JARVIS, CANTON, AND ENDERBURY FROM 1935 THROUGH 1942, FACILITATING THE UNITED STATES CLAIM OF JURISDICTION OVER SUCH ISLANDS

Mr. AKAKA (for himself and Mr. INOUE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 239

Whereas in the mid-19th century, the Guano Islands Act (48 U.S.C. 1411 et seq.) enabled companies from the United States to mine guano from a number of islands in the Equatorial Pacific;

Whereas after several decades, when the guano was depleted, such companies abandoned mining activities, leaving the islands open to British exploitation;

Whereas in the 1930s, military and commercial interest in Central Pacific air routes between Australia and California led to a desire by the United States to claim the islands of Howland, Baker, and Jarvis, although the ownership of such islands was unclear;

Whereas in 1935, a secret Department of Commerce colonization plan was instituted, aimed at placing citizens of the United States as colonists on the remote islands of Howland, Baker, and Jarvis;

Whereas to avoid conflicts with international law, which prevented colonization by active military personnel, the United States sought the participation of furloughed military personnel and Native Hawaiian civilians in the colonization project;

Whereas William T. Miller, Superintendent of Airways at the Department of Commerce, was appointed to lead the colonization project, traveled to Hawaii in February 1935, met with Albert F. Judd, Trustee of Kamehameha Schools and the Bishop Museum, and agreed that recent graduates and students of the Kamehameha School for Boys would make ideal colonists for the project;

Whereas the ideal Hawaiian candidates were candidates who could "fish in the native manner, swim excellently, handle a boat, be disciplined, friendly, and unattached";

Whereas on March 30, 1935, the United States Coast Guard Cutter Itasca departed from Honolulu Harbor in great secrecy with 6 young Hawaiians aboard, all recent graduates of Kamehameha Schools, and 12 furloughed army personnel, whose purpose was to occupy the barren islands of Howland, Baker, and Jarvis in teams of 5 for 3 months;

Whereas in June 1935, after a successful first tour, the furloughed army personnel were ordered off the islands and replaced with additional Kamehameha Schools alumni, thus leaving the islands under the exclusive occupation of the 4 Native Hawaiians on each island;

Whereas the duties of the colonists while on the island were to record weather conditions, cultivate plants, maintain a daily log, record the types of fish that were caught, observe bird life, and collect specimens for the Bishop Museum;

Whereas the successful year-long occupation by the colonists directly enabled President Franklin D. Roosevelt to issue Executive Order 7368 on May 13, 1936, which proclaimed that the islands of Howland, Baker, and Jarvis were under the jurisdiction of the United States;

Whereas multiple Federal agencies vied for the right to administer the colonization project, including the Department of Commerce, the Department of the Interior, and the Navy Department, but jurisdiction was ultimately granted to the Department of the Interior;

Whereas under the Department of the Interior, the colonization project emphasized weather data and radio communication, which brought about the recruitment of a number of Asian radiomen and aerologists;

Whereas under the Department of the Interior, the colonization project also expanded

beyond the Kamehameha Schools to include Hawaiians and non-Hawaiians from other schools in Hawaii;

Whereas in 1937, in preparation for Amelia Earhart's arrival on Howland island, the colonists constructed a landing field, readied a shower and bedroom for her, and prepared a performance for her, but she never arrived, having disappearing en route to the island on July 2, 1937;

Whereas in March of 1938 the United States also claimed and colonized the islands of Canton and Enderbury, maintaining that such colonization was in furtherance of commercial aviation and not for military purposes;

Whereas the risk of living on such remote islands meant that emergency medical care was not less than 5 days away, and such distance proved fatal for Carl Kahalewai, who died on October 8, 1938 en route to Honolulu after his appendix ruptured on Jarvis island;

Whereas other life-threatening injuries occurred, in 1939, when Manuel Pires had appendicitis, and in 1941, when an explosion severely burned Henry Knell and Dominic Zagara;

Whereas in 1940, when the issue of discontinuing the colonization project was raised, the Navy acknowledged that the islands were "probably worthless to commercial aviation" but advocated for "continued occupation" because the islands could serve as "bases from a military standpoint";

Whereas although military interests justified continued occupation of the islands, the colonists were never informed of the true nature of the project, nor were the colonists provided with weapons or any other means of self-defense;

Whereas in June of 1941, when much of Europe was engaged in World War II and Imperial Japan was establishing itself in the Pacific, the Commandant of the 14th Naval District recognized the "tension in the Western Pacific" and recommended the evacuation of the colonists, but his request was denied;

Whereas on December 8, 1941, Howland Island was attacked by a fleet of Japanese twin-engine bombers, and such attack killed Hawaiian colonists Joseph Kelihihanui and Richard Whaley;

Whereas in the ensuing weeks, Japanese submarine and military aircraft continued to target the islands of Howland, Baker, and Jarvis, jeopardizing the lives of the remaining colonists;

Whereas the United States Government was unaware of the attacks on such islands, and was distracted by the entry of the United States into World War II, which delayed the retrieval of the colonists;

Whereas the 4 colonists from Baker and the 2 remaining colonists from Howland were rescued on January 31, 1942, and the 8 colonists from Jarvis and Enderbury were rescued on February 9, 1942, 2 months after the initial attacks on Howland Island;

Whereas on March 20, 1942, Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, sent letters of condolence to the Kelihihanui and Whaley families stating that "[i]n your bereavement it must be considerable satisfaction to know that your brother died in the service of his country," and subsequently urged the families to submit claims for compensation;

Whereas in April 1942, the claim of the Kelihihanui family was denied because there were no "qualified dependents" to submit claims;

Whereas during the 7 years of colonization, more than 130 young men participated in the project, the majority of whom were Hawaiian, and all of whom made numerous sac-

rifices, endured hardships, and risked their lives to secure and maintain the islands of Howland, Baker, Jarvis, Canton, and Enderbury on behalf of the United States, and 3 young Hawaiian men made the ultimate sacrifice;

Whereas none of the islands, except for Canton, were ever used for commercial aviation, but the islands were used for military purposes;

Whereas in July 1943, a military base was established on Baker Island, and its forces, which numbered over 2,000 members, participated in the Tarawa-Makin operation;

Whereas in 1956, participants of the colonization project established an organization called "Hui Panala'au", which was established to preserve the group's fellowship, to provide scholarship assistance, and "to honor and esteem those who died as colonists of the Equatorial Islands";

Whereas in 1979, Canton and Enderbury became part of the republic of Kiribati, but the islands of Jarvis, Howland, and Baker still remain possessions of the United States, having been designated as National Wildlife Refuges in 1974;

Whereas three quarters of a century later, the Equatorial Islands colonization project has been nearly forgotten;

Whereas May 13, 2011, marks the 75th anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order proclaiming United States jurisdiction over the islands of Howland, Baker, and Jarvis, islands that remain possessions of the United States; and

Whereas the Federal Government has never fully recognized the accomplishments, contributions, and sacrifices of the colonists, less than 6 of whom are still alive today, and most of whom are in their 90s: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges the accomplishments and sacrifices of the Hui Panala'au colonists and extends appreciation on behalf of the people of the United States;

(2) acknowledges the local, national, and international significance of the 7-year colonization project, which resulted in the United States extending sovereignty into the Equatorial Pacific;

(3) recognizes and commends the accomplishments, sacrifices, and contributions of the more than 130 young men, the majority of whom were Native Hawaiian, who participated in the Equatorial Pacific colonization project; and

(4) extends condolences on behalf of the United States to the families of Carl Kahalewai, Joseph Kelihihanui, and Richard Whaley for the loss of their loved ones in the service of the United States and apologizes for the lack of compensation afforded to these families.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet in open session on Tuesday, August 2, 2011, at 10 a.m. in SD-430 to conduct a hearing entitled "Health Reform and Health Insurance Premiums: Empowering States to Serve Consumers."

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Nick Bath of the committee staff on (202) 224-7675.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 26, 2011, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mrs. Murray. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 26, 2011, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 26, 2011, at 10 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Perspectives on Deficit Reduction: A Review of Key Issues."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate on July 26, 2011, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled "Building the Ladder of Opportunity: What's Working to Make the American Dream a Reality for Middle Class Families" on July 26, 2011, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONTRACTION OVERSIGHT

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 26, 2011, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, "Small Business Contracts: How Oversight Failures and Regulatory Loop-holes Allow Large Businesses to Get and Keep Small Business Contracts."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select

Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 26, 2011, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 26, 2011, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES, AND BORDER SECURITY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees, and Border Security, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on July 26, 2011, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "The Economic Imperative for Enacting Immigration Reform."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 26, 2011, at 2 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Examining the Federal Workers' Compensation Program for Injured Employees."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that three interns in Senator BINGAMAN's office, Nick Crismali, Rosy Ortega, and Emma Ruben, be granted floor privileges during today's business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHRISTOPHER S. BOND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 111, S. 846.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASEY). The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 846) to designate the United States Courthouse located at 80 Lafayette Street in Jefferson City, Missouri, as the Christopher S. Bond United States Courthouse.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 846) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 846

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CHRISTOPHER S. BOND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The United States courthouse located at 80 Lafayette Street in Jefferson City, Missouri, shall be known and designated as the "Christopher S. Bond United States Courthouse".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Christopher S. Bond United States Courthouse".

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I note that this courthouse is going to be named for our long-term colleague Kit Bond. That is very nice. He is a fine man. He served his State in many different ways. He was a Governor, a very popular Governor. He served as the ranking member of the Intelligence Committee and served admirably.

One thing he and I talked about on a number of occasions, when he was Governor of the State of Missouri, he rescinded an order that had been given by his predecessor, a man by the name of Governor Boggs, as I recall, which was an extermination order against all the Mormons who were in Missouri—extermination meaning to kill them all—and some of them were killed. But they worked their way out of Missouri. But that extermination order remained in effect until Kit Bond came along. Of course, they were not trying to exterminate the Mormons, but as a matter of principle he thought that was the wrong thing to do.

So for that and other reasons, I have fond memories of our friend Kit Bond.

MYRON DONOVAN CROCKER UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Environment and Public Works Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1406 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1406) to designate the United States Courthouse under construction at 510 19th Street, Bakersfield, California, as the Myron Donovan Crocker United States Courthouse.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1406) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1406

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. MYRON DONOVAN CROCKER UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The United States courthouse under construction, as of the date of enactment of this Act, at 510 19th Street, Bakersfield, California, shall be known and designated as the “Myron Donovan Crocker United States Courthouse”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Myron Donovan Crocker United States Courthouse”.

MEASURE DISCHARGED AND RETURNED—H.R. 1309

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that H.R. 1309 be discharged from the Committee on Banking and that it be returned to the House of Representatives pursuant to their message of July 25, 2011, requesting its return.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1420

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am told there is a bill at the desk due for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1420) to require that the United States Government prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public, Social Security benefits, and military pay in the event that the debt limit is reached, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for its second reading and, in order to place

the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2011

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until tomorrow morning at 9:30, July 27; that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business for an hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with time divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:48 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, July 27, 2011, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROBERT S. MUELLER, III, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 4, 2013. (REAPPOINTMENT)

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. ROBIN RAND

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. EVERETT H. THOMAS

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. LYNN A. COLLYAR

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. ROBERT F. THOMAS

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. FRED W. ALLEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIGADIER GENERAL RALPH O. BAKER
BRIGADIER GENERAL ALLEN W. BATSCHULET
BRIGADIER GENERAL HEIDI V. BROWN
BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN A. DAVIS
BRIGADIER GENERAL PATRICK J. DONAHUE II
BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBERT S. FERRELL
BRIGADIER GENERAL STEPHEN G. FOGARTY
BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES W. HOOPER
BRIGADIER GENERAL PAUL J. LACAMERA
BRIGADIER GENERAL SEAN B. MACFARLAND
BRIGADIER GENERAL KEVIN W. MANGUM
BRIGADIER GENERAL ROGER F. MATHEWS
BRIGADIER GENERAL AUSTIN S. MILLER
BRIGADIER GENERAL CAMILLE M. NICHOLS
BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN R. O'CONNOR
BRIGADIER GENERAL GUSTAVE F. PERNA
BRIGADIER GENERAL WARREN E. PHIPPS, JR.
BRIGADIER GENERAL GREGG C. POTTER
BRIGADIER GENERAL NANCY LEE S. PRICE
BRIGADIER GENERAL EDWARD M. REEDER, JR.
BRIGADIER GENERAL JEFFREY A. SMITH
BRIGADIER GENERAL JEFFREY J. SNOW
BRIGADIER GENERAL KENNETH E. TOVO
BRIGADIER GENERAL STEPHEN J. TOWNSEND
BRIGADIER GENERAL THOMAS S. VANDAL
BRIGADIER GENERAL MARK W. YENTER

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate July 26, 2011:

THE JUDICIARY

PAUL A. ENGELMAYER, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

RAMONA VILLAGOMEZ MANGLONA, OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, TO BE JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS FOR A TERM OF TEN YEARS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, July 26, 2011

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Ross of Florida).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 26, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DENNIS ROSS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

STOP PLAYING GAMES WITH THE DEFICIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, there is an air of unreality here on Capitol Hill. There are some people with no experience in government, little knowledge, and less regard about the outcomes who are pontificating, lecturing, and threatening. The disconnect between the rhetoric, the reality between governance and an ideological agenda is in large part why we are in the conundrum we are in today with the debt ceiling, something that has routinely been increased year after year for decades.

It was on full display in the Republican-controlled House yesterday as we debated the Interior appropriation bill. Now remember, last week Republicans took to the floor with a so-called “cut, cap, and balance” proposal, which is their answer going forward with the economy. It would impose an 18 percent of GDP limit on the amount of spending that the Federal Government could employ in any one year. Now re-

member, that is not what we have done for years. Ronald Reagan never proposed a budget that was even as low as 21 percent of gross domestic product. So it's a dramatic reduction, more than 14 percent less than anything Ronald Reagan ever proposed.

Well, yesterday in the debate my colleague from Kansas offered an amendment, an amendment that I personally found destructive and unbalanced that would have done terrible things, singling out for elimination the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, zeroing out important resources for construction for fish and wildlife, construction and acquisition of land. It would be a 30 percent reduction in water infrastructure. Overall, it would have been an 11 percent reduction. But at least it was honest.

This is where in fact some of my Republican colleagues want to go. In fact, it is less than what they would have imposed with their proposal the week before. As I argued against the amendment on the floor, I predicted that it would fail overwhelmingly, that many Republicans would vote against it because even though they are willing to make reckless proposals disconnected from reality if the only consequences are polls and politics, when it really comes down to basics, even they don't want to impose it.

Remember what happened on the floor of the House when we were debating Republican and Democratic alternatives to the budget? The Republican Study Group offered up their proposal that went even further than my friend, PAUL RYAN's. And when it was passing, we watched Republicans start to twist arms to get people to vote against it because, again, it was something they thought was great politics and theater; but if it came closer to reality, they understood that it would hurt them if the American public understood the real agenda.

Well, we are now at a very serious stage dealing with the debt ceiling. Actions matter. Too many are still acting like they're on the campaign trail or at a Tea Party rally or on a Fox TV shout-fest. There have already been negative consequences from the reckless action of holding the debt ceiling hostage—American businesses are paying more; there are threats that we're going to be paying more for interest in the international bond market.

It's past time to stop this dangerous posturing. There is enough irresponsibility displayed already, we should

avoid putting the rhetoric, in effect, into a budget.

Now is the time to stop playing games on the budget deficit. We've seen this movie before. The last time the Republicans took control in 1995 there was a debate on imposing a balanced budget amendment. It failed by one vote in the Senate, and it failed with the single Republican “no” vote, Mark Hatfield from Oregon. Senator Hatfield, in a profile in courage, stood up and made clear that he was all in favor of balancing the budget, but not with a gimmick long into the future. He was chair of the Appropriations Committee. He invited his colleagues to make the action by reducing the budget, not playing games with gimmicks. That's what we should do today.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, delay, delay, delay is the administration's energy plan. The Keystone XL pipeline project would bring 700,000 barrels of oil a day from Alberta, Canada, to refineries in southeast Texas. This would provide more energy for America.

The President has had over 2 years to approve the project, but the State Department, the EPA, and out-of-towners have stonewalled the project on alleged environmental grounds.

Pipelines are the most cost-effective and more environmentally sound ways to transport oil and natural gas. Oil must reach our refineries somehow. We can either import oil from a safe, reliable pipeline from our neighbors or on risky tankers coming from unstable Middle Eastern countries. Even the EPA should be able to figure this out after 2 years of delay, delay, delay.

Our neighbors in Canada have developed a safe way to obtain crude oil from their oil sands. Unlike many of the countries in the world, the Canadians are concerned about environmental issues in crude oil production. They will sell us their crude oil. It will be piped to refineries in my district in southeast Texas and will be refined into energy and byproducts of crude oil. And it will create jobs in America.

If the White House fails to act, the Canadians will take their oil someplace else. The Chinese are interested in buying that oil, so it's going to be used and it will go to China. Why not let it come to America?

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Some environmental extremists are against the project. Of course they are. They are against every type of energy that comes from below the ground. But they have no answers for our energy needs. They say they want green energy. Well, I do too, but there isn't sufficient green energy yet to run America. So they're against everything, it seems, except those curly CFL light bulbs that come from China. They're all in favor of those.

The radicals are against nuclear energy because, well, the Japanese had an earthquake that caused reactors to overheat, so no more nuclear energy.

□ 1010

They are against natural gas because they don't like fracking, even though safe fracking has been around for decades and they don't even understand what fracking does.

They don't want America to use coal even though our resources are abundant and new technologies have made clean coal safer and more efficient.

They don't like wind turbines because running turbines at night in west Texas may bother the flight pattern of bats.

They don't want more offshore drilling; certainly can't have that. And, of course, they are against domestic crude oil anyway because they hate American oil companies.

So what's the answer? Well, the only White House plan that has been offered is to give American money to Brazil so Brazil can drill off its shores and then America will buy their crude oil. But no more offshore drilling for us it seems.

If we're going to buy crude oil from foreign countries, let's buy it from our neighbor, our ally, Canada. Or do the progressives prefer we keep buying crude oil from dictators like Chavez in Venezuela or continue to be held hostage by the monopoly of OPEC and Middle Eastern countries? Or do they just want us to do without energy altogether?

Meanwhile, gasoline is around \$4 a gallon. So it seems to me the progressives, if they get their way, will have no progress in energy self-reliance, and we'll regress and go back to the horse and buggy days. But whoa, wait a minute, Mr. Speaker, we can't go back to using horses because they, too, cause pollution.

Mr. President, approve the pipeline. Show some leadership. Time to start making progress on taking care of America's energy needs.

And that's just the way it is.

LAST BEST HOPE OF EARTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

"Fellow-citizens, we cannot escape history.

"We of this Congress and this administration will be remembered in spite of ourselves. No personal significance, or insignificance, can spare one or another of us. The fiery trial through which we pass will light us down, in honor or dishonor, to the latest generation. We, even we here, hold the power and bear the responsibility.

"We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best hope of Earth."

Lincoln, of course, was talking about the state of a Nation in peril on December 1 in his address to Congress in 1862.

But if this Nation had not the leadership of that magnitude, who knows where we would be today. They faced terrible consequences and yet still had the extraordinary foresight and fortitude to charge ahead.

Today, we too face consequences. We face consequences of international economic impact, environmental and ecological destruction.

We consider this week a debt limit crisis that has brought out the best and worst amongst men and women I respect both here on this House floor and on the other side of this Capitol building and on cable news stations across the country.

We are also considering here in this House an Interior and Environment appropriations bill that simply says to our children: You clean it up; we don't care to bear the burden. This bill does irreparable damage to programs that keep our air clean, our water drinkable, and that protect our national and natural heritage. These are not dollars spent without thought, nor are they investments of a trivial nature as some would have us believe.

Simply put, these are science-based, pragmatic investments in public health. These cuts, all told, will not save the country a penny. The policy riders included in this bill will cost tens of thousands of lives. The bill will expose our children, families, and communities to unnecessary illness and degrade our irreplaceable natural resources.

But this week we are not stopping at a debt ceiling quagmire and an Interior and Environmental appropriations abhorrence. We will continue to consider a measure that would deem congressional approval for the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline. The Keystone would flow from Alberta down to the gulf coast, threading right through the vast Ogallala Aquifer, the main drinking water source for the Midwest.

You can ignore the dozen leaks the Keystone "one" system has had in the last year, stoking fears of a spill in the aquifer from the proposed expansion pipeline. You can ignore the 42,000 gallons that seeped from an ExxonMobil pipeline into the Yellowstone River in Montana earlier this month, under

which Keystone XL would also run. You can ignore the science that says that the high energy process of production of tar sands increases greenhouse gas emissions, pollutes water sources, and harms the proposed region's boreal forests. And you can ignore the fact that testimony of TransCanada officials to Canadian regulators included the fact that the pipeline would drive gasoline prices in the Midwest higher, not lower.

But let's forget all that.

On procedure alone, this Congressional consideration of a bill that is currently under review by the Department of State is unnecessary and unprecedented, potentially negatively affecting our national security and safety.

This proposed pipeline needs no congressional approval. In fact, this proposed expansion need not be approved at all. It has drawn criticism from the Environmental Protection Agency, who suggested that the State Department should consider how construction would affect wetlands, migratory birds, and communities through which it passes.

So we stand here today to consider approving a project expansion that has been deemed mediocre at best. We stand here today to consider an environmental appropriations bill that has been deemed the worst we have ever seen. And we stand here today while everyone around us fights against a compromise that might keep our standing in the international economy from dipping further than we have already seen it fall.

Indeed, "We cannot escape history. We hold the power, and bear the responsibility. We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best hope of Earth."

President Lincoln, truer words were never spoken.

DIPLOMA ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) for 5 minutes.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, for so many, education is the key to the American Dream. But for so many, a good education seems like it is beyond reach. That is why I am introducing the DIPLOMA Act, or Developing Innovative Partnerships and Learning Opportunities that Motivate Achievement.

This legislation will address obstacles to learning by giving out grants to schools, social service programs, and the local community to create comprehensive, community-based solutions that will ensure that our struggling students will succeed.

For awhile now, I have advocated for changing the tone of debate that surrounds school reform. Too often critics point fingers instead of offering solutions. That is why I am pushing for

real change, dramatic change in our schools that harnesses the energy of parents, the community, and the school to turn around our failing schools that lift up all our students.

Now, there is no denying that this approach can be challenging and hard work, but research shows when communities, parents, and schools collaborate and work together, there is nothing we can't achieve. I know this because I have seen it firsthand in my district.

In East Los Angeles, Esteban E. Torres High School is a shining example of a community school. It's the first new school built in the neighborhood in 85 years, and its facilities and classrooms are simply magnificent. But to me, the most awe-inspiring part is the community-based approach at the heart of Esteban Torres. With the help of the Los Angeles Education Partnership and the Federal Full Service Community Schools Grant Program, Esteban Torres tapped into the resources of the surrounding community to overcome challenges facing their students regarding health care, limited English proficiency, and financial literacy.

Esteban Torres partnered with Bienvenidos for a full-service health service on campus that will help maintain the health and well-being of their students so they are ready and able to learn.

Pan American Bank partnered to help the high schoolers create a student-run financial center to teach the importance of a budget and proper money management, skills which will stick with these students for the rest of their lives.

Luis Rodriguez and Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural joined the effort to establish the first-ever bookstore in East Los Angeles, making it easier for students to expand their education outside their classroom.

And the effect of these programs is apparent on the smiles of the students' faces on their way to school, in the cafeteria and the classroom. This type of engagement and support is giving students in the community new opportunities and opening their world.

Across America, our students face problems like homelessness, lack of health care, and limited English proficiency. Research tells us that two-thirds of the achievement gap is due to factors outside of school, and even the best teachers have a hard time overcoming these obstacles.

□ 1020

A recent study from Chicago found that when we don't address students' social and economic disadvantages outside schools, the hard work done inside the school can be futile. That's why the DIPLOMA Act is so necessary. Local groups can coordinate, integrate, and facilitate services aimed at strength-

ening student achievement, such as dropout prevention, family engagement, tutoring, extending learning services, health care, and social support. The bill contains strong accountability measures, including independent evaluations to measure results and identify best practices.

These partnerships will make a difference in the lives of students in my district. When students are provided the right kind of support and opportunities to help them learn, nothing can stop them. The DIPLOMA Act ensures that America's next Nobel Prize laureate can come from any background or community because they had the support they needed to succeed.

BREAKING WASHINGTON'S ADDICTION TO TAXPAYERS' MONEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, is President Obama really pushing to raise taxes while unemployment hovers around 9 percent just to get an increase in the debt limit?

Republicans beg to disagree. Increasing taxes on American job creators and families will mean fewer new jobs are created, which will result in more Americans remaining unemployed. Washington does not need tax hikes to raise the debt ceiling. Washington needs spending cuts. The Federal Government is addicted to taxpayer money. The solution is not giving it more of Americans' hard-earned money. No. The solution is to halt the runaway spending and permanently reform Washington's reckless spending habits.

We can fix this problem and pay our bills on time, Mr. Speaker. However, refusing to cut spending and going with status quo tax hikes would be a recipe for disaster that will rob future generations of a chance to fulfill the American Dream.

DEBT CRISIS AGENDA FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. It's clear to the American public that Congress, especially the Senate, is very good at doing one thing—and that is nothing.

Now, perhaps we can capitalize on this strength to resolve the impasse over the deficit reduction. Well, how could that work? How could Congress do nothing but solve this problem? Well, within 17 months, by doing nothing, we could lower the deficit by \$3.8 trillion. In fact, the President could reinforce the message. Just in case Congress decided to do something, he could say, No, if they do that, I will pocket

veto it. I will do nothing. So we've got a good chance here: Congress does nothing or the President pocket vetoes, he does nothing, we can save \$3.8 trillion. Problem solved.

How do we do that? We allow all the Bush tax cuts to expire. Now, you heard the gentlelady, Oh, my God, the job creators will pay more. Yeah, the billionaire hedge fund guys on Wall Street might pay a little bit more in taxes; they're creating so many jobs today. And the other millionaires. Warren Buffet says it's kind of ironic that he pays a much lower tax rate than his secretary.

Now, if we let the Bush tax cuts expire and adopted some modest reforms, those inequities would no longer be in place, and we could have over \$4 trillion of deficit reduction with a little bit of shared sacrifice. Yes, it would ask the millionaires and billionaires to pay as much as they did in the Clinton era. In an era when we had 3.8 percent unemployment, we actually paid down debt in this country. It was good for all Americans. And we asked those who were most capable to contribute the most. But we asked a little bit of everybody. That's what this doing nothing would do.

Now, after we've restored some confidence here by this big step of doing nothing, we could do another half of nothing and put people back to work. How could we do half of nothing and put people back to work? Well, President Obama has adopted this cockamamie Republican idea of a Social Security tax holiday putting people to work. I know a lot of families that can use an extra \$20 a week. That's true. But them spending \$20 a week on junk made in China or food on the table doesn't put any Americans back to work. And if you're unemployed today—one of the 18 million unemployed—you don't get the \$20 a week. We're borrowing \$110 billion to do that under the guise that this is creating the jobs. And the President mentioned last night he wants to continue creating jobs that way. Well, guess what? It's not working.

So we do half of nothing. We allow the Social Security tax holiday to expire. It doesn't create any jobs. We don't borrow the \$110 billion from China to put in the Social Security trust fund. Instead, we borrow \$110 billion to put people back to work in private sector jobs. We resolve to begin to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure.

That \$110 billion applied to the 150,000 bridges falling down on the Federal system, the \$80 billion backlog on our transit vehicles, the pavement that's disintegrating across the country could put millions to work. And not just construction workers. Engineers would go to work, people who manufacture things—steel, buses, tires, engines. All those people would go to work. We could put millions to work.

Guess what that does? When people go to work, they don't collect unemployment, they don't need food stamps to feed their family, and they pay taxes. That reduces the deficit, too. So by doing one big nothing and one half of nothing and then one little action to put people back to work—nothing that anybody's talking about around here. Where are the jobs? Who's talking about jobs? We need jobs.

Let's stop blathering around here. Let's resolve to do nothing and solve the debt crisis and resolve to do half of nothing and then apply the money that we save by doing that nothing to putting people back to work.

That's an agenda a little more productive for the American people.

SAVING TAXPAYER MONEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I want to cover two or three things very briefly here this morning.

First of all, The Washington Post reported on its front page yesterday that "U.S. taxpayer money has been indirectly funneled to the Taliban under a \$2.16 billion transportation contract."

This is crazy. It should not be part of the job of the U.S. military to promote Afghan businesses. The official report found "documented, credible evidence of involvement in a criminal enterprise of support for the enemy." This is ridiculous. And it comes on the heels of a report last week that the Navy had spent at least \$300 million on two ships that were never completed, never sent on a mission, and are now headed for a salvage yard in Brownsville, Texas.

Are there no fiscal conservatives at the Pentagon? Sadly, most people in Congress today are afraid to cut the Defense Department for fear they will appear to be unpatriotic. Yet it seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that it's unpatriotic to continue with megabillions in wasteful spending or billions in spending that promotes businesses in other countries. No part of the Federal Government should be immune from having to save taxpayer money. The American people would be far better off today if every Department and agency had to take a fair, across-the-board 10 percent cut.

Let me mention a couple of other things. We're going to vote later today on the Keystone pipeline project. This is a project that will provide 20,000 jobs and also will lead to 500,000 gallons of oil coming into this country each day. This will help bring down the price of gasoline. And yet it is opposed by a very powerful group of wealthy environmental elitists. Most of these environmentalists today seem to come from very upper-income or very wealthy families and perhaps they don't realize how much they hurt the

poor and the lower-income and the working people by destroying jobs and driving up prices. But that's what they're doing, and they're certainly doing that in blocking or delaying this Keystone pipeline project.

We also need to make sure that more jobs are created in this country in every way possible. Just today in The Washington Post, there's a poll that says that 49 percent of the American people are finding it very difficult to find jobs and 33 percent say somewhat difficult. Eighty-two percent of the American people say that it's difficult to find jobs in this country today. Yet we continue to cave in to environmental radicals that destroy jobs and really do just nothing other than help foreign energy producers.

□ 1030

So I think it's time that we start siding with the American people and stop siding with foreign energy producers.

Lastly, let me just say that the most false thing that has been said during this debate over the debt ceiling is that some people are trying to help billionaires or multimillionaires. No one is trying to help the billionaires. They can help themselves. What the debate is about is: Do you want the money spent by the Federal Government, and they will spend it without any question in the most wasteful, least effective, least efficient way possible; or do you want the money to be in the private sector, where it will do much more to create jobs and hold down prices?

If that weren't true, the Soviet Union or Cuba would have been heaven on Earth because, in those countries, the government took almost all the money. So it's not about protecting billionaires, not in the least.

NO ILLUSIONS: A CLEAR-EYED SMART SECURITY APPROACH IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, last week, General David Petraeus relinquished control of the Afghanistan command. He did this as he prepares to take over as CIA Director this fall.

We are all grateful to General Petraeus for 37 years of honorable and distinguished service, but the fact remains that the fundamental realities in Afghanistan haven't changed. The New York Times put it plainly, noting that the general is "leaving behind a country racked by deep political instability, whose fledgling security forces are fighting a weakened but deadly insurgency that kills coalition troops and Afghan civilians and officials nearly every day."

That's a pretty damning assessment, Mr. Speaker, and it's accurate.

In recent weeks, two of President Karzai's most powerful allies, including his brother, have been gunned down by the Taliban, and ordinary Afghan citizens are caught in the line of fire as never, never before. The U.N. recently reported that more Afghan civilians were killed in the first half of 2011 than in any other 6-month period since the war began. Some of these casualties are the accidental result of errant attacks and night raids by U.S. and NATO forces, but the overwhelming majority of civilian deaths came at the hands of insurgents who were often using suicide bombers.

There were nearly 1,500 civilian deaths between January and June, but according to the U.N., that might be a low estimate given that it doesn't include killings in northern Afghanistan in the last few months, because the U.N. closed its office in that region after it was attacked by a mob that killed several staffers.

It is clear, Mr. Speaker, that after nearly a decade of war we haven't been able to vanquish the enemy and bring stability and security to Afghanistan. If after 10 years we can't do more to subdue the insurgency, then clearly—clearly—we must be doing something wrong. Clearly, there must be a better approach.

I've been pushing for that new approach for many years now. It's called SMART Security. It's based on the belief that sending 100,000 troops to occupy a sovereign country is not the best way to win trust and to promote peace, which has proven to fan the flames of resentment, to give increased momentum to extremists and to put the lives of American troops and Afghan civilians in danger.

What we need, Mr. Speaker, is an Afghanisthan civilian surge as bold as the military surge that has gotten us further entangled in this failed war. That's what SMART Security is all about. Instead of sending troops, let's send humanitarian aid. Let's send our civilian experts who can help rebuild Afghan schools and hospitals, who can help—and I say "help" because we want the Afghan people to be doing this, but we can help where necessary—rebuild the political infrastructure and rule of law that will strengthen Afghan democracy, who can promote political reconciliation and peaceful conflict resolution.

As he left Afghanistan, General Petraeus said, "We should be clear-eyed about the challenges ahead." His successor, General John Allen, said, "There will be tough days ahead, and I have no illusions about the challenges we will face together."

But I say, Mr. Speaker, continuing with the current policy demonstrates that, in fact, we are not being clear-eyed at all, that we are gripped by dangerous illusions about what a military occupation can achieve. This strategy

has been given a chance to work—10 years. It hasn't worked. It's time for something new. It's time for SMART Security, and it's time to bring our troops home.

FIGHTING FOR THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN AND SENIORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, this is a sad day in America. There are people who have to choose between paying their bills and eating a decent meal.

All I hear is that we have a spending problem. "We have a spending problem. We have a spending problem."

I want to be sure we do not try to solve our spending problem on the backs of the poor, on the backs of children and on the backs of our senior citizens. We have been cutting services for the poor, children and seniors for years. Go back and look at the record, and you will see that this is a fact. If you add up all of the money we are spending on children and seniors, it would not begin to make a dent in the Federal deficit.

We spend less than 10 percent of the budget on children. That means we are not seriously investing in the future of this Nation. When we cut programs like WIC, we are literally taking the food out of the mouths of babies, so I say our priorities are certainly misguided or upside down. When we cut tens of millions of dollars from juvenile justice delinquency programs, then we'd better get ready to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on more prisons.

When we look to save money by cutting Medicare and Social Security, we really do a disservice to the senior citizens in this country. Senior citizens have worked all of their lives putting a good portion of their paychecks into a system that paid for the well-being of their parents and grandparents.

If the truth is to be told, today's seniors have paid more than \$2.5 trillion extra into Social Security so that it would be safe, and here we are talking about making cuts. When President Ronald Reagan signed the law to increase the payroll tax, it was to make sure Social Security would be there for future generations; but the government spent the money, and now we want to make seniors pay again. That is wrong.

Our senior citizens have paid enormous sums of money into Medicare, and now people are talking about ending it as we know it. Certainly, rising health care costs are causing Medicare problems, but we can fix those problems without making it a voucher program.

I call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to take a deep breath and to think clearly about what we're doing. Children and seniors are the

most vulnerable citizens in our country. They are depending on us to use sound judgment and not be swayed by the political gamesmanship.

I stand here this morning to tell you that I intend to fight for the well-being of our children and our senior citizens. Of course, we need to uncut, uncap and get some real balance into this discussion, recognizing the fact that our children and our seniors must be protected. Of course, every time I hear one of our Members talking about the fact that we need to cut Medicare, that we need to cut WIC, I think that we need to stop and take a real, real deep breath and recognize that, when we do that, we end up creating other things, and we do not save money.

□ 1040

LET'S ADDRESS CAUSES, NOT SYMPTOMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, too often, Congress and Washington deal with symptoms, not underlying causes. And that's what's going on with this current debate about the debt limit. It's kind of like you have an ill patient that has a fever, and you say, well, they're sick so throw some water on the patient and their fever will go down. But you never deal with the underlying infection, the underlying cause that is tripping the fever in the first place.

Let me put a little map on the table here this morning, to look at the nature of current economic challenge. When you have 14 million Americans out of work, and up to 24 million who are working part-time that want to work full-time or others who have completely dropped out of the workforce, none of them are earning a full check. Money is not being taken out of that check to pay their social insurance for Social Security, and they're not going to pay their regular income taxes either. And so the government falls short on revenues. It's quite clear.

We have a jobs problem. That's the causal problem that underlies the deficit problem that America faces.

Now, if you look just at this year alone, 2011, so far this year the government's taken in over a trillion dollars—\$1.2 trillion in revenue. That's not bad for an economy that's just limping along. But we've spent \$1.8 trillion. So we've spent already this year over \$600 billion that we didn't have. We've had to borrow that money. That borrowing gets added to the long-term deficit. But why do we have that deficit this year?

We have that deficit because the revenues aren't coming in at the same rate as in prior years because there is a jobs problem. When you have 14 mil-

lion to 24 million people who want a better job and can't get one, that's the underlying cause which Washington fails to see or address.

Now, the cost of that unemployment with the attendant shortage of revenues, is added to this huge accumulated debt, which now is over \$14 trillion. So where did that come from? Let me outline the reasons. The largest share, not only of this year's deficit but of prior debt that we've accumulated, is due to a lagging economy. Families know this. They can't pay as much in taxes or any taxes when they're out of work. Companies, banks, and real estate firms that go bankrupt can't pay taxes either. Revenues fall short.

If you take a look at the cost of our sluggish economy triggered and caused by Wall Street abuse, that's what threw us into this mess in the first place, right, back in 2008. The increased costs of resulting unemployment are staggering indeed: Add them up. First, we have to pay the unemployment checks, and some people even got 99 weeks of unemployment because jobs are scarce. Add to it the costs of food for those unemployed people. They are enormous.

When an economy isn't fully functioning, the Federal costs of medical care skyrocket because people fall off their own insurance. So many in this country simply can't get good care, and that's all tied in to a very sluggish economy. Yes, the costs of unemployment are huge.

Then let's add the cost of the housing meltdown. All of the bad mortgages, four out of five bad mortgages were dumped on the Federal Government. Did Wall Street take care of its dirty laundry? No. They gave it to you, the American people. At the FHA, the Federal Housing Administration, at Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae, the Veterans Administration, guess who's holding all of the mortgages that are under water? Eighty percent of them. Us, the people of the United States, because Wall Street's insurance company or vacant units become the property of Uncle Sam; not Wall Street. Did Wall Street write off any losses? Oh, no, no, no. They gave them to us. That is a huge and growing part of the Federal deficit related to the housing crisis and what it is going to cost to revitalize or demolish that housing inventory.

Then, add to all this a trillion dollars more that's been spent on two wars that have not been paid for. That is a major part of the growing deficit. We can't ignore that. Do we say we should have a war tax? Do we say we should end the wars? Do we say our allies should pay more? The point is we haven't said anything other than just add that trillion dollars on the deficit.

Now let's take a look at the Bush trillion-dollar tax giveaway to the very wealthy, who said that if we gave them

the money, they would create jobs in our country. Guess what? They took the money and they created jobs offshore. Corporate profits are at all-time highs, but are jobs increasing in this country? No. Those corporate profits are due to the booking here in our country of profits earned offshore.

So some say give them more tax breaks. Why, unless they invest in our country in job creation here at home. We would be foolish to waste precious dollars on more outsourcing.

And finally, former President Bush had this idea for pharmaceuticals. He said don't let the Federal Government bargain the cost of pharmaceuticals in Medicare and Medicaid expenditures. Yet when we can't do that, when we fail to negotiate the best, competitive prices, that omission adds hundreds of billions of dollars to our debt.

Mr. Speaker, to solve the deficit problem, Congress and the executive branch must focus on employing the citizens who are out of work. That is the real cause of our economic sluggishness. America ought to address causes, not symptoms.

THE FAIRTAX

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to come to the floor today. I'm still a little bit winded. I was over in the Ways and Means Committee room where we were talking about exactly these issues. I'm embarrassed that my fitness is in such a state that running up the stairs winds me.

But that's what happens when you don't focus on something, when you don't put in the time it takes to stay fit; things degrade. And that's exactly what's happened with our economy, Mr. Speaker. It's absolutely true that folks are out of work, and it's absolutely true that the best form of unemployment relief is a paycheck. It's not an unemployment check. It's a paycheck.

But why are these jobs going overseas? And this is the real debate that happens up here absolutely every day because people just believe different things about how it is that we put Americans back to work. Every single person who comes to this House floor wants Americans to go back to work, wants America's economy to be the pride of the world once again.

But I will tell you the reason we lose jobs overseas is not because we're taxing businesses too little; it's because we're taxing businesses too much. We have the single highest corporate tax rate in the world in America. Why does Sony want to locate their next plant here? Why does Rico want to locate their next plant here? Why does Whirlpool want to keep their plants here? We punish business in this country

through our Tax Code like no other country in the world.

Now, is there a regulatory component to that too that we need to solve to make America attractive for business? There absolutely is. Is there a health care component of that if those costs rise? Absolutely there is. Is there a payroll tax cost in that we need to address, the largest tax 80 percent of Americans pay? Absolutely there is.

There is only one proposal in the House that does it, and the Ways and Means Committee right now across the street right here behind you, Mr. Speaker, in the Ways and Means Committee room, is holding a hearing on H.R. 25, the FairTax.

The FairTax eliminates these income taxes and moves America to a consumption tax model. America is the only country in the OECD nations, those economically developed nations, that does not have a consumption tax. The FairTax shifts us in that direction.

And what it does for the first time, the only bill in Congress that does it, it eliminates every single bit of corporate welfare in the United States Tax Code. Oil companies, gone. Solar companies, gone. Foreign companies, gone. Every single tax break in the Code is abolished, Mr. Speaker, because we know the free market works best when the market is free. And we know that businesses don't pay taxes. Consumers pay taxes.

There is not a penny that we charge Walmart that they don't roll right into their costs and pass it along to us. You see it. You see it absolutely every day. If we raise gas taxes, gas prices are going to go up. If we lower gas taxes, gas prices go down. The market sorts those things out.

Have you ever been to a Coke machine, Mr. Speaker? I'm from Atlanta; so I'll talk to you about Coke machines. But usually they're going to sit beside a Pepsi machine. Have you ever seen that Coke costs \$1 and the Pepsi right beside it cost \$2? No. Do you ever see the Coke sell for \$1.50 and the Pepsi beside it try to sell for \$5? No. And that's not just because Coke's a wonderful product. It's because the consumer rules in America and price matters. You can't charge whatever you want; you can only charge what the consumer will pay. And when taxes go up, consumers have to pay more.

The FairTax, Mr. Speaker, will bring those jobs back to America like no other proposal in this Congress. It eliminates those corporate income taxes, and it eliminates payroll taxes. Have you thought about your payroll tax recently? It is 15.3 percent of every paycheck that you get.

Now, the wealthy don't pay payroll taxes because they're making their money in interest or dividends or capital gains, these things that payroll taxes don't come out of. Those of us who work for paychecks, we pay pay-

roll taxes. And at 15.3 percent, the payroll tax is the largest tax that 80 percent of Americans pay.

□ 1050

The largest tax that 80 percent of American families pay, and we don't spend any time on the floor discussing that. We argue about income tax all the time. Half of America doesn't even pay income taxes anymore. Payroll taxes are the taxes that American people pay, 15.5 percent; and it comes out of your paycheck before you even get to see your paycheck.

Milton Friedman, the Nobel Prize-winning economist who helped during World War II establish the withholding system—the government needed money in a hurry. It was wartime. That's when we began sucking money out of your paycheck before you ever see your paycheck. Milton Friedman said the worst decision of his life was not working to do away with the withholding system once World War II ended because you need to know how much money you are paying. You need what it costs you to run this United States Government.

We talk about trillions. Have you thought about \$1 trillion, Mr. Speaker? One trillion dollars, the cost of the President's health care plan, for example. If you started a business on the day Jesus Christ was born and you were so bad at your small business, Mr. Speaker, that you lost \$1 million a day, every day, 7 days a week from the day Jesus was born through today, you would have to continue losing money for another 700 years to lose your first trillion dollars. We throw that number around like it is nothing. It is something. We need jobs back in this country. The FairTax will do it.

I encourage folks to pay attention to what's happening in the Ways and Means Committee today on H.R. 25.

RAISE THE DEBT CEILING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my good friends have come to the floor of the House. My good friend just came and offered some solutions, and I would say that it's important for Members to have ideas and to be able to engage on behalf of the American people.

Every time we stand in this well, we should be rising to make the lives of the American people, those who have entrusted us to be the holders of the values of this great country, we should be moving on on their behalf. So this morning, I'm asking that we get on with it. It's important to be discussing tax reform. But as many of us know, that is a long, protracted process of give-and-take. And many Americans will understand what the payroll tax is

all about when they look in the faces of their seniors and themselves and they know that part of that is Social Security. We know for a fact that Social Security has been a lifeline for millions of Americans, and it is solvent, and it's important to know that America is not broke.

But the good work of the Ways and Means Committee and the good work of the Judiciary Committee, which is meeting right now—and I'll be heading on to that committee to talk about preventing corruption in business and making sure the American people get their fair share. It is important that we move on. And how do we move on? We do something that Americans have said by and large that they want us to do together, and that is to get past this debt ceiling, do something that has been done time after time after time.

Yes, we have grown as a Nation, and the reason is because in World War II we were not 300 million-plus people. We didn't have all the assets and responsibilities. In fact, the wars of Iraq and Afghanistan were longer than World War II, and all of those moneys were spent under the last administration. Tax cuts that for individuals who, by and large, have said, No, thank you, because they want to invest in America.

So I'm prepared to join with my many friends to work on moving this country forward, but let's move on. Let's move on beyond the impossible proposal given by Speaker BOEHNER that focuses on a two vote process for the debt ceiling increase and vote once then come back and fight it out again in 6 months. That is not the consistency and the evenness that is necessary for all of those who are seeking employment or all of those businesses or all of those in the arena of money making. They need an even pathway, they need consistency for the markets.

We need to get on with the ordinary business so that we can begin to talk about the growth of this country, education for the young people, making sure the doors of businesses stay open, talk about how do we fix a tax system where we all can benefit. But as long as we are wallowing in the ordinary work, the work that should just go on, we will never reach the point of sanity, which is to sit down at the table of reconciliation and compromise. I know we have it in us. We like each other. But it appears to the American people that we may not like them.

So I will just ask, we're nearing the resolution of the debt ceiling, again, to pay the bills that were built up between 2000 and 2008, billions of dollars spent in Afghanistan, billions lost in untoward contracts. We don't even know where the moneys have gone—Iraq, moneys lost; a war that was, in essence, a detour.

And let me just say, every time I say that, I always thank our soldiers and their families because they are not a

detour. They accepted the call to duty, and we owe them a great deal of appreciation.

But the policymakers sent them into wars that are going on and on and on, and it caused this country to pay for these wars. At the same time, there are drastic draconian cuts in the revenue coming into the United States bank account.

So here we are, President Clinton having left in 2000 with \$500 billion of surplus; we came out of 2008 in enormous debt. So what are we doing today? The debt ceiling is simply saying pay America's bills. And it's also saying to the many countries around the world—which we appreciate buying our Treasury notes. That is of value to the United States. The dollar has been stronger than any other currency, except the manipulation that goes on in China. But it's stronger than the euro.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is important to pass the debt ceiling, get past this frivolity of doing it twice. It is time to pass and move forward the Reid proposal which can bring all of us together. And that's what we should do, begin to do, and look at it on behalf of the American people. America should pay its bills.

POLITICAL GAME OF CHICKEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. HOCHUL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. HOCHUL. Less than 2 months on this job, I only have one question to ask: Is anyone in this body listening to the people who sent us here? I can only conclude at this point that the answer is "no," or we would not be teetering on the precipice of not just a government shutdown but an intentional economic shutdown, the likes of which we have never seen in this country. And I say "intentional" because there are high stakes in this game of chicken.

We all know the game of chicken. You've got a couple of crazy teenagers racing toward each other on a highway, and nobody's going to swerve. What happens when no one blinks, no one swerves, no one comes to their senses? Crash. Lives are lost. No survivors. It's not a pretty sight.

It didn't have to come to this. The American people who voted for us, put their faith in us, they don't want this to happen. They wonder if anyone in Washington is listening, and they're absolutely right in that assessment.

I will tell you, I was at a firemen's parade in the tiny, tiny village of Silver Springs in one of my most rural counties, Wyoming County. There are more Republicans than cows out there; and cows and Democrats, not a lot of people. But I'll tell you, we are all bound by the same feelings.

This frustrated senior at the firemen's parade in Wyoming County said to me, Why can't you guys get your act

together? We send you there to do a job, and you guys aren't doing it.

You know, he was right; he was absolutely right, and I took that to heart. I came back here, and I want to do something to restore his faith in us.

He talked about the seniors. He said, We are so scared out here. I need my Social Security. I need my Medicare. Why are you guys talking about hurting us? We paid into these systems all of our lives. We don't deserve this. I said, I'll go back. I'll do the best I can. I'll fight for you.

They have fear, uncertainty, and disgust, all directed at the ineptitude of Washington.

□ 1100

Well, it is wrong. It is plain wrong that we are even considering defaulting on America's obligations. It's doubly wrong that we'd consider defaulting on our obligations to our seniors, promises made 46 years ago this week with the advent of Medicare.

The integrity and willingness to uphold and honor our promises should be the hallmarks of this great institution. And yet what I've witnessed in such a short time is a willingness to renege on our promises to our debtors, our seniors and, ultimately, the American people.

Right now, it's not too late to avoid that highway collision where no one walks away. The American people deserve better than this. Our small businesses deserve better than this. Our middle class families deserve better than this.

I'll tell you, we need to get on with the business of the American people, and do it as soon as possible.

WHAT THE PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I want my colleagues to hear some of the things that I'm hearing from my constituents back home. People want to know why we cannot compromise. People want to know why we cannot work together. I don't know the answers to that because I think we should.

What I see happening here is something that I haven't seen in the 23 years that I've been here. It's that people do not seem to want to move to the center and to compromise.

I know some of my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle, particularly the Tea Party-backed freshmen, have signed a pledge never to raise taxes. Well, I want to say what Senator COBURN said the other day. He said, what am I upholding my pledge to? I uphold my pledge to abide by the Constitution, not upholding my pledge to abide by what a special interest group wants.

People want us to meet in the middle. People don't understand why there seems to be intransigence.

You know, we have spent too much over these past decades. And you know what else? In order to get back to where we can balance our budget and pay our bills, we can't do it all with just spending cuts. It has to be three things. It has to be spending cuts, for sure. It also happens to be and should be closing tax loopholes for the very wealthy who get away with paying no taxes at all, for large corporations who pay no taxes at all, for special subsidies to businesses that move their jobs overseas, to special subsidies for companies like Big Oil that don't need the subsidies.

We also need to make sure that those who can afford to pay a little bit more pay a little bit more, because that's how we get our budget back in balance. But if my Republican friends only say, you know, all we're going to do is cut, and we're not going to meet the Democrats halfway, then I'm afraid we're moving to fall off a cliff.

President Obama was absolutely right yesterday when he said that one side seems to be saying, my way or the highway; tax cuts forever, even if our budget is not balanced.

We, as Democrats, are saying let's do it a compromise way. Let us cut spending, let us close tax loopholes, and let those who can afford to pay a little more, millionaires and billionaires, pay a little more.

We are here because the American people sent us here. I know my constituents are concerned about Medicare and Medicaid, Social Security, and the New York Graduate Medical Education. I didn't come here to devastate those programs, and I want my constituents to know that I'm going to fight like crazy to preserve Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and GME. We cannot balance our budget on the backs of senior citizens.

I want to remind my colleagues that when President Clinton, the last Democratic president before President Obama left office, we had record surpluses. President Bush came in and we have red ink deficits as far as the eye can see.

And I want to remind my Republican colleagues that 6 of the 8 Bush years Republicans controlled both the House and the Senate, and had the presidency for 6 years. If they wanted a balanced budget amendment they could have had it. If they wanted to try to balance the budget they could have done it.

So I don't think lectures are important now. I think there's plenty of blame to go around on all sides. We had the Bush tax cuts, we had wars, and we had reckless spending. And it was done under President Bush with Republican majorities in the House. So we need to put our heads together and move to the sensible center in terms of what the

American people want, to get us off this precipice that we're about to fall into.

I think there's one other thing the President should do. If he sees, in a few days, that there's no progress being made, and we are about to approach August 2 and we're about to have this train wreck, the President should invoke the 14th amendment. The 14th amendment says the public debt shall not be questioned and, in my estimation, gives the President the authority to raise the debt ceiling by himself. I think the President should do that if we cannot come to a compromise.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 7 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Miroslaus Stelmaszczyk, Holy Family Church, Creighton, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

Almighty Father, we gather here this morning to ask for Your wisdom, charity, and humility. We continue the task of operating this great Nation with honesty and integrity. Grant us the wisdom to act for the greater good of all citizens. Keep us humble that we not forget who we are and why we are here.

We remember the Founding Fathers, who risked their reputations, their fortunes and their very lives to form a Nation that ensures the freedoms and opportunities that we enjoy today. We also remember those brave individuals who paid the ultimate price to protect and defend those freedoms and opportunities.

Father, keep us dedicated to the people we represent. Let us not allow partisanship to cause discord among our number and prevent us from completing our agenda. We depend upon Your grace and mercy to allow us to continue to serve this Nation with honor and integrity.

We ask this in Your name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PITTS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND MIROSLAUS STELMASZCZYK

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, in the midst of one of the most contentious congressional debates in recent times, I knew just who to bring to Washington to help bring people together. It is my great honor to welcome Reverend Miroslaus Stelmaszczyk, who today serves as our guest chaplain for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Known simply as "Father Miro," he has led the Holy Family Parish in Creighton, Pennsylvania, for 12 of his 36 years in the priesthood. He has received numerous awards in recognition of his public service since he first came to the United States from Poland in 1986.

As testament to his popularity among his congregation, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to welcome the three dozen Holy Family parishioners who made the trip to Washington, along with Father Miro, and are now seated in the gallery to witness his opening prayer today.

Welcome to you all.

On behalf of my colleagues in the House, welcome, Father Miro, and congratulations on being chosen as today's guest chaplain for the U.S. House of Representatives.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

LET'S LEARN A LESSON FROM THE "GERMAN MIRACLE"

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, Dr. Milton Wolf in The Washington Times reported, in the last 2 years, over 2 million private sector jobs have been lost, that unemployment has increased by 1.5 percentage points, that the U.S. dollar is 12 percent weaker, and that the long-term unemployment is the worst ever on record—and sadly, the national debt has exploded by 40 percent.

At the same time the administration pushed the failed stimulus spending here, the President urged German Chancellor Angela Merkel to do the same in her country. The Chancellor refused. Now, as a result of her good judgment, Germany's economy has recovered. German unemployment levels are reduced while over 14 million Americans do not have jobs.

The President should learn a lesson from the "German miracle." The solution is not for big government to keep borrowing and spending. Tax increases destroy jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism. Our sympathy to the people of Norway in the religious extremist mass murderers.

A COMPREHENSIVE, BALANCED SOLUTION TO SAVE THE ECONOMY

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Last night, Speaker BOEHNER addressed the American people and said that if the President would just simply sign his debt ceiling bill, the crisis, in his words, would disappear.

Actually, the opposite is true. An hour or two before his speech, the Standard & Poor's rating agency issued a report, saying that, if the Boehner plan passed, the American bonds would be downgraded from its AAA status. A downgrade is as bad as a default in terms of driving up lending costs and damaging a fragile economy that today needs all of us to work together to strengthen job creation to solve our problems. The Boehner plan calls for three separate votes over the next 15 months for a debt ceiling increase, exactly the kind of political instability that rating agencies are not looking for.

It is time for a comprehensive, balanced solution, which the President has said he will work with the Congress to pass in order to get this economy moving again and to create jobs.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SACRIFICE OF BORDER PATROL AGENT MICHAEL GALLAGHER

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, tonight, Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS' office is organizing a Special Order to recognize Border Patrol agents who were killed in the line of duty last year.

I want to thank her and her staff for working to acknowledge these dedicated servants who died serving our Nation. While I won't be able to speak tonight, I wanted to take a moment to honor Agent Michael Gallagher, who grew up in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

On September 2 of last year, Agent Gallagher was on patrol near Casa Grande, Arizona. A drunk driver ran a stop sign, colliding into the patrol car and ejecting Michael from the vehicle. He served in the Border Patrol for 2 years, and also served our Nation in Iraq, risking his life to protect our freedom.

He is dearly missed by his wife and his two sons.

Even though he moved away, I understand that he remained a dedicated Pennsylvania sports fan. We cannot thank him and his family enough for his service. We can only honor him for dedicating his life to keeping Americans safe here at home and abroad.

THE CLOCK IS TICKING ON AMERICA'S DEBT LIMIT

(Mr. BUTTERFIELD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, the clock is ticking, and we must act now on increasing our debt limit. The American people must understand that increasing the debt limit will enable us to meet obligations that have been incurred by Democratic and Republican Congresses in years past. Defaulting on these obligations will not only wreak havoc on the American people; it will weaken our overall economy.

The Republicans have been given opportunity after opportunity to help craft an acceptable, long-term debt reduction plan that would include a debt limit increase, but Republicans have slow-walked us to the brink of collapse.

The Republican plan is to imperil Medicare and Medicaid. Republicans want to balance the budget by forcing the government away from government-sponsored Medicare and provide vouchers so seniors can purchase coverage from private insurance companies. Republicans want to shift the Medicaid responsibility to States that are already struggling to balance their budgets. Republican budget cuts will force doctors, hospitals and other health care providers to leave the Medicaid program entirely.

The Republican strategy has been evolving for a long time, and now it is revealed. Shame on you. Shame on the Republican majority.

□ 1210

RAISING THE DEBT LIMIT: THE HYPOCRISY COULD NOT BE MORE CLEAR

(Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask the American people to listen closely to these words:

"The fact that we are here today to debate raising America's debt limit is a sign of leadership failure. It is a sign that the U.S. Government cannot pay its own bills. It is a sign that we now depend on ongoing financial assistance from foreign countries to finance our government's reckless fiscal policies.

"Increasing America's debt weakens us domestically and internationally. Leadership means that 'the buck stops here.' Instead, Washington is shifting the burden of bad choices today onto the backs of our children and our grandchildren. America has a debt problem and a failure of leadership. Americans deserve better."

These were remarks by Senator Barack Obama, March 2006. Mr. Speaker, the President's hypocrisy could not be more clear.

God bless America.

WE NEED TO COMPROMISE

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, the Republicans in Congress campaigned on, Where are the jobs? Not spending cuts or living within our means, but where are the jobs. The Blue Dogs were the ones calling for responsible fiscal responsibility.

Then at the end of Congress last year, President Obama compromised with the Republicans, extended the Bush tax cuts in order to try to create jobs. This gamble did not create jobs. All it's done is extended the tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires.

We cannot play chicken and cause our Nation to default. We must lower the deficit with cuts to wasteful spending. But we can't balance the budget on the backs of seniors, the poor, by cutting Social Security and Medicare while continuing to give tax breaks to the ultra-rich and oil companies and those who make over \$250,000 a year.

No taxes, no jobs. We must compromise. It can't be "my way or the highway."

THE SMALL ARMS TREATY

(Mr. POMPEO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, over the past 1½ years, we've seen this President take away a lot of our freedoms with big spending and a big health care plan. I want to talk about another risk to American freedom today, and that is the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty, also known as the Small Arms Treaty.

I'm profoundly disappointed, but, frankly, not surprised, that this administration is joining the United Nations in crafting this dangerous treaty designed to curtail our Second Amendment rights.

Parties in the negotiations about the treaty are talking about banning civilian possession of firearms, decreasing the ability for trade in firearms, and heavily restricting the rights of Americans to carry their firearms. Each one of these directives, if implemented, would clearly violate individual rights as enshrined in our Constitution.

The Senate should not ratify this treaty. We must never turn our national sovereignty over to anyone, most especially the United Nations.

As a former soldier who dearly loves his M250 caliber machine gun and loves his firearms as a civilian as well, I know that we have that right. We've got to stand up and protect it, and I urge my colleagues in the Senate not to ratify this treaty.

RECOGNIZING FINALISTS OF SECRETARY OF DEFENSE EMPLOYER SUPPORT FREEDOM AWARD

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize three employers in Rhode Island that are honoring and supporting the brave men and women serving our great country in the armed services.

These include Amica Mutual Insurance of Lincoln, Rhode Island; Banneker Industries of North Smithfield; and the Woonsocket Middle School. These Rhode Island employers have received national recognition as finalists and semifinalists for the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award and were selected for this honor from a pool of 4,000 nominations.

This award is the Department of Defense's highest recognition of employers for the extraordinary support they provide to our National Guard and Reserve members and their families. The Freedom Award is especially significant because nearly half of our Nation's military is currently comprised of Guard members and Reservists.

These men and women have put their lives on the line because our country

asked them to. Because of their service, we're able to enjoy the freedoms that we have here at home. We owe those serving our country, our veterans, and their families our utmost gratitude and respect for their great sacrifices on our behalf.

I commend our Rhode Island businesses who recognize the sacrifices of our servicemen and -women and their families.

WHERE IS THE PRESIDENT'S PLAN TO BALANCE THE BUDGET?

(Mr. BROOKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday President Obama gave a speech to the Nation about the debt ceiling. He said, I won't bore you with the details of every plan or proposal. Mr. Speaker, I say please bore us with the details.

The House passed the Cut, Cap, and Balance plan that prevents a national bankruptcy by modestly cutting spending, capping the size of government, and advocating a balanced budget amendment to force Congress to act responsibly. In contrast, the President gives fine speeches, yet fails to submit a single written plan to balance the budget that can be evaluated by the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I say bore us with the details. Washington's spending binge has put America \$14 trillion in debt.

America's future is at risk. Congress welcomes written detailed solutions to Washington's spending binge from the President.

Mr. Speaker, I reiterate, please bore us with the details. America has a right to hear them. President Obama has a duty to deliver them.

JUVENILE DIABETES

(Mr. CARNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of efforts to find a cure for type 1 diabetes.

Recently, I visited with 11-year-old Madeline Tallman from my home State of Delaware. She was here to tell her story of what it's like to live with type 1 diabetes. Madeline is faced with the life-long challenge of checking her blood sugar levels, managing her diet, and injecting herself with insulin every single day.

While research to find a cure for type 1 diabetes is progressing, people like Madeline are looking for better ways to manage their diabetes right now.

An artificial pancreas has the potential to transform the lives of those with type 1 diabetes. This device automatically controls blood sugar levels around the clock allowing patients to remain healthy until a cure is found. But before this technology can be made

available to patients, the FDA must approve the next steps in the regulatory process for artificial pancreas trials.

I commend the FDA for committing to publish draft guidance by December 1. I urge the FDA to stick with that guideline. Children like Madeline have waited long enough.

THE DEBT CEILING

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, we voted last week on a plan put forward by my Republican colleagues that I strongly opposed and was rejected by the Senate because it would have ended Medicare as we know it while preserving giveaways to Big Oil and corporations shipping jobs overseas.

Now Speaker BOEHNER has introduced a new plan which he says follows the spirit of the last plan. Rating agencies say Mr. BOEHNER's plan won't work. It won't prevent a ratings downgrade, it will destroy hundreds of thousands of jobs, weaken the American dollar, and raise interest rates on loans to keep families in their homes and students in school. It is a plan that experts tell us up front won't work, is not worth voting on, let alone passing.

Instead of retreating to our partisan quarters and refusing to cooperate, when the going gets tough we expect leaders to get to work. This default crisis is a test of leadership and those willing to drive our country over the economic cliff fail that test and need to get serious.

□ 1220

PLEASE DON'T TOUCH MEDICARE, MEDICAID, OR SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. PINGREE of Maine asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, in the past few weeks, the phones in my office have been ringing off the hook. The message from my constituents is clear: Please don't touch Medicare, Medicaid, or Social Security. Some are angry, and some are tearful. All are sick with worry over the threat of losing benefits they have earned and depend on. Sadly, these effective programs have become targets for those who would balance the Federal budget on the backs of seniors and the middle class rather than restoring tax rates for millionaires. It's unthinkable, and it's unfair. I plan to do everything I can to protect these critical programs because they work.

When Medicare started 45 years ago, a third of our seniors lived in poverty; half had no health care coverage. Today the poverty rate for seniors has been slashed, and nearly all of our seniors have access to quality care. And

thanks to the Affordable Care Act, seniors won't have to worry about paying for preventative care or falling into the prescription drug doughnut hole. After working hard their entire lives, seniors should be able to feel confident that the system they faithfully paid into will be there for them when they need it most.

DO THE RIGHT THING

(Mr. MORAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I'll never forget the day that we voted for the Clinton tax rates. We were told by all of the Republicans that this was going to cause massive job losses, an unbalanced budget, and drive us into recession. And not one Republican voted with us. Well, we know exactly what happened: More than 20 million new jobs were created; we had the lowest level of poverty, the highest expansion of the middle class, three straight budget surpluses, and the people at the highest tax rates took home more after-tax income than at any time in American history. It worked. And we had over \$5.6 trillion in surplus projected over the now past decade.

Then when the Republicans took power again, what happened? Immediately they cut taxes—but not across the board—in a way designed primarily to benefit the wealthy. That's why the top 1 percent have 42 percent of this Nation's wealth; while the bottom 90 percent have 26 percent, the greatest income disparity ever. This is a manufactured crisis, Mr. Speaker. Do what Alan Greenspan recommended: Go back to the Clinton tax rates; balance the budget; pay for the wars; pay for tax cuts; pay for expansion of Medicare; meet your obligations; don't manufacture crises; and don't drive us to deadlines when the whole world is watching and wondering if we are serious about governing the world's strongest economy.

THE JOBS OUTSOURCERS' BILL OF RIGHTS

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, in just a few hours, my Republican colleagues will bring to the floor the Jobs Outsourcers' Bill of Rights. This piece of legislation is an open attack on workforce protections, a union-busting bill that will open loopholes for companies to ship our jobs, American jobs overseas, and will make historic changes to workers' rights, all to serve the well-connected special interests community. This bill will allow companies to fire workers, workers who think

that they might have a better shot of supporting their families in these precarious times by banding together to negotiate with their employers. That right, the freedom of association, finds its origins in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Whether or not you like unions, there is no sense in making it even easier to ship our jobs overseas. If this bill becomes law, a company faced with a few organizing workers trying to form a union could close an entire United States plant and move the work to China, where sweatshop laborers will work for less than even the lowest-paid, nonunion American workers. Actually, that's an assault on America's middle class. I would urge my colleagues to oppose this reactionary and poorly thought out legislation.

WEAKENING THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENCY

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I know my constituents and most Americans are trying to figure out exactly what this debt ceiling crisis is. It can't be about a desire to cut spending because both sides have already agreed to more cuts than are on the table in either the Senate or the House. No, this is a politically induced crisis that the Republicans have created in order to force votes on the debt ceiling next year during a Presidential campaign and weaken the President. But I hope they realize that if they weaken President Obama, they weaken the Presidency as well. And if they succeed in defeating him next year, their candidate, their President, will face reduced stature in the world, just as our political system will face a reduced stature in the world.

We are the foundation of economic and political stability around the world, and this crisis is threatening our stature in that position. We cannot let the Republican politically induced default crisis succeed.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

(Ms. CLARKE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have been in the majority for a full 29 weeks, and they still have not addressed the number one priority of the American people: jobs.

The Republican majority has, instead, used the time and energy that should have been focused on jobs to manufacture a crisis that could very well destroy the full faith and credit of our Nation. What makes this made-up crisis so undignified is that the other side has taken the American people

hostage to their radical plan of placing the burden of deficit reduction on the backs of poor, working poor, and struggling middle class families while asking absolutely nothing of the most fortunate among us. Why, Mr. Speaker, have those who have done very well in America been asked to do so little for the country that made their success possible?

The Republican-led 112th Congress has totally ignored the jobs crisis and has actually managed to create another. The 112th Congress owes the American people an apology for continuing to waste their time. Where are the jobs? We owe the American people real job creation.

FAILURE TO PAY IS NOT AN OPTION

(Mr. WALZ of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell my colleagues what my constituents are saying, simply stop playing games.

Now, we all come to this job with certain ideas, values, and principles. But that doesn't mean we get to let our ideology dictate the facts. Failure to pay our bills will have a catastrophic effect on our still-recovering economy. It's as simple as that.

This isn't a question about enabling future deficits. The Federal Government needs to cover promises it has already made to our seniors, to our soldiers in the field, to our veterans, to our States, and to our creditors at home and abroad. We need to pay our bills.

The need to address our debt is every bit as serious as the need to avoid a default, but we need a balanced approach and shared sacrifice. We cannot balance the budget on the backs of working and middle class Americans while simply refusing to ask corporations and billionaires to pay one penny more. We cannot ignore the facts, and allowing our Nation to default is no way to fix our budget problems.

SPENDING-DRIVEN DEBT CRISIS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, our record debt of \$14.3 trillion is growing, and it poses a direct threat to our national security, our economy, and our children's future. The American people deserve real leadership right now, not politics as usual.

The President's bipartisan deficit commission called the House-passed Path to Prosperity a "serious, honest, straightforward approach to addressing our Nation's enormous fiscal challenges." On the contrary, the Democratic cochair of the commission, Erskine Bowles, recently criticized the

President's fiscal plan, introduced on April 13, by stating that "When you compare it to the Ryan plan and to the commission's plan, it really doesn't stabilize the debt. The debt, as a percentage of GDP, gets up to around 77 percent, and it never gets to primary balance."

If President Obama and the Democrat leaders of the Senate wish to take solving our spending-driven debt crisis seriously, the solution is simple: Washington must stop spending money it doesn't have.

FIGHT FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES AND DEFEAT H.R. 2587

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, America earned the name the Land of Opportunity because anyone willing to work hard and play by the rules can make it here. Well, our families still work hard, they still play by the rules, and yet so many are barely scraping by. So they send us to Washington to fight for them. They can't afford lobbyists. They only have us.

Today we will consider Republican legislation that is a textbook example of why too often, the special interests win out over the public interests. H.R. 2587 gives corporations a green light to send jobs overseas if their employees simply ask for a decent salary or better hours. This bill is based on the premise that executives can negotiate multimillion dollar bonuses for themselves, but if American workers exercise their rights, their jobs will be on the next plane to China. That's the majority's answer to outsourcing of American jobs. If the rights of American workers get in the way of corporate profits, then it's time to do away with those rights. Let's stand up and fight to keep jobs here. Let's fight for American families. Let's defeat H.R. 2587.

□ 1230

STUDENT LOAN DEBT FORGIVENESS

(Mr. CLARKE of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, as we're on the verge of facing government default, there are several proposals on the table for us, as Members of Congress, to consider. And in my opinion, none of these proposals go far enough. Yes, they cut money in hopes of reducing our deficit and reducing our debt.

But here's what they don't do. They don't cut, they don't cap, and they don't forgive student loan debt.

Look, people. We want to create jobs. We want our families to have financial

security. We need to help them get out of personal debt. And the most powerful way to get this economy moving again and to get our people the education they need is to help forgive certain student loan debt.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1938, NORTH AMERICAN- MADE ENERGY SECURITY ACT

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 370 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 370

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1938) to direct the President to expedite the consideration and approval of the construction and operation of the Keystone XL oil pipeline, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour, with 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WEBSTER. For the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS)—who has a nice colorful Florida tie on today—pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support this rule and the underlying bill. House Resolution 370 provides for a structured rule for consideration of House Bill 1938, the North American-Made Energy Security Act.

The rule makes 11 of the 13 amendments submitted to the Rules Committee in order for robust debate here on the floor of the House of Representatives. All 11 amendments made in order are Democrat amendments, and this legislation passed out of Energy and Commerce with bipartisan support, gathering "yes" votes from six Democrats on the committee, including the former chairman, Mr. DINGELL.

This bill has moved through the committee process with bipartisan support because it does not require anything in the extraordinary to do. Distilled in its simplest form, it directs the President to make a decision. It does not prescribe his decision one way or another; it just simply asks him to act, say "yes" or say "no."

After nearly 3 years of review, study, and comment, the President would have to decide whether or not to issue a Presidential permit permitting the Keystone XL pipeline.

This bill does not allow any corners to be cut, any environmental considerations to be glossed over. In fact, not only has it required an Environmental Impact Statement to be executed, but several supplemental statements have been performed as well.

Furthermore, upon receipt of the final Environmental Impact Statement, but not later than November 1, the President still has an additional 30 days to weigh the evidence and make up his mind. After nearly 3 years, he does not have to approve the project nor disapprove the project; he simply has to make a decision.

And what exactly is at stake? What hinges upon the approval or disapproval of this monumental infrastructure project? American job creation, overdue economic growth, and increased national energy security.

TransCanada believes that the approval of the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline will create about

20,000 shovel-ready construction and manufacturing jobs, adding about \$6.5 billion in personal income for those workers. It injects more than \$20 billion in private sector investment in the U.S. economy.

It generates more than \$585 million in new taxes for States and communities along the pipeline route. It pays more than \$5.2 billion in property taxes during the life of the pipeline; undeniably strengthens America's energy security by enabling expanded importation of 830,000 barrels of oil a day from our U.S. neighbor and ally instead of importing it from other unfriendly sources.

In fact, according to the United States Department of State, if the pipeline is not approved, "the U.S. would not receive a reliable and cost-efficient source of crude oil from Canada and would remain dependent upon unstable foreign oil supplies from the Middle East, Africa, Mexico, and South America."

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this rule and the underlying legislation. Relevant committees of jurisdiction have worked to provide us with a bipartisan bill which, at its core, is quite simple. It simply directs the administration to make a decision on America's energy and security and job creation.

I encourage my colleagues to vote "yes" on the rule and "yes" on the underlying bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I thank my friend for yielding and compliment him on his sunshine tie, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the rule for H.R. 1938 and feel that, much like the majority's previous legislation attempts to increase offshore drilling, this backwards-looking dirty energy bill will not lower the price of gasoline for the average American today, tomorrow, or in the future.

It manages, this bill does, to completely ignore the pressing needs to develop clean, sustainable energy. In fact, only the large oil companies will benefit from this bill. In its very application for the Keystone XL pipeline expansion, TransCanada indicated that it believes this expansion will actually raise oil and gasoline prices.

The pipeline expansion connects Canadian oil to the Gulf of Mexico, making it possible to ship tar sands oil out onto the world market for the first time.

□ 1240

The pipeline will allow TransCanada to bypass the Midwest, reducing what the company called, and I quote, price discounting in the Midwest due to what it considers an, I quote, oversupply. The oil will run past Montana, right through Texas, ignore Nebraska completely, and wave good-bye to the

United States while it rides right out of the country.

Providing Canadian oil companies access to this new market is the only reason to want to expand the pipeline. TransCanada's application actually indicates that it expects the price of crude oil to increase by \$6.55 per barrel in the Midwest and \$3 everywhere else after the expansion is completed.

Ultimately, the expansion would lead to a windfall for Canadian oil companies of between \$2 billion and \$3.9 billion by the year 2013, while increasing the cost of gasoline for hardworking Americans between 10 and 20 cents per gallon. The people of the United States will bear all the risks of an onshore oil spill and reap absolutely none of the benefits.

Let there be no mistake about this: the risk of an oil spill from these tar sand pipelines is very real. The oil is so much more corrosive than traditional crude oil that even Canada has yet to approve a dedicated pipeline conveying it to its coasts. The oil eats away at the pipelines, compromising them and leading to frequent spills. For example, the very pipeline for which the majority bill hastens expansion suffered 12 spills in its very first year. The first spill in June 2010 occurred only 1 month after the pipeline went into operation. Just this last May, the Keystone spewed 21,000 gallons of oil in North Dakota.

Already, Mr. Speaker, Americans are paying the price for a project which delivers to them absolutely no benefit. A similar pipeline recently discharged 840,000 gallons of oil into Michigan's Kalamazoo River, causing one of the largest oil spills ever in the Midwest. On July 1, a pipeline broke and spewed approximately 42,000 gallons of oil into the Yellowstone River. Between 1990 and 2005, there were over 4,700 related oil spills. The Keystone pipeline expansion would expand the risk of a BP-sized oil spill from the Gulf of Mexico to front yards across the heart of this country.

After its initial impact statement received harsh and extensive criticism, the State Department issued a supplemental draft statement. The period for public comment on that draft closed on June 6. The State Department is currently reviewing the comments it received in response to this second statement in a process expected to take several months. Nonetheless, the State Department has reasonably indicated that a decision can be expected by the end of the year. Yet this bill would require a decision within 30 days of the issuance of the final environmental impact statement and no later than November 1.

Without further justification, Republicans seem to think it necessary to short-cut the process, compromising the discussion and its analysis. There are still many questions that need to

be answered regarding the pipeline, including information on greenhouse gas emissions, safety, alternative routes, and environmental justice considerations.

This year, the Republican majority has offered three offshore drilling bills that have utterly failed to preserve and protect our environment. It is clear that my friends in the majority are more concerned with keeping big oil companies happy than implementing a workable energy policy for the future. Instead of crafting policies to ensure that the growing sustainable energy industry is filled with American workers, the majority wants to enrich Canadian oil companies at a cost of America's economy and environment.

These kinds of dirty energy bills keep us mired in the muck of fossil fuels when what we need to do is focus on making our energy use more efficient. We need to develop the next generation of clean energy technology. Unfortunately, Republicans seem intent on enabling our country's oil addiction. This is not good policy today and will certainly not be good policy in the future.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON).

Mr. BARTON of Texas. I thank my friend from Florida for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I am puzzled by Congressman HASTINGS' remarks in opposition to the rule. This is a very fair rule. The Rules Committee received 13 amendments from the minority. They made in order 11 of those. One amendment was not germane and the other amendment by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) would have restricted the oil to the United States and not allowed any of the product to be refined and sent overseas possibly, and that's a function that the Rules Committee felt should be a market function and not prohibited.

So 11 amendments by the minority were made in order. This is a bill that came out of my committee, the Energy and Commerce Committee, on a bipartisan vote. All the Republicans supported it and between a fourth and a third of the Democrats supported it.

The underlying thesis of the bill is pretty straightforward. Under current law, you're supposed to make a decision on pipeline permits between 180 and 90 days. The Obama administration EPA has had 2 years on their watch and 1 year under the Bush administration. EPA has had over 3 years if you count towards this September, next month, or right after August, and has not made a decision. The bill says make a decision. Make a decision.

There is an existing pipeline. The Keystone pipeline would connect an existing pipeline that ends in the Midwest to the gulf coast. It would go to Congressman Poe's district in Port Arthur and go over into Louisiana. It

would create tens of thousands of jobs in construction; it would bring approximately a million barrels of oil per day into the United States to provide competition for existing oil supplies; it would be refined in U.S. refineries; and most of the product, if not all, would probably be consumed by U.S. consumers.

This is a good bill. This is a good rule. I would ask that we support the rule and then listen to the debate and hopefully decide to support the underlying bill.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, if I could engage the gentleman from Texas just a moment, I will yield myself 30 seconds before yielding to my colleague from Virginia.

I just am curious to know if this will cause the price of gasoline to go down, in your judgment.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. In my judgment, providing more fuel supply for our refineries would liken the possibility that prices would go down.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Likely possibility. I'll take that pretty much as a "no."

Mr. BARTON of Texas. No, that's a "yes." Take it as a "yes." Competition drives prices down.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to my good friend from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. I thank my colleague and my friend from Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this rule, and I rise in opposition on substantive grounds. The Rules Committee approved for our consideration here on the floor every germane amendment but one, the Markey-Connolly amendment, which would have required a simple certification that the bulk of this oil to be transported by this proposed pipeline be for and designated for domestic consumption.

□ 1250

We hear a lot of rhetoric about the need to expand American production and/or access to secure oil to lessen our dependence on foreign suppliers. That, indeed, is a noble goal. It's one in which I share, but not at any price, and I don't want to be sold a pig in a poke.

The fact that the Rules Committee would not put that amendment on this floor, going into content rather than procedure, finding it germane but still not allowing a fair debate and its consideration on this floor, I think gives the lie to the intent behind the extension of this pipeline.

This oil is not for domestic consumption; this oil is for foreign export. It

has very little to do with domestic oil supply or it might have very little to do with domestic oil supply. A simple requirement that the preponderance of it be for domestic supply I think would have made prudent domestic policy and I think would have allowed a fair and interesting debate here on the floor of the House as to what the real intention of this pipeline is.

So I say to the American public, I urge you not to be fooled by propositions from the other side that this is going to be good for American consumers. This is going to be good for Chinese consumers.

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding. I also admire the gentleman from Florida with the exotic tie and his comments. But I stand in support of the rule and, of course, the underlying bill. The rule is a fair rule.

I represent southeast Texas. We still think we're the energy capital of the world. The pipeline from Canada will go down into southeast Texas, Port Arthur, Texas, which actually has high unemployment. The pipeline will go to the refineries. The refineries will be able to expand and hire refinery workers to refine that crude oil. I think that's a good idea.

The Canadian oil sands will be able to produce 175 billion barrels of oil reserves, second only to Saudi Arabia. The idea that we need to move away from Middle Eastern oil is a good idea. Maybe we ought to support our loyal allies that are in a stable country.

A medium-sized pipeline, just to give you some statistics, pumps about 150,000 barrels a day. To replace that, you would have to have 750 trucks a day or a 75-car train every day.

Pipelines are the safest way to transport crude oil. Seventy-five percent of the accidents occur with a third party causing the accident to the pipeline. But if we don't make a decision—that's what we're asking the President to do—make a decision. And as my friend from Florida knows, being former judges, we made decisions. It didn't take us 3 years to make a decision. You get the evidence; you make a ruling. And it has taken, I think, the Federal Government way too long to make a decision on this issue.

But failure to act—delay, delay, delay—is tantamount to a "no," and eventually the Canadians will sell that crude oil that they have to China or other buyers. So I think it's quite important that we go ahead and make a decision, have the Federal Government rule on this issue.

There are 500,000 miles of pipelines into the United States; about half of those run through Texas. I'm told that a third of all those pipelines run through my congressional district. We

have a lot of pipelines. And I think it's important that we continue to try to take care of ourselves, use a safe product from Canada, make sure that all the environmental requirements are imposed in making this pipeline that creates jobs in America—build a pipeline, create jobs in southeast Texas for Americans and the refinery business—because we still rely on crude oil.

And last I would say, I agree, we need to eventually have green energy, but we don't have that now. So if we cut off all of this, what will we use?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. WEBSTER. I yield the gentleman 30 additional seconds.

Mr. POE of Texas. So I urge support of the rule. I urge adoption of this legislation so that we can move forward with construction, American jobs, and deal fairly on the issue of energy reliance upon ourselves and getting that from our allies instead of Third World dictators like Chavez and the Middle East.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would say to my friend, Judge POE, that we have to start—and we are starting—the green energy movement. I readily understand the economic impact on Port Arthur, the State of Texas, and I also am deeply concerned for the ranchers in the Midwest, specifically Montana, Nebraska, those States, North Dakota, that are bypassed. And the possibility of their oil and gas costing more is, at the least, disturbing.

But I do want to share a report that was formulated regarding tar sands and their potential by the IHS Cambridge Energy Research Association, and it's under the aegis: "Growth in the Canadian Oil Sands." What it says is:

"Tar sands, which are also known as 'oil sands,' are a combination of clay, sand, water, and bitumen, a heavy, black, asphalt-like hydrocarbon that cannot be extracted through a well like conventional oil. It is estimated that Canada's economically recoverable tar sands deposits in Alberta total 173 billion barrels, making Canada"—as Judge POE pointed out—"second after Saudi Arabia in oil reserves.

"Producing fuel from tar sands has significant environmental impacts. Extracting tar sands bitumen and upgrading it to synthetic crude oil produces roughly three times greater greenhouse gas emissions than producing conventional oil on a per-unit basis. Tar sands development also destroys boreal forests and wetlands and wildlife habitat, kills migratory birds, and degrades water quality and air quality."

That said, tar sands oil contains, on average, 11 times more sulfur, 11 times more nickel, six times more nitrogen, and five times more lead than conventional oil. These pollutants are harmful to human health, causing lung and respiratory problems such as asthma

and bronchitis, and the metals found in tar sands are neurotoxic. The pollutants released by refining tar sands causes acid rain, smog, and haze, and communities living near these refineries report elevated levels of cancer.

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us overrides current law for the sake of padding the pockets of oil company CEOs and fails to create significant sustainable jobs for the average American in the growing sustainable energy sector. This bill will never become law and is once again a waste of our time.

I oppose this unnecessary opportunistic legislation for many of the same reasons that I have made very clear, as have others, but I have made the vow to be the last man standing in the fight against expanding offshore drilling, and I may be among those that will continue to stand against transborder tar sands being transmitted here for purposes of going out onto the world market and not allowing for any reduction in the cost of gasoline in the United States of America.

I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1300

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, this rule provides for ample and open debate, allowing our colleagues from across the aisle to offer their legislative proposals to this bill.

Furthermore, the underlying bill addresses two critical concerns, if you listen to speeches made in this Chamber every day, of every Member of this House: unemployment and dependence on OPEC oil.

As I have stated, 20,000 shovel-ready jobs can be created with the approval of this infrastructure project. Approval of the Keystone XL pipeline will also serve to increase oil imports from our friend and neighbor in the north, Canada, while driving down our dependence on oil from countries that, quite frankly, do not share our ideas about democracy and freedom.

Most important, this bill does not force the President to approve this job-creating infrastructure project. It simply asks him, requires him to make up his mind after coordinating with all of the appropriate stakeholders.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in voting in favor of this rule and passage of the underlying bill.

I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1311

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YODER) at 1 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

adoption of H. Res. 370, by the yeas and nays;

motion to suspend the rules on H.R. 1383, by the yeas and nays;

approval of the Journal, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1938, NORTH AMERICAN-MADE ENERGY SECURITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 370) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1938) to direct the President to expedite the consideration and approval of the construction and operation of the Keystone XL oil pipeline, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 246, nays 171, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 637]

YEAS—246

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Amash
Austria

Bachus
Barletta
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (NH)
Benishak
Berg

Biggert
Bilbray
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren

Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emerson
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris

Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Lankford
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meehan
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Walsh (IL)
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Richardson
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—171

Ackerman
Andrews
Baca
Baldwin
Barrow
Bass (CA)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Capps

Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa

Costello
Courtney
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle

Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Frank (MA)
Garamendi
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hiroh
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
(TX)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kildee
Kind
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)

Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lujan
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Oliver
Pallone
Pascarella
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes

Richmond
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Woolsey
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—15

Bachmann
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blumenauer
Cleaver

Fudge
Giffords
Hinchey
Johnson (GA)
McDermott

Nunnelee
Schakowsky
Stark
Waters
Wu

□ 1336

Messrs. HOLDEN, LUJÁN, and BECERRA changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, on roll-call No. 637, had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

RESTORING GI BILL FAIRNESS
ACT OF 2011

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 1383) to temporarily preserve higher rates for tuition and fees for programs of education at non-public institutions of higher learning pursued by individuals enrolled in the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs before the enactment of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MIL-

LER) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 424, nays 0, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 638]

YEAS—424

Ackerman
Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altire
Amash
Andrews
Austria
Baca
Bachus
Baldwin
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Benish
Berg
Berkley
Berman
Biggart
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cravack

Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cuberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
DeesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fox
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Gallagher
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)

Hayworth
Heck
Heinrich
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
(TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Kucinich
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren, Zoe
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock

McCollum
McCotter
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Oliver
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascarella
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)

Price (NC)
Quayle
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Ribble
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Robby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus

Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southernland
Speier
Stark
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Webster
Welch
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—8

Bachmann
Cleaver
Giffords

Hinchey
Issa
McDermott

Towns
Wu

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). One minute remains in this vote.

□ 1344

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendments were concurred in.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 313, nays

111, answered “present” 2, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 639]

YEAS—313

Ackerman	Fattah	McCauley
Aderholt	Fincher	McClintock
Akin	Flake	McCollum
Alexander	Fleischmann	McGovern
Austria	Fleming	McHenry
Bachus	Flores	McIntyre
Barletta	Forbes	McKeon
Barrow	Fortenberry	McKinley
Bartlett	Frank (MA)	McMorris
Barton (TX)	Franks (AZ)	Rodgers
Bass (NH)	Frelinghuysen	Meeks
Becerra	Gallely	Mica
Benishek	Garamendi	Michaud
Berg	Gibbs	Miller (MI)
Berkley	Gingrey (GA)	Miller (NC)
Berman	Gonzalez	Miller, Gary
Biggart	Goodlatte	Moran
Bilbray	Gosar	Mulvaney
Bilirakis	Gowdy	Murphy (CT)
Bishop (GA)	Granger	Murphy (PA)
Black	Graves (GA)	Myrick
Blackburn	Green, Al	Nadler
Blumenauer	Griffin (AR)	Neugebauer
Bonner	Griffith (VA)	Noem
Bono Mack	Grijalva	Nunes
Boustany	Guinta	Nunnelee
Brady (TX)	Guthrie	Olson
Braley (IA)	Gutierrez	Owens
Brooks	Hall	Palazzo
Broun (GA)	Hanabusa	Pastor (AZ)
Brown (FL)	Harper	Paul
Buchanan	Hartzler	Paulsen
Buchshon	Hastings (FL)	Payne
Buerkle	Hastings (WA)	Pelosi
Burton (IN)	Hayworth	Pence
Butterfield	Heinrich	Perlmutter
Calvert	Hensarling	Petri
Camp	Herger	Pingree (ME)
Campbell	Higgins	Pitts
Canseco	Himes	Platts
Cantor	Hinojosa	Polis
Capito	Hirono	Pompeo
Capps	Hochul	Posey
Carnahan	Holden	Price (GA)
Carney	Holt	Quayle
Carter	Honda	Quigley
Cassidy	Huizenga (MI)	Rangel
Castor (FL)	Hultgren	Rehberg
Chabot	Hunter	Reichert
Chaffetz	Hurt	Reyes
Chandler	Inslee	Ribble
Cicilline	Israel	Richardson
Clarke (MI)	Issa	Richmond
Clay	Jenkins	Rigell
Cleaver	Johnson (GA)	Rivera
Clyburn	Johnson (IL)	Roby
Coble	Johnson, Sam	Roe (TN)
Coffman (CO)	Jones	Rogers (AL)
Cohen	Jordan	Rogers (KY)
Cole	Kaptur	Rogers (MI)
Connolly (VA)	Keating	Rohrabacher
Conyers	Kelly	Rokita
Cooper	Kildee	Rooney
Crawford	King (IA)	Ros-Lehtinen
Crenshaw	King (NY)	Roskam
Critz	Kingston	Ross (AR)
Cuellar	Kissell	Ross (FL)
Culberson	Kline	Rothman (NJ)
Davis (CA)	Kucinich	Roybal-Allard
DeGette	Labrador	Royce
DeLauro	Lamborn	Ryunan
Denham	Langevin	Rush
DesJarlais	Lankford	Ryan (WI)
Diaz-Balart	LaTourette	Scalise
Dicks	Latta	Schiff
Dingell	Levin	Schilling
Doggett	Lewis (CA)	Schmidt
Dold	Lipinski	Schock
Doyle	Long	Schrader
Dreier	Lowey	Schwartz
Duncan (SC)	Lucas	Schweikert
Duncan (TN)	Luetkemeyer	Scott (SC)
Edwards	Lujan	Scott (VA)
Ellison	Lummis	Scott, Austin
Ellmers	Mack	Scott, David
Emerson	Maloney	Sensenbrenner
Engel	Manzullo	Serrano
Eshoo	Marino	Sessions
Farenthold	McCarthy (CA)	Sewell
Farr	McCarthy (NY)	Sherman

Shimkus	Thornberry
Shuler	Tonko
Shuster	Tsongas
Simpson	Turner
Smith (NE)	Upton
Smith (NJ)	Van Hollen
Smith (TX)	Walberg
Smith (WA)	Walden
Southerland	Walsh (IL)
Speier	Walz (MN)
Stark	Wasserman
Stearns	Schultz
Stutzman	Waters
Sullivan	Watt
Thompson (PA)	Waxman

Webster	Wilson (SC)
Welch	Wittman
West	Wolf
Westmoreland	Womack
Whitfield	Woolsey
Wilson (FL)	Yarmuth
Yoder	Young (FL)
Young (IN)	

NAYS—111

Adams	Gibson	Miller, George
Altmire	Graves (MO)	Moore
Andrews	Green, Gene	Napolitano
Baca	Grimm	Neal
Baldwin	Hahn	Nugent
Bass (CA)	Hanna	Olver
Bishop (NY)	Harris	Pallone
Bishop (UT)	Heck	Pascarell
Boren	Herrera Beutler	Pearce
Boswell	Hoyer	Peters
Brady (PA)	Huelskamp	Peterson
Burgess	Jackson (IL)	Poe (TX)
Capuano	Jackson Lee	Price (NC)
Cardoza	(TX)	Rahall
Carson (IN)	Johnson (OH)	Reed
Chu	Johnson, E. B.	Renacci
Clarke (NY)	Kind	Ruppersberger
Conaway	Kinzingler (IL)	Ryan (OH)
Costa	Lance	Sánchez, Linda
Costello	Landry	T.
Courtney	Larsen (WA)	Sanchez, Loretta
Cravaack	Larson (CT)	Sarbanes
Crowley	Latham	Schakowsky
Cummings	Lee (CA)	Sires
Davis (IL)	Lewis (GA)	Slaughter
Davis (KY)	LoBiondo	Stivers
DeFazio	Loebback	Sutton
Dent	Lofgren, Zoe	Terry
Deutch	Lungren, Daniel	Thompson (CA)
Donnelly (IN)	E.	Thompson (MS)
Duffy	Lynch	Tiberi
Filner	Markey	Tierney
Fitzpatrick	Matheson	Tipton
Fox	Matsui	Towns
Fudge	McCotter	Velázquez
Gardner	McNerney	Visclosky
Garrett	Meehan	Woodall
Gerlach	Miller (FL)	Young (AK)

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—2

Amash Gohmert

NOT VOTING—6

Bachmann	Hinchey	McDermott
Giffords	Marchant	Wu

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Two minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1350

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF 112TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to House Resolution 299, this time has been designated for the taking of the official photo of the House of Representatives in session.

The House will be in a brief recess while the Chamber is being prepared for the photo. As soon as the photographer indicates that these preparations are complete, the Chair will call the House to order to resume its actual session for the taking of the photograph. At that point the Members will

take their cues from the photographer. Shortly after the photographer is finished, the House will proceed with its business.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess while the Chamber is being prepared.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1355

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 1 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.

(Thereupon, the Members sat for the official photograph of the House of Representatives for the 112th Congress.)

NORTH AMERICAN-MADE ENERGY SECURITY ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation and to insert extraneous material on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 370 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1938.

□ 1403

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1938) to direct the President to expedite the consideration and approval of the construction and operation of the Keystone XL oil pipeline, and for other purposes, with Mrs. EMERSON in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour, with 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources.

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD) and the gentleman from

California (Mr. WAXMAN) each will control 15 minutes. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) each will control 10 minutes. The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. WHITFIELD. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chairman, I rise today to support H.R. 1938, the North American-Made Energy Security Act, and give a long overdue green light to the Keystone XL pipeline project. The Keystone XL expansion project would allow up to 1.29 million barrels per day to flow into refineries in the Midwest and gulf coast, a 700,000-barrel-per-day increase over existing capacity from Canada. More oil means lower prices, and more imports from a stable ally like Canada means less from unstable nations and potential adversaries.

According to a study conducted for the Department of Energy, the Keystone project has the potential to significantly reduce oil imports from the Middle East. The good news only gets better when one looks at the job impacts of the Keystone project. Construction of the expanded pipeline system alone would create an estimated 20,000 jobs.

Unfortunately, the Obama administration continues to delay this project, and there seems to be no end in sight. Let's just look at the timeline to date:

In September 2008, TransCanada, the developer of this project, first submitted its application for a Presidential permit. The State Department didn't release its draft environmental impact statement until April 2010. After this first step, EPA rejected the draft statement and told the State Department they had to perform more work. After another year, the State Department issued a supplemental draft statement that addressed EPA's concerns. Even then, EPA seems to think the thousands and thousands of pages of objective and honest analysis performed by various Federal agencies is not enough.

Because of the endless delays, H.R. 1938 is a simple bill that calls on the Obama administration to make a decision on this project by November 1, 2011. The administration has stated that they could have a decision by December 16, 2011, so we're only asking them to speed that up a few months, and we're not saying what the decision should be.

At a time when the national average of a gallon of gas is \$3.70 per gallon and unemployment is still above 9 percent, the Obama administration should be doing everything it can to approve projects expeditiously if they are creating jobs and reducing gasoline prices.

H.R. 1938 is a bipartisan bill that cuts through the endless delays and creates a hard deadline for the administration to render a decision on Keystone. It's time to get moving on reducing energy prices, reduce unemployment, and pass this bill.

I urge all Members to support this important bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Chair, I yield myself 5 minutes.

I rise in opposition to H.R. 1938. This legislation is unnecessary and it's harmful. It cuts short the State Department's ongoing review of the Keystone XL tar sands crude pipeline, it would deny the public an adequate opportunity to comment on whether the pipeline should be built, and it benefits a specific foreign company, TransCanada Corporation, at the expense of the American people.

There are really two distinct questions here: Do you think the Keystone XL pipeline is a good idea? And does this legislation make any sense? I happen to think that the Keystone XL pipeline is a bad idea; but even if you support the pipeline, you should oppose this bill.

The Keystone XL pipeline would carry a sludge made from Canadian tar sands through the middle of America. In doing so, it would raise gas prices, endanger water supplies, and increase carbon emissions; and that's why it should not be approved.

□ 1410

Keystone XL is a highly controversial project. The State Department received over 200,000 comments on the supplemental draft environmental impact statement. Once it is built, we will live with the pipeline and its impacts for 50 years or more. This is a decision we need to get right. Unfortunately, this bill's approach does not get it right. Instead, it says whatever the risks and costs, just get it done.

H.R. 1938 takes the extraordinary step of interfering in an ongoing decisionmaking process by the Secretary of State. The Secretary is in the midst of determining whether granting the permit requested by TransCanada would be in the national interest. The process for making these permit decisions was established by Executive orders issued by President Johnson and President George W. Bush. The State Department says that it plans to issue the final environmental impact statement in mid-August and the final decision by the end of the year. That's when the applicants say they need a decision.

This bill overrides the Executive orders and other Federal law, it short-circuits the decisionmaking process, and it requires the President to make a decision within 30 days of the final environmental impact statement. This effectively eliminates the opportunity for public comment on the national in-

terest determination, and it cuts the time for consulting with other agencies by two-thirds. That doesn't make sense, especially when you consider the potential risk.

My greatest concern is that Keystone XL will make us more reliant on the dirtiest source of fuel currently available. On a life-cycle basis, tar sands emit far more carbon pollution than conventional oil—almost 40 percent more by some estimates. That's because it takes huge amounts of energy to take something the consistency of tar, which they mine, and turn it into synthetic oil. We should be reducing our oil dependence and using cleaner fuels, but Keystone is a big step in the wrong direction.

There are many other concerns, including safety. Today is the 1-year anniversary of the Kalamazoo River oil pipeline spill, and 30 miles of the river are still closed. A few weeks ago, there was a massive oil pipeline spill into the Yellowstone River. And TransCanada, Keystone XL's owner and operator, has had 12 spills on the first Keystone pipeline in its first year of operation. Keystone One was even shut down by the Department of Transportation as "hazardous to life, property, and the environment." The risks from spills are exacerbated with Keystone XL because it is rooted through the Ogallala aquifer, which spans eight States and provides drinking water for 2 million people.

With all of these risks, the benefits are unclear. A study commissioned by DOE found that we will have excess pipeline capacity from Canada for the next decade or more, even without Keystone XL. And Keystone XL will likely raise, not lower, gas prices. In its permit application, TransCanada told the Canadian Government that by raising prices for crude oil in the Midwest, Keystone XL will increase revenue for Canadian producers by \$2 billion to \$4 billion a year.

But even if you believe we should build Keystone XL, you should oppose this legislation.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. WAXMAN. I yield myself an additional 30 seconds.

If you think the project has merit, let it be approved on the merits, not rushed to judgment without public comment. Cutting the public out of the process and ramming this through will only increase opposition to this project.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 1938.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Chair, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. UPTON. Today, national unemployment rests at 9.2 percent, but it's even higher in my State of Michigan at

10.5 percent. Gasoline costs \$3.80 a gallon or more in many areas, up a dollar from last year. Political unrest halfway around the world disrupts the flow of oil to markets, causing prices to rise. Most leaders in this situation would be searching for a project that would create jobs, help bring down gas prices and, yes, provide a stable and secure source of oil to replace imports from dangerous parts of the world. Our President is being handed such a project on a silver platter, and he's dangerously close to letting it slip through his fingers.

Our northern ally, Canada, has discovered an oil resource comparable to the size of Saudi Arabia, and they want to send the oil here to the United States. Five major labor unions have thrown their support behind the pipeline because it's going to create more than 100,000 jobs. Yet this administration has allowed the permit application to languish for nearly 3 years, even saying that they were inclined to support it almost a year ago in October.

This pipeline, the Keystone XL, if approved, would dramatically improve our energy security. According to DOE, the pipeline would essentially eliminate our Middle East oil imports. It would provide for a massive influx of stable oil into the market, something desperately needed as threatened supplies in North Africa send prices into orbit.

This country needs the President to make a decision on Keystone XL's permit. The uncertainty has gone on too long, and if we don't act, these energy supplies will go someplace else. That's why we have this legislation, H.R. 1938. This bipartisan bill doesn't tell the President how to decide, it just requires him to make a decision. I commend my colleagues, Representatives TERRY and ROSS, for finding a commonsense and, yes, bipartisan solution.

If we don't build this pipeline, Canada will find another buyer. The Chinese have expressed significant interest in Alberta's oil sands. Are we going to stand by and watch China receive imports from our ally while we're forced to rely on imports from unstable countries? I sure hope not.

While I believe construction of this pipeline is necessary and important, I know it has to be done safely. Last year, 20,000 barrels of oil did spill through a creek that runs through my district. I have made pipeline safety a priority in our committee, and just this week we're going to be moving forward on effective pipeline safety legislation to protect the environment and, yes, our communities.

This legislation will ensure that crucial energy supplies, like the oil received from Canada, is transported safely throughout the country. We need a "yes" vote on this bipartisan bill.

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from

California (Mrs. CAPPS), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mrs. CAPPS. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Madam Chair, I rise to speak against this hazardous piece of legislation.

H.R. 1938 directs the President to allow Canadian oil companies to build a dangerous pipeline through American lands and waters. And H.R. 1938 would expedite the pipeline's permitting process despite a long list of unaddressed concerns from numerous communities. The environmental impacts of this pipeline—which would extend over 1,600 miles through six States—have not been thoroughly considered. And we know that this project has the potential to significantly impact the environment.

We have already seen what damage can be done. There have been 12 spills along TransCanada's Keystone pipeline in its first 12 months of operation. And the Keystone XL pipeline will deliver some of the most destructive oil on the planet. Tar sands oil contain higher concentrations of toxic chemicals, like sulfur, nickel, nitrogen, and lead, than conventional oil. And a barrel of tar sands oil emits up to three times more climate-disrupting gases than conventional oil.

Building this pipeline would be the greenhouse equivalent of adding roughly 6.5 million passenger vehicles to a highway or constructing 12 new coal-fired power plants. Major concerns arise about the negative impacts of the pipeline on public health and the environment.

At a time when we must find ways to end our dependence on fossil fuels, it is simply not in the national interest to deepen our reliance on one of the most dirtiest forms of oil on the planet. I believe that conducting the appropriate analysis under NEPA, which cannot be done properly if it's rushed, will make this abundantly clear.

We need to be moving forward by supporting clean, renewable energy in this country. And while the President is calling for a reduction in oil imports, this bill calls for an increase.

For all these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 1938.

□ 1420

Mr. WHITFIELD. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY), the author of the bill.

Mr. TERRY. Madam Chair, this bill is simple, but the ramifications may be significant. Let me set the record straight: I want to get off OPEC oil. Receiving as much as 700,000 barrels of oil from our northern neighbor, Canada, makes us more energy secure, more energy independent.

The application for this pipeline, an efficient way to move oil from one part to another part, the most efficient and safest, was filed almost 3 years ago. We are just a month shy of its 3-year anni-

versary; whereas, it is usually around 18 months to 24 months to have something like this approved.

Now, this bill sets a hard date of November 1, 2011, for the President to make a determination of national interest on this pipeline. Let me repeat: All we're asking is that the President make his decision by November 1. Enough time has passed.

Now, what we would see if this project moves forward: It will be a \$13 billion construction project, privately funded; it will create at least 20,000 direct high-paying labor construction jobs; it will generate \$6.5 billion in new personal income for U.S. workers and their families; it will spur more than \$20 billion in new spending for the U.S. economy; it will stimulate more than \$585 million in new State and local taxes; it will deliver \$5.2 billion in property taxes during the estimated operating life span of this pipeline.

Now, we have heard from two speakers already about the environmental impacts. I come from Nebraska. I want to make sure that this pipeline is safe as it passes through an environmentally sensitive area called the Sand Hills and over the Ogallala Aquifer. There have been draft environmental impact statements. There have been supplements, and it has been shown that it can be done safely. This is the single-most studied pipeline in the history of the United States.

I believe it's in our national security interest. It's about the jobs, economy, and energy security.

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman, the ranking member of Energy and Commerce, for yielding me this time.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 1938. I represent a district at the end of this proposed pipeline in southeast Texas. I have five refineries in my district, and this will give them an alternative for crude oil to keep those refineries running.

North American oil sands are a vital source of energy for the U.S., and with skyrocketing fuel prices, I believe it's imperative for the U.S. to diversify our energy sources by exploring alternatives such as the oil sands in Canada.

As the largest single exporter of oil to the U.S. and a stable energy partner, Canada has helped to reduce our dependence on energy supplies from unfriendly nations, and this partnership should continue and be encouraged.

The pipeline owner, TransCanada, has agreed to comply with 57 additional special conditions developed by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration for the Keystone XL project.

The supplemental environmental impact statement on the project has gone so far as to state that the incorporation of these conditions will result in a

project that has a larger degree of safety over any other typically constructed domestic oil pipeline under the current code or law, and a larger degree of safety along the entire length of the pipeline similar to what we have in high consequence areas.

Additionally, an independent study showed that the \$7 billion Keystone XL pipeline is expected to directly create 20,000 high-wage manufacturing and construction jobs in the U.S. So not only will this project help our energy security, but it will help our recovering economy by creating thousands of jobs.

I am constantly hearing from building trades in the Houston area about their support for this pipeline and the bill. And yet none of this even matters because the bill very fairly doesn't say what the administration's determination should be. Instead, it says expedite the decision. It has been too long once the environmental review is complete.

I appreciate the Department of State's recent announcement that they are on track to make a final decision by December 31. Maybe that wouldn't have been announced last week if we hadn't had this bill moving in the House. But I do appreciate the effort. I support the bill and appreciate my colleagues' support.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON).

Mr. OLSON. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time and for his leadership on this important issue.

Madam Chair, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1938, the North American-Made Energy Security Act. This bill is a bona fide jobs bill and will have a positive economic impact on our entire country.

The Keystone XL pipeline will stretch from our neighbor and ally Canada through Montana, the intersection of North Dakota and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, all of the way down to my home State of Texas, ultimately transporting nearly 1.3 million barrels of oil per day—1.3 million barrels per day—and creating hundreds of thousands of jobs on its journey to the gulf.

The Keystone XL pipeline has the potential to create up to 624,000 jobs over the next 15 years, including 50,000 in the Lone Star State, with its economic impact valued in the billions. Madam Chair, 170,000 companies alone in Texas would serve as suppliers. These are real jobs for real Americans.

This is real energy security for America. The Department of Energy has determined that this pipeline could "essentially eliminate" our dependence on Middle Eastern oil sources.

The Obama administration has dragged its feet for over 2 years, insisting on delaying the project with more environmental studies and regulatory hurdles. If we don't break through this regulatory wall, China is more than happy to take our place.

The studies have been done, Madam Chair. It is time to approve the permit. H.R. 1938 will ensure that the administration does just that.

The Keystone XL pipeline will strengthen America's economy and reduce our dependence on Middle Eastern oil.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. WHITFIELD. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. OLSON. In conclusion, the Keystone XL pipeline will strengthen America's economy, reduce our dependence on Middle Eastern oil, and produce hundreds of thousands of jobs right here in America. It's a win/win/win.

I urge my colleagues to support this very important energy security bill that creates, jobs, jobs, jobs right here in America.

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Chair, I am pleased at this time to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Chair, this bill is a charade. It purports to increase oil production in America, yet it would direct construction of a pipeline designed to export oil. There is already one Keystone pipeline from the tar sands of Alberta into America. That pipeline terminates in Oklahoma and supplies America with oil derived from tar sands.

If the Republicans wanted to bring a bill to the floor that would increase domestic access to this oil, then it would support it. In fact, Mr. MARKEY and I introduced an amendment to ensure that oil from the Keystone pipeline would benefit American consumers, and it wasn't allowed on the floor. The Republican leadership wouldn't even let this amendment come for debate. They claim this pipeline will deliver oil to America but have used a backdoor procedural trick to block debate on it.

The amendment Mr. MARKEY and I introduced was the only germane amendment which was blocked by the Rules Committee. Why? Because it gives lie to the real intent of this bill: oil for export, not for domestic consumption. Our amendment met all of the parliamentary tests necessary to come to the floor and didn't increase spending. All it would have done was ensure that Keystone pipeline oil would flow to America rather than China, Cuba, or some other country. The fact that the Republicans blocked this simple amendment shows that the bill before us today isn't about energy security or gas prices but about oil company profits and exports.

It isn't surprising that leadership would put Big Oil profits ahead of consumers. This is the same caucus that is driving our Nation toward default while they refuse to close tax loopholes for oil companies.

□ 1430

This is the same Republican caucus that gutted the Clean Air and Clean Water Act earlier this week with three dozen policy riders in the Interior and Environment appropriations act; the same Republicans that slashed funding for the Commodities Futures Trading Commission, our cops on the beat to stop oil speculation; the same Republicans who opposed using the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to burst the speculative bubble in prices, that marches in lockstep with big oil companies since they took over the House majority; and today they're attempting to pass legislation that would take gas from America and send it overseas. We're being given a false proposition in this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Chair, I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute and ask if he will yield to me.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. WAXMAN. I must say that we've heard comments on the floor and in committee on this bill that it's going to allow us to become less dependent, maybe not even dependent at all, on Saudi Arabia; that we'll be able to be self-sufficient and have lower prices because of this pipeline. But the truth of the matter is that some economists believe that this oil pipeline will bring oil to Texas, and that oil will either be refined or shipped as crude oil to China. It doesn't help us to have any excess oil if it's going to be picked up and shipped to China.

I think that we need to always have in mind that the United States of America uses 25 percent of the world's oil resources and we have 2 percent of the source of those resources—the reserves—here in the United States. We are always going to be dependent on imported oil unless we start moving away from oil itself.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Chair, how much time do I have remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Kentucky has 4 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from California has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. WHITFIELD. At this time I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. SCALISE. I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for yielding.

I rise in support of this jobs bill, the Keystone bill, that actually opens up another 700,000 barrels a day coming into the United States from Canada. First of all, this oil will be going to United States refineries in Texas to refine oil for Americans. On top of that, it will create another 20,000 American jobs.

If you look at what that means, first of all, China wants to get that oil from

Canada. So if we don't agree to this, if the President, for whatever reason—because radicals don't want that oil coming in. They don't like oil at all. So I guess they're going to ride around on bicycles, and that's going to get them where they need to be.

We've got to live in reality. We've got a demand in this country for oil. It's either going to come from Middle Eastern countries, many of whom don't like us, or we can bring more of it in not only from America, where the United States has more reserves that they won't allow us to utilize, but here Canada is saying 700,000 barrels a day can come into America, where we can create those good jobs. What does that really mean? That means we don't have to buy 700,000 barrels a day from Middle Eastern countries.

Let's talk about the trade gap. The biggest part of our trade gap is all the money that we send to these Middle Eastern countries and other countries because we don't produce enough of our own in America because of these radical policies. So you bring that 700,000 barrels a day from Canada, that's \$25 billion a year that we're not sending to Middle Eastern countries who don't like us.

If you want to talk about a trade gap, when we trade with Canada, think about this: When we trade with Canada, 90 cents on the dollar comes back to the United States of America. Canada is a great ally and a good friend of ours. It's a good trading relationship. We get 90 percent of that money back. When we trade with Middle Eastern countries, buying their oil, which we do right now, less than half of that money comes back to the United States.

So if you want to talk about this from dollars and cents, from jobs, from national security, all of that adds up to passing this bill to build this relationship, build this pipeline with Canada, who says they want to partner with us. Now, if we turn them down, they'll go to China. But they want this relationship. They want to increase our energy security and create those jobs.

I urge passage of this bill.

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Chair, I am pleased at this time to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Let's connect the dots here. The Koch brothers, who financed the election of 2010, won. And they won big time. They own a facility up in Canada that will be the place where the tar sands oil will be converted into a form that can then be shipped to the gulf coast by this pipeline. All that money that they put in, millions and millions of dollars into the last election, is coming back as a return on the investment. And it's a big return, ladies and gentlemen.

This pipeline is going to cost \$13 billion. Who's paying for it? The Koch

brothers? No, not the Koch brothers. The American people are on the hook for the \$13 billion to build this pipeline for the Koch brothers and for their cohorts ExxonMobil, Shell, BP, and all of the rest of the big boys whose tax credits and tax breaks they are protecting without hesitation.

So they're getting it both ways, ladies and gentlemen. They're getting it on the front end, and they're getting it on the back end in terms of not having to pay any taxes.

I think we need to look at during this debt ceiling debate what our priorities are as a Nation and what our values are. Are we simply there to do the bidding of Big Business and the oil companies, or are we here to do the business for the American people?

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Chair, at this time I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER).

Mr. GARDNER. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Today, I rise to speak on the importance of the Keystone XL pipeline, H.R. 1938. One of my goals here in Congress has been to help advance projects like this—projects that will help advance domestic sources of energy. I'm continuously awed at how much potential we have here at home—and our neighbors—and how relatively simple it would be to advance policies that would make us more energy independent. However, I'm continuously baffled at how difficult this administration has made it to wean ourselves off Middle East oil and to create more jobs here at home. In fact, this bill alone, in committee I learned that it will create 6,000 new jobs in Colorado over the next 4 years—good-paying construction jobs, for example.

I'm appalled at the regulatory burdens or, almost worse sometimes, the inaction on the part of our administration that has led us down the path of insecurity and dependence on many countries that have animosity towards us. Not only do we have the resources in our own backyard, but we have the ability to utilize friendly and willing neighbors like Canada to import oil into the United States.

H.R. 1938, the Northern American-Made Energy Act, would direct the President to simply make a decision on the Keystone XL permit and hopefully move us in the direction of energy security. American jobs, American made.

I urge passage of this bill.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from California has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Chair and Members of this House, climate change is real. We're experiencing its effects. According to The Washington Post, almost 2,000 high temperature records have been broken in towns and cities across America since the start of the month. Another 4,300 records have been set for high overnight temperatures. I don't think that we should short-cir-

cuit consideration of a pipeline that increases our consumption of tar sands crude with up to 40 percent higher carbon pollution. That is not in our national interest.

Even the National Farmers Union is urging opposition to this legislation. They say: "NFU continues to have serious concern regarding the Keystone XL pipeline as currently proposed. We believe all necessary time should be taken for public review and analysis of options for the proposed project. Congress should not fix a hard deadline for this process to be completed."

I urge a "no" vote on this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1440

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Chair, I would remind everyone that in America today, we're using about 22 million barrels of oil a day and that we're producing about 7 million barrels of oil a day in this country. We need more efficiency—there is no question about that—to make better gas mileage.

We also have to recognize that we have the responsibility to bring more product into the United States. To do so from Canada would be good for the American people. It would create, it has been said, 20,000 construction jobs at a time when unemployment is at 9.2 percent. We also understand that, if that pipeline does not come to America, it's going to go to west Canada, and then that oil will be going to China. We have to remain competitive in the global marketplace if we're going to create jobs in America, and that's what this pipeline is about.

I would remind everyone that we're not short-circuiting any studies. Comprehensive studies have been made, and environmental impact statements have been examined, so I would urge everyone to support this important legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. I claim time in support of the bill on behalf of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. SHUSTER. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 1938, the North American-Made Energy Security Act.

As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials, I appreciate the hard work of my colleague from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) and of my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee to bring this bill forward, with whom our committees share jurisdiction.

This important legislation directs the President to expedite the consideration and approval of the construction

and operation of the Keystone XL oil pipeline. This important project has been delayed for far too long, and as my colleague from Nebraska pointed out, it is one month away from its 3-year anniversary from its introduction. The time has come for the President to finally move forward and make a decision. This legislation doesn't force the President to make a "yes" or "no" decision, but it does require the President to issue a final order granting or denying the Presidential permit for the Keystone XL pipeline no later than November 1, 2011.

This \$7 billion, 1,700-mile Keystone XL pipeline would link Canada's tar sands region with refineries in the Midwest and Texas. The economic impacts of the Keystone XL pipeline are immense, with estimates of 465,000 U.S. jobs stemming from the oil sands development by the year 2035.

All of my colleagues talk on the House floor about taking action to limit our dependence on oil from unstable areas of the world and from foreign governments hostile to the United States' interests. This is a project that will move us in that direction. Accomplishing that goal will also grow our economy in our partnering with our close friend and ally, Canada.

The United States has the largest network of energy pipelines of any nation in the world, and the pipelines remain the energy lifelines that power nearly all of our daily activities. The hallmark of America's pipeline network continues to be that it delivers extraordinary volumes of product reliably, safely, efficiently, and economically. Since 1986, the volume of energy products transported through pipelines has increased by one-third; yet the number of reportable incidents has decreased by 28 percent. Both government and industry have taken numerous steps to improve pipeline safety over the last 10 years. Safety advocates, environmentalists and the pipeline industry all agree that the Federal pipeline safety program is working.

Later this summer, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee will bring a bill to the floor to reauthorize the Federal pipeline safety program. We will work with our colleagues from the Energy and Commerce Committee, as we bring our bill to the floor, to ensure that safety remains our top priority. That piece of legislation will ensure that pipelines, like the Keystone XL pipeline, will continue to be the safest and most efficient way to move petroleum products and natural gas.

I am concerned by what appears to be a bias by some in this body to non-traditional sources of energy. To end our reliance on oil from overseas, we must develop the resources we have available in North America. That includes the oil sands in Canada and the Marcellus shale natural gas in my

home State of Pennsylvania. We must ensure that the development of these resources is done responsibly and in an environmentally safe manner, but we cannot hold them back and show prejudice just because they are unconventional. We simply can't have it both ways. We can't grow our economy and reduce our dependence on foreign oil without developing the resources that are available right here in our own backyard.

So in closing, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1938, and I look forward to continuing to work on this important issue.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, as someone who has the privilege of representing an "American-made energy" producing State, I understand the economic benefits of producing energy here at home, and I believe my record on this subject in this body is well-documented.

I want to begin, of course, by complimenting the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) for his leadership on this legislation, as well as Chairman MICA of my Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Subcommittee Chairman SHUSTER, and Ranking Member CORRINE BROWN.

I do rise today to express serious concerns regarding the process, or rather lack thereof, that was taken to bring this legislation to the House floor for consideration today.

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has primary jurisdiction over pipeline construction and safety legislation. Following this longstanding precedent, on May 23, the Speaker designated the Committee on T&I as the committee of primary jurisdiction of the pending legislation. Yet instead of considering the legislation under regular order, as the committee has always done in the past, Chairman MICA chose to discharge the committee from consideration of the bill.

Now, I have served on the Committee on T&I for 34 years—my entire tenure in this body. I cannot think of one instance when this committee, acting as the committee of primary jurisdiction, has discharged its consideration of major legislation in this manner—not one single instance.

The fact is, in the aftermath of several devastating pipeline incidents, there are some legitimate concerns about the potential safety, environmental and health impacts of transporting heavy crude oil by pipeline. I would have liked to have explored those concerns in an open and transparent manner had the committee considered this legislation. With that said, I am optimistic that this is an issue that we can delve into further as we work with Chairman MICA to craft a bill that reauthorizes the Nation's pipeline safety program. In the in-

terim, I believe we need to move forward with a decision on a Presidential permit for construction of the Keystone XL pipeline. Current plans are for construction activities to begin in the first quarter of 2012 and commercial operation to commence in 2013.

The fact is that this pipeline will create thousands of new jobs at a time when unemployment in the construction sector is double the national average. Construction was hard-hit by the recession, with the construction industry having lost nearly 2 million jobs since December 2007. We need to put these people back to work.

Unfortunately, last week, the House Republican leadership piled on the already devastated construction industry by shutting down major parts of the Federal Aviation Administration, which will jeopardize \$2.5 billion in construction projects, 87,000 American construction jobs, furlough 3,600 FAA aviation engineers, safety analysts, and other career professionals in 35 States, and will cost \$200 million per week in lost revenue.

If the chairman can discharge consideration of this bill and fast track it to the House floor for a vote, I hope he will do the same with the legislation that Representative COSTELLO and I introduced earlier today to end the Republican-led FAA shutdown in order to get aviation experts and construction crews back on the clock. While pink slips already went out to construction companies from coast to coast yesterday, Republicans seem to have reversed gears and now seem to want to support construction jobs—union jobs, in fact. I congratulate them on the latter.

In September 2010, TransCanada announced that it had entered into a project and labor agreement for a significant portion of U.S. construction of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline. The agreement, made with five labor organizations—the Laborers' International Union of North America, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the United States and Canada, the International Union of Operating Engineers, and the U.S. Pipeline Contractors Association—will provide TransCanada with a capable, well-trained and ready workforce in the U.S. to construct the pipeline.

□ 1450

During construction, the project is expected to create over 13,000 highways union jobs for American workers. Despite the procedural concerns that I've raised, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. May I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 6½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from West Virginia has 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. SHUSTER. At this time I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROWN).

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Madam Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1938. I thank my friend, LEE TERRY from Nebraska, for taking the lead on this important issue.

The Keystone XL pipeline is vital to ensure that the United States is able to meet its demand for oil. Canada is already the single largest source of oil imports for the United States.

This pipeline is expected to bring between 830,000 to over 1 million more barrels of Canadian crude to American refineries each and every day, helping to reduce our dependency on oil from unfriendly nations.

At a time when unemployment continues to hover near 10 percent, this project is expected to add close to 13,000 new American jobs. Until we are able to maximize our domestic sources of oil, we will have to rely upon imports. Canada is one of our strongest allies and is a stable democracy with a strong free market economy.

Canada serves as an example of how we should be exploring and developing our own domestic resources. Again, I thank my friend from Nebraska for working so diligently on this issue. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1938.

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida, the ranking member, CORRINE BROWN.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Madam Chair, let me just thank publicly the ranking member, Mr. RAHALL, for his leadership.

I am very upset that for the first time after 21 extensions, the FAA was shut down Friday night, jeopardizing \$2.5 billion in construction projects, 87,000 American construction jobs, and furloughing at least 3,600 FAA aviation engineers. This is really a sad time for the Committee on Transportation. We

have always worked together in a bipartisan way to make sure that we move America and keep people working.

This is America, and I want to say I fully believe it's possible to build the Keystone pipeline in a way that improves our access to crude oil and put thousands of people to work while protecting citizens from hazardous spills. But we have to hold the industry's feet to the fire and make sure that they take every possible precaution to build this pipeline.

The Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration must ensure full oversight in every step of the way in developing this pipeline and must ensure that it is completed safely.

I want to ask Chairman MICA and the ranking member to ensure that the committee fulfills its oversight role by regularly reviewing the construction of the pipeline to ensure that it is capable of transporting these most damaging products.

I want to take this time to express my disappointment that the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee waived its jurisdiction over the Keystone pipeline legislation that was developed by the Energy and Commerce Committee. The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is the committee of primary jurisdiction over pipeline construction and safety legislation and is the primary committee to refer for the Keystone legislation.

Just last week our subcommittee held a hearing on the spill in Montana and is continuing to monitor the progress on cleaning up this spill and compensation of those who were harmed. The legislation we are debating today should have been strongly vetted by our committee, and I join Ranking Member RAHALL in urging the committee to hold hearings and mark-ups up on any legislation within our jurisdiction.

Our railroad and pipeline subcommittee held at least five hearings

last session concerning pipeline safety and found significant problems with reporting and inspections, as well as an unhealthy relationship between the pipeline industry and the agency regulating them.

Moreover, much like the sewer and water infrastructure in this country, much of the pipeline infrastructure is reaching the end of its useful life. And we are going to need to make significant investments improving this access if we are going to accomplish the goals of both delivering critical petroleum to the States and protecting citizens from the danger of hazardous pipelines and spills and deadly explosions.

We need to develop new technology and strategies for improving safety in highly populated areas now located above the aging pipelines. With the high unemployment rate this country is currently facing, we should be hiring and training inspectors.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RAHALL. I yield the gentleman an additional minute.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. We should be hiring and training inspectors and putting construction workers to replace this aging pipeline infrastructure in the U.S. gas and oil industry.

Let me rush to say that the Republicans in their deficit reduction plan are protecting the big oil companies that made over a trillion dollars in the last 10 years: \$310 billion by Exxon; \$552 billion by Chevron; \$207 billion by Shell and BP. We are giving them a tax break of a—they made a trillion dollars, but yet we are trying to take senior citizens' retirement and Social Security.

You know, you can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time. And I will submit their profit record for the RECORD.

BIG FIVE OIL COMPANIES' NOMINAL PROFITS, 2001–2010

(All figures in billions, 2011 \$)

	2001–2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2001–2010
BP	80.39	22.2	21.68	17.14	–3.74	137.67
Chevron	77.39	19.86	24.45	10.78	19.29	151.77
Conoco Phillips	49.07	12.53	17.18	5.03	11.51	95.32
Exxon Mobil	169.42	43.12	46.23	19.81	30.9	309.48
Shell	116.93	33.24	26.9	12.01	18.28	207.36
Total	493.2	130.95	136.44	64.77	76.24	901.6

Note: Figures rounded to the nearest billion.
Sources: EIA and Google Finance.

Mr. SHUSTER. At this time I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY).

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I thank Chairman SHUSTER for the time.

I might point out that our energy companies are making major profits overseas because that's where this White House has chased our jobs and our energy production.

Today we're saying "yes" to North American-made energy. The Keystone XL pipeline will increase our access to safe and secure energy supplies from our neighbors from the north. Not from the Middle East, not from unstable parts of the world.

When completed, the pipeline will build millions of barrels of oil into our Midwest and gulf coast refineries and thousands of jobs—good-paying Amer-

ican-made jobs—with them. Unemployment is high. Prices at the pump are high. We've seen the effects of delay of American-made energy. And if you haven't seen that delay, ask our gulf coast workers who've lost their jobs and been hurt because of the "permitorium" in the Gulf of Mexico.

We have part of the solution before us today. More North American-made energy, solutions for safe, affordable

energy from a strong trading partner and ally, and a solution that supports good old American jobs.

Mr. RAHALL. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. I yield 4 minutes to the chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA).

Mr. MICA. Madam Chair and my colleagues, I rise in strong support of the proposal by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY). We should all be thanking Mr. TERRY for this initiative.

Not only are people in this country hit by incredible unemployment economic challenges and a dysfunctional Congress, but if they go to the local service station to fill up with gasoline, they're paying record prices.

I woke up this morning and I heard one of the commentators that was interviewing an expert, again, on energy, and he predicted that 1 year from now we will be paying between \$4.50 and \$5.50 for a gallon of gasoline.

Now, you just heard the ranking members criticize me for fast-tracking this legislation. I guess I beat some kind of record, never having waived before. I'm telling you I will waive this and anything else we need to do to get this country energy independent and find a way for the average citizen to be able to afford energy.

We need a short-term plan, and that's bringing energy into the United States without being held hostage to people like the regimes in the Middle East or Venezuela. This pipeline will bring in 1.3 million barrels of oil per day. That exceeds what comes in from Venezuela. It exceeds what comes in from Saudi Arabia.

□ 1500

How frustrated the people of America must be. Then, of course, is the attack on the FAA, the lack of reauthorization. How could they attack me? For 4 years they controlled this place with incredible numbers, huge numbers to do anything in the House, huge numbers to do anything in the Senate—4 years. I authored the last FAA authorization in 2003 that expired in 2007, and they sat on it and never did anything. They did 17 extensions. They forced us to do three. And I'm telling you, I've had it. If they've done this before in a different way, it's not going to be done that way anymore.

We sent them, last Wednesday, an extension, and it was a clean extension. It had one provision which they passed unanimously, and they don't like part of that one provision that stops funding of Essential Air Service subsidies, Federal taxpayer subsidies in excess of \$1,000. So for three airports where their passengers are being paid a subsidy of \$1,500 to \$3,700—at three airports—they're closing down the FAA. They've had it since last Wednesday, and they've sat on it.

So I don't care how we've done things before. We're going to do things differently. I will be in charge of the committee at least through next year, and I'm going to find a way to do things. We're going to get reasonable energy to the American people. And a year from now, mark your calendar.

We didn't mandate that they build the pipeline. And I want the pipeline built with every safety consideration. Yes, the Obama administration shouldn't be asleep at the wheel, like they were with the gulf oil spill when they issued the permit and stamped it in just a few days. They issued more permits for deepwater drilling in their short term in office and then closed down the rest of the access to energy across the United States, and actually issued more deepwater permits in their first few months in office than the entire Bush administration and then were asleep at the switch when they should have been inspecting that procedure. And they should inspect this. This doesn't say you must build the pipeline. It sets a deadline for a response from this administration.

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Chair, I appreciate the gentleman's remarks and his anger. It is, indeed, frustrating. I, again, invite him to fast-track without consideration of process, as he has done on this pipeline bill, in order to free us from reliance upon foreign sources of energy. I would hope he would just as quickly fast-track our clean extension of the FAA bill we introduced today in order to fast-track jobs, getting people back to work here in America. There are people that are already sitting at home for the second, going on the third day without jobs.

As I noted during my previous remarks, these are good-paying jobs. They are union jobs. A project labor agreement has been entered into that will ensure the protection of these union workers and their families.

So I would urge my colleagues to support the pending legislation at the same time that I would urge, again, my chairman to expedite consideration of a clean FAA reauthorization bill that has been introduced today by Representative COSTELLO and myself.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, June 30, 2011.

Hon. JOHN L. MICA,

Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MICA: I write to express my serious concerns regarding your decision to discharge the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure from consideration of H.R. 1938, the "North American-Made Energy Security Act". I urge you to reconsider your decision to abandon "regular order".

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is the committee of primary jurisdiction over pipeline construction and safety legislation. Following these longstanding precedents, on May 23, 2011, the

Speaker designated the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure as the committee of primary jurisdiction of H.R. 1938.

Nevertheless, in your June 24, 2011, letter to Committee on Energy and Commerce Chairman Fred Upton, you indicated your intent to discharge the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure—the committee of primary jurisdiction—from consideration of the bill.

Although jurisdictional letters between committees are commonplace, I cannot recall an instance where the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, as the committee of primary jurisdiction, has discharged its consideration of major legislation in this manner. I urge the Committee to hold hearings and Subcommittee and Full Committee markups of the legislation prior to its Floor consideration.

Thank you for your consideration.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

NICK J. RAHALL II,
Ranking Democratic Member.

LiUNA!,
Washington, DC, July 12, 2011.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the trade unions representing well over 2-million members, including the skilled craft workers who will build the Keystone XL pipeline, we seek your support for H.R. 1938, the "North American-Made Energy Security Act." H.R. 1938, a bi-partisan effort sponsored by Congressman Terry, would require a timely decision by the Executive Branch whether to grant or deny a Presidential Permit for the construction of the pipeline. Construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline will employ tens of thousands of our members and help secure the United States' economic and national security. The pipeline has been delayed in the permitting process for nearly three years. Each week that goes by in the permitting process of Keystone XL furthers the sense of uncertainty that private sector companies face when making massive investments that depend on regulatory approval. Providing procedural certainty to the project owner is simply good public policy.

The Keystone XL pipeline will help the Nation's energy security by reducing U.S. imports of foreign oil from Venezuela and the Middle East and replacing it with stable, secure supplies from both the U.S. and Canada. This project will also help strengthen the U.S. economy by creating good jobs and will reduce the American economy's vulnerability to supply shocks like the one in Libya today that has driven up prices at the pump for consumers.

This \$13-billion construction project is privately funded, privately financed and will not involve any government subsidy or expenditure. With sustained unemployment in the construction sector at double the national average, our members desperately need the work that the pipeline will create. Our unions have entered into a Project Labor Agreement with TransCanada which will ensure that a capable, well-trained and ready workforce is used to build the pipeline. Estimates are that the construction of the pipeline will:

Spur more than \$20 billion in new spending for the U.S. economy;

Directly create 20,000 high-wage construction and manufacturing jobs in 2011–2013 across the U.S. and 118,000 person-years of employment;

Generate \$6.5 billion in new personal income for U.S. workers and their families;

Stimulate more than \$585 million in new state and local taxes in states along the pipeline route during construction; and

Deliver \$5.2 billion in property taxes during the estimated operating life of the pipeline.

We believe that the demand for oil and gas resources will dictate the development of the Alberta oilsands, regardless of whether or not the Keystone XL is built. Allowing the construction of the pipeline will assure that the product is transported to American markets in the safest and most efficient way possible.

Further delay in the permitting process could have detrimental consequences and puts at risk the billions of dollars in private sector investment to be made into America's energy infrastructure. The members of our unions—and indeed the U.S. economy—need the Keystone XL Pipeline. That is why the four pipeline craft unions are proud to endorse H.R. 1938. The leadership of you and your colleagues on this project is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD OF
TEAMSTERS,
LABORERS' INTERNATIONAL
UNION OF NORTH
AMERICA,
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF
OPERATING ENGINEERS,
UNITED ASSOCIATION OF
JOURNEYMEN AND
APPRENTICES OF THE
PLUMBING AND
PIPEFITTING INDUSTRY OF
THE UNITED STATES AND
CANADA.

Mr. SHUSTER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RAHALL. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SHUSTER. Did I hear correctly that the gentleman is going to support the underlying legislation?

Mr. RAHALL. Yes. I made that clear in both of my speeches.

Mr. SHUSTER. I thought so. But I guess I wasn't paying attention to the end. So it is great to hear.

Mr. RAHALL. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Chair, it's important that we pass this on a bipartisan basis because it does mean jobs for Americans, construction jobs, somewhere up around 20,000. It means steel that is going to be made in U.S. steel plants. So this is a bill that is not only going to create jobs, but it's going to help us break that dependence on foreign oil.

Again, I tip my hat to Mr. TERRY from Nebraska for putting forth H.R. 1938, and I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this pro-energy, pro-jobs bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Chairman, I claim time on behalf of the Committee on Natural Resources.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This legislation takes a crucial step towards securing our Nation's energy security and putting Americans back to work. In 2010 alone, the United States imported over 1 trillion barrels of oil from OPEC countries, many of which have unstable or unfriendly governments. While my preference would be that we replace that oil with domestically produced resources from the Rockies, our Outer Continental Shelf, and Alaska, we have the next best thing by having Canada as a stable, friendly, energy-rich trading partner sharing our northern border.

As we have seen in so many other aspects of our Nation's energy portfolio, whether it be offshore production, onshore production, or even renewable energy production on Federal lands, the Obama administration is once again slow-walking or even stonewalling domestic energy security and job creation with needless delays and bureaucratic red tape.

This legislation will help ensure a steady supply of crude oil from one of our strongest allies. It has the potential to create 20,000 direct construction jobs for Americans and spur \$20 billion in new spending in the U.S. economy. The extension of this pipeline will generate \$585 million in new State and local taxes during construction. It will greatly lessen our dependence on oil from OPEC.

Opponents of this pipeline seem to believe that if we don't use this oil here, it won't be produced. That position is fundamentally wrong and displays a foolish and naive disregard for the flow of international oil production.

The reality is, if America won't take this oil, China will. Instead of having a secure pipeline feeding the American heartland, we will see massive tankers off the coast of Washington and Oregon as China fills its ships for export. And China doesn't have the environmental safeguards that we do.

We should pass H.R. 1938.

At this moment, Madam Chairman, I yield 1 minute to my colleague from the State of Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Chairman, today I rise in support of H.R. 1938, the North American-Made Energy Security Act.

For far too long, the proposed Keystone XL pipeline has been caught up in bureaucratic red tape that unfortunately has become the norm with this administration. This legislation simply forces the administration to make a decision by November 1 of this year, which will be more than 3 years after the application was originally submitted. This bill addresses our Nation's dependence on OPEC for oil, but it also creates American jobs.

The pipeline extension would allow for an additional 700,000 barrels of oil per day to be brought to the U.S. mar-

ketplace. This increase in oil, from America's largest trading partner, would begin to make America less beholden to unstable OPEC countries for our oil demands. Furthermore, if this pipeline isn't built, the oil will simply go to China instead of coming to America.

This legislation would also pave the way for the creation of 13,000 direct jobs and tens of thousands of indirect jobs should the project be approved.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation.

Mr. MARKEY. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 1938.

We are here debating whether to expedite the approval of a pipeline that will import the dirtiest crude oil on the planet into the United States of America by melting the oil out of the tar in Canada, which creates more greenhouse gases than any other production method for crude oil on the planet.

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It also destroys the boreal forest. It contaminates millions of gallons of water each day. That is a very high environmental price to pay for oil from tar in Canada that may not lower prices for Americans and may never be sold to Americans. But we will build the pipeline for them through our land to accomplish this goal.

The majority has repeatedly claimed that expediting the approval of this pipeline will lower gas prices at the pump for the American public. But what factual evidence should we rely upon in order to substantiate this claim?

Well, we can't rely upon TransCanada, the very company that wants to build the pipeline through our country, because it has concluded that after the pipeline is constructed that gas prices would rise in the Midwest of our country as a result of the Keystone XL pipeline.

We are also told that building this pipeline will enable us to reduce our dependence on imported oil from countries who don't like us very much. Instead, we will be able to rely upon dependable Canada, our friends, the Canadians.

But what are the guarantees that building this pipeline will actually lead to greater supplies of crude oil for the American people?

Well, the answer, Madam Chair, is that there are no guarantees. There is nothing in this bill, nothing that prevents Keystone XL pipeline oil from being shipped to the gulf coast, refined there, from the tar of Alberta Canada, and then re-exported and sold into the global oil market to China, to Korea, right out of our country.

I offered an amendment to the Rules Committee that would have required the Department of Energy to ensure

that the approval of this pipeline would, in fact, guarantee that the benefits of the Keystone oil being transported through our country stay right here in our country.

My amendment would have required that Keystone oil be sold in this country. That would increase the gasoline and the diesel supplies at the pump and would help to ensure lower prices at the pump. And my amendment would have benefited domestic businesses that use refined petroleum products, including plastics and chemical companies, by ensuring a steady supply of petroleum products for their manufacturing plants here, made in America. My amendment was consistent with longstanding U.S. policy on oil exports.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, the Republicans refused to allow a vote on my amendment here today. They won't even allow our Members to vote on keeping the oil that is going to be transported in a pipeline that we're going to allow to be built through our country here.

So, yes, it's the dirtiest oil in the world; but at least, if you're going to build the pipeline, at least have it be sold here in America and not sold to China, not sold to Korea. At least have that guarantee.

They just don't even have a vote on it, ladies and gentlemen. That's what this is all about. Once again, it's all about this ideological belief that the largest oil companies know best. We should not be taxing them. We should not be putting any burden on the biggest oil companies.

Better to push the American economy to the brink of fiscal collapse than the Republicans would ever consider allowing to rescind tax breaks for the biggest oil companies. They wouldn't even begin to think about putting that on the table. Grandma's Social Security check, absolutely. Building a pipeline through our country with the dirtiest oil in the world to be sold to Asia, absolutely no problem for the Republicans.

So this bill, despite the overwhelming factual evidence that building the pipeline will only result in dirtier air, more profits for Big Oil, without benefits for the American consumer, they are going to continue to push forward.

Vote "no" on this environmental atrocity.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LAMBORN. I yield 1 minute to my good colleague and friend from the State of Texas (Mr. FLORES).

Mr. FLORES. Madam Chair, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1938, the North American-Made Energy Security Act.

This bipartisan legislation would increase access to more energy supplies by expediting the Presidential permit for the Keystone XL pipeline extension.

We are all aware that every additional barrel that can be produced within North America is one fewer barrel that we need from the Middle East. This pipeline extension will help bring total capacity up to more than 1.2 million barrels per day into our markets. Also, as we look for opportunities to address our struggling economic recovery, this project will create an estimated 100,000 American jobs and help grow our economy.

Canada's vast oil resources have also attracted interest from other energy-hungry nations. If we do not tap this valuable resource, the Chinese or other countries will. The Obama administration has already delayed the decision on this project for almost 3 years and it is time that they act and make a decision.

The choice is clear. By passing this bill, we will increase our energy security with a more stable supply of efficient and affordable energy from our best international friend and trading partner, and we will lessen our dependence on Middle Eastern oil.

I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation.

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Chairman, the North American-Made Energy Security Act is a pivotal first step toward securing our energy future, lessening our dependence on oil from OPEC countries, and putting Americans back to work.

Canada and the U.S. have the world's largest two-way relationship. Rather than put up roadblocks, we should foster and build upon that relationship to utilize each other's resources.

If we don't use this oil, Chinese consumers will, and we will continue to rely on oil from OPEC. We cannot stand idly by as the Obama administration continues to delay and put up roadblocks that prevent the production of American energy and the creation of American jobs.

H.R. 1938 will force the administration to make a decision that has been unnecessarily delayed for years. The legislation is good for the American economy and good for American jobs, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1938 and object to this majority's repeated attempts to circumvent environmental law and prioritize special interests over sound science.

The Keystone XL is a proposed pipeline project from Alberta, Canada to Port Arthur, Texas. Since the project crosses national boundaries, it requires Presidential approval to proceed. By Executive Order, President Obama has delegated that authority to the State Department, which is in the process of reviewing public comment so that it can finalize the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) required by the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). Once an EIS has been completed, the State Department will receive

final input from other relevant federal agencies, as well as the general public, before making a final determination as to whether the Keystone XL pipeline is in the national interest. According to the State Department, this review—which appropriately includes a thorough evaluation of the project's environmental, marketplace, national security and community impacts—should be completed by the end of the year.

However, rather than allowing that process to come to a timely and considered conclusion, today's legislation sets forth its own demonstrably inaccurate and woefully incomplete findings in order to justify the majority's preferred outcome—and then directs the President to make a final permitting decision by November 1, whether the required evaluation is complete or not.

In truth, one need look no further than the errors and omissions throughout this legislation's findings to understand why an objective, complete, scientifically-based review of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline project is so necessary.

Accordingly, I urge a "no" vote.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Chair, I appreciate the leadership of Congressman LEE TERRY of Nebraska to develop H.R. 1938, the North American-Made Energy Security Act.

H.R. 1938 would expedite the Presidential Permit approval process for the Keystone XL pipeline extension. This pipeline extension would allow the delivery of more oil to come into this country from Canada's oil sands in the province of Alberta. I appreciate Canada as America's largest trading partner.

There are strategic and economic impacts of the development and delivery of oil and natural gas between the U.S. and Canada, and I am well aware of the economic impacts in South Carolina, creating thousands of jobs in the District I represent in Aiken and Lexington Counties.

Currently, there are over 100 of the large mine haul trucks operating in the Oil Sands powered by MTU engines. The engines produced by MTU in Aiken, South Carolina, support not only the North American manufacturers of these large mining trucks, but the international market as well. Interestingly, by next year, Aiken will be producing MTU's largest engine for the haul-truck market, the 20V 4000. The marine variant of this engine powers the U.S. Coast Guard's Fast Response Cutter, and this will also be produced in Aiken. Hundreds of jobs are created in Aiken County and neighboring Georgia due to the oil sands development in Alberta.

Furthermore, the Michelin tire manufacturing facility in Lexington, South Carolina, produces earthmover tires and is one of the mining industry's largest suppliers. Overall, 7,930 people are employed by Michelin in South Carolina with locations in Anderson, Greenville, and Lexington.

Passage of this legislation is critical to our economy. The nearly three-year delay of the Keystone XL pipeline expansion project is blocking significant economic growth and preventing Americans from fully accessing a safe and dependable source of oil held by Canada, a longtime ally and the largest trade partner of the United States. This expansion would enable expanded importation of 830,000 barrels

of oil daily from Canada, instead of importing it from other unfriendly sources.

A Canadian Energy Research Institute study found that investing in Canadian oil sands will produce 340,000 U.S. jobs and create \$34 billion in revenues for the U.S. government. Construction of the pipeline itself would also support more than 10,000 jobs, and the addition of the pipeline to the Bakken formation would enable additional, more cost-effective development of that domestic energy source.

For these reasons, I support this legislation and am hopeful of ultimate support from the President.

Mr. UPTON. Madam Chair, I submit the following exchange of letters.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, July 8, 2011.

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Longworth House Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HASTINGS: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1938, the North American-Made Energy Security Act. The Committee on Energy and Commerce recognizes that the Committee on Natural Resources has jurisdiction over H.R. 1938, and I appreciate your effort to waive the Committee's right to take action on it.

I concur with you that foregoing action on H.R. 1938 does not in any way prejudice the Committee on Natural Resources with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future, and I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or related legislation.

I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and I will include our letters on H.R. 1938 in the Congressional Record during House floor consideration of the bill.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-
MITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, July 24, 2011.

Hon. FRED UPTON,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Rayburn House Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON: I write concerning H.R. 1938, the North American-Made Energy Security Act, which is expected to be scheduled for floor consideration the week of July 25, 2011.

As you know, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure was listed as the Committee of primary jurisdiction when H.R. 1938 was introduced on May 23, 2011. I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House of Representatives in an expeditious manner, and accordingly, the Committee will forego action on the bill.

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 1938 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. Further, I request your support in the appointment of conferees from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

As you are aware, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is the

Committee of primary jurisdiction on any legislation to reauthorize federal pipeline safety programs. As such, our agreement to forego consideration of H.R. 1938 is also conditional on our mutual understanding that the Committee on Energy and Commerce will not take any Full Committee action on legislation related to the reauthorizing of the federal pipeline safety programs until the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has acted on such legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration.

Sincerely,

JOHN L. MICA,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, June 18, 2011.

Hon. JOHN L. MICA,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MICA: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1938, the North American-Made Energy Security Act. The Committee on Energy and Commerce recognizes that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has primary jurisdiction over H.R. 1938, and I appreciate your effort to facilitate consideration of this bill.

I concur with you that foregoing action on H.R. 1938 does not in any way prejudice the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future, and I will support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or related legislation.

I also concur with you that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is the Committee of primary jurisdiction on legislation to reauthorize the federal pipeline safety programs and agree to not take action before September 20, 2011 at full committee on such legislation, allowing the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to take action on such legislation.

I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and I will include our letters on H.R. 1938 in the Congressional Record during House floor consideration of the bill.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, July 8, 2011.

Hon. FRED UPTON,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Rayburn House Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON: I write concerning H.R. 1938, the North American-Made Energy Security Act.

As you know, the Committee on Natural Resources received an original referral of H.R. 1938 when it was introduced on May 23, 2011. I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House of Representatives in an expeditious manner, and accordingly, the Committee will forego action on the bill.

The Committee on Natural Resources takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of

H.R. 1938 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. Further, I request your support for the appointment of conferees from the Committee on Natural Resources during any House-Senate conference convened on this or related legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration.

Sincerely,

DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered read.

The text of the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 1938

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "North American-Made Energy Security Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds and declares the following:

(1) *The United States currently imports more than half of the oil it consumes, often from countries hostile to United States interests or with political and economic instability that compromises supply security.*

(2) *While a significant portion of imports are derived from allies such as Canada and Mexico, the United States remains vulnerable to substantial supply disruptions created by geopolitical tumult in major producing nations.*

(3) *Strong increases in oil consumption in the developing world outpace growth in conventional oil supplies, bringing tight market conditions and higher oil prices in periods of global economic expansion or when supplies are threatened.*

(4) *The development and delivery of oil and gas from Canada to the United States is in the national interest of the United States in order to secure oil supplies to fill needs that are projected to otherwise be filled by increases in other foreign supplies, notably from the Middle East.*

(5) *Continued development of North American energy resources, including Canadian oil, increases domestic refiners' access to stable and reliable sources of crude and improves certainty of fuel supply for the Department of Defense, the largest consumer of petroleum in the United States.*

(6) *Canada and the United States have the world's largest two-way trading relationship. Therefore, for every United States dollar spent on products from Canada, including oil, 90 cents is returned to the United States economy. When the same metrics are applied to trading relationships with some other major sources of United States crude oil imports, returns are much lower.*

(7) *The principal choice for Canadian oil exporters is between moving increasing crude oil volumes to the United States or Asia, led by China. Increased Canadian oil exports to China will result in increased United States crude oil imports from other foreign sources, especially the Middle East.*

(8) Increased Canadian crude oil imports into the United States correspondingly reduce the scale of "wealth transfers" to other more distant foreign sources resulting from the greater cost of importing crude oil from those sources.

(9) Not only are United States companies major investors in Canadian oil sands, but many United States businesses throughout the country benefit from supplying goods and services required for ongoing Canadian oil sands operations and expansion.

(10) There has been more than 2 years of consideration and a coordinated review by more than a dozen Federal agencies of the technical aspects and of the environmental, social, and economic impacts of the proposed pipeline project known as the Keystone XL from Hardisty, Alberta, to Steele City, Nebraska, and then on to the United States Gulf Coast through Cushing, Oklahoma.

(11) Keystone XL represents a high capacity pipeline supply option that could meet early as well as long-term market demand for crude oil to United States refineries, and could also potentially bring over 100,000 barrels per day of United States Bakken crudes to market.

(12) Completion of the Keystone XL pipeline would increase total Keystone pipeline capacity by 700,000 barrels per day to 1,290,000 barrels per day.

(13) The Keystone XL pipeline would provide short-term and long-term employment opportunities and related labor income benefits, as well as government revenues associated with sales and payroll taxes.

(14) The earliest possible construction of the Keystone XL pipeline will make the extensive proven and potential reserves of Canadian oil available for United States use and increase United States jobs and will therefore serve the national interest.

(15) Analysis using the Environmental Protection Agency models shows that the Keystone XL pipeline will result in no significant change in total United States or global greenhouse gas emissions.

(16) The Keystone XL pipeline would be state-of-the-art and have a degree of safety higher than any other typically constructed domestic oil pipeline system.

(17) Because of the extensive governmental studies already made with respect to the Keystone XL project and the national interest in early delivery of Canadian oil to United States markets, a decision with respect to a Presidential Permit for the Keystone XL pipeline should be promptly issued without further administrative delay or impediment.

SEC. 3. EXPEDITED APPROVAL PROCESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President, acting through the Secretary of Energy, shall coordinate with each Federal agency responsible for coordinating or considering an aspect of the President's National Interest Determination and Presidential Permit decision regarding construction and operation of the Keystone XL pipeline, to ensure that all necessary actions with respect to such decision are taken on an expedited schedule.

(b) AGENCY COOPERATION WITH SECRETARY OF ENERGY.—Each Federal agency described in subsection (a) shall comply with any deadline established by the Secretary of Energy pursuant to subsection (a).

(c) FINAL ORDER.—Not later than 30 days after the issuance of the final environmental impact statement, the President shall issue a final order granting or denying the Presidential Permit for the Keystone XL pipeline, but in no event shall such decision be made later than November 1, 2011.

(d) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW.—No action by the Secretary of Energy pursuant to this section shall affect any duty or responsibility to comply

with any requirement to conduct environmental review.

The CHAIR. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in House Report 112-181. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. WELCH

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 112-181.

Mr. WELCH. Madam Chair, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 6, after line 24, insert the following new paragraph:

(18) The proposed Keystone XL pipeline would run through the Ogallala aquifer, risking an oil spill into one of the world's largest freshwater aquifers that provides 30 percent of the groundwater used for irrigation in the United States and drinking water for millions of Americans. Even a small, undetected leak from an underground rupture of the pipeline in the Nebraska Sandhills could pollute almost 5,000,000,000 gallons of groundwater—enough oil to pose serious health threats to anyone using the underlying Ogallala Aquifer for drinking water or agriculture.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 370, the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Vermont.

Mr. WELCH. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, this amendment inserts an environmental finding that highlights the very significant environmental and health risks that are proposed that will occur as a result of this proposed pipeline. This pipeline is going to carry up to 900,000 barrels of tar sands oil every day, and it's going to carry them a distance of 2,000 miles. And whatever assurances are given about the safety of any mechanical and engineering system, we have too much regular experience that the best of intentions oftentimes fail.

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So there is risk, and we want that to be known as part of the findings.

A University of Nebraska professor recently released the first independent assessment of the spills that could come from the Keystone XL pipeline. That study found that TransCanada has in fact greatly understated the risks of the pipeline. That study established that the pipeline could spill over

5 million gallon of tar sands oil into a major river, making water undrinkable for hundreds of miles. Also, the Keystone real-time leak detection system doesn't register spills that are less than 700,000 gallons per day.

Cynthia Quarterman, the administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, has noted that the U.S. pipeline system was not designed with raw tar sands crude in mind.

My amendment is very simple: if we're going to rush through—and that's what we're doing—the environmental permitting process for a project that has questionable benefits to our Nation, let's at least recognize the risks.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TERRY. I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Nebraska is recognized for up to 5 minutes.

Mr. TERRY. Madam Chair, I urge rejection of this gutting amendment. What this would do is basically say you can't build any pipelines in this general area.

I would like the gentleman from Vermont to know that there are many pipelines already running through this area, oil pipelines, natural gas pipelines; and also the other part that I would like to make regarding this amendment, this almost 2 feet high stack of materials is the draft environmental study, the supplemental environmental study, PHMSA's report. I can assure the gentleman that there is no other pipeline that has been studied to the point that this one has. It is as close to the best built pipeline as demanded by the agencies that have oversight. It has gone through a very thorough, thorough examination.

The owners of this pipeline, TransCanada, have already agreed to not only increasing the thickness of the pipeline, itself, but additional pump stations to be able to detect when there's a leak. The pipeline reform bill will be reported out of committees later; and they would have to adhere to all of those rules, including something that we're discussing that all leaks have to be able to be onsite repaired within 1 hour.

There's no way to design a perfect pipeline, but there are ways to make sure that if there is an issue, there's a rapid response, and that has been built in. Those are additional agreements. I'm vastly positive that, A, any leaks that would occur are going to be minimal and not hazardous to the Ogallala aquifer or to the Sand Hills.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. How much time do I have?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Vermont has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. WELCH. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

Mr. COHEN. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the Welch-Cohen amendment. Our simple, not a gutting, amendment—that's totally wrong—noncontroversial amendment, states an important fact that was not mentioned in the findings section. I'm disappointed that this stilted legislation fails to mention any of the risks associated with the pipeline, such as the critical fact that Keystone XL would run through the world's largest fresh water aquifer, the Ogallala, which provides 30 percent of the groundwater used for irrigation in the United States and drinking water for millions of Americans. This fact is an essential aspect of the pipeline that must be considered by the State Department and the American public before granting a determination of national interest.

Our amendment also states the results of the only independent assessment of the worst-case spills for the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, a report that indicates that TransCanada has greatly understated the pipeline's risks.

Perhaps the most important component of the report is the discovery that even a small undetected leak from an underground rupture of the pipeline in the Nebraska Sand Hills could pollute almost 5 billion gallons of groundwater, enough oil to pose serious health threats to anyone using this aquifer for drinking water or agricultural purposes; and a leak of this magnitude is certainly possible given that the Keystone XL's real-time leak detection system does not register spills less than, get this, 700,000 gallons a day. They'll have no knowledge of it.

What is even more disconcerting is that according to Cynthia Quarterman, the administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, the U.S. pipeline safety regulations were not written to address the unique risks of piping tar sand, the worst oil one could imagine. Additionally, Administrator Quarterman noted that her agency, the government's pipeline safety experts, has not been included in the review of Keystone XL and has never studied the risks of piping tar sands.

As we consider building a dangerous tar sands pipeline through our Nation's most important aquifer, it is critical the decision be based on an accurate depiction of the pipeline's risks and not just rosy, overly optimistic descriptions of its projected benefits. This is why the Sierra League and the National Resource Defense Council are so interested, as is the American public in these findings.

I urge support for the Welch-Cohen amendment.

Mr. WELCH. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TERRY. Madam Chair, in closing, I want to allay the fears here. To sit there and say that this hasn't been

studied, we have the environmental impact study; we have the supplemental. This has been studied. All the agencies are involved, including PHMSA. I'm sure they will make their recommendations based on sound science.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. TERRY. I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Vermont will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. RUSH

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 112-181.

Mr. RUSH. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 6, lines 10 through 13, strike paragraph (15) (and redesignate the subsequent paragraphs accordingly).

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 370, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. RUSH. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, during both the subcommittee and full committee mark-ups, I offered my amendment to delete a finding that I thought was particularly misleading.

Finding No. 15 states: "Analysis using the Environmental Protection Agency models shows that the Keystone XL pipeline will result in no significant change in total United States or global greenhouse gas emissions."

□ 1530

My amendment was defeated on a party-line vote after my colleagues on the other side insisted that the statement was indeed true. Well, Madam Chair, I took it upon myself to write a letter to the EPA asking the agency to weigh in on the accuracy of this finding, and this was the agency's reply:

"EPA has conducted no modeling, nor provided any models, to analyze the likely effect of the Keystone XL pipeline on U.S. or global greenhouse gas emissions. The language in the above finding is therefore incorrect."

The official EPA statement went on to say:

"As detailed in the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Keystone XL project issued by the Department of State, the Department of Energy directed a contractor to conduct modeling on poten-

tial impacts of the project. EPA provided some data to be used in that effort, but EPA models were not used and EPA did not model any projected emissions effects of the project."

Madam Chairman, there are some who believe that the majority does not care about facts or truth or science or climate change if these facts and otherwise get in the way of industry moving forward unfettered. Well, by voting for my amendment, we have an opportunity to set the record straight and prove to the American people that when a statement is demonstrably shown to be false, then Members of Congress from both sides, Democrat or Republican, will put their partisan differences aside and stand on the side of truth. Know ye the truth and the truth shall set you free.

So I urge all my colleagues to support my corrective amendment in order to correct this misleading statement contained in the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TERRY. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Nebraska is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TERRY. I would like to join my friend in standing up for the truth and accuracy; so what I will do is read the Supplemental Environmental Impact Study.

Page 7: "The WORLD and DOE Energy Technologies Perspective model analyses results show no significant change in total U.S. refining activity, total crude and product import volumes and costs, in global refinery CO₂ and total life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions whether Keystone XL is built or not."

It's the exact verbiage from the actual Department of Energy using the EPA's modeling conclusions. So we're just using the Department of Energy study's own language that it's not increasing. So what this amendment does is takes out the exact language from an independent study by the Department of Energy and supplants it with an inaccurate statement.

Now, I think where my friend is going, and the EPA has recently written a letter saying, the standard they would like to see is not heavy crude versus heavy crude. Because what this study is saying is this oil is still going to be refined, whether it's in Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, or Chicago. If it's not being refined there, it will be refined in China; therefore, it has the same impact globally, the same life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions.

Well, the EPA wrote a letter and said, Well, we're changing that standard. We would like you to just compare it to Texas sweet crude. And they just pulled that out of a hat here just a few months ago. So that's what he's saying, but it's not part of what the study says. So there is no reason to remove this.

This is accurate. It's exactly from the Department of Energy's study based on EPA's own modeling.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUSH. Madam Chair, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Illinois has 1½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Nebraska has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. RUSH. Madam Chair, this is simply an argument over whether or not this House will allow demonstrably false information in this bill to move forward even though we have documentation from the very agency in question stating that the information is false. This is the letter. This is the letter. It's a letter dated June 22, and it says:

"EPA has conducted no modeling, nor provided any models, to analyze the likely effect of the Keystone XL pipeline on U.S. or global greenhouse gas emissions. The language in the above finding is therefore incorrect."

How clear can it be that the EPA states beyond a shadow of a doubt that this particular passage in this bill is false, is misleading? And if, in fact, we vote to enact this wrong piece of legislation, not only is it wrongheaded, it's wrong in its effort. If we vote to pass this legislation, then we are perpetuating a falsehood.

Madam Chair, this Congress stands for a greater and higher standard than to vote for something that we know is false. We know it's not accurate. The other side knows it's not accurate. But if industry wants it, if it's accurate or not, industry, according to them, must have it. And I say industry must not have it. We should have to stand for the truth in this Congress, and the truth is that the EPA did not conduct any model.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TERRY. Madam Chair, once again, in the entire record that's been submitted from the Department of Energy to EPA, the studies that have been done conclude that, in global refineries, CO₂ and total life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions, whether the Keystone XL is built or not, there is no additional CO₂, no significant CO₂. That is the exact language in here. To strike that would strike the truth that is set forth in the studies and supplant it with something that doesn't exist in all of the models and studies that have been provided.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. RUSH. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the

amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois will be postponed.

□ 1540

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. ESHOO

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 112-181.

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 6, after line 24, insert the following new paragraph:

(18) Recent oil pipeline spills, such as the May 2011 leak of 21,000 gallons of crude from TransCanada's existing Keystone pipeline in North Dakota, have raised serious concerns about the risks associated with pipelines carrying diluted bitumen. At a June 16, 2011, hearing on pipeline safety held by the Subcommittee on Energy and Power of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Cynthia L. Quarterman, Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration of the Department of Transportation, testified that the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration had not done a study analyzing the risks associated with transporting diluted bitumen.

Page 7, line 19, insert "Notwithstanding the previous sentence, prior to the issuance of a final order granting or denying the Presidential Permit for the Keystone XL pipeline, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration shall complete a comprehensive review of the properties and characteristics of bitumen and the hazardous liquid pipeline regulations to determine whether current regulations are sufficient to regulate pipelines used for the transportation of tar sands crude oil." after "November 1, 2011."

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 370, the gentleman from California (Ms. ESHOO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Chair, pipeline safety is not a subject that we can afford to take lightly. On September 10, 2010, last year, a natural gas explosion in San Bruno, California, just north of my congressional district in Congresswoman SPEIER's district, killed eight people, injured dozens of others, and destroyed 55 homes. This was from a natural gas explosion.

Since 1938, Congress has attempted to promote natural gas pipeline safety, but the horrific explosions, like the one in San Bruno, California, continue to occur every year someplace in our country. It is a dangerous business under the best of circumstances.

To move forward with the tar sands pipeline, which we have little experience regulating, without a solid understanding of the safety issues is an enormous and, I think, dangerous mistake. We have heard strong, well-informed concerns that pipelines carrying tar sands and the chemical bitumen may pose greater safety risks than even those pipelines carrying conventional or synthetic crude.

On June 16 of this year, during an Energy and Power Subcommittee hearing on pipeline safety, Cynthia Quarterman, administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, known as PHMSA, testified that this agency, specifically tasked with researching and administering pipeline safety, has not analyzed the risks of these new pipelines. But Ms. Quarterman replied, when asked, that the agency would be pleased to make such a review. I think the American people would be safer if they did.

My amendment would require PHMSA to complete a comprehensive review of the properties and characteristics of bitumen and the hazardous liquid pipeline regulations before a final Presidential permit is issued.

I think this study is very, very important for the safety of all Americans, and it will determine whether current regulations are sufficient to regulate pipelines used for the transportation of tar sands crude oil. This approach I think makes sense because it is far less costly to build pipelines correctly than to try to fix or replace a line that is already built.

The explosion that occurred in San Bruno, California, and the recent oil spills that have occurred, particularly the spills from TransCanada's Keystone pipeline, which leaked 21,000 gallons of crude in North Dakota—I want to repeat that—leaked 21,000 gallons of crude in North Dakota, is a warning to all of us that we need to get this right. So let's protect lives, money, property, and take the proper precautions now.

For these reasons, I urge all of my colleagues to support my amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TERRY. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Nebraska is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TERRY. Madam Chair, the crux of this amendment is that the gentleman from California is asking for another study. That seems to be kind of the new tactic of how to delay or kill a bill; let's do a study instead of implementing something.

I want to talk about the safety of the pipeline with the chemical bitumen, which helps the crude actually flow through the pipeline better. This chemical isn't new to the Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Agency. In fact, heavy crude has been sent through pipelines with this chemical since the 1920s, including out of California. So they have the expertise to deal with this already. They are working on their assessment of the Keystone pipeline to assist the State Department and Department of Energy in their recommendation, so there is really no need for this type of a study.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Chair, to respond to my friend and colleague, Mr.

TERRY, with all due respect, I didn't come to the floor today with a tactic. I offered this, I raised this in the committee. We had a very good discussion about it there. It's my understanding that an EIS is being conducted, but an EIS on the entire pipeline is very different than what I am raising.

And the head of the agency, of PHMSA, when she appeared before the committee, understanding that there had not been an examination in particular about the tar sands crude oil and bitumen, said that her agency would be pleased to undertake that study.

So I'm here today, obviously, to offer this amendment. I think it is based on good common sense that we examine this before we go ahead with it. I raised something that is very real and that is just a handful of miles from where I live, even though it is outside my congressional district, where lives were lost—eight people were killed, dozens were injured, and 55 homes destroyed. So this is not a tactic. This is not to delay. This is to get this right before the permit is issued. I think the agency can do this on an expedited basis. I'm not seeking to delay and blow up anything. I'm here relative to public health and public safety.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TERRY. Madam Chair, I too have great confidence in PHMSA to be able to determine whether or not the chemical creates any issues. Bitumen has been around for 91 years with heavy crude, and so I just don't think there is a need for additional delays or studies.

Ms. Quarterman has already said she is undertaking the study, and that will be included in her recommendation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MRS. CHRISTENSEN

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 112-181.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 6, after line 24, insert the following new paragraph:

(18) The Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement estimates that the Keystone XL pipeline would increase carbon pollution associated with United States fuel

use by up to 23,000,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year, which is equivalent to the annual emissions from an extra 4,500,000 passenger vehicles.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 370, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Chair, I rise to introduce an amendment that would simply add a provision to H.R. 1938 to recognize that the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline would increase carbon emissions and make it harder to address global warming.

Permitting Keystone and allowing the transport of heavy petroleum product from the Canadian tar sands to refineries in the Gulf of Mexico has serious environmental and economic ramifications. Reports indicate that the production of fuel from tar sands can yield greenhouse gas emissions nearly three times as high as those produced from conventional extraction.

While my colleagues and I last Congress worked to reduce greenhouse emissions by 2020, Canada has projected that their emissions will grow 25 percent by 2020, with those from tar sands being the single largest contributor. This is not something that we should be working to expedite.

H.R. 1938 makes a series of findings related to the Keystone XL pipeline. Some of these findings are a matter of opinion, and some are just flat-out wrong. All of these findings share one characteristic—they all support the pipeline. And inconvenient facts are not included. In fact, there are a lot of inconvenient facts about the pipeline that the American people should know.

Tar sands require far more energy to extract and process than conventional crude oil.

□ 1550

The result is that emissions from using tar sands fuel are approximately 9 to as high as 37 percent higher than from our baseline fuel mix. This pipeline would almost double our current use of tar sands fuel. At a time when we're trying to curb carbon emissions and stop global warming, Keystone makes us more reliant on one of the dirtiest sources of fuel currently available.

In short, tar sands oil threatens our air, water, land, and economy, and will increase already dangerously high greenhouse gas emissions and demand for natural gas. It has no place in the clean energy economy.

On page 3-198 of the State Department's Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement, it is estimated that Keystone XL pipeline could increase carbon pollution associated with U.S. fuel use by up to 23 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent per year.

This is equivalent to the annual emissions from an extra 4.5 million passenger vehicles.

The SDEIS further indicates that most of the greenhouse gas emissions will come from the production of crude oil, refining of the crude oil, and combustion of the refined products. Transportation of the crude oil to the refinery and transportation of the products to the market also contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. This does not include the range of secondary carbon emissions to be considered as well.

In a letter to the State Department, our very own EPA indicated that the extra greenhouse gas emissions associated with this proposed project may range from 600 million to up to 1.15 billion tons of CO₂ over Keystone XL's lifecycle.

It's unfortunate that while the Department of State and EPA have recognized the huge risk that would be incurred, the proponents of H.R. 1938 simply ignore them. While some will tout that the Keystone XL will enhance energy security, the other side of this equation must be considered.

Now is not the time for us to increase harmful air emissions and further jeopardize the people in our environment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TERRY. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

THE CHAIR. The gentleman from Nebraska is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TERRY. Two points here: I think, number one, the gentlewoman's amendment really helps define what the real issue here is. It isn't with, necessarily, the pipeline or its placement of the pipeline or a chemical that's in it. It's actually about whether we're going to continue to use oil. As we use more oil, it gets heavier.

As I mentioned earlier with the amendment by the gentleman from Illinois, the EPA is doing this switch where you don't compare a heavy crude or sour to the same, like what's been brought in by Venezuela. Now you have to compare it to a different type of sweeter crude or easier to refine crude.

The reality here—and that's the point that's made in the study itself, and the part that the gentlewoman reads from, it is actually noting that we're using a heavier crude. So I just want to point out that that's kind of an unfair comparison. We have got to do heavy to heavy to determine if there's going to be an increase in greenhouse gasses.

There's no rushing or expediting. This has been sitting around for 3 years. So it's really time to get up and do something.

At this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS).

Mr. SHIMKUS. This debate is about U.S. energy security, North American energy, and jobs.

The original Keystone pipeline cost \$2 billion, a thousand U.S. jobs. The expansion of the refinery bordering my

district and the chairwoman's district is thousands of jobs and an expansion of the refinery. Keystone XL will allow us to create thousands of new jobs expanding the pipeline, expanding new refineries, getting down to the refineries in Texas.

The Canadians are going to build this pipeline in one or two directions. They're either going to go south to help us become North American reliant and secure in energy, or they're going to build this pipeline west to put it on tankers and ship it to China.

Now, I would ask my colleagues: What's more environmentally safe, secure, and sound—a pipeline or a super-tanker? What's better for our country—have that oil coming to the United States or that oil going to China?

I think the answer is clear. We can become North American energy independent. The Keystone XL pipeline is part of that.

I would ask my colleagues to vote against the amendment.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Chair, my amendment really says nothing about the placement. This is also a problem. And while I realize that we will be using oil for a long time, it's time for us to begin to move towards a clean and greener economy and to slow down global warming and do what we can to protect the public health.

My amendment is in direct opposition to the finding. The finding says the XL pipeline will result in no significant change in total U.S. or global greenhouse gas emissions, when EPA and also the supplemental EIS from the Department of State clearly says: range from 600 million to 1.15 billion tons of CO₂, assuming the life cycle that's projected, and also that the range could be equivalent to greenhouse gas emissions from the combustion of fuels in approximately—this is from the State Department—588,000 to 4.5 million passenger vehicles, or the CO₂ emissions of combusting fuels used to provide energy consumed by approximately 255,000 to 1.9 million homes.

In addition to that, the social cost has not been assessed. The social cost to agricultural productivity, human health, property damages from flood risk, ecosystem services due to climate change. So even though this has been under discussion for a long time, there are a lot of things that have not been considered.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TERRY. I still am in opposition because it doesn't really accurately reflect the statements within the EIS, the Environmental Impact Studies.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands has 15 seconds remaining.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Chair, while we're trying to reduce the emis-

sions, when you look at Canada, primarily because of the tar sands, their emissions are projected to rise by 25 percent. So I continue to offer my amendment and ask for the support of my colleagues.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. COHEN

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 112-181.

Mr. COHEN. I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 6, lines 14 through 17, amend paragraph (16) to read as follows:

(16) TransCanada Corporation's first wholly owned oil pipeline in the United States is the recently built Keystone I, which spilled 12 times in the United States and 21 times in Canada in less than one year of operation. Despite claims that it is "the safest pipeline ever built", Keystone was recently shut down by the United States Government because it was deemed a "threat to life, property, and the environment".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 370, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. COHEN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As the State Department and the U.S. public consider whether the proposed Keystone XL tar stands pipeline is in the national interest, it is critical that the most accurate information be made available. That's why I have offered an amendment to this legislation that eliminates a rhetorical, baseless safety claim and replaces it with a substantiated factual statement.

TransCanada is engaged in a high-stakes public relations campaign to brand the Keystone XL pipeline as safe and their company as responsible operators. I'm sure that BP Oil said the same thing about Deepwater. But that wasn't true. Just because they say it doesn't make it true. It is one thing for a foreign oil company to employ misleading rhetoric, but it's not the place of the House of Representatives to endorse these mistruths.

It only requires a brief objective glance at the safety record to realize that TransCanada's meritorious safety claims do not withstand even the slightest scrutiny. When selling Keystone—that's not Keystone XL, which we're looking at; Keystone, another pipeline—to the U.S., TransCanada claimed the pipeline was "state-of-the-art," and even went as far as dubbing it the "safest pipeline ever built." Well, we're in trouble.

□ 1600

After 1 disastrous year of operation, TransCanada's rosy claims are not reflective of the reality that exists.

In less than 12 months of operation, the so-called "safest pipeline ever built" has spilled 12 times in the United States—the dirty dozen—and 21 times in Canada. Following that 12th domestic spill, the Department of Transportation shut down pipeline operations because Keystone was deemed "a threat to life, property and the environment."

Since Keystone is TransCanada's first wholly owned pipeline in the United States, TransCanada's safety record is off to a pretty bad start. TransCanada's misleading safety claim extends far beyond their simple rhetoric. Here are three of the most egregious claims for Keystone XL:

Number one: TransCanada claims that, if and when the Keystone XL pipeline has a leak, it will shut down the pipeline almost instantly.

Unfortunately, spills on the Keystone pipeline have demonstrated that TransCanada's theoretical response is far better than their actual response. In May, when Keystone spilled 21,000 gallons, it took TransCanada 44 minutes to shut down the pipeline after the spill. It would have taken even longer had it not been for a landowner who called in the spill, which shot a six-story-high gusher of toxic oil into the air. You'd have thought it was Texas.

Number two: TransCanada suggests there is little risk of a spill on the Keystone XL pipeline.

However, the only independent assessment of the worst case spills for Keystone XL indicates that TransCanada has greatly understated the severity and frequency of significant spills, an estimate that is more than 800 percent lower than what would likely occur.

Over the last few weeks, we have all witnessed the irreparable damage caused by the 40,000-gallon Silvertip pipeline spill in the Yellowstone River. Now try to imagine how devastating a 6.95 million-, almost a 7 million, gallon spill of more toxic oil would be on the Yellowstone River. A spill of this magnitude and devastation is possible if we approve the Keystone XL.

Number three: TransCanada claims that Keystone XL would be built of thicker steel and operate at lower than allowed pressures.

But major segments of Keystone XL would be made of thinner steel than Exxon Mobil's failed Silvertip pipeline. So while Keystone XL would operate at lower than allowed pressures, it would still operate at nearly twice the pressure of the Silvertip. Additionally, Keystone XL would be transporting tar sands, a substance which is far more corrosive and volatile than conventional oil.

Even a cursory review of TransCanada's safety claims reveals a

web of exaggerations, understatements and lies that have been carefully woven together to manufacture an image of safety and responsibility.

It is critical that the American people have an accurate depiction of the dangers of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline. Congress must exercise more scrutiny and not take TransCanada's manufactured rhetoric at face value. We cannot afford to let TransCanada once again dupe us into permitting an even more dangerous pipeline, for as they say, "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me." Somebody from Texas tried to say that once, but we know the statement.

I urge support for my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TERRY. I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. POE of Texas). The gentleman from Nebraska is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TERRY. There is no doubt that the facts are that, on the Keystone but not the Keystone XL, there have been 12 leaks, 12 leaks of as little as 5 gallons to 400 barrels from a recent one. Those were determined to be caused, not by the safety of the pipeline but by valves that were mal-manufactured, where there was a manufacturing problem, but within a 12-hour period, they were up and running again. Those have all been replaced. That's the type of response that we expect under our pipeline laws.

I think the issues here are better placed in our discussions of pipeline safety, on which both the Transportation Committee and Energy and Commerce Committee will begin working soon, so I just don't see the need for this type of an amendment, or fact-finding, to be put into this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. MURPHY OF CONNECTICUT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 112-181.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, lines 18 through 23, amend paragraph (7) to read as follows:

(7) Consultants employed by Canadian tar sands companies have publicly stated that

without the Keystone XL pipeline, Canada's tar sands will be "landlocked" and unable to be exported overseas. There are significant barriers to construction of a pipeline to ports on the West Coast of Canada. The Keystone XL pipeline, which would service Port Arthur and the Port of Houston, would allow tar sands crude to be exported. Permitting the pipeline would provide an export route to China where none now exists.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 370, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, my amendment before us today asks a simple question:

Why should America shoulder new environmental risks to help power the economy of China?

Many Members have come to the floor today to document the considerable ecological and public health threats posed by the development of the TransCanada Keystone XL pipeline. In addition to producing 40 percent more life cycle greenhouse gas emissions than conventional oil, the recent Exxon pipeline spill in Montana's Yellowstone River serves as a stark reminder of the very real risks posed by these kinds of pipeline projects.

However, in discounting these facts, the proponents of Keystone XL assert that, without the new pipeline, Canada's dirty tar sands oil will be shipped to China and to other overseas markets. This simply isn't true. Without access to a major new shipping terminal and refining hub on the gulf coast, Canada's tar sands will remain stranded on the North American continent.

Indeed, Keystone XL is essential to the economic expansion of Canadian tar sands because it opens up new trade routes to the East. Current pipeline infrastructure carries tar sands oil to the Midwest but no further. By 2015, existing markets will no longer be sufficient to absorb this increased tar sands production. So the Keystone XL pipeline will provide that new market to China for this oil.

Indeed, earlier this year, the CEO of Valero Energy, one of the companies that has signed up to ship oil through Keystone XL, said this: that the future of refining in the United States is in exports.

So America is increasingly now the global middleman in world oil exports. Our oil exports have doubled in the last 5 years. The question is this: Shouldn't we have some say in where our oil goes?

With the construction of this new pipeline, we are going to be shouldering all of the increased environmental risks that come with its construction to help meet the growing overseas oil demand of our economic competitors.

How does that further the energy independence of the United States?

So the amendment we are offering today with Mr. COHEN and Mr. WELCH will merely make it clear that a decision to permit Keystone XL is a decision to, in part, help promote North American oil exports to China. Whether you like that or don't like that, we should at least admit that that is one of the byproducts of our action today. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and to face the reality of the Keystone XL pipeline rather than just the rhetoric.

At this point, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

Mr. COHEN. I appreciate the gentleman from Connecticut for yielding time.

I rise in support of the Murphy-Cohen-Welch amendment. This amendment sheds light on the oil industry's attempt to pressure the U.S. into approving Keystone XL by threatening to export tar sands to China if we do not approve the pipeline.

As Mr. MURPHY has well stated, Canada has already said themselves they can't get that oil out of Canada without this pipeline, that they can't get it to China unless they build a pipeline. They want to build a pipeline through America over one of our most important aquifers—threatening our environment and our drinking water so that Canada can get some oil to possibly go to China.

□ 1610

Canada cannot get it to China without going through the United States, and it makes no sense. The fact is this amendment, like the previous amendments, is just simply putting the facts, the truth, into this particular paper.

There is nothing wrong with these. Nobody disputes the facts. In fact, the gentleman agreed on the previous amendment that there had been a dozen leaks of the Keystone pipeline. He mentioned that some of them were very small. The average one is a thousand barrels.

So if the Keystone pipeline, which was the safest in the world, was not safe, what's wrong with mentioning it in the findings?

And the same thing here. What they said about China is just not true. The only feasible route to export tar sand to China is the Keystone XL. And that's what they're looking to do, because it's not going to affect the United States' use of oil, oil as a commodity that the Canadians want to sell, and they're not going to give it to us any cheaper than they're going to give it to anybody else. They want to make money, but they've got opposition in their own country as well.

We need to look out for the American people and not have some situation where maybe because Canada is helping

us with oil in the Middle East that we're helping them with oil through our Midwest. America's Midwest is too important to sacrifice to some misguided adventure that Canada got into with us and the Mideast all because of oil.

So I would support the Murphy-Cohen-Welch amendment.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. I would like to yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH).

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Chairman, I stand in support of Mr. MURPHY's amendment, and this amendment replaces misleading findings about the Keystone XL pipeline's critical faster implementation.

The only problem that I see was the majority's argument in that Canada has really—and I agree with Mr. COHEN—that Canada has no way to send oil to China now and no realistic prospect of ever sending oil to China. They won't do anything any time soon.

So I think that this is a common-sense amendment, and I certainly stand in support of this amendment.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TERRY. I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Nebraska is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TERRY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

First of all, the purpose of this pipeline is so that American citizens will have a reliable source of fuel made in America. That's the whole point of this. And there are companies that are expanding their refineries right now to be able to accept this crude.

Now, it's been stated that if we don't use it, then this is not going to be used because it's landlocked, but nothing could be further from the truth. It's only 800 miles from the point that the oil sands will be used to the Vancouver coast where it could be put on and would be put on tankers to be shipped to China.

Now, Enbridge is already in the promoting process for a pipeline that will link the Athabasca fields in northern Alberta to a terminal in Kitimat, British Columbia. It's 525,000 barrels per day. So the statement that it will be landlocked and never used is just simply flat wrong. That is not what the Canadians will do.

To say that it's going to be sent to our refineries in Oklahoma, Chicago, Texas, and Louisiana so it could be then refined and put on a tanker then to go south through the Panama Canal and through just makes no sense because we have the most stringent regulations in refining and on cleaning, or a clean process that adds a great deal more to the cost of refining, so it just makes no economic sense to do that. It would be much cheaper just to put a

pipeline to the west coast of Canada, put it on tankers. It would be much cheaper to do that.

At this point I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY).

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman from Nebraska.

That line through Canada, less than 800 miles long, to add an additional almost 10,000 miles to go through the Panama Canal to Shanghai doesn't make economic sense. And let's keep in mind, Canada is our neighbor. They are our friend, our most consistent and reliable ally, and I trust the way they are going to be working on many things with us.

But I also trust the workers who will work on this pipeline, American workers from here in the United States, well-trained people who have gone through good training programs as apprentices and journeymen. Construction of this pipeline will generate about \$20 billion in economic output, perhaps \$13 billion in direct work on the pipeline itself.

Now, some estimates have said that for every \$1 billion you spend on infrastructure, it yields about 35,000 jobs. That's some jobs that go for manufacturing, that's some jobs that go for the actual construction, and some jobs that go for all the supports that help those workers as well as the places that they will spend money—steamfitters and welders who make \$45 to \$50 an hour, operating engineers, laborers who will earn between \$23 and \$31 an hour.

And, yes, this is a time we need to do this, not with more delays and more problems, but at a time when we need jobs.

Let's keep this in mind too: Construction of this pipeline with oil from Canada is going to make us less dependent on OPEC. Right now we send \$129 billion a year to OPEC. That's \$129 billion in foreign aid which we do not have to send to those countries there, \$129 billion which we wouldn't have to be spending on countries that sometimes turn around and use U.S. dollars against our soldiers and then we end up fighting for both sides on the war on terror.

This is what we need to keep in mind: This is a jobs bill; this is a bill dealing with a friend; and this is a bill that makes a lot of sense, and we shouldn't put more delays and restrictions on this because we have to get off of our addiction to OPEC oil.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Chairman, I urge defeat of this onerous and job-killing amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Connecticut will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. RUSH

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 112-181.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 7, line 14, strike "30 days" and insert "120 days".

Page 7, lines 18 and 19, strike "November 1, 2011" and insert "January 1, 2012".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 370, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Chairman, today's debate on fast-tracking the Keystone XL pipeline by 2 months reminds me of a saying that adequately sums up the fight before this Congress: Good sense minus common sense equals nonsense.

With the current crisis our Nation faces on lifting the debt ceiling and other priorities for the American people, including the economy and jobs, it is incomprehensible that we are here debating a bill that is totally and absolutely unnecessary, completely futile, and is not even worth not one millisecond of Congress' time.

Mr. Chairman, as written, this bill will force the administration to issue the Presidential permit for the pipeline within 30 days of the environmental impact statement and no later than November 1, 2011, regardless of whether or not the review process has been completed.

This arbitrary, willy-nilly time line would reduce the allocated time that the Federal agencies will have to determine the national interest in deciding this proposal by almost two-thirds of the time that they need, while also reducing or eliminating the 30-day public comment period.

□ 1620

Mr. Chairman, the amendment that I am offering would allow for 120 days after the final environmental impact or no later than January 1, 2012, for the President to issue a final decision on the Keystone XL pipeline.

I believe that public input is a vital and necessary part of the permitting process, and I also believe that it is important for the various departments to weigh in with their national interest determinations, which this bill would severely curtail, if not completely eliminate. In fact, in conversations that my office has held with the State

Department and the EPA, we were informed that it would be close to impossible for the responsible agencies to complete their due diligence and reply by the arbitrary timeline of November 1, as this bill would mandate. Additionally, just yesterday, the State Department publicly stated that this bill was “unnecessary” since the agency already plans to reach a final decision on the Keystone XL by the end of the year, after first holding a series of public hearings in the very six States that would be affected by the enactment of this bill. Mr. Chairman, whether you support the Keystone XL pipeline or not, it is extremely important that all of the relevant information and consequent impacts be considered so that an informed decision can be made.

So I urge all my colleagues to support my amendment, which would allow for the appropriate time period for the public and the different agencies to weigh in, while also mandating that a decision is made within a timely manner.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Nebraska is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Chairman, I first want to state that this is an infrastructure bill. This is a \$13 billion project, \$13 billion spent in the United States, employing United States workers.

On the surface, my friend from Illinois' amendment seems fairly innocuous, just delaying this decision by 61 days. The point that I would like to make is that we've just had it with the delays. This isn't rushing or expediting. This is only weeks away from the 3-year anniversary of the filing of the application when, in comparison to other transcontinental pipelines, the average is 18 to 24 months. So it's time that we act.

The date of November 1 was actually calculated by the time it would take the State Department, after they requested another round of town hall meetings, to have sufficient time to accomplish those. So there's just no reason to bump it back from this date, from November 1, 61 days to January 1.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER).

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. I thank the gentleman from Nebraska for generously yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I'm also from Illinois. And I can tell you, in Illinois there is a very tough economic environment right now. We've got a tough budget. There is a lot of talk about the budget right now. We've got huge unemployment. We've got people who desperately want to go to work. And when I do town hall meetings, when I'm in the 11th Congressional District in towns like Joliet, or when I'm in Ot-

tawa, or Princeton, or some of those towns, I get this from a lot of people: Why can't we just become energy independent? Why can't we just become energy secure? And I think that's a great question.

When people look at Washington, D.C., and they say, Washington, D.C., is broken, I think one example of that is the fact that we can't get our act together and do what we need to do to increase oil that we're not pulling in from the Middle East. I mean, it's just very basic. How can we do anything in this Congress if we can't even agree that our partners to the north can bring their oil here for our consumption so that we can come off of that oil we're buying from the Middle East that, in some way, is always going to fund the people that we are fighting overseas and the terrorists that we're fighting?

But when we talk about the Keystone pipeline, let me ask you, what does the pipeline mean for the United States and for Illinois? For starters, it means creating more than 100,000 American jobs. We've been seeing the jobs reports lately. They're not good. How would you like to add 100,000 American jobs? That's what we're offering. It means 1.3 million barrels of oil from our friends to the north, which means we need less oil from the Middle East, from Venezuela, and less oil from other countries that we can no longer rely on and are not friendly to the interests of the United States. What's bad about that? It means \$5.2 billion in new property tax revenue for bankrupt States, like my own, like Illinois.

The North American-Made Energy Security Act expedites a final decision on the Keystone XL pipeline, a project that would allow millions of barrels of Canadian oil supplies to flow into U.S. markets and requires the President to issue a final Presidential permit decision by November 1, 2001. This bill does not require the President to accept the benefits of the Keystone XL pipeline. It merely requires him to make a long overdue decision on this pipeline.

The State Department has, at their discretion, the authority to decide if the U.S. benefits from this. The fact is that someone will benefit from the oil out of Canada. If it's not the United States, it will be China. Unless we take immediate action to expand the Keystone pipeline, it will be American businesses, American consumers, and those who are unemployed that are desperately seeking a job in this terrible economy who will suffer the consequences from our inaction.

According to a Department of Energy report, the pipeline extension will “essentially eliminate” our oil imports from the Middle East. I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment and support the final passage.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Chairman, I really want my friend from Illinois to know

that I don't have to travel to Joliet, Illinois, or any other part of Illinois; I don't even have to come down to his district in Peoria to see unemployment, to see the joblessness. I am not standing here fighting against jobs. I am fighting for jobs. But I think at the same time that we fight for jobs, we have to also fight so that the American people have input in terms of making decisions such as this. Mr. Chairman, I also believe that at the end of the day, we want to ensure that this pipeline benefits America and not China.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TERRY. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MS. HANABUSA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 112-181.

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 7, after line 23, insert the following new subsection:

“(e) WORST-CASE DISCHARGE SCENARIO CERTIFICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—No Presidential Permit shall be issued approving the construction and operation of the Keystone XL pipeline unless the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, certifies that the applicant—

“(A) has calculated a worst-case oil spill scenario for the proposed pipeline; and

“(B) has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Secretary and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration that the applicant possesses the capability and technology to respond immediately and effectively to such worst-case oil spill scenario.

“(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, may waive the requirement under paragraph (1) if the applicant has already completed a worst-case discharge scenario analysis and established that it possesses the capability and technology to respond immediately and effectively to such worst-case oil spill scenario.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 370, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hawaii.

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

□ 1630

Mr. Chairman, this amendment requires that prior to the Presidential permit approving the construction and operation of the Keystone XL pipeline, that it will not issue until such time as the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the PHMSA, certify that the applicant has calculated a worst-case oil spill scenario for the proposed pipeline and has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Secretary and the PHMSA that the applicant possesses the capability and technology to respond immediately and effectively to the worst-case scenario.

Mr. Chairman, the reason this amendment is so necessary is because we are talking about a 2,000-mile pipeline from Alberta to the gulf coast. Actually, according to the bill itself, it will increase the production; and the pipeline will carry 700,000 to 1.290 million barrels of oil in a day.

This pipeline will go over important aquifers; and what we need to recognize is that the people of this great country, after experiencing the BP oil spill, expect us to address and recognize that that type of catastrophe may occur. And what this amendment does is it gives the people that assurance.

I would also like to say, Mr. Chairman, that part of this amendment also gives the Secretary the opportunity to waive the requirement. If the Secretary and the PHMSA believe that the applicant has, in fact, completed a worst-case discharge scenario, then they can say that this provision is no longer necessary.

So, Mr. Chairman, this is really for the people. It gives the people peace of mind that, in fact, we have addressed the situation, especially when we're going over aquifer and many people's lands, 2,000 miles.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Nebraska is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TERRY. I appreciate the thoughts of the gentlelady from Hawaii. Coming from Nebraska, where it's the Sand Hills and the sensitive area and the Ogallala aquifer, I want to make sure that the people in my State have the peace of mind and the confidence that the worst-case scenarios have already been modeled out and written into their plans. In fact, that's the whole premise of PHMSA. And so the analysis of a worst-case scenario spill is already part of the application. It's part of the environmental impact statement and the supplemental environmental impact statement.

Furthermore, it's demonstrated its response plan in the event of the worst-

case discharge, that the pumps will be stopped in 9 minutes and the valves will shut in 3 minutes. So the worst-case scenarios are actually part of the record so that the entities that have to make the recommendation to the President already have that determination. Then they'll use those facts and figures and models to determine what to recommend to the President. Then the President can make that recommendation.

So I believe that this amendment is really superfluous and unnecessary.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Chairman, I understand what the proponent of this measure is stating. However, let us also recognize that this bill, in its own requirement, says that not later than 30 days after the issuance of the final environmental impact statement, the President shall issue an order either granting or denying the Presidential permit.

We're not here to slow this up. We're actually here to assist them if this is really what they want to do. The reason why is this: if you're very familiar with the environmental impact statement process, and we are in the comment period right now, but you know that after the comment period is done, that what will then happen is that you will then be able to file challenges to the EIS itself.

What this does is it then creates the opportunity to say, in a challenge, to an EIS, the sufficiency of which, if it's challenged on the fact that it did not properly address the worst-case scenario, that there is a process in the law itself which will permit them to say, hey, we can look at the worst-case scenario. And I believe that any kind of construction project such as this, it would be the worst-case scenario argument that would bring it to a complete halt.

So, given that, Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this amendment because it really will give the people the peace of mind; and if this is a project worthy of going forward, that it does assist in that process.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Chairman, I want to give a degree of confidence that this scenario's already been set forth. This is the environmental study, pages 3-99: maximum spill volumes. It's already been modeled out. It's already been determined.

And just to provide further confidence, even the EPA, that wrote a letter a few months ago, did not say anything about the maximum spills and whether the responses were appropriate or not. Most of theirs was on greenhouse gases. So this issue is pretty well settled. The facts are there for those who will make the recommendations. I request defeat of this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Hawaii will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. JOHNSON OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in House Report 112-181.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 7, after line 23, insert the following new subsection:

(e) REQUIRED STUDY.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (e), final approval of construction and operation of the Keystone XL pipeline shall not occur until the President has determined that the appropriate Federal agency has completed a study of the health impacts of increased air pollution in communities near refineries that will process up to 830,000 barrels per day of tar sands crude transported through the Keystone XL pipeline, including an assessment of the cumulative air pollution impacts on these communities, many of which already experience unhealthy levels of air pollution.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 370, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to speak today on H.R. 1938, the North American-Made Energy Security Act of 2011, and on my amendment to this legislation.

I oppose H.R. 1938, which would accelerate the approval of the Keystone Koch Brothers XL pipeline. No one knows how much air pollution this pipeline will cause, or how the pollution will impact the public health.

My amendment, which has been endorsed by the National Resources Defense Council and the Sierra Club, is common sense. I'm simply requesting a thorough analysis of the potential health risks that should be completed before any decision is made to begin construction.

Even though the State Department has submitted two environmental impact statements on the Keystone Koch Brothers XL pipeline, the Environmental Protection Agency has found that neither statement included a satisfactory evaluation of the increased

air pollution that would come as a result of this pipeline's operation.

Communities surrounding the oil refineries that would be along the transportation route for these raw tar sands crude are already exposed to dirty air. Approval of the Koch Brothers Keystone XL pipeline will only make it worse.

The raw tar sands crude is more toxic and acidic than other types of crude. Raw tar sands crude produces significantly more harmful pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions than conventional crude oil due to the complex refining process it must go through before it reaches gas pumps in China.

As this type of crude has only been exported to the United States from Canada for a relatively short period of time, there has not been a thorough study on how its transport would effect air pollution in our Nation. It's troubling that the construction of the Keystone Koch Brothers XL pipeline, which could transport 900,000 barrels of this crude oil daily, should take place before such a study is ever done.

We have a responsibility to the American people to properly assess what risks the construction of this pipeline may pose to our health. It would be irresponsible for us to sweep these concerns under the rug, just to rush this project to the finish line.

□ 1640

Valid questions have been raised about the health risks associated with the increased air pollution this pipeline will produce, and these questions deserve legitimate answers. For this reason, I am requesting that a study be conducted to measure the health impacts of raw tar sands crude pollution in communities surrounding the refineries where the Keystone-Koch XL pipeline would operate. If you share my commitment to safeguarding Americans' health, I ask that you approve my amendment and allow for such a study to be done before we make any decision on the pipeline's construction.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Nebraska is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TERRY. Thank you.

Let me assure the gentleman from Georgia that part of the environmental impact study based on the EPA modeling inherently includes the impact of health around the communities. So I am confident that the Department of Energy and the Department of State will have the necessary health impact data to make the proper recommendation to the President, and the President will then be able to rely on those or review the data himself before issuing it. But to require an additional study on top of the ones that have al-

ready been done appears to me to just simply be an act of trying to slow the process down.

Let me remind the Chairman that we are on the third-year anniversary of this particular application, whereas ordinarily these types of transborder pipeline applications are resolved within 18 to 24 months. The owner, TransCanada—TransCanada is a Canadian company—they've agreed to all of the recommendations that have come forth from all of the draft environmental impact studies and supplemental, so I really do not want additional studies layered on additional studies layered on additional studies to slow this down.

This is a \$13 billion construction project, not funded by the government, that will employ at least 20,000 union contractors and 100,000 to 200,000 employees to help build the refineries and to work the refineries in the United States. This is the jobs bill. This is getting people back to work. This is an infrastructure bill. Let's get this decision done. The data's available. It can be done by November 1. I urge the defeat of this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. I yield myself the balance of my time.

The gentleman from Nebraska is incorrect in terms of the Environmental Protection Agency having conducted a study of the increased air pollution that would come as a result of this pipeline's operation.

The State Department has submitted two environmental impact statements on the Keystone XL/Koch brothers pipeline, but the Environmental Protection Agency has found that neither statement included a satisfactory evaluation of the increased air pollution that would come as a result of this pipeline's operation. So I wanted to correct the record on that.

Last but not least, I want this body to know that it is the health of Americans that is most important here as opposed to making money for an oil company.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TERRY. I yield myself the balance of my time.

I hold up the United States Department of State report here. A cooperating agency in the development of the report is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA. The actual study was done by the Department of Energy using the EPA standards and modeling, so I think that may be where the confusion is entering here. I didn't state that the EPA did the study. I've always said that the Department of Energy, using EPA's modeling and standards, did it, but the EPA was a partner in this and had made their recommendations on it. Again, what we're requesting is a redundant study being done, and I urge the defeat of this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Members are advised not to traffic the well while another is under recognition.

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON
LEE OF TEXAS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in House Report 112-181.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 7, after line 23, insert the following new subsection:

(e) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States must decrease its dependence on oil from countries which are hostile to the interests of the United States. Canada has long been a strong trading partner, and increased access to their energy resources will create jobs in the United States.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 370, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I am glad I'm able to rise and speak about legislation that involves one of our closest allies, Canada, and because this is a relationship with Canada, and because it is an international issue, I'm assured that in the process, we will have significant oversight that includes the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretaries of Defense, Commerce, Transportation, Energy, Homeland Security, and the Attorney General who will have to comment on this application before the conclusion and the final decision. That is good news.

I also think it's important, as we discuss what the potential of this relationship is and the opportunity for oil coming from a friendly neighbor, to be reminded that many of us have said over and over again that we must cease to rely upon foreign oil.

In fact, in a Senate hearing when Egypt was beginning to, in essence, explode, Members said, watch Egypt, and we must lessen our dependence on foreign oil. Obviously Egypt is not one of

our major sources of energy, but they were beginning to see the ripple effect in the Mideast of what has been called the Arab Spring. For many of us, we realize that it is a long, long winter as our friends in the Mideast seek peace. So this is an important statement about our commitment to creating jobs, but also it is an important statement on relieving or ceasing the dependence of the United States on foreign oil.

Let me just take one State's economy and realize what would happen with this particular effort. There would be a \$2.3 billion investment in the Texas economy, creating more than 50,000 jobs in the Houston area, providing \$48 million in State and local taxes, increase the gross State product by \$1.9 billion.

But I don't choose to be selfish in my amendment, and my amendment is a sense of Congress that says that it is the sense of Congress that the United States must decrease its dependence on oil from countries that are hostile to the interests of the United States and that Canada has been a strong trading partner, and increasing access to their energy resources will help create jobs in the United States. If I were to add to that, I would say continue the strong relationship between the United States and Canada.

In addition, I think it is important to note that the President of the United States has indicated that we should decrease our reliance on foreign oil.

□ 1650

In this instance, I believe that we are making an effort toward that. Do I believe that we should, in essence, cross our environmental Ts? Absolutely. So I would ask my colleagues to support my amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Chairman, I rise, claiming the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Nebraska is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TERRY. I would like to inform the Chair and the gentlelady from Texas that we think that her amendment reflects the thoughts of the American people, and we agree with it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. May I inquire as to the time I have remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Texas has 2 minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I thank the gentleman very much for his agreement.

Let me give a famous quote: "Can we all get along?" I mentioned the different agencies that will have oversight. I have listened to a number of concerns about safety, security, and health. I frankly believe we can do it all. We can increase jobs here up to 300,000 and we can pay attention to the

issues of environmental safety and security.

I think it will be important for TransCanada to be able to address the question of spills, important for there to be discussions about protecting against toxic chemicals, important to disarm farmers—when I say disarm them, about fears about the pipeline in their area.

I've worked on pipelines. I know there is a lot of work that goes into construction, a lot of overall State laws that regulate the building. And so putting forward more safety procedures and standards, being concerned about the public health, and making sure that we address the concerns of all Americans is an important step.

But I think we have a bottom line here: the importance of lessening our dependence on foreign oil, and as well to be able to ensure that jobs are created here in America. That's what we are sent to Congress to do: to create these jobs, to stand alongside our neighbors and make sure they have a safe environment while they work, and produce an economy that is known only to America, the greatest economy in the world.

I ask my colleagues to support this amendment.

I thank the Chair for this opportunity to explain my amendment #6 to H.R. 1938 "North American Made Energy Security Act," expressing the sense of Congress that it is imperative that we decrease our dependency on oil from nations hostile to our national interest. Canada has long been a strong trading partner, and increased access to their energy resources will create jobs in the United States.

I represent the 18th Congressional District in Houston, TX, our Nation's energy capital. I understand the vital role that the oil and gas industry plays in our economy and will continue to play in the future. Our nation needs a concrete and viable strategy for gaining independence from foreign oil and gas sources. These strategies need balance on the one hand this pipeline will create jobs and on the other we must weigh the costs associated. Upon careful and deliberate considerations of our energy needs, our need for jobs, and our need to protect our national security will result in finding a comprehensive energy strategy that works.

Houston is the fourth most populous city in the United States, and is home to nearly 3,500 energy companies and related firms. There is no denying the importance the energy industry has in creating jobs in Houston and across our Nation. I understand the need to put the hard-working people of the Gulf region back to work, and I believe it can be done in compromise with The Department of Interior. We have all heard the famous phrase "can't we all just get along." I believe that we can get along.

I have consistently brought attention to our dependence on oil coming from nations in the Middle East who are in turmoil and have shifting views of the United States. I offer this amendment to call attention to the national security implications of our continued depend-

ency on foreign oil imports. I also, offer this amendment to draw attention to the need to create jobs here in the United States.

The United States imports 49% of all the oil we use. In 2010, 16% of oil imports came from OPEC countries in Africa and South America, with another 9% coming from OPEC nations in the Persian Gulf. Relying on oil imports from hostile regions greatly weakens our energy security.

A variety of events have caused increases in the price of oil over the last decade. In 2003, strikes shut down oil production in Venezuela, increasing oil prices of other OPEC nations. A 2004 terrorist attack in Saudi Arabia caused a sudden increase in oil prices, as did militant attacks in Nigeria in 2003, 2007 and 2008.

With the current political unrest brought by the Arab Spring, our oil supply is constantly threatened by hostile nations, and circumstances beyond our control. Oil is an integral part of the U.S. economy. 40% of the nation's total energy requirements are met by oil, including 94% of the energy used in transportation, and 41% of the energy used by the industrial sector.

Increases in the price of oil affect average American consumers as well as industry. Last week, the average price of gas in Houston ranged from \$3.57 to \$3.85, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration's weekly retail gasoline index.

Increasing the amount of oil imported from Canada is beneficial to both our energy security and economy. Canada provides a far more stable source of oil than many of the OPEC countries, and importing Canadian oil often yields investment in U.S. infrastructure.

Additionally, Canada has been a longtime ally of the United States, and an important trading partner. In fact, the U.S. and Canada represent the world's largest two-way trading relationship, and for every U.S. dollar spent on Canadian products, including oil, 90 cents is returned to the U.S. economy.

In addition to providing a stable and reliable energy source, the Keystone pipeline XL, which we are considering in H.R. 1938, will generate \$20 billion of private sector investment in the U.S. economy, as well as \$585 million in new taxes for states and communities along the pipeline route.

The American oil and gas industry are inextricably linked to our economy, and we must take steps to ensure that the U.S. remains competitive in the energy sector. According to an independent review of the Keystone XL Pipeline Project and its potential economic impact, during the construction period the pipeline will stimulate \$20 billion in new spending for the U.S. economy, spur the creation of 118,000 jobs and generate more than \$585 million in state and local taxes for the states along the pipeline route. When Keystone XL is operational, the states along the pipeline route are expected to receive an additional \$5.2 billion in property taxes during the operating life of the pipeline, according to the analysis.

However, there are some aspects of the legislation that require further review. I am particularly concerned about the implications of Congress legislating to force a decision of executive authority, as well as the environmental risks that may be associated with the pipeline.

As a Representative of Houston, the nation's energy capital, I certainly understand the importance of the energy industry with regard to our economy. The energy sector creates jobs, and increased energy production is good for the economy, but I do have reservations about the precedent set by this legislation. Ordinarily, we do not require a permit for constructing oil pipelines. However, any pipeline that connects the United States and another country is subject to executive permission, conveyed through a Presidential permit. Historically, any pipeline crossing international borders has required executive permission by way of a Presidential permit. Executive Order 13337 designates the Secretary of State as able to receive applications for Presidential permits. TransCanada submitted its permit applications to the Department of State in September of 2008. Environmental impact review has been underway since January of 2009, and has included public comment periods with extensions for additional input from impacted communities. The State Department is afforded primary jurisdiction over the proposal for the pipeline and expects to make a decision by the end of the year. Forcing the State Department and President Obama to render a decision before completing a thorough review is in no one's interest. Currently several agencies have worked together to determine the feasibility of this pipeline.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be released by the EPA in August, at which time, the Secretaries of Defense, Commerce, Transportation, Energy, and Homeland Security, along with the Attorney General, and EPA Administrator will be asked for their views.

It is imperative that we achieve energy independence; we cannot continue to rely on foreign sources of oil from regions of the world which are unstable, and in some cases, opposed to our interests. Accordingly, there is no issue more integral to our economic and national security than energy independence.

We must encourage the development of innovative new technologies that create jobs; we must focus on reducing carbon emissions, protecting consumers, and increasing production of clean and renewable energy sources to truly modernize our infrastructure.

Yet, oil and gas companies provide jobs and serve a valuable need, and must be instrumental in devising a pragmatic strategy for achieving energy independence. We need new solutions, but they must strike a balance that will support continued growth in the oil and gas industry.

However, we must also carefully examine any project that impacts the environment to prevent lasting harmful effects to the nation and the planet. Before a decision is rendered on the current Keystone pipeline XL project, it is essential the proposal be thoroughly reviewed, and all environmental impact be evaluated.

We can work together to find a solution to our energy concerns upon which we can all agree. We can take the time to educate farmers who have valid concerns. We can brief environmental groups and seek their input from the planning stages to the implementation of the Process. We must not forget that the Canadian people also have an interest in pro-

tecting their environment. Certain parts of Canada are known for their pristine landscapes and nature conservatories. We must be prepared to advance and listen to the environmental concerns raised in the United States and Canada. We must protect both our citizens and the citizens of Canada.

The pipeline considered in this legislation transports tar sands oil, a high polluting fuel that produces high rates of carbon emissions. We must consider the potential for leaks and explosions that will release harmful toxins into the environment.

I am confident that both parties can find ways to work with the energy industry, the Administration, and other stakeholders to forge a compromise that will protect the environment without an adverse impact on the industry or consumers.

Rome was not built in a day; however, it was built on the backs of hard workers. At a time when our citizens seeking employment, many are struggling to live from one check to the next, it is imperative to review opportunities presented to us that will create a significant amount of jobs. We must utilize the technology and the resources we have at hand to advance our understanding of how to effectively process and use energy. We must acknowledge that we need energy. Our need for energy requires a comprehensive energy plan that will create jobs and decrease our dependence on countries that are hostile to our interests and indeed to our national security.

The oil resources currently available in Alberta, Canada are second to those available in Saudi Arabia. No one can argue that against the preference of getting oil from a stable country rather than from countries that are constantly in turmoil.

Canada has been our longest and strongest trading partner. Our countries share a common boarder and a common language. The sky will not fall if we build a pipeline. There is no doubt that we have all learned from the damage that can result by accidents caused by poor oversight.

I have thought about both the pros and the cons. I have carefully studied this issue. I believe that we must use the technology of today to advance the technology of the future. A lot has been made today of the recent pipeline explosion—has anyone asked why it occurred? How to prevent it from happening again?

Today, we are faced with looking at ways to decrease our dependence on oil from nations that are hostile to our interests. I support firmly advancing, if not this pipeline, then access to the oil resources in Canada. We must look at the thousands of jobs that can be created. There is .3 billion in revenue that can be generated. In the greater Houston area which has suffered so much job loss this will add thousands of jobs.

The arguments made have been balanced ones; however, when placed in context, when balanced against the need for working parents to have jobs that will feed their children during a time of economic crisis, then we must consider all options. I have long been and will continue to be a champion of the environment. Groups who have championed the environment are the very watchdogs we need to ensure its safety. At this time, our relationship

with Canada merits careful and deliberative consideration.

We must consider all of the aspects of this legislation, and I offer this amendment to express the Sense of Congress that, despite how we will individually vote on H.R. 1938, we are committed to reducing our dependency on foreign oil from hostile regions, or those that oppose the interests of the United States.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment and make very clear to the American people that we are dedicated to finding stable energy sources, reducing fuel costs, and creating jobs.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. KUCINICH

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 11 printed in House Report 112-181.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 7, after line 23, insert the following new subsection:

(e) MANIPULATION OF OIL MARKETS.—The President shall not issue a final order granting or denying the Presidential Permit for the Keystone XL pipeline until the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Federal Trade Commission, has certified that permitting the pipeline would not lead to manipulation of the United States oil market that would be detrimental to United States consumers.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 370, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chairman, Americans are turning to the Federal Government for relief from high gas prices. However, approval of the Keystone XL pipeline will lead to exactly the opposite result; it will actually raise gas prices—principally in the Midwest. In fact, some of the States that will suffer the worst gas price increases are the same ones that will have to bear the environmental burden of this pipeline.

This is not just my conclusion, this is the conclusion of TransCanada, the company that wants to build the Keystone XL pipeline. This is the conclusion of international energy consultant Purvin and Gertz, Inc., the company that TransCanada hired to evaluate its Keystone XL pipeline. And this is the conclusion of respected oil market economist Philip Verleger. That is why TransCanada wants to build this pipeline.

My amendment simply requires the Secretary of Energy to analyze the effect of the proposed pipeline on increased gas prices for American consumers and to determine if this pipeline is just an effort to manipulate the

market for crude oil in the United States.

The proposed pipeline would carry up to 900,000 barrels per day of tar sands oil from Alberta, Canada over 2,000 miles to refineries on the U.S. gulf coast. Proponents have claimed that it would bring down oil prices.

However, TransCanada's permit application to the Canadian Government for the pipeline included documents and testimony which said Canadian oil companies could use the pipeline to increase America's fuel bill by up to \$4 billion per year by limiting the supply of Canadian crude to Midwest refineries and rerouting it to gulf coast refineries. This benefit to Canadian oil companies was used by TransCanada to argue that approval of the pipeline was in Canada's interest, but this information was conveniently hidden when TransCanada applied for the U.S. Presidential permit from the State Department.

This information comes from a report by international energy consultant Purvin and Gertz, Inc., the company that TransCanada hired to evaluate its Keystone XL pipeline.

In section 3.4.3 of their report, they concluded that there was an oversupply of crude oil in the Midwest that resulted in lower prices for Canadian crude oil and that the Keystone XL pipeline would remove this oversupply and raise crude oil prices in the market. In section 3.4.5 of their report, they recite that "Keystone has reviewed the PGI assessment and agrees with its conclusions."

Through manipulation of U.S. oil markets, the Keystone XL pipeline will increase U.S. gas prices by 10 to 20 cents per gallon across the United States, according to respected oil market economist Phillip Verleger. However, the greatest price increase—twice as much by one estimate—will occur in 15 States, including my State of Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. It is estimated to increase prices by \$6.55 per barrel of crude oil in the Midwest and \$3 per barrel across the U.S.

This market manipulation will gouge American consumers, forcing them to hand over up to 3.9 billion hard-earned American dollars to foreign oil companies every year. While this boon may benefit TransCanada and Canadian oil shareholders, it will only further devastate the American people, our economy, and farmers who are already struggling financially and can't afford a gas price hike.

Americans want low gas prices. Permitting the Keystone XL pipeline will deliver the opposite by increasing prices at the pump and making Americans pay more and more for almost every commodity they purchase.

I urge my colleagues to protect Americans from being further gouged by foreign oil companies and to support my amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Nebraska is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TERRY. I strongly oppose this amendment. This is a poison pill, especially the way that this amendment is worded.

Now, the reality here is when this infrastructure of the pipeline is completed to U.S. refineries that are expanding to be able to accept this additional crude from Canada, we will have a reliable supply of at least 700,000 barrels per day—not relying on the Middle East as the gentlelady from Texas just spoke about, wherein the Arab Spring provided great uncertainty of which speculators took advantage.

But the reality here for the U.S. markets is that we won't have to deal with that uncertainty if we continue to take steps like the Keystone XL pipeline. Once again, a reliable resource of 700,000 to 1.3 million barrels per day will only deflate prices at the pump.

□ 1700

That's what the American citizens want. They want stability and reduced prices at the pump. It is a bogus argument to say that this pipeline is going to lead to an increase at the pump. It just doesn't make sense.

Now, what I believe is a strained conclusion of a comment made by a TransCanada employee that they can actually charge more, well, the reality is heavy crude is heavily discounted when compared to a sweet or lighter crude that is easier and less costly to refine. So there is a discount in there. But if you have a pipeline that easily transports and eliminates a lot of the costs of transporting and you have reliability, that does slightly increase the value to those buyers of that crude in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and other parts of the Midwest.

So the reality is this heavy crude still will not rise to the price of a sweet crude. The reality is the reliability of this oil coming to U.S. refineries will lower the price at the pumps, and that's what we should be doing, besides all of the jobs that will be created from this pipeline: 20,000 direct jobs created from this pipeline, energy security, an additional 100,000 to 200,000 jobs created on top of the construction.

So we need to move. We need the decision made. The data is here. They have enough time for additional comments to be able to make the decision by November 1.

I urge defeat of this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KUCINICH. How much time remains?

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. LATOURETTE). The gentleman from Ohio has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. KUCINICH. The bottom line is the people whose jobs depend on their being right, and a company with billions of dollars at stake, all concluded that increases in price of gas will especially hit the Midwest as a result of this pipeline. These aren't just employees of TransCanada; these people are experts, legal experts who put this in an application. This is not a bogus argument.

If that is a bogus argument, to my friend, then that information should be conveyed to the Government of Canada, because TransCanada's permit application to the Canadian Government for a pipeline included documents and testimony which said that Canadian oil companies could use the pipeline to increase America's fuel bill by \$4 billion per year by limiting the supply of Canadian crude to Midwest refineries and rerouting it to gulf coast refineries.

Stand up for the American consumer.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TERRY. American workers and American consumers will be better off. They will reap the advantages of a reliable source of energy, eliminating, or at least greatly reducing, the uncertainties that cause the gas price spikes at the pump. Let's defeat this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in House Report 112-181 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 1 by Mr. WELCH of Vermont.

Amendment No. 2 by Mr. RUSH of Illinois.

Amendment No. 3 by Ms. ESHOO of California.

Amendment No. 5 by Mr. COHEN of Tennessee.

Amendment No. 6 by Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut.

Amendment No. 7 by Mr. RUSH of Illinois.

Amendment No. 8 by Ms. HANABUSA of Hawaii.

Amendment No. 9 by Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

Amendment No. 11 by Mr. KUCINICH of Ohio.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. WELCH

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 164, noes 260, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 640]

AYES—164

Ackerman	Fudge	Oliver
Andrews	Garamendi	Pallone
Baca	Gibson	Pascarell
Baldwin	Grijalva	Pastor (AZ)
Bass (CA)	Hahn	Payne
Becerra	Hanabusa	Pelosi
Berkley	Hastings (FL)	Peters
Berman	Heinrich	Pingree (ME)
Bishop (NY)	Higgins	Polis
Blumenauer	Hirono	Price (NC)
Boswell	Holt	Quigley
Brady (PA)	Honda	Rangel
Braley (IA)	Hoyer	Reyes
Brown (FL)	Inslee	Richardson
Butterfield	Israel	Richmond
Capps	Jackson (IL)	Rothman (NJ)
Capuano	Johnson (GA)	Roybal-Allard
Carnahan	Johnson, E. B.	Ruppersberger
Carney	Kaptur	Rush
Carson (IN)	Keating	Ryan (OH)
Castor (FL)	Kildee	Sanchez, Loretta
Chu	Kind	Sarbanes
Cicilline	Kucinich	Schakowsky
Clarke (NY)	Langevin	Schiff
Clay	Larsen (WA)	Schrader
Cleaver	Larson (CT)	Schwartz
Clyburn	Lee (CA)	Scott (VA)
Cohen	Levin	Scott, David
Connolly (VA)	Lewis (GA)	Serrano
Conyers	Lipinski	Sherman
Cooper	Loebsack	Sires
Courtney	Lofgren, Zoe	Slaughter
Crowley	Lowe	Smith (WA)
Cummings	Lujan	Speier
Davis (CA)	Lynch	Stark
Davis (IL)	Maloney	Sutton
DeFazio	Markey	Thompson (CA)
DeGette	Matsui	Thompson (MS)
DeLauro	McCarthy (NY)	Tierney
Deutch	McCollum	Tonko
Dicks	McDermott	Towns
Dingell	McGovern	Tsongas
Doggett	McIntyre	Van Hollen
Doyle	McNerney	Velázquez
Edwards	Meeks	Walz (MN)
Ellison	Michaud	Wasserman
Engel	Miller (NC)	Schultz
Eshoo	Miller, George	Waters
Farr	Moore	Watt
Fattah	Moran	Waxman
Filner	Murphy (CT)	Welch
Fitzpatrick	Nadler	Wilson (FL)
Fortenberry	Napolitano	Woolsey
Frank (MA)	Neal	Wu
		Yarmuth

NOES—260

Adams	Austria	Bass (NH)
Aderholt	Bachus	Benishak
Akin	Barletta	Berg
Alexander	Barrow	Biggart
Altmire	Bartlett	Billbray
Amash	Barton (TX)	Blirakis

Bishop (GA)	Hall	Pearce
Black	Hanna	Pence
Blackburn	Harper	Perlmutter
Bonner	Harris	Peterson
Bono Mack	Hartzler	Petri
Boren	Hastings (WA)	Pitts
Boustany	Hayworth	Platts
Brady (TX)	Heck	Poe (TX)
Brooks	Hensarling	Pompeo
Broun (GA)	Herger	Posey
Buchanan	Herrera Beutler	Price (GA)
Bucshon	Hinojosa	Quayle
Buerkle	Hochul	Rahall
Burgess	Holden	Reed
Burton (IN)	Huelskamp	Rehberg
Calvert	Huizenga (MI)	Reichert
Camp	Hultgren	Renacci
Campbell	Hunter	Ribbie
Canseco	Hurt	Rigell
Cantor	Issa	Rivera
Capito	Jackson Lee	Roby
Cardoza	(TX)	Roe (TN)
Cassidy	Jenkins	Rogers (AL)
Chabot	Johnson (IL)	Rogers (KY)
Chaffetz	Johnson (OH)	Rogers (MI)
Chandler	Johnson, Sam	Rohrabacher
Coble	Jones	Rokita
Coffman (CO)	Kelly	Rooney
Cole	King (IA)	Ros-Lehtinen
Conaway	King (NY)	Roskam
Costa	Kingston	Ross (AR)
Costello	Kinzinger (IL)	Ross (FL)
Cravaack	Kissell	Royce
Crawford	Kline	Runyan
Crenshaw	Labrador	Ryan (WI)
Critz	Lamborn	Scalise
Cuellar	Lance	Schilling
Culberson	Landry	Schmidt
Davis (KY)	Lankford	Schock
Denham	Latham	Schweikert
Dent	LaTourette	Scott (SC)
DesJarlais	Latta	Scott, Austin
Diaz-Balart	Lewis (CA)	Sensenbrenner
Dold	LoBiondo	Sessions
Donnelly (IN)	Long	Sewell
Dreier	Lucas	Shimkus
Duffy	Luetkemeyer	Shuler
Duncan (SC)	Lummis	Shuster
Duncan (TN)	Lungren, Daniel	Simpson
Ellmers	E.	Smith (NE)
Emerson	Mack	Smith (NJ)
Farenthold	Manzullo	Smith (TX)
Fincher	Marchant	Southerland
Flake	Marino	Stearns
Fleischmann	Matheson	Stivers
Fleming	McCarthy (CA)	Stutzman
Flores	McCaull	Sullivan
Forbes	McClintock	Terry
Fox	McCotter	Thompson (PA)
Franks (AZ)	McHenry	Tiberi
Frelinghuysen	McKeon	Tipton
Galleghy	McKinley	Turner
Gardner	McMorris	Upton
Garrett	Rodgers	Visclosky
Gerlach	Meehan	Walberg
Gibbs	Mica	Walden
Gingrey (GA)	Miller (FL)	Walsh (IL)
Gohmert	Miller (MI)	Webster
Gonzalez	Miller, Gary	West
Goodlatte	Mulvaney	Westmoreland
Gosar	Murphy (PA)	Whitfield
Gowdy	Myrick	Wilson (SC)
Granger	Neugebauer	Wittman
Graves (GA)	Noem	Wolf
Graves (MO)	Nugent	Womack
Green, Al	Nunes	Woodall
Green, Gene	Nunnelee	Yoder
Griffin (AR)	Olson	Young (AK)
Griffith (VA)	Owens	Young (FL)
Grimm	Palazzo	Young (IN)
Guinta	Paul	
Guthrie	Paulsen	

NOT VOTING—8

Bachmann	Giffords	Jordan
Bishop (UT)	Gutierrez	Sánchez, Linda
Carter	Hinchey	T.

□ 1731

Messrs. POSEY and BISHOP of Georgia changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California changed her vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio). The Chair would ask all present to rise for the purpose of a moment of silence.

The Chair asks that the Committee now observe a moment of silence in remembrance of our brave men and women in uniform who have given their lives in the service of our Nation in Iraq and in Afghanistan and their families, and of all who serve in our Armed Forces and their families.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. RUSH

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, 2-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. LATOURETTE). The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 164, noes 261, answered “present” 1, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 641]

AYES—164

Ackerman	Courtney	Holt
Andrews	Crowley	Honda
Baca	Cummings	Hoyer
Baldwin	Davis (CA)	Hunter
Bass (CA)	Davis (IL)	Inslee
Becerra	DeFazio	Israel
Berkley	DeGette	Jackson (IL)
Berman	DeLauro	Jackson Lee
Bishop (NY)	Deutch	(TX)
Blumenauer	Dicks	Johnson (GA)
Boswell	Dingell	Johnson (OH)
Brady (PA)	Doggett	Johnson, E. B.
Braley (IA)	Doyle	Kaptur
Brown (FL)	Edwards	Keating
Butterfield	Ellison	Kildee
Capps	Engel	Kind
Capuano	Eshoo	Kucinich
Carnahan	Farr	Langevin
Carney	Fattah	Larsen (WA)
Carson (IN)	Filner	Larson (CT)
Castor (FL)	Frank (MA)	Levin
Chu	Fudge	Lewis (GA)
Cicilline	Garamendi	Lipinski
Clarke (MI)	Green, Al	Loebsack
Clarke (NY)	Grijalva	Lofgren, Zoe
Clay	Hahn	Lowe
Cleaver	Hanabusa	Lujan
Clyburn	Hastings (FL)	Lynch
Cohen	Heinrich	Maloney
Connolly (VA)	Higgins	Markey
Conyers	Himes	Matsui
Cooper	Hirono	McCarthy (NY)

Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schwartz
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, David
 Serrano
 Sewell
 Sherman
 Slaughter
 Smith (WA)
 Speier
 Stark
 Sutton
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Tierney
 Tonko
 Towns
 Tsongas
 Van Hollen
 Velázquez
 Walz (MN)
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters
 Watt
 Waxman
 Welch
 Wilson (FL)
 Woolsey
 Wu
 Yarmuth

Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jackson Lee
(TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Danie
E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Owens

Palazzo	Rokita	Stearns	Lofgren, Zoe	Perlmuter	Shuler	Peterson	Roskam	Stutzman
Paul	Rooney	Stivers	Lowey	Peters	Slaughter	Petri	Ross (AR)	Sullivan
Paulsen	Ros-Lehtinen	Stutzman	Lujan	Pingree (ME)	Smith (WA)	Pitts	Ross (FL)	Terry
Pearce	Roskam	Sullivan	Lynch	Polis	Speier	Platts	Royce	Thompson (PA)
Pence	Ross (AR)	Terry	Maloney	Price (NC)	Stark	Poe (TX)	Runyan	Thornberry
Peterson	Ross (FL)	Thompson (PA)	Markey	Quigley	Sutton	Pompeo	Ryan (WI)	Tiberi
Petri	Royce	Thornberry	Matsui	Rangel	Thompson (CA)	Posey	Scalise	Tipton
Pitts	Runyan	Tiberi	McCarthy (NY)	Reyes	Thompson (MS)	Price (GA)	Schilling	Turner
Platts	Ryan (WI)	Tipton	McCollum	Richardson	Tierney	Quayle	Schmidt	Upton
Poe (TX)	Scalise	Turner	McDermott	Richmond	Tonko	Rahall	Schock	Visclosky
Pompeo	Schilling	Upton	McGovern	Rothman (NJ)	Towns	Reed	Schweikert	Walden
Posey	Schmidt	Visclosky	McNerney	Roybal-Allard	Tsongas	Rehberg	Scott (SC)	Walsh (IL)
Price (GA)	Schock	Walberg	Meeks	Ruppersberger	Van Hollen	Reichert	Scott, Austin	Webster
Quayle	Schrader	Walden	Michaud	Rush	Velázquez	Renacci	Sensenbrenner	West
Rahall	Schweikert	Walsh (IL)	Miller (NC)	Ryan (OH)	Walz (MN)	Ribble	Sessions	Westmoreland
Reed	Scott (SC)	Webster	Miller, George	Sánchez, Linda T.	Wasserman	Rigell	Sewell	Whitfield
Rehberg	Scott, Austin	West	Moore	Sanchez, Loretta	Schultz	Rivera	Shimkus	Wilson (SC)
Reichert	Sensenbrenner	Westmoreland	Moran	Sarbanes	Waters	Roby	Shuster	Wittman
Renacci	Sessions	Whitfield	Murphy (CT)	Schakowsky	Watt	Roe (TN)	Simpson	Wolf
Ribble	Shimkus	Wilson (SC)	Nadler	Schiff	Waxman	Rogers (AL)	Sires	Womack
Rigell	Shuler	Wittman	Napolitano	Schrader	Welch	Rogers (KY)	Smith (NE)	Woodall
Rivera	Shuster	Wolf	Neal	Schwartz	Wilson (FL)	Rogers (MI)	Smith (NJ)	Yoder
Roby	Simpson	Womack	Oliver	Scott (VA)	Woolsey	Rohrabacher	Smith (TX)	Young (AK)
Roe (TN)	Sires	Woodall	Pallone	Scott, David	Wu	Rokita	Southerland	Young (FL)
Rogers (AL)	Smith (NE)	Yoder	Pastor (AZ)	Serrano	Yarmuth	Rooney	Stearns	Young (IN)
Rogers (KY)	Smith (NJ)	Young (AK)	Payne	Sherman		Ros-Lehtinen	Stivers	
Rogers (MI)	Smith (TX)	Young (FL)	Pelosi					
Rohrabacher	Southerland	Young (IN)						

NOT VOTING—5

Bachmann	Gutierrez	Nunnelee
Giffords	Hinchey	

□ 1742

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. COHEN

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 155, noes 272, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 643]

AYES—155

Ackerman	Clyburn	Grijalva
Andrews	Cohen	Hahn
Baca	Connolly (VA)	Hanabusa
Baldwin	Conyers	Heinrich
Bass (CA)	Cooper	Higgins
Becerra	Courtney	Himes
Berkley	Crowley	Hirono
Bishop (NY)	Cummings	Holt
Blumenauer	Davis (CA)	Honda
Boswell	Davis (IL)	Hoyer
Braley (IA)	DeFazio	Inslee
Brown (FL)	DeGette	Israel
Butterfield	DeLauro	Jackson (IL)
Capps	Deuth	Johnson (GA)
Capuano	Dicks	Johnson, E. B.
Carnahan	Doggett	Kaptur
Carney	Edwards	Keating
Carson (IN)	Ellison	Kildee
Castor (FL)	Engel	Kind
Chandler	Eshoo	Kucinich
Chu	Farr	Langevin
Cicilline	Fattah	Larson (CT)
Clarke (MI)	Filner	Lee (CA)
Clarke (NY)	Frank (MA)	Levin
Clay	Fudge	Lewis (GA)
Cleaver	Garamendi	Loebsack

NOES—272

Adams	Donnelly (IN)	Johnson (IL)
Aderholt	Doyle	Johnson (OH)
Akin	Dreier	Johnson, Sam
Alexander	Duffy	Jones
Altmire	Duncan (SC)	Jordan
Amash	Duncan (TN)	Kelly
Austria	Ellmers	King (IA)
Bachus	Emerson	King (NY)
Barletta	Farenthold	Kingston
Barrow	Fincher	Kinzing (IL)
Bartlett	Fitzpatrick	Kissell
Barton (TX)	Flake	Kline
Bass (NH)	Fleischmann	Labrador
Benishek	Fleming	Lamborn
Berg	Flores	Lance
Berman	Forbes	Landry
Biggert	Fortenberry	Lankford
Bilbray	Fox	Larsen (WA)
Bilirakis	Franks (AZ)	Latham
Bishop (GA)	Frelinghuysen	LaTourette
Bishop (UT)	Gallegly	Latta
Black	Gardner	Lewis (CA)
Blackburn	Garrett	Lipinski
Bonner	Gerlach	LoBiondo
Bono Mack	Gibbs	Long
Boren	Gibson	Lucas
Boustany	Gingrey (GA)	Luetkemeyer
Brady (PA)	Gohmert	Lummis
Brady (TX)	Gonzalez	Lungren, Daniel E.
Brooks	Goodlatte	Mack
Broun (GA)	Gosar	Manzullo
Buchanan	Gowdy	Marchant
Bucshon	Granger	Marino
Buerkle	Graves (GA)	Matheson
Burgess	Graves (MO)	McCarthy (CA)
Burton (IN)	Green, Al	McCauley
Calvert	Green, Gene	McClintock
Camp	Griffin (AR)	McCotter
Campbell	Griffith (VA)	McHenry
Canseco	Grimm	McIntyre
Cantor	Guinta	McKeon
Capito	Guthrie	McKinley
Cardoza	Hall	McMorris
Carter	Hanna	Rodgers
Cassidy	Harper	Meehan
Chabot	Harris	Mica
Chaffetz	Hartzler	Miller (FL)
Coble	Hastings (FL)	Miller (MI)
Coffman (CO)	Hastings (WA)	Miller, Gary
Cole	Hayworth	Mulvaney
Conaway	Heck	Murphy (PA)
Costa	Hensarling	Myrick
Costello	Herger	Neugebauer
Cravaack	Herrera Beutler	Noem
Crawford	Hinojosa	Nugent
Crenshaw	Hochul	Nunes
Critz	Holden	Nunnelee
Cuellar	Huelskamp	Olson
Culberson	Huizenga (MI)	Owens
Davis (KY)	Hultgren	Palazzo
Denham	Hunter	Pascrell
Dent	Hurt	Paul
DesJarlais	Issa	Paulsen
Frank-Balart	Jackson Lee	Pearce
Dingell	(TX)	Pence
Dold	Jenkins	

NOT VOTING—5

Bachmann	Gutierrez	Walberg
Giffords	Hinchey	

□ 1746

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. MURPHY OF CONNECTICUT

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 152, noes 275, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 644]

AYES—152

Ackerman	Cohen	Hastings (FL)
Baca	Connolly (VA)	Heinrich
Baldwin	Conyers	Himes
Bass (CA)	Courtney	Hirono
Becerra	Crowley	Holt
Berkley	Cummings	Honda
Bishop (GA)	Davis (CA)	Hoyer
Bishop (NY)	Davis (IL)	Inslee
Blumenauer	DeFazio	Israel
Boswell	DeGette	Jackson (IL)
Braley (IA)	DeLauro	Jackson Lee
Brown (FL)	Deuth	(TX)
Butterfield	Dicks	Johnson (GA)
Capps	Dingell	Johnson, E. B.
Capuano	Doggett	Jones
Carnahan	Edwards	Kaptur
Carney	Ellison	Keating
Carson (IN)	Engel	Kildee
Castor (FL)	Eshoo	Kind
Chandler	Farr	Kucinich
Chu	Filner	Langevin
Cicilline	Frank (MA)	Larson (CT)
Clarke (MI)	Fudge	Lee (CA)
Clarke (NY)	Garamendi	Levin
Clay	Grijalva	Lewis (GA)
Cleaver	Hahn	Loebsack
Clyburn	Hanabusa	Lofgren, Zoe

Lowey	Peters	Sires	Posey	Ryan (WI)	Thompson (PA)	Luján	Perlmutter	Sherman
Luján	Pingree (ME)	Slaughter	Price (GA)	Scalise	Thornberry	Lynch	Peters	Slaughter
Lynch	Price (NC)	Smith (WA)	Quayle	Schilling	Tiberi	Maloney	Pingree (ME)	Smith (WA)
Maloney	Quigley	Speier	Rahall	Schmidt	Tipton	Markey	Pollis	Speier
Markey	Rangel	Stark	Reed	Schock	Turner	Matsui	Price (NC)	Sutton
Matsui	Reyes	Sutton	Rehberg	Schrader	Upton	McCarthy (NY)	Quigley	Thompson (CA)
McCarthy (NY)	Richardson	Thompson (CA)	Reichert	Schweikert	Visclosky	McCollum	Rangel	Thompson (MS)
McCollum	Richmond	Tierney	Renacci	Scott (SC)	Walberg	McDermott	Reichert	Tierney
McDermott	Rothman (NJ)	Tonko	Ribble	Scott, Austin	Walden	McGovern	Reyes	Tonko
McGovern	Roybal-Allard	Towns	Rigell	Sensenbrenner	Walsh (IL)	McIntyre	Richmond	Towns
McNerney	Ruppersberger	Tsongas	Rivera	Sessions	Webster	McNerney	Rothman (NJ)	Tsongas
Meeks	Rush	Van Hollen	Roby	Sherman	West	Meeks	Roybal-Allard	Van Hollen
Michaud	Ryan (OH)	Velázquez	Roe (TN)	Shinkus	Westmoreland	Michaud	Ruppersberger	Velázquez
Miller, George	Sánchez, Linda	Walz (MN)	Rogers (AL)	Shuster	Whitfield	Miller (NC)	Rush	Walz (MN)
Moore	T.	Wasserman	Rogers (KY)	Simpson	Wilson (SC)	Miller, George	Ryan (OH)	Wasserman
Moran	Sanchez, Loretta	Schultz	Rogers (MI)	Smith (NE)	Wittman	Moore	Sánchez, Linda	Schultz
Murphy (CT)	Sarbanes	Waters	Rohrabacher	Smith (NJ)	Wolf	Moran	T.	Waters
Nadler	Schakowsky	Watt	Rokita	Smith (TX)	Womack	Murphy (CT)	Sanchez, Loretta	Watt
Napolitano	Schiff	Waxman	Rooney	Southerland	Woodall	Nadler	Sarbanes	Waxman
Neal	Schwartz	Welch	Ros-Lehtinen	Stearns	Yoder	Napolitano	Schakowsky	Welch
Olver	Scott (VA)	Wilson (FL)	Roskam	Stivers	Young (AK)	Neal	Schwartz	Wilson (FL)
Pallone	Scott, David	Woolsey	Ross (AR)	Stutzman	Young (FL)	Olver	Scott (VA)	Woolsey
Pastor (AZ)	Serrano	Wu	Ross (FL)	Sullivan	Young (IN)	Pallone	Scott, David	Wu
Payne	Sewell	Yarmuth	Royce	Terry		Pastor (AZ)	Serrano	Yarmuth
Pelosi	Shuler		Runyan	Thompson (MS)		Payne	Sewell	

NOES—275

Adams	Duffy	King (NY)
Aderholt	Duncan (SC)	Kingston
Akin	Duncan (TN)	Kinzing (IL)
Alexander	Ellmers	Kissell
Altmire	Emerson	Kline
Amash	Farenthold	Labrador
Austria	Fattah	Lamborn
Bachus	Fincher	Lance
Barletta	Fitzpatrick	Landry
Barrow	Flake	Lankford
Bartlett	Fleischmann	Larsen (WA)
Barton (TX)	Fleming	Latham
Bass (NH)	Flores	LaTourrette
Benishkek	Forbes	Latta
Berg	Fortenberry	Lewis (CA)
Berman	Fox	Lipinski
Biggart	Franks (AZ)	LoBiondo
Bilbray	Frelinghuysen	Long
Bilirakis	Gallely	Lucas
Bishop (UT)	Gardner	Luetkemeyer
Black	Garrett	Lummis
Blackburn	Gerlach	Lungren, Daniel
Bonner	Gibbs	E.
Bono Mack	Gibson	Mack
Boren	Gingrey (GA)	Manzullo
Boustany	Gohmert	Marchant
Brady (PA)	Gonzalez	Marino
Brady (TX)	Goodlatte	Matheson
Brooks	Gosar	McCarthy (CA)
Broun (GA)	Gowdy	McCaul
Buchanan	Granger	McClintock
Bucshon	Graves (GA)	McCotter
Buerkle	Graves (MO)	McHenry
Burgess	Green, Al	McIntyre
Burton (IN)	Green, Gene	McKeon
Calvert	Griffin (AR)	McKinley
Camp	Griffith (VA)	McMorris
Campbell	Grimm	Rodgers
Canseco	Guinta	Meehan
Cantor	Guthrie	Mica
Capito	Hall	Miller (FL)
Cardoza	Hanna	Miller (MI)
Carter	Harper	Miller, Gary
Cassidy	Harris	Mulvaney
Chabot	Hartzler	Murphy (PA)
Chaffetz	Hastings (WA)	Myrick
Coble	Hayworth	Neugebauer
Coffman (CO)	Heck	Noem
Cole	Hensarling	Nugent
Conaway	Herger	Nunes
Cooper	Herrera Beutler	Nunnelee
Costa	Higgins	Olson
Costello	Hinojosa	Owens
Cravaack	Hochul	Palazzo
Crawford	Holden	Pascarell
Crenshaw	Huelskamp	Paul
Critz	Huizenga (MI)	Paulsen
Cuellar	Hultgren	Pearce
Culberson	Hunter	Pence
Davis (KY)	Hurt	Peterson
Denham	Issa	Petri
Dent	Jenkins	Pitts
DesJarlais	Johnson (IL)	Platts
Diaz-Balart	Johnson (OH)	Poe (TX)
Dold	Johnson, Sam	Pompeo
Donnelly (IN)	Jordan	Price (GA)
Doyle	Kelly	Quayle
Dreier	King (IA)	Rahall

NOT VOTING—5

Andrews	Giffords	Hinchey
Bachmann	Gutierrez	

□ 1750

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. RUSH

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 161, noes 265, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 645]

AYES—161

Ackerman	Cooper	Hastings (FL)
Andrews	Courtney	Heinrich
Baca	Crowley	Higgins
Baldwin	Cummings	Himes
Bass (CA)	Davis (CA)	Hirono
Becerra	Davis (IL)	Holt
Berkley	DeFazio	Honda
Berman	DeGette	Hoyer
Bishop (NY)	DeLauro	Inslee
Blumenauer	Deutsch	Israel
Boswell	Dicks	Jackson (IL)
Braley (IA)	Dingell	Johnson (GA)
Brown (FL)	Doggett	Johnson, E. B.
Butterfield	Edwards	Kaptur
Capps	Ellison	Keating
Capuano	Engel	Kildee
Carnahan	Eshoo	Kind
Carson (IN)	Farr	Kissell
Castor (FL)	Fattah	Kucinich
Chu	Flner	Langevin
Cicilline	Fortenberry	Larsen (WA)
Clarke (MI)	Frank (MA)	Larson (CT)
Clarke (NY)	Fudge	Lee (CA)
Clay	Garamendi	Levin
Cleaver	Gibson	Lewis (GA)
Clyburn	Grijalva	Lipinski
Cohen	Hahn	Loebuck
Connolly (VA)	Hanabusa	Lofgren, Zoe
Conyers	Hanna	Lowey

NOES—265

Adams	Doyle	King (IA)
Aderholt	Dreier	King (NY)
Akin	Duffy	Kingston
Alexander	Duncan (SC)	Kinzing (IL)
Altmire	Duncan (TN)	Kline
Amash	Ellmers	Labrador
Austria	Emerson	Lamborn
Bachus	Farenthold	Lance
Barletta	Fincher	Landry
Barrow	Fitzpatrick	Lankford
Bartlett	Flake	Latham
Barton (TX)	Fleischmann	LaTourrette
Bass (NH)	Fleming	Latta
Benishkek	Flores	Lewis (CA)
Berg	Forbes	LoBiondo
Biggart	Fox	Long
Bilbray	Franks (AZ)	Lucas
Bilirakis	Frelinghuysen	Luetkemeyer
Bishop (GA)	Gallely	Lummis
Bishop (UT)	Gardner	Lungren, Daniel
Black	Garrett	E.
Blackburn	Gerlach	Mack
Bonner	Gibbs	Manzullo
Bono Mack	Gingrey (GA)	Marchant
Boren	Gohmert	Marino
Boustany	Gonzalez	Matheson
Brady (PA)	Goodlatte	McCarthy (CA)
Brady (TX)	Gosar	McCaul
Brooks	Gowdy	McClintock
Broun (GA)	Granger	McCotter
Buchanan	Graves (GA)	McHenry
Bucshon	Graves (MO)	McKeon
Buerkle	Green, Al	McKinley
Burgess	Green, Gene	McMorris
Burton (IN)	Griffin (AR)	Rodgers
Calvert	Griffith (VA)	Meehan
Camp	Grimm	Mica
Campbell	Guinta	Miller (FL)
Canseco	Guthrie	Miller (MI)
Cantor	Hall	Miller, Gary
Capito	Harper	Mulvaney
Cardoza	Harris	Murphy (PA)
Carter	Hartzler	Myrick
Cassidy	Hastings (WA)	Neugebauer
Chabot	Hayworth	Noem
Chaffetz	Heck	Nugent
Chandler	Hensarling	Nunes
Coble	Herger	Nunnelee
Coffman (CO)	Herrera Beutler	Olson
Cole	Hinojosa	Owens
Conaway	Hochul	Palazzo
Costa	Holden	Pascarell
Costello	Huelskamp	Paul
Cravaack	Huizenga (MI)	Paulsen
Crawford	Hultgren	Pearce
Crenshaw	Hunter	Pence
Critz	Hurt	Peterson
Cuellar	Issa	Petri
Culberson	Jackson Lee	Pitts
Davis (KY)	(TX)	Platts
Denham	Jenkins	Poe (TX)
Dent	Johnson (IL)	Pompeo
DesJarlais	Johnson (OH)	Posey
Diaz-Balart	Johnson, Sam	Price (GA)
Dold	Jones	Quayle
Donnelly (IN)	Jordan	Rahall
	Kelly	Reed

Rehberg
Renacci
Ribble
Richardson
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schilling

Schmidt
Schock
Schradler
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)

Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

Peters
Pingree (ME)
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schradler
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano

Sewell
Sherman
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stark
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

Turner
Upton
Visclosky
Walberg
Walsh (IL)
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—6

Bachmann
Giffords

Gutierrez
Hinchey

Stark
Wolf

□ 1755

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MS. HANABUSA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 168, noes 260, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 646]

AYES—168

Ackerman
Andrews
Baca
Baldwin
Bass (CA)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boswell
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)

Conyers
Courtney
Critz
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutch
Dicks
Doggett
Edwards
Ellison
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fortenberry
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Gibson
Gonzalez
Grijalva
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich

Higgins
Himes
Hirono
Hochul
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
(TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kildee
Kind
Kissell
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Loftgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lujan

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Amash
Austria
Bachus
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (NH)
Benishek
Berg
Biggart
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Cardoza
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier

NOES—260

Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emerson
Engel
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hall
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Hinojosa
Holden
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline

Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Lankford
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meehan
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pascrell
Paul
Paulsen
Pearce
Pence
Peterson
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Rahall
Reed
Rehberg
Renacci
Ribble
Rigell
Rivera

Bachmann
Giffords

Gutierrez
Hinchey

NOT VOTING—4

□ 1758

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. JOHNSON OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 163, noes 263, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 647]

AYES—163

Ackerman
Andrews
Baca
Baldwin
Bass (CA)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boswell
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Courtney

Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutch
Dicks
Doggett
Edwards
Ellison
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Hirono

Hochul
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
(TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kildee
Kind
Kissell
Kucinich
Langevin
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Loeb sack
Loftgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lujan
Lynch
Maloney
Markley
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)

McCollum	Price (NC)	Smith (WA)	Rohrabacher	Shimkus	Upton	Miller, George	Roybal-Allard	Thompson (CA)
McDermott	Quigley	Speier	Rokita	Shuler	Visclosky	Moore	Ruppersberger	Thompson (MS)
McGovern	Rangel	Stark	Rooney	Shuster	Walberg	Moran	Rush	Tierney
McIntyre	Reyes	Sutton	Ros-Lehtinen	Simpson	Walden	Murphy (CT)	Ryan (OH)	Tonko
McNerney	Richardson	Thompson (CA)	Roskam	Sires	Walsh (IL)	Nadler	Sánchez, Linda	Towns
Meeks	Richmond	Tierney	Ross (AR)	Smith (NE)	Webster	Napolitano	T.	Tsongas
Michaud	Rothman (NJ)	Tonko	Ross (FL)	Smith (NJ)	West	Neal	Sanchez, Loretta	Van Hollen
Miller (NC)	Roybal-Allard	Towns	Royce	Smith (TX)	Westmoreland	Olver	Sarbanes	Velázquez
Miller, George	Ruppersberger	Tsongas	Runyan	Southerland	Whitfield	Pallone	Schakowsky	Visclosky
Moore	Rush	Van Hollen	Ryan (WI)	Stearns	Wilson (SC)	Pastor (AZ)	Schiff	Walz (MN)
Moran	Ryan (OH)	Velázquez	Scalise	Stivers	Wittman	Payne	Schwartz	Wasserman
Murphy (CT)	Sánchez, Linda	Walz (MN)	Schilling	Stutzman	Wolf	Pelosi	Scott (VA)	Schultz
Nadler	T.	Wasserman	Schmidt	Sullivan	Womack	Perlmutter	Scott, David	Waters
Napolitano	Sanchez, Loretta	Schultz	Schock	Terry	Woodall	Peters	Serrano	Watt
Neal	Sarbanes	Waters	Schrader	Thompson (MS)	Yoder	Pingree (ME)	Sewell	Waxman
Olver	Schakowsky	Watt	Schweikert	Thompson (PA)	Young (AK)	Platts	Sherman	Welch
Pallone	Schiff	Waxman	Scott (SC)	Thornberry	Young (FL)	Price (NC)	Shuler	Wilson (FL)
Pastor (AZ)	Schwartz	Welch	Scott, Austin	Tiberi	Young (IN)	Quigley	Slaughter	Woolsey
Payne	Scott (VA)	Wilson (FL)	Sensenbrenner	Tipton		Rangel	Smith (WA)	Wu
Pelosi	Scott, David	Woolsey	Sessions	Turner		Richardson	Speier	Yarmuth
Perlmutter	Serrano	Wu				Richmond	Stark	
Peters	Sewell	Yarmuth				Rothman (NJ)	Sutton	
Pingree (ME)	Sherman		Bachmann	Giffords	Hinchey			
Polis	Slaughter		Cantor	Gutierrez	Nugent			

NOT VOTING—6

NOES—261

Adams	Duncan (TN)	Larsen (WA)			Adams	Ellmers	Latta
Aderholt	Ellmers	Latham			Aderholt	Emerson	Lewis (CA)
Akin	Emerson	LaTourette			Akin	Engel	LoBiondo
Alexander	Engel	Latta			Alexander	Farenthold	Long
Altmire	Farenthold	Lewis (CA)			Altmire	Fincher	Lucas
Amash	Fincher	Lipinski			Amash	Flake	Luetkemeyer
Austria	Fitzpatrick	LoBiondo			Austria	Fleischmann	Lummis
Bachus	Flake	Long			Bachus	Fleming	Lungren, Daniel
Barletta	Fleischmann	Lucas			Barletta	Flores	E.
Barrow	Fleming	Luetkemeyer			Barrow	Forbes	Mack
Bartlett	Flores	Lummis			Bartlett	Fox	Manzullo
Barton (TX)	Forbes	Lungren, Daniel			Barton (TX)	Franks (AZ)	Marchant
Bass (NH)	Fortenberry	E.			Bass (NH)	Frelinghuysen	Marino
Benishiek	Fox	Mack			Benishiek	Galleghy	Matheson
Berg	Franks (AZ)	Manzullo			Berg	Gardner	McCarthy (CA)
Biggert	Frelinghuysen	Marchant			Berman	Garrett	McCaul
Bilbray	Galleghy	Marino			Biggert	Gibbs	McClintock
Bilirakis	Gardner	Matheson			Bilbray	Gingrey (GA)	McCotter
Bishop (UT)	Garrett	McCarthy (CA)			Bilirakis	Gohmert	McHenry
Black	Gerlach	McCaul			Bishop (UT)	Gonzalez	McKeon
Blackburn	Gibbs	McClintock			Black	Goodlatte	McKinley
Bonner	Gibson	McCotter			Blackburn	Gosar	McMorris
Bono Mack	Gingrey (GA)	McHenry			Bonner	Gowdy	Rodgers
Boren	Gohmert	McKeon			Bono Mack	Granger	Meehan
Boustany	Goodlatte	McKinley			Boren	Graves (GA)	Mica
Brady (PA)	Gosar	McMorris			Boustany	Graves (MO)	Miller (FL)
Brady (TX)	Gowdy	Rodgers			Brady (PA)	Green, Al	Miller (MI)
Brooks	Granger	Meehan			Brady (TX)	Green, Gene	Miller (NC)
Broun (GA)	Graves (GA)	Mica			Brooks	Griffin (AR)	Miller, Gary
Buchanan	Graves (MO)	Miller (FL)			Broun (GA)	Griffith (VA)	Mulvaney
Bucshon	Griffin (AR)	Miller (MI)			Buchanan	Grimm	Murphy (PA)
Buerkle	Griffith (VA)	Miller, Gary			Bucshon	Guinta	Myrick
Burgess	Grimm	Mulvaney			Buerkle	Guthrie	Neugebauer
Burton (IN)	Guinta	Murphy (PA)			Burgess	Hall	Noem
Calvert	Guthrie	Myrick			Burton (IN)	Hanna	Nugent
Camp	Hall	Neugebauer			Calvert	Harper	Nunes
Campbell	Hanna	Noem			Camp	Harris	Nunnelee
Canseco	Harper	Nunes			Campbell	Hartzler	Olson
Capito	Harris	Nunnelee			Canseco	Hastings (WA)	Owens
Cardoza	Hartzler	Olson			Capito	Hayworth	Palazzo
Carter	Hastings (WA)	Owens			Cardoza	Heck	Pascarell
Cassidy	Hayworth	Palazzo			Carter	Hensarling	Paul
Chabot	Heck	Pascarell			Cassidy	Herger	Paulsen
Chaffetz	Hensarling	Paul			Chabot	Herrera Beutler	Pearce
Chandler	Herger	Paulsen			Chaffetz	Hinojosa	Pence
Coble	Herrera Beutler	Pearce			Chandler	Holden	Peterson
Coffman (CO)	Holden	Pence			Coble	Huelskamp	Petri
Cole	Huelskamp	Peterson			Coffman (CO)	Huizenga (MI)	Pitts
Conaway	Huizenga (MI)	Petri			Cole	Hultgren	Poe (TX)
Cooper	Hultgren	Pitts			Conaway	Hunter	Polis
Costa	Hunter	Platts			Cooper	Hurt	Pompeo
Costello	Hurt	Poe (TX)			Costa	Issa	Posey
Cravaack	Issa	Pompeo			Costello	Jackson Lee	Price (GA)
Crawford	Jenkins	Posey			Cravaack	(TX)	Quayle
Crenshaw	Johnson (IL)	Price (GA)			Crawford	Jenkins	Rahall
Critz	Johnson (OH)	Quayle			Crenshaw	Johnson (OH)	Reed
Culberson	Johnson, Sam	Rahall			Critz	Johnson, Sam	Rehberg
Davis (KY)	Jordan	Reed			Cuellar	Jordan	Reichert
Denham	Kelly	Rehberg			Culberson	Kelly	Renacci
Dent	King (IA)	Reichert			Davis (KY)	King (IA)	Reyes
DesJarlais	King (NY)	Renacci			Denham	King (NY)	Ribble
Diaz-Balart	Kingston	Ribble			DesJarlais	Kingston	Rigell
Dingell	Kinzingler (IL)	Rigell			Diaz-Balart	Kinzingler (IL)	Rivera
Dold	Kline	Rivera			Dingell	Kline	Roby
Donnelly (IN)	Labrador	Roby			Dold	Labrador	Roe (TN)
Doyle	Lamborn	Roe (TN)			Donnelly (IN)	Lamborn	Rogers (AL)
Dreier	Lance	Rogers (AL)			Doyle	Lance	Rogers (KY)
Duffy	Landry	Rogers (KY)			Dreier	Landry	Rogers (MI)
Duncan (SC)	Lankford	Rogers (MI)			Duffy	Lankford	Rohrabacher
					Duncan (SC)	Latham	Rokita
					Duncan (TN)	LaTourette	Rooney

□ 1804

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. KUCINICH

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 164, noes 261, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 648]

AYES—164

Ackerman	Davis (IL)	Jackson (IL)
Andrews	DeFazio	Johnson (GA)
Baca	DeGette	Johnson (IL)
Baldwin	DeLauro	Johnson, E. B.
Bass (CA)	Dent	Jones
Becerra	Dicks	Kaptur
Berkley	Doggett	Keating
Bishop (GA)	Edwards	Kildee
Bishop (NY)	Ellison	Kind
Blumenauer	Eshoo	Kissell
Boswell	Farr	Kucinich
Brale (IA)	Fattah	Langevin
Brown (FL)	Filner	Larsen (WA)
Butterfield	Fitzpatrick	Larson (CT)
Capps	Fortenberry	Lee (CA)
Capuano	Frank (MA)	Levin
Carmahan	Fudge	Lewis (GA)
Carney	Garamendi	Lipinski
Carson (IN)	Gerlach	Loebach
Castor (FL)	Gibson	Lofgren, Zoe
Chu	Grijalva	Lowey
Ciциlline	Hahn	Lujan
Clarke (MI)	Hanabusa	Lynch
Clarke (NY)	Hastings (FL)	Maloney
Clay	Heinrich	Markey
Cleaver	Higgins	Matsui
Clyburn	Himes	McCarthy (NY)
Cohen	Hirono	McCollum
Connolly (VA)	Hochul	McDermott
Conyers	Holt	McGovern
Courtney	Honda	McIntyre
Crowley	Hoyer	McNerney
Cummings	Inslee	Meeks
Davis (CA)	Israel	Michaud

Ros-Lehtinen	Shuster	Upton
Roskam	Simpson	Walberg
Ross (AR)	Sires	Walden
Ross (FL)	Smith (NE)	Walsh (IL)
Royce	Smith (NJ)	Webster
Runyan	Smith (TX)	West
Ryan (WI)	Southerland	Westmoreland
Scalise	Stearns	Whitfield
Schilling	Stivers	Wilson (SC)
Schmidt	Stutzman	Wittman
Schock	Sullivan	Wolf
Schrader	Terry	Womack
Schweikert	Thompson (PA)	Woodall
Scott (SC)	Thornberry	Yoder
Sensenbrenner	Tiberi	Young (AK)
Sessions	Tipton	Young (FL)
Shimkus	Turner	Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—7

Bachmann	Giffords	Scott, Austin
Cantor	Gutierrez	
Deutch	Hinchey	

□ 1807

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Chair, on rollcall No. 648 I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Chair, I was delayed for votes, due to my participation in a peaceful rally and protest against the current Administration's enforcement policies against immigrant students and the families of U.S. citizens. Had I been present for the votes I would have voted "yes" on rollcall votes 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, and 648.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DOLD) having assumed the chair, Mr. LATOURETTE, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1938) to direct the President to expedite the consideration and approval of the construction and operation of the Keystone XL oil pipeline, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 370, reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on the amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole?

If not, the question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman opposed to the bill?

Ms. SUTTON. I am opposed in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Sutton moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1938 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendments:

Page 6, after line 24, insert the following new paragraphs:

(18) TransCanada Corporation has threatened to condemn the land of American farmers, ranchers, and homeowners along the Keystone XL pipeline route, and farmers, ranchers, and homeowners in the States of Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Kansas, and Texas are at risk of having their property seized by a foreign corporation.

(19) In its permit application to the Canadian Government, TransCanada Corporation, the owner and operator of the Keystone XL pipeline, projected that the Keystone XL pipeline will increase oil prices in PADD 2, which includes the States of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Wisconsin, increasing annual revenue to Canadian oil producers by an estimated \$2,000,000,000 to \$3,900,000,000 in 2013.

Page 7, lines 14 and 20, redesignate subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively.

Page 7, after line 13, insert the following new subsection:

(c) PROTECTING CONSUMERS FROM UNFAIR GAS PRICE INCREASES AND SEIZURE OF FARMLAND.—The President shall ensure that the necessary actions under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) any feasible step to prevent an increase in gasoline prices in any region of the country; and

(2) any feasible step to limit the seizure of American farmland and ranchland without consent of the landowners.

□ 1810

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer this amendment in response to a concern that we have all heard and which was recently raised in a letter that I received from a constituent in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. He wanted to know how Congress can help with rising gas prices, prices that are forcing him to spend less on taking care of his family and causing uncertainty and uneasiness. And it's with my constituent in mind that I offer this amendment today.

Mr. Speaker, today we have an opportunity to join together to pass this amendment and do something for my constituent and for the middle class families like his across the country that exist in each and every district.

At the outset, I want to be clear, this amendment, this motion, it does not

kill the underlying bill. So regardless of whether you intend to vote for the legislation or against it, you will have the opportunity to do that today. This amendment simply offers us, Democrats and Republicans alike, the opportunity to speak up on behalf of our constituents loudly and clearly.

What this amendment does is makes it clear that if the underlying bill passes, we want the President to take feasible steps to prevent gas prices from rising as a result of its passage and to take feasible steps to limit the seizure of American farmland. This should be an easy amendment for colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support. A vote for the amendment means standing up for American consumers to protect them against gas increases. A vote for this amendment means you are standing up for American families to protect them from unfair seizures of their property. These are the goals that all of us in this body, the people's House, should share.

It is important that we act together to pass this amendment today because, make no mistake, at a time when gas prices are already too high, this bill in its current form will raise gas prices even higher, placing an even greater burden on American families and small businesses. We know this, Mr. Speaker, because TransCanada, the Canadian corporation that is building this pipeline, has admitted as much. TransCanada's own assessment from February of 2009 states that Keystone XL pipeline will increase the cost of a barrel of crude oil by \$6.55 per barrel in the Midwest and \$3 per barrel everywhere else.

Mr. Speaker, this is simply unacceptable. It's unacceptable because far too many middle class families are already struggling. Without this amendment, this legislation amounts to salt in the wounds of working families, so many of whom have seen their jobs sent overseas and now they will see even more of their hard-earned dollars being sent out of the country and will have to pay more for gas to boot.

And this legislation, in its current form, also stands to harm our small business owners, putting a larger financial burden on them at a time when we have called on them to create jobs and lead the way in our recovery. It will burden our family farmers who will now have to pay more to gas up their combines and buy fertilizer.

But an increase in gas prices is not the only reason this legislation needs to be amended. From South Dakota to Texas, we have a situation where the non-U.S. energy company building this pipeline has been pushing American farmers and ranchers to give up their rights to their own property. And for those who have resisted, the company—in pursuit of billions of dollars—has been taking Americans to court to seize control of their land through eminent domain. TransCanada has been

bringing these lawsuits even before they have the permits to build the pipeline.

These outrageous acts are bringing Democrats and Republicans together to speak out on behalf of property owners and to ensure that their rights come before the rights of any big corporation. That is the way it should be—us standing together to protect American consumers and property owners.

Mr. Speaker, our country needs to protect the rights of our citizens, not subject those rights to a foreign corporation. Mr. Speaker, our constituents pay high enough gas prices. They need us to stand up and do all that we can to prevent the admitted increases that will occur according to TransCanada's own study. With this amendment, we can join together to do just that. We can put the American people before politics and before corporate profits and ensure that the President takes any feasible steps to protect against gas increases and limit the taking of property through eminent domain that will result from this legislation. This final amendment will ensure these things while allowing for an immediate final vote on the bill.

I encourage my colleagues to stand together and vote "yes" on this final amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Nebraska is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues here to vote against this. This is, A, nonsensical and not even relevant here. Why? Well, maybe some of my friends on the other side of the aisle have confused a public works project with this private infrastructure project.

Number one, private companies do not have any rights of eminent domain; they can't take people's lands. So this part about them exercising eminent domain is just not relevant here. They aren't doing this; they don't have the power.

The other part is equally as nonsensical. Listen, this is a \$13 billion stimulus infrastructure bill.

□ 1820

This is what all of us have been asking for because it creates thousands of jobs, 20,000 direct union construction jobs. Now, the Laborers International Union of North America supports this bill. International Brotherhood of Teamsters, United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the United States, the AFL-CIO International Union of Operating Engineers, the Pipeline Contractors Association. These are the people. It's the labor. It's the jobs that are going to be created

here, and we're standing with the American people.

Now, this other argument that we have been debating ad nauseam throughout the afternoon about bringing in 700,000 to 1.2 million barrels per day from Canada that is somehow going to raise prices at the pump. I'm sorry, I went through some economics. I don't see how adding supply, adding American jobs, making a reliable source of energy, and eliminating uncertainty is going to drive up costs. It doesn't make sense.

Let's stand with the American people. Let's create 100,000 new jobs. Let's get America working. Let's get the prices down at the pump. Vote against this motion for reconsideration, and let's vote to put people back to work.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 181, noes 248, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 649]

AYES—181

Ackerman	Critz	Hoyer
Altmire	Crowley	Inlee
Andrews	Cummings	Israel
Baca	Davis (CA)	Jackson (IL)
Baldwin	Davis (IL)	Jackson Lee
Barrow	DeFazio	(TX)
Bass (CA)	DeGette	Johnson (GA)
Becerra	DeLauro	Johnson, E. B.
Berkley	Deutch	Jones
Berman	Dicks	Kaptur
Bishop (GA)	Dingell	Keating
Bishop (NY)	Doggett	Kildee
Blumenauer	Doyle	Kind
Boswell	Edwards	Kucinich
Brady (PA)	Ellison	Langevin
Braley (IA)	Engel	Larsen (WA)
Brown (FL)	Eshoo	Larson (CT)
Butterfield	Farr	Lee (CA)
Capps	Fattah	Levin
Capuano	Filner	Lewis (GA)
Cardoza	Frank (MA)	Lipinski
Carnahan	Fudge	Loebach
Carney	Garamendi	Lofgren, Zoe
Carson (IN)	Green, Al	Lowey
Castor (FL)	Grijalva	Lujan
Chandler	Gutierrez	Lynch
Chu	Hahn	Maloney
Ciilline	Hanabusa	Markey
Clarke (MI)	Hastings (FL)	Matsui
Clarke (NY)	Heinrich	McCarthy (NY)
Clay	Higgins	McCollum
Cleaver	Himes	McDermott
Clyburn	Hinojosa	McGovern
Cohen	Hirono	McIntyre
Connolly (VA)	Hochul	McNerney
Conyers	Holden	Meeks
Costello	Holt	Michaud
Courtney	Honda	Miller (NC)

Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Oliver
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson

Richmond
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier

Stark
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NOES—248

Adams	Fleischmann	Lucas
Aderholt	Fleming	Luetkemeyer
Akin	Flores	Lummis
Alexander	Forbes	Lungren, Daniel
Amash	Fortenberry	E.
Austria	Fox	Mack
Bachus	Franks (AZ)	Manzullo
Barletta	Frelinghuysen	Marchant
Bartlett	Galleghy	Marino
Barton (TX)	Gardner	Matheson
Bass (NH)	Garrett	McCarthy (CA)
Benishke	Gerlach	McCaul
Berg	Gibbs	McClintock
Biggart	Gibson	McCotter
Billbray	Gingrey (GA)	McHenry
Bilirakis	Gohmert	McKeon
Bishop (UT)	Gonzalez	McKinley
Black	Goodlatte	McMorris
Blackburn	Gosar	Rodgers
Bonner	Gowdy	Meehan
Bono Mack	Granger	Mica
Boren	Graves (GA)	Miller (FL)
Boustany	Graves (MO)	Miller (MI)
Brady (TX)	Green, Gene	Miller, Gary
Brooks	Griffin (AR)	Mulvaney
Brown (GA)	Griffith (VA)	Murphy (PA)
Buchanan	Grimm	Myrick
Bucshon	Guinta	Neugebauer
Buerkle	Guthrie	Noem
Burgess	Hall	Nugent
Burton (IN)	Hanna	Nunes
Calvert	Harper	Nunnelee
Camp	Harris	Olson
Campbell	Hartzler	Owens
Canseco	Hastings (WA)	Palazzo
Cantor	Hayworth	Paul
Capito	Heck	Paulsen
Carter	Hensarling	Pearce
Cassidy	Herger	Pence
Chabot	Herrera Beutler	Petri
Chaffetz	Huelskamp	Pitts
Coble	Huizenga (MI)	Platts
Coffman (CO)	Hultgren	Poe (TX)
Cole	Hunter	Pompeo
Conaway	Hurt	Posey
Cooper	Issa	Price (GA)
Costa	Jenkins	Quayle
Cravaack	Johnson (IL)	Reed
Crawford	Johnson (OH)	Rehberg
Crenshaw	Johnson, Sam	Reichert
Cuellar	Jordan	Renacci
Culberson	Kelly	Ribble
Davis (KY)	King (IA)	Rigell
Denham	King (NY)	Rivera
Dent	Kingston	Roby
DesJarlais	Kinzing (IL)	Roe (TN)
Diaz-Balart	Kissell	Rogers (AL)
Dold	Kline	Rogers (KY)
Donnelly (IN)	Labrador	Rogers (MI)
Dreier	Lamborn	Rohrabacher
Duffy	Lance	Rokita
Duncan (SC)	Landry	Rooney
Duncan (TN)	Lankford	Ros-Lehtinen
Ellmers	Latham	Roskam
Emerson	LaTourette	Ross (AR)
Farenthold	Latta	Ross (FL)
Fincher	Lewis (CA)	Royce
Fitzpatrick	LoBiondo	Runyan
Flake	Long	Ryan (WI)

Scalise
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)

Southerland
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)

Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Lankford
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.

Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pascrell
Paul
Paulsen
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Rahall
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Ribble
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Robby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger

Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters

Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)

Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Amash

NOT VOTING—5

Bachmann
Carter

Giffords
Hinchey

Walsh (IL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1845

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM EXTENSION AND REFORM ACT OF 2011

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2608) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2608

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Small Business Program Extension and Reform Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS UNDER THE SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the Act entitled "An Act to extend temporarily certain authorities of the Small Business Administration", approved October 10, 2006 (Public Law 109-316; 120 Stat. 1742), as most recently amended by section 2 of the Small Business Additional Temporary Extension Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-17; 125 Stat. 221), is amended by striking "July 31, 2011" each place it appears and inserting "December 31, 2011".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on July 30, 2011.

SEC. 3. REPEALS AND OTHER TERMINATIONS.

(a) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—

(1) EFFECTIVE DATE.—A repeal or other termination of a provision of law made by this

NOT VOTING—3

Bachmann
Giffords
Hinchey

□ 1838

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 279, noes 147, answered "present" 1, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 650]

AYES—279

Ackerman
Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Austria
Baca
Bachus
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Benishke
Berg
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Cardoza
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler

Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Crawaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emerson
Farenthold
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)

Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Hinojosa
Hochul
Holden
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston

Andrews
Baldwin
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutsch
Dicks
Doggett
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Finer
Fortenberry

NOES—147

Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Hayworth
Heinrich
Himes
Hirono
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kildee
Kind
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Loebbeck
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lujan
Maloney
Markay
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George

Moore
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Oliver
Pallone
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Peters
Pingree (ME)
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stark
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Tierney
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez

section shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) **RULE.**—Nothing in this section shall affect any grant or assistance provided, contract or cooperative agreement entered into, or loan made or guaranteed before the date of enactment of this Act under a provision of law repealed or otherwise terminated by this section and any such grant, assistance, contract, cooperative agreement, or loan shall be subject to the applicable repealed or otherwise terminated provision, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) **APPLICABILITY OF TEMPORARY EXTENSIONS.**—A repeal or other termination of a provision of law made by this section shall have effect notwithstanding any temporary extension of programs, authority, or provisions under the Act entitled “An Act to extend temporarily certain authorities of the Small Business Administration”, approved October 10, 2006 (Public Law 109-316; 120 Stat. 1742).

(b) **POLLUTION CONTROL LOANS.**—Paragraph (12) of section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(A) The Administration” and inserting “The Administration”; and

(2) by striking “research and development” and all that follows and inserting “research and development”.

(c) **SMALL BUSINESS INSTITUTE.**—Subparagraph (E) of section 8(b)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(b)(1)) is repealed.

(d) **DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE GRANTS.**—Paragraph (3) of section 21(c) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(c)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (R) by adding “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (S) by striking “; and” and inserting a period; and

(3) by striking subparagraph (T).

(e) **CENTRAL EUROPEAN SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION.**—Section 25 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 652) is repealed.

(f) **PAUL D. COVERDELL DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE PROGRAM.**—Section 27 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 654) is repealed.

(g) **PILOT TECHNOLOGY ACCESS PROGRAM.**—Section 28 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 655) is repealed.

(h) **NATIONAL VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 33 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657c) is repealed.

(2) **CORPORATION.**—Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the National Veterans Business Development Corporation and any successor thereto may not represent that the corporation is federally chartered or in any other manner authorized by the Federal Government.

(i) **LEASE GUARANTEES AND POLLUTION CONTROL.**—Part A of title IV of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 692 et seq.) is repealed.

(j) **ALTERNATIVE LOSS RESERVE.**—Paragraph (7) of section 508(c) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 697e(c)) is repealed.

(k) **SMALL BUSINESS TELECOMMUTING PILOT PROGRAM.**—Subsection (d) of section 1203 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (15 U.S.C. 657h) is repealed.

(l) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) **SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958.**—Section 411(i) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 694b(i)) is amended to read as follows:

“(i) Without limiting the authority conferred upon the Administrator and the Ad-

ministration by section 201 of this Act, the Administrator and the Administration shall have, in the performance of and with respect to the functions, powers, and duties conferred by this part, all the authority and be subject to the same conditions prescribed in section 5(b) of the Small Business Act with respect to loans, including the authority to execute subleases, assignments of lease and new leases with any person, firm, organization, or other entity, in order to aid in the liquidation of obligations of the Administration hereunder.”.

(2) **TITLE 10.**—Section 1142(b)(13) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “and the National Veterans Business Development Corporation”.

(3) **TITLE 38.**—Subsection (h) of section 3452 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “any of the” and all that follows and inserting “any small business development center described in section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648), insofar as such center offers, sponsors, or cosponsors an entrepreneurship course, as that term is defined in section 3675(c)(2).”.

(4) **VETERANS ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1999.**—Section 203(c)(5) of the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 (15 U.S.C. 657b note) is amended by striking “In cooperation with the National Veterans Business Development Corporation, develop” and inserting “Develop”.
SEC. 4. TERMINATION OF EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration may not carry out or otherwise support the program referred to as “Emerging Leaders” in the document of the Small Business Administration titled “FY 2012 Congressional Budget Justification and FY 2010 Annual Performance Report” (or any predecessor or successor document) and may not carry out or otherwise support any successor to that program with similar goals.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore.** Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HANNA) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members shall have 5 consecutive days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore.** Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. HANNA. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, there are a few components to the legislation we have before us.

First, the bill provides for a straightforward extension of certain SBA programs through December 31, 2011. This is a necessary measure since the current extension, which the House passed in May, expires at the end of this month. As we continue to do work with our Democratic colleagues and with our colleagues in the other body to-

wards a full and complete reauthorization of the SBA and its programs, this extension will ensure that these programs are still available to provide assistance to entrepreneurs who need to create jobs.

Secondly, the bill before us terminates several duplicative and outdated programs that are either used very infrequently or not at all. It has been said that, once a program is initiated, it is almost impossible to eliminate. Today, we will prove that notion wrong. The program eliminations contained in this bill represent a good first step toward cleaning up the SBA's program portfolio, thereby refocusing the agency's energy on their core mission of facilitating small business lending, offering entrepreneurial advice to small business owners, and ensuring that they receive their fair share of Federal contracts.

For example, one of the programs selected for termination is the Central European Enterprise Development Program. This initiative has not been funded since 1995, and one of the countries involved, Czechoslovakia, no longer exists. For an even more striking example, the Pollution Control Bond Guarantee program, initiated in 1976 to provide SBA-backed bonds for the purchase of pollution and control equipment to retrofit existing factories, has not offered a single bond guarantee since the early eighties.

Simply having these programs on the books at the SBA detracts manpower and resources away from the SBA's core programs, and it is time to get them out of the way. Not only does this bill clean up the SBA; it also saves money.

□ 1850

The bill eliminates two drug-free workplace programs. These programs were allocated \$2 million for fiscal year 2011. While not a huge sum of money when considering the overall fiscal budget, each and every penny we save is a penny we don't have to borrow.

For additional cost savings, the legislation also prohibits the SBA from using any of its discretionary funding on its Emerging Leaders Program. While the program started in fiscal year 2009 without any congressional approval or authorization of appropriations, the SBA has requested \$3 million for this program for 2012. The program is duplicative of existing entrepreneurial development programs and does not have a good matrix for evaluating the program's success.

The SBA ought to be focusing on well-evaluated, congressionally authorized programs that have been fully vetted and supported by Members of Congress.

I would like to thank the gentlelady from New York, our committee's ranking member, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, for her efforts to craft this legislation. It is a

breath of fresh air to work in a truly bipartisan manner on important issues facing our Nation, and I appreciate her leadership on this issue.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2608 as amended.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Small businesses who employ more than half of all private sector employees remain absolutely critical to the U.S. economy. With the unemployment rate at 9.2 percent, we need them more than ever to create new jobs. Central to these efforts are the tools and resources of the Small Business Administration which enable entrepreneurs to secure low-cost capital, fairer contracts, and technical assistance.

However, over time, I feel the agency's programs have become redundant and unnecessary. Many have not been funded in decades, while others are simply antiquated policy remnants from a bygone era.

It is a disservice to both small businesses and taxpayers to keep these obsolete initiatives on the books. By cleaning up the statute, as this legislation does, we can be assured that efforts to assist small businesses both now and in the future will be both efficient and up to date.

Importantly, many of these cuts were at the behest of our colleagues in the Senate. Given this, it is my hope that the Senate takes up this legislation and passes it expeditiously.

Chairman GRAVES is also to be commended for his comity and bipartisan approach to vetting these charges. Doing so has produced a bill that does not adversely affect small businesses.

Similarly, a new but equally concerning trend has been the growth of unauthorized programs. The costs of this program have grown dramatically to equal more than \$50 million and constitutes nearly 10 percent of the SBA's noncredit programs budget. By passing the legislation before us, Congress can take a small but meaningful step that will begin to close this loophole.

The reforms in this bill come against a backdrop of extending certain authorities for the SBA itself. However, whether or not this legislation becomes law has no bearing on whether the agency can serve small businesses. Given the passage of the full-year continuing appropriations bill and a prior SBA extension passed 2 months ago, the agency will remain fully operational irrespective of the passage of this bill.

Ensuring that small firms have continued access to a strong and stable SBA is more important than ever. The agency's resources enable would-be entrepreneurs to start up while helping existing ventures expand. By doing so, we will allow small business owners to do what they do best and create the jobs we need to move the economy forward.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me state that small businesses can and will lead our economic recovery. It's time that those of us in Congress provide them with the certainty they need to create jobs and grow our economy. The legislation we have before us today gives small firms the confidence to know that the SBA programs they rely on will be there for them when they need them. It also shows them that this House is serious about cutting spending, lowering debt, and restoring confidence to our entrepreneurs.

I look forward to continuing to work with the chairman and the ranking member and all our colleagues on the Small Business Committee to enact policies that benefit American entrepreneurs.

I urge my colleagues to support this good bill.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for reauthorizing the Small Business Administration, which helps countless entrepreneurs receive the training and access the capital they need to start and expand small businesses and create jobs. While I support the reauthorization of these vital programs, I am concerned with provisions in the underlying bill that would prevent some entrepreneurs from obtaining vital assistance.

Specifically, H.R. 2608 singles out the e200 Emerging Leaders program for elimination, which targets entrepreneurs in underserved communities across the country like metro Detroit that have been severely impacted in these tough economic times. This program targets businesses in inner cities and economically hard-hit areas that show a high potential for growth, providing them with the network, know-how and resources they need to build a sustainable, growing business that promotes economic development within their communities. This program has a proven track record. Small businesses that complete the program increase their revenues and create jobs where they are needed most.

In addition to eliminating this vital program, this bill prevents the Small Business Administration from carrying out any succeeding program with similar goals. While I support the underlying reauthorization of the Small Business Administration, I strongly disagree with the elimination of the e200 Emerging Leaders program, and the prohibition of future initiatives that help small businesses thrive in some of the areas hardest hit by the recession.

Mr. HANNA. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. HANNA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2608, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IMPACT OF INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION FAILURES

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2056) to instruct the Inspector General of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to study the impact of insured depository institution failures, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2056

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. INSPECTOR GENERAL STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—The Inspector General of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) shall conduct a comprehensive study on the impact of the failure of insured depository institutions.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this Act—

(1) the term “insured depository institution” has the meaning given such term in section 3(c) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813(c));

(2) the term “private equity company” has the meaning given the terms “hedge fund” and “private equity fund” in section 13(h)(2) of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1851(h)(2)); and

(3) the term “paper-loss” means any write down on a performing asset held by an insured depository institution that causes such institution to raise more capital in order to cover the write down.

(c) MATTERS TO BE STUDIED.—In conducting the study under this section, the Inspector General shall address the following:

(1) LOSS-SHARING AGREEMENTS.—The effect of loss-sharing agreements (LSAs), including—

(A) the impact of loss-sharing on the insured depository institutions that survive and the borrowers of insured depository institutions that fail, including—

(i) the impact on the rate of loan modifications and adjustments;

(ii) whether more types of loans (such as commercial (including land development and 1- to 4-family residential and commercial construction loans), residential, or small business loans) could be modified with fewer LSAs, or if LSAs could be phased out altogether;

(iii) the FDIC's policies and procedures for monitoring LSAs, including those designed to ensure institutions are not imprudently selling assets at a depressed value;

(iv) the impact on the availability of credit; and

(v) the impact on loans with participation agreements outstanding with other insured depository institutions;

(B) the FDIC's policies and procedures for terminating LSAs and mitigating the risk of acquiring institutions having substantial assets remaining in their portfolio when the LSAs are due to expire;

(C) the extent to which LSAs provide incentives for loan modifications and other means of increasing the probability of commercial assets being considered “performing”;

(D) the nature and extent of differences for modifying residential assets and working out commercial real estate under LSAs; and

(E) methods of ensuring the orderly end of expiring LSAs to prevent any adverse impact on borrowing, real estate industry and the Depositors Insurance Fund.

(2) **PAPER LOSSES.**—The significance of paper losses, including—

(A) the number of insured depository institutions that have been placed into receivership or conservatorship due to paper losses;

(B) the impact on paper losses of raising more capital;

(C) the effect of changes in the application of the fair value of real estate accounting rules and other accounting standards;

(D) whether field examiners are using proper appraisal procedures with respect to paper losses; and

(E) methods of stopping the vicious downward spiral of losses and write downs.

(3) **APPRAISALS.**—

(A) The number of insured depository institutions placed into receivership or conservatorship due to asset write-downs and the policies and procedures for evaluating the adequacy of an insured depository institution's allowance for loan and lease losses.

(B) The policies and procedures examiners use for evaluating the appraised values of property securing real estate loans and the extent to which those policies and procedures are followed.

(C) FDIC field examiner implementation of guidance issued December 2, 2010, titled "Agencies Issue Final Appraisal and Evaluation Guidelines".

(4) **CAPITAL.**—

(A) The factors that examiners use to assess the adequacy of capital at insured depository institutions, including the extent to which the quality and risk profile of the insured institution's loan portfolio is considered in the examiners' assessment.

(B) The number of applications received by the FDIC from private capital investors to acquire insured depository institutions in receivership, the factors used by the FDIC in evaluating the applications, and the number of applications that have been approved or not approved, including the reasons pertaining thereto.

(C) The policies and procedures associated with the evaluation of potential private investments in insured depository institutions and the extent to which those policies and procedures are followed.

(5) **WORKOUTS.**—The success of FDIC field examiners in implementing FDIC guidelines titled "Policy Statement on Prudent Commercial Real Estate Loan Workouts" (October 31, 2009) regarding workouts of commercial real estate, including—

(A) whether field examiners are using the correct appraisals; and

(B) whether there is any difference in implementation between residential workouts and commercial (including land development and 1- to 4-family residential and commercial construction loans) workouts.

(6) **ORDERS.**—The application and impact of consent orders and cease and desist orders, including—

(A) whether such orders have been applied uniformly and fairly across all insured depository institutions;

(B) the reasons for failing to apply such orders uniformly and fairly when such failure occurs;

(C) the impact of such orders on the ability of insured depository institutions to raise capital;

(D) the impact of such orders on the ability of insured depository institutions to extend or modify credit to existing and new borrowers; and

(E) whether individual insured depository institutions have improved enough to have such orders removed.

(7) **FDIC POLICY.**—The application and impact of FDIC policies, including—

(A) the impact of FDIC policies on the investment in insured depository institutions, especially in States where more than 10 such institutions have failed since 2008;

(B) whether the FDIC fairly and consistently applies capital standards when an insured depository institution is successful in raising private capital; and

(C) whether the FDIC steers potential investors away from insured depository institutions that may be in danger of being placed in receivership or conservatorship.

(8) **PRIVATE EQUITY COMPANIES.**—The FDIC's handling of potential investment from private equity companies in insured depository institutions, including—

(A) the number of insured depository institutions that have been approved to receive private equity investment by the FDIC;

(B) the number of insured depository institutions that have been rejected from receiving private equity investment by the FDIC; and

(C) the reasons for rejection of private equity investment when such rejection occurs.

(d) **REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General shall submit to Congress a report—

(1) on the results of the study conducted pursuant to this section; and

(2) any recommendations based on such study.

(e) **COORDINATION BETWEEN FDIC IG, TREASURY IG, AND FEDERAL RESERVE IG.**—In carrying out this section, the Inspector General of the FDIC shall consult with the Inspectors General of the Treasury and of the Federal Reserve System, and such Inspectors General shall provide any documents or other material requested by the Inspector General of the FDIC in order to carry out this section.

SEC. 2. FUNDING.

The FDIC shall make available from the portion of the FDIC budget allocated to management expenses, sums allowing the FDIC Inspector General to complete this study.

SEC. 3. GAO STUDY.

(a) **STUDY.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall carry out a study on the following:

(1) The causes of high levels of bank failures in states with 10 or more failures since 2008.

(2) The procyclical impact of fair value accounting standards.

(3) The causes and potential solutions for the "vicious cycle" of loan write downs, raising capital, and failures.

(4) An analysis of the community impact of bank failures.

(5) The feasibility and overall impact of loss share agreements.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than the end of the 1-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall issue a report to the Congress on the study carried out pursuant to subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the bill before the House today is one that will provide much needed transparency to the FDIC process of examining and resolving banks.

First, I would like to thank Chairman BACHUS and Subcommittee Chairman CAPITO, Ranking Member FRANK and Subcommittee Ranking Member MALONEY for their support of H.R. 2056.

I'd also like to thank my lead cosponsor, the gentleman from Georgia, my friend, Representative SCOTT, for his tireless support on this issue.

As I have said many times before, there is no greater threat to our communities than bank failures, especially in my State of Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take a minute to highlight bank failures by the numbers in my State of Georgia: 319 is the total number of failures in the U.S. since 2008; 67 of those, that's the total number of Georgia bank failures since 2008; 16, this is the number of banks in Georgia that failed in 2011; 11 banks have failed in my congressional district.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to get you to look at this chart, and you can see by this chart that these communities, these 10 States, have had the largest closing number. Their unemployment rate is some of the highest, the deficiency rates. And if you look at the percentages, if you look at Arizona, 30 percent of their banks have closed; Nevada, 41 percent of their banks have closed; and in my State of Georgia, 26 percent have closed. Sadly, there are some communities in my district that no longer are even served by a community bank.

And I have often referenced these, the 10 over 10, and these are the 10 States that have had more than 10 bank failures since 2008. As you can see these unlucky States are Georgia, Florida, Illinois, California, Minnesota, Washington, Michigan, Nevada, Missouri, and Arizona. In fact, six of these 10 States have had more than 10 percent of their banks fail in the past 3 years.

These States also share other commonalities. As I mentioned, each have a higher than average unemployment rate and serious delinquency rates as well as a high number of bank failures.

□ 1900

While I hope no more States are added to this list, many States are not far off. Colorado has had nine failures, including one on Friday. Kansas and Oregon have had seven failures.

Without a doubt, the FDIC is a wealth of information about the health of banks, if you have the time and resources to go through it. However, too

much information without proper context can be detrimental. H.R. 2056 is designed to cut through all the information to analyze the underlying fundamentals that continue to cause bank failures across this country.

The bill directs the FDIC Inspector General, in consultation with the Treasury and Federal Reserve IGs, to study FDIC policies and practices with regard to loss share agreements, the fair application of regulatory capital standards, appraisals, FDIC procedures for loan modifications, and the FDIC's handling of consent orders and cease and desist orders.

Further, the GAO also has a study in the bill to pursue those questions the FDIC Inspector General is unable to fully explore, such as the causes of the high number of bank failures, procyclical impact of fair value accounting, analysis of the impact of failures on the community, and the overall effectiveness of loss share agreements for resolving banks.

I have welcomed the input from the FDIC IG as well as witnesses from the FDIC, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Independent Community Bankers Association, and the witnesses at the hearing 3 weeks ago. Overwhelmingly, these witnesses supported H.R. 2056. Likewise, the Financial Services Committee passed H.R. 2056 out of committee last week by voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Congress needs more information about the underlying causes of these bank failures.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As my distinguished colleague from Georgia, Congressman WESTMORELAND, pointed out, whom I am very pleased to serve as a cosponsor with on this bill, he very aptly described the very dire situation facing our State of Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, as I stand here, Georgia, since the 2008 financial difficulties started in this country, 67 banks have failed, which makes us the leader in the Nation in this area in our State. We have some very capable business people in Georgia and in Atlanta, very sterling leaders of the financial services industry worldwide based out of Atlanta. We're grappling with the recovery.

But there is no more important sector of our economy than our banking system. It is, indeed, the heart of our economic system. It pumps out the credit. It pumps out the capital that makes our economy go around. So it is very important that we really deal with an area and with information and with an effective study so that we can grasp the full meaning of what caused this to happen, what were the characteristics in Atlanta or in Georgia that caused this disproportionate number of bank failures. And, indeed, we could

learn so much so that we can prevent this type of a collapse in our bank financial system from happening again and make a very valuable contribution.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I want to take just a moment to explain what we are doing with this important bill, H.R. 2056, that we feel will make a very valuable contribution to preventing these kinds of collapses from happening again to the detriment of our economic system.

The purpose of this bill is, one, to determine the extent to which certain FDIC practices precipitated the bank failures. We need to find out if there's something that the FDIC was doing, that regulators were doing that we need to improve upon.

Two, we need to determine whether various FDIC policies and practices for resolving failed banks are appropriate. That's very important to know. If what we're doing is not appropriate, we can fix that.

And, three, we need to determine the extent to which the FDIC employees, themselves, in the field, the investigators, the bank examiners take actions that were consistent with FDIC policies and procedures that we developed here in Washington. In other words, Mr. Speaker, we need to take the time to look at this peculiar situation of this rash of bank failures in one basic geographic area of this country to see what really went wrong and if there were some things that we were doing here in Washington that we need to correct.

And, finally, we need to determine the extent to which the FDIC policies and procedures are applied consistently across all banks. This information will be very important.

The bill requires that the FDIC Inspector General, within 1 year of enactment of this bill, will conduct a study on the impact of the failure of banks and report the results and any associated recommendations back to Congress.

This study would address, one, the effect of the FDIC's use of loss sharing agreements on relevant stakeholders, including banks that survive and borrowers of the failed IDI. Two, the significance that paper losses, including the extent to which they trigger IDI receiverships and the impact they have on raising more capital. Three, the success of field examiners in implementing the FDIC policies and procedures on commercial real estate workouts.

One of the things we find in our State of Georgia, one of the common characteristics that sort of held these banks separate was the overleverage, we shall say, of the portfolios in real estate and the housing bubble burst on us.

Four, the application and impact of consent orders and cease and desist orders, including whether such orders are used consistently across all types of

banks, and also the application and impact of FDIC policies, particularly as they relate to a bank's ability to attract private capital. And then the FDIC's handling of potential investments by private equity companies in banks.

In H.R. 2056, as introduced, we received great bipartisan support and reception at a hearing that we recently had that my colleague from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) mentioned and the FDIC and the OCC are working with us on this bill. And the OCC has suggested that the FDIC Inspector General should consult with the OCC Inspectors General with respect to studied topics that pertain to banks that the OCC, which is the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, directly supervisors and, of course, that same logic would argue for consultation with the Fed.

So subsequently, an amendment was adopted by voice vote in the full committee in the markup, requiring that the FDIC Inspector General consult with the Inspectors General of the Treasury, within which the OIC is housed, and the Fed. This amendment was passed by voice vote with strong bipartisan support to supplement the study factors regarding the loss sharing agreements. It added new study factors regarding appraisals and capital. It required the FDIC's Inspectors General to coordinate with the Treasury and the Fed's internal Inspectors General. And four, it added a new separate GAO study on bank failures to the report due 1 year after enactment. And I might add that both the FDIC as well as the OCC are supportive of this measure.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, this bill is very important for us not only in Georgia but across this country where we've had this rash of bank failures. It's important for us to learn and to know about the causes of the bank failures in the States that have been hardest hit, especially the issue of application and effect of consent orders and cease and desist orders, particularly where these orders have been enforced uniformly and fairly across all banks. This has been a concern from our banking community in Georgia.

□ 1910

While I know this bill alone will not solve our current banking crisis, I am confident it will provide Congress and regulators with valuable information that may prevent failures in the future and provide us with ways that the FDIC, that the OCC and the Fed, our banking regulators and examiners, can help our banks avoid bank failures.

If we're ever going to climb out of this terrible economic malaise that we're in and spark growth in our communities, it is the banks that must be stable. It is the banks that must be well-capitalized and able to lend to

consumers and small businesses. And in particular, our small and community banks are the ones that will lead the way to our economic recovery, but only if they're able to work, hand-in-hand, with our Federal regulators and examiners to remain viable.

This bill is a small step, but it is a big step in the right direction in that respect, and I encourage all of my colleagues to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, our hope is that this will shed some light on these bank failures. We hope it will also shed light on why so many business people have come to all of us in this body to find out why they cannot get loans to promote job growth, to help expand their businesses. We need those answers.

We also need to make sure that this study will shed some light on what effects TARP and Loss-Share Agreements have had on our community banks. We also hope that it will shed light on why immediate write-downs are being demanded on our community banks when the loans are performing. People are paying their interest. They're meeting their renewal requirements, yet regulators are insisting that these loans be marked down. This has caused what I call a paper loss for a lot of these bankers that are then being made to ask to raise capital when they're under cease and desist orders.

So all of this does not work together. And, in fact, a lot of things that we have done in this previous Congress has caused the snowball to roll faster downhill.

I hope they'll look at the market to see what has happened and what is the effect of banks that have gotten TARP money and have come in and "fire sold" properties that have caused real property values to go down, not just for the banks, but for the people that have bought in there.

We need to find out why Loss-Share Agreements promote not modifying loans, why they promote getting rid of some of these bad loans, why they promote a bank to be able to get rid of property when the government guarantees them 95 percent of their loss. What effect has that had on our community banks that didn't get the TARP, that have not been allowed to be in any of these Loss-Share Agreements?

These are answers that we're looking for.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, thousands of local community banks operate across the country, making a valuable contribution to America's economy. Colorado has a rich history of community banking, where small business owners and employers can do business with a bank they know and trust, and people know that the money they deposit is being re-deployed into the community by an institution

that wants to see the community succeed as much as they do.

That shared interest in the community has traditionally led local banks to act in a responsible manner and shield themselves from systemic problems, but they are not immune from tough times. Unfortunately, federal regulators are forcing community banks in particular to fight through the rough economy with one hand tied behind their backs.

In short, we must increase bank lending to improve the economy, but regulators are preventing such lending by forcing banks to hoard capital, and by prohibiting community banks from effectively working with their borrowers. We cannot expect to reinvigorate the economy while this is the case.

Congress has been considering this problem since 2009, and it is time for action. It's been two and a half years since the fall of 2008, and yet we are still facing high unemployment, a weak dollar, and a sluggish economy. It is time to move forward, and we know that to move forward we need to stimulate lending. That is why I support this bill.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2056 offered by my colleagues on the Financial Services Committee, Rep. LYNN WESTMORELAND and Rep. DAVID SCOTT. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation which requires the FDIC Inspector General to conduct a comprehensive study of issues raised by persistent failures of U.S. banks. These issues include appraisals, capital, loss share agreements and other issues that arise when a bank becomes vulnerable to closure.

I have heard from banks in my district that have been working with the FDIC to recapitalize and restructure their institutions so they can avoid being closed. They argue that the FDIC offers them little flexibility or time to raise the capital they need or make the changes they need to satisfy the FDIC. I hope the study this bill authorizes will examine these procedures and bring to light any procedural changes that the FDIC can implement to address these concerns.

H.R. 2056 was amended in committee to reflect some additional factors that the FDIC thought were important to include in the study's parameters. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2056, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the further consideration of H.R. 2584, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WESTMORELAND). Pursuant to House Resolution 363 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2584.

□ 1915

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2584) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, with Mr. DOLD (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Monday, July 25, 2011, the bill had been read through page 3, line 2.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

In addition, \$32,500,000 is for the processing of applications for permit to drill and related use authorizations, to remain available until expended, to be reduced by amounts collected by the Bureau and credited to this appropriation that shall be derived from \$6,500 per new application for permit to drill that the Bureau shall collect upon submission of each new application, and in addition, \$39,696,000 is for Mining Law Administration program operations, including the cost of administering the mining claim fee program; to remain available until expended, to be reduced by amounts collected by the Bureau and credited to this appropriation from mining claim maintenance fees and location fees that are hereby authorized for fiscal year 2012 so as to result in a final appropriation estimated at not more than \$918,227,000, and \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended, from communication site rental fees established by the Bureau for the cost of administering communication site activities.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CLARKE OF MICHIGAN

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 65, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 65, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan (during the reading). Mr. Chair, I ask that the reading be suspended.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Chair, this amendment would move \$10 million from the Bureau of Land Management to the Environmental Protection Agency's geographic programs under the Environmental Programs and Management account.

Here's the bottom line, what this \$10 million is all about. It's helping to save jobs connected to the \$7 billion Great Lakes fishing industry. This industry, and the jobs connected to it, are at stake, are at risk because of the Asian carp. So it's my intention that the Environmental Protection Agency designate this additional \$10 million to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to stop the Asian carp from migrating into the Great Lakes.

Unfortunately, just last week, and this is the urgency of this situation, why I'm offering this amendment. Just last week, the Army Corps of Engineers found Asian carp DNA in Lake Michigan. This is deeply disturbing. We have to do everything in our power to stop the Asian carp from migrating to the Great Lakes basin because of the \$7 billion industry that's at stake.

These carp, they come and they eat all the food up in the ecosystem, and that leaves very little for the native fish. And the native fish is what people fish for in the Great Lakes.

So, again, I urge this body, for the sake of preserving the Great Lakes fishing industry, to allow this amendment. And again, it's my intention that the additional \$10 million would go toward the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which right now is underfunded by \$100 million. So it'll be some measurable improvement, and to have that money focus on preserving our Great Lakes fishing jobs by stopping the Asian carp.

I yield the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment and strong opposition to this bill. The Interior appropriations bill that is before us today is a radical

assault on public health, on clean air and clean water, and on our environment.

This bill wouldn't create a single job. Instead of creating jobs and protecting the public health, this bill gives polluters and other special interests license to do just about anything that they want. This might be the single worst bill in this House for our public health and the environment since the days of Newt Gingrich and Tom DeLay.

□ 1920

In this bill, the House Republicans are undermining the Clean Water Act, creating loopholes in the Clean Air Act, and gutting the Endangered Species Act.

But that's not all. This legislation makes it harder for our States and cities to improve their crumbling water and wastewater systems through the State clean water and drinking water revolving funds.

The legislation blocks the Environmental Protection Agency from protecting us from mercury, soot, and power plant pollution. Under this bill, the EPA will hardly be allowed to do anything about dangerous pollution that threatens our public health.

The legislation blocks the new vehicle standards that will save consumers at the gas pump and would reduce the amount of oil that we import as a Nation. If that wasn't bad enough, the bill decides to prohibit the State of California from setting its own clean vehicle standards.

The legislation also includes an “extinction rider,” one of the most aggressive threats to the Endangered Species Act in my career here that would freeze all of the efforts to protect imperiled species across the country.

One of the most offensive aspects of this bill, out of a very long list, is the 80 percent cut to the Land and Water Conservation Fund. For nearly 50 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has taken oil and gas drilling fields, a finite resource, to invest them in a continuing protection of our resources on land, not taxpayer dollars—these are taken from the oil companies that drill in the offshore—and they use that money to preserve the national parks, the wildlife habitat, trails, and working ranches and forests.

With this cut, Republicans are breaking the decades-long promise that has been a bipartisan consensus across this country, the promise that we will use these oil and gas royalties to protect important American places for future generations.

Outside of the Republican Conference in the House of Representatives, I don't know anyone in this country who wants to end our commitment to use these fees on Big Oil to protect our parks and recreation areas. These are our public lands. These are the lands

that America's families use every summer, use at different seasons and different parts of the country all of the time. These are the public spaces that make us the envy of the rest of the world. These are the public systems that countries from all over the world send people to understand how did we save them, how do we protect them, how do we manage them. We set the standard for the world. As it was said earlier, one of America's best ideas. But now all of that is threatened under the cut to these funds for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Mr. Chairman, these are a few of my reasons; but there are many, many more why I would strongly oppose this legislation and the very bad, bad ideas that it contains. I would hope that this Congress would reject this legislation out of hand.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. I move to strike the last word in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate what the gentleman is trying to do. This amendment would limit the BLM from spending \$10 million in offsetting collections for oil and gas fees and put the funding into the EPA's geographic programs. I understand what he's trying to do, and I'm sympathetic with what he's trying to do.

I'm not necessarily opposed to increasing this program, and we recognize the challenge of the Asian carp in the Great Lakes. We have many invasive species in Idaho, so I certainly understand where the gentleman is coming from and the challenges that they face.

With that said, we worked hard to balance funding in this bill. We already funded invasive species in the Great Lakes at \$43 million, and the total for Great Lakes geographic programs is \$250 million. It makes little sense to take funds from offsetting collections for the cost to administer the oil and gas programs. In other words, these programs are paid for by the industry, not by the taxpayers.

So while I don't necessarily oppose what the gentleman is trying to do, it's the offset that the gentleman has created to put the \$10 million in there. We've tried to create a balance between these different programs with limited funding. I think we've done a good job in the Great Lakes, the best we could in this bill; and I would oppose the amendment and ask my Members to oppose the amendment.

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Thank you, sir. I appreciate it.

I do have a newspaper article that does state that the oil and gas industry

does hold around 7,200 drilling permits that haven't been used yet, but I do take the gentleman's point into consideration, if there is a way that we could work out something, because I'm not trying to undercut the drilling program at all here.

I did notice in fiscal year 2012 that there was a surplus in terms of what we funded, which was around \$45 million; in terms of the collections that were received, there was around \$27 million. So there was around an \$18 million overfunding there. That's why I did ask for this offset, because I felt it would be responsible and would not undercut the drilling permit program here.

Mr. SIMPSON. Reclaiming my time, I appreciate what the gentleman is trying to do. As I said, we do have some concerns with the offsets, but I am more than willing once this bill goes to conference in whatever form, depending on the outcome of this amendment, obviously, to work with the gentleman to see what we can do with the geographical programs, not just the Great Lakes programs, but there are both Republicans and Democrats that care about the geographical programs.

We've tried to do the best we could there, but there are other geographical programs that the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) is concerned about and that the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) is also concerned about. We will work with the gentleman in conference in trying to address the concerns expressed by the gentleman.

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. I offer this amendment for what's at stake. The Great Lakes fishing industry is a \$7 billion industry, and right now metro Detroit and the State of Michigan are in very hard-hit economic times by our industrial base being eviscerated. The one saving grace in our State and in that region is the fishing industry. That's the reason why I'm asking for this right now. It's emergency action. We found Asian carp DNA in Lake Michigan last week. I've got to do everything in my power as a Representative of not only Michigan but of that entire region to stop that carp from getting into the Great Lakes system, which would destroy our fishing industry. I urge your help.

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CLARKE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan will be postponed.

Mr. MARKEY. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Chairman, in the underlying bill, the majority has underfunded the Interior Department agency charged with issuing new drilling permits and ensuring that offshore drilling is safe. The underlying bill would underfund the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement—BOEMRE is what it's called—by nearly \$35 million. This is the agency that is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that we drill safely off the coastline of the United States.

At our very recent hearing, the director of that agency, Michael Bromwich, said that underfunding this agency, as the majority, the Republicans, have done in this bill, would slow down new offshore drilling permits and make offshore drilling less safe. That is unacceptable.

Unfortunately, the rule the majority adopted has protected the underlying provision limiting the inspection fees paid by the oil and gas industry from a point of order, and now the Republicans will not allow the House to work its will on the amendment that I have drafted with the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) and the gentlelady from California (Mrs. CAPPS).

Our amendment would have fully funded this safety agency by increasing the inspection fees on the oil and gas industry. The top five oil and gas companies made \$35 billion in profits just in the first 3 months of this year. This week, they will likely report similar profits for the second quarter. In fact, earlier today, BP reported quarterly profits of \$5.6 billion. That's just for the last 3 months.

□ 1930

Yet the industry as a whole pays just \$10 million a year in inspection fees for offshore drilling, and the Republicans are putting it offshore today from any consideration by the Members of this body.

So our amendment would have, if the Republicans had allowed us, implemented a key recommendation from the independent BP spill commission. The BP commission recommended increasing the \$10 million per year that the oil and gas industry currently pays in inspection fees significantly, and that is what our amendment would have done.

And for my friends on both sides of the aisle who are concerned about reducing Federal spending, the increased funding for the safety agency from our amendment would have come from the oil and gas industry and not from taxpayers, but the majority won't even allow a vote on this amendment.

The oil and gas industry supports increased funding for BOEMRE. Just last November, the president and CEO of

the American Petroleum Institute, Jack Gerard, said, "We fully support Congress providing additional resources for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement. This agency needs the additional inspectors and the increased staff and training resources to allow more efficient review and approval of oil and natural gas permit applications and processing of environmental reviews."

But what have the Republicans done in this bill? They have underfunded this agency. The oil industry agrees that there needs to be more funding to process permits and conduct inspections. The only question is whether a portion of that funding is going to come from a small increase in inspection fees, as the independent BP commission has recommended, or whether American taxpayers will have to pick up the entire tab. We are saying that they should pay the fee, the American Petroleum Institute should pay the fee. The oil industry should have to pick up the tab. And right now we do not have an ability to debate that on the House floor.

When people go to get their cars inspected to ensure they are safe and not a threat to the environment, they pay a small fee. But the oil and gas industry, which is recording the largest profits in the history of the world, doesn't have to pay a fee to get some of their rigs inspected to ensure that we don't have another Deepwater Horizon disaster.

The American people want these rigs inspected to make sure they are safe, not allow oil companies to be safe from paying more inspection fees. But when we are trying to cut the deficit, the Republican majority is giving another gift to the oil industry, straining our oil safety agency. More than 1 year after the BP spill, it is still business as usual.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mrs. CAPPS. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Chairman, the legislation we are considering today undermines the ability of the Federal Government to continue protecting our Nation's air, land, and waters.

I intended to offer an amendment, along with my colleague from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and my colleague from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT), to fully fund the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, fully fund the national agency in charge of regulating offshore oil and gas drilling. Unfortunately, due to changes by the Republican leadership to the House budget process, we weren't allowed to offer this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, it's been over a year since the Nation's worst offshore oil

spill. And I think our constituents would be surprised to learn that rather than taking action to prevent another deadly spill, this House continues to talk about expanding offshore drilling while sidestepping environmental laws to do so. They would also be surprised to learn that the underlying bill blocks the bureau's ability to collect inspection fees, and, as a result, the agency would see a \$35 million cut in their budget.

Mr. Chairman, in his fiscal year 2012 budget request, President Obama asked for a significant increase for the bureau over his 2010 budget. He asked for this new money to hire additional inspectors, to enhance environmental reviews, and to enforce strengthened regulations. If we recall a year ago and the events following the spill, we will understand why this is the case.

While this request was a significant increase over prior years, the administration proposed to offset nearly half of the request by increasing the inspection fees on offshore rigs. This was a key recommendation of the President's bipartisan, independent national oil spill commission.

In their final report, the commissioners recommended the industry fees should be increased to, and I quote from their report, "provide adequate leasing capabilities and regulatory oversight for the increasingly complex energy-related activities being undertaken on the OCS."

Our straightforward amendment adopts this key recommendation to provide the funding needed for government regulators to do their jobs, and it will ensure a safer and more environmentally responsible industry.

Mr. Chairman, knowing what we know now, if we continue to allow offshore drilling in U.S. waters, the government has a responsibility to ensure that they are protecting us against a repeat of last year's disaster. And if oil and gas corporations want the opportunity to drill, it's only fair for them to help cover the cost of ensuring it's done properly, that their workers are protected, and the surrounding ocean is safe. But, ultimately, Congress holds the purse strings, and we must require these corporations to step up so the bureau can ensure that the people, communities, economies, and environment in the gulf, Alaska, and off the southern California coast are sufficiently protected against a spill.

Whether or not we have an agency capable of properly regulating the oil and gas industry is dependent upon our decisions. Without these fees, taxpayers, rather than the industry, would have to shoulder the costs of these operations.

If we want to ensure safe and responsible energy development, we must put the lessons learned from the BP oil disaster to use.

I urge my colleagues to vote down this bill which blocks the bureau's abil-

ity to collect inspection fees. It's what is needed so we do not have to endure a repeat of the horrific disaster that is still inflicting pain and damage to the Gulf of Mexico and to those who make their living from it.

What a terrible legacy of this Congress that we have done so little following the gulf oil disaster. What a legacy should, God forbid, a future disaster take place and we would have remembered that on our watch we could have done something about it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLT. As you heard, this appropriations bill provides several hundred million dollars to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement. Sounds like a lot of money, but it is far less than what is needed for the protection of the environment and of workers for offshore oil and other activities.

The Director of the bureau recently testified that these funds that are missing are needed and that their lack will have a direct and immediate impact on the ability of the agency to hire inspection and permitting personnel.

It's interesting that so eager is the majority to look after the interests of the oil industry that they ruled out of order our amendment which provides one way to make up for these lost funds, this amendment that I would have offered with Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts and Mrs. CAPPS of California had the amendment been in order. So eager are they to look after the interests of the oil industry that they actually work against the oil industry.

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So eager are they to look after the interests of the oil industry, that they actually work against the oil industry. The irony is pretty rich here. At a time when the majority is aggressively pushing their oil, oil, oil, drill, drill, drill agenda, they are slashing the very funds that are needed by the bureau to conduct the lease sales and issue the permits and inspect the offshore drilling facilities so the industry can move ahead safely and efficiently.

You know, at a time when we are about, according to the majority here, about to require seniors and the poor to pay more for their health care, and the majority is considering drastic cuts to the social safety net and considering trading away critical parts of Medicare and Medicaid, the majority is prepared to hand out yet another subsidy to the oil industry. They refuse to make in order the legislation that would take 0.02 percent, that is two-tenths of 1 percent, of the annual profits of the top

five oil companies to replace the missing \$35 million in inspection fees. That amount would fully fund the bureau and would ensure that the agency could effectively and efficiently issue the permits and conduct the safety inspections.

This is an industry that is making tens of billions of dollars each quarter. As we have heard, BP just today announced more than \$5 billion in profit. That is a little bit below expectations, we read, \$5 billion in the last 3 months.

So as a result, because this amendment is not being made in order, this bill, should it become law, would leave the agency that is responsible for the management, regulation, and enforcement of offshore drilling underfunded, understaffed, and it would leave the public and the workers at risk.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

CONSTRUCTION

For construction of buildings, recreation facilities, roads, trails, and appurtenant facilities, \$3,576,000, to remain available until expended.

LAND ACQUISITION

For expenses necessary to carry out sections 205, 206, and 318(d) of Public Law 94-579 (43 U.S.C. 1715, 1716, and 1748(d), respectively), including administrative expenses and acquisition of lands or waters, or interests therein, \$4,880,000, to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to remain available until expended.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BASS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 4, line 6, insert after the dollar amount the following: "(increased by \$1,000,000)".

Page 10, line 1, insert after the dollar amount the following: "(increased by \$4,000,000)".

Page 15, line 19, insert after the dollar amount the following: "(increased by \$4,000,000)".

Page 32, line 12, insert after the dollar amount the following: "(reduced by \$20,000,000)".

Page 76, line 2, insert after the dollar amount the following: "(increased by \$7,000,000)".

Page 78, line 1, insert after the dollar amount the following: "(increased by \$4,000,000)".

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Hampshire?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire. I thank the Chairman for recognizing me and

making it possible for me to offer this amendment at this point in the bill.

This amendment will restore \$20 million to the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It is offset by a \$20 million reduction from the Department of the Interior salaries and expenses. Now, the Department of the Interior salaries and expenses at present are about \$250 million, so this would represent roughly a 10 percent reduction in the overhead for the agency. But what do you get for that? You get about an 8 percent increase in the Land and Water Conservation Fund funding.

Now, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, as has been mentioned by other speakers, was established 46 years ago in 1965. It was designed as a forward-looking program to preserve critical assets in America for all of us to enjoy.

When you travel around the world, you don't find countries like America that have large parts of our country preserved for public use. Most of the land in other countries around the world is owned privately or by the government and it is not accessible to the public. The LWCF, through its state-side program, its Forest Legacy Fund, has provided countless acres of protected land for public enjoyment.

Now, the fund has, for the last 25 or so years, received most of its funding from offshore oil royalties, and those royalties have averaged anywhere from \$7 billion to \$18 billion a year. And I have a little table here for the last few years that shows the total royalties and how little amount of money that the Land and Water Conservation Fund takes from these receipts. It is authorized at \$900 million. It has been funded of late between \$300 million and \$500 million. But, my friends, this year it is funded at less than \$70 million.

We Republicans have set as a goal in our principles to reduce the growth of government and to reduce programs to their January 1, 2008, level. What have we done in this appropriations bill? We have reduced this fund to its 1965 level.

I have here another little table that shows the historical funding for the Land and Water Conservation program. There is 1965. We will be lower than that if we don't pass this amendment.

I ask you, my friends, for the sake of the 900,000 Americans who visit these lands during the year, of the millions of dollars spent through the outdoor recreation industry, for those opportunities that we may never see again to make critical purchases and easement purchases of assets that are so important to the future of our country, to raise this appropriation from \$68 million to \$90 million is a small price to pay for what could be done with those funds.

We need to continue the program of land conservation, local recreation, and, yes, working forests. And a \$68 million appropriation just plain doesn't do it.

So on behalf of my cosponsors, I urge you, Mr. Chairman, to support this amendment and make it a part of the underlying bill.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, I join my friend from New Hampshire as one of the cosponsors of this amendment, and I urge House passage.

Let me say at the outset that this is a terrible bill. This is the first time I have come to the House floor to speak on it. It goes without saying that the devastation that this underlying legislation would do to our, frankly, century-long history of environmental protection is almost indescribable. The League of Conservation Voters said simply this: that this bill is the biggest assault on the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the wildlife and wild places we hold dear to ever come before Congress.

It rolls back new vehicle emission standards. It guts the Clean Water Act. It defunds the Endangered Species Act. And in the middle of it all, it adds an 80 percent cut to the Land and Water Conservation Fund. As my friend, Representative BASS, rightly pointed out, it essentially reverses 50 years of investment in land conservation by returning this account back to the 1965 level.

It was a great Republican President, Teddy Roosevelt, who first had the wisdom to understand how integral the open spaces of this country are to what it means to be an American. There is something unique about this country. The views and the vistas are just one part of it. Our identity is wrapped up in the places that we have conserved, the places that we have conserved through the very rightful acts of investment by our Federal Government over the last 50 years, indeed, over the last 100 years. And it has been Republican and Democratic Presidents, Republican and Democratic Congresses that since that moment of awakening in this Nation have realized this is the right kind of investment for this Nation. It is the right kind of investment because not only does it preserve the character of our Nation, but it does so by leveraging private investment and State investment.

As Representative BASS noted, one of the most important pieces of LWCF is the Forest Legacy Program. That program has conserved 2 million acres around the country. In my State of Connecticut, it has helped conserve 8,000 acres, and it does it by partnering with State resources, with local resources, and with private resources; in my State, often through the generosity of land trusts. This is an incredibly wise investment, as it has been over the years.

And worst of all, this isn't even getting at the larger question of deficit reduction because this account has never been funded through deficits or borrowing. It has been funded through the money that comes from our offshore oil leases.

There are so many horrible cuts in this bill. There are so many reasons for those of us who believe in the concept of environmental protection made real by bipartisan support over the course of the last century to oppose this bill. But this, in my mind, is the worst of it. This is a sad day where we stand today. This is a small, small increase beyond what the Republicans have proposed to cut, but I think it is meaningful in the sense that it is an opportunity for this Congress to come together and say what dozens upon dozens of Congresses have said since 1965, that it is an American investment to spend Federal money toward the project of land conservation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, I am a strong supporter of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It's one of the great environmental success stories of the past 50 years. The \$65.8 million that the bill contains for the Land and Water Conservation Fund is in fact, as has been stated, the lowest since the program was started back in 1965. This is a 78 percent cut from the current level of funding. But I have to oppose the Bass-Murphy amendment because it not only is too small but the offset used would in fact harm other important programs.

The \$20 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund that the Bass-Murphy amendment would restore is less than 10 percent of the \$235 million cut from this year's level. But to fund this plus-up, the Bass amendment actually makes it worse by taking \$20 million from the Office of the Secretary's account. Because what appears to be an increase in funding in the Secretary's office is actually the transfer of the revenue collection function from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement. The Office of the Secretary took that in so that the Interior Department can do a better job in collecting the royalties and payments that are due the American people from Outer Continental Shelf drilling. But if you take this \$20 million away, it jeopardizes those collections.

The problem is that the Land and Water Conservation Fund is in fact funded with Outer Continental Shelf royalties. But if you take away the ability to collect those royalties, not

only are you taking the \$20 million from the ability of the Secretary of the Interior to manage the office, but you could very well be costing the government much more than \$20 million because they won't have the ability to collect those royalties that in fact pay for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Now, we couldn't agree more that it never should have been cut by 78 percent. It should be restored. We have said that in our statement. We support amendments to restore it, but certainly not to take it from the ability of the Secretary of the Interior to collect the very revenues that the government needs and that the American people are owed.

So that's why, regrettably, I have to oppose the gentleman's amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Chair, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has helped ensure the permanent protection and maintenance of critical lands in our national forests, parks, wildlife refuges, and historic sites. Equally important, it has provided matching funds to support countless state parks and recreation projects in thousands of communities in every state in the nation.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund not only helps provide outdoor recreation access so that parents can teach their children about active, healthy lifestyles, it also provides an economic boost. In Washington state alone, the 2.7 million people who enjoy hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching contribute \$3 billion to the local economy.

I've joined bipartisan efforts to protect this important fund because, in the Pacific Northwest, we take special pride in our natural resources. I'm proud to, again, follow in the footsteps of so many who have worked together to protect the outdoors and our environment. I urge my colleagues to support the Bass amendment.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Chair, I want to speak in favor of Mr. BASS' amendment to restore funds to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

More than 40 years ago, Congress made a commitment to the American public—a commitment to use a small portion of revenues from offshore drilling toward natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation programs—a commitment to partially offset the depletion of limited natural resources that belong to us all.

Diverting these funds goes against the promise that Congress made to the American public back in 1965 and the American public doesn't support it.

A new bipartisan poll released today by the LWCF Coalition shows that 85 percent of Americans support full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The nation's primary tool to conserve land for parks, wildlife refuges, forests, rivers, trails, historic and cultural sites.

Cuts to the LWCF undermine the economic asset that our Federal, State, and local public lands represent in this country.

And rob the American public of the opportunity to enjoy and recreate in these special places.

According to the Outdoor Industry Foundation, outdoor recreation activities, including hunting, fishing, camping, and other activities contribute a total of \$730 billion annually to the economy.

Supporting 1 of every 20 jobs in the U.S. and stimulating 8 percent of all consumer spending.

Support jobs, support our natural treasures, and keep our commitment to the American public.

Vote "yes" on the Bass Amendment to restore funds to the LWCF.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LAMBORN

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 4, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(decreased by \$4,880,000)".

Page 10, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert "(decreased by \$15,047,000)".

Page 15, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert "(decreased by \$18,294,000)".

Page 78, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert "(decreased by \$12,500,000)".

Page 158, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$50,721,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, I am offering this amendment on behalf of and in cooperation with Representative PAUL BROWN of Georgia, who could not be here tonight. What this amendment does is it would zero out all of the land acquisition programs within the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, thus placing more than \$50 million in the Spending Reduction Account in order to reduce our national debt.

The Federal Government already owns more than 650 million acres of land, or about 30 percent of the total land area of the United States. We can't even take good care of the lands that the Federal Government already owns. An example of this is that the Park Service has a current backlog of several billions of dollars of repairs and maintenance in our beautiful national parks. At a time when we are facing an unprecedented fiscal crisis, the Federal Government needs to focus its energy on taking better care of the land it already has rather than purchasing additional acres. Our Federal agencies have enough on their plate, and if we zero out these land acquisition programs, we can save a significant amount of money.

Mr. Chair, we cannot spend our way out of the debt dilemma. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and to send more than \$50 million toward paying down our national debt.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, I wish that our friends who just spoke on an amendment to add \$20 million were still around, because their points are well taken. We've already cut 78 percent from this program.

The gentleman from Colorado wants to eliminate it entirely. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is one of the premier environmental programs in this country. Most Americans have no idea how important it has been to their quality of life and to the ecology of this great country. But by wiping out these funds entirely, the amendment would force land management agencies to cease all work on congressionally approved projects that are now under way using previous year appropriations.

This mean-spirited amendment will hurt willing sellers—landowners who are willing to sell—because it's going to prevent agencies from finishing the commitments that are already in place. Among the willing sellers who would be unfairly thrown to the curb are owners who are partway through contracted sales and are counting on Land and Water Conservation funds to complete those sales, those contracts that they have already been working on. Many landowners, who range from elderly widowers and family trusts to ranchers and forest owners, have pressing financial needs that now depend on the completion of what are ongoing Land and Water Conservation projects. The amendment would also frustrate land exchanges that are currently in process. So it's not just the sale of land, it's exchanges of land that this amendment would prohibit. Many of them have been years in the making. And so it's very important for local and private economic development and for public land management.

Under this amendment, staff would not even be in place to accept and process donations of important natural historic and other properties. Donations to the public, you wouldn't even have staff to accept those donations. Without staff, right-of-way work to provide or maintain access to key public needs also would be impossible. The public, the American taxpayer, would be unable to secure critically needed routes for fuels and wildfire management or for watershed management or for access for sportsmen and other recreational use. I can't imagine that the sportsmen in this country could ever want to have this kind of prohibition in place that might prevent them from even getting access to important recreational areas for fishing and hunting and so on.

The amendment would exacerbate an already draconian cut—78 percent cut—to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a program that is already paid

for using a very small percentage of oil drilling receipts. I would hope that my colleagues and anybody that might be listening to this debate would understand that Land and Water Conservation Fund moneys are not taxpayer dollars. They come from the receipts from oil and gas drilling—drilling that is on publicly owned land.

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Those royalties come into the government, and that's what we use to fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund, but this would eliminate that program. This amendment represents a complete elimination of a bipartisan program that has existed for 45 years. This proposal prevents revenues deposited in the Land and Water Conservation account from being used for their authorized purposes. These funds were a promise made to the American people in 1964. This Congress should not be breaking that longstanding commitment. I, obviously, oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. HURT). The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. First, let me apologize to the gentleman from Virginia for the last amendment.

We both had some concerns, that he expressed very well, about taking \$20 million out of the Secretary's office and the impact that that could have. As we discussed during his debate, I think both of us are concerned about the underfunding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and would like to see that fund increased. During his debate in opposition to the amendment, we decided to accept the \$20 million in the amendment from the gentleman from New Hampshire and the gentleman from Connecticut's amendment.

So I apologize for the confusion in the middle of all that. The gentleman's issues that he raised about the Secretary's budget and the impact that could have are real. We will have to address those in conference, and I want to work with you to do that.

Let me rise in opposition to this amendment. I have concerns that this is eliminating all of the funds, especially since we just increased them by \$20 million. When we had this limited allocation, we had to make some tough decisions. The Secretary wanted it fully funded at \$900 million as did the Obama administration. We simply did not have that kind of money, and to put more money into it, given our allocation, we would have had to take the money out of some other programs that are very important to other people. What we did do is put enough money in it to keep the programs and the purchases and the deals that had

been made with citizens to acquire land that were already in progress so that those could be completed. We didn't put additional money in there.

I happen to be a fan of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. I think it has done some great things. I've seen it do things in Idaho and I've seen it do things in other States, things that are very important. Westerners, though, have a different view of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and let me tell you where it comes from.

It's that most of the money that's put into the Land and Water Conservation Fund, at least a large percentage of it, is used to buy land in States in the West. Those are States that are already highly leveraged by the Federal Government. In Idaho, 64 percent of the land is owned by the Federal Government. So a lot of westerners say, Listen, if you want to put money in the Land and Water Conservation Fund, if you want to buy the whole east coast, we don't care; but what we want in Idaho and what we want in Western States is some private land to be able to pay the taxes to support our education system and other services that are necessary.

I have one county in Idaho that is 96 percent Federal land—96 percent Federal land. It's bigger than the State of Rhode Island. That means 4 percent of the property is paying property taxes to deliver the services to these people. Several years ago, a mountain climber, not from Idaho but from somewhere else, came out and was climbing the mountains of Mount Borah. He died. It took their entire search and rescue budget for the year for that county to retrieve that one body off Mount Borah. That means everybody else who recreated in that county did not have that backup, did not have that search and rescue available, because they had no funds, because they had no private land to pay the taxes to fund those services.

That's the problem that westerners who are in States that are highly owned by the Federal Government have with the Land and Water Conservation Fund, but I'll be the first to admit that it does some wonderful things. If you float down the South Fork of the Snake River, you will see one of the most beautiful canyons and one of the best fishing rivers in the country; and if the gentleman from Washington wants to come out, I'll float him down it. It is an incredibly beautiful place, and it has been done through the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

So I believe in the importance of this program. I apologize to the gentleman from Virginia as to our previous confusion on that; but I oppose this amendment, and I would encourage Members to oppose it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I was just listening to the debate here, saying: What are they thinking? What is the rationale? What is the purpose for the legislation that we have before us, more pointedly, the amendment that was just offered?

This is an incredible country. This is a country that very recently took great pride in cleaning its rivers, in protecting its citizens from toxins and pollutants and chemicals and poisons. This is a country that took great pride in creating the first-ever in this world national park and then expanded it over time to create the most awesome National Park System in the entire world. This is a country that took great pride in the Snake River and the use of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

An argument was made a moment ago that there is not enough money. Yet not more than a month ago, an effort to increase the royalties from our oil that is pumped from our land, the land of the people and of the United States—and in fact even to get a royalty—was rejected by our Republican colleagues. So money was available if we simply had gone for the royalties that should be there under any case. This legislation, however, goes far beyond that, and over time will destroy the pride that we have taken in creating our national parks, in setting aside for future generations the great vistas of America, protecting our air, our land and our water.

You look at this bill. You look at the details of this bill, and you go, Oh, my. How could they? How could they put in legislation that would block the effort of the EPA to eliminate mercury poison in our air and water? How could they allow a bill that would create more soot in our atmosphere, put 34,000 lives at risk, and exempt the oil companies from air pollution standards in offshore drilling, which in California is a big deal because the air blows, the wind blows onto the land? How could they threaten the health of millions of Americans by jeopardizing the EPA's critical air, land and water regulations? Then our children. They block the EPA from limiting dangerous air pollution. How could they put together a bill that potentially could contaminate 117 million Americans' water?

How could you do that? Have you no pride in this country? Do you not care about the basic things that we have done to create a country that cares about clean water? You talk about jobs. Yet, in this bill, you eliminate the funding for the Clean Water Act, which is really building sanitation facilities in our community.

I remember in the 1960s the great pride that the 500 people in my community of Mokelumne Hill took when

they got that money from the Federal Government and actually built the first sanitation system in that small town. How could you deny Americans the opportunity for that—and the drinking water and the jobs that go with it?

That's what this bill does. Take pride in what you're doing, gentlemen, because at the end of the day, the American public will not take pride in what you're doing to this piece of legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. TIPTON

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk, and I ask unanimous consent to waive the reading.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,500,000)”.

Page 65, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(decreased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 78, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,500,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIPTON. My amendment is going to apply funds directed towards much needed conservation programs which are used to be able to provide access for the American people to our public lands and to help support jobs in the recreational and sportsmen industry.

Our public lands are a treasured resource for all Americans to be able to use and enjoy responsibly. I support a balanced approach to public lands use, respecting the environment that we all deeply value while making the best use of our natural resources on public lands. Recreation, preservation, access, and job creation are all important aspects of the multiple-use management for which these lands are truly intended.

This funding would be used for projects that clearly and specifically improve access for hunting, fishing and other forms of outdoor recreation on these Federal public lands. Of the directed funds, \$5 million would be redirected to make public lands public and provide much needed support for recreational access.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2010

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows.

OREGON AND CALIFORNIA GRANT LANDS

For expenses necessary for management, protection, and development of resources and for construction, operation, and maintenance of access roads, reforestation, and other improvements on the revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands, on other Federal lands in the Oregon and California land-grant counties of Oregon, and on adjacent rights-of-way; and acquisition of lands or interests therein, including existing connecting roads on or adjacent to such grant lands; \$112,043,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That 25 percent of the aggregate of all receipts during the current fiscal year from the revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands is hereby made a charge against the Oregon and California land-grant fund and shall be transferred to the General Fund in the Treasury in accordance with the second paragraph of subsection (b) of title II of the Act of August 28, 1937 (50 Stat. 876).

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

For rehabilitation, protection, and acquisition of lands and interests therein, and improvement of Federal rangelands pursuant to section 401 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1751), notwithstanding any other Act, sums equal to 50 percent of all moneys received during the prior fiscal year under sections 3 and 15 of the Taylor Grazing Act (43 U.S.C. 315 et seq.) and the amount designated for range improvements from grazing fees and mineral leasing receipts from Bankhead-Jones lands transferred to the Department of the Interior pursuant to law, but not less than \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$600,000 shall be available for administrative expenses.

SERVICE CHARGES, DEPOSITS, AND FORFEITURES

For administrative expenses and other costs related to processing application documents and other authorizations for use and disposal of public lands and resources, for costs of providing copies of official public land documents, for monitoring construction, operation, and termination of facilities in conjunction with use authorizations, and for rehabilitation of damaged property, such amounts as may be collected under Public Law 94-579, as amended, and Public Law 93-153, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any provision to the contrary of section 305(a) of Public Law 94-579 (43 U.S.C. 1735(a)), any moneys that have been or will be received pursuant to that subsection, whether as a result of forfeiture, compromise, or settlement, if not appropriate for refund pursuant to section 305(c) of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1735(c)), shall be available and may be expended under the authority of this Act by the Secretary to improve, protect, or rehabilitate any public lands administered through the Bureau of Land Management which have been damaged by the action of a resource developer, purchaser, permittee, or any unauthorized person, without regard to whether all moneys collected from each such action are used on the exact lands damaged which led to the ac-

tion: *Provided further*, That any such moneys that are in excess of amounts needed to repair damage to the exact land for which funds were collected may be used to repair other damaged public lands.

MISCELLANEOUS TRUST FUNDS

In addition to amounts authorized to be expended under existing laws, there is hereby appropriated such amounts as may be contributed under section 307 of the Act of October 21, 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1737), and such amounts as may be advanced for administrative costs, surveys, appraisals, and costs of making conveyances of omitted lands under section 211(b) of that Act, to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The Bureau of Land Management may carry out the operations funded under this Act by direct expenditure, contracts, grants, cooperative agreements and reimbursable agreements with public and private entities, including with States. Appropriations for the Bureau shall be available for purchase, erection, and dismantlement of temporary structures, and alteration and maintenance of necessary buildings and appurtenant facilities to which the United States has title; up to \$100,000 for payments, at the discretion of the Secretary, for information or evidence concerning violations of laws administered by the Bureau; miscellaneous and emergency expenses of enforcement activities authorized or approved by the Secretary and to be accounted for solely on the Secretary's certificate, not to exceed \$10,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding Public Law 90-620 (44 U.S.C. 501), the Bureau may, under cooperative cost-sharing and partnership arrangements authorized by law, procure printing services from cooperators in connection with jointly produced publications for which the cooperators share the cost of printing either in cash or in services, and the Bureau determines the cooperator is capable of meeting accepted quality standards: *Provided further*, That projects to be funded pursuant to a written commitment by a State government to provide an identified amount of money in support of the project may be carried out by the Bureau on a reimbursable basis. Appropriations herein made shall not be available for the destruction of healthy, unadopted, wild horses and burros in the care of the Bureau or its contractors or for the sale of wild horses and burros that results in their destruction for processing into commercial products.

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

For necessary expenses of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, as authorized by law, and for scientific and economic studies, general administration, and the performance of other authorized functions related to such resources, \$1,099,055,000, to remain available until September 30, 2013 except as otherwise provided herein: *Provided*, That none of the funds shall be used for implementing subsections (a), (b), (c), and (e) of section 4 of the Endangered Species Act, (except for processing petitions, developing and issuing proposed and final regulations, and taking any other steps to implement actions described in subsection (c)(2)(A), (c)(2)(B)(i), or (c)(2)(B)(ii) of such section): *Provided further*, That of the amount available for law enforcement, up to \$400,000, to remain available until expended, may at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior be used for payment for information, rewards, or evidence concerning violations of laws administered

by the Service, and miscellaneous and emergency expenses of enforcement activity, authorized or approved by the Secretary and to be accounted for solely on the Secretary's certificate: *Provided further*, That of the amount provided for environmental contaminants, up to \$1,000,000 may remain available until expended for contaminant sample analyses.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DICKS

Mr. DICKS. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Under the heading "UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE-RESOURCE MANAGEMENT", strike the first proviso (Page 8, line 19, to page 9, line 1), relating to implementation of subsections (a), (b), (c), and (e) of section 4 of the Endangered Species Act.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DICKS. I rise to offer an amendment that would strip a dangerous rider from this bill, a rider that would seriously compromise the effectiveness of the Endangered Species Act. This is a bipartisan amendment, I might add.

I'm offering it with the support of Congressman THOMPSON and Congressman FITZPATRICK and Congresswoman HANABUSA.

The fiscal year 2012 Interior and Environment bill passed by the full committee a few weeks ago contains a direct attack on the ESA. I offered an amendment at that time to strike the provision, but the full committee rejected it.

The provision would block the Fish and Wildlife Service from listing candidate species as either threatened or endangered as well as the designation of the critical habitat necessary for species recovery. These listing activities are preliminary steps that the Fish and Wildlife Service must take in order to begin the recovery process. After those steps are taken, then the hard work begins. Without these important preliminary steps of listing and critical habitat designation, it would be impossible to develop a scientifically valid and legally defensible recovery plan for declining species.

This funding limitation aimed at the heart of the ESA is simply postponing the day of reckoning. It is important to note that the bill does provide funding for the Fish and Wildlife Service to downgrade the protections offered to species under the ESA. After all, the goal of the ESA is to eventually delist recovered species. Delisting is the reward after all the hard work recovering these species. But we can't get to the point of delisting species without listing them first.

My amendment would remove these restrictions on listing and up-listing and the designation of critical habitat.

Many critics of the ESA argue the law simply does not work. I would

argue that the recovery leading to the delisting of the bald eagle and the American alligator under the ESA is a strong success. In the last few months, the gray wolf in the northern Rockies has been delisted in two States and the Fish and Wildlife Service recently announced the intention to delist the gray wolf in the western Great Lakes.

Other animals that are still listed under the ESA but have made tremendous recoveries include the whooping crane, the black footed ferret, and the California condor. In the Pacific Northwest, I'm glad to report that we are seeing signs of healthy recovery for the ESA-listed salmon, although it will be awhile before delisting could occur.

Clearly these examples show us the success of the ESA, a law, by the way, that the American people overwhelmingly support.

As for species listed under the ESA, they still are struggling. It is naive to think that a quick turnaround is easy when it took decades, if not centuries, for a species to decline. Also, it takes more time to recover long-lived species.

Here is a situation that the Fish and Wildlife Service faces in the administration of the ESA.

Currently, there are about 260 species that have been identified as potential candidates for ESA protection. Of that total, there are just under 30 species that are poised for listing in the near future. The spending provisions in this bill would block further activity to protect these declining species. And remember, if you delay listing too long, a species will go extinct, thus making a recovery impossible. And that is why some people call this the "extinction rider."

The Endangered Species Act is one of the most effective environmental laws ever written. Recovering species is hard, often long, work; but it is a responsibility that cannot be dismissed like this Interior appropriation bill attempts to do.

I know that many of my colleagues would like to drastically reform the ESA, but it would be a sounder path to do such a reform through the authorization process rather than accomplishing the goal with a few lines in the appropriation bill. And I see that the distinguished chairman of the Natural Resources Committee is here, and he has pledged to get to work on this important endeavor.

In closing, I will point out that this amendment is supported by former directors of the Fish and Wildlife Service who served under Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter, the first President Bush, and Bill Clinton. It is also supported by several hook-and-bullet groups including the Izaak Walton League and Trout Unlimited.

I urge support for this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. I move to strike the last word in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. I rise in opposition to the amendment by my good friend from Washington (Mr. DICKS).

I respect where my friend is trying to go; but not only does this amendment not get us there, it's downright dangerous. Let me explain why.

Since the Clinton administration and response to lawsuits and court orders that were crippling the agency's budget, there has been a statutory cap on how much the agency is permitted to spend on ESA listings. There's been a statutory cap in place since the Clinton administration. A cap on critical habitat spending was added in 2002.

The Obama administration requested new caps for petitions and foreign species listed in 2012.

In short, support for ESA funding caps has had bipartisan support in Congress and in the White House and was in place when the gentleman from Washington wrote the Interior bill and when the gentleman from Virginia wrote the Interior bill. Those spending caps were in place.

This amendment proposes to do away with funding caps altogether and gives the green light to those who have made a living suing the Fish and Wildlife Service. As a result, the litigants will act, the courts will all act, and the Fish and Wildlife Service's entire operating budget will be at risk of being raided in order to fund court-ordered mandates to list species and designate critical habitat.

□ 2020

This service will have no choice but to raid other funds from its resource management account, which is already decreased by \$146 million, or 12 percent, in this budget. Having said that, the heart of the issue isn't about funding. It's about the fact that the Endangered Species Act is broken and is badly in need of review, revision, and reauthorization by the Natural Resources Committee. As I have said before, there's been about 2,000 species listed and 21 recovered.

Unfortunately, the Endangered Species Act has become not so much about saving species as it has been about controlling land and water. I'll give you an example. We all talk about the fuzzy and warm animals that we all like and all want to save. Nobody talks about the slickspot peppergrass, endangered. Nobody really cares about the slickspot peppergrass, except that it's listed. And you know what it does? It prevents cattle grazing on public lands and is used to prevent cattle grazing on public lands and move cattle producers off of public lands. That's the only reason that the slickspot peppergrass is really listed. That's unfortunate.

When you start using what was an act that was bipartisan and almost had unanimous agreement in the House and

Senate, was a good Act—the intent of the Endangered Species Act is right, and we need to do it. We need to protect species that are endangered. Unfortunately, that's not what it's being used for today, and you can't get the stakeholders to the table to do a reauthorization bill because there are groups that like it the way it is. They want to control land and water by using the Endangered Species Act. How do we get the message out to them that we need to do a reauthorization? The only way I can think of is to say, You know what? This has been unauthorized for 20 years.

Now, you talk about policy riders in this bill that you don't like. This is a policy rider that you're attempting to add. It's an unauthorized program. Just because we have continued to fund it for 20 years, that's not the answer; that's the problem. And we need stakeholders to come to the table, sit down with the Natural Resources Committee and write a reauthorization. That's what this is all about. It is a shot across the bow.

I believe there are 56 or 58 programs in this bill that the authorization has expired. Somehow we need to send a message that we have a process around here. It's authorization, then appropriation. Not authorization, expired appropriation, and appropriation and appropriation and appropriation. It's the only way those things keep going on. We are trying to send a message.

You will find that I am supportive of reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act, and I am supportive of the Endangered Species Act as it was originally intended. But I would urge my colleagues to vote against this dangerous amendment which would undermine the Fish and Wildlife Service's budget because it would lift the caps that have been in place since the Clinton administration, and Fish and Wildlife Service would have no other alternative but to raid their accounts in order to fund court orders, suits, and other things that would come along.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.
Mr. MORAN. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN. I was going to wait until other speakers spoke, but I felt it appropriate to engage in a discussion here with the chairman and to remind him that this bill includes funding for a multitude of expired authorizations.

The Bureau of Land Management isn't authorized. But you are funding the Bureau of Land Management because you like the Bureau of Land Management. The grazing program isn't authorized. Oil and gas isn't authorized.

Mr. SIMPSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MORAN. I yield to the gentleman from Idaho.

Mr. SIMPSON. The gentleman brings up the point I tried to make. This is a shot across the bow. All of these programs need to be reauthorized. We had to start somewhere.

Mr. DICKS. Can you start with another bow?

Mr. MORAN. Well, that's it.

Reclaiming my time, the shot across the bow goes right into the heart of the Endangered Species Act. So you are picking winners and losers. You could have picked any number of programs, but you like those. In fact, some of them you've increased—funding for grazing subsidies, funding for oil and gas subsidies. But the Endangered Species Act, the poor species who are in danger of extinction who can't speak up for themselves, they get targeted. They're the ones you are going to make an example of.

You know, not allowing listings of the designation of even the critical habitat that will protect endangered species doesn't change the fact that so many plant and animal species are at risk of extinction. There are 260 species that are in danger of extinction, but we're not going to protect them.

The lack of critical habitat designations not only hurts those species at risk, but it leaves in limbo landowners and businesses that need decisions made in order to make plans. We hear so much about uncertainty and how bad uncertainty is. This creates uncertainty.

The twist of irony: The bill allows funding to be used to delist species or reclassify them from endangered to threatened, to delist them or down-list them, but no funds can be used for listings or to reclassify them from threatened to endangered. Even if they become endangered, we can't classify them as endangered. We can only down-list them. It's a one-way street, a one-way street to less protection.

I too would like to see the Endangered Species Act authorized. Maybe we'll hear from the chairman of the authorizing committee why it's not being reauthorized. But this is not the way to deauthorize it. The fact is that this is legislating on an appropriations bill, basically. I thought we were not supposed to be doing that. But we make these poor endangered species that are at risk of extinction bear the cost of Congress' failure to reauthorize the Endangered Species Act.

Of course I support the Dicks amendment. Not only do we have 260 species at risk of extinction, but we don't even know the entire scope of the species whose very existence is at risk, and we don't know either the role they play in the ecology of our planet. There are so many species that we're only now learning—for example, there are many that catch insects or mosquitoes or whatever—that maintain the population of other species.

I do believe that every species has some role to play in the sustainability and the ecology of this planet. We don't know necessarily what that role is, but I do think we have some idea that they're there for a purpose. And while they're there for a purpose, it seems to me we have a purpose, a responsibility for enabling that species to be sustained on this fragile planet. And to say that we can't outperform our responsibility, we can't act responsibly toward these species, is irresponsible. It really is an embarrassment to this Congress.

So I very strongly support the Dicks amendment. I would hope that we would give species a break. Get this language out of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, let me make one point: This debate is not about the Endangered Species Act; it is not about the Endangered Species Act.

I have to rise in opposition to the amendment offered by my good friend from Washington State. I think that Chairman SIMPSON has brought to the House floor a bill that prioritizes funding to ensure that the core responsibilities and environmental protections are met in a broader sense.

When it comes to the Endangered Species Act, this bill focuses on funding the actual recovery of species. It does this by, one, continuing funds for recovery activities and doing that despite the fact that this bill, the ESA, has not been reauthorized for 23 years—not 20 years; 23 years—and, two, by limiting funds for lawsuit-driven new listings and habitat designations.

This bill sends a clear message, as the gentleman from Idaho said, that the Endangered Species Act needs to be updated and improved. It needs to be reauthorized. As I mentioned, it's been 23 years since this bill was reauthorized by Congress. A person can be born and graduate from college in the amount of time that has passed since Congress last acted to make serious responsible improvements to this law.

□ 2030

Now, the gentleman from Washington acknowledged me on the floor earlier, and I will tell him, as the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, which has jurisdiction on the Endangered Species Act, I can inform the House that this committee will be conducting robust oversight of the need to update this law in the coming months. The current law is failing to truly recover species while it frequently hamstring jobs and economic prosperity, like the gentleman from Idaho mentioned. And we will also examine legislative priorities.

In my view—and this is important about this debate—in my view, the real obstacle to improving ESA is the fact that a number of groups are heavily invested in litigation mindset, a litigation mindset that prefers lawsuits against the government over improving the act and improving the recovery of species. These groups have filed lawsuits by the one hundreds against Fish and Wildlife and the National Marine Fisheries.

This bill, under Chairman SIMPSON's leadership, effectively halts these lawsuits. By limiting any spending on new listings or habitat designations, this bill will allow the biologists to get back to work recovering species, rather than responding to court cases. Both funding and personnel will be able to focus on the real work of bringing species back from the brink.

By striking this provision, the Dicks amendment would reopen the litigation process. The same activist groups, Mr. Chairman, that filed these lawsuits endorse this amendment. As we speak, they are waging an expensive paid advertising campaign on behalf of this amendment. Because they profit from these lawsuits, to me, it appears they are more concerned about the ability to go to court, get a settlement and get paid than they are about recovering species.

So I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment. This bill strikes the right balance by directing funding to actual recovery of species. And it strikes the right balance by bringing a halt to litigation over new listings and habitat designations.

This bill will create an opportunity where Congress can do its job to update and modernize the ESA. It's time that we take a thoughtful analysis of the inadequacies of this current law, inadequacies that allow the ESA to be abused through lawsuits, rather than serving as a true conduit for species recovery.

Let me go on to say that, as the chairman, I think, said very well in his remarks, there is no incentive for the stakeholders to come and try to work out the differences or update this law if Congress keeps kicking the can ahead. That's what the issue is all about.

I can't imagine, for example, that people really believe that this bill should be in place, yet, when there is a major construction project here in the Washington, DC, area, like the Woodrow Wilson bridge, they waive the act. Does that make sense? Of course it doesn't make sense.

And we don't get an opportunity, those of us that are impacted by this act, get a chance to waive it. So it just seems to me that there has to be an update of this. The act has not been updated for 23 years. It's time to do it. And as the chairman of the committee that has jurisdiction on that, I'm glad to work with the chairman of the Ap-

propriations Committee on this. In fact, I'll work with anybody on this because I too believe that the species are very important, as the gentleman from Virginia said. But let's do it in a way that protects species and does not harm those people that make a living from the land and/or the water.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FITZPATRICK) having assumed the chair, Mr. HURT, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2584) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2587, PROTECTING JOBS FROM GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE ACT

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-183) on the resolution (H. Res. 372) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2587) to prohibit the National Labor Relations Board from ordering any employer to close, relocate, or transfer employment under any circumstance, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 363 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2584.

□ 2037

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2584) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, with Mr. HURT (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, an amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) was pending, and the bill had been read through page 9, line 12.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Rhode Island is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the amendment introduced by my friend and colleague, Ranking Member DICKS, and in opposition to the broader FY 2012 Interior appropriations bill. This bipartisan amendment, I believe, is critical to restoring the long-time commitment to protecting our most threatened species from extinction.

The gentleman from Virginia is absolutely correct that so many of these species our planet actually depends on, and it is a symbiotic relationship that protects our environment.

The language in the underlying bill to prevent any funds from being used to list new species under the Endangered Species Act, I believe, is short-sighted and only serves to punish a successful program for preserving critical habitats. And this language is just one example of the extremely harmful policies included in this bill.

On the broader bill itself, and how it fails to help our economy and create jobs, I want to mention that in my home State of Rhode Island, our unemployment rate right now continues to be the third-highest in the Nation, at 10.8 percent. Right now we need investment in our infrastructure and in our resources to create jobs and modernize our communities.

New England is home to some of the oldest infrastructure in the Nation, and it is estimated that our drinking water infrastructure needs will cost over \$400 million over the next 20 years, and that our State has \$1.16 billion in unmet wastewater needs. But instead of addressing these needs by investing in our communities and creating new jobs, this bill slashes both the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds by 55 and 14 percent, respectively, below last year's levels.

In this time of complex and contentious debates about our debt and future fiscal security, I constantly hear my colleagues talk about the burden our actions will place on the next generation. Yet this bill would repeal and block implementation of two of the most important laws that keep our environment safe, the Clean Water and Clean Air Act.

Now, what chance are we giving our children to grow up and flourish if we can't protect the rivers and bays that they swim in and the water that they drink?

I'm also very disappointed that this bill blocks the EPA from finalizing a rule reducing emissions of mercury from power plants. Now, last week, Members were down here on the floor speaking about the tiny amount of mercury in light bulbs. Yet, today

these same Members are blocking a rule that would keep our fisheries healthy and safe for consumption, in addition to preventing 17,000 premature deaths each year.

I don't understand how my colleagues on the other side of the aisle can be opposed to a small amount of mercury last week, yet today seemingly have no problem, no problem with much larger quantities of the same substance, but it being allowed to endanger public health.

Now, lastly, I urge my colleagues to fight against the nearly 80 percent cut in the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the lowest amount in its 45-year history. As many of us are well aware, hunting, fishing, camping, and other outdoor recreation activities are a great benefit to our economy, bringing in a total of \$730 billion each year and supporting 6.5 million jobs.

□ 2040

These numbers bear out when you look at my home State of Rhode Island. Each year, 163,000 sportsmen and 436,000 wildlife watchers combine to spend \$381 million on wildlife-associated recreation in Rhode Island. We have incredible national wildlife refuges, which have been protected with LWCF funding, and which offer families in my district an opportunity to enjoy beautiful parks, trails, and open spaces at no cost during these tough economic times.

Mr. Chairman, I don't believe that this bill reflects our values or our shared desire to preserve our beautiful Nation. I believe we can and we ought to do better for our constituents and for our children. I urge my colleagues to reject this bill and to bring a bill to the floor that preserves our environment, creates new jobs, and protects our commitment to future generations.

Mr. DICKS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LANGEVIN. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. I just want to commend the gentleman for his statement. It's an outstanding statement. You covered this very comprehensively, especially the part about infrastructure. There was a \$688 billion wastewater backlog during the Bush administration. We should be putting people to work on those kinds of projects. The gentleman is absolutely right, and I appreciate him being here late in the evening to support my amendment.

Mr. LANGEVIN. I thank the ranking member. I want to commend the gentleman for sponsoring this amendment and for his work on the broader bill. This is the right thing to do, to defeat the broader bill here and bring a bill to the floor that really reflects our values.

Again, I thank the gentleman from Washington State for offering this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. CONAWAY. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Chairman, as has been spoken earlier, the Endangered Species Act is broken. What began as a tool to help scientists protect vulnerable populations of endangered animals and plants has metastasized into an economic straitjacket from which there is no relief.

To illustrate my point, I would like to share the stories of two species that make their home in west Texas: the Concho water snake and the dune sagebrush lizard.

The Concho water snake was first listed as threatened on September 3, 1986. Since that time, the citizens of Texas have spent millions of dollars complying with Federal mandates, performing surveys, and generally advancing knowledge of the snake's biology far beyond that which existed when the snake was first listed in 1986. Today, there is little question that the snake's population is stable and exists in far greater numbers than during the original listing.

Because of this research, the service proposed delisting the snake on July 8, 2008. This delisting should be a victory for the service and the supporters of the Endangered Species Act. Instead, it has collapsed into a maddening, saddening caricature of endless government bureaucracy.

During a federally mandated 10-year study of the snake, researchers caught and released 9,000 individual snakes. The data collected was the basis for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission's decision to remove the snake from their threatened species list in August 2000. At that time, Fish and Wildlife declined to delist the species, instead requesting an additional population viability study to be conducted, with, of course, updated data.

Eight years later, in July of '08, the service finally issued a formal delisting proposal after what must have been an exhaustive, thorough, and detailed review of all of the best available science. Unfortunately, as of today, the service still has not completed action on its own proposal. Today, to the best of my knowledge, the final delisting rule is hung up somewhere with the lawyers in the solicitor's office of Fish and Wildlife.

It is inexcusable that this snake persists on the endangered species list. Its continued inclusion on the list represents a significant commitment of Federal, State, and local tax dollars. At a time when our financial commitments are under a strain at every level of government, dollars are wasted because of the failure of Fish and Wildlife to make a final decision on their own recommendation.

But beyond the dollars wasted while protecting a species that the service

supports delisting, I'm more concerned about the long-term impact this non-decision has on the public's trust in our Federal Government. By proposing and then failing to delist a species, the service is undermining the very reputation it relies on when it hands down drastic and painful mandates sometimes needed to protect a species on the brink of extinction. The dunes sagebrush lizard is just one such species whose protection will require the service to demand significant and costly compliance measures from the landowners and communities where this lizard exists.

Unfortunately, it's also a species that has a paltry amount of science behind the support of its listing. In Texas, there are but a handful of places that anyone has looked for the lizard, and the service is unable to answer basic questions as to how many lizards exist today or how many are needed to support a viable population of these lizards.

This might not stir up much trouble, except that the dune sagebrush lizard lives above one of the most productive oil and gas producing basins in the lower 48. Its inclusion on the endangered species list would dramatically curtail oil and gas exploration across this vast patch of the Permian Basin until the Fish and Wildlife Service decides on how best to proceed several years from now.

The oil produced on this land provides the livelihood for hundreds of thousands of Texas families, millions of dollars of support for Texas university and public school students and, most important, is used as energy by millions of Americans. The Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed closing this land to development based on too little science and too little concern for the economic consequences.

I believe that the interminable delay in delisting the Concho water snake and the paltry science behind listing of the dune sagebrush lizard is damaging the service's credibility as an honest steward of the powers its agents are entrusted with. Fair or not, the Endangered Species Act as implemented by Fish and Wildlife is viewed in my district as little more than a cudgel to beat up disfavored industries, in large part because the science is often shoddy, species are rarely delisted, and the mandates continue in perpetuity. I support the underlying legislation today because I believe it is the best short-term chance to correct the imbalance in the implementation of the Endangered Species Act.

The underlying legislation will allow the Fish and Wildlife Service one full year to clear out its backlog of Concho water snakes across this Nation. Free from new listing requirements, the service can focus on the recoveries of the species that are under its care and better managing the charges it already

has. I hope that the service takes this year off to pay particular attention to the dune sagebrush lizard and work to understand this animal better before it moves to close down thousands of well sites across west Texas while the resulting energy prices are crushing our constituents.

Mr. Chairman, I oppose the gentleman's amendment because the amendment locks in the failed status quo for another year and offers communities around this country like mine no relief from the arbitrary mandates in the Endangered Species Act.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express deep concern over the allocations in H.R. 2584, the Interior and Environment appropriations bill for 2012.

To begin, the bill cuts \$1.7 million for technical assistance and maintenance assistance in the United States territories. These small amounts of money pay big dividends in the islands. The Northern Marianas was just awarded \$1.2 million in technical assistance funding to develop geothermal resources to generate electricity. We pay up to 40 cents per kilowatt-hour now because we have to buy expensive foreign oil to power our generators. Technical assistance funds are helping to develop our own domestic energy resources; and cutting these funds sends us in the wrong direction, back into the arms of foreign oil interests.

I do appreciate the small increases in the bill to fund water and sewer projects in the Northern Mariana Islands and the other territories. I am disappointed, however, that the bill targets the Environmental Protection Agency for overall cuts in the funding that provides Federal assistance to ensure clean air and water for all Americans.

As the ranking member of the Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs Subcommittee, which has jurisdiction over the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, I am also troubled over the allocations in this bill which would be devastating for the environment and for the preservation of America's natural heritage. H.R. 2584 provides inadequate funding for the Fish and Wildlife Service at levels 21 percent below fiscal year 2011 and 30 percent below the President's fiscal year 2012 request.

The bill cuts provide a meager \$22 million in funding for the State and tribal wildlife grants program, 64 percent below fiscal year 2011, and 77 percent below the fiscal year 2012 President's request. This is a program that makes small investments now to avoid large expenses later. It provides money to States and tribes to take voluntary conservation actions to stabilize de-

clining fish and wildlife populations now, and this helps avoid endangered species listings later. In my district, these grants help implement our wildlife action plan, conserving wildlife and, I might add, creating jobs.

The bill also cuts the Fish and Wildlife Service's cooperative landscape conservation and adaptive science program 35 percent below the fiscal year 2011 levels and 47 percent below the fiscal year 2012 President's budget. This program supports the work of Federal, State, tribal, and local partners to develop strategies to address climate impacts on wildlife on local and regional scales.

□ 2050

The Northern Mariana Islands and other insular areas are on the front line of climate change. We face the impacts of sea level rise, ocean acidification, and increasing typhoon intensity. We need this program to develop science-based tools and solutions to conserve natural resources and help us adapt to the many negative effects coming at us as the Earth grows hotter. H.R. 2584 also cuts funding for the National Wildlife Refuge System to 7 percent below fiscal year 2011 and 9 percent below the 2012 request.

The National Wildlife Refuge System is the world's finest network of protected lands and waters. We have refuges in every State and in nearly every territory, including the Northern Mariana Islands. These refuges conserve our fish and wildlife resources, but they also have a huge economic benefit. Millions of people visit refuges each year to hunt, fish, and observe wildlife. The refuge system generates \$1.7 billion in sales for local communities and creates nearly 27,000 jobs annually. Every dollar spent in the refuge system by the Federal Government returns about \$4 to local communities, and we can assume that every dollar we cut means \$4 less for our local communities.

I have introduced legislation, H.R. 2236, that would generate funds for the refuges separate from the appropriations through the sale of semipostal stamps to address operations and maintenance backlog, but this is no substitute for money being cut in H.R. 2584.

Also cut is the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is used to acquire lands and conservation easements from willing sellers and landowners to provide operational efficiencies and connectivity within the refuges.

At a Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs Subcommittee hearing this year, we heard from stakeholders as diverse as Defenders of Wildlife and the National Rifle Association who recognize the importance of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which, I might add, is generated by offshore oil

and gas drilling revenues. H.R. 2584 provides only \$15 million to this program, 73 percent below fiscal year 2011 levels and 89 percent below the fiscal year 2012 President's request.

I strongly oppose H.R. 2584, which rolls back necessary funding to support hunters, fishermen, recreationists, and local communities who depend on the environment for their livelihoods and which undermines ongoing conservation, public health, and environmental protection for all Americans.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of this amendment, which I have cosponsored, that would remove a rider from this bill that would seriously compromise the effectiveness of the landmark Endangered Species Act, which was signed into law almost 40 years ago in 1973.

The extinction rider in this bill is a sweeping action that will prevent the Fish and Wildlife Service from spending any money on listing new plants and animals under the Endangered Species Act, designating critical habitat, or upgrading species from threatened to endangered. At the same time, the bill maintains funding for delisting species, creating an incomplete and lopsided endangered species policy.

Mr. Chairman, my constituents in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and the American people support the important mission of the ESA, and it's not hard to see why. Preserving animals and plants brings countless benefits to people, and a loss of a species can have dangerous and expensive consequences in the future. For example, the U.S. Geological Survey recently estimated that the loss of bats in North America would cost agricultural producers nearly \$4 billion per year, including those in my district. We also never know which species of plants and animals may be important in developing lifesaving medicines in the future.

But the ESA's primary success to date has been to prevent the extinction of hundreds of species, including the American alligator, grizzly bear, and gray wolf. Indeed, less than two dozen species have gone extinct under the act, and most of these species were already doomed to extinction by the time they were listed.

Perhaps the most iconic among these species saved by the act is our national symbol, the bald eagle. On June 20, 1782, our Founding Fathers adopted the bald eagle as our national emblem. On the backs of many of our coins we see an eagle with outspread wings. On the Great Seal of the United States, on the

seal of this very House of Representatives, and in many places which are exponents of our Nation's authority, we see the same emblem.

Living as it does on the tops of lofty mountains and in river valleys as close as the Potomac, the eagle represents freedom. However, by the mid-20th century, the bald eagle was severely threatened and reduced to just 400 nesting pairs. Bald eagles were declared an endangered species in 1967 in the lower 48 States under a less cohesive, less effective act. Then the ESA was signed into law. As a result of this, on July 4, 1976, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officially listed the bald eagle as a national endangered species. And thanks to the Endangered Species Act, the Fish and Wildlife Service upgraded the bald eagle to threatened status in the lower 48 States in 1995 and officially removed it from the nationwide list in 2007. Today, after decades of conservation effort, the Interior Department reports that there are some 10,000 nesting pairs for us and for future generations to cherish. Because, in large part, of the ESA, my children have had the chance to see a bald eagle in its natural habitat.

This amendment will remove the funding restriction on the listing and limit the funding to what has been spent on these activities in recent years. Additionally, the overall funding amount for the ESA and related programs of \$138 million is significantly less than in past years, including in fiscal year 2008.

Mr. Chairman, decisions about wildlife management should be made by scientists, not by politicians. Preventing listing is not the answer. We must allow the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to do their job and protect species while making improvements to increase the efficiency of this crucial program.

As I close, I implore my colleagues to imagine if the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had been restricted from listing the American bald eagle. This majestic creature, without corrective measures, would have been lost only to books and to our national memory.

We have a responsibility to prevent the extinction of fish, plants, and wildlife because once they're gone, they're gone forever and we can't bring them back.

I urge support for this amendment.

Mr. DICKS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. I just want to commend the gentleman for an incredibly comprehensive, thoughtful, and credible presentation.

You mentioned the bald eagle. Just a few weeks ago, my grandchildren were out at Hood Canal, where I live, and on the beach three bald eagles came down and landed. It was one of the most re-

markable things I have ever seen. And I just want to thank the gentleman for his support, his cosponsorship of this amendment. And I appreciate your credibility and your forthrightness.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I just want to say, because the gentleman made a very good remark, but since we're talking about bald eagles, in our State they're around, and I would invite the gentleman to come to where I live in the desert in central Washington where every fall and winter we see bald eagles. They are truly a majestic bird.

But the point is, again—and I really thank the gentleman for yielding—this debate is not about the Endangered Species Act. This debate here is about trying to get people together so we can make the Endangered Species Act work in a way that will be beneficial to everybody, so that we can repeat the successes that we have had, albeit the successes are only 20 species; but, nevertheless, we ought to be working that way rather than restricting and having restrictions as the current act is.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I appreciate the gentleman's remarks. I appreciate the invitation. And the way to amend the act is in regular order, not in appropriation.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

(On request of Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, and by unanimous consent, Mr. FITZPATRICK was allowed to proceed for 30 additional seconds.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I appreciate the invitation, but the way to amend the act is in regular order in the committee, not necessarily through the appropriations process.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. As I mentioned in my remarks when I spoke, that certainly is the intent of the committee that I chair that has jurisdiction.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has again expired.

□ 2100

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Chairman, the amendment before us today corrects a terrible flaw in the underlying bill, a provision that prohibits the endangered species from being listed as endangered. This provision is so bad that it would be funny but for the dangerous effect it would have on imperiled species on the brink of extinction and struggling to survive.

The previous speaker was eloquent in his discussion about the bald eagle. Let's think about what would have happened had this measure been law 44 years ago. The American bald eagle, our national bird and symbol, would be gone. In the 1960s, there were less than 450 nesting pairs of bald eagles. But thanks to the Endangered Species Act, this national symbol was removed from the endangered species list in 2007. And now there are nearly 10,000 nesting pair of bald eagles.

Maybe some of my colleagues side with those who wanted our national bird to be a turkey. But I think I speak for most Americans when I say that I am proud that we saved this national treasure, the American bald eagle, from extinction.

Had this rider been the law of the land in 1979, the American alligator would most likely be gone. But because of the ESA protections, the American alligator population has grown to more than 2 million and continues to thrive, helping local economies throughout the southeast.

The Aleutian goose is another example of the success of the Endangered Species Act. Back in 1967, there were no more than a few hundred of these birds. But thanks to the ESA, the Aleutian goose was fully recovered and successfully delisted in 2001, with a population of more than 100,000 birds in 2008. So successful was the ESA recovery effort that the Aleutian goose is not only thriving, but also being hunted in my district. Just this past hunting season alone, 1,700 acres of land were made available to hunters by the California Department of Fish and Game, not only pleasing the hunters, but helping the local economy as well.

Other animals that have made a tremendous recovery while listed under the Endangered Species Act include the California condor, the black-footed ferret, and the whooping crane. And of great importance to my district, we are seeing signs of healthy recovery for ESA-listed salmon. This impacts other fishing States as well.

Ironically, this deeply flawed provision does allow funding for the Fish and Wildlife Service to delist recovered species under the act. However, you can't remove protections for recovered species unless they are listed as endangered in the first place and a successful recovery plan is implemented. This measure puts the cart before the horse.

Our bipartisan amendment, which is supported by more than 60 organizations, would strike this extreme provision. It is our responsibility to be good stewards of this Earth and prevent the extinction of wildlife, plants, and fish. The sad truth is that once we lose a species, we will never get it back. That's why we need to allow for science-based policies and recovery plans for imperiled species instead of allowing politics to drive listing decisions and activities.

I recognize that some of my colleagues have strong objections to the Endangered Species Act. But placing a spending rider on this year's Interior appropriation bill is not the answer. If real reform is needed, then let's have an honest debate in the authorizing committee to look at what is working and what's not working under the Endangered Species Act. And let's fix it.

That's a far wiser course than including an extreme policy change that goes back on America's promise to protect our most vulnerable animals and plants and would not be supported by the American public.

I ask that we support the Dicks amendment, this bipartisan amendment, and make sure that we take this extreme policy out of the underlying bill.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. THOMPSON of California. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I appreciate the gentleman's closing remarks when he said this is not the proper venue to address the Endangered Species Act. That has been my argument, too. I think it should be done in the authorizing committee.

But the fact of the matter is there is no incentive for the stakeholders to sit down if we continue to kick the ball ahead and not seriously look at the Endangered Species Act.

As the chairman said very well in his remarks, this is simply a shot across the bow, not only on this, but on other authorized programs. So we are not picking on these.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman from California has expired.

(On request of Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, and by unanimous consent, Mr. THOMPSON of California was allowed to proceed for 1 additional minute.)

Mr. THOMPSON of California. I thank the gentleman.

This is a shot. It is a shot at the endangered species. You and I both know how important this is in regard to the salmon in our district, something that is very, very important, something that is important to our economy and something that is important to the ecology of not only our State but the ecology of the Nation. We need to work together, and I can suggest that we remove this and get to working together.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. THOMPSON of California. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. We share that concern about the salmon. I would point out to the gentleman that the salmon runs in the Snake River and the tributaries are coming back in greater number, which would suggest that the species is being recovered. And yet we are waiting for a judge to make a decision.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Remember, you are very well aware of the

salmon issue and how there have been a number of attempts over the matter of water that, if they had been successful, had it not been for the Endangered Species Act, there wouldn't be any fish, because without water, as you know, there are no fish.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. If the gentleman will continue to yield, I can't argue with the gentleman. I'm simply saying we need to look at this. It has been 23 years.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman from California has again expired.

(On request of Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, and by unanimous consent, Mr. THOMPSON of California was allowed to proceed for 30 additional seconds.)

Mr. THOMPSON of California. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. THOMPSON of California. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. The argument is not about the Endangered Species Act. The argument is about the serious business of sitting down and reauthorizing an act that has not been reauthorized since the 1980s.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. I suggest we do it in the authorizing bill.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I totally agree with you, and I said that in the opening remarks. The gentleman from Washington suggested that, and I totally agree with him.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DENT. I rise tonight in support of the Dicks-Fitzpatrick amendment. I voted for this same language in the Appropriations Committee markup a few weeks ago, and we have all heard some pretty compelling arguments here tonight about some challenges with the Endangered Species Act. And as has been previously stated by Mr. THOMPSON and others here tonight, I agree with those who said that the proper venue for this discussion is in the authorizing committee. I have great confidence in Chairman HASTINGS, that he would take a thoughtful and sincere look at the act to make reforms that I think many people would agree are needed. But again, I don't think this is the right place to do it.

Again, I support the underlying bill. I think overall this legislation, this Interior bill, while it is not everything to everybody, and certainly the funding levels might not be where some people would like, Chairman SIMPSON has done a commendable job putting a bill together.

But I think this language in the underlying bill should be stricken as proposed by Mr. DICKS and Mr.

FITZPATRICK, and so I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Wisconsin is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Chairman, as one of the former cochairs of the Congressional Sportsmen Caucus, and very active in that organization, I rise in support of the Dicks amendment and in opposition to the underlying bill.

It is unfortunate that Ranking Member DICKS has to offer an amendment in order to strip out a policy rider of this magnitude in an appropriation bill. We just had a short discussion about how this would be more appropriate in the authorizing committee for a further vetting of this issue. And I think there are some legitimate issues that we need to get into, but not in the appropriation bill. This is one of many policy riders that have been jammed into this appropriation bill, from the assault on the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts to allowing mining near the Grand Canyon, one of the great natural treasures we have as a Nation, and on and on and on. And this extension rider that was included in the base bill would prevent the Fish and Wildlife Service from spending money, any money, on the listing of new animals or plants under the Endangered Species Act.

So to claim that this doesn't directly affect and attack the Endangered Species Act tonight is mind-boggling to me.

And yet in my home district in western Wisconsin, a very beautiful national wildlife refuge, the Necedah Wildlife Refuge, with three endangered species located there—from the gray wolf to the cardinal blue butterfly to the whooping crane—because of the protection that they have had, they are now increasing in population. The wolf to the extent that they are on the verge of being delisted in Wisconsin, another success story. And the whooping crane is making a resurgence, all because of the protections afforded under the Endangered Species Act.

And now to claim in this bill that we are going to prevent additional funding in order to locate those species, whether animal or plant or fish, from falling under the protection, this is not the appropriate vehicle. But there is even more in this legislation that's disconcerting. The deep cuts to long-standing conservation, the Land and Water Conservation Program that has traditionally enjoyed bipartisan support, is deeply disturbing—an 80 percent proposed cut to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

□ 2110

And I'm glad that the committee earlier this night adopted the Bass amendment to at least restore \$20 million to

the Land and Water Conservation Fund. But why are we cutting anything from that vital program? This isn't even funded by the taxpayers.

This comes from oil royalties from a grand bargain that we struck with oil and gas companies so they can explore and extract these natural resources from our public lands. They agreed that for the right of doing that, they would contribute to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, funds that would be used then for the enhancement of conservation programs and the protection and preservation of public lands in this country. And to come with a bill now to cut 80 percent of that out of oil royalties does not make sense. Or, the 7.5 percent under the Wildlife Refuge System.

I know Chairman DICKS has been a champion of the refuge system for many years. It's a system that affects virtually every congressional district. It brings countless revenue into our districts, plus jobs. And with the huge backlog of maintenance and operation, another 7.5 percent cut will put them in the hole.

A \$7 million cut from the National Park System budget, a 21 percent cut in the Fish and Wildlife Service, a 64 percent cut in the State Wildlife Grants Program, yet back home some of the greatest conversationists that I know are my hunting and fishing buddies, because they get it. They understand if we just go and use the resources and deplete it, from the wildlife to the fish to the waterfowl, that there's not going to be that recreational enjoyment that so many of us get in the outdoor recreation community.

That's why it was no surprise that earlier this month over 640 outdoor recreation entities and preservation entities signed a letter to the chairman and the leadership and to everyone in our office decrying the spending cuts in these programs that we have before us this evening, because they know that these programs aren't something you can just turn off like a spigot. These programs require the continuity of funding and the continuity of assistance in order to make the progress that's necessary.

And so these draconian cuts that are being proposed right now are going to set back the cause of conservation, whether it's wildlife or land in the country, for many, many years, and that's unfortunate. Because these same people also understand the economic impact that these programs have.

Outdoor recreation contributes over \$730 billion annually to the U.S. economy. It supports over 6½ million jobs. One out of every 20 private sector jobs are affiliated with outdoor recreational opportunity, 8 percent of consumer spending. In my own State of Wisconsin, hunting and fishing alone supports over 57,000 jobs and \$400 million in State revenue.

So if we're really serious about addressing the soft economy we have now and doing what we can to get the economy on track, creating good-paying jobs, this is the wrong place we should be looking in the budget for drastic cutbacks.

I've been one of the leaders in this place for significant farm bill reform to get at the outdated agriculture subsidies.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman from Wisconsin has expired.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. KIND was allowed to proceed for 1 additional minute.)

Mr. KIND. For years, I have been leading the effort for farm bill reform to end these taxpayer subsidies going to a few but large agribusinesses that distort the market, distort trade policies. It's not helping our family farmers. Finally discussion is starting to take place seriously to actually scrub those programs. Yet when I've led this cause in the past, I remember not too long ago a Member in this body accused me of being the Osama bin Laden of agriculture policy. Yet today, if we had taken actions 10 years ago when many of us were acting on it, maybe we wouldn't be finding ourselves in this huge fiscal hole that we have today.

So not only the policy riders but the spending cuts that are being proposed are the wrong direction for our Nation to go. It will jeopardize these vital programs—programs, again, that have enjoyed wide bipartisan support. We ought not be balancing the budget on their backs.

Over the last 30 years, funding for conservation programs has gone from 1.7 percent of Federal funding to less than .6 percent. They get it at the altar of fiscal responsibility. We can't go any deeper.

I encourage Members to support the Dicks amendment and oppose the underlying bill. We have to do a better job.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Mexico is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PEARCE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I reluctantly rise to oppose the gentleman from Washington's amendment and support the underlying bill. A lot of compelling arguments have been made tonight to support the Endangered Species Act without interruption. They talk about the bald eagle and the compelling story about seeing those magnificent birds, and those are visual images that we all like.

But there's a side to the Endangered Species Act that is not being told. That's the side where one group just this year filed 1,000 petitions at one time to list new species. They know that their lawyers get reimbursed from

the Federal Government every time they bring suit, and so they're happy to bring these actions which are destroying jobs in the West.

For instance, in the Second District of New Mexico, a suggested listing was given this year on the sand dune lizard, a small brown lizard that I've seen in the sand hills since I was going up there. They were plentiful then; they're about the same number now, but they have been listed as endangered.

And people didn't think much of it. And then they began to read the reports that anything that disturbs the surface of the ground would represent a potential threat to the habitat of the lizard and would thereby be prohibited.

Disturb the ground, they ask. What does that mean? Well, that means oil and gas activity. That means that \$2.8 billion investment for nuclear enrichment that is taking place in southern Lea County, just taking place now, creating jobs for the first time in the nuclear industry that has been dormant for 30 years, would be shut down because they disturb the ground.

It would stop the high line wires from being put up and the electric utility crews from driving to the homesteads miles and miles away from the nearest town because they would disturb the ground. They could not even check the power lines to make sure electricity is going to these remote areas.

This is the Endangered Species Act that we're seeing.

People would come to me in disbelief and say, Mr. PEARCE, it is not true? They couldn't kill our jobs with a lizard, could they? What about us as humans? What do they say?

I said, Take a look at the San Joaquin Valley. Twenty-seven thousand farmers put out of work with a 2-inch Delta smelt that we could have kept alive in holding ponds and bred by the millions and put into the rivers and go ahead and use the rivers for irrigation. But instead, a judge found that we had to shut down the entire agricultural product.

We began to import vegetables from areas that spray contaminants that we are not allowed to use in this Nation, a less safe food supply. We kill 27,000 jobs. We caused jobs to be created somewhere else, less safe food supply, all for a 2-inch minnow that could have been kept alive in some other fashion.

We also have a Lesser prairie-chicken that threatens the oil and gas jobs in our area. They're saying that the bird might not fly under or over those lines, so we can't put up electric lines across. Then, bury the lines, people say. Well, then the lizard wouldn't go across the area that's been disturbed by burying the lines.

It's easy to see why people are saying that the Endangered Species Act is not functioning properly and we've got to

stop it. We are spending \$3.5 trillion a year in our government and we're bringing in \$2.2 trillion. Part of the problem is we've killed enough of our jobs, we've killed enough of our economy that we're in severe debt and deficit crisis.

Now, one of the problems is we've systematically eliminated the timber industry because of a spotted owl. We eliminated those 27,000 farmer jobs in the San Joaquin Valley. We've got the salmon swimming upstream, and now it's threatening that we've got to tear down all the hydroelectric dams. And the list goes on and on.

It is time for us to say that we can preserve the species and create jobs at the same time. That's not an unreasonable request. But to those lawyers making \$350 a hour, they don't care if it's reasonable or not. To the Fish and Wildlife Service, they arrogantly told the people in New Mexico, No, we didn't do an economic study to see the cost on the jobs. We're not required to. These are things that are making people say enough is enough.

It's in my district that 900 people showed up to protest at one of the hearings on the listing of the lizard; 900 people coming out, and the Fish and Wildlife Service came to me in nervousness before the meeting and said, Would you speak to those who couldn't get into the meeting? They're agitated. I said, People do get agitated when you start killing their careers, when you start taking the jobs away from them.

There's a side to the Endangered Species Act that is being dealt with here tonight. I support the underlying bill and oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2120

Mrs. CAPPS. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Chairman, I am in favor of Mr. DICKS' amendment to remove this destructive and shortsighted anti-wildlife rider from the underlying bill.

The rider would gut the Endangered Species Act, as we've been discussing—a law that has worked for 40 years to successfully conserve our Nation's plants and animals. It would do this by blocking the Fish and Wildlife Service from new listings and bar the designation of critical habitat for currently listed species.

As has been said on both sides of the aisle this evening, this provision creates a one-way path to weakening wildlife protections by allowing the service to delist and downgrade a species' status from endangered to threatened but not to list new species. Unless a species is listed, it receives no protection under the ESA. Currently, the service has identified over 260 species that war-

rant protection but cannot be listed due to a lack of Federal resources. That's 260 species of plants and animals found across the Nation that are in dire need of assistance and are at risk of disappearing forever.

Mr. Chairman, America's native plants and animals are already in serious trouble—under constant threat from toxic pesticides, air and water pollution, habitat destruction, and climate change; but this shortsighted and irresponsible rider may prove to be the most immediate and serious threat of all, sending countless species into extinction and destroying America's great conservation legacy.

It is our responsibility here to protect and conserve our Nation's most precious resources for future generations, and of course, that's why the Endangered Species Act was written. It codifies our commitment to good stewardship, and it preserves what we hold dear for the benefit of our children and our grandchildren. Since its initiation, we've witnessed incredible comebacks. Animals that were once on the verge of disappearing forever are thriving once again.

Because of the Endangered Species Act and other successful partnerships, bald eagles have returned, not only to Washington State, but to the Channel Islands off the coast of my congressional district. Just a few years ago, a pair of nesting bald eagles produced the first wild-born chicks in 50 years on Santa Cruz Island.

Also on the Central Coast, we've seen California condors and peregrine falcons soaring through our skies once again. The Guadalupe fur seal, which was hunted to near extinction, can now be seen swimming off the Channel Islands. There are similar success stories for the southern sea otter and the blue whale, both found in the Central Coast waters of California; and the return of Island Foxes, whose population dropped down to less than 100, is now back above 1,200.

Mr. Chairman, of course there are so many examples across the country—Florida panthers, gray wolves, grizzly bears—and hundreds more species that have not gone extinct after receiving protection under the act. These species can't wait any longer, and we can't let them disappear forever on our watch.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support Mr. DICKS' amendment to strike this irresponsible provision in the bill. We can and must do better. Our children and our grandchildren are depending upon us.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I rise to support Mr. DICKS' idea but not the process he is using to get there.

It is one of the amazing things as you look about the debate on this par-

ticular amendment. It's like ships passing in the night—getting close but never actually touching because everyone who has spoken so far is saying the same thing: that we want to have an Endangered Species Act that works. This needs to be fixed or amended and changed in some way to make it work better, to involve the entire process so that everyone is working towards the same goal; but for some reason, it flat out is not happening, and it's not happening because we have violated the process.

Everyone has said this is not the right place to try and fix the Endangered Species Act. That's also true, but it's the only process that's allowed because we have violated our own intent. Appropriators are supposed to appropriate funds to programs. Authorizers are supposed to create the programs and then every so often reauthorize those programs to make changes based on the need or to make sure that we are moving in the proper direction.

Let me introduce you, or at least remind you, of John Gochbauer—one of my favorite baseball players at the turn of the century with the Cleveland Indians. He was good enough to play regular shortstop for Cleveland, although the first year he played he committed 48 errors, and his batting average was 187. He was still good enough to stay around for the next year when, this time, his errors were just slightly under 100—he had a hard time hitting the first baseman when he threw—and his batting average was, once again, 187.

I say that specifically because the most inept player ever to put on spikes and play Major League Baseball had a batting average of 187. The Endangered Species Act has listed over 2,000 species and saved 21 for a batting average of 10 if you round up. It's actually .009. That clearly indicates we can do better, and we need to do better.

So the question has to simply be why aren't we doing better? Why can't we fix this problem and have a better success rate?

The answer is very simple:

For 23 years, we have put riders on this particular appropriations act to fully fund the old program, which has prohibited the authorizing committee to ever get people together to make the program better.

Chairman HASTINGS has simply said his goal is to provide a process that improves the system—and there is room for improvement of the system—but to do that, you've got to get the players to sit down in the authorizing committees where this is supposed to be worked out. The Endangered Species Act needs to be expanded, needs to be fixed, needs to zero in to create people working together for a common goal.

I am actually grateful for Representative DICKS and Representative SIMPSON and what they have done in this

bill. This amendment in the underlying bill does not destroy the Endangered Species Act. It doesn't even cut the funding for those species that are already being worked on. All it does is provide a change in the process to insist that people have to do what we should have been doing for the last 23 years—going to the authorizing committee and fixing the act, not just kicking the can down the road by funding it year, after year, after year, after year, while only 21 species have recovered over the 2,000 that could have and should have been.

I'm sorry. That's what everyone is saying. We all want species to be preserved and recovered, but we all are failing in the process, and after 23 years, we should have learned what we have been doing in the past doesn't work. Maybe if we went back to the way the system was intended to be and was designed to function, we could actually move forward in this entire issue, which, oddly enough, is what everyone is saying.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DICKS. I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DICKS. I will do this very briefly.

As I recall, from 1995 to 2007, the other side—the majority party today—was the majority party then, and I don't remember any great effort on the Endangered Species Act. I welcome it. I welcome that any act can be made better. Now you guys are in charge again, and you have another opportunity. I believe Mr. BISHOP has been on the committee for quite a long time. I'm going to go look in his reform bill in the RECORD to see what has been happening here.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DICKS. I yield to the gentleman from Washington State, from the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I appreciate the gentleman's remarks. I would remind him, from the time that we did get control of Congress in 1995 until your side gained control after the 2006 election, that was the issue that the then-chairman—the last chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, Richard Pombo from California—was working on. As a matter of fact, I think it was in 2005 that we did pass ES reform out of this House.

□ 2130

It did not go anywhere in the other body. So history tends to repeat itself.

Mr. DICKS. Former Senator Kempthorne worked on it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. He did, as did Senator CRAPO from Idaho.

Here is the problem: The problem is that through all of the efforts of Chairman Pombo of trying to get this enacted and he couldn't get it through the Senate, then you know what the Appropriations Committee did?

Mr. DICKS. Reclaiming my time, because I can't go on forever, I just would say nobody is stopping you. Hold your hearings. Have your meetings. Bring up the witnesses, but don't stop listing 260 candidate species until you get the job done.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DICKS. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I've been chairman now for a little over 6 months. I have every intention to do that, and I want to work with the gentleman on this.

Mr. DICKS. I want to be involved in this.

Mr. SIMPSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DICKS. I yield to the gentleman from Idaho, my good friend and the chairman and former ranking member, one of the best ranking members I've ever had.

Mr. SIMPSON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. BISHOP had it exactly right. We all want the same thing. We want the Endangered Species Act, but we want the Endangered Species Act to work. And as you mentioned, Senator Kempthorne worked on it very hard, got it through the Senate when he was a Senator before he became Governor of Idaho. And it was some Republicans frankly in the House that stopped it because they didn't think it went far enough.

Unfortunately, if we just continue to do what we've done in the past, we're going to get exactly what we've gotten in the past, and that is no incentive for people to sit down and say we've got to work on this and we've got to get it done. And that's all we're trying to do.

Mr. MORAN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DICKS. I yield to the ranking member.

Mr. MORAN. I do think it might be instructive that Mr. Pombo is no longer among our ranks and the principal reason is the Endangered Species Act authorization that he attempted to write which was so destructive of the original intent of the Endangered Species Act of 1965, and it was a Republican Senate that defeated it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DICKS. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I just want to respond to my friend from Virginia.

The bill passed, if my memory serves me correctly, with bipartisan support.

But, yes, of course there are political risks in doing whatever we're doing in

this body; and we all face that. After all, this is the people's government. But the point is it needs—and we've been saying over and over, the ESA needs to be updated.

It's been 23 years, for goodness sake.

Mr. DICKS. No one is objecting. I agree. We should look at how to improve the ESA. I don't like to hear these examples of where the process has not been able to be worked out. I have had to go through this as you have in the Pacific Northwest with the spotted owl, the marbled murrelet, salmon, et cetera. Now, those are starting to recover. We're making some progress, but I still believe we can make this act better.

I just think by taking out the ability to list and to have critical habitat, we're risking some of these species that are close to extinction.

And remember this: it's also about biodiversity, the web of life. We don't know how all of these things relate and whether something can be created, a medicine that could save lives in the future. And that's why trying to protect these species is an important thing.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman from Washington has expired.

(On request of Mr. SIMPSON, and by unanimous consent, Mr. DICKS was allowed to proceed for 1 additional minute.)

Mr. DICKS. It's important for civilization, for humanity. We're creatures here, too. We depend on a lot of other animals in order to survive. And so this goes beyond just a legislative "it's difficult." This is down and dirty. This is very important. This is very important to survival.

Mr. SIMPSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DICKS. I yield to the gentleman from Idaho.

Mr. SIMPSON. I don't disagree with anything the gentleman just said. It's also important to remember that this amendment would take the caps off that have been in place since President Clinton and would undermine the Fish and Wildlife Service's budget to a great degree because it would then be controlled by the courts and by lawsuits. That's not where we want to go.

Mr. DICKS. We'll fix it in conference.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the Dicks-Fitzpatrick-Thompson-Hanabusa amendment to delete the Extinction Rider that was improperly added to this legislation. This rider, which has no place in an appropriation bill, prevents the Fish and Wildlife Service from spending any money on listing new plants and animals under the Endangered Species Act, designating critical habitat, or up-grading species from threatened to endangered.

This is a big deal to me because Hawaii happens to have the highest number of endangered species of any state in the nation.

This is due, in large part, to the unique species that evolved in Hawaii because of its location 2,400 miles from the nearest land mass. In fact, Hawaii's 33 endangered bird species represent 42 percent of the U.S. bird species listed as endangered. All of these live in my district. For example, we have a beautiful endangered forest bird called the Hawaii 'Akepa. Thanks to the Endangered Species Act, the populations of this bird are currently stable on Hawaii Island, although it is very rare on the island of Maui. The 'Akepa and the other 32 Hawaiian bird species listed as endangered are threatened by loss of habitat, a warming climate, and the onslaught of introduced species.

In fact, 69 of the 265 candidate species for addition to the Endangered Species Act—26 percent—are found in Hawaii. Most, like the 'Akepa, are found nowhere else in the world.

Another example of an Endangered Species Act success is the threatened Hawaiian green sea turtle—or honu as we call it in Hawaii. In the 1970s, before being listed, the Hawaiian green sea turtle was in steep decline because it was regularly hunted and eaten. Since being protected by the Endangered Species Act, the numbers of green sea turtles have increased dramatically—by 53 percent over the past 25 years! Despite this success, the honu remains vulnerable because its primary nesting habitat in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands could be lost to sea level rise caused by climate change.

As members of Congress, we have a special responsibility to protect and be stewards of the land, the water, the air, and the species with which we share this world. There is no recovery from extinction. Each time we lose a unique creature or plant that evolved over thousands or millions of years, we make the world a poorer place and rob future generations.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. Dicks).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

CONSTRUCTION

For construction, improvement, acquisition, or removal of buildings and other facilities required in the conservation, management, investigation, protection, and utilization of fish and wildlife resources, and the acquisition of lands and interests therein, \$11,804,000, to remain available until expended.

LAND ACQUISITION

For expenses necessary to carry out the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601-4 et seq.), including administrative expenses, and for acquisition of land or waters, or interest therein, in accordance with statutory authority applicable to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, \$15,047,000, to be derived from the Land and

Water Conservation Fund and to remain available until expended, of which, notwithstanding 16 U.S.C. 4601-9, not more than \$4,000,000 shall be for land conservation partnerships authorized by the Highlands Conservation Act of 2004, including not to exceed \$120,000 for administrative expenses.

COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

For expenses necessary to carry out section 6 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1534 et seq.), \$2,854,000, to remain available until expended, to be derived from the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FUND

For expenses necessary to implement the Act of October 17, 1978 (16 U.S.C. 715s), \$13,980,000.

NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND

For expenses necessary to carry out the provisions of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4401 et seq.), \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRIFFIN OF ARKANSAS

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 10, line 21, insert after the dollar amount the following: "(increased by \$3,000,000)".

Page 65, line 19, insert after the dollar amount the following: "(reduced by \$3,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment which will leverage our limited resources for wetlands and wildlife conservation.

My amendment would transfer \$3 million to the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund, or NAWCA, by reducing the EPA's operations and administration budget by the same amount.

The EPA has been overfunded in recent years, and I appreciate Subcommittee Chairman SIMPSON's efforts to bring the agency's budget back down to size.

This amendment makes a reasonable reduction to the EPA's administrative budget in favor of wetland conservation.

Since this organization was established in 1989, more than 1,800 projects have led to the conservation of over 24 million acres of wetlands across North America. Each of these projects is funded through a public/private partnership. And for every dollar of the organization's money that is spent in my home State of Arkansas, private sources and foundations have given \$4 in matching funds.

In Arkansas alone, 12 of these projects are either completed or currently under way. And these projects have conserved over 64,000 acres of wetlands.

Make no mistake, this success story is not limited to Arkansas. Wetlands, wildlife, and outdoorsmen in every single State in the country have seen the benefits of this conservation effort.

Arkansas sits in the cradle of the Mississippi flyway, a migration route used by waterfowl as they fly to the southern United States each autumn. Migratory waterfowl and other birds often settle in the wetlands along the White River and Arkansas River, and the health of these habitats is closely tied to the health of the wildlife which inhabit them.

This amendment would improve the condition of our Nation's wetlands and wildlife. This is important to sportsmen, conservationists, and anyone who enjoys the American outdoors.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense conservation amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, I have the voting record from February 16. I know the gentleman will recall H.R. 1 and the debate that ensued.

In H.R. 1, the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund was zeroed out, and so I had an amendment to restore \$50 million to the North American Wetlands Conservation Program. What I find curious—confusing—is that the very gentleman that now wants to put money into the program voted "no" against putting the \$50 million into the North American Wetlands Conservation Program back in the spring.

Now, I do think it's an important program. I would like to see it continued. But I do have a problem with the fact that what we're doing when we want something to be funded, we take it out of the management of agencies—\$3 million, \$5 million, \$6 billion—and when these amendments pass, you have a very damaging cumulative effect upon the ability of the agency to banish these programs. If this were to pass, we're now at \$8 million that has been taken out of the management of EPA.

So I would have to oppose the amendment. And I'm not sure how strongly the gentleman feels about it since he voted against restoring the money in February, as did a great many Members of the body, unfortunately, because it is a good program.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2140

Mr. SIMPSON. I move to strike the last word, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to accept the amendment.

While the gentleman from Virginia offered an amendment on H.R. 1, which was several months ago, it was \$50 million. We didn't have that kind of money. Because of the bipartisan support for this program, we did fund it to keep it alive at \$20 million. And I have no problem putting the additional funding in, if the gentleman requests, depending on where he takes it from. So I support the gentleman's amendment and would hope that my friend from Virginia would think twice and support this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time. The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. GRIFFIN).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

For expenses necessary to carry out the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4201 et seq.), the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4261 et seq.), the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), and the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.), \$7,875,000, to remain available until expended.

STATE AND TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS

For wildlife conservation grants to States and to the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and federally recognized Indian tribes under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a et seq.) and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), for the development and implementation of programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished, \$22,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount provided herein, \$2,000,000 is for a competitive grant program for federally recognized Indian tribes not subject to the remaining provisions of this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall, after deducting \$2,000,000 and administrative expenses, apportion the amount provided herein in the following manner: (1) to the District of Columbia and to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, each a sum equal to not more than one-half of 1 percent thereof; and (2) to Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, each a sum equal to not more than one-fourth of 1 percent thereof: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall apportion the remaining amount in the following manner: (1) one-third of which is based on the ratio to which the land area of such State bears to the total land area of all such States; and (2) two-thirds of which is based on the ratio to which the population of such State bears to the total population of all such States: *Provided further*, That the amounts apportioned under this heading shall be adjusted equitably so that no State shall be apportioned a sum which is less than 1 percent of the amount available for apportionment under this heading for any fiscal year or more than 5 percent of such amount: *Provided further*, That the Federal share of grants shall not exceed 50 percent of the total costs of such

projects: *Provided further*, That the non-Federal share of such projects may not be derived from Federal grant programs.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service may carry out the operations of Service programs by direct expenditure, contracts, grants, cooperative agreements and reimbursable agreements with public and private entities. Appropriations and funds available to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall be available for repair of damage to public roads within and adjacent to reservation areas caused by operations of the Service; options for the purchase of land at not to exceed \$1 for each option; facilities incident to such public recreational uses on conservation areas as are consistent with their primary purpose; and the maintenance and improvement of aquaria, buildings, and other facilities under the jurisdiction of the Service and to which the United States has title, and which are used pursuant to law in connection with management, and investigation of fish and wildlife resources: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 44 U.S.C. 501, the Service may, under cooperative cost sharing and partnership arrangements authorized by law, procure printing services from cooperators in connection with jointly produced publications for which the cooperators share at least one-half the cost of printing either in cash or services and the Service determines the cooperator is capable of meeting accepted quality standards: *Provided further*, That the Service may accept donated aircraft as replacements for existing aircraft.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

For expenses necessary for the management, operation, and maintenance of areas and facilities administered by the National Park Service and for the general administration of the National Park Service, \$2,240,152,000, of which \$9,832,000 for planning and interagency coordination in support of Everglades restoration and \$97,883,000 for maintenance, repair, or rehabilitation projects for constructed assets, operation of the National Park Service automated facility management software system, and comprehensive facility condition assessments shall remain available until September 30, 2013.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. TONKO

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 14, line 7, after the first dollar amount, insert "(decreased by \$8,408,000)".

Page 14, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$8,408,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment to H.R. 2584, the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2012. The amendment is bipartisan and is supported by the Congressional National Heritage Caucus and the 49 National Heritage Areas across our country.

The amendment is straightforward and modest. The amendment restores the National Heritage Area program within the National Park Service to

the fiscal year 2010 funding levels. This amount is constant with the amount approved by Congress for the past several years. To pay for this increase, the amendment shifts \$8,408,000 away from the Office of the National Parks Service account.

From Alaska to Florida, the National Heritage Areas are the most effective public-private partnerships for resource conservation and heritage tourism supported by the Federal Government. While each of the 49 National Heritage Areas currently in existence are authorized to receive \$1 million in annual support through the Department of Interior, the National Heritage Area program has only been funded between \$15 million and \$18 million over the past 5 years by Congress, despite their success in revitalizing communities and conserving naturally significant resources with only modest Federal support.

These public-private partnerships are perhaps the most cost-effective and efficient programs within the Department of Interior. Matching every dollar of Federal support with \$5.50 of other public and private funding, National Heritage Areas are clearly a high-yield investment of Federal resources.

To be clear, that investment results in over \$100 million of economic activity. During a time when our economy is so fragile, we must support these programs that have a proven record of economic benefit. National Heritage Areas have such a proven record of fostering job creation and advancing economic, cultural, historic, environmental, and community development. In addition to creating jobs, National Heritage Areas generate valuable revenue for local governments and sustain communities through revitalization and heritage tourism.

More specifically, in my district, a recent study released last year by my local heritage area, the Erie Canalway Heritage Corridor, found that visitors to heritage sites in the eastern part of the corridor—found that nearly 1 million people visit heritage sites each year, generating some \$38 million sales in local businesses, supporting 507 local jobs.

We must preserve sites that are historically significant. Doing so will increase community spirit as well as generate much-needed tourism dollars. A recent United States Cultural and Heritage Tourism Marketing Council and United States Department of Commerce study revealed that cultural heritage travelers contribute more than \$192 billion annually to our United States economy. I would point out also that this tool, this opportunity for heritage areas enables given regions to have a stronger sense of marketing tools. They are able to promote a stronger sense of place and a much more dynamic bit of destination. That

is a tool in the economic recovery toolkit that is tremendously valuable and important to these given host regions.

I want to thank Representative DENT of Pennsylvania for offering this amendment with me today. He is the cochair of the National Heritage Area Caucus in the House, and he and his staff have been a pleasure to work with on this amendment. I also need to thank the ranking member on the committee, Mr. DICKS, and our ranker of the subcommittee, Representative MORAN. They have been invaluable in their support in my effort for this amendment.

Understanding today's difficult budgetary climate, I want to remind everyone that this amount is equal to the total appropriation for the program in the previous fiscal year and reflects the minimum level of support National Heritage Areas need to remain successful. I hope my colleagues will consider joining Mr. DENT and myself in supporting this modest funding level for a vitally important program.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DENT. I move to strike the last word, Mr. Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Chairman, I do rise in support of the Tonko amendment. Mr. TONKO and I have offered this amendment for consideration by the House. We are the cochairs of the Heritage Corridor Caucus. I represent the areas of the Delaware-Lehigh Heritage Corridor as well as the Schuylkill Valley Corridor in eastern Pennsylvania, and we have seen a great deal of positive activity as a result of these heritage areas. Specifically, as Mr. TONKO conveyed, a great deal of tourism activity, recreational opportunities, as well as economic development occurs as a result of this. Also, significant community development activities have been the result of our efforts and investment in these heritage areas.

Obviously money is very tight, and this program is taking about a 50 percent reduction under the underlying bill. The amendment before us will simply restore about \$8.4 million to the heritage area, to the heritage partnership program; and we'll be taking that money, substituting it from the National Park Service, where we believe they have sufficient funds to operate.

I support the underlying legislation. I know Chairman SIMPSON has put a lot of effort into this. I think he has really done a great deal, given the numbers he has had to work with. So I do support the underlying bill. But I think that this amendment strikes a proper balance and preserves and protects these heritage areas that are making a real impact across the country.

I guess there are 49 of these heritage areas currently in existence, and most

of them, I believe, are receiving under \$1 million of support through the Interior Department. So I just think this is a program that is worthy of our support. We're just simply, in these tough economic times, trying to bring this program back to neutral. I know the administration did not, in their budget proposal, cut this program as well. But I think this might be one way this amendment could help us bring this program back to a level that will be sufficient in supporting these heritage areas.

Again, as was stated by Mr. TONKO, these communities are benefiting. We are seeing so much tourist activity. We are seeing increased recreational opportunities. I know in my community, we are all of a sudden doing things on our rivers and discovering our rivers and the natural beauty of them that many of us had not really noticed before, and it's really as a result of this. Again, it brought the rivers back to life, economic life, community life, and it has become really, once again, the center of our existence. And a lot of this would not have been possible but for the efforts of these heritage areas. So, again, I rise in support of the Tonko-Dent amendment and would urge the House to adopt this.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. I move to strike the last word, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, I want our side to go on record in support of what Mr. TONKO and Mr. DENT are proposing. We have worked with them on this amendment.

This is the kind of program that really ought to have unanimous support in the House. I mean, we're talking about very small amounts of money that are distributed throughout the country; oftentimes \$150,000; sometimes it gets up to \$700,000. But they are relatively small amounts of money.

□ 2150

And what they do is to bring local community leaders together. Local communities love it and, of course, it draws tourism. It gets into the newspaper, oftentimes into metropolitan newspapers suggesting this is a terrific day trip for families to go on. They follow the Heritage Trail.

It has that kind of national recognition and credibility that only the Federal Government oftentimes can provide to a National Heritage Area, because many people claim it. But when the National Heritage Program identifies it as one of the true assets of our country and places that should be protected and preserved and explained to the public, then more people come. And it generates jobs; it generates economic activity.

Mr. WOLF just put in an authorization. He probably won't get the full

amount of money that's authorized, but it will get some for the Civil War Battlefield Crossroads Trail, and that's drawing people up with the sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

All over the country. The Hudson River, there was a gentleman on the other side that opposed it when Mr. HINCHEY put it in, had it designated. And then when he saw how successful it was, he said, Let's get my part of the Hudson River included.

This is a really good program. It was funded at about \$17 million, 50 percent cut though. What are we doing? Talk about being penny-wise and pound-foolish, really. A 50 percent cut in it. It hurts the economies of any number of areas around the country.

So we think that this is a very reasonable amendment, and we congratulate the caucus for coming forward and suggesting that the money be restored, and we hope that it will be.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. First, let me thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania and the gentleman from New York for their amendment. I'm sympathetic to what they're trying to do and the work that they do in the National Heritage Caucus, and it's important work. But I rise in reluctant opposition to the amendment.

While I'm sympathetic to the intent of the amendment and the increased funding for the National Heritage Areas, I'm concerned that the offset would take funds away from the account providing funds for operations of our national parks across the country.

One of our goals in this bill was to provide sufficient funding for park operations so that every Park Service unit in the country would be open for business next year, without the threat of layoffs or furloughs for full-time or seasonal employees. My fear is that reducing this account by \$8.8 million would undermine the operation of our national parks.

Let me also point out that, while the amount in the bill is reduced from the fiscal year 2011 enacted level, the National Heritage Areas are funded in the bill at the amount requested by the President's budget. These National Heritage Areas are supposed to become self-sufficient, and the problem is we're going to see that when that doesn't happen, the funding request from the President is going to not be in their budget and, consequently, there's not going to be any money for these National Heritage Areas requested by the administration.

We funded this at the President's level. I appreciate what the gentlemen are trying to do. I support the National Heritage Areas program, but I, because

of the offset, reluctantly oppose this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time. The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. AMASH

Mr. AMASH. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 14, line 7, after the first dollar amount, insert “(decreased by \$2,206,000)”.

Page 158, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,206,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. AMASH. Mr. Chairman, did you know the Federal Government subsidizes the Goo Goo Dolls, Lynyrd Skynyrd, and the Gipsy Kings? What about the Culture Shock East Coast Dance Concert?

Well, it does.

My amendment to H.R. 2584 will reduce the deficit, save taxpayer dollars, and stop subsidies to bands, including the Beach Boys. This amendment will reduce the deficit by \$2.2 million by transferring funding from the National Capital Area Performing Arts program to the spending reduction account.

The National Capital Area Performing Arts program provides free concerts and subsidized performances in and around Washington, DC, by paying for ushers, performers, lighting and other performance-related costs. The program funds venues like Carter Barron Amphitheater in DC. Even the National Park Service, which administers the program, has recommended its elimination, saying it distracts the Park Service from performing its core functions.

My amendment is simple. It will transfer all of the program's \$2.2 million in funding to the spending reduction account. I like the Beach Boys as much as the next person, but that doesn't mean we should force taxpayers to subsidize my ticket if I go to their concert.

Don't break taxpayers' trust. I urge my colleagues to support this common-sense amendment to prevent the wasteful spending of taxpayer dollars on niche entertainment programs in the Washington, DC, area.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN. First of all, I'm not sure why you want the Beach Boys to be the issue here. We were just discussing Mr. WATT's tenure as Secretary of the Interior. That was not so successful when he came after the Beach Boys.

But be that as it may, what we're really talking about here are a number of nonprofit organizations, and these are national memorials. Ford's Theater, Wolf Trap. I guess because the Beach Boys performed at Wolf Trap they are an issue. Actually, I would recommend to the gentleman that he watch them perform. I guess it's more my age than yours that can relate to them, but it was a pretty good performance. But I digress.

We're talking about Ford's Theater, Wolf Trap, Carter Barron, all part of the National Park System. The Kennedy Center is a national memorial. These are performing arts right here on the Capitol grounds as well.

Now we're talking about nationally significant sites, and the performances that occur, in fact, are part of the mission of these sites. They were authorized for members of the public, the tax-paying public, to come to a nonprofit venue and, in fact, be entertained. The national parks do that. They entertain the public that pays for them, sometimes by seeing iconic sites, sometimes by hiking and camping, sometimes it's by performances. So the National Park Service is in keeping with its mission to interpret the purpose of these national sites.

These performances are seen by citizens, in fact, all over the country. Many people who visit our Nation's Capitol attend these performances as part of their trip to the District of Columbia. And the crowds that fill the West Lawn of the Capitol on Memorial Day and the Fourth of July are testament to the public's support for this program.

In fact, if you were there on Memorial Day or the Fourth of July and turned to see the crowd, there are people as far as the eye can see, people representative of this vast, diverse country, and every single one of them had a smile on their face. Every single one of them was delighted, overjoyed that they were able to participate and appreciate and enjoy the performance that was put on on the Fourth of July and Memorial Day. That's part of our Nation's heritage. It's a proud part.

This amendment would do real harm to programs enjoyed by millions of Americans.

I would also suggest that this line item has already suffered a virtually devastating cut. It was funded at about \$10 million. It's been cut to about \$2 million. I mean, it's just barely hanging on. And now this amendment would eliminate it?

□ 2200

I mean, think about this. I know that some of the Members, at least as many Members of the majority side as the minority side, were there for the Memorial Day concert. I saw them. I was sitting with them. The chairman of the full Appropriations Committee, the chairmen of the subcommittees, the leadership of the House and Senate were all there honoring our troops.

Mr. DICKS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MORAN. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. Colin Powell was there to thank all of the troops that had served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and many of the wounded warriors were there as well.

Mr. MORAN. Not only were they there but Team 6 that had just dealt with Osama bin Laden in a fairly definitive manner, SEAL Team 6 was there. We couldn't identify them, but we all applauded for them, and they couldn't have been more overjoyed.

The gentleman makes a very good point. Colin Powell was basically the master of ceremonies.

Now, this is what we want to eliminate? This is what is such a threat to our budget as taking so much money? It's not taking that much money, and whatever money it's taking, it's giving back far more in return.

Mr. DICKS. I thank the gentleman for yielding and I hope we can defeat this unneeded amendment.

Mr. MORAN. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment, and I agree with the words that were spoken by the gentlemen from Virginia and from Washington.

In these tough economic times, it is important that we keep some things that are very important, I think, to the American people. If you look at the programs that have been put on by the Capitol concerts on the Fourth of July and on Memorial Day and what they've done for our troops and for really the spirit of America, I think is vitally important. They do things at Ford's Theater and other places around this country.

We have to remember: this is our Nation's Capital. The things they do here are important. They're important for our country, not just for this small piece of land we call Washington, DC. So I hope that Members on both sides of the aisle would recognize the importance of these programs and the work they do and the importance that they have for the American people and would reject this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. AMASH).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. AMASH. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

NATIONAL RECREATION AND PRESERVATION

For expenses necessary to carry out recreation programs, natural programs, cultural programs, heritage partnership programs, environmental compliance and review, international park affairs, and grant administration, not otherwise provided for, \$49,363,000.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. NORTON

Ms. NORTON. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 14, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(decreased by \$300,000) (increased by \$300,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from the District of Columbia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would designate \$300,000 from the National Recreation and Preservation Account for a National Park Service study of whether applying the same rules and regulations to all parks maximizes the highest and best use of individual parks, for the system as a whole, and for Americans who use our parks.

This is but a study, and it would require the National Park Service to look at how NPS, cities, counties and States, as well as other countries, manage their diverse parks and to suggest, from the available best practices, appropriate ways to help NPS meet the needs of individual communities within the basic uniformity necessary to operate a national system of parks. Today, the NPS applies the same rules and regulations to all its parks, regardless of location, from the almost 1200-square-mile Yosemite National Park to small urban parks on street corners.

I support a unified national park system, but NPS should develop flexible standards that take into account the unique circumstances and population of individual parks and changing conditions throughout the country in keeping with congressional recognition of both conservation and recreation as primary reasons for our parks. The neighborhood parks in the District of Columbia, for example, serve a very different function from Yellowstone. Dupont Circle Park is a central urban community meeting place in the District, not a place for enjoying the greenery of nature, as much as we love our parks for that purpose. On any given day, you will find people playing chess, sunbathing, playing Frisbee or passing out fliers.

Madam Chair, I have come to the floor because I have tried, unsuccessfully, to get the Park Service to make small adaptations perfectly compatible with their mission to allow for the people in the parks in my own district, and I am certain that other Members have found similar roadblocks. For example, the Park Service won't allow bike share stations on or near Federal parks, and they are not permitting the three golf courses in the District of Columbia to be run as a public-private partnership. Both of these examples have run into the same one-size-fits-all concession concerns.

Yet the National Park Service could negotiate concession agreements that accommodate bike share in the future; and an inflexibility in Park Service insistence on concession contracts that do not allow capital investment resulting in an astonishing deterioration of invaluable capital-intensive golf courses in the District could give way to other approaches, such as public-private partnerships operating under long-term leases that would allow private funding to assist the Park Service with upgrading and maintaining these public assets with Congress, which the taxpayers can't possibly by themselves maintain.

Inflexible, one-size-fits-all policies keep Americans from using our parks for compatible purposes, such as bike stations, or, worse, condemn unique iconic resources to inevitable decline.

Madam Chairman, my amendment is of the lowest possible cost. It is for a study to tell us what to do, to tell the Park Service what to do, to allow people throughout this country who live in very different locations and have to use our parks in very different ways just how this must be done compatible with a uniform National Park Service.

I ask that my amendment be approved.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. FOX). The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN. Madam Chairman, I think we have a problem in the amendment, itself, because it would specifically designate a study that might be interpreted as some type of earmark, which I don't think it really is.

I like what the gentlelady is trying to do. I think it's important. I think we ought to have a consideration by the Park Service of whether they are sufficiently flexible in dealing with local communities.

□ 2210

There was a recent article written in The Washington Post talking about some of the opportunities that exist to bring the community into local parks, urban parks, where far more people could be involved, people could partici-

pate, people could enhance the enjoyment of things that take place. For example, if there is a large soccer event at a park that is controlled by the National Park Service, you could bring the whole community in to watch it on a large screen.

There is no question but that we could find ways to discourage automobiles and encourage bikes—have bike sharing, for example, on The National Mall so that people could rent bikes and bike around The Mall. It wouldn't cause any environmental damage; in fact, it would preserve some of the lawn on our National Mall. Some people would enjoy it more and they would get a little exercise. Just all kinds of ideas that might be proposed by communities.

I remember being out in Washington State, San Juan Island. This was a little place. It's a national park because there was a bizarre military conflict that occurred out there. I won't go into the whole military conflict, but the people there love the bunny rabbits that are there. Well, the Park Service decided that they're really not a native species, there are too many of them, so the Park Service decided they're going to use the method they use at other places. First of all, they thought they would gas them, which the community was shocked by. Then they decided, well, we'll shoot them and so on, reduce the population. You know, if they had just sat down with members of the community, they could have figured out how to keep these bunnies that the community wanted, avoid a whole lot of negative attitude with regard to the Park Service, and in fact enhance the enjoyment of this little national park at San Juan.

I'm sure there are examples all over the country, in fact, all over the world, because the National Park Service has any number of parks outside the physical boundaries of our North American continent. We've got the Virgin Islands and so on.

I don't know what the local neighborhoods might suggest, but I do know that they have a lot of good ideas, ideas that the National Park Service ought to consider thoughtfully. And some will be rejected, but some might well be accepted. But the process of that kind of community input, it seems to me, would generate even more support for the National Park Service.

It's a great institution. Our parks are iconic assets to our Nation. But I do think that the local community could enjoy them more and appreciate the National Park Service's role more if we had the kind of dialogue with the Park Service that Ms. NORTON is suggesting.

I don't see any harm in having that kind of study. I think we ought to be able to work with the gentlelady, maybe put together some report language, at least a letter to the head of the National Park Service suggesting

that this is an area that the Congress itself, in a bipartisan way, thinks ought to be explored.

Mr. SIMPSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MORAN. I yield to the gentleman from Idaho.

Mr. SIMPSON. I would say that I think the gentleman has stated the case as it is. It is an earmark, and that's a whole other story we can talk about.

But I agree with what the gentlelady is trying to do here. And I will tell you that both the ranking member and I will work with the gentlelady from the District of Columbia to try to resolve this in conference so that we can do what you're trying to accomplish here because I think it is important.

Mr. MORAN. The gentlelady is smiling, so I will accept her concurrence. We will move forward in that fashion if the gentlelady wouldn't mind withdrawing her amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. I appreciate the remarks of the chairman and the ranking member. In light of those remarks and their generosity, I do withdraw my amendment and will work with them to try to implement it in other ways.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the amendment is withdrawn.

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

For expenses necessary in carrying out the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470), and the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-333), \$49,500,000, to be derived from the Historic Preservation Fund and to remain available until September 30, 2013.

CONSTRUCTION

For construction, improvements, repair, or replacement of physical facilities, including modifications authorized by section 104 of the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989 (16 U.S.C. 410r-8), \$152,121,000, to remain available until expended.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CARTER

Mr. CARTER. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 15, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(decreased by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER. Madam Chairman, this is an amendment that was put together to ensure that the Interior Department prioritize its efforts to construct a joint law enforcement center in national parks and recreation areas along the southern border of the United States with available funds.

National Park lands on our southern border have experienced a gigantic increase in the amount of illegal activity

that has crossed into our park lands. The reason for this is very similar to grabbing a bean bag and squeezing it; it always bulges out at some point. As we start tightening our southern border with a lot of the efforts that have been bipartisan efforts by this Congress, it causes the people who are wanting to have illegal activity to move farther and farther out into the rural areas and into the unoccupied areas, and they're moving into our national parks.

Joint law enforcement centers will be available to serve the National Park Service law enforcement agency, the United States Customs and Border Patrol, possibly even the Coast Guard when they're on the river at that border, and other Federal, State, or local law enforcement agencies as may be needed.

This is something that has been discussed; it has been agreed upon; it has been approved. Additional rangers and Border Patrol officers have been added to our border and been assigned and are being compensated for working down there, but they lack serious facilities within which to be able to operate.

One example is when we sent a group down to take a look at what other needs might be on our southern border, we ran across eight Border Patrol officers that were working in a temporary facility that was 288 square feet. This is absolutely inadequate. And if they were working in conjunction with the Park Service, there was no place for the Park Service to even stand in the building.

The purpose of this amendment is to dedicate \$1 million to the National Park Service construction funds for FY 2012 to jump-start the interagency project already agreed upon between the Departments of Interior and Homeland Security. We are confident that with this shot in the arm we will be able to get these centers, as they may be available, constructed.

And it's not just a place for these folks to work; but if you take a look at most of our southern border from all the way across, you will see that, if there is no place to hold prisoners when they're captured doing illegal activities, then you have to transport them. In many instances, this transportation is 150 miles to a place where they can be secured. And these would also allow at least for temporary detention so that we wouldn't have Border Patrol officers running back and forth 150 miles every time there's a detention needed.

This is a facility that really will aid what we've already provided, which is personnel to help defend our southern border. It is budget neutral, and I would respectfully request that this be adopted.

Mr. SIMPSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CARTER. I yield to the gentleman from Idaho.

Mr. SIMPSON. We are prepared on this side to accept the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. CARTER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2220

Mr. MORAN. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN. I am not necessarily rising to oppose this, but to point out some deficiencies in the amendment itself. The claim is that the purpose of the amendment is to ensure that the National Park Service prioritizes its construction of law enforcement centers on national park lands, on the southern border in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security.

First of all, there is some feeling that national parks not have basically prison sites on them because what happens is that when people are rounded up by the Border Patrol, they are taken to these law enforcement centers and detained until they—I don't know whether they are adjudicated or not, but then eventually they are moved to another place. But they are temporarily detained at these law enforcement centers, and there is some feeling that national parks are not an appropriate location for that purpose.

But the very wording of the amendment doesn't really do that. It increases money, then it decreases the same amount of money. If it did it, it would be an earmark. And, of course, we don't do earmarks in this bill.

So as I say, I don't rise in opposition because I'm not sure what the amendment does, but I think it is helpful to be informed as to what it doesn't do.

Mr. CARTER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MORAN. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CARTER. I thank the gentleman.

It is my understanding that this joint agreement, as we saw the acceleration of park rangers, and you're right, quite honestly, I don't think anywhere on the southern border people want illegal activity to be going on on our recreational areas, wherever they might be located. And nobody is trying to warehouse prisoners in a national park.

It is hard to envision this facility, but it would be a facility, I would assume, sort of like some of the facilities you see in other locations where people are operating out of it, but they have a temporary detention holding cell.

This would be strictly—and maybe I can explain it by pointing out one of the problems we have on the border with the transportation of our prisoners. And, in fact, one of the things that we used our National Guard for when we did have to transfer prisoners when they were working on the border,

there always has to be someone having this prisoner in custody. Whatever the accused crime is, they have to be in custody.

When we had limited resources, we bumped them up. But they take a trained border patrolman whose duty it is to protect our border, if he's the only person available, and he has to transport that prisoner because there's no facility to temporarily hold him in. And when I say "temporarily," it could be hours or maybe even minutes until someone can come along to help transport. If he's alone, then he has to transport him 150 miles. That's 3 hours that officer is off his post to make the transport.

So that's a little, tiny part for the purpose of this facility. This facility is really for a working space for those resources that we have already beefed up and put down on the border, and both Interior and Homeland have made agreements and really it is kind of just a kick to get them started. I believe we will see funding come from both sources to finish the project.

Mr. MORAN. Reclaiming my time, I understand that the gentleman wants to make that point. I understand the challenges that are faced in the area that he represents.

I was similarly confused, though, when there was a substantial amendment to strip funding for environmental mitigation between the Homeland Security and Interior Departments that the gentleman previously suggested and, I think, was successful in doing. So I don't know, it's not an area that I'm particularly familiar with. I am becoming more familiar with it; but, again, I'm not sure that this amendment does anything other than draw attention to the issue.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MICA

Mr. MICA. I have an amendment at the desk.

Mr. DICKS. Madam Chair, we don't have a copy of the gentleman's amendment, and it is usually the protocol to give one to the minority.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 15, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

Page 65, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert "(decreased by \$2,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Thank you, Madam Chair, and I am sorry the minority didn't have a copy of this fine amendment. It was modified slightly from the original submission to comply with the requirements of the Parliamentarian to be in order.

Let me say at this late hour I won't take too much time. I am from the authorizing side, and it's always good to come here and hear the difficulties that the appropriators have in trying to make choices, and tonight is about making choices.

I do have to compliment Mr. SIMPSON, the chair of the subcommittee; Mr. HASTINGS, the chair of the full committee; and the ranking members, Mr. MORAN and Mr. DICKS, for their efforts, being up late at night and making these difficult choices in some very tough economic times.

Normally, I wouldn't come here and tell you what to do; but, again, coming from a State that has some 11 parks and preserves and national monuments, I have a great interest in some of these accounts.

Now, we all have to set priorities; and as I said, these are difficult times. The Department of the Interior, I noticed, had, I guess, in 2010 just under \$11 billion that's being cut to \$9.8 billion, a 7 percent reduction. People ask me about transportation projects. Whether it is FAA, on transportation, I'm reducing some of the accounts by 30 percent in authorization, so I know the difficulty you're facing.

Now, I also looked at some of the other accounts here. EPA, I think folks would be shocked to find EPA has \$7.1 billion in this bill. That's quite a bit to operate that agency. Well, the National Park Service has \$2.5 billion. I think if you ask people on the street where would you put the dollars, I think they would like to see something very tangible. They appreciate their national parks. And, again, you have difficult priorities.

My amendment is simple. It takes \$2 million out of EPA's account for management programs, and it transfers it to the National Park Construction Account.

Now, this is not going to resolve a \$10 billion backlog in maintenance and construction projects. I can give you examples. Just a few miles from here, Harpers Ferry, they have a \$59 million deferred maintenance account pending. Florida, with its 11 parks and preserves and national monuments, has a \$4 million backlog. And, again, my amendment won't solve even Florida's problem.

□ 2230

Even closer to home in my district—and I want to thank again the chairman of the committee and the chairman of the subcommittee and staff for working with me—we are attempting, after authorization in 2004, to finally finish a visitors center. I want to make certain that the Castillo San Marco Visitor Center and the backlog of some of Florida's 11 parks and national monuments, their maintenance and some of their construction costs, that we have those funds available. So that's why I offered this amendment.

Again, I know you have difficult choices. This won't resolve the pending needs either in the State of Florida or nationally. That being said, and also stating my position and intent, and knowing that the committee and I know Mr. SIMPSON is anxious to work with me and is committed to work with me, Mr. HASTINGS and staff, and in the interest of time and also not pressing the issue beyond my ability to retain my friendship and strong working relationship, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the amendment is withdrawn.

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (RESCISSION)

The contract authority provided for fiscal year 2012 by 16 U.S.C. 4601-10a is hereby rescinded.

LAND ACQUISITION AND STATE ASSISTANCE

For expenses necessary to carry out the Land and Water Conservation Act of 1965, as amended (16 U.S.C. 4601-4 through 11), including administrative expenses, and for acquisition of lands or waters, or interest therein, in accordance with the statutory authority applicable to the National Park Service, \$18,294,000, to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to remain available until expended, of which \$2,794,000 is for the State assistance program and of which \$2,000,000 shall be for the American Battlefield Protection Program grants as authorized by section 7301 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11).

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

In addition to other uses set forth in section 407(d) of Public Law 105-391, franchise fees credited to a sub-account shall be available for expenditure by the Secretary, without further appropriation, for use at any unit within the National Park System to extinguish or reduce liability for Possessory Interest or leasehold surrender interest. Such funds may only be used for this purpose to the extent that the benefiting unit anticipated franchise fee receipts over the term of the contract at that unit exceed the amount of funds used to extinguish or reduce liability. Franchise fees at the benefiting unit shall be credited to the sub-account of the originating unit over a period not to exceed the term of a single contract at the benefiting unit, in the amount of funds so expended to extinguish or reduce liability.

National Park Service funds may be transferred to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Department of Transportation, for purposes authorized under section 204 of title 23, United States Code. Transfers may include a reasonable amount for FHWA administrative support costs.

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY SURVEYS, INVESTIGATIONS, AND RESEARCH

For expenses necessary for the United States Geological Survey to perform surveys, investigations, and research covering topography, geology, hydrology, biology, and the mineral and water resources of the United States, its territories and possessions, and other areas as authorized by 43

U.S.C. 31, 1332, and 1340; classify lands as to their mineral and water resources; give engineering supervision to power permittees and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licensees; administer the minerals exploration program (30 U.S.C. 641); conduct inquiries into the economic conditions affecting mining and materials processing industries (30 U.S.C. 3, 21a, and 1603; 50 U.S.C. 98g(1)) and related purposes as authorized by law; and to publish and disseminate data relative to the foregoing activities; \$1,053,552,000, to remain available until September 30, 2013, of which \$65,561,000 shall be available only for cooperation with States or municipalities for water resources investigations: *Provided*, That none of the funds provided for the ecosystem research activity shall be used to conduct new surveys on private property, unless specifically authorized in writing by the property owner: *Provided further*, That no part of this appropriation shall be used to pay more than one-half the cost of topographic mapping or water resources data collection and investigations carried on in cooperation with States and municipalities.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

From within the amount appropriated for activities of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) such sums as are necessary shall be available for reimbursement to the General Services Administration for security guard services; contracting for the furnishing of topographic maps and for the making of geophysical or other specialized surveys when it is administratively determined that such procedures are in the public interest; construction and maintenance of necessary buildings and appurtenant facilities; acquisition of lands for gauging stations and observation wells; expenses of the United States National Committee on Geology; and payment of compensation and expenses of persons on the rolls of the USGS duly appointed to represent the United States in the negotiation and administration of interstate compacts: *Provided*, That activities funded by appropriations herein made may be accomplished through the use of contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements as defined in section 6302 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the United States Geological Survey may enter into contracts or cooperative agreements directly with individuals or indirectly with institutions or nonprofit organizations, without regard to 41 U.S.C. 5, for the temporary or intermittent services of students or recent graduates, who shall be considered employees for the purpose of chapters 57 and 81 of title 5, United States Code, relating to compensation for travel and work injuries, and chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, relating to tort claims, but shall not be considered to be Federal employees for any other purposes.

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT, REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

For expenses necessary for minerals leasing and environmental studies and regulation of industry operations, as authorized by law; for enforcing laws and regulations applicable to oil, gas, and other minerals leases, permits, licenses and operating contracts; for energy-related or other authorized marine-related purposes on the Outer Continental Shelf; and for matching grants or cooperative agreements, \$138,605,000, to remain available until September 30, 2013; and an amount not to exceed \$160,163,000, to be credited to this appropriation and to remain available until expended, from additions to

receipts resulting from increases to rates in effect on August 5, 1993, and from cost recovery fees: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, in fiscal year 2012, such amounts as are assessed under 31 U.S.C. 9701 shall be collected and credited to this account and shall be available until expended for necessary expenses: *Provided further*, That to the extent \$160,163,000 in addition to receipts are not realized from the sources of receipts stated above, the amount needed to reach \$160,163,000 shall be credited to this appropriation from receipts resulting from rental rates for Outer Continental Shelf leases in effect before August 5, 1993: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2012 and each fiscal year thereafter, the term "qualified Outer Continental Shelf revenues", as defined in section 102(9)(A) of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (title I of division C of Public Law 109-432; 43 U.S.C. note), shall include only the portion of rental revenues that would have been collected at the rental rates in effect before August 5, 1993: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$3,000 shall be available for reasonable expenses related to promoting volunteer beach and marine cleanup activities.

For an additional amount, \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That section 115 of the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (division A of Public Law 111-88; 123 Stat. 2928) shall apply for fiscal year 2012, and in such application "2012" shall be substituted for "2010": *Provided further*, That such amount shall be derived from receipts resulting from such application: *Provided further*, That to the extent that such amount is not received by the United States as a result of such application, the amount needed to reach \$10,000,000 shall be credited to this appropriation from receipts resulting from rental rates for Outer Continental Shelf leases in effect before August 5, 1993.

OIL SPILL RESEARCH

For necessary expenses to carry out title I, section 1016, title IV, sections 4202 and 4303, title VII, and title VIII, section 8201 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, \$14,923,000, which shall be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, to remain available until expended.

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

REGULATION AND TECHNOLOGY

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, Public Law 95-87, as amended, \$123,050,000, to remain available until September 30, 2013: *Provided*, That appropriations for the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement may provide for the travel and per diem expenses of State and tribal personnel attending Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement sponsored training: *Provided further*, That, in fiscal year 2012, up to \$40,000 collected by the Office of Surface Mining from permit fees pursuant to section 507 of Public Law 95-87 (30 U.S.C. 1257) shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2012 appropriation estimated at not more than \$123,010,000: *Provided further*, That, in subsequent fiscal years, all amounts collected by the Office of Surface Mining from permit fees pursuant to section 507 of Public Law 95-87 (30 U.S.C. 1257) shall

be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended.

ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION FUND

For necessary expenses to carry out title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, Public Law 95-87, as amended, \$27,443,000, to be derived from receipts of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That pursuant to Public Law 97-365, the Department of the Interior is authorized to use up to 20 percent from the recovery of the delinquent debt owed to the United States Government to pay for contracts to collect these debts: *Provided further*, That amounts provided under this heading may be used for the travel and per diem expenses of State and tribal personnel attending Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement sponsored training.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

With funds available for the Technical Innovation and Professional Services program in this Act, the Secretary may transfer title for computer hardware, software and other technical equipment to State and tribal regulatory and reclamation programs.

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION

OPERATION OF INDIAN PROGRAMS (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary for the operation of Indian programs, as authorized by law, including the Snyder Act of November 2, 1921 (25 U.S.C. 13), the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.), as amended, the Education Amendments of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 2001-2019), and the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988 (25 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.), as amended, \$2,333,690,000, to remain available until September 30, 2013, except as otherwise provided herein; of which not to exceed \$8,500 may be for official reception and representation expenses; and of which not to exceed \$74,911,000 shall be for welfare assistance payments, except that, in cases of designated Federal disasters, the Secretary may exceed such cap, from the amounts provided herein, to provide for disaster relief to Indian communities affected by the disaster; and of which, notwithstanding any other provision of law, including but not limited to the Indian Self-Determination Act of 1975, as amended, not to exceed \$228,000,000 shall be available for payments for contract support costs associated with ongoing contracts, grants, compacts, or annual funding agreements entered into with the Bureau of Indian Affairs prior to or during fiscal year 2012, as authorized by such Act, except that tribes and tribal organizations may use their tribal priority allocations for unmet contract support costs of ongoing contracts, grants, or compacts, or annual funding agreements and for unmet welfare assistance costs; and of which not to exceed \$584,369,000 for school operations costs of Bureau-funded schools and other education programs shall become available on July 1, 2012, and shall remain available until September 30, 2013; and of which not to exceed \$48,049,000 shall remain available until expended for housing improvement, road maintenance, attorney fees, litigation support, the Indian Self-Determination Fund, land records improvement, and the Navajo-Hopi Settlement Program: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, including but not limited to the Indian Self-Determination Act of 1975, as amended, and 25 U.S.C. 2008, not to

exceed \$46,373,000 within and only from such amounts made available for school operations shall be available for administrative cost grants associated with ongoing grants entered into with the Bureau prior to or during fiscal year 2011 for the operation of Bureau-funded schools, and up to \$500,000 within and only from such amounts made available for administrative cost grants shall be available for the transitional costs of initial administrative cost grants to grantees that assume operation on or after July 1, 2011, of Bureau-funded schools: *Provided further*, That any forestry funds allocated to a tribe which remain unobligated as of September 30, 2013, may be transferred during fiscal year 2014 to an Indian forest land assistance account established for the benefit of the holder of the funds within the holder's trust fund account: *Provided further*, That any such unobligated balances not so transferred shall expire on September 30, 2014: *Provided further*, That in order to enhance the safety of Bureau field employees, the Bureau may use funds to purchase uniforms or other identifying articles of clothing for personnel.

CONSTRUCTION
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For construction, repair, improvement, and maintenance of irrigation and power systems, buildings, utilities, and other facilities, including architectural and engineering services by contract; acquisition of lands, and interests in lands; and preparation of lands for farming, and for construction of the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project pursuant to Public Law 87-483, \$154,992,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amounts as may be available for the construction of the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project may be transferred to the Bureau of Reclamation: *Provided further*, That not to exceed 6 percent of contract authority available to the Bureau of Indian Affairs from the Federal Highway Trust Fund may be used to cover the road program management costs of the Bureau: *Provided further*, That any funds provided for the Safety of Dams program pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 13 shall be made available on a nonreimbursable basis: *Provided further*, That in implementing new construction or facilities improvement and repair project grants in excess of \$100,000 that are provided to grant schools under Public Law 100-297, as amended, the Secretary of the Interior shall use the Administrative and Audit Requirements and Cost Principles for Assistance Programs contained in part 12 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations as the regulatory requirements: *Provided further*, That such grants shall not be subject to section 12.61 of such title; the Secretary and the grantee shall negotiate and determine a schedule of payments for the work to be performed: *Provided further*, That in considering grant applications, the Secretary shall consider whether such grantee would be deficient in assuring that the construction projects conform to applicable building standards and codes and Federal, tribal, or State health and safety standards as required by 25 U.S.C. 2005(b), with respect to organizational and financial management capabilities: *Provided further*, That if the Secretary declines a grant application, the Secretary shall follow the requirements contained in 25 U.S.C. 2504(f): *Provided further*, That any disputes between the Secretary and any grantee concerning a grant shall be subject to the disputes provision in 25 U.S.C. 2507(e): *Provided further*, That in order to ensure timely completion of construction projects, the Secretary may assume control of a project and all funds related to the

project, if, within 18 months of the date of enactment of this Act, any grantee receiving funds appropriated in this Act or in any prior Act has not completed the planning and design phase of the project and commenced construction: *Provided further*, That this appropriation may be reimbursed from the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians appropriation for the appropriate share of construction costs for space expansion needed in agency offices to meet trust reform implementation.

INDIAN LAND AND WATER CLAIM SETTLEMENTS
AND MISCELLANEOUS PAYMENTS TO INDIANS

For payments and necessary administrative expenses for implementation of Indian land and water claim settlements pursuant to Public Laws 99-264, 100-580, 101-618, 108-447, and 111-11, and for implementation of other land and water rights settlements, \$32,855,000, to remain available until expended.

INDIAN GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of guaranteed loans and insured loans, \$8,114,000, of which not to exceed \$964,000 is for administrative expenses, as authorized by the Indian Financing Act of 1974, as amended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed or insured, not to exceed \$85,242,280.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The Bureau of Indian Affairs may carry out the operation of Indian programs by direct expenditure, contracts, cooperative agreements, compacts, and grants, either directly or in cooperation with States and other organizations.

Notwithstanding 25 U.S.C. 15, the Bureau of Indian Affairs may contract for services in support of the management, operation, and maintenance of the Power Division of the San Carlos Irrigation Project.

Appropriations for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (except the Revolving Fund for Loans Liquidating Account, Indian Loan Guaranty and Insurance Fund Liquidating Account, Indian Guaranteed Loan Financing Account, Indian Direct Loan Financing Account, and the Indian Guaranteed Loan Program account) shall be available for expenses of exhibits.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds available to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for central office oversight and Executive Direction and Administrative Services (except executive direction and administrative services funding for Tribal Priority Allocations, regional offices, and facilities operations and maintenance) shall be available for contracts, grants, compacts, or cooperative agreements with the Bureau of Indian Affairs under the provisions of the Indian Self-Determination Act or the Tribal Self-Governance Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-413).

In the event any tribe returns appropriations made available by this Act to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, this action shall not diminish the Federal Government's trust responsibility to that tribe, or the government-to-government relationship between the United States and that tribe, or that tribe's ability to access future appropriations.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds available to the Bureau, other than the amounts provided herein for assistance to public schools under 25 U.S.C. 452 et

seq., shall be available to support the operation of any elementary or secondary school in the State of Alaska.

Appropriations made available in this or any other Act for schools funded by the Bureau shall be available only to the schools in the Bureau school system as of September 1, 1996. No funds available to the Bureau shall be used to support expanded grades for any school or dormitory beyond the grade structure in place or approved by the Secretary of the Interior at each school in the Bureau school system as of October 1, 1995, except that any school or school program that was closed and removed from the Bureau school system between 1951 and 1972, and its respective tribe's relationship with the Federal Government was terminated, shall be reinstated to the Bureau system and supported at a level based on its grade structure and average student enrollment for the 2009-2010, 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years. Funds made available under this Act may not be used to establish a charter school at a Bureau-funded school (as that term is defined in section 1141 of the Education Amendments of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 2021)), except that a charter school that is in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act and that has operated at a Bureau-funded school before September 1, 1999, may continue to operate during that period, but only if the charter school pays to the Bureau a pro rata share of funds to reimburse the Bureau for the use of the real and personal property (including buses and vans), the funds of the charter school are kept separate and apart from Bureau funds, and the Bureau does not assume any obligation for charter school programs of the State in which the school is located if the charter school loses such funding. Employees of Bureau-funded schools sharing a campus with a charter school and performing functions related to the charter school's operation and employees of a charter school shall not be treated as Federal employees for purposes of chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 31, lines 2 through 10, strike "Funds made available" and all that follows through "that period, but" and insert "A charter school (as that term is defined in section 1141 of the Education Amendments of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 2021)) may operate".

Mr. DICKS. Madam Chair, I reserve a point of order.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman's point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I rise in support of my amendment. As currently written, the Department of Interior appropriations bill states that education "funds made available under this Act may not be used to establish a charter school at a Bureau-funded school." My amendment would allow money appropriated under this bill to be used for charter schools. Now, the bill grandfathers in charter schools funded prior to 1999, but bars no new charter schools. The committee report is silent on this.

As of the 2005 census, children made up 1.4 million of the total of American

Indian and Alaskan Native populations. They, and their parents, deserve educational choices. Charter schools are semi-independent schools usually within a State's public education system that are designed and operated by educators, parents, community leaders, educational entrepreneurs, and others. As of 2006, a total of 40 States and the District of Columbia have passed charter school laws allowing this type of school to be part of their system. I see no reason to deny this opportunity to American Indians.

I believe administrators of such schools may worry about administrative issues in terms of accounting for students who transfer between a charter school and a noncharter school and the moneys that are appropriated. This is sometimes referred to as the "ownership" of the student. But such administrative concerns should not be a basis to completely abandon this option. Competent administrators at the BIA, the tribes, and the State educational associations can work out the transitional issues.

Further, to the extent someone does not like charter schools, so be it. Don't send your child to one. But we in Congress should not be picking winners and losers. Charter schools should be an available choice to those tribes that want them. If a tribe chooses not to offer a charter school approach, that is its decision. But another tribe may do so on its own. There's no reason in this appropriation bill to foreclose this option. We should not impose our personal likes and dislikes on others.

It is my further belief that allowing the tribes the maximum ability to choose the best educational program is consistent with self-determination. Having the right to decide local school decisions is a part of self-determination, and I don't see why we in Congress should deny that right. A key part of self-determination is choosing the manner in which the tribes educate their children. As far back as 1970, President Nixon addressed this issue that was then emerging, and stated: "It is long past time that the Indian policies of the Federal Government begin to recognize and build upon the capacities and insights of the Indian people. Both as a matter of justice and as a matter enlightened social policy, we must begin to act on the basis of what the Indians themselves have long been telling us. The time has come to break decisively with the past and create the conditions for a new era in which the Indian future is determined by Indian acts and Indian decisions."

□ 2240

Indeed, that is what Congress did when it passed the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975. Allowing the tribes to choose a charter school option makes sense from a self-determination perspective.

Finally, according to the Center for Education Reform, there are over 5,000 charter schools nationwide. There are examples of charter schools with spectacular successes and results. I'm sure there are some charter schools that have failed in their mission. The point here, however, is about choice and allowing the tribes to decide what educational opportunities they want to create.

It is well-known that charter schools are schools of choice. Unlike traditional public schools, students may choose to attend charter schools, and if those students determine that the school is not serving their needs, they may choose to leave. It is true that many charter schools typically have longer schooldays, longer school years and higher academic and behavioral expectations for their students. For those concerned about the current public educational system, these trends should be encouraged, but let's allow the tribes to make that choice.

It is Congress' duty to describe and allow such choices as part of its oversight and application of our treaties with which American Indian tribal relations are governed. I ask for support of this amendment and support for Indian self-determination and school choice.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, we don't have any problem with this amendment. This is kind of new territory in our bill, but I appreciate the gentleman from Arizona's work on this and his interest in providing quality education for our Native American brothers and sisters all across this country. It's a deep concern that I share also, and I look forward to working with him to make sure that this does what is intended and that it provides what is necessary for our Indian population so that they have the advantages that all of us have. I thank the gentleman for offering the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Does the gentleman from Washington wish to continue to reserve his point of order?

Mr. DICKS. I withdraw my point of order, but would like to ask a question of the gentleman from Arizona.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Washington withdraws his point of order.

Mr. DICKS. I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DICKS. In your amendment, it says:

funds made available and all that follows through that period—but—and in-

sert a charter school as that term is defined in section 1141 of the Education Amendments of 1978.

Would you tell us what that definition is, please.

Mr. GOSAR. We were looking that up, my colleague from Washington. We don't have that on the laptop at this point of inquiry.

Mr. DICKS. So you have no idea what this amendment means?

Mr. GOSAR. It allows the option for choice of charter schools as defined as "charters schools."

Mr. DICKS. How do you know that if you don't know what the language is?

Mr. GOSAR. They were grandfathered in up to 1999, but no provisions were given for that detail past 1999.

Mr. DICKS. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including section 113 of title I of appendix C of Public Law 106-113, if in fiscal year 2003 or 2004 a grantee received indirect and administrative costs pursuant to a distribution formula based on section 5(f) of Public Law 101-301, the Secretary shall continue to distribute indirect and administrative cost funds to such grantee using the section 5(f) distribution formula.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses for management of the Department of the Interior, including the collection and disbursement of royalties, fees, and other mineral revenue proceeds, as authorized by law, \$250,151,000 to remain available until September 30, 2013; of which not to exceed \$15,000 may be for official reception and representation expenses; and of which up to \$1,000,000 shall be available for workers compensation payments and unemployment compensation payments associated with the orderly closure of the United States Bureau of Mines; and of which \$12,112,000 for the Office of Valuation Services is to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and shall remain available until expended; and of which \$36,000,000 shall remain available until expended for the purpose of mineral revenue management activities: *Provided*, That, for fiscal year 2012, up to \$400,000 of the payments authorized by the Act of October 20, 1976, as amended (31 U.S.C. 6901-6907) may be retained for administrative expenses of the Payments in Lieu of Taxes Program: *Provided further*, That no payment shall be made pursuant to that Act to otherwise eligible units of local government if the computed amount of the payment is less than \$100: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, \$15,000 under this heading shall be available for refunds of overpayments in connection with certain Indian leases in which the Secretary concurred with the claimed refund due, to pay amounts owed to Indian allottees or tribes, or to correct prior unrecoverable erroneous payments: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding the provisions of section 35(b) of the Mineral Leasing Act, as amended

(30 U.S.C. 191(b)), the Secretary shall deduct 2 percent from the amount payable to each State in fiscal year 2012 and deposit the amount deducted to miscellaneous receipts of the Treasury.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DOLD

Mr. DOLD. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 32, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$24,700,000)”.

Page 65, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$24,700,000)”.

Page 65, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$24,700,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to restore funding to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. This important initiative received steep cuts in this year's Interior bill. My amendment would simply restore half of the funding that was cut.

This amendment is part of a two-step process to restore funding to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. This amendment transfers funds from the Departmental Offices account to the Environmental Programs and Management, and it would be accompanied by a subsequent amendment to increase this funding to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

I do appreciate the support that the Appropriations Committee has shown the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in the past, and I am thankful that it does remain a priority within the Geographic Programs account. However, I do believe it is vitally important to restore some funding so that we can continue to protect the Great Lakes.

The Great Lakes are truly a shared national treasure. As the largest group of freshwater lakes on Earth, they hold 95 percent of the United States surface freshwater and are a source of clean drinking water to over 30 million people. From the beautiful beaches and wide open waters to the bluffs and dunes, the Great Lakes provide a wide array of recreational opportunities and are an important part of the physical landscape and cultural heritage of North America. Furthermore, the Great Lakes provide transportation for raw materials and finished goods, all of which create jobs and contribute to a stronger economy.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is an important part of restoring the health and vitality of our Great Lakes. Certainly, in my district—the 10th District of Illinois—we want to make sure that the Great Lakes are taken care of and protected for future generations. However, the ecosystem is showing signs of serious stress, and action is now required to restore, rehabilitate and make our Great Lakes better. As a scoutmaster, I teach the Boy Scouts the principles of leaving areas better than when we found them.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is an important avenue by which to clean up our lakes and restore them to their natural beauty so that they can remain the crown jewel for generations to come; but in order to preserve our Great Lakes, we need the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to help tackle the challenges facing this natural treasure.

First, toxic substances are polluting the water, and this initiative helps with cleanup and pollution prevention. Also, invasive species are causing severe ecological stress on the lakes, and the initiative institutes a zero tolerance policy so that species such as the Asian carp cannot become fully established in the Great Lakes. Third, we must ensure that the pollution does not impair water quality. Finally, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative works to restore degraded wetlands and wildlife habitats.

Earlier this year, I, along with Congressman LIPINSKI, introduced the Great Lakes Water Protection Act, which would protect Lake Michigan and the rest of the Great Lakes from wastewater discharges by prohibiting publicly owned treatment works from intentionally diverting wastewater systems to bypass any portion of the treatment facility.

This is just one more step my colleagues and I in the Great Lakes region are taking to fight for the protection of our lakes. Yet, despite all of these concerns, the current recommendation for this critical initiative is just over half of what it received in fiscal year 2010, and is \$49.4 million below the fiscal year 2011 enacted level.

I do appreciate the hard work that the Appropriations Committee has been tasked with, and I fully support the committee's efforts to be fiscally responsible—to rein in Federal spending and to make sure that we are funding our Nation's priorities. That is why my amendment only seeks to restore half of the roughly \$50 million cut that the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative received in this year's Interior bill.

I do believe that the Great Lakes are at risk, and we must restore funding so that the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative can work to protect our natural resources for our children and our grandchildren for decades to come.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. I thank the gentleman for offering his amendment.

We had to make some tough decisions with this bill. Some of them were with the money that we spent in the Geographic Programs. I believe every geographic program had reduced funding in this bill. Last year, they were funded at \$300 million. I think the

President requested \$350 million for the Great Lakes geographic program, and we funded it at \$250 million.

While I appreciate what the gentleman is trying to do with his amendment—and I thank him for offering it—the fact is we just don't have that kind of money. The offset of this is \$24 million out of the Secretary's account, and we earlier took \$20 million out of it. I don't believe the Secretary is sleeping very well tonight.

□ 2250

Pretty soon he won't have any money left in his office, as a matter of fact. So that is a problem.

It's not what the gentleman is trying to do. I fully support what the gentleman is trying to do. It's the offset and trying to get the \$20 million out of the Secretary's account which causes the problem for me. And I would hope that my colleagues would reject this amendment as we work on trying to make sure that we, in conference, can do what's necessary to fund those programs that do protect the Great Lakes, the Puget Sound, the Chesapeake Bay, Long Island Sound, San Francisco Bay, some of the other great water bodies in this country.

I appreciate the gentleman's amendment, but I have to rise in opposition to it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. DOLD. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 44 OFFERED BY MR. REED

Mr. REED. Madam Chairwoman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 32, line 12, insert after the dollar amount the following: “(reduced by \$8,291,000)”.

Page 76, line 2, insert after the dollar amount the following: “(increased by \$8,291,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. REED. I offer this amendment with my colleague from Oklahoma (Mr. BOREN).

This is a bipartisan amendment to this appropriations bill with the intent to return funding for the Forest Health Management Account, under State and private forestry.

What we're intending to do with our proposed amendment is to move money

from the D.C. bureaucracy, and I anticipate there will be a concern raised about the offset of the line that we're using to cover this increase in the Forest Health Management account from the Secretary's account.

But I firmly do believe that our taxpayer dollars are better spent not on the bureaucracy of the Secretary's office here in Washington, D.C., but more importantly on the front lines and into the States that can benefit from these programs.

This program that we're trying to take care of with this amendment is to restore the funding for the purposes of weeding out invasive species which threaten many industries and our environment across the Nation.

Essentially, invasive species threaten natural habitats, economies, and environments in every State and essentially every district that we represent. The work done by the Forest Service in education, outreach, and on-the-ground action is imperative to the prevention and early detection of nonnative invasive species.

By way of just one example that we deal with in our district, in the New York 29th Congressional District is the emerald ash borer beetle which can kill an ash tree within 5 years, decimating forests across the States and across our district. This pest and other insects have caused disruption on local economies and on job producers nationwide. Research estimates that we have reviewed at our office indicate that replacement and treatment of affected ash trees could total \$10 billion over the next decade should this pest continue to spread.

This is just one pest of many that the U.S. Forest Service is seeking to maintain and address so that Federal and State funds are not diverted from other meaningful initiatives.

Working with individual States on invasive species control, the Forest Health Management programs are part of a collaborative effort to protect forest and grasslands where their efforts can be most effective—in the field on the front line rather than here behind a desk in Washington, D.C.

The benefit of placing Federal funds into action on the front lines, therefore, far outweighs the use of those funds to bloat the Federal bureaucracy. And, therefore, I ask my colleagues to support the amendment and join in this bipartisan effort, with all due respect to the chairman of the appropriations process that is making some very difficult decisions in this day and age.

But I just want to highlight this issue, and I do truly believe that through a bipartisan issue we can get money from D.C. into the fields and deal with the issue of invasive species that threaten economies and industry across the Nation.

I yield back the balance of my time.
Mr. SIMPSON. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. I appreciate the gentleman from New York's observation that we are working with some very difficult numbers, and he's absolutely right. And this is an account, frankly, that I think is important. The invasive species and trying to control invasive species across this country is of high importance. It's as of high importance in Idaho as it is in New York and other places across the country. But as the gentleman noted, the concern is the offset.

While we actually treated this account better than most other accounts within this budget, we actually only reduced it by 2½ percent. Some other accounts, EPA's account is down 18 percent, and some other things. Most accounts received substantially less funding. And where you're taking this money from, as I said on the last amendment, the Office of the Secretary is funded in this bill \$33½ million below the budget's request. That was before we took out another \$20 million in an earlier amendment to put it into the Land and Water Conservation Fund. So now we're doing \$53½ million. We add this to it and we are going to be down \$62 million.

Sometimes these, what appear to be small amounts, add up. If we're going to have a Secretary's office that actually functions, we have to keep enough resources there so that he can do his job.

And while I appreciate what the gentleman is trying to do, I sympathize with what he's trying to do and support the effort of what he's trying to do. The fact that the offset affects an account that we have substantially reduced already is a problem, so I would oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.
Mr. MORAN. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN. I rise to agree with the chairman of the appropriations subcommittee just as I did with the last amendment.

The idea of a bloated bureaucracy, when you've taken \$53 million out of the Secretary's office, it seems to me, is misplaced where we're talking about giving the Office of the Secretary of the Interior far more responsibility. And now, at every opportunity, we seem to be cutting the resources that are necessary to fulfill those responsibilities. Already tonight we've taken \$20 million from the Office of the Secretary's account.

So just as I did with the prior amendment, I would also agree with the chairman's comments and associate myself with them. So I won't take any more of the body's time.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. REED. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SCALISE

Mr. SCALISE. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 32, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(decreased by \$420,000)".

Page 158, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$420,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Louisiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Chair, the amendment that I bring would take \$420,000 from the Secretary of the Interior's account and move it into the spending reduction account to reduce the Nation's deficit.

And the reason that we're doing this is that, over the last year since the Deepwater Horizon exploded, the administration came out with a policy not long after that imposed a moratorium on drilling, a moratorium that was found by Federal courts to be outside of the law. The administration unfortunately went forward with that moratorium, costing thousands of American jobs, hurting America's energy security.

But even after the lifting of the moratorium, they still maintain what they call a permit moratorium, a refusal to issue permits to explore in the Gulf of Mexico for American energy. Not only does it cost our Nation tens of thousands of jobs, but it also costs us energy security where now we're even more dependent on Middle Eastern countries for oil. It's led to higher prices of gasoline at the pumps. It's had devastating impacts. Yet there's been no accountability to the administration for their policies that have led to this destruction of our economic well-being and our energy security as it relates to American energy, and especially as it relates to jobs in the Gulf of Mexico.

□ 2300

Now, if you really want to get down to the details of this amendment, one of the things we've said for a long time is, a lot of these companies, these big employers that have been out there for a long time exploring safely for American energy, they want to continue to be able to explore for American energy; and they want to go back to work; but they haven't been allowed to because of administration policies.

But what's more absurd is that while the administration has had this permissiveness, where they won't let people go back to work, they have also allowed the clock to continue ticking on the permits and on the leases. And you've got a finite amount of time for a lease; you've got a 10-year period of time. And if the administration is saying you can't properly develop your lease—now it would be one thing if they said, we're going to stop the clock while we, as an administration, go forward with this radical policy. But all outside experts have said is that it has nothing to do with safety, and it is hurting not only American energy production but American jobs.

But what the administration said is they're going to continue to let the clock run. It's like if you are playing a basketball game and the referee is holding the ball, and the clock's still running. You are sitting there saying, look, I just want the ball. I want to be able to go out and play by the rules, and the referee is holding the ball while the clock continues to run. That's just not fair. And yet the administration continues to do this.

This House, Madam Chair, passed legislation, H.R. 1229. It's called the Putting the Gulf of Mexico Back to Work Act. This legislation that we passed here in this House with a bipartisan vote, sent it over to the Senate—they still haven't taken action in the Senate—but what this legislation did, among other things, is it addressed that problem and said, If this administration is going to tell responsible companies who are trying to go back to work, who are trying to do the right thing—if the administration is going to tell them that they're not allowed to play by their own rules, then the clock stops while the administration denies them the ability to be permitted.

So the legislation that we passed addressed this. But the Senate, for whatever reason, refuses to take that up; again, costing our country thousands of good, high-paying jobs and hurting America's energy security, making us more dependent on Middle Eastern oil.

What we're saying with this amendment is: if this administration wants to continue going forward with that radical policy, which a majority of the President's own hand-picked scientists in his report right after the explosion of the Horizon said is irresponsible to do, that would actually reduce safety by denying permits, by having this moratorium, and now permissiveness, then there has to be accountability. We have to hold this administration accountable for their actions.

And the \$420,000 number in this bill that we're setting aside and putting into the deficit reduction account was gathered by looking at the number of leases that expire at the end of this year. There are 350 leases that will expire at the end of this year, not

through any fault of those companies that are out there trying to explore for American energy, but because the administration won't let them play by the rules.

So if they're going to be irresponsible with their policies, there has to be a price to pay. There has to be accountability that the American people say, You're not going to use taxpayer money to deny American jobs, to deny American energy, and make our country more dependent on Middle Eastern oil and make our country continue to have to pay these higher prices at the pump.

It's their policies that have done it, and it's clear, and everybody understands that. People in the Gulf of Mexico recognize that. But there has been no accountability by this Congress, and so that's what this legislation is intended to do. This amendment will address that problem. I urge its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chairman, I reluctantly rise in opposition to the amendment. I understand what the gentleman is saying. I agree with what he's saying. I think the Members have a concern that we are not allowing these oil companies to go out after the permits, and we're trying to send a message to the Secretary. I understand that, and I don't have a problem with sending a message.

The problem is—and this is a little bit of inside baseball, I guess, to talk about it this way—the problem is that under the rules we have, you can reduce an account by a certain amount and put that money in the budget reserve account which then reduces the allocation that the committee has to spend. He takes the \$420,000, I think it is, out of the Office of the Secretary and reduces our allocation by that much.

And as Members have heard that have listened to this debate, there are both Republicans and Democrats that are concerned about some of the funding allocations in this bill of the various accounts. People want to put more money into the Land and Water Conservation Fund. People want to put more money, as the last amendment did, into the invasive species program, taking care of invasive species. If you go throughout, there are Members on both sides of the aisle that believe that various accounts are funded at too low of a level. So to take this money and put it into the budget reserve account and take it out of the Interior appropriations bill means that that is money that could go into another account.

Now, this bill comes to the floor under the budget resolution that was passed by the House under the 302(a) and the 302(b) cap, the allocation that

was given to this committee. It's a tough allocation, but we've made those tough decisions, and I don't like to see money to send a message to the Secretary, money taken out of his account and put into the budget reserve account when there are other accounts within the appropriation that could obviously use the funds.

So if we weren't putting it into the budget reserve account, I don't have a problem with the message you are trying to send. I appreciate what the gentleman is trying to do, but I would reluctantly have to oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. I move to strike the last word, Madam Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN. I agree with the chairman of the committee again that this amendment should be opposed. But I would also mention that I don't know how fast the administration could issue drilling permits in the Gulf of Mexico that would be fast enough. It's as though Deepwater Horizon never happened. When it did happen, people died. The ecology of the gulf area was severely and adversely affected. The economy was devastated. And we did a complete investigation and found that it was largely because the Minerals Management Service was not doing its job, that they were issuing permits too quickly without adequate review. Sometimes they were just letting permit forms be filled out by the oil companies themselves. Sometimes they had already made arrangements to go to work for the oil companies.

But for whatever reason, the fact is that they weren't doing their job. They were letting down the American public. They were letting down the workers on the drilling rigs. And they certainly contributed to a despoiling of the environment, the ecology of the gulf. So this Congress, both sides having been severely critical of the Minerals Management Service, reorganized it and instructed it to be very careful, at least much more careful than they had been in the past in terms of issuing drilling permits. That's what they're doing.

Now, there have been any number of drilling permits issued. They're being issued so fast, we don't have an exact number right now; but we know a lot have been issued. Again, I doubt that whatever the number was that it would be enough for Members that represent areas in the gulf to benefit from more drilling activity. But the American public—this is a democracy, the majority of the American public, whatever State they're in—wants the Secretary of the Interior to have a process that reflects integrity, that reflects caution, that puts the safety of workers and the protection of the environment first.

So the Secretary is doing his job. We support the job he's doing. We know he's issuing a lot of permits, and we agree with the chairman that this amendment should be defeated.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent to modify the amendment with the modification I have placed at the desk.

□ 2310

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the modification.

The Clerk read as follows:

Modification to amendment offered by Mr. SCALISE:

Strike the second instruction

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the amendment is modified.

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there any further debate on the amendment?

Mr. MORAN. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN. Madam Chairwoman, this is a distinction without a difference. The money still goes away. The argument that was made by the chairman of the committee still stands, as far as I can see. And so even though the amendment may be worded a little differently, the reality is that the money is lost. And we don't see that this would be a constructive amendment anyway, so we would oppose it.

Mr. SCALISE. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MORAN. I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. SCALISE. What the amendment, as it's now revised, would do is it would still reduce the \$420,000. It wouldn't go to the Spending Reduction Account; it would stay within the department, and I think that addresses one of the concerns that the chairman had.

But it would still make it clear that there's going to have to be accountability for those people who have played by the rules who are being penalized today. There's got to be some accountability and, in this case, there would be the ability for us to not only send a message but a message attached to a spending reduction in the Secretary's department, that he can't just deny people the ability to go back to work who are playing by the rules.

Mr. MORAN. Reclaiming my time, I don't know this business about playing by the rules and punishing people who don't. It seems to me that the Interior Department is trying to play by the rules that the Congress instructed it to play by.

But, notwithstanding that, when you remove \$420,000 from the bill, don't know where it goes, I think you lose it. So I don't think that this makes a difference.

What you're saying is that you're not going to put the \$420,000 into this reduction account. What's the term of it? The Spending Reduction Account. That does away with the money.

But now what you're doing is basically taking it out of the bill, letting it fly away to who knows where, but the reality is it no longer exists. So it's coming out of the bill. And we don't think that's a good idea. We agree with the chairman that this amendment should be defeated.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment, as modified, offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 32, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(decreased by \$5,500,000)".

Page 65, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$5,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Chair, we are in some tough times, but I believe it's important to have a structure in this government that provides oversight over the environment of this country. And however one may quarrel with regulations that may seem a little steep, the work of the Environmental Protection Agency is important. And as we stand here today, this legislation cuts the budget of the Environmental Protection Agency by 18 percent, in addition to a 16 percent cut in funding for FY 2011. Thirty-four percent. This is unacceptable.

In order to protect the environment without harming industry, we must reach a compromise, instead of haphazardly slashing the EPA budget. These cuts purposely limit the EPA's ability to ensure that all Americans have access to drinking water that does not contain harmful pathogens and toxins that expose Americans to serious risk such as typhoid, hepatitis, cancer, and organ damage.

The assault on public health does not stop with the quality of our drinking water. This bill also takes drastic steps to weaken the Clean Air Act. A rider is attached that will prevent the EPA from implementing the Cross State Air Pollution Rule, a regulation that was

implemented to protect the public from dangerous air pollution and prevent up to 34,000 premature deaths, 15,000 heart attacks, and 400,000 cases of aggregated asthma.

I've never seen an EPA director work as hard as Administrator Lisa Jackson. Although we have had some outstanding administrators, she has worked to work with Members across the aisle.

But these cuts reduce funding for the very programs that keep Americans, our constituents safe. And I cannot speak for my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, but I cannot afford to have these cuts impact the people of Houston and around the Nation.

Since 1999, Houston has exchanged titles with Los Angeles for the poorest air quality in the Nation. And so it is important that we find a way to increase the funding for the EPA. And as this bill makes its way through the floor, I am continuing to work to do so. And I start first with this effort. And I ask my colleagues to support this amendment.

Let me explain to you about the Old Acres Home Citizens Council. This is a historic African American community located in Houston, Texas. The Council partnered with the University of Texas to conduct a study to assess the community's health risk. It was determined that a local landfill could be the cause for the community's health-related problems, enormous cancer in that area.

As a result of the study, the Council was awarded a \$20,000 grant from the EPA Justice Small Grants Program, under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation Liability Act, commonly known as the Superfund, which, obviously, it was in some years past to conduct tests to detect, assess, and evaluate the risk to human health from hazardous substances. The goal of these Small Grants Program evaluation projects was to investigate whether there were hazardous substances in the runoff from the adjacent landfill. This community needed those resources. The Council used the EPA grant funds to hire an EPA-approved environmental consultant to take soil and water samples from the backyards. The results of the sample analysis revealed high concentrations of toxic substances, many of which are harmful to humans.

Since 2002, the residents of Old Acres homes have observed water and substances seeping from the landfill into their back yards. This runoff collects into pools of standing water. Due to poor drainage, these standing pools became engorged and then flood, thereby increasing exposure of residences to potentially hazardous substances from the landfill.

This was the work of the EPA. It educated a poor community of seniors and others about the conditions of their

neighborhood. This funding that takes away from EPA also takes away from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and, of course, impacts communities like that of the Acres Home Community in the 18th Congressional District.

□ 2320

My friends, we cannot gamble with the safety of the American public, the cleanliness of air and water, the quality of the environment for future generations. We need to restore this funding, and I have made this effort to do so. I will continue to do so.

Since the debt limit was put in place, we have always paid America's bills. We fight today to raise the debt ceiling, but at the same time we're cutting away at America's safety and America's need for environmental protection. I ask my colleagues to support this amendment because it is the right thing to do. It is the right thing to do for Acres Home Community in Houston, Texas.

With that, Madam Chairwoman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chairwoman, this is the same debate over again. We're taking money from the Office of the Secretary, which is down some \$30-odd million, \$33 million, I think it was, from the budget request of this year; then we've taken \$20 million out of that already to put into the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This would take more money out of the Office of the Secretary.

It seems like every time somebody has an amendment that they want to offer to fund some program that they believe is important—and oftentimes they are important—the savings account that you get it from is the Office of the Secretary. Not only in this bill, but in other bills. We take it out of administration. That's always the easiest thing to do, but the fact is that the Office of the Secretary has taken a pretty good hit in this bill both during the markup and here on debate on the floor, and so I'm afraid I have to oppose this amendment because I think it hits an account that is already substantially lower than what was requested.

I would oppose the amendment.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. First of all, I didn't thank both you and the ranking member for a very tough task, and I think my overall intent was the need for increasing the funding in EPA.

As we make our way through this process, does the gentleman see, in the consultation with the other body, any opportunity to restore any of these funds to the EPA?

Mr. SIMPSON. I would have to say I don't know. I don't know what the Senate is doing, what their allocation is going to be. They have not passed a budget, so they have no 302(b) over there to work with. But certainly we realize that the EPA has taken the largest hit within this budget. A lot of that was due to the fact that they had the largest increases over the last couple of years. But certainly we will be looking at all of these accounts when we go into conference with the body across the Rotunda trying to come to a compromise that can pass both the House and the Senate.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. If the gentleman will yield again, I am going to continue to work on this issue. I know that we're going to take a vote on this. I, as they say, will come back again on the floor, because I think this is a very important issue.

I thank the gentleman for yielding to allow me to again express how important it is that the EPA be funded more fully than it has been.

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was rejected.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

INSULAR AFFAIRS

ASSISTANCE TO TERRITORIES

For expenses necessary for assistance to territories under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, \$82,558,000, of which: (1) \$73,296,000 shall remain available until expended for territorial assistance, including general technical assistance, maintenance assistance, disaster assistance, insular management controls, coral reef initiative activities, and brown tree snake control and research; grants to the judiciary in American Samoa for compensation and expenses, as authorized by law (48 U.S.C. 1661(c)); grants to the Government of American Samoa, in addition to current local revenues, for construction and support of governmental functions; grants to the Government of the Virgin Islands as authorized by law; grants to the Government of Guam, as authorized by law; and grants to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands as authorized by law (Public Law 94-241; 90 Stat. 272); and (2) \$9,262,000 shall be available until September 30, 2013 for salaries and expenses of the Office of Insular Affairs: *Provided*, That all financial transactions of the territorial and local governments herein provided for, including such transactions of all agencies or instrumentalities established or authorized by such governments, may be audited by the Government Accountability Office, at its discretion, in accordance with chapter 35 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That Northern Mariana Islands Covenant grant funding shall be provided according to those terms of the Agreement of the Special Representatives on Future United States Financial Assistance for the Northern Mariana Islands approved by Public Law 104-134: *Provided further*, That the funds for the program of operations and maintenance improvement

are appropriated to institutionalize routine operations and maintenance improvement of capital infrastructure with territorial participation and cost sharing to be determined by the Secretary based on the grantee's commitment to timely maintenance of its capital assets: *Provided further*, That any appropriation for disaster assistance under this heading in this Act or previous appropriations Acts may be used as non-Federal matching funds for the purpose of hazard mitigation grants provided pursuant to section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c).

COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION

For grants and necessary expenses, \$3,307,000, to remain available until expended, as provided for in sections 221(a)(2) of the Compact of Free Association for the Republic of Palau; and section 221(a)(2) of the Compacts of Free Association for the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, as authorized by Public Law 99-658 and Public Law 108-188.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

At the request of the Governor of Guam, the Secretary may transfer discretionary funds or mandatory funds provided under section 104(e) of Public Law 108-188 and Public Law 104-134, that are allocated for Guam, to the Secretary of Agriculture for the subsidy cost of direct or guaranteed loans, plus not to exceed three percent of the amount of the subsidy transferred for the cost of loan administration, for the purposes authorized by the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 and section 306(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act for construction and repair projects in Guam, and such funds shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That such loans or loan guarantees may be made without regard to the population of the area, credit elsewhere requirements, and restrictions on the types of eligible entities under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 and section 306(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act: *Provided further*, That any funds transferred to the Secretary of Agriculture shall be in addition to funds otherwise made available to make or guarantee loans under such authorities.

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Solicitor, \$64,946,000.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the table.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 36, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(decreased by \$4,367,000)”.

Page 88, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$4,367,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSAR. Thank you, Madam Chair.

As someone who has practiced chairside dentistry for 25 years, I know firsthand the profound value of oral health,

particularly for children. Oral health care access early in life is shown to be a critical aspect of primary preventative care. This is especially true in the Native American community, which I am proud to serve as a Representative of Arizona, which has 21 federally recognized tribes.

For this reason, my amendment would transfer \$4,367,000 from the Office of the Department of the Interior Solicitor General to the Indian Health Service. The committee report recommends \$4,367,000 less than the President's request for dental health within IHS, and while the bill does not name dental health specifically, I would like to make it clear on this floor tonight that this reallocation of funds is explicitly intended to fund dental health programs within IHS at the level recommended by the administration.

The United States Government took on long ago a number of treaty obligations to our Native people, and health care was among them. In particular, I cannot state strongly enough how imperative it is that the Indian tribes have this effort in the area of oral health fully funded.

Believe it or not, the incidence of early childhood caries, or commonly understood tooth decay, occurs among the Native American and Native Alaskan populations at 300 percent the rate of the United States average. This is unacceptable; and, again, as someone who has practiced dentistry as long as I have, I can tell you that this epidemic will have dire consequences for these children throughout their lives.

Worse still, the severity of decay is substantially higher in these children compared to the population as a whole. Preschool Native children average more than five decayed teeth compared to one decayed tooth among U.S. preschool children of all races. In many Native communities, between 25 and 50 percent of preschool children have such extensive tooth decay that they require full mouth restoration under general anesthesia, compared to less than 1 percent for non-Native children.

We have an obligation to improve this sad state of affairs, and so I offer this amendment and encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it for the sake of these Native children to whom we have an obligation.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. SIMPSON. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chairwoman, you're going to hear from the entire Dental Caucus tonight. Congressman GOSAR from Arizona and myself are the two dentists that are in Congress, so it might not surprise you that I support the gentleman's amendment. I appreciate his sincere efforts to address the obligations, both trust obligations and

treaty obligations, and moral obligations, that we have with our Indian brothers and sisters across this country.

One of the things I'm proudest of in this bill, as I said in my opening statement during general debate, was to be able to carry on the work that had been done by Chairman DICKS when he was chairman of the committee, Chairman MORAN when he was chairman of the committee, and now that I'm chairman of the committee, to meet those trust obligations that we have with our Indian brothers and sisters across this country.

One of the areas in this bill, one of the two areas, that actually got increased funding was Indian health services because we do have an obligation to meet these things. Dental decay is the most prevalent disease in the United States; and as the gentleman from Arizona said, it's 300 percent more likely in Native Americans than it is in the general population. That's unacceptable. We have to do something about it. It means that we have to meet the contract obligations that we have had.

There's a saying that's been said around the country that if you live in Indian Country, you need to get sick before June, because the contract support costs run out about that time. One thing we've made a concerted effort to do on a bipartisan basis is try to fund 100 percent of the contract support costs for Native Americans. We haven't reached that goal yet. I think in this bill we're about at 93 or 94 percent, something like that. The contract support in the BIA that does the police work and those types of things are fully funded. We are going to continue to work to make sure that we meet those obligations that I think we all as Americans have.

I appreciate the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona, and I truly appreciate his support for our Indian brothers and sisters.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2330

Mr. MORAN. Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN. As I have said publicly and privately to the chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, I congratulate him for taking the initiative and showing the commitment to the Indian Health Service by increasing it by \$369 million this year. And dental health specifically is up by \$13.8 million. That's above the existing level this year, and this year is above last year. Granted, the need is very substantial, and so I am very supportive.

The problem is that, with this amendment that adds another \$4.3 mil-

lion for the express purpose of increasing dental health further, it's the offset. The cut is to the solicitor of the Department that serves as the chief legal officer, and it's the solicitor that provides legal services to Native Americans on behalf of the Department. So you're taking the chief legal officer for the Native Americans of this country and making a substantial cut to the resources available for that position. It's kind of robbing Peter to pay Paul.

There are very substantial and serious legal issues that need to be dealt with on behalf of Indians throughout the country, and there are very difficult health issues that certainly need to be addressed. So I did not rise in opposition to the amendment, but I do think that taking the money from the solicitor is an unfortunate place to be finding a cut of \$4.3 million.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the remainder of the bill through page 56, line 22 be considered as read, printed in the RECORD, and open to amendment at any point.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

The text of that portion of the bill is as follows:

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, \$48,493,000.

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL TRUSTEE FOR
AMERICAN INDIANS
FEDERAL TRUST PROGRAMS
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the operation of trust programs for Indians by direct expenditure, contracts, cooperative agreements, compacts, and grants, \$152,319,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed \$31,171,000, from this or any other Act, shall be available for historical accounting: *Provided*, That funds for trust management improvements and litigation support may, as needed, be transferred to or merged with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, "Operation of Indian Programs" account; the Office of the Solicitor, "Salaries and Expenses" account; and the Office of the Secretary, "Salaries and Expenses" account: *Provided further*, That funds made available through contracts or grants obligated during fiscal year 2012, as authorized by the Indian Self-Determination Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.), shall remain available until expended by the contractor or grantee: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the statute of limitations shall not commence to run on any claim, including any claim in litigation pending on the date of the enactment of this Act, concerning losses to or mismanagement of trust funds, until the affected tribe or individual Indian has been furnished with an accounting of such funds from which the beneficiary can determine

whether there has been a loss: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be required to provide a quarterly statement of performance for any Indian trust account that has not had activity for at least 18 months and has a balance of \$15.00 or less: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall issue an annual account statement and maintain a record of any such accounts and shall permit the balance in each such account to be withdrawn upon the express written request of the account holder: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$50,000 is available for the Secretary to make payments to correct administrative errors of either disbursements from or deposits to Individual Indian Money or Tribal accounts after September 30, 2002: *Provided further*, That erroneous payments that are recovered shall be credited to and remain available in this account for this purpose.

DEPARTMENT-WIDE PROGRAMS

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for fire preparedness, suppression operations, fire science and research, emergency rehabilitation, hazardous fuels reduction, and rural fire assistance by the Department of the Interior, \$574,072,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed \$6,137,000 shall be for the renovation or construction of fire facilities: *Provided*, That such funds are also available for repayment of advances to other appropriation accounts from which funds were previously transferred for such purposes: *Provided further*, That persons hired pursuant to 43 U.S.C. 1469 may be furnished subsistence and lodging without cost from funds available from this appropriation: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 42 U.S.C. 1856d, sums received by a bureau or office of the Department of the Interior for fire protection rendered pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1856 et seq., protection of United States property, may be credited to the appropriation from which funds were expended to provide that protection, and are available without fiscal year limitation: *Provided further*, That using the amounts designated under this title of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior may enter into procurement contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements, for hazardous fuels reduction activities, and for training and monitoring associated with such hazardous fuels reduction activities, on Federal land, or on adjacent non-Federal land for activities that benefit resources on Federal land: *Provided further*, That the costs of implementing any cooperative agreement between the Federal Government and any non-Federal entity may be shared, as mutually agreed on by the affected parties: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding requirements of the Competition in Contracting Act, the Secretary, for purposes of hazardous fuels reduction activities, may obtain maximum practicable competition among: (1) local private, nonprofit, or cooperative entities; (2) Youth Conservation Corps crews, Public Lands Corps (Public Law 109-154), or related partnerships with State, local, or non-profit youth groups; (3) small or micro-businesses; or (4) other entities that will hire or train locally a significant percentage, defined as 50 percent or more, of the project workforce to complete such contracts: *Provided further*, That in implementing this section, the Secretary shall develop written guidance to field units to ensure accountability and consistent application of the authorities provided herein: *Pro-*

vided further, That funds appropriated under this heading may be used to reimburse the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for the costs of carrying out their responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) to consult and conference, as required by section 7 of such Act, in connection with wildland fire management activities: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Interior may use wildland fire appropriations to enter into leases of real property with local governments, at or below fair market value, to construct capitalized improvements for fire facilities on such leased properties, including but not limited to fire guard stations, retardant stations, and other initial attack and fire support facilities, and to make advance payments for any such lease or for construction activity associated with the lease: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture may authorize the transfer of funds appropriated for wildland fire management, in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$50,000,000, between the Departments when such transfers would facilitate and expedite jointly funded wildland fire management programs and projects: *Provided further*, That funds provided for wildfire suppression shall be available for support of Federal emergency response actions: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for assistance to or through the Department of State in connection with forest and rangeland research, technical information, and assistance in foreign countries, and, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, shall be available to support forestry, wildland fire management, and related natural resource activities outside the United States and its territories and possessions, including technical assistance, education and training, and cooperation with United States and international organizations: *Provided further*, That, before obligating any of the funds provided herein for wildland fire suppression, the Secretary of the Interior shall obligate all unobligated balances previously made available under this heading that, when appropriated, were designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate in writing of the imminent need to begin obligating funds provided herein for wildland fire suppression: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Interior may transfer not more than \$50,000,000 of the funds provided herein to the Secretary of Agriculture if the Secretaries determine that the transfer will enhance the efficiency or effectiveness of Federal wildland fire suppression activities.

FLAME WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION RESERVE FUND (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for large fire suppression operations of the Department of the Interior and as a reserve fund for suppression and Federal emergency response activities, \$92,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amounts are available only for transfer to the "Wildland Fire Management" account and only following a declaration by the Secretary that either (1) a wildland fire suppression event meets certain previously-established risk-based written criteria for significant complexity, severity, or threat posed by the fire or (2) funds in the "Wildland Fire Manage-

ment" account will be exhausted within 30 days.

CENTRAL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS FUND

For necessary expenses of the Department of the Interior and any of its component offices and bureaus for the response action, including associated activities, performed pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), \$10,149,000, to remain available until expended.

NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION

NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT FUND

To conduct natural resource damage assessment and restoration activities by the Department of the Interior necessary to carry out the provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.), and Public Law 101-337, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1911 et seq.), \$5,763,000, to remain available until expended.

WORKING CAPITAL FUND

For the acquisition of a departmental financial and business management system, information technology improvements of general benefit to the Department, and consolidation of facilities and operations throughout the Department, \$57,019,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated in this Act or any other Act may be used to establish reserves in the Working Capital Fund account other than for accrued annual leave and depreciation of equipment without prior approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may assess reasonable charges to State, local and tribal government employees for training services provided by the National Indian Program Training Center, other than training related to Public Law 93-638: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may lease or otherwise provide space and related facilities, equipment or professional services of the National Indian Program Training Center to State, local and tribal government employees or persons or organizations engaged in cultural, educational, or recreational activities (as defined in section 3306(a) of title 40, United States Code) at the prevailing rate for similar space, facilities, equipment, or services in the vicinity of the National Indian Program Training Center: *Provided further*, That all funds received pursuant to the two preceding provisos shall be credited to this account, shall be available until expended, and shall be used by the Secretary for necessary expenses of the National Indian Program Training Center.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

There is hereby authorized for acquisition from available resources within the Working Capital Fund, 15 aircraft, 10 of which shall be for replacement and which may be obtained by donation, purchase or through available excess surplus property: *Provided*, That existing aircraft being replaced may be sold, with proceeds derived or trade-in value used to offset the purchase price for the replacement aircraft.

GENERAL PROVISIONS, DEPARTMENT OF THE
INTERIOR
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)
EMERGENCY TRANSFER AUTHORITY—INTRA-
BUREAU

SEC. 101. Appropriations made in this title shall be available for expenditure or transfer (within each bureau or office), with the approval of the Secretary, for the emergency reconstruction, replacement, or repair of aircraft, buildings, utilities, or other facilities or equipment damaged or destroyed by fire, flood, storm, or other unavoidable causes: *Provided*, That no funds shall be made available under this authority until funds specifically made available to the Department of the Interior for emergencies shall have been exhausted: *Provided further*, That all funds used pursuant to this section must be replenished by a supplemental appropriation which must be requested as promptly as possible.

EMERGENCY TRANSFER AUTHORITY—
DEPARTMENT-WIDE

SEC. 102. The Secretary may authorize the expenditure or transfer of any no year appropriation in this title, in addition to the amounts included in the budget programs of the several agencies, for the suppression or emergency prevention of wildland fires on or threatening lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior; for the emergency rehabilitation of burned-over lands under its jurisdiction; for emergency actions related to potential or actual earthquakes, floods, volcanoes, storms, or other unavoidable causes; for contingency planning subsequent to actual oil spills; for response and natural resource damage assessment activities related to actual oil spills or releases of hazardous substances into the environment; for the prevention, suppression, and control of actual or potential grasshopper and Mormon cricket outbreaks on lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary, pursuant to the authority in section 417(b) of Public Law 106-224 (7 U.S.C. 7717(b)); for emergency reclamation projects under section 410 of Public Law 95-87; and shall transfer, from any no year funds available to the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, such funds as may be necessary to permit assumption of regulatory authority in the event a primacy State is not carrying out the regulatory provisions of the Surface Mining Act: *Provided*, That appropriations made in this title for wildland fire operations shall be available for the payment of obligations incurred during the preceding fiscal year, and for reimbursement to other Federal agencies for destruction of vehicles, aircraft, or other equipment in connection with their use for wildland fire operations, such reimbursement to be credited to appropriations currently available at the time of receipt thereof: *Provided further*, That for wildland fire operations, no funds shall be made available under this authority until the Secretary determines that funds appropriated for "wildland fire operations" and "FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund" shall be exhausted within 30 days: *Provided further*, That all funds used pursuant to this section must be replenished by a supplemental appropriation which must be requested as promptly as possible: *Provided further*, That such replenishment funds shall be used to reimburse, on a pro rata basis, accounts from which emergency funds were transferred.

AUTHORIZED USE OF FUNDS

SEC. 103. Appropriations made to the Department of the Interior in this title shall be available for services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, when

authorized by the Secretary, in total amount not to exceed \$500,000; purchase and replacement of motor vehicles, including specially equipped law enforcement vehicles; hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft; hire of passenger motor vehicles; purchase of reprints; payment for telephone service in private residences in the field, when authorized under regulations approved by the Secretary; and the payment of dues, when authorized by the Secretary, for library membership in societies or associations which issue publications to members only or at a price to members lower than to subscribers who are not members.

AUTHORIZED USE OF FUNDS, INDIAN TRUST
MANAGEMENT

SEC. 104. Appropriations made in this Act under the headings Bureau of Indian Affairs and Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians and any unobligated balances from prior appropriations Acts made under the same headings shall be available for expenditure or transfer for Indian trust management and reform activities. Total funding for historical accounting activities shall not exceed amounts specifically designated in this Act for such purpose.

REDISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS, BUREAU OF INDIAN
AFFAIRS

SEC. 105. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to redistribute any Tribal Priority Allocation funds, including tribal base funds, to alleviate tribal funding inequities by transferring funds to address identified, unmet needs, dual enrollment, overlapping service areas or inaccurate distribution methodologies. No tribe shall receive a reduction in Tribal Priority Allocation funds of more than 10 percent in fiscal year 2012. Under circumstances of dual enrollment, overlapping service areas or inaccurate distribution methodologies, the 10 percent limitation does not apply.

TWIN CITIES RESEARCH CENTER

SEC. 106. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in conveying the Twin Cities Research Center under the authority provided by Public Law 104-134, the Secretary may accept and retain land and other forms of reimbursement: *Provided*, That the Secretary may retain and use any such reimbursement until expended and without further appropriation: (1) for the benefit of the National Wildlife Refuge System within the State of Minnesota; and (2) for all activities authorized by section 701 of Public Law 100-696 (16 U.S.C. 460zz).

PAYMENT OF FEES

SEC. 107. The Secretary of the Interior may use discretionary funds to pay private attorney fees and costs for employees and former employees of the Department of the Interior reasonably incurred in connection with *Cobell v. Salazar* to the extent that such fees and costs are not paid by the Department of Justice or by private insurance. In no case shall the Secretary make payments under this section that would result in payment of hourly fees in excess of the highest hourly rate approved by the District Court for the District of Columbia for counsel in *Cobell v. Salazar*.

EVERGLADES ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

SEC. 108. This and any subsequent fiscal year, the National Park Service is authorized to implement modifications to the Tamiami Trail as described in, and in accordance with, the preferred alternative identified in the final environmental impact statement noticed in the Federal Register on

December 14, 2010, (75 Fed. Reg. 77896), relating to restoration efforts of the Everglades ecosystem.

ELLIS, GOVERNORS, AND LIBERTY ISLANDS

SEC. 109. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to acquire lands, waters, or interests therein including the use of all or part of any pier, dock, or landing within the State of New York and the State of New Jersey, for the purpose of operating and maintaining facilities in the support of transportation and accommodation of visitors to Ellis, Governors, and Liberty Islands, and of other program and administrative activities, by donation or with appropriated funds, including franchise fees (and other monetary consideration), or by exchange; and the Secretary is authorized to negotiate and enter into leases, subleases, concession contracts or other agreements for the use of such facilities on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may determine reasonable.

INDIAN PROBATE JUDGES

SEC. 110. In fiscal year 2012 and each fiscal year thereafter, for the purpose of adjudicating Indian probate cases in the Department of the Interior, the hearing requirements of chapter 10 of title 25, United States Code, are deemed satisfied by a proceeding conducted by an Indian probate judge, appointed by the Secretary without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing the appointments in the competitive service, for such period of time as the Secretary determines necessary: *Provided*, That the basic pay of an Indian probate judge so appointed may be fixed by the Secretary without regard to the provisions of chapter 51, and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, governing the classification and pay of General Schedule employees, except that no such Indian probate judge may be paid at a level which exceeds the maximum rate payable for the highest grade of the General Schedule, including locality pay.

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT, REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT REORGANIZATION

SEC. 111. The Secretary of the Interior, in order to implement a reorganization of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, may establish accounts and transfer funds among and between the offices and bureaus affected by the reorganization only in conformance with the reprogramming guidelines described in the report accompanying this Act.

AUTHORIZED USE OF INDIAN EDUCATION FUNDS

SEC. 112. Beginning July 1, 2008, any funds (including investments and interest earned, except for construction funds) held by a Public Law 100-297 grant or a Public Law 93-638 contract school shall, upon retrocession to or re-assumption by the Bureau of Indian Education, remain available to the Bureau of Indian Education for a period of 5 years from the date of retrocession or re-assumption for the benefit of the programs approved for the school on October 1, 1995.

CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS FOR WILD HORSE
AND BURRO HOLDING FACILITIES

SEC. 113. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior may enter into multiyear cooperative agreements with nonprofit organizations and other appropriate entities, and may enter into multiyear contracts in accordance with the provisions of section 304B of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 254c) (except that the 5 year term restriction in subsection (d) shall not apply), for the long-term

care and maintenance of excess wild free roaming horses and burros by such organizations or entities on private land. Such cooperative agreements and contracts may not exceed 10 years, subject to renewal at the discretion of the Secretary.

(b) During fiscal year 2012 and subsequent fiscal years, in carrying out work involving cooperation with any State or political subdivision thereof, the Bureau of Land Management may record obligations against accounts receivable from any such entities.

BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION OPERATED SCHOOLS

SEC. 114. (a)(1) Notwithstanding section 586(c) of title 40, United States Code, the head of a Bureau-operated school is authorized to enter into agreements with public and private persons and entities that provide for such persons and entities to rent or lease the land or facilities of the school in exchange for a consideration (in the form of funds) that benefits the school, as determined by the head of the school when such rent or lease does not interfere with school operations.

(2) Funds received under paragraph (1) shall be retained by the school and used for school purposes otherwise authorized by law. Any funds received under paragraph (1) are hereby made available until expended for such purposes, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code.

(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to allow for the diminishment of, or otherwise affect, the appropriation of funds to the budget accounts for the operation and maintenance of Bureau-operated schools. No funds shall be withheld from the distribution to the budget of any Bureau-operated school due to the receipt by the school of a benefit in accordance with this section.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of title 5, United States Code, or any regulation promulgated under such title, education personnel who are under the direction and supervision of the Secretary of the Interior may participate in a fundraising activity for the benefit of a Bureau-operated school in an official capacity as part of their official duties. When participating in such an official capacity, the employee may use the employee's official title, position, and authority. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize participation in political activity (as such term is used in section 7324 of title 5, United States Code) otherwise prohibited by law.

(c) The Secretary of the Interior shall promulgate regulations to carry out this section not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act. Such regulations shall include—

(1) provisions for the establishment and administration of mechanisms for the acceptance of consideration for the use and benefit of a school in accordance with this section (including, in appropriate cases, the establishment and administration of trust funds);

(2) accountability standards to ensure ethical conduct; and

(3) provisions for monitoring the amount and terms of consideration received, the manner in which the consideration is used, and any results achieved by such use.

(d) Provisions of this section shall apply to fiscal year 2012 and subsequent fiscal years.

MASS MARKING OF SALMONIDS

SEC. 115. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall, in carrying out its responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species of salmon, implement a system of mass marking of salmonid stocks, in-

tended for harvest, that are released from federally operated or federally financed hatcheries including but not limited to fish releases of coho, chinook, and steelhead species. Marked fish must have a visible mark that can be readily identified by commercial and recreational fishers.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GOSAR) having assumed the chair, Ms. FOXX, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2584) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1383. An act to temporarily preserve higher rates for tuition and fees for programs of education at non-public institutions of higher learning pursued by individuals enrolled in the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs before the end enactment of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 1103—An act to extend the term of the incumbent Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, July 27, 2011, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2605. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket ID: FEMA-2011-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No. FEMA-8185] received June 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2606. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, LRAD, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Risk Based Capital Standards: Advanced Capital Adequacy Framework — Basel II; Establishment of a Risk-Based Capital Floor [Docket No.: -2010-0009] (RIN: 1557-AD33) received June 20, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2607. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Priorities; Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program — Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) — Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) National Networks Regional Centers (formerly the Disability Business Technical Assistance Centers (DBTACs), the ADA National Network Knowledge Translation Center, and the ADA National Network Collaborative Research Projects [CFDA Numbers: 84.133A-6, 84.133A-7, and 84.133A-8] received June 20, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

2608. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Priorities; Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program [CFDA Numbers: 84.133E-1 and 84.133E-3] received June 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

2609. A letter from the Associate Director for PP&I, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Alphabetical Listings: Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons; Blocked Vessels; Persons Determined to be the Government of Iran received June 20, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BACHUS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2056. A bill to instruct the Inspector General of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to study the impact of insured depository institution failures, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 112-182). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 372. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2587) to prohibit the National Labor Relations Board from ordering any employer to close, relocate, or transfer employment under any circumstance (Rept. 112-183). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. HAYWORTH:

H.R. 2642. A bill to prohibit the disposal of certain Department of Veterans Affairs land and improvements in the Hudson Valley Healthcare System; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. McDERMOTT (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. ELLISON):

H.R. 2643. A bill to provide for medical neutrality and to establish accountability for violations of the principle of medical neutrality, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COSTELLO (for himself, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. NADLER, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. FILNER, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. SHULER, Mr. COHEN, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. SIRES, and Ms. EDWARDS):

H.R. 2644. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend the airport improvement program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STARK (for himself, Mr. WAXMAN, and Mr. PALLONE):

H.R. 2645. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase the minimum loss ratio required of Medigap policies; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio:

H.R. 2646. A bill to authorize certain Department of Veterans Affairs major medical facility projects and leases, to extend certain expiring provisions of law, and to modify certain authorities of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. STARK, Mr. PIERLUISI, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 2647. A bill to require the Attorney General to make competitive grants to eligible State, tribal, and local governments to establish and maintain certain protection and witness assistance programs; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Ms. HANABUSA):

H.R. 2648. A bill to reauthorize the programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development for housing assistance for Native Hawaiians; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mr. CLAY, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. RUPERSBERGER, and Mr. SHUSTER):

H.R. 2649. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain amounts

paid for physical activity, fitness, and exercise as amounts paid for medical care; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 2650. A bill to designate the United States courthouse under construction at 510 19th Street, Bakersfield, California, as the Myron Donovan Crocker United States Courthouse; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT (for himself, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. GARRETT, and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina):

H.R. 2651. A bill to require that the United States Government prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public, Social Security benefits, and military pay in the event that the debt limit is reached, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COBLE:

H.R. 2652. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that Members must complete 12 years of creditable service in order to be vested in an annuity under the Federal Employee Retirement System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COOPER (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. COSTA, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. SCHRAEDER, Mr. BOREN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. SHULER, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. CARNEY, and Mr. HIMES):

H.R. 2653. A bill to provide that Members of Congress shall be paid last whenever the Treasury is unable to liquidate the obligations of the United States Government in a timely manner because the public debt limit has been reached; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 2654. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide servicemembers increased protection during a funding gap; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GERLACH (for himself, Mr. NEAL, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 2655. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the new markets tax credit through 2016, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KIND (for himself, Mr. PETRI, and Mr. McDERMOTT):

H.R. 2656. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to make technical modifications relating to the Worker, Retiree, and Employer Recovery Act of 2008 and the Preservation of Access to Care for Medicare Beneficiaries and Pension Relief Act of 2010; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr.

WAXMAN, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HINCHAY, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. STARK, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. NADLER):

H.R. 2657. A bill to end the use of body-gripping traps in the National Wildlife Refuge System; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California:

H.R. 2658. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance the ability of the Federal Protective Service to provide adequate security for the prevention of terrorist activities and for the promotion of homeland security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MALONEY (for herself, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. MOORE, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. INSLEE):

H.R. 2659. A bill to establish certain duties for pharmacies to ensure provision of Food and Drug Administration-approved contraception, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. McCAUL (for himself, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. CONAWAY, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. REYES, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. OLSON, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CARTER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. HALL, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. FLORES, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. CANSECO, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, and Mr. MARCHANT):

H.R. 2660. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 122 North Holderrieth Boulevard in Tomball, Texas, as the "Tomball Veterans Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 2661. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to waive the requirement to report the arrival at any port or place within the United States of a vessel of Canada if the vessel does not anchor or dock at any harbor within the customs territory of the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RIBBLE:

H.R. 2662. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for equity relating to medical costs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington (for himself, Mr. HOYER, Mr. DICKS, and Mr. BERMAN):

H.J. Res. 74. A joint resolution authorizing the limited use of the United States Armed Forces in support of the NATO mission in Libya; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BERKLEY:

H. Res. 373. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a national day of remembrance for United States nuclear weapons program workers and uranium miners, millers, and haulers; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SHUSTER (for himself and Ms. SCHWARTZ):

H. Res. 374. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should initiate negotiations to enter into a free trade agreement with Georgia; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

95. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Florida, relative to House Memorial 9 requesting that the Congress allocate moneys generated from marine and fishery product import tariffs for the domestic marketing of Florida seafood; to the Committee on Agriculture.

96. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Maine, relative to H.P. 1179 Joint Resolution urging the President and the Congress to realize the major problems of corn ethanol as a fuel additive; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

97. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Florida, relative to House Memorial 557 proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

98. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Florida, relative to House Memorial 1047 requesting that the United States Treasury Department withdraw Internal Revenue Service regulation REG-146097-09; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. HAYWORTH:

H.R. 2642.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution reserves to Congress the power to raise and support Armies and provide and maintain a Navy, as well as make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces.

By Mr. McDERMOTT:

H.R. 2643.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (spending authorization);

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (foreign commerce); and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 (immigration regulation).

By Mr. COSTELLO:

H.R. 2644.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. STARK:

H.R. 2645.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3, Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio:

H.R. 2646.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 12, 13, 14, and 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 2647.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Ms. HIRONO:

H.R. 2648.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas:

H.R. 2649.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 2650.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Section Eight, Clause one of the first Article one the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 2651.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One, Section Eight

By Mr. COBLE:

H.R. 2652.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 6 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. COOPER:

H.R. 2653.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sections 8 and 9 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 2654.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. GERLACH:

H.R. 2655.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 2656.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8.

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 2657.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California:

H.R. 2658.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the Commerce Clause of Article 1, Section 8 and to provide for the common defense also in Article 1, Section 8.

By Mrs. MALONEY:

H.R. 2659.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. McCAUL:

H.R. 2660.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution: "The Congress shall have Power . . . To establish Post Offices and post Roads."

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 2661.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Commerce Clause (Art. I, §8, cl. 3) of the United States Constitution provides that the Congress shall have the power to regulate interstate and foreign commerce.

By Mr. RIBBLE:

H.R. 2662.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H.J. Res. 74.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clauses 11 through 13, relating to Congress' authority to declare war, raise and support armies, and provide and maintain a Navy, respectively.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 10: Mr. CANSECO.

H.R. 58: Mr. HARPER, Mr. KINGSTON, and Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 100: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 178: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 181: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 198: Mr. BUCHSHON.

H.R. 365: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. TOWNS.

H.R. 436: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 440: Mr. McDERMOTT.

H.R. 452: Mr. GALLEGLEY and Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 469: Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 615: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. PALAZZO, and Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 687: Mr. WEST and Mr. RUNYAN.

H.R. 721: Mr. LATOURETTE.

H.R. 733: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 735: Mr. CARTER.

H.R. 791: Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. RUPERSBERGER, Mr. RUNYAN, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 822: Mr. WEBSTER.

H.R. 885: Mr. FILNER and Ms. EDWARDS.

H.R. 894: Ms. SCHWARTZ.

H.R. 973: Mr. POMPEO.

H.R. 1044: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H.R. 1106: Ms. BROWN of Florida and Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 1159: Mr. WOMACK and Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 1161: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.
H.R. 1186: Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 1195: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 1219: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 1236: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, and Mr. GUINTA.
H.R. 1300: Mrs. MALONEY.
H.R. 1327: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
H.R. 1370: Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 1386: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
H.R. 1426: Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 1449: Ms. TSONGAS and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1466: Ms. FUDGE, Mr. RAHALL, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 1497: Ms. HOCHUL.
H.R. 1505: Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
H.R. 1509: Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 1546: Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Ms. BORDALLO, and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 1588: Mr. GRIMM.
H.R. 1591: Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 1653: Mr. PAULSEN.
H.R. 1712: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 1744: Mr. WOMACK, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, and Mr. DENHAM.
H.R. 1755: Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 1815: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. LATOURETTE, and Ms. HOCHUL.
H.R. 1834: Mr. DENHAM.
H.R. 1845: Mr. NUNES.
H.R. 1855: Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 1860: Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 1864: Mr. QUAYLE.
H.R. 1904: Mr. PEARCE.
H.R. 1953: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mrs. BONO MACK.
H.R. 2040: Mr. NUGENT.
H.R. 2056: Ms. HAYWORTH.
H.R. 2091: Ms. EDWARDS.
H.R. 2092: Mr. REED.
H.R. 2108: Mr. PALAZZO.
H.R. 2140: Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 2164: Mr. WOLF and Mr. SHULER.
H.R. 2182: Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 2198: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. LATHAM, and Mr. BERG.
H.R. 2214: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. LATTA, Mr. OLSON, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SCHILLING, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. WEST, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mr. POLIS.
H.R. 2223: Mr. COSTELLO.
H.R. 2242: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 2248: Mr. VISCLOSKEY.
H.R. 2250: Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 2257: Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. ROKITA, and Mr. PAUL.
H.R. 2299: Mr. LUTKEMEYER.
H.R. 2335: Mrs. BONO MACK.
H.R. 2363: Mr. PALAZZO.
H.R. 2402: Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. BENISHEK, and Mr. NUNNELEE.
H.R. 2429: Mr. CANSECO.
H.R. 2471: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 2505: Mr. DICKS, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 2511: Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 2514: Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 2529: Mr. CASSIDY.
H.R. 2543: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. HINCHEY, and Ms. EDWARDS.

H.R. 2559: Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 2580: Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 2635: Mr. STIVERS.
H.J. Res. 2: Mr. WOODALL, Mr. BUCSHON, Mrs. ELLMERS, and Mr. COSTA.
H.J. Res. 69: Mr. SERRANO.
H.J. Res. 73: Mr. TIPTON and Mr. YODER.
H. Res. 111: Mr. GOWDY.
H. Res. 137: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
H. Res. 298: Mr. TIBERI.
H. Res. 342: Ms. EDWARDS.
H. Res. 361: Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CLARKE of Michigan, Mr. HOLT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. SIRES, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. WATT, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H. Res. 364: Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mr. BECERRA.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in S. 627 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT No. 53: Page 65, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$5,000,000)".

Page 32, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(decreased by \$5,500,000)".

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MR. CARTER

AMENDMENT No. 54: Page 15, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(decreased by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)".

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MR. GOSAR

AMENDMENT No. 55: At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

FUNDING LIMITATION RELATED TO BORDER PATROL ACTIVITIES

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to enforce any of the following laws against the United States Border Patrol during border patrol activities on Federal lands:

(1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(2) The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

(3) The Federal Water Pollution Control Act (commonly known as the "Clean Water Act"; 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).

(4) The National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

(5) The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.).

(6) The Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.).

(7) The Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470aa et seq.).

(8) The Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.).

(9) The Noise Control Act of 1972 (42 U.S.C. 4901 et seq.).

(10) The Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.).

(11) The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.).

(12) Public Law 86-523 (commonly known as the "Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act" and the "Archaeological Recovery Act"; 16 U.S.C. 469 et seq.).

(13) The Act of June 8, 1906 (commonly known as the "Antiquities Act"; 16 U.S.C. 431 et seq.).

(14) The Act of August 21, 1935 (commonly known as the "Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act"; 16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

(15) The Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 U.S.C. 4201 et seq.).

(16) The Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.).

(17) The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

(18) The Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

(19) The Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940 (16 U.S.C. 668 et seq.).

(20) The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.).

(21) The American Indian Religious Freedom Act (42 U.S.C. 1996 et seq.).

(22) The Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 2000bb et seq.).

(23) The Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977 (31 U.S.C. 6303 et seq.).

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MR. GOSAR

AMENDMENT No. 56: Page 76, lines 10 and 13, insert after each dollar amount the following: "(increased by \$10,000,000)".

Page 80, line 1, insert after the dollar amount the following: "(reduced by \$16,000,000)".

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MR. DENT

AMENDMENT No. 57: At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

LIMITATION OF FUNDS RELATED TO INDIAN GAMING ON SETTLEMENT LANDS

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce section 20(b)(1)(B)(i) of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2719(b)(1)(B)(i)).

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MR. GRIFFIN OF ARKANSAS

AMENDMENT No. 58: Page 10, line 21, insert after the dollar amount the following: "(increased by \$3,000,000)".

Page 65, line 19, insert after the dollar amount the following: "(reduced by \$3,000,000)".

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MR. RIGELL

AMENDMENT No. 59: At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

FUNDING LIMITATION RELATED TO ACQUISITION OF LAND

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to prepare, install, or manage a transit system for access to Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge.

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MR. RIGELL

AMENDMENT No. 60: At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

FUNDING LIMITATION RELATED TO ACQUISITION OF LAND

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to acquire lands for ownership by the Federal Government without first conveying to non-Federal ownership an equal number of acres federally owned lands.

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MR. LANKFORD

AMENDMENT No. 61: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to promulgate, implement, administer, or enforce any Federal implementation plan under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) that imposes any standard or requirement under subpart P of part 51 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations.

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MR. LANKFORD

AMENDMENT No. 62: At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

LIMITATION OF FUNDS RELATED TO BUFFER ZONES

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to create a protective perimeter or buffer zone around an area owned or managed by the National Park Service or the Department of Interior.

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MR. LANKFORD

AMENDMENT No. 63: At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

LIMITATION OF FUNDS RELATED TO PUBLIC LAND

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to increase the net number of acres of Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior.

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MR. LANKFORD

AMENDMENT No. 64: At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to establish, issue, evaluate, or implement proposed regulations (Existing Facilities Rule) on the location, design, construction, and capacity of water intake structures under section 316(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MR. LANKFORD

AMENDMENT No. 65: Page 71, lines 15 and 17, strike “not less than 30 percent” and insert “30 percent or less”.

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MR. LANKFORD

AMENDMENT No. 66: Page 98, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,661,000)”.

Page 158, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,661,000)”.

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MR. HOLT

AMENDMENT No. 67: At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

FUNDING LIMITATION RELATED TO LEASING ACTIVITIES

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to conduct oil or natural gas preleasing, leasing, or related activities in the North and Mid-Atlantic planning areas.

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MR. HOLT

AMENDMENT No. 68: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. The amounts otherwise provided by this Act are revised by reducing the amount made available for “BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT-MANAGEMENT OF LANDS AND RESOURCES”, and increasing the amount made available for “UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY-SURVEYS, INVESTIGATIONS, AND RESEARCH”, by \$15,929,000 and \$13,929,000, respectively.

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MR. HOLT

AMENDMENT No. 69: At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

SEC. _____. Beginning in fiscal year 2012 and each fiscal year thereafter, \$900,000,000 shall

be deposited in the Treasury of the United States and credited to the Land and Water Conservation Fund. These sums shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation or fiscal year limitation, for carrying out the purposes of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601-4 et seq.).

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MR. GOHMERT

AMENDMENT No. 70: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available under title II (relating to the Environmental Protection Agency) may be used for the new construction, purchase, or lease of any facility land, or space except if such construction, purchase, or lease is performed pursuant to a contract entered into before the date of the enactment of this Act.

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MR. POE OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT No. 71: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Environmental Protection Agency to finalize an order for the pesticide sulfuryl fluoride under section 408 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 346a) that is based on an aggregate exposure assessment that incorporates exposure to other related substances in addition to the pesticide chemical residue.

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MR. POE OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT No. 72: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Environmental Protection Agency to finalize the proposed order entitled “Sulfuryl Fluoride; Proposed Order Granting Objections to Tolerances and Denying Request for a Stay; Proposed Rule” published in the Federal Register on January 19, 2011 (76 Fed. Reg. 3422).

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND
REGINALD LEE BACHUS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Reverend Reginald Lee Bachus on the occasion of his installation as pastor of the Mount Ollie Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York.

Brooklyn has long been known as the "Borough of Churches" and has a rich history of outstanding contributions by churches of many denominations to enhancing the quality of life for its residents. The Mount Ollie Baptist Church is one such religious institution that has a long history of service to Brooklyn and has been led by a succession of outstanding clergy.

The Mount Ollie Baptist Church was organized and founded in 1932 by the late Reverend Henry Milerson and was incorporated on October 4, 1937 in Brooklyn, New York. The present edifice built under the leadership of Pastor R. D. Brown, established Mount Ollie Baptist Church as the first Baptist church to be constructed in the Brownsville community. In 1987, Reverend Spurgeon E. Crayton was called to pastor Mount Ollie Baptist Church and directed a ministry with many innovative programs that impacted the entire Borough of Brooklyn.

The installation of Reverend Reginald Lee Bachus as pastor of Mount Ollie Baptist Church continues the tradition of outstanding preachers who have led this great church. Reverend Bachus is a product of Prairie View A&M University where he earned a B.S. in electrical engineering, and Yale Divinity School where he earned his Master of Divinity degree and distinguished himself as a member of the 2009 Admissions Committee, Senior Class Officer, Chair for the Yale Divinity School Baptist Student Fellowship, and an officer of Yale Black Seminars.

The son of Reverend Reginald E. Bachus, pastor of the historic Friendship Baptist Church in Chicago, IL and grandson of Reverend Dr. C.L. Bachus, pastor of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Kansas City, KS, Pastor Bachus embodies the spirit of prophets and lives by the creed, "woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!" (1 Corinthians 9:16).

On behalf of the residents of Brooklyn, New York, I am delighted to welcome this outstanding preacher to our Borough and look forward to many years of his leadership as pastor of Mount Ollie Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Reverend Reginald Lee Bachus.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MRS.
JOANNE NOLAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mrs. Joanne Nolan, a loving wife and mother and an active member of the Northeast Ohio community.

Joanne was born in Cleveland, Ohio on October 5, 1933. She grew up in Cleveland's West Park neighborhood and attended John Marshall High School. After graduating, Joanne worked for the Erie Railroad writing reports on accidents.

Joanne married Earl Nolan, on August 2, 1957. This year would have marked their 54th anniversary. A few years later, their daughter, Janet, was born and Joanne left Erie Railroad. Mrs. Nolan was active within her community throughout the years. She was extremely active in the PTA and could often be found at community parades. Joanne was also a dedicated member of Ward 19 Democratic Club.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Mrs. Joanne Nolan. I offer my condolences to Joanne's husband, Earl, their daughters, Kathy and Janet, and the entire West Park community. Joanne will be sorely missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 630, I was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

ALL IN DARKNESS'S LIGHT IN
HONOR OF A REAL AMERICAN
HERO SGT. JOSHUA W.
YARBROUGH 1/5 BRAVO COM-
PANY THE UNITED STATES MA-
RINES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor a Star of Texas, a United States Marine, an American Hero, Sgt. Joshua Yarbrough of Port Arthur Texas, of 1/5 Bravo Company. On June 15, 2011, in Helmand Province in Afghanistan Sgt. Yarbrough was almost mortally wounded in an IED blast which took his two fine legs and parts of his

fingers while gallantly trying to save the lives of his fellow Marines in the fog of war. After an IED explosion, which left a fellow Texan from Dallas, Eric Galvan, near death, he ran immediately to his side. Pulling him to safety and applying tourniquets on both his lost legs and hand, he proceeded to run to Cpl. Wheeler who was hit by shrapnel from the IED. But on the way he stepped on an IED himself, which threw him 10 ft. into the air. Losing both of his legs and parts of his fingers, his new battle had just begun. Josh joined the Marines in June of 2004, and has done tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan. He was married to his wife Rachael, in November 2004, and while on his 31st MEU in July of 2006 his baby boy Sean was born. Its only been only a few short weeks, but his will to live and his attitude would make any Marine proud. Hooo Rah! And with his family's support, these quiet unsung heroes. . . . Joshua has amazed us to see how far and how fast he has come. I place this tribute to Sgt. Joshua Yarbrough, penned by Albert Caswell in his honor.

ALL IN DARKNESS'S LIGHT

All
All In Darkness's Light
All in that fight!
But, comes something so very special
oh so very bright!
All in the times of war, all in such hearts of
faith that which so insures!
That which so ignites!
But come such men of honor, whose hearts
take flight!
While, all around them such hell so breaks!
YOU GO I GO!
As its there, they will not so hesitate!
United States Marines, whose own most pre-
cious lives will so forsake!
All In The Darkness of Evil's Light, both day
and night!
Armed with but that kind of courage, which
so make's the Angel's hearts so break!
All In The Darkness of War's, Most Evil
Light
All in its fog, but comes such souls which
burn so bright!
Who so lead the way, to turn that
darkness into the light!
Because of them, and you Joshua so
many of your Brothers In Arms live on
this night!
Who by all of your most gallant acts, but
buy the time and to so save their lives!
Is that but not what Heaven is for?
All in that blood which binds you, you go
ever forth!
By all of their most heroic deeds, Bless Them
All My Lord God Speed, God
Speed!
For all of their Brothers In Arms, they die
and bleed!
While, all in the face of hell Sargent's
die and Sargent's lead!
As have you Joshua, running into that face
of death we see!
Armed with but only your most heroic creed!
To help a Marine all in need, all in your
most magnificent shades of green!
Damn right you did, with your heart of
gold Texas T!

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

For you are a United States Marine!
 As the eyes of Texas are upon you Josh, and
 we so like what we so see!
 As it was on that day in June, when your two
 strong legs were so taken away
 After one Marine's life you had so saved, to
 another one you ran that day
 As when a bomb went off, as you looked
 down all at the cost!
 All at what this war had made!
 As on the morning when you awoke, and
 your fine heart to you so spoke!
 As you so wiped all of those tears away, as
 from your heart you invoked
 The will to live, as you so realized that all
 that you so had left was but hope!
 As you so reached so deep down inside, to
 find the strength to so cope!
 For you had so much to so live for, a fine
 wife and son as you went off to
 war
 And now also too for all of your Brothers In
 Arms, who live no more!
 As now you have new mountains to so climb,
 for you did not die!
 As somehow once again my Son, the courage
 you will so find!
 Already, so far you have so come as
 Thy Will Be Done!
 For from your Heart of Texas, your courage
 comes
 For you will walk, and you will run!
 As you Marine, so shine like the morning
 sun!
 And you Will Teach Us And You Will
 Beseech Us as You So Reach
 Each and Everyone!
 Step by step, day by day Marine,
 you're already on your way!
 And if I ever have a son, I wish his heart
 could be as big as your one!
 You United States Marine, you're one of the
 best things this country has ever seen!
 As one day up in Heaven you will run!
 To our Lord God, when he so says
 "come here my son!"
 Because in your life Joshua, you would not
 so let the darkness overcome!
 As your heart of faith, and your soul of cour-
 age has shone so bright!
 All, In Darkness's Light to lead us all
 the way back home!
 All In Darkness's Light!
 And that's just the way it is.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE HAWAIIAN HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ACT OF 2011

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Hawaiian Homeownership Opportunities Act of 2011. I would like to thank Congresswoman COLLEEN HANABUSA and Congressman DON YOUNG for cosponsoring this important bill.

This bill does two things. First, it reauthorizes a section of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) that supports programs that create homeownership opportunities for low-income Native Hawaiian families on Hawaiian Home Lands. Second, it would continue and expand access to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) section 184a loan guarantees, which would reduce the cost

of homeownership for low-income Native Hawaiian families and would also reduce risk by lowering monthly mortgage payments.

The Congress has a long and bipartisan history of supporting Native Hawaiian housing issues. The Hawaiian Homeownership Opportunities Act of 2011 continues that tradition.

Passed by Congress in 1996, NAHASDA reauthorized a system of housing assistance provided to tribes by HUD through the Indian Housing Block Grant program. This program provides funds directly to tribes for housing development and other new approaches to create housing.

In 2000, the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant was established under NAHASDA to allow another indigenous group support for affordable housing activities. Funds for this grant are administered by the State of Hawaii Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, the entity charged with carrying out the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. The funds are used primarily to develop infrastructure on Hawaiian Home Lands, which tend to be in the most isolated parts of the state.

In 1921, Congress passed the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act with the purpose of establishing a homesteading program to place eligible Native Hawaiians on lands in Hawaii designated for such purpose. The law was passed at the urging of the Territory of Hawaii's Delegate to Congress, Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole. Some 204,000 acres were set aside for the purpose of providing Native Hawaiians with land.

With the passage of the Statehood Act of 1959, the control and administration of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act was transferred from the federal government to the newly formed State of Hawaii. The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands was created in 1960 to administer the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act.

While homeownership rates in Hawaii are typically lower than national rates, homeownership rates for Native Hawaiians in the state are even lower. In Honolulu, 38 percent of Native Hawaiians own their homes compared with 48 percent for non-natives. This disparity continues in other areas of Hawaii, where 51 percent of Native Hawaiians own their homes compared with 60 percent for non-natives.

Native Hawaiian households in Hawaii are also more likely to be low-income than non-native households. Owner households on Hawaiian home lands are among the poorest of Native Hawaiian households with approximately 25 percent having incomes at or below 50 percent of the median income for the given area.

There is a continued need for the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant. I urge my colleagues to support the Hawaiian Homeownership Opportunities Act of 2011.

Mahalo nui loa (thank you very much).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 631, I was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 25, 2011, I was unable to vote during the first vote series of the day.

Had I been present I would have voted: on rollcall No. 630—"yes"—H. Res. 363, Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2584, Department of Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2012; on rollcall No. 631—"yes"—On Approving the Journal.

REMEMBRANCE OF JESUS THOMAS CAMPOS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Jesus "Jesse" Thomas Campos, who died July 22, 2011 in Houston, two weeks shy of his 90th birthday.

Jesse is survived by his wife of 57 years, Esther, his son, Adrian, and his daughters, Olga and Edna, as well as numerous grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Jesse served his Nation with distinction during the Second World War, as a member of the U.S. Army from 1941-46. During the war he was assigned to the 672nd Amphibious Tank Battalion and made numerous first assault landings in the Pacific, was wounded twice, and was awarded the Purple Heart and three Bronze Stars. He was also a Pearl Harbor survivor.

Jesse was a close friend, a constituent, and an important member of our community. He was very active in our local American Legion post and with the Disabled American Veterans. He also received numerous awards for his dedication and service to our community.

His loss will be felt by family, friends, and the Greater Houston community, and I ask that you remember the family in your thoughts and prayers.

I would like to submit for the RECORD a copy of Jesse's obituary that appeared in the Houston Chronicle on July 25.

[From the Houston Chronicle, July 25, 2011]

JESUS CAMPOS

Jesus Thomas Campos, Husband, Father, Brother, Veteran and Community Leader, Jesus Thomas Campos of Houston died peacefully at home Friday, July 22, 2011. He was two weeks shy of his 90th birthday. He was born on August 6, 1921 in Goose Creek (now known as Baytown) to Maria Ramos and Jose Campos. He graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in 1941 and enlisted in the Army and served from 1941-46.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Maria Esther Estrada Campos. He is preceded in death by his parents and several siblings, as well as by his daughter, Leah Aguirre of Houston. Jesus is survived by his son, Adrian, and daughters Olga (Kevin Benz

of Austin), Edna (Eldon Thomas of Houston and Asheville, NC), as well as numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Jesus was proud of his involvement in Houston's Hispanic community especially his work on behalf of various political candidates, Get-Out-the Vote efforts and improving educational opportunities for Hispanic students. He was also proud of his distinguished military record. During World War II, he was assigned to the 672nd Amphibious Tank Battalion Attached to the 15th Division. He made numerous first assault landings in the Pacific, was wounded twice and was awarded the Purple Heart, 3 Bronze Stars, an Arrowhead in the Asiatic-Pacific and World War II Campaigns and a Good Conduct Medal.

Jesus retired from Exxon after 20 years and was an active member of the American Legion and the Disabled American Veterans. His recent awards and honors include the Distinguished Hispanic Volunteer from Houston Mayor Bill White in 2007; Eagles Award in 2005 from the San Jacinto Chapter of DAV; Participant in Honor Flight #2 to visit the WWII Memorial in 2009; Fiestas Patrias Distinguished Hispanic Award 2006, recognition by numerous members of the U.S. Congress, the Texas Senate and House; the Houston City Council, the American GI Forum, and the League of United Latin American Citizens. He will be respected, loved and missed by everyone who knew him.

The family will be receiving visitors Tuesday, July 26 from 5-9 pm with a Rosary at 7 p.m. at Forest Park Lawndale, 6900 Lawndale Ave, Houston TX 77023. Funeral services will be held Wednesday, July 27 at 11 a.m. at Forest Park Lawndale. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the American GI Forum of Texas, 2626 South Loop West #320, 77054-2649, Houston, TX 77086; (713) 666-4796; www.agiftx.org. Donations will go to the Community in Housing Development which assists with housing for American Veterans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 632, I was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

INTRODUCING MEDICAL NEUTRALITY PROTECTION ACT OF 2011

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce bipartisan legislation called the Medical Neutrality Protection Act of 2011. In times of war and civil unrest, the independence of physicians and health care workers are often hindered, endangering their safety and limiting their ability to care for the wounded. I first became aware of this issue back in the 1980s during the civil war in El Salvador. The conflict ended in the early 1990s with over 75,000 people killed, some of whom were

medical workers who were caught in combat or working in refugee camps. Then, as now, I was concerned that the United States was not doing enough to stop government forces from harming medical workers, who are some of the only unbiased eyewitnesses that we have on the ground.

While international humanitarian laws codify the concept of medical neutrality, we have seen systematic attacks against medical professionals by various armed forces over the last several months, particularly in the Middle East. Several independent human rights organizations—including Physicians for Human Rights and Human Rights Watch—have documented these abuses and are calling for more countries to address this disturbing trend.

This bill elevates the protection of medical professionals as a policy priority for U.S. government so that countries that attack doctors and shut hospitals will no longer be able to carry out business as usual. Under this Act, the Secretary of State will be required to maintain and regularly update a list of countries that violate medical neutrality. Countries on this list will not qualify for certain military assistance, and government officials from the violating countries will not be eligible for visas to travel to the United States. The bill also calls for the creation of a United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Protection and Promotion of Medical Neutrality.

The issue of protecting doctors and access to medical care is not a partisan issue. This is a common sense bill that fills a void in foreign policy.

Mr. Speaker, Speaker, I would also like to submit a letter of support from Physicians for Human Rights.

PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS,

Washington, DC, July 26, 2011.

Hon. JIM McDERMOTT,

House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE McDERMOTT: Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) congratulates you and Representative Walter Jones (R-NC) for introducing the Medical Neutrality Protection Act of 2011, an important bill that will protect medical neutrality around the world.

Medical professionals often risk their lives and security to provide essential services, and they must be able to uphold this duty to patients and others in need without fear of violence, retribution, or arbitrary arrest. The importance of protecting medical professionals, facilities, and transport from attack makes up the foundation for the norm of medical neutrality, which is firmly grounded in international humanitarian law, professional codes and ethics, and international human rights law. Violations of medical neutrality include attacks on health care facilities, medical personnel, and patients; wanton destruction of medical supplies; willful obstruction of medical ethics; deliberate misuse of health care facilities, services, uniforms, or insignia; deliberate blocking of access to health care facilities and care; and arbitrary arrest or detention of medical professionals or patients.

PHR researchers documented violations of medical neutrality related to uprisings in Bahrain earlier this year including the government's takeover of hospitals, intimidation of patients, and arrest and prosecution of doctors as part of its crackdown on popular dissent. The Medical Neutrality Protec-

tion Act of 2011 would allow the United States to promptly respond to such violations.

"Physicians for Human Rights and the medical community are deeply grateful to Congressmen Jim McDermott and Walter Jones for their outstanding leadership on the issue of medical neutrality," said Dr. Robert Lawrence, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Physicians for Human Rights. "The Medical Neutrality Protection Act of 2011 for the first time shines a bright light on serious human rights violations which strike at the heart of communities at large all over the world. The act introduced today in the U.S. House of Representatives makes it crystal clear that the United States will not tolerate any attacks under any circumstances on medical professionals, hospitals, equipment and supplies, or will turn a blind eye to any interference with the ability to seek medical treatment or the ability to provide it without concern of politics, religious affiliation, or ethnic background. We urge the U.S. Congress to pass this crucial piece of legislation immediately, and call on President Obama to sign it into law."

Thank you for taking a stand against violations of medical neutrality and supporting the efforts of medical professionals worldwide.

Sincerely,

PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE COMBAT MARINE OUTDOORS

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a great American hero and the exceptional organization he founded—the Combat Marine Outdoors—which exists to serve our severely wounded Marines, soldiers, airmen, and sailors with unique and extraordinary opportunities to participate in outdoor hunting and fishing excursions. As we all know, behind every great endeavor there is a great personality. In this case, that great personality, that person of extraordinary character, is United States Marine Corps Colonel Alan Orr.

Colonel Orr, while a solid Marine Corps Artillery officer (and in full disclosure my former battalion commander), is a special man whose love for our Marines, sailors and soldiers extends from the front lines of battle to the hospitals where our wounded warriors recover, and most exceptionally, to life past the battlefield. Extending beyond the stifling halls of military hospitals and recovery barracks, Colonel Orr, along with a group of dedicated hunters, ranch owners and patriots, have reinstalled our wounded heroes to the realization that excitement, adventure and Teddy Roosevelt's "Strenuous Life" doesn't end with their service wounds.

In 2005, Combat Marine Outdoors founding members Colonel Orr, Rusty Hicks, Master Gunnery Sergeant Arturo Garcia and my father, former Congressman Duncan L. Hunter, visited wounded Marines from the 1st Marine Division at Brooke Army Medical Center. None were strangers to what they saw—they witnessed the full impact of war injuries. But it

was their actions that made all the difference. They responded by creating an organization that would not only accelerate the recovery process, but restore hope in our servicemen and women.

In collaboration with thousands of contributors and over 50 ranches, the Combat Marine Outdoors has provided well over 200 wounded veterans from Balboa Hospital to Walter Reed with the opportunity to hunt and fish, often at a once-in-a-lifetime adventure location, such as the Two Dot Ranch and the Y.O. Ranch in Texas. These outdoor experiences on ranches, bays and lakes foster the opportunity to engage in a challenging experience that promotes teamwork and camaraderie. In many cases, these excursions facilitated a turning point in emotional recovery through a challenging experience that helps our wounded military men and women regain confidence through a sense of accomplishment.

A story then: a United States Marine wounded in combat, blinded, with both legs amputated. He sits in Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, waiting to recover and wondering what his future holds. For a weekend, he is taken by Colonel Orr and his band of patriots to an American treasure, the Texas Ranch. In the great outdoors, this blind, double amputee is, amazingly, guided by Colonel Orr and successfully shoots a big game animal. The excitement and feeling of accomplishment and the outdoors is no less real for this Marine for the fact that he cannot see his trophy. He has lived the hunt and is more alive for it.

While many people, myself included, make the effort to show our veterans our appreciation, whether hunting elk in Colorado or deep sea fishing in San Diego, the exceptional few transition good intentions and singular acts of compassion into a systematic execution of true benevolent action. Colonel Orr is the consummate professional, more versed in the art of artillery than any officer I have ever known. But his impact is immeasurable when he takes one of our country's greatest treasures and returns the excitement of "living life" to him. That is the beauty of what Colonel Orr has accomplished through Combat Marine Outdoors.

Mr. Speaker, most Americans will never know the pain and discomfort of combat, or what those who bear the scars of war feel when the smoke clears and they return home. But when they do return, what we can do beyond providing the care that restores the highest quality of life and self-reliance is to open doors that give new meaning, encouragement and excitement to those who were willing to sacrifice everything so that we can stay safe. This is what Combat Marine Outdoors is all about.

As a veteran of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, I am pleased to support the mission and service of the Combat Marine Outdoors for our wounded service personnel, and I am honored to have served with Colonel Alan Orr, a man who not only epitomizes military discipline, but exudes a steady compassion and love for our young warriors through a life of service above self. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this exceptional organization and the exceptional man who started it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 633, I was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RETIREMENT OF MARVIN L. BERENSON

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the retirement of Marvin L. Berenson, the Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Broadcast Music, Inc. ("BMI") after 35 years of service to the organization. BMI licenses the public-performing rights on approximately 6.5 million musical works on behalf of its 500,000 affiliated songwriters, composers and music publishers.

Mr. Berenson joined BMI in 1976 as a member of the legal staff specializing in copyright litigation. He was named Senior Vice President and General Counsel in 1991. During his tenure, Mr. Berenson actively participated in the modernization of copyright law, from the Copyright Revision Act of 1976 to the Berne Convention Implementation Act of 1988 to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998. On multiple occasions, he testified before Congress and the Copyright Office, and he served on the staff of the National Information Infrastructure Advisory Committee during the Clinton Administration.

Throughout his legal career, Mr. Berenson honed and maintained a reputation for fundamental fairness and good judgment. As part of his advocacy, he developed a disarming sense of humor. He fervently reflected the spirit and history of BMI as an open collective rights licensing organization. During congressional testimony, he explained: "Most BMI affiliates are ordinary citizens who receive a modest income for the creative efforts of writing music that is publicly performed by others. There can be no question that the majority of songwriters are not wealthy. They struggle to make a living, day to day, just as the average citizen does."

Mr. Berenson's present and past industry affiliations include member and past Treasurer of the Copyright Society of the USA, member of the Board of Directors of the American Copyright Council, staff member of the National Information Infrastructure Advisory Council, Executive Board of the International Literary and Artistic Association—USA, Intellectual Property Organization, American Bar Association—Intellectual Property Section, and the Association of the Bar of the City of New York—Antitrust Section. He also served on the CISAC (International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers) Technical Committee for the Promotion of Repertoire, and currently serves on the CISAC Legal Committee.

Mr. Berenson graduated from Michigan State University in 1963 and from Boston University Law School in 1966. With his spouse Gloria, he raised two children, a son Harris and a daughter Allison. The Berensons are the proud grandparents of three grandchildren.

As Del Bryant, BMI's President and CEO, put it: "Marvin has worked diligently and uncompromisingly to protect the interests of songwriters, composers and music publishers for the past 35 years, and we all in the music industry salute his valuable contributions." Bryant added that Mr. Berenson would "be leaving his department and BMI in an excellent position to deal with the many complex and challenging legal issues we face."

Mr. Speaker, because of Mr. Berenson's work, our Nation's songwriters, composers and publishers will be the beneficiaries for generations to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF VINCENT TURNER FOR BEING NAMED CHAPLAIN OF THE YEAR BY THE UNITED STATES CORPS OF CHAPLAINS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a special Chaplain today, Vincent Turner.

Chaplain (Second Lieutenant) Turner of Alabama was named Chaplain of the Year by the United States Corps of Chaplains for 2011.

Turner has always been committed to helping others and serving God and country both through the United States Corps of Chaplains and the American Legion and Disabled Veterans.

I'm proud to congratulate Chaplain Turner on this great achievement and hope he will continue his service to God, to the United States and helping people in need. Congratulations, Chaplain Turner.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 634, I was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

HONORING HARMONY SENIOR DRUM CORPS'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harmony Senior Drum Corps, a non-profit band group based in the Town of

Boonton, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year.

The Harmony Senior Drum Corps traces its origins back to St. Mary's Flute and Drum Band, organized in 1886 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Boonton, New Jersey. Originally founded as an all-male group, one of the St. Mary's Flute and Drum Band's most memorable events was its participation in the parade to dedicate the New Jersey State Firemen's Home in 1900. During World War I, trumpets were added to the band and its name was changed to the Harmony Fife and Drum Corps when it started practicing in the Harmony Engine House in Boonton. After bells were added in the 1930's, the name was again changed, this time to the Harmony Fife, Drum and Trumpet Corps. It was not until 1965 that Harmony Senior Drum Corps became the group's official name.

Over the years, the group has participated in many grand events in Boonton. The Harmony Senior Drum Corps has welcomed home veterans from both World Wars and the Gulf War, played at the celebration of Boonton's Centennial and the United States' Bicentennial in 1976, and the passing of the Olympic Torch. Additionally, the Harmony Senior Drum Corps has participated in local parade competitions, earning its first marching trophy in 1961 at a competition in Denville, New Jersey.

The Harmony Senior Drum Corps has not restricted itself to local events. Their members have marched in New York City for the St. Patrick's Day, Salute to Israel and Puerto Rican Day parades. In 1976, the Corps played at Yankee Stadium during the World Series between the Cincinnati Reds and the New York Yankees.

In 1988, the Harmony Senior Drum Corps opened up membership to women in order to increase their membership. Many generations of the same family play and have played in the group. Presently, 50 members between the ages of 10 and 70 march, performing with fifes, bells, trumpets, baritones, drums and cymbals, as well as a color guard, while wearing distinct black and white West Point style uniforms.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the members of the Harmony Senior Drum Corps as they celebrate 125 years of providing our community with wonderful music and performances.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during the rollcall votes number 630–631, on June 25, 2011. I would have voted:

On rollcall vote No. 630 I would have voted “no.”

On rollcall vote No. 631 would have voted “yes.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 635, I was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

INTRODUCTION OF THE ACCESS TO BIRTH CONTROL ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Access to Birth Control, ABC, Act in the House with Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG leading the effort in the Senate.

Ninety-eight percent of American women use birth control over the course of their lifetime. This bill ensures that any woman who would like birth control and who has a legal prescription or is seeking over-the-counter emergency contraception, will be able to get it in a timely and convenient manner.

The ABC Act would make it illegal for a pharmacist to refuse to return a birth control prescription or for a pharmacist to intimidate, threaten or harass customers or intentionally breach or threaten to breach medical confidentiality.

By placing the burden of responsibility on the pharmacy, the ABC Act strikes a balance between the rights of individual pharmacists based on their beliefs and the right of women to receive medication. If the request product is not in stock, but the pharmacy stocks other forms of contraception, the bill mandates that the pharmacy help the woman obtain the medication without delay by the method of her preference (order, referral or a transferred prescription).

Very simply, this legislation ensures a woman's legal access to birth control.

Over the past several years, there have been reports of pharmacists refusing to fill prescriptions for birth control pills.

There have been reports in at least twenty-four states across the nation including: Arizona, Massachusetts, Washington and Missouri. These refusals are based on personal or religious beliefs, not on legitimate medical or professional concerns related to quality of patient care. In some cases, pharmacist have kept and refused to transfer a prescription, refused to sell over-the-counter emergency contraception, or given the customer false medical information about the requested birth control. Pharmacists have taken it upon themselves to decide whose prescription they will fill and which over-the-counter medication they will provide.

This bill is particularly timely as just last week, the Institute of Medicine, IOM, recommended that family-planning services, including the full range of FDA-approved contraceptive methods, be recognized as a preventive-health service that must be covered by insurance plans without additional costs.

This recommendation from the IOM marks an important first step toward near-universal contraceptive coverage in America, but if women are denied the actual contraceptives when they go to their pharmacist, having no-cost contraceptives is rendered meaningless. We must ensure that American women do not face obstacles when seeking doctor prescribed, legal medications.

The Access to Birth Control Act, ABC ACT, is an important step in protecting a woman's right to contraception. Birth control and emergency contraception are part of a women's basic health care and pharmacists should not have the right to interfere.

IMPROVING CONSUMER PROTECTIONS FOR MEDIGAP INSURANCE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Medigap Medical Loss Ratio Improvement Act. The legislation improves consumer protections in the Medigap marketplace by raising the minimum percentage of premium dollars that must go toward medical care. I'm joined by my colleagues HENRY WAXMAN, Ranking Democrat on the Energy and Commerce Committee, and FRANK PALLONE, Ranking Democrat on the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee as original cosponsors of the legislation. Senator KERRY (D-MA) is introducing the companion bill in the Senate.

The medical loss ratio, MLR, is the percentage of premium dollars an insurance plan spends on the provision of medical care, rather than administrative costs, profits, executive compensation, or other expenses. It is an important point of information for consumers because it is a concrete way for people to measure the value of a health insurance product and to compare among other plans in the marketplace.

As part of the new health reform law, insurers in the private health insurance marketplace must now meet a minimum medical loss ratio percentage of 80 percent in the individual market and 85 percent in the group marketplace. The law also requires all Medicare Advantage plans, private plans offered through Medicare, to meet an 85 percent MLR standard by 2014.

In 1990, Congress first passed legislation standardizing Medigap policies and instituting minimum MLR standards in reaction to evidence of widespread sale of duplicative policies with high overhead. Today, more than nine million Medicare beneficiaries purchase private supplemental Medigap policies to help cover cost sharing and deductibles in traditional Medicare.

The Medigap Medical Loss Ratio Improvement Act updates the MLR standards for Medigap insurers—increasing the percentages to levels put forth in health reform for other products. Specifically, it will raise the MLR from 65 percent to 80 percent in the individual market and from 75 percent to 85 percent in the group marketplace. To give insurers time to prepare for this change, it would not become effective until 2014.

It is endorsed by organizations representing millions of senior citizens and consumers of all ages, including: AARP, AFSCME, Alliance of Retired Americans, Center for Medicare Advocacy, Community Catalyst, Families USA, Health Care for America Now, Medicare Rights Center, National Council on Aging, and the National Senior Citizens Law Center.

In endorsing the bill, AARP highlights that, "AARP supports this change because it will provide greater transparency and accountability for expenditures made by health insurance issuers, and encourage them to become more efficient in their operations to help ensure that consumers receive fair value for their premium dollars."

This bill should garner bipartisan support. At a February 10, 2011 hearing in the Ways and Means Committee, a Republican Member questioned CMS Actuary Rick Foster about this issue: "... Medigap policies that seniors purchase to supplement traditional Medicare are only required to meet a medical loss ratio of 65 percent ... do you think that the MLR policy should be applied equitably across the line?" He answered that "... you could probably make a good case that if it makes sense in general then it would make sense for the broader spectrum, including Medigap policies." The Member responded, "Well, I would think that most people would agree that if we are going to do something we should do it equally."

I agree. That's exactly what we're doing with the Medigap Medical Loss Ratio Improvement Act today—we are extending a commonsense consumer protection to private Medigap plans. I encourage our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join us to enact this sensible improvement to existing law for those who purchase private Medigap insurance.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 636, I was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was honored to be one of the featured speakers at an important session of the 102nd Annual Convention of the NAACP, which is being held in Los Angeles, California. My participation in this important event necessitated my remaining in my congressional district on Monday, July 25, 2011. Consequently, I was unable to return in time for rollcall votes Nos. 630, through 636.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

1. On rollcall No. 630, I would have voted "no" (July 25)—(H. Res. 363, Providing for

consideration of H.R. 2584, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes).

2. On rollcall No. 631, I would have voted "aye" (July 25)—(On Approving the Journal).

3. On rollcall No. 632, I would have voted "aye" (July 25)—(Moran Amendment to H.R. 2584, Interior and Environment Appropriations Act for FY 2012).

4. On rollcall No. 633, I would have voted "no" (July 25)—(Huelskamp Amendment to H.R. 2584, Interior and Environment Appropriations Act for FY 2012).

5. On rollcall No. 634, I would have voted "aye" (July 25)—(Cleaver Amendment to H.R. 2584, Interior and Environment Appropriations Act for FY 2012).

6. On rollcall No. 635, I would have voted "aye" (July 25)—(Richmond Amendment to H.R. 2584, Interior and Environment Appropriations Act for FY 2012).

7. On rollcall No. 636, I would have voted "aye" (July 25)—(Hochul Amendment to H.R. 2584, Interior and Environment Appropriations Act for FY 2012).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain my absence from votes cast on the afternoon of July 25, 2011. My voting percentage is 98 percent for the 112th Congress, and I rarely miss votes, but yesterday, I was absent due to a prior commitment scheduled before we knew the House would be in session on Monday.

On the votes I missed: on the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2584—Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012, had I been present, I would have voted "no"; and on the Journal vote, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

TRIBUTE TO THE VERY REVEREND KENNETH F. GADDY, C.Ss.R.

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding faith and community leader from my congressional district in the U.S. Virgin Islands, The Very Reverend Kenneth F. Gaddy, C.Ss.R., a Redemptorist priest who has served the St. Croix community for 21 years.

On Sunday, July 31, 2011, the Holy Cross Catholic Church will honor Father Gaddy for his years of bountiful service to the Church and the parish before he leaves the Virgin Islands for a new assignment. Born to the late John and Beatrice Gaddy, Father Gaddy was the third of six children. He attended Catholic school for elementary and part of his sec-

ondary education. In 1977, Father Gaddy entered the Redemptorist Formation system, in Northeast, Pennsylvania. He went on to further his studies and in 1984, he graduated from St. Alphonsus College in Suffield, Connecticut, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy. Father Gaddy completed his theological studies at Washington Theological Union in 1988 and on May 14, 1988, he was ordained to the priesthood.

Father Gaddy's first assignment was to St. Boniface Church, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In January of 1990, he was reassigned to St. Patrick's Catholic Church on the island of Saint Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, and arrived in the Virgin Islands during a tremendously challenging time in our history—just months after Hurricane Hugo devastated the island of Saint Croix. He served as an Associate Pastor for six years, and then in August of 1996 he was appointed Pastor of St. Patrick's Catholic Church. Father Gaddy served as Pastor for 9 years before he was appointed director of the Blessed Peter Donders Formation Residence in July of 2006.

Mr. Speaker, in July of 2008, Father Gaddy was appointed pastor of Holy Cross Catholic Church on Saint Croix, where he is currently serving. He credits two Redemptorists, The Rev. Jerome Moody and The Rev. Henrique Schulerbrandt, for encouraging and supporting him in his decision to pursue his studies to the priesthood. Several years later he was introduced to Rev. Carlyle Blake, another Redemptorist, whose friendship and mentorship continue to this day.

Father Gaddy believes firmly that we stand on the shoulders of those who precede us and it is our responsibility to keep their memory and contributions alive and to provide shoulders for those who come behind us to stand on. He also believes that we are all responsible for building upon what has been entrusted to us and that we are to leave our community better than as we inherited it.

The Saint Croix community will not soon forget the ministry of Father Gaddy, his impassioned sermons, his wise and down-to-earth demeanor, and most certainly we will not forget his infectious laughter and kind-hearted smile. He is a great listener who exudes sincerity and humbleness.

He has shared our ups and our downs, our trials and our triumphs, our grief and our joys and has become a much beloved and integral part of our community. We wish that Father Gaddy were not being reassigned, but wherever he goes, however far, he will always be a Virgin Islander and more so a Crucian.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands and a grateful flock, I wish Father Gaddy continued success, and on behalf of the Congress of the United States, thank him for his long, dedicated and bountiful service to the parish of Holy Cross, the community of St. Croix and the Diocese of the U.S. Virgin Islands. May God continue to richly bless him with good health and long life in service to the Almighty God.

July 26, 2011

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I regret missing floor votes on Monday, July 25, 2011. Had I registered my vote, I would have voted:

(1) "Nay" on rollcall 630, On Agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 363—Providing for consid-

eration of H.R. 2584, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes.

(2) "Yea" on rollcall 631, On Approving the Journal.

(3) "Yea" on rollcall 632, On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2584—Moran of Virginia Amendment.

(4) "Nay" on rollcall 633, On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2584—Huelskamp of Kansas Amendment.

(5) "Yea" on rollcall 634, On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2584—Cleaver of Missouri Amendment.

(6) "Yea" on rollcall 635, On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2584—Richmond of Louisiana Amendment.

(7) "Yea" on rollcall 636, On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2584—Hochul of New York Amendment.

SENATE—Wednesday, July 27, 2011

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal spirit, Your goodness endures continually. Save us by Your name and vindicate us by Your strength. Bend Your ears to the words of our prayer and do not hide from our supplication.

As our lawmakers face difficulty that tests their powers to the limit, shield them from cynicism and faintheartedness. May they not become weary in doing Your will, knowing that they will reap Your bountiful harvest if they faint not. Lord, as our Nation faces the potentially catastrophic, inspire our lawmakers to seek Your counsel which will stand forever. Illumine their pathway that they may not fail.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 27, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1420

Mr. REID. Madam President, I am told there is a bill, S. 1420, due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1420) to require that the United States Government prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public, Social Security benefits, and military pay in the event that the debt limit is reached, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I would object to any further proceedings with respect to this legislation at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The bill will be placed on the calendar.

THE DEBT CEILING

Mr. REID. Madam President, today our Republican colleagues in the House planned to vote on a bill to lift the debt ceiling for a few months before plunging this Nation and its economy back into a state of uncertainty.

What I mean by that is under their legislation, which would extend the debt ceiling for just a few months, and the latest report, because the numbers they have come up with are all wrong, we would come back in September if, in fact, we ever left here, and we would be debating the debt ceiling all over again. What a way to proceed. It is unbelievable they would come up with such a program.

Last night, Speaker BOEHNER pushed back that vote because his legislation did not even have the support of Republicans in his own Chamber. Group after group, from the Republican Study Committee, the Club for Growth, and many organizations have said they simply do not like his legislation.

But pushing back the vote by a day or rewriting parts of the bill will not solve the underlying problem: A short-term solution is not an adequate solution for our economy. Our country, our economy, and the world demand more.

Why do I say the world? Because our economy is the most robust, strongest

economy in the world—the history of the world—and for us to fail to pay our debt would throw the world economy into a tailspin.

Even if the Speaker could get his legislation through the House of Representatives, I can assure everyone it would not pass the Senate. And certainly if by some strange phenomenon it passed, the President would not sign it. We do not have to worry about that. There will be no veto. This legislation is so weak that it will not get out of this Chamber.

Rather than lifting what economists call the fog of default, this Republican plan would usher in an era of bad economic weather that could last for years. A few weeks ago, Speaker BOEHNER said it was a terrible idea to merely postpone a default on the national debt or to push the problem down the road for a few weeks or a few months. That is what he said. Back then he was not interested in a short-term solution. Back then he was right.

This is why: Economists, market analysts, and rating agencies have said the world economy simply cannot bear this kind of uncertainty any longer. They have said a short-term solution to the impending default would still result in the loss of our AAA rating that has kept interest rates low in this country and saved consumers money for more than 70 years. So I trust Speaker BOEHNER and other reasonable Republicans understand the seriousness of a default crisis. Here is what the Speaker said very recently:

That would be a financial disaster not only for our country but for the worldwide economy. You cannot create jobs if you default on the Federal debt.

But a short-term fix does not get the job done. It would cause many of the same calamitous results as a technical default, including rising interest rates that would essentially raise every person's taxes. American families will pay more for their mortgages, car loans, student loans, credit card bills, and everything else. Higher interest rates would not just be costly for consumers, it would also cost the Federal Government more, and would actually increase our deficits and debt—and very quickly.

A less than 1-percent increase in interest rates, which economists have predicted if the United States debt is downgraded, would cost our government more than \$100 billion every year. I repeat: It would cost our government \$100 billion extra every single year. In a decade, that would cost this country as much taxpayer money as Speaker BOEHNER's proposal would cut from the

deficit. In effect, his short-term plan would yield not a single dime of savings. Nothing.

Republicans would like the American public to believe Democrats in Congress and the White House are insisting on a long-term deal for political reasons. They say Democrats want to push this off until after the Presidential election. That is not true. It is not Democrats who have asked for a long-term solution. It is the economy. The economy has demanded it.

If Republicans in Congress are willing to risk our economy by playing politics in July, why would they not do the same in September, October, November, when his proposal—Speaker BOEHNER's proposal—would run out of money? That is why every economist, every market analyst, every rating agency, has insisted any legislation to avert a default on the Nation's debt must take us through the end of 2012.

The Senate is considering a measure that would avert default and cut \$2.7 trillion from the deficit. It is a reasonable measure. Republicans have supported every one of its cuts in the past, and it should be able to pass both Houses of Congress with bipartisan support. I have heard a number of my friends on the other side of the aisle come here and say: But they are talking about the overseas contingency fund. The Congressional Budget Office—the nonpartisan watchdog of Congress—has decided that is worth \$1 trillion, just what we put in our bill. The Office of Management and Budget said it is worth \$1 trillion. The legislation we are projecting gives each side something it wants. It protects Social Security and Medicare without raising a single penny of revenue. And, most importantly, it is a long-term strategy to safeguard the economy and give the markets the stability they need.

Unlike Speaker BOEHNER's legislation, which economists have rejected, it would not put us through all of this again in a few months—probably only a few weeks—and with even less certainty of achieving a compromise than now.

British Prime Minister David Lloyd George said: "There is nothing more dangerous than to leap a chasm in two jumps." That is true. Congress has a duty to do what it takes to avert a national default in one swift leap.

It will take political courage. I urge all of my friends, Democrats and Republicans, to join hands. We can take courage from one another and make that leap together. Because if we do not clear this chasm, our Nation's economy will go over the edge with us.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

DEBT LIMIT NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday afternoon the White House issued a Statement of Administration Policy which said that when the legislation Speaker BOEHNER is now revising reaches the President's desk, unnamed senior advisers will recommend that the President veto it.

I have a question for these senior advisers: what about this legislation is so offensive that you would rather see the Nation default on its obligations than have the President sign it into law?

From what I can tell, the only thing in this bill the President has not already expressed his support for either publicly or privately is that it does not get him through his election without having to engage in another national discussion about the debt crisis that has brought us to this point.

So I would ask these senior advisers whether that is a position they want to put the President in. Do they really intend to suggest that he veto the Nation into default for political reasons?

That is how I read the threat. And I think that is how the rest of the country would read it too.

So this morning I would like to reiterate my strong support for Speaker BOEHNER, the House Republican leadership and this plan to prevent default and reduce Washington spending.

I also want to commend the Speaker for his efforts and his determination.

This has not been an easy process, but I hope through it all the Nation sees how hard the Speaker has worked to ensure our Nation avoids calamity while safeguarding the American dream.

The Nation has had a chance to see the Speaker at his best over the past few days.

Unlike the President, he not only put forward actual legislation to prevent this crisis, he is keeping his promise to cut spending more than any increase in the debt limit—with no tax hikes.

What about the President's plan? When asked about the President's plan, his aides point to a speech and a veto threat.

With all due respect, Congress cannot vote on a speech, and a veto threat would not prevent default. The fact is Republicans have offered the only proposal at this point that attempts to get at the root of the problem and which actually has a chance of getting to the President's desk.

That is why we will continue to press for the legislation Speaker BOEHNER has proposed, and that is why we will fight against anything that pretends to solve the problem but doesn't—includ-

ing the bill from Senate Democrats that proposes the largest debt limit increase in history, while falling \$½ trillion short on the cuts it claims to provide.

This crisis our Nation faces at this moment has a very simple cause and is easily understood: Washington spends a lot more money every year than it takes in. Do that every year and the debt piles up. Now we have reached the point where our deficits and debt are so large they are suffocating job growth, threatening the wider economy, and imperiling entitlements.

It took more than two centuries for Washington to amass a debt of \$10.6 trillion. But just 2½ years after President Obama swore the oath of office, it is higher by more than one-third. Based on the President's actual policies, the situation is expected to get much worse.

In just 5 years' time, under President Obama's budget plan, the Federal Government will spend almost as much money just to cover the interest on its debt as it will on national defense. Over the next 10 years, the President's policies will add more than \$9 trillion to the debt.

This is why S&P revised its long-term credit outlook for the United States, not because we haven't authorized the President to spend more money but because he is asking for so much of it.

Yet, incredibly, the President's budgets would do nothing to reverse this trend. So he can claim to be interested in a solution, but what he put on paper makes the problem worse.

Right now, the President is asking Congress to raise the debt ceiling by more than it has ever been raised before in our history—even as the Nation is teetering on the edge of a crisis caused by that very debt.

Let me repeat, our Nation is facing a crisis because of the size of our debt, and the President of the United States, the man Americans elect to be the steward of our economy, is threatening to veto any bill that doesn't add more than \$2 trillion to the debt ceiling, the largest increase in history.

The President is not taking a stand on cuts. He is not taking a stand on reform to entitlements. He is not insisting on reforms. Forget all that. What he wants more than anything else is more room under the debt ceiling to get him through the election. He has said that is his bottom line.

I remain as committed as ever to resolving this crisis in a way that will allow us to avoid default without raising taxes and to cut spending without budget gimmicks.

There is only one option that does that and that is the one Speaker BOEHNER has proposed, and that is being improved as we speak.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the second half.

The Senator from South Dakota is recognized.

THE DEBT

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, yesterday, I came to the floor to talk about where we have been, where we are and where we are going and to discuss how we are going to get out of this mess. I pointed out the President's disappointing record when it comes to the debt issue.

The President originally requested a clean debt ceiling increase that didn't have any spending reductions attached to it. He then submitted a budget that failed to ever balance, and this budget didn't include the recommendations from the Simpson-Bowles commission he had appointed to come up with some suggestions about how to put our country on a more sustainable fiscal path.

According to the CBO, his budget didn't even meet his metric of primary balance, which is balancing the budget not including interest costs. After realizing House Republicans were the only ones with a plan to balance our budget and pay down the debt, President Obama decided to give a speech. Of course, it was just a speech. It did not include numbers. He didn't resubmit his budget, despite requests to do so. He just gave a speech.

As they say, talk is cheap. We need action. The only action he promised, though, is that he will veto plans that would do something to address our debt and deficit problems.

Earlier this month, the administration issued a veto threat for the cut, cap, and balance bill. This was a reasonable proposal that immediately cut spending, put a cap on spending, and would have raised the debt limit after a balanced budget amendment was approved by the Congress.

In fact, this was so reasonable that, according to a CNN poll, 66 percent of the people in this country supported this plan. This bill garnered the support of 234 Members of the House of Representatives, including 5 Democrats. But Senate Democrats voted to table the bill after this veto threat was issued by the President.

So Speaker BOEHNER in the House of Representatives unveiled yet another plan. It certainly isn't perfect, but it begins to deal with our spending problem while also increasing the debt limit to provide a period of time for Congress to pass more substantial budget savings.

Unfortunately, the administration issued a veto threat for this bill. Their reasoning? It doesn't extend the debt limit past the election.

It doesn't take a genius to figure out why. It is not because the markets require a longer term increase; they don't. It is not because Congress generally approves long-term increases in the debt limit; we don't. It is not because a long-term increase would force us to cut more spending; it would not. It is because the President has to face reelection next year. That is it—nothing more, nothing less. It is a political consideration, not an economic one.

So after months of fearmongering about the risk of not raising our debt limit, the President will actually veto a bill because it casts him in a bad political light. This is unacceptable.

Tomorrow, I am hopeful the House of Representatives will pass the Boehner bill. I am hopeful that as soon as we receive it in the Senate, we will take it up, pass it, and send it to the President for his signature.

We need to do it not just for the debt limit increase, which we do, but we also need to do it to start cutting spending and creating a process to reform entitlement programs.

Already, our economy is feeling the impact of these debts and deficits. We know from the Reinhart and Rogoff study that our economy is growing at 1 percentage point less than it should be because of our debt. This is costing us about 1 million jobs every single year.

If we don't take action to cut spending, we know what our future holds: downgrades, interest rate increases, austerity programs filled with tax hikes and Draconian spending cuts, and anemic economic growth.

Looking at Europe right now, Ireland pays 12.9 percent interest on 3-year bonds. Portugal pays 19.4 percent. Greece pays an astounding 28.9 percent. These rates would truly bankrupt our country in short order.

Unfortunately, as former Bush economic adviser and Federal Reserve Board of Governors member, Larry Lindsey, pointed out in a Wall Street Journal op-ed recently and reiterated it yesterday at a Finance Committee hearing, even a normalization of interest rates in the United States to their historical average for the past 20 years would add \$4.9 trillion to our projected debt over the next 10 years.

We can't afford the spending we have now, let alone this additional interest. We need to start cutting spending now. Both the cut, cap, and balance plan and the Boehner plan would do this.

We also need to create a process to reform entitlements. The cut, cap, and balance plan does this by capping spending, and the Boehner plan does this through the new joint committee that has a firm deadline for congressional action yet this year.

I wish I could say there was a plan by the President that does this. There isn't. That is why we in the Senate and in the House of Representatives are going to have to take the leadership in this debate. The President has obviously decided this is more about politics and, unfortunately, has not stepped up with the leadership that is necessary to get our country back on a sustainable fiscal path. We are where we are as a consequence of that, and we are facing a deadline in a few days where we will have to increase the borrowing authority of this country.

What I submit to colleagues is, the issue and the challenge and the problem in front of us is not the debt limit, it is the debt. If we don't do something about this debt, we are going to bankrupt this country, we are going to see the kind of interest rates they are seeing in Europe and we are going to see anemic economic growth in this country and it is going to be difficult to get people back to work. So cutting spending, getting our fiscal house in order, making government smaller, not larger, making the government economy smaller and the private economy larger is the way we need to get this country back on track. But it starts by having a plan that puts our fiscal house in order. So we, in the next few days, are going to have a chance to vote yet again on a plan put forward by the House of Representatives because the President has failed to put forward a plan. I hope our colleagues in the Senate will do the right thing for this country and start to get us on that pathway that will enable us to get past the short-term challenges we face, get us to an opportunity to vote on a balanced budget amendment, which I think is desperately needed in this country, which would put the kind of fiscal discipline we need in place for the long term, so we aren't having year-over-year \$1.5 trillion deficits that continue to accumulate more and more debt and put this country at a greater risk in future generations and greater jeopardy.

I hope my colleagues will support a responsible plan that actually does cut spending, does address the issue of entitlement reform, does it without raising taxes, and make sure that come next Tuesday we have taken the necessary action to protect our economy, shield it from any adverse impacts that could occur as a result of us not raising our debt limit but do it in a way that addresses the fundamental issue, which is the debt.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I associate myself with the remarks of the Senator from South Dakota. Before coming to the floor this morning, I returned 2 phone calls I received yesterday out of 2,000 that came into the office. I picked those two because they were people I have known for a long time but haven't talked to in a long time, and they have never called me in my capacity as a Senator. Both of them are businesspeople, both are neighbors, and both had the same message: the uncertainty that Congress and this administration is now causing in terms of our inability to meet the day of reckoning next Tuesday, when we must do so, is beginning to impact their business, their philosophy, their investments, and their country.

What we are doing as we almost dilly-dally around, putting off a final decision, agreeing to not agree on anything is we are making the situation worse. I think the reports in a couple months will show economic activity in July will show America is slowing down, economic activity is slowing down. That is because Congress and this President cannot get their act together.

History and facts are stubborn. I wish to go over a 2-year history of this debt ceiling crisis because, for years, we have known it was coming. For 2 years, we have talked about it. In fact, a little over 18 months ago on the floor of the Senate, Republicans and Democrats passed a deficit commission amendment, which made it successfully through Congress, was signed by the President, and that deficit commission was created. It was charged with coming up with a solution for our rising spending problems, reduction of the deficit and debt over time, better management of our fiscal policy, and getting Congress's act together, where it could vote up or down on a proposal. That became known as the Simpson-Bowles proposal. It would cut \$4 trillion in spending over one decade, reform our tax policy, and weed out a lot of bad things that have been in there for a long time.

What happened is, when it came out in December, the President rejected it out of hand. I am not being partisan, because a bipartisan group of people offered that proposal. I was one of the five Republicans who voted for it on the floor. I thought it was a conscientious way to address the debt and deficit and the problem we faced. For some reason, unbeknownst to me, the President rejected it out of hand. All he had to do was send it to the Senate for an up-or-down vote, and we would at least have begun the process of dealing with the debt and deficit. Instead, he rejected it out of hand.

In the months preceding this debate today and this coming Tuesday when we run up against the debt ceiling, we have had other legislation come to the

floor or from the House that has been rejected out of hand. The cut, cap, and balance legislation, which I voted not to table last week, the majority leader decided to not even discuss but to make a motion to table it. But that was a conscientious way to deal with our deficit and debt over time. It was a disciplined process that said we need to make cuts now and begin the process—\$51 billion—and watch our spending in the future based on historical spending averages, and we ought to give the American people a chance to say: Does America need a balanced budget?

Instead, the Senate tabled it, when we had a chance to say just say yes to solving our problems, and we just said no.

Last night, Speaker BOEHNER's bill, which was to be voted on today, was pulled off because of a revenue estimate produced by CBO. I hope that will get worked out and will pass the House and will come back to the Senate. It is about time for us to say just say yes to something instead of just saying no.

I wish to talk about the consequences of just saying no for a second. The longer we say no, the longer we send uncertainty into the world markets and our own markets, the worse our problem will be.

Our tax system is based on Americans being prosperous. As America prospers, as we have better economic activity, our revenues go up—not because we raise taxes but because we raise expectations. We are now lowering expectations in America.

The two businesspeople I talked to this morning said they do not know what to do. Quite frankly, I didn't know what to advise them. I ran a company for 22 years, and I know the worst thing about running a business is to have uncertainty in terms of which way to go.

So it is my sincere hope everybody will come together and realize no is not an option. We need to say yes. If the President has a plan, bring it. If the House passes their plan, let's vote for it on the Senate floor. But let's move forward because the price and the cost of uncertainty is destroying what little economic vibrance the United States of America has today.

Let's raise the expectations of our people. Let's raise the productivity of the Senate and the Congress and this President. Let's sit down at the bigger table of common sense and find a solution, and let's find it now.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I have spoken with the Republican leader, and I now ask unanimous consent that the period of morning business be extended

until 2 p.m. today; that during that time Senators be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Wyoming.

A SECOND OPINION

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor today having listened to my colleagues and looking at the most recent job data, which shows the effects of our struggling economy. Unemployment is going up, wages are going down, and there are concerns all around the country with jobs, the economy, the debt, and spending.

I have to say, I certainly believe, as somebody who has practiced medicine for 25 years in Wyoming and taken care of families all around the Cowboy State and been very involved in the debate over the health care law, that the President's health care law makes matters worse, absolutely makes matters worse.

The President's health care law makes matters worse by forcing employers to either offer government-approved health insurance or pay higher expenses. Each day it becomes obvious to me the new health care law is designed to ultimately end employer-provided coverage altogether and to encourage Americans to join government-run exchanges. That is why, as a doctor, I come to the floor week after week with a doctor's second opinion about the health care law. Under this law businesses are permitted to drop out of paying for employer-provided coverage as long as they pay a fine. The fine is about \$2,000 per employee. This number is far smaller than what it would actually cost the business to provide family health benefits to each of their employees.

So what happens with small businesses in this country? Well, they are going to face an ever-clearer incentive to drop coverage for the people they employ. They are not required to pay this fine for the first 50 workers who lose coverage. So the question is, Where are these people supposed to go? Where do they go for their insurance? How does it work?

The President promised them if they like what they have, they can keep it. Yet the incentives built into the health care law seem to be encouraging employers to drop their employees. So where do they go?

Well, the new health care law sets up what are called health care exchanges for these people to enter. Whether they want to or not they will be forced to go that way. These exchanges are short-hand for insurance markets where as much as 80 percent of the cost of the family's insurance could be actually borne by taxpayers. Under these circumstances, the natural response is for

businesses to drop coverage for their employees altogether and then simply offer them some less expensive cash benefits.

Meanwhile, what happens to the employees who are going to lose the coverage they may like and then try to replace it because that is what is going to happen? They will have to replace it with a plan Washington mandates. That is of concern to a lot of Americans, and this may be very bad news for the patient and is really bad news for taxpayers.

Experts predict the annual cost to provide government insurance subsidies could cost up to nine times more than what the White House originally claimed. If that isn't proof enough the health care law is the wrong prescription to help America's job creators continue offering coverage to their workers, let's take a look at some of the things that have just come out in the last week.

This week, on Monday, July 25, the National Federation of Independent Business—a group that represents small businesses all around the country—released an astonishing new report. The NFIB surveyed 750 small businesses. These are small businesses of less than 50 employees. The survey asked these small businesses if they planned to drop health insurance coverage should their employees become eligible for this government subsidy to buy health insurance in the so-called exchange. More than one-quarter of the small businesses who offer coverage today—over one-quarter of the small businesses that offer coverage today—said they were very likely to drop coverage. I repeat: Very likely to drop coverage. Another 31 percent said they are somewhat likely to drop coverage; that they needed to look into it to find the specifics.

When we take a look and add the ones who are very likely and somewhat likely to drop coverage, we are looking at over half the small businesses in this country dropping insurance coverage and effectively dumping their employees into the government-run exchange.

The small business group in the survey and the response from these small businesses prompted the Wall Street Journal to print an editorial highlighting this data. It is entitled "The Flight to the Exchanges." When I read this, I said: Gee, I couldn't have said it better myself.

The President's health care law wraps businesses in reams of bureaucratic redtape and uncertainty. Adding insult to injury, on Monday, July 11, of this year, the Department of Health and Human Services released yet another proposed regulation mandated by the health care law. The Obama administration issued its proposed insurance exchange regulation. What the rules do is give the States the specific frame-

work they must use to set up a program or an exchange with this Washington-approved and mandated insurance. Here we go again, another example of where this administration takes roughly 30 pages from the health care law and turns it into 340 pages of bureaucratic Washington rules and regulations.

Of course, the Secretary of Health and Human Services is trying to sell this new rule as offering competition and uses the word "flexibility." But nothing could be further from the truth. How flexible can a 347-page Washington rule be when it is a rule that contains the word "must" 580 times and includes the word "require" 811 times? How flexible can that Washington rule actually be?

Well, after examining all the rule's "musts" and "requires," one thing is very clear: This administration is paying lip service to State flexibility while their policy is promoting a Washington-mandated, Washington-dictated, Washington-enforced approach. This regulation details a very complex and confusing process that States are going to have to follow. The States have to follow these confusing rules in an effort to prove to the Department of Health and Human Services they meet its Washington mandates to set up and run the insurance exchanges, and they have very little time to do it. So this administration creates onerous new mandates and then fails to give States ample time to meet their overwhelming set of requirements.

Let's put this into context for the States. Comments of the administration's proposed rules are due this September 28. Typically, it can take the Department of Health and Human Services 6 months to review those comments about the rules and issue a final rule. That means we would likely see a final rule in March of 2012. Remember, there are significant details missing from these exchange regulations. This regulation is only part of the details States need to review before they can decide whether to run a health insurance exchange on their own or let the Federal Government do it.

The administration has yet to release rules explaining the health care law's essential health benefits package, the individual eligibility to participate in the exchanges, quality standards for the exchanges, and quality standards for the participating insurance plans. Those details may not come out until October or November of this year. This means States still do not know what the minimum set—the minimum set—of health services individuals, small businesses, and insurers will have to offer in the exchange. Pending missing details and further rules expected to come from the administration this fall, final rules—final rules—may be in place finally in May or June of 2012. States would then have to be prepared

to submit their plan in June of 2012 to Health and Human Services to be certified.

But what happens if the rules aren't out by then? Many State legislatures end their sessions by June, making complying with this tight time line extremely difficult, if not impossible. It seems to me this administration will have had 2 years to post their final regulations while the States may have only 2 months to comply.

What happens if a State isn't ready? They say have no fear; Washington is here to help. That is what they say. If the Department of Health and Human Services says a State's insurance exchange is not in compliance, then Washington will swoop in and set up its own program. This is often called the Federal fallback or the federally facilitated exchange, big fancy words for Washington bureaucrats telling States what they have to do.

The irony of all this is the administration's rules offer very few details explaining what this Federal fallback exchange will look like, so the States don't even know what happens if the Federal fallback comes into play.

Is the Department of Health and Human Services creating a stealth, back-door Federal exchange? If a State doesn't have adequate time to meet all the operational program requirements and the burdensome review process, it sounds to me like the Obama administration will then take control of the States.

Why should a State such as Utah, for example, that has created an especially designed insurance marketplace be forced to comply with onerous and costly requirements of this rule? If they are not willing to comply, will they face the consequences that Washington will make the final decision? States should be encouraged to create innovative solutions that meet the unique needs of their constituents, not forced to follow a one-size-fits-all laundry list of Washington mandates.

This is why I returned to the floor today, as a physician who has practiced medicine for a long time, with a doctor's second opinion, to tell you I believe this health care law is one that is bad for patients, it is bad for providers—the nurses and the doctors who take care of those patients—and it is bad for taxpayers. It is why I believe it is important we repeal and replace this health care law.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, how much time am I allowed?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Ten minutes.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I thank the Chair.

THE DEBT LIMIT

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I come to the floor today with a great

sense of urgency. We are less than 1 week away from reaching our debt limit. If we fail and we falter, the United States of America will be irrevocably fractured. We aren't at an impasse; we are at the edge of a cliff. Unless Congress acts, we are going to go over it.

What will be the consequences of it? If we do not meet our obligations to pay our debts, it will result in a default, and default will result in enormous increases in interest rates. For Americans who are so worried about tax increases, I've got to send a real red alert. When interest rates go sky high because of our failure to act, it will be the biggest tax on America that we could have, and it will be a tax at the kitchen table. It means if anyone has a variable-rate mortgage, it will skyrocket.

If you have a student loan, that interest is going to increase. If you have a car loan, forget it. The payments are going to be enormous. So we need to face what this means: raising the debt limit. We need to prevent the default so our bond rating is not lowered.

I have never been big on talking about bond ratings, but this is a crucial one. We now have a AAA bond rating. So what does that mean? It means when they buy our Treasury bills or other government-secured investments, but particularly our T-bills, it is as good as gold. If we are downgraded, we could just be a tinhorn, tin-cup nation. This is not the United States of America. This is not what people fought and died for.

When people say they represent a party that wants to defend the Constitution, we all have to defend the Constitution. Right now, defending the Constitution and defending America is to lift our debt ceiling and get to the hard work of, No. 1, dealing with our debt but also dealing with job growth.

We have to get to work. Instead, we are busy at work playing the blame game. Squabbling is not a solution. But I believe we Democrats do have a solution, and I think the solution does lie in the Reid proposal. The Reid proposal the majority leader has offered is substantive, it is real, and it is achievable.

I was on TV yesterday, and they said: Oh, you are a liberal Democrat. Well, I don't know if I am a liberal, I don't know if I am a conservative, but I will tell you what I am. I am a diner Democrat. I think about the people. I think about the ordinary people, and I think about their day-to-day needs. When people talk about what kind of solutions they mean, they want everything on the table. What I want on the table are the things that affect the kitchen table. That is why I support the Reid proposal. It is an achievable framework for avoiding default and downgrade of our bond rating now.

What does it do? It has three important elements.

One, timing, to take us through 2012. It is not about the next election. It is showing we are serious and we are substantive.

Second, it has important content where we do cut Federal spending. It's observable, it's quantifiable, and it's verifiable.

No. 3, it gives us a path forward to deal with the important issues of entitlement and revenue reform. Wow.

So why can't they take it? I am puzzled about why they can't take it. Is it 2012? OK. Who knows who is going to be in control of either the White House or the Congress then? But it can't be about us. It is not about me. It is about we—we, the people.

Let's go to the content. There are substantial cuts there in discretionary spending. And there are substantial cuts to defense spending that do not affect readiness or military health care. These are actually cuts that the House voted for in the Ryan budget. So a few weeks ago, they said yes to the cuts. But when we say yes to the cuts, they say no to the proposal. I don't get it. But it's not whether I get it. It is that we have to make sure we get a solution.

What I think is important about the Reid proposal is it is \$2.7 trillion in cuts. I understand CBO has scored it and they say it is \$2.2 trillion. Well, \$2.2 trillion, \$2.7 trillion, that is real money. That is real money, and it shows we are serious.

It also provides this important path forward called a Joint Committee. It is not a commission where it is going to be outsiders who are experts from think-tank environments and hoo-ha, hoo-ha. It's Members of Congress, both sides of the aisle, both sides of the Dome. Let's get it together with them, and then let's have this committee where we then move forward on the reform of revenue as well as looking at entitlement reform.

I want to be clear that if, the horror of all horrors comes where we fracture the standing of the United States of America, not only in the financial markets but in the standing of the world, it will have very serious consequences.

The President is going to have to pay the bills based on whatever money is coming in. He would not be able to borrow. America would not be able to borrow. So our T-bill will not have the same value it once did. He is going to have to pay our bills.

What are the consequences on federal benefits? One is paychecks. The first paycheck he is going to meet is the paycheck for our troops. He has to make sure that if they are fighting to defend America while we are squabbling around and screwing around, we are going to pay our troops. My God, did it ever occur to anyone that our troops wouldn't get paid? Yes, it is going to be tight.

So we pay the troops. We are going to certainly pay our veterans' benefits.

They might not be the same amount the first month, but we will kind of squeak through. Then, it will be Social Security. Well, maybe the checks will go out, but maybe it will only be at half the amount. But the Social Security offices will be closed. So benefits will have a direct impact.

Where is he going to slow down the trickle of money? To State and local governments. So what does that mean? Community development block grant money, education, and so on. That is going to cause enormous layoffs of public employees and contractors at the State and local level. The asphalt contractor, the person who handles the office machinery, minority contractors, and so on—all that small business they love to romanticize over are going to have a big impact.

Then the Federal Government will definitely have to slow down or not pay at all contractors, whether it is the big defense guys that employ thousands and thousands of people or it is the small- to medium-sized businesses, like the ones in my own State that do information technology?

We are about to destroy the reputation and solvency of the United States of America. We are about to destroy the reputation and solvency of the United States of America not only for one day but for a decade and maybe the rest of the century. This is not being done by an outside power. We are spending \$700 billion on defense, and we are destroying ourselves by a self-inflicted wound because of political dysfunction, political rigidity, and political ideology. What the heck is this? I could even use more intense language. What we are about to do, we cannot allow this to happen.

One of my colleagues said to me yesterday, Senator MIKULSKI, what would it take to get you to the table? I said: Get me a plan and 30 Republican names behind it; I will see if I can support the plan and get 30 others.

I know my time is up, but I don't want the time to be up on America. Let's come together. Let's stop being Democrats, let's stop being Republicans, let's call us what we should be called: Americans.

What do Americans do? When the times are tough, the tough get going. Let's get going. Let's make the tough decisions. Let's put politics aside, put America No. 1, and get us back on track.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. First, I wish to thank my good friend and colleague from Maryland for her great words. She comes from the heart of Maryland and the heart of America. Very few people I have met in politics in my many years in this endeavor have an understanding of how average people feel and think and tick than the great Senator

from the State of Maryland, and I wish to thank her for her outstanding remarks. If this body on both sides of the aisle would listen to her and her commonsense intelligence, we would be in a lot better shape than we are now. So I thank my colleague from the great State of Maryland, the senior Senator.

I rise to discuss the deadlock we have reached in the debate over raising the Nation's debt ceiling. Two nights ago, the President spoke and put the current stalemate in the context it belongs: The result of a small block within the House Republicans that refuses to compromise even one inch, it is on their shoulders.

We have perhaps 100 Republicans at the extreme right who seem to be leading the Congress and the Nation over a cliff. They don't even care about the idea that we might default. It is appalling. Yet they seem to be calling the shots.

For the last few weeks, the President has met over and over with House Republicans trying to meet them halfway and in some instances more than halfway. He has offered to cut record amounts from our debt and make cuts in programs that would be extremely painful to our side of the aisle. This minority in the House has come to think of "compromise" as a dirty word, and it appears as if they can't take yes for an answer. If you don't care about debt reduction, if you don't care about debt ceiling, rather, you can't get something done.

Speaker BOEHNER, who is a good and reasonable man, wants to do the right thing and compromise, but he is struggling to rein in his caucus. Instead of leading the House, Speaker BOEHNER is being led by a fringe in his caucus that thinks default is OK. This week, Speaker BOEHNER offered a two-step plan that simply kicks the can down the road. It resolves the debt ceiling only for the next few months. With the new CBO numbers, it will inevitably resolve it for even a shorter period of time, and that puts us, within a few months, right back at square one, all over again, with the same anxiety, the same gridlock, the same problems we face today. What sense, in the good Lord's name, does that make to just repeat this over and over until we drive off the cliff? It makes no sense.

All we have to do is look at how difficult this crisis has been to resolve after a year of negotiations. Does anyone think it would be a good idea to do this all over again in less than 6 months? The Speaker's approach is not only wrong, it is dangerous. It would leave a cloud of default hanging over our heads for the next several months, undermining confidence in U.S. bonds.

Market analysts have rejected the Speaker's approach, saying it could actually bring some of the same bad consequences as a default itself. It could even cause a credit rating downgrade.

Just yesterday, the CEO of Nasdaq testified before the Judiciary Committee and said:

The longer the deal, the better it is for the markets.

Christian Cooper, a currency trader, was quoted by Bloomberg News this morning saying:

From the markets' point of view, a two-stage plan is a nonstarter because we now know it is amateur hour on Capitol Hill and we don't want to be painted in this corner again. There is significant risk of a downgrade with a deal that ties further cuts to another vote only a few months down the road.

He said it better than any of us could say it, and he is a currency trader.

Mohamed El-Erian, the CEO of PIMCO, one of the most respected investors in the markets—and he invests, as I understand it, hundreds of billions of dollars. Mr. El-Erian expressed concern the other night that "the political ground is being prepared for a short-term stop-gap compromise." He warned this could push stocks down and leave the U.S. debt rating "extremely exposed to a damaging downgrade." Let me again quote Mr. El-Erian, one of the great experts on our credit markets. What he said is, the kind of plan that came over from the House that is attempting to be debated in the House—I don't think it will even make it over, but the kind of plan being debated in the House would "create an extremely exposed damaging downgrade to our credit, to our Nation's debt rating."

Even Republicans rejected a short-term increase in the debt ceiling as recently as last month. DAVE CAMP, Republican chairman of Ways and Means, said:

It doesn't give you certainty. Ideally, you'd like to get that settled and not have to continually have it a continually hanging-over issue.

That is the Republican head of the Ways and Means Committee.

House majority leader ERIC CANTOR said:

If we can't make the tough decisions now, why would [we] be making those tough decisions later. I don't see how multiple votes on a debt ceiling increase can help get us to where we want to go. It is my preference we do this thing one time. . . . Putting off tough decisions is not what people want in this town.

That is from House Majority Leader CANTOR. Yet he is leading the charge to send over the very type of plan he has criticized only a few weeks ago.

Republicans have apparently flip-flopped on this point. They are now saying they want the same kind of short-term debt ceiling increase they opposed on substantive grounds previously. Republicans have flipped-flopped on this point. Make no mistake about it, a short-term deal is still a nonstarter in the Senate and nothing more than a glidepath to a credit downgrade, and we will not allow it.

While Republicans continue pushing for an unproductive plan, Senator REID's plan, the Senate plan, offers real potential to finally break this impasse. It makes difficult choices. It includes almost \$1 trillion in domestic discretionary program cuts, including defense. This is serious belt tightening that will have consequences, good consequences, for years to come.

The plan received a major boost this morning when Congress's official scorekeeper confirmed that the first draft cuts more—a lot more—than the Boehner plan. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the Senate draft bill achieves almost \$1.3 trillion more in deficit reduction than the Boehner plan.

The report also affirms that the \$1 trillion in savings the Senate planned from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars is real. That is CBO saying it, not some Democrat who is hoping and praying for an easy fix. This completely undercuts the arguments by Republicans who have tried to call these savings a gimmick, even though they included them in their own budget and voted for them a few months ago. If it was OK in their budget, it has to be OK in our budget. You cannot just change your mind based on whose budget it is. Substance should matter to some extent.

Plus, since the CBO only measured the plan's first draft before additional planned savings were incorporated into the bill, the final version of the Senate plan will achieve even deeper savings when it is filed on the Senate floor. As Politico reports this morning:

In the battle of budget scores, the Senate Democratic deficit reduction bill is the clear winner thus far over an alternative by Speaker John Boehner.

Lastly, Senator REID's proposal allows for a joint committee that has the potential to achieve even deeper savings down the road to get our country back on the path to economic growth. All in all, this is an offer that Republicans cannot refuse. All of the cuts in Senator REID's proposal have been supported at one point or another by the Republican side. It meets the two main requirements laid out by the House Republicans: First, Speaker BOEHNER said the amount of the debt ceiling increase must be matched by the amount of spending cuts. Our proposal will do just that.

Second, Speaker BOEHNER said the tax increases must be off the table. Even though most of us would prefer tax increases, our proposal includes no revenue raisers whatsoever. We don't want tax increases on the middle class; we want tax increases on the wealthy and elimination of corporate loopholes. To not have them is a hard decision to many on our side who know we are going to need to do that for serious debt reduction.

The bottom line: In conclusion, we are getting dangerously close to August 2. Over and over Democrats have

shown a willingness to move in the direction of Republicans. It is time for Speaker BOEHNER to cut off his extreme Republicans who refuse to support even the plan that he crafted to meet their reckless demands. The Reid plan is our best route to a compromise. It is a compromise we need soon before the markets render a truly ominous judgment that will set our economy back for years.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I thank my colleague from New York, Senator SCHUMER, as well as Senator MIKULSKI from Maryland for coming to the floor this morning and speaking about the crisis we face. The debt ceiling default, which will occur in 6 days if we do not act, will have a profound, negative impact on America's standing in the world and our economy at home. It threatens to stifle job creation and to slow down the business growth we need to get out of this recession. It is the most serious impact one could imagine at a time when we are facing this kind of recession.

This debt ceiling is being extended, or should be extended, under a law that was passed in 1939. We have extended the debt ceiling 89 different times: 55 times under Republican Presidents, 34 times under Democratic Presidents, and virtually every President has done it.

The President who holds the record for the most debt ceiling extensions in history is Ronald Reagan. Ronald Reagan extended the debt ceiling 18 times in his 8 years, during that period of time tripling the national debt. The President who holds the record next is President George W. Bush, who doubled the national debt in his 8 years and raised the debt ceiling 9 times.

This should have been done, and done routinely. Many of the Members of Congress, House and Senate, who come to the floor and say we will never vote to extend the debt ceiling are not being honest with the American people. The debt ceiling is paying for what Congressmen and Senators voted for. They came to the floor and said: Let's go to war, let's stay at war, let's spend \$10 billion a month. And the President said: That was Congress's decision. Now I have to borrow the money to keep that promise. And these Members of Congress are saying: Oh, no, we don't want to have any fingerprints on the debt ceiling extension.

We cannot have it both ways. Members of Congress cannot ask for spending and then fault the President when he has to borrow money to make it happen. That is exactly what they are doing.

The President has tried to work out a bipartisan agreement to deal with this debt ceiling crisis. He invited in Republicans and Democratic leaders with Vice President BIDEN to sit down and work out an agreement, a bipartisan

agreement. About 4 weeks ago, the House Republican majority leader, ERIC CANTOR of Virginia, stood up and walked out. He said: I am walking away from these bipartisan negotiations. I am not going to be party to them. Leave it up to Speaker BOEHNER.

Speaker BOEHNER then went into negotiations with President Obama, talking behind the scenes about ways to resolve this issue. That was a positive thing. But then he announced he was walking away from negotiations not once but twice, most recently last Friday.

Monday night, television sets around America were tuned in as the President of the United States explained this crisis and then Speaker BOEHNER explained his point of view. Speaker BOEHNER said Monday night he had a plan, a plan that would solve this crisis in a responsible way. That was Monday night. But then came Tuesday, and as the dawn came on Tuesday morning and people took a close look at the Boehner plan, here is what they found.

They found that business leaders across America were saying it was a terrible idea, the idea of a 6-month extension to the debt ceiling; going through this mess again and again would harm our economy.

Then the Congressional Budget Office took a look at the Boehner plan. They talked about it Monday night and said it does not add up. It does not cut the spending Speaker BOEHNER said it would. Then, finally, 100 members of Speaker BOEHNER's Republican caucus walked out on him yesterday, saying it was a bad plan.

So here we are, 6 days away from a deadline, 6 days away from a manufactured political crisis. It is time to do what is right. Senate majority leader HARRY REID has a proposal which addresses this responsibly. It cuts spending—and it has already been scored, has it not, by the Congressional Budget Office? It turns out that unlike Speaker BOEHNER's plan, Senate majority leader HARRY REID's plan does cut spending to move us toward a balanced situation.

Second, it extends this debate beyond the next election, beyond the next year, so we do not put our fragile and weak economy through this again and again. That is sensible. It also calls for the creation of a joint committee to deal with the long-term deficit. I have been involved in this conversation with the deficit commission, again, with the Gang of 6. We can do this on a bipartisan basis if we are honest and open with one another, and Majority Leader REID leads us in that direction.

We face a deadline 6 days from today. The Boehner plan of Monday night has disintegrated before our eyes. It has been rejected by business leaders. It has been rejected by the Congressional Budget Office. It has been rejected by the House Republican caucus. It is

time for a little humility on both sides of the aisle from both parties.

Let's put all this squabbling aside. Let's focus on America's economy, putting people to work, saving businesses, and handling our debt in a responsible way. We can do it. We can do it if we stop listening to the political extremists and start dealing with the center of America which calls for leadership and wants us to put an end to this squabbling.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 194.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Gary Locke, of Washington, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the People's Republic of China.

Mr. REID. I ask that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate resumes legislative session.

The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for additional time, if necessary.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE DEBT CEILING

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, as the Senator from Illinois just pointed out, today we are 6 days away from a possible default which could plunge this country into a serious crisis. In fact, there are some who view maybe it is not exactly 6 days; it could be a few days more. There are those who argue that somehow—in a bizarre fashion—that somehow we could prioritize our

payments to the most urgent requirements, such as our veterans, such at Social Security and others.

I wonder, what if the Greek Government came up with that same proposal as they went into bankruptcy, that they would prioritize spending that is remaining?

The point is, today we are 6 days away. The point is, markets are jittery. Investors are concerned. Most importantly, our constituents are frustrated. They are confused and they are angry. Today, on the front page of USA Today, there is a headline that says:

The Debt: What Americans Think About The Political Debate.

It goes on to say:

Just get it done, work it out.

Another person:

"I'm sick of it," says Davis, 73, a retired economist. . . . "They're playing games. Here we are, trying to pull ourselves out of recession, and they can't come to an agreement."

If anyone thinks that the reputation and the approval rating of Congress and the Presidency has improved during this situation we find ourselves in, obviously they are out of touch with their constituents and the American people. Not only are the American people concerned, not only are the American people upset, but I will quote from and ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an article from this morning's Washington Post.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, July 26, 2011]

FRUSTRATED EXECUTIVES SAY POLITICAL
IMPASSE SLOWS HIRING, INVESTING

(By Neil Irwin)

CHICAGO.—Business leaders are growing exasperated with Washington. And they say the dysfunction in the political system is holding them back from hiring and investing.

A new sort of risk to growth is emerging, not from the kind of economic forces that led to the recent recession but from elected officials' inability to agree on how to deal with them. This angst in the executive suite is reflected in this month's uptick in lobbying by business groups eager to see a deal on the federal debt ceiling, in surveys showing falling confidence among business leaders—and, in the American heartland, by the deepening frustrations of corporate chiefs.

In interviews in this great industrial capital, senior executives in the area said they lack confidence that political leaders can execute the basic nuts and bolts of governing, as exemplified by the brinksmanship over raising the debt ceiling. Indeed, the frustration over the political climate and Washington's seeming inability to solve problems appears to weigh more heavily in their minds than any specific government policy.

The executives are hostile to President Obama and his agenda and say higher taxes would damage their business prospects and make them less inclined to invest and hire. But in contrast to congressional Republicans' claims that any tax increases would stop job creation in its tracks, many execu-

tives say they could tolerate somewhat higher taxes if they were part of a broader plan that offered clarity on the nation's future policies, particularly one heavy on spending cuts.

"What are the rules of the game going to be in the long term?" said Lyle Heidemann, chief executive of the 5,000-store hardware chain True Value. "What our retailers would like to have is consistency and predictability. We can handle decisions we don't agree with, but that's easier than not knowing what the decision is going to be."

For example, he said, several True Value franchisees have sold their stores in the past year—even though they would have preferred to hold on to them for a few more years—because they feared that the 15 percent capital gains tax will rise at the end of the year, when it is scheduled to expire.

The loss of confidence in Washington seems to be a driver of a more fundamental lowering of expectations in America's executive suites. The Conference Board, a business research group, found in its most recent survey of chief executives that 43 percent expected economic improvement in the next six months, down from 66 percent at the beginning of the year.

The groups that represent businesses in Washington, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Business Roundtable, have been urging Congress to raise the debt ceiling to avoid the risk of a default or downgrade of the U.S. credit rating, even as many newly elected Republican members of the House—who received support from business interests when running—are reluctant to vote for such a measure. A group of major business groups sent a letter to the president and every member of Congress two weeks ago, imploring them to raise the debt ceiling.

The tenor of the debates in Washington has damaged the executives' sense, long taken for granted, that the taxes and regulatory policies they face will be predictable and reasonably constant. The executives are horrified that the nation might be on the verge of losing its AAA credit rating, and they have a deep hunger for a grand bargain: a master plan to determine the nation's fiscal future over the coming decade.

There is no telling what the tax code will look like next year or who will ultimately bear the burden of reducing the nation's budget deficits. That makes it an ominous time to consider even buying a new piece of equipment or hiring another worker, businesspeople said.

"Clarity is everything, even if it's negative clarity," said Rick Bastian, chief executive of Blackhawk Bank, which has eight branches in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. The mid-size manufacturers to whom the bank lends money have made it through the worst of the recession, Bastian said. But now they are resistant to upgrading equipment or expanding production capacity because they don't know what the tax burden will be on their revenue.

"Let's say you make an investment that will return \$100,000," Bastian said. "I don't know if I'll be paying \$10,000 more in taxes or \$15,000 more. That could be the difference between whether you can afford to service a loan to pay for it or not. I'm not going to make a long-term investment that requires me to commit cash flow for years if I don't know what taxes are going to be."

There has been plenty of political bickering in the nation's history, and the current situation bears some resemblance to the standoffs between President Bill Clinton and

the Republican Congress that shut down the government twice in 1995 and 1996.

But executives describe a very different environment this time around. The economy was in generally strong shape in the mid-1990s, and business confidence—then high—was little phased by the showdown in Washington. Now, with 9 percent unemployment and an exceptionally weak two-year-old recovery, confidence is far more fragile.

"We're still coming out of a deep crisis and recession," said Kevin Kelly, chief executive of Heidrick & Struggles, a leading executive-search firm, who said his conversations with executives in recent weeks have frequently featured fretting over the debt-ceiling talks. "There have been fits and starts toward stronger growth, and now the outlook hinges on what happens in Washington."

At Quality Float Works, a Schaumburg, Ill., company that makes metal float balls for industrial use, the debt impasse has General Manager Jason Speer nervous that it could cause interest rates to spike and make the line of credit the firm uses to finance its inventory more expensive to manage.

As a result, even with business up 30 percent this year and more long-term orders coming in, "we're kind of holding back on hiring and major purchases," Speer said. "We're waiting and seeing what effect all this will have on our credit and on our ability to do business overseas."

Many executives describe the uncertainty around taxes and spending as only one in a series of confidence-sapping challenges coming from Washington.

For example, BrightStar Care provides staffing services for home health-care workers through 225 franchisees worldwide with a combined 6,000 employees. Shelly Sun, the company's founder and chief executive, said that as she works with potential franchisees, many are held back by uncertainty over whether they will have to pay for their workers' health-care costs once last year's health-reform legislation is fully enacted, and if so, what it will cost.

"This is a very price-competitive business," Sun said. "Consumers are already having difficulty scraping together funds to pay for services, and if the franchisees have to bear an extra dollar, \$1.25, or \$1.50 per hour for health-care costs, what could be a viable business may not be."

And at Discover Financial Services, the large credit card and transaction processing firm with 11,000 employees, President Roger Hochschild has had to grapple with great uncertainty about how the financial system will evolve under changing regulations.

"It's really challenging to enter the mortgage business with no clear understanding of what Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac will look like down the road," Hochschild said.

But for many executives, the uncertainty about how the United States will lower its budget deficit over time and who will pay for it looms most heavily over their decisions.

"Among the other presidents and CEOs I interact with, the only consensus of opinion is none of us has any idea where things are going," said Scott Morey, chief executive of Morey Corp., a 700-employee company in Woodridge, Ill., that makes electronic equipment. "And in my observation, the uncertainty we are experiencing is caused almost entirely out of Washington and other governments around the world."

Mr. MCCAIN. That article says:

Frustrated executives say political impasse slows hiring and investing.

Business leaders are growing exasperated with Washington. And they say the dysfunction in the political system is holding them back from hiring and investing.

So where we are is, average American citizens are worried, Social Security recipients who are entitled are calling our offices, and the markets are already jittery. Most economists believe, if we allow this deadline to pass, that we will see a cratering of the financial markets, which, obviously, has a significant impact on savings, on people's holdings in the stock market, 401(k)s, et cetera. Meanwhile, here we are with a situation, and over on the other side of the Capitol, our Republican friends are trying to come up with a proposal that will receive the support of their majority. Over here, we have individuals who believe somehow there is still a chance, at least in this Congress, to pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

I will take a backseat to none in my support of the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. I have voted for it 13 times. I will vote for it tomorrow. What is amazing about this is, some Members are believing we can pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution in this body with its present representation, and that is foolish. That is worse than foolish. That is deceiving many of our constituents by telling them that just because the majority leader tabled the balanced budget amendment legislation that, through amending and debate, we could somehow convince the majority on the other side of the aisle to go along with a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. That is not fair. That is not fair to the American people to hold out and say we will not agree to raising the debt limit until we pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. It is unfair. It is bizarre. Maybe some people who have only been in this body for 6 or 7 months or so believe that. Others know better. Others know better.

I am confident, one, someday we will pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. Two, I am confident the overwhelming majority of the American people support it. Three, I am convinced that is the only way that at the end of the day, we will get spending under control because I have seen in the past Congress enacting very strong restrictions on spending, such as the Gramm-Rudman legislation, which required spending cuts with increases in spending and all of them failed because Congresses cannot bind future Congresses.

That is why I remain committed to a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. To somehow think or tell our citizens that if we have enough debate on amendments in the Senate, in the short term, in the next 6 days, we will pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution is unfair to our constituents. It is unfair to our constituents, frankly, to come up with a plan—the so-called Reid plan—that is full of smoke and mirrors, and, frank-

ly, does not entail any increase—real spending cuts. It is unfair of the President of the United States to lead from behind. It is unfair of the President of the United States not to come forward with a specific plan that perhaps could be considered by both bodies but only to go out and give lectures and act in as partisan a fashion as I have seen in his addresses to the American people. It is no wonder the approval ratings of the American people of the President and of Congress are literally at alltime lows.

I wish to talk for just a minute about an editorial in *The Wall Street Journal* this morning. *The Wall Street Journal* is not known to be—especially on its editorial page—a liberal periodical. It is entitled “The GOP’s Reality Test.” It talks about:

The debt-limit debate is heading toward a culmination, with President Obama reduced to pleading for the public to support a tax increase and Speaker John Boehner and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid releasing competing plans that are next-to-last realistic options. The question is whether House Republicans are going to help Mr. Boehner achieve significant progress, or, in the name of the unachievable, hand Mr. Obama a victory.

Mr. Obama recognizes these stakes, threatening yesterday to veto the Boehner plan in a tactical move to block any Democratic support.

It goes on and talks about the two-phase Boehner plan.

Congress would authorize \$1 trillion in new debt in return for \$1.2 trillion.

It has since been scored by CBO, and now I believe that on the House side—they are struggling but I hope will succeed in coming up with a proposal that will authorize the cuts we have advertised.

But I go on to read:

Unless the plan passed, Mr. Obama couldn't request the additional \$1.6 trillion debt ceiling increase that he would soon need. The political incentive is for a reasonable package, and many Senate Democrats also don't want to vote for tax increases before 2012.

It talks about the critics, about people putting out statements, telling Republicans, telling the Speaker to come up with a better solution.

The usually sensible Club for Growth and Heritage Action, the political arm of the Heritage Foundation, are scoring a vote for the Boehner plan as negative on similar grounds.

But what none of these critics have is an alternative strategy for achieving anything nearly as fiscally or politically beneficial as Mr. Boehner's plan. The idea seems to be if the House GOP refuses to raise the debt ceiling, a default crisis or gradual government shutdown will ensue, and the public will turn en masse against Barack Obama. The Republican House that failed to raise the debt ceiling would somehow escape all the blame. Then Democrats would have no choice but to pass a balanced budget amendment and reform entitlements, and the tea party Hobbits could return to Middle Earth having defeated Mordor.

This is the kind of crack political thinking that turned Sharon Angle and Christine O'Donnell into GOP Senate nominees. The reality is that the debt limit will be raised one way or another, and the only issue now is with how much fiscal reform and what political fallout.

If the Boehner plan fails in the House, the advantage shifts to Mr. Reid's Senate plan, which would raise the debt ceiling by \$2.4 trillion in one swoop through 2012. That would come without a tax increase but also \$2.7 trillion in mostly fake spending cuts like less government “waste, fraud, and abuse.”

How many times have we heard we are going to cut waste, fraud, and abuse?

And a \$1 trillion savings from troop drawdowns in Iraq and Afghanistan that are already built into the baseline. As fiscal reform, this is worse than Mr. Boehner's plan.

The Speaker has made mistakes in his debt negotiations, not least in trusting that Mr. Obama wants serious fiscal reforms. But thanks to the President's overreaching on taxes, Mr. Boehner now has the GOP positioned in sight of a political and policy victory. If this plan or something close to it becomes law, Democrats will have conceded more spending cuts than they thought possible, and without getting the GOP to raise taxes and without being able to blame Republicans for a debt-limit crackup or economic damage.

If conservatives defeat the Boehner plan, they'll not only undermine our House majority. They'll go far to re-electing Mr. Obama and making the entitlement state that much harder to reform.

Let me say, again, I believe the plan crafted by Senator McCONNELL that would call for significant cuts in spending, which would not have raises in taxes, would, in the short term, be a most reasonable solution. I hope that on both sides of the aisle we could work together and negotiate a way through that. I also think the much derided by some idea of a committee composed of Members of Congress—of Members of Congress only—from both sides of the aisle, from both sides of the Capitol, to sit down and work out a long-term solution to our fiscal calamities we are facing and those results and those recommendations by that committee be subject to an up-or-down vote only is the only way we can go.

How many times have we had a budget resolution that tasks the various committees to come up with savings and always those savings are phony or they are dismantled on the floor of the Senate? The only way we are going to have the courage to make these cuts is with a committee composed of an equal number of Republicans and Democrats on both sides of the Capitol who come up with tough measures that need to be taken. I believe the American people will support it. If it is not an up-or-down vote, we know what happens around here. Let's be honest. Let's have some straight talk. The special interests prevail, and they would dismantle the tough provisions this committee would come up with. I say to my friends on this side of the aisle, this

is a balance, Republican and Democrat. We only control one-third of the government, and that is the House of Representatives. It seems to me a balanced, equal representation is to our advantage.

I just wish to say a word, again, about the Reid plan. First of all, I congratulate the majority leader for coming up with a plan because certainly the President has not. Spectrum auctions is part of it. That is going to provide auction of billions of dollars. I have been in this body for a considerable period of time. I can't tell you the number of times we have called for auction of spectrum. It is an annual basis. It is a copout that prevents us from making tough decisions. Most egregiously, the majority leader's plan provides \$1 billion to pay television broadcasters who return unused television broadcast spectrum. The television broadcasters got the spectrum for free, and now we are supposed to ask the taxpayers to give them \$1 billion to give back the spectrum they own?

Then, very interestingly, savings in Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae. There are \$30 billion in Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac reforms. There is nowhere in this proposal that mentions that, but I would point out we have already spent \$150 billion on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac that we have never seen the end of. Then, of course, the large claim that there is \$1 trillion in savings from winding down the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and, of course, that is phony. Everybody knows we are winding down the war in Afghanistan and Iraq.

So here we are 6 days away, and we still have members of Congress who are saying we have to pass the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. We have Members on the other side who are saying we have to raise taxes. We have a President of the United States who so far has refused to come forward with a detailed plan of his own. That is called leading from behind. It is time we listened to the markets. It is time we listened to our constituents. Most of all, it is time we listened to the American people and sit down and seriously negotiate something before we face a situation where we are depriving the American people of the fundamental right of having a government that doesn't deprive them of the essential services, goods, and entitlements which they have earned.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORKER. Madam President, I wish to speak for 10 minutes or so. When I have 2 minutes remaining, if the Chair could tell me, I would appreciate it.

Madam President, I am here today with a sense of optimism. I know all of us are very concerned about what is happening in our country with the debt ceiling. I know we are getting lots of calls from constituents.

I think we have made remarkable progress over the last couple of weeks. If we think back to just a couple of weeks ago, people were crafting legislation for sort of a political vote, if you will, and I understand that. But here we are today, and we actually have the leader of the U.S. Senate—a Democrat—who has proposed a bill that has to do with spending. The Republican leader of the House has introduced a bill that has to do with spending. Candidly, I am kind of uplifted. We are finally on the right topic now. Candidly, to use a colloquial term from Tennessee, we are beginning to cook with gas. What I mean by that is people are actually now focused on the right issue.

We have all talked about this August 2 date. We have talked about the fact that our debt ceiling has to be raised by then. Certainly, there are a lot of ambiguities in the financial markets right now. A lot of them have been watching the Treasury Department and think the Treasury Department has actually made some ways of causing that to last a little bit longer. But I think one thing we can all agree to in this body at present is that we have until August 2. I think everybody would agree with that. Some people think we have longer. I think the one thing almost everyone would agree with in this body is that we have until August 2 to solve this problem, and I hope we will do so.

The other thing that I think is becoming part of sort of the mantra and the understanding throughout our country is that many of the financial markets, the people who actually buy our Treasuries, are now not as concerned about the debt ceiling. They want it raised, don't get me wrong, and as I just mentioned, we all understand August 2 is the date we have until to do that. But now they are more concerned about the fact that we may raise the debt ceiling and not actually do what we need to do to actually get our deficits in order.

First of all, we have the ratings agencies saying that if we don't get at least \$4 trillion in savings in some form or fashion, then some of them are going to downgrade us. But our office over in the Banking Committee—our folks are constantly talking with folks who buy Treasuries, and the actual purchasers of these Treasuries are now telling us in our office that if we don't do something that at least shows \$4 trillion in sav-

ings, then they believe we don't have the political will to cause our country to be as worthy of a borrower and that we are going to be paying more in the way of rates.

The other point I wish to make is that we have a proposal on the floor. Personally—and I may catch some grief back home for saying this—I think Senator REID has actually tried to put something forward to help solve this problem. I believe that. I think he has been working closely with Senator MCCONNELL. I think Speaker BOEHNER also—I know he has a different set of circumstances—is trying to solve this problem.

Here is the point: We are at a place where we are now actually talking about the right topic, and we now know that if we don't put forth a solution that is at least \$4 trillion or in that order of magnitude, we are going to be downgraded.

It seems to me that people on the other side of the aisle—my Democratic friends—would not want to support a proposal that extends the debt ceiling that is less than \$4 trillion because their President would be presiding over a country that was downgraded while he was President.

It seems to me that the Republicans who have worked hard to press this issue—and everybody has gone through tremendous acrimony, and certainly people who are watching this are incredibly frustrated and angry—it seems to me that Republicans who are on the verge of potentially being able to craft something that actually solves this problem would not want to support something that is less than \$4 trillion either.

In fact, I would make this statement which I think is true: Anybody who votes for a package in this body to address the debt ceiling and our deficits simultaneously that isn't of the order of magnitude that is real and scorable—those are two different definitions, real and scorable—of \$4 trillion is actually voting for a package that likely will cause our country to be downgraded.

So here is what I think. Senator REID, has offered a proposal, and I think they scored it at \$800 billion. I know it says \$3 trillion; his scores at about \$800 billion. Speaker BOEHNER has offered a package, and he, too, has some scoring issues with his package.

It seems to me that all of us in this body should be pressing the leaders on both sides of the aisle to at least present a package that is scorable and real in the area of \$4 trillion, depending on what we decide to do with that package. But if a Senator voted for a package that was less than that, they would be casting a vote to raise the debt ceiling and at the same time probably cast our country into a situation where we are downgraded, and that doesn't make any sense to me.

So we have 6 days left. I know people back home are nervous. I did a tele-townhall last night. We had thousands of people on the phone. People are angry that we have waited this long to actually get serious about this issue. They are concerned about Social Security checks, disability checks, veterans' checks. I understand that. I empathize with them. But we haven't quite finished our work. We actually are on the right topic, finally.

Again, Senator REID has offered a proposal. The House has offered a proposal. Neither one of them is strong enough.

For what it is worth—I know the Presiding Officer knows this, but I am talking to people on both sides of the aisle—I think people are reading what the markets are doing and becoming increasingly concerned about considering voting for a package. I know the Presiding Officer comes from the center of the universe as it relates to those kinds of issues. People are rising up. There are a lot of private phone calls taking place, and people are saying: Wait a minute, let's think about this. The markets—which matter, by the way, because they are the ones that buy our bonds—are now saying to us that they know we are going to deal with the debt ceiling—and I think we are—they know we are going to deal with the debt ceiling by the time we have to—and I think we are—but now they are beginning to think we are not going to do something that is actually the real solution.

So I am here today to talk to my friends on both sides of the aisle to say let's communicate with our leadership and say that we have 6 days left. We have an opportunity to do something—we have all been saying this—that really does rise to the seminal moment to actually solve this problem. This is not a Republican issue. It is not a Democratic issue. It is something that is going to affect everybody in our country. And we are finally, after all of this time, focused on the right subject matter. I mean we really are.

I just met with a group of Senators. I am going to meet with another group of Senators here in a little while. Let's make sure our leadership on both sides of this Capitol understands that we believe voting for a package less than \$4 trillion in savings over this next decade that is not real and scorable really isn't getting the job done.

I know Senator REID's approach has been to do it all at once, and maybe there is a way to craft a package between now and next Tuesday that people can vote on that has \$4 trillion in real savings. I think that might be difficult, but maybe something is happening behind closed doors that we are not aware of. I know that on the other side of the building, people are concerned about—well, actually, on the other side of the building they are looking at a short-term extension.

I know the President has been concerned, candidly, about a short-term extension. In fairness, I think the business community around our country would be concerned about a long short-term extension—in other words, one that carries out months and months and we still don't have a solution to this problem. I understand that creates the kind of uncertainty that many of the people on my side of the aisle and, candidly, people on the other side of the aisle, to some degree, have talked about as it relates to the business environment.

So, sure, I would love to vote for something that solves this problem and does it all on the front end. But I assume our leadership, knowing the acrimony that is taking place—but, again, at least we are on the right subject matter, finally—the acrimony that is taking place, I assume they have some really short-term extension in their back pocket that, to the extent we don't come to a conclusion by next Tuesday, they are ready to pull out and they know it is something that can actually pass both bodies.

Again, I think we are so close now because we are finally focused on the right thing. I think we are close to getting to something that solves our country's problems for a while, causes people around the world and the country to know we actually have the will and the courage to deal with these issues and at the same time addresses the debt ceiling.

Should we not quite get there by this Tuesday—and I know there are a lot of complications, and we have bodies that are made up of two very different groups of people—I would assume our leadership, who understand what is at stake here, have in their hands, in their back pockets, a very short-term extension that could be used as a bridge for the kind of solution that maybe takes us to a place that we can all agree helps solve our country's problems.

Again, I have heard people have been coming down to the floor back and forth and criticizing each side of the aisle. I am actually more optimistic today—I am not over the top, but I am more hopeful than I was 2 weeks ago when we were not even focused on the right issues, at that time focused on casting blame. Now what we have is both bodies looking at packages to actually address the deficit we have before us.

I hope people on both sides of the aisle will talk to leadership, will let them know they have no desire to support something that does not solve the problem with all we have gone through as a country and as a body over the course of the last couple of months. I am hopeful we will figure out a solution that actually meets that test—in other words, avoids the crisis on Tuesday and, at the same time, avoids the

crisis that will occur if people look at our country as a downgraded entity because we have not shown we are willing to at least deal with \$4 trillion.

I think most people know I wish to do a lot more than that, and I offered a bill that was bipartisan that did a lot more than that. But I think we all now know that baked into the expectations about where our country is today is the fact that it has to be a minimum of \$4 trillion. I think a lot of people have worked toward that goal. To even set up a process that is short of that does not make any sense to me. It is kind of as though you have to be kidding me: We are going to go through the aggravation of the next 6 months working toward an aspirational goal that we all know does not solve the credit rating issue?

Madam President, I thank you for the time. I hope we come to a successful conclusion soon. I stand ready and am talking with people on both sides of the aisle to try to come up with a solution so we either solve this on the front end or put in place a process, a very quick process, that takes us to a place where we know we have actually dealt with the problem.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRANKEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRANKEN. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the urgent need to raise the debt limit. I wish to take this opportunity to remind my colleagues of our obligation to represent our constituents' best interests and those of our great Nation, for at this late hour, with the deadline for an agreement fast approaching, the consequences of inaction are clear. They have been made clear by economists, they have been made clear by credit rating agencies, they have been made clear by the Federal Reserve and by our Treasury Secretary, and they have been made clear by respected leaders of each side of the aisle. And soon, if we do not act, they will be made clear by the market itself.

I keep hearing from some Members talking about the August 2 deadline as if it is no big deal. They say they have their own theories about when the real deadline is. That leaves me dumbfounded. I, for one, am going to take the Treasury Secretary and virtually every economist at their word. We need a solution before August 2 or we risk economic catastrophe.

There are some Members who are essentially saying the Treasury can prioritize payments to avoid default, but getting Social Security checks out

should not be a problem. I heard a Republican Member of the House Budget Committee on Public Radio this past weekend say the money for Social Security checks is in the trust fund.

Well, yes, we have \$2.6 trillion in assets in the trust fund, but they are all in Treasury securities, not cash. I find it stunning that a Member of Congress, let alone a member of the Budget Committee, would not understand the most basic functioning of our government. If there is no debt limit increase, Treasury may be able to juggle payments to get Social Security checks out on August 3, and I am sure they will do everything they can to do so, but August 3 would be just day one of Treasury's improvised prioritization strategy. August 3 is a date that about half of the Social Security checks go out. But we have another round scheduled to out on August 10, and another on August 17, and another on August 24. In fact, the Treasury sends out over 70 million checks a month. August 3 is not the end of the problem, it is the beginning.

About 1 month ago, the Bipartisan Policy Center briefed members of the House Republican caucus on the actual implications of the August 2 deadline, what we can pay and what we could not pay. Jay Powell, the former Under Secretary of Treasury under President George H.W. Bush, presented at the briefing. He outlined his research on what is likely to happen on August 3. He suggested that in the month of August we could pay our debt interest, Social Security checks, Medicare and Medicaid, vendors for Defense projects, and unemployment insurance benefits. That is what we could pay, but no pay for active-duty military, no benefits for veterans, no Federal loans for low-income students about to head off to college in the fall, no Pell grants, no Federal Government employees, including counterterrorism agents in the FBI, for example, no border agents.

Before we default, we could have time to make this sign for all points of entry. This is the tip of the iceberg. That is a symbol of things we definitely could not afford to do.

That does not even address the global economic impacts of playing it so close to the edge. The dollar would be devalued, our credit rating would be downgraded. It would cost us much more—much more—to borrow and to pay the interest on our debt, and thus our debt would actually increase.

More importantly, all adjustable interest rates would rise, including credit cards and mortgages and student loans. New loans, of course, would be more expensive. These impacts could have a legacy that dogs us for decades, if not centuries.

This is serious business and we should not be testing this deadline. Yet that is exactly what some of my colleagues are doing. I worry that Republicans in the House are blind to re-

search, deaf to reason, and are simply ignoring facts that are contrary to what they want to hear.

Throughout this debate, conservative House Republicans have stood in the way of a deal. We have offered them some pretty sweet deals, and they have walked away. They treated the August 2 deadline as advisory, as optional. They suggest that the Treasury can figure out something to prevent a default.

Now they are opposing Senator REID's sensible deficit reduction plan because of how it calculates some of its savings. Specifically at issue is the Reid plan's \$1 trillion in savings from winding down the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, which Republicans are calling a budgetary gimmick, not real savings.

Yet the Ryan budget, which almost every House and Senate Republican voted for, counted the same cuts almost identically. So to say it is real savings in the Ryan plan but fake savings in the Reid proposal—I am sorry, but you cannot have it both ways.

Further, Senator REID's plan is actually all cuts. I do not necessarily like that. It contains dollar for dollar spending cuts to match the debt ceiling increase. And as much as I do not like this aspect of it, it does not include any revenues, even though a Washington Post-ABC News poll says that 72 percent of the American public believe we should have those making over \$250,000 pay more—72 percent.

But a cuts-only plan is what Republicans have been saying they wanted all along. Now we have given it to them, we have it out there, it is there, and all of the cuts in the Reid plan have been supported by Republicans in the past. So we are presenting a plan that is all cuts, no revenue. The pretense they are using to reject it does not pass the smell test. According to CBO, it saves \$1.3 trillion more in savings than the Boehner plan, such as it is. You know, I often hear Republicans say corporations are sitting on trillions of dollars of cash instead of investing, expanding, and creating jobs, because businesses are facing so much uncertainty. Well, Senator REID's plan offers certainty.

But suddenly Republicans want a short-term deal, one that would very well put us in this same crisis again in 6 months. What kind of certainty is that? No, a short-term deal will not offer our businesses and markets the certainty they need. A short-term deal may very well induce a credit downgrade, according to Standard & Poor's. Yet Republicans say they prefer a short-term deal over Senator REID's plan, which would take us through the end of next year.

I do not get it. It sounds to me as though they care more about politics and winning than they do about their constituents' well-being and the pros-

perity and economic security of the Nation. Their hard line and cavalier attitude is frankly dangerous—very dangerous.

Playing fast and loose with the facts is reckless. The American people deserve better. We need to raise the debt ceiling now, and Leader REID has shown us the way forward. I do not like all of the cuts in his package. I wish there were increases in revenue from those who can afford it. But I know we have to pass it because it will keep us from defaulting, and it will do so responsibly and sensibly.

We owe it to the American people to pull back from the brink and pass the Reid plan so we can avert disaster. We owe it to our constituents, and we owe it to our children.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the FAA bill. On Friday, authorization for the Federal Aviation Administration was allowed to expire. Four thousand workers were placed on furlough. The airport and airways trust fund now lacks the authority to collect user fees that fund air traffic services, airport maintenance, and other things that Americans rely on.

Let's be clear. This should not have happened. It happened because a few Members of the other body made a conscious choice to negotiate in bad faith. Clear and simple.

Let me recap it. Under the able leadership of Senator ROCKEFELLER, the Senate again passed our long-term FAA authorization in February, with a bipartisan vote of 87 to 8. Later, the House passed its bill, but largely along party lines.

In April, the Senate named conferees to negotiate a final bill. However, our friends in the House have yet to appoint conferees to join us at the negotiating table.

Meanwhile, since 2007, we have passed 20 extensions to allow this program to continue operating while we work to negotiate a long-term solution. Not a single one of those extensions has been met with controversy—not one.

However, as we undertook what should have been the latest clean extension, the House unexpectedly eliminated 13 rural airports that rely on Essential Air Service just days before the authorization expired. The House refused to reconsider and chose instead

to shut down the Federal Aviation Administration.

The House seeks to save approximately one-tenth of 1 percent of overall aviation spending by attacking essential air services. I agree with anyone who wants to control Federal spending and invest in real priorities—we all do—but it simply doesn't make sense to focus on saving fractions of pennies on the dollar instead of coming to the negotiating table to hammer out long-term solutions.

At the same time, the House rejected an opportunity to protect our troops from exorbitant baggage fees. Congressman NICK RAHALL introduced an amendment to the House extension that would have prohibited air carriers from charging a baggage fee for members of the Armed Forces while traveling on official military duty, especially those checking four or fewer bags. In one instance, an airline reportedly socked a poor servicemember with a baggage fee of \$3,000. Regrettably, the House rejected this offer to protect our troops, and the rejection was on a party-line vote. Those of us negotiating in good faith here in the Senate were left scratching our heads. The House would reject a clean extension to save a mere one-tenth of 1 percent by attacking rural jobs and commerce, but it would reject an opportunity to protect our troops from getting gouged by baggage fees on the same bill. It doesn't make sense.

Later, we learned through the press that the House's erratic strategy had apparently nothing to do with potential cost savings at all, but, instead, these antics were about rulemaking by the National Mediation Board. This is a labor issue that has nothing to do with essential air service and nothing to do with the daily operations of the Federal Aviation Administration, both of which could be operating right now under a clean extension. This labor issue should be worked out in a conference—the conference committee we can't have because the House has yet to name conferees.

One of the rural communities the House Members chose to cut down as a political pawn is Glendive, MT. Glendive is growing in the energy sector. It is in the Bakken formation, with lots of oil and gas wells drilled, and it is a huge potential new energy source. Energy companies from Texas and Louisiana are rapidly sending personnel up to Glendive, and hotels in the area are running at near-full occupancy year-round. We are working hard to quickly build housing and infrastructure in order to capitalize on this great opportunity to create much needed jobs. Today, unemployment in Glendive is half the national average. But Glendive is located 230 miles from any larger airport. Glendive needs essential air service to maintain its lifeline to national commerce and continue to grow and create jobs.

We can discuss at length the merits of essential air service, the promise made to rural America, and the lifeline it provides to towns such as Glendive. In fact, this is a conversation we should have. Any changes should be made as part of thoughtful and transparent discussion, with input from the folks on the ground who are most affected. Again, that is precisely what conference negotiations are for—yet, again, negotiations we can't hold. Why? Because the House has yet to name its conferees.

The House antics have halted as much as \$2.5 billion in airport funding—funding that employs as many as 87,000 workers on construction projects around the country. At Glacier International Airport in Kalispell, MT, much needed upgrades to the taxiway are now on hold indefinitely, and so are the much needed construction jobs this project would support.

Even more troubling, 4,000 mothers and fathers and breadwinners are now out of work. These are folks such as Kristina Richardson, an administrative support specialist at Billings Logan International Airport's air traffic control tower. Over the weekend, Kristina wasn't able to go grocery shopping. She didn't know if she could count on her next paycheck to buy food and pay her bills. Kristina described the pit in her stomach when she went in to clean off her desk and shut down her computer. Kristina told my office she worried about who would help the people she had been working with. She described the pride and fulfillment that comes from working and the blow that comes when that is taken away.

Luckily, Kristina was told on Tuesday she would be able to return to work. But 4,000 other folks across the country haven't been so lucky. Like most Montanans, Kristina is one tough lady, and she understands the vital importance of essential air service to rural communities. Even when she thought she had been furloughed, she hung in there. She contacted my office to voice her support for a clean FAA extension that rejects arbitrary cuts to rural communities.

I am increasingly concerned about the nature of our political discourse. Lately, it seems some folks are more focused on making 30-second sound bites than making laws. What happened with the FAA bill is an example of this misguided focus. Whatever the House's true reason for suspending 4,000-plus jobs and halting construction to improve airport safety, it just wasn't right.

Still, I know we can do good things around here when we work together, and I hold out the hope that we will return our focus to what is important and start getting work done, and it is not just here but on debt extension and a lot of major matters around here. But in the meantime, we need to fix

this mess. This is easier to fix—much easier.

Along with Senator ROCKEFELLER, I introduced a clean FAA extension that would put 4,000 employees back to work, let us start construction projects around the country to create jobs and improve the safety of our airports, and continue to fund the trust fund. Then together we can continue working on a longer term solution. I urge my colleagues to support a clean extension.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE DEBT CEILING

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, we have three separate issues facing the Congress. First, the authority of the Treasury Department to borrow to meet the Nation's obligations will be reached on Tuesday. In order for borrowing to continue after Tuesday, Congress needs to raise the debt ceiling. That is the first of the three issues.

The second issue we face is the need to help our economy to become prosperous again. Unfortunately, the debate in Congress has totally lost sight of this issue, the issue of how we can grow the economy and how we can create jobs.

The third of the three issues is the need to put in place a long-term plan to reduce the deficit and the debt. The issue of raising the debt ceiling and reducing the long-term deficit and debt have, unfortunately, come to be seen by many in Congress as a single issue. So I want to urge all colleagues to take a step back and to recognize, first, that these issues are separate and, second, that failure to responsibly deal with the first of these issues; that is, failure to raise the debt limit, will greatly hamper our ability to deal with the other two issues that I mentioned.

The failure to raise the debt limit will not return our economy to prosperity; instead, it will postpone the day when that prosperity returns. Failure to raise the debt limit will not help reduce our debt and deficit. It will add to the debt and deficit by raising interest rates for the government and for all Americans.

So let's review how we got here.

Since the beginning of this Congress nearly 7 months ago, the Republican majority in the House has had a laser focus on one issue; that is, cutting spending. To achieve that objective, the first strategy adopted by the Republican leadership in the House was to

threaten a shutdown of the government unless sufficient spending cuts were agreed to. Spending cuts were agreed to, and at the final hour Republicans agreed to pass the bill that was needed to fund the government for the balance of the fiscal year. By that I mean through September 30 of this year.

So as soon as that crisis was averted and the threat to close down the government was behind us, at least for a few months, the effort shifted to a new strategy. This strategy was to threaten a first-in-history default by the government on its financial obligations if enough additional spending cuts were not agreed to; that is, spending cuts in addition to what were agreed to, in order to avert a shutdown of the government. The device for bringing about that default was refusal to extend the debt ceiling when the government's borrowing authority was scheduled to be reached August 2, next Tuesday.

We should remind ourselves of what an artificial device is being used for leverage in this negotiation. Congress passes the laws that determine how much revenue the Federal Government collects, and Congress passes the laws that determine how much we obligate the government to spend. When the revenue we collect is less than the amount we are committed to spend, the Secretary of the Treasury has no alternative but to borrow money to meet the obligations that Congress has taken on.

So in a period like today, when the government is receiving in revenues much less than is required to meet its obligations, there are two logical actions for Congress to take. First, it can raise more revenue; second, it can reduce the obligations of the government. But in refusing to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to borrow, we are taking neither of these logical steps. Instead, we are telling the Secretary of the Treasury to default on the obligations which this and previous Congresses have already taken on on behalf of the American people.

We are told by the Secretary of the Treasury that unless Congress acts he will be forced to default or renege on our obligations beginning next week, August 2. The refusal to raise the debt ceiling and the threatening of default on our obligations has achieved much of what Republicans set out to achieve in this Congress. It has precipitated a crisis and in order to avoid that crisis, Democrats have agreed to or acceded to the primary demands the Republican majority in the House have made.

What are those demands? There are two primary demands. The first of those demands was that all of the deficit reduction be accomplished with cuts in spending. No revenue could be raised from the wealthiest in our society to help close this gap between revenues and spending; no loopholes could be closed; no subsidies could be eliminated from the Tax Code.

Democrats have agreed that the deficit reduction would not be accomplished with a balanced package of spending cuts and revenue increases as the previous deficit reduction packages have been under President Reagan, under President George H.W. Bush, and of course under President Clinton. This deficit reduction that we are now considering would be done with spending cuts only. So that was the first demand and it was one that Democrats have acceded to.

The second demand of the Republican leadership was the totally arbitrary demand that the size of the increase in the debt ceiling not exceed the amount of spending cuts projected in the Federal budget over the next 10 years. This is a demand totally lacking in any logical justification, but, again, Democrats have agreed in order to achieve a solution to the immediate impasse.

In order to avoid the threatened default on our obligations, Senator REID has put forward a proposal that would lock in, according to the Congressional Budget Office, about \$2.2 trillion of deficit reduction over 10 years with cuts in both discretionary spending and mandatory spending. The Treasury Secretary would be given authority to borrow to meet the obligations that Congress has undertaken for approximately another 18 months. The proposal also puts in place a bipartisan and a bicameral committee with responsibility to present Congress with legislation to further reduce the deficit.

Unfortunately, it appears this proposal that Senator REID has made will be opposed by many on the Republican side. Some say the cuts are not sufficiently deep and that they would rather push the country into default rather than agree to a mere \$2.2 trillion in spending cuts.

Some others say they want to extend the debt ceiling for a shorter period so we can have another showdown with another threatened government default 6 or 7 months from now. Some say that causing the Federal Government to default will not have the adverse consequences the Secretary of the Treasury has predicted and that in fact it will have a salutary effect on both our economy and our politics.

I strongly disagree with all of these views. I believe a refusal to honor our obligations will have a major adverse consequence for our economy. I believe Congress should act now to raise the debt limit in order to avoid these adverse consequences and that, although the proposal Senator REID has brought forward fails the test of balance between spending cuts and revenue increases which I would prefer, it is a plan I am willing to support in order to head off a default on our Nation's obligations. I understand additional deficit reduction will be required in the months and years ahead, but clearly

the responsible course is to do what can be done today and that is adopt the Reid plan. Only by doing so can we once again focus on the steps we can take to return our economy to prosperity. That is the first priority for most Americans today. It should be our first priority as well.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, this week we have a unique opportunity to reduce the deficit to the tune of \$2.2 trillion. That is \$2.2 trillion to protect Medicare, to protect Social Security, to protect Medicaid, and to make sure the United States of America doesn't do something we have never done; that is, go into default.

We can debate how we got here. We can debate why we have this huge budget deficit. We can debate whether it is Barack Obama's fault or George Bush's fault. We can debate whether it was the Recovery Act or whether it was the two wars President Bush didn't pay for. We can debate whether it is the health care bill of President Obama or the giveaway to the drug and insurance companies that President Bush did in the name of Medicare privatization. We could talk about President Bush's tax cuts. We could do any of that, but the urgency of this situation is not a question for debate. Never before has the full faith and credit of the United States of America been held hostage to a major budget agreement.

In the past three decades before President Obama—so let's take him out of this picture for a minute—we have avoided default by raising the debt limit 38 times in the last 30 years before President Obama. Out of those 38 times, 34 of those times—almost 90 percent—were under Republican Presidents. Again, 34 of 38 times were under Republican Presidents. We didn't do a hostage-taking. We didn't try to scare people. Even if we didn't like doing it, we simply raised the debt ceiling.

As I and many Democratic colleagues have said, we can balance the budget as we did under President Clinton. I came to office in 1992 in the House. I voted for a controversial budget. No Republicans joined us. We had almost 8 years of economic growth, with 21 million net private sector jobs created, and we got to a balanced budget. We know how to do that. We do it with a balance between spending cuts and revenues, especially closing tax loopholes, giveaways to the oil companies, tax breaks for companies that outsource jobs, and tax breaks for hedge fund operators on

Wall Street. We can close those tax loopholes. We can do spending cuts, and we can do what we need to do to move toward a balanced budget.

During those 38 times, there were freestanding votes. Each time it was raised, there was a freestanding vote. Neither party played these games. Neither party held our Nation hostage to these political games.

Rather than a freestanding vote on the debt limit, we are in a last-minute scramble. Democrats have said: OK, we will reach an agreement. Never has one party insisted that the amount of the increase in the debt limit be offset by an equal amount of spending cuts. We have even agreed to that approach. Never before has one party insisted that a major budget agreement exclude provisions that address revenue. We have even said yes to that. Now having had their demands met, the people in the party who insisted on all these conditions are saying no. They are saying no again.

The debate on the debt and the deficit has been complicated, it has been contentious, it has been angry, but a default should be unimaginable. A default would risk what would amount to a permanent tax hike.

I hear many of the radicals in the House of Representatives who say they will never vote for a debt increase, as if it is something we should never, ever do in a country. They all talk about tax cuts, but a default on the part of the United States of America would amount to a permanent tax hike on all Americans. Interest rates would rise for anyone owning a home, paying a home mortgage, applying for a home mortgage, anyone with a car loan, anyone with a college loan. Credit costs for all borrowers would climb for governments at every level, businesses, nonprofits, small businesses, large businesses, credit card holders. There would be repercussions for pension funds and money market funds that guard the retirement savings of middle-class families.

Basically, everybody in the Presiding Officer's home State of Minnesota, in my home State of Ohio—everybody would be afflicted with this tax increase, if you will, from higher interest rates. Several States have already been placed on a credit watch. Every State would be hurt by a Federal default, which is why Governors of both parties are saying: Make a deal; get to this. This is not alarmist thinking.

There is a reason Ronald Reagan went to Congress 18 times to raise the debt ceiling. Here is what President Reagan said:

The full consequences of a default—or even the serious prospect of a default—

That is where we are right now, in a serious prospect of default—

by the United States are impossible to predict and awesome to contemplate. Denigra-

tion of the full faith and credit of the United States would have substantial effects on the domestic financial markets and the value of the dollar.

None of us is being alarmist because we really don't know, but we know people whom most Americans respect—President Reagan, President Clinton, others who have asked for a debt ceiling increase, economists, businesspeople—nobody knows for sure what would happen, but nobody has ever wanted to take that risk. We have always paid our bills. Default could affect Ohioans receiving Medicare and Social Security. It could affect veterans in hospitals and universities. President Obama has said he can't guarantee payments to senior citizens, to bondholders, or other obligations of the United States of America. You cannot fake cashflow. These are real consequences.

When it comes to jobs, to seniors living on fixed income, in the midst of an economic growth that is as fragile as ours is, lawmakers ought to suspend their politics. Today, the harm of inaction would be immense.

President Obama put several proposals forward to reduce the deficit in a big way, modeled after these bipartisan commissions where there has been pretty good bipartisan agreement. But efforts to forge a grand compromise bringing the deficit down by \$4 trillion have been abandoned by Republican leaders over and over.

I have not supported every detail on these grand compromise efforts. I don't want to do anything to undermine Medicare or Social Security or Medicaid, programs that have worked for generations now and programs that millions of Ohioans depend on, from Middletown to Ashtabula, from Toledo to Athens and Gallipolis. I wanted a more balanced approach. I know the Presiding Officer did too. But as days and weeks and months go by, we are now only days away from default. We are simply running out of time. That is what the Senate bill is about—protecting us from default.

In the spirit of continued compromise, again, the majority leader has come forth with a plan to reduce the deficit by \$2.2 trillion. It is truly a compromise because it meets the Republicans' main criteria. It contains spending cuts to roughly match the debt ceiling increase through 2012. The spending cuts in the Reid plan are ones to which Republicans have previously agreed. It contains no revenue increases. All three of those have been what Republicans asked for. But now it is not good enough. What do they want to do when we basically met their demands?

Beyond all that, this compromise we have offered—mostly what they have asked for—contains an important priority of mine—not one of the Republicans, to be sure—and that is that we

protect Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

I know that major Republican budgets—the so-called Ryan budget, the Republican House budget—undercut our major important programs, Medicare and Medicaid especially. We know the so-called cut, cap, and balance proposal the Republicans have passed that is being voted on here didn't protect Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. So we know Republicans want to go after those programs. Under this compromise, we have been able to protect that, but we need to make sure we put country ahead of party, national interest above partisanship. That is why we have been willing to compromise.

Speaker BOEHNER's plan is being revised, but so far it provides significantly less than the savings in the Reid proposal. By design, the Boehner plan would put us back in this situation in a few months. What rational economist, what responsible elected official, what businessperson in St. Paul or Columbus, in Rochester or Mansfield—what businessperson would say: Let's put the U.S. in this situation again in 6 months?

We know what has happened in this country in the last month or so. As we approach default, as businesses particularly watch the way this is being debated and how this is being handled, people are way less certain, people are way more concerned about our ability to raise the debt ceiling and keep us out of default. Businesses are holding on to their cash reserves because they are not willing to invest now because they don't want this to happen.

So why would we want to go through this again in 6 months? Why would we possibly think this is good for the United States—for people in Chillicothe and Dayton, in Youngstown and Akron, in Canton and Kenton, Wauseon and Bowling Green? Why would we want businesses in our country to go through this again in 6 months?

We need to get this done quickly. We have to raise the debt ceiling to keep us out of default. We need to make sure we focus on deficit reduction, and we need to put our efforts into job creation. People all over my State—when I am in Dayton, Springfield, Cuyahoga County or Mahoning County, as I was this past weekend—people are mostly saying they want us to focus on job growth. We need to do budget cuts and raise the debt ceiling to keep us out of default. We mostly need to make sure we move forward on job creation.

We prevent a default and reduce the deficit with the Reid plan—a critical imperative for our children and our grandchildren. It protects Medicare and Social Security and Medicaid.

My office is being swamped with calls and e-mails from Ohioans who simply can't believe we are this close to default. Within the week, Congress must

pass and the President must sign an increase in the debt ceiling. It is essential if we want to prevent an absolutely unnecessary, an absolutely uncalled for, yet catastrophic default. It is necessary to move on to address the issue of jobs. Too many recent college graduates, too many people who have been in the workforce for too many years, too many people who are unemployed are looking for jobs. That is where our focus should be.

We need to pass the Reid plan, work on deficit reduction, and work on job growth.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of New Mexico). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I come to the floor today, as I think many of my colleagues have, to speak to the topic at hand, which is the debt ceiling debate we are having in the Congress of the United States.

I have to say, I think Americans across the country are looking at us with disbelief, anxiety, and—I think rightly—anger. They awoke this morning hoping to find that cooler heads had prevailed and that all of us were working together on a plan that keeps our country from default and our economy from looming collapse. Instead, the headlines read that the Speaker of the House was again refusing to negotiate and that he is, in fact, delaying action in the House because of Republican upheaval against his own plan.

I have to say, even if the House of Representatives passed a bill preventing default this evening, within hours, we would still be pushing our country right up to the edge of an economic catastrophe. In other words, what I am saying is, even though economists, market analysts, business leaders, credit rating agencies, world leaders, and the American people are begging us to find an agreement to avoid default on our debt obligations, we are no further along today than we have been in the many weeks we have been debating this issue.

As the Presiding Officer knows, as a former Member of the House, I take no pleasure in criticizing the people's House. But it does take two to tango, and when it comes to courting the House of Representatives, it feels as though they have one shoe nailed to the dance floor. I can't figure out for the life of me what it is going to take to reach an agreement on behalf of the American people. The House of Rep-

resentatives just can't take yes for an answer.

The real problem, at least in my estimation, seems to be that a small group of people are set on running up the political score rather than doing the right thing for our country. If that is the case, now is the time to finally come to the table.

Here is the truth: Many of us here are trying to prevent our economy from driving off a cliff, but others seem to be busy cutting the brake lines. On that point, I was proud of the Senate and the Democrats and Republicans who came together on the bipartisan Bowles-Simpson Commission and came up with a plan on reducing the deficit. They were willing to be a part of the solution.

The Bowles-Simpson Commission recommended taking important but difficult steps to reduce our debt by \$4 trillion over the next decade. That plan is the right one for the country, and despite the significant political risks attached to taking those positions, Senators in both parties were willing to support it. The House Members, on the other hand, when the fiscal commission offered them the bipartisan deficit reduction plan, walked away, both Democrats and Republicans, to be fair.

Unfortunately, this has become a pattern. When Vice President JOE BIDEN and House Majority Leader ERIC CANTOR were close to finally reaching an agreement on a deficit reduction plan, it was the House Republicans who walked away. When President Obama and Speaker BOEHNER sought to strike a "grand bargain," to do something great for the country, the House walked away. President Obama likened this to being left at the altar, but I cannot think of any description that is more apt than "irresponsible."

For my friends and my colleagues who know me, I am not quick to anger. But I have to say, time is not our friend here and we cannot delay action any longer. I was pleased to see Senator ALEXANDER, the third ranking Republican in the Senate, say last night:

What would be best, instead of having a Republican plan competing with a Democratic plan, would be to have the Speaker, Senator Reid, and Senator McConnell recommend to us a single plan.

I understand the Senate leaders are speaking frequently, and I have all the faith in the world that the Senate could work this problem out. But that is only half the problem. We need statesmen, we need patriots, we need problem solvers over in the House to emerge. Campaign politics and partisan talking points do not take courage. Now is the time for courage and leadership.

Instead of going back to the drawing board on the Boehner plan, we need to refocus our efforts on a plan that meets three tests. Such a plan has to, No. 1,

raise the debt limit to avoid a first ever Federal Government default; No. 2, provide enough certainty to investors that America will pay its bills to stave off a downgrade in our credit rating; and, No. 3, reduce the deficit enough that we can begin the hard work to get our fiscal house in order.

The Reid plan, in my estimation, achieves each of those goals. While I am disappointed we could not all come together on a larger \$4 to \$5 trillion deficit reduction package that would be both bipartisan and comprehensive, the Reid plan adequately addresses the most pressing issues that confront us, which are preventing a default and staving off a downgrade in our credit rating.

The Boehner plan, on the other hand, is only a short-term fix, and a host of economic forecasters and business leaders have said it would almost certainly lead to a downgrade in our, in America's, credit rating, which would raise interest rates, could sabotage seniors' retirement savings, and increase consumer costs on almost every American.

Bank of America, Standard & Poor's, JPMorgan Chase, and other major players have all warned us that future economic instability and short-term political solutions will almost certainly lead to a downgrade in our credit rating. That is some serious business.

What is sad about all of this is that the unstable political climate—which one observer called "amateur hour on Capitol Hill"—itself may lead to a downgrade.

I respect the Speaker's desire to go back to the drawing board to try to secure more Republican votes, but the fact is we do not have time. The Reid plan is ready to go, and it meets the three-part test I laid out. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office stated that the Reid plan reduces the deficit by twice as much as the House Republican plan. As reported this morning "in the battle of budget scores, the Senate Democrats deficit reduction bill is the clear winner thus far."

Our economy has been in critical condition, and I think we are feeling recently that it is beginning to come back to life, that we have been nursing it back to health. The last result we need is a self-inflicted heart attack caused by an overdose of partisanship. People wonder why we cannot get it done.

I know the Presiding Officer is a mountain climber, as am I, and we are both, I guess, old mountain climbers in more ways than one. I can tell you that there are some similarities between attempting to climb the world's highest peaks and our work here in Washington. But the difference seems to be, especially when the going gets tough here on Capitol Hill, that not only are you trying to conquer mountainous

and challenging and difficult terrain, you seem to have a team of saboteurs here who are trying to push the rest of us off the mountain as we are trying to climb it. The Scots have a saying: It is not the falling off that hurts. It is the sudden stop at the bottom. I can tell you, if we do not raise the debt ceiling, that is going to involve a sudden stop at the bottom for all of us.

The people of Colorado have told me—and I suspect the rest of the Nation feels this way—they do not care who wins politically. Frankly, I do not care who wins politically either. What I care about is passing legislation that will stave off government default and a downgrade in our Nation's credit rating. At this point, the Reid plan is the only option that meets that criteria. Let's get it done. Let's get it done.

TRIBUTE TO HILLARY DANIELS

Mr. President, as I close, I want to change the tone of my remarks a little bit because there are wonderful people who work here on Capitol Hill and make a difference day in and day out, and I want to recognize Hillary Daniels, who has been one of my budget and appropriations legislative assistants, who joined my team when I first came to the Senate 3 years ago.

She is a native of Colorado's western slope, the great county of Mesa and the town of Grand Junction. She is going to be leaving my office next month to go to law school at Washington University in St. Louis, MO.

She has been an invaluable team member, and I can speak for my entire staff when I say we are both excited for her to take this next step in developing her career and I am very grateful for the guidance she has given me over the last few years.

It is for the Hillary Daniels of the world, who will be leaders of our country in the next decade and the decade after that, that I think we owe an obligation to getting this job done as soon as we possibly can, assuring the markets that the full faith and credit of the United States will be preserved and protected and nurtured.

Let's turn back to job one here, which is to focus on our economy and job creation. The longer we are stalled out in a political crisis of our own making, the less we are concerned and focused on putting the American people back to work.

Mr. President, thank you for your interest, thank you for your attention.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

SPECTRUM AUCTIONS

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, I just filed an amendment to S. 1323 to BRAC the spectrum. This would give us the maximum auction revenue and access to spectrum for economic development and deficit reduction. I am proud to

have the amendment endorsed by Americans for Tax Reform.

It is very important for the Congress to authorize spectrum incentive auctions. While we should protect broadcasters who choose not to participate in such actions and their customers who rely on over-the-air broadcast for entertainment and public emergency information, incentive auctions would free up much needed spectrum for the civilian side in making sure that broadband communications are fully available in the United States.

It should be, in short, the policy of the United States to offer the widest amount of broadband spectrum to empower the 21st century economy here—cell phones were invented in the United States, in fact, mostly in my home State of Illinois—and making sure this is the country where not just 1G and 2G and 3G were invented and deployed, but to make sure 5G and 6G and 7G are also deployed first in the United States and not in a country such as China or India.

According to the Federal Communications Commission, the U.S. Treasury has already collected \$50 billion in spectrum receipts since 1993. Senator REID's plan does authorize such auctions, but it is missing a key element to ensure they are very successful. Unfortunately, like many other agencies in the administration, the Federal Communications Commission has worked to promulgate regulations that stifle innovation and economic growth. It is important for Congress to prohibit the FCC from establishing new, similar rules or conditions that are outside the scope of technical, ethical, or geographic qualifications. Such conditions, for example, the "net neutrality" provisions, will only serve to depress the market value of the spectrum; therefore, decreasing government revenues and lowering our ability to reduce the deficit in this way.

One recent study found that "Congress has tremendous discretion about the amount of proceeds it could raise in exchange for spectrum" because "the amount of money that an auction can raise for the [U.S.] Treasury [and the government] is impacted at least in part by controllable decisions about how the auction configures the spectrum for sale and the conditions imposed on it." The study analyzed a previous spectrum auction to estimate the potential receipts from future actions based on conditions the FCC may or may not impose. The researchers found that the full auction potential of the broadcast spectrum with no conditions imposed would raise as much as \$91 billion, whereas the same auction with heavy and unappealing conditions, such as net neutrality, would only raise \$26 billion. That is a difference of \$65 billion. We could raise, to lower our deficit, 250 percent more in funds with an incentive auction if we ensure that

the FCC does not impose market-killing restrictions.

My proposal would place limits on the FCC, in addition to establishing a number of other prohibitions to make sure the FCC does not artificially reduce the spectrum value, to lower our deficit. The Kirk amendment would prohibit the FCC from restricting participants in any auction and from prescribing certain rates, terms, or services that may be offered by bidders in order to encourage the most robust participation and license bidding. To avoid future devaluation of spectrum licenses, the amendment would also prohibit the FCC from changing the rules of the game after an auction was completed.

But simply selling spectrum voluntarily given up by broadcasters is not enough to solve our credit crunch. We know that wireless subscribership in the United States has increased more than 400 percent in the last 15 years, and experts expect mobile data traffic to be 35 times higher in 2014 than it was back in 2009. Yet only 22 percent of all viable wireless frequencies are licensed for mobile broadband. Industry experts anticipate spectrum will be exhausted in the most populous markets by 2014. Such a restriction then would stunt wireless and other technological development in the United States because we will not have enough bandwidth to continue innovating. Internet service will then slow and calls will be dropped. We should not let this scenario unfold. We should reach our full technological potential because broadband development is a key job creator for the 21st century.

According to one estimate, the information and communications industry contributed more than \$1.7 trillion to the U.S. gross domestic product in 2009 or over 12 percent of our total national income. Another study found that broadband provides additional annual consumer benefits of roughly \$32 billion per year. It is widely acknowledged that wireless broadband also generates productivity gains of approximately \$28 billion annually, and one cost estimate even puts productivity gains from the development and use of wireless broadband at almost \$860 billion in 2016. In my own State of Illinois, this study estimates that the savings from increased productivity will reach about \$5.8 billion in 5 years. This demonstrates that every sector of our economy benefits from wireless development.

For example, broadband development will vastly improve health care services for seniors. One study finds that reduced medical costs, reduced costs of institutionalized living, and increased output generated by seniors and disabled individuals will save about \$927 billion between 2005 and 2030. Advancements in wireless technologies aim to reduce the burden on the chronically

ill by providing remote monitoring of medical functions and to save lives through public safety interoperable networks.

Yet very little of this will be achievable unless we make more spectrum available to the civilian sector. Not surprisingly, the Federal Government itself is the largest and most stubborn squatter on the spectrum. According to the Technology Policy Institute, the government currently has exclusive or shared ownership of more than half the ideal spectrum for wireless development.

Much of the spectrum is not even being used or used efficiently by the government. Unfortunately, it is largely unknown how exactly Federal agencies and departments are using the spectrum and which spectrum we could better use on the civilian side.

My amendment, in short, would establish a process identical to the successful Base Realignment and Closure Commission to determine which Federal spectrum should be offered for sale or shared use by the private sector. While the government has much of this authority, it consistently fails to utilize it.

A BRAC-like commission for the spectrum is a key model for its reallocation and would help accelerate the development of broadband in the United States, without the standard congressional roadblocks that would inhibit development.

The amendment also provides assurances that the government will vacate spectrum once the process is complete and requires the Office of Management and Budget to intervene in the relocation process if agencies are failing to comply with the relocation plan and penalizing agencies if they do not meet the BRAC timeline.

The Kirk amendment would provide the telecommunications industry with a certain path forward for reliably clear spectrum to advance employment in the United States through wireless advancement.

I urge congressional leaders to consider this proposal. It comes from neither Republican nor Democratic sides. It is one of the most valuable assets that the government is currently squatting on and could be part of an overall deficit reduction plan totalling upward of \$90 billion, but I think that benefit understates the true potential. Because if we set a goal of the United States being the country that offers the most broadband wireless spectrum, then we ensure that this critical 21st century industry remains in the United States and that the pace of innovation in wireless always is fastest in America as opposed to Asia or Europe.

That is why I put the amendment forward. I would seek its adoption as part of our deficit negotiations.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE DEBT CEILING

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, Senate majority leader HARRY REID has presented a plan to address our deficits and to end the debt ceiling impasse that threatens to cripple our economy.

The Treasury is projected to run out of money next week and time is running short. Senator REID has shown great leadership with his pragmatic package. Leader REID's proposal would give the Treasury the authority to ensure the United States does not default on its debt, while at the same time cutting \$2.7 trillion from our budget.

The unprecedented set of cuts would have a significant effect in balancing our budget and restoring fiscal sustainability to the Federal Government. I wish to highlight one key fact. Unlike the House Republican budget and unlike the so-called cut, cap, and balance plan, Leader REID's plan will preserve Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

Protecting Social Security and Medicare benefits is particularly important. The Republicans have long coveted Social Security and wanted to turn it over to Wall Street. George Bush tried and failed to do this because the American people wanted none of it, but they tried.

The House Republican budget attacked Medicare, effectively turning it over to the private health insurance industry in 10 years. When the American people found out this was hidden in the Republican budget, they wanted none of it. Huge majorities of the American public disapproved of the Republican budget attack on Medicare.

But instead of relenting, the Republicans came back with cut, cap, and balance. Hidden behind that slogan was an even worse attack on Medicare. The House budget would have raised senior's costs more than \$6,000 a year. Cut, cap, and balance would have gone \$2,500 beyond that. Cut, cap, and kill Medicare was a better name for it.

Against that relentless Republican effort to go against the will of the American people and kill off Medicare, Leader REID's proposal protects this vital program and the freedom and security it provides to American families.

Make no mistake about it, our deficit reduction plan will not be easy. It will cut discretionary spending by \$1.2 trillion over the next decade. These budget reductions will require some tough but necessary choices. The plan would also count for an accelerated wind-down of U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, saving \$1 trillion in the process.

Our troops in the Middle East deserve our admiration and praise for so suc-

cessfully carrying out their missions. We must, however, continue to press for a strategy that will bring our troops home as soon as we safely can.

The Reid deficit plan would find an additional \$40 billion savings by cutting fraud and abuse in tax compliance and a number of nondefense Federal programs and \$60 billion in other savings, including cutting unnecessary spending on agricultural subsidies and auctioning off electromagnetic spectrum that the government currently holds.

Finally, by cutting the budget by over \$2 trillion, we will have to borrow less money than anticipated, and that will save an additional \$400 billion in projected interest costs. In total, the Senate Democratic plan on which we will vote would cut the deficit by \$2.7 trillion over the next 10 years.

While Senator REID's proposal would not address the tax gimmicks and loopholes throughout our Tax Code that help favor the well-connected, this omission does not mean Democrats have given up on ensuring that there is shared sacrifice as we work to balance the budget.

Instead, this package acknowledges the political realities of the moment. Many House Republicans have flatly refused to entertain raising any revenue: not one tax loophole, no cutting of taxpayer subsidies to profitable oil companies, no closing down of offshore tax havens. That is wrong. The Reid package reserves the tax side of budget reform for another day.

We look forward to a robust discussion in the weeks and months ahead over Republican priorities that put special interest loopholes ahead of the interests of American families and ahead of the interests of the American economy.

The Reid plan would establish a bipartisan commission to recommend budget changes and those recommendations would then be guaranteed an up-or-down vote in both Houses of Congress before the end of the year. These recommendations should focus on cutting the unjustifiable tax giveaways—the tax earmarks—that allow profitable companies to avoid taxes entirely and permit megamillionaires and billionaires to pay lower effective tax rates than do middle-class families.

The Reid plan meets the Republicans' initial demands in the debt ceiling negotiations. It cuts \$2.7 trillion from the budget—greater than the amount by which the debt limit would be increased—and leaves tax reform for the next round of budget reform. But it does not yield to the Republican attack on Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid.

I hope Republicans in the Senate and the House will appreciate the balance of Senator REID's approach and support it. But what if they do not? The House is in disarray. The Speaker does not

appear to have the votes. Some of the extremists will not take yes for an answer, and some of the most extreme appear to relish the prospect of America's economy colliding with the debt ceiling.

Let's consider what should occur if Congress fails to lift the debt ceiling. Congress will have sent President Obama three different messages, and they create an irreconcilable conflict. Think about it. Message 1 is: We want him to spend money on all these things. We want him to conduct our wars and our national defense. We want him to send out Social Security checks. We want him to pay the doctors and the hospitals that provide Medicare services. We want him to keep guards on our borders and in our prisons, keep air traffic controllers in the towers, run the rest of the Federal Government.

We tell the President to do that by passing laws. It is by law that the President does these things. Message 2 that we send is: Here is the money we will allow him to collect for the Treasury to pay for all those things. Again, it is by law that we authorize the President to collect that money for the Treasury—by law.

There is a slight problem. The things we have instructed the President to do by law add up to a lot more expense than the money by law we allow him—the executive branch—to collect. So the executive branch has had to borrow—and borrow they have—up to \$14 trillion.

If we do not lift the debt ceiling, we send message 3: Do not borrow any more. We do not change message 1, and we do not change message 2. We just add message 3: Do not borrow any more.

As anyone can see, there is no way to reconcile those three instructions. One, by law, we tell the executive branch to send out all these checks and make payments; two, by law, we appropriate too little money to pay for what we have told the executive branch to do; and, three, by law, we would tell the executive branch of government they cannot borrow the difference.

That creates an irreconcilably mixed signal. Do this, but there is not enough money, and do not borrow. This is irresponsible and it is bad government. If Congress wants to stop paying the troops, stop sending out Social Security checks, shutter agencies of the Federal Government or defund Medicare, we should have a proper debate and say so and be responsible for it.

But we have not, and that failure creates an impossible situation for the executive branch under our constitutional principles of separation of powers. Remember why officials in the executive branch pay the soldiers and contractors who support our war efforts. Because Congress has told them to. Congress has the power of the purse.

Remember why the executive branch sends out Social Security checks and payments to doctors and hospitals for providing Medicare services. Because Congress has told them to. Congress has the power of the purse. Remember why the President pays the salaries of Border Patrol agents and prison guards and air traffic controllers and FBI agents and staff in our veterans hospital. Because Congress has told him to do that. Congress holds the power of the purse.

Who is responsible for not giving the President enough money to pay for all of this, for forcing the Treasury to borrow? Congress has set how much the executive branch can collect because Congress has that power of the purse.

Now we are telling the President to do all we have told him to do but without enough money and do not borrow. We all learned in civics that Congress has the power to make laws and the power of the purse. We learned that the President has the solemn obligation to faithfully execute the laws Congress has passed. That is the basic structure of American Government.

Outside of a few narrow and specific areas that are assigned exclusively to the executive or judicial authority by our Constitution, the constitutional rule is clear: Congress instructs the President by law what to do, and the President faithfully executes those laws.

But what happens if Congress will not instruct clearly? What happens under our Constitution when faithfully executing one law Congress has passed requires the President to fail to faithfully execute another law? How can the President faithfully execute irreconcilably conflicting instructions from Congress?

As a matter of constitutional principle, there is only one logical resolution I can see to this constitutional predicament which Congress has created.

When the matter is sufficiently grave to merit the President's attention, and when Congress sends irreconcilable messages for the President to faithfully execute, a zone of executive discretion must necessarily open to allow the President to make the best decisions for the American people in the area where Congress has sent those irreconcilable mixed signals.

Of course, the instant Congress resolves its conflicting signals, stops speaking out of both sides of its mouth, and sends a clear direction, that zone of executive discretion disappears. Congress has the power. Congress makes the laws. Congress controls the purse. Whatever fiscal path Congress instructs the President to embark on, he must faithfully execute that instruction from Congress.

But Congress can't put the President in the untenable position of having to fail in the "faithful execution" of one

set of laws in order to "faithfully execute" another. That is exactly where it seems to me we would put the President if we failed to lift the debt ceiling.

The damage to the country from such failure would be profound. At least 40 cents of every Federal dollar would suddenly stop flowing into the economy. Considering what would have to be done with the remaining 60 cents, it is not very likely that the Federal regulatory process would keep running. That means every job in the country, depending on a Federal permit or Federal approval or a Federal grant or a Federal contract, would likely grind to a halt.

There would be a jump in interest rates that would hit Federal, State, municipal, corporate, and family budgets. A lot of other stuff might also go wrong, but those three are a bare minimum, and they alone would constitute a brutal shock to our struggling economy. The damage would be grave.

Bad enough if Congress instructed the President to do this kind of damage, but do we really expect him to do that sort of damage without our clear instruction? The scale of this damage lights up in sharp contrast to the constitutional predicament Congress would create through Congress's failure and inaction to send clear direction.

The 14th amendment provision, that the public debt of the United States of America "shall not be questioned," may or may not be controlling here. That specific amendment is not my point. My point is a more basic one: How, under our separated powers, when Congress gives conflicting directives, does the President "faithfully execute" those conflicting directives? The conflicting directives problem is ultimately a problem for Congress to solve. But until Congress sorts itself out and gives a clear directive, all that can be constitutionally expected of the President is to do the best he can for the country. He cannot "faithfully execute" conflicting directives.

In a sense, conflicting directives by Congress are a form of abdication by Congress—an abdication of the duty imposed on Congress by article I of the Constitution to make and pass laws. It is only reasonable and proper to infer that the constitutional duty of Congress to make and pass laws implies that the Congress will make and pass laws that are capable of faithful execution by the executive.

A Congress that cannot meet that standard is in no position to complain that the executive branch has usurped its authority. More to the point, the constitutional cure is always right in Congress's hands: Sort out your differences; give the executive branch the direction it is Congress's duty to provide.

To me, at least, this is a reading of the separation of powers in the U.S.

Constitution that makes sense, that is consistent with the underlying principles of that great document, that is practical and workable, and that allows for governance rather than paralysis in circumstances when congressional dysfunction deprives the President of the clear legislative direction that by clear implication is Congress's duty to provide.

I hope before we pitch over the looming fiscal precipice, the executive branch gives these views thoughtful consideration.

I yield the floor.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that pursuant to the order of July 21, 2011, and after having notified the Republican leader, we proceed, at 2 p.m. today, to executive session for the consideration of Calendar No. 276, Robert S. Mueller III, of California, to be Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is my understanding this debate is to take 2 hours; is that true?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the order of July 21, the Senator is correct.

Without objection, the majority leader has the authority under that order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

THE DEBT LIMIT

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I will address the issue of the pending debt limit.

Although the President's most recent speech on this did not give me great cause for confidence, I still hope he will drop his insistence on the huge tax increase in return for making the meaningful spending cuts and reforms that we need. I hope, most of all, he will drop his opposition to putting our budget on a path to balance.

That is the big item I think we need in this debate. I think we ought to be willing to raise the debt limit, as I am, if in return for that we would have a commitment of the President to put us on a path to a balanced budget, as President Clinton committed to and he achieved with a Republican Congress back in 1995. I hope we will reach an agreement that solves the underlying problem prior to August 2.

I am here this afternoon because I think we all have to acknowledge that we are late in the process, and I think it is indisputable that there is at least a possibility that August 2 will arrive without having raised the debt ceiling, whatever our personal preferences might be about that.

In my view, since that is a possibility, it is essential that the Federal Government have a plan for what we

will do if those circumstances arise. Specifically, what is going to have to happen is the government will have to spend some period of time—probably a very brief time, but a period of time nevertheless—operating exclusively on the ongoing tax revenues that will be coming in without the ability to go out and borrow additional money. That means necessarily that somebody is going to make decisions about prioritizing payments, by some criteria that somebody will come up with.

Rather than simply wait and stumble into this period and discover what somebody has come up with, I think we ought to lay out a plan. So that is what my recently introduced legislation is meant to do.

Some of us have made this argument for a long time. We saw this day coming, and we have known that we would face a difficult time raising this debt ceiling. It has always been possible that we would not do it by August 2. I have been arguing that we ought to have this plan.

Unfortunately, the administration has persisted in denying that it is even possible to prioritize. It is ridiculous. It is going to happen. They are predicting that we are going to default on our bonds if we go past August 2 without having raised the debt ceiling.

In a letter to Congress, Treasury Secretary Geithner said:

This would be an unprecedented event in American history. A default would inflict catastrophic, far-reaching damage on our Nation's economy.

President Obama said this in May of this year:

If investors around the world thought that the full faith and credit of the United States was not being backed up, if they thought that we might renege on our IOUs, it could unravel the entire financial system.

These are scare tactics. These things need not happen. I am afraid they are meant to intimidate Members of Congress into voting for a debt limit increase without the underlying reforms and spending cuts that the President resists. I think it irresponsible to make these suggestions because it is entirely within the power of the administration to avoid a catastrophic default even if the debt limit is not raised.

Now we have published reports that Treasury officials are making private phone calls to senior executives at big banks informing them that the Treasury will not allow a default—will choose not to default on our bonds. I think they should not default on our bonds, but it is all well and good to tell the big banks this. How about ordinary Americans who wonder: What about our savings, and what about Social Security payments?

This is unacceptable. That is why we introduced a bill called Ensuring the Full Faith and Credit of the United States and Protecting America's Sol-

diers and Seniors Act. We have over 35 cosponsors.

Our bill would instruct the Treasury Secretary that in the event, however unlikely, that the debt ceiling is not raised prior to August 2, they make certain obligations and priorities so they will be paid in full, on time, and without delay. Those three priorities are: interest on our debt, so we will not default and plunge our country into economic chaos; No. 2, Social Security payments because millions of senior citizens, including my parents, depend on Social Security payments. They have earned that benefit by virtue of the payments they have made. We can and must honor that obligation. Next is payroll for Active-Duty military personnel because those risking their lives for us deserve this certainty.

The fact is, there are far more than enough resources for the administration to make these payments. As this chart illustrates, the green bar reflects total minimum revenue expected to come in in August. The combination of interest on our debt, Active-Duty military pay, and Social Security benefits would add up to less than half of the revenue that we are going to take in in August alone. These are not my numbers. They come from the Bipartisan Policy Center. They illustrate clearly that we have the ability to pay these items and many others.

Let me be very clear. I am not suggesting this is a desirable outcome. I am not suggesting this bill is the substitute for raising the debt ceiling.

Mr. President, this chart illustrates that there clearly are more than enough financial resources that will be coming into the Treasury day in and day out in the form of ongoing tax revenue to easily be able to afford interest on our debt to avoid a default, Social Security payments to seniors so that they can be assured of the income they deserve, and Active-Duty military pay, with a great deal left over.

These are not my numbers. They come independently verified by many organizations, including the Bipartisan Policy Center. This bill is not meant as a substitute for raising the debt limit. It is a mechanism for minimizing the disruption that might otherwise occur if the debt limit is not raised prior to August 2.

It is my hope that this legislation never needs to be implemented. But I believe it would be irresponsible for us to go into this period without having planned for how we will handle it in the event this happens.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARDIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF ROBERT S. MUELLER, III, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 276, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Robert S. Mueller, III, of California, to be Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a term expiring September 4, 2013.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, before I begin, unless all time is yielded back, we have 2 hours on this debate. I ask unanimous consent that any quorum calls during that 2 hours be charged equally to both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today the Senate will consider the President's nomination of Robert Mueller to continue serving as the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This is consistent with the President's May 12, 2011 request that Congress pass legislation to enable the Director to continue serving, in light of the leadership transitions at several key national security agencies.

Prior to the President's request, I had discussed this with President Obama, and one of the things he noted was that we were going to have a new Secretary of Defense, a new Director of the CIA, and that he did not want to have yet a third key member of the national security team be replaced at this time. I applaud the President for this, as he could have taken another route and named somebody who would serve for 10 years, beyond any time the President might be in office. Instead, the President decided to do what is best for the country and extend Director Mueller for 2 years. With the tenth anniversary of 9/11 approaching and the continued threat from al-Qaida, we find ourselves facing unique circumstances. We need leadership, stability, and continuity at the FBI as the President makes necessary shifts to his national security team.

After I met with the President and heard his request, I immediately went to work with a bipartisan group of Senators to draft and introduce a bill to create a one-time exception to the statute that limits the term of the FBI Director to 10 years. I worked in a bipartisan manner to hold a hearing and report the legislation to the full Senate

on June 16, 2011. We worked in such a way it could not be seen as a Democratic or Republican bill but as bipartisan. Unfortunately, it then took a month to get consent from the other side to consider the bill. Once we obtained consent, the Senate was able to pass a version of it on July 21. The House of Representatives, to their credit, followed suit on July 25 and the President signed the bill into law yesterday.

The President's nomination of Director Mueller shows there was never any effort to impose a legislative appointment upon the President. The request to extend Director Mueller's term originated with the President, not Congress. Nor was it Director Mueller's idea. The President has prevailed upon Director Mueller and his family, for the good of the country, to alter their plans for Director Mueller to leave the FBI. Instead, both Director Mueller and Mrs. Mueller have answered the call of the country. Incidentally, I don't think I am disclosing anything inappropriate by saying that in my discussions with the President, when he was talking about extending the term of Director Mueller, I asked him: How does Director Mueller feel about this? The President said: I haven't talked with him yet, but he is a good, loyal American, a good Marine, and he will answer the call. And that is precisely what he did.

When we passed our legislation, I did insist we include a unanimous consent agreement to expedite consideration of this nomination when others insisted we adopt a form of statute that would require Director Mueller's renomination. The Majority Leader now has consent to take up the nomination, and after the use or yielding back of time for debate, the Senate will vote on the nomination. Some asked why I insisted upon such a unanimous consent agreement. I did it to prevent a recurrence of the delays and obstruction that have been used to complicate consideration of so many of the President's nominations, especially in the area of national security, such as the Deputy Attorney General, the Assistant Attorney General for National Security, and so many others.

We have Senators who speak on the floor about the importance of protecting the security of the United States, but then at the same time delay and delay the people the President needs in place to protect our national security. The irony is that after these nominees have been held up overwhelmingly in this body. In fact, there was even a hold originally on the legislation making Director Mueller's nomination possible. But now that is behind us and the Senate can vote to reconfirm Director Mueller to a new 2-year term before the August 2 deadline and avoid any lapse in leadership at the FBI.

Let me speak a little about the Director. He took over as FBI Director just days before the attacks of September 11, 2001. Since then, he has overseen and guided the Bureau through a major transformation and evolution. Of course, as in any major transformation, there have been problems, but the Director has consistently displayed professionalism and focus in increasing the FBI's national security and counterterrorism efforts, while still carrying out the Bureau's essential law enforcement responsibilities. So I applaud Director Mueller's commitment to ensuring that the FBI adheres to the values and freedoms Americans hold dear, while vigorously pursuing important law enforcement national security objectives.

As chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I intend to continue to conduct vigorous oversight of the FBI, and will work closely with the Director on these important issues. After all, oversight is one of Congress's most important responsibilities. For example, on June 17, I wrote a letter with Ranking Member GRASSLEY to Director Mueller about the proposed changes in the FBI's revised edition of the Domestic Investigations and Operations Guide. I remain committed to ensuring that this revised guide provides the FBI with the latitude it needs to carry out its duties while not infringing upon the civil liberties of Americans, and ensuring the Judiciary Committee and public are kept informed from its implementation.

I will continue to monitor the implementation of the USA PATRIOT Act, which Congress extended this past May. At the start of this Congress, I introduced legislation that would have extended the three expiring provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act, while improving oversight, promoting transparency, and expanding privacy and civil liberties safeguards in current law. Unfortunately, despite the fact that legislation was reported favorably by the Judiciary Committee, it was never allowed to receive an up-or-down vote during the debate to extend the expiring provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act earlier this year. Nonetheless, I will work with Director Mueller, the Department of Justice, and all Senators of both parties to ensure oversight of the USA PATRIOT Act authorities.

It is important that we vote for this renomination this afternoon, given the ongoing threats to our Nation, and I appreciate Director Mueller's willingness to continue his service. At the Judiciary Committee hearing on the legislation allowing for this extension, while I noted that Director Mueller has dedicated his life to public service, I also made a point to mention his wife, Ann. All of us who serve in public office know that it puts extra strain on our family members. I know how much

of a partner she has been with him in bringing him to where he is, and I know it has to have been a large part of their life together. I am certain that they both were hoping to be able to have some time without the pressures of being in such demanding public service. So I thank him for being willing to serve, but I thank Mrs. Mueller, too. So often we forget that. Director Mueller has dedicated his life to public service, and we are grateful to him and his family for their continued sacrifice.

Mr. President, I see the distinguished ranking member on the floor, so I yield the floor to Senator GRASSLEY. And I note for the Senator from Iowa that I have already asked consent that when there is a quorum call, the time be divided equally.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am very pleased to support the renomination of Robert Mueller to be Director of the FBI.

Director Mueller has served as Director since days immediately preceding the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. In the wake of that tragedy, he has overseen a top-to-bottom transformation of the FBI from a domestic law enforcement agency to a national security agency and with a necessary global presence to combat terrorism.

Director Mueller has led the charge to ensure that the FBI's transformation is successful. This includes upgrading the workforce from an agent-driven agency to one that includes an ever-increasing number of intelligence analysts. I applaud the hard work that has been done, and I also applaud the leadership of Director Mueller. But more work remains.

Despite the recent successes, the FBI also has its share of black marks and skeletons in the closet. I have been an outspoken critic of the FBI's culture for many years because of its unwillingness to own up to mistakes. Too often, officials sought to protect the agency's reputation at the expense of the truth. My concerns are magnified by the way the FBI has treated internal whistleblowers who come forward and report fraud and abuse. But these problems are not necessarily the fault of Director Mueller, and many of these problems were in place long before he arrived.

The Director has been forthright in coming before Congress and explaining these mistakes and not simply passing the buck. I appreciate his candor, and I believe the FBI is in good hands with his leadership. But I will continue, as he knows, to conduct extensive oversight of the FBI to ensure that taxpayers' dollars are spent appropriately and that the civil liberties of Americans are protected.

In 1976, following the excesses of J. Edgar Hoover, Congress limited the

term of the Director of the FBI to one nonrenewable 10-year term. Congress did so to prevent the accumulation of excess power by a Director as well as to provide some political independence for the FBI.

Despite his knowing about Director Mueller's impending term limit and his initiating a search for a successor led by Attorney General and Vice President BIDEN, President Obama chose not to send the Senate a nomination for the Director of the FBI. Instead, the President decided, notwithstanding those statutory provisions, Director Mueller should continue to serve in this position for another 2 years.

Presidential decisions to make transitions in other national security positions are not a special circumstance supporting the extension of the Director's term. Those personnel changes were entirely within the control of the President. However, we do live in extraordinary times and currently face unusual national security threats. Between the recent death of Osama bin Laden and with the upcoming 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, there is an increased threat of a possible terrorist attack. Against this backdrop and with a heavy heart, I agreed to support the President's request to provide a one-time exception to the 10-year term limit on the FBI directorship.

With some reluctance, I joined as a cosponsor of the original S. 1103. The President recently signed into law a modified version of that bill that provides a one-time extension of the FBI Director's term. Early in the process, I said that as a requirement for my support of any legislation extending the 10-year term, regular procedure be followed. The purpose of this requirement was to set a substantial precedent against pursuing a simple process evincing the 10-year term limit.

The process of getting to today's confirmation vote has met my early requirement. A precedent has been set that the FBI Director's term would not be routinely extended—the process of holding a hearing where the FBI Director testified, a legislative markup, and a floor vote in both the House and Senate. Further, the bill was coupled with a unanimous consent agreement requiring a vote on the renomination of Director Mueller. Taken together, this process has established a historical record that we do not take this extension lightly and that any future extensions should have to go through no less than this same process.

The 10-year limit has achieved its intended purpose. Until Director Mueller, no Director subject to the limit has served the full 10-year term. The limit has been successful in reducing the power of the Director and in preserving the vital civil liberties of all Americans.

It has also provided important political independence for the FBI Director.

Only one Director has been fired in this period, and this did not occur for political reasons. The prohibition on reappointment has also preserved the Directors' independence by eliminating any potential that the Director will attempt to curry favor with the Presidents to be reappointed.

Director Mueller has done an admirable job on some areas of reform in an agency under difficult circumstances. I strongly support Director Mueller and believe he will continue to provide steady leadership at this agency during what continue to be extraordinary times, and you can say extraordinary times going back to at least September 11, 2001, but as you look on the history of the war on terror, it probably started 25 years before that in one form or another. However, it is clear to me, as the legislation the President signed requires, that in 2 years Director Mueller will need to move on and the President will send the Senate a new nominee to fill his shoes.

In the meantime, we all ought to thank Director Mueller for his willingness to serve for another 2 years in this very important position because I am sure he was already ready to move on. So the people of the United States as well as this Congress need to say thank you, Director Mueller, for being willing to serve your people again.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I support the President's nomination of Robert Mueller to be the Director of the FBI for an additional 2-year term.

I believe Mr. Mueller is a fine Director of the FBI. I had the opportunity to observe him within the Department of Justice for a number of years. I served as U.S. attorney in Alabama for 12 years, and during that time he was the U.S. attorney. He was an attorney in the Department of Justice, and he was one of the top administrators of the Department of Justice. Director Mueller was a decorated Marine officer and served in Vietnam. I truly believe he represents the highest and best ideals of American patriotism and capability.

He had the opportunity over the years to go into private practice and make a lot of money. He has stayed and committed himself to public service according to the highest ideals, I believe, of public service.

He had a 10-year term. Normally, we would expect that it would be just

that, a 10-year term. The Director has given that long a period of time because there was a concern that when people stay too long, problems can arise in the system because it becomes personality driven rather than meritocracy and people can become entrenched in that sort of thing. So we have a 10-year term. I am not sure that is a perfect period of time, but that was the one that was decided, so it should not be lightly changed to a longer period of time without some serious thought.

Are we violating the very purposes of the act that limited his term? I am pleased that, instead of moving forward with the proposal as originally drafted, we are now moving forward with the proposal Senator COBURN offered, his substitute amendment. I think that is the better way to extend the term. I would like to talk about that a little bit.

The original proposal would have just amended the statute providing that the Director serve for only one 10-year term and created an exception to allow Director Mueller to serve an additional 2 years. I am concerned about the potential for creating a dangerous precedent that the 10-year term limit applies depending on who is the Director, his or her political popularity, and the political dynamics of the White House and the Congress. That was not our goal.

I do understand the President's desire to retain Director Mueller during this time in our Nation's history and to do so expeditiously and not to have some sort of interim uncertainty. Actually, I congratulate the President on his judgment in concluding that Director Mueller can do a good job and has done a good job. While it is true that the original legislative proposal would have accomplished those things, I believe it was the easy way out and would not only have been a temptation to future generations to replicate it, but, more important, it might have run afoul of the Constitution.

At the hearing before the Judiciary Committee, of which I am a member, concerns were raised about the original proposal. Those were raised by University of Virginia James Madison Distinguished Professor of Law John Harrison.

As we all recall, James Madison was considered to be the Founder of our Constitution, the most active member of our Constitutional Convention, the one whose notes told us what went on, the one who went to the convention with an outline, a framework for the structure of government that eventually became our Constitution.

Mr. Harrison testified that it was an unconstitutional "attempt by Congress to exercise directly through legislation the appointments power."

Article II, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution, the appointments

clause—it is in the Constitution—states that the President "shall nominate and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors and other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the Supreme Court and all other Officers of the United States, whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by law."

In the case of *Buckley v. Valeo*, the Supreme Court held that "any appointee exercising significant authority pursuant to the laws of the United States is an 'Officer of the United States' and must, therefore, be appointed in the manner prescribed by [section] 2, [clause] 2, of that Article."

In addition, the Supreme Court has long recognized that "the power of removal [is] incident to the power of appointment." Therefore, Congress may not involve itself in the removal process insofar as it interferes with the ability of the President to exercise Executive power and to perform his constitutional duty.

Professor Harrison explained that because "an appointment is a legal act that causes someone to hold an office that otherwise would be vacant or held by someone else," a "statutory extension of the term of an incumbent causes the current incumbent to hold an office that otherwise would have been vacant upon the expiration of the incumbent's term. It is thus a statutory appointment."

Professor Harrison further testified that the original proposal would have also run afoul of the fundamental constitutional principle that underlies the appointments clause. This is a fundamental principle because the President has the ultimate veto—the power to decide whether to appoint someone at all—and he has the absolute responsibility for their nomination, good or bad. He nominates them.

Indeed, the rationale for the structure of the appointments clause dates back to *Federalist No. 76* in which Alexander Hamilton explained:

The sole and undivided responsibility of one man will naturally beget a livelier sense of duty and a more exact regard to reputation. He will on this account feel himself under stronger obligation and more interested to investigate with care the qualities requisite to the stations to be filled, and to prefer with impartiality the persons who may have the fairest pretensions to them.

That is pretty effective language.

Dilution of the President's sole responsibility for nomination and appointment is inconsistent with constitutional principles.

Given that constitutional concerns were raised by these scholars, it was at least arguable that had we proceeded with the original proposal, a judge could find Director Mueller's appointment and term of service to be unconstitutional if it were to be challenged by someone in court, and that was possible.

Particularly concerning was the suggestion that in a properly presented case involving an individual subject to a purported exercise of government power by the Director who was appointed pursuant to a statute such as the original proposal, a court could find that exercise of power to be invalid, either prospectively or retrospectively. In the past, courts have enforced the appointments clause by holding invalid the actions of purported officers whose appointments did not comport with the Constitution.

When questioned about this possibility at the hearing, both Director Mueller and former Deputy Attorney General of the United States James Comey agreed that if serious constitutional concerns could be raised, they would favor proceeding with the re-appointment process in a different way, one that would pass constitutional muster and not raise questions.

Professor Harrison advises an alternative constitutional method, which is the proposal Congress passed and the President signed into law yesterday. He gave us a suggested way to proceed that would be constitutional, and we drafted it, agreed with it, and passed it.

I think it speaks pretty well of Congress that we are attuned to the complexities of the Constitution and are committed to being faithful to that document, not just taking convenience and going faster but taking the time to hear professors, to think it out, because in that way we respect the Constitution, we venerate it, we strengthen it. When we just bypass it or slide by, dismiss lightly concerns that actions of Congress or the President may be in violation of the Constitution and don't give due weight to that, we disrespect the document.

This law creates a new 2-year term that would run until September 4, 2013. It assumed that President Obama would nominate Director Mueller to that new term with the advice and consent of the Senate, requiring the confirmation vote we will proceed to shortly. Under the new law, Director Mueller is not eligible for another term after September 4, 2013, and after the expiration of that new term, the term for the Director of the FBI will revert to the previous law, the 10-year term; therefore, whoever is the President in 2013 can appoint a new Director to a 10-year term.

While I agree Congress should work to expedite the confirmation process in this unique situation, I also saw no reason to proceed in a constitutionally unsound manner. The formalities of the Constitution may sometimes create obstacles to getting things done as quickly as some would like, but the Constitution and its formalities exist for a very important reason; that is, our constitutional tradition of the adherence to the rule of law. We cannot circumvent those formalities in the interest of some expediency or because it

is a convenient means to a desired end. The words of the Constitution have meaning. They are not suggestions that we are free to ignore if it is inconvenient today.

I believe in the process by which we are now proceeding—creating a separate 2-year term and then calling on the President to make a new nomination. He didn't have to renominate Director Mueller, but he indicated that was his desire, and we have accorded him the opportunity to do that. He has renominated Director Mueller, and I hope in a few moments we will confirm him to this important position.

One of the discussions we had at that hearing was with Professor Van Alstyne. I heard him make a speech many years ago—I was a U.S. attorney, so it must have been 15, 20 years ago—at the Eleventh Circuit Conference, I think, in Georgia. He spoke to the judges. He said he had come to the belief that if one really respected the Constitution, they would follow it faithfully, the good and the bad parts, because that was the only way you respected the Constitution, that was the way to honor the Constitution. That is the way to respect it, to follow what it says.

To the extent to which we are tempted to move around the plain words, the plain intent of the Constitution for convenience, we weaken that document. In the long run, a weakened document will be less of a bulwark protecting our liberties and our freedom as individual Americans.

I thank the President, I thank the leadership, and I thank Senator LEAHY, the chairman of our committee, for responding to the professor's request and ideas and proceeding in a way that I think raises no question about constitutionality—or if it does, it is small—and in a way that took a little more effort.

I once again express my deep admiration for Director Mueller. He is a thoroughly professional law enforcement officer. For virtually the entire time of his law enforcement career, he has tried individual cases, prosecuted individual defendants for all kinds of crimes and depredations. He has understood the reality of courtroom experience. He has worked as a prosecutor with the FBI investigative agents over his entire career as a law enforcement officer, and now, as the Director of the FBI, he brings a unique experience to it. I believe he has done a fine job, and I believe he will continue to do a fine job for the people of the United States.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of FBI Director Robert Mueller continuing in his current position for another 2 years. He valiantly served our country in the Marine Corps, earning various commendations including the Purple Heart. He also served our country in a variety of other important positions including as

a Federal prosecutor, as the head of the of the criminal division at the Department of Justice, and as Acting Deputy Attorney General. He is the second-longest serving director in the FBI's history.

Robert was sworn in as the FBI Director exactly 1 week before the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. He inherited an agency ill-equipped at that time for detecting the emerging threats posed by terrorist organizations such as al-Qaida. Change does not come easily to Federal Government agencies, but Director Mueller immediately committed to Congress that he would alter the status quo that dominated and redefined the culture of the Bureau to effectively address the new emerging threats facing our Nation.

As Congress began looking at providing the FBI with badly needed terror investigation tools such as the USA PATRIOT Act and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, Director Muller was a prominent and critical part of the process. In the 10 years since that terrible attack on our Nation, the agency that Director Mueller leads has detected numerous plots aimed at attacking Americans both at home and abroad. At the same time, the FBI still carries out its function as the Nation's leading criminal investigative agency at the Department of Justice.

Robert Mueller had a baptism by fire in those first days and weeks of his tenure. His leadership, character, and poise have remained constant and the net result has been a revamped FBI that is smarter, more nimble, and better equipped to meet the continuing threat of terrorism that America faces every day.

I not only support this opportunity for Director Mueller to serve for another 2 years, but I am very pleased that we achieved this end through a constitutional means. The initial legislation would have simply extended Director Mueller's statutory term without a new nomination and confirmation. That would have amounted to an appointment by the Senate. The Constitution, however, gives the appointment power to the President. We must not use unconstitutional means to achieve even desirable political ends.

I applaud the Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. COBURN, who offered the alternative of creating a single separate 2-year term that would be available only to Director Mueller. That approach leaves in place the statutory 10-year term for the position of FBI Director and respects the constitutional process of nomination and confirmation. It is indisputably constitutional. We have all taken the same oath to support and defend the Constitution, and that at least means we should choose a path that is constitutionally firm over a path that is constitutionally shaky. We did in this case, and

I think it is a win-win. It achieves a good purpose through a constitutional process.

So I am proud to vote once again to support Robert Mueller's nomination to be FBI Director. He is a great public servant and the right leader for these challenging times.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to support wholeheartedly the nomination of Robert S. Mueller III to continue serving as the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, for an additional 2 years.

I have three criteria for nominees: (1) competence; (2) commitment to mission of the agency; and (3) highest integrity. Director Mueller surpasses all those tests with flying colors.

His competence cannot be questioned. Director Mueller came to the FBI just a week before the 9/11 terrorist attacks of 2001. Since then, he has provided steadfast leadership as the FBI has transformed from a traditional domestic law enforcement agency into a global counterterrorism and anticrime police force that has successfully kept Americans safe from terrorist attacks here at home and abroad. Prior to the FBI, he served our Nation as a decorated marine in Vietnam, and as a Federal prosecutor who tackled cases ranging from the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 to the prosecution of Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega.

He has shown unwavering commitment to the FBI's mission. Director Mueller is the only FBI Director to serve out a full 10-year term. From his first day on the job, he fought to make sure the hardworking men and women at the FBI have the tools they need to carry out their extraordinary responsibilities. As chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee that funds the FBI and as a member of the Intelligence Committee, I am proud to call Director Mueller my steadfast partner in that fight. Together, we work to provide the FBI with the capabilities to stop terrorists before they attack us here at home, go after schemers and scammers who prey on hardworking American families, prevent cyberterrorists from devastating our technology infrastructure, and catch sexual predators before they harm our children. I look forward to continuing our strong partnership for the next 2 years.

Lastly, Director Mueller has strong integrity. He speaks truth to power, even when the truth is unpopular or inconvenient. He answered the call to service when President Bush asked him to serve as FBI director in 2001. And he has answered the call of President Obama when asked to serve 2 more years.

We live in extraordinarily critical times, facing threats from both within

and outside our Nation, and the President's national security team has experienced major leadership changes in recent months. Keeping Director Mueller at the FBI for another 2 years means that one of the tested "Nighthawks" will continue guarding our Nation's national security. The broad bipartisan support in the Senate to have him continue serving as Director is a testament to the faith we place in this proven leader. We are privileged to have such a committed and dedicated public servant leading the FBI, and I am proud to support his nomination.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak in strong support of the nomination of Robert Mueller to continue as the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for an additional 2 years.

In his 10 years at the FBI, Director Mueller has served admirably, instituting important reforms at the Bureau and strengthening its counterterrorism capabilities. An extension of his term will insure that those efforts can continue and provide important stability to the President's national security team during this challenging time.

It is not surprising that when searching for a replacement for Director Mueller, the President determined that it would be best if the Director would continue his service. Director Mueller has a long and distinguished career in public service and we are fortunate that he has agreed to continue in his position.

I know that my colleagues are generally familiar with Mr. Mueller's background, but I think this is an appropriate time to review his many accomplishments.

Director Mueller first began his service to our Nation when he joined the U.S. Marine Corps after graduating from Princeton University. He served as an officer for 3 years, leading a rifle platoon of the Third Marine Division in Vietnam. He received the Bronze Star, two Navy Commendation medals, the Purple Heart, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

After receiving his law degree from the University of Virginia Law School, Mr. Mueller headed to my home State of California to begin his legal career. He worked in San Francisco as a litigator until 1976, when he joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Northern District of California. Eventually, he would become the chief of the criminal division in that office.

In 1982, he moved to Boston to serve as an assistant U.S. attorney. He investigated and prosecuted major financial fraud, terrorism, and public corruption cases.

After serving in several positions in the public and private sectors, in 1998 Mr. Mueller was named U.S. attorney in San Francisco. That was when he first came to my attention as a skilled and committed prosecutor.

Mr. Mueller continued in that role until he was nominated to be FBI Director by President George W. Bush on July 5, 2001. That was an extremely challenging and difficult time to take on this responsibility, as he came to office only a few months before the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001.

Director Mueller more than rose to the occasion. He provided strong and steady leadership, and worked to transform the Bureau into an agency that can better detect and prevent terrorist attacks against the United States.

Under Director Mueller's direction, the FBI has played an essential role in more than 20 significant counterterrorism operations, while infiltrating and arresting groups of individuals charged with planning attacks against our country.

The FBI has also built its cyber investigation capability, focused on counterintelligence, investigated public corruption cases, and tracked and disrupted gang activity.

Time and again, Director Mueller has met the many challenges facing the Bureau, and it is now one of our most respected government institutions.

Of course, Congress had good reasons for placing a term limit on the Director of the FBI. History has shown that the enormous power wielded by the Director and the FBI can be subject to abuse in the wrong hands.

Congress has recognized those concerns with regard to the extension of Director Mueller's term. With the implementing legislation that has passed Congress, and this subsequent nomination, Congress and the President have created a one-time extension that would only apply to Director Mueller. Future FBI Directors would still be limited to a 10-year term.

Extending Director Mueller's term at the FBI for an additional 2 years will ensure that the important reforms and progress he has made will continue. Additionally, it will provide important stability to the President's national security team during this sensitive and challenging time and while it is otherwise going through important leadership changes.

This summer Leon Panetta has succeeded Robert Gates as Secretary of Defense. Although General David Petraeus has been confirmed to be the next Director of the CIA, he will not arrive at Headquarters in Langley to take leadership of the Agency until after Labor Day.

There are additional changes in key military leadership positions, as well as at the National Counterterrorism Center.

In the midst of these changes, Director Mueller will be an experienced, steady hand among the President's national security advisors. Keeping Director Mueller in his position will provide important continuity and leadership during this transition.

Personally, I have deep admiration and respect for Director Mueller. His integrity, courage, and dedication are an inspiration, and his leadership and effectiveness serve as an example for all. I am very pleased to call him my friend, and thank him for his willingness to continue to serve for another 2 years.

I urge my colleagues to support his confirmation.

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant editor of the Daily Digest proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANDERS. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BUDGET CUT IMPACT

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, we are clearly at a momentous moment in American history. We are getting tens of thousands of people visiting our Web site, sanders.senate.gov, every day. People want to know what is going on. As the longest serving Independent in history in Congress, let me give my view of where we are right now.

First, I do wish to say I get a little bit tired of hearing some of our pundits and some of the politicians around here blithely talking about trillions of dollars in cuts. I see some of these guys making huge salaries on TV saying: Why don't they just come to an agreement—\$2 trillion in cuts, \$3 trillion in cuts. That may be OK if one is making a whole lot of money on television doing a television show, but, clearly, those people have not been talking to real Americans.

Let me go over what the media and many of us in Congress have not been talking about, and that is what the impacts of these trillions of dollars of cuts are about. These are not just words on a piece of paper. These are cuts which are going to have devastating impacts on people who are already suffering as a result of the worst recession since the Great Depression. Some people come up with this great idea and they say: The cost-of-living adjustment for Social Security is too high today, seniors and disabled vets are getting too much, and "noted economists"—I have not heard from these noted economists—think it is too extravagant.

Mr. President, go back to Baltimore and I will go to Vermont and we will ask seniors whether they think the COLAs they are getting now are too extravagant, given the fact they haven't gotten a COLA in the last 2 years. Studies I have seen say not only are the COLAs today not too extravagant for Social Security and disabled vets, they are, in fact, too low because they underestimate the real expenses of seniors, which largely have to do with

health care and prescription drugs. The costs are soaring. Any of these pundits or any of these economists who go out and talk to real people and say Social Security COLAs are too high are going to get laughed right out of the room because it isn't true.

If we come forward with this so-called chained CPI, this new formulation for COLAs, this is what it will mean in the real world: If someone is 65 today, when they become 75 in 10 years, that will result in a \$560 decline in what they otherwise would have gotten in Social Security benefits, and when they are 85, 20 years from today, that will be a \$1,000-a-year decline. I know in DC, with the lobbyists making millions a year, when we talk about \$1,000, that is what these guys spend on a fancy dinner. It is laughable. They don't know what goes on in the real world.

There are millions of seniors today hanging on, trying to pay their prescription drug costs, trying to pay their out-of-pocket costs for health care, and \$1,000 a year in 20 years is a lot of money for those people. In my view, it would be immoral and unacceptable to do what a number of plans out here are talking about; that is, to cut Social Security benefits very significantly. Clearly, that is where the Republicans are coming from, but it distresses me that I hear the President and Democrats in Congress also talking about that. This Senator will do everything he can to protect this enormously important program which, by the way, just in passing, has not contributed one nickel to the deficit because it is funded by the payroll tax and has a \$2.6 trillion surplus. From a moral perspective, we cannot and must not cut Social Security.

There are other geniuses out there who are saying: Well, the way Medicare health care costs are going up, maybe it is time we did something like make major cuts in Medicare, including raising the eligibility age from 65 to 67. What is the problem? What is 2 years? Clearly, those folks have not talked to anybody who has been struggling when they are 60 or 63 and looking forward to Medicare at 65. What happens if a person is a modest-income person and they are 66 years of age and they are dealing with a health care crisis? Maybe they were hospitalized, but the government has said, pundits have said, my Republican friends have said, we are going to raise the Medicare age to 67. Tell me what happens. Let the American people tell me what happens to those millions of people? What are they supposed to do? They get diagnosed with cancer, they have a serious heart problem, they are 66, have no money in the bank, what happens to them? How many of those people will not survive?

Then other people say: Well, Medicaid is an easy program to cut. I

mean, let's be politically honest about Medicaid. Medicaid is for lower income people. They don't have lobbyists, they don't make large campaign contributions. Many low-income people don't vote. They are easy to go after. Let's cut hundreds of billions of dollars from Medicaid. Let's be clear. According to a recent study at Harvard University, some 45,000 Americans die each year unnecessarily because they don't get to a doctor on time. That is 45,000 Americans, 15 times what we lost in the disaster of 9/11. Every single year those people are dying.

What happens if we make savage cuts in Medicaid? How many children do we throw off the Children's Health Insurance Program? What happens to the older people who are now in nursing homes on Medicaid? What happens to all those people? I guess we don't have to worry about them. Their lobbyists are not here. What happens to people on disability? We turn our back on those people, that is what we do.

One of the very interesting aspects of this whole debate and why the American people are so angry, so frustrated, and so disillusioned is that Congress is moving in a direction of exactly the opposite way that the American people want us to handle deficit reduction. Every single poll I have seen and in my experience in talking to people in the State of Vermont, people want shared sacrifice. People understand that the wealthiest people in this country are doing phenomenally well. Over a recent 25-year period, 80 percent of all new income went to the top 1 percent. The rich are getting richer, and you know what. Their effective tax rates today are one of the lowest in American history, about 18 percent. So the richest people in America who are doing phenomenally well are paying a lower tax rate than nurses, teachers, and police officers. The American people who see the middle class declining and the rich getting richer are saying: Hey, it is only fair that the wealthiest people help us contribute to deficit reduction. We can't place the whole burden on the backs of people who are getting poorer and poorer as a result of the recession.

The American people also understand we have large multinational corporations, such as General Electric, ExxonMobil, and many others that have been making billions of dollars in profits in recent years and don't pay a nickel in Federal taxes. Then, on top of that, we have the absurdity of a tax policy which allows the wealthy and large corporations to stash huge amounts of money in the Cayman Islands and in other tax havens so we are losing about \$100 billion a year in revenue. The American people are looking around and saying: That is crazy. The wealthy and large corporations, which are doing phenomenally well, which are not paying their fair share of taxes, have to contribute to deficit reduction.

It cannot simply be on the backs of the elderly, the children, the sick, the poor. That is what the American people are saying in poll after poll.

There was a poll that just came out the other day—just one more of many polls. Washington Post: Should the wealthiest people in this country be asked to pay more? That is the question. They asked: In order to reduce the national debt, would you support or oppose the following: raising taxes on Americans with incomes of over \$250,000 a year. The response in that poll was 72 percent of the American people said yes, 27 percent said no. Overwhelmingly, every poll we see says the wealthy have to pay more in taxes, and then the same polls say: Protect Social Security, protect Medicare, protect Medicaid, protect education. Here is the irony: We are marching down a path which will do exactly the opposite of what the American people want. Our Republican friends have been absolutely fanatically determined that no matter what happens, billionaires and large corporations will not pay a nickel more in taxes. That has been their religious belief, not a nickel more from the wealthiest people in this country. I have to say Democrats have not been particularly strong in opposition to that nor has the President been strong, with retreat after retreat.

In recent months, we have heard more and more discussion from Democrats about cuts in Social Security, cuts in Medicare, cuts in Medicaid. Now there is apparently a willingness to come forward with a proposal that would include only cuts and no revenue at all—no revenue at all.

I think the American people are angry. I think they are frustrated. I think they are disillusioned because what they want to see happen is deficit reduction done through shared sacrifice, although with the wealthy and large corporations playing their role appears not to be happening. And when they have said loudly and clearly that we must protect Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, they are also seeing that it is not happening.

So I just conclude by saying I think there is a path toward deficit reduction which is fair and responsible. It does ask the big-money interests to understand that they are Americans also and they have to play a role in deficit reduction. It does say that at a time when we have tripled military spending since 1997, we have to make significant cuts there as well.

I hope our Republican friends give up their fanatical opposition to asking billionaires and millionaires and large corporations to play a role in deficit reduction. I hope my Democratic friends will stand tall. And I hope that at the end of the day, we have the deficit-reduction program the American people will feel good about.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MERKLEY). The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, we all know we are running against the deadline of Tuesday, August 2, on raising the debt of our Nation, and there is a real risk that if we don't make that deadline on Tuesday, there will be checks from the Federal Government that will not be able to go out. The number of 70 million is used as the number of checks written each month by the Federal Government that go to employees, that go to contractors, that go to recipients of certain benefits.

Let me talk about 4,000 Federal workers who already have been furloughed. It doesn't have to do with raising the debt ceiling; it has to do with the failure of the House of Representatives to send a clean extension of the Federal Aviation Administration—the FAA reauthorization bill—for us to consider. As a result of the failure to pass the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration or to pass a short-term extension of the FAA, 4,000 workers at the Federal Aviation Administration have been put on furlough. That in and of itself has a major impact on our economy. That is 4,000 Americans who are no longer receiving a paycheck. It affects people who work for the FAA in such fields as safety engineers, computer scientists, aeronautics engineers, physical scientists—the list goes on and on—jeopardizing the progress we have made in keeping our airways safe and jeopardizing the convenience to those who travel by air. Many of those workers live in the State of Maryland, so it is having a direct effect on the State I have the honor of representing in the Senate.

It goes beyond just the Federal workforce who have been put on furlough as a result of the failure to pass a short-term extension of the FAA. It also goes to construction contracts that are funded through aviation funds. At many airports around the Nation, there have now been stop orders on construction of runways, construction of towers, and construction of other improvements that are important to keep our airports modern and safe and convenient in handling the increased number of air passengers.

Let me tell my colleagues that, yes, it affects those large contractors who are doing the work of the Federal Government. It is going to affect their payrolls and their workforce, but it also affects a lot of small businesses in Maryland and around the Nation.

Let me give one example. Chappy Corporation is an electrical and me-

chanical operations small business specializing in airport landing systems and lighting. Chappy Corporation is the lead contractor implementing BWI's—the main airport in Maryland—ASDE-X project, a runway safety mechanism that enables air traffic controllers to detect potential runway conflicts by providing detailed coverage of movement on runways and taxiways. For the safety of all of us, I hope we would want to move forward with those types of improvements in our major airports in the Nation, including the one which most Marylanders use—BWI Airport. Chappy Corporation has been told to stop work on this important aviation safety project, thus decreasing their value and making it more difficult to make payroll. It is already tough for small companies out there today, and now, because of the failure of the House to send over to us a clean extension of the FAA bill, which we have done many times in the past, we have a company such as Chappy which is running the risk of its strength to continue with its current workforce and to do important work at airports for safety.

It also goes beyond the Federal employees and the contractor employees who are not getting a paycheck and the contractors whose work has been stopped and they are not getting their construction contract payments. It also affects the Federal Aviation Administration's revenues. They collect a lot of revenue. There is a ticket tax. When a person buys an airline ticket, they pay a tax that goes into the Federal Aviation Administration's funds which are used for improvement projects at our airports. That amounts to about \$30 million that will not be collected. What happens to that money? Well, we lose it in the Federal Treasury. People say: Well, maybe it will make it less expensive for people to travel. But that is not the case.

Let me quote a headline from Reuters: "Airlines Raise Fares as 'Taxes Lapse.'"

I am quoting:

Many U.S. airlines have raised fares in recent days to take advantage of a lapse in U.S. ticket tax collection after Congress failed last week to fully fund the Federal Aviation Administration's budget, but passengers are not likely to notice any price difference.

JetBlue Airways Corp. and Southwest Airlines Co. began raising ticket prices by at least 7.5 percent on Friday, according to FareCompare.com. Other airlines, such as Delta Air Lines and United Continental Holdings Inc., boosted prices on Saturday.

So we can't collect the 7.5-percent tax and the airlines are pocketing the money. The people who are purchasing tickets are still paying the same amount even though none of that money is going to improve our airports. It makes no sense whatsoever.

All of these occurrences—the Federal workers not getting a paycheck and

being put on furlough, contractors not getting paid and construction work not being done, revenues not being collected that are necessary for the Federal Government—are hurting our economy. All are making it more difficult for our recovery.

Why has this happened? The reason, quite frankly, is that we have not been able to pass the reauthorization bill. We passed the reauthorization bill early in the session, the Senate did. The House passed a bill about 100 days ago but has refused to appoint conferees to work out the differences. Then the House sends over—because we didn't meet the deadline—an extension bill that includes a partisan labor provision, an antilabor provision. Now, that should never be in an extension bill. It shouldn't be in any legislation. But it should be negotiated between the conferees of the House and Senate so we can get a reauthorization bill done. They shouldn't use an extension bill in order to get that done, and that is what they have done. As a result, we have the consequences of Federal workers being furloughed, contractors not being paid, and revenues necessary for our airport improvements not being collected.

So what should we do? What do we need to do? Well, we need to first pass a short-term extension, a clean short-term extension without these killer amendments attached to allow our workforce to be able to work and to get their paychecks, to allow contractors to continue the work they are doing, and to allow the government to collect the revenue necessary to keep our airports modern. That is the first thing we should do.

Secondly, we need to negotiate in good faith between the House and the Senate conferees so we can pass the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization bill. That bill contains many very important provisions, including what we call NextGen, which is the way in which we can operate our air service in a much more efficient way, using less fuel, less time, and helping our economy. The FAA reauthorization bill is estimated to create hundreds of thousands of jobs for our country. We need to get that done. So we need to negotiate the bill, get that done, and all of that will help create more jobs for our community.

I urge my colleagues, particularly those in the House, to send us a clean extension bill, negotiate in good faith, and let's get the FAA bill done.

Actually, I see the ranking member of that committee, our colleague from Texas, who may wish to talk about it or some other issue.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I am here to talk about the renomination of FBI Director Mueller, but I certainly heard my colleague from Maryland, and I agree we must pass a clean extension of the FAA. We are losing the revenue, and we are losing the capability for projects that are ongoing to continue. Work has stopped at many of the airports that have building and repair projects that are supported by the FAA.

Honestly, the House needs to send a clean extension. There is a clean extension pending in the Senate. It has been objected to by one Member. This is not the way to go forward. I happen to agree with much of what the House wants to do, but not in this way. We have to put that in the context of the whole bill, which we certainly should be doing, and I hope the House will send us a clean extension so there will not be another weekend of disruption and people can get on with the projects.

I come to the floor today to speak about FBI Director Robert Mueller. He has been FBI Director since 2001. During a critical time when our country has experienced such major leadership changes on our national security team, this nomination offers the necessary stability and continuity from a proven leader who has wide support.

Director Mueller has strong bipartisan support. He was appointed on August 2, 2001—just before the 9/11 tragedy—by President Bush, and he began serving a week before the September 11 attacks. His term is said to expire next week on August 2.

The FBI has never experienced a larger transformation than while under his leadership, adding counterterrorism, counterintelligence, and cyber security to the Bureau's traditional crime-fighting mission. In the 10 years Mr. Mueller has been Director of the FBI, he has worked tirelessly to ensure that no international terrorist attacks have occurred on U.S. soil since 9/11, and there have been several plots that have been uncovered and kept from occurring.

Director Mueller has ensured that the FBI is a full member of the U.S. intelligence community and serves as a critical and singular link between the intelligence and law enforcement communities in the United States. He served our Nation with valor and integrity as a marine in Vietnam and as a Federal prosecutor. He answered the call to service from President Bush to be FBI Director and is once again answering the call by agreeing to serve 2 more years under President Obama. He is an admirable public servant, and I urge his swift confirmation.

THE DEBT CEILING

Mr. President, we are less than 6 days away from the date the Department of the Treasury has signified would shut down the Federal Government and exhaust all borrowing authority.

We all know we are at this point because we have a fundamental difference in the principles on how our government should be run. We all know we are at this point because the financial viability of our Nation is at stake.

I believe this debt ceiling debate presents Congress with a critical opportunity to get our country back on a sustainable and prosperous path. We must send a message to the markets, to the American people, and to American businesses that we are going to get our fiscal house in order with spending cuts, caps on future spending, and permanent budget reform in the form of a balanced budget amendment.

What we need now is a serious proposal to provide certainty and clear commitment to a reform measure that ensures spending cuts before the debt ceiling is raised. The Senate majority leader's and the House Speaker's plans have similarity, and I believe a common ground can be found in the two.

First, neither of the plans proposes tax increases to achieve deficit reduction, and both plans aim for significant deficit savings in the amount of \$1.2 trillion over the next 10 years.

Now, is that what we wanted? No. I would have had more cuts. We should be reaching for \$4 trillion in cuts, not \$1.2 trillion. But we have had plans put forward for \$4 trillion, we have had plans put forward for more, and we could not get those through. We could not get one through the Senate. Furthermore, entitlements are not in the plans that are before us, and entitlement reform is essential for us to address. We can certainly put Social Security on the fiscally responsible path that will make it secure for 75 years with very minor changes and gradual changes if we do it now. This is an opportunity. Because we have only 6 days, we are not going to be able to do it in this vehicle.

But there is a plan going forward that our leader, Senator MCCONNELL, and Senator REID, along with a bipartisan group of Senators, have put forward a plan. I think we need to look towards the long term and not let this opportunity pass to do something that will be enduring for the fiscal responsibility of our country.

But we have 6 days, and now we have to do something as responsible as possible with the time we have left and keep open the option of doing what we should be doing for the long term before the end of this year. That is what Senator MCCONNELL, Senator REID, and many other Senators have put on the table. That is what we need to try to achieve.

But we have made great strides. What Republicans said from the beginning is, they are not going to support tax increases of any kind in this economic climate. Businesses are not hiring. A 9.2-percent unemployment rate is unacceptable. Our businesses are

afraid of the Obama health care plan and its costs. They are factoring that into their plans, and they are not hiring people because of the expense. Add more tax increases on top of that and our economy is going to be stagnant for a long time. So tax increases are off the table.

But I do hope we can also make the cuts that will put us on a fiscally responsible plan so we will not have to address this debt ceiling ever again.

So we have made a major achievement. Sometimes it seems as though when we have to come together to do something that is not ideal, we do not take acknowledgment of the fact that we are making one smaller step in the right direction. I think in order to avoid a fiscal calamity, we do need to make the strongest step we can make, which is cutting spending and doing it without increasing taxes.

The idea that we could tax our way out of debt has been totally discounted. Neither of these plans includes tax hikes to offset the deficit reduction, and that is a strong endorsement. Both proposals also include budget enforcement of discretionary caps by requiring automatic across-the-board cuts if the caps are not met. That will put a Governor on future spending that will keep the promise we are making to cut spending.

Both proposals establish a bipartisan committee to identify further deficit reduction that would include tax reform and fix the broken entitlement programs. I hope we will not throw that out the window. Having a commission—I know people roll their eyes and say: Oh, another commission. Really? Well, if we have a finite end date and have the opportunity to make more real cuts, it is worth another chance. We do need to make entitlement reforms.

If we can do tax reform that lowers the tax rate for everyone and brings in revenue by having more people hired off the unemployment rolls, that is a win. We raise revenue by putting more people back to work. That is the way you raise revenue, not by tax increases that put a lid on hiring.

So I think we have some good things that can be put together. We need to make sure we go forward, as much as we can with a divided Congress, and try to make a step in the right direction. Then, hopefully before the end of the year, we will be able to take stronger steps that will have a more lasting impact.

I, for one, think it is not even a possibility that we would allow the debt ceiling to be met and start the process then of watching the President decide who gets paid and who does not.

I have a bill I have introduced with strong support that would make the priority paying the interest on our debt and paying our soldiers, our men and women who have boots on the

ground in harm's way. If you are Active-Duty military, you should not waste 1 minute thinking about whether you are going to make your mortgage.

I want to say that I commend USAA. USAA is the corporation that serves so many of our military personnel. They have put out their policy that in case the debt limit is reached, USAA has stated that for those military members, who are on active duty and have their paychecks directly deposited into their USAA account, they are going to provide a one-time, interest-free advance for their paycheck.

They also know the stresses on those members of the armed services. USAA is doing a wonderful thing by putting the families of loved ones across the sea fighting for our security at ease.

So I commend USAA. At the same time, I would like for my bill to be passed that assures that those military servicemembers who are not customers of USAA will also have the comfort of knowing their paychecks will be there on time. So I hope if all else fails in this body, we can pass the legislation that says we will pay our debts and we will pay our military and Social Security recipients will also be paid.

But I do not think we ought to get that far at all. That is why I am urging our Members to work with our leaders. Do not throw stones at our leaders. They have a tough job corralling 100 pretty big egos, and we ought to be helping them get to the point where we are all comfortable that we are doing the right thing. Sometimes we cannot get 100 percent of what we want when there are 100 people who have their individual ideas as well.

So I hope we will take this chance to do so much for our country that we have the opportunity to do. We may have to do it in smaller steps to reach that goal, but if we reach the goal, we will have secured the future for our children, and that is what we are here for.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE DEBT CEILING

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I would like to express my support for the majority leader's plan to raise the debt ceiling and reduce the deficit. Our Nation, as we all know, faces a looming crisis.

The markets have already warned us. Businesses are already postponing investments. We know the consequences of inaction. They are predictable. Borrowing costs for businesses and individuals will escalate. Interest payments on the debt will grow. Already anemic job growth will decline. Our Nation will run the risk of another financial

catastrophe and possibly a return to recession. As Chairman Bernanke recently stated, the outcome would be "calamitous."

Many Americans are struggling. Far too many remain out of work. They cannot be asked to absorb the shock waves of yet another failure to act. It is time, as the Senator from Texas just pointed out—and others have—for both sides and both Chambers to find common ground.

Reasonable and responsible editorials from across the country have endorsed the majority leader's proposal. Well-meaning people on all sides have a genuine concern and have shown genuine concerns. We all—most all of us—share those concerns about the implications of not acting.

There are in the other party some individuals who view themselves as revolutionaries in the best sense of the word. They appear less concerned with the here and now than with where they want to take the country in the future. We all understand the two are connected and that looking to the future is vital to the country. The question, though, is the harm that might be caused by precipitous action.

Columnist George Will wrote a column a few days ago likening the tea party movement of today to the beginning of the Goldwater-Reagan conservative era; that the Goldwater movement of 1964, even though it did not bring Senator Goldwater to the Presidency, was the first step toward the conservative revolution that culminated in Ronald Reagan's election in 1980.

I am going to quote a couple of sentences Mr. Will wrote:

The tea party, [which in his view is] the most welcome . . . development since the Goldwater insurgency in 1964, lacks only the patience necessary when America lacks the consensus required to propel fundamental change. . . .

Mr. Will goes on to say:

If Washington's trajectory could be turned as quickly as tea partiers wish . . . their movement would not be as necessary as it is.

Those are Mr. Will's words. That is Mr. Will's considered opinion. That may be so, and it may not be so. But the first rule of good governance is to do no harm. That does not mean we should not make cuts. That does not mean we should not look toward some of the directions this debate has taken us. But it means be careful when you are dealing with a fragility of national policy at a time like this.

Some things sound better in a speech to a room full of activists than they actually are in the reality of how to govern and the practicality of how to actually bring about change, where change is needed.

Senator Goldwater did not attempt to torpedo the economy in order to get his way. Ronald Reagan, in whose administration I proudly served, by the

way, raised the national debt 18 times—more than any other President.

I fought in Vietnam as an infantry marine. I am very proud of that. Those of us who did fight in Vietnam all remember the regretful quote of one infantry officer who lamented that during one battle he had to call in heavy artillery and airstrikes on a populated village; that he had to destroy a village in order to save it.

I do not think the Republicans who are using this issue as a lever to bring about their view of radical change want to look back at a fractured economic recovery, a downgraded credit rating for the world's No. 1 economy, a citizenry that has become more angry and less capable of predicting its own financial future, and then say, as if all of this were not predictable, that they destroyed the American economy in order to save it.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I know my distinguished colleague, the senior Senator from West Virginia, is going to be seeking recognition, and perhaps others. I certainly have no objection to that. I realize we are on the Mueller nomination.

I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding any interruption for other business, the Mueller vote still be at the time we originally planned, which is around 4 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, last week I came to the Senate floor to ask unanimous consent to pass something called—a very easy thing—a clean extension of the FAA bill, something the Senate has done 20 times. This is the 21st time—4 years waiting to pass a reauthorization bill.

But for the first time in these 4 years, the Republicans objected to this extraordinarily routine request. Shortly, I will renew my request to pass our 21st short-term extension of the FAA. But before I do, I want to highlight the very painful consequences of failing to pass this bill, which we can only do by getting a clean extension.

By objecting to my request last week, Republican Senators made sure that 4,000 hard-working FAA employees were furloughed already. Hundreds of critical airport safety capacity air traffic control projects were brought to

a halt. Payments were stopped to hundreds of small businesses dependent upon reimbursement from the FAA for their work.

The Federal Government is being forced to forego almost \$30 million a day in aviation tax revenue that is critical, obviously, to supporting our overall airport infrastructure program. The introduction of the newest Boeing aircraft is being delayed because the FAA cannot certify that the planes operate safely.

I know in Washington we have a tendency to view these fights as purely policy disagreements that have no real impact on people. I stress that there is an enormous effect on people and businesses, large and small, and on the economy of the United States. Because some Republicans have refused to allow another clean extension of the FAA programs, something we have done 20 times in the last 4 years, we are inflicting real pain on very real people.

People are suffering. Small businesses are hurting. We are losing jobs and will lose a lot more. Even consumers are losing out on the airline ticket tax holidays.

The majority of the airline industry has greedily chosen to pocket those revenues rather than reducing ticket prices. In other words, they have a tax holiday because the expiration of the tax has already taken place a number of days ago. So they are taking this tax holiday, and rather than leaving at the present level the cost of a ticket for consumers—as Alaska Airlines is doing and Virgin Airlines is doing and one other airline is doing—they are taking the money to themselves, giving it to themselves.

I find that extraordinary. It reminds me of “Too Big to Fail”—the movie—the greed, the promise to help with small mortgages and they got all the money and didn’t spend a dime to help with small mortgages.

The damage we are doing to our aviation system is incredibly real. If we fail to act in a timely manner, it may be so devastating as to become irreversible. It makes sense when we think about it. If one were to operate on somebody and cut beyond a certain point, they can’t reverse the damage.

With so much pain being inflicted on so many, one may ask why my Republican colleagues have refused repeated requests to pass a clean extension—something we have done 20 times in the past 4 years.

They are willing, evidently, to hurt so many of these people for the benefit of one company. It is called Delta Airlines. As the chairman of the House Transportation Committee has stated publicly, the House inserted language on the Essential Air Service Program to leverage the Senate on including provisions relating to the National Mediation Board.

What do I mean? What they sent to us was all about essential air service.

But that is not what it is about at all. The chairman, my counterpart in the House told me many times that essential air service is not a big deal to him. He doesn’t particularly have a dog in this hunt. We need to do some reform on it, which we offered to do. He didn’t mention a thing about the National Mediation Board. That is the only thing that motivates the House.

Delta Airlines is nonunion. The other airlines, for the most part, are union. Delta Airlines has had four elections in the last several years to unionize. Each time the company has prevailed over the union. So one might ask: Why is it that they are so strongly suggesting they need this National Mediation Board, which they changed in their bill.

It had been changed 2 years ago to say the number of votes that were cast were the number of votes that were reflected. In their bill, they want to say that anybody who does not vote in a union certification election, by definition, has voted no. I have never heard of that in America anywhere else. It is a rather ridiculous ploy.

This is not policy, this is pettiness. It has become the typical “my way or the highway” thinking of the House Republicans.

I note that we have forgone almost \$150 million in tax revenues by failing to act. It will go up by about \$25 million a day, which, when we think about it, would come close to paying for the whole Essential Air Service Program anyway, in just a week or so. Again, by the end of the week, we will have lost more revenue used for aviation infrastructure spending than on the entire Essential Air Service Program cost all of last year. It is embarrassing.

I wish my Republican colleagues would have defended the prerogatives of the Senate. Instead, some chose to back the House leadership.

Last week, as my friend from Utah—who is here now—outlined so honestly, Senate Republicans are not permitting the Senate to pass a clean extension because they want the Senate to accept language altering 85 years of labor law and legal precedent.

I wish I understood why the policy objections of one company—Delta Airlines—mattered so much to so few and also mattered so much more than the livelihood of thousands of American workers who have or will be furloughed.

Last year, the CEO of Delta made \$9 million. Whether that was a salary or salary plus options, I know not. Delta paid its top executives almost \$20 million. Yet it is fighting to make sure its employees cannot organize—they already had four elections, and in all four Delta has prevailed—for fear they may secure a few extra dollars in their paychecks.

At the same time, it is pushing for special interest provisions in the FAA

bill. Delta is not shy. Delta announced it was abandoning air services to 26 small, rural communities—leaving many of them, obviously, without any air service. One only has to live in a small, rural community or a State such as mine to understand what that means and what the cost truly is.

Delta then had the gall to announce publicly it would seek EAS subsidies to continue this service. Maybe Mr. Anderson and his colleagues can forgo some of their own salaries to help subsidize the air service. That is not my business. Maybe they could use some of the millions of dollars they are collecting in a tax holiday windfall to pay for this service. That is not my business, but it is theirs, and it is shameful.

Let me be clear. House Republicans and their Senate allies have thrown nearly 4,000 FAA employees out of work already, stopped critical airport safety projects, hurt hundreds of small businesses, and gutted the Aviation Trust Fund—or began to—so Delta Airlines—that one company—doesn’t have to allow its employees to organize in a fair or timely manner, if they chose to.

The needs of one company should not, in any deliberative body, dictate the safety and soundness of our aviation system. We need to pass a clean extension that will get people back to work and businesses and their employees back to work and build out our airport infrastructure.

It is so simple to pass a clean extension bill. We have done it so often. We have done it 20 times. The one time where there was some policy attached was 2 years ago, when the House and the Senate totally agreed on what was in the extension, and it passed. But it is such a simple thing to do. By not doing it, it is holding up our whole process.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 2553

Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that, as in legislative session, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 109, H.R. 2553; that a Rockefeller-Hutchison substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read the third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. HATCH. I object, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I will take a few minutes to explain why I am, once again, objecting to the legislation offered by my dear friend from West Virginia, my Finance Committee colleague. I wish to make it absolutely clear that a long-term FAA reauthorization is a priority for this country, and it is a personal priority for me.

Once again, I point out that I have worked with Chairman BAUCUS on reporting a Finance Committee title to the bill that passed the Senate earlier this year. The current lapse in FAA taxes and expenditures authority from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund is a detrimental situation brought on by the Senate majority's refusal to discontinue granting excessive favors for big labor and their refusal to cut any wasteful spending.

As I have said, I share House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman MICA's frustration that favors to organized labor have overshadowed the prospects for a long-term FAA reauthorization.

Last year, the National Mediation Board changed the rules under which employees of airlines and railroads are able to unionize. For decades, the standard has been that a majority of employees would have to agree in an election to form a union. However, the National Mediation Board rules changed that standard so all it takes to unionize is a majority of employees voting. This means the NMB wants to count an employee who doesn't vote as voting for big labor. Somehow, organized labor is able to claim it is democratic to appropriate someone else's vote without that person's input and participation.

The FAA reauthorization bill that passed the House earlier this year undoes this heavyhanded rule and lets airline employees decide for themselves how to use their own votes. The House bill would merely undo a big partisan favor done at the behest of big labor and put efforts to unionize airline workforces on the same footing they have been on for years.

The House bill does not create a new hurdle to unionization. Instead, it restores the longstanding ability of airline employees to make decisions for themselves. The House bill only undoes the NMB action that was taken to reverse 70 years of precedent for narrow political gain.

In addition to an impulse to cater to big labor, the Senate majority also is resistant to any attempt to cut any government spending, no matter how wasteful that spending may be. The House bill I am going to ask unanimous consent for in a few minutes has aroused the ire of the majority because it contains a provision that would limit essential air service eligibility to communities that are located 90 or more miles from a large- or medium-hub airport. This would save \$12.5 million a year. That is right, million with an "m", not a "b" or a "t."

The majority is resisting a provision that already passed this body as part of the Senate's long-term reauthorization bill that would save \$12.5 million a year, and they are willing to put the FAA's finance at risk in the process. The House bill I am going to offer also

contains an additional proposal to limit essential air service subsidies for communities where the cost per passenger is greater than \$1,000. This provision would affect a grand total of three airports in the whole country. It is my understanding these three airports would also have ceased to receive EAS subsidies under another provision in the Senate-passed, long-term FAA bill that limited subsidies to airports averaging 10 or more passengers a day.

To sum this up, our friends on the other side, the Democrats, are holding this up over wasteful spending and handouts for President Obama's big union allies.

The point is, the Senate majority has cut the FAA off from its primary source of financing and created confusion for travel companies and tax-paying passengers by objecting to a short-term extension measure that doesn't do one single thing that is not done by a bill that passed the Senate by unanimous consent on April 7 of this year.

I wish to briefly discuss and hopefully clear away some of that confusion. Passengers who bought tickets while the taxes were still being collected may be entitled to a refund if they are traveling during a period in which the taxes have lapsed. I wish to make it clear that the inability of the Senate majority to process legislation should not constitute an additional burden to the already beleaguered travel industry. It is the responsibility of the IRS to refund ticket taxes, and while I recognize they want to do the right thing for taxpayers, I encourage the IRS to work closely with the travel industry. The travel industry is not responsible for the lapse in FAA taxes, and they should not bear extra costs because of that.

The lack of a long-term bill is bad for airports all across the country because they don't have the funding stability to plan and complete projects. Kicking the can farther down the road is not a viable alternative to actually doing what is in the best interests of all parties.

As a Senate conferee to the FAA bill, I stand ready to do everything I can to get to work with my House and Senate colleagues on a long-term FAA reauthorization, as soon as they are willing to get down to work.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 2553

Madam President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2553, which was received from the House. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HAGAN). Is there objection?

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, have the yeas and nays been ordered on the Mueller nomination?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. No.

Mr. LEAHY. I ask for the yeas and nays on the Mueller nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, how much time remains until the vote on the Mueller nomination?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Four minutes.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I hope all Senators will step forward and vote for this nomination. I can think of no reason why they should not. Director Mueller is typical of many in our government who serve the people of America tirelessly, without any gain to themselves but instead for what is best for all Americans and for our country. Director Mueller has worked—along with the thousands of individuals at the Department of Justice and the FBI who work around the clock every day to keep America safe to protect us from crime and to protect us from terrorists. Unfortunately some people try to lump together and deride government employees. The fact is the people at the FBI and Department of Justice are very brave men and women, many of whom put their lives on the line for us day by day, and we ought to acknowledge that.

Bob Mueller is the public face of the FBI, as its long-serving Director. Amazingly, he and Ann, his wife of many years, along with their grown children, are able to separate that their private life from the public life. Like so many who serve this country, Director Mueller's public life takes an inordinate amount of his time, and I think it is a testament to his dedication that he was willing to do this job for another two years, but it is also important to acknowledge the sacrifice of his wife Ann and his children. I think all Americans share in the good fortune that when the President asked Director Mueller to step forward and serve for another 2 years, he answered the call.

I also want to compliment President Obama. He knew he had the opportunity to name somebody who would be there as long as he, Barack Obama, may be President, whether he serves one term or two, and beyond. Instead, the President, as he has often done, did what he thought was best for the country.

Director Mueller is a fine public servant, and I would urge all Senators to vote "aye" on this nomination.

Madam President, how much time remains?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 1 minute.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I see no one else seeking the floor, so I yield back the remainder of the time, which is now about 30 seconds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Robert S. Mueller, III, of California, to be Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a term expiring September 4, 2013.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 100, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 118 Ex.]

YEAS — 100

Akaka	Gillibrand	Moran
Alexander	Graham	Murkowski
Ayotte	Grassley	Murray
Barrasso	Hagan	Nelson (NE)
Baucus	Harkin	Nelson (FL)
Begich	Hatch	Paul
Bennet	Heller	Portman
Bingaman	Hoeven	Pryor
Blumenthal	Hutchison	Reed
Blunt	Inhofe	Reid
Boozman	Inouye	Risch
Boxer	Isakson	Roberts
Brown (MA)	Johanns	Rockefeller
Brown (OH)	Johnson (SD)	Rubio
Burr	Johnson (WI)	Sanders
Cantwell	Kerry	Schumer
Cardin	Kirk	Sessions
Carper	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Casey	Kohl	Shelby
Chambliss	Kyl	Snowe
Coats	Landrieu	Stabenow
Coburn	Lautenberg	Tester
Cochran	Leahy	Thune
Collins	Lee	Toomey
Conrad	Levin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Lieberman	Udall (NM)
Corker	Lugar	Vitter
Cornyn	Manchin	Warner
Crapo	McCain	Webb
DeMint	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Durbin	McConnell	Wicker
Enzi	Menendez	Wyden
Feinstein	Merkley	
Franken	Mikulski	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, a motion to reconsider is considered made and laid on the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I have spoken to the Republican leader fairly recently—it is all relative time, I guess. There will be no more rollcall votes tonight.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for morning business until 6:30 p.m. tonight, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. Senator COBURN is not on the floor, but I understand he wanted to speak for more than 10 minutes.

I ask that Senator COBURN be recognized at 5:30 p.m. for 30 minutes.

Mrs. BOXER. Reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I would like to get 20 minutes to speak following Senator COBURN.

Mr. REID. Sounds good to me.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. The rest of the Senators will be limited to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at 6:30 p.m., I be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Kansas.

THE DEBT CEILING

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I have spoken several times over the last several weeks with regard to the issue at hand. Clearly, the time continues to escape us, and the day of reckoning is coming in regard to the debt ceiling issue. I have said from the very beginning that in my view it would be irresponsible not to raise the debt ceiling, but it would be as irresponsible if not more so to raise the debt ceiling without reducing the spending, getting our books more in balance, and moving us in the right direction toward a balanced budget in the future. I recognize this cannot be accomplished overnight, and I recognize there are those who bring different points of view and perspectives to the Senate floor. This is a body of people who represent individuals who live in all 50 States and have points of view and philosophies and backgrounds that are different than perhaps the constituents I represent from the State of Kansas.

I have been a strong supporter of the legislation entitled “cut, cap, and balance.” I actually believe it is not just cut, cap, and balance; it is cut, cap, balance, and grow. We could do so much for our country both in the fiscal sense and with the idea that we could better pay our bills if the revenues are increased by putting people to work, by creating a climate in which people could find jobs, people could improve their situation in regard to their jobs, and in the process of doing that the revenues increase to the Federal Treasury.

It was back in the days of President Clinton that we came the closest to

having our books balanced. While there was spending restraint and disagreement among Republicans and Democrats about new spending programs or bigger government, in my view, the real reason we had a balanced budget was because the economy was growing.

So I again ask my colleagues to pay attention to what I believe was the message of the 2010 election: It is the economy. It is the desire of people to have a better life, to save money for their children's education, to save money for their retirement, and to be satisfied that the job they have today is the job they will have tomorrow.

I believe there is much that we can do with regard to the regulatory environment, making the Tax Code fair and certain, issues regarding access to credit, a trade policy that will allow us to increase exports—both agricultural and manufactured goods—and a trade policy that reduces our reliance on foreign energy and gives us greater control over its costs. But the time has come for us to reach an agreement, and we anxiously await what action the House of Representatives may take.

In light of this point in time, I would like to share with my colleagues in the Senate an e-mail I received from one of my constituents, a Kansan named Gina Reynolds. Gina is from Shawnee. She expresses this point of view I think very appropriately for where we are today. In asking Gina if I could share with you what she wrote to me, she indicated this was the very first time she had ever written a Member of Congress. Here is what she had to say that I hope we will take into account. Again, while we bring philosophies and viewpoints and approaches to government to Washington, DC, there is an opportunity for common sense and good judgment to prevail.

Here is what she says:

I firmly believe the United States needs to start living within our means. However, I am frustrated beyond belief with the inability of Congress to do their jobs and ensure that we do not throw the country back into recession. While I and my husband are employed, we feel lucky to have jobs. We work hard, pay our taxes and try to raise our children the right way. It absolutely boggles my mind that we cannot come to a compromise on the debt ceiling issue that is so critical to the financial markets and the average American citizen.

For it is us, the middle class, that will suffer the most; from lost jobs, to lost 401Ks, and lost savings. We need real tax reform, real entitlement reform (for even though I am 42 years old, I do not believe I will ever see a dime of Social Security) and real spending cuts. Congress has had months to work on this issue, and now the time is to act in the best interests of the People, not the political interest groups, not some ideology.

It is sad to say, but I honestly don't know if my children will have a better future than me. I know that there are a lot of tough decisions yet to be made regarding spending and taxes, but we

only make it harder by defaulting on any of our country's obligations. I am fiscally conservative and generally vote Republican, but I do not blindly follow any one path. I try to use my vote wisely and pledge my loyalty to my God and my country, not a political party.

I believe we have the greatest country on Earth, but our inability to compromise, to stop acting like spoiled children, saddens me. The Founding Fathers were able to compromise and write a document that has stood the test of time for 235 years. Can we not now do the same? Please do the right thing for the American People, the ones frustrated and angry and hurt by this self-produced impasse.

I thank Gina Reynolds for her message to me and Members of the Senate, for taking the time to communicate with her Senator, with me as a Member of Congress. I think she in many ways expresses a conservative yet common-sense point of view so many Kansans have.

I often think too many times we are caught in a circumstance that we find an inability to resolve. Sometimes we are trapped by our political party. In my view, while we ought to have strong opinions and ought to have a solid philosophy, we need to make certain that we are motivated for the right reasons and that the good of America is at the forefront of our minds.

I indicated in my maiden speech when I spoke here on the Senate floor 4 months ago as a new Senator that when I need a perspective as to what we need to do here—and sometimes we get bogged down in those things that are a lot less important—I will put my walking shoes on, my running shoes, and I will walk up to the Lincoln Memorial. You go by the World War II Memorial, you walk on past the Vietnam Wall, and you walk by the Korean War Memorial, and in each one of those locations, I am reminded that no American memorialized in those settings fought and died, sacrificed for their country for purposes of Republicans or Democrats but because they believed they had an obligation to serve our country and because they believed that in that service, they had the opportunity to make life better for their family and for future generations of Americans. We need to remind ourselves that we need that perspective. It is not a fight between the Republicans and Democrats. It is about doing what is right for America. We owe it to those who sacrificed in military service for our country, and particularly those who have died in that service, we will do what is right. I know my colleagues share that point of view. I think from time to time we have to be reminded about what the priorities have to be, what the focus must be.

Again, I appreciate the sentiments expressed by this Kansan and would in-

dicate that we, as American citizens, and certainly me, as a Member of the Senate, our primary responsibility as citizens is to make certain we pass on to the next generation of Americans this country called the United States of America in which we maintain the freedoms and liberties guaranteed by our Constitution and we allow the next generation of Americans, our children, our grandchildren, and young men and women yet to be born, people we don't even know, the opportunity to pursue the American dream.

I think this Kansas constituent of mine expressed those sentiments very well, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to see that we do what is right for the future of our Nation and that this next generation of Americans can pursue that which we all idolize and believe in, the American dream.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, let me, first of all, compliment my friend and colleague, the Senator from Kansas, for his comments and for his approach. He made a few comments we haven't heard much of in this Chamber or in the other Chamber in the last few days. He said before he was a Democrat and before he was a Republican, he was an American. I want to compliment him on those sentiments, and I want to rise in that same vein because whether you are somebody from Kansas or somebody from North Carolina or folks I hear from Virginia who keep saying to me: Why can't you guys get this thing done? Why can't you both be willing to give a little to put our country first? As somebody who has had the honor of serving as Governor of Virginia and somebody who served as a businessman for 20 years, I never thought that I would be standing on the floor of the Senate 6 days, 5½ days away from the United States of America potentially defaulting on our obligations. Yet most of the debate and, Lord knows, almost all of the press conferences have been less about solutions and more about who is to blame.

Whether they are sitting in the gallery or they are watching at home or, like most Americans, trying to get through an unbearably hot summer, they wonder who are these folks they hired to get the people's business done.

I have been involved with a group of Senators over the last 9 months who have done something I didn't think was extraordinary, but unfortunately today is pretty extraordinary. There is a group of Democratic and Republican Senators who have said the most important issue we face in our country is to get our debt and deficit under control, and who have said that the only way we can get that under control is to sit together for hours on end, reason together, argue, and do something as basically American as compromise.

After months and months of going back and forth, last Tuesday, when we revealed the so-called plan—which, frankly, the Gang of 6 has built upon the work of a previous year's work of Democrats, Republicans, Independents, and business leaders, the President's deficit commission—a remarkable thing happened for a couple of days in this body. Instead of everybody coming out and saying why this couldn't happen, they said: Hey, this isn't perfect, but this would actually lower our deficit by close to \$4 trillion, take on tax reform, take on entitlement reform, and cut spending. It might just be a path out.

Well, that lasted a couple of days, and then we got back to who was going to score points in the next 24-hour news segment.

Well, I desperately hope and pray that at this moment in our country we will rise to the task and make sure, with the eyes of not only the Nation but the world on us, that we do our basic job. Let's make sure the United States of America doesn't default next Tuesday.

The only way I think we are going to get there is if we lower the rhetoric, lower the finger-pointing, and recognize it is going to take ideas from both sides. It is going to take a change in attitude from some.

There is a Congressman who gave a press conference sometime in the last day or two who paraphrased Winston Churchill. He said:

We're going to fight you on the beaches. We're going to fight you at sea. We're going to fight you in the air to make structural changes in the way this place known as Washington, DC, operates.

Who is the "you" he is going to fight? Is he going to fight people who say maybe America and Americans want us to actually work together and compromise? I mean, this kind of sentiment goes beyond the pale in a moment when our Nation is in this kind of crisis.

There has been a lot of talk recently—particularly coming from the other body—that the only way to solve this problem is an amendment, a constitutional amendment. Well, I would point out 49 States have that kind of amendment. They have to balance their books. My State, Virginia, and the Presiding Officer's State, North Carolina, meet that goal. There are an awful lot of States that have that kind of amendment in place. I don't know what kind of accounting they use, but I have not heard many folks point to the California State budget and say: That is a balanced budget.

So some kind of process argument isn't going to solve the problem. We have to make the hard choices. We have to cut spending. We have to reform our entitlements. We have to reform our Tax Code to generate additional revenues.

The numbers don't lie. We are spending at an all-time high, 25 percent of our GDP. We are collecting revenues at only 15 percent of GDP. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out any time our Nation's budget has been in relative balance is when we have been with spending and revenues at 19.5 percent to 20.5 percent. Why can't we come together to put a plan in place that does that?

Folks who are watching are saying: Well, there is actually a plan. More than one-third of the Senate has said: We will be with you—about an equal number of Democrats and Republicans. But instead we are going back and forth, ping-pong, who is going to have which plan? Who is going to win each day? It is also pretty remarkable at this moment in time—I don't know who this Congressman is, but when we have roughly one-fifth of the House who at least on record saying they will never vote to increase the debt limit, I wonder when they took the oath to uphold the laws of our country, which said we have to pay our bills, how that commitment matches with those promises or those political positions.

My sense is they want to have an amendment to the Constitution. What they are advocating, this we will never change, our way or the highway approach, the amendment they ought to talk about is basically restructuring our whole Constitution and turning our government into a parliamentary system. There are a lot of places around that if you win an election, you get to choose the chief executive. You get to control the legislature. You can pass anything you want. Yet these very same folks are the ones who say they want to support the Constitution.

Well, the Constitution and the genius of our Constitution was the fact that the Founders said the most basic American principle was checks and balances. We have a House, we have a President, and actually they have to work together. Somehow the attitude of some of these Members in the House, do it our way or let's drive our country over the cliff, is dramatically as un-American as anything I have ever seen.

At the same time, we hear other Members who say: Maybe we just need a little more economic shock to make us do the right thing. What are these folks thinking of? The stock market closed down 200 points today. It has been down about 400 points this week. There are an awful lot of Americans who only now are starting to recover from the financial crisis of 2 years ago. There are an awful lot of retirees who saw their 401(k)s plummet 2 years ago, who slowly have seen that nest egg that is going to get them through rough times recover.

Now 400 points—how much more stock market decline do we need before we all have the courage to do the right thing, 1,000 points? Do we need to put

another 1 million Americans out of work? Do we need to throw more people out of their homes because of the tax increase that will result—the real increase that will result with the rise in interest rates that will happen next week?

There are others who say: Let's do it short term. Let's kick the can down the road for a short while, something that is being discussed in the House. It doesn't matter whether it is Democrat or Republican. It matters because that approach will result in a lowering of our debt rating. I know people's eyes glaze over when they hear about debt ratings. Unfortunately, debt ratings matter—and we are the only country in the world with a AAA debt rating. That means we are kind of the gold standard.

If we have that debt rating reduced, it is not only a black eye for America, it not only means that what we have to pay in interest rates will go up, not just for government but if you have a school bond, if you have a State bond, the prices are going to go up. You have an auto loan, a home mortgage, you have a student loan, you are a business trying to expand, the cost of that is all going to go up.

The very same folks who say they will never look at raising more revenues don't seem to mind at all that if we have to have an interest rate rise because of a default or downgrade of our debt, doesn't that take more money out of Americans' pockets? I just don't get it.

Frankly, as the Presiding Officer knows, I have been pretty obsessed about this issue for months on end. I hope that we will check our Democratic and Republican hats and go with what my colleague, the Senator from Kansas, said and recognize when we get out of bed tomorrow morning we get out of bed as Americans, not as Democrats or Republicans; that we not only get over the debt limit, which, hopefully, through some convoluted process we will, but we also recognize that getting past August 2 doesn't mean, OK, we are done, everybody go have a nice August. All that does is buy us a bit of time to decide whether we are going to come back to the really hard issues of not only how we start with some spending cuts, which will be part of our down payment, but how we really make sure the entitlement programs—important to so many of us on both sides of the aisle, but particularly on this side of the aisle—are actually there 10, 20, 30 years from now.

The notion that they are not going to change, that they cannot continue to be sustainable at the current rate, it is not Democratic or Republican.

Thank goodness a lot of us are living a lot longer. When I was a kid there were 15, 16 people paying in for every Social Security retiree. Now there are 3. We have to make sure that for my

kids, your kids, that there is Social Security in their framework. At the same time we have to have our colleagues on the Republican side recognize that we have to reform our Tax Code in a way that makes it simpler, flatter, and, yes, generates some additional revenue.

The only way we are going to get there, if and when we get past this August 2 date, is if we combine that effort with long-term debt reduction. I am more than open to any valid, balanced comprehensive bipartisan plan that is around.

For the effort of the so-called Gang of 6, a third of the Senate said, yes, this is worth considering. It isn't perfect, I can assure you. Some would even say, from some of the descriptions I have heard, that it may not meet all of those. But I will tell my colleagues three things it is: It is comprehensive, bipartisan, and, under any analysis, it does what our country desperately needs: It starts to drive our debt-to-GDP ratio in the right direction, which is a fancy way of saying we can maintain our books on a path to lead us to fiscal stability. Frankly, what that would also allow us to do is get back to what we should be spending our time on, which is creating growth in this economy and starting to unleash American creativity and innovation. But that is not going to happen if we spend all of our time pointing fingers back and forth about how we got here or which short-term plan best meets the short-term interests of the next 5 or 6 days.

I, for one, believe the plan Senator REID has laid out is not perfect, but it gives us the time to deal with this debt and deficit problem in a serious way. It gives us the ability to ensure that we don't have a credit downgrade. Unfortunately, the plan being debated in the House right now may have some merits, but the one thing that is clear is that it will lead to a downgrade—not my words, but the words of all the rating agencies. Whether we like them or not, they are the folks who set that standard.

Again, I urge folks who are making statements such as “We are going to fight you on the beaches, we are going to fight you at sea, we are going to fight you in the air,” to consider your fellow Americans here. If you don't like our system of government, then be honest and propose a change to a parliamentary system. If you do honor and respect the Constitution which we all took an oath to uphold, recognize that it is a Constitution that puts in place checks and balances to have us all work together, give a little, and recognize that when we get out of bed in the morning, we are not a Democrat or a Republican but an American first and foremost.

I hope and pray we will find the path through these next 5 days and that we won't do the unthinkable. I have said

on a couple of occasions—I am sure it will come back and bite me—that if we don't do this we should all get fired, because the fact is the most basic promise we make is to uphold the laws and rules of our country. Frankly, I can't think of anything that is more quintessentially American than making sure we pay our bills and that we honor our obligations. So let's get that done, and then let's work together to make sure we put in place the long-term, comprehensive, bipartisan approach that is needed so we can get this Nation back on the right fiscal path but, more importantly, back on the right path to ensure that everybody gets that fair shot for that economic growth we all seek so much.

I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WHITEHOUSE). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COBURN. I ask to speak as in morning business.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPENDING

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, we have a lot in front of us as a nation. Our perception is that our country is anxious, and I think it has good reason to be anxious, but it doesn't have anything to do with the debt ceiling debate. It should be anxious because we are not listening. We are not paying attention to the anxiety and fear and worry that the country they know and the freedoms and liberties they have are slipping away from them. They are slipping away because we are putting America into debtor's prison. We are slowly losing our ability to make free choices about our future because we failed to be responsible in the past with the money the American people have given us.

We have had a lot of debates and a lot of statements over the last couple of weeks, but no one ever talks about what the real problem is. The real problem is we are spending money on things with good intentions that don't accomplish their purposes. We are spending money we don't have on things we don't absolutely need, and the programs we do have, we fail to oversee to see that they are running both efficiently and effectively. As a consequence, we find ourselves in the midst of an economic downturn with a \$1.5 trillion to \$1.6 trillion deficit, borrowing \$4 billion a day. That means every day and a half, we borrow more money than the State of Oklahoma

spends in a year. We hear all of the political speeches and all of the fingerpointing, but we don't hear the real solutions to our problem.

Let me explain what I mean. Everybody agrees we are going to have to make some cuts, but not everybody is honest about the numbers associated with those cuts. Everybody agrees we are going to have to tighten our belt, but nobody wants to offer specifically where to tighten our belt. What I wish to do today is offer specific places where the government today—right today, in this body and the one across the Capitol—could make a big difference in the outcome of our future by cutting specific programs this week and next week.

That is the one rare thing we never hear in Washington. Everybody says we need to cut, but when it gets down to talking about what to cut, nobody wants to come up with any cogent ideas because they don't want to take the political heat, because every program, no matter how well intended and how inefficient, has those people who are going to fight for that program because it has money coming into the coffers for something.

The other point I wish to make is the reason we are anxious and the reason we are worried is we have abandoned the very principles our Founders gave us that would keep us healthy, and that was the Constitution and its enumerated powers section, which spelled out very succinctly what was our responsibility and what was the States' responsibility.

So we have whole departments. One, for example, would be the Department of Education that Thomas Jefferson said if we ever have the Federal Government doing anything on education, we would have to change the Constitution. That is a direct quote of his. He was one of our Founders. He, as well as Madison and Monroe and others, wrote extensively about what their intentions were in the Federalist Papers. Yet we have allowed ourselves to be walked, like in a dream state, into the contention that the Constitution does not make any difference and that it would, in fact, if we paid attention to it, limit our opportunities for the mistakes we have made. The mistakes we have made—though well-intentioned—are that we can be the answer for every problem in America. We cannot.

What made our country great was self-reliance, individual freedom and initiative, personal responsibility and accountability. That is what built our country, in a system that said: If, in fact, you work hard, the opportunity is there for you to gain, for you and those you love. Now we have a government that at every place, for every decision that is for the economic benefit of those individuals who would grab that dream, they are confronted with layers upon layers of bureaucracy, with rules

and regulations, to the point where no longer are they presumed innocent by the Federal Government, they are presumed guilty, and they have to prove themselves innocent to the bureaucracy to be able to accomplish that which would set them free, that which would put them ahead, that which would establish an opportunity to gain the wealth this country promised.

I put forward a week ago last Monday \$9 trillion in potential cuts. Now, I know people are not all going to agree with me, but every one of these cuts is backed up with a government study that says what we are doing in these programs is not effective. Whether it is the Congressional Research Service, the inspector generals, the Government Accountability Office, OMB, or the Congressional Budget Office, there are over 3,000 footnotes to the 600 pages that are in here that explain very well why we should not be doing this \$9 trillion worth of stuff.

I understand we can have a great debate on whether, one, it is our constitutional responsibility. Some of it certainly is when it comes to defense. No. 2, we can have a great debate on what we think are priorities, those things that fit within the Constitution that are our responsibility. But we cannot debate the facts of the outright waste, the outright fraud, the outright abuse, and the outright duplication of multiple sets of programs.

This is far from a complete list, as shown in this chart. But over the next 10 years, we could save \$150 billion to \$200 billion just by eliminating duplicative programs. We have over 100 programs on surface transportation. That is 100 sets of bureaucracies, 100 offices, 100 sets of regulations, 100 sets of rules. The question we ought to ask is, If we have responsibility on surface transportation, why in the world do we have 100 different programs?

We have 82 teacher improvement and training programs run by the Federal Government. Nobody will come down here and answer me why. It is indefensible we have it. Yet nobody will come down here and join me to eliminate it. We have to be asking the question: Do we have good reason to be anxious when we will not do the obvious?

We have over 180 economic development programs, but we have 88 economic development programs that we spend \$6.8 billion a year on run by four separate agencies, and not one of them has a study that shows they are effective in developing economic activity—not one of them. So why would we continue to send money into programs with good intentions that are not working? Yet we have over 180 of them, 88 within four departments. We have not been able to find all the rest of them, but we know they exist.

That is 88 sets of bureaucrats, well-intentioned Federal Government workers doing what this Congress and Congresses before us have told them to do

but not accomplishing the purpose for which that money—almost \$7 billion a year—is sent.

We have 80 other separate programs for transportation assistance. You see the little community vehicles, the ones to help those who have a disability. Why do we have 80 separate programs? Nobody can answer that. It is easy to figure out how they happen. They are well-intentioned. We ought to help people who cannot get around. The question that ought to be asked is, Is that a State responsibility or a Federal responsibility? If it is a Federal responsibility—that is debatable, but if it is, why would we have 80 separate programs?

We have 56 different programs run by seven different agencies to teach Americans financial literacy. We have to ask ourselves the question: How can a government that is running a \$1.6 trillion deficit and has \$14 trillion of debt—and our debt-to-GDP ratio is 100 percent—how do we have any authority to teach anybody about financial literacy? That is No. 1.

No. 2, where is it in the Constitution that we are responsible for teaching people financial literacy? That is both a State function, a city function, and a family function. Yet we have 56 programs, and not one of them has a metric to study whether it is effective—not one of them.

Job training: We spent \$18.8 billion on job training this last year. We have 47 different programs. The Government Accountability Office says, of those 47 programs, all of them overlap except 3. So based on the study of the people we pay to study this, the most we should have is 4 job training programs. And we are going to spend almost \$19 billion on that? Here is what we know. The results cannot justify that we are spending the money because the results do not show performance. Yet we are spending \$18 billion.

We have 20 different programs for homeless assistance and prevention. That is a great role. We all want to help the homeless. We want to do whatever we can to get them in a stable situation, to assist them. But 20 different programs? Why would we do that? Why wouldn't we have one? And why wouldn't only the one program be administered through a State if, in fact, it is our role? I happen to think that is the State of Oklahoma's role to take care of the homeless people in Oklahoma, not the Federal Government's. But if it is the Federal Government's role, why would we have 20 programs?

Food for the hungry: 18 separate programs, 5 different agencies. Again, I am all for helping those people who need to have food. Why would we have 18 sets of bureaucracies, 18 different sets of rules—18 different sets? And 2 of these actually work; 16 do not, but we have not eliminated them. We are still sending the money out the door.

Disaster response and preparedness inside FEMA: Just for disaster response and preparedness, there are 17 programs just inside FEMA. That does not count all the disaster response and preparedness programs in all the other government agencies. That is just inside FEMA. We have to ask the questions: What are we doing? One, what have we done in the past? And what are we going to do about the problems that are in front of us today?

So I would propose that we are off base, and we have a good reason to be anxious about us because we will not address these problems. When we bring amendments to the floor, they get routinely defeated. Why is that? Is it that we are being dishonest about the facts or is it we are protecting the politicians so they are not attacked by the very people who are benefiting indirectly—not directly, but indirectly—from these programs, the bureaucracies and the other quasi-governmental agencies that feed off these programs?

So where do we go to start fixing this \$1.6 trillion deficit? I had some wonderful employees of the Social Security Administration come to me about a year and a half ago, and they said—and they wanted to remain anonymous; and I understand why—they said our disability program is broken. We are giving disability checks to thousands of people every year who are not disabled.

So we started looking at it in the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, and here is what we found. If we take veterans totally out of the mix—this does not apply to veterans—1 in 18 people in this country today is collecting a disability check.

As a physician, I have done all sorts of disability examinations. What we are finding is about 40 percent of the people who are on disability are not disabled because the law says to be disabled in this country, and to receive a check from the rest of us for that disability, there can be no job in the economy they can do.

Yet we have judges who never deny anybody when they come through the disability program. We have people on disability who are working full time at other jobs. Once they are eligible for a disability check, 2 years after that they are eligible for health care.

So now we have undermined the system that was designed to help the truly disabled by having thousands upon thousands upon thousands of people collecting a disability check, which means there is not going to be a check for somebody else.

The disability trust fund, which we pay into when we work—as well as SSI, which is a separate fund that comes just from our tax dollars—is belly up. Next year, the Social Security disability trust fund runs out of money. The reason it is running out of money is the Social Security system does not say: If you were disabled and now you

are not, why are you still taking the money when you are back at work? They do not do their job because the leadership at Social Security does not demand that the job is being done.

So we have significant ways of improving that to make sure we are helping those people who are truly disabled. But we cannot get anybody to help us get that law passed. To say we want to clean up Social Security disability does not mean we do not care about the people who are disabled. It means we care about those who are going to be disabled in the future, so we will have a dollar to help them when that need arises for them.

So it is just one of those areas. It has not been looked at in 25 years. The Social Security system—once you are on, you are on. They rarely take anybody off. The fraud associated with collecting a disability check and working for cash in our economy—and working not for cash, even working full-blown jobs—we had three instances where we had the Government Accountability Office film people, two of whom actually worked as salaried employees for the Federal Government, who were collecting disability at the same time they were collecting checks from the Federal Government as a Federal employee. And it is not small; it is big.

So there is \$60 billion over 10 years that we could save just by reforming the Social Security disability system. That does not say we do not want to help people who are disabled. It says we want to do the best for our country and help those people who are disabled. But we have undermined self-reliance. We have found people who want to take advantage of our charity and love and care. So, therefore, they cheat the system. We have an incompetent bureaucracy that does not take them off the system, and we have an incompetent system of jurisprudence within the Social Security Administration that puts people on who should never be on. But the attack comes that we do not care about people if, in fact, we want to fix this program.

Social Security: Everybody says do not touch Social Security. This Congress and the Congress before it has stolen \$2.5 trillion from the money we put into Social Security. They have written a little, bitty IOU note and said: Well, when you need the money, we will pay it back.

What does that mean? That means the full faith and credit of this country has to be good enough that when we get ready to pay the \$2.5 trillion back, we can borrow the money at an acceptable interest rate to be able to pay it back.

So what do the Social Security Administration trustees say we need to do? They say we have to make it sustainable. And, oh, by the way, wouldn't it be nice if the poorest people on Social Security could get a little bump so

we could help those who are truly dependent on it and make it sustainable so we never have to discuss Social Security again? Even with the baby boomers, we ought to do that.

So what we have done is designed a solvent path over 75 years based on Social Security where we are likely to achieve it. We did not raise anybody's taxes. We help those the most who are in need the most, and for those who are the most well off, we said: You cannot have quite as much. In other words, we means tested it.

We said: If you are very wealthy, you will eventually get your money out, but not like everybody else will. The people who need it the most, we are going to help the most. It alters the retirement age just to go along with life expectancy. It does not alter life. It alters that 2 years over 60 years.

But the fact is, our life expectancy is far advanced from what it was when we first started Social Security.

When we first started, we had almost 50 people working for everybody who is on Social Security. Now we have less than five, and it is not going to be long where we are going to have less than three. It is not sustainable unless we change that. So the point is, I understand Social Security is important to people in this country. But if we do not change it, in 2035, we are going to get two-thirds of the benefits you put in. We are not going to get any more than that.

So do we fix it now and make it sustainable forever or do we just wait until it goes belly up, knowing we cannot borrow the \$2.5 trillion that was stolen from it and let it go belly up? The typical politician says: I do not want to do that because I do not want to take the heat to have to explain that to people on Social Security or coming on Social Security.

I do not have any problems trying to explain it. It is the right thing for us to do. We have to fix it, and we can fix it, if, in fact, we are going to save our country. That is one of the things we have to do to make sure the people who buy our bonds, loan us the money, recognize we have a salvageable situation. Ignoring Social Security—it is our second biggest issue now, other than health care—it is our second biggest issue. To ignore it and not fix it says we will not be able to borrow the money for it or anything else.

Let me spend a minute going through a couple things we can do next week that would save a lot of money—not hard, not controversial. The question America ought to ask is, Why have we not already done it? Let me give some examples. We ought to quit paying unemployment compensation to millionaires. Do you realize last year we paid \$20 million out in unemployment compensation to people who were making \$1 million that year. Is that nuts or what?

Unemployment is to help those people who are in need who are unemployed. It is not to give money to people who do not need it because they are unemployed. Yet we spent almost \$20 million last year paying people unemployment compensation who made \$1 million last year.

We could save \$1 billion over 10 years if we quit making payments to dead people. You say: Oh well, you do not make payments to dead people. Yes, we do—\$100 million a year that bureaucracies pay to people who are dead and a good portion of it we never get back. It is gone. We do not follow that up.

We know we can save \$5 billion a year minimum—minimum—if we just eliminated some of the overlapping programs I talked about. That is a very conservative estimate. It is probably more akin to \$25 billion a year. But let's say it is one-fifth of that—\$5 billion a year. That is \$50 billion. That would keep us from borrowing money for 14 days just by eliminating duplication in government programs.

We could eliminate \$2 billion over 10 years by eliminating sweetheart contracts and bonuses to contractors who work for the Federal Government who do not earn their bonuses. Yes, we do that. We pay bonuses to people who both do not perform and do not perform on time. You would not do it. If someone came in to do something for you on a fixed price with a bonus based on quality and time and they did not meet it, you would not pay them the bonus. But your Federal Government does anyway.

We could save \$1 billion over 10 years by collecting unpaid taxes owed to us by our own Federal employees. Taxes that are owed, they have been adjudicated, there is nothing else going on, it is final, it is set, but we do not take the money out of their pay. That number is growing every year, the amount of money they owe.

We could save \$3.82 billion by reducing the amount of money Congress spends on itself by just 15 percent. Would it be too much to ask of the Congress to tighten its belt by 15 percent and save 1 day's borrowing? No. I turn back, on average, about \$500,000 to \$600,000 a year on what is allocated to my Senate office. I do not do that to be able to say I do it; I do it because I do not need it because I know how to run an office efficiently and pay people effectively. But the fact is, we have too big a budget, and we need to trim it. We need to lead by example.

We could save \$480 million a year just by having HRSA, the Health Resources and Services Administration, pay the right prices for drugs in their programs versus paying too high prices—prices higher than what they contracted for. One-half billion dollars does not sound like much. But $\frac{1}{2}$ billion over 10 years, that is \$5 billion. That is one three-hundredths of what our problem is right now in terms of the deficit.

We could save \$5 billion by eliminating unnecessary government printing. We could do that tomorrow—\$5 billion.

We could get \$15 billion back by getting rid of unnecessary government buildings we are not using, that are costing us \$8 billion a year to maintain. I cannot remember the exact number. I think we have 63,000 facilities right now the Federal Government owns—63,000 that are underutilized or not utilized at all. That is 12,000 more than we had 2 years ago, and we are signing new leases for buildings all the time and abandoning the buildings the government owns.

The Federal Government should dispose of excess property within 5 years. According to President Obama's own administration, we could save, at a minimum, \$15 billion. Every time we have tried to do this, somebody stops it in the Senate.

We can end subsidies for ethanol blending. We voted on it, had 74 Senators vote on it, but it did not happen. That is \$2 billion we could save this year if we passed it tomorrow. We can decrease the number of limousines owned by the Federal Government, save \$115 million. We could reduce the Federal vehicle fleet, \$5.6 billion.

The Federal Government—you will not believe this number—the Federal Government owns 662,000 cars—662,000. The average mileage on them is less than 20,000 miles. The fleet has grown by 5 percent and the cost of maintaining and servicing the fleet has grown over 25 percent in the last 2 years—\$4.6 billion a year just maintaining these 600,000-plus cars.

The amount of vehicles in our fleet could easily be decreased by 20 percent. We have all the capability of having GoToMeeting, of having Internet, of having live chats, of having telecommunications with visual conferencing. We have all those things available. We do not need the cars we have. Even the Obama administration agrees we can do that.

We could save \$43 billion by decreasing travel by government agencies—same reason. We spend \$15 billion a year on travel—\$15 billion. Anything that is not mission critical and that could be done through teleconferencing ought to be done. We advertise. The advertising budget for the Federal Government, \$5.6 billion a year. They do not pay for public service ads. These are ads outside of public service ads—\$5.6 billion. We spend \$1 billion a year hosting government conferences. The Federal Government now owns 685 million acres in the United States. The cost to maintain that, we are not funding. The land is falling in worse disrepair. We are adding land every year. There is lots of land we could give up that is not a precious resource, is not a heritage area, is not forest, is not a park. Yet we own it.

We could save a lot of money by not having so much land and put it back on the tax rolls. We could save \$4.1 billion just on our last 2 years' average, in terms of slowing down and not buying additional land, unless there is a direct necessity for the Federal Government to have it.

We could save \$19 billion over 10 years by combining the PXs and exchanges on our military bases—\$19 billion just by putting them together. That is what we could save.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has used 30 minutes.

Mr. COBURN. I ask unanimous consent for 3 additional minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, reserving the right to object—I shall not object—but I would like to add 3 minutes to my time as well.

Mr. COBURN. No objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COBURN. Let me end with this. It costs us, to educate a student on our military bases, an average of \$51,000 a student. If we look at the locations where all those are located, the cost outside is one-fourth of that. We could easily do that and pay the community. But we will not.

I will end with this. We can solve our problems. There is \$9 trillion worth of specific savings in this. We do not have to agree with all this. We do not even have to agree with half of it. If we agreed with one-third of them, we would be well on our way. The fact is, nobody wants to be specific. We need to be specific. Everybody wants to talk in generalities. Nobody wants to make the hard choices. Hard choices are what we are here for.

Our time has come to stop living the next 30 years on the backs of our kids. It would be my hope that as we go through this process the next 2 weeks, we will see a renewal in the spirit of our country that says: We are going to live within our means, we are going to reward self-reliance, we are going to reward individual accountability, we are going to reward personal responsibility, and we are going to put the role of the government back where it should be both at the Federal and State level and have commensurate policies that will reflect that, that will renew our country, that will create jobs, that will create opportunity for the future of our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

DEBT CEILING

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to say to the Senator from Oklahoma that standing and going through the list of things that offer opportunities for saving is very important. I have a

list as well. For example, on my list, we know of well over \$1 trillion of money owed to the United States of America by people who have not paid it. If we even got a portion of that over a 10-year period—that is over a 10-year period—we could do that. I look forward to working with the Senator on that.

But tonight we are not facing a 3-week timeframe as my colleague perhaps suggested, we are just facing down a 5-day timeframe and we are facing a manmade crisis and, by that, I have to say a Republican-made crisis on raising the debt ceiling.

We have never in the history of this country faced a situation such as this. Why do I say this? Because the debt ceiling has been raised 89 times—89 times—and I can tell you because I voted for it a number of times and voted no four times.

Yes, on occasion you vote no on it and send a message, but you don't bring it down. I have never seen anything like this. We are going down a dangerous path. When I say we have raised the debt ceiling 89 times, that is in the RECORD—55 times under Republican Presidents, 34 times under Democratic Presidents. The debt limit was raised the most times during Ronald Reagan's Presidency. During his 8 years, the debt limit was increased by 200 percent. And this is what President Ronald Reagan said when it was time to raise the debt ceiling, which, again, under his Presidency was raised 18 times:

The full consequences of a default—or even the serious prospect of default—by the United States are impossible and awesome to contemplate. Denigration of the full faith and credit of the United States would have a substantial effect on the domestic financial markets and on the value of the dollar in exchange markets. The Nation can ill afford to allow such a result.

That was in a letter written to Senator Howard Baker in 1983.

The debt limit was raised seven times during the Presidency of George W. Bush. During his 8 years, the debt limit was increased by 90 percent. Honest to goodness, I don't remember one Republican colleague—and I could be wrong on this—who suggested that we don't raise the debt ceiling when George W. Bush was President.

I will tell you something. We all know that when you raise the debt ceiling, it is for debts already incurred.

George W. Bush took a surplus of over \$200 billion a year and he turned it into a deficit. The reason we have to raise the debt ceiling, mostly, is because of George W. Bush. I never heard one Republican in those years say: Let's bring this down; let's not raise the debt ceiling. They went on a binge. They put two wars on the credit card. They never paid for those wars. They put a tax cut for the richest people in America on that credit card. They didn't care. They put a prescription

drug benefit which tied the hands of Medicare and said: You can't negotiate for lower drug prices, and instead of being affordable for the government, it became a budget buster—they put that on the credit card. I never heard them say: Let's not raise the debt ceiling, even though, under their policies, they took a surplus and turned it into a deficit. They took us off a path where we were about to finish up with our debt, frankly, and added debt as far as the eye could see.

The hypocrisy, honestly—and I am being cautious in the way I express myself—doesn't even begin to describe what is going on here. It is disingenuous, it is just plain wrong to play politics with this.

We know politics is at play here. I have run for election many times in my career—I think 11 or 12 times—and I know you have to pay attention to politics when you are running. We all understand that. We are not naive about it. We are tough on the trail. We know. But there is a time to govern. There is a time to set aside the politics and govern. If ever there were a moment in history, it is now.

I have to say that my friend Senator COBURN said people are anxious in the country, but they are not anxious—he basically said specifically that their anxiety has nothing to do with the debt ceiling. I disagree respectfully. Anybody who has a 401(k) and has seen the stock market down 400 points is worried. Anyone who gets a Social Security check is worried. Anyone who fears we could default is worried. Anyone on Medicare is worried. Anyone on veterans disability is worried. Every Federal employee is worried. Every Federal private contractor in business is worried. Every worker who works for those people is worried, too, because they know very well that if we don't come together in a fair compromise, we will not be able to pay all of our bills. Again, raising the debt ceiling is something you have to do because you have already incurred all of the debt.

I would like to talk a little bit about how we got into this unnecessary crisis and how we need to get out of it. We got into it because Republicans said they would not vote for a clean increase in the debt ceiling, as has been done 89 times before. They wanted to extract a pound of flesh and say: We demand that you cut spending now, tie it to this debt ceiling, and that is what we want. We said: OK, we are ready to talk.

As a matter of fact, the Democrats on the Budget Committee put out an excellent plan. It cut not \$850 billion, as JOHN BOEHNER's plan does, but \$4 trillion, and it protects Social Security, Medicare, and it basically said: We have a problem, and we are going to solve it with \$2 trillion in cuts and \$2 trillion in revenues—50-50, which is kind of a fair way to approach it—and

we are going to ask millionaires and billionaires to pay their fair share.

Frankly, that plan is the ideal plan. It is a fair plan; it gets us on safe, good, solid fiscal ground; and it says we will have cuts and we will have revenue, and we will move forward and look at Medicare and Social Security to make them stronger—not to cut benefits. If I were acting like the Republicans over in the House, I would stand here and say: That is the only plan I will ever consider. I love that plan. It speaks to my values. It speaks to my State's values. But I understand that in a negotiation, in a situation such as this, no side gets everything they want.

Now President Obama says: Let's all come together and work on a plan. Let's do something big, something real. First, ERIC CANTOR, the Republican whip, marched out of there with his teddy bear and his blanket, and then a few weeks later BOEHNER walks out.

I have to say that I watched Speaker PELOSI sit at the White House many times. She sat across from George W. Bush. She did not agree with him. She felt that he had added to the debt, that he had added to the deficit. She disagreed with him on protecting millionaires and billionaires. She disagreed with him on the environment and on the war in Iraq. NANCY PELOSI never stalked out of a meeting. I find it, frankly, appalling that that is what happened.

But the President keeps reaching out because he will take the personal hits because this country gave him everything, and he is not going to allow it to fall and to default and become a deadbeat nation.

Speaker BOEHNER said: I am going to put together my own plan. So he puts together his own plan. Frankly, it hardly has any cuts. He comes back very short—\$850 billion in cuts—and doesn't get past this problem we are facing. He only says it is for 4, 5, or 6 months, and then we are going to be back in the soup, in this mess, in this chaos, and back into the market selloffs, back into the uncertainty, back in the time when people can't even sleep well at night because Speaker BOEHNER and his people over there want to keep this thing boiling over. They think somehow it is good for them. I say it is not good for them.

But you know what, I don't care if it is good or bad for them or whether it is good or bad for us. What I care about, what you care about, what we care about is this Nation that is everything to us. We have to stand up for this Nation. That means we have to leave the political labels at the door and set aside our favorite plan, as I have set aside my favorite plan, and support a real compromise.

Let me tell you the real compromise we have before us. It is the Reid approach. It is a real compromise because

what does compromise mean? Nobody gets everything they want, but everybody gets something they want. What do the Republicans say they want? They wanted cuts and no revenues. They got that in the Reid plan. Our leader, Majority Leader REID, has heard them. Not only does he have cuts, he has twice as many cuts as the Boehner plan—cuts that hurt a lot of the things that many of us don't want to hurt, but we understand we have to give something. So they get that. What do we get? We get certainty. We believe it is very important that we take this issue of the debt ceiling and get it past the election, past January or February of 2013, and get back to the business of job creation and all of the things we need to do—we get that.

We also talked about a committee that would look at the long-range problems of this deficit and debt and the need to do reforms and the need to look at what revenues make sense. There is a committee in that bill. This is a true compromise. I agree that the other things the Democrats got are no cuts in Social Security and Medicare.

But if you really, truly look at this, the Reid plan gives the Republicans more than even he gives the Democrats. But it is worth it to us to get certainty in the markets, protect Social Security and Medicare, avoid the chaos of the Boehner plan, and avoid the danger we face if our bonds are downgraded.

The Boehner plan risks catastrophic default, and we are concerned that if it were to pass, we would again see this economy being held captive; we would again be facing deep cuts in Medicare and Social Security; we would again be facing all kinds of hostage-taking to protect the millionaires and the billionaires.

I believe that no one who loves this country, regardless of political label, should take any action to result in America becoming a deadbeat nation.

I am a first-generation American on my mother's side. My mother never even went to high school because during her time in high school her father got very ill and she had to go to work. Because I was born in this country, even though we had barely anything, I was able to get an education. I was able to go toe-to-toe with my colleagues who went to fancy schools. I remember when I went to Brooklyn College in New York, they raised the tuition from \$9 a semester to \$14 a semester. My dad said, "Honey, you are getting awfully expensive." But I got a college education in this country. I got to the Senate in this country.

But I have to say, if we are going into a circumstance where everything we do to fight for the middle class is held hostage to protect the richest among us—the billionaires, the millionaires, the multinational corporations—if that is the pattern we are get-

ting into here, I fear for this country. We can't let it happen, and that is why we have been very clear that the Boehner plan just continues this hostage taking. So the Reid alternative is the true compromise. It gives us substantial cuts in deficits, it gives us a process for more deficit and debt reduction, and it gives us certainty in the marketplace.

In closing, I would say this: When each of us has won our election, we go up there to the place where the Presiding Officer is sitting and we put our hand on the Bible and we swear to uphold the Constitution. I had the honor of serving with Senator Robert Byrd—and most of us here have—and he always carried around this Constitution in his pocket. Today, I took a look at section 4 of the 14th amendment, and it says: The validity of the public debt of the United States shall not be questioned.

I held up my hand and I swore to uphold this Constitution. It says the validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, shall not be questioned. So I am not going to play games with this, and I am not going to allow the public debt to become a political football.

Before I leave the floor, let me show a couple more charts. This is what Speaker BOEHNER said on July 22 of this year. He said:

I'm not really interested in a short-term increase in the debt limit.

And on May 9 he said:

Our economy won't grow as long as we continue to trip it up with short-term gimmicks from Washington.

That is what Speaker BOEHNER said. So what does he give us? A short-term extension of the debt limit. A few months. We can't do that. In his own words he says that would hurt the economy.

ERIC CANTOR said to Politico:

If we can't make the tough decisions now, why would we be making those tough decisions later? It is my preference we do this thing one time. Putting off tough decisions is not what people want in this town.

Yet what do they do? They send us—and we don't know if they will get the votes to send us, but they are planning to send us—a short-term deal which leaves this great Nation in chaos.

You talk to every businessman and they will tell you the thing they worry about the most is uncertainty. And that is the path of uncertainty. ERIC CANTOR said it, BOEHNER said it: No short-term deal. But they are sending us a short-term deal.

I will close with this from the New York Times. The headline reads: "The Mother of All No-Brainers."

If the debt ceiling talks fail, independent voters will see that Democrats were willing to compromise but Republicans were not. If responsible Republicans don't take control, independents will conclude that Republican fanaticism caused this default. They will

conclude that Republicans are not fit to govern. And they will be right.

I appeal to our Republican colleagues in this Senate Chamber who have shown, working with Senator DURBIN, working with Senator WARNER, working with others on our side—Senator CONRAD—they are willing to come forward and do something meaningful and put the politics aside. I hope they will do just that. They will find in Leader REID someone who understands the art of compromise, who understands we have to put aside our party labels and do what is right for this Nation.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNET). The Senator from West Virginia.

TRIBUTE TO WEST POINT CADET JACOB BOWER

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay honor to a life cut tragically short, to a young man whose service to this country went beyond the call of duty.

West Point Cadet Jacob Bower, from my great State of West Virginia, and my hometown of Fairmont, died at the age of 18 last week and will be laid to rest Friday at a family cemetery with full military rights.

Cadet Bower was the sort of young man who would make any—any—parent proud. He was a three-sport athlete at East Fairmont High School, where he graduated in 2011. He was in the National Honor Society and was valedictorian of his graduating class. He was a role model and led his peers by example.

Cadet Bower had something that set him apart: He was a young man who felt the spark to attend West Point. I learned from his mother Ginger that as a young man—or a boy, really—he was very interested in history. He studied the paths that have formed our greatest leaders—the men and women whose names are in the history books. He learned the best of the best have attended our military academies, and he told his mother that is what he wanted to do. I think he wanted to be in the history books. He wanted to be a part of that. He wanted to give something back. He told his mother: Mom, I have had everything given to me. It is time for me to give back now.

Cadet Bower was 18 when he died during a land navigation exercise Thursday of what may be a heat-related cause, though we are not sure yet and it is too early to tell. We do know that Cadet Bower trained vigorously before the exercise and had successfully completed the first 3 weeks of his 6 weeks of basic training.

Nothing can explain a death so tragic, a life cut so unfairly short. This is the one time, above all others, that you have to believe and trust in your faith. My wife Gayle and I send our

prayers and thoughts to Cadet Bower's mother Ginger, his father Dean, his brother Ryan, and the entire Bower family and all their friends. We continue to pray every day for the safety of the brave women and men who put their lives on the line every day for all of us.

Mere words cannot pay tribute to the magnitude of this tragedy and the depth of his sacrifice. In these challenging times, our entire country would do well to think of Cadet Jacob Bower as we work together to put this country first, as he did, before our own interests. Our thoughts and prayers are with this family. May God bless them through this difficult time, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

THE ECONOMY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, let me salute my colleague from West Virginia. It is a sad task that we have to come to the floor to recognize those who have passed. He pays tribute to a young man whose life was cut too short but who was determined to serve our country, and I thank him for bringing that man's life to our attention in the Senate and to those who follow this across the Nation. I am sure the Senate joins him in expressing our sympathy to the family on the tragic loss of their son. I thank Senator MANCHIN for coming to the floor.

Many people have asked about the state of the recession in our Nation and what it will take to turn this economy around. There is a lot of speculation, and I don't profess to be an expert, but I think there are two things that are hurting us and that we will have to deal with to bring ourselves out of the current state we are in. One of them is the price of real estate. I don't think we have quite reached the point where we know where the bottom is in the real estate values in many parts of America. That has been a real problem, because for many homeowners and buyers it means they are underwater—the value of their home has gone down below the value of their mortgage. Some of them have given up, others have to give up when they lose their jobs. This real estate market and its volatility, the foreclosures that have followed, still haunt us years after the subprime mortgage fiasco that led us into the recession.

But I think there is another element that is even more basic. My mother and father were married in 1928. My first brother was born in 1930 and the other in 1932. They started their family in East St. Louis, IL. My dad was working for a railroad. My mother, an immigrant, began working as a switchboard operator at a telephone company

in East St. Louis, IL. They each had eighth grade educations and they were hard-working folks. That is the way they were raised. They started their family as the Great Depression started, and they never forgot it as long as they lived.

I used to take a look at their lifestyle and think that is the lifestyle of every family in America, because that was all I knew. Now that I look back on it, it was a lot different. My mom and dad, because of that Depression experience and starting a family, had some basic rules in our house: Never borrow money. Save it. When you have saved enough, buy what you need. Otherwise, wait and do without. I thought that was the way everybody lived. It certainly was the way I was raised, and my brothers.

They also had some basic things they did to save money. Even after years had passed—decades had passed, and they were comfortable, by middle-class standards—they were always very careful in the way they spent their money. I always felt perhaps there was a fear that those bad times might come back and they wanted to be ready. That was the way I was raised. It is the way my wife and I raised our children, and it was the way my wife was raised, being from Depression-era families who had lived through that experience. They modeled their lives afterwards based on the fears and concerns they had during the Great Depression.

Something happened over the last several years which calls that to mind. In 2007, households across America had borrowed the equivalent of 127 percent of their annual income—127 percent. In the 1990s, the average was 84 percent. So it was literally a 50-percent increase in household indebtedness in a matter of 15 or 16 years. Though Americans have been working hard to reduce that debt, because they understand what a drag it is on their lifestyle and their wages, the debt-to-income level in America is still 112 percent—still substantially higher than it was back in the 1990s, when it was 84 percent. That slows down economic recovery. People who are trying to shed debt are careful not to incur new debt, not to buy the things that would put them in debt, and that slows down the purchase of goods and services, which is exactly the opposite of what you need when you are recovering from a recession.

So I think those two elements—the value of real estate and household debt—are holding us back in this economic recovery. There is one aspect of household debt I wish to call to the attention of the Senate in our record of proceedings, and that is the fact that in October of last year we reached a milestone in America, though most people didn't notice. For the first time in the modern history of our country, total student loan debt exceeded total credit card debt in the United States,

with \$850 billion outstanding in student loan debt across America.

Mr. President, I don't know your circumstance, but mine was borrowing money to go to school with National Defense Education Act loans. This will date me for sure, but when I graduated law school in the late 1960s, and they accumulated all the money I had borrowed—undergraduate and law school—they came to me and said: Now you have to start paying it back, 12 months from graduation. You had to pay 10 percent a year until you paid it off, with a 3-percent interest rate. I gulped and said: How much is it? They said: It is \$8,500. I thought I was finished. I couldn't imagine coming up with \$8,500 a year, plus interest, to pay off my student loan. My wife and I had a baby and another on the way, and I was starting a new job that didn't pay a lot of money. I couldn't imagine how I was going to do that, but I did.

Now that I look back on that, and consider what students face today, it is no wonder they laugh when I tell that story—\$8,500. They would be lucky to get through the book store for \$8,500 at most colleges and universities today. I may be exaggerating a little bit. The cost of college has been skyrocketing, with the average 4-year nonprofit college tuition last year at \$27,000. The in-State tuition at a public 4-year university averaged \$7,600.

The cost of room and board, of course, would raise that higher. Tuition has been running faster than inflation for the last 20 years, sometimes growing at more than double the rate of inflation. But household income hasn't been growing. More and more families, unable to pay for their kids' education, join their kids in borrowing money, student loans. Sometimes they cosign. In a bad economy, some students who never anticipated having to take out student loans were forced to do it, and others have had to borrow more than they expected they would.

In 2009 alone, student borrowing grew by 25 percent. Today, two-thirds of college students borrow to pay for college. The result is a generation of young Americans beginning their professional lives with unprecedented levels of debt. The average student leaves college with \$31,000 in student loan debt, but it is not unheard of to run into students who have a lot more debt, sometimes as high as \$100,000, for an undergraduate degree. Going on to graduate school or law school is very expensive.

I went to Georgetown Law School. I can't even remember what the tuition was when I went there, but I would be amazed if it was more than \$1,500 a year. It is now \$50,000 a year at Georgetown Law School, which means if you borrowed the money to finish law school on top of your undergraduate debt, you just added \$150,000 in debt to your life before you draw your first paycheck.

If you are lucky and one of the best law students, you might get into a law firm that pays you a huge amount of money. Most law school graduates will not. They will make life decisions then based on their indebtedness and how to pay it off.

Students who begin their adult lives paying \$600 or \$1,000 a month on their student loan payments have to make some difficult choices. They may put off doing the job they really wanted to do or buying a house or even getting married. They may end up moving back home with their parents, which more and more students do. It is tough to imagine how you get out of that debt burden and create a life that leads to savings and happiness and retirement.

High levels of household debt keep these borrowers from contributing to our economic recovery. We need young people to invest in the economy and help it. Some of these students will find they can't afford monthly payments and they face default.

Here is something we cannot say enough to students today who are considering a college education: There is something you ought to know about a student loan. It is not like your car loan. It is not even like your home loan. It is not like your credit card debt because student loan debt is not dischargeable in bankruptcy.

What does that mean? If you get in deeply over your head and cannot possibly make the payments, you are stuck. You can't discharge that debt in bankruptcy. You will carry it with you to the grave. It is with you for the rest of your life.

That is the difference between student loan debt and a lot of other loans people take out.

Mr. President, as tuition growth has outpaced Federal student loan limits, private banks and lenders have entered the higher education marketplace with private student loans. I don't know why, and I certainly wish I would have been more attentive to this when it happened, but we decided years ago to treat government student loans the same as private student loans, which means if a private entity loans money for school, they are protected as creditors like the government.

In other words, even if you borrowed \$10,000 from a local bank to go to college as a student loan, you can't discharge that in bankruptcy either. You are stuck with that for a lifetime. It doesn't apply to virtually any other debts, other than perhaps a tax liability under the Bankruptcy Code. So it is an unusual situation we have created, an unusual burden on young people.

Federal student loans for most undergraduates are capped at \$5,500 for the first year of school and go up to \$7,500 a year by the time a student graduates. That doesn't always cover the cost for students when tuition can

exceed \$30,000 at private colleges, so students turn to private student loans to fill the gap. This can be disastrous. These private loans are made with interest rates and fees as high as credit cards. There are reports of private loans with variable interest rates reaching 18 percent. Unlike Federal student loans, there are few consumer protections. Students don't have access to flexible repayment plans, free deferment, or loan forgiveness with private student loans. Some students who take out private loans find themselves trapped under an enormous amount of debt. Because of the bankruptcy law, it is a debt they are stuck with the rest of their lives.

Now, I want to say a word about another phenomena. Today, Secretary Ernie Duncan spoke before Chairman HARKIN's Appropriations Subcommittee on Education. I think Secretary Duncan is one of the President's best appointments, not to mention the fact we have been personal friends for a long time, and I have watched as he struggled to change the Chicago public school system. It goes beyond his efforts in public service. He has given a lifetime to education. His mother was a teacher. He used to tutor kids after school. He has it in his blood, and it shows, and I think he is a man of great, immense personal talent and integrity, and he has done some remarkable things in the tenure that he has had at the Department of Education.

Today when he came to testify, we talked about a phenomena that relates to this. I explained to him how I borrowed money to get through college and how students today borrow more than ever, with student loan debt passing credit card debt. Then we talked about the phenomena of for-profit colleges. Here is what the facts are:

When we look at students who have finished high school, 10 percent of them go to for-profit schools. These for-profit schools are not the local community colleges or even the traditional public or private universities. They are businesses. Ten percent of the students go to these private for-profit schools, but the for-profit schools end up receiving 25 percent of all Federal student aid, far in excess of what you might expect with 10 percent of the students. Twenty-five percent of the Pell grants and Federal student loans go to for-profit schools.

Then there is the default rate. The student loan default rate is highest at the for-profit schools. For-profit colleges represent 44 percent of all defaults on student loans. The rate for public colleges and universities is in the single digits, but 25 percent for for-profit schools. What it tells us is these students who are attracting more Federal student aid end up defaulting more when it comes to the payment of their debt.

For-profit colleges are the fastest growing sector of higher education. In

Illinois, enrollment has more than doubled over the last decade in these schools.

The largest chain of for-profit colleges, the University of Phoenix, has become the second largest higher education system in America. There are over 450,000 students in the University of Phoenix, more than the combined enrollment of all the big 10 colleges and universities.

A for-profit college education isn't cheap. Tuition at for-profit schools is 5½ times the price of community colleges and twice as much as public 4-year colleges. Two-thirds of the for-profit students receive Pell grants which target low-income students and don't have to be repaid. But Pell grants aren't enough to pay for for-profit schools. To make up the difference, students take out loans. At 4-year, for-profit schools, 96 percent of students are borrowing money. When students leave school, many for-profit college students find their training didn't prepare them for a job, and employers don't recognize their degrees.

Buried in debt, without good career and job prospects, these students simply can't keep paying the loans. That is why the default rate is so high.

Within 3 years, 25 percent of students who leave a for-profit college will default on their student loans. Let me tell you the story of two of them.

Christine lives in southern Illinois. She received a degree in medical billing and coding from Sanford-Brown College. She took out student loans to pay for college, and she now owes a total of \$24,000 for her 2-year associate's degree. She now refers to that degree as, and I quote, "completely worthless." Christine said that when she went interviewing for jobs, one company told her her degree was a strike against her. Another said they don't hire Sanford-Brown graduates because they have to retrain every one of them. She wasn't able to find a job, and she put her loans in deferment to go back to school and borrow more money.

Another student, Michelle, spoke at a forum I held in Chicago a year ago. Michelle received a degree in criminal justice from Westwood College, and she wanted to be a police officer. After graduating, she learned that the law enforcement agency she applied to in Illinois would not recognize her diploma from Westwood. She was left with nearly \$90,000 in debt. She has no career prospects.

Michelle is living at home with her parents in their basement. She is working part-time seasonal retail jobs struggling to pay about \$900 a month on her student loans. She can't borrow any more money now to even go back to school and get a degree that might help her. Instead of contributing to society, she is trapped. Michelle's school loaded her up with Federal and private

student loans for a degree that wasn't worth anything when she graduated.

Because of her student loan debt, she is not going to be buying a house, she can't save for retirement, she certainly can't invest. She can't even go back to school to start over. And because there is no escape for her, no bankruptcy protection, she may be burdened with this debt for the rest of her life.

Mr. President, we can't continue on this path. When I sat down on the budget negotiations, one of the things President Obama put on the table was extending Pell grants. There was a time when I would have instinctively said: Sign me up. I believe if you don't help that generation of students, like myself, who don't have the resources to go to school, you are denying them the opportunity that I had. I think young people deserve that opportunity.

But I have to say now when I hear Pell grants and student loans and consider these for-profit schools, I stop and think. We have to step back and ask which of these schools are good and worth supporting and which are not.

I said to Secretary Duncan today we should have accreditation standards so these schools are known to be worth the money the students are paying to attend. We should follow their progress to make sure if they are steering young people in debt and then dumping them into a jobless situation in life, that we stop subsidizing them with Federal student loans and Pell grants. That is incumbent upon us.

The administration recently took up the for-profit college cause. They are asking for more reporting. It is a step in the right direction. As I said to Secretary Duncan, we should have done more. We are going to find the worst of the worst. Maybe we will stop them from exploiting the students, but there are going to be a lot of awful schools still in business because our standards are not as strong as they should be at the Federal level.

Mr. President, as we consider the future of higher education, let's consider the fact that the cost of it is outstripping the resources of many families, the debt that students incur will change their lives, and there is a process of exploitation at many of these for-profit colleges that we should not tolerate. It is not fair to the students nor their families. It certainly isn't fair to America's taxpayers because, as they default on these student loans, the American taxpayers will be the ultimate losers.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we move to Calendar No. 196; that the nomination be confirmed; the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

William J. Burns, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service with the Personal Rank of Career Ambassador, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate resumes legislative session.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we extend the morning business hour until 7 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I also ask that the consent agreement be modified that Senators be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each during that period of time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HENRY D. MOORE PARISH HOUSE AND LIBRARY

• Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President. On August 22, 1911, more than 1,000 people, including Governor Frederick Plaisted, gathered in the small downeast Maine town of Steuben to dedicate the Henry D. Moore Parish House and Library. Given that the crowd was far larger than the entire population of the town and the difficulty of travel from the State capital to Maine's easternmost county in those days, this clearly was an important event.

Its importance was twofold. First, the people of Steuben worked hard to wrest a living from the sea; it was a life that offered the rewards of independence in surroundings of great natural beauty, but few of the amenities found in more prosperous, less remote towns. Now, thanks to this marvelous gift, they had a center for intellectual and spiritual growth, a place to come together as a community.

Just as important as the gift was the giver. Henry Dyer Moore was born in

Steuben in 1842, the son of a carpenter and shipwright. From that modest start, he went on to achieve remarkable success in business, with interests that ranged from snuff to railroads and banking. His career took him to the centers of commerce, but his heart never left Steuben.

In the century since, the people of Steuben have turned that gift into a treasure. Today, the Henry D. Moore Parish House and Library hosts concerts, plays, adult education classes, and many other events. The library resources are considerable and modern, and are a great asset to the entire region, including the students at the Ella Lewis Grammar School. The building is more used than ever, and more beautiful than the day it was dedicated.

There is another fascinating aspect to this story. Henry D. Moore had a cousin, 6 years younger. He, too, came from a seafaring family of Steuben, and he, too, went on to achieve astonishing success. John Godfrey Moore was a pioneer in the telegraph industry and one of the most prominent international financiers of his day. Like his older cousin, he never forgot the place of his birth. The land he bought, preserved, and kept open to the public on the Schoodic Peninsula near Steuben is now one of the most spectacular sections of Acadia National Park.

One might simply observe that philanthropy ran in the Moore family. The greater truth is that such generosity runs throughout Maine and across America. Achieving success and then giving back to the place and the people that instilled the values that led to success is among the highest qualities of our national character.

Cherishing the gift and building upon it for the generations to come is another. That quality is demonstrated today by the people of Steuben, ME, and I offer my congratulations as they gather again to celebrate the centennial of the Henry D. Moore Parish House and Library.●

FARMERS AND MERCHANTS UNION BANK

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, today I recognize the 150th anniversary of Wisconsin's own Farmers and Merchants Union Bank. I am honored to have the opportunity to celebrate this extraordinary milestone.

The year 1861 will forever mark the beginning of one of the most trying times in American history. With the onset of the Civil War, financial and banking institutions suffered as a result of the division of our Nation. Inspired by the courage and determination of President Abraham Lincoln, businessman John Wheeler chose that year to open two banks in the town of Columbus, WI. On September 5, John Wheeler became the first president of the Farmers and Merchants Union Bank of Columbus.

Wheeler's passion and commitment to customer service continued in those who followed him as bank leaders. His grandson J. Russell Wheeler was committed to honoring the legacy his grandfather left behind and expanding the bank's profile, reach and influence. He commissioned renowned architect Louis Sullivan who has often been called the "father of the skyscraper," to design and oversee the construction of the new Farmers and Merchants Union Bank building. Sullivan acted as a mentor to architect Frank Lloyd Wright and was diligent in making sure every detail lived up to the standards on which the institution was founded. The product of Sullivan's work has become one of Wisconsin's prized architectural attractions. On October 18, 1972, the bank was entered on the National Register of Historic Places, and later designated a national historic landmark.

Today, Farmers and Merchants Union Bank strives to provide the best in modern banking to customers in Columbus, Fall River, Friesland, Juneau, and the areas that surround those Wisconsin communities. Their mission endures as "an independent bank known for maintaining a reputation for integrity and fair dealing and promoting growth and stability in the communities they serve."

I have great admiration for independent banks that are focused on building communities in both the good and hard times. For 150 years, Farmers and Merchants Union Bank has done just that; continued to represent the importance of local ties and their critical role in the health and vitality of the Wisconsin communities they serve.

So for their commitment to providing every customer with the highest quality banking service and to reaching out to the community—a dedication that has helped sustain this institution for a century and a half—I am proud to celebrate this historic occasion and the 150 years of service that the Farmers and Merchants Union Bank has provided to the people of the State of Wisconsin.●

TRIBUTE TO STEVE LEVESQUE

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Steve Levesque, the executive director of the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority, or MRRA, which is the entity charged with the transition of the former Brunswick Naval Air Station into a vibrant commercial center. Steve has been a longtime leader in economic development in the State of Maine, having previously served as commissioner of the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development. His most recent efforts have earned him recognition from the Association of Defense Communities, which presented Steve with its Base Redevelopment

Leadership Award last week at its annual conference in Norfolk, VA.

An era came to an end on May 31 when the Brunswick Naval Air Station, also known as BNAS, was officially closed as an unfortunate casualty of the base realignment and closure process. As the executive director of the MRRA, Steve Levesque was charged with the unenviable task of overseeing the reuse of the 3,200-acre former air station. Many anticipated that the closure would be a devastating blow to the Midcoast economy, but under Steve's leadership the air station's closure has transformed into an exciting redevelopment project with much hope for the future.

Always reluctant to accept credit for the successes at Brunswick Landing, Steve is always quick to laud the efforts of those around him. While the MRRA staff and board unquestionably embody the finest attributes of Maine's legendary work ethic, Steve's buoyant outlook, foresight, and true leadership capacity have undoubtedly accelerated the redevelopment of BNAS into Brunswick Landing, which is home to an ever-growing number of businesses focused on projects as diverse as aviation, advanced composites, and education. Tenants include both new and existing business from across the globe, including Kestrel Aircraft, Molnlycke Health Care, Southern Maine Community College, and Bowdoin College.

Under Steve's leadership, there are presently 10 companies in the process of relocating to Brunswick Landing, and many other businesses are actively considering moving to the site because of the proactive efforts of Steve and his team at MRRA. There are 90 jobs associated with those 10 firms, and an additional 515 are projected. In April, Steve also oversaw the successful launch of Brunswick Executive Airport, and just over a month later hosted the first annual Brunswick International Fly-In for pilots from across the region and the entire country.

In acknowledging Steve's commitment to Brunswick Landing with its prestigious Base Redevelopment Leadership Award, the Association of Defense Communities noted that "[m]uch of the success so far in promoting the base's redevelopment can be attributed to Levesque's strong working relationship with the Navy, the state's congressional delegation, the governor's office, the legislature, local officials and the business community." I can attest that Steve has been a reliable partner and a tremendous asset to the redevelopment effort as he has labored tirelessly to ensure that the Midcoast region is an attractive locale for businesses seeking to open, expand, and grow.

Steve exemplifies the very best of Maine. Aside from his professional duties, he has been active in the local community as the founder of the Maine

Moose Junior Hockey team. From 2006 until 2010, Steve served as the president and general manager of the Maine Moose, sharing his love of hockey with kids from across the State. Steve's passion for and commitment to public service and the people of Maine is truly commendable.

I have long respected Steve Levesque for his intelligence, confidence, and ability to accomplish great things. At a time when job creation and economic growth are paramount to revitalizing midcoast Maine's economy, I know no one more suited to the task than Steve Levesque. I thank Steve for his incredible work thus far, and wish him success as he continues his efforts to construct Maine's Center for Innovation at Brunswick Landing.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 9:33 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1383. An act to temporarily preserve higher rates for tuition and fees for programs of education at non-public institutions of higher learning pursued by individuals enrolled in the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs before the enactment of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

At 12:13 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1938. An act to direct the President to expedite the consideration and approval of the construction and operation of the Keystone XL oil pipeline, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2608. An act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

At 2:59 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1309. An act to extend the authorization of the national flood insurance program, to achieve reforms to improve the financial integrity and stability of the program, and to increase the role of private markets in the management of flood insurance risk, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1309. An act to extend the authorization of the national flood insurance program, to achieve reforms to improve the financial integrity and stability of the program, and to increase the role of private markets in the management of flood insurance risk, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1420. A bill to require that the United States Government prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public, Social Security benefits, and military pay in the event that the debt limit is reached, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 1938. An act to direct the President to expedite the consideration and approval of the construction and operation of the Keystone XL oil pipeline, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. KERRY, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 175. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to ongoing violations of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Georgia and the importance of a peaceful and just resolution to the conflict within Georgia's internationally recognized borders.

By Mr. KERRY, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 216. A resolution encouraging women's political participation in Saudi Arabia. From the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Con. Res. 17. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Taiwan should be accorded observer status in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 1422. A bill to establish a grant program in the Department of Transportation to improve the traffic safety of teen drivers; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1423. A bill to clarify the orphan drug exception to the annual fee on branded prescription pharmaceutical manufacturers and importers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. KYL):

S. 1424. A bill to clarify the responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior in making a determination whether to take off-reservation land into trust for gaming purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. DEMINT (for himself, Mr. GRAMHAM, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. VITTER, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. COBURN):

S. 1425. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to ensure fairness in election procedures with respect to collective bargaining representatives; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 1426. A bill to authorize certain authorities by the Department of State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 1427. A bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to authorize producers on a farm to produce fruits and vegetables for processing on the base acres of the farm; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 1428. A bill to phase out the use of private military contractors; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida:

S. 1429. A bill to establish a bipartisan commission on insurance reform; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 1430. A bill to authorize certain maritime programs of the Department of Transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KOHL (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. THUNE, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. JOHANNES):

S. 1431. A bill to amend section 242 of the National Housing Act to extend the sunset provisions for the exemption for critical access hospitals under the FHA programs of mortgage insurance for hospitals; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida:

S. 1432. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the exception from the 10 percent penalty for early withdrawals from governmental plans for Federal and State qualified public safety employees; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. INOUE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. CARDIN, and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 1433. A bill to pay personnel compensation and benefits for employees of the Federal Aviation Administration; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LUGAR, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KOHL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KYL, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr.

MERKLEY, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BURR, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELLER, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KIRK, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WICKER):

S. Res. 240. A resolution condemning the horrific attacks on government buildings in Oslo, Norway, and a youth camp on Utøya Island, Norway, on July 22, 2011, and for other purposes; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. Res. 241. A resolution expressing support for the designation of November 16, 2011, as National Information and Referral Services Day; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. WICKER):

S. Con. Res. 26. A concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the designation of the year of 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 48

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 48, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of pharmacists in National Health Services Corps programs, and for other purposes.

S. 195

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 195, a bill to reinstate Federal matching of State spending of child support incentive payments.

S. 274

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 274, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand

access to medication therapy management services under the Medicare prescription drug program.

S. 347

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 347, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for reporting and disclosure by State and local public employee retirement pension plans.

S. 362

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 362, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a Pancreatic Cancer Initiative, and for other purposes.

S. 398

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 398, a bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to improve energy efficiency of certain appliances and equipment, and for other purposes.

S. 418

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 418, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol.

S. 555

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 555, a bill to end discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in public schools, and for other purposes.

S. 697

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 697, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for amounts paid by a spouse of a member of the Armed Services for a new State license or certification required by reason of a permanent change in the duty station of such member to another State.

S. 866

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 866, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to modify the per-fiscal year calculation of days of certain active duty or active service used to reduce the minimum age at which a member of a reserve component of the uniformed services may retire for non-regular service.

S. 913

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 913, a bill to re-

quire the Federal Trade Commission to prescribe regulations regarding the collection and use of personal information obtained by tracking the online activity of an individual, and for other purposes.

S. 951

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 951, a bill to improve the provision of Federal transition, rehabilitation, vocational, and unemployment benefits to members of the Armed Forces and veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1025

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1025, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the national defense through empowerment of the National Guard, enhancement of the functions of the National Guard Bureau, and improvement of Federal-State military coordination in domestic emergency response, and for other purposes.

S. 1048

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1048, a bill to expand sanctions imposed with respect to the Islamic Republic of Iran, North Korea, and Syria, and for other purposes.

S. 1049

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1049, a bill to lower health premiums and increase choice for small business.

S. 1061

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1061, a bill to amend title 5 and 28, United States Code, with respect to the award of fees and other expenses in cases brought against agencies of the United States, to require the Administrative Conference of the United States to compile, and make publically available, certain data relating to the Equal Access to Justice Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1087

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1087, a bill to release wilderness study areas administered by the Bureau of Land Management that are not suitable for wilderness designation from continued management as de facto wilderness areas and to release inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System that are not recommended for wilderness designation from the land use restrictions of the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Final Rule and the 2005 State Petitions for

Inventoried Roadless Area Management Final Rule, and for other purposes.

S. 1094

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1094, a bill to reauthorize the Combating Autism Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-416).

S. 1251

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1251, a bill to amend title XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to curb waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

S. 1258

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1258, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform, and for other purposes.

S. 1335

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1335, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide rights for pilots, and for other purposes.

S. 1350

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1350, a bill to expand the research, prevention, and awareness activities of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health with respect to pulmonary fibrosis, and for other purposes.

S. 1365

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1365, a bill to provide funds to ensure that members of the Armed Forces, including reserve components thereof, and supporting civilian personnel continue to receive pay and allowances for active service performed when a funding gap caused by the failure to enact interim or full-year appropriations for the Armed Forces occurs, which results in the furlough of non-emergency personnel and the curtailment of Government activities and services.

S. 1392

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1392, a bill to provide additional time for the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to issue achievable standards for industrial, commercial, and institutional boilers, process heaters, and incinerators, and for other purposes.

S. 1403

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1403, a bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part.

S.J. RES. 17

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 17, a joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

S.J. RES. 21

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 21, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to equal rights for men and women.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KOHL (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. THUNE, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. JOHANNIS):

S. 1431. A bill to amend section 242 of the National Housing Act to extend the sunset provisions for the exemption for critical access hospitals under the FHA programs of mortgage insurance for hospitals; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the Health Care Capital Access Reauthorization Act. This legislation will allow Critical Access Hospitals, CAHs, to continue to access the Federal Housing Administration's, FHA, 242 program.

There are approximately 1,327 CAHs throughout the United States. These hospitals are vital to our health care system because they provide individuals who live in rural areas care they might not otherwise have. Many of these hospitals were built over 40 years ago and are in need of significant renovations. Without the exemption, many rural hospitals would not qualify for the low-cost loan insurance based on patients' average length of stay or because the hospital operates a nursing home, and as a result, many rural hospitals would face higher financing costs on construction and renovation loans.

Many CAHs provide a significant level of non-acute or long-term services, and therefore do not qualify for the FHA 242 program based on length of stay. Additionally, some CAHs operate nursing homes, further lengthening the average stay and causing the hospital to be ineligible for the 242 program. In 2006, Congress recognized the uniqueness and importance of these hospitals and passed the Rural Health Care Capital Access Act. This Act pro-

vided an exemption from the acute care provision in the FHA 242 program for Critical Access Facilities. The exemption expires on July 31.

After July 31, CAHs applying for financing will be unable to receive financing if the exemption is not extended. Since the initial exemption was passed in 2006, 10 rural hospitals in 10 states have received mortgage insurance through the program as a result of the exemption in Edgerton, Wis., Columbus, Mont., Springfield, Ga., Monticello, Ill., L'Anse, Mich., Cambridge, Neb., Hot Springs, S.D., Grand Coulee, Wash., Moab, Utah and Holyoke, Colo. The program has provided financing for these hospitals on loans ranging from \$14 to \$31 million and totaling more than \$241 million.

The legislation I am introducing today would provide a five-year extension of the exemption in the Rural Health Care Capital Access Act, allowing the many rural hospitals that provide significant levels of non-acute or long-term care to continue applying for financing under a FHA 242 program. Without the exemption, these rural hospitals would not qualify for an FHA loan based on patients' average length of stay, resulting in fewer options for construction and renovation loans.

I would like to thank the original coponents of this bill: Senators CONRAD, TIM JOHNSON, THUNE, JOHANNIS, and TESTER for their leadership and support for Critical Access Hospitals. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this important issue to move the Rural Health Care Capital Access Reauthorization Act towards passage.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 240—CONDEMNING THE HORRIFIC ATTACKS ON GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS IN OSLO, NORWAY, AND A YOUTH CAMP ON UTOYA ISLAND, NORWAY, ON JULY 22, 2011, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LUGAR, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KOHL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KYL, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BURR, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELLER, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE,

Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KIRK, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED of Rhode Island, Mr. REID of Nevada, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 240

Whereas, on July 22, 2011, at least eight people were brutally killed when government buildings were bombed in Oslo, Norway;

Whereas, also on July 22, 2011, at least 68 people, a majority of them children and young adults, were brutally killed when a youth camp was attacked on Utøya Island, Norway;

Whereas, also on July 22, 2011, as many as 96 people were injured by these dual attacks;

Whereas these twin attacks brought horrific violence, pain, and suffering upon innocent Norwegians and their families and friends;

Whereas the Government and people of Norway have condemned the terrorist attacks and called the events an "atrocious," a "nightmare," and a "national tragedy";

Whereas Norway is recognized around the world as a country that is both peaceful and peace-seeking;

Whereas Oslo, Norway, is home to the Norwegian Nobel Committee, which annually selects winners of the Nobel Peace Prize;

Whereas Norway was a founding member of the United Nations in 1945, a Norwegian was the first Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Norway was a founding member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1949;

Whereas Norway has for years offered safe haven to refugees and the politically persecuted from around the world;

Whereas over 4,500,000 Americans of Norwegian ancestry now reside in the United States, with the state of Minnesota being home to the largest number of people of Norwegian heritage outside of Norway itself;

Whereas the Prime Minister of Norway, Jens Stoltenberg, has said, "We must never let our values, our way of life, be destroyed by blind violence," and pledged that Norway "will respond with more democracy, more openness, and more humanity, but never naïveté";

Whereas the Foreign Minister of Norway, Jonas Gahr Støre, remarked, "The nature of the Norwegian democracy will not change. Norway will continue to stand for engagement in the world where we commit our resources and our convictions.";

Whereas President Barack Obama remarked that "[i]t's a reminder that the entire international community has a stake in preventing this kind of terror from occurring," and later said, "You should know that the thoughts and prayers of all Americans are with the people of Norway and that we

will stand beside [Norway] every step of the way.";

Whereas, on Monday, July 25, 2011, there was a moment of silence throughout Norway and other Nordic countries, followed by a memorial attended by more than 150,000 people outside the city hall in Oslo for a "Rose March," in which participants carried white or red roses; and

Whereas Crown Prince Haakon of Norway told those gathered at the memorial, "Tonight the streets are filled with love."; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns in the strongest terms the senseless terrorist attacks that occurred in Norway on July 22, 2011, causing many deaths and injuries;

(2) further condemns all terrorist actions, including those motivated by hatred and religious or cultural intolerance;

(3) expresses deep sympathy, solidarity, and condolences to the victims of the atrocious acts, their families, and the people and Government of Norway;

(4) emphasizes the bonds of friendship and shared heritage between the United States and Norway;

(5) expresses unwavering support to the Government and people of Norway as they recover from these horrific attacks;

(6) affirms its resolve to combat all forms of senseless violence and terrorism, both domestically and abroad; and

(7) calls on all people to join together to denounce acts of hatred and fear and promote peace and tolerance in their communities and around the world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 241—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF NOVEMBER 16, 2011, AS NATIONAL INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES DAY

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 241

Whereas information and referral services link the consumer who has a need or problem with the most appropriate service to address that need or solve that problem;

Whereas quality information and referral services are the keystone point of entry to the entire human services structure delivery system;

Whereas information and referral services have been recognized in Federal legislation for more than 35 years since the 1973 reauthorization of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), and the subsequent establishment of the national Eldercare Locator and the development of Aging and Disability Resource Centers;

Whereas, as of the date of agreement to this resolution, the United States is served by information and referral through 2-1-1 programs, aging information and referral services, Aging and Disability Resource Centers, child care resource and referral services, military family centers, and other specialty information and referral services;

Whereas individuals who understand the variety of services available are better equipped to make decisions;

Whereas, in 1997, the national 2-1-1 initiative began with the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta creating the first 24-hour telephone information and referral service

using the easy-to-remember 2-1-1 dialing code for access;

Whereas, in 2000, the Federal Communications Commission reserved the 2-1-1 dialing code for community information and referral services, intended as an easy-to-remember and universally recognizable number that would serve as a vital connection between individuals and families in need, and appropriate community-based organizations and government agencies, on a regular basis and in times of disaster;

Whereas the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems has been providing professional standards and credentialing programs for those operating information and referral services;

Whereas expanding access to information about, and referrals to, services provides individuals with lower-cost and safer options for managing their needs, and is likely to reduce confusion, frustration, and inaccessibility to services; and

Whereas requests for assistance through information and referral services and 2-1-1 have increased across the United States due to the economic crisis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of November 16, 2011, as National Information and Referral Services Day—

(A) to raise public awareness about the existence and importance of information and referral services available to all people in the United States; and

(B) to more effectively target those services to reach individuals most in need;

(2) encourages activities in communities across the United States involving schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and other entities to ensure information and referral services are part of everyday life in addition to emergency preparedness programs; and

(3) reaffirms the importance of clear and consistent professional standards to govern every aspect of quality information and referral services.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 26—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE DESIGNATION OF THE YEAR OF 2011 AS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 26

Whereas the year of 2011 is recognized as the "International Year for People of African Descent";

Whereas the African Diaspora is expansive, spanning the globe from Latin America and the Caribbean to Asia, with persons of African descent living on every continent, including Europe;

Whereas in recognition of the African Diaspora, on December 18, 2009, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 64/169, designating the year of 2011 as the "International Year for People of African Descent";

Whereas the historical bonds and shared experiences that tie the African continent with the world must be recalled;

Whereas the global contributions of people of African descent must be recognized as a means of preserving that heritage;

Whereas a central goal of recognizing the year of 2011 as the International Year for People of African descent is to strengthen national actions and regional and international cooperation for the benefit of people of African descent in relation to—

(1) the full enjoyment of economic, cultural, social, civil, and political rights for people of African descent;

(2) the participation and integration of people of African descent in all political, economic, social, and cultural aspects of society; and

(3) the promotion of greater knowledge of, and respect for, the diverse heritage and culture of people of African descent; and

Whereas the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, done at Helsinki August 1, 1975, states that “participating States will respect human rights and fundamental freedoms . . . for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of the designation of the year of 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent;

(2) encourages the recognition and celebration of the collective history and achievements made by people of African descent;

(3) reaffirms the importance of inclusion and the full and equal participation of people of African descent around the world in all aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural life;

(4) recognizes bilateral and multilateral efforts to promote democracy, human rights, and rule of law, including those efforts that target the eradication of poverty, hunger, and inequality; and

(5) reaffirms the commitment of Congress to address racism, discrimination, and intolerance in the United States and around the globe.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 586. Mr. KIRK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1323, to express the sense of the Senate on shared sacrifice in resolving the budget deficit; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 587. Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. COLLINS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1188, to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 586. Mr. KIRK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1323, to express the sense of the Senate on shared sacrifice in resolving the budget deficit; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE II—MAXIMIZING SPECTRUM EFFICIENCY AND VALUE

SECTION 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Maximizing Spectrum Efficiency and Value Act of 2011”.

SEC. 202. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Demand for spectrum is sharply rising due to the growing advanced network of

communications devices that rely on spectrum to transmit and receive information.

(2) It is necessary for the United States to maintain its investments in innovation of spectrum and broadband infrastructure to ensure the United States is a global leader in the wireless age.

(3) Spectrum is a finite resource, and in order to spur innovation, the United States must provide for better and more efficient spectrum management.

(4) Many spectrum holders do not efficiently use their frequency assignments, and a re-structuring of the usable spectrum is a viable solution to make up for this lost opportunity.

(5) Making available additional spectrum to meet the demands of broadband technologies and services will prevent dropped connections, blocked service, decreased connection speed, and even higher prices for certain advanced applications.

(6) The availability of increased spectrum will allow advanced technologies such as 4G mobile services, high-speed wireless, high definition television, and more to continue operating without network problems and interferences.

(7) The United States public debt totals more than \$14,300,000,000,000.

(8) Congress should look for ways to increase the government’s revenues without additional taxpayer burdens.

(9) Auctioning spectrum is the most economically sound method for accurate valuation and assignment of spectrum to develop the next generation of wireless technologies, expand broadband service to under served areas of our country, develop an interoperable public safety network and reduce our deficit.

(10) Recent spectrum auctions in Germany and India raised a combined \$20,000,000,000.

(11) Frequencies within the spectrum have substantial market value and could raise near \$30,000,000,000 in a public auction.

(12) Barriers such as regulatory and administrative delays are not conducive to the free market approach and can hurt innovation.

(13) Government spectrum, while extremely important, is vast and should be included in any spectrum reform initiative.

SEC. 203. AUTHORITY FOR INCENTIVE AUCTIONS.

Section 309(j) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking subparagraph (F) and inserting the following:

“(F) for any auction of eligible frequencies described in section 119(f)(1) of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act, the recovery of 110 percent of estimated relocation costs as provided to the Commission under section 119(e)(1)(D)(iii) of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act.”; and

(2) in paragraph (8)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “subparagraphs (D), and (E)” and inserting “subparagraphs (D), (E), and (F)”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) VOLUNTARY INCENTIVE AUCTION REVENUE SHARING.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A) and except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), if the Commission determines that it is consistent with the public interest in utilization of the spectrum for a licensee to relinquish voluntarily some or all of its licensed spectrum usage rights in order to permit the assignment of new initial licenses subject to new service rules, the proceeds from the use of a competitive bidding system under this subsection in granting such rights to another licensee shall be

shared, in an amount or percentage that the Commission considers appropriate, with the licensee who voluntarily relinquished such rights.

“(ii) AMOUNTS DEPOSITED INTO THE SPECTRUM RELOCATION FUND.—The Commission shall deposit in the Spectrum Relocation Fund, established under section 118 of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act (47 U.S.C. 928) (47 U.S.C. 928), \$13,000,000 of the proceeds described in clause (i) to carry out the requirements of section 119(b) the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act.

“(iii) AMOUNTS NOT SHARED DEPOSITED IN TREASURY.—In any case in which a licensee voluntarily relinquishes licensed spectrum usage rights under clause (i), the Commission shall deposit in the Treasury, where such amounts shall be dedicated for the sole purpose of deficit reduction, any portion of the proceeds described in clause (i) that the Commission does not share with the licensee (except proceeds retained under subparagraph (B), the deposits described in subparagraph (C), and the deposits described in subparagraph (F)(ii)).

“(iv) ESTABLISHMENT OF RULES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Maximizing Spectrum Efficiency and Value Act of 2011, the Commission shall establish rules for the implementation of voluntary incentive auction revenue sharing under this subparagraph.

“(v) CONTENT OF RULES.—In establishing rules under clause (iv), the Commission shall ensure that—

“(I) the rules—

“(aa) identify the initial spectrum band or bands that will be eligible for incentive auctions under this subparagraph;

“(bb) establish a maximum revenue sharing threshold applicable to all licensees within any auction, unless the establishment of such threshold would increase the amount of spectrum cleared or would increase the net revenue from the auction of such spectrum; and

“(cc) minimize the cost to the taxpayer of the transition of the spectrum to be auctioned to its newly identified use; and

“(II) any licensing conditions established are restricted to interference, ethical, geographical, and qualifications of licensees.

“(vi) PROHIBITIONS.—

“(I) The Commission may not establish any licensing condition relating to the Federal Communications Commission’s final order with regard to Preserving the Open Internet; Broadband Industry Practices (GN Docket No. 09–191, WC Docket No. 07–52)(adopted December 21, 2010).

“(II) The Commission may not restrict the number, type, or specific bidders from participating in any public auction.

“(III) The Commission may not prescribe rates, terms, or condition services that may be offered by bidders.

“(IV) The Commission may not impose any new license requirements or rules on the successful bidders once the public auction has been completed.

“(vii) SCHEDULE FOR AUCTIONS.—

“(I) INITIAL AUCTION.—The Commission shall commence incentive auctions under this subparagraph not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Maximizing Spectrum Efficiency and Value Act of 2011.

“(II) OTHER SPECTRUM.—The Commission may, in its discretion and at any time after the date of enactment of the Maximizing Spectrum Efficiency and Value Act of 2011,

use the authority provided in this subparagraph in connection with the auction of other licensed spectrum, provided that the auction of such other spectrum is conducted pursuant to the rules established under this subparagraph.”.

SEC. 204. FEDERAL SPECTRUM REALLOCATION COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part B of title I of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act (47 U.S.C. 921 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 119. FEDERAL SPECTRUM REALLOCATION COMMISSION.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

“(1) the term ‘Chairperson’ means the chairperson of the Reallocation Commission designated under subsection (b)(3)(B);

“(2) the term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Reallocation Commission appointed under subsection (b)(5);

“(3) the term ‘executive agency’ has the meaning given the term in section 105 of title 5, United States Code;

“(4) the term ‘Federal entity’ means any department, agency, or other instrumentality of the Federal Government that utilizes a Government station license obtained under section 305 of the Telecommunications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 305);

“(5) the term ‘Reallocation Commission’ means the Federal Spectrum Reallocation Commission established under subsection (b)(1); and

“(6) the term ‘relocation costs’—

“(A) means the costs incurred by a Federal entity to achieve comparable capability of systems, regardless of whether that capability is achieved by relocating to a new frequency assignment or by utilizing an alternative technology; and

“(B) includes—

“(i) the costs of any modification or replacement of equipment, software, facilities, operating manuals, training costs, or regulations that are attributable to relocation;

“(ii) the costs of all engineering, equipment, software, site acquisition and construction costs, as well as any legitimate and prudent transaction expense, including outside consultants, and reasonable additional costs incurred by the Federal entity that are attributable to relocation, including increased recurring costs associated with the replacement facilities;

“(iii) the costs of engineering studies, economic analyses, or other expenses reasonably incurred in calculating the estimated relocation costs that are provided to the Commission under subsection (e)(3)(C) and approved by the Office of Management and Budget under subsection (e)(3)(D);

“(iv) the one-time costs of any modification of equipment reasonably necessary to accommodate commercial use of such frequencies prior to the termination of the Federal entity’s primary allocation or protected status, when the eligible frequencies are made available for private sector uses by competitive bidding and a Federal entity retains primary allocation or protected status in those frequencies for a period of time after the completion of the competitive bidding process; and

“(v) the costs associated with the accelerated replacement of systems and equipment if such acceleration is necessary to ensure the timely relocation of systems to a new frequency assignment.

“(b) COMMISSION.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an independent commission to be known as the ‘Federal Spectrum Reallocation Commission’.

“(2) DUTIES.—The Reallocation Commission shall carry out the duties described in this section.

“(3) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(A) APPOINTMENTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Reallocation Commission shall be composed of 9 members appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

“(ii) REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Of the 9 members appointed by the President under clause (i)—

“(aa) not more than 1 member may be a current employee or contractor of the Department of Defense;

“(bb) not more than 1 member may be former employee or contractor of the Department of Defense;

“(cc) not less than 1 member shall be a representative of the commercial mobile technology industry; and

“(dd) not less than 1 member shall be a representative from a standards setting-body that is accredited by the American National Standards Institute to develop voluntary industry standards.

“(II) PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATION.—In making appointments under clause (i), the President shall ensure that there is robust private sector representation on the Reallocation Commission.

“(iii) TRANSMISSION OF NOMINATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Maximizing Spectrum Efficiency and Value Act of 2011, the President shall transmit to the Senate the nominations for appointment to the Commission.

“(iv) CONSULTATION.—In selecting individuals for nominations for appointments to the Reallocation Commission, the President shall consult with—

“(I) the Speaker of the House of Representatives concerning the appointment of 2 members;

“(II) the majority leader of the Senate concerning the appointment of 2 member;

“(III) the minority leader of the House of Representatives concerning the appointment of 1 member; and

“(IV) the minority leader of the Senate concerning the appointment of 1 member.

“(v) NONPOLITICAL NATURE OF APPOINTMENT.—No political test or qualification may be used in selecting, appointing, promoting, or taking other personnel actions with respect to officers, agents, or employees of the Reallocation Commission.

“(B) CHAIRPERSON.—At the time the President nominates individuals for appointments under subparagraph (A), the President shall designate 1 of the individuals nominated to serve as the Chairperson of the Reallocation Commission.

“(C) TERMS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the Reallocation Commission may serve until the Commission sunsets.

“(ii) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson shall serve until the confirmation of a successor.

“(iii) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Reallocation Commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

“(D) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Each member, other than the Chairperson, shall be paid at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the minimum annual rate of basic pay payable for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which the member is engaged in the actual performance of duties vested in the Reallocation Commission.

“(ii) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson shall be paid for each day referred to in clause (i)

at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the minimum annual rate of basic pay payable for level III of the Executive Schedule under section 5314 of title 5, United States Code.

“(4) MEETINGS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each meeting of the Reallocation Commission, other than meetings in which classified information is to be discussed, shall be open to the public.

“(B) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—All the proceedings, information, and deliberations of the Commission shall be open, upon request to—

“(i) the Chairman and the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, or such other members of the Subcommittee designated by the Chairman or ranking member of the Subcommittee;

“(ii) the Chairman and the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology of the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, or such other members of the Subcommittee designated by the Chairman or ranking member of the Subcommittee; and

“(iii) the Chairmen and ranking members of the Subcommittees on Commerce, Justice and Science, and Financial Services and General Government of the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and of the House of Representatives, or such other members of the Subcommittees designated by such Chairmen or ranking minority party members.

“(5) DIRECTOR OF STAFF.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Reallocation Commission shall, without regard to section 5311(b) of title 5, United States Code, appoint a Director.

“(B) PAY.—The Director shall be paid at the rate of basic pay payable for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code.

“(6) STAFF.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), the Director, with the approval of the Reallocation Commission, may appoint and fix the pay of additional personnel as may be necessary to enable the Reallocation Commission to perform the duties of the Reallocation Commission.

“(B) LIMITATION.—The Director may make such appointments without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and any personnel so appointed may be paid without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of that title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, except that an individual appointed under this paragraph may not receive pay in excess of the annual rate of basic pay payable for GS-18 of the General Schedule.

“(C) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Upon request of the Director, the Secretary of Commerce may detail any of the personnel of the Department of Commerce to the Reallocation Commission to assist the Reallocation Commission in carrying out its duties.

“(D) GAO AGREEMENT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall provide assistance, including the detailing of employees, to the Reallocation Commission in accordance with an agreement entered into with the Reallocation Commission.

“(7) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson may procure temporary and intermittent

services under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals which do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

“(8) OTHER AUTHORITY.—The Chairperson may lease space and acquire personal property to the extent funds are available.

“(9) FUNDING.—There are authorized to be transferred to the Reallocation Commission from the Spectrum Relocation Fund \$13,000,000 to carry out the duties of the Reallocation Commission under this subsection, and such funds shall remain available until the term of the Reallocation Commission sunsets. The funds remaining after the sunset of the Commission shall be returned to the Treasury for the sole purpose of deficit reduction.

“(10) POSTAL AND PRINTING SERVICES.—The Commission may use the United States mails and obtain printing and binding services in the same manner and under the same conditions as other agencies of the United States.

“(11) SUNSET.—Section 119(b) is repealed effective 60 days after the President submits his approval of the Reallocation Commission recommendations, pursuant to subsection (d)(4)(B).

“(12) OBTAINING INFORMATION.—The Reallocation Commission may secure directly from any agency or department of the United States information necessary to enable it to carry out its duties under this section. Upon request of any member, the head of that agency or department shall furnish that information to the Commission in a full and timely manner.

“(c) SPECTRUM UTILIZATION PLAN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—As part of the budget justification documents submitted to Congress in support of the budget for each fiscal year, the head of each Federal entity shall include a spectrum utilization plan.

“(2) CONTENTS.—A spectrum utilization plan submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) the total spectrum authorized for the entity (in percentage terms and in sum) in each band the entity uses;

“(B) the approximate number of transmitters, end-user terminals, or receivers, excluding unintended radiators, that have been deployed or authorized;

“(C) if such information is available—

“(i) the type of transmitters, end-user terminals, or receivers, excluding unintended radiators, operated by the entity and whether they are space-, air-, or ground-based;

“(ii) the type of transmitters, end-user terminals, or receivers, excluding unintended radiators, authorized to be operated by the entity and whether they are space, air, or ground-based;

“(iii) contour maps or other information that illustrate the coverage area, receiver performance, and other parameters relevant to an assessment of the availability of spectrum in each band used by the entity;

“(iv) the approximate geolocation of base stations or fixed transmitters;

“(v) the approximate extent of use, by geography, of each band of frequencies, such as the amount and percentage of time of use, number of end-users, or other measures as appropriate to the particular band;

“(vi) the activities, capabilities, functions, or missions supported by the transmitters, end-user terminals, or receivers; and

“(vii) the types of unlicensed devices authorized to be operated by the entity;

“(D) the opportunity cost borne by the entity for each spectrum band the entity uses;

“(E) the planned uses of technologies or expanded services requiring spectrum of a period of time agreed to by the entity; and

“(F) suggested spectrum-efficient approaches to meeting the spectrum requirements identified under subparagraph (E).

“(3) REQUIREMENT.—The head of each Federal entity required to submit a spectrum utilization plan under paragraph (1) shall submit a copy of each plan submitted under paragraph (1) to the Reallocation Commission, the Secretary of Commerce, and the NTIA.

“(4) NATIONAL SECURITY; CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If the head of a Federal agency determines that disclosure of information required under paragraph (1) would be harmful to the national security of the United States, the agency shall—

“(i) notify the Secretary of Commerce of such determination;

“(ii) provide to the Secretary—

“(I) the other publicly releasable information required by paragraph (1);

“(II) to the maximum extent practicable, a summary description of the information with respect to which the determination was made; and

“(III) an annex containing the information with respect to which the determination was made.

“(B) CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—If the head of a Federal agency determines that any information required by paragraph (1) is classified in accordance with Executive Order 13526 of December 29, 2009, or any successor Executive Order establishing or modifying the uniform system for classifying, safeguarding, and declassifying national security information, the agency shall—

“(i) notify the Secretary of such determination;

“(ii) provide to the Secretary—

“(I) the information required by paragraph (1) that is not classified;

“(II) to the maximum extent practicable, a summary description of the information that is classified; and

“(III) an annex containing the information that is classified.

“(C) ANNEX RESTRICTION.—The Secretary shall make an annex described in subparagraph (A)(ii)(III) or (B)(ii)(III) available to the NTIA and the Relocation Commission. The NTIA, the Secretary, and the Relocation Commission shall not make any such annex available to the public or to any unauthorized person through any other means.

“(d) PROCEDURE FOR MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SPECTRUM REALLOCATION.—

“(1) COMMERCE RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 18 months after the President submits the budget documents that include spectrum utilization plans described in subsection (c) to Congress for the first fiscal year following the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the appropriate congressional committees, the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Reallocation Commission a report identifying and recommending for reallocation bands of frequencies—

“(A) that are allocated on a primary basis for Federal Government use;

“(B) that are not required for the needs of the Federal Government at the time the report is submitted, or in the identifiable future; and

“(C) that can feasibly be made available, as of the date of submission of the report or at any time during the 5 year period beginning on the date on which the report is sub-

mitted, for use under section 309(j) the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j)).

“(2) CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFICATION.—

“(A) NEEDS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.—In determining whether a band of frequencies meets the criteria specified under paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall—

“(i) consider whether—

“(I) the band of frequencies is used to provide a communications service that is or could be available from a commercial provider or other vendor; or

“(II) the communications services provided on such frequencies could be relocated to other frequencies used by the Federal Government;

“(ii) seek to promote—

“(I) the maximum practicable reliance on commercially available substitutes;

“(II) the efficient use of spectrum by Federal Government stations;

“(III) the development and use of new communications technologies; and

“(IV) the use of nonradiating communications systems where practicable; and

“(iii) seek to avoid—

“(I) serious degradation of Federal Government services and operations;

“(II) excessive costs to the Federal Government and users of Federal Government services; and

“(III) excessive disruption of existing use of Federal Government frequencies by amateur radio licensees.

“(B) LIMITATION ON REALLOCATION.—None of the frequencies recommended for reallocation under paragraph (1) shall have been required or scheduled for previous reallocation.

“(C) DIRECT DISCUSSIONS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall encourage and provide opportunity for direct discussions among commercial representatives and Federal Government users of the spectrum to aid the Secretary in determining which frequencies to recommend for reallocation under paragraph (1).

“(ii) HEARINGS AND PUBLIC COMMENT.—As part of the review required under clause (i), the Reallocation Commission shall conduct public hearings and accept public comment on the recommendations. All testimony before the Reallocation Commission at a public hearing conducted under this clause shall be presented under oath. All testimony and public comments collected under this clause shall be made available on a public website.

“(iii) REPRESENTATION.—A representative of the Reallocation Commission, and of the Secretary at the election of the Secretary, shall be permitted to attend any discussion held under clause (i).

“(iv) COMMENT.—The Secretary shall provide the public and the Reallocation Commission with an opportunity to comment on the results of a discussion held under clause (i) before the Secretary submits the recommendation required under paragraph (1).

“(3) REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE REALLOCATION COMMISSION.—

“(A) REVIEW.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—After receiving the recommendations from the Secretary under paragraph (1), the Reallocation Commission shall review the recommendations.

“(ii) HEARINGS.—As part of the review required under clause (i), the Reallocation Commission shall conduct public hearings on the recommendations. All testimony before the Reallocation Commission at a public hearing conducted under this clause shall be presented under oath.

“(B) RECOMMENDATIONS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the Secretary submits recommendations under paragraph (1) to the Reallocation Commission, the Reallocation Commission shall submit to the President and the appropriate congressional committees a report on the findings and conclusions of the Reallocation Commission from the review conducted under subparagraph (A), including any recommendations for Federal spectrum reallocation.

“(ii) REQUIREMENT.—A report submitted under clause (i) shall contain an explanation and justification of any recommendation of Federal spectrum reallocation included in the report that is different from the recommendations submitted by the Secretary under paragraph (1).

“(C) TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION TO CONGRESS.—After the Reallocation Commission submits recommendations to the President under subparagraph (B), upon request by a Member of Congress, the Reallocation Commission shall submit to the Member of Congress any information used by the Reallocation Commission in making the recommendations.

“(D) GAO REQUIREMENTS.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall—

“(i) assist the Reallocation Commission, to the extent requested, in the review and analysis of the recommendations made by the Secretary required to be conducted under subparagraph (A); and

“(ii) not later than 90 days after the Secretary makes recommendations under paragraph (1), submit to Congress and to the Reallocation Commission a report that contains a detailed analysis of the recommendations and selection process of the Secretary.

“(4) REVIEW BY THE PRESIDENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the Reallocation Commission submits recommendations for Federal spectrum reallocation under paragraph (3)(B), the President shall—

“(i) determine whether to approve the recommendations made by the Reallocation Commission; and

“(ii) submit to Congress and the Reallocation Commission a report that describes the determination made under clause (i).

“(B) APPROVAL.—If the President approves the recommendations under clause (i), the President shall transmit a copy of the recommendations to Congress.

“(C) DISAPPROVAL.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—If the President disapproves the recommendations under clause (i), the President shall submit to Congress and to the Reallocation Commission a report that describes the reasons that the President disapproves of the recommendations.

“(ii) REALLOCATION COMMISSION REVISIONS.—Not later than 60 days after the President submits to the Reallocation Commission a report under clause (i), the Reallocation Commission shall submit to the President a revised list of recommendations for reallocation of Federal spectrum.

“(iii) APPROVAL AND DISAPPROVAL OF REVISIONS.—

“(I) APPROVAL.—If the President approves the revised list of recommendations submitted by the Reallocation Commission under clause (ii), the President shall submit the revised list to Congress.

“(II) DISAPPROVAL.—If the President disapproves the revised list of recommendations submitted by the Reallocation Commission under clause (ii), the President and the Reallocation Commission shall complete the requirements described in clauses (i) and (ii) until the President approves recommendations from the Reallocation Commission.

“(5) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AND NONDISCLOSURE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If the head of an executive agency, the Chairperson, or the President determines that public disclosure of any information contained in the reports, recommendations, testimony, or comments required under this section would reveal classified national security information or other information for which there is a legal basis for nondisclosure and such public disclosure would be detrimental to national security, homeland security, public safety, or jeopardize law enforcement investigations, the head of the executive agency, the Chairperson, or the President shall notify the Secretary of that determination prior to release of such information.

“(B) ANNEX.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—If the head of an executive agency, the Chairperson, or the President notified the Secretary of a determination under subparagraph (A), the information required to be disclosed under this section shall be included in a separate classified annex, as needed.

“(ii) REQUIREMENT.—A classified annex described under clause (i)—

“(I) shall be provided to the appropriate Congressional subcommittees in accordance with appropriate national security stipulations; and

“(II) shall not be disclosed to the public or provided to any unauthorized person through any other means.

“(e) REALLOCATION OF FEDERAL SPECTRUM.—

“(1) AGENCY ACTION.—

“(A) NTIA REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the President submits approved recommendations for the reallocation of Federal spectrum to Congress under subparagraph (B) or (C)(iii)(I) of subsection (d)(4), the NTIA shall provide to each Federal entity that is required to take action under the recommendations information regarding an alternative frequency assignment to which the radio communications operations of the Federal entity could be relocated for purposes of calculating the estimated relocation costs and time line required under subparagraph (C).

“(B) REQUIREMENT.—To the extent practicable and consistent with national security considerations, the NTIA shall provide the information described in paragraph (1) by the geographic location of the facilities or systems of the Federal entity and the frequency bands used by the facilities or systems.

“(C) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the President submits approved recommendations for the reallocation of Federal spectrum to Congress under subparagraph (B) or (C)(iii)(I) of subsection (d)(4), the head of each Federal entity required to relocate spectrum under the recommendations shall prepare and submit to the President, the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, the NTIA, the Federal Communications Commission, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Comptroller General of the United States a plan for implementation of the recommendations related to the Federal entity.

“(ii) CONTENTS.—An implementation plan submitted under clause (i) shall include—

“(I) a description of how the Federal entity will comply with the approved recommendations for the reallocation of Federal spec-

trum submitted to Congress under subparagraph (B) or (C)(iii)(I) of subsection (d)(4);

“(II) any statutory or regulatory barriers that will prohibit the Federal entity from complying with the recommendations described in subclause (I);

“(III) the estimated cost to the Federal entity of frequency withdrawal or relocation; and

“(IV) the estimated timeline of the Federal entity for frequency withdrawal or relocation.

“(D) REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the plan is submitted under subparagraph (C), the Office of Management and Budget shall review the implementation plan and determine whether to approve the plan.

“(ii) DISAPPROVAL.—If an implementation plan submitted under subparagraph (C) is disapproved by the Office of Management and Budget, the Federal entity shall submit a revised implementation plan under paragraph (3)(A) until the implementation plan is approved.

“(iii) APPROVAL OF ALL PLANS.—Not later than 7 days after the date on which the Office of Management and Budget approves the plans submitted under paragraph (3)(C), the Office of Management and Budget shall notify the Federal Communications Commission of the estimated relocation costs and timelines of all Federal entities required to submit a plan under paragraph (3)(C).

“(iv) REVIEW OF PROGRESS.—At the beginning of each fiscal year following approval of a plan required under subparagraph (C), the Office of Management and Budget shall review the progress of each Federal entity in meeting the cost and timelines of the implementation plan. If at any point, the Office of Management and Budget determines the Federal entity will not meet the implementation plan timelines or cost, the Office of Management and Budget shall take action to enforce the approved plan.

“(E) COMPLIANCE.—

“(i) INITIATION OF REQUIRED ACTION.—Not later than 2 years after the date which the President submits approved recommendations for the reallocation of Federal spectrum to Congress under subparagraph (B) or (C)(iii)(I) of subsection (d)(4), the head of each agency shall initiate all such actions required to comply with the approved recommendations.

“(ii) COMPLETION OF REQUIRED ACTION.—Not later than 5 years after the date which the President submits approved recommendations for the reallocation of Federal spectrum to Congress under subparagraph (B) or (C)(iii)(I) of subsection (d)(4), the head of each agency shall complete all such actions required to comply with the approved recommendations.

“(2) CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—No agency may initiate any action in accordance with the approved recommendations for the reallocation of Federal spectrum submitted to Congress by the President under subparagraph (B) or (C)(iii)(I) of subsection (d)(4) if Congress enacts a joint resolution disapproving the recommendations before the earlier of—

“(i) the end of the 45-day period beginning on the date on which the President submits the recommendations to Congress under subparagraph (B) or (C)(iii)(I) of subsection (d)(4); or

“(ii) the adjournment of Congress sine die for the session during which the recommendations described in clause (i) are submitted.

“(B) COMPUTATION OF TIME PERIOD.—For the purpose of subparagraph (A), the days on which either the Senate or the House of Representatives is not in session because of an adjournment for more than 3 days to a day certain shall be excluded in the computation of the time period described in subparagraph (A)(i).

“(3) NOTIFICATION OF SUCCESSFUL RELOCATION.—The President shall terminate the authorization of a Federal entity and notify the Secretary and the Federal Communications Commission of the termination if—

“(A) the NTIA determines that a Federal entity has achieved comparable capability of systems by relocating to a new frequency assignment or by utilizing an alternative technology; or

“(B) the Federal entity has unreasonably failed to comply with the timeline for relocation submitted by the Federal entity under paragraph (1)(C).

“(f) AUCTION OF AVAILABLE FREQUENCIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date on which the President submits approved recommendations for the reallocation of Federal spectrum to Congress under subparagraph (B) or (C)(iii)(I) of subsection (d)(4), the Federal Communications Commission shall establish rules for the conduct of auctions of frequencies that will be made available according to the recommendations for the reallocation of Federal spectrum for assignment of new initial licenses subject to new service rules or for other purposes, in which a portion of the auction proceeds are provided to the Spectrum Relocation Fund, consistent with the public interest in maximizing utilization of the spectrum. The remainder of the proceeds shall be deposited in the Treasury, where such amounts shall be dedicated for the sole purpose of deficit reduction.

“(2) REQUIREMENT.—In promulgating rules under paragraph (1), the Federal Communications Commission shall—

“(A) minimize the cost to the taxpayer of the transition of the spectrum to be auctioned to its newly identified use;

“(B) ensure that any licensing conditions established are restricted to technical, ethical, geographic, and financial matters; and

“(C) establish rules in accordance with section 309(j)(8)(F)(vi) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j)(8)(F)(vi)).

“(3) SCHEDULE FOR AUCTIONS.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which the President submits approved recommendations for the reallocation of Federal spectrum to Congress under subparagraph (B) or (C)(iii)(I) of subsection (d)(4), the Federal Communications Commission shall commence auctions under this subsection.

“(g) RELOCATION OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT STATIONS.—

“(1) ELIGIBLE FEDERAL ENTITIES.—Any Federal entity that operates a Federal Government station assigned to a band of frequencies and that incurs relocation costs because of the reallocation of frequencies from Federal use to non-Federal use pursuant to this section shall receive payment for such costs from the Spectrum Relocation Fund, in accordance with section 118.

“(2) FEDERAL ACTION TO EXPEDITE SPECTRUM TRANSFER.—Any Federal Government station which operates on electromagnetic spectrum that has been identified in any reallocation report under this section shall, to the maximum extent practicable through the use of the authority granted under this section and any other applicable provision of law, take action to relocate its spectrum use to other frequencies that are reserved for

Federal use or to consolidate its spectrum use with other Federal Government stations in a manner that maximizes the spectrum available for non-Federal use.

“(3) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—If a Federal entity does not comply with the timeline established in the implementation plan required under subsection (e)(C), Congress may decrease the amount appropriated to the entity in the following fiscal year by up to ½ of 1 percent.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SECTION 309(J) OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934.—Section 309(j) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (8), as amended by this Act, by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

“(D) DISPOSITION OF CASH PROCEEDS.—Cash proceeds attributable to the auction of any eligible frequencies described in section 119(f)(1) of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act shall be deposited in the Spectrum Relocation Fund established under section 118 of such Act, and shall be available in accordance with that section.”; and

(B) in paragraph (16)—

(i) by striking paragraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

“(A) SPECIAL REGULATIONS.—The Commission shall revise the regulations prescribed under paragraph (4)(F) of this subsection to prescribe methods by which the total cash proceeds from any auction of eligible frequencies described in section 119(f)(1) of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act shall at least equal 110 percent of the total estimated relocation costs provided to the Commission pursuant to section 119(e)(1)(D)(iii) of such Act.

“(B) CONCLUSION OF AUCTIONS CONTINGENT ON MINIMUM PROCEEDS.—The Commission shall not conclude any auction of eligible frequencies described in section 119(f)(1) of such Act if the total cash proceeds attributable to such spectrum are less than 110 percent of the total estimated relocation costs provided to the Commission pursuant to section 119(e)(1)(D)(iii) of such Act. If the Commission is unable to conclude an auction for the foregoing reason, the Commission shall cancel the auction, return within 45 days after the auction cancellation date any deposits from participating bidders held in escrow, and absolve such bidders from any obligation to the United States to bid in any subsequent reacquisition of such spectrum.”.

(2) SPECTRUM RELOCATION FUND.—Section 118 of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act (47 U.S.C. 928) is amended striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) USED TO PAY RELOCATION COSTS.—The amounts in the Fund from auctions of eligible frequencies are authorized to be used to pay relocation costs, as defined in section 119(a)(5), of an eligible Federal entity incurring such costs with respect to relocation from those frequencies.”.

SA 587. Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. COLLINS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1188, to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “All-American Flag Act”.

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT FOR PURCHASE OF DOMESTICALLY MADE UNITED STATES FLAGS FOR USE BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under subsection (b), only such flags of the United States of America, regardless of size, that are 100 percent manufactured in the United States, from articles, materials, or supplies 100 percent of which are grown, produced, or manufactured in the United States, may be acquired for use by the Federal Government.

(b) WAIVER.—The head of an executive agency may waive the requirement under subsection (a) on a case-by-case basis upon a determination that—

(1) the application of the limitation would cause unreasonable costs or delays to be incurred; or

(2) application of the limitation would adversely affect a United States company.

(c) AMENDMENT OF FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council established under section 1302 of title 41, United States Code, shall amend the Federal Acquisition Regulation to implement this section.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term “executive agency” has the meaning given the term in section 133 of title 41, United States Code.

(2) FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION.—The term “Federal Acquisition Regulation” has the meaning given the term in section 106 of title 41, United States Code.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Section 2 shall apply to purchases of flags made on or after 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. CONSISTENCY WITH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.

This Act shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under international agreements.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Thursday, July 28, 2011, at 2:15 p.m. in Room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled “Enforcing the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act—The Role of the National Indian Gaming commission and Tribes as Regulators.”

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224-2251.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Thursday, July 28, 2011, at 2:15 p.m. in room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a business meeting to consider: S. 546, a bill to extend Federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana, and for other purposes; S. 379, a bill to extend Federal Recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the

Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe; S. 1218, a bill to provide for the recognition of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, and for other purposes; S. 703, a bill to amend the Long-Term Leasing Act, and for other purposes; and S. 636, a bill to provide the Quileute Indian Tribe Tsunami and Flood Protection, and for other purposes, to be followed by an oversight hearing entitled "Enforcing the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act—The Role of the National Indian Gaming Commission and Tribes as Regulators."

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224-2251.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet in executive session on Wednesday, August 3, 2011, at 10 a.m. in SD-106 to mark-up the following: S. 958, the Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2011; S. 1094, the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act; and, any nominations cleared for action.

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact the committee on (202) 224-5375.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO
MEET

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 27, 2011, at 10 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "CEO Perspectives on How the Tax Code Affects Hiring, Businesses and Economic Growth."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 27, 2011, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Ten Years After 9/11: Emergency Communications."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 27, 2011, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Fulfilling Our Treaty Obligations and Protecting Americans Abroad."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 27, 2011, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Nominations."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session on July 27, 2011, in room SD-562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building beginning at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION,
PRODUCT SAFETY, AND INSURANCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 27, 2011, at 2:30 p.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND
MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 27, 2011, at 2 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEANS, ATMOSPHERE,
FISHERIES, AND COAST GUARD

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 27, 2011, at 10:30 a.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Charles Vallejo Anderson, an intern in Senator MERKLEY's office, have the privileges of the floor for the balance of today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ALL-AMERICAN FLAG ACT

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I rise to discuss legislation called the All-American Flag Act of 2011 and make some comments about what has

happened to American manufacturing and how this is a small step but an important step in beginning to convince this body that "Made in America" is something we should focus on, that a manufacturing strategy from the White House is something they should focus on, and that putting people back to work to make things in America again is the right strategy to pull us out of a recession.

The Labor Department's most recent jobs report confirmed what workers in my State are already aware of—that employers are still not hiring. Workers who have jobs are seeing smaller paychecks, and they are barely keeping up with bills and insurance costs.

In too many cases, soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are facing even greater challenges in the labor market. I was at Youngstown State University recently talking about the specific programs there. In Cleveland, through MAGNET—a group called MAGNET in Youngstown and in northeast Ohio is helping soldiers and sailors and marines leaving the service, integrating into the classroom, and helping them find jobs in that region—someplace we have fallen woefully short.

Manufacturing, which was moving along steadily earlier this year—we had seen 12, 13, 14, 15 months of job growth in manufacturing, not enough job growth but some—that is even slowing down. Steps that were taken through the auto rescue and other things we did in the last couple of years dealing with this terrible recession created in 2007 and 2008—the auto rescue and other efforts saved millions of Americans from joining the unemployment rolls. We are seeing a better auto industry, an auto industry coming back, especially in places such as Defiance and Toledo and Northwood and Cleveland and Lawrenceville, OH. But the challenges remain severe.

Like many in this Chamber, I believe manufacturing is the key not only to our economic recovery but to the strength and vitality of our Nation. To many, manufacturing is also a ticket to the American middle class.

In the last 12 years, we have witnessed the closure of more than 54,000 factories in the United States. Last year, we lost 8,000. That is 5,400 factories per year, 15 per day in the last 12 years. The manufacturing sector, since the beginning of the Bush administration, 2001, has lost 5 million jobs. Only 11.5 million people are employed in manufacturing jobs now. The last time it was that low was in 1941, before the country scaled up for production for World War II.

When Members of this body talk about the need to support manufacturing, others will say that is "picking winners and losers" and that "the government has no role in helping manufacturing." First of all, that makes no sense, but second, I have heard all

those before. I think the government already has picked winners and made choices. Manufacturing in the early 1980s exceeded 25 percent of our GDP. Now it is only 11 percent of our GDP. Over that same time period—financial services back 30 years ago was about 11 percent of our GDP, and now they are about 21 percent. So a government that put way too much focus on and interest in and support for financial services at the expense of manufacturing has clearly cost us far too many middle-class jobs.

It is a result of tax policy; it is a result of not investing in innovation; it is a result of the China PNTR, the permanent normal trade relations; it is a result of NAFTA; and it is a result of not enforcing our trade laws. There is blame to go around, but the blame will not create a job that a former auto-worker in Youngstown or a rubber worker in Akron or a chemical worker in Columbus or a steelworker outside Cincinnati—that will not create a job they are looking for, nor reduce the rising cost for them of food and gas and shelter.

I urge my colleagues to consider taking big steps, not just slight changes at the margin, in rebuilding our manufacturing base and rebuilding the middle class. Those steps include rebalancing our economic policies, reinvesting in education, reinvesting—putting real support into workforce training, and enforcing trade laws that increase our exports and reinforce trade, three examples of enforcing trade laws that happened in the last couple of years, thanks in part to a more aggressive Obama administration finally on trade law. We have seen hundreds of jobs created in Lorain, OH; in Youngstown, OH, because of enforcement of trade laws on Oil Country Tubular Steel. We have seen rubber worker jobs, tire manufacturing jobs created in Finley, OH, because of enforcement of international trade law. We have seen coated paper jobs, paper manufacturing jobs in Butler County, OH, again, because of an aggressive Federal policy about enforcing trade law, but we don't see enough of that.

There are other steps more modest but demonstrate a commitment to our manufacturing sector—one step requiring the Federal Government when purchasing flags to purchase only those flags 100 percent American made. That sounds fairly amazing that they are not made in America today. It sounds fairly amazing that would make much difference but really it does.

Currently, Federal law requires that American flags purchased by the U.S. Government contain a minimum of 50 percent American-made products or components. So the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security or the U.S. Capitol buys the American flags and under law they only need to be 50 percent made in the

United States of America. These are American flags. This legislation we will offer today, which has the support of Senator ROCKEFELLER, a Democrat from West Virginia, Senator COLLINS, a Republican from Maine, Senator SANDERS, an Independent from Vermont, have joined me as cosponsors. It honors our country by ensuring American flags flown over government buildings are actually American flags.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the value of imported American flags to the United States was \$3.2 million with \$2.8 million coming from China. When I think about all of the production in China, I often think about young workers—and when I say young workers, I mean young workers in China—who make things people in the United States buy. I have to think Chinese workers, if they think about this while they are working, must be a bit amused that they are making American flags in China and selling them to us. They must think what kind of country is this that doesn't make their own flags. It just occurred to me that would be amusing if it weren't somewhat tragic.

The Congressional Research Service said there are at least eight all-American flag manufacturers in the United States. There are eight companies that can do this. This isn't a question of rare Earth materials that we can't get enough of. I know the Senator from Colorado has been interested in that issue, the Presiding Officer.

The increased demand for made in the U.S.A. flags will lead to more jobs. Thanks to this legislation we will have more production.

In a time when we face economic hardship, it is critical to invest in the manufacturing base. There is no product that deserves a U.S.A. label more than American flags. Manufacturing built a strong middle class. When you think of the combination of large-scale manufacturing of all kinds of products and collective bargaining laws that let people come together and bargain and negotiate collectively, it clearly is the way we built the middle class in this country.

It is critical today that the government lead by example. That is why the Ohio Senate bill 5 is so important, the repeal of the repeal of collective bargaining. It is why manufacturing is so important.

This legislation today that I will bring up in a moment is a modest step towards building that manufacturing strategy, moving forward on made in America and a modest step towards enhancing and strengthening our manufacturing base.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Homeland Security Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1188 and that the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of Colorado). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title. The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1188) to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Brown of Ohio substitute amendment at the desk, which we just discussed, be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 587) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "All-American Flag Act".

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT FOR PURCHASE OF DOMESTICALLY MADE UNITED STATES FLAGS FOR USE BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under subsection (b), only such flags of the United States of America, regardless of size, that are 100 percent manufactured in the United States, from articles, materials, or supplies 100 percent of which are grown, produced, or manufactured in the United States, may be acquired for use by the Federal Government.

(b) WAIVER.—The head of an executive agency may waive the requirement under subsection (a) on a case-by-case basis upon a determination that—

(1) the application of the limitation would cause unreasonable costs or delays to be incurred; or

(2) application of the limitation would adversely affect a United States company.

(c) AMENDMENT OF FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council established under section 1302 of title 41, United States Code, shall amend the Federal Acquisition Regulation to implement this section.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term "executive agency" has the meaning given the term in section 133 of title 41, United States Code.

(2) FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION.—The term "Federal Acquisition Regulation" has the meaning given the term in section 106 of title 41, United States Code.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Section 2 shall apply to purchases of flags made on or after 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. CONSISTENCY WITH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.

This Act shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under international agreements.

The bill (S. 1188), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CONDEMNING THE HORRIFIC ATTACKS IN NORWAY

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 240, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 240) condemning the horrific attacks on government buildings in Oslo, Norway, and a youth camp on Utøya Island, Norway, on July 22, 2011, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 240) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 240

Whereas, on July 22, 2011, at least eight people were brutally killed when government buildings were bombed in Oslo, Norway;

Whereas, also on July 22, 2011, at least 68 people, a majority of them children and young adults, were brutally killed when a youth camp was attacked on Utøya Island, Norway;

Whereas, also on July 22, 2011, as many as 96 people were injured by these dual attacks;

Whereas these twin attacks brought horrific violence, pain, and suffering upon innocent Norwegians and their families and friends;

Whereas the Government and people of Norway have condemned the terrorist attacks and called the events an "atrocious," a "nightmare," and a "national tragedy";

Whereas Norway is recognized around the world as a country that is both peaceful and peace-seeking;

Whereas Oslo, Norway, is home to the Norwegian Nobel Committee, which annually selects winners of the Nobel Peace Prize;

Whereas Norway was a founding member of the United Nations in 1945, a Norwegian was the first Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Norway was a founding member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1949;

Whereas Norway has for years offered safe haven to refugees and the politically persecuted from around the world;

Whereas over 4,500,000 Americans of Norwegian ancestry now reside in the United States, with the state of Minnesota being home to the largest number of people of Norwegian heritage outside of Norway itself;

Whereas the Prime Minister of Norway, Jens Stoltenberg, has said, "We must never let our values, our way of life, be destroyed by blind violence," and pledged that Norway "will respond with more democracy, more openness, and more humanity, but never naïveté";

Whereas the Foreign Minister of Norway, Jonas Gahr Støre, remarked, "The nature of

the Norwegian democracy will not change. Norway will continue to stand for engagement in the world where we commit our resources and our convictions.";

Whereas President Barack Obama remarked that "[i]t's a reminder that the entire international community has a stake in preventing this kind of terror from occurring," and later said, "You should know that the thoughts and prayers of all Americans are with the people of Norway and that we will stand beside [Norway] every step of the way.";

Whereas, on Monday, July 25, 2011, there was a moment of silence throughout Norway and other Nordic countries, followed by a memorial attended by more than 150,000 people outside the city hall in Oslo for a "Rose March," in which participants carried white or red roses; and

Whereas Crown Prince Haakon of Norway told those gathered at the memorial, "Tonight the streets are filled with love."; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns in the strongest terms the senseless terrorist attacks that occurred in Norway on July 22, 2011, causing many deaths and injuries;

(2) further condemns all terrorist actions, including those motivated by hatred and religious or cultural intolerance;

(3) expresses deep sympathy, solidarity, and condolences to the victims of the atrocious acts, their families, and the people and Government of Norway;

(4) emphasizes the bonds of friendship and shared heritage between the United States and Norway;

(5) expresses unwavering support to the Government and people of Norway as they recover from these horrific attacks;

(6) affirms its resolve to combat all forms of senseless violence and terrorism, both domestically and abroad; and

(7) calls on all people to join together to denounce acts of hatred and fear and promote peace and tolerance in their communities and around the world.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 26, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 26) supporting the goals and ideals of the designation of the year 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 26) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 26

Whereas the year of 2011 is recognized as the "International Year for People of African Descent";

Whereas the African Diaspora is expansive, spanning the globe from Latin America and the Caribbean to Asia, with persons of African descent living on every continent, including Europe;

Whereas in recognition of the African Diaspora, on December 18, 2009, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 64/169, designating the year of 2011 as the "International Year for People of African Descent";

Whereas the historical bonds and shared experiences that tie the African continent with the world must be recalled;

Whereas the global contributions of people of African descent must be recognized as a means of preserving that heritage;

Whereas a central goal of recognizing the year of 2011 as the International Year for People of African descent is to strengthen national actions and regional and international cooperation for the benefit of people of African descent in relation to—

(1) the full enjoyment of economic, cultural, social, civil, and political rights for people of African descent;

(2) the participation and integration of people of African descent in all political, economic, social, and cultural aspects of society; and

(3) the promotion of greater knowledge of, and respect for, the diverse heritage and culture of people of African descent; and

Whereas the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, done at Helsinki August 1, 1975, states that "participating States will respect human rights and fundamental freedoms . . . for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion"; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of the designation of the year of 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent;

(2) encourages the recognition and celebration of the collective history and achievements made by people of African descent;

(3) reaffirms the importance of inclusion and the full and equal participation of people of African descent around the world in all aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural life;

(4) recognizes bilateral and multilateral efforts to promote democracy, human rights, and rule of law, including those efforts that target the eradication of poverty, hunger, and inequality; and

(5) reaffirms the commitment of Congress to address racism, discrimination, and intolerance in the United States and around the globe.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 1938

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1938) to direct the President to expedite the consideration and approval of

the construction and operation of the Keystone XL Oil pipeline, and for other purposes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2011

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 28; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be

deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half; further, that following morning business, the majority leader be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous con-

sent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:55 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, July 28, 2011, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate July 27, 2011:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

GARY LOCKE, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

WILLIAM J. BURNS, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE WITH THE PERSONAL RANK OF CAREER AMBASSADOR, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROBERT S. MUELLER, III, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 4, 2013.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, July 27, 2011

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 27, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable KENNY MARCHANT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

DISPROVING REPUBLICAN ORTHODOXY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFazio. Well, this week we have just disproven two items of Republican orthodoxy, and that is corporations don't pay taxes; only individuals pay taxes; and tax cuts create jobs.

What am I talking about? Well, last Friday the authorization for the Federal Aviation Administration expired. So the government is not collecting \$200 million a week in security fees and other fees that pay for the aviation system. It is partially funded by the users of that system with ticket taxes and such. That is \$200 million a week.

Now, what's happened since? Well, three airlines, three honest airlines—Frontier Airlines, Alaska, and Virgin America—lowered ticket prices because the government isn't collecting the taxes. But the other airlines, not so much. They actually raised their ticket prices to match the taxes, and they're collecting the windfall.

At the same time, their association, the Air Transport Association, is com-

plaining about ticket taxes: But a big chunk of your ticket is going to Washington. Well, you can now X out Washington, and you can put in United Airlines, Continental Airlines, U.S. Airways, Southwest Airlines, and Jet Blue, because they're taking the money.

And guess what? In addition to the consumers getting ripped off here, \$200 million a week, we have another problem, the second one, tax cuts create jobs. Well, we've cut taxes, \$200 million a week. That's a lot. And guess what? So far, 4,000 government jobs.

Now, Republicans don't care about government jobs even if they're doing some pretty critical stuff. But also, tens of thousands of private sector jobs are down the tube because not collecting the taxes means all of the airport improvement projects across America funded by these fees are grinding to a halt. Critical projects, projects that will save lives from runway incursions, control towers, security improvements in our airports to defeat terrorist attacks.

And in the case of my little regional airport on the coast in Oregon, their project to install a runway lighting system for instrument landing before winter has stopped. We just got jet service in there. The airlines say, Look, if we're going to come in here in the wintertime, you've got some bad weather. We need that system. Well, if this impasse continues, we will not have that system by next winter.

Now, who is that helping? Who are you guys helping over there with these stupid stunts you're pulling here? \$200 million a week that the government isn't collecting that would pay for these critical projects, put tens of thousands of people to work, and now it's a windfall to a bunch of airlines.

But don't worry, the Air Transport Association says, these short-term increases, that is by the airlines increasing their ticket prices to make up for the taxes going away, these short-term increases benefit all stakeholders because it enables the airlines to invest in their product and service. Huh? What?

Let's see. The money used to go for safety and security and other essentials; now it's going to the airlines, and they're going to use it to improve their product and service. Maybe they'll start serving peanuts and soda again on some of these flights. I don't know.

But this is outrageous. So much for the Republican mantra. You know, corporations do pay taxes. And, in this

case, now they are getting a windfall because the taxes went away. And no, tax cuts don't create jobs. Wrong twice.

COMMUNITIES OF COLOR TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION ACT OF 2011

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Communities of Color Teen Pregnancy Prevention Act of 2011. My bill addresses the sobering fact that the United States has the highest teenage pregnancy rate of any developed nation.

With nearly 750,000 pregnancies a year, teen pregnancy is a critical public health issue that costs our country \$10.9 billion annually. Contributing to the seriousness of this issue is that 82 percent of these pregnancies are unplanned.

While it is true our Nation has made progress in reducing the rate of teen pregnancy, the fact remains that many minority communities still have disproportionately high rates. For example, among all Latina and African American girls, over half will get pregnant at least once before age 20, compared to 19 percent of Caucasian non-Hispanic girls.

Giving birth during these teenage years increases the risk of infant mortality, premature birth, complications, and low birth weight. Also of great concern is the fact that teen pregnancies can lead to significant social, educational, and financial burdens to families and to our country.

Research tells us that girls who become pregnant during adolescence are less likely to finish school, have higher rates of unemployment, and a greater dependence on public assistance. In addition to these tragic consequences, many young girls in physically abusive relationships are three times more likely to become pregnant than non-abused girls.

While there is no simple solution to address teen sexual behavior, it is possible to reduce teen pregnancy with a strategy of sexual health education that takes into account cultural and linguistic differences.

My bill is designed to do just that.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

The Communities of Color Teen Pregnancy Prevention Act will help reduce the disturbing rates of teen pregnancy in minority communities by supporting new and existing teen pregnancy prevention program interventions with a focus on strengthening community-based organizations, by reinforcing our multimedia campaigns to provide public health education, by increasing awareness about teen pregnancy prevention and healthy relationships, by enhancing research in communities of color that examine factors contributing to disproportionate high rates of teenage and unintended pregnancy, and by examining the role violence and abuse play in the decisions young people make about relationships, sex, pregnancy and childbearing.

Mr. Speaker, our daughters deserve equal opportunities to build a bright future. By preventing teen pregnancies and promoting healthy relationships, we can pave the way for our teenage girls to blossom into women and mothers who have realized their full potential.

I strongly urge my colleagues to co-sponsor and help pass the Communities of Color Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Act of 2011.

□ 1010

THE AMERICAN DREAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RANGEL. I think I share the embarrassment of all of the Members of this great legislative body when it appears as though in our hands we have the ability to tell people, our creditors all over the country and the world, that for the first time in our Republic's history we are prepared to say we are not going to pay our debts.

We're not doing this because of some pledges that we've signed or because of some commitment that some Members have made that they will never, never, never do anything in support of our President. They would never talk about raising revenue; that they will never vote for a bill, whether it's a health bill, Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare, education. If the President supports it, they just don't want it.

I don't know how many Americans are really waking up this morning wondering exactly what would happen if we hold our country and our President hostage in order to reach just short political gain by people who have been recently elected and believe that compromise is unpatriotic instead of the legislative objective. But more important than the jobs that we would lose, the money that we would lose, the fact that government would have to be expanded and larger than it's ever been, what I'm really afraid of is that we lose the American Dream and create a sce-

nario where that dream becomes a nightmare.

I don't know what it is that made America so great. I can't imagine what kind of dream that someone could have in Europe or a foreign country and just believe that making it to America would be better than staying in their own country with their own language and with their own race of people. Yet these tens of thousands of people were prepared, in many cases to risk their lives, to come to participate in that American Dream. I can't imagine how people who have been snatched from Africa and brought in chains in the bottom of vessels and were actually sold as property, and yet, instead of saying that they want to go back to Africa, they adopted our Bible, they adopted American customs. But most importantly, with all of the obstacles that they had to overcome, they adopted the American Dream.

What makes America so different is that we're one of the few countries that no matter what you look like or what your last name is, you can become an American. It's absolutely amazing the attractiveness that this dream has. Does it mean that a part of that dream is getting rich inheriting or getting property, having yachts and cars? No. It's having hope and dreams that you would be able to do better for yourself, your family, your kids, your grandkids, your community, and yes, our great country. It means that you're willing to make sacrifices to help others because even though you never fulfill that dream, the dream never, never stops. There's always the ability to say that even though I didn't make it, my kid is going to go to school. Even though I didn't make it, there's going to be the possibility that I'll be living in a better world—a world of peace, a world of harmony, a world that makes no difference where you came from, that you have a dream that can be fulfilled in this country.

In other countries, you can't dream. How you're born is how you die. That's going to be your legacy. But in America, all of this is going to be placed in jeopardy because we don't have the guts to call out these people that obviously would rather have this dream shattered, not just for those people that are here but for people all over the world that watch us, and maybe they don't have the ability to come here and become a part of that American Dream still. Throughout the Middle East you see other people saying, I too can dream. I can be somebody.

Don't let that dream become a nightmare. Support our President, support our fiscal system, and support that dream.

IN MEMORY OF ED BELL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor to remember a great friend of mine who passed away last Tuesday. Thomaston City Councilman Ed Bell was a huge presence in Georgia and a devoted cheerleader for both Upson County, the city of Thomaston, and me.

Ed's life of tireless service started when he entered the U.S. Navy as an aviation ordnance man for 4 years during the Korean conflict. He continued with a sense of duty as an agent with State Farm Insurance, where he worked for 33 years and became a mentor for every State Farm agent under his direction. He was an agent's agent. The people that he insured knew that Ed was their agent and that he was there to protect their interest.

Ed was serving his fourth term on the Thomaston City Council and was truly dedicated to improving the lives of those in his community. If I ever found myself within 25 miles of Thomaston and made the mistake of not calling Ed, you can bet that he would somehow find out, and I would get an earful over the phone for not coming by to see him. And when you came to visit, you had to be sure to set enough time for Ed to introduce you to everyone in town, even though he had already done it many times before.

Even in the years later, Ed could wear a much younger man out with his enthusiasm for showing visitors around his beloved city, taking them through the courthouse and around the city square. Ed really was "Mr. Thomaston." He was serving on my district's Small Business Committee as well as serving on the Thomaston-Upson Arts Council, the Upson County School Board, the Lions Club, and as a deacon at First Baptist Church of Thomaston. In recognition of all of Ed's work, he was rewarded the well-deserved Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009 from the Thomaston Chamber of Commerce. There is a laundry list of groups impacted by Ed's energy, and his involvement could never be replaced or forgotten by anyone.

The dedication Ed showed to his community pales in comparison to his dedication to family. My thoughts and prayers continue to be with Patricia, Ed's wife of 55 years; his three children, Dick, Debbie, and Nancy; and his six grandchildren, one of whom, William, is currently serving as an intern in my Newnan office. I cannot adequately express, Mr. Speaker, how grateful I am to Ed and his family for all that he has done for Georgia and for me.

So, Ed, until we meet again, we all miss you.

RATING THE CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, Members often come to the floor to talk about inspector general reports about agencies. And they are almost always critical of reports—reports that document shortcomings.

I'm very proud today to come to the floor to present excerpts from a joint report from the inspectors general of the Federal Reserve and the Treasury, in which they give a perfect set of marks to the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Those two agencies looked into this agency. This is an agency that is being set up, under fire, unfortunately, in a somewhat unusual situation. And what the inspectors general reported is that they've done everything right; that "they identified and documented mission-critical activities and legislative mandates"; that the CFPB has developed and is implementing appropriate plans.

□ 1020

They found that they are implementing appropriate plans that support ongoing operations as well as the transfer of employees and functions. They created several agency-wide documents that identified and tracked priorities. "We found that the agency has completed elements of its implementation plans and is making progress on others."

It is a joint report from two inspectors general that says they've done everything right; so I want to put that forward.

I want to put it forward, in part, because the individual most singularly responsible for its great success, as she was for the idea and the creation of this agency, is Elizabeth Warren. Elizabeth Warren is one of the most able and dedicated individuals that I've ever encountered, who has dedicated herself to public service.

I regret very much that uninformed political opposition denied her the appointment to be the head of the agency, because she was not only the creator of this idea and a great partner for those of us on the Financial Services Committee—I see my colleague from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) who was an important part of this on the floor as we set this up in the face of significant opposition from vested interests and from ideologues—but in having had the idea, she then presided as the appointee of the Secretary of the Treasury and of the President to set this agency up in an extraordinary way. It is now, on the date when it takes off, ready to function. So she was not simply the creator of the idea and a great advocate, but she has shown herself to be a great administrator; and I regret the fact that she is not getting the appointment.

Although I have great confidence in the appointment of Mr. Cordray, whom the President appointed—he was an

outstanding Attorney General, and he will be an outstanding Director—I want to reflect for just a minute on why we had such unwarranted opposition to a woman of great sense and of moderation, a woman who understands the market and was ready to help it function.

Part of it, I have to say, was gender bias. Along with Sheila Bair, recently departed as head of the FDIC, Ms. Warren encountered from some people—maybe unconsciously on their part—the notion that a very strong-willed woman with strong opinions might have a place but not in the financial sector; and I regret the loss of both of them. Yet there was also on the part of my most conservative Republican colleagues a recognition that she was a threat. I disagree with the position not to appoint her, but I give credit to President Obama and Secretary Geithner because they helped us get this agency created, and they did put her in the position and gave her their full backing to get it this far.

We would have ideologues here who would have people believe that government is always a bad thing, that less government is always better. We've seen it in this notion that we should cap government at X percent or Y percent—but I don't regard more firefighting as a bad thing; I don't think research into Alzheimer's and cancer is something we need to limit; I am not opposed to fixing bridges and highways. So this notion that government is always bad is mindless. There is a particular problem—and the private sector is a place that will create wealth, and I want us to do what we can to create the right conditions for the private sector, but there will be times when we need the government to protect people from the private sector. That was the rationale of the Consumer Bureau.

The Consumer Bureau was set up—and it's a very popular entity—to protect individual citizens from abuses in the private sector. It's working well. It was well-designed, I must say. It was well set up, as the inspectors general have said. So I believe my most right-wing colleagues are terrified. It is their false notion that the government is always the source of the problem and the private sector is always the source of the good. Sometimes the government does create problems, and much of the time the private sector does create wealth, but there are times when the public sector has to protect people from the private sector. The Consumer Bureau was set up for that.

Now, the chairman of the Committee on Financial Services, Mr. BACHUS, said the other day, We don't worry about the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation of the Federal Reserve. What we worry about is an agency that exists solely to protect consumers. He is also the one who said that he thought the bank regulators were there

to protect the banks, but we want to have a regulator there to protect the consumers.

So I salute Elizabeth Warren. I regret that she will not be able to continue the excellent work she has done, but it will live on as a tribute to both the idea she had, the political work she did with us to get it created, and the extraordinarily good administrative work she did in setting it up. I believe Mr. Cordray and the others will do a very good job and that we will soon have proof that the public sector can, in some cases, protect citizens from private sector abuses.

RESULTS OF THE JOINT REVIEW

CFPB IDENTIFIED AND DOCUMENTED MISSION-CRITICAL ACTIVITIES AND LEGISLATIVE MANDATES

Based on CFPB planning documents and interviews of agency officials, we found that CFPB identified and documented implementation activities critical to standing up the agency's functions and necessary to address certain Dodd-Frank Act requirements. In addition to activities necessary to establish the primary mission areas identified by the Dodd-Frank Act, such as supervision and enforcement, CFPB designed its organizational structure to account for other mandated functional units as well, including offices for financial education, fair lending, and service member affairs, among others. Moreover, CFPB identified the activities necessary to complete the transfer of employees and data from the transferring agencies in a timely manner. CFPB identified in its plans the need to establish a pay and classification system, information security processes, and financial management capabilities—areas required by the Dodd-Frank Act.

In addition, CFPB prepared documentation addressing critical activities vital to establishing a new agency. For example, CFPB's plans identified core business activities—such as securing office space, establishing procurement capabilities, building payroll and benefits functions, and designing an information technology infrastructure, among others.

CFPB DEVELOPED AND IS IMPLEMENTING APPROPRIATE PLANS

We found that CFPB developed and is implementing appropriate plans that support ongoing operations as well as the transfer of employees and functions that will occur on July 21, 2011. CFPB planned for mission-critical startup activities and certain Dodd-Frank Act requirements. In July 2010, Treasury officials created a document that, according to a CFPB official, served as a roadmap for implementation. Overall, CFPB's approach was to create detailed planning documents at the division level to provide input for the agency-wide strategic plan. Most CFPB divisions maintained a draft strategic plan, organizational chart, and "dashboards" that tracked implementation progress and potential risks. The division-level strategic plans generally included division-level missions, goals, deliverables, and coordination activities. We also noted that these plans included multiple phases that span beyond the designated transfer date.

CFPB also created several agency-wide documents that identified and tracked priorities and milestones for implementation. For example, one priority for CFPB was the transfer of employees from other agencies. To implement this priority, CFPB maintained a detailed recruitment schedule, developed coordination agreements with other

agencies, and allocated resources from the various divisions to timely complete the employee transfer process.

In reviewing the agency's planning documents and discussing the standup status with CFPB officials, we found that the agency has completed elements of its implementation plans and is making progress on others, including its overall strategic plan. Nevertheless, CFPB's operational success will depend, in part, on its ability to effectively execute its plans.

LIBERIA CELEBRATES ITS 164TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Liberian people on 164 years of independence.

Liberia, which translates to "land of the free," shares a unique history with the United States. Founded by African Americans and emancipated slaves in the early 1820s, this small nation of close to 3.8 million people is striving to build a lasting democracy—an incredible feat in such a war-torn region.

Mr. Speaker, more than 25,000 Liberian Americans call Minnesota home, and I am proud to call them my neighbors, friends and colleagues. Liberian Americans in our communities are entrepreneurs, small business people, teachers, lawyers, and nurses. They contribute to the very fabric of our Nation and to who we are as a people.

So let us today recognize the Liberian people and the long road they have traveled as a nation, and let us always remember the bond between the United States and the Republic of Liberia.

FAMINE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, today we are witnessing a tragic humanitarian crisis in Somalia and the Horn of Africa, which is currently experiencing its worst drought in over 60 years. According to USAID, crops have failed; livestock has died, and prices in the local markets are too high for most people to buy what they need to feed their families.

On July 20, 2011, the United Nations announced that famine exists in two regions of Somalia. This crisis is affecting over 11 million people throughout the region, and USAID estimates that over 3.2 million people are in life-threatening situations and are in dire need of food, water and medical attention. Additionally, over 80 percent of those fleeing Somalia are believed to be women and children.

At Kenyan and Ethiopian refugee camps, Somali children under the age of 5 are dying at an alarming rate. I visited a camp in Kenya 2 years ago,

the Dadaab camp, where many of the refugees from Somalia are going. There are five times as many people in that camp as the camp can handle. It was overcrowded 2 years ago, and with the drought, it is just becoming almost impossible to sustain life.

An alarming 60 percent of the people at risk are still in al-Shabaab-held territory. Al-Shabaab is supported by al Qaeda. They initially said there was no drought—a denial. Yet, in the part of the country of which they are in charge, the drought is very serious, especially in southern Sudan. Then they did agree that the drought was occurring and said they would allow humanitarian organizations to go to that area to distribute food and medicine. However, just last week, they changed their position again.

As we saw in the nineties with Aidid and Ali Mahdi in the original drought during which the United States became involved in Somalia, we cannot have the political warlords and that situation happen again. The World Food Programme and the United Nations are desperately trying to get the food, water and medical assistance into that area, and we are going to continue to ask the al-Shabaab people to allow the food to come in.

During a similar drought in Ethiopia during the early eighties, the international community was slow to respond, resulting in more than 1 million deaths. Then world leaders said, Never again. Now we are facing a worsening humanitarian disaster that threatens to take even more lives. We must act and support those in need.

I have to commend USAID and the work that they're doing. Yesterday, at a hearing we had on this situation, Ms. Cromer, from the USAID, talked about the fact that they had an early warning system and that they had pre-positioned food, which shows that planning has resulted in less loss of life than there would have been had it not been pre-positioned, but we still have a serious problem.

□ 1030

Last week I introduced H. Res. 361, calling attention to this crisis, and we have already over 50 cosponsors.

Indeed, Congress is taking notice. My colleagues, JIM MCGOVERN, JO ANN EMERSON, members of the Hunger Caucus, along with myself and BARBARA LEE and MAXINE WATERS and GWEN MOORE and others have been very vocal on this issue. Ms. MCCOLLUM also has added her voice, from Minnesota.

The crisis is worsening, though. The Famine Early Warning Systems Network believes that within the next 1 or 2 months, the famine will spread throughout all of southern Somalia. As the situation has grown more dire, over 600,000 Somalis have fled to neighboring countries, some walking hundreds of miles to refugee camps. The

roads to these camps in northern Kenya and eastern Ethiopia have been described by The Washington Post just yesterday and others as "roads of death." Thousands of women, children, and elderly are left on the side of the road weak from malnutrition, unable to continue. They are resting on those who have already died.

So I ask all of you to respond to this very serious situation.

BALANCED BUDGET CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, March 2, 1995, was a pivotal day in the history of our country. On that day, the United States Senate failed by one vote to send a balanced budget amendment to the States for ratification. The amendment had passed the House by the required two-thirds majority previously, and the Senate vote was the last legislative hurdle before ratification by the States.

If that amendment had passed, then we would not be dealing with the fiscal crisis we now face. If that amendment had passed, then balancing the budget would have been the norm rather than the exception over the past decade and we would have nothing like the annual deficits and skyrocketing debt that we must address today.

The good news is that, like 1995, this Congress is again standing at a crossroads at this very moment. The decisions we make this week could steer the direction of the country for many years to come. We have an opportunity now to take action to ensure that our children will face a much brighter fiscal picture. We must not allow ourselves to miss this opportunity.

And while, yes, we definitely need to deal with the debt limit squarely in front of us and take the opportunity to make significant cuts in government spending, we also must have a long-term solution to this problem. And that long-term solution is a balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution. We will, I hope, have the opportunity to vote on such an amendment this week.

Experience has proven time and again that Congress cannot, for any significant length of time, rein in excessive spending. The annual deficits and the resulting debt continue to grow due to political pressures and dependency on government programs. In order for Congress to be able to consistently make the very tough decisions necessary to sustain fiscal responsibility over the long term, Congress must have an external pressure to force it to do so. The most realistic chance we have today to enact this type of institutional reform is through

a balanced budget amendment to our Constitution.

Many Members of Congress have introduced balanced budget amendments in this Congress. I introduced two versions on the first day of the 112th Congress. H.J. Res. 2 is the exact text that passed the House in 1995 and failed in the Senate by one vote. This amendment requires that total annual outlays not exceed total annual receipts. It also requires a three-fifths majority to raise the debt limit, and, in addition, this legislation has limited exceptions for times of war.

H.J. Res. 1, which I also introduced, goes much further. In addition to the provisions of H.J. Res. 2, it requires a two-thirds majority to raise taxes and imposes an annual spending cap that prohibits spending from exceeding 18 percent of GDP.

In the United States Senate, 47 Republican Senators have cosponsored a balanced budget amendment, which is a strong sign that the Senate is ready to engage in debate on this subject.

Our extraordinary fiscal crisis demands an extraordinary solution. So we simply cannot afford to succumb to political posturing on this issue at a point in time so critical to our Nation's future. We must rise above that and move forward with a strategy that includes legislation that will get at least 290 bipartisan votes on the House floor.

So as we consider a balanced budget amendment, I encourage the Members of this body on both sides of the aisle to devote our effort to passing this strongest balanced budget amendment that can garner two-thirds of the House of Representatives.

We are at a crossroads in America. We can make the tough choices and control spending paving the way for a return to surpluses and ultimately paying down the national debt, or we can allow big spenders to lead us further down the road of chronic deficits and leave our children and grandchildren saddled with debt that is not our own.

The choice is ours. The stakes are high. Failure is not an option.

FAMINE IN AFRICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I had breakfast this morning. I had granola and yogurt, a little fruit, an egg and bacon sandwich, and I'm feeling irritable because I didn't have my coffee. I'm looking forward to a delicious lunch that I've planned at about noon-time.

But in the meantime, on the Horn of Africa, 11 million people are facing starvation. And not because they're lazy people or unworthy people, but because they're suffering from the biggest drought that they have seen in 60

years, because they're experiencing flooding, because there are people who have stepped away from the loving care that we usually extend to others of our brothers and sisters, others who are human beings on this planet. Tens of thousands of people will die.

There is an official famine that has been called by the United Nations. And for those of you who know what a famine is, it's not when you don't have a particular thing like me—I didn't have my coffee this morning. Famine exists when at least 20 percent of the population has extremely limited access to basic food requirements, global acute malnutrition exceeds 30 percent, and the death rate exceeds 2 out of 10,000 per day for the entire population.

An example that was in the news recently is of a 7-month-old Somali boy who weighed the same amount as any one of our newborns—weighed 7 pounds. A 7-month-old boy weighed 7 pounds. That is an example of what happens in a drought.

And what are we doing here in the United States of America, the world's largest humanitarian donor, when the United Nations has called for, on July 20, has asked for more than \$1.6 billion to support the humanitarian response in the next 12 months urgently, desperately needed to address and abet this burgeoning humanitarian crisis that is unfolding? We are in the midst of cutting funding of our foreign aid and peace food budget.

The fiscal year 2012 Agricultural appropriations budget bill that passed a few weeks ago, over my opposition, cut this program by \$200 million. It was heartbreaking to see amendment after amendment after amendment come forward to cut it further, and even amendments to eliminate it completely.

□ 1040

The United States, as the world's largest humanitarian donor, we need to do more. We talk about balanced budgets here; and there are people in this world, our brothers and sisters, who don't even have a balanced meal on a day-to-day basis.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that we not become numb to the conditions of peoples around the world. Less than 1 percent of our budget goes toward foreign aid, and that includes operations of the State Department and everything, Mr. Speaker. I'm asking that in these discussions of debt and deficits that we do not turn a blind eye and a deaf ear to those people who are starving.

In closing, I just want to mention, Mr. Speaker, that of course we know who suffers disproportionately among the poor, the usual suspects. Women and children are disproportionately represented among those who are food insecure, those who are starving, and those who die.

I thank my colleague for yielding and for his continued leadership to make sure that we do

not forget or overlook this tragedy that is currently occurring in the Horn of Africa. I know that as chairman, and now, ranking member of the Africa Subcommittee, he has been a true leader in working to empower the people and nations of Africa.

The United Nations has declared a famine in parts of Somalia and an emergency humanitarian crisis throughout the Horn of Africa—including Eritrea, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Somalia.

In Somalia alone, tens of thousands of people have died in the past three months because they cannot get enough food to keep themselves alive.

Tens of thousands will surely die in the coming months if the international community, led by the U.S., does not respond quickly and comprehensively. Famine exists when at least 20 percent of the population has extremely limited access to basic food requirements, global acute malnutrition exceeds 30 percent, and the death rate exceeds 2 out of 10,000 per day for the entire population.

The lives of over 11 million people in East Africa are at risk. That is twice the population of my state of Wisconsin. And as usual, those most vulnerable women and children are suffering disproportionately. One in every three children in southern Somalia is malnourished (some 550,000 total). UNICEF estimates that 2.3 million children are suffering from acute malnutrition in the region.

These numbers don't include those who are dying on literal "roads of death" as they attempt to flee famine in Somalia to neighboring countries (Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea) that are struggling with drought themselves.

There was a news report recently about a 7-month old Somali boy who weighed the same as a newborn, some 7 pounds. At this stage in his life, he should weight three times as much. A nurse at the refugee camp his family made it to recently puts the little boy's odds of survival at 50–50, a flip of a coin.

The U.N. has asked for some \$1.6 billion to support the humanitarian response in the next 12 months.

Yet, as the humanitarian crisis unfolds, this Congress is in the midst of cutting funding our foreign food aid budget. The FY 2012 Agricultural Appropriations bill that passed a few weeks ago over my opposition, would cut Food for Peace programs by some \$200 million. During that debate, some of my colleagues offered amendments to even make deeper cuts and even eliminate funding for that program all together. It's as if we are telling the men, women, and children desperately searching for food, to "keep warm and well fed."

I hope that my colleagues on the House Foreign Operations Committee will not make that same mistake and will in fact boost funding for our global humanitarian aid programs which will be needed as this crisis unfolds.

The U.S., as the world's largest humanitarian donor, must do more if a humanitarian catastrophe is to be averted.

Tens of thousands of lives can be saved, but the window of opportunity to do so is extremely limited and is closing even as we speak.

DEBT NEGOTIATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HERGER. Six days, Mr. Speaker. Six days until we exceed the debt limit, and we still haven't seen a plan from the White House. However, we have the first 2½ years of his administration as an example of the future he wants for America. The President's policies display his commitment to unchecked government spending. The President supports massive tax hikes on a Nation already enduring the worst jobless recovery since the Great Depression.

The President is content to ignore our entitlement crisis. His actions over the last 2½ years have put this country in significantly worse shape than when he took office. We have seen a total failure of leadership from the White House. He threatened to veto the commonsense solutions of Cut, Cap, and Balance. The reason? By his own words, he wants a debt limit increase to carry him through the next election.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have had enough. We need action, and we need it now. No more speeches, no more rhetoric. The American people deserve to know what the President's plan is. It's time for President Obama to come to the negotiating table and work with us. We're running a \$1.6 trillion deficit, borrowing 40 cents of every dollar we spend. Without action, we will guarantee our children and grandchildren a future far less bright than the one our parents left us.

Republicans are here, ready to make the tough decisions, cut spending, and reform the way business is done in Washington. We're ready with solutions that will turn around our debt crisis and begin getting America back to work. But these solutions will remain a fantasy as long as the President's focus remains on politics and reelection rather than the good of the American people. We have 6 days left. It's time to act.

REMEMBERING JAMES T. MOLLOY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the memory of James T. Molloy. Many in Washington knew Jim as the former, and last, doorkeeper of the House of Representatives. Western New Yorkers know Jim as a proud third-generation Irish American and career public servant.

Jim was born on June 3, 1936. He was raised in South Buffalo and paid his way through Canisius College. He developed his strong work ethic in the grain elevators on the waterfront and as a member of the city's fire department. He also worked as a schoolteacher for the city of Buffalo and the city of Lackawanna.

Jim came to Washington, D.C., in 1968 at the invitation of Congressman John Rooney. He managed the House Finance Office until 1974 when he was elected doorkeeper of the House. He held this position until it was eliminated in 1995. As the last doorkeeper of the House, Jim was a member of an elite group. Only 34 people have served in this position in our 215-year history. He oversaw more than 400 employees and administered a budget of \$6.8 million. He introduced Presidents and heads of State and coordinated 71 Joint Sessions of Congress.

Regrettably, I did not have the honor of serving in the House of Representatives during Jim's tenure, but he was a friend and an endless source of help and advice. I have long been inspired in my own service by his strong commitment to this institution. In fact, numerous western New Yorkers were inspired to consider political careers thanks to Jim Molloy. It was well known that Jim had a particular affection for helping western New Yorkers visiting the Capitol and young Buffalonians looking for work in our Nation's Capitol as well.

Jim was recognized on numerous occasions for his service. He received the Outstanding Citizen Award from the New York State AFL-CIO, the President's Award from the New York State Federation of Police, and the United States Senate Youth Alumni Association Outstanding Service Award. He received an honorary Doctor of Law degree from Canisius College and was named Congressional Staffer of the Year by Roll Call. In 2005, I was a proud sponsor of legislation that was signed into law naming a post office on South Park Avenue in our shared neighborhood of South Buffalo after James T. Molloy.

The loss of Jim Molloy will be felt for many years to come by all who knew him. At this time, Mr. Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence in honor of a servant of this institution, James T. Molloy.

THE DEFAULT CRISIS AND ITS EFFECT ON AMERICAN JOBS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Progressive Caucus to draw attention to the devastating effects that could be caused if the United States were to default on its debt. First, let's be clear that raising the debt ceiling will have no effect whatsoever on any new spending that the Congress might do. It's simply giving the government authority to pay its bills, to pay its bills for obligations that the Congress has already authorized.

Second, while Republicans have attempted time and time again to pin the

current deficit on President Obama, the facts cannot be denied: It was the policies of the Bush years that got us here. It was just a decade ago that President Clinton left office not with just a balanced budget but a surplus, and the Congressional Budget Office declared in 2001, "The outlook for the Federal budget over the next decade continues to be bright." That quote, of course, came before the 2001 Bush tax cuts were signed into law; two wars that weren't paid for, put on the credit card; two tax cuts that weren't paid for and that mainly benefited the wealthy; and a devastating recession that may have been prevented, had government regulators not turned a blind eye to Wall Street greed. The Bush policies ran up the bills. Those are the bills that our country is committed to pay, and those are the bills that need to be paid if the full faith and credit of the United States is to be protected.

So now this Republican-manufactured crisis could be solved in 5 minutes if we simply passed a clean debt ceiling increase, like we did seven, eight times during the Bush administration, 18 times under Ronald Reagan, and then turned our attention immediately to ways to put our fiscal house in order, focusing on the real crisis, which is the jobs crisis. Instead, Republicans are choosing to hold our Nation's financial standing hostage, with potentially devastating consequences.

Allowing a default on the debt would essentially be a tax on every American family. Interest rates on everything, from mortgages and auto loans to credit cards and small business loans, would immediately soar. A conservative estimate suggests that the effect of an increase in interest rates could cost a homeowner with a 30-year mortgage of \$172,000 an additional \$19,100 more over the life of the loan. A drop in the stock market would hit the savings and retirement accounts of middle class Americans, less available credit for small businesses and consumers, and lower economic growth that could cost hundreds of thousands of jobs.

□ 1050

In addition, if the country can't pay its bills, an unthinkable scenario becomes a reality, having to choose between what aspects of the government to fund and what bills to pay.

Seventy million checks are due to go out next Wednesday. Those include Social Security and veterans and our military families, and these checks are threatened. That is the threat the Republicans are willing to make, holding the full faith and credit of the United States hostage in order to push for extreme policies that would gut Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid and devastate the economy and the middle class in order to protect hedge fund managers and corporations that ship our jobs overseas. That is what the

Republicans are advocating, but they are not willing to ask for one penny more for millionaires and billionaires.

We need to deal with our fiscal challenges, and I have offered proposals for how to do that in a way that protects the social safety net and what is now the disappearing middle class.

First, we need to create jobs. Putting people back to work will raise revenues and bring down the deficit as a proportion of the economy.

Second, we need to eliminate spending we don't need, such as billions of dollars in waste spent by the Pentagon. But we need to protect spending on vital programs like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

And finally, we need to raise revenues in a fair way.

I've introduced the Fairness in Taxation Act, H.R. 1124, which would create new tax brackets beginning at 45 percent for income over \$1 million a year and rising to 49 percent for income at \$1 billion a year; and yes, there are Americans who make that. And according to an estimate by Citizens for Tax Justice, my legislation could raise as much as \$800 billion over the next 10 years. Those are the types of proposals that should be considered so that we can achieve fiscal responsibility in a way that protects seniors and children and the middle class and all those who aspire to it.

Right now the American Dream itself is at stake. It is slipping through the hands of people that used to be middle class. We cannot tolerate that. We need to raise the debt ceiling.

FAIRNESS AND JUSTICE FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, it's a difficult time to talk because Ms. SCHAKOWSKY has said just about everything that I was planning to say. She said it extremely well and synopsized the issue.

It basically comes down to fairness and justice for the American people. And the President, who has been burdened with problems caused by the Republican Congress and the Bush years, wars in Iraq, wars in Afghanistan not paid for, prescription drug bill not paid for, and Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans which have caused most of the deficit and the problem with the debt ceiling, and now we're not calling on them to make some sacrifice and to pay for it.

Most everybody in America knows about dieting. Most of us are a little overweight. Michelle Obama will tell you that any day. We need to watch our weight. But when you go to diet, you've got to reduce your calories and you've got to exercise some more. Spend some calories, reduce some cal-

ories. That's the way you diet. It's the same thing with the budget.

If you had a problem at home with your budget, kind of having a problem, well, maybe you think, I won't take that vacation and go to Miami Beach and stay in that three-star hotel. I'll go to Fort Walton and stay in a two-star hotel. And maybe I'll get another job or work some more overtime. You increase your income, you decrease your spending, and you get it together.

This Congress, though, has got the problem because of dealing with this, and the debt ceiling's independent of all of it. Many Members of Congress on the Republican side have pledged not to raise revenue. Well, you've got to do both. You've got to cut some things, and you cut some things that don't decrease your ability to increase jobs later on or increase jobs now, and you increase revenue at the same time. You have to do both.

Some of the Republicans have pledged never to do revenue. Well, that means they've got one arm tied behind their backs—never increase revenue.

You come to the table and you try to get a bargain. You negotiate in politics. You've got to have both hands at the table, one give and one take. Both sides have to come, open palms, friendship, no guns. Here we are.

But they've got one hand tied behind their backs. That's the problem we've got. So we're not being able to negotiate because one side comes ill-equipped, unprepared, incapable.

Last week we had a new Member here from California (Ms. HAHN), and the Speaker read to her and she repeated the oath of office: I pledge to support, I swear I will support, the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

We've got a domestic enemy right now, and it's the idea that we're not going to pay our debts: The full faith and credit of the United States goes by, interest rates go up, jobs go down, credit card rates go up, home mortgage rates go up, 401(k)s go down, stock market drops 10 percent. Yet we're not doing it. We're considering a pledge to some third-party person that said, No new revenue, arm behind my back, instead of, I will support the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

So that's the problem we've got.

I had a town hall last night on the telephone. My constituents can't understand why we have the problem. I tried to explain it to them. They're concerned about their Social Security checks coming or their veterans check coming. They could be cut off if we don't get this done and we don't have money to pay our debts.

People living simply on Social Security are endangered, and yet millionaires and billionaires go on. Hedge fund guys, they earn billions of dollars—billions at least, billions for some—pay 15

percent, something called carried interest on their income, 15 percent. But the average person out there is paying 25, 26, 34 at the most; 15 percent for the richest guys in New York spending money outrageously and the ones that almost brought this economy down.

Somebody asked me, Is this thing going to pass?

I don't know. But I'll tell you this: In my life, and I hope nobody out here listening has had that situation, Mr. Speaker, I've had kidney stones. They're easier to pass than this.

Mr. Speaker, I've got a pain in my side.

CHANGING OUR FISCAL DIRECTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, this is a difficult time in the life of the people of this country. Families are hurting. Our economy is struggling. The economic policies of this administration have failed to turn around this Great Recession, as it has come to be known. And I believe that runaway Federal spending, deficits, and debt are a barrier to our economic recovery, a barrier to putting Americans back to work.

We have to change the fiscal direction of this government for this generation, for jobs for Americans today, and for future generations who are facing a mountain range of debt—a \$14 trillion national debt; \$1.65 trillion deficit this year alone.

As most of my colleagues know, I've fought against runaway spending on a bipartisan basis. I opposed Big Government plans when they were offered by Republican Presidents and in Republican Congresses, and I fought with equal vigor against the borrowing, the spending, the bailouts, and the takeovers of the recent Democratic Congress and this administration.

But now we come to another debt ceiling vote, and as the late Russell Kirk wrote, "Politics is the art of the possible." The American people are looking in and they know, if you owe debts, pay debts. We have to find a way to pay the Nation's bills. But the American people also know we have to find a way to set our Nation on a course of living within our means once again.

Now, I am still studying Speaker BOEHNER's proposal, but there is much that recommends it. I have long said that there should be no increase in the debt ceiling without real and meaningful spending cuts and reforms in the short term and in the long term.

□ 1100

In many respects, the deal negotiated with Senate leaders by Speaker BOEHNER meets that standard. There are no tax increases in the bill. After adjustments to the bill today, there will for

certain, according to CBO, be dollar-for-dollar cuts for any increase in the debt ceiling. Also, there are spending caps, a commission, and the possibility of long-term entitlement reform. All of this commends the Boehner plan as an important first step toward fiscal discipline and reform.

There is also a call at some point to vote for a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, and it's my belief in the importance of that last element that brings me to the floor today. I rise to urge all of my colleagues to keep an open mind on the Boehner plan, but also to keep an open mind about bringing a balanced budget amendment to the floor that could enjoy broad bipartisan support.

Look, Washington, D.C., is not only broke; it's broken. The American people have seen both political parties run up deficits and debt, both political parties live outside the means of the American people, and they know in their heart of hearts that something is missing. I believe that's a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Now, I've authored the spending limit amendment to the Constitution. I support the stout version of a balanced budget amendment that Republicans marked up and referenced in the Cut, Cap, and Balance bill, a spending limit cap, a supermajority on tax increases. But I don't think it takes any great insight to know that that bill will likely not get the 290 votes that we need to send it to the Senate and send it to the States.

So in addition to voting on that bill, with spending constraints and others, I believe the time has come to bring the historic balanced budget amendment back to the floor of the Congress. I believe there should be no increase in the debt ceiling unless this Congress does everything in its power to send a balanced budget amendment to the Senate and to the States for ratification. And I believe we have that moment.

I've talked to some of the most prominent Members of the Democrat minority in this Congress today, and they've expressed support for this amendment. The American people overwhelmingly support a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

So I urge my colleagues to keep an open mind, keep an open mind to the Boehner plan. I'm continuing to study it and seeing if we can embrace it as an important first step on fiscal discipline and reform, finding a way to pay the Nation's bills, but change our fiscal direction. But I also encourage my colleagues to consider at some point in the near future, let us bring to this floor a balanced budget amendment that could enjoy broad bipartisan support, to know that we cannot only make progress for fiscal discipline and reform, but we can make history by re-

storing to the national charter or placing in the national charter those restraints on spending that this Nation's Capitol, under both parties, desperately needs.

THE DEFAULT CRISIS AND HOW IT IMPACTS JOBS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in American history we are at the brink of compromising the full faith and credit of the United States Government—the pledge that America has made to be the strongest, most trustworthy economy in the world, the promise that we will always keep our word and pay back the money we have already spent.

And why are we on the brink of a default crisis? Is it because of a natural disaster that has devastated our Nation? Is it because of a catastrophic national security threat? Is it because of another meltdown of our financial system like the one we saw in 2008? No.

The default crisis is for none of these reasons. Instead, it is a crisis wholly manufactured by my Republican colleagues, who are holding our economy hostage to pursue a radical agenda. This is an agenda that seeks to continue the Bush policies of wars and tax cuts paid for by undoing the New Deal, shrinking the social safety net, and pulling the rug out from under millions of Americans who are still struggling to recover from a financial crisis that was created by Wall Street.

Mr. Speaker, the debt ceiling is being used as political leverage to pursue this agenda. Remember, the debt ceiling was raised 18 times under President Reagan and seven times under President George Bush. Instead of this phony crisis, we should be debating the real crisis facing this Nation, the crisis that is consistently named as the number one concern of American taxpayers, that is, the jobs crisis.

Today, about 14 million people are unemployed, wages are declining, and home values are still plummeting. The unsurprising result is consumers aren't buying, businesses don't need to hire as many workers. And the cycle continues. In minority communities, these problems are even worse, with over 16 percent of African Americans and 11 percent of Hispanics out of work. In fact, just yesterday, the Pew Research Center reported that while all households lost wealth during the recession, minority families experienced disproportionate losses, and the wealth gap between minority and white households is actually growing. The median wealth of U.S. households in 2009 was \$13,000, compared to just over \$6,000 for Hispanics and \$5,600 for African Americans.

But to hear my Republican colleagues, it's as if these unemployed

Americans are living in the shadows instead of the communities we represent. Because instead of pursuing a jobs agenda, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have proposed a continuation of failed Bush policies, this time on steroids. First under the Ryan budget, and now under these debt ceiling hostage negotiations, my Republican colleagues are pushing to cut Medicare, Social Security, Medicaid, and job-creating domestic programs no matter the cost. Mr. Speaker, now is the time to invest in our communities, not retreat.

We need jobs to get people employed and get them back paying taxes to pay down our deficit. In fact, the Congressional Progressive Caucus is happy to provide for you, Mr. Speaker, a long list of ways to create jobs. We can create a new civilian conservation corps; we can close tax loopholes and bring jobs back from overseas; we can encourage investments in the new green economy; and we can provide incentives for businesses to train and hire the long-term unemployed. And guess what? We can do this while balancing the budget. In fact, the people's budget, offered by the Congressional Progressive Caucus, can balance our books at least 10 years before the Ryan budget.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to stand opposed to Republican efforts to perpetuate this default crisis and balance our budget on the backs of seniors and the middle class. It will amount to an unmitigated and unprecedented disaster to not only America's reputation, but to our capital markets, our job-creating businesses, and our economic recovery.

Mr. Speaker, I held two town hall meetings this past weekend on Saturday, one in the city of Inglewood and one in the area of Westchester. They made it very, very clear that they want us to increase this debt limit, they want us to get about the business of creating jobs, and they want to close tax loopholes for the richest corporations in America that receive tax breaks under the Bush administration. They are sick of us playing with this issue. They want us to do the people's business and look out for the interests of the least of these.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 8 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Rick Postell, Christian Renewal Church, Brunswick, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we come to You in Jesus' name on behalf of this great Nation. We ask for Your forgiveness of our transgressions and to thank You for Your blessings and favor upon America. Keep us mindful of Your word that "righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

Grant these Representatives wisdom to make decisions to strengthen our Nation, motivated more by Your hand than by bipartisan concern. Grant them grace to listen to one another with open hearts and minds. May the clarity and charity of their words reflect respect for their colleagues. May their decisions of today not become future apologies, but may they be a statement of this Congress' character, their firm resolve, and a hope for a better America.

All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, and our Savior.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SIREs led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 846. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 80 Lafayette Street in Jefferson City, Missouri, as the Christopher S. Bond United States Courthouse.

S. 1406. An act to designate the United States courthouse under construction at 510 19th Street, Bakersfield, California, as the Myron Donovan Crocker United States Courthouse.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the request of the House that the Senate return to the House the bill (H.R. 1309) "An Act to extend the authorization of the national flood insurance program, to achieve reforms to improve the finan-

cial integrity and stability of the program, and to increase the role of private markets in the management of flood insurance risk, and for other purposes."

WELCOMING PASTOR RICK POSTELL

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, our guest chaplain today is Mr. Rick Postell from Brunswick, Georgia. Rick is a native of Gastonia, North Carolina, and received his BS in business management from Troy State University and later a master's degree in theology from Beacon University in Columbus, Georgia. He currently lives in Brunswick, Georgia, with his wife, Amy, and their three children.

After graduating from school, Rick served in the United States Air Force base at Moody Air Force from 1981 to 1986. He traveled extensively well in the Air Force and worked on the aircraft maintenance unit while at Moody facilitating F-4 Phantom aircraft.

After his service in the Air Force, Rick served in the United States Post Office from 1986 to 2000. And then he joined the staff of Christian Renewal Church in Brunswick. He currently teaches religious studies at Heritage Christian Academy in Brunswick and has served as guest chaplain not only with us here today but in the Georgia State legislature on the Senate and on the House side.

He travels extensively and has been to Mexico many times on mission trips. His wife, Amy, is with him today along with 18-year-old Sam and 16-year-old Charlie and 14-year-old Hayley.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome with me Pastor Rick Postell.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Alabama). The Chair will now entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

ANOTHER GLITCH

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the Hill newspaper recently reported that there's another prominent glitch in last year's health care law. Millions of families could struggle to purchase insurance because of the sloppy manner in which the bill was written.

The law mandates that every individual pay insurance. If the insurance

offered by an employer is deemed affordable by the government, then an employee must purchase it. However, the Federal Government will only look at the individual plans offered by companies—not the family plans. While the plan for an individual may be affordable, the family plan could be significantly more expensive.

Correcting this mistake in the law would mean at least \$50 billion more per year in government subsidies. The President told the American people that the new health care law would not increase the deficit. Now we find yet another example of how this bill will cost both American families and the Federal Government far more than what was claimed.

Clearly, we need full repeal before this law full of glitches and mandates is fully implemented, bankrupting families and the government.

GOP ADULT MOMENT IS LONG OVERDUE

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, members of the House leadership have walked away from the negotiating table three times and continue to push their plan to cut Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid benefits, protect the top 2 percent of Americans at the expense of 98 percent of our families, pass a short-term deal that would lead to credit downgrade, higher interest rates, and a tax hike on every American and repeat this crisis next year.

Let me read you some emails that I've received:

"I'm a disabled 57-year-old gentleman who is restricted in a wheelchair. I thank God I live in a country where I am able to receive disability income like millions of other disabled Americans and Social Security recipients. I'm afraid if the Republican leadership gets their way, I'll soon be living on the street.

"I'm very concerned that the default would cause even more dire straits for the average homeowner/worker than even currently exists. That does not even count the repercussions that would result from higher interest rates, falling dollar in the global economy, and lower earnings on annuities and other investments, such as decreasing principles."

What we need is not a Republican plan or a Democratic plan; we need an American plan to deal with our debt that will take care of it so we don't have all of these dire consequences next Tuesday.

SPENDING CUTS SAVED CANADA— NOT HIGHER TAXES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in *The Wall Street Journal*, Fred Barnes documented on July 21 that in 1993 Canada faced a fiscal disaster similar to the one we're facing today. Government spending was on the rise, huge deficits were setting peacetime records, the economy was stagnant, an unemployment rate that was around 9 percent with interest payments on debt using 35 cents of every tax dollar.

The newly elected Prime Minister in 1993 listened to the voters by stating, "Canadians have told us they want the deficit brought down by reducing government spending, not by raising taxes, and we agree."

By cutting spending, the Canadian economy roared back from 1995 to 1998 and turned a \$36.6 billion deficit into a \$3 billion surplus. The Prime Minister was able to put aside partisan politics and listen to the wishes of the Canadian people.

By listening in a manner that cut spending instead of raising taxes, the Prime Minister put Canada first. Our President should change from his failed policies and stop tax increases and destroying jobs.

REID VERSUS BOEHNER

(Mr. SIREs asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, we have less than 1 week to prevent our Nation from defaulting on its loans. Rather than focusing on a compromise, the majority has come up with yet another irresponsible plan to raise the debt ceiling and slash funding from programs that matter most to seniors and the middle class.

First, their budget tried to end Medicare and gut Medicaid, all the while protecting tax breaks for Big Oil and corporations that send jobs overseas. Then it was the so-called Cut, Cap, and Balance to achieve the same objectives.

Now the Speaker has put forward another plan that seeks the same goals so they can impose cuts on Medicare and Medicaid as well as set their sights on Social Security. This plan will keep the crisis going with a temporary increase in the debt ceiling, leaving the cloud of uncertainty over our economy.

We need to instead focus on the compromise plan that Majority Leader REID has presented to extend the debt ceiling through 2012 to provide certainty to the markets without hurting the economic recovery, as well as protect Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security from cuts.

Mr. Speaker, we must accept the compromise plan to raise the debt ceiling in order to prevent another recession and save jobs in America.

□ 1210

EPA GREEN MONEY GOES TO CHINA. HUH?

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, over the past 10 years, the EPA has sent almost \$100 million in taxpayer money to fund green projects in foreign countries. In 2010 alone, the EPA gave 18 grants to our good friends, the Chinese. Why does the EPA do that? We owe the Chinese over \$1 trillion. Why are we adding to our debt in misguided hopes that they can clean up the smoggy skies in China with American grant money? There is more. Why is the Breathe Easy, Jakarta program in Indonesia the responsibility of the taxpayers in Houston, Texas? Well, it's not. I don't breathe easier knowing green money from the U.S. is financing green development in Indonesia.

At a time when we are facing "something" of a financial problem, we can't afford to be trying to green the rest of the world too. I'm for protecting our environment, but we do not have the money to spend in hopes of controlling pollution in other countries. Let's green America first, not China.

And that's just the way it is.

JOBS

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, in the over 200 days since the majority has controlled this House, they have yet to bring a bill to the floor that would create jobs or help working families, not one. Not one bill to create jobs and build a stronger economy for the future. Not one bill to invest in education, innovation, or infrastructure. Instead, we have a partisan agenda to unfairly burden the middle class with deep cuts while preserving tax cuts for the wealthy and loopholes for Big Oil and corporations that ship jobs overseas. And to make things worse, the majority is threatening to force an unprecedented default on our Nation's debt.

A default would destroy close to 700,000 jobs, spike interest rates on credit cards and mortgages, and cause untold damage to our struggling economy. This is not what the markets are looking for, and it's certainly not what the American people want. They want us to help create jobs and reduce the deficit. They want us to compromise on a fair and balanced approach that

doesn't just kick the can down the road. The American people are asking us today to put aside our differences for the good of this country. I support this responsible approach and urge my colleagues to do the same.

THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW

(Mr. BUCHANAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, America stands on the brink of our Nation's first default in history. Our economy is struggling. The Federal Government borrows \$188 million every hour of every day.

For too long, both parties have turned a blind eye to our government's budgetary mess. Washington needs to show the American people that we can deal with these challenges today and in the future. So far, it has failed to do so.

Congress and the President need to quit the partisan games and do what's in the best interest of America. The time to act is now. The American people demand nothing less.

BOEHNER DEBT LIMIT PROPOSAL

(Ms. TSONGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I recently heard from a long-term care facility in my district that is set to build an additional location, creating over 100 construction jobs and increasing the number of seniors able to receive quality care. The financing was in place. But when my constituent met with his bank this week about moving forward, the bank put the deal on hold. With the threat of a U.S. default unresolved, the bank was concerned that the facility's payments from Medicare and Medicaid would stop, leaving them unable to repay their loan.

A 6-month extension, like the one being proposed, won't help my constituent reassure his bank or create the kind of long-term certainty needed in this still-fragile economy. I urge my colleagues to reject short-term proposals that push us to the brink of default again and again and call on the House to pass a plan that reduces the deficit while providing real long-term economic certainty to our financial markets, to our small businesses, and to the American people who need the jobs these businesses create.

DON'T FALL FOR THESE ACCOUNTING TRICKS

(Mr. BROUN of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in the midst of all the talk about raising the debt ceiling, I don't hear anyone talking about the most important

factor in this equation, our unsustainable National debt. Everyone is focused on raising the debt ceiling, but if we truly want to get our economy back on its feet, we need to begin paying off the debt that President Obama and his predecessors have created.

It's obvious that our Democrat leaders in the White House and the Senate care more about making campaign speeches than about the livelihoods of the American people. Liberals want to raise taxes, but of course not until after the elections. And they want to sham us with talks about future cuts that we will never see materialize. It's like one big Ponzi scheme, and they're trying to get the American people to buy into it.

We need spending cuts now, and we need to pay down our outrageous debt. I urge both my colleagues and the American people not to fall for these accounting tricks.

WE CAN REVIVE THE AMERICAN DREAM

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, it's been 29 weeks since Republicans took control of the House, and yet they have failed to bring a single jobs bill to the floor. In fact, I just learned that their proposals are estimated to cost another 2 million lost jobs. Instead, they're wasting time pushing bills that will never become law but do make their position clear. Republicans are willing to hold the full faith and credit of the United States hostage in order to push for extreme policies that will gut Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid and devastate the economy and the middle class while doing everything they can to protect millionaires and billionaires and companies that ship American jobs overseas.

We need to raise the debt ceiling and then turn our attention to the real crisis, the jobs crisis. We can revive the American Dream. We must.

ROADBLOCKS TO THE AMERICAN DREAM

(Mr. STUTZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the 14.1 million Americans who are unable to find jobs.

This administration's reckless spending policies, massive bailouts, and excessive regulations have driven the unemployment rate to an astounding 9.2 percent. Democrats have shown again and again that they care more about the bureaucrats that prevent jobs than the businesses that create them. Every year, unelected bureaucrats issue more

than 3,000 final rules. That's close to 10 rules a day. Make no mistake, federally imposed rules consume precious time and resources. Businesses are less likely to invest and hire new employees. This is a recipe for failure.

Americans have always been a forward-thinking and innovative people. We're constantly looking ahead to the next breakthrough. Unfortunately, businesses now look over their shoulders instead of aiming for the horizon. The American Dream is still alive, Mr. Speaker; just ask the men and women who are pounding the pavement, polishing their resumes, and looking for paychecks. Americans are ready. We need to make Washington tear down the roadblocks.

THE DEBT CEILING

(Ms. BASS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BASS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Republican debt ceiling plan that will be considered later this week.

My Republican colleagues have brought a bill to the floor that would introduce statutory spending caps for the next 10 years with mandatory automatic cuts across the board to all programs if the cap is breached. Disguised as a solution, this cap would quickly become one of the most serious budgetary problems this country has ever faced. While a spending cap might sound responsible, in reality, caps don't balance budgets; caps trigger massive unsustainable cuts. We tried this in California. The Republican spending cap jeopardizes our ability to improve our schools, rebuild the Nation's crumbling infrastructure, and invest in R&D.

A global spending cap is not a silver bullet for our budgetary woes. Far from being a budgetary cure-all, a drastic ceiling on spending would undermine our recovery when the economy gets better. So I urge my colleagues to abandon this hostage-taking on raising the debt ceiling and work with the President to lead us forward with a responsible debt reduction plan.

Besides forcing significant cuts to important programs, a cap would make it nearly impossible to restore services cut over the recession as our economy recovers or step in to respond to current or future economic challenges. This is not the time to be talking about capping spending at unsustainable levels that can never be raised again.

□ 1220

LET'S GET THE JOB DONE

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, the American people are depending on the Congress and the President to find a solution to the Nation's skyrocketing debt. Now is not the time for partisan rhetoric. Rather, now is the time for both sides to come together and work on finding a bold bipartisan plan to address the Nation's debt and debt ceiling.

One thing we can all agree on is default is not an option. We will and must pay our obligations. Small business owners who have worked their entire lives for sterling credit ratings would receive a devastating blow if Washington can't set aside their differences and come together on this important debate.

At a time when unemployment is at 9.2 percent, default is not an answer. We need to encourage the job creators of our country to invest and to hire, not paralyze them with even more economic uncertainty.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to work on a bold plan. There's no reason that we cannot come together and work to cut spending and put our Nation back on the path to fiscal sanity. Americans across our country are depending on us to get the job done.

"COMPROMISE" IS A DIRTY WORD

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, when did the idea of "compromise" get to be a dirty word? When did the idea that "my way or the highway" is the only way to go forward become the order of the day? We are at a stalemate because we cannot come to some basic ideas about how to move forward.

Here's the fact, absolute fact, irrefutable: We do not need to link and tie deficit reduction to raising the debt ceiling. They are independent necessities. They are two different things, and one does not have to be tied to the other. And when you link the two together, you are holding the full faith and credit of the United States hostage to a set of budgetary cuts.

This is a mistake. It is not statespersonship. It is not what we are elected to do.

Yes, we have to do deficit reduction, but it doesn't need to be linked to raising the debt ceiling. We should raise the debt ceiling now and then work on debt reduction.

How do we do that? We need more people paying taxes to reduce the deficit. That means jobs; that means infrastructure.

Let's get it done now. Raise the debt ceiling and pass a good infrastructure bill at the same time.

FIGHTING FOR LANDOWNERS IN THE SAN JOAQUIN DELTA

(Mr. McNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to stand shoulder to shoulder with the landowners from the San Joaquin Delta who are fighting against the peripheral canal. Without permission, the State is sending its employees into private farmland to conduct surveys that the State needs to conduct studies to build a canal. Delta farmers are not standing for it. Delta farmers have taken the case to the courts, and I urge them to keep fighting for their property rights and the health of the delta.

A peripheral canal or tunnel that takes large amounts of fresh water from the delta would devastate our families, our farmers, and our businesses in our community. A canal will cause saltwater intrusion, destroy thousands of acres of farmland, and devastate our water quality.

It's time for our State and Federal agencies to respect the delta and its people. We won't tolerate anything less.

RECOGNIZING YOUTH INTERNATIONAL DAY AND THE CULMINATION OF INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize International Youth Day and to honor youth leaders in Rhode Island as we celebrate the culmination of the International Youth Year.

Since 1999, when the U.N. designated August 12 as a day to recognize the integral role youth have played in sustainable progress, we have commemorated the importance of young people getting involved in our global, regional, and national development.

In celebrating the many milestones of the youth of today, we also honor the lives and work of those who led them, and Rhode Island has so many fantastic youth leaders. One such example is my friend, Franklin Rodriguez, the Minister of Youth Affairs in the Dominican Republic and the president of the Ibero-American Organization of Youth, who has joined us here today in the gallery.

Under Franklin's leadership, the Ministry of Youth has worked to engage and empower Dominican American youth in Rhode Island by collaborating with the Community College of Rhode Island to provide training opportunities and honoring outstanding young civic and educational leaders in the community with their Youth Excellence Award.

Many of Rhode Island's Dominican residents are young people who have

contributed to the cultural, economic, and social development of our State in so many ways. For this reason, I'm honored to recognize International Youth Day, the leaders of the youth movement, and the culmination of International Youth Year.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members not to refer to occupants of the gallery.

ONGOING VIOLENCE IN SYRIA

(Mr. PETERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly condemn the Syrian regime's recent hostility towards both the United States and the Syrian people. The courageous visit by U.S. Ambassador Robert Ford to Hama, the site of massive antiregime protests, demonstrates that the United States stands by those who advocate for democracy and freedom.

Days after Ford's visit, the American Embassy in Damascus endured several violent pro-regime demonstrations, resulting in considerable damage. Had the Syrian security forces acknowledged their international obligations, these rioters in support of President Assad would not have been able to approach the embassy. By responding poorly, Assad has conveyed disrespect towards the United States.

I applaud Secretary of State Clinton's recent tough stance toward Assad, declaring that his regime "has lost legitimacy."

Time and time again, Assad, like his father before him, has turned to arresting, torturing, and killing anyone who would stand in the way of his tyranny. Therefore, with the best interests of the Syrian people in mind, I call on President Assad to resign as President.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS WEEK

(Mr. MCINTYRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate National Youth Sports Week and to welcome several exceptional student athletes joining us in the gallery. The Baltimore SquashWise program and their leader, a local lacrosse star, are here to help us celebrate.

Moments ago I was joined by Hockey Hall of Famer Pat LaFontaine, former Redskin Ken Harvey, youth sports leaders and coaches to unveil the "F.A.N.S. for Youth Sports" legislative agenda to address fitness, access, nutrition, and safety.

Student athletes make better grades, get in less trouble, and are less likely to be obese. Sports shape the character of each child who walks onto the field.

I'm especially pleased that some of our Nation's top sports programs, including the NFL, the NHL, the PGA, and the U.S. Tennis Association, among others, are supporting this agenda. This agenda represents a renewed commitment to our Nation's youth.

Children are the best investment we can make in our future. We should never be too busy to help a child. Let's celebrate together National Youth Sports Week.

EXTEND FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION FUNDING

(Ms. BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Saturday morning at midnight, following 20 previous clean extensions, funding for the Federal Aviation Administration was allowed to expire.

Why did this happen? Simple. Just like the Republican Party's lack of leadership over the debt ceiling debate, they absolutely refuse to compromise to extend funding for the FAA. For them, this debate is theoretical. Yet for the 4,000 Americans throughout the Nation who are paid out of the FAA trust fund that will not be paid, and tens of thousands who are affected by the cancellation of the airport construction projects, this situation is real. For the State of Florida, that includes over 3,000 airport construction jobs lost and 27 FAA employee jobs, 19 of them in the Orlando International Airport.

Let me just be clear. The reason that the FAA extension was not renewed is because the House Transportation Committee chair, Mr. MICA, inserted language into the FAA extension bill that would end the program that provides subsidies to rural airports.

Shame, shame, shame on the Republican leadership in this House.

REBUILDING THE AMERICAN DREAM

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I am from Colorado, and in Colorado, just like all across the country, Americans believe that if they work hard, if they play by the rules, if they're responsible in how they conduct their lives, they're going to get ahead.

Well, it's been very tough here recently. We've had a downturn. We have all this uncertainty because of, I believe, Republican brinksmanship to either shut down the government or maybe shut down the economy.

People want to get ahead. They want to know that this country will continue to innovate, educate, and rebuild itself so that we have good, long-lasting jobs that provide for our families. That's what Democrats stand for. We don't stand for all this brinksmanship every day.

Are we going to have a government or are we not? Are we going to have an economy or are we not? That's got to change. We have got to get back to rebuilding the American Dream.

□ 1230

SANTIAGO CANYON COLLEGE

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to extend well-deserved congratulations to Santiago Canyon College's Imagine Cup team.

Earlier this month, Team Syntax Errors accomplished what many thought they would never do. First of all, we're talking about a community college. And especially with the cuts happening in California to these wonderful colleges we have, they went and they competed against 430 of the best universities in the world. In addition to that competition, this community college is a gem for our community.

Santiago Canyon's Team Syntax Errors proved that hard work and determination can make impossible dreams come true. They placed within the top 15 universities in the world. I am very proud of these students, and I admire their ambition. They are true role models for all of our young students striving to succeed in an ever-changing, ever-global world.

It is my honor to recognize Hayden Donze, Bill Vetter, Gary Kelley, and Dale Laizure for their remarkable accomplishments. Congratulations.

HAPPY 350TH BIRTHDAY TO SCHENECTADY, NY

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and celebrate the city of Schenectady on the occasion of its 350th birthday.

Originally inhabited by the Mohawk tribe and then the Dutch, Schenectady's rich history has often served as an inspiration and genesis for many of America's accomplishments.

In the late 1800s, Thomas Edison moved Edison Machine Works to Schenectady, where advances led to new products, including the manufactured light bulb. Later becoming the headquarters of General Electric, Schenec-

tady also played host to the former home of ALCO, the American Locomotive Company. These two developments prompted the community to be dubbed "the city that lights and hauls the world" and the "electric city."

Today, Schenectady is an important part of New York's Tech Valley, a nationwide leading region committed to green technology. From steam turbines to advanced batteries, Schenectady continues to lead the country with a focus on ingenuity and innovation, proving we can "Make it in America."

I am pleased to applaud the city of Schenectady on the rich history and numerous achievements it has accrued as we celebrate the wonderful 350th birthday of this community. I look forward to many bright and booming days to come.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

ESTABLISHING SPECIAL ENVOY FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN THE NEAR EAST AND SOUTH CENTRAL ASIA

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 440) to provide for the establishment of the Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 440

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Seven Baha'i leaders in Iran have been wrongfully imprisoned since 2008.

(2) In May 2010, suspected terrorists attacked two mosques in Pakistan belonging to the Ahmaddiya minority Muslim sect, killing at least 80 people. Ahmadis consider themselves Muslim, but Pakistani law does not recognize them as such.

(3) Said Musa, an Afghan Christian convert, was arrested in May 2010 on charges of apostasy, a crime which can carry the death sentence, and was released in February 2011 only after sustained international pressure.

(4) On October 31, 2010, gunmen laid siege on Our Lady of Salvation Church in Baghdad, Iraq killing at least 52 police and worshippers, including two priests, making it the worst massacre of Iraqi Christians since 2003.

(5) Iraq's ancient and once vibrant Christian population that numbered an estimated

1,500,000 out of a total population in Iraq of 30,000,000 in 2003 has been reduced by at least one half, due in significant part to Christians fleeing the violence.

(6) In November 2010, a Pakistani court sentenced Aasia Bibi, a Christian mother of five, to death under the country's blasphemy law for insulting the Prophet Muhammad.

(7) On New Year's Eve 2010, 23 people were killed when a suicide bomber attacked a Coptic Christian church in Alexandria, Egypt.

(8) On March 2, 2011, Pakistani Federal Minorities Minister Shahbaz Bhatti, the only Christian member of the Cabinet, who was outspoken in his opposition to Pakistan's blasphemy laws was assassinated by extremists.

(9) The Department of State's 2010 International Religious Freedom Report stated that many religious minority groups in Uzbekistan "faced heavy fines and/or short jail terms for violations of restrictive religion laws".

(10) The Special Envoy for Anti-Semitism, Hannah Rosenthal, has noted that Holocaust glorification "is especially virulent in the Middle East media".

(11) A number of countries in the Middle East have recently undergone popular revolutions which in some countries have left security vacuums making religious minorities especially vulnerable to violent attacks, such as—

(A) in March 2011, the Shahedin Church in Helwan province, Egypt, was torched, leading to protests which spurred sectarian clashes in the streets of Cairo;

(B) on March 20, 2011, a group of Salafists in Upper Egypt cut off a Christian man's ear and burned his home and car; and

(C) news reports from April 2011 indicate that Salafi organizations in Egypt have been implicated in the destruction of Sufi shrines across the country fueling violent conflict.

(12) Many of these ancient faith communities are being forced to flee the lands which they have inhabited for centuries.

(13) The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom has recommended that Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan be designated by the Department of State as Countries of Particular Concern in accordance with the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.

(14) The situation on the ground in the region continues to develop rapidly and the United States Government needs an individual who can respond in kind and focus on the critical situation of religious minorities in these countries.

SEC. 2. SPECIAL ENVOY TO PROMOTE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM OF RELIGIOUS MINORI- TIES IN THE NEAR EAST AND SOUTH CENTRAL ASIA.

(a) APPOINTMENT.—The President shall appoint a Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia (in this Act referred to as the "Special Envoy") within the Department of State.

(b) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Special Envoy should be a person of recognized distinction in the field of human rights and religious freedom and with expertise in the Near East and South Central Asia regions. The Special Envoy shall have the rank of ambassador and shall hold the office at the pleasure of the President.

(c) PROHIBITION.—The person appointed as Special Envoy may not hold any other position of Federal employment for the period of

time during which the person holds the position of Special Envoy.

SEC. 3. DUTIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Special Envoy shall carry out the following duties:

(1) Promote the right of religious freedom of religious minorities in the countries of the Near East and the countries of South Central Asia, denounce the violation of such right, and recommend appropriate responses by the United States Government when such right is violated.

(2) Monitor and combat acts of religious intolerance and incitement targeted against religious minorities in the countries of the Near East and the countries of South Central Asia.

(3) Work to ensure that the unique needs of religious minority communities in the countries of the Near East and the countries of South Central Asia are addressed, including the economic and security needs of such communities to the extent that such needs are directly tied to religious-based discrimination and persecution.

(4) Work with foreign governments of the countries of the Near East and the countries of South Central Asia to address laws that are inherently discriminatory toward religious minority communities in such countries.

(5) Coordinate and assist in the preparation of that portion of the report required by sections 116(d) and 502B(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151n(d) and 2304(b)) relating to the nature and extent of religious freedom of religious minorities in the countries of the Near East and the countries of South Central Asia.

(6) Coordinate and assist in the preparation of that portion of the report required by section 102(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6412(b)) relating to the nature and extent of religious freedom of religious minorities in the countries of the Near East and the countries of South Central Asia.

(b) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the duties under subsection (a), the Special Envoy shall, to the maximum extent practicable, coordinate with the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration of the Department of State, the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and other relevant Federal agencies and officials.

SEC. 4. DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION.

Subject to the direction of the President and the Secretary of State, the Special Envoy is authorized to represent the United States in matters and cases relevant to religious freedom in the countries of the Near East and the countries of South Central Asia in—

(1) contacts with foreign governments, intergovernmental organizations, and specialized agencies of the United Nations, the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe, and other international organizations of which the United States is a member; and

(2) multilateral conferences and meetings relevant to religious freedom in the countries of the Near East and the countries of South Central Asia.

SEC. 5. PRIORITY COUNTRIES AND CONSULTATION.

(a) PRIORITY COUNTRIES.—In carrying out this Act, the Special Envoy shall give priority to programs, projects, and activities for Egypt, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

(b) CONSULTATION.—The Special Envoy shall consult with domestic and inter-

national nongovernmental organizations and multilateral organizations and institutions, as the Special Envoy considers appropriate to fulfill the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 6. FUNDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made available for “Diplomatic and Consular Programs” for fiscal years 2011 through 2015, \$1,000,000 is authorized to be appropriated for each such fiscal year for the hiring of staff, for the conduct of investigations, and for necessary travel to carry out the provisions of this Act.

(b) FUNDING OFFSET.—To offset the costs to be incurred by the Department of State for the hiring of staff, for the conduct of investigations, and for necessary travel to carry out the provisions of this Act for fiscal years 2011 through 2015, the Secretary of State shall eliminate such positions within the Department of State, unless otherwise authorized or required by law, as the Secretary determines to be necessary to fully offset such costs.

(c) LIMITATION.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for “Diplomatic and Consular Programs” to carry out this Act.

SEC. 7. SUNSET.

This Act shall cease to be effective beginning on October 1, 2015.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 440, a bill to establish a Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia.

The bill is authored by my very good friend and colleague, Congressman FRANK WOLF, who was also the author of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1988 and other religious freedom legislation. He has taken the lead in Congress time and time again to advance the cause of those who are persecuted because of their faith. I wish to thank him for his years of service on this issue—his legislation and his tireless advocacy on behalf of religious freedom.

Mr. Speaker, this bill establishes the special envoy position for religious minorities in 31 Middle Eastern and South Central Asian countries, almost all of which have had bad or very bad records of persecuting or disadvantaging religious minorities. The special envoy will represent the United States in contacts with foreign governments, intergovernmental organizations, U.N. agencies, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and in contacts with international organizations and multilateral conferences. He or she will also meet with victims and try to take their story to offending governments to try to end the abuse.

We know from experience, Mr. Speaker, that special envoys, including

and especially for Sudan and Northern Ireland, have achieved unparalleled successes over the years in mitigating explosive situations and literally saving lives all while pursuing positive and durable solutions to what appear to be intractable and unresolvable problems.

But not all special envoys have been equally effective. Almost everything depends on whom the President appoints to the position. So I would appeal to the President: When this bill becomes law, appoint someone with the passion, energy, and experience to get this job done and to stand up as never before for these persecuted minorities.

Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues will speak about different religious minorities in the Middle East, but I am particularly concerned about the Coptic minority in Egypt. They have been called the bellwether of the rights for religious minorities in the Middle East. As the largest and one of the oldest minorities, they are suffering, and their escalating agony portends suffering throughout the region.

And make no mistake, they are suffering. On Friday of last week, I chaired a hearing specifically to hear of the needs and experiences of the Copts during this time during transition. What I heard and what my colleagues heard on the Helsinki Commission worried us deeply. Coptic women and girls, some as young as 14, are being systematically lured from their families or kidnapped off the street corners and forced to change their religion and forced to marry outside of their community. These young girls frequently suffer physical and psychological abuse, including rape, beatings, forced isolation, and lack of personal freedom both before and after their so-called “marriage/conversion.” The drugging of victims appears to be commonplace.

One story that emerged at the hearing detailed the situation of a married woman who was forced to leave her Coptic community and marry a Muslim. Her family was present at the official inquiry—which are no longer conducted, I might point out—and said that she showed signs of being drugged. She was out of it. Over and over she repeated, “I had to do it for the children. I had to do it for the children.”

Dr. Michele Clark, an internationally recognized anti-trafficking expert—she was one of those who led the Protection Project at Johns Hopkins and was director of the OSCE trafficking efforts for years—she authored a report called “The Disappearance, Forced Conversions, and Forced Marriages of Coptic Christian Women in Egypt.” She testified that this happens to thousands of Coptic women and girls each and every year. She said this on Friday. Others also concurred in that analysis.

Dr. Clark further testified that the mounting evidence shows that the

term “alleged”—which has been used in the U.S. State Department Reports on Human Rights Practices, as well as in the TIP report—needs to be replaced. It's no longer even close to being accurate. It's not an allegation; it's a fact that she herself, as a human rights investigator, has helped to establish by doing extensive investigation and inquiries on the ground in Egypt.

She pointed out that the criminality of alleged forced marriages and conversions is generally dismissed by authorities here and everywhere else, especially in Egypt. The coverup must end. Young women are presumed to be willing participants, they are not. The abduction and the disappearance of Coptic women and girls follow, as she puts it, consistent patterns and constitutes human trafficking—modern day slavery.

Dr. Clark testified that men and women and peers are used to build trust and dispel resistance in young women targeted for conversion in marriage. Most cases documented in the report begin with a trusting relationship that ultimately leads to the disappearance or abduction, marriage to a Muslim man, and conversion to Islam. These supposed new friends exploit the vulnerability and naivete of a young Coptic woman.

Once trust has been established, girls are lured to an isolated place, drugged and kidnapped. Often they are raped. Following the rape, the Coptic women experience shame and fear of how their families will respond. They become more willing to stay with the Muslim friends. They feel that they have been so abused. And then they often marry their rapist because they feel they have nowhere else to go. This outrageous abuse must be exposed and stopped—and these young women rescued.

□ 1240

Let me just point out to my colleagues, what is going on in Egypt and the abuses being experienced by Christians and people of the Baha'i faith in Iran and elsewhere, we need to do much more than we have done to combat this, to speak out, to do effective chronicling, but also, once you get the information, to ensure that it is actionable and that you take it to those governments. Sadly, we have not done that. A special envoy would be uniquely equipped and empowered to take the cause of the beleaguered, suffering religious minorities in the Middle East and to fight, and to fight every day of the week for those people.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill, and I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

This bipartisan legislation creates a special envoy to promote religious freedom of religious minorities in the

Near East and South Central Asia. Housed at the State Department, the special envoy would be responsible for monitoring and combating acts of religious intolerance, engaging with foreign governments to address laws that discriminate against religious minorities, and working to ensure that the unique needs of religious minority communities are being addressed.

This bill is important because religious minority communities all around the world, but particularly in the Near East and South Central Asia, are facing increased attacks and increased persecution. For example, Iraq used to have a significant number of religious minorities, including Christians, Yazidis, Sabean Mandeans, Baha'is, Shabaks, Kaka'is, and a small number of Jews. These groups have been subject to escalating violence, persecution, and discrimination for their religious beliefs, and today they comprise only about 3 percent of Iraq's population. By some estimates, half of Iraq's Christian population has fled since 2003.

In November of 2010, a Pakistani court sentenced Aasia Bibi, a Christian and mother of five, to death under the country's blasphemy law. And what was her offense? In June 2009, she was asked to get water for herself and a group of women working in the fields with her. The other laborers objected to a non-Muslim touching the water bowl and an argument ensued. That group of women later falsely accused Aasia of speaking ill of the prophet Mohammed in order to settle a personal score against her. Aasia remains in prison awaiting review of her death sentence.

When Punjab's Governor Salman Taseer had the courage to demand that Aasia be pardoned, one of his own bodyguards killed him. Two months later, when Pakistan's Minister for Minorities, Shahbaz Bhatti, condemned the blasphemy law, militants executed him in broad daylight.

In Egypt, as the gentleman from New Jersey has stated, 23 men, women, and children were killed in a bombing at an Alexandria church in Egypt on New Year's Eve. Just last May, extremists attacked Christians at St. Mina Church in Cairo, leaving 12 dead and hundreds wounded.

I wish these were isolated cases, but I could provide countless other examples, from Afghanistan, to India, to Saudi Arabia. We're fortunate to live in a country that was founded by religious refugees on principles of tolerance, but it is important that we do everything we can to ensure that religious minorities elsewhere in the world enjoy the freedoms and protections they deserve, the freedoms and protections enjoyed by all Americans. Appointing this special envoy will be an important step in that direction, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Commerce-Justice-Science for the Appropriations Committee, the author of H.R. 440, the gentleman from Virginia, FRANK WOLF.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I want to thank Chairman ROSELEHTINEN for her support, Mr. BERMAN for his support, and Mr. SMITH for his help. I also want to thank some key staff members whose hard work and efforts on the bill have not gone unnoticed: Elyse Anderson, Kalinda Stephenson, Yleem Poblete, Steve Stombres, and also Kyle Nevins with the majority leader's office. They have been very, very helpful, and I am grateful for their help.

This past January, in the wake of increasing violence, targeted attacks, and heightened discrimination against Christians and other religious minorities in Iraq and Egypt, and persistent concerns in Afghanistan and Pakistan, among other nations, I introduced bipartisan legislation, H.R. 440, which would require the administration to appoint a special envoy to advocate for religious minorities in the Middle East and South Central Asia in order to make this issue a foreign policy priority.

Since introduction, this legislation has garnered widespread bipartisan support with nearly 80 cosponsors. I want to thank ANNA ESHOO, the lead Democrat in the House, for her work on this. Also, companion legislation has been introduced now by Senators ROY BLUNT and CARL LEVIN. The legislation has also been championed by a host of faith-based organizations and diaspora communities, who recognize the importance of ensuring that the vulnerable communities have an advocate within the U.S. Government and around the world.

Shortly before introducing this legislation, I chaired a hearing at the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission on the recent spate of attacks and the ongoing persecution of Christians in Iraq and Egypt. Commission members heard testimony about the increasing sectarian tensions in the two countries and the need for greater U.S. attention to the plight of religious minorities. The hearing was held prior to recent events in the Middle East which have, in some cases, created a political vacuum that have left religious minorities particularly vulnerable. I heard this fear expressed time and again during a recent trip to Egypt.

Religious minorities throughout the region, including those who are Jewish, Ahmadis, Baha'is, are under increasing pressure. In fact, many of these ancient faith communities have been forced to flee the lands that they have inhabited for centuries.

Consider some of the following:

Last October, at least 70 people were killed during a siege on Our Lady of Salvation Church in Baghdad, making it the worst massacre of Iraqi Christians since 2003.

Iraq's once vibrant Christian community population has been reduced by at least half since 2003. This would be tragic under any circumstances, but it is especially so given the rich ancestral heritage of this indigenous community.

Apart from Israel, the lands and peoples of modern-day Iraq are mentioned with greater frequency in the Bible than any other country. Abraham, Jonah, Nineveh, Esther, and Daniel all hail from Iraq. The Christians of Iraq today still speak Aramaic, the language that Jesus spoke.

In Afghanistan and Pakistan, countries where the United States has invested its treasure and the lives of countless brave American soldiers, persecution of Christians runs rampant.

On November 7 last year, a Pakistani court sentenced Aasia Bibi, a Christian mother of five, to death for the crime of blasphemy. Only after intervention by the international community was her execution delayed. Her fate still remains, at this moment, unclear.

Pakistan's blasphemy laws are often used to victimize both religious minorities and Muslims. Earlier this year, Punjab's influential Governor, Salman Taseer, was shot and killed by his own bodyguard, who reportedly told police that he, quote, killed Mr. Taseer because of the Governor's opposition to Pakistan's blasphemy law.

In April, Pakistan's Federal Minister for Minority Affairs, Shahbaz Bhatti, a heroic man of faith whose courageous and outspoken leadership against his nation's draconian blasphemy law made him a prime target of extremist Islamist elements in his country, was assassinated. Bhatti was the only Christian member of the Pakistani Cabinet.

□ 1250

In an interview with The Washington Post's Fred Hiatt, Shahbaz Bhatti "urged Americans not to forsake or forget" Pakistan's suffering religious minority community.

Members of the Jewish faith continue to experience discrimination and persecution throughout the region. The Special Envoy for Anti-Semitism, Hannah Rosenthal, has noted that Holocaust glorification "is especially virulent in the Middle East media."

If the international community fails to speak out, the prospects for religious pluralism and tolerance in the region are bleak. I urge my colleagues' support for this bill, and again thank the leadership on both sides for making this legislation a priority. I am hopeful that this bill will overwhelmingly pass the House and send a clear and unequivocal message to both the persecutors and the persecuted that the United

States of America stands with those whose most basic freedom—the right to worship according to the dictates of conscience—is under assault.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO), who brought this bill to my attention and has worked with the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) to put it together and bring it to this point. She is deeply committed on this issue and a very great Member of Congress.

Ms. ESHOO. I thank Mr. BERMAN, our distinguished ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, for not only yielding me this time but for his conscience, because that indeed is what this is about, and his unflagging leadership on so many issues. Your endorsement and strong support of this bill I think bolsters it enormously, and says to the entire House that a person that is steeped in the background of the issues of the entire world is for this.

I want to pay tribute to Mr. WOLF for his incredible advocacy on this issue relative to religious minorities for so long. It is an honor to have worked with you to bring this to a realization of not only legislation but to bring it to the floor. I salute you. You are a gentleman; and you, too, are a man of great conscience.

Mr. Speaker, I think today we are here on something that really distinguishes the United States of America. From the founding of our Nation, religious freedom has been a pillar of our democracy, and it remains one of the most critical exports of our great Nation. I think having said that really establishes the foundation of why we are here in strong support of H.R. 440. This bill, as my colleagues have said, will create a special envoy to promote religious freedom of religious minorities in the Near East and South Asia. The legislation responds to the very urgent needs of Christians and other religious minorities who are under siege. When I say that, I underscore it. They are under siege in the Middle East. Again, I commend everyone, especially Mr. WOLF, who has been part of this effort. And as a cochair of the Religious Minorities Caucus and all of the members of it, I thank them as well.

In January of this year, Representative WOLF chaired a hearing to review the violence and the hardships faced by Middle Eastern religious minorities. I was privileged to testify that day about the plight of many people, but most especially the Assyrians. I am of both Assyrian and Armenian descent, and the language Mr. WOLF spoke of, Aramaic, I speak fluently and understand very well. It is the language, as he said, that Jesus spoke. These are the world's oldest Christians, and they are quickly disappearing from Iraq. During this hearing, we also learned of

Egypt's Coptic Christian population and the renewed threats they face and unacceptable violence in that uncertain political situation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. BERMAN. I yield the gentlelady 2 additional minutes.

Ms. ESHOO. At the conclusion of the hearing, we agreed to press forward with this legislation to create a special envoy at the State Department, someone at the ambassador level to elevate this issue for the attention it deserves. We need a high-level official dedicated to religious freedom in the region, committed to addressing the concerns of the minority communities.

I am very, very pleased that this legislation has attracted very solid bipartisan support. We have 78 cosponsors, an even split between Republicans and Democrats, all calling for the State Department to elevate religious freedom in the Middle East as a diplomatic priority. There is a history for this. Senator John Danforth served our Nation as special envoy to Sudan, and Senator George Mitchell as special envoy to Northern Ireland, so there is precedent for this.

I want to speak of a meeting I had in my office last week. Three Dominican nuns, sisters who traveled from Iraq, and they once again relayed their story of what is happening to them. They have been dispersed across Iraq. They teach everyone regardless of their background, Muslims, Christians, no matter what the background is. And in their hospitals, they care for whomever is sick and wounded. And yet their convents have been burned, the statute of the Blessed Mother's hands chopped off and placed at their door. So these threats are very real. They are very real. That is just one example of it.

So this history of violence must and should be dealt with. As I said, our great Nation, our great Nation treasures its religious freedoms, and it is part of the core of our democracy. So that's why I urge all of my colleagues to join us, not just me but all of us, in supporting this important legislation. The message that will go forward from this Chamber, with all of the other issues that are swirling around us, is that we stand with great dignity for one of the great principles of our great Nation.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), who both here and abroad fights against persecution and discrimination against religious minorities.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 440, a bill to provide for the establishment of a special envoy to promote religious freedom of religious minorities

in the Near East and South Central Asia. I want to thank my colleagues, Congressman FRANK WOLF and Congresswoman ESHOO, for introducing this legislation and for their tireless leadership on this critical issue.

Ethno-religious minorities continue to face a crisis in Iraq, where attacks and violence against Christians continue. My district is home to a large and vibrant Assyrian population, and they regularly share with me the devastating stories of their friends and family members still living in Iraq who are facing threats because of their faith. In November 2010, over 1,500 protesters demonstrated in Chicago, sending a powerful message about the need to protect Iraqi minorities.

By creating a special envoy specifically focused on the rights of religious minorities in the region, this legislation is an important step toward ending the cycle of violence.

To date, the U.S. Government and the international community unfortunately have failed to provide security for Iraqi ethno-religious minorities. Iraqi Christians continue to fear for their physical safety, as well as for the survival of their communities and culture. Of a population that numbered 1.4 million people before the American-led invasion, there are now less than 500,000 Iraqi Christians in the country.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 440 is a critical step toward addressing the threat against Iraqi ethno-religious minorities. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

□ 1300

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD).

Mr. DOLD. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Since 1947, 49 million Hindus in Bangladesh have gone missing, according to Professor Sachi Dastidar. A recent Hindu American Foundation report concluded that the "Hindus of Bangladesh continue to be victims of daily acts of murder, rape, kidnapping, temple destruction, and physical intimidation."

Dr. Richard Benkin, an authority on human rights abuses in Bangladesh, has described to me on several occasions the atrocities and human rights abuses suffered by Bangladeshi Hindus that he personally has verified. Other groups, like the Christian Assyrians in Iraq's Nineveh province, the suffering of the Baha'i prisoners in Iran, and millions of others who seek to practice their religion in peace, look to the United States as a beacon of hope. I believe this bill helps us answer that important call. H.R. 440 will create a powerful diplomatic tool for the promotion of religious freedom and human rights in the volatile regions of the Near East and South Central Asia.

I thank the gentleman for his bill, and I urge support for this meaningful legislation.

Mr. BERMAN. I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. PETERS).

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased today to rise in support of H.R. 440, a bill to establish a special envoy to promote religious freedom of religious minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia. As a cosponsor of this bipartisan legislation and as a member of the Religious Minorities of the Middle East Caucus, I strongly support its passage.

While many parts of the Near East and Southeast Asia are predominantly Muslim, historically these areas have been home to a diverse group of ethnic and religious minorities. Whether it is Chaldeans, Syrians, and Assyrians in Iraq, Baha'i in Iran, Copts in Egypt, or the Hindus in Pakistan, religious minorities have for centuries lived and worshipped alongside their Muslim countrymen and women.

Unfortunately, instability in the Middle East has had a disproportionately negative impact on religious minorities. The most striking example of this has been in Iraq, where more than half of the Iraqi Christian population has been forced to flee the country since the invasion of Iraq in 2003. Those who have stayed have been specifically targeted in gruesome and random acts of violence, such as murder, rape, and abduction.

This includes religious and community leaders like Archbishop Rahho, who was kidnapped and murdered. Religious minorities have also suffered attacks in their places of worship, such as the October 2010 massacre at Our Lady of Salvation Church in Baghdad, in which 58 worshipers were killed by militants and extremists.

While the end of the Mubarak regime in Egypt has brought about the promise for democratic reform, it has also given rise to instability and acts of violence against religious minorities. Coptic Christians have lived peacefully in this part of the world for centuries. Sadly, in recent months, Coptic churches and protesters have also been targeted for violence.

Freedom of religion is something we take for granted here in the United States. Our citizens are free to worship however they please, without fear that they will be targeted for violence because of their religious beliefs. I'm honored to represent Michigan's Ninth Congressional District, which is home to an amazingly diverse population. We have Jewish synagogues, Islamic mosques, Hindu temples, and Christian churches of almost every kind imaginable. This diversity is a source of strength in our community, and something my constituents are very proud of. Many of my constituents have relatives in Near East or South Central

Asia and they wish that they, too, had the same freedom to worship that so many of us take for granted. They are desperate to see the United States take more leadership in promoting religious tolerance overseas.

That is why the legislation we're debating today is so important. It creates a permanent special envoy that will work on behalf of the President and the Secretary of State to advance the cause of religious minorities abroad. This individual will be able to ensure that the United States is fully engaged to fight to protect religious minorities in other countries and to help hold our own government accountable when that should be done.

I would like to thank Representative WOLF, who is not only the author of this legislation but also the cochair of the Religious Minorities of the Middle East, a tireless champion on behalf of vulnerable populations. I would also like to thank my friend, Representative ESHOO, who is also a cochair of the caucus and a true champion for religious minorities in the Middle East.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation so that the United States will be vigilant in promoting religious tolerance and freedom around the world.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I simply ask the House to pass what is I think an important bill because we only have to read what is going on recently to understand this is a rapidly increasing and severe problem that affects those countries deeply in terms of the conflict's intentions. I think much good can come from having someone focused on these issues in that region.

I urge an "aye" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PRTTS).

Mr. PITTS. I rise to urge this Chamber to support H.R. 440, a bill that requires the President to appoint a special envoy at the State Department to advocate for religious minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia. I commend the gentleman for his leadership on this matter.

I have personally met with oppressed people from all over the globe, but predominantly ones from the Near East and South Asia. The region has long been a hot-bed of religious discrimination, and little has been done by our government to aid these innocent practitioners of faith. Revolutions striving for democracy and greater expression in the region have been matched by a wake of religious intolerance and extremism. As we cherish our right to the free expression of religion here at home, our State Department needs to reflect our dedication to protecting

this right in our diplomatic engagements abroad.

Religious minorities in Egypt, Iraq, Iran, and countless other countries are left without an advocate in the political process of their respective governments. H.R. 440 would provide an envoy that can advocate for these religious minorities and focus solely on their plight while being able to avoid bureaucratic red tape. As basic human rights are increasingly under assault in this region, our government needs to rapidly respond to the new challenges rapidly emerging. It is in our strategic interest to pass this legislation. I ask the Members to join me in supporting it.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 440.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN).

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

This is a bipartisan bill, which I support. I would just note—and I know the gentleman's long history with mine of advocating for human rights and religious freedom in Vietnam. I hope that we can follow up this great effort with a similar effort really specifically oriented toward the religious oppression that's going on in Vietnam against the Buddhists, against the Cao Dai, against the Catholics and many others. I commend the gentleman for this bill. I just wanted to raise that issue in the hopes that it can be addressed at a later date.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of religious freedom for minorities in the Middle East and South Central Asia must be of the highest priority. For far too long, religious minorities and the persecution and marginalization they endure has been overlooked, even trivialized. Their rights and even their very lives must now be assiduously protected in this time of political upheaval, especially in the Middle East.

Mr. WOLF had the foresight to draft this bill before the so-called Arab Spring. It was needed in January. It's even more needed now, especially in light of the spate of church bombings and escalated persecution against believers, especially with kidnappings of thousands each and every year of Coptic Christian teenage girls, who are then forced to convert to Islam and forced to "marry" a Muslim man.

□ 1310

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker. The Middle East is at a critical juncture.

We are witnessing the systematic extinction of centuries-old religious communities. South and Central Asia are also systematically failing their religious minorities.

The late Shahbaz Bhatti, Federal Minister for Minorities in Pakistan, gave his life to fight the injustices and atrocities suffered by the religious minorities in Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan has since abolished the Ministry for Minorities, perhaps under the false impression that it does not matter in relations with the United States.

A Special Envoy for religious minorities sends the right message at the right time, and empowers a diplomat with access to the President and to, hopefully, all the leaders throughout the region and to all those who are disenfranchised. The rights of religious minorities matter, and we will not look askance during this perilous time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a cosponsor of H.R. 440, a bill to establish a Special Envoy to promote religious freedom for minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia, because no one should be made to feel that the practice of their religion is a crime or a source of shame.

Around the world, people are persecuted in the name of one religion against another. Such persecution not only violates their inalienable right to worship as they choose; it also creates instability in many places around the world. Many conflicts are rooted in sectarian differences and rivalries. To the extent the United States can promote religious tolerance, we advance the cause of human rights, justice and peace around the globe.

This bill creates a special envoy in order to monitor and combat acts of religious intolerance and incitement targeted against religious minorities and to work with foreign governments to address laws that are inherently discriminatory toward religious minority communities.

As we speak, there are minorities all over the world who live in fear for their lives merely because they practice a different religion than those around them. I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 440.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose yet another of our misguided foreign policy initiatives. Of course none of us favors religious persecution, here or abroad, but how would we feel if Iran, Israel, Afghanistan, or Iraq—all targeted by this bill—sent a government representative here to dictate what our government policies toward religious minorities should be? In many parts of the world certain religious institutions are financed by the state. How would we feel if foreign governments demanded that we abide by such practices? In short, it is arrogant and counterproductive to attempt to impose our values—which we sadly do not always live up to—onto nations overseas. I certainly believe that people should have the right to worship as they wish without government interference, but it would be far better for us to lead the rest of the world by example than by the implied force of a "special envoy."

Finally, I find it disturbing but sadly telling that on the day we are debating our dire fiscal

condition and contemplating the implications of reaching the debt ceiling we nevertheless do not hesitate to obligate taxpayer dollars to fund yet another new boondoggle overseas. This bill will spend another million dollars per year for the special envoy and his staff to travel throughout the Middle East and South Central Asia lecturing foreign governments on religious policy. What a waste.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 440, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1315

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of New Jersey) at 1 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 363 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2584.

□ 1316

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2584) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, with Mr. ROGERS of Alabama (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Tuesday, July 26, 2011, the bill had been read through page 56, line 22.

Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

An amendment by Mr. CLARKE of Michigan.

An amendment by Mr. DICKS of Washington.

An amendment by Mr. TONKO of New York.

Amendment No. 5 by Mr. AMASH of Michigan.

An amendment by Mr. DOLD of Illinois.

Amendment No. 44 by Mr. REED of New York.

An amendment, as modified, by Mr. SCALISE of Louisiana.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CLARKE OF MICHIGAN

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CLARKE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 173, noes 251, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 651]

AYES—173

Ackerman	Conyers	Himes
Altmire	Costello	Hinojosa
Andrews	Courtney	Hirono
Baca	Critz	Hochul
Baldwin	Crowley	Holt
Bass (CA)	Cuellar	Honda
Becerra	Davis (CA)	Hoyer
Benishkek	Davis (IL)	Huizenga (MI)
Berkley	DeFazio	Inslee
Berman	DeGette	Israel
Biggert	DeLauro	Jackson (IL)
Bishop (GA)	Deutch	Johnson (GA)
Bishop (NY)	Dicks	Johnson, E. B.
Blumenauer	Dingell	Kaptur
Boswell	Doyle	Keating
Brady (PA)	Duffy	Kildee
Braley (IA)	Edwards	Kind
Brown (FL)	Ellison	Kucinich
Butterfield	Engel	Langevin
Camp	Eshoo	Larsen (WA)
Capps	Farr	Larson (CT)
Capuano	Fattah	Lee (CA)
Carnahan	Filner	Levin
Carney	Frank (MA)	Lewis (GA)
Carson (IN)	Fudge	Lipinski
Chu	Garamendi	Loeb
Cicilline	Gibson	Lofgren, Zoe
Clarke (MI)	Grijalva	Lowe
Clarke (NY)	Gutierrez	Lynch
Clay	Hahn	Maloney
Cleaver	Hanabusa	Markey
Clyburn	Hastings (FL)	Matsui
Cohen	Higgins	McCarthy (NY)

McDermott	Quigley	Speier
McGovern	Rangel	Sutton
Meeks	Reed	Thompson (CA)
Michaud	Rogers (MI)	Thompson (MS)
Miller (MI)	Rothman (NJ)	Tierney
Miller (NC)	Roybal-Allard	Tonko
Miller, George	Ruppersberger	Towns
Moore	Rush	Tsongas
Murphy (CT)	Ryan (OH)	Upton
Nadler	Ryan (WI)	Van Hollen
Napolitano	Sánchez, Linda	Velázquez
Neal	T.	Visclosky
Oliver	Sanchez, Loretta	Walberg
Owens	Sarbanes	Walz (MN)
Pallone	Schakowsky	Wasserman
Pascarell	Schrader	Schultz
Pastor (AZ)	Schwartz	Waters
Paulsen	Scott (VA)	Watt
Payne	Scott, David	Waxman
Pelosi	Sensenbrenner	Welch
Peters	Serrano	Wilson (FL)
Peterson	Sewell	Woolsey
Petri	Shuler	Wu
Pingree (ME)	Sires	Yarmuth
Polis	Slaughter	
Price (NC)	Smith (WA)	

NOES—251

Adams	Fitzpatrick	Lankford
Aderholt	Flake	Latham
Akin	Fleischmann	LaTourette
Alexander	Fleming	Latta
Amash	Flores	Lewis (CA)
Austria	Forbes	LoBiondo
Bachus	Fortenberry	Long
Barletta	Fox	Lucas
Barrow	Franks (AZ)	Luetkemeyer
Bartlett	Frelinghuysen	Lujan
Barton (TX)	Gallegly	Lummis
Bass (NH)	Gardner	Lungren, Daniel
Berg	Garrett	E.
Bilbray	Gerlach	Mack
Bilirakis	Gibbs	Manzullo
Bishop (UT)	Gingrey (GA)	Marchant
Black	Gohmert	Marino
Blackburn	Gonzalez	Matheson
Bonner	Goodlatte	McCarthy (CA)
Bono Mack	Gosar	McCaul
Boren	Gowdy	McClintock
Boustany	Granger	McCollum
Brady (TX)	Graves (GA)	McHenry
Brooks	Graves (MO)	McIntyre
Broun (GA)	Green, Al	McKeon
Buchanan	Green, Gene	McKinley
Bucshon	Griffin (AR)	McMorris
Burgess	Griffith (VA)	Rodgers
Burton (IN)	Grimm	McNerney
Calvert	Guinta	Meehan
Campbell	Guthrie	Mica
Canseco	Hall	Miller (FL)
Cantor	Hanna	Miller, Gary
Capito	Harper	Moran
Cardoza	Harris	Mulvaney
Carter	Hartzler	Murphy (PA)
Cassidy	Hastings (WA)	Myrick
Castor (FL)	Hayworth	Neugebauer
Chabot	Heck	Noem
Chaffetz	Heinrich	Nugent
Chandler	Hensarling	Nunes
Coble	Herger	Nunnelee
Coffman (CO)	Herrera Beutler	Olson
Cole	Holden	Palazzo
Conaway	Huelskamp	Paul
Connolly (VA)	Hultgren	Pearce
Cooper	Hunter	Pence
Cravaack	Hurt	Perlmutter
Crawford	Issa	Pitts
Crenshaw	Jackson Lee	Platts
Culberson	(TX)	Poe (TX)
Cummings	Jenkins	Pompeo
Davis (KY)	Johnson (IL)	Posey
Denham	Johnson (OH)	Price (GA)
Dent	Johnson, Sam	Quayle
DesJarlais	Jones	Rahall
Diaz-Balart	Jordan	Rehberg
Doggett	Kelly	Reichert
Dold	King (IA)	Renacci
Donnelly (IN)	King (NY)	Reyes
Dreier	Kingston	Ribble
Duncan (SC)	Kinzinger (IL)	Richardson
Duncan (TN)	Kissell	Richmond
Ellmers	Kline	Rigell
Emerson	Labrador	Rivera
Farenthold	Lamborn	Roby
Fincher	Lance	Roe (TN)

Rogers (AL)	Scott, Austin	Tipton
Rogers (KY)	Sessions	Turner
Rohrabacher	Sherman	Walden
Rokita	Shimkus	Walsh (IL)
Rooney	Shuster	Webster
Ros-Lehtinen	Simpson	West
Roskam	Smith (NE)	Westmoreland
Ross (AR)	Smith (NJ)	Whitfield
Ross (FL)	Smith (TX)	Wilson (SC)
Royce	Southerland	Wittman
Runyan	Stearns	Wolf
Scalise	Stivers	Womack
Schiff	Stutzman	Woodall
Schilling	Sullivan	Yoder
Schmidt	Terry	Young (AK)
Schock	Thompson (PA)	Young (FL)
Schweikert	Thornberry	Young (IN)
Scott (SC)	Tiberi	

NOT VOTING—8

Bachmann	Giffords	McCotter
Buerkle	Hinchey	Stark
Costa	Landry	

□ 1340

Messrs. CONNOLLY of Virginia, MORAN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Messrs. ROHRABACHER, and MCINTYRE changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Messrs. BECERRA, DUFFY, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Ms. LEE changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DICKS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 224, noes 202, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 652]

AYES—224

Ackerman	Butterfield	Davis (CA)
Altmire	Capps	Davis (IL)
Andrews	Capuano	DeFazio
Baca	Carnahan	DeGette
Baldwin	Carney	DeLauro
Barrow	Carson (IN)	Dent
Bartlett	Castor (FL)	Deutch
Bass (CA)	Chandler	Dicks
Bass (NH)	Chu	Dingell
Becerra	Cicilline	Doggett
Berkley	Clarke (MI)	Dold
Berman	Clarke (NY)	Donnelly (IN)
Biggert	Clay	Doyle
Bilbray	Cleaver	Edwards
Bishop (GA)	Clyburn	Ellison
Bishop (NY)	Cohen	Engel
Blackburn	Connolly (VA)	Eshoo
Blumenauer	Conyers	Farr
Boren	Cooper	Fattah
Boswell	Costello	Filner
Brady (PA)	Courtney	Fitzpatrick
Braley (IA)	Critz	Fortenberry
Brooks	Crowley	Frank (MA)
Brown (FL)	Cuellar	Frelinghuysen
Buchanan	Cummings	Fudge

Garamendi
Gerlach
Gibson
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Grimm
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harris
Hastings (FL)
Hayworth
Heinrich
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
(TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kildee
Kind
King (NY)
Kissell
Kucinich
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
LaTourette
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo

NOES—202

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Amash
Austria
Bachus
Barletta
Barton (TX)
Benishkek
Berg
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Cardoza
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson

Loeb sack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lujan
Lynch
Maloney
Markley
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Oliver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Platts
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Ross (AR)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard

Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stearns
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (FL)

Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paul
Paulsen
Pearce
Pence
Peterson
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Reed
Rehberg
Renacci

Bachmann
Costa

Ribble
Rigell
Rivera
Roe
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (FL)
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus

NOT VOTING—6

Giffords
Hinchey
McCotter
Stark

□ 1345

So the amendment was agreed to.
The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. TONKO

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 184, noes 238, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 653]

AYES—184

Ackerman
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Austria
Baca
Baldwin
Barletta
Barrow
Bass (CA)
Becerra
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boswell
Boustany
Braley (IA)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)

Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Garamendi
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Goodlatte
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanna
Hayworth
Heinrich
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Israel
Jackson Lee
(TX)

Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Kelly
Kildee
Kings
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kucinich
Lance
Langevin
Larson (CT)
LaTourette
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lowey
Lujan
Lynch
Maloney
Marino
Markley
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks

Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Oliver
Owens
Palazzo
Payne
Pelosi
Peters
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reichert
Renacci
Richardson
Richmond
Roskam
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky

NOES—238

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Amash
Bachus
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (NH)
Benishkek
Berg
Berkley
Berman
Biggart
Billbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Cardoza
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Cooper
Costa
Cravaack
Crawford
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (KY)
DeFazio
Denham
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Doggett
Dold

Donnelly (IN)
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emerson
Eshoo
Farenthold
Fattah
Fincher
Flake
Fleischmann
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Gallegly
Gardner
Garrett
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hall
Hanabusa
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Inslee
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Keating

Kind
King (IA)
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Landry
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Latham
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lofgren, Zoe
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Mulvaney
Myrick
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Platts
Poe (TX)

Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Reed
Rehberg
Reyes
Ribble
Rigell
Rivera
Robby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)

Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell
Shinkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stearns
Stutzman
Sullivan
Thompson (CA)

Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Upton
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Wasserman
Schultz
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—10

Bachmann
Crenshaw
Giffords
Hinchey

McCotter
Schrader
Smith (WA)
Stark

Terry
Waters

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining in this vote.

□ 1349

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. AMASH

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. AMASH) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 131, noes 294, answered “present” 1, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 654]

AYES—131

Altmire
Amash
Bartlett
Benishek
Berg
Bilbray
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Bono Mack
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Campbell
Canseco
Carney
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coffman (CO)
Conaway

Costello
Denham
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Flake
Flores
Flood
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Gardner
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith (VA)
Hall

Hartzler
Hayworth
Heinrich
Hensarling
Herger
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Kelly
King (IA)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
Landry
Lankford

Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Long
Luetkemeyer
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McClintock
McHenry
Miller (FL)
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo

NOES—294

Ackerman
Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Andrews
Austria
Baca
Bachus
Baldwin
Barletta
Barrow
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonner
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson (IN)
Carter
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
DeFazio

DeGette
DeLauro
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gerlach
Gingrey (GA)
Gonzalez
Granger
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Grijalva
Grijalva
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inlee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
(TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating

Kildee
Kind
King (NY)
Kissell
Kucinich
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Loebsock
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lujan
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Oliver
Owens
Pallone
Pascarelli
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Polis
Price (NC)

Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff

Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Shinkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Sullivan
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko

Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
West
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

Johnson (IL)

NOT VOTING—6

Bachmann
Becerra

Giffords
Hinchey

McCotter
Stark

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining in this vote.

□ 1353

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DOLD

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 137, noes 291, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 655]

AYES—137

Ackerman
Altmire
Baldwin
Bass (NH)
Benishek
Biggert
Bishop (NY)
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Chabot
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Coble
Conyers
Cooper

Costello
Critz
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (IL)
Denham
Dent
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Dreier
Duffy
Engel
Farr
Garrett
Gerlach

Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gonzalez
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Hahn
Hanna
Heinrich
Higgins
Hochul
Honda
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Israel

Jackson (IL)	Moore	Schrader	Miller (FL)	Richardson	Smith (NE)	Carnahan	Israel	Platts
Johnson (GA)	Murphy (PA)	Scott (VA)	Miller (NC)	Richmond	Smith (NJ)	Carney	Issa	Polis
Johnson (IL)	Nadler	Sensenbrenner	Miller, Gary	Rigell	Smith (WA)	Carson (IN)	Jenkins	Price (GA)
Johnson (OH)	Nunes	Serrano	Miller, George	Rivera	Southerland	Chabot	Johnson (GA)	Quigley
Jones	Owens	Shimkus	Moran	Roby	Speier	Chaffetz	Johnson (IL)	Rangel
Jordan	Paulsen	Shuster	Mulvaney	Roe (TN)	Stark	Chandler	Johnson (OH)	Reed
Kaptur	Peters	Slaughter	Murphy (CT)	Rogers (AL)	Stearns	Coble	Jones	Reichert
Keating	Peterson	Smith (TX)	Myrick	Rogers (KY)	Stutzman	Cohen	Jordan	Ribble
Kelly	Petri	Stivers	Napolitano	Rohrabacher	Sullivan	Cooper	Kelly	Richardson
Kildee	Pingree (ME)	Sutton	Neal	Rokita	Terry	Costa	Kind	Rigell
Kind	Platts	Tiberi	Neugebauer	Ros-Lehtinen	Thompson (CA)	Cravaack	King (NY)	Rivera
King (NY)	Polis	Tonko	Noem	Ross (AR)	Thompson (MS)	Crawford	Kinzinger (IL)	Rogers (MI)
Kinzinger (IL)	Price (GA)	Towns	Nugent	Ross (FL)	Thompson (PA)	Critz	Kissell	Rokita
Kline	Quayle	Turner	Nunnelee	Rothman (NJ)	Thornberry	Crowley	Kline	Rooney
Kucinich	Quigley	Upton	Olson	Roybal-Allard	Tierney	Cuellar	Kucinich	Ros-Lehtinen
Lance	Rangel	Velázquez	Oliver	Royce	Tipton	DeFazio	Labrador	Roskam
Landry	Reichert	Visclosky	Palazzo	Runyan	Tsongas	Denham	Lance	Ross (AR)
LaTourette	Renacci	Walberg	Pallone	Ruppersberger	Van Hollen	Dent	Landry	Ross (FL)
Latta	Ribble	Walsh (IL)	Pascarell	Sánchez, Linda T.	Walden	DesJarlais	Larsen (WA)	Royce
Levin	Rogers (MI)	Walz (MN)	Pastor (AZ)	Sanchez, Loretta	Watt	Diaz-Balart	Latham	Ruppersberger
Lipinski	Rooney	Wasserman	Paul	Scalise	Waxman	Dold	LaTourette	Ryan (OH)
LoBiondo	Roskam	Schultz	Payne	Schiff	Webster	Donnelly (IN)	Latta	Ryan (WI)
Loeb sack	Rush	Waters	Pearce	Schmidt	West	Dreier	Lewis (CA)	Sarbanes
Manzullo	Ryan (OH)	Welch	Pelosi	Schwartz	Westmoreland	Duffy	Lipinski	Scalise
Marino	Ryan (WI)	Wilson (FL)	Pence	Schweikert	Whitfield	Duncan (TN)	LoBiondo	Schakowsky
McCarthy (CA)	Sarbanes	Wu	Perlmutter	Scott (SC)	Wilson (SC)	Engel	Loeb sack	Schilling
McCarthy (NY)	Schakowsky	Yarmuth	Pitts	Scott, Austin	Wittman	Fincher	Lowe y	Schmidt
Michaud	Schilling	Yoder	Poe (TX)	Scott, David	Wolf	Fitzpatrick	Luetkemeyer	Schock
Miller (MI)	Schock	Young (AK)	Pompeo	Sessions	Womack	Flake	Luján	Schrader
			Posey	Sewell	Woodall	Fleming	Lummis	Scott (VA)
			Price (NC)	Sherman	Wooley	Flores	Lungren, Daniel E.	Scott, Austin
			Rahall	Shuler	Young (FL)	Forbes	Mack	Scott, David
			Reed	Simpson	Young (IN)	Fortenberry	Maloney	Sensenbrenner
			Rehberg	Sires		Gallegly	Manzullo	Serrano
			Reyes			Gardner	Marchant	Shuster
						Garrett	Marino	Slaughter
						Gerlach	Matheson	Smith (NE)
						Gibbs	Matsui	Smith (NJ)
						Gibson	McCarthy (CA)	Smith (TX)
						Gingrey (GA)	McCarthy (NY)	Smith (WA)
						Gohmert	McClintock	Southerland
						Goodlatte	McColum	Stearns
						Gosar	McHenry	Stivers
						Graves (GA)	McIntyre	Stutzman
						Griffin (AR)	McKeon	Sullivan
						Griffith (VA)	McMorris	Sutton
						Grimm	Rodgers	Thompson (PA)
						Guinta	Meehan	Tiberi
						Guthrie	Mica	Tonko
						Hahn	Michaud	Tsongas
						Hanna	Miller (FL)	Turner
						Harris	Miller (MI)	Upton
						Hartzler	Miller, Gary	Velázquez
						Hastings (FL)	Moore	Walz (MN)
						Hayworth	Murphy (PA)	Webster
						Heinrich	Nadler	Welch
						Hensarling	Noem	West
						Herger	Nugent	Whitfield
						Herrera Beutler	Nunes	Wilson (SC)
						Higgins	Nunnelee	Wittman
						Hochul	Owens	Womack
						Holden	Palazzo	Woodall
						Honda	Paulsen	Wu
						Huelskamp	Pearce	Yarmuth
						Huizenga (MI)	Pence	Yoder
						Hultgren	Peterson	Young (AK)
						Hunter	Petri	Young (IN)
						Hurt	Pingree (ME)	
						Inslee		

NOES—291

Adams	Connolly (VA)	Hayworth
Aderholt	Costa	Heck
Akin	Courtney	Hensarling
Alexander	Cravaack	Herger
Amash	Crawford	Herrera Beutler
Andrews	Crenshaw	Himes
Austria	Cuellar	Hinojosa
Baca	Culberson	Hirono
Bachus	Davis (CA)	Holden
Barletta	Davis (KY)	Holt
Barrow	DeFazio	Hoyer
Bartlett	DeGette	Huelskamp
Barton (TX)	DeLauro	Hurt
Bass (CA)	DesJarlais	Inslee
Becerra	Deutch	Issa
Berg	Diaz-Balart	Jackson Lee
Berkley	Dicks	(TX)
Berman	Doyle	Jenkins
Bilbray	Duncan (SC)	Johnson, E. B.
Bilirakis	Duncan (TN)	Johnson, Sam
Bishop (GA)	Edwards	King (IA)
Bishop (UT)	Ellison	Kingston
Black	Ellmers	Kissell
Blackburn	Emerson	Labrador
Blumenauer	Eshoo	Lamborn
Bonner	Farenthold	Langevin
Bono Mack	Fattah	Lankford
Boren	Filner	Larsen (WA)
Boustany	Fincher	Larson (CT)
Brooks	Fitzpatrick	Latham
Broun (GA)	Flake	Lee (CA)
Brown (FL)	Fleischmann	Lewis (CA)
Buchanan	Fleming	Lewis (GA)
Bucshon	Flores	Lofgren, Zoe
Buerkle	Forbes	Long
Burgess	Fortenberry	Lowe y
Burton (IN)	Fox	Lucas
Butterfield	Frank (MA)	Luetkemeyer
Calvert	Franks (AZ)	Luján
Camp	Frelinghuysen	Lummis
Campbell	Fudge	Lungren, Daniel E.
Canseco	Gallegly	Lynch
Cantor	Garamendi	Mack
Capito	Gardner	Maloney
Capps	Gohmert	Marchant
Capuano	Goodlatte	Markay
Cardoza	Gosar	Matheson
Carnahan	Gowdy	Matsui
Carney	Granger	McCaul
Carson (IN)	Graves (GA)	McClintock
Carter	Graves (MO)	McColum
Cassidy	Green, Al	McDermott
Castor (FL)	Green, Gene	McGovern
Chaffetz	Grijalva	McHenry
Chandler	Guinta	McIntyre
Chu	Guthrie	McKeon
Clarke (NY)	Gutierrez	McKinley
Clay	Hall	Baldwin
Cleaver	Hanabusa	McMorris
Clyburn	Harper	Rodgers
Coffman (CO)	Harris	McNerney
Cohen	Hartzler	Meehan
Cole	Hastings (FL)	Meeks
Conaway	Hastings (WA)	Mica

NOT VOTING—4

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining in this vote.

□ 1356

Mr. CUMMINGS changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 44 OFFERED BY MR. REED

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 237, noes 189, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 656]

AYES—237

Ackerman	Berkley	Brady (TX)
Adams	Biggart	Braley (IA)
Aderholt	Bilbray	Brooks
Akin	Bishop (GA)	Buchanan
Altmire	Bishop (NY)	Bucshon
Baldwin	Bishop (UT)	Buerkle
Barrow	Bonner	Burton (IN)
Barton (TX)	Bono Mack	Calvert
Bass (NH)	Boren	Camp
Benishke	Boswell	Canseco
Berg	Brady (PA)	Cardoza

Alexander	Capuano	DeGette
Amash	Carter	DeLauro
Andrews	Cassidy	Deutch
Austria	Castor (FL)	Dicks
Baca	Chu	Dingell
Bachus	Cicilline	Doggett
Barletta	Clarke (MI)	Doyle
Bartlett	Clarke (NY)	Duncan (SC)
Bass (CA)	Clay	Edwards
Becerra	Cleaver	Ellison
Berman	Clyburn	Ellmers
Bilirakis	Coffman (CO)	Eshoo
Black	Cole	Farenthold
Blackburn	Conaway	Farr
Blumenauer	Connolly (VA)	Fattah
Boustany	Conyers	Filner
Broun (GA)	Costello	Fleischmann
Brown (FL)	Courtney	Fox
Burgess	Crenshaw	Frank (MA)
Butterfield	Culberson	Franks (AZ)
Campbell	Cummings	Frelinghuysen
Cantor	Davis (CA)	Fudge
Capito	Davis (IL)	Garamendi
Capps	Davis (KY)	Gonzalez

Gowdy	McDermott	Roybal-Allard	Bachus	Graves (MO)	Paul	Fitzpatrick	LoBiondo	Roybal-Allard
Granger	McGovern	Runyan	Barrow	Green, Gene	Paulsen	Fortenberry	Loeb sack	Ruppersberger
Graves (MO)	McKinley	Rush	Bartlett	Griffin (AR)	Pearce	Fox	Lofgren, Zoe	Rush
Green, Al	McNerney	Sánchez, Linda	Barton (TX)	Griffith (VA)	Pence	Frank (MA)	Lowey	Ryan (OH)
Green, Gene	Miller (NC)	T.	Benishak	Grimm	Petri	Frelinghuysen	Lujan	Sánchez, Linda
Grijalva	Miller, George	Sánchez, Loretta	Berg	Guinta	Pitts	Fudge	Lynch	T.
Gutierrez	Moran	Schiff	Biggett	Guthrie	Platts	Garamendi	Maloney	Sánchez, Loretta
Hall	Mulvaney	Schwartz	Bilbray	Hall	Poe (TX)	Gibson	Markey	Sarbanes
Hanabusa	Murphy (CT)	Schweikert	Bilirakis	Harper	Pompeo	Gonzalez	Matheson	Schakowsky
Harper	Myrick	Scott (SC)	Bishop (UT)	Harris	Posey	Green, Al	Matsui	Schiff
Hastings (WA)	Napolitano	Sessions	Black	Hartzler	Price (GA)	Grijalva	McCarthy (NY)	Schrader
Heck	Neal	Sewell	Blackburn	Hastings (WA)	Quayle	Gutierrez	McCollum	Schwartz
Himes	Neugebauer	Sherman	Bonner	Hayworth	Reed	Hahn	McDermott	Scott (VA)
Hinojosa	Olson	Shimkus	Bono Mack	Heck	Rehberg	Hanabusa	McGovern	Scott, David
Hirono	Oliver	Simpson	Boustany	Heck	Reichert	Hanna	McIntyre	Serrano
Holt	Pallone	Sires	Brady (TX)	Herger	Renacci	Hastings (FL)	McNerney	Sewell
Hoyer	Pascarell	Speier	Brooks	Herrera Beutler	Richmond	Heinrich	Meehan	Sherman
Jackson (IL)	Pastor (AZ)	Stark	Broun (GA)	Huelskamp	Rigell	Higgins	Meeks	Shuler
Jackson Lee	Paul	Terry	Bucshon	Huizenga (MI)	Rivera	Himes	Michaud	Simpson
(TX)	Payne	Thompson (CA)	Buerkle	Hultgren	Roby	Hinojosa	Miller (NC)	Sires
Johnson, E. B.	Pelosi	Thompson (MS)	Burgess	Hunter	Roe (TN)	Hirono	Miller, George	Slaughter
Johnson, Sam	Perlmutter	Thornberry	Burton (IN)	Hurt	Rogers (AL)	Hochul	Moore	Smith (NJ)
Kaptur	Peters	Tierney	Calvert	Issa	Rogers (MI)	Holden	Moran	Smith (WA)
Keating	Pitts	Tipton	Camp	Jenkins	Rohrabacher	Holt	Murphy (CT)	Speier
Kildee	Poe (TX)	Towns	Campbell	Johnson (IL)	Rokita	Honda	Nadler	Stark
King (IA)	Pompeo	Van Hollen	Canseco	Johnson (OH)	Rooney	Hoyer	Napolitano	Sutton
Kingston	Posey	Visclosky	Cantor	Johnson, Sam	Ros-Lehtinen	Inslee	Neal	Thompson (CA)
Lamborn	Price (NC)	Walberg	Capito	Jordan	Roskam	Israel	Noem	Thompson (MS)
Langevin	Quayle	Walden	Carter	Kelly	Roskam	Jackson (IL)	Olver	Thompson (PA)
Lankford	Rahall	Walsh (IL)	Cassidy	King (IA)	Ross (FL)	Jackson Lee	Owens	Tierney
Larson (CT)	Rehberg	Wasserman	Chabot	King (NY)	Royce	(TX)	Pallone	Tipton
Lee (CA)	Renacci	Schultz	Chaffetz	Kingston	Runyan	Johnson (GA)	Pascarell	Tonko
Levin	Reyes	Waters	Coble	Kinzing (IL)	Ryan (WI)	Johnson, E. B.	Pastor (AZ)	Towns
Lewis (GA)	Richmond	Watt	Coftman (CO)	Kline	Scalise	Jones	Payne	Tsongas
Lofgren, Zoe	Roby	Waxman	Cole	Lamborn	Schilling	Kaptur	Pelosi	Van Hollen
Long	Roe (TN)	Westmoreland	Conaway	Landry	Schmidt	Keating	Perlmutter	Velázquez
Lucas	Rogers (AL)	Wilson (FL)	Cravaack	Lankford	Schock	Kildee	Peters	Visclosky
Lynch	Rogers (KY)	Wolf	Crawford	Latham	Schweikert	Kind	Peterson	Walz (MN)
Markey	Rohrabacher	Woolsey	Culberson	LaTourette	Scott (SC)	Kissell	Pingree (ME)	Wasserman
McCaul	Rothman (NJ)	Young (FL)	Davis (KY)	Latta	Scott, Austin	Kucinich	Polis	Schultz
			Denham	Long	Sensenbrenner	Labrador	Price (NC)	Waters
			Dent	Lucas	Sessions	Lance	Quigley	Watt
			DesJarlais	Luetkemeyer	Shimkus	Langevin	Rahall	Waxman
			Diaz-Balart	Lummis	Shuster	Larsen (WA)	Rangel	Welch
			Dold	Lungren, Daniel	Smith (NE)	Larson (CT)	Reyes	Wilson (FL)
			Dreier	E.	Smith (TX)	Lee (CA)	Ribble	Wolf
			Duffy	Mack	Southerland	Levin	Richardson	Woolsey
			Duncan (SC)	Manzullo	Stearns	Lewis (CA)	Rogers (KY)	Wu
			Duncan (TN)	Marchant	Stivers	Lewis (GA)	Ross (AR)	Yarmuth
			Ellmers	Marino	Stutzman	Lipinski	Rothman (NJ)	Young (FL)
			Emerson	McCarthy (CA)	Sullivan			
			Farenthold	McCaul	Terry			
			Fincher	McClintock	Thornberry			
			Flake	McHenry	Tiberi			
			Fleischmann	McKeon	Turner			
			Fleming	McKinley	Upton			
			Flores	McMorris	Walberg			
			Forbes	Rodgers	Walden			
			Franks (AZ)	Mica	Walsh (IL)			
			Galleghy	Miller (FL)	Webster			
			Gardner	Miller (MI)	West			
			Garrett	Miller, Gary	Westmoreland			
			Gerlach	Mulvaney	Whitfield			
			Gibbs	Murphy (PA)	Wilson (SC)			
			Gingrey (GA)	Myrick	Wittman			
			Gohmert	Neugebauer	Womack			
			Goodlatte	Nugent	Woodall			
			Gosar	Nunes	Yoder			
			Gowdy	Nunnelee	Young (AK)			
			Granger	Olson	Young (IN)			
			Graves (GA)	Palazzo				

NOT VOTING—6

Bachmann	Giffords	McCotter
Emerson	Hinchee	Meeks

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining in this vote.

□ 1402

Messrs. PERLMUTTER and CLEAVER changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Messrs. RIGELL and WITTMAN changed their vote from “no” to “aye.” So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SCALISE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment, as modified, offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 215, noes 213, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 657]

AYES—215

Adams	Akin	Amash
Aderholt	Alexander	Austria

NOES—213

Ackerman	Capuano	Critz
Altmire	Cardoza	Crowley
Andrews	Carahan	Cuellar
Baca	Carney	Cummings
Baldwin	Carson (IN)	Davis (CA)
Barietta	Castor (FL)	Davis (IL)
Bass (CA)	Chandler	DeFazio
Bass (NH)	Chu	DeGette
Becerra	Cicilline	DeLauro
Berkley	Clarke (MI)	Deutch
Berman	Clarke (NY)	Dicks
Bishop (GA)	Clay	Dingell
Bishop (NY)	Cleaver	Doggett
Blumenauer	Clyburn	Donnelly (IN)
Boren	Cohen	Doyle
Boswell	Connolly (VA)	Edwards
Brady (PA)	Conyers	Ellison
Braley (IA)	Cooper	Engel
Brown (FL)	Costa	Eshoo
Buchanan	Costello	Farr
Butterfield	Courtney	Fattah
Capps	Crenshaw	Filner

NOT VOTING—4

Bachmann	Hinchee
Giffords	McCotter

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There are 30 seconds remaining.

□ 1406

Ms. BERKLEY changed her vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the amendment, as modified, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. THORNBERRY). The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

YUKON-CHARLEY NATIONAL PRESERVE

SEC. 116. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of the Interior to implement or enforce regulations concerning boating and other activities on or relating to waters located within Yukon-Charley National Preserve, including waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, pursuant to section 3(h) of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-2(h)) or any other authority. This section does not affect the authority of the Coast Guard to regulate the use of waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States within the Yukon-Charley National Preserve.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DICKS

Mr. DICKS. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 56, beginning on line 23, strike section 116.

□ 1410

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DICKS. Section 116 would prohibit the National Park Service from carrying out boat inspection or safety checks on the Yukon River within the Yukon-Charley National Preserve in Alaska. This provision was put in at the request of Mr. YOUNG from Alaska who is upset with the National Park Service law enforcement at the preserve.

Last summer, two park rangers arrested a 70-year-old following an altercation during a boat safety inspection. This case is still before the courts, but it has stirred considerable local anger, especially when it was learned that the rangers had handcuffed but later released another local resident who refused to speak to rangers when approached.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska is a long-time friend of mine, and I am very hesitant to offer this amendment to strike his provision, but I think he has already won the case. The people there, the two rangers, have been reassigned to another duty, and the Park Service does have jurisdiction. I have discussed this with Chairman YOUNG, and the Park Service always has jurisdiction within the national park.

Now, the gentleman from Alaska suggested that the Coast Guard had jurisdiction or the State had jurisdiction, but we have checked this carefully. The Park Service has jurisdiction within the national preserve to look at safety on the river. I think it is wrong to prohibit a safety inspection for people whose lives are at risk up there.

I have been to Alaska many times. These rivers can be very dangerous, and to make sure that the people who are being conveyed—this is a commercial endeavor—the people who are being moved around in these boats are safe, the people who own the boats are safe, whether it is commercial or not.

So I would like to yield to the ranking member and discuss this amendment and the importance of it.

Mr. MORAN. Well, first of all, I would like to ask my good friend: Why is this not an earmark? Why is this not an earmark for one particular national preserve?

While we are considering that, perhaps Mr. YOUNG can come up with an explanation. And I share the ranking member's great affection for Mr. YOUNG. He is a good friend. But this also creates a precedent. Any time something happens on a national preserve or park land, they could come to the Congress and say, all right, no more inspections, and we could get a proliferation of these kinds of things

specific to individual national reserves or parks.

The fact is that if the Park Service has jurisdiction, then they have responsibility. And I'll bet you anything that if we were to say there were to be no boat inspections, something's going to happen and some serious accident is going to occur, and then people are going to ask why in gosh name wasn't the Park Service there to do inspections? And it's going to go back to this, where we set a precedent of not allowing any boat inspection or safety check.

Mr. DICKS. Reclaiming my time, the thing is this has happened before. I can remember one of our colleagues putting in a provision in one of these bills. I think it was the Merchant Marine and Fisheries bill years ago, about one of the boats that was going up to Alaska to fish in these very dangerous waters. This wasn't in the river; it was in the ocean. And that boat went down, and there were many questions raised about why that Member had prohibited boat and safety inspections of that boat.

Now, I think the gentleman is completely right. This is a bad precedent. The gentleman from Alaska has already won. He has already gotten his view across with the Park Service. They have taken these rangers away. It's time to leave this. We're doing this amendment in the best interests of Mr. YOUNG. And if Mr. YOUNG would like to get up and explain this, I would like to hear his explanation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, Members of the body, with all due respect, this is about the State's rights. This bill does not preclude the State of Alaska, the Coast Guard, or any other entity from enforcement on the Yukon River. The Park Service can still move on the river. But it does not allow them to enforce inspections of boats on the river that are private. Not in business, but private.

And I have to tell you a little story about this. This is the reason I'm very adamant about it. The Park Service is for the people; it's not for the Park Service. The Park Service in Alaska has become, very frankly, I'd say, like an occupying army of a free territory. To give you an example, this man that was arrested was 70 years old with his wife, who happened to be from Germany—I'm going to bring that up a little later—and a couple. So 70 years old, 69 years old, 68 years old, on a cruise on the Yukon River in a very seaworthy boat, Coast Guard inspected. And there was another boat on the river and there was a distress signal given by the Park Service. Being a good Samaritan, they went over to help them out. As they

approached the boat, they flashed their badges and said: We're the Park Service. We're going to board your vessel and inspect you for safety and registration.

Think about this. A distress signal, and then: We're going to board your boat.

And maritime law says you will not board a boat on a moving river. You have to put it to shore.

And the guy said: Up yours; I'm going to go to shore. And that's what he did.

And he gets to shore, he gets out of the boat. The rangers have already got a shotgun on a 70-year-old man, and carrying a pistol out of the holster. And as the guy walked toward them, they started to say something. He turned around and walked back. They tackled him and rolled him in the mud, a 70-year-old man. These are two young bucks—cowboys—and handcuffed this man, this 70-year-old man, and made him sit on the shore. And they took him a great distance down the river to a village and flew him to Fairbanks—drove him to Fairbanks—handcuffed.

This is your Park Service? This is not my Park Service.

Well, it did go to trial and the judge hasn't rendered his decision yet. In the first place, the State never gave them the authority to do any inspection. In the second place, they never gave them the authority—by the way, the Coast Guard did not give them authority. And they do not have jurisdiction over that water; that's State water. In every State in this Union, it's the State's water. To have the Park Service act like that is dead wrong.

So I'm asking you not to support this amendment. This is an amendment that shouldn't be adopted because we have agencies today who are acting, very frankly, like occupiers. The lady I brought up was from Germany. And during the trial they asked her, the prosecution: Did you ever have a gun pointed at you? And she said: Yes, by the SS troops.

Now, that gives you an idea. A 70-year-old lady and have them point a shotgun. Now, that's wrong.

You say it sets a precedent; yes, it sets a precedent because it's State's waters. This amendment should not be accepted. We should leave it in the bill as it is. It's the right thing to do.

I say vote down the amendment. Think about the little people. Quit thinking about these agencies. These agencies aren't God. Think about the little people. People are abused by agencies, and you're paying for them.

And by the way, the one ranger, the one ranger, had a record longer than my arms, and they hired him to enforce the so-called park regulations.

So I'm asking you to think about this a moment. It's the wrong amendment. This is the right thing to do. It's time we start telling these agencies: Think of the people, not the parks themselves.

□ 1420

This is about parks and partners. And they're certainly not partners in Alaska. They say: We're going to educate Alaskans about Alaska. Now, this is a 70-year-old man that had been living there all his life. And to have that happen is dead wrong.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, in response to my very good friend, it appears that the conduct—it appears—the conduct of these park rangers was wrong. So they have been reassigned. And I'm sure that whoever has responsibility now in that jurisdiction has been told you don't do this.

Now, these kinds of things happen all over the country, if not all over the world, clearly. Some people in authority abuse their power. It happens with local police departments. It happens with State police. It happens with other people with a badge. And so they get disciplined. Sometimes they get taken to court. But normally we don't change national policy to deal with misconduct, if that's what it was, on the part of certain individuals. We don't change national policy. And that's what you're trying to do.

Let me put into this discussion and deliberation the fact that they had to go through national park land to get to that State water. They do. And the National Park Service runs the concessions. So the National Park Service does have responsibility for some of the vehicles on this water. They don't know if there's contraband stuff coming. They don't know what's on the vessel.

My guess is—I don't know for sure—my guess is it's very seldom that they're going to stop and board any boat. They would probably have to have some reason. I'm sure now, after this incident, they have to have very substantial reason. But it's entirely conceivable that at some point in the future they're going to have very substantial reason to stop and board a boat. And we have precluded their ability to carry out their responsibility.

So that's why we're concerned about the precedent. We're not concerned about the fact that if there was misconduct, that these folks have been reassigned. We're sure that the instructions that have been given by superiors have changed now to ensure that this incident is never repeated. But we really don't think that the solution is to change national policy, which would have repercussions for other national preserves around the country, and it might have very serious ramifications on this particular one in the future. We can't tell right now.

Mr. DICKS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MORAN. I would be happy to yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. Again, I plead with my friend from Alaska. You have made your case. You have gotten the relief for your constituents. The rangers have been reassigned. Accept victory and don't give us an amendment that would undermine boat safety inspections. That's what this amendment does.

Let me read this amendment: No other funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of the Interior to implement or enforce regulations concerning boating and other activities on or relating to waters located within Yukon Charlie National Preserve, including waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. Pursuant to section 3(h) of public law, or any other authority.

Mr. MORAN. Reclaiming my time, it's clear that's not just the waterway. That includes all of the land. The entire park on this national preserve, they can't carry out their responsibilities. We're not just talking about the water.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MORAN. I yield to the gentleman from Alaska.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. It is not their responsibility. This is the State waters.

Mr. DICKS. It's within a national park.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia has the floor. Members will yield time appropriately to each other.

The gentleman from Virginia is recognized.

Mr. MORAN. I yield to my very good friend from Alaska to try to clarify what seems to be inextricable.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Again, this is Yukon Charlie, the Yukon River that was used by the Gold Rush people, has been used by Alaskans all these years without the Park Service. The State has authority over the waters. The Coast Guard has the authority for inspection. The State has the authority for registration, not the Park Service. This is navigable water that is our water. Now, the land is there on one side. But this is our water.

I have not won because I may have won a temporary battle, but there can be another park ranger—rangers. There can be another park superintendent that does not listen to anyone. Then where are we?

Mr. MORAN. Reclaiming my time, the language is clear it applies to all waters, not just navigable waters.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. The only navigable water is the Yukon.

Mr. MORAN. It's possible if the language was more specific, we wouldn't have quite the trouble with it.

Mr. DICKS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MORAN. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. Again, relating to waters located within Yukon Charlie National Preserve, including waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman from Virginia has expired.

(On request of Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, and by unanimous consent, Mr. MORAN was allowed to proceed for 2 additional minutes.)

Mr. MORAN. I would be happy to yield to the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I appreciate my friend from Washington reading the section, but he left out the last sentence of that section.

I think this is a pertinent part and this is the point that the gentleman from Alaska is making, and it regards safety inspection.

I will quote the last sentence: "This section does not affect the authority of the Coast Guard to regulate the use of waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States within the Yukon Charlie Preserve."

I would interpret that as saying the safety part of that is taken care of. But the gentleman from Alaska certainly is right on the part that these are State waters.

I appreciate the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. MORAN. I was happy to yield.

Reclaiming my time, I would respond to the gentleman, the Coast Guard really doesn't spend much time on rivers. It's normally coastal waters. It may have responsibility, but the fact is the Coast Guard normally doesn't apply much in the way of resources.

I would like to know how large is this national preserve, because I suspect it's a very expansive national preserve that we're talking about. Do we know?

Mr. DICKS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MORAN. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. If the Park Service doesn't have jurisdiction, how does the Coast Guard have jurisdiction? That's another Federal agency. The gentleman changed his story and told me it was the State that had authority. I wonder who in the hell has authority.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Will the gentleman from Washington yield?

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Again, the Chair requests that Members use proper yielding to each other for time. The gentleman from Virginia has the floor.

Mr. MORAN. I thank the Chair.

I think a number of very good questions have been raised by the ranking member of the full committee—Appropriations Committee—and we are concerned about this precedent. We're also

concerned about the safety of people who use this national preserve. We can understand Mr. YOUNG's angst, but nevertheless we have a responsibility not to establish precedent that may come back to haunt us.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I just want to point out that the staff clearly researched the language here and applicable laws that relate to these waters. That's what we do when we put this language in here.

With that, I yield to the gentleman from Alaska.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. To answer the gentleman, the Coast Guard has all the authority for enforcement on all waters, including all rivers. In fact, sometimes the Coast Guard is too active on the river, as far as I'm concerned. I have been on that river. Like I say, I'm a tugboat captain, a licensed mariner, and my biggest challenge to this is excessive use of the Park Service.

Now, you say I won that battle. Like I said before, that doesn't keep them from trying to enforce this again over the State's objection. The State didn't give them the right to register the boats or check registrations. The Coast Guard didn't give them the right to inspect the boat.

And remember this now: Here are two guys giving a distress signal and a good citizen tried to help them and they flash a badge. This sounds like you know what to me. That's not a good thing. I get very frustrated. Leave this in the bill. Let the Park Service know they no longer can trod over the people of Alaska because they are part of the Federal Government. They are the Park Service—You better listen to us—when this man was breaking no laws. This is wrong.

Now, you say I have won the battle. Maybe I have. But it took a lot of effort to do it. But I haven't won the war. And they will come back. So I'm suggesting this stay in the bill as it is. It's very, very important.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1430

Mr. MARKEY. I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARKEY. I rise in support of the amendment.

We understand that this is a huge 2.5 million-acre park and that what we're talking about here is a 158-mile-long river in the middle of this park, so we're talking about a huge area.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MARKEY. I yield to the gentleman from Alaska.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. The river is 2,800 miles long. This is one little tiny section. This is a river that's 5 miles wide and 2,800 miles long. It's the third largest river in the United States of America that carries transportation.

Mr. MARKEY. I reclaim my time to say that the 158-mile area is a portion of the inside of the park, of the 2.5 million-acre park. So it seems to me what the gentleman is suggesting is that he believes—and I understand—that the National Park Service or that an individual officer made a mistake here, that they abused their authority, and I understand that.

When I was a boy, my favorite television show when I was 9, 10, 11 was "Sergeant Preston of the Yukon." He had his faithful horse, Rex, and his dog, Yukon King. Each week at 5 o'clock on Friday, he would come out to patrol the Yukon. He worked for the Canadian Royal Mounties. I would like to think that, if he ever made a mistake—if he ever overstepped his boundaries, if he ever improperly treated anyone he was in the process of arresting—that the punishment wouldn't be that the Mounties could never again, any of them, go into the Yukon, because that would seem to me to kind of result in a less fully implemented set of law enforcement principles in that area.

What we're learning here is that the punishment to the National Park Service for potentially something that one or two officers engaged in is that none of them can continue their policing, which the Coast Guard says they need. In fact, this is, in many ways, such a remote part of the Yukon that the Coast Guard right now relies upon the Park Service police to police these areas.

The answer which we're getting from the gentleman of Alaska—and I understand the example that he's trying to make of this one particular incident—is that you're using this as something that, I think, is illustrative—okay?—and perhaps just the highlight, but I don't think you really want the result to be a reduction in the overall enforcement of the laws inside of the park, because that's what would result here. The partnership between the Coast Guard and the Park Service on this river and all that abuts the river is something that is seamless and has worked for generations, and it is something that everyone seems to support.

Perhaps you could target this a little bit more narrowly but not punish the entire Park Service and every officer in the Park Service. It's like every person who works there is now going to suffer as a result of this amendment, and I don't think that's what you intend.

So I will support the amendment of the gentleman from Washington State. It will, I think, make it possible for us

to come back to maybe take another look at but not in a way that undermines this partnership that has existed up there for a generation, which has worked. By the way, if there is an exception in any police department, the action of that person who did something wrong should not lead to that entire police department never again being able to enforce the laws. That would be an indictment of everyone; okay?

I think, to the extent to which the Dicks amendment seeks to delete the provision which is in the bill, it doesn't mean that you can't come back and talk about something that might be more specific.

Mr. DICKS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MARKEY. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. Again, what I worry about here is we're talking about safety. We're talking about inspecting boats that may be unsafe. I think that is an important issue that we should not deal with in an across-the-board way here in this bill.

I think the gentleman from Alaska has made his point. I think he should support our amendment to strike this in order to make sure that the people of Alaska are protected. I know he cares about them.

Mr. MARKEY. Reclaiming my time, the effect of this amendment could be, because the Coast Guard relies upon the Park Service, that we wind up with an entire area without any law enforcement. Because the Coast Guard does not reach that area, the Park Service is there. If you take out the Park Service, it becomes much more of a dangerous place for everyone, and I don't think that's really what the gentleman intends.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. It has been a fascinating debate to listen to the gentleman from Massachusetts and the gentleman from Virginia tell the gentleman from Alaska how it works in Alaska. I will tell you that he knows more about Alaska than any of you ever thought of knowing. The problem is, you say you're trying to save Mr. YOUNG from himself by offering this amendment. We're trying to save the Park Service from itself and the actions that it has taken.

Now, logically, your argument says if people have problems in their own areas, then you might see other amendments come up like this and we'll be setting a precedent. Exactly. If we can't have oversight about what goes on and about what the Park Service does, why are we even here?

You heard the story, which I won't repeat, of what happened to this gentleman, Mr. Wilde, on the river. We all

agree that it's a problem. In fact, when the Park Service stops the gentleman in the middle of the river and tells him to shut down his boat, to shut down his motors—and as they testified in court, they refused to shut down theirs because it was unsafe—who is being protected? That's the point. The safety inspections of these boats will not stop. The statutory authority is given to the Coast Guard. That's who has the statutory authority, not the Park Service. That's the debate that's going on here.

This language is intended to only limit the Park Service's authority to engage in boater safety checks on the Yukon River within the Yukon Charley National Preserve, the only non-ocean navigable waterway within Alaska's national parks. It is important to note that this language will not have any effect on the ability of the Coast Guard to conduct the statutorily granted power of conducting boater safety checks. It is intended to avoid similar incidents between the Park Service and the public.

Yes, when Mr. YOUNG brought this up originally, the manager of the Park Service could have said, "You're right. There is a problem there, and I'll get rid of these people." They didn't do that. It took this to bring about the actions that have finally occurred: that they've been dismissed from that region. We're trying to prevent the Park Service from harming itself.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentleman from Alaska.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Just keep in mind that the Coast Guard has its authority. As soon as this happened, I called the Coast Guard because the Park Service said the Coast Guard had granted them that authority. The Coast Guard said, No way. That's our authority.

Secondly, they said, with registration, only the State has the right to register a boat—that's the same thing in your State—not any Federal agency.

Remember, this is the highway of Alaska. The highway of Alaska has been used for hundreds of years, and we've gotten along very well without any Park Service all these years. By the way, I don't think there was a drowning because of a boat accident on that section of the river—in history. So why all of a sudden you're wanting me to protect the Alaskan people who do not like this, I do not understand.

Very frankly, I think you're meddling. You're meddling in something that a State has a great interest in, that has said before, This is our waterway. We have a right to traverse it from Canada through Alaska, all the way down to the Bering Sea. By the way, it had an illegal boat. According to the Coast Guard, the boat they were driving was overpowered. So just leave this in the bill as it should be.

I ask all of my colleagues to think about this very carefully. Do you want an agency that does not respect the rights of individuals because they work with the government or an agency that does not respect the rights of history? I don't think you do.

So I'm asking for the amendment to be defeated, and I'm asking for my colleagues to understand this is a big issue in my State. It is very, very important, not only to me, but to my people—the people of the State of Alaska, who have been using that river for centuries. So let's just leave it in the bill.

□ 1440

So let's just leave it in the bill.

Mr. DICKS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. We have people in the law enforcement area who make mistakes, but we don't get rid of law enforcement. We don't say we're no longer going to protect people, the other people. We go through a process to see what that officer did. I think the gentleman gets the gist.

Mr. SIMPSON. Reclaiming my time, we're not getting rid of law enforcement here. The Coast Guard will still do the safety inspections which they are statutorily authorized to do. The Park Service is not statutorily authorized to do that. They say they have been given that authority from the Coast Guard. I don't think that's the case.

So we're not getting rid of anything. What we're doing is clearing up a jurisdictional problem here.

Mr. DICKS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. DICKS. I would hope we could clarify this. There seems to be a misunderstanding here. I hope that we can, if my amendment doesn't prevail, that we could try to work together to clarify this before conference.

Mr. SIMPSON. I'll guarantee there is a misunderstanding here.

I yield back the balance of my time.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair would again remind all Members that they should direct their comments to the Chair, not to others.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. There is no doubt, Mr. YOUNG, that you are the renowned expert on Alaska. So I don't rise to counter that. And in fact, I come from the other open, wild State that likes their own self-determination, and they just associated you with the State of Texas.

I remind my colleagues that there is water in Virginia, there's water in

Massachusetts, and there's water all along. But I rise to support the gentleman's amendment because frankly, the last time I talked to the very important Coast Guard, they're short on money. Frankly, I want the Coast Guard to be in the port of Houston doing their job as it relates to protecting the coastline of America from terrorists. They are involved in that. They are not, in essence, an agency that can just expand its resources.

I would just raise the question. I think the gentleman from Washington was very engaging and cooperative by saying how can we work this out.

My interpretation is, in opposing the language that's in the bill and supporting Mr. DICKS, is that we have, in essence, a legislative earmark, and that means that all of us can rise up and try to solve our problems in that way.

I would like to get back to regular order.

And I cite for all of you just another example. We've got a legislative earmark when one of our Republican colleagues has decided to shut down the FAA. That's an example.

And lost in the doing of that is \$2.5 billion in construction projects, 87,000 American construction jobs, 3,000 FAA aviation engineers furloughed, safety analysts, career professionals in 35 States and in my own city of Houston. I want to get on the floor and put an amendment on the floor to get that Member out of the business of stopping the FAA from doing its work—\$200 million per week is being lost.

Nobody is saying anything because we're also not doing regular order by fooling around with the debt ceiling. Nobody can come together and act like adults and say, Let's just raise the debt ceiling so the American people can go on with their business.

Now we've got a Member that says "my way or the highway" and shutting down the FAA. You can't run the government like this.

And I think the message of the amendment that is on the floor is not that we don't respect Members' personal knowledge of their States, it's just that we can't go willy nilly and change laws just for isolated incidences.

And I apologize to Mr. Wild, but you can see I'm pretty agitated about a situation where we're quietly allowing the FAA not to work. And as a member of the Homeland Security Committee, who knows what danger is around because the FAA is not functioning? Who knows what jeopardy we're putting for seniors and students and families and people trying to buy a home because we're fooling around with the debt ceiling?

So I just think we're in a pattern here. Do what you want to do and forget the heck of the American people and forget that we live in a big country

and that we should be for all of the people. And if we need safety on our waterways, we need to find a way to work through our issues. I don't like the way individuals were handled. I agree on that issue.

But I certainly don't like the way we're handling our business with the debt ceiling when we are literally putting ourselves under jeopardy. And I encourage the President to do anything he needs to do to save the American people and to be able to move forward so that we don't lose all of our resources and opportunities for the Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security recipients of America. And I hope he stands up and recognizes this is a ridiculous position to be in when the FAA is not even functioning.

And my Bush Intercontinental Airport can't even continue doing its construction work, and the people who need the work are thrown out on the streets because they can't work because one lone Member wants to get up and talk about the FAA and foolishness about not protecting small airports and not allowing our airport employees or our employees such as air traffic controllers and others to be able to confer about the quality of work issues.

So I would just suggest that you might be able to find a solution, Mr. YOUNG. I know you know all of the issues about that. We have a lot of water from where I come from. I think Mr. DICKS has put forth a perfect question and then an answer to the idea of whether or not your amendment or language would have a far-reaching impact beyond Mr. Wild and the unfortunate behavior of two individuals that I understand may not be here.

Let's look at this holistically, as we need to look at this Nation. Let's come together as adults representing the American people.

I thank the gentleman for the time. I ask support for Mr. DICKS' amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Members are again reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to others.

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington will be postponed.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong opposition to the un-

derlying bill H.R. 2584, a bill which irresponsibly slashes funding for many of our Nation's most important environmental and infrastructure programs. If it's passed, the overall legislation would cause grave harm to the health and safety of our communities and in addition removes protections for our wildlife and environment.

I'll take a few issues at hand.

Clean water infrastructure. Ensuring our families have clean water is under attack in this bill. It cuts 55 percent, almost \$1 billion, from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. This program enables the States to invest in much-needed repairs and improvements to aging water infrastructure.

Mr. Chairman, an estimated 25 percent of all treated water in the United States of America is lost due to leakage from water systems that are in disrepair—25 percent of the water that's already been treated. What a waste of money in supposedly an austere Congress.

We're facing a \$500 billion funding gap to bring aging water and wastewater infrastructure back to par. Our pipes are literally crumbling beneath our feet, out of sight, out of mind until the next major water main break disrupts our lives and our towns.

This investment in water infrastructure has the potential to generate thousands and thousands of American jobs since every \$1 billion in infrastructure investment supports 28,500 jobs.

Second issue: air quality. The bill that's before us takes us further backwards to an era where polluters poisoned our atmosphere at will by preventing the EPA from implementing two important air quality rules—the power plant air toxics rule and the transport rule, irresponsibly putting the health of our communities at risk. We're going backward instead of forward.

□ 1450

Air pollution disproportionately impacts the urban areas in my district, such as Paterson, New Jersey, where we see much higher incidences of asthma and other respiratory ailments due to the concentrations of harmful pollutants. It is terrible. Go to our hospitals. It is out of control not just in Paterson, New Jersey, but across the United States. These pollutants can become lodged in the tissues of the lungs and interfere with the respiratory system. This needs to be controlled.

And the National Park Service itself, referred to in the last debate, this proposed legislation would cripple the operation of the National Park Service. This service takes care of our parks. We fought for this, all of us, Democrats, Republicans in whatever State it was in this Union. They want to slash this by \$409 million from the President's request. Our national parks are visited by 275 million people each year.

They come from all over the world to appreciate our country's natural and historic wonders. In my district, the Park Service is hard at work on the Great Falls National Historic Park right in my home city of Paterson, the only historic park in the entire Nation that has aesthetic value as well as historical importance, as it was the first industrial city of the United States.

The investment we make in our parks pays for itself many times over in economic development in the surrounding areas and the enjoyment and education they provide to Americans of all ages. We must ensure that the Park Service has the resources they require to ensure that parks all over the country are properly operating.

How about the arts and humanities in this legislation? Besides the huge cited cuts to our health, infrastructure, and environment, the bill before us drastically cuts funding to the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. As a former teacher, as a member of the Congressional Arts Caucus, as many of us are, I have seen firsthand the positive impact that arts and humanities education has on the success of our students. In my district, as a result of the economic crisis, many schools have been forced to cut back on arts programs and to lay off arts teachers. They're the first to go.

In conclusion, I would say, Mr. Chairman, that this legislation leaves a lot to be desired. We are seeing our colleagues on the other side of the aisle attempting to legislate through the appropriations process, selectively imposing deep cuts to programs which their special interest constituencies don't approve of. The draconian cuts in this bill are truly unacceptable, and I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY

SEC. 117. (a) DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.—During fiscal year 2012 and thereafter, the Secretary of the Interior may appoint, without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, other than sections 3303 and 3328 of such title, a qualified candidate described in subsection (b) directly to a position with a land managing agency of the Department of the Interior for which the candidate meets Office of Personnel Management qualification standards.

(b) QUALIFIED CANDIDATES DESCRIBED.—Subsection (a) applies with respect to a former resource assistant (as defined in section 203 of the Public Land Corps Act (16 U.S.C. 1722)) who—

(1) completed a rigorous undergraduate or graduate summer internship with a land managing agency, such as the National Park Service Business Plan Internship;

(2) successfully fulfilled the requirements of the internship program; and

(3) subsequently earned an undergraduate or graduate degree from an accredited institution of higher education.

(c) DURATION.—The direct hire authority under this section may not be exercised with respect to a specific qualified candidate after the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date on which the candidate completed the undergraduate or graduate degree, as the case may be.

REVIEW PROCESS FOR CERTAIN BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

SEC. 118. (a) EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW REQUIRED.—Hereafter, a person may bring a civil action challenging a proposed action of the Bureau of Land Management concerning grazing on public lands (as defined in section 103(e) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702(e))) or an amendment to a land use plan proposed under section 202 of such Act (43 U.S.C. 1712) in a Federal district court only if the person has challenged the action or amendment at the agency level and exhausted the administrative hearings and appeals procedures established by the Department of the Interior.

(b) ISSUE LIMITATION.—An issue may be considered in the judicial review of an action or amendment referred to in subsection (a) only if the issue was raised in the administrative review process described in such subsection.

(c) EXCEPTION.—An exception to the requirement of exhausting the administrative review process before seeking judicial review shall be available if a Federal court finds that the agency failed or was unable to make information timely available during the administrative review process for issues of material fact. For the purposes of this subsection, “timely” means within 120 calendar days from the date that the challenge to the agency action or amendment at issue is received for administrative review.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DICKS

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 58, beginning on line 13, strike section 118.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DICKS. I rise in support of my amendment. This would strike section 118, which amends administrative appeals procedures for grazing decisions on public lands to require parties to exhaust all administrative appeals before they may file suit in Federal court.

This is a back-door attempt to curtail the use of court injunctions to stop grazing decisions made by the BLM. Without the ability to seek injunctive relief, opponents of a grazing decision are handicapped because irreparable damage to a resource may occur while the administrative appeals process is being exhausted.

I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN), the ranking member, to further discuss this amendment.

Mr. MORAN. I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding.

We hear from a number of people and organizations around the country who are concerned about this because without the ability to seek injunctive relief from the courts, opponents of a grazing

decision are very much handicapped. Meanwhile irreparable damage to a resource may occur while the administrative appeals process is being exhausted. So that's our concern. I know that's the concern of the ranking member of the full committee.

But let me share another concern that I think underlies this whole issue of grazing. Currently—I know the ranking member's aware of this—the Federal Government charges \$1.35 per month, per cow to graze on federally owned lands. In the meantime, States like Idaho charge four times that, \$5.12; Montana, \$6.12. Nebraska can charge up to \$41 per acre to graze on State-owned land. Texas—I know the gentleman is aware of this—Texas will charge \$65 to \$150 per acre per cow. But the Federal Government charges \$1.35.

Now that's the kind of Federal subsidy that we really think we ought to go after. When we're cutting deeply into the bone programs for people who are destitute, programs that are absolutely necessary to protect our environment or needed infrastructure in this country, we're giving this kind of a subsidy, \$1.35 to graze on Federal land versus as much as \$65 to \$150 that the great State of Texas charges to graze on State land. And then private land is oftentimes even more expensive. So that's the kind of subsidy that I don't think passes the test of fairness, if the taxpayer was really aware of the kind of subsidy they're providing some grazers on their federally owned land. It ought to be rectified. But this particular issue simply rubs salt into that wound.

Mr. DICKS. Again, I ask for support for my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. I appreciate the gentleman from Virginia's concern about the cost or the subsidies or whatever he wants to call it, but it has absolutely nothing to do with this amendment. It's a whole different issue. Should the Resources Committee be looking at the prices charged for cattle grazing, or mining, other things? Sure, they should be. It's not the purpose of this bill. It's not the purpose of this amendment.

All this amendment says is that in the past, BLM regulations have required that litigants exhaust the administrative review before litigating in Federal court. That means they have to go through the review process that's been set up administratively before they can go to court.

Recently, numerous lawsuits over grazing have been filed in Federal courts before the administrative review process had been completed. That means they haven't gone through to find out whether they would win or

lose on the administrative side. This ties up the BLM field offices because they must respond to both an administrative process on one side and a litigation process on the other side. This provision simply requires litigants to first exhaust the administrative review before litigating grazing issues in Federal court. Litigants could still file for temporary restraining orders, contrary to what you said. They have to show irreparable harm, and they can still file for temporary restraining orders. Nothing in this provision prevents that.

I would hope—and I know the ranking member of the full committee, Mr. DICKS, because we've talked about this before—if we could spend more money actually managing the lands rather than in court, we would all be better off. All this says is, follow the administrative procedures, and exhaust them before you go to court. You still have that option after those administrative procedures have been exhausted. As I said, you can still get a restraining order if there's irreparable harm. This, I think, will cut down on the lawsuits, and I think this is a good provision in the bill.

And I would hope that the gentlemen from Washington and Virginia would recognize how well the underlying bill is written and would withdraw the amendment.

Mr. DICKS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. I am told that the ability to offer a temporary restraining order is very narrowly drafted. So irreparable harm, that wouldn't do it.

□ 1500

Mr. MORAN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. MORAN. It's only if a Federal court finds that the agency failed, or was unable to make information timely available during the administrative review, according to this language. So it's probably an unreal situation.

Mr. SIMPSON. Reclaiming my time, that's the standard that exists now, as I understand it. We're not changing that.

Mr. MORAN. Will the gentleman again yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. MORAN. I would like to make two points. One is that this is clearly authorizing language on an appropriations bill. If we're going to change the law, then it ought to be done by the authorizing committee.

But, secondly, I know the gentleman is aware, you can only get an injunction from a Federal judge if you can prove that you are likely to win your case, or if there is imminent harm. So I don't know why the gentleman is so

concerned about the existing legal situation.

Mr. SIMPSON. Reclaiming my time, to answer your question, the reason I'm concerned is the extraordinary amount of money that we are spending in court instead of on managing public lands. That's the real issue here. And we have a process set up where, if you have problems, you can go through an administrative process. Go through it. At the end if you don't like the outcome, go to court. That's all we're saying.

And is this legislating on an appropriation bill? Well, I guess funding unauthorized programs is legislating on an appropriations bill also, which we've done in several provisions in this bill which you support. I hope my colleagues will vote against this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time. The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS).

The amendment was rejected.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

GRAY WOLVES

SEC. 119. Hereafter, any final rule published by the Department of the Interior that provides that the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) in the State of Wyoming or in any of the States within the range of the Western Great Lakes Distinct Population Segment of the gray wolf (as defined in the rule published on May 5, 2011 (76 Fed. Reg. 26086 et seq.)) is not an endangered species or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), including any rule to remove such species in such a State from the list of endangered species or threatened species published under that Act, shall not be subject to judicial review if such State has entered into an agreement with the Secretary of the Interior that authorizes the State to manage gray wolves in that State.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DICKS

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 59, beginning on line 16, strike section 119.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DICKS. Section 119 exempts from judicial review any final rule of the Secretary of the Interior that delists wolves in Wyoming or the Western Great Lakes States, provided the Fish and Wildlife Service has entered into an agreement with the State for it to manage the wolves.

The irony here is that the majority does not trust any action of Secretary Salazar except if it involves the delisting of wolves. The rider undercuts the public's right to petition a Federal court to review an agency's decision and blocks the court's ability to carry

out its customer authority to review executive branch decisions.

Now, I have been a strong proponent of the re-introduction of the gray wolf into Yellowstone and in other areas. This has been one of the most successful operations in restoring a species that had been nearly wiped out in our country. And today we're seeing all of the benefits of this. So I don't think we should undercut the people's right to go to court if they don't think the agency has done this according to the law. And I have great respect for Secretary Salazar, and I'm sure he would agree with me that there should not be a prohibition on judicial review.

And I'd like to yield to the distinguished ranking member for any comments he would have on this.

Mr. MORAN. My only observation is it's ironic that the majority doesn't seem to trust anything that Secretary Salazar does, except if it involves the delisting of wolves. This rider does undercut the public's right to petition a Federal court to review an agency's decision. So, we're establishing a precedent here with regard to wolves. It blocks the court's ability to carry out its customary authority to review executive branch decisions.

That's the way the system's supposed to work. The executive branch makes a determination and, in our system, if there are individuals or organizations that don't agree, they have recourse to the judicial system. This says, no, we're going to suspend that part of the Constitution. No, you don't, you can't go to the courts. The executive branch is inviolate here. They make a decision, that's it. Permanent.

We like Secretary Salazar, and we support Secretary Salazar far more consistently than the majority does, if the majority supports him on anything. But we don't really see why we need to suspend the constitutional process in this particular specific unique circumstance.

So I would support the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. DICKS. Again, I ask for support for my amendment. I think it corrects a flaw in this bill. And believe me, there are a lot of flaws.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose my friend's amendment. I hope this isn't a pattern long term, but on this particular bill it seems to be a pattern at any rate.

His amendment would strike the important language in H.R. 2584 that addresses the administration's confusing policies involving Endangered Species Act-listed populations of gray wolves nationwide.

As I mentioned on the House floor during a colloquy with Chairman SIMP-

SON on Monday, the Obama administration has created a confusing and impractical result with its recent announcement to delist the gray wolves in some States, but leave other States, such as Washington, Oregon and Utah with mixed management. H.R. 2584, as written, and as clarified in my colloquy with the chairman, would help remedy this flawed policy.

Problems with the Federal management of gray wolves are nearly as old as the Endangered Species Act itself. Five years after ESA's passage in 1978, the gray wolf was listed as endangered or threatened in all of the lower 48 States. In the mid-1990s, the Clinton administration ordered an experimental introduction of wolves into the Yellowstone area, central Idaho, and the Mexican wolf into Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. It also established a new definition to identify the population of listed species. As a result, wolves multiplied. But, unfortunately, because they can't read maps, they moved into areas where they weren't supposed to go.

In 2003, the Fish and Wildlife Service divided gray wolves into geographical boundaries that made more sense. It included the entire States of Washington, Oregon, Utah and other areas so that States would eventually be able to develop their own State management plans to remove wolves from the endangered species list.

Then, in 2009, the Obama administration reversed course and adopted the theory that wolves should be delisted in Idaho, Montana, and only parts of certain other States, but would leave other areas where wolves likely populate still. This is under ESA.

As a result, in my own Fourth Congressional District in central Washington, and I'll put up a map here, the wolves are delisted on the eastern side of Highways 97, 17, and 395. Highway 97, Highway 17, and 395.

Delisted over here, listed over here. This makes absolutely no sense, and it shows how the ESA is badly in need of updating and how ineffective the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is in managing wolves. And I might add, this is true in Oregon, in parts of Oregon and parts of Utah.

So I oppose this amendment because the colloquy that I had with the chairman is one that sets the stage for properly managing these wolves in the States that I associate with.

I just might add on a personal level, I live very, very close to here. But I live in the listed area.

Now, we do fish marking. I know my friend is very well aware of fish marking, and I'm not opposing the authorizing on this bill, as the gentleman knows—this year, anyway. But there is no listing here for the gray wolf. Now, I have no idea if a wolf crosses down here into my area, if it is, in fact, a listed or a delisted wolf.

□ 1510

But apparently Fish and Wildlife think that they know where Highway 97 ends, where 17 comes down here and connects with Highway 395, because that's what their arbitrary rule says. It doesn't make any sense at all.

And so as a result of this, the colloquy I had with Chairman SIMPSON clarified this, that it includes the whole areas that are within that geographic boundary. And for that reason, I oppose my friend's amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Wyoming is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LUMMIS. I also rise in opposition to the amendment by the gentleman from the State of Washington.

The best way to manage wolves is to let State experts do the job. Now, that's true whether you want to increase the number of wolves in your State, like the gentleman from the State of Washington wants to do, or you want to maintain a recovered population, which is what we want to do in my State of Wyoming.

Now, the truth about current wolf management is that if Washington wants to try to increase the wolf population in western Washington, they cannot do it under the current rules. And in my State of Wyoming, when asked at our committee meeting whether the wolf was fully recovered in the State of Wyoming, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service testified that, yes, the gray wolf is fully recovered in the State of Wyoming, has been for a long time.

Mr. DICKS. Will the gentlelady yield?

Mrs. LUMMIS. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. I appreciate that very much.

I think the problem is that the State of Wyoming, unlike Idaho and Montana, has not come up with a plan where the State would protect the wolf if it were delisted.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Reclaiming my time, I'm coming to that.

The State of Wyoming has a wolf management plan that was approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as adequate. And then subsequently, through litigation upon litigation upon litigation, the courts changed their mind, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service changed its mind, the court changed its mind again, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service changed its mind again. So this is a process that is driven by litigation, not by science, because the science and the numbers both say that the gray wolf is recovered in Wyoming.

Wyoming has a wolf management plan on the books. However, what we are saying here with this amendment is

that the State of Wyoming, through its Governor, will negotiate changes to that management plan which, when agreed to with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and submitted to the Wyoming Legislature, will not then be subject to additional whipsaw litigation—that will be the end of it—returning management of wolves to the State experts that should be doing this job.

Wolf management is frozen, and it need not be. By trying to strip this language, the gentleman from the State of Washington emboldens the people who don't want Washington State—or Oregon or Wisconsin or Michigan or Wyoming or any other State—to make its own decisions using its own wildlife biologists. I believe that State wildlife experts, not D.C. cube dwellers, have the expertise and the knowledge and the passion to manage the wolf anywhere they roam.

It is the intent of this legislation as currently written to make sure that the people who have the science, the background, the knowledge to make sure that the wolf, which has admittedly been recovered—admittedly by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recovered—to be managed in a way that ensures that ongoing recovered status and ensures it at the very level where you're able to do it, where the boots are on the ground of the wildlife biologists and the paws are on the ground of the wolf that is already recovered but that needs to be maintained pursuant to a wolf management plan.

Let's trust our States, their wildlife biologists. Let's trust my Wyoming Game and Fish Department that has been recognized as one of the best wildlife management agencies in the country.

I'm stunned that people in Washington really believe that they can do it better and make decisions for wolves they've never seen, in places they've never been, and don't trust wildlife biologists they've never met. It is much better if the people on the ground are where the wildlife are on the ground, where the interaction is on the ground, where the conditions are understood, where the geography is known, where the life expectancy, where the birthrates, where the survivability of the species can be witnessed and determined.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. I'll be brief, Mr. Chairman, or as brief as I can.

I appreciate this discussion on wolves because it is something that is near and dear to the people of Idaho.

I was the speaker of the house in Idaho when the gentleman from Washington supported wolf reintroduction in Yellowstone and Idaho and Montana

and Wyoming—something that Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana frankly didn't want but, nevertheless, the Fish and Wildlife Service said that's what we're going to do and that's what they did. Since that time, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming have been doing the right thing in restoring these wolf populations.

In Idaho and Montana, they came up with a wolf management plan that was approved by the Fish and Wildlife Service—it was approved—but then it was taken to court because it didn't include Wyoming. And a judge said—not based on science. We're trying to get back to science. But a judge said, You can't just delist in Idaho and Montana; you have to include Wyoming, and Wyoming didn't have a State management plan approved then. Since that time, I understand that the Fish and Wildlife Service and Wyoming have come up with a plan in principle—and they're still working out the details, but I believe that they will have a plan by the end of this year—to delist in Wyoming.

All we're saying is that when they're delisted by Fish and Wildlife Service, they have an approved plan, then it is not subject to judicial review. Because, frankly, there are people who don't think we ought to have any wolf management plan that would include, guess what? Hunting wolves. I know the gentleman from Washington is astounded by that. Our Governor has indicated that he likes to hunt wolves. The problem is wolves have no natural predator out there except hunger. When they've done away with the food supply, some wolves die; otherwise, they just continue to grow in population.

Anybody that thought we were going to reintroduce wolves into the Rocky Mountains and there wasn't going to be some type of control—a hunt or whatever—were living on a different planet. But those same people now that wanted the wolves reintroduced, that oppose any type of wolf management, go to court to try to stop the delisting.

The gentleman from Washington has explained the problem that exists when you have mixed management of wolves that get confused. They don't know which side of the line they live on, whether they're protected or whether they're not protected, whether they can go out and eat your puppy dog or not. So they're confused wolves. We're trying to clear that up for them.

And in the Great Lakes, the Great Lakes have had a population that is greater than in the Rocky Mountains and have been deserving of delisting for a number of years but have just not gotten it done.

And contrary to what the gentleman from Virginia said, I actually think the Secretary of the Interior is doing a good job. There are many things I agree with him on. Many of my westerners would disagree with that. I happen to think he's doing a good job as

Secretary of the Interior. I don't agree with everything he does, but you know what? When I call him up and say we've got some real problems with this, he listens—he might not agree after he listens, but he listens to us. That's all I ask from a gentleman in that position.

So don't believe that we are critical of the Secretary. We do have some differences of opinion, and I realize that he works in an administration that makes it difficult for him sometimes. He's from Colorado. He knows western issues. But I have enjoyed working with him.

And I trust the Fish and Wildlife Service and the science that they provide to delist wolves better than I do adjudge. That's why this language is here. Wolves will still be protected in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Washington, Oregon, Utah, where they have expanded to, and in the Great Lakes.

□ 1520

Mr. DICKS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. As I recall, the fact was that Montana and Idaho had plans that would protect the wolves if they were delisted, and then at some point they would take further action if necessary to protect the wolves if too many of them were killed.

The problem with Wyoming was Wyoming's plan didn't have credibility. Now I understand that it does. But what the judge was saying is that you have to protect the wolf throughout the area, which included Wyoming. That's why they couldn't delist it without dealing with Wyoming, and Wyoming wasn't ready. So, I hope that Wyoming will come up with a credible plan at the State level to keep the wolf going.

Mr. SIMPSON. Reclaiming my time, the gentleman is right. If wolf populations get below acceptable levels, then they go back on the endangered list. Guess what. Wyoming and Montana and Idaho are not going to let that happen.

I think this is a good way to go for proceeding with the Endangered Species Act and making sure it does what it's intended to do.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman from Idaho has expired.

(On request of Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, and by unanimous consent, Mr. SIMPSON was allowed to proceed for 2 additional minutes.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I asked the gentleman to yield because this is precisely the point that this debate and discussion on the Endangered Species Act is having.

If you recall in the CR, the Endangered Species Act was amended to allow Idaho and Montana to delist, because the way ESA was written, unless the whole identified population could have been managed, nobody could manage, and that was the flaw. And that's what we have been saying—as we had last night and we will probably have later discussions on this—why ESA needs to be looked at in a comprehensive way, because it was clearly a flaw. It was clearly a flaw. I'm glad that the CR amended the Endangered Species Act to take care of this provision.

The colloquy that we had regarding Washington, Oregon, and Utah was simply to recognize these larger populations but recognize States are moving in a direction of managing their populations.

Mr. SIMPSON. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

I would just say to the gentleman from Washington that was supportive of the reintroduction of wolves in Idaho and Montana and Wyoming that put us in this situation, several wolves—

Mr. DICKS. I want to say to the chairman, if you would yield, I also tried to reintroduce the wolf in western Washington, but the chairman of the Interior Committee in the other body disagreed with me.

Mr. SIMPSON. Reclaiming my time, western Washington.

I just want you to know that there have been several wolves that have come to my house, and they presented me with a petition that they would like to visit the Cascades.

Mr. DICKS. We'd like to have them.

Mr. SIMPSON. You're welcome.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Will the gentleman yield real quickly?

Mr. SIMPSON. I would be happy to yield.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. As a matter of fact, the gray wolves are showing up in the Cascades now, the eastern side of the Cascades. So you'll get them.

Mr. DICKS. The Olympics too.

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

TRAILING LIVESTOCK OVER PUBLIC LAND

SEC. 120. During fiscal years 2012 through 2014, the trailing of livestock across public land (as defined by section 103 of the Federal

Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)) and the implementation of trailing practices by the Bureau of Land Management shall not be subject to review under section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DICKS

Mr. DICKS. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 60, beginning on line 6, strike section 120.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DICKS. Section 120 provides that for 2012 through 2014, the movement of livestock across public land shall not be subject to NEPA review.

Proponents of this provision will argue that moving cattle from one location to another shouldn't require a NEPA review. However, this movement of cattle can be across wide swaths of public lands and take weeks, not just days. The impact on water, plants and other wildlife species, including big-horn sheep, can be significant.

I would like to yield to the ranking member to further discuss this amendment.

Mr. MORAN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Some on the other side may be thinking, well, what's a guy from a heavily residential suburban area in the Washington area and with no cattle in his district know? So I would have thought this would have been a perfectly fine amendment: What do you need to have restrictions for livestock moving from one place to another?

But upon further investigation, what is not immediately apparent becomes very important. As the gentleman has said, we're talking about very wide swaths of land that are covered by these livestock movements, and they don't just take a few hours or a few days to cross. Sometimes they can take weeks. When you've got very large herds of cattle, you can cause quite a bit destruction to the soil, to the brush, to waterways, to any number of environmental resources in the process of major transfers from one area to another of very large herds of cattle. There can be very substantial environmental destruction. That's why those who are involved in this feel there ought to be a NEPA review. The National Environmental Policy Act will review it, it will tell us what the ramifications will be, what are the consequences, and then based upon that information it empowers those who have land or interests that would be adversely affected by large movements of cattle from one place to another. That's why the NEPA review has an appropriate place and role to play in this, and that's why I think the gentleman's

amendment makes a lot of sense and I would support it.

Mr. DICKS. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Referring my remarks to the Chairman, I've got to get the gentleman from Virginia on a horse out with some cattle.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment. "Trailing" is the process of moving a livestock herd from one grazing area to another. It generally doesn't take weeks. It certainly doesn't take weeks in the same location. You're moving from one location to another. Trailing has no significant impact on the environment, so while in the past it has been generally considered part of the process of grazing on public lands, the BLM has rarely conducted environmental assessments on or issued permits for trailing itself, focusing instead on the impacts of grazing.

Recently—and this is the problem and this is why this amendment is before us—environmental activists that want to get cattle off of public lands, and they have a right to try to do this—I disagree with them—have focused their attention on trailing as a way to shut down grazing on public lands.

Congress, not the courts, has the authority to determine public land policies, and today responsible grazing is an important and legitimate use of public lands. Unfortunately, because activists have tied local BLM offices up in knots with litigation, judges are now determining how public lands can be used in the West.

This provision—and this is the important part—attempts to get ahead of this issue by exempting trailing from NEPA requirements for 2011 through 2014. The Forest Service on their grazing permits require permits on trailing. The Forest Service does. The BLM has not in the past. But, instead, these litigations are tying this up in knots. The BLM is going through a process to include trailing when they issue their grazing permits, so that the NEPA process on trailing will be included. The problem is between now and when they get that completed, we're going to be in court spending all our money in court rather than getting this process moving forward.

We're not opposed to requiring NEPA process on trailing permits just like the Forest Service does, but what this does is exempt this through 2014 while BLM, for lack of a better term, gets their act together. That's all this does.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1530

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Wyoming is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LUMMIS. I rise to oppose the amendment as well, Mr. Chairman.

There is a gentleman who is a wild-life biologist by the name of Allan Savory, and Allan Savory studied the way that the buffalo grazed on the sweeping landscapes of the American West. Buffalo grazed in a manner that cut wide swaths. Concentrated numbers of buffalo would move through and graze literally everything down to the nubs, both the weeds, the buffalo grass, and all of the very nutritious hard grasses and the grasses of the Sandhills of Nebraska, very different, very nutritious grasses that we call hard grasses. Some short hard grass, and others the tall grass. But they'd take everything out. They would at the same time, through their split hooves knead the soil in a way that allowed those lands to regrow more healthy, stronger, more filled in than they were prior to this intensive short-term grazing. That's how buffalo grazed the plains of the United States before people were here.

So Allan Savory took those same practices to Rhodesia and studied the manner in which grazing occurred there, and created something called the Savory system. The Savory grazing system is now used in a number of places throughout the West, and it actually emulates the way that buffalo grazed. And that is what happens when you trail cattle and sheep across public lands in a manner which keeps them concentrated for very short periods of time where they do very intensive grazing for very short periods of time, and then get off that land quickly so grass can regenerate so you don't have the type of runoff that happens when you have some charismatic megafauna overgrazing repeatedly day after day after day in the same place.

That's why these grazing practices are appropriate, these trailing practices are appropriate, and actually create a healthier grazing situation that carries a long-term, studier, stronger, healthier grass resource to be used by wildlife and domestic animals.

That is why on a scientific basis there is great rationale for relieving people who trail livestock across public lands from the onerous, expensive obligations of the NEPA process. I appeal to the desire to use sound science in the manner in which we approach these issues and not the type of emotional arguments that are raised by people who are just philosophically opposed to grazing.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS).

The amendment was rejected.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

BOEMRE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

SEC. 121. The Secretary of the Interior shall—

(1) log and track the specific reasons for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement returning to an applicant, without approval, any exploration plan, development and production plan, development operations coordination document, or application for permit to drill submitted with respect to any oil and gas lease for the Outer Continental Shelf; and

(2) provide quarterly reports to the Committee on Appropriations and Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Appropriations and Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate that include—

(A) the date of original submission of each document referred to in paragraph (1) received by the Bureau in the period covered by a report;

(B) for each such document—

(i) the date the document was returned to the applicant;

(ii) the date the document is treated by the Bureau as submitted; and

(iii) the date of final agency action the document.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DICKS

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 60, beginning on line 15, strike section 121.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DICKS. Section 121 requires the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement to keep detailed records and provide quarterly reports on any oil and gas permit or plan that was not approved by the agency. They don't ask for the ones that were approved, just the ones that were not approved.

This is the majority's attempt to try to speed up the approval of oil and gas permits and plans, and I have no objection to that. Here we are 16 months after Deepwater Horizon, and the Congress hasn't enacted a single significant safety reform. Despite the serious safety and environmental shortcomings found as a result of the Deepwater Horizon tragedy, the majority wants BOEMRE to return to the good old days of lax reviews and quick approval of oil and gas permits and plans.

I think this provision should be stricken.

I yield to the ranking member for his comments on this provision.

Mr. MORAN. I thank the gentleman. Not surprisingly, I fully agree with the gentleman that this language again is inappropriate in here. It's punitive. It requires excessive record-keeping, and ironically, because normally we are getting complaints there is too much record-keeping. Well, now what we do is we're requiring in this bill even more detailed records that are not now required. It is going to expand the bureaucracy. They have to provide quarterly reports on any oil and gas permit

or plan that wasn't approved by the agency.

So in other words, the intention is to discourage the agency from not approving anything even if they feel that the oil and gas drilling operation might not be a safe one, that they don't have the requisite rules in place to prevent a Deepwater Horizon tragedy.

It says for each such document that the bureau receives, they have to provide the date the document was returned to the applicant, the date the document is treated by the bureau, and the date of final agency action, and on and on. More and more records that are not necessary.

We know what the intent of this is. It's to tell BOEMRE, the new Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Regulation and Enforcement, it's in your interest to just speed these along. Don't hold up any of these permits because if you do, you're going to have this very burdensome requirement on you. Here it's 16 months after Deepwater Horizon, and the Congress hasn't enacted a single significant safety reform. And the majority wants us to return to the good old days of very lax reviews, quick approvals of every oil and gas permit and plan. And if you don't, we're going to impose this very burdensome requirement on BOEMRE. That's just not in the interest of safety. It works against our resolve not to let a Deepwater Horizon tragedy occur again.

I'm using this acronym BOEMRE. For those who don't know what it means, it's the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement. It's the new agency that was set up to prevent any future Deepwater Horizon tragedies. So here we're seeing language that is intended to mitigate against BOEMRE being able to do its job. I strongly support the intention of the ranking member of the full committee in striking this burdensome language.

Mr. LATOURETTE. I move to strike the last word in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Chairman, you know, if a little green man from outer space came and landed and watched this debate, he'd be puzzled. If the gentlemen on the other side were so concerned about the Culberson amendment, I'm puzzled why they didn't request a recorded vote in the committee. This was adopted in the committee, full committee markup, by a voice vote.

But beyond that, nobody wants another Deepwater Horizon. But this language that the gentlemen are objecting to says that this new agency will report quarterly to Congress on the status of permitting and why permits were rejected. Now why would the gentleman not want to have transparency and oversight over an agency to which we appropriate dollars?

Now this wouldn't puzzle me if we just hadn't come off of 4 years of a majority that was preaching to us about transparency and oversight and openness. Why wouldn't you want some report issued by the agency that tells us what they are doing with the money that we appropriate to them and what's the status and why a permit was rejected. That's a reasonable question.

□ 1540

Just to move to a different agency—you may not know this, Mr. MORAN. I've lived in Mr. MORAN's district for a period of time when I'm here in Washington, D.C., and I never saw anybody grazing and I never saw anybody moving livestock. But in my area, I will tell you that we're the nursery capital of the world. We are very much concerned with the guest worker program.

Under this administration, applications for guest worker applications have been denied at an alarming rate. When we ask the Department of Labor how many have been denied and how many have been appealed and how many appeals have been successful, they keep those records. You know why? Because that's a reasonable inquiry by a Member of the Congress, a member of the public, a guy who's growing arbor vitae in Perry, Ohio. So to describe this as somehow burdensome and crippling and somehow going to lead to another Deepwater Horizon disaster is just ridiculous.

The guys on the other side, Mr. Chairman, are great Members and great advocates for a lot of things, but this argument doesn't even pass the straight face test. And I would respectfully urge that it be defeated.

Mr. MORAN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LATOURETTE. I yield to my former Congressman, the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. MORAN. Thank you.

You have this deep-seated concern about why we did not ask for a vote; so I can clarify that. The reason is we were overwhelmed with more than 40 amendments and we were trying to look to the welfare of the rest of the committee. There's only so many of these issues that you can call a recorded vote on, so we tried to be reasonable.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Reclaiming my time, I can appreciate the pressure that the gentleman found himself under. There are over 200 amendments. We're approaching 200 amendments on this particular piece of legislation.

I recall sitting in another full committee markup where the gentleman asked for a recorded vote on whether or not we could use Styrofoam containers in the House cafeteria. So clearly, the gentleman has to be as concerned about knowing what it is this new agency is doing relative to permits as he is about Styrofoam containers in the cafeteria.

Mr. DICKS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LATOURETTE. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. This year, I'm sure the gentleman has noticed, we've been trying to reestablish regular order—having a subcommittee markup and a full committee markup and amendments on the floor, which is welcomed by our side. So we have to kind of make a decision: Are we going to ask for a vote on every single issue? We never do that. We try to cooperate. This is comity, something that the gentleman from Ohio understands quite well.

So I would just remind him that we're trying to get through these bills, and that's why we try to not ask for a vote on everything. We wanted to save this one for the floor so the American people would hear about what's going on.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Reclaiming my time, I appreciate it. I know the gentleman said "comity," not "comedy." I think it's comedy with a "d" that reigns here. I trust that the gentleman has had his tongue firmly implanted in his cheek as he made that observation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEMING. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Louisiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLEMING. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I hail from Louisiana, which of course is a very big part of what this section 121 is about and certainly what the amendment is about. Just bringing everyone back, we had the Deepwater Horizon spill, which was a tragic situation which has hurt Louisiana in several ways, one being, of course, oil in the water. That's obvious. But then, of course, the many jobs that have been lost.

Going back over history, what we found is that in response to this the President brought together 10 experts to determine whether or not drilling should be stopped in deep water off the shores of Louisiana—in the Gulf of Mexico, in fact. This board of experts came together and said, no, that should not happen. We should continue forward. We can solve this problem. We can prevent it from happening. Nonetheless, the President came out and said, no, let's shut down drilling.

Well, when that didn't work, the President and Secretary Salazar slapped a moratorium on drilling. Then there were lawsuits. Then we had a de facto moratorium. Then we had a peremptorium after there was a stay placed by a judge. Today, we have what I would call a "slowitorium" on permits and leasing in the Gulf of Mexico.

So it's very clear what's going on is the fact that even though the administration can't get the courts to stop drilling in the Gulf of Mexico, even

though the other side can't advance legislation, they're trying to do it administratively by slowing the process down. So all we ask, the people of Louisiana, is some transparency on this issue.

Section 121 does some very simple things. It just says the Secretary of the Interior shall log and track the specific reasons for BOEMRE returning to an applicant without approval any exploration plan, development and production plan, development operations, coordination document, or application, et cetera, et cetera.

We're getting reports continuously from drillers, from contractors who are out there trying to drill, that they put in applications. Weeks, months go by; they hear nothing. Finally, they get it back and an "i" was not dotted, so now they've got to start the process all over again.

So all we're asking is that integrity be brought back into this process, that there be accountability back into this process.

And the gentleman is absolutely right. We do want to get drilling back up in the Gulf of Mexico. We were at a peak of 1.7 million barrels a day before this incident. It has dropped now to 1.59 million barrels a day. And it's going to continue to drop because we have a process in which permits and leasing are still way off track. They're not back to the levels they were. And production is going to net down. As a result of that, we're going to continue to see oil and gas prices going up.

So despite what is coming out of the Secretary of the Interior, drilling and production is not up; it's down. And it's continuing down and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future until we get the permits and the leases back up.

I certainly suggest, Mr. Chairman, that my colleagues and I should oppose this amendment. We do need to have transparency and accountability in BOEMRE when it comes to offshore drilling.

Mr. MORAN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FLEMING. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. MORAN. The gentleman is quite right that there are now 1.6 billion barrels per day being drilled. Today, 67 new shallow water well permits have been issued since the implementation of these new standards. They're averaging six per month. The average before the disaster had been eight. So they're catching up. Just three of these permits are currently pending. Eight have asked for more information, have not been denied.

In terms of deep water, 75 permits have been issued. There are 25 pending. Twenty-two have been asked for additional information. Mostly, that information is with regard to containment, which is exactly what we instructed

the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to do: are they sure, can they assure us that they can contain any spill.

So things are not quite as dire as you might believe.

Mr. FLEMING. Reclaiming my time, I would just suggest that we're still well off pace. And accountability is not going to be a factor in that.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, in the 7 months before the blowout, there were 49 deepwater permits issued. And in the 7 months since the moratorium was allegedly lifted, there's only been seven deepwater permits issued. We in the committee adopted this amendment, which I was proud to offer, simply to shine sunlight on the process. All the language in this bill requires is that the agency report to the American people and report to Congress the reasons why a permit for exploration or for drilling has been slowed down or delayed.

We're all committed to transparency. We all want to know where and how our tax dollars are being spent. And the slowdown in drilling in the Gulf of Mexico has had a catastrophic effect on employment. We've lost 60,000 jobs since 2008 in the Gulf of Mexico area. If we would get back to the levels of drilling, of permitting, both shallow and deepwater, that we were before the blowout, it's estimated that as many as 190,000 jobs could be created in the Gulf of Mexico in about 18 months, with about 400,000 industry-supported jobs across the United States supplying equipment to the offshore oil industry.

No one has a stronger stake in protecting the environment than we have that live there. These folks that work for these great companies are my friends and my neighbors. I'm proud to represent so many of these companies. Houston, Texas, is to the oil industry what Silicon Valley is to the computer industry.

□ 1550

These are engineers. These are the scientists. These are people who live and work in and around the Gulf of Mexico, who fish there, whose kids play on the beaches. Being a Houstonian and growing up along the gulf, I remember tarballs were common on the beach in Galveston. You just don't see it anymore.

Mr. DICKS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CULBERSON. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. I just wanted to say that the gentleman and I have worked together, and I have great regard for him. I just wanted to mention a couple of facts and that, if we take up time, I'll try to get you extra time.

"To date, 67 new shallow water well permits have been issued since the implementation of new safety and environmental standards on June 8, 2010. Permits have averaged more than six per month over the past 8 months compared to an average of eight permits per month in 2009. Just three of these permits are currently pending, with eight having been returned to the operator for more information." Now, the question I have is:

Why don't we ask them to give, when they're doing the report, not just the ones that they've turned down but the ones that they've approved? I mean, wouldn't the gentleman want to have all that information instead of just the negative side of this?

Mr. CULBERSON. In reclaiming my time, as for the permits that have been approved, of course that's a matter of public record; but as for the permits that have been rejected and that are not yet a matter of public record, we want to see those and know why they've been rejected, why they've been delayed. That's all this language requires is that they shine sunlight on every corner of the process. Many of these permits have been rejected for reasons that are not directly tied to the substance of the application. I've seen permits that are rejected because the typeface wasn't, in the opinion of the permitter, correct. It is clear that there has been a slow-down and that this administration overreacted to the spill. It has deliberately slowed down the permitting process and has made it more difficult for Americans to find American oil and gas.

We are committed to drill here and drill now in a way that is safe and clean, that protects the environment but yet takes advantage of the natural resources that God has so abundantly blessed this continent with. The Gulf of Mexico demonstrated that it can be done cleanly and safely; and there is no quicker way to generate high-paying jobs than to open up drilling in the continental United States, particularly in the Gulf of Mexico. Those rigs are gone, by the way, Mr. DICKS. Once those rigs leave the Gulf of Mexico, they don't come back.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CULBERSON. I would be happy to yield to my friend from Ohio.

Mr. LATOURETTE. I thank the gentleman very much for yielding.

The reason that this is the greatest deliberative body in the world is that sometimes during the course of a very intelligent discussion the truth and facts come out. Now, both the gentleman from Washington and the gentleman from Virginia have been able to cite chapter and verse of how many applications have been applied for, where they are, and what has happened to them. So, to suggest that somehow this

is going to create some additional burden, you've got to add a line: "We denied it because . . ."

So I trust that, based upon the sunshine that has now been brought forth to the good facts by the distinguished ranking member, perhaps we can get past this amendment, in the interest of comity, without a recorded vote as we did in the committee.

Mr. CULBERSON. I thank the gentleman from Ohio, and I urge the House to defeat this amendment.

Mr. DICKS. Will the gentleman yield again just briefly?

Mr. CULBERSON. I would be happy to yield to my friend from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. Now we get to deepwater: Since an applicant first successfully demonstrated containment capabilities in mid-February of this year, BOEMRE has approved 75 permits for 21 unique wells, with 25 permits pending and 22 permits returned to the operator with the request for additional information, particularly information regarding containment.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman from Texas has expired.

(On request of Mr. DICKS, and by unanimous consent, Mr. CULBERSON was allowed to proceed for 1 additional minute.)

Mr. CULBERSON. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. Now, we want them to do this safely. We don't want to go through what we went through, which was one of the greatest disasters in the history of the country.

Mr. CULBERSON. Cleanly and safely.

Mr. DICKS. I just hope that we can have reports not only about the ones that are turned down. As you say, it may be that the other ones are part of the public record, but I think the report should come back with both of these if it's going to come to the Congress. You know how this place works. Not everybody sees these public records. If these reports are going to be used by the committee, we ought to have both sides of the equation.

Mr. CULBERSON. Reclaiming my time, I couldn't agree more. We find ourselves in agreement that sunshine is a healthy thing, and that's the purpose of the language in the bill.

With all due respect, Mr. DICKS, it is important that the House reject this amendment so that we can have sunlight in every corner of the permitting process and so that the public and the Congress can know why these permits have been delayed or denied so that we can open up the Gulf of Mexico to drill here and drill now—cleanly and safely.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. I feel, I guess, like a lot of Americans in that I just can't act like it's business as usual. I

am very upset that the FAA has shut down. Let me just tell everyone that H.R. 2644, by Representative COSTELLO, was filed yesterday. It is a clean reauthorization of the FAA bill.

Saturday morning at midnight, following 20 previous clean extensions, funding for the Federal Aviation Administration was allowed to expire. Why did this happen? Simply because the Republican Party's lack of leadership over the debt ceiling debate is the same as their position with the FAA. Over 4,000 people have been laid off and over 3,000 in Florida—good construction jobs.

Just last night, I spoke with a single mother of two children, a woman from Kansas, who received an eviction notice at her apartment because she is not going to be able to pay her bills because of this impasse. These are real people. I repeat:

The reason the FAA extension has not been renewed is because the House Transportation Committee chairman inserted language in the FAA extension bill that would end a program that provides subsidies to rural airports.

So, yes, this is another example of the Republican Party's, "if you don't do it my way, then we'll just shut it down, shut it down."

Let me be clear. There are people here in the Capitol who flew up. They paid, let's say, \$500 for their tickets. The aviation still charged the \$500, but the money that goes to fix up the airport, that money is going now to the airline industry. In fact, they have raised the ticket price. This is an example that, if we don't do our job, the people get hurt, and that goes back to what everybody is so nervous about as far as what we should do about raising the debt ceiling.

I spoke to the longshoremen on Monday. I asked them: Have you ever heard of it before? Not one person. Do you know I voted for it seven times under President Bush? They didn't know that. Four times under President Clinton and 19 times under Ronald Reagan? Yet, we've got people who will bring down the United States Government if they don't have their way:

It's our way or not at all.

I was here under President Bush when we had 8 years of what I call "reverse Robin Hood"—robbing from the poor and working people to give tax breaks to the rich. We did the same thing in December. We gave \$70 billion to the millionaires and billionaires, and now people are calling my office, wanting to know whether or not they're going to get their Social Security checks. There is something wrong with that. There is something wrong in the people's House that we are having senior citizens worrying about whether they're going to get their Social Security checks or whether they're going to get their veterans' checks. We can include the billionaires and millionaires,

and we've got people over here from Louisiana to whom we've given billions of dollars; yet we want to close the opportunities to help other areas when we have disasters. That's what a budget is about. The budget determines your priorities.

It's a sad day in the people's House when we have people in this House who do not care about the American people; they only care about the next election. I can truly say that you can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time. So the people who have lost their jobs at the FAA because of politics, wake up. The people who think that it's okay to rob Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare—education—wake up.

□ 1600

You know, elections have consequences, and we are going to have another election. And the people in this country are going to wake up, and they're going to realize that we're going to move forward or move behind. And clearly we've got people in charge that are only interested in pushing us behind.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANDRY. I move to strike the last word, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Louisiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANDRY. I find it very amusing that the gentleman from Virginia and the gentleman from Washington would use an argument that we are overburdening a Federal agency when it is that side of the aisle that has a tendency to overburden and overregulate and demand reporting from our private sector. They have no problem asking the private sector to report things to the government so that they can discern whether or not the private sector is conducting its business accordingly.

And when this amendment comes up—and we're simply asking for transparency in order to see whether or not my constituents are being disingenuous or whether it is the government that is being disingenuous in the permitting process. That is simply all we're asking here.

This allows us to help separate fact from fiction as to whether or not BOEMRE is rejecting permits for ridiculous reasons or legitimate reasons.

And so, again, it just amazes me that when we have an opportunity to shed a little light on a Federal agency that the party who has claimed that it's all about transparency and open government is now trying to shield that agency.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I believe this amendment should fail.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. POE of Texas). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS).

The amendment was rejected.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

LEASE AUTHORIZATION

SEC. 122. (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) may lease to the Savannah Bar Pilots Association, or a successor organization, no more than 30,000 square feet of land and improvements within Fort Pulaski National Monument (referred to in this section as the “Monument”) at the location on Cockspur Island that has been used continuously by the Savannah Bar Pilots Association since 1940.

(b) RENTAL FEE AND PROCEEDS.—

(1) RENTAL FEE.—For the lease authorized by this Act, the Secretary shall require a rental fee based on fair market value adjusted, as the Secretary deems appropriate, for amounts to be expended by the lessee for property preservation, maintenance, or repair and related expenses.

(2) PROCEEDS.—Disposition of the proceeds from the rental fee required pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be made in accordance with section 3(k)(5) of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–2(k)(5)).

(c) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—A lease entered into under this section—

(1) shall be for a term of no more than 10 years and, at the Secretary’s discretion, for successive terms of no more than 10 years at a time; and

(2) shall include any terms and conditions the Secretary determines to be necessary to protect the resources of the Monument and the public interest.

(d) EXEMPTION FROM APPLICABLE LAW.—Except as provided in section 2(b)(2) of this Act, the lease authorized by this Act shall not be subject to section 3(k) of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–2(k)) or section 321 of Act of June 30, 1932 (40 U.S.C. 1302).

SELF-DETERMINATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

SEC. 123. The Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs shall reinstate the Demonstration Project that was in place from 2004 until 2008 for the Indian tribes within the California Tribal Trust Reform Consortium, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation, and the Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boys Reservation; shall thereby ensure that the participating tribes shall be able to continue operations independent of the Department of the Interior’s trust reform and reorganization; and shall not impose its trust management infrastructure upon or alter the existing trust resource management systems of the above referenced tribes having a self-governance compact and operating in accordance with the Tribal Self-Governance Program set forth in title IV of Public Law 93–638 (25 U.S.C. 458aa–458hh): *Provided*, That the California Tribal Trust Reform Consortium and any other participating Indian tribe agree to carry out their responsibilities under the same written and implemented fiduciary standards as those being carried by the Secretary of the Interior, including complying with section 102 of Public Law 103–412 (25 U.S.C. 4011): *Provided further*, That participating Indian tribes shall timely transfer funds and supply sufficient data to enable the Secretary of the Interior to comply with section 102 of Public Law 103–412 (25 U.S.C. 4011) for accounts that are maintained by the Department of the Interior when funds are being collected by the Indian tribes: *Provided further*, That such Indian tribes demonstrate

to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Interior that they have the capability to do so: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Interior shall provide funds to the Indian tribes in an amount equal to that required by section 403(g) of Public Law 93–638 (25 U.S.C. 458cc(g)(3)), including funds specifically or functionally related to the provision of trust services to the Indian tribes or their members.

WILD LANDS FUNDING PROHIBITION

SEC. 124. None of the funds made available in this Act or any other Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce Secretarial Order No. 3310 issued by the Secretary of the Interior on December 22, 2010.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MORAN

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 64, beginning on line 15, strike section 124.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, as the amendment states, I seek to strike section 124 of this bill because section 124 prohibits expenditures for the Bureau of Land Management to carry out its lawful duties under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

Secretary Salazar issued an order appropriately. It was called 3310. It stated the policy that BLM, the Bureau of Land Management, should act consistently with the law. Section 201 of the law, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, requires that the Interior Department maintain a current inventory of land under its jurisdiction and that it identify within that inventory of land the resource values including wildernesses of those lands.

Now, section 101 of the Federal Land Policy Act also says that certain public lands should be maintained in their natural state. Now, that’s the law, the law since 1976. Secretary Salazar is simply attempting to implement that law.

Despite what some have claimed, Secretary Salazar’s order does not create any de facto wilderness. One of the reasons that I would strike section 124 is that it will then return BLM wilderness policy to the way that it has operated for 27 years until it was unilaterally changed by then-Interior Secretary Gale Norton in 2003 in the Bush administration.

Now, the order that Secretary Salazar has issued directs BLM to develop recommendations to the Congress regarding wilderness land designations. And it directs public involvement in the development of those recommendations. Now what could be wrong with that—make recommendations to the Congress and have public involvement?

But section 124 of this bill removes the requirement for public involvement. Why are we afraid of public involvement? And it also removes the re-

quirement for the Bureau of Land Management to provide recommendations to the Congress.

Why does this bill want to prevent the Secretary of the Interior from making recommendations to the Congress and for having public involvement?

It’s not going to prevent the Congress from designating wilderness. What it does do is to prevent the Congress from being properly informed before we can consider those designations.

The Secretary’s order is the kind of good government process that encourages public involvement and forward thinking. As a demonstration of that forward thinking, Secretary Salazar reached out to the Congress in June, just a short while ago, and asked for Members’ input into the wilderness characteristics of lands within their districts. Isn’t that what we want them to do, reach out to the Congress, ask for our input?

I don’t know what more we can ask from the Secretary or from the Bureau of Land Management but an open, public process with congressional input.

But this section that I think should be struck, this section 124, wants to foreclose that process, foreclose that open, public process with recommendations to the Congress.

It was a process that the majority and the committee report applauded.

Let me say further that wildlands do have real benefits. They have economic, they have environmental, and they have aesthetic benefits. It’s important that we protect not only public land in its natural state but that we protect our ability to make informed decisions about which areas should or should not be designated as wilderness areas.

I do think we need the secretarial order so that we can be informed so that we can make the right decisions with regard to those designations. Wilderness areas are important, but it’s also important that we maintain our responsibility. The Secretary makes recommendations to us for us to make these designations within the context of a public process.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I appreciate very kindly the gentleman from Virginia and his explanation of this particular provision that’s in the bill. Unfortunately, it’s not quite that way. Your recommendation of this is that in June the Secretary asked for our input as to wilderness, which is indeed exactly what he should do if he wants to obey the law. That is the proper course. Only Congress has the ability to designate wilderness areas.

□ 1610

You said that the provision that's in the bill would foreclose that process. In fact, you're arguing the exact opposite. This provision in the bill does not allow the Secretary to go around that process but insists that he does come and work with Congress to do any kind of land designation as it is written in the law.

Secretary Salazar and Deputy Secretary Hayes and BLM Director Abbey have all assured us that they have no plans to implement this ill-advised policy they established just before Christmas, a Secretarial order that usurped congressional authority and congressional responsibility. I'm going to take them at their word. Unfortunately, though, the order has never been withdrawn officially. It has been superseded.

The Solicitor General's opinion to clarify the legal status of that superseding of the opinion has been promised us. It was promised to the chairman, promised to the chairman of the authorizing committee. Yesterday at a hearing we asked where that was, and we were told once again, well, it's on its way. What was said at that hearing, obviously, is what they will do is nothing contrary to the provision that was placed in the CR. Therefore, if we are going to take their word for it—in the old Reaganesque form, "Trust, but verify"—continue this language in here and make sure that what they claim they will do will be done and there is no legal way of getting around it.

Now, I say that legal process for a purpose. Even if I trust the word of the Secretary—and I do—if this provision is in some way legally in doubt—now, once again, until the Solicitor General's opinion is clear with us, it is in doubt—in a litigation-prone society like we have, any kind of radical activist may ask a renegade judge for political purposes to contravene what the policy states it's supposed to be. That's why I support Congresswoman LUMMIS' inclusion of this language in here. It would oppose any kind of roundabout process of going around Congress and allowing the administration to go around NEPA and around FLPMA, which is actually what the original order did.

It is not that we don't have confidence in this process; it's simply that we want to make sure it is very clean. And if, indeed, we all agree and believe what the Secretary is saying, then this language in here has no impact whatsoever. It should be accepted by all of us. If, though, you want to try to have some kind of dangling aspect out there so that somebody can sue someone somewhere and maybe change the entire process, then create doubt and actually withdraw language that was in the CR that was approved by the House and the Senate and signed by the President.

What we're asking for is consistency so that what the gentleman from Virginia said will indeed happen, that if wilderness is designated, it will be done by Congress—it is our legal responsibility to do it—and that no one can do these evaluations, which are legal under FLPMA, with only one criterion. That, once again, was admitted by Director Abbey in our committee that that is not the way the law is written, and indeed if you do that, that is abrogation of the law.

Now, once again, you have a process here. If you leave the language in there, it's no harm, no foul. It is consistent with the law, and it is consistent with what the Department of the Interior said their policy will be. You take this language out, and all of a sudden you have created a doubt. Find somebody who has a good attorney, and all of a sudden that doubt creates a major problem for the Department of the Interior, and especially for us in Congress.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARAMENDI. The amendment that's being offered is perfectly appropriate. It's the duty of the Department of the Interior to carry out the law. The law requires the Secretary to review, from time to time, the status of public land.

All too often, I hear my colleagues on the Republican side say that this is government land. No, no, no, this is not government land. This is our land. This is the land of the American people, owned in common for the common good. And the Secretary, carrying out that responsibility, reviews the attributes of the land. Is it good for oil? How about gas development or coal development? Or maybe it's useful as grazing land, or perhaps it should be wild and scenic land and preserved for the purpose of remaining in its most natural state. So my Republican colleagues come up and say, No, you can't look at the land. You can't study the land. We just won't want to know anything about the land, except to allow for the destruction of the land.

This particular amendment doesn't come in a vacuum. This amendment leads to the House floor another bill that is likely to move out of the Resources Committee and soon be on the floor, which would take the previous work done over the last 30 years that would quantify the values of the land, scenic, natural, wilderness, and push all of that aside and say, Open all the land, all the land to what was euphemistically—I hope

euphemistically—called mechanized conservation. Hmm, "mechanized conservation." Sounds to me like bulldozer, drilling rigs, a stampede of cattle and the like over any and all land.

Understand that this particular line in this appropriation bill goes hand in hand with a piece of legislation that went through, that was heard in the Resources Committee just yesterday, that would take all of the land that has been designated as wild and scenic some 30 years ago—some of which is said, no, it's not perfect for a wild and scenic designation—and take all of that land and open it for development. We ought not do that.

Therefore, this amendment that's been brought forward by the ranking member is appropriate in that it allows the Department of the Interior to upgrade some 30-year-old studies, taking into account new scientific information, new information about the land, and making that information available to us in Congress so that we can make an informed decision about whether land should or should not be wild and scenic or whatever designation might be appropriate, including opening some land for development. But I suppose it's best to know nothing.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GARAMENDI. I would love to yield briefly to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

I understand the gentleman's comments. And I know the hearing yesterday addresses the issue, which is separate from this. Listen, we should have that debate; we should have that discussion.

This issue is an administrative Secretarial order that, to the credit of Secretary Salazar, they withdrew. It was confirmed, by the way, to be withdrawn because of the CR we passed that takes us through September 30. The Secretary, to his credit, said, I'm going to abide by that. As a result, the order has not been withdrawn.

This debate here is about next year's funding. So until we get clarification on that order or the order is withdrawn, this language is appropriate. And that's simply all we're saying.

Now, we can get into a discussion of whether wild lands is, in fact, a designation or not. And as a matter of fact, wild lands has no definition whatsoever administratively. So there's a question on our side, obviously, if they can even do that because wild lands may be synonymous with wilderness, but wilderness can only be designated by the Congress.

And that is the concern that we have. And that's why I think the language that was put into the appropriation bill takes care of next year. And I say, to the credit of the Secretary—

Mr. GARAMENDI. Reclaiming my time, sir, my apologies for interrupting you.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman from California has expired.

(On request of Mr. HASTINGS of Washington and by unanimous consent, Mr.

GARAMENDI was allowed to proceed for 1 additional minute.)

Mr. GARAMENDI. Thank you for that accommodation.

I think the underlying problem was well described by you, and that is that the language prohibits the Secretary from going forward with the study of the wild lands. I think that's wrong. I think it's appropriate for us to always update our studies, always to understand what has changed and what is appropriate as we go forward.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GARAMENDI. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

□ 1620

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. If the gentleman remembers, because he was in a committee hearing, under direct questioning, I think it was Director Abbey said that there is no authority to make any designation under law of wild lands because that was a made-up term. There's no designation.

Can they inventory? Yes. Nobody argues with that. But you can't make up administratively a new designation, and that's what the issue was. And he testified that he had no authority to do that.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I think you're down to parsing words here. The study that was attempted to be undertaken by the Secretary was to study the lands for their wild land values. He obviously could not designate a wild land that doesn't exist. But that study could give us information that we would need to open land to more drilling or other purposes, or to hold it aside for scenic and other values.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, this debate is always fascinating. I've got to tell you, if rhetoric were fast food, there'd be golden arches over all these doors because I've never heard so much rhetoric in my life. And I hope that the gentleman from California actually read the report. Maybe he did and maybe these pages got stuck together. I don't know.

But if you look at the report—he said that we don't care about the lands and the designations, that we just want to use them up and all that kind of stuff.

Let me read, for the RECORD, what the report says: As mentioned in the introduction of this report, the committee lauds the Department of the Interior for its significant changes in wild lands policy and notes that the Bureau of Land Management has, to this date, been in compliance with the fiscal year 2011 continuing resolution prohibiting funds for the use of Secretarial order 3310, which was to designate, and as the gentleman said, he

couldn't designate wild lands because that policy didn't exist, and he can't. And he's in compliance with that.

It continues: While the Department is now rightly requesting the input of Members of Congress, Senators, and the public, the committee is concerned about the internal direction given by the Bureau of Land Management regarding the inventory of lands managed by the Bureau. As the Department has stated, inventories of bureau lands are required under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, FLPMA, and the committee agrees. The committee agrees with this reading of the act.

The committee points out that inventories should, however, cover all land uses, multiple use, not just lands with wilderness character. The values to be assessed include wildlife, fish habitat, nonmotorized and motorized recreation, hunting, fishing, grazing, conventional and renewable energy development, mining, wilderness character, forest management, and aesthetics. All of these values are important, and one value does not supersede the other.

The committee also directs the Bureau to use the definition of wilderness as defined in the 1964 Wilderness Act, as directed by section 603 of FLPMA. The committee will continue its oversight of this issue.

The Secretary has done the right thing by withdrawing his policy of wild lands designation, a designation that he made up. Only Congress can designate a new land designation. That's what Congress does. The Secretary agreed with that, withdrew it.

We have no problem, and encourage them to go on with the inventories for all of the characteristics of public lands. So the gentleman's comments relative to oh, all we care about is mining and flattening the land, or whatever he said, is just rhetoric.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment. The reality is, if the Secretary carries out what he says he's going to do, this amendment probably isn't necessary. If they decide to reverse course, then it was necessary. If they do what they said they are going to do, it absolutely won't have any effect, as the gentleman from Utah said.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I would be happy to yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. GARAMENDI. When I was the Deputy Secretary at the Department of the Interior, I thought that the Department of the Interior should do what it needed to do. Now that I'm here I would agree with you that they should do what we tell them to do. Just a change in jobs.

However, the point here is that the language that you have put into this bill would preclude the Secretary from moving forward, even to carry out the

words that are in the document itself. And I did read the document.

We need to know what is on the land, and we need to know its potential uses. As I understand the amendment that you have put forward that is in this bill, it would deny the funding for those purposes to do the study. Now if I am wrong about that intent and effect of the amendment, then we've had a wonderful debate in which we all agree that the Secretary and the Department of the Interior should continue to always study the land and to take into account new information, new science, new knowledge, new GPS or satellite photos of the land. So I think, as I understand the amendment, and the intent of the amendment, it is to stop the Department from continuing to study these multiple attributes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Reclaiming my time, the Secretarial order which is in question needs to be withdrawn, and then he needs to issue a new one which doesn't include this new designation of wild lands because that still stands out there even though he says he's not going to designate any new wild lands.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Is it not true that the ability to designate and study and do these inventories comes under FLPMA regulation which is not changed by this amendment?

Mr. SIMPSON. That's exactly correct.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. This amendment only deals with the category that was called wild lands, which is a made up category that has nothing to do with any kind of law.

Is it not true that the Secretary and the Interior Department can still do inventories on any consequence, but they are not allowed only to do inventory for one characteristic. They can inventory for all characteristics they're supposed to, and that comes in FLPMA.

Mr. SIMPSON. The amendment deals with the Secretarial order, not just wild lands.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DICKS. Section 124 prohibits expenditures for the Bureau of Land Management to carry out its duties under section 201 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. Secretarial order 3310 states a policy that the Bureau of Land Management should act consistently with section 201 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and maintain a current inventory of land under its jurisdiction, and identify within that inventory the resource values, including wilderness, of those lands.

Despite what some have claimed, it does not create *de facto* wilderness. It returns BLM wilderness policy to the way it operated for 27 years before being unilaterally changed by then Interior Secretary Gale Norton in 2003. It directs the BLM to develop recommendations to Congress regarding wilderness land designation, and it directs public involvement in the development of those recommendations.

Section 124 removes the requirement for public involvement and removes the requirement for the BLM to provide recommendations to Congress. Section 124 doesn't prevent Congress from designating wilderness; it just prevents us from being properly informed before we consider these designations.

Secretarial order 3310 is the kind of good government process that encourages public involvement and forward thinking. As a demonstration of that forward thinking, the Secretary reached out to Congress in June asking for Members' input into the wilderness characteristics of land within their districts. I'm not sure what more we can ask for from the BLM and the Secretary but an open public process, as Mr. MORAN has stated.

Section 124 seeks to foreclose that process, a process that the majority in the committee report on H.R. 2584 applauded. These wild lands have real benefit—economic, environmental, and aesthetic. It's important that we protect not only public land in its natural state but our ability to make informed decisions about what areas should or should not be designated wilderness. We need the Secretarial order, and we need to be informed.

I yield to the gentleman from California if he would like to make a final comment here.

Mr. GARAMENDI. It's useful to read, and the characteristic of order No. 3310, which is the subject matter, was well described by the gentleman from Washington—if one were to read the order, the order basically directs the Bureau of Land Management to continue to do its studies for the purpose of identifying those lands that have wilderness characteristics. This is exactly what I was talking about when I raised my first point, that this particular section that is in this appropriation bill, section 124, fits directly with the piece of legislation that was authored by Mr. MCCARTHY and was heard in the subcommittee yesterday, and that is to terminate efforts to create wilderness areas in the United States. That's what this is all about. This is about opening lands to development, and to prohibit the Department from exercising its authority under the law to continue to investigate and to analyze our land for the value of its wilderness characteristics.

□ 1630

Therefore, this particular clause, 124 in the appropriation bill, runs directly

counter to the requirement under the existing law that's been there for more than three decades for the Department of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, to carry out its responsibilities.

Mr. SIMPSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DICKS. I yield to the distinguished chairman, who I just heard a few minutes ago praising Secretary Salazar for the way he conducts himself, that he's a good man. And now 3310 is like the Communist Manifesto.

Mr. SIMPSON. Part of the reason I was praising him is because he came over and sat down and listened to us and realized that there was a problem with Secretarial order 3310.

Mr. DICKS. Well, then why don't we trust him?

Mr. SIMPSON. I trust him.

Mr. DICKS. Well, then why do we have this amendment?

Mr. SIMPSON. What does it hurt? It doesn't hurt a thing.

What the gentleman is suggesting is because we are essentially saying you can't follow Secretarial order 3310, that means you can't follow FLPMA, which requires the inventory of these lands. They still have to do the inventory of the lands under FLPMA whether or not there is a Secretarial order 3310.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman from Washington has expired.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. DICKS was allowed to proceed for 1 additional minute.)

Mr. DICKS. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I thank the gentleman from Washington and our colleague on the other side.

It's useful to read the Secretarial order rather than all of the hullabaloo of what this is all about. The Secretarial order follows the law. It says that the BLM shall do an analysis as to the wilderness characteristics. That is in FLPMA; that's the law. And so it says that's what it's doing.

Mr. DICKS. Are you suggesting that this provision says that he shouldn't follow the law?

Mr. GARAMENDI. I believe that's precisely what they're trying to do is tell the Secretary not to follow the law.

Mr. SIMPSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DICKS. I yield to the distinguished chairman.

Mr. SIMPSON. It is absurd to think that repealing a Secretarial order which does not supercede Federal law somehow changes the underlying Federal law. It does not. FLPMA still exists whether the Secretarial order is there or not.

Mr. DICKS. Secretary Norton did it. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. GARAMENDI. In fact, the Secretarial order does follow the law. It precisely follows the law.

Mr. DICKS. Let's vote on the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Wyoming is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LUMMIS. I yield to the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I didn't want it, but thank you.

Let me just simply try and come up with this one last time. The idea of inventory is covered in FLPMA; that doesn't change. The Secretarial order that established wild lands is a new policy. That has been superseded by another Secretarial order. It doesn't have an impact on this, which is one of the reasons why the administrative policy says it is unnecessary, given the Department's policy that includes collaboration with stakeholders, to identify public lands that may be appropriated.

The administration is not fighting this thing; they're on board with us. All we're saying is the reason you want to keep this language in here—until the supersession has taken place and the entire thing is repealed and you go back to FLPMA—is in case someone wants to litigate outside of it and try and force the Department of the Interior to do something it has said it will not do. That's what we're about here.

All these other arguments are extraneous. Its relationship to other legislation. It does not have any impact whatsoever. This is simply saying what the policy is, and the policy they're going to continue will be substantiated in the statute in case someone else wants to play around with it.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, so the point is this: The administration does not object, as I understand it, to the language of my amendment. The executive order, if it were repealed, would allow FLPMA to function as it is designed in the law. The problem that has been called to my attention is that the executive order has not been repealed. Secretary Salazar communicated privately with Chairman SIMPSON and Chairman BISHOP that he did not intend to enforce the wild lands order, but the order is still in place. So until the order is withdrawn, this amendment is necessary.

Democrats strongly opposed including this language in the committee level. They've offered this amendment today. And then the President has threatened veto because this language might be in the bill. Now given that development, my initial skepticism on including this language is long gone. I'm not even skeptical anymore. Clearly, there are those who still want the Secretary to operate outside his legal authority and declare wilderness or wild lands areas without Congress. Only Congress can do that.

I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

I'm glad the gentleman brought up Secretarial order 3310 because that's what we're talking about here.

Now the first sentence under section one, Purpose, it says: The Secretarial order affirms the protection of wilderness characteristics. Nobody is arguing about that at all. Then you go to page 2 of the Secretarial order, section 4, Policy, and it goes on through the process of inventorying and so forth.

And the last sentence is the problem where we have our heartburn. It says: "Where the BLM concludes that protection of wilderness characteristics"—which nobody argues about—"is appropriate, the BLM shall designate these lands as 'Wild Lands.'"

Now that is a made-up definition. Nobody argues about the inventory part, but now all of a sudden they're superseding and suggesting that there should be a new designation called wild lands. That is what the problem is. They have no authority to do that. And they affirmed that, by the way, in testimony in front of our committee. This part of the Interior bill simply says we're not going to fund that. And until the Secretarial order is withdrawn—this one here that says wild lands—once this is withdrawn, you're right, there's no issue. But it hasn't been withdrawn. That's why that language needs to stay in there. It's nothing more complicated than that.

I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Reclaiming my time, this issue is not just an academic discussion on this floor. People in the West are terrified that the Department of the Interior is going to create a new category of lands called "wild lands" that will be managed differently than the law provides.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Chair, I want to speak in favor of Mr. MORAN's amendment to strike an irresponsible provision in the underlying spending bill.

Sec. 124 puts our wild lands in harm's way by prohibiting funds from being used to implement, administer, or enforce Secretarial Order 3310, or the "wild lands" policy.

This policy is a reasonable, well-grounded approach that will facilitate public participation and will restore balance to our public lands management policies.

Most importantly, it will protect cherished natural icons from development.

I commend the Secretary on his Order to resume the Interior Department's compliance with Wilderness Act and other existing laws that guarantee wilderness preservation.

The Secretarial Order overturns a flawed decision made by former Interior Secretary Norton during the Bush Administration to halt all assessment or new protection of public land with wilderness characteristics.

In effect, the Bush Administration stopped complying with the statutory requirements of the Wilderness Act and other laws.

The Salazar Order reverses that decision.

As a Member of Congress who understands the value of preserving wild places I fully support Salazar's decision to restore balance to public land management and any other measures taken to ensure the protection of ecologically important spaces.

Clearly, some of my colleagues do not agree with me.

Once again, the majority is trying to block BLM's and Congress' ability to manage public lands for the people.

They are breaking with years of bipartisan tradition of protecting these important spaces.

But we've witnessed these same tactics before with H.R. 1 earlier this year.

Blocking funds for the "wild lands policy" will have the immediate effect of despoiling thousands of acres of wild lands.

Destroying what could have been a legacy for future generations.

It allows the American people, through their elected representatives, to decide which lands should be permanently preserved as wilderness.

It is supported by the millions of Americans who are committed to the preservation of our wilderness heritage.

Without the policy, many of our nation's pristine wild and public lands remain at risk.

Don't take nature away from the American people.

Vote "yes" on Mr. MORAN's amendment to strike this irresponsible provision from the Interior spending bill.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

The amendment was rejected.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

TITLE II—ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

For science and technology, including research and development activities, which shall include research and development activities under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended; necessary expenses for personnel and related costs and travel expenses; procurement of laboratory equipment and supplies; and other operating expenses in support of research and development, \$754,611,000, to remain available until September 30, 2013.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC OFFERED BY MR.
LA TOURETTE

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk occurring on page 65, line 5. I actually have three amendments all on the same subject, but one amendment touches line 21 and one amendment touches page 73. In the interest of comity, I would ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to offer all of those amendments en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to considering all three amendments en bloc at this point in the reading?

Hearing none, the Clerk will report the amendments.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 65, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$20,000,000)".

Page 65, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$13,000,000)".

Page 65, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$50,000,000)".

Page 73, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$50,000,000)".

□ 1640

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATOURETTE. I thank the Chair.

There's a lot going on in Washington, Mr. Chairman, and I would tell you that people back home think we can't get along, but this is a great example of how we're going to get along, and I'm going to become the second member of this subcommittee to say something nice about a member of the Democratic Party, and that's the President of the United States, Barack Obama.

President Obama became the first President of the United States in history to recognize that we needed to put real money into Great Lakes restoration. Those of us who live in the region selfishly know it, and those around the world know it as about 20 percent of the world's freshwater.

We've nicked-and-dimed and sort of moved along with some nice legislation in this House, some of it written by one of our former colleagues, Mr. Ehlers of Michigan, the Great Lakes Legacy Act, but it wasn't until President Obama, and I suspect that his then-Chief of Staff, the new mayor of Chicago, Mr. Emanuel, was whispering in his ear because he was certainly conversant with these issues, that we need to address the Great Lakes as an ecosystem and make sure that we deal with it appropriately.

So President Obama proposed \$475 million a couple of years ago for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. However, as so many things occur around here, that went from 475 to 300, and now in this bill we find it to be \$250 million. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is designed to mitigate toxic substances in the Great Lakes, to reduce the impact of invasive species, to improve nearshore health and reduce nonpoint source pollution, improve habitat and reduce species loss, and improve information engagement and accountability in the program overall.

I just want to focus on one of those, and that is the invasive species, and not the invasive species that come in ballast water. This is an invasive species that is swimming up the Mississippi River, the Asian carp. The Asian carp and I have something in common: The Asian carp can eat 20 percent of its body weight a day, and this Asian carp, if it is successful in breaking through the electronic barrier and getting into the Great Lakes, will devastate that entire ecosystem. This is important.

I know that there are some Members who are going to say, well, I love the Great Lakes; I love the fact that the President made this designation; you're right, we need more money, but what doesn't need more money in this bill, and the account from which I'm taking it, climate change, but if we don't take care of the Great Lakes, 20 percent of the world's freshwater, we're not going to have to worry about climate change because we're all going to be dead. We need to make sure that we protect this valuable resource. And on this instance, Ms. Jackson, the administrator at the EPA, has been really a great partner in implementing these programs. She has over 300 projects under way at this current time.

I know this is a heavy lift, I know that it's selfish, but I would tell you that it's not selfish because the Great Lakes continue to be the treasure of the world, and there's going to come a time when water is the new oil when it comes to an important resource. I urge Members of the House to please support this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. This is really hard, Mr. Chairman, but given our allocation, we had to cut many EPA programs, including programs we support like the clean water and drinking water State revolving funds. In the base bill, we reduced nearly every EPA geographic program below the 2011 enacted level, in addition to providing none of the requested increases.

Despite the cuts, restoration of the Great Lakes remains a committee priority as demonstrated by the fact that the Great Lakes program is the largest recipient of funds in the geographic programs. It's the largest geographical area, also, so you would probably expect that.

While I appreciate the intent of the gentleman's offset, where he offset this from, we cut EPA's climate budget by \$23 million—and it's easy to vote against funding for climate change or the increased funding that we have put into climate change—in the chairman's mark, and, believe it or not, there are some EPA programs we support under the climate change heading, including research and development of new automotive technologies, including the hydraulic hybrid technology for trucks, carbon capture and sequestration, and initiatives to increase methane transmission.

The reality is that over a period of time, because "climate change" is now kind of the key phrase, that if you want to get money for your basic science, you call it "climate change." Just like after 9/11, if you wanted money for some program, you called it "homeland security." That was the

key phrase. Now "climate change" is the key phrase. A lot of the requests from the administration have been basic science programs that have been going on for a long time but have been shifted over and called climate change.

While we looked at the funding for climate change and the increases that had occurred in this budget over the years and that have been substantial, the fact is, when we looked at them, many of them were just basic science that needed to be continued. So we couldn't just go out and eliminate all the climate change or reduce it, I believe, any more than we did, and climate change took an \$83 million hit in this bill.

We see the same thing happening in the Department of the Interior, where base programs have been reclassified as climate change. So we really need to be careful about what we are using as an offset under the administration's classification of a "climate change program."

In addition, funding for the Great Lakes restoration efforts grew from \$60 million in 2009 to \$475 million in 2010. Therefore, at the chairman's mark of \$250 million, funding for the Great Lakes is still four times above its historical levels. And, again, it continues to be a committee priority as evidenced by the fact that the Great Lakes program is the largest recipient of funds in the EPA's geographic programs.

If I felt we could fund the Great Lakes at a higher level within our allocation, then believe me, I would have done so. I would have done anything to avoid this debate with the gentleman from Ohio, but, unfortunately, even though the gentleman makes a good point and I agree with him and if we had more money in the allocation I would be more than happy to do it, it's the offset and where it comes from that causes me some concern.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Will the distinguished chairman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I would be more than happy to yield.

Mr. LATOURETTE. If I seek to amend my amendment to say "Great Lakes Restoration Fund/Climate Change," will the gentleman give me my 50 bucks?

Mr. SIMPSON. Well, that would be one of the overall problems with the title, Climate Change, but I would have to oppose the amendment and urge my colleagues to vote "no" on it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word to speak against the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. I thank the gentleman from Ohio for his work on the Great Lakes.

I represent a Great Lakes region in Minnesota. As the chairman pointed

out, the climate change has been cut, Great Lakes have been cut, and I'm here to tell the gentleman from Ohio, I think we can have a win-win even without supporting your amendment. The reason being is, by leaving the dollars where they are in the climate change, I think we can count on and, through our work, make sure that what is happening to the Great Lakes is documented and proven so that the facts are out there about what we need to do about climate change, and I'm going to refer to two examples. One is from a local paper of mine, the Star Tribune, from July 13:

It talks about how, with climate change, that they're seeing that Isle Royale in Lake Superior used to be too cold for deer ticks, but not anymore. Scientists are watching the effects of climate change and what is happening to the Great Lakes region. The ticks that carry Lyme disease have been found for the first time on the island off the coast of northern Minnesota. At the end of the century, nesting loons may disappear altogether from most of the Great Lakes. These are findings from a report on the effects of climate change on the Great Lakes. It talks about, also, its effect on five of the largest national parks and public waters that we share in our region.

The series of studies has concluded that the current and future effects of warming, global climate change on national parks from California to Virginia and the consequences of it. But if people think that that is not hard enough to really kind of get, to make sure that we do climate change, that we look at what is going on in the Great Lakes, let me speak from another report that dealt with shipping on the Great Lakes.

□ 1650

I will enter for the RECORD which reports I use, but let me quote from this. It says: "The expected higher temperatures of climate change are predicted to increase evaporation, lower runoff, reduce ice formation, and raise surface water temperatures in the Great Lakes, resulting in a fall in lake levels. The increased precipitation will not be sufficient to completely offset the reduction in lake levels."

"For international commercial navigation in the Great Lakes, the impact of lower lake levels will be restrictions in vessel draughts and tonnage carriage, thus increasing the number of trips and the total costs to move a given tonnage of cargo."

In other words, climate change on the Great Lakes has an effect on the economy.

I know that the chairman did not have, in my opinion, sufficient allocations to address many issues I care passionately about, like climate change, including the economic consequences of climate change, as well as do some

of the funding that the gentleman from Ohio and I both sought for the Great Lakes.

But I think the gentleman from Ohio could actually see benefit to the Great Lakes in research by not having his amendment move forward and keeping the dollars that we do have for science and climate change.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Will the gentleman yield?

Ms. MCCOLLUM. As the chairman says, with great risk, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. LATOURETTE. No, no, no, you're going to like this. Actually, the deer tick is misnamed because it really doesn't come on deer. It comes more on the little gray mouse because the gray mouse is closer to the ground. And if you treat a cotton ball with an appropriate substance, you can relieve the deer ticks not only in Minnesota but here in Virginia and also in Ohio.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. I thank the gentleman for sharing that. I know how to remove leeches, deer ticks, fish hooks. Yes, I've been out there. But I really do think the Members should reject this amendment and leave the dollars where they are. We need to work harder to put more dollars into our environment, not only for its natural beauty and to leave a valued treasure to our children, but also because it has a direct impact on the economy of many of our States.

[From the StarTribune, July 13, 2011]

MORE DEER TICKS, FEWER LOONS: CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE GREAT LAKES

Isle Royale in Lake Superior used to be too cold for deer ticks. But not anymore.

The ticks, which carry Lyme disease, have been found for the first time on the island off the coast of northern Minnesota. And by the end of the century, nesting loons may disappear altogether from most of the Great Lakes.

Those are some of the findings of a report on the effects of climate change on the Great Lakes' five largest national parks.

It was the latest in a series of studies they have conducted on the current and future effects of a warming global climate on national parks from California to Virginia.

The report, the authors said, provides an early look at what's to come if the Republican-led Congress continues to thwart federal efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Republicans this week tried and failed to repeal new standards for more energy efficient lightbulbs, and are resisting the new federal rules regulating greenhouse gas emissions expected later this summer. They say the rules are unnecessary intrusions on freedom, and job-killers.

"We have an increasing partisan divide on this," said Stephen Saunders, president of the Rocky Mountain Climate Organization and a former national parks official with the Department of the Interior. "If people pay attention to how the places they know and love respond to climate change, I hope that makes people aware of what we should be doing differently."

The authors analyzed a century's worth of temperature trends for the Great Lakes area drawn from two weather stations on Lake Michigan, and found that both show more rapid change than the global averages. The

one near the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, near Chicago, showed that in the last decade average temperatures have increased by 1.6 degrees, and the one near Picture Rocks National Lakeshore in Michigan showed an average increase of 2.7 degrees.

Lee Frelich, a University of Minnesota researcher who studies the effects of climate change in the Upper Midwest, said the analysis used widely accepted climate models and data, and the findings are right on the mark.

"Climate changes are more extreme in the mid continents," said Frelich, who was not involved in the report. "If you are fairly far north you will see bigger magnitudes of climate change than other places."

Water temperatures in Lake Superior have increased 4.5 degrees between 1979 and 2006, twice the rate of land temperatures, the report found. Between the 1970s and 2009, winter ice cover over the lakes shrunk 15 percent.

The report also documented a 31 percent increase in rain falling during big storms, and a 12 percent increase in wind speeds. Combined with less ice during the winter, those changes lead to faster erosion along the shores, putting fragile landscapes like the Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes in Michigan at risk. Frelich said that he's already seen the effect on his family's cabin in Door County, Wis., where winter storms have taken out trees on the edge of his property.

The report found that temperature changes are having a sometimes dramatic effect on wildlife. A growing number of botulism outbreaks, linked to higher water temperatures, have killed hundreds to thousands of birds in recent years in the Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes. Meanwhile, Isle Royale used to be free of deer ticks, which can only survive in average winter temperatures of 19 degrees or higher. But a park service employee this year reported finding a deer tick on his body after he'd been there for a month, meaning he had picked it up while on the island.

The report projects that average temperatures at Isle Royale and the Apostle Islands would increase by an average of 3.6 and 4.6 degrees by 2040 to 2069, depending on the rate of future air emissions—warm enough to squeeze nesting loons into the northwest corner of Lake Superior.

Mark Seeley, Minnesota state climatologist, said it's difficult to make projections about Lake Superior using data from two weather stations in Lake Michigan. But he said the report accurately documented the extreme upward shift in minimum temperatures in the winter. "The winter season is showing more dramatic increase in temperatures than summer," he said.

The authors said that the five parks in the study draw 3.7 million visitors per year, generate \$200 million in spending and support close to 3,000 jobs. "We face the financial reality that climate change may bring tremendous economic challenge," said Larry McDonald, the mayor of Bayfield, Wis., a tourist town on the edge of the Apostle Islands. He joined the authors of the report in a telephone news conference. "We need to respect and protect Lake Superior," he said.

[From the Transportation Research Board Special Report 291, May 2007]

GREAT LAKES SHIPPING, TRADE, AND AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

(By Frank Miller, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario)

SUMMARY

The possible impacts of climate change on Great Lakes international shipping and on

nonindigenous species are examined. The expected higher temperatures of climate change are predicted to increase evaporation, lower runoff, reduce ice formation, and raise surface water temperatures in the Great Lakes, resulting in a fall in lake levels. The increased precipitation will not be sufficient to completely offset the reduction in lake levels.

For international commercial navigation in the Great Lakes the impact of lower lake levels will be restrictions in vessel draughts and tonnages carried, thus increasing the number of trips and the total costs to move a given tonnage of cargo. Estimates of these impacts are derived from a simulation of international cargo movements from and to the Great Lakes in a recent year. In other words, climate effects the economy of the Great Lakes.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN. I must agree with the chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee and object to this amendment. I want to make a number of points. One is that the amendment adds funds for what are called geographic programs. That is a pretty broad category. It includes the Chesapeake Bay, the Puget Sound, the Great Lakes, and other water bodies that need restoration projects. So if the amendment passes, I trust the gentleman understands that the funding will be and should be divided up amongst all of those programs.

Now, I do support the efforts of the Congress to clean up the Great Lakes and to deal with these invasive species. Clearly, it is a very serious problem. Asian carp is horribly destructive. But I think it is worth pointing out that it was during Democratic leadership in the Congress that the Great Lakes Restoration Project received its largest increases. In fiscal year 2010, the program received \$475 million, and this current year they're getting \$300 million. With all due respect, it would seem that the funding level of \$250 million, which is in this bill, that cuts far more dramatically many other programs, would be seen as something of a success. I think if anything, Mr. SIMPSON should be thanked for protecting this program.

I will let Mr. DICKS speak about Puget Sound—but the Chesapeake Bay was funded at \$17 million below the request, and it's only getting \$50 million. Now, I understand the gentleman's frustration that more could not have been done in this bill for all of the geographic programs.

But the reason why we are in this position of underfunding these admittedly critical water programs is because of two actions. I know the gentleman will remember those two actions because he supported them. One was the so-called Ryan Republican budget resolution that the gentleman voted for; and the second was the 302(b)

allocation to the Interior Department. I think that set the stage. It really set parameters that were far too tight to be able to provide the kinds of funds for many programs, including Great Lakes restoration, that are needed.

Now, another point that needs to be made is that the GAO reported to the committee, and I quote: "Progress remains slow as the program has delisted only one of the 31 areas of concern." EPA officials said that the program set less ambitious goals for fiscal year 2012 because it has had such trouble in meeting past goals. The agency did set lower goals in 2012, and so it does seem to make some sense that reduced funding might be appropriate in view of those lesser goals.

But I also want to point out that the offset is really untenable. It reduces EPA's science account and environmental programs with what I think is the express intent of cutting additional climate change and clean energy programs.

Now, I also want to point out, and I know that the gentleman offering the amendment may not be excited about this, but it does seem a bit hypocritical, the gentleman offering this amendment, to add funds for the Great Lakes restoration also offered language which was put in the bill to defund the Great Lakes restoration over the ballast water standards. That amendment would save—

Mr. LATOURETTE. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MORAN. I will yield when I'm finished.

If we want to help the Great Lakes get the kind of money they need, it doesn't seem to me that we should be offering amendments that would completely defund all EPA programs for the States bordering the Great Lakes if they don't meet adequate ballast water standards, which is the amendment that the gentleman put in the bill.

So I think that is a sufficient number of points to urge defeat of the amendment.

Now I will be happy to yield to my very good friend from Ohio.

Mr. LATOURETTE. I thank the gentleman very much. I wanted you to yield because you mischaracterized the other part.

What the other piece of language in the bill does, it says to the State of New York—

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman from Virginia has expired.

(On request of Mr. LATOURETTE, and by unanimous consent, Mr. MORAN was allowed to proceed for 1 additional minute.)

Mr. MORAN. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. LATOURETTE. I thank you. You know there are eight States that border the Great Lakes. One State in particular, New York, has imposed ballast water exchange in innocent passage

that can't be met by any technology that exists today. That set of standards will cripple, will literally cripple and bring to a halt all waterborne commerce in the Great Lakes. My amendment says, listen, if you want to impose that kind of standard, you're not going to get any money until this thing gets sorted out when the EPA and the Coast Guard come up with a uniform ballast water exchange.

But let me just tell you, since you're talking about the regional programs, the Great Lakes are unique. The Great Lakes were unique in the world. And I can remember a couple of years ago, Senator Dodd, he wanted to have Lake Champlain become a Great Lake. And I said to the distinguished Senator at the time: Lake Champlain is a good lake; but it's not a Great Lake. The Great Lakes are the five Great Lakes that every grade schooler learns on how to identify them. It is 20 percent of the world's fresh water. And if we don't take care of them, as the President of the United States recognized we needed to do in a big way, we're going to be in trouble in this country. I thank the gentleman for his courtesy.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of transferring \$50 million in funding from EPA climate change programs to support the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. While I have serious concerns about the offsets used in Mr. LATOURETTE's amendment, I strongly believe that we need to continue to restore the Great Lakes to preserve its many rare environmental attributes and to strengthen the American economy.

The Great Lakes are vitally important to the American manufacturing industry. According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, nearly 200 million tons of cargo travel through the Great Lakes each year. The Corps reports that the Great Lakes saves manufacturers and other industries approximately \$3.6 billion per year in transportation costs.

Studies undertaken by the University of Michigan show that more than 1.5 million jobs are directly connected to the Great Lakes generating \$62 billion in wages. The Great Lakes help provide nearly 1 million manufacturing jobs, over 200,000 jobs in tourism and recreation, nearly 120,000 jobs in shipping and more than 118,000 jobs in agriculture, fishing and food production.

The University of Michigan study also states that the 83 million people living in the Great Lakes area helped produce 27 percent of the Nation's gross domestic product and 24 percent of the country's exports in 2009. The basin is home to 38 percent of Fortune 500 companies. Moreover, the region's colleges and universities award 32 percent of the nation's advanced science and engineering degrees resulting in a stronger American workforce to compete against nations such as China and India.

Furthermore, the Great Lakes are an environmental treasure containing nearly 20 percent of the world's fresh surface water. The lakes also support over 200 globally rare plants and animals, and more than 40 species

that are found nowhere else in the world according to the U.S. Department of the Interior.

In addition, the Great Lakes provide one of the best areas for fishery and other recreational activities in the world. It is estimated that 180 species of native fish, including small and large mouth bass, the northern pike and lake herring all reside in the Great Lakes. A study conducted by the Great Lakes Commissions reports that there are 4.3 million boats registered in the Great Lakes states, which is nearly one-third of all registered boats in the United States.

The many environmental and economic benefits generated by the Great Lakes are in danger because of its damaged ecosystem and numerous environmental conditions. Despite recent improvements, there is much work still to be done such as eliminating toxic substance pollution, controlling invasive species, reducing nonpoint source pollution and protecting against habitat and species losses.

Recognizing the importance of the Great Lakes, the Federal Government developed the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan to implement solutions to the many environmental challenges facing the Great Lakes. The Initiative has been focusing on ecosystem protection, enhancement, rehabilitation, and remediation within the Great Lakes Region.

According to a study by the Brookings Institution, fully implementing the Great Lakes restoration strategy would not only protect various rare fish and wildlife it would also generate \$50 billion in long-term economic benefits and \$50 million to \$125 million in reduced costs to municipalities.

In closing, I urge my colleagues to support protecting our environment and our economy by voting to transfer funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative—so vital to restoring fresh water resources for the next generation and beyond.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendments offered by the gentleman from Ohio will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON OF TEXAS

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 65, line 5, insert "and fellowships" after "development".

□ 1700

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman's point of order is reserved.

The gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, my amendment would simply highlight the longstanding role of EPA in supporting the education of our Nation's top environmental scientists by inserting the word "fellowships" after research and development in the Science and Technology Account. EPA currently awards the fellowships, and thus my amendment has no scoring impact and does not authorize a new activity.

I realize that my Republican colleagues will surely not agree to this amendment, but they have to agree that science is the underpinning of great and good environmental policy. As the scientific arm of EPA, the Office of Research and Development supports world-class research and development activities to protect man's health and the environment. Supporting the next generation of scientists and engineers through fellowships is just one way the government supports the kind of critically important research that private industry and academia alone cannot and will not do.

With no real justification or detail, the committee's report language for this bill specifies that funds are not provided for the fellowship programs, amounting to a substantial \$17 million loss to this field. Lab equipment cannot operate itself. They cannot publish important papers or make groundbreaking discoveries, which creates jobs. That requires people. And EPA has a history of fostering some of the Nation's top young researchers that have gone on to apply their talents across government, academia, and industry. For instance, since 1995, EPA has awarded approximately 1,500 STAR fellowships.

Turning our backs on the next generation of academic researchers, governments scientists, science educators, and environmental engineers all but ensures that we are doomed to make bad, uninformed environmental decisions for the future.

I realize the gentleman's point of order. I do not agree with it. But I'm sure he will be upheld by the Parliamentarian. So I simply would ask that if we could work together to try to preserve some of this talent that we have already put in place and some of the equipment that's already in place to continue groundbreaking research, that is going to be one of the few ways that we're going to develop good sound jobs for the future.

I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, while I appreciate what the gentlelady is trying to do, and actually agree with what she's trying to do, I must insist on my point of order against the amendment because it provides an appropriation for an unauthorized program and therefore violates clause 2 of rule XXI. Clause 2 of rule XXI states in pertinent part:

"An appropriation may not be in order as an amendment for an expenditure not previously authorized by law."

Mr. Chairman, the amendment proposes to appropriate funds for an earmark that is not authorized. The amendment therefore violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I accept that point of order, but I would like to appeal to the chairman of this committee to work with us and see if we can't preserve some of the investments we've already made and some of the talent that is in place.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair is prepared to rule.

The amendment expands the eligible uses of appropriations in the pending paragraph to include "fellowships." As such, it proposes to appropriate for that purpose.

The proponent of an item of appropriation carries the burden of persuasion on the question of whether it is supported by an authorization in law.

Having reviewed the amendment and entertained argument on the point of order, the Chair is unable to conclude that the item of appropriation in question is authorized in law.

The Chair is therefore constrained to sustain the point of order under clause 2(a) of rule XXI.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, as somebody who has spent many, many years working in my community and around the country on the promotion of livable communities, I am frankly mystified to see included in this bill an end to the program that provides technical assistance and guidance to communities who are looking for ways to increase economic development, plan for economic growth, and make their communities safer, healthier, and more economically secure. It is mystifying.

The EPA Office of Sustainable Communities was established to provide a resource for communities that need technical assistance to plan for economic growth, to deal with development, to account for a changing population and the demographics, to expand their economic development options, and make communities more attractive to business and local citizens.

Mr. Chairman, there are hundreds of examples from across the country about the work that the Office of Sustainable Communities has accomplished. Some of the most important projects were situations where the Office of Smart Growth has helped in

brownfield redevelopment. These are very complicated problems for local communities where they help turn unusable, polluted land into land that's ready for development. This helps create housing and business opportunities and provide cities with an important foundation for planning future growth. This is precisely the sort of thing that we should be doing to help communities leverage resources and prepare for the future.

In Iowa City, Iowa, the Office of Smart Growth recently approved a grant to redo their downtown riverfront area after the 2008 flood devastated that community. With the help of EPA, they created a plan with input and support from local elected officials, business leaders, and local residents that's helped regenerate the downtown business area while preserving green space and recreational areas for families who are moving into the newly redeveloped residential buildings. Closer to my side of the continent, just picking at random, the communities of Driggs and Victor in Idaho received a Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Grant to help analyze the barriers and opportunities of infill development in support of downtown revitalization efforts. This small Federal investment helped communities take advantage of public-private partnerships and redevelopment opportunities that helped revitalize these small rural towns.

Hundreds of other communities across the country have received similar assistance under the Smart Growth Program. But these cooperative efforts would come to an end under this House legislation. The services offered by EPA's Sustainable Communities Office are in high demand. They've been able to assist only 9 percent of the communities that are interested, due to existing budget constraints.

In addition to their technical assistance work, the Office of Sustainable Communities is engaged in a partnership that we all should be supporting and encouraging between HUD, the Department of Transportation, and EPA. The Partnership for Sustainable Communities enables these three Departments to work together to ensure that Federal funds work in conjunction with each other, break down the silos that frustrate us all to ensure that the Federal funds are spent as efficiently as possible and eliminate duplicative processes.

Despite the obvious connections between housing, transportation, and land use, we all know and have been frustrated that in the past the three agencies have not always worked well together as we would like. But Secretaries Donovan, our former colleague LaHood, Administrator Jackson, and the agency have spent these last 2 years cutting down the redtape and coordinating to meet multiple economic,

environmental, and community objectives while also cutting redtape and working to partner better with local communities. The EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities helps fill a critical need by providing assistance and support to local communities.

□ 1710

I find it ridiculous that at a time when this type of help is needed more than ever, when there is nary a Member of Congress who hasn't been frustrated about the lack of coordination and implementation, that the House is now considering ending critical support to communities looking for ways to jump-start their own economic recovery, looking to improve the quality of life for their communities by making the Federal Government a better partner. This is something for which there should be no geographic, regional, partisan or ideological divide. This is an outstanding program. It deserves to be supported, and I hope, as this bill works its way through the process, that we find a way to retain this valuable service.

I yield back the balance of my time. Ms. HIRONO. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Hawaii is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Chairman, beside me is a picture of the Cuyahoga River in 1952. The river is on fire.

The reason for this fire is that the river was heavily contaminated with flammable industrial waste. This water was dangerous to drink, needless to say, and to swim in. Fish and wildlife could not survive here. Flooding in this river would have spread pollution onto the shore and into neighborhoods. In short, this pollution was dangerous for the health of the people and the communities that depended on this river.

It was incidents like these that helped raise public awareness of the dangers of water pollution. Ultimately, that awareness became government action, including the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, in 1970 and of the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972.

The EPA's purpose is simple: to protect human health and the environment. It does this by ensuring minimum standards for water quality nationwide while acting as a referee between the States.

Despite this important mission, this bill slashes the EPA's budget by 18 percent from current levels, so of course I rise to speak against this underlying bill. It also includes a number of riders that will prevent the EPA from carrying out the duties it is already legally required to perform. I don't know why the majority is so keen on undermining the vital mission of the EPA. I hear them talk a lot about the costs of certain EPA regulations; but what

about the cost of getting rid of these regulations?

One serious cost that would go up is the cost of public health. The impact of polluting our air and water isn't a speculative matter. We know that it will make people and communities sick. More mercury in the air we breathe means more deaths and debilitating illnesses. More water pollution means families and communities will be subjected to a variety of health risks. In short, more pollution means rapidly escalating health care costs.

Another cost is the cost to our environment. Our rivers, coastlines and wetlands are the places that we take our children to experience the wonders of our country. This is where their interests in the natural sciences and the outdoors are kindled. Polluted waters and coastlines mean less wildlife, poorer fishing and a lot less beauty in this world. We have to remember that we are merely stewards of our natural resources and that the cost of polluting those resources isn't only borne now; it will be borne by future generations.

Finally, the EPA helps to ensure a fair playing field for businesses. This helps keep their long-term costs manageable. It's a simple fact that a few dollars in prevention is far, far cheaper than expensive cleanup costs later. For those who disagree or question that, I encourage you to contact BP Oil. That company will—and should—be paying for their damage for years to come.

So those are the costs the EPA helps to mitigate. That's why we need the EPA. We need a referee that is empowered to make sure that everyone plays by the rules and protects our natural resources. If we pass this bill, we are essentially ejecting the referee from the game of calling out misconduct on certain players, which will only encourage more misbehavior in the future.

Take a look at this picture. Is that what we want?

This bill is so flawed, there is little hope for it. I hope that my colleagues will reevaluate their approach to this legislation, will pull it from the floor and go back to the drawing board.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. We should be here today passing a clean debt ceiling and creating jobs; but in these challenging times of high deficits and a fragile economy, when it is critical that our limited spending priorities be focused on programs that can achieve results and encourage the creation of jobs and economic growth, the majority is, instead, bringing an unprecedented attempt to gut pollution controls and public health protections in order to give bigger profits to Big Oil and other special interest polluters.

By attaching more than three dozen policy riders to H.R. 2584, the House GOP is attempting to use a spending bill to make backdoor changes to 40 years of important Federal laws.

H.R. 2584 makes drastic spending cuts to the Environmental Protection Agency, as you've just heard, and to the Department of the Interior. It fuels a multi-front assault on America's air, water, lands, wildlife, and public health; and it severely undermines the environmental integrity of the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act. In doing so, this legislation cripples the budgets of key Federal agencies charged with protecting American citizens and natural resources.

The bill is laden with contradictions and regressive reforms:

It slashes funding to the Environmental Protection Agency by \$1.8 billion, yet restores \$55 million in oil and gas subsidies;

It dramatically cuts the U.S. Fish and Wildlife budget by 30 percent;

It zeros out funding to list new endangered species;

It reduces the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration budget by 18 percent from the President's 2012 budget and wholly eliminates funding for NOAA's climate service;

It cuts the Land and Water Conservation Fund by 80 percent—a program that has been critical to my district of the U.S. Virgin Islands and to everyone's districts. H.R. 2584 renders this program's funding to its lowest level in history;

It cuts \$19.7 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities, threatening support for teachers, community colleges, museums, libraries, and archives of important historic documents and many others, as well as the preservation projects that enhance local economies and create jobs.

Another program that is affected is one that's near and dear to my community. That's the National Heritage Area program. I have recently introduced a bill to create a National Heritage Area on the island of St. Croix, which we have been looking forward to, not only to preserve and protect some of our local historical treasures, but as a badly needed economic development tool that would create jobs. National Heritage Areas are some of the most effective public-private partnerships for resource conservation and heritage tourism supported by the Federal Government. National Heritage Areas have matched every dollar of Federal support with \$5.50 of other public and private funding, demonstrating a high yield of return on Federal resources.

I am appalled that this bill puts so much energy into tearing down America's foundational environmental protections, especially as the Representative of a place with some of the highest greenhouse gas emissions per square mile in the country. Instead of working

on the bigger looming issue of our deficit crisis, this bill flies in the face of decades of bipartisan support for the protection of public health and environmental issues.

It does not put the American people first as it should. It further endangers them by allowing for more dangerous air pollution. It does not clean up urban and other critical waterways. It threatens clean water that millions of our constituents depend on. It shuts the door on endangered species, and ties the hands of our Federal agencies.

As leaders, we should not advance a budget that eliminates critical protections that our constituents so desperately need. We should not turn a blind eye to corporate polluters while holding the right of our future generations to clean health and a clean environment hostage just as the leadership is holding the well-being of the poor and middle class Americans and the economic security of our country hostage to an absolutely necessary lifting of this debt ceiling.

□ 1720

I urge all of my colleagues to vote against the fiscal year 2012 Interior and Environmental appropriations bill and any antienvironment and antipublic health and anti-American amendments that may be offered.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this bill which guts longstanding environmental policy. Unfortunately, this is not the only thing that's wrong with America today.

Once again, Speaker BOEHNER and the GOP are putting the needs of a few right-wing Members of Congress ahead of ordinary, hardworking, everyday Americans, many of whom lit up the phone lines yesterday in record numbers to express their disgust with Republican intransigence that's holding our Nation and international markets hostage. Not only did they call in record numbers, but 50 to 60 people came to my district office yesterday to show their support for a balanced approach to solving this debt ceiling issue. I also received a petition with over 1,500 names begging that we protect Social Security.

But still, against the urgent pleas of international financial institutions, Wall Street executives, and millions of Americans who can ill-afford any reduction in their ability to borrow or an increase in interest rates for a car, home, or student loan, Republicans continue to show contempt for the American people by saying "no" to increasing the debt ceiling.

Do you realize out there how many of us have adjustable rate mortgages on

our primary residence? Can you imagine what will happen if this Nation defaults on its obligations to pay its debt and, as a result, interest rates go up? That means your adjustable rate mortgage, my adjustable rate mortgage rate goes up. Could I stand to pay \$1,000 extra or \$2,000 extra per month on my mortgage because interest rates went up because we didn't do what we should have done here, which is to increase the debt ceiling, something we've done 21 times, I believe, over the last several—we did 18 times with Ronald Reagan as President?

But we can't afford not to deal with this debt ceiling issue.

Mr. Chairman, The Washington Post reports that House Republicans watched a movie together about bank robbers to motivate members of their caucus to stand firm in their solidarity against raising the debt ceiling. What kind of example does this set for the American people? What would they say if they knew that there is a concerted effort by Republicans not only to prevent an increase in the debt ceiling, but to impede economic progress, slow or stop job creation, cause the loss of 700,000 jobs, with the passage of cut, cap, and kill?

What about our seniors, our veterans, our students? What about our credit rating in this country?

Mr. Chairman, just like bank robbers, it appears that Republicans seek to threaten society as a whole, leaving a trail of destruction in their wake. Republicans have now taken hostage of the U.S. economy, threatening the livelihoods and well-being of Americans, young and old, rich and poor. They can see the hands of the clock ticking, precious seconds, minutes, and hours wasted.

Speaker BOEHNER and his cohorts say "no" to the President's request for reasonable compromise, "no" to the desperate pleas of businesses begging for a sense of certainty about the debt ceiling, and "no" to the American people who have shouted at the top of their lungs for shared sacrifice in these budget negotiations.

Well, Mr. Chairman, if Republicans are looking for some additional inspiration in the debt ceiling negotiations, I'd recommend that they watch "Saving Private Ryan." It's about a man who makes the ultimate sacrifice to save the lives of his fellow Americans. He was not a survival-of-the-fittest-type guy, you're on your own.

We're all in this together.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, this country is in the middle of a great crisis, entirely an artificial crisis created

by an attempt by one political party to blackmail the entire country into adopting its program of destroying Medicare and Social Security and food stamps and unemployment and all of the things that many of our people depend on.

But why do I say it's an artificial crisis? Because the debt ceiling increase is something we normally do—seven times during President Bush's administration.

Some people think to raise the debt ceiling is to say we're going to borrow and spend more. No, it's not. You raise the debt ceiling in order to pay for bills you already incurred because of decisions made 2 and 3 and 5 years ago, mostly during the Bush administration.

Not to raise the debt ceiling is like going into an expensive restaurant, having an expensive meal, and then getting the bill and saying, Oh, my God. I've got too much money on my credit card. I don't think I'll pay the bill. Well, if that's the case, you shouldn't have had the meal.

If you don't want to pay the bill, you shouldn't have made those budget decisions. You shouldn't have cut those taxes 10 years ago and gotten into those wars 7 and 8 years ago and made the other decisions that piled up the deficit.

If you want to have a debate, which we should, on how to change our policies in the future, that's for the budget debate. We're going to pass the budget at some point. We're going to debate tax levels, expenditure levels.

But instead, what are they doing? They're saying, That's a nice economy you've got there; pity if something should happen to it. And if you don't do exactly what we want, we're going to destroy it by not raising the debt ceiling and causing a collapse in credit so that everybody's interest rates go up and that people have to pay a thousand dollars more a month on their mortgage or whatever, because it's a ripple right throughout the economy.

A default would be a real crisis for the economy, and it will cost the economy probably a trillion dollars in extra deficit spending over the next 10 years just in higher interest costs. But if we don't do exactly what they want, to destroy Medicare and Social Security and the other things they never liked in the first place, they will wreck the economy by not raising the debt ceiling in order not to pay the bills that they incurred.

Then we hear that we have a deficit crisis, that, after all, the country is broke. We've got to cut the budget. Even the President says the country is broke. We've got to cut the budget—a little less savagely, but we've still got to cut.

Wrong.

The country is not broke. It is just that we are not taxing the millionaires

and the billionaires and the corporations the way we used to.

In 1950, the corporations paid 6 percent of the entire economy of the GDP in corporate taxes. Today, it's under 1 percent. Twenty years ago, 30 percent of all income taxes came from corporations; today, it's under 6 percent. And that's why the middle class feels overtaxed, because they are, because we don't tax the millionaires and the billionaires the way we used to. We don't tax the corporations the way we used to—the big multinationals, I'm talking about, not the small businesses. Instead, we've shifted the tax burden to the middle class, and we don't get enough tax revenue.

And the fact of the matter is, if you look at the budget of 2001 and if you look at the budget of 2011, in 2001, the budget was \$258 billion in surplus. It was the last Clinton budget. How has it changed? Why is this budget \$1.2 trillion in deficit and that was a quarter trillion in balance? What's changed?

□ 1730

Well, adjusted for inflation and for population growth, nondefense discretionary spending, everything they want to cut now, hasn't changed at all. It was \$369 billion then; it's \$369 billion now.

What's changed? Well, defense spending and homeland security spending have gone up 74 percent because of two wars and a lot of bloat, a 74 percent increase in defense spending. Mandatory programs, that is to say, Medicare, Social Security, veterans, up 32 percent. And it is not only those. There is also unemployment insurance, mostly because we're in a recession, and you have to pay more unemployment insurance and food stamps and so forth. Total revenues are down 24 percent. From a bigger country, we're getting 24 percent less revenue today. Why? Because in 2001, the taxes collected 20 percent of GDP, and today it's 14.5 percent of GDP.

So what should we be doing? Well, first of all, we should raise the debt ceiling to recognize the debts that were already incurred, and we should do it cleanly, so as not to throw the economy into a tailspin. Then we should debate all of these issues in the budget. We should raise taxes on the millionaires, the billionaires, the corporations; cut defense; and try not to tamper with people's Social Security, Medicare, and the things that they depend on.

I yield back the balance of my time. The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS AND MANAGEMENT

For environmental programs and management, including necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, for personnel and related costs and travel expenses; hire of passenger motor vehicles; hire, maintenance, and oper-

ation of aircraft; purchase of reprints; library memberships in societies or associations which issue publications to members only or at a price to members lower than to subscribers who are not members; administrative costs of the brownfields program under the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act of 2002; and not to exceed \$19,000 for official reception and representation expenses, \$2,498,433,000, to remain available until September 30, 2013: *Provided*, That of the funds included under this heading, not less than \$346,280,000 shall be for the Geographic Programs specified in the explanatory statement accompanying this Act.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FLEMING

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 65, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$48,206,000)”.

Page 158, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$48,206,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Louisiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLEMING. A little over a year ago, the GAO reported alarming findings at the ENERGY STAR program, a joint EPA and DOE program designed to save American consumers money on their utility bills. Although well intentioned, I have concerns that the ENERGY STAR program is leveraging hard-earned tax dollars and the trust of the American people for a program that lacks oversight, could still be subject to fraud and abuse, and one that would be better administered by the private sector.

I have the report here in my hand. In March 2010, the report indicates that the GAO released its report, documenting that the program was mainly a self-certification program without much oversight or accountability. In fact, according to the report, GAO created several fictitious companies without any relevant products on the market that easily became ENERGY STAR manufacturing partners. This new status granted these groups unlimited access to ENERGY STAR logos and promotional resources, and GAO was also able to obtain certification for 15 bogus products, including a gas-powered alarm clock and a “room cleaner” which was incredibly a feather duster taped to a space heater. Prior to approving these items, EPA failed to review any additional materials, including Web sites and self-incriminating pictures.

My amendment will simply reduce the Environmental Programs and Management account within EPA by \$48,206,000, with the intent of removing the EPA's portion of funding for the ENERGY STAR program. The savings from my amendment will be added to the spending reduction account.

Mr. Chairman, the ENERGY STAR program, created in 1992, enables companies and manufacturers to volun-

tarily label qualifying and EPA-approved household products and goods such as air conditioners, refrigerators, computers, and light bulbs, et cetera. ENERGY STAR also grants energy-efficient labeling for home improvements and businesses. ENERGY STAR labeling encourages consumers to purchase such products and make home improvements in order to be more energy efficient, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and save money on utility bills, all very good value-oriented ideas and concepts.

It is my belief that the Federal program should not be paying anything for the ENERGY STAR program, however. Rather, this program would be better served as a private entity, saving the taxpayers millions of dollars each year. There are several good examples of well-respected, well-run independent private sector initiatives, including the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, an internationally recognized green building certification system; Consumers Union, an expert independent nonprofit organization which publishes the widely acclaimed Consumer Reports; and Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., UL, a global independent safety science company offering expertise in five areas, including product safety and environment.

These are just a few examples of non-government, nontaxpayer-funded entities that understand that if you don't do a good job, they will lose credibility. Not as much can be said for the ENERGY STAR program.

Americans rely heavily on this program and look to purchase household products with the ENERGY STAR label. Companies use the EPA-approved logo to market products. The Federal Government and several States offer tax credits to those who purchase ENERGY STAR products, and Federal agencies are required to use certain ENERGY STAR-approved products.

The ENERGY STAR program continues to receive millions of dollars, including approximately \$300 million through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the stimulus bill, and \$48 million in the underlying legislation. It's time for the Federal Government to allow the private sector to take over and to stop funding programs riddled with loopholes that investigators need to point out before the EPA institutes systematic changes.

So in summary, Mr. Chairman, we could well afford to save \$48 million, and we have plenty of good models where private entities have been doing a much better job for a much longer time. I ask others to support this amendment. This is good for not only energy savings but is a money-saving idea. Let's turn it over to the private sector. They do a much better job.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would eliminate the ENERGY STAR program, even though a great many American consumers rely on it to choose appliances that meet Federal energy efficiency standards, such as windows, refrigerators, dishwashers, and clothes washers.

The program has improved since an Inspector General report highlighted flaws with the program. In response to the IG's report, ENERGY STAR moved away from allowing manufacturers to self-certify that they comply with efficiency standards, and now it requires third-party certifiers. Well, I'm sure there's room left for further improvement in the program.

As the gentleman from Louisiana has stated, many, many consumers have come to rely on this program in their everyday purchases and would, frankly, be stunned to think that this program is now being targeted. Americans, with the help of ENERGY STAR, saved nearly \$18 billion on their utility bills last year alone and enough energy to avoid greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from 33 million cars. Isn't that a good thing?

This is a voluntary program that works. We've heard so much railing coming particularly from the other side about EPA's regulations, and now the majority wants to attack a voluntary pro-consumer program. The underlying bill already contains a very substantial cut to the ENERGY STAR program, notwithstanding the fact that it has saved hundreds of millions, if not billions, of dollars and has enabled consumers to be much better informed as to what their appliances might cost them in terms of energy requirements.

But the ENERGY STAR program has been funded in this bill at the 2008 level, 4 years ago. Since then, the population has expanded, the number of appliances and things that use a great deal of electricity, particularly computers, has expanded almost geometrically. People's bills are going up. They want to know what are the most energy-efficient products, so they rely upon the ENERGY STAR program, again, a voluntary program and one that has been improved since the IG report. They have third-party certification now as to what they are saying so that we should have some confidence now in the ENERGY STAR imprimatur, if you will, on appliances.

□ 1740

It doesn't seem that this is the kind of thing that we should be cutting. This is a pro-consumer, voluntary effort that works. So I strongly oppose this amendment.

Mr. FLEMING. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MORAN. I would be happy to yield to the gentleman.

Mr. FLEMING. I don't disagree with the gentleman's comments. It's a good program, although it has been a flawed program. Hopefully, it's been improved.

My point is that this could be better done in the private sector, a fee or whatever paid directly to whatever private entity out there that would be nonprofit for this. Why should the taxpayers have to subsidize it? That's really the issue here.

Mr. MORAN. Reclaiming my time, I would say to the gentleman, we have things like the Better Business Bureau which, frankly, doesn't have that kind of certification. Almost anybody can get designations. Sometimes it's helpful. Other times it's less so.

I think the American consumer wants some level of credibility in the organization that is certifying that an appliance is energy efficient. The Energy Star designation means something. And if this was self-policing, done completely in the private sector, you wouldn't have had an Inspector General report. You wouldn't have had this corrective mechanism that now says, you've got to fix this. You can't rely completely upon self-certification, which is exactly what you'd have under the private sector.

Mr. FLEMING. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MORAN. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. FLEMING. There are plenty of private sector oversight organizations. And again, UL: No appliance ever goes to market now without a UL stamp, and again, that's done through a private entity. So, again, it's a great program. Don't get me wrong. I just don't see where taxpayers should be funding that. We can do much better through the private sector.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman from Virginia has expired.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. I appreciate the gentleman's shared desire to reduce spending, however, I must oppose this amendment. As the minority pointed out, to meet the 2012 302(b) allocation, we cut the Energy Star program by \$27.5 million, funding for the Energy Star program down to \$48.2 million, which is below the 2006 level. And we believe that significant cuts took place in this program, as they should have been taken. And with that we reluctantly oppose the amendment, and would ask for a "no" vote.

Mr. DICKS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CALVERT. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. I want to commend the gentleman. We agree with his position on this, and we oppose the amendment as well.

Mr. CALVERT. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 39 OFFERED BY MR. POMPEO

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 65, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$6,246,000)".

Page 158, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$6,246,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Kansas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Chairman, let me begin by saying thank you to the committee chairman for running a great piece of legislation. I think this bill will go a long way towards creating a pro-growth economy. We've done a great deal of work to reduce spending on this bill, and I stand here this afternoon hoping to help out even just a little bit more.

The amendment I offer I offered during H.R. 1. It passed. It passed with votes from both sides of the aisle. The Senate failed to act on it, so I'm here today again to offer this amendment one more time, and I hope it will pass again with bipartisan support, and that we will, once again, move towards a smaller, more humble Federal Government that does only those things that it's intended to do.

The amendment I offer today seeks to reduce by \$6.2 million the amount of money available for the EPA's greenhouse gas registry program. If I had my druthers, I'd probably prefer to see the program go away. But I offer a more modest amount today.

This amendment only reduces spending for this program back to the levels from 2009. Now, this is very consistent with the legislation that we're acting on, the bigger bill which takes us back to 2009. This is a program that currently stands, without this amendment, 95 percent higher than the funding for the greenhouse gas registry in 2009. I think we can all agree that we weren't spending too little money in 2009 regulating greenhouse gases in America.

We know the EPA says that this registry is just about data collection. We'd just like a little bit more information. But those of us in Kansas who are trying to operate businesses and make a go of it know that there's an agenda far beyond that. This is an agenda that is job-killing. This is an agenda that will destroy jobs, not only in Kansas, but will drive up the cost of energy for every American. And so I urge my colleagues today to support this amendment.

If we simply restore funding back to the 2009 level we will roll back, I hope,

again with bipartisan support, and we'll create jobs and keep EPA doing those things it ought to be doing.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN. I do rise in opposition to this amendment because it attempts to strip half of the remaining funding for EPA's greenhouse gas registry program. This amendment is part of an effort to ignore what the scientists tell us is the most serious environmental problem of our time, climate change.

Republicans have already passed a bill to repeal a scientific finding that greenhouse gases pose a danger to human health. The underlying bill we're considering says that no stationary source, no matter how large, or how lethal to human health, should ever have to reduce its carbon pollution.

But this amendment goes even further. It says that we should not even bother to find out how much pollution is being put into the air. I guess you could call it the "ignorance is bliss" amendment.

What we should be doing is the opposite of what the gentleman is trying to do. The bill already makes a 30 percent cut to the registry program in order to cripple the efforts of EPA with regard to greenhouse gases.

The Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program simply requires the largest sources of carbon pollution, power plants, refineries, and the very largest factories, to tell EPA and the public how much they pollute. If we're ever going to deal responsibly with this pollution that is costing us billions in health care and shortening thousands of lives, we need to know where it is coming from and have some idea of how much is being emitted.

This amendment is yet one more example of putting the profits of industry, and particularly those industries that pollute the air and eventually clog the water, that poison much of our environment, to put their profits ahead of the public interest and the public's health.

We all know that pollution is dangerous to our health. The scientists tell us that, certainly the reputable scientists. Let's allow EPA to fulfill its core responsibility, which is to collect this information and inform the public.

I know our friends on the other side hate regulations because they believe that the Environmental Protection Agency doesn't understand the impact of those regulations on businesses and on the economy and on jobs and so on. EPA's job is to protect the public health, and in doing so, and in encouraging cleaner sources of energy, we will not only protect the public's health, but we will grow this economy, grow it

in a more competitive and a healthier way and a far more sustainable manner.

□ 1750

I oppose this amendment vigorously.

At this point, I yield to the gentleman from Kansas, who offered the amendment.

Mr. POMPEO. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I will be very brief.

I certainly care deeply about clean air, so do all the businesses in Kansas, so do all the agriculture people. We want clean water, but we know how to do it and we're doing it.

You said this was the "ignorance is bliss" amendment. I would prefer to call it the "jobs are a good thing" amendment.

When things get mischaracterized—I'm not suggesting we abolish this. There is still \$6.2 million available for the Greenhouse Gas Registry. That's as much as was available in 2009.

This is a simple, modest amendment that many on your side voted for when I offered it before, and I hope many of them will continue to do that.

I thank you for yielding.

Mr. MORAN. I was happy to yield.

Reclaiming my time, it just seems to me that more information, accurate information, should not be a threat. Isn't it appropriate to let the public know—in fact, to let lawmakers know who might need to respond—how lethal is the pollution? How substantial is the pollution? What's the composition of the pollution coming from the very largest polluters? What are we doing to our people? What are we doing to our environment? What are the sources of much of the billions of dollars that we're spending in health care, twice as much as any other country spends on a per capita basis?

So all we're trying to do here is to have a registry—information. That ought not be threatening.

This amendment should be defeated.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DICKS. A few years ago, the Supreme Court said that the EPA, under the Clean Air Act, had to come up with and look at the consequences of greenhouse gases and to create this registry, which is a scientific document that allows us to know just exactly what the various sources of these greenhouse gases are.

Now we hear a lot about climate change. I just want to point out there is another more immediate problem. The gentleman from Kansas may not be aware of this because it affects our oceans, and Kansas is in the middle of our country. The oceans are now a sink for carbon dioxide. And as we get more

and more CO₂ in the ocean, it creates acidity, the so-called pH factor, which at normal range is around 8.1, and when it goes down—we have places in Hood Canal, in my home area, that are down at 7.3. At that level of acidity, it starts to take apart coral. It takes apart oyster shells. It takes apart the vital plankton, which are the food for salmon, 60 percent of the food for salmon.

This is an incredibly important situation. So the more we can learn about greenhouse gases and what their effect is not only on our climate, but also on the ocean. We are poisoning the ocean. And again, there is this "let's not take time to work on this issue because somehow it's going to cut away jobs." It may end civilization. Think about that.

Your grandchildren, my grandchildren—your children, maybe. Maybe you're younger. I worry about them. I worry about what's going to happen if we don't deal with this climate change issue. And we should take this seriously. The best scientists in the world say this is something that needs to be dealt with.

So, again, I think this idea of taking out the money for the Greenhouse Gas Registry so that we will have a scientific underpinning to know what these problems are and how much various sources produce is the "ignorance is bliss" amendment.

Let's defeat this amendment and let the EPA do its job.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. POMPEO).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Kansas will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, \$41,099,000, to remain available until September 30, 2013.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities of, or for use by, the Environmental Protection Agency, \$36,428,000, to remain available until expended.

AMENDMENT NO. 23 OFFERED BY MS. RICHARDSON

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 66, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 68, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 68, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to speak on the Richardson amendment.

This amendment adds an additional \$5 million to the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act—also known as DERA grants—by cutting \$10 million from the EPA Buildings and Facilities account. The Richardson amendment is about creating jobs, saving lives, and improving our Nation's air quality.

Mr. Chairman, in the last Congress I introduced legislation that extended DERA for 5 years. The DERA legislation received large bipartisan support and was later signed into law by President Obama. DERA is supported by a coalition of over 500 leading transportation, environmental, and health organizations.

I represent a region that's home to the largest port complex in the Nation and consists of some of the busiest freeways and railways in our country. However, the area also suffers from poor air quality, which has led to much higher rates of asthma and cancer than any other area in the Nation. DERA improves our air quality by reducing the CO₂ emissions by up to 35,600 tons per year. It has been estimated that nearly 2,000 lives will be saved over the next 5 years through DERA by increased air quality.

Unfortunately, the bill before us today reduces the funding for DERA grants by \$19.9 million, which is well below the fiscal year 2011 levels. The EPA estimates that the DERA program averages more than \$13 in health and economic benefits for every \$1 we authorize in funding. The EPA also estimates that DERA saves more than 3.2 million gallons of fuel annually, which means that truckers and other diesel operators will spend \$8 million less on fuel. Mr. Chairman, that's less dependence on foreign oil.

In these tight economic times, it makes sense that we invest in programs that work and are cost effective. The CBO score on the Richardson amendment showed that it will decrease the budget authority by \$5 million without creating any new budget outlays. Simply put, the Richardson amendment saves money.

Since DERA funding began in 2007, more than 3,000 projects nationwide have benefited from this program. In fact, there have been nine projects in the Los Angeles County area, where I reside, alone.

Mr. Chairman, DERA projects have created jobs and improved air quality

in my district and across the country. The Richardson amendment saves lives, saves money, and creates jobs, which is certainly what we need and we should be talking about more in these dark hours.

I urge my colleagues to support the Richardson amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. I do this extremely reluctantly because I am very supportive of the DERA program, but I can't support the offset.

The DERA program, as the gentlelady is aware, was not in the administration's mark, and in this underlying bill, we provide for \$10 million for the DERA program. As she well knows, throughout the country this is a way to remove old diesel engines that pollute, and this is something that actually works.

It's not a program; it's not a study; it's not some academic exercise. It's actually something that cleans up the air, so it's something I am very much supportive of. But right now EPA's Buildings and Facilities accounts are cut by nearly one-third. We have cut back these accounts substantially, and so we just can't support the offset in the bill.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CALVERT. I yield to the gentlewoman from California.

□ 1800

Ms. RICHARDSON. I thank the gentleman from California, which we both serve, and it's my understanding that the account that the funds we're requesting that it would be taken from do, with what we're taking, still meet its outlay that's required, so I don't believe that this would be a hurt to that account.

Mr. CALVERT. Reclaiming my time, the program has already taken a substantial hit, a \$20 million hit, as a matter of fact. Almost every other program in our bill has taken substantial hits.

We're serious about reducing spending. If we had the additional money, I'm sure the chairman would have added more money in the DERA account in the first place if we had the extra money to do so, because it's an extremely successful program, something that I certainly support. I understand the gentlelady's conviction, but we just don't have the money to take care of this offset, so we have to oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, I agree with the distinguished Member from California. I know my colleague—and she's more than a colleague, a friend—is very passionate about this program, and it has a sweet acronym, DERA. As I said during the H.R. 1 debate, the diesel emissions program is a good program. That's not the issue. Right now, with regard to this amendment, the issue is whether or not we should be raiding other EPA accounts to give this diesel program even more funding than it actually has already gotten in this bill.

Chairman SIMPSON funded the diesel program at \$30 million, even though President Obama requested nothing for it. Now this amendment would add a mere \$5 million, but it would take \$10 million from EPA's buildings to pay for it. It may be politically attractive to take from a buildings account, until you know what it funds.

The following facilities would have to give up funding to add this \$5 million to the diesel program: the Ann Arbor, Michigan, national vehicle and fuel emissions lab; the Andrew Breidenbach environmental research center in Cincinnati, Ohio; the Region 9 office in San Francisco; the Research Triangle Park main laboratory in North Carolina. In that regard, the project in 2012 needs to be funded so we can save future lease costs that would be in jeopardy if we were to take this money away from the Research Triangle Park lab. The Narragansett, Rhode Island, research lab would be cut, and the air and radiation lab in Montgomery, Alabama.

All of these facilities have requests in this fiscal year 2012 budget for needed facilities improvements. To cut those in order to increase a program that was already plussed up \$30 million above the request doesn't seem to me to be the right thing to do.

In addition, we have an amendment filed from another Member—and I see her here so I suspect it's going to come up right now—to take away the \$30 million that's already in the bill. I would hope my good friend would stick around to strike the last word and address this amendment that would zero out the diesel program. I don't want to zero it out, but neither do I want to zero out money for six important EPA facilities. So I hope the supporters of the diesel program will stick around, will defend it against its elimination, which is an amendment that's coming up very soon, but right now it seems to me that the wisest thing to do is to try to protect the \$30 million that's already in the program, which is \$30 million more than the President requested.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. WESTMORELAND). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. RICHARDSON).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

The first amendment by Mr. DICKS of Washington.

The second amendment by Mr. DICKS of Washington.

The amendments en bloc by Mr. LATOURETTE of Ohio.

Amendment No. 39 by Mr. POMPEO of Kansas.

Amendment No. 23 by Ms. RICHARDSON of California.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DICKS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the first amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 174, noes 237, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 658]

AYES—174

Ackerman	Connolly (VA)	Garamendi
Andrews	Conyers	Gonzalez
Baca	Cooper	Green, Al
Baldwin	Costa	Grijalva
Barrow	Costello	Gutierrez
Bass (CA)	Courtney	Hahn
Becerra	Crowley	Hanabusa
Berkley	Cuellar	Hastings (FL)
Berman	Cummings	Heinrich
Bishop (NY)	Davis (CA)	Higgins
Blumenauer	Davis (IL)	Himes
Boswell	DeFazio	Hinojosa
Brady (PA)	DeGette	Hirono
Braley (IA)	DeLauro	Hochul
Brown (FL)	Deutch	Holden
Butterfield	Dicks	Holt
Capps	Dingell	Hoyer
Capuano	Doggett	Inslee
Carnahan	Donnelly (IN)	Israel
Carney	Doyle	Jackson (IL)
Carson (IN)	Edwards	Jackson Lee
Castor (FL)	Ellison	(TX)
Chu	Engel	Johnson (GA)
Cicilline	Eshoo	Johnson, E. B.
Clarke (MI)	Farr	Kaptur
Clarke (NY)	Fattah	Keating
Clay	Filner	Kildee
Cleaver	Fitzpatrick	Kind
Clyburn	Frank (MA)	Kissell
Cohen	Fudge	Kucinich

Langevin	Napolitano	Schwartz
Larsen (WA)	Neal	Scott (VA)
Larson (CT)	Oliver	Scott, David
Lee (CA)	Owens	Serrano
Levin	Pallone	Sewell
Lewis (GA)	Pascrell	Sherman
Lipinski	Pastor (AZ)	Sires
Loeb sack	Payne	Slaughter
Lofgren, Zoe	Pelosi	Smith (WA)
Lujan	Perlmutter	Speier
Lynch	Peters	Stark
Maloney	Pingree (ME)	Thompson (CA)
Markey	Polis	Thompson (MS)
Matheson	Price (NC)	Tierney
Matsui	Quigley	Tonko
McCarthy (NY)	Rahall	Towns
McCollum	Rangel	Tsongas
McDermott	Reichert	Van Hollen
McGovern	Reyes	Visclosky
McIntyre	Richardson	Walz (MN)
McNerney	Rothman (NJ)	Wasserman
Meeks	Roybal-Allard	Schultz
Michaud	Ryan (OH)	Waters
Miller (NC)	Sánchez, Linda	Watt
Miller, George	T.	Waxman
Moore	Sanchez, Loretta	Welch
Moran	Sarbanes	Wilson (FL)
Murphy (CT)	Schakowsky	Woolsey
Nadler	Schiff	Yarmuth

NOES—237

Adams	Fleischmann	Lewis (CA)
Aderholt	Fleming	LoBiondo
Akin	Flores	Long
Alexander	Forbes	Lucas
Altmire	Fortenberry	Luetkemeyer
Amash	Fox	Lummis
Bachus	Franks (AZ)	Lungren, Daniel
Barletta	Frelinghuysen	E.
Bartlett	Gallegly	Mack
Barton (TX)	Gardner	Manzullo
Bass (NH)	Garrett	Marchant
Benishek	Gerlach	Marino
Berg	Gibbs	McCarthy (CA)
Biggett	Gibson	McCaul
Bilbray	Gingrey (GA)	McClintock
Bilirakis	Gohmert	McHenry
Bishop (UT)	Goodlatte	McKeon
Black	Gosar	McKinley
Blackburn	Gowdy	McMorris
Bonner	Granger	Rodgers
Bono Mack	Graves (GA)	Meehan
Boren	Graves (MO)	Mica
Boustany	Green, Gene	Miller (FL)
Brady (TX)	Griffin (AR)	Miller (MI)
Brooks	Griffith (VA)	Miller, Gary
Buchanan	Grimm	Mulvaney
Bucshon	Guinta	Murphy (PA)
Buerkle	Guthrie	Myrick
Burgess	Hall	Neugebauer
Burton (IN)	Hanna	Noem
Calvert	Harper	Nugent
Camp	Hartzler	Nunes
Campbell	Hastings (WA)	Nunnelee
Canseco	Hayworth	Olson
Cantor	Heck	Palazzo
Capito	Hensarling	Paul
Cardoza	Herger	Paulsen
Carter	Herrera Beutler	Pearce
Chabot	Huelskamp	Pence
Chaffetz	Huizenga (MI)	Peterson
Coble	Hultgren	Petri
Coffman (CO)	Hunter	Pitts
Cole	Hurt	Platts
Conaway	Issa	Poe (TX)
Cravaack	Jenkins	Pompeo
Crawford	Johnson (IL)	Posey
Crenshaw	Johnson (OH)	Price (GA)
Critz	Johnson, Sam	Quayle
Culberson	Jones	Reed
Dold	Jordan	Rehberg
Dreier	Kelly	Renacci
Duffy	King (IA)	Ribble
Duncan (SC)	King (NY)	Rigell
Duncan (TN)	Kingston	Rivera
Ellmers	Kinzinger (IL)	Roby
Emerson	Kline	Roe (TN)
Farenthold	Labrador	Rogers (AL)
Fincher	Lamborn	Rogers (KY)
Flake	Lance	Rohrabacher
	Landry	Rokita
	Lankford	Rooney
	Latham	Ros-Lehtinen
	LaTourette	Roskam
	Latta	Ross (AR)

Ross (FL)	Smith (NE)	Walden
Royce	Smith (NJ)	Walsh (IL)
Runyan	Smith (TX)	Webster
Ryan (WI)	Southerland	West
Scalise	Stearns	Westmoreland
Schilling	Stivers	Whitfield
Schmidt	Stutzman	Wilson (SC)
Schweikert	Sullivan	Wittman
Scott (SC)	Sutton	Wolf
Scott, Austin	Terry	Womack
Sensenbrenner	Thompson (PA)	Woodall
Sessions	Thornberry	Yoder
Shimkus	Tipton	Young (AK)
Shuler	Turner	Young (FL)
Shuster	Upton	Young (IN)
Simpson	Walberg	

NOT VOTING—21

Austria	Harris	Ruppersberger
Bachmann	Hinchey	Rush
Bishop (GA)	Honda	Schock
Broun (GA)	Lowey	Schrad
Cassidy	McCotter	Tiberi
Chandler	Richmond	Velázquez
Giffords	Rogers (MI)	Wu

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1829

Mr. BARTON of Texas, Ms. SUTTON, and Mr. ROONEY changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Mr. CARNEY changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chair, on rollcall No. 658 I was unavoidably detained, and could not be present for the rollcall. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DICKS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the second amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 174, noes 250, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 659]

AYES—174

Ackerman	Capuano	Cooper
Andrews	Carnahan	Costello
Baldwin	Carney	Courtney
Bass (CA)	Carson (IN)	Crowley
Becerra	Castor (FL)	Cuellar
Berkley	Chu	Cummings
Berman	Cicilline	Davis (CA)
Bishop (GA)	Clarke (MI)	Davis (IL)
Bishop (NY)	Clarke (NY)	DeFazio
Blumenauer	Clay	DeGette
Brady (PA)	Cleaver	DeLauro
Braley (IA)	Clyburn	Deutch
Brown (FL)	Cohen	Dicks
Butterfield	Connolly (VA)	Dingell
Capps	Conyers	Doggett

Dold	Larson (CT)	Richmond	Marino	Poe (TX)	Sessions	Cohen	Johnson (IL)	Price (GA)
Doyle	Lee (CA)	Rothman (NJ)	Matheson	Pompeo	Shimkus	Conaway	Johnson (OH)	Quayle
Edwards	Levin	Roybal-Allard	McCarthy (CA)	Posey	Shuler	Conyers	Johnson, Sam	Quigley
Ellison	Lewis (GA)	Ruppersberger	McCaul	Price (GA)	Shuster	Costello	Jones	Rahall
Engel	Lipinski	Sánchez, Linda	McClintock	Quayle	Simpson	Cravaack	Jordan	Rehberg
Eshoo	Loeb sack	T.	McHenry	Rahall	Smith (NE)	Critz	Kaptur	Renacci
Farr	Lofgren, Zoe	Sanchez, Loretta	McIntyre	Reed	Smith (TX)	Culberson	Kelly	Ribble
Fattah	Lowe y	Sarbanes	McKeon	Renacci	Southerland	Cummings	Kildee	Rivera
Filner	Luján	Schakowsky	McKinley	Ribble	Stearns	Davis (IL)	King (IA)	Roe (TN)
Fitzpatrick	Lynch	Schiff	McMorris	Rigell	Stivers	Dent	King (NY)	Rogers (AL)
Frank (MA)	Maloney	Schrader	Rodgers	Rivera	Stutzman	DesJarlais	Kingston	Rogers (MI)
Fudge	Markey	Schwartz	Mica	Roby	Sullivan	Diaz-Balart	Kinzinger (IL)	Rohrabacher
Gallegly	Matsui	Scott (VA)	Michaud	Roe (TN)	Terry	Dingell	Kline	Rooney
Garamendi	McCarthy (NY)	Scott, David	Miller (FL)	Rogers (AL)	Thompson (PA)	Dold	Kucinich	Ros-Lehtinen
Gonzalez	McColum	Serrano	Miller (MI)	Rogers (KY)	Thornberry	Donnelly (IN)	Lamborn	Roskam
Green, Al	McDermott	Sewell	Miller, Gary	Rogers (MI)	Tiberi	Duffy	Landry	Ross (FL)
Grijalva	McGovern	Sherman	Mulvaney	Rohrabacher	Tipton	Duncan (SC)	Latham	Royce
Gutierrez	McNerney	Sires	Murphy (PA)	Rokita	Turner	Emerson	LaTourette	Runyan
Hahn	Meehan	Slaughter	Myrick	Rooney	Upton	Farenthold	Latta	Ryan (OH)
Hanabusa	Meeks	Smith (NJ)	Neugebauer	Ros-Lehtinen	Walberg	Fincher	Levin	Ryan (WI)
Harris	Miller (NC)	Smith (WA)	Noem	Roskam	Walden	Flake	Lipinski	Scalise
Hastings (FL)	Miller, George	Speier	Nugent	Ross (AR)	Walsh (IL)	Fleming	LoBiondo	Schakowsky
Heinrich	Moore	Stark	Nunes	Ross (FL)	Walz (MN)	Flores	Loeb sack	Schilling
Higgins	Moran	Sutton	Nunnelee	Royce	Webster	Fortenberry	Luetkemeyer	Schmidt
Himes	Murphy (CT)	Thompson (CA)	Olson	Runyan	West	Franks (AZ)	Lummis	Schock
Hinojosa	Nadler	Thompson (MS)	Owens	Ryan (OH)	Westmoreland	Frelinghuysen	Lungren, Daniel	Schweikert
Hirono	Napolitano	Tierney	Palazzo	Ryan (WI)	Whitfield	Fudge	E.	Scott (SC)
Holt	Neal	Tonko	Paul	Scalise	Wilson (SC)	Gardner	Mack	Scott (VA)
Honda	Oliver	Towns	Paulsen	Schilling	Wittman	Garrett	Manzullo	Scott, Austin
Hoyer	Pallone	Tsongas	Pearce	Schmidt	Wolf	Gerlach	Marchant	Sensenbrenner
Inslee	Pascarell	Van Hollen	Pence	Schock	Womack	Gibbs	Marino	Sessions
Israel	Pastor (AZ)	Velázquez	Peterson	Schweikert	Woodall	Gibson	McCarthy (CA)	Shimkus
Jackson (IL)	Payne	Visclosky	Petri	Scott (SC)	Yoder	Gingrey (GA)	McCaul	Shuster
Jackson Lee	Pelosi	Wasserman	Scott, Austin	Scott, Austin	Young (AK)	Gohmert	McClintock	Slaughter
(TX)	Perlmutter	Schultz	Sensenbrenner	Sensenbrenner	Young (IN)	Gonzalez	McHenry	Smith (NJ)
Johnson (GA)	Peters	Waters				Goodlatte	McKinley	Smith (TX)
Johnson (IL)	Pingree (ME)	Watt				Gowdy	Meehan	Southerland
Johnson, E. B.	Polis	Waxman	Bishop (UT)	Hinchey	Rehberg	Granger	Mica	Stivers
Kaptur	Price (NC)	Welch	Chandler	Mack	Rush	Graves (GA)	Miller (FL)	Sullivan
Keating	Quigley	Wilson (FL)	Giffords	McCotter		Graves (MO)	Miller (MI)	Sutton
Kildee	Rangel	Woolsey				Green, Gene	Moore	Terry
Kucinich	Reichert	Wu				Griffin (AR)	Mulvaney	Thompson (MS)
Langevin	Reyes	Yarmuth				Griffith (VA)	Murphy (PA)	Thornberry
Larsen (WA)	Richardson	Young (FL)				Grimm	Myrick	Tiberi
						Guinta	Nadler	Tipton
						Guthrie	Neugebauer	Turner
						Hall	Nugent	Upton
						Hanna	Nunes	Velázquez
						Harper	Nunnelee	Walberg
						Harris	Olson	Walden
						Hartzler	Owens	Walsh (IL)
						Herger	Palazzo	Walz (MN)
						Herrera Beutler	Pastor (AZ)	Waters
						Higgins	Paulsen	Webster
						Hochul	Pence	West
						Holden	Peters	Westmoreland
						Huizenga (MI)	Peterson	Whitfield
						Hultgren	Petri	Woodall
						Hunter	Pitts	Young (AK)
						Issa	Platts	Young (IN)
						Jackson (IL)	Posey	

NOT VOTING—8

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1836

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC OFFERED BY MR.

LA TOURETTE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
business is the demand for a recorded
vote on the amendments en bloc offered
by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr.
LATOURETTE) on which further proceedings
were postponed and on which the
noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 5-
minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device,
and there were—ayes 220, noes 206,
not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 660]

AYES—220

Adams	Conaway	Hall	Adams	Berg	Camp
Aderholt	Costa	Hanna	Akin	Biggert	Campbell
Akin	Cravaack	Harper	Alexander	Bilirakis	Canseco
Alexander	Crawford	Hartzler	Altmire	Boswell	Cantor
Altmire	Crenshaw	Hastings (WA)	Amash	Boustany	Capito
Amash	Critz	Hayworth	Austria	Brady (TX)	Cardoza
Austria	Culberson	Heck	Bachmann	Brooks	Carter
Baca	Davis (KY)	Hensarling	Bachus	Brown (GA)	Cassidy
Bachmann	Denham	Herger	Barletta	Brown (FL)	Chabot
Bachus	Dent	Herrera Beutler	Bartlett	Bucshon	Chaffetz
Barletta	DesJarlais	Hochul	Bartlett	Buerkle	Coble
Barrow	Diaz-Balart	Holden	Bass (NH)	Burgess	Coffman (CO)
Bartlett	Donnelly (IN)	Huelskamp	Benishek	Burns (IN)	
Barton (TX)	Dreier	Huizenga (MI)			
Bass (NH)	Duffy	Hultgren			
Benishek	Duncan (SC)	Hunter			
Berg	Duncan (TN)	Hurt			
Biggert	Ellmers	Issa			
Bilbray	Emerson	Jenkins			
Bilirakis	Farenthold	Johnson (OH)			
Black	Fincher	Johnson, Sam			
Blackburn	Flake	Jones			
Bonner	Fleischmann	Jordan			
Bono Mack	Fleming	Kelly			
Boren	Flores	Kind			
Boswell	Forbes	King (IA)			
Boustany	Fortenberry	King (NY)			
Brady (TX)	Fox	Kingston			
Brooks	Franks (AZ)	Kinzinger (IL)			
Brown (GA)	Frelinghuysen	Kissell			
Buchanan	Gardner	Kline			
Buchon	Garrett	Labrador			
Buerkle	Gerlach	Lamborn			
Burgess	Gibbs	Lance			
Burton (IN)	Gibson	Landry			
Calvert	Gingrey (GA)	Lankford			
Camp	Gohmert	Latham			
Campbell	Goodlatte	LaTourette			
Canseco	Gosar	Latta			
Cantor	Gowdy	Lewis (CA)			
Capito	Granger	LoBiondo			
Cardoza	Graves (GA)	Long			
Carter	Graves (MO)	Lucas			
Cassidy	Green, Gene	Luetkemeyer			
Chabot	Griffin (AR)	Lummis			
Chaffetz	Griffith (VA)	Lungren, Daniel			
Coble	Grimm	E.			
Coffman (CO)	Guinta	Manzullo			
Cole	Guthrie	Marchant			

NOES—206

Cicilline	Filner
Clarke (NY)	Fitzpatrick
Clay	Fleischmann
Cleaver	Forbes
Cole	Fox
Connolly (VA)	Frank (MA)
Cooper	Gallegly
Costa	Garamendi
Courtney	Gosar
Crawford	Green, Al
Crenshaw	Grijalva
Crowley	Gutierrez
Cuellar	Hahn
Davis (CA)	Hanabusa
Davis (KY)	Hastings (FL)
DeFazio	Hastings (WA)
DeGette	Hayworth
DeLauro	Heck
Denham	Heinrich
Deuth	Hensarling
Dicks	Himes
Doggett	Hinojosa
Dreier	Hirono
Duncan (TN)	Holt
Edwards	Honda
Ellison	Hoyer
Ellmers	Huelskamp
Engel	Hurt
Eshoo	Inslee
Farr	Israel
Fattah	Jackson Lee
	(TX)

Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Keating
Kind
Kissell
Labrador
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lofgren, Zoe
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luján
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meeks
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary

Miller, George
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Napolitano
Neal
Noem
Oliver
Pallone
Pascrell
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Pingree (ME)
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Price (NC)
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Rogers (KY)
Rokita
Ross (AR)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schiff

Schrader
Schwartz
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Shuler
Simpson
Sires
Smith (NE)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stark
Stearns
Stutzman
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Tierney
Tonko
Townes
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Visclosky
Wasserman
Schultz
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—6

Bishop (UT)
Chandler

Giffords
Hinchey

McCotter
Rush

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1843

Mr. ROHRABACHER and Ms. WATERS changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendments en bloc were agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 39 OFFERED BY MR. POMPEO

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. POMPEO) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 235, noes 191, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 661]

AYES—235

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Amash
Austria

Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Benishek
Berg

Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bono Mack
Boren

Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donnelly (IN)
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emerson
Farenthold
Fincher
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gardner
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hall
Harper
Harris

Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holden
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Lankford
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meehan
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moore
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paul
Paulsen
Pearce
Pence
Peterson
Petri

Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Rahall
Reed
Rehberg
Renacci
Ribble
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schilling
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOES—191

Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crowley

Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fitzpatrick

Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Gerlach
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
(TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kildee
Kind
Kissell
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)

Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lujan
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Oliver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Pingree (ME)
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Rothman (NJ)

Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Shuler
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stark
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Townes
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—6

Chandler
Giffords

Herger
Hinchey

McCotter
Rush

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1849

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 23 OFFERED BY MS. RICHARDSON

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. RICHARDSON) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 193, noes 232, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 662]

AYES—193

Ackerman
Aderholt
Altmire

Bachmann
Baldwin
Barletta

Barrow
Bartlett
Bass (CA)

Becerra	Grijalva	Pascarell	Hastings (WA)	Michaud	Royce
Berkley	Gutierrez	Pastor (AZ)	Hayworth	Miller (FL)	Runyan
Berman	Hahn	Paul	Heck	Miller (MI)	Ruppersberger
Bilbray	Hall	Paulsen	Hensarling	Miller (NC)	Ryan (WI)
Bishop (GA)	Hanabusa	Payne	Herger	Miller, Gary	Scalise
Bishop (NY)	Hastings (FL)	Pelosi	Herrera Beutler	Miller, George	Schmidt
Blumenauer	Heinrich	Pingree (ME)	Hinojosa	Moran	Schweikert
Boren	Higgins	Polis	Hoyer	Mulvaney	Scott (SC)
Boswell	Himes	Posey	Huelskamp	Murphy (PA)	Scott (VA)
Brady (PA)	Hirono	Quigley	Huizenga (MI)	Myrick	Scott, Austin
Braley (IA)	Hochul	Rahall	Hunter	Neugebauer	Serrano
Brown (FL)	Holden	Rangel	Hurt	Noem	Sessions
Bucshon	Holt	Reed	Issa	Nugent	Shuster
Butterfield	Honda	Reichert	Jenkins	Nunes	Simpson
Capuano	Hultgren	Renacci	Johnson (OH)	Nunnelee	Sires
Cardoza	Inslee	Richardson	Johnson, Sam	Olson	Smith (NE)
Carnahan	Israel	Richmond	Jordan	Olver	Smith (TX)
Carney	Jackson (IL)	Rooney	King (NY)	Owens	Smith (WA)
Carson (IN)	Jackson Lee	Ross (AR)	Kingston	Palazzo	Southerland
Cassidy	(TX)	Rothman (NJ)	Labrador	Pallone	Speier
Castor (FL)	Johnson (GA)	Roybal-Allard	Lamborn	Pearce	Stark
Chu	Johnson (IL)	Ryan (OH)	Lance	Pence	Terry
Ciilline	Johnson, E. B.	Sánchez, Linda	Landry	Perlmutter	Thompson (CA)
Clarke (MI)	Jones	T.	Lankford	Peters	Thompson (PA)
Clarke (NY)	Kaptur	Sanchez, Loretta	Latham	Peterson	Tiberi
Clay	Keating	Sarbanes	LaTourette	Petri	Tipton
Cleaver	Kelly	Schakowsky	Latta	Pitts	Tsongas
Clyburn	Kildee	Schiff	Levin	Platts	Turner
Cohen	Kind	Schilling	Lewis (CA)	Poe (TX)	Van Hollen
Conaway	King (IA)	Schock	Long	Pompeo	Velázquez
Conyers	Kinzing (IL)	Schrader	Lowe	Price (GA)	Visclosky
Cooper	Kissell	Shaw	Lucas	Price (NC)	Walberg
Costa	Kline	Schwartz	Lummis	Quayle	Walden
Costello	Kucinich	Scott, David	Lungren, Daniel	Rehberg	Walsh (IL)
Critz	Langevin	Sensenbrenner	E.	Reyes	Walz (MN)
Crowley	Larsen (WA)	Sewell	Mack	Ribble	Webster
Cuellar	Larson (CT)	Sherman	Maloney	Rigell	Welch
Cummings	Lee (CA)	Shimkus	Marino	Rivera	West
Davis (IL)	Lewis (GA)	Shuler	Matheson	Roby	Westmoreland
DeFazio	Lipinski	Slaughter	McCaul	Roe (TN)	Whitfield
DeGette	LoBiondo	Smith (NJ)	McCollum	Rogers (AL)	Wilson (SC)
Dent	Loeb	Stearns	McGovern	Rogers (KY)	Wittman
Deutsch	Lofgren, Zoe	Stivers	McHenry	Rogers (MI)	Wolf
Dingell	Luetkemeyer	Stutzman	McKeon	Rohrabacher	Womack
Doyle	Lujan	Sullivan	McKinley	Rokita	Woodall
Duncan (TN)	Lynch	Sutton	McMorris	Ros-Lehtinen	Yoder
Engel	Manzullo	Thompson (MS)	Rodgers	Roskam	Young (FL)
Farenthold	Marchant	Thornberry	Mica	Ross (FL)	Young (IN)
Farr	Markay	Tierney			
Fattah	Matsui	Tonko	Akin	Giffords	Rush
Filner	McCarthy (CA)	Towns	Barton (TX)	Hinchey	
Fitzpatrick	McCarthy (NY)	Upton	Chandler	McCotter	
Frank (MA)	McClintock	Wasserman			
Fudge	McDermott	Schultz			
Garamendi	McIntyre	Waters			
Gerlach	McNerney	Watt			
Gibbs	Meehan	Waxman			
Gibson	Meeks	Wilson (FL)			
Gonzalez	Moore	Woolsey			
Goodlatte	Murphy (CT)	Wu			
Green, Al	Nadler	Yarmuth			
Green, Gene	Napolitano	Young (AK)			
Griffith (VA)	Neal				

NOES—232

Adams	Capito	Emerson
Alexander	Capps	Eshoo
Amash	Carter	Fincher
Andrews	Chabot	Flake
Austria	Chaffetz	Fleischmann
Baca	Coble	Fleming
Bachus	Coffman (CO)	Flores
Bass (NH)	Cole	Forbes
Benishek	Connolly (VA)	Fortenberry
Berg	Courtney	Fox
Bigert	Cravaack	Franks (AZ)
Bilirakis	Crawford	Frelinghuysen
Bishop (UT)	Crenshaw	Gallely
Black	Culberson	Gardner
Blackburn	Davis (CA)	Garrett
Bonner	Davis (KY)	Gingrey (GA)
Bono Mack	DeLauro	Gohmert
Boustany	Denham	Gosar
Brady (TX)	DesJarlais	Gowdy
Brooks	Diaz-Balart	Granger
Brown (GA)	Dicks	Graves (GA)
Buchanan	Doggett	Graves (MO)
Buerkle	Dold	Griffin (AR)
Burgess	Donnelly (IN)	Grimm
Burton (IN)	Dreier	Guinta
Calvert	Duffy	Guthrie
Camp	Duncan (SC)	Hanna
Campbell	Edwards	Harper
Canseco	Ellison	Harris
Cantor	Ellmers	Hartzler

\$23,016,000 shall be paid to the “Science and Technology” appropriation to remain available until September 30, 2013.

LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK TRUST FUND PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out leaking underground storage tank cleanup activities authorized by subtitle I of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended, \$105,669,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$78,051,000 shall be for carrying out leaking underground storage tank cleanup activities authorized by section 9003(h) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended; \$34,430,000 shall be for carrying out the other provisions of the Solid Waste Disposal Act specified in section 9508(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended: *Provided*, That the Administrator is authorized to use appropriations made available under this heading to implement section 9013 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to provide financial assistance to federally recognized Indian tribes for the development and implementation of programs to manage underground storage tanks.

INLAND OIL SPILL PROGRAMS

For expenses necessary to carry out the Environmental Protection Agency’s responsibilities under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, \$18,274,000, to be derived from the Oil Spill Liability trust fund, to remain available until expended.

STATE AND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

For environmental programs and infrastructure assistance, including capitalization grants for State revolving funds and performance partnership grants, \$2,610,393,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$689,000,000 shall be for making capitalization grants for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds under title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (the “Act”); of which \$829,000,000 shall be for making capitalization grants for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended; \$60,000,000 shall be to carry out section 104(k) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), as amended, including grants, interagency agreements, and associated program support costs; \$30,000,000 shall be for grants under title VII, subtitle G of the Energy Policy Act of 2005; and \$1,002,393,000 shall be for grants, including associated program support costs, to States, federally recognized tribes, interstate agencies, tribal consortia, and air pollution control agencies for multi-media or single media pollution prevention, control and abatement and related activities, including activities pursuant to the provisions set forth under this heading in Public Law 104–134, and for making grants under section 103 of the Clean Air Act for particulate matter monitoring and data collection activities subject to terms and conditions specified by the Administrator, of which \$49,396,000 shall be for carrying out section 128 of CERCLA, as amended, \$9,980,000 shall be for Environmental Information Exchange Network grants, including associated program support costs, \$11,300,000 of the funds available for grants under section 106 of the Act shall be for state participation in national- and state-level statistical surveys of water resources and enhancements to state monitoring programs and, in addition to funds appropriated under the heading “Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund Program” to carry out the provisions of the Solid Waste Disposal Act specified in section 9508(c) of the Internal Revenue Code other

NOT VOTING—7

Akin Giffords Rush
Barton (TX) Hinchey
Chandler McCotter

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
Two minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1856

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE SUPERFUND
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), as amended, including sections 111(c)(3), (c)(5), (c)(6), and (e)(4) (42 U.S.C. 9611) \$1,224,295,000, to remain available until expended, consisting of such sums as are available in the Trust Fund on September 30, 2011, as authorized by section 517(a) of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) and up to \$1,224,295,000 as a payment from general revenues to the Hazardous Substance Superfund for purposes as authorized by section 517(b) of SARA, as amended: *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this heading may be allocated to other Federal agencies in accordance with section 111(a) of CERCLA: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, \$9,955,000 shall be paid to the “Office of Inspector General” appropriation to remain available until September 30, 2013, and

than section 9003(h) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended, \$1,550,000 shall be for grants to States under section 2007(f)(2) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 603(d)(7) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, the limitation on the amounts in a State water pollution control revolving fund that may be used by a State to administer the fund shall not apply to amounts included as principal in loans made by such fund in fiscal year 2012 and prior years where such amounts represent costs of administering the fund to the extent that such amounts are or were deemed reasonable by the Administrator, accounted for separately from other assets in the fund, and used for eligible purposes of the fund, including administration: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2012, and notwithstanding section 518(f) of the Act, the Administrator is authorized to use the amounts appropriated for any fiscal year under section 319 of that Act to make grants to Federally recognized Indian tribes pursuant to sections 319(h) and 518(e) of that Act: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2012, notwithstanding the limitation on amounts in section 518(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and section 1452(i) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, up to a total of 2 percent of the funds appropriated for State Revolving Funds under such Acts may be reserved by the Administrator for grants under section 518(c) and section 1452(i) of such Acts: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2012, notwithstanding the amounts specified in section 205(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, up to 1.5 percent of the aggregate funds appropriated for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program under the Act less any sums reserved under section 518(c) of the Act, may be reserved by the Administrator for grants made under title II of the Clean Water Act for American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and United States Virgin Islands: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2012, notwithstanding the limitations on amounts specified in section 1452(j) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, up to 1.5 percent of the funds appropriated for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs under the Safe Drinking Water Act may be reserved by the Administrator for grants made under section 1452(j) of the Safe Drinking Water Act: *Provided further*, That not less than 30 percent of the funds made available under this title to each State for Clean Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants and not less than 30 percent of the funds made available under this title to each State for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants shall be used by the State to provide additional subsidy to eligible recipients in the form of forgiveness of principal, negative interest loans, or grants (or any combination of these), and shall be so used by the State only where such funds are provided as initial financing for an eligible recipient or to buy, refinance, or restructure the debt obligations of eligible recipients only where such debt was incurred on or after the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That no funds provided by this appropriations Act to address the water, wastewater and other critical infrastructure needs of the colonias in the United States along the United States-Mexico border shall be made available to a county or municipal government unless that government has established an enforceable local ordinance, or other zoning rule, which prevents in that jurisdiction the development or construction of any additional colonia areas, or the development within an

existing colonia the construction of any new home, business, or other structure which lacks water, wastewater, or other necessary infrastructure: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2012 and hereafter, of the funds provided for the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act State Revolving Fund Tribal Set-Asides, the Administrator may transfer funds between those accounts in the same manner as provided to States under section 302(a) of Public Law 104-182, as amended by Public Law 109-54.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. BLACKBURN

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. CHAFFETZ). The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 68, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$30,000,000)”.

Page 68, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$30,000,000)”.

Page 158, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$30,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Tennessee is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, first I would like to begin by commending our Appropriations Committee for the extraordinary job that they have done to claw back this money and to reduce spending below the levels that we had last year or the levels in the CR.

They have, indeed, done an exemplary job. But I think during these extraordinary and unprecedented times, we have to do more. And this Diesel Emissions Reduction program is one of those areas of funding that we can look at and say, indeed, this is duplicative, and because of that, we can eliminate this \$30 million and move that funding into the spending reduction account.

Now, DERA, the program under discussion, is a grant program administered by EPA. It seeks to reduce diesel emissions—that’s a worthy goal—by providing funds for technologies to retrofit existing vehicles and infrastructure not subject to updated diesel air standards. This is something that at one point in time, yes, it was important and had a tremendous impact on some of our communities, and they have done grants all across this country.

□ 1900

Now I want to point out that President Obama’s fiscal year 2012 budget recommends completely eliminating funding for the DERA grants, and there is a reason that it has done that.

One of the reasons that they have done that is because since 2007, new diesel engines have to comply with a much higher emissions standard, therefore, it is decreasing the need for retrofits. There’s also other funding available for such retrofits through the Department of Transportation Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program. They have about \$45 million for diesel retrofits annually, and through the EPA’s Supplemental

Environmental Project enforcement agreements, where there’s \$7.1 million for that.

There are other programs with similar grants, the EPA’s Smart Growth Program, the EPA’s Performance Partnership Grants, the Clean Fuels Formula Grants. Indeed, the administration has not increased Federal funding for this program above the \$60 million level in place since fiscal year 2009, when it received an additional \$300 million in the Stimulus Act.

This is a program that we can say, indeed, has been a helpful program, but it is duplicative, it has outlived its usefulness because there are emissions standards on diesel vehicles that have been in place since 2007. There is less need for these grants.

Indeed, one of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, as we were debating the CR, had recommended that we use this program, an offset with this program, and eliminate the funding for this program. Mr. MORAN had offered, at that point in time, that we do that, and one the reasons he gave was because the President had eliminated it in order to encourage the truck industry to increase its own diesel R&D. I agree with that.

This is a program that we would save \$30 million. I know that it is duplicative. We need to save every penny we can possibly save of the taxpayers’ money. This is a step that we should take. I appreciate the support of the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. RICHARDSON. I rise in strong opposition to the amendment that’s brought forward to us today. If you look at the history, actually, of the DERA program, it’s one of the rare programs in this House that has enjoyed bipartisan support from day one. When you consider the inception of the program and the continued amendments that have been passed on this floor, it has garnered support. And let’s talk about why.

There is evidence to show that for every \$1 of investment that’s made into this particular program, \$13 is received back, \$13 in economic benefits, in terms of jobs and in terms of health savings. Why?

DERA is the diesel emission program. I would say, is there anyone here who honestly believes that the American public that is driving on the highways every single day and sees the spewing of smog and soot coming out of trucks thinks that we no longer need this program?

There are thousands and thousands of trucks on our highways, and if this program weren’t needed, I would suggest, then why are we receiving thousands

and thousands of applications every single day? When the trucks have been replaced and we have reduced the emissions, then there will be the time to re-evaluate this program. But that time is not now. We are finally making progress.

And let's talk about the benefits of the diesel emission program. Yes, one, it helps us to reduce the old trucks that are on the highways. But what does it also do?

By having diesel emission, it allows us to also save in terms of fuel that's being used. And we all know our dependency currently on foreign oil, so when we consider the ability to be able to reduce the amount of oil that we have to purchase, that individuals are purchasing, that truckers are purchasing, it reduces that cost of our dependence on oil. It reduces the cost of what the end users receive when they're getting the various products.

Now, let's talk about safety. When we look at the old trucks, if we can incentivize truckers to be able to upgrade their equipment, which would include filters, protection with diesel emissions, oftentimes there are other benefits that they're gaining with those vehicles, and so we're also saving lives.

I would say any suggestion of this amendment is shortsighted and ill-advised. This is a good working program, and the maker of the amendment agrees to that, and it garners bipartisan support.

I would suggest to you, Mr. Chairman, and strongly urge that my colleagues would all join us in opposition to this amendment. Let's keep this program that is working in this country, and let's address the desperate diesel emission that's impacting asthma and many health issues in our country.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN. I rise to oppose the gentlelady's amendment. I think it's instructive to point out, I offered an amendment to strike funding for this program during H.R. 1, back in February, so that we could add funds to the North American Wetlands Conservation Program.

Now my colleague from Tennessee, let me just check the record here, voted "no," so I'm a little confused that now, a few months later, 5 months later, she has changed her mind. It seems to me, my amendment from February would have been preferable to the Members who have anglers and hunters in their district, which I suspect the gentlelady from Tennessee does. They rely upon healthy wetlands, which have been very much endangered by what was an elimination of the North American Wetlands Conservation Program in this bill.

This amendment simply throws away the needed funding. And I know the chairman of the subcommittee understands how needed those dollars are. So it does seem to me that our amendment to have restored money for wetlands made more sense.

But, not only did I lose that vote, Mrs. BLACKBURN voted against eliminating this diesel program. So we did not eliminate that money largely because of the compelling argument that was made by Ms. RICHARDSON at the time. In the meantime, she has continued to lobby for this program. I found some of her arguments convincing. So we're not trying to take the money out that the chairman added. We can understand why it was added to the bill. So we would agree with the chairman. Let's leave it in the bill, even though it had been zeroed out by the President.

So I think Ms. RICHARDSON not only won that vote back in February, but I think she should win this vote as well. The money should be kept in the program—\$30 million does seem to be doing some good things. And so I would oppose the gentlelady from Tennessee's amendment to eliminate the program, and not even to use the \$30 million for any other constructive purpose.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. I rise in opposition to the amendment.

When I first looked at the President's proposal to eliminate funding for the diesel emissions reductions grant, I knew that there was a budget gimmick that we would have to backfill when we did this budget. This was an issue I addressed with the EPA administrator when she came before the subcommittee to justify her budget.

The diesel emissions reduction program, or DERA, is a proven program with known, quantifiable health benefits. The DERA program provides grants to States to retrofit old diesel engines in order to reduce pollution.

□ 1910

These grants produce \$13 of economic benefit per Federal dollar. And the technology supported by DERA reduced black carbon emissions by 90 percent.

When I asked the administrator why she would propose to eliminate funding for a program with proven technology that works in order to fund new, nice-to-have voluntary initiatives that we have no idea what they do, she responded that it was a tough budget choice. Well, it was the wrong choice.

I think the committee supports this program, it has in the past. As I said, it's a proven program that has proven results, and that's why we backfilled the request—even though the President didn't request any funding for this—to

put \$30 million in. It is \$20 million below what was funded at the current level. So it did have a reduction just like every other program, but we did keep it alive at \$30 million.

I yield to the gentlelady from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

And, indeed, we are all for clean air; we are all for clean water; we are all for a clean environment. I think that during these times we have to look at how we're going to spend that money. And Mr. MORAN is right. I did vote against his amendment because the money was going to wetlands and not into a spending reduction account.

This is a program that is duplicative. There are other programs on the books. As we look at how to remove these redundancies and the duplications that are in the budget, this is an area where we can do it. We all want to make certain that we clean up the diesel emissions, but I would remind you all, since 2008 there have been a total of 500 grants that the EPA has given through this program, and we have four other programs that do this same work.

This is an area where we can go and achieve a savings. It is \$30 million, but these are the types of steps in the right direction that, Mr. Chairman, we have to be willing to take if we're going to get the Federal spending under control.

Mr. SIMPSON. I thank the gentlelady.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. RICHARDSON

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 68, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$5,000,000)".

Page 68, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$5,000,000)".

Page 76, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to speak on Richardson amendment No. 2.

This amendment would direct \$5 million for clean air grants, which were cut by nearly 15 percent in the current legislation.

Air pollution is a national problem. According to the EPA, approximately 127 million people live in counties that exceed at least one of the health-based national ambient air quality standards in 2008. New health-based standards for ozone will likely increase this number.

Mr. Chairman, I represent a region that's home to the largest port complex in the Nation and consists of some of the busiest freeways and railways in the country. However, the area also suffers from poor air quality, which has led to much higher rates of asthma and cancer than the current national average.

Exposure to dirty air causes tens of thousands of premature deaths each year and results in serious health problems, such as the aggravation of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, difficulty breathing, increased susceptibility to respiratory infections, adverse effects on learning, memory, IQ, and behavior, as well as cancer.

Improvements in air quality lead to greater productivity, fewer sick days, and less money spent on health care to address air pollution-related problems. State and local air pollution control agencies have the primary responsibility to implement our Nation's clean air programs that are required by the Clean Air Act. However, due to this current recession, State and local governments are increasingly strapped for resources and are finding it ever more difficult to carry the Federal Government's share of funding this responsibility.

Because of the continuing adverse impacts of this recession on State and localities, air agencies will continue to make more painful decisions, such as reducing or cutting air programs that protect our public health. So in other words, we took 10 steps forward and now we're taking 20 back.

Mr. Chairman, I have seen firsthand that clean air grants are effective, when you consider, in an area of mine that's home to 16.8 million people and is one of the smoggiest areas in the Nation, the South Coast Air Quality Management District is one of the air pollution control agencies for Orange County and Los Angeles urban areas, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties as well. Clean air agencies also assist companies in being able to help them to comply with Clean Air Act regulations. This assistance has allowed many businesses to expand and to create jobs.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support clean air, support public health, and support American jobs. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, a good friend of mine from Virginia once said

that he would hear this on the floor, and I guess this is probably the first time that he's going to hear it; that is, the gentlelady makes a good point. But given the allocation that we have and the low funding level, frankly, we just don't have the money to do what she's requesting.

Her offset is to take money out of the Capital Improvement and Maintenance program. That's a program that has already been cut by \$94 million in this bill. We've had to make some tough decisions. And while we haven't eliminated the funding for this, obviously, we just don't have that kind of money to put back into it.

Every program is going to have to suffer some cuts. I don't think we should be taking money out of the Capital Improvement and Maintenance program allocation that has already been cut by nearly \$100 million. So I would oppose the gentlelady's amendment and hope my colleagues will oppose it also.

I yield back the balance of my time. The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. RICHARDSON).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California will be postponed.

Ms. EDWARDS. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maryland is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Chairman, I didn't think I would be down here this evening debating the Interior-EPA appropriations bill, in part because of the number of hours that we have spent in this Chamber on this bill when we actually should be facing the Nation's debt ceiling, giving the President a clean debt ceiling and moving forward with rebuilding our economy and creating jobs. Instead, we're debating yet another flawed bill. It is the biggest assault on clean air, clean water, the endangered species, and public lands that we've seen in our Nation's history.

The bill's unprecedented funding cuts and polluter riders to benefit rich and often reckless mining and oil companies will cripple the EPA's employees, health professionals, and scientists' ability to do their job protecting our Nation and its public health.

Rather than celebrating the advancements that we've made over the last 40 years in air and water quality, instead, these Republican "riders to ruin" are driving us back to the sixties, a time when Rachel Carson wrote "Silent Spring" to awaken the American pub-

lic to the man-made impacts on the environment. And I just want to take a few moments to discuss a couple of them. There are so many that it's a tough challenge, these Republican "riders to ruin."

The bill would prohibit funding for the Endangered Species Act listings. Hundreds of animals have been protected under the Endangered Species Act. The bill would eliminate the protection that leads to the repopulation and revitalization of bald eagle populations in our Nation. And for all the flag pins that we wear, we're about ready to decimate the very act that protects our Nation's symbol, the bald eagle.

Among other things, the bill also strikes out at ending regulations to expand the storm water discharge program under the Clean Water Act. The program prevents harmful pollutants from being washed or dumped into our water systems. And as our cities and urbanized areas grow, storm water runoff can become a threat if we're not able to better manage the discharge waters and possible impact of toxins and pollutants.

And here we are, something I can hardly believe. I recall taking my son to the Grand Canyon and camping along the side of the south rim many years ago. What are we going to do now? We can pitch our tents next to the uranium mines at the Grand Canyon. This is insane.

□ 1920

For the 5 million visitors a year who visit the Grand Canyon, we're going to jeopardize the water quality of our Nation's most important rivers. I can't imagine families visiting the Grand Canyon. I can't imagine future generations pitching their tent next to the Grand Canyon, next to a uranium mine, because of this senseless legislation.

It almost makes you breathless to wonder why it is that we've decided that the Federal Government doesn't have a role anymore in protecting our water and our land and our air and our air quality. The majority is pushing a bill on the floor that blocks Clean Air Act regulations of fine particles and soot and delays the EPA from limiting toxic mercury pollution from power plants. Why don't we just break up all our thermometers and dump them in the water?

I'm not sure who these riders are meant to help, but I know that they don't help children in communities in my district and across the country who are vulnerable to air pollution. Thirty percent of childhood asthma is due to environmental exposures, costing the Nation \$2 billion per year. These riders add to the arsenal. They just add to the arsenal. Low-income and minority children experience more doctor visits and hospitalization due to asthma than

the general population and three times the rate of white Americans.

This is a really sad day, but it's most especially sad because we should be doing the Nation's business. Today, we watched the stock market plummet because of the uncertainty that we've created in this body because of the recalcitrance of the Republican majority. I know that we have to do this horrible EPA appropriations bill, but what we need to do is fix this Nation's economy, get people back to work building our roads and our bridges and our infrastructure, and protecting our national parks. Instead, we're engaged in the silliness of trying to play dice and chicken with the American economy. It's a really sad day for the American public. Just a really sad day.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Thank you.

The majority has been saying how concerned they are about future generations, that we shouldn't be overburdening them with our debt. I wholeheartedly agree. That's why I'm disappointed that, instead of addressing the urgent debt crisis, we are on the floor debating a bill that will gut pollution controls and public health protections in order to boost profits, the profits of America's biggest polluters, the last people who probably need a hand right now.

This bill does a number of things, Mr. Chairman. It blocks even modest pollution control standards that could mitigate climate change; the bill also erases 40 years of Federal laws that protect clean air, water, lands and wildlife; and it cripples the budgets of the Federal agencies we've charged with protecting our constituents.

As a mother and grandmother, I'm appalled that this bill signals a willingness to leave our families a more unhealthy environment than we have today. Isn't the idea always to leave things better than we found them?

Instead of protecting our citizens and shorelines, this bill exempts oil companies from complying with the Clean Air Act for offshore drilling.

Instead of protecting our drinking water and waterways, it cuts nearly \$1 billion in funding for the clean water State revolving funds and will, if enacted, compromise the ability to address urban stormwater runoff, one of San Diego's greatest environmental threats.

And instead of supporting a cleaner, more efficient auto industry, it blocks an improved fuel efficiency standard, jeopardizing a process projected to create up to 700,000 new green jobs, cut fuel costs and save 2.4 million barrels of oil every day by 2030.

It's alarming, Mr. Chairman, that my colleagues who speak so passionately about giving the next generations a clean financial slate would so carelessly leave them a dirty planet. I suspect that the grandchildren of some oil company executives can always jet off to pristine resorts, but quite frankly that's not the situation for most of my constituents. The grandchildren of the 85 percent of Americans who just told The Washington Post/ABC News poll that they are, quote, just getting by or falling behind will be stuck paying high gas prices and worrying about their jobs and worrying about their health.

We should be leaving our children and our grandchildren a chance at the American Dream of middle class prosperity and a legacy of environmental responsibility and stewardship, not one of reckless disregard.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this bill and getting back to bridging the debt divide so our constituents can focus on their own jobs rather than being concerned about whether we're doing ours.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

In some respects, I feel like I'm in the Twilight Zone. Can anyone explain, when we are 144 hours from crossing the brink, from going over the ledge, to have this country come to a screeching halt financially, tell me why we are debating the appropriations bill for the Department of the Interior? Why aren't we dealing with what the American people want us to be dealing with right now, and that is the debt limit, raising the ceiling on the debt limit? But, no, we're going to spend hundreds of hours here over the next couple of days talking about the Interior appropriations bill.

Let me tell you what I'm hearing from my constituents, and maybe my colleagues on the other side of the aisle aren't getting phone calls from their constituents, but I am, and let me tell you what I'm hearing.

One woman wrote me and said:

"My mom is 79 years old, worked all her life in a factory and retired. Her pension was handed to her on her very last day of work, \$25,000. The plant closed, moved the work to Mexico, and her husband died 8 years later. That \$25,000 didn't last long. Now her only source of income is Social Security. She lives in a senior retirement center that she loves. Last Thursday, she and my aunt, who is 83 and also widowed, called me to pick them up and take them to the bank. They were going to withdraw from their savings money to pay their rent, as they, along with all

of the other seniors they live with in that retirement center, are convinced they will not get their Social Security checks come August 1. My mom has a doctor's appointment on August 5, and she wonders if the doctor will continue to see her if the government doesn't pay for Medicare.

"I care deeply about them. I know for a fact that my mom is losing sleep over this. Last week, I thought she was foolish. This week, I'm beginning to think that I'm the fool. How do you look your mom and your aunt in the eye and say with great certainty that the U.S. Government will send them their Social Security?"

That was just one letter I received, and I've gotten lots of phone calls. A 52-year-old woman who's self-employed as a court reporter paid \$13,000 into the Social Security system last year and she's calling me saying, "What are you all doing? The interest rate on my mortgage is going to go up. Interest rates on my credit cards are going to go up. Why aren't you fixing this problem?"

No, we're standing here talking about the Interior appropriation budget.

A woman from Daly City, 68 years old, previously suffered a stroke, has had seizures and relies on Medicare to treat her rheumatoid arthritis. Her husband, a cab driver, will turn 70 in December, at which point he will go on Social Security and hopefully go from working 5 to 6 hours a day to maybe 4 hours. If he loses his Social Security, he will probably have to work longer hours again.

□ 1930

They're all anguished. They all want us to do our job. They want us to lift this debt ceiling, protect Social Security and Medicare, and fix our attitude that we have here that somehow it's okay to just stall. It's okay to just try and make points, make political points while they're all wringing their hands and while they're taking money out of their savings accounts because they can't pay their rent if they don't get their Social Security check come August 1.

Well, for my colleagues who maybe haven't heard from their constituents, I want the American people to call this telephone number. Call this telephone number and call your Member of Congress and tell them what you think we should be doing. Should we be debating the Interior appropriation bill right now, or should we be fixing this debt limit? A debt limit, I might add, which virtually every economist of every political stripe has said: You have to lift it. President Ronald Reagan said: It has to be lifted.

Why should Congress always take us to the brink before they act? It's time for us to be responsible.

I yield back the balance of my time.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair would remind all Members to address their remarks to the Chair and not to the television audience.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I want to thank my colleague from California for reminding all of us that there are consequences for what we do here. This current wholly manufactured debt crisis has people very, very nervous.

The women that Ms. SPEIER talked about, concerned and nervous about their Social Security checks, whether they will be able to get their medical care, and today's Wall Street Journal, the first five items on what's news, various businesses around the world and financial institutions being prepared for the first time ever in America's history that our debt may not be worth a hoot. It may be worthless, that we're going to default. This is a totally manufactured, unnecessary crisis. We didn't have to be here.

I want us all to step back a little ways, step back to December 2010, when we had another manufactured crisis. It came time to fund the Federal Government and to deal with some issues having to do with unemployment. And the Republicans in the Senate held us hostage and demanded that we extend the high-end Bush tax cuts, which created a \$700 billion deficit. We went ahead and did that, and rolled the issue forward 3 months so that in February we would have yet another crisis, the funding or the shutdown of the Federal Government.

Yet again another opportunity for our Republican colleagues to create a crisis so that they could use it to force onto the American public their policies, which became very evident what they wanted to do. They wanted to reconfigure the entire American scene. They wanted to roll back Social Security. They wanted to end Medicare for all Americans who are not yet 55 years of age. They wanted to end the programs to support higher education, to reduce research, to reduce funding for food safety programs. They used these manufactured crises to shut down a government.

And yet here we are again with the debt limit, first discussed back in May, and then because of the Treasury Department's ability to continue paying bills, we are now up against the final deadline of August 2. Yet again a totally manufactured unnecessary crisis.

Previously, Ronald Reagan said: Don't do this. Do not put the good faith and credit of the American government on the line. He told the Republicans, his Republicans back in the 1980s, honor the debt. This is not about new spending, this is about spending going

back a century. This is about the American bills that were paid or not paid years ago, and that's our debt today.

We don't need to do this. There are options. We're putting forth, as we did earlier, a clean debt limit increase. Get us past this. We are also looking at the opportunity for the President to invoke the 14th Amendment, the fourth clause of the 14th Amendment, that says America will honor its debts. I believe he has the power, issuing an Executive order to the Treasury Department: pay our debts. This is something that is fundamental for America, and we must do it.

Put aside this manufactured crisis. It didn't need to be real, but it has become all too real in these last few days as our Republican colleagues are unable to get their act together, even to put forth a proposal that would eviscerate necessary programs. Can't even do that.

The President has called for a balanced approach, one of taxes, raising the taxes that should have been raised back in December and eliminate some \$700 billion of this problem, but let's do it now. Let's go after the oil companies that are receiving our tax money at the very same time that over the last decade they have created nearly a trillion dollars of profit. They don't need our tax money. The poor in America, the senior citizens in America, they are the ones that need help.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TONKO. I agree with the two previous speakers, my colleagues from California. Here we are dealing with a flawed bill that would deny our stewardship of our environment all while we're faced with an economic consequence, with a default that stares us in the face.

For the past 200 days, the Republican leadership of this body has set aside America's priority of job creation in order to talk about the debt and to talk about the deficit. My concern is that as we face that looming threat of default, my Republican colleagues aren't doing much but talk.

After 200 days with no jobs agenda, after 200 days of voting to destroy millions of jobs, after 200 days of saying that those hardest hit by the recession should bear the burden of unbalanced cuts, after 200 days of rhetoric and walking away, my Republican colleagues have forced this Congress and the American people to wait yet more hours to see and vote on their plan.

As we all know, last night the Congressional Budget Office pointed out that some of the cuts in the Speaker's plan weren't real. Meanwhile, the Tea Party base said that Cut, Cap, and Bal-

ance is the only plan they will support. We considered that plan last week, and it has failed in the Senate. It is a plan that Bruce Bartlett—who was a Reagan adviser and a Bush Treasury official—said was “mind-boggling in its insanity.” Others have called it the “most ideologically extreme” budget legislation to come before Congress in decades.

Governing is not always easy. There are extremists on both sides of the political spectrum, and standing up to them takes strength. But our advantage lies in the fact that however vocal, extremists are a minority, a faction.

I have traveled my district extensively in recent weeks. I have held town halls and meetings with local businesses, and here's what I've heard: We have a spending problem in Washington. We have a revenue problem in Washington. But more important than anything else, we have a jobs problem in America.

So what are we going to do about it? Well, my constituents had an easy answer there, too. First, cut what doesn't create jobs and stability for the middle class. That includes wasteful government spending. It also includes tax breaks for corporate jet owners, millionaires and billionaires, and a system of kickbacks to the big oil companies that even their CEOs say they don't need.

Second, save whatever actually works. That means investment in education so middle class kids have a chance to get good jobs when they finish school. That means boosting innovation so we can get American industry booming again. And it means infrastructure so that we can drive to work on safe roads and bridges and build them with American materials and workers.

Finally, my constituents have told me that whatever talking heads on TV say, they know fair when they see it, regardless of partisan divides. We have an aging population. Nobody disputes that. But cutting Social Security and ending Medicare in order to protect corporate tax breaks and long-standing kickbacks for special interests puts us in a position where ideas are replaced in government by ideology. We have been asked in recent weeks to manipulate the United States Constitution in order to enshrine this ideology. Where I'm from, we believe that the only ideology that belongs in the United States Constitution is that of democracy.

□ 1940

In our democracy, if you want your ideas to become law, you don't rewrite our history or change our foundational documents. You come down to this floor. You tell your colleagues and your constituents what you think, and you let us debate it, amend it, and vote on it right here in front of the cameras

and in front of the people we are sworn to serve.

But that's not what's happening today. After 200 days of talking about little else, my Republican colleagues have forced this body and the American people to wait yet hours to see their top secret default plan. Exactly which principled stand was important enough for the Republican House leadership to walk away from the negotiations for the fifth time? More importantly, the clock is ticking. We need to get back to work—and the American people are getting sick and tired of the games.

Just based on rhetoric, we know that their call to end Medicare and end Social Security plans would protect 2 percent of our population at the expense of the rest of us, the 98 percent of us. I'm sure that takes a lot of vote wrangling. But we've had a year to get this done. No matter how much Congress cuts their classroom budgets, even our elementary school children know that a due date is a due date.

Democrats support a balanced, bipartisan solution to reduce our deficit, to create jobs, to grow our economy, and to expand the middle class. My Republican colleagues say they share those same goals. So I would invite them to come down here, join us, share their plan. Let's get on with business. America is waiting and deserves better. We need to solve this default crisis. It's staring us in the eyes.

I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BISHOP OF NEW YORK

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 68, lines 11 and 12, after each dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,411,000,000)".

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. A point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would increase the Clear Water State Revolving Fund by \$1.41 billion, from \$689 million to \$2.1 billion, the amount that was appropriated in fiscal year 2010.

All of us recognize the gravity of the financial situation facing this Nation today, and we are struggling to emerge from the worst economic recession since the Great Depression. Clearly, with the national unemployment rate hovering still around 9 percent and the unemployment rate for the construction sector at over 20 percent, we are far from completing our work.

Christine Todd Whitman, the Republican EPA administrator under President George W. Bush, estimated that

the needs of our Nation's aging water infrastructure topped \$660 billion. Yet within the FY 2012 Interior appropriations bill, the Republican majority cuts the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, the primary source of investment in our wastewater infrastructure, by \$1.4 billion compared to FY 2010. Coupled with the severe cuts to the Clean Water SRF in H.R. 1, the FY 2011 continuing resolution, and the attacks on clean water in the Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act passed earlier this month, the Republican majority has made it clear that they place no priority—none—on preserving clean water or creating jobs.

In terms of job losses, the cuts in the FY 2012 Interior appropriations bill when compared to FY 2010 funding levels would eliminate over 39,000 direct construction jobs throughout the country and countless additional jobs in the industries and small businesses that support the wastewater construction industry at a time when many small businesses and the construction sector are struggling to recover. Furthermore, this cut undermines long-standing Federal efforts to address our Nation's aging infrastructure systems.

Mr. Chairman, addressing the Nation's debt and deficit should absolutely be a priority; however, we should focus our efforts on finding a balanced approach that focuses on job creation rather than slashing budgets that are proven job creators. We hear repeatedly from our Republican colleagues that we should not tax our job creators. I agree. However, in my district and in districts across the Nation, the environment is the job creator.

The economy of my district depends on clean water, clean air, and safe, swimmable beaches. The cuts in this bill place all of these in jeopardy. If the Republican priorities in this bill prevail, we could put an effective tax rate of zero on small businesses in my district, and it wouldn't help because they would have no income. And no income means no jobs.

Mr. Chairman, the extension of the Bush tax cuts give the average millionaire a \$139,100 tax break in 2011. That's a tax break of \$2,700 per week or \$380 per day. Let me be clear: I'm talking only about tax breaks for millionaires—not tax breaks for the middle class—and only for millionaires, using not the \$250,000, but the million.

If our Republican colleagues were to set aside ideology and agree to eliminate the tax breaks for just those millionaires, we could reestablish our commitment to clean water and economic development within 12 days. The Bush tax cuts give millionaires across the Nation such a deal that we could completely shore up the \$1.4 billion deficit in the Clean Water SRF and begin to address the needs outlined by Administrator Whitman in less than 2 weeks.

Even if Congress gave the Bill Gates and the Warren Buffetts of this world the Bush tax breaks for the remaining 353 days of the year, we could put tens of thousands of men and women back to work, protect clean water, and protect the economies that depend on clean water and pristine beaches.

Finally, the Republican majority has included in this bill several special interest policy earmarks to pull back on EPA's compliance and enforcement capabilities, making it far more difficult for the agency to identify and pursue serious violations impacting public health and the environment in communities across the Nation. In my view, this proposal stands in stark contrast to the EPA's efforts to increase compliance in critical areas within a limited budget and suggests that a weakened compliance and enforcement presence is somehow better for our Nation. I strongly disagree with that suggestion.

Combine the lackluster funding for the Clean Water SRF and the dozens of special interest policy earmarks, it's quite clear that Republicans have abandoned the decades-long national, bipartisan commitment to creating jobs, protecting public health, and preserving the ability of local communities to grow their economies through clean water projects.

I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I insist on my point of order.

The amendment proposes a net increase in budget authority in the bill.

The amendment is not in order under section 3(j)(3) of House Resolution 5, 112th Congress, which states:

"It shall not be in order to consider an amendment to a general appropriations bill proposing a net increase in budget authority in the bill unless considered en bloc with another amendment or amendments proposing an equal or greater decrease in such budget authority pursuant to clause 2(f) of rule XXI."

The amendment proposes a net increase in budget authority in the bill and is in violation of such section.

I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Chairman, I fully expected that my friend from Idaho would insist on his point of order. I fully expect the Chair to sustain the point of order. But let's be clear: The underlying bill violates House rules. There are 39, at least by my count, special interest policy riders in the underlying bill, every one of which is protected by a rule that waives all points of order. Each of these policy riders are in violation of clause 2(b) of rule XXI. We all know that.

I understand that the point of order will be sustained, but I do wish we

would adhere to what we were promised. We were promised an open, transparent House in which regular order would prevail and in which the House would work its will. This rule does not allow that to take place.

I will accept the ruling of the Chair. The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho makes a point of order that the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York violates section 3(j)(3) of House Resolution 5.

Section 3(j)(3) establishes a point of order against an amendment proposing a net increase in budget authority in the pending bill.

As persuasively asserted by the gentleman from Idaho, the amendment proposes a net increase in budget authority in the bill. Therefore, the point of order is sustained. The amendment is not in order.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LANKFORD

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 71, lines 15 and 17, strike “not less than 30 percent” and insert “30 percent or less”.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANKFORD. As you may know, the Environmental Protection Agency currently administers Clean Water State Revolving Funds and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds to provide low-interest financing through the States. These low-interest loans are a way for States and communities to be able to use their own discretion in making much-needed improvements to their water supplies and infrastructure. This program was a grant program years ago, but was transitioned into a loan program to save money some 25 years ago.

□ 1950

When the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed in 2009, an increase in funding for these accounts was coupled with a provision in those two funds, requiring no less than 30 percent of the financed funds issued to be used as principal forgiveness. It was a type of grant program to them. This principal forgiveness changes the low-interest loan program to a direct funding program. It's a hybrid between a loan program now and a grant program.

Since the stimulus expired and funding for these provisions returned to normal levels, unfortunately, the principal forgiveness provision has remained. This bill rolls back to pre-stimulus funding levels, but it doesn't roll back to pre-stimulus Federal strings.

So my amendment removes the Federal mandate of principal forgiveness and allows the States to use their dis-

cretion on the amounts they'd like to offer. States will be allowed to provide principal forgiveness up to 30 percent. Communities rely on these funds to ensure their infrastructure security and safe drinking water. By supporting my amendment, you can empower your State to leverage their already limited funds and ensure that communities all across our Nation receive the much needed infrastructure assistance.

Not to put words in both parties' mouths on this one as well, but there is a very bipartisan focus on this. This is one of the priorities from President Obama. In his budget proposal, he requested the same thing. Also, for conservatives and others, it gives back to the States their rights to be able to make those decisions.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

What the amendment does is create the 30 percent language that we've had in the past, which is a floor, and makes it a ceiling rather than a floor.

The EPA's Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds provide grants to States to capitalize on their revolving loan fund programs. These programs offer low-interest loans to communities for projects included on a State's Intended Use Plan. These low-interest loans are usually below market rates and are used to finance water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

Many small and disadvantaged communities with a low income base can hardly afford to apply for these loans even with the low-interest rates. Therefore, this provision in the base text, which we have had for a few years, would offer zero-interest loans, which are loans that forgive a portion of the principal, or grants, to these disadvantaged communities that would otherwise be unable to afford a standard SRF loan. The provision provides some relief to small communities across the Nation that are tirelessly working to provide clean and safe drinking water to their residents and bring construction jobs to their communities, all at the same time as they balance their books.

Given the huge infrastructure needs facing this Nation and the crumbling water and wastewater infrastructure, we should be providing more of this assistance, not less. So, while I appreciate my colleague's amendment and share his interest in preserving the viability of the SRFs, I do not support this amendment, and I would urge a “no” vote.

I would just say, we've talked about this in the subcommittee for a number of years. One of the real problems we have is we have these State revolving

loan funds. We put the money out there, and there are a lot of communities that can't even afford the loans, so it doesn't help them rebuild their water systems or the wastewater treatment facilities. With the standards that we have with arsenic and other things, I have a lot of small communities in Idaho, and it doesn't help them that they have a State revolving loan fund, because they can't afford it. What this does is help them through that to meet some of the clean water standards that they have to meet.

As I said, what we've carried in the bill before us is that a minimum of 30 percent, or a floor of 30 percent, of those funds have to be used for those types of things. What the gentleman's amendment would do would make that a ceiling in which you could only use 30 percent of that. I oppose the amendment, and hope my colleagues would also.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

(INCLUDING TRANSFER AND RECISSION OF FUNDS)

For fiscal year 2012, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 6303(1) and 6305(1), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in carrying out the Agency's function to implement directly Federal environmental programs required or authorized by law in the absence of an acceptable tribal program, may award cooperative agreements to federally recognized Indian Tribes or Intertribal consortia, if authorized by their member Tribes, to assist the Administrator in implementing Federal environmental programs for Indian Tribes required or authorized by law, except that no such cooperative agreements may be awarded from funds designated for State financial assistance agreements.

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency is authorized to collect and obligate pesticide registration service fees in accordance with section 33 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended by Public Law 110-94, the Pesticide Registration Improvement Renewal Act.

The Administrator is authorized to transfer up to \$250,000,000 of the funds appropriated for the Great Lakes Initiative under the heading “Environmental Programs and Management” to the head of any Federal department or agency, with the concurrence of such head, to carry out activities that would support the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement programs, projects, or activities; to

enter into an interagency agreement with the head of such Federal department or agency to carry out these activities; and to make grants to governmental entities, non-profit organizations, institutions, and individuals for planning, research, monitoring, outreach, and implementation in furtherance of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

From unobligated balances to carry out projects and activities funded through the "State and Tribal Assistance Grants" and "Hazardous Substance Superfund" accounts, \$140,000,000 are permanently rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

For fiscal year 2012 the requirements of section 513 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1372) shall apply to the construction of treatment works carried out in whole or in part with assistance made available by a State water pollution control revolving fund as authorized by title VI of that Act (33 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.), or with assistance made available under section 205(m) of that Act (33 U.S.C. 1285(m)), or both.

For fiscal year 2012 the requirements of section 1450(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-9(e)) shall apply to any construction project carried out in whole or in part with assistance made available by a drinking water treatment revolving loan fund as authorized by section 1452 of that Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-12).

TITLE III—RELATED AGENCIES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

For necessary expenses of forest and rangeland research as authorized by law, \$277,282,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the funds provided, \$66,805,000 is for the forest inventory and analysis program: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided, no less than \$29,161,000 is for the forest products laboratory.

STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

For necessary expenses of cooperating with and providing technical and financial assistance to States, territories, possessions, and others, and for forest health management, including treatments of pests, pathogens, and invasive or noxious plants and for restoring and rehabilitating forests damaged by pests or invasive plants, cooperative forestry, and education and land conservation activities as authorized, and conducting an international program as authorized, \$208,608,000, to remain available until expended, as authorized by law; of which \$3,000,000 is to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and shall remain available until expended.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF GEORGIA

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 76, line 2, insert after the dollar amount the following: "(reduced by \$20,860,800)".

Page 158, line 25, insert after the dollar amount the following: "(increased by \$20,860,800)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would reduce State and Private Forestry funding by a modest 10 percent, and it would transfer more than \$20 million to the Spending Reduction Account.

The State and Private Forestry funding sets aside money for international forestry, urban and community forestry, and supports more than 500 million acres of non-Federal forested lands. We are more than \$14.3 trillion in debt, and we need to be cutting areas of our budget wherever possible. It is more than reasonable to request a reduction in this program because the Federal Government has no business giving a handout to private forestry landowners in the first place. This funding would be better managed by the State and local levels of government.

We are broke, Mr. Chairman, as a Nation. We need to be doing what businesses do when they get overextended. They lower their borrowing level; they try to find out ways to pay off their debt, and then they start cutting expenses. This is a mere 10 percent cut. So I urge my colleagues to think about our massive debt, and I urge them to consider sending part of this program back to the State and local governments.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, I simply rise to ask if we could see the amendment. It's pretty difficult to address it until we actually see the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is No. 18 in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. SIMPSON. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment. This amendment would take \$21 million from the Forest Service's State and Private program and put it in the Spending Reduction Account.

While it's easy to stand here and say, "It just reduces it by 10 percent. Who can't stand a 10 percent reduction?" I'd like to note that the State and Private Forestry program has already had a significant cut in this budget—\$133 million below that of FY11, and despite its name, it is critical to managing the national forest system.

The accounts we kept intact are extremely important: for example, cooperative fire protection in rural areas. This helps rural communities fight catastrophic wildfires. With such a large percentage of public land and such a small tax base, many rural communities are hard-pressed to pay for the suppression of large wildfires that start on public lands.

Cooperative forest health: in other words, the prevention and treatment of insects and disease. Improving forest

health helps prevent catastrophic wildfires. In the South, I know you're familiar with the southern pine beetle. This program has helped to contain the spread of southern pine beetle. I wish the same were true in the Western United States where 20 million acres are dead due to the mountain pine beetle.

I understand the gentleman is standing on principle. So am I. I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN. I simply rise to associate myself with the very thoughtful, insightful comments of the gentleman from Idaho, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. We agree. The amendment should be defeated.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN).

The amendment was rejected.

□ 2000

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. HANABUSA

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 76, line 2, insert after the dollar amount the following: "(increased by \$50,000,000)".

Page 80, line 1, insert after the dollar amount the following: "(reduced by \$50,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Hawaii is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is intended to have funds available to restore the Forest Legacy Program through the fiscal year 2011 level, as well as the fiscal year 2008 levels, of approximately \$53 million. This amount is \$83 million less than what was requested by the administration and \$22 million less than what was authorized in fiscal year 2010.

The reason for this amendment is we cannot let this very important program in essence be eliminated by the present funding of only \$3 million in the present bill before us.

The Forest Legacy Program partners with the States to protect environmentally sensitive forest lands. It is a partnership program in which States are permitted to accomplish this very important goal. It is a voluntary program that encourages the protection of privately owned lands and encourages the purchase of conservation easements without removing the land from private ownership. The easements then act to protect water, air quality, and habitats for threatened and endangered species.

This particular program is important for the State of Hawaii. We have more endangered species per square mile than any other place on the planet. We claim 75 percent of the endangered plants in the United States. We are the most unique archipelago.

One such project is called the Kainalu Forest Watershed, which is an easement that was bought to preserve 614 acres of strategic watershed. This was done in the year 2010. This area produces a large part of the freshwater that contributes to the recharging of the aquifer through the forests and the streams that are preserved and sustains the residents of Molokai.

Molokai may not be known to many of you, but in 2009, this island was made famous with the canonization of Father Damien, when he became St. Damien. This is the island that he so loved.

But this is not a program that only affects Hawaii. It affects many of my colleagues' States. For example, in Idaho, 720 acres called the Bane Creek Neighbors project, which connects to important ecosystems and critical wildlife habitats and important timberlands, were preserved, and it preserved grizzlies' and gray wolves' habitats for these in the future.

Also in Idaho, the McArthur Lake Wildlife Corridor, which basically protects 3,727 acres of critical private timberlands.

Utah benefited from it through the Dry Lakes Ranch, which protects not only the timberlands themselves but a beautiful scenic view and keeps the area pristine and whole.

As of 2010, almost 2 million acres have been so protected.

Now, it is important to realize that it is not taken from private owners, but it is in partnership with all the parties, including the States, to preserve these important habitats for the future.

This is the kind of program that we are always talking about and looking for, the preservation through partnerships—not just simply government going in and buying things. This is making it possible so some of the actual individuals and communities, the neighbors, for example, in Idaho are able to get together with government to preserve important easements.

It is for this reason, Mr. Chairman, that I ask for a vote in support of this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. SIMPSON. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in reluctant opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

While the program that she seeks to increase funding for is a good program, and I think most people support it and its intent and what it does, the problem is that it takes the money out of the Wildfire Suppression Program.

Anybody that has been watching the news for the last 5 months understands the wildfire problems we have in Texas, in New Mexico, in Arizona. And as NOAA has told us, those wildfires are going to climb into the Pacific Northwest later in the year this year. So I suspect August, September, October in the Pacific Northwest is going to be a huge fire suppression cost.

So I think we can ill afford to take the money out of wildfire suppression and put it into the program. It would be nice to increase the funding for those conservation programs to help protect those things, but if they burn up, we're not really protecting them. So we've tried in this bill to fund the wildfire suppression at the 10-year average, which we have done, and I would be hard-pressed to support taking money out of that given the fire situation we find ourselves in this year. And I would oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA).

The amendment was rejected.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM

For necessary expenses of the Forest Service, not otherwise provided for, for management, protection, improvement, and utilization of the National Forest System, \$1,546,463,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the funds provided, \$336,722,000 shall be for forest products: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided, \$30,000,000 shall be deposited in the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund for ecological restoration treatments as authorized by 16 U.S.C. 7303(f): *Provided further*, That of the funds provided, up to \$122,600,000 is for the Integrated Resource Restoration pilot program for Region 1, Region 3 and Region 4.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 76, lines 10 and 13, insert after each dollar amount the following: "(increased by \$10,000,000)".

Page 80, line 1, insert after the dollar amount the following: "(reduced by \$16,600,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSAR. I rise today to offer an amendment to H.R. 2584, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2012.

This summer, over a million acres of Forest Service lands, as well as another 600,000 acres of Federal, State, and private lands, burned throughout the American Southwest. Those fires are costing millions of taxpayer dollars and immediate fire response, and will

cost many millions more in restoration and rehabilitation in the months and years ahead. These fires reinforce the urgent need for landscape-scale restoration.

My amendment ensures this body fully funds proactive, large-scale treatments to our national forests that will reduce wildfire risk, ultimately saving the Federal Government from having to use an astronomical amount of money for fire suppression and expensive post-fire rehab.

Specifically, my amendment increases the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program by \$10 million, fully funding it at the U.S. Forest Service budget request. Authorized in fiscal year 2009, CFLRP was designed to encourage collaborative, science-based, large-scale thinning and ecosystem restoration. The program recognizes that future forest management will be most effective if it is planned and implemented in a collaborative framework through private-public partnerships at the landscape level.

As an offset, the amendment decreases a related funding account, the Wildland Fire Management-Hazardous Fuel account, by \$16.6 million. The Hazardous Fuel account is funded at \$334 million in the underlying bill, \$80 million above the President's budget request. The Congressional Budget Office has confirmed my amendment does not increase 2012 outlays.

□ 2010

While forest treatments focused solely on hazardous fuel reduction around communities may be appropriate in many cases, they do not achieve the enduring fire protection and ecosystem restoration that are urgently required. There are roughly 80 million acres of forest across the West that are overgrown and ripe for catastrophic wildfire, according to the Landfire multi-agency database. We simply cannot afford the status quo, using taxpayer dollars for 100 percent of the large-scale restoration work necessary to prevent unnatural fires like the Wallow fire in Arizona and New Mexico.

If we are going to save what is left of our forests, we must change our priorities and aggressively treat our forests at the pace and scale these fires are occurring. Congress must fully fund proactive collaborative large-scale forest restoration treatments if it truly wants to reverse the degradation of our forests while simultaneously reducing the risk of catastrophic fires.

The private-public partnerships facilitated through the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration program empowers private industry to do important science-based ecological restoration work while minimizing the cost to the American taxpayer. In 2010, 10 landscape-scale restoration projects were selected for the CFLR program. These programs are located in nine

States: Montana, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington.

In the case of the Arizona project, the Four Forest Restoration Initiative, known as 4FRI, calls for the Forest Service to contract with economically viable, appropriately scaled industries capable of restoring tens of thousands of acres per year. Once a contract is awarded, it is estimated that the 2.4 million-acre project will be completed at little or no cost to the Federal Government.

Because of this promise, the project has garnered bipartisan support in the Arizona House congressional delegation as well as the support of Senators McCain and Kyl, Governor Jan Brewer, leaders in the State legislature, the affected counties and cities, and an unprecedented range of environmental groups, such as the Center for Biological Diversity and industry partners.

Full funding for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration program ensures that the 10 existing projects, which are urgently needed, will continue to move expeditiously while allowing the CFLRP to expand into more of the estimated 80 million acres of overgrown and wildfire-prone Forest Service lands across the country that need to be properly treated.

When the Federal Government partners with local government, stakeholder groups, and private industry, together we can create much needed jobs and a safer environment for our citizens. Landscape-scale, fiscally responsible forest restoration treatments are the only way the country is going to make real progress towards proper forest health.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the Gosar Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration program amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.
Mr. SIMPSON. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. PAULSEN). The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, first I would like to note that I support the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration program, CFLR. This bill funds the program at \$30 million. In the CR, it was funded at \$25 million; and in fiscal year 2010, it was funded at \$10 million. We've supported it enough that we've increased funding for it from the 2010 level through the CR and in this bill. The funding for this program has increased dramatically at a time when other programs are being cut. The offset for this program is hazardous fuels; and because of the budget authority and outlays, the amendment has to cut \$16.6 million to pay for a \$10 million increase in this program.

The hazardous fuels program has been extremely effective at reducing the threat of catastrophic fire. I would

also argue that hazardous fuels funds get to the ground and actually make a meaningful impact much earlier than the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration program, which can take years before a project is even implemented.

I understand and agree with the gentleman that in our bill report we state over and over that the Forest Service needs more active management at a much larger scale. But CFLR is not the only program that does this. There are numerous programs and line items for improving forest health and reducing wildfire risk. We funded all of these at FY11 levels.

I am glad that the CFLR program is working well in Arizona, but it is not working as well in other parts of the country. In some areas, other buckets of funding are more effective at actively managing the forest. As a result, I reluctantly have to oppose the gentleman's amendment and urge my colleagues to vote "no."

I yield back the balance of my time.
The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Forest Service, not otherwise provided for, \$378,088,000, to remain available until expended, for construction, capital improvement, maintenance and acquisition of buildings and other facilities and infrastructure; and for construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of forest roads and trails by the Forest Service as authorized by 16 U.S.C. 532-538 and 23 U.S.C. 101 and 205: *Provided*, That \$35,000,000 shall be designated for urgently needed road decommissioning, road and trail repair and maintenance and associated activities, and removal of fish passage barriers, especially in areas where Forest Service roads may be contributing to water quality problems in streams and water bodies which support threatened, endangered, or sensitive species or community water sources: *Provided further*, That funds becoming available in fiscal year 2012 under the Act of March 4, 1913 (16 U.S.C. 501) shall be transferred to the General Fund of the Treasury and shall not be available for transfer or obligation for any other purpose unless the funds are appropriated: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided for decommissioning of roads, up to \$9,000,000 may be transferred to the "National Forest System" to support the Integrated Resource Restoration pilot program.

LAND ACQUISITION

For expenses necessary to carry out the provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended (16 U.S.C.

4601-4 through 11), including administrative expenses, and for acquisition of land or waters, or interest therein, in accordance with statutory authority applicable to the Forest Service, \$12,500,000, to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to remain available until expended.

ACQUISITION OF LANDS FOR NATIONAL FORESTS SPECIAL ACTS

For acquisition of lands within the exterior boundaries of the Cache, Uinta, and Wasatch National Forests, Utah; the Toiyabe National Forest, Nevada; and the Angeles, San Bernardino, Sequoia, and Cleveland National Forests, California, as authorized by law, \$955,000, to be derived from forest receipts.

ACQUISITION OF LANDS TO COMPLETE LAND EXCHANGES

For acquisition of lands, such sums, to be derived from funds deposited by State, county, or municipal governments, public school districts, or other public school authorities, and for authorized expenditures from funds deposited by non-Federal parties pursuant to Land Sale and Exchange Acts, pursuant to the Act of December 4, 1967, as amended (16 U.S.C. 484a), to remain available until expended.

RANGE BETTERMENT FUND

For necessary expenses of range rehabilitation, protection, and improvement, 50 percent of all moneys received during the prior fiscal year, as fees for grazing domestic livestock on lands in National Forests in the 16 Western States, pursuant to section 401(b)(1) of Public Law 94-579, as amended, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed 6 percent shall be available for administrative expenses associated with on-the-ground range rehabilitation, protection, and improvements.

GIFTS, DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS FOR FOREST AND RANGELAND RESEARCH

For expenses authorized by 16 U.S.C. 1643(b), \$45,000, to remain available until expended, to be derived from the fund established pursuant to the above Act.

MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL FOREST LANDS FOR SUBSISTENCE USES

For necessary expenses of the Forest Service to manage Federal lands in Alaska for subsistence uses under title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (Public Law 96-487), \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended.

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for forest fire suppression activities on National Forest System lands, for emergency fire suppression on or adjacent to such lands or other lands under fire protection agreement, hazardous fuels reduction on or adjacent to such lands, and for emergency rehabilitation of burned-over National Forest System lands and water, \$1,805,099,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such funds including unobligated balances under this heading, are available for repayment of advances from other appropriations accounts previously transferred for such purposes: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be available to reimburse State and other cooperating entities for services provided in response to wildfire and other emergencies or disasters to the extent such reimbursements by the Forest Service for non-fire emergencies are fully repaid by the responsible emergency management agency: *Provided further*, That amounts in this paragraph may

be transferred to the "State and Private Forestry", "National Forest System", and "Forest and Rangeland Research" accounts to fund State fire assistance, volunteer fire assistance, forest health management, forest and rangeland research, the Joint Fire Science Program, vegetation and watershed management, heritage site rehabilitation, and wildlife and fish habitat management and restoration: *Provided further*, That the costs of implementing any cooperative agreement between the Federal Government and any non-Federal entity may be shared, as mutually agreed on by the affected parties: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided herein, the Secretary of Agriculture may enter into procurement contracts or cooperative agreements, or issue grants for hazardous fuels reduction activities and for training and monitoring associated with such hazardous fuels reduction activities, on Federal land, or on adjacent non-Federal land for activities that benefit resources on Federal land: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture may authorize the transfer of funds appropriated for wildland fire management, in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$10,000,000, between the Departments when such transfers would facilitate and expedite jointly funded wildland fire management programs and projects: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided for hazardous fuels reduction, not to exceed \$5,000,000, may be used to make grants, using any authorities available to the Forest Service under the State and Private Forestry appropriation, for the purpose of creating incentives for increased use of biomass from national forest lands: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be cancelled from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended: *Provided further*, That, before obligating any of the funds provided herein for wildland fire suppression, the Secretary of Agriculture shall obligate all unobligated balances previously made available under this heading that, when appropriated, were designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Agriculture may transfer not more than \$50,000,000 of the funds provided herein to the Secretary of the Interior if the Secretaries determine that the transfer will enhance the efficiency or effectiveness of Federal wildland fire suppression activities: *Provided further*, That of the funds for hazardous fuels reduction, up to \$27,100,000 may be transferred to the "National Forest System" to support the Integrated Resource Restoration pilot program.

FLAME WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION RESERVE FUND
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for large fire suppression operations of the Department of Agriculture and as a reserve fund for suppression and Federal emergency response activities, \$290,418,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amounts are available only for transfer to the "Wildland Fire Management" account and only following a declaration by the Secretary that either (1) a wildland fire suppression event meets certain previously-established risk-based written criteria for significant complexity, severity, or threat posed by the fire or (2) funds in the "Wildland Fire Management" account will be exhausted within 30 days.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS, FOREST SERVICE
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations to the Forest Service for the current fiscal year shall be available for: (1) purchase of passenger motor vehicles; acquisition of passenger motor vehicles from excess sources, and hire of such vehicles; purchase, lease, operation, maintenance, and acquisition of aircraft from excess sources to maintain the operable fleet for use in Forest Service wildland fire programs and other Forest Service programs; notwithstanding other provisions of law, existing aircraft being replaced may be sold, with proceeds derived or trade-in value used to offset the purchase price for the replacement aircraft; (2) services pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2225, and not to exceed \$100,000 for employment under 5 U.S.C. 3109; (3) purchase, erection, and alteration of buildings and other public improvements (7 U.S.C. 2250); (4) acquisition of land, waters, and interests therein pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 428a; (5) expenses pursuant to the Volunteers in the National Forest Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 558a, 558d, and 558a note); (6) the cost of uniforms as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901-5902; and (7) debt collection contracts in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3718(c).

Any appropriations or funds available to the Forest Service may be transferred to the Wildland Fire Management appropriation for forest firefighting, emergency rehabilitation of burned-over or damaged lands or waters under its jurisdiction, and fire preparedness due to severe burning conditions upon the Secretary's notification of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations that all fire suppression funds appropriated under the headings "Wildland Fire Management" and "FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund" will be obligated within 30 days.

Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available for assistance to or through the Agency for International Development in connection with forest and rangeland research, technical information, and assistance in foreign countries, and shall be available to support forestry and related natural resource activities outside the United States and its territories and possessions, including technical assistance, education and training, and cooperation with United States, private organizations, and international organizations.

Of the funds available to the Forest Service up to \$5,000,000 shall be available for priority projects within the scope of the approved budget, which shall be carried out by the Youth Conservation Corps and shall be carried out under the authority of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993, Public Law 103-82, as amended by Public Lands Corps Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2005, Public Law 109-154.

Of the funds available to the Forest Service, \$4,000 is available to the Chief of the Forest Service for official reception and representation expenses.

Pursuant to sections 405(b) and 410(b) of Public Law 101-593, of the funds available to the Forest Service, up to \$3,000,000 may be advanced in a lump sum to the National Forest Foundation to aid conservation partnership projects in support of the Forest Service mission, without regard to when the Foundation incurs expenses, for projects on or benefiting National Forest System lands or related to Forest Service programs: *Provided*, That of the Federal funds made available to the Foundation, no more than \$300,000 shall be available for administrative expenses: *Provided further*, That the Foundation shall obtain, by the end of the period of Federal financial assistance, private contributions to

match on at least one-for-one basis funds made available by the Forest Service: *Provided further*, That the Foundation may transfer Federal funds to Federal or a non-Federal recipient for a project at the same rate that the recipient has obtained the non-Federal matching funds: *Provided further*, That authorized investments of Federal funds held by the Foundation may be made only in interest-bearing obligations of the United States or in obligations guaranteed as to both principal and interest by the United States.

Pursuant to section 2(b)(2) of Public Law 98-244, \$3,000,000 of the funds available to the Forest Service may be advanced to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in a lump sum to aid cost-share conservation projects, without regard to when expenses are incurred, on or benefitting National Forest System lands or related to Forest Service programs: *Provided*, That such funds shall be matched on at least a one-for-one basis by the Foundation or its sub-recipients: *Provided further*, That the Foundation may transfer Federal funds to a Federal or non-Federal recipient for a project at the same rate that the recipient has obtained the non-Federal matching funds.

Funds appropriated to the Forest Service shall be available for interactions with and providing technical assistance to rural communities and natural resource-based businesses for sustainable rural development purposes.

Of the funds available to the Forest Service, an amount not to exceed \$55,000,000 shall be assessed for the purpose of performing fire, administrative and other facilities maintenance. Such assessments shall occur using a square foot rate charged on the same basis the agency uses to assess programs for payment of rent, utilities, and other support services.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any appropriations or funds available to the Forest Service not to exceed \$500,000 may be used to reimburse the Office of the General Counsel (OGC), Department of Agriculture, for travel and related expenses incurred as a result of OGC assistance or participation requested by the Forest Service at meetings, training sessions, management reviews, land purchase negotiations and similar non-litigation related matters. Future budget justifications for both the Forest Service and Department of Agriculture should clearly display the sums previously transferred and the requested funding transfers.

None of the funds available to the Forest Service may be reprogrammed without the advance approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations in accordance with the reprogramming procedures contained in the joint explanatory statement of the managers accompanying this Act.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE
INDIAN HEALTH SERVICES

For expenses necessary to carry out the Act of August 5, 1954 (68 Stat. 674), the Indian Self-Determination Act, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, and titles II and III of the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Indian Health Service, \$4,034,322,000 together with payments received during the fiscal year pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 238(b) and 238b for services furnished by the Indian Health Service: *Provided*, That funds made available to tribes and tribal organizations through contracts, grant agreements, or any other agreements or compacts

authorized by the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 450), shall be deemed to be obligated at the time of the grant or contract award and thereafter shall remain available to the tribe or tribal organization without fiscal year limitation: *Provided further*, That \$836,685,000 for contract medical care, including \$51,500,000 for the Indian Catastrophic Health Emergency Fund, shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided, up to \$36,000,000 shall remain available until expended for implementation of the loan repayment program under section 108 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act: *Provided further*, That the amounts collected by the Federal Government as authorized by sections 104 and 108 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1613a and 1616a) during the preceding fiscal year for breach of contracts shall be deposited to the Fund authorized by section 108A of the Act (25 U.S.C. 1616a-1) and shall remain available until expended and, notwithstanding section 108A(c) of the Act (25 U.S.C. 1616a-1(c)), funds shall be available to make new awards under the loan repayment and scholarship programs under sections 104 and 108 of the Act (25 U.S.C. 1613a and 1616a): *Provided further*, That \$16,391,000 is provided for the methamphetamine and suicide prevention and treatment initiative and \$10,000,000 is provided for the domestic violence prevention initiative and, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the amounts available under this proviso shall be allocated at the discretion of the Director of the Indian Health Service and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That funds provided in this Act may be used for annual contracts and grants that fall within two fiscal years, provided the total obligation is recorded in the year the funds are appropriated: *Provided further*, That the amounts collected by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under the authority of title IV of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act shall remain available until expended for the purpose of achieving compliance with the applicable conditions and requirements of titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act, except for those related to the planning, design, or construction of new facilities: *Provided further*, That funding contained herein for scholarship programs under the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1613) shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That amounts received by tribes and tribal organizations under title IV of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act shall be reported and accounted for and available to the receiving tribes and tribal organizations until expended: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, of the amounts provided herein, not to exceed \$573,761,000 shall be for payments to tribes and tribal organizations for contract or grant support costs associated with contracts, grants, self-governance compacts, or annual funding agreements between the Indian Health Service and a tribe or tribal organization pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination Act of 1975, as amended, prior to or during fiscal year 2012, of which not to exceed \$10,000,000 may be used for contract support costs associated with new or expanded self-determination contracts, grants, self-governance compacts, or annual funding agreements: *Provided further*, That the Bureau of Indian Affairs may collect from the Indian Health Service, tribes and tribal organizations operating health facilities pursuant to Public Law 93-638, such individually

identifiable health information relating to disabled children as may be necessary for the purpose of carrying out its functions under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400, et seq.): *Provided further*, That the Indian Health Care Improvement Fund may be used, as needed, to carry out activities typically funded under the Indian Health Facilities account.

INDIAN HEALTH FACILITIES

For construction, repair, maintenance, improvement, and equipment of health and related auxiliary facilities, including quarters for personnel; preparation of plans, specifications, and drawings; acquisition of sites, purchase and erection of modular buildings, and purchases of trailers; and for provision of domestic and community sanitation facilities for Indians, as authorized by section 7 of the Act of August 5, 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2004a), the Indian Self-Determination Act, and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, and for expenses necessary to carry out such Acts and titles II and III of the Public Health Service Act with respect to environmental health and facilities support activities of the Indian Health Service, \$427,259,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That no less than \$20,000,000 in available, unobligated prior-year funds shall be used in addition to amounts provided by this Act: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated for the planning, design, construction, renovation or expansion of health facilities for the benefit of an Indian tribe or tribes may be used to purchase land on which such facilities will be located: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$500,000 shall be used by the Indian Health Service to purchase TRANSAM equipment from the Department of Defense for distribution to the Indian Health Service and tribal facilities: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated to the Indian Health Service may be used for sanitation facilities construction for new homes funded with grants by the housing programs of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$2,700,000 from this account and the "Indian Health Services" account shall be used by the Indian Health Service to obtain ambulances for the Indian Health Service and tribal facilities in conjunction with an existing interagency agreement between the Indian Health Service and the General Services Administration: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$500,000 shall be placed in a Demolition Fund, to remain available until expended, and be used by the Indian Health Service for the demolition of Federal buildings.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS, INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

Appropriations provided in this Act to the Indian Health Service shall be available for services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109 at rates not to exceed the per diem rate equivalent to the maximum rate payable for senior-level positions under 5 U.S.C. 5376; hire of passenger motor vehicles and aircraft; purchase of medical equipment; purchase of reprints; purchase, renovation and erection of modular buildings and renovation of existing facilities; payments for telephone service in private residences in the field, when authorized under regulations approved by the Secretary; uniforms or allowances therefor as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901-5902; and for expenses of attendance at meetings that relate to the functions or activities of the Indian Health Service.

In accordance with the provisions of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, non-

Indian patients may be extended health care at all tribally administered or Indian Health Service facilities, subject to charges, and the proceeds along with funds recovered under the Federal Medical Care Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 2651-2653) shall be credited to the account of the facility providing the service and shall be available without fiscal year limitation. Notwithstanding any other law or regulation, funds transferred from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to the Indian Health Service shall be administered under Public Law 86-121, the Indian Sanitation Facilities Act and Public Law 93-638, as amended.

Funds appropriated to the Indian Health Service in this Act, except those used for administrative and program direction purposes, shall not be subject to limitations directed at curtailing Federal travel and transportation.

None of the funds made available to the Indian Health Service in this Act shall be used for any assessments or charges by the Department of Health and Human Services unless identified in the budget justification and provided in this Act, or approved by the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations through the reprogramming process.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds previously or herein made available to a tribe or tribal organization through a contract, grant, or agreement authorized by title I or title V of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (25 U.S.C. 450), may be deobligated and reobligated to a self-determination contract under title I, or a self-governance agreement under title V of such Act and thereafter shall remain available to the tribe or tribal organization without fiscal year limitation.

None of the funds made available to the Indian Health Service in this Act shall be used to implement the final rule published in the Federal Register on September 16, 1987, by the Department of Health and Human Services, relating to the eligibility for the health care services of the Indian Health Service until the Indian Health Service has submitted a budget request reflecting the increased costs associated with the proposed final rule, and such request has been included in an appropriations Act and enacted into law.

With respect to functions transferred by the Indian Health Service to tribes or tribal organizations, the Indian Health Service is authorized to provide goods and services to those entities on a reimbursable basis, including payments in advance with subsequent adjustment. The reimbursements received therefrom, along with the funds received from those entities pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination Act, may be credited to the same or subsequent appropriation account from which the funds were originally derived, with such amounts to remain available until expended.

Reimbursements for training, technical assistance, or services provided by the Indian Health Service will contain total costs, including direct, administrative, and overhead associated with the provision of goods, services, or technical assistance.

The appropriation structure for the Indian Health Service may not be altered without advance notification to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES

For necessary expenses for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in carrying out activities set forth in section

311(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, and section 126(g) of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, \$79,054,000.

AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE
REGISTRY

TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PUBLIC HEALTH

For necessary expenses for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) in carrying out activities set forth in sections 104(i) and 111(c)(4) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), as amended; section 118(f) of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA), as amended; and section 3019 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended, \$74,039,000, of which up to \$1,000 per eligible employee of the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry shall remain available until expended for Individual Learning Accounts: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, in lieu of performing a health assessment under section 104(i)(6) of CERCLA, the Administrator of ATSDR may conduct other appropriate health studies, evaluations, or activities, including, without limitation, biomedical testing, clinical evaluations, medical monitoring, and referral to accredited health care providers: *Provided further*, That in performing any such health assessment or health study, evaluation, or activity, the Administrator of ATSDR shall not be bound by the deadlines in section 104(i)(6)(A) of CERCLA: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for ATSDR to issue in excess of 40 toxicological profiles pursuant to section 104(i) of CERCLA during fiscal year 2012, and existing profiles may be updated as necessary.

OTHER RELATED AGENCIES

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

For necessary expenses to continue functions assigned to the Council on Environmental Quality and Office of Environmental Quality pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Environmental Quality Improvement Act of 1970, and Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1977, and not to exceed \$750 for official reception and representation expenses, \$2,661,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 202 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970, the Council shall consist of one member, appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, serving as chairman and exercising all powers, functions, and duties of the Council.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LANKFORD

Mr. LANKFORD. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 98, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,661,000)”.

Page 158, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,661,000)”.

□ 2020

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is about eliminating the

wasteful duplication in our Federal Government, specifically dealing with the Council on Environmental Quality. This amendment would eliminate the funding for the Council on Environmental Quality and transfer the savings to the spending reduction account. This amendment will result in about a \$2.7 million taxpayer savings.

Specifically, the Council on Environmental Quality, if people aren't familiar with it, is a council of one person with a budget typically around \$3 million. Throughout the council's 40-year history, it really has done little to demonstrate additional responsibilities other than what already is being accomplished by the Environmental Protection Agency and NOAA itself. Former Presidents, including President Carter and President Reagan, have proposed reducing the budget for this council. This council blatantly duplicates the efforts of other Federal agencies, as I already mentioned, the Environmental Protection Agency and NOAA, who are doing an excellent job in these same areas.

This an opportunity to be able to reduce unnecessary waste, duplication, and streamline the bureaucracy and improve agency services to Americans who fund these agencies.

At this critical point in our Nation's history, I recommend that we need to eliminate agencies like this and be able to combine them with existing agencies.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, this is an organization that was established by President Nixon. It was Bill Ruckelshaus who was the first head of it. What it does is to coordinate the implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act. That act, as I recall, goes back to 1976. 1969. It was President Nixon that put it into effect.

The Council on Environmental Quality does the National Environmental Policy Act reviews, and it's a critical function. In addition to that, it coordinates the environmental programs throughout the Federal Government. If you didn't have CEQ, you'd have to invent it. I know if we didn't have it, we'd be creating it in this appropriations bill because this appropriations bill is replete with requests to the administration to coordinate environmental programs, particularly those related to climate change to avoid duplication. Well, that's the role of CEQ.

The Council of Environmental Quality is very inadequately funded. It's a relative handful of people. So the only thing that I can interpret from this amendment is that it's meant to be punitive. You're hardly saving any money, and what you're doing is elimi-

nating the White House's ability to coordinate environmental programs to continue the same tradition that we have had since Richard Nixon. It's now been 40 years, and no one up till now has thought that the Council on Environmental Quality was not performing an important and valuable function.

I'm surprised that the gentleman would offer the amendment, but I would certainly oppose it. It's one of these things that you're only going to realize the full value of when it's gone. And though the small amount of money to save, this is an organization that, person for person, probably does as much as any other people, even in EPA or any of the other agencies of the government in terms of maintaining a consistent, focused policy on the environment.

I would really hope that this amendment would be soundly defeated. It was funded in the bill. There was no criticism registered in the report with regard to the Council on Environmental Quality.

I know they have been reaching out. They're more than happy to go to any Member's office. They're one of the people that, when you have local issues or State issues, they will respond. They'll explain the intent and purpose of the National Environmental Policy Act. And they want to ensure that the administration's actions are consistent with congressional intent.

This is not the kind of constructive amendment that we would expect to see, and I would really hope that this body would reject it. But I'm stunned that this amendment would have been offered.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. I also oppose the gentleman's amendment.

Let me just give you a little more background on what the Council on Environmental Quality does. Its focus is to make government more efficient and more effective, and it does this by interagency working groups and coordination with EEOP and CEQ. And it balances the competing positions, sometimes, even within government coordination. In other words, it makes everybody come around the table and figure out how do we do this the most effectively for the American people.

It brings, as Ranking Member MORAN pointed out, Federal agencies, State and local governments to the table too to say how can we be most effective collaboratively in making our environment work better for America.

Let me give you an example of one of the projects that they're working on, and it's solar energy. Solar energy is booming here in the United States; and

if we get solar energy technology right, we will be the leaders for the next generation in how we can have energy efficiency, energy independence through renewable energy.

The Solar Energy Industries Association works with this council. And in the first quarter, the solar industry installed 252 megawatts of new solar electric capacity, 66 percent growth from the same timeframe from 2010. That's 3,000 megawatts of solar electric installed in the United States. That's enough to power 600,000 homes.

They worked with the manufacturing sector, the solar power sector. They worked together, and they caused this 33 percent jump in panel production. With the growth of solar energy, thousands of jobs have been created. In fact, solar energy creates more jobs per megawatt than any other energy source. And according to the Solar Foundation's National Solar Job Census, 93,000 Americans were employed in the U.S. solar industry.

The reason why I bring this up is that not only are they helping to bring everybody around the table to figure out how to move America forward with this; the next thing they do is they work, as I said, with inter-government agencies. So they worked with the Department of Energy to issue loan guarantees for solar projects and manufacturing facilities. That's going to create 26,000 jobs.

They worked with the Department of Veterans Affairs to announce that they will be installing solar panels in their systems in five VA Medical Centers, one in Oklahoma; Temple, Texas; Amarillo, Texas; and in California. Prior to this announcement, the VA had also been awarded dollars for other solar panels in their facilities, and they're seeing that they are being able to control costs and do good things for the environment.

The Department of the Interior has approved solar permits for solar-powered products on public lands that will provide enough energy for 730,000 homes.

The Department of Agriculture actively promotes the deployment of solar energy on farms and ranches working with people and folks out in the private sector. So the list goes on and on.

□ 2030

Coordination is often the key to efficiency. And so I just really think that the Council on Environmental Quality provides America a way forward in making sure that our agencies are talking and being effective with one another when it comes to collaboration on environmental issues. It also reaches out to the local governments, but more importantly, it works in the private sector to create opportunities for jobs.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Wyoming is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LUMMIS. I yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma briefly to give him a last opportunity to comment.

Mr. LANKFORD. This was a wonderful description that I'm hearing of the responsibility of the Council on Environmental Quality. The problem with it is it's the same responsibilities that EPA has, that the Department of Energy has, that NOAA has. These are executive agencies as well, and to say that you have to create a new executive agency to watch over this executive agency is one of those prime examples of why it's so difficult to be able to combine agencies for efficiency.

We have multiple bureaucracies that are standing out there combining and doing similar functions, and it would save us money. Yes, this is a very small agency, but it's another one of those prime examples why the executive branch has all these multiple agencies doing the same thing, and we have to be able to find ways to be able to combine these.

I understand that we're creating jobs per megawatt in the middle of this, but the reality of this is we've got to be able to find ways to be able to save money.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I will point out that the underlying bill reduces CEQ to 2006 levels and caps their full-time equivalence, or their employees, at 2006 levels. So that means that they will have a reduction in force. They will lose three employees.

I might also point out that when I was the general counsel for the Governor in my State, I also ran the Natural Resources Subcabinet. We were actually, at the State level, the mirror image, where I was, of what CEQ does. We were in the position of responding to NEPA documents that were sent to us by the Federal Government from Federal agencies. And as a State, we were attempting to coordinate our responses to NEPA documents for various State agencies—the agency that regulates water, the agency that looks after State land, the agency that does environmental quality in Wyoming, the agency that does State forests, and on and on. And so our Natural Resources Subcabinet was the State equivalent and mirror image in the responding avenue to what CEQ is in Washington.

Now, let me give you an example of some of the things that CEQ has coordinated here in Washington and why it makes sense.

We have seen in this debate, earlier, that fighting Asian carp is a priority for the Great Lakes region. Over the past 1½ years, CEQ has brought all the Federal agencies together with the

Great Lakes States to combine efforts to fight this invasive specie. So they have coordinated on an interagency, intergovernmental framework. And without the framework, it's hard to pull the Army Corps of Engineers, Department of the Interior, EPA, and these groups together with the States to have a shared response to a multi-State, multijurisdiction, multilevel of government issue like the Asian carp. That is something I believe that makes it appropriate for CEQ's existence to continue.

I understand the frustrations that some people have with it, but, quite frankly, that type of coordination I think could, when managed properly, allow the Federal Government to speak with one voice where their own disparate agencies have different mission statements. So that type of coordination is important.

Mr. Chairman, for those reasons, and for the cuts that have already been undertaken in this bill, I do rise to oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLAKE. I rise in support of the gentleman's amendment.

I didn't plan on speaking, but I couldn't help after hearing the comments, and I would gladly yield 30 seconds to the gentlelady if she wants to explain further.

I have never heard this used as a measurement before, as a positive measurement, the number of jobs per megawatt for solar power.

Now, I'm from Arizona. I like solar power. It's great. But since when are we using, as a positive, the number of jobs it takes to create a megawatt? Will it be seen as a positive in the future if it takes more jobs to create a megawatt? Is that a good thing for the economy? Is that a jobs program of some type? I mean, it just baffles me sometimes at the arguments that are made as to why we should keep programs like this going and keep spending.

I would be glad to yield time to the gentlelady if she wants to explain that further.

Ms. McCOLLUM. I thank the gentleman.

The point is is that we are creating jobs using less energy, and when we do that, we save energy. But these jobs that are being created are improving our economy, our ability to compete internationally. And these jobs use less energy. So we're not investing in nuclear power plants and we're not investing in coal burning, which leads to—I kind of figured you would want your time back.

Mr. FLAKE. I thank the gentlelady, but that is precisely the opposite of the

number of jobs per megawatt. If nuclear creates more energy for fewer jobs and less cost, that's the direction we should go because it's nonpolluting as well. But this notion that we have to keep this going because it just creates jobs and jobs per megawatt, it just baffles me.

I rise in support of the gentleman's amendment. We're borrowing 41 cents on every dollar. We ought to save money where we can.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION
BOARD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses in carrying out activities pursuant to section 112(r)(6) of the Clean Air Act, as amended, including hire of passenger vehicles, uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901–5902, and for services authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109 but at rates for individuals not to exceed the per diem equivalent to the maximum rate payable for senior level positions under 5 U.S.C. 5376, \$10,000,000: *Provided*, That the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (Board) shall have not more than three career Senior Executive Service positions: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the individual appointed to the position of Inspector General of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shall, by virtue of such appointment, also hold the position of Inspector General of the Board: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Inspector General of the Board shall utilize personnel of the Office of Inspector General of EPA in performing the duties of the Inspector General of the Board, and shall not appoint any individuals to positions within the Board.

OFFICE OF NAVAJO AND HOPI INDIAN
RELOCATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation as authorized by Public Law 93–531, \$7,530,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds provided in this or any other appropriations Act are to be used to relocate eligible individuals and groups including evictees from District 6, Hopi-partitioned lands residents, those in significantly substandard housing, and all others certified as eligible and not included in the preceding categories: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used by the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation to evict any single Navajo or Navajo family who, as of Novem-

ber 30, 1985, was physically domiciled on the lands partitioned to the Hopi Tribe unless a new or replacement home is provided for such household: *Provided further*, That no relocatee shall be provided with more than one new or replacement home: *Provided further*, That the Office shall relocate any certified eligible relocatees who have selected and received an approved homesite on the Navajo reservation or selected a replacement residence off the Navajo reservation or on the land acquired pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 640d–10.

INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA
NATIVE CULTURE AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT
PAYMENT TO THE INSTITUTE

For payment to the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development, as authorized by title XV of Public Law 99–498, as amended (20 U.S.C. 56 part A), \$7,900,000.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Smithsonian Institution, as authorized by law, including research in the fields of art, science, and history; development, preservation, and documentation of the National Collections; presentation of public exhibits and performances; collection, preparation, dissemination, and exchange of information and publications; conduct of education, training, and museum assistance programs; maintenance, alteration, operation, lease agreements of no more than 30 years, and protection of buildings, facilities, and approaches; not to exceed \$100,000 for services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; and purchase, rental, repair, and cleaning of uniforms for employees, \$626,971,000, to remain available until September 30, 2013, except as otherwise provided herein; of which not to exceed \$20,137,000 for the instrumentation program, collections acquisition, exhibition reinstallation, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and the repatriation of skeletal remains program shall remain available until expended; and including such funds as may be necessary to support American overseas research centers: *Provided*, That funds appropriated herein are available for advance payments to independent contractors performing research services or participating in official Smithsonian presentations.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF
GEORGIA

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 101, line 10, after the dollar amount insert “(reduced by \$55,624,000)”.

Page 158, line 25, after the dollar amount insert “(increased by \$55,624,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would revert the Smithsonian funding back to the fiscal year 2008 levels. This is simply asking the Smithsonian to tighten their belts, to pull their weight, just like other agencies and departments within the Federal Government are having to do.

Mr. Chairman, this country is broke. We have spent all the money in our bank and then some. We have to prioritize where we can afford to spend

money and where we simply cannot afford to. I believe asking the Smithsonian to simply scale back their spending to levels of 2008 is more than reasonable. I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, the Smithsonian Institution is the world's leading museum complex. People from all over the world come to Washington, oftentimes with the principal intent of seeing the Smithsonian, but it is invariably part of their trip to our Nation's capital. It is something that every Member of the legislative branch should be very proud of. In fact, we should spend more of our time in those museums. They're extraordinary, every single one of them. They tell the story of our Nation's origin. They reflect the evolution of knowledge of the things that are relevant to our very existence.

In addition to the traditional museums along our National Mall, we have a National Zoo—again, known throughout the world. But this amendment that would cut \$55 million would wind up eliminating 600 positions from the Smithsonian because 90 percent of the costs of museums are personnel.

□ 2040

We're told that given the existing costs that have continued to increase over the last 4 years, not just personnel but particularly energy costs, the costs of maintaining the world's finest museum complex, that the Smithsonian would have to close at least one if not two major museums, or the National Zoo. It doesn't seem to me that in order to save a relative fraction of a bill—this bill is about \$27 billion—in order to save—what is that, half a percent?—that we would want to close one or two of the finest museums in the world.

If you did abolish 600 Federal positions at the Smithsonian, you would also have to pay severance costs and create personnel management turmoil for years. You would be saying to the Smithsonian, which makes us proud for the quality and really the efficiency of its operation, Sorry, but we don't think that you should be a priority. The reality is if you were to ask the Federal taxpayer, not just the people in this region but all over the country how important the Smithsonian is, it seems to me they would make it a priority.

One of the last things we want, it would seem, is that our visitors come from our constituencies, our congressional districts, to Washington, and then we have a sign on the front door of one of the major museums, Sorry, Closed Due to Short-Term Budget Cuts. Now, I trust that that would not be the

final reality, but if we were to pass such an amendment when we vote on this, I think it would send a signal. It's a wrong signal. Just as the uncertainty about the debt ceiling is the wrong signal to be sending the rest of the world, for gosh sakes, this is the wrong signal to be sending to the people who work so hard at the Smithsonian to make us proud. It's the wrong signal to send to our constituents. It's the wrong thing to do.

It's kind of shocking that we would have such an amendment, frankly. The committee has looked at every line item, has cut every place they could, with very few exceptions, and we've pointed out those exceptions, but the committee, I'm sure, did not consider closing down one or two of our major museums on the National Mall in order to save a fraction of 1 percent of the cost of this appropriations bill.

So, I would very, very strongly oppose this misguided amendment, Mr. Chairman.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLT. To follow on the remarks of my good friend from Virginia, I must say, this is almost incomprehensible. The Smithsonian as a collection of museums and zoological park and so forth that my colleague talked about is half the picture, and, indeed, if any of those facilities are closed, there will be a lot of unhappy families from Georgia and Tennessee and Montana and all the 50 States.

But it's a lot more than that. The Smithsonian is a collection of research centers that goes far beyond biplanes and folk art and portraits and jewelry and pandas:

The Smithsonian astronomical observatory, one of the finest collections of research scientists in the world for understanding the workings of our universe.

Barro Colorado Island in Panama, in the middle of the Panama Canal, probably the principal research center for understanding the workings of our biological world.

Oh, yes, there would be a lot of unhappy families if this amendment were to go through, but among those 600 positions that would be lost no doubt would be some of the finest scientists in the United States, in fact, in the world, and there would be a lot of unhappy scientists around the world who would wonder, what in the world were they thinking of? What in the world were they thinking in Washington, D.C., when they cut back on these research efforts?

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Wyoming is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LUMMIS. I would like to point out that the request for this agency's appropriation under the President's budget was \$110 million more than is appropriated and that we as a committee did cut this current budget by \$10 million already.

I would also point out something that's more philosophically based and that is my own personal view, and it's shared by many of my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle: That we should be funding Federal functions while we are here in Washington and acknowledge that certain functions really can be handled as well or better by the States and that the States created the Federal Government, not the other way around, and so we should be deferring to the States for everything that is not specified either in the Constitution or is purely a Federal function.

The Smithsonian Institution is a purely Federal function. It is something that was given to the United States of America, that the Federal Government and the people of this country through us are stewards of, and I believe it is appropriate as a purely Federal function that we fund it adequately.

Now we have, as I pointed out, reduced its budget during these tough fiscal times, but as something that is purely Federal in its approach and the benefit to our Nation and indeed to the world that is provided by this great gift that was given to the people of the United States of America centuries ago, I do rise in opposition to the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment. This is truly one of the less-thought-out amendments, I think, that's been proposed to this bill.

The Smithsonian is truly a gem in this country—ask the American people—if you look at what they are doing and the important role they play.

A lot of people think that it's not important if you don't come to Washington. The Smithsonian doesn't do anything. They only operate some museums here and a few things like that. That's not the truth. The Smithsonian operates all across this country. If you look at what they're doing in digitalization of the things they have in their museum and stuff, and they're reaching out to schools and so forth, it is making an amazing difference. Go on their Web site and see what they're doing in terms of the applications for your iPhone and things like that that are making a difference in people's lives, plus the research that they do on a variety of things around this country is just amazing.

□ 2050

If the gentleman wants to reduce this, and everybody can take a \$58 million hit, I guess, but this is \$100 million or more below what the President already requested. Another \$58 million hit on this would be a substantial hit.

They also raise \$158 million in private funds. That tells you that private corporations and citizens all across this country love what the Smithsonian does. And they do a fantastic job. If you want to get the public outraged, slice the Smithsonian's funding so that when someone comes here to visit Washington, maybe a trip that they planned on for quite some time, and their kids want to see the number one thing they came to see, guess what it is. The Air and Space Museum, and the other things that occur here.

But the Smithsonian is so much more than that. Go look at what they do at the National Zoo. Go look at what they do in their collections that they have. This is an incredible organization.

I'm only sorry that in this budget climate, and I appreciate the gentleman's desire to address the budget deficit that we have. Everybody wants to do that. There are some things that we should maintain. The Smithsonian is one of them. So I would hope that not only would the Members of this body vote against this amendment, but that they would vote hopefully unanimously against it and in support of the Smithsonian and the work that they do for this country.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to say I'm the coolest grandmother in this country as far as my grandchildren are concerned, not because I'm a Member of the House of Representatives and have been for 19 years, but because I live within walking distance of the National Zoo. They come here, and they can't get enough of the National Zoo that is sponsored by the Smithsonian. And then when they've had enough of the National Zoo and know they can come back the day after, they are on their way to the Smithsonian; and it depends on their age, and they've developed over the years from wanting the simplest entertainment at the zoo to being very curious and wanting to know more and more.

My 7-year-old grandson who was here over the Fourth of July is committed to be a scientist from what he experienced over his last week and the few times he's been here before.

If you don't have grandchildren, maybe you don't get it. You don't think this is important to the people of this country, but there is nobody who

comes into my office of any age who doesn't thank me for the experience they have had at the Smithsonian. I remind them that it is their entity. It isn't ours. They pay for it through their taxes, and they are proud to do that.

I stand here against the amendment and in support of the Smithsonian Institution.

I yield back the balance of my time. The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

FACILITIES CAPITAL

For necessary expenses of repair, revitalization, and alteration of facilities owned or occupied by the Smithsonian Institution, by contract or otherwise, as authorized by section 2 of the Act of August 22, 1949 (63 Stat. 623), and for construction, including necessary personnel, \$124,750,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed \$10,000 is for services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109: *Provided*, That beginning in fiscal year 2012 and thereafter, any procurement for the construction of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, as authorized under section 8 of the National Museum of African American History and Culture Act (20 U.S.C. 80r-6), may be issued which includes the full scope of the project: *Provided further*, That the solicitation and contract with respect to the procurement shall contain the "availability of funds" clause described in section 52.232.18 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations.

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For the upkeep and operations of the National Gallery of Art, the protection and care of the works of art therein, and administrative expenses incident thereto, as authorized by the Act of March 24, 1937 (50 Stat. 51), as amended by the public resolution of April 13, 1939 (Public Resolution 9, Seventy-sixth Congress), including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; payment in advance when authorized by the treasurer of the Gallery for membership in library, museum, and art associations or societies whose publications or services are available to members only, or to members at a price lower than to the general public; purchase, repair, and cleaning of uniforms for guards, and uniforms, or allowances therefor, for other employees as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 5901-5902); purchase or rental of devices and services for protecting buildings and contents thereof, and maintenance, alteration, improvement, and repair of buildings, approaches, and grounds; and purchase of services for restoration and repair of works of art for the National Gallery of Art by contracts made, without advertising, with individuals, firms, or organizations at such rates or prices and under such terms and conditions as the Gallery may deem proper,

\$112,185,000, of which not to exceed \$3,481,000 for the special exhibition program shall remain available until expended.

REPAIR, RESTORATION AND RENOVATION OF BUILDINGS

For necessary expenses of repair, restoration and renovation of buildings, grounds and facilities owned or occupied by the National Gallery of Art, by contract or otherwise, for lease agreements of no more than 10 years that address space needs created by the ongoing renovations in the Master Facilities Plan, as authorized, \$13,938,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That contracts awarded for environmental systems, protection systems, and exterior repair or renovation of buildings of the National Gallery of Art may be negotiated with selected contractors and awarded on the basis of contractor qualifications as well as price.

JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

For necessary expenses for the operation, maintenance and security of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, \$22,455,000.

CAPITAL REPAIR AND RESTORATION

For necessary expenses for capital repair and restoration of the existing features of the building and site of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, \$13,650,000, to remain available until expended.

WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOLARS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary in carrying out the provisions of the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Act of 1968 (82 Stat. 1356) including hire of passenger vehicles and services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, \$10,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2013.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

GRANTS AND ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses to carry out the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, \$135,000,000 shall be available to the National Endowment for the Arts for the support of projects and productions in the arts, including arts education and public outreach activities, through assistance to organizations and individuals pursuant to section 5 of the Act, for program support, and for administering the functions of the Act, to remain available until expended.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. WALBERG

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 105, line 7, insert "(reduced by \$10,600,000)" after the dollar amount.

Page 158, line 25, insert "(increased by \$10,600,000)" after the dollar amount.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, tonight I am offering an amendment that would reduce funding for the National Endowment for the Arts to fiscal year 2006 levels.

In February, during the consideration of H.R. 1, I offered a similar

amendment to cut NEA funding, which the House adopted. The underlying bill funds the National Endowment for the Arts at \$135 million which is a \$19.7 million reduction from last year's level.

I commend the chairman and the committee for recognizing that this funding has precipitated at an unsustainable rate. Since 2008, the NEA has received increases of over \$10 million each year, including \$50 million in funding from the stimulus in 2009. These spending increases have coincided with annual trillion dollar deficits.

My amendment would take funding levels back to fiscal year 2006 levels at \$124.4 million. If accepted, this cut returns \$10.6 million to the spending reduction account.

I want you to know I believe in the fine arts, and of course I know that's defined by individual standards. In the past, I was privileged to serve on a symphony board for a time as the chairman of the finance committee. In my early years, I was brought to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra by my parents, on school trips and otherwise, and appreciate the impact the fine arts can have. Tramping through art museums is not foreign to me as well, and I enjoy much of what I see.

But at a time when our government must cut Federal spending, at a time when our taxpayers cut and fix and repair and alter their own lifestyles and their spending, the primary source of funding for the arts should be through philanthropy, not forcing open the taxpayers' wallet without their choice.

The National Foundation for the Arts does provide benefits to our country and helps fund our true fine arts. However, we are asking them to only fund their true priorities, and they can make those priorities. We know that the public asks questions about some of the programs that the NEA has supported. I'm tempted to, but I will refrain from, giving explicit illustrations of funded programs and projects that they've undertaken with much taxpayer disapproval. But suffice it to say that in recent years the NEA has funded exhibits that disparage religion, promote pornography, and support Presidential campaigns. That is not supported by the general taxpayer and should not be.

My amendment asks the NEA to only fund their true priorities. Now, if they want to determine those priorities, so be it. But if they want to determine priorities for youth concert series or young composers or you name it, that will be a choice as well, and I think most taxpayers would support those choices.

Our country is in financial hardship. The sponsors of the arts should be sponsors of the arts, as I am. But taxpayers ought to know that we will expect them, like the rest of the programs and certainly the rest of society,

to be efficient at this time. Our country is in a financial hardship, and we're not taking programs like the NEA off the table; we're just asking them to establish priorities with reduced funding, yes, but an opportunity to efficiently convey to the taxpayers their understanding of what we're going through as well.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 2100

We're a great country. Great countries understand the importance of the arts. They understand that it's important not only to communicate with one another but to leave a lasting legacy for future generations. The arts have the ability to communicate the most fundamental aspirations of mankind. They have the ability to evoke compassion. They have the ability to evoke the kind of spiritedness that causes countries to show undaunted courage and to rise above the problems of the day in pursuit of far more noble national objectives.

The value of the arts transcends anything that we can quantify in terms of dollars and cents. We should be extraordinarily proud of our National Endowment for the Arts. Denyce Graves, who is one of the finest opera singers in the world, who can stir the emotions just by hearing her beautiful, extraordinary voice, said that she grew up in Washington, where the Kennedy Center is. But it could have been the other end of the world if she had not been able to get into a program funded by the National Endowment for the Arts.

There are any number of men and women, young, middle-aged, old, who have come into contact because of the outreach that the National Endowment for the Arts has provided. And there are any number of communities across the country who, by use of the arts—by setting up a theater, by pulling people together, by getting a small amount of money from the NEA, which is far more an endorsement than it is financial support—have been able to develop local economies.

We've heard from a number of big-name performers now who said they got their entry, the development of their career through the NEA. Some gave back by developing a theater in communities that they thought had seen their best days behind them. And yet by uniting the community, it's clear now their best days are ahead of them because young people want to stay in that community. They're excited about the arts that are provided.

This program does so much with so little. Yet the gentleman wants to cut \$10.6 million. That's 0.03 of 1 percent of nondefense domestic discretionary

funding. We had \$174 million in the fiscal year 2011 bill. It was cut down to \$155 million, ultimately, for FY11. Now it's been cut another \$20 million—down to \$135 million.

I know my good friend from Idaho, the chair of the committee, wishes and knows it should be more. I think most of us, when we reflect, understand that if we continue to take money from programs that provide so much to, really, the heart and the soul of this Nation, we will lose those instruments we have to reduce the harshness and the rancor that divide us. It's the powerful media of the arts that enable us to transcend our differences, to appreciate real beauty, and the truth that comes through the fine arts and the grace that ennoble the human spirit.

NEA is a catalyst. It helps us create and sustain arts. It doesn't really fund much. What it does is to spawn the arts. It generates investment in the arts. In fact, the gentleman mentioned philanthropy. There's a great deal of money out in this country. We're still the wealthiest country in the world, no matter how much people would like us to think that we're poverty-stricken, that we're seeing some of our worst days. We're a great and powerful and wealthy Nation. Philanthropy is the principal source of funding of the arts. But NEA shapes much of that funding. It's a magnet for businesses. Almost 700,000 businesses are involved in creation and distribution of the arts.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman from Virginia has expired.

(By unanimous consent, Mr. MORAN was allowed to proceed for 1 additional minute.)

Mr. MORAN. I do think that it's important that we make this nominal investment in the cultural lives of our citizens and in our children's futures. I can't imagine how a Nation as rich and prosperous as ours would not consider it a priority to provide funding for the National Endowment for the Arts.

There's too much that divides us as a Nation. This is something that should be uniting. Democrat and Republican, liberal and conservative. Everyone can appreciate the arts because it inspires us all. It inspires us to look past the parochial, the small-mindedness to see the big picture and to appreciate greatness.

This amendment should be defeated, and in it we should send a message that we understand what's important to the lifeblood of our national community.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Walberg amendment. First, let me associate myself with the words of my good friend from Virginia and his comments on this. The Walberg amendment would return the

NEA funding to the 2006 levels of \$126 million. The National Endowment for the Arts—the NEA—is funded in this bill at \$135 million, which is a \$20 million reduction from the fiscal year 2011 enacted level, a \$32.5 million reduction from the fiscal year 2010 enacted level, and a \$10 million reduction from the fiscal year 2008 enacted level.

I was asked earlier by a Member if I would support just going back to the 2008 level. We could do that but we'd have to add another \$10 million into it. And we, frankly, just don't have it. This would take it back to the 2006 level, as I said. Overall, the committee has cut \$2.1 billion in this bill from the fiscal year 2011 enacted level. This is on top of the \$2.6 billion we cut from the bill earlier this year.

I think this amendment is excessive. But I will tell you that for some people, voting against any funding for the arts is okay with them. I'm not suggesting that that's what the sponsor of this amendment is proposing. He's only proposing a reduction in this. But there are Members who believe that the Federal Government or a State government—no government—should be involved in the arts at all. I disagree.

When we ran into problems several years ago before I was here—maybe it was when Mr. MORAN was here; I can't remember—but they ran into some controversies with the arts and the funding for individual artists that they've done. Since then, the Interior Appropriations Committee has done, working with the NEA, some reforms. So we don't fund individual artists. We fund what the intent is, I think, of the National Endowment for the Arts, and that is to get the arts out to the rest of America. If you're sometimes in a large city and that type of thing, you have access to arts. But when you're in Salmon, Idaho, you don't have access to the arts like they do in some of the other areas.

So one of the things I've been focused on in working with Chairman Landesman is making sure the arts get out to rural America so that they have an opportunity to see these art performances, whether they're the visual arts or the performing arts or other things. But we need to get them out to rural America. If you want to come to Boyce, Idaho, you will have missed Boyce, Idaho, in the summer if you don't go to the Idaho Shakespeare Festival, partly funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

□ 2110

Yes, they raise private funds and have sponsorships and other things, but part of their funding comes from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Chairman Landesman was out in Idaho last spring, I guess it was, and we toured around Idaho and looked at some of the arts programs, at the local

arts agencies that receive some funding from the NEA, and we looked at the impact it had on their operations. We also went to Jerome High School where the actors who did their performances in Boise City, at the Idaho Shakespeare Festival, toured the schools and gave performances to students. Then they sat there afterwards and talked with the students about what it was to be in the performing arts—how you get into it, what the pluses and minuses of it were, and other things. They helped educate these students in these communities. It's a very important thing.

There are a variety of very popular programs in this bill which are popular on both sides of the aisle. The American Jazz Masters program, the Heritage Fellowships, The Big Read program, and Shakespeare in American Communities have their funding maintained, not at the previous levels, but at a level so that they can maintain these very popular programs. The chairman has introduced a new program that we're working with him on—exactly how it would work and what it would be—called Our Town, which is how the arts can help transform local communities and other things through a grant program, so we've been working with him.

I will tell you that the arts are important, and I think having a Federal investment in the arts is an important thing to have.

Mr. WALBERG. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I would be happy to yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. WALBERG. I thank the chairman for yielding.

I just want to make it clear because, as I've listened to the opposition to this, it appears one didn't catch my train of thought. I'm not saying that arts or the NEA is wrong. I'm saying it's time to make priority decisions.

Certain priority decisions, as recently as November of 2010, fund programs such as Fire in the Belly—I won't go into the full description of it—and Hide and Seek, which can be considered pornography and which was, in fact, portrayed as that in an exhibit. Those are things that are priority decisions.

So I'm saying it is time, if we're funding those, to give the taxpayer a break and say, if you want to attend those or support those, do it through philanthropy or do it through initial sponsorships themselves but not through the taxpayer.

Mr. SIMPSON. In reclaiming my time, I appreciate the gentleman's concern. The Hide and Seek program, as the gentleman mentioned, was not an NEA program. It was not funded by the NEA, and that was not part of the NEA.

We have a tendency to think that anything that's done in this country or in this State or in this community that

is done in the name of arts is done by the NEA. That's not the truth. So, when we attack them because of Hide and Seek, that's just not an accurate statement.

Again, there have been times in the past when there have been criticisms of the NEA, mainly because of the individual artist funding that went on. The committee has addressed that, and they have made reforms in working with the NEA to make sure that those types of things are not funded in this bill and that we don't fund individual artists. The main funding of the program is to get the arts out into the rural communities. Like I said, the American Jazz Masters program and The Big Read program are all vitally important programs that, I think, the American people like and that, I think, Members on both sides of the aisle like.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. REED) having assumed the chair, Mr. PAULSEN, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2584) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 627, BUDGET CONTROL ACT OF 2011

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-184) on the resolution (H. Res. 375) providing for consideration of the bill (S. 627) to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 363 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2584.

□ 2115

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2584) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment,

and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, with Mr. PAULSEN (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, an amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) is pending, and the bill had been read through page 105, line 13.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. The National Endowment for the Arts has a 40-year history of investing in communities across the country to expand access to the arts. The NEA has awarded 2,400 grants, spanning communities in all 435 congressional districts.

The proposed cuts to the NEA would have a crippling effect on a program that has been proven to work. Often when I talk about the arts and how I feel about them, I always say how thankful I am to be able to work in an art building that is a masterpiece, but I'm going to be practical tonight. All we're interested in is money, and that's what I'm going to talk about. I hope that people will pay attention to what we get for that little bit of money.

In FY 2010, the Federal Government invested \$167.5 million in the NEA for the purpose of providing funding to nonprofit arts organizations. That funding created \$166.2 billion in total economic activity, supported 5.7 million jobs, and—listen to this one—generated to the U.S. Treasury \$12.6 billion in tax revenue. That does not include the State tax revenue or the local tax revenue. So we spent \$167 million and got back \$12.6 billion.

I defy anybody in here to tell us that we get that kind of return on any money we spend here. I wish we could find more ways to multiply our money by such a magnitude while enhancing the public good at the same time. Investment opportunities like these are few and far between, and we should be expanding our investment in such a successful program, not cutting its funding to the bone.

I am the proud co-chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus, a group that has supported the NEA for almost 30 years. The Arts Caucus is composed of 186 dedicated, bipartisan Members who are committed to the growth and the success of the arts. Why? Because the arts make a difference.

The NEA reached its peak level of funding in fiscal year 1992, but it has never fully recovered from a 40 percent cut in fiscal year 1996 when, once again, people mischaracterized the work of the NEA. We have seen progress with increasing NEA funding since fiscal year 2008, but just last

year, the NEA was forced to deal with a crippling cut again to its annual budget. If this year's appropriations bill takes effect, the NEA will have had its budget cut by 20 percent in just the last few months. These cuts are not sustainable and do great harm to the success of the arts sector across the country.

There is widespread national support for the NEA and the arts, including from companies like Westinghouse and Bravo. Actually, what really happened so much for us that was so good was when Bravo and Westinghouse particularly said they would rather hire people who had backgrounds in art because of what they were able to do—their innovation and using both sides of the brain. Bravo was wonderful, advertising all the time how important arts are to the children in this country. The bipartisan U.S. Conference of Mayors made art a priority in their 10-point plan, saying Federal resources must also be invested in nonprofit arts organizations through their local arts agencies with the full funding of the Federal arts and cultural agencies.

□ 2120

In addition, I have a letter from 26 national art organizations urging Congress to prevent any further reduction to the investment in our Nation's arts and culture infrastructure, which I would like to submit for the RECORD.

The simple truth is that funding of the arts creates jobs. There are 756,007 arts-related businesses in the United States that employ 3 million people. In my district, there are 1,229 arts-related businesses that employ 15,864 people. And remember what's already been said so well by Mr. SIMPSON is that this is seed money from the National Endowment of the Arts which brings in other money—public money, private money—which is terribly important to make these programs survive. And these programs, as I've already pointed out, are an economic gold mine. They employ creative workforce, they spend money locally, they generate government revenue, and are a cornerstone of tourism and economic development.

Along with creating and supporting jobs, the arts provide job skills to our Nation's youth—this is very important to understand—that are marketable to the innovative companies that drive our economy and push America to the forefront in the global marketplace. I've already mentioned Westinghouse, but there are many more.

Exposure to the arts fosters learning, discovery, and achievement in our country. This is, again, simply a fact. Research has proven participation in arts education programs stimulate the creative, holistic, subjective, and intuitive portions of the human brain.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman from New York has expired.

(By unanimous consent, Ms. SLAUGHTER was allowed to proceed for 2 additional minutes.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. For example, from what we've been told by the University of California-Davis, the only doctors who really understand what they hear in a stethoscope are those who have studied music. High school music students score 102 points higher on the SATs than their peers. Students with 4 years of art in high school obtain 57 points more on their SAT.

So we're making an investment in our students and our future.

But they play other important roles elsewhere in the economy.

Businesses are attracted to communities with a strong arts sector. And we see that everywhere there is art in existence, the presence of the arts can revitalize rural areas, inner cities and areas struggling with poverty. Cultural tourism brings in \$192 billion every year to the U.S. economy.

Listen to those figures. I hope to goodness everybody is as impressed as I am.

Furthermore, American arts are an important export for our country, bringing in \$30 billion more every year.

One statistic that I found particularly telling is that in 2010, the attendance at three New York museums—the Met, MoMA, and the Guggenheim—exceeded the attendance of all of the New York professional sports teams, all of them combined, by over 300,000 visits. People are interested in arts due in part to the NEA, and they come again and again and bring their families.

Along with all of this is a great intrinsic value that we know. I really must say that a lot of people think that art is not important, and they don't think about it or what it does to the human spirit. Art in so many ways tells us who we were, who we are, and who we hope to be. And if you think you're not affected by it, tell me what happens to you when you hear "Taps," "Amazing Grace," "America the Beautiful," and the stirring that it gives in your whole person and makes you want to be better than you are.

Please, please don't decimate this program in which we invest so little but get back so very much.

JULY 25, 2011.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE, as the FY12 Interior Appropriations bill comes to the floor for consideration by the full House, we write to urge you to prevent further cuts to funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The direct federal investment in the artistic capacity of our nation supports thousands of jobs, strengthens communities, improves lifelong learning, and boosts this country's international competitive advantage.

Every U.S. Congressional district benefits from an NEA grant, leveraging additional support from a diverse range of private sources to combine funding from government, business, foundation, and individual

donors. The NEA awarded almost 2,400 grants in those districts in FY 2010. The NEA has provided strategic leadership and investment in the arts for more than 40 years. Americans can now see professional productions and exhibitions of high quality in their own hometowns. Among the proudest accomplishments of the NEA is the growth of arts activity in areas of the nation that were previously underserved or not served at all, especially in rural and inner-city communities.

Nationally, there are 668,267 businesses in the United States involved in the creation or distribution of the arts that employ 2.9 million people including visual artists, performing artists, managers, marketers, technicians, teachers, designers, carpenters, and workers in a wide variety of trades and professions. By direct grants and through allocations to each state, NEA dollars are distributed widely to strengthen the arts infrastructure and ensure broad access to the arts for communities across the country.

The NEA funds school-based and community-based programs that help children and youth acquire knowledge and understanding of, and skills in, the arts. The NEA also supports educational programs for adults, collaborations between state arts agencies and state education agencies, and partnerships between arts institutions and educators.

We understand fully the shared sacrifice that we all must make in order to help get our Nation's fiscal house in order. But funding for the National Endowment for the Arts was already reduced by \$12.5 million in FY11, and the FY12 Interior bill currently includes an additional \$20 million in funding cuts. We urge you to prevent any further reduction to the investment in our nation's arts and culture infrastructure when the Interior Appropriations bill is considered on the House floor.

Sincerely,
American Architectural Foundation,
American Association of Museums,
American Federation of Musicians,
American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works, American Music Center, Americans for the Arts, Association of Art Museum Directors, Association of Performing Arts Presenters, Chamber Music America, Chorus America, College Art Association, Dance/USA, Fractured Atlas, League of American Orchestras, Literary Network, Local Learning: The National Network for Folk Arts in Education, National Alliance for Media Arts & Culture, National Alliance for Musical Theatre, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, National Association of Latino Arts and Culture, National Council for the Traditional Arts, National Performance Network, OPERA America, Performing Arts Alliance, Society for the Arts in Healthcare, Theatre Communications Group.

I yield back the balance of my time.
Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Rhode Island is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CICILLINE. In Congress, we have to, of course, responsibly cut spending, but at the same time we also have to make the necessary investments that create jobs now, guarantee the future strength of our economy, and renew the vitality of our communities. And that's why we should absolutely reject

this effort to further reduce the investment, our Nation's investment, in the National Endowment for the Arts.

Our targeted Federal investment in the arts through the NEA is very modest and is really crucial to spurring the contributions of corporate and foundation partners through their support through philanthropy, sponsorships, and volunteerism that help to sustain and leverage arts investments in communities all across this country.

This investment in the arts becomes all the more important during a time when States and cities all across this country face greater and greater fiscal constraints and at the same time are searching for opportunities to leverage Federal dollars and to spur economic development and job creation.

I represent a State that has realized an extraordinary return on investments generated by the arts. In Rhode Island, the presence of the arts is really sown into the fabric of our communities and of our economy. According to recent data from Americans for the Arts, in just the First Congressional District, in my district alone, more than 1,400 arts-related businesses employ nearly 6,000 people, and that represents more than 5 percent of the businesses in my district.

As the former mayor of Providence, I've seen firsthand the economic impact of the arts and the power of art to transform people and places.

I know the benefits of the arts in enriching our communities and uniting them as well. Arts nourish our soul.

The United States Conference of Mayors sent a letter to Members of Congress urging us to protect funding in the arts and to reject this amendment, recognizing that arts create jobs and produce tax revenues, that arts put people to work, and that arts attract tourism revenue. Arts in the creative industries are an enormous part of what fuels our local economies, bringing hundreds of thousands of visitors to our cities, generating activity in restaurants, hotels, transportation, and hospitality services.

This activity not only strengthens the vitality of our communities, it generates revenues for State and local governments. Across our country, the arts industry provides much more than aesthetic benefits. It creates meaningful economic benefits and opportunities.

During this period of budget austerity, we shouldn't neglect those investments with a proven positive rate of return. We shouldn't siphon off the fuel that helps power the American arts industry, a sector of our economy comprised of more than 750,000 businesses, employing nearly 3 million people nationwide, and generating more than \$166 billion in economic activity.

Cutting the National Endowment for the Arts undermines our responsibility to create jobs and grow our economy, and diminishes us as a Nation.

As one study demonstrates, when we consider the overall direct Federal cultural spending of \$1.4 billion, we're achieving a return on investment that's nearly 9 to 1. If we're really serious about strengthening our economy, putting more Americans back to work, and reining in our deficit, then we have to be smart about our investments and about our reductions.

With estimates indicating that every dollar of Federal funds invested in the arts generates \$9 in economic benefits, further reductions to the National Endowment of the Arts are counterproductive and, in fact, will move our Nation backwards. It moves us backwards not only in the effect that we lose the immediate economic return on the investments, but this cut also pushes our country further behind our competitors and the global economy.

It was one of the great giants of the United States Senate, the great and passionate leadership of Rhode Island Senator Claiborne Pell, that led to the creation of the National Endowment for the Arts in 1965, the program that we're fighting to defend today. In 1963, Senator Pell opened hearings on preliminary legislation on this issue by stating, "I believe that this cause and its implementation has a worldwide application, for as our cultural life is enhanced and strengthened, so does it project itself into the world beyond our shores."

"Let us apply renewed energies to the very concepts we seek to advance, a true renaissance, the reawakening, the quickening, and above all, the unstunted growth of our cultural vitality."

In those words Senator Pell said clearly that this disinvestment that we're discussing today for the National Endowment for the Arts nearly 50 years later is a stark and appalling contrast to the renaissance and reawakening embodied in the National Endowment for the Arts.

For too long, the arts have been the first target for spending cuts in our public schools and here at the Federal level. It is at our own economic peril that we continue to deprive our youth and our communities of their connection to the arts.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

□ 2130

Mr. CICILLINE. I ask unanimous consent to be given 1 additional minute to conclude.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Rhode Island?

Mr. WALBERG. I object.

The Acting CHAIR. Objection is heard.

Ms. WOOLSEY. I move to strike the last word, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. As sure as Wednesday follows Tuesday, you can count on congressional Republicans to propose gutting programs benefiting the arts and humanities. It's as predictable as it is irresponsible and unwise. It's the same old penny-wise, pound-foolish approach we have come to expect from a party that wants to spend lavishly on corporate giveaways while cutting just about every initiative that empowers the American people and improves lives and our communities.

I can't believe that while the Nation stands on the brink of default, while Republican stubbornness puts us less than a week away from economic calamity, we're having a debate about funding for the arts that represents 3 cents, 3 cents for every \$100 of non-military discretionary spending. Three cents, Mr. Chairman.

Believe me, the budget for the National Endowment for the Arts isn't breaking the bank. Grants to support museums and theater companies are not what caused a huge deficit, and cutting them will not put us on a fiscally responsible course. In fact, investments in the arts more than pay for themselves. For every \$1 spent on arts programs, the country gets back \$9 in economic benefit.

My friends on the other side of the aisle love to make arts funding a scapegoat. They never miss an opportunity to turn a spending debate into a culture war referendum on art. But let's be clear: The arts represent a vital economic industry, a mainstream employer of millions of Americans, and an integral part of a functioning society. The nonprofit arts sector generates more than \$12 billion in tax revenues and more than \$166 billion in economic activity every single year.

Communities that have a vibrant artistic life are magnets for tourism and new businesses that create jobs. There's also evidence that communities that embrace the arts tend to have higher real estate values, more civic activities and volunteerism, less crime, and lower poverty rates.

The arts are also a critical ingredient in the development of our children, with research showing that students receiving arts education perform better academically and are more likely to succeed in life.

But despite all the ways that arts support the common good, Republican leaders want to cut NEA. Instead, Mr. Chairman, I think it's time we cut Big Oil subsidies and cut loopholes for corporate jet owners. Arts programs have already taken a budget hit in recent years and are trying to do more with less. If we can give billions in subsidies to oil companies that are already raking in record profits, then surely we can maintain modest investments in the nonprofit arts sector that makes a vital contribution to American life.

Let's stop blaming small agencies for a fiscal crisis that was caused by three

wars and tax cuts for the people who need them the least. Let's maintain robust funding for NEA.

With that, I yield the remainder of my time to the gentleman from Rhode Island.

Mr. CICILLINE. I thank the gentleman.

For too long the arts have been the first target for spending cuts in our public schools here at the Federal level. It is at our own economic peril that we continue to deprive our youth and our community of their connection to the arts. I have seen on so many occasions the power of music and dance and theater to ignite the imagination of a young person, that causes them to stay in school, to follow their passion, and ultimately to realize their dreams.

Today's global economy demands an even greater level of creativity, innovative thinking, and entrepreneurship, a 21st century skill set that is enhanced by exposure to the arts in learning and in daily life. I participated in an arts education roundtable with CEOs from all across the country who said that those skills of creative problem solving, of innovation, of entrepreneurship were skills they were looking for in the workers of the 21st century. And the arts nourishes and enhances those skills.

We cannot underestimate the importance of maintaining critical Federal funding for our arts to fuel our national economic recovery, to grow our local economies, to teach our children, and to expand our civic discourse during these trying economic times.

I strongly urge my colleagues to reject further reductions to the National Endowment for the Arts because now, more than ever, we need the National Endowment for the reawakening, quickening, and unstunted growth of not only our cultural vitality but of our economic prosperity as well.

Mr. YARMUTH. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Kentucky is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Chairman, when we, in this House, decide how the taxpayers' money is going to be spent, it represents a statement of our values, a statement of our priorities. And the question of whether we should adequately fund the National Endowment for the Arts is one of those that speaks loudly to our values. It speaks loudly to our respect for the creative genius of human beings. It speaks loudly about our understanding of what the human soul is about.

We've heard much documentation of the economic impact of the arts throughout our country, \$165 billion annually in economic activity. I certainly can attest to the fact that in my community of Louisville, Kentucky, more than 20,000 of my constituents are involved actively, professionally in the

arts. We are one of the only communities that has resident theater, resident opera, ballet, children's theater, a vibrant visual arts community. It is one of the things that significantly enhances the quality of life in my community. It's one of those things that brings people to my community. So the economic importance of the arts is undeniable.

But I ask again about our priorities. The amount of money that we're talking about now, roughly \$10 million over a period of years, we spent in the first few minutes of our activity in Libya. The first few Tomahawk missiles we launched there, that was \$10 million. We spend \$10 million in less than 1 hour in Afghanistan, less than 1 hour. So here we're talking about millions of jobs supported by funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, \$165 billion in economic activity, against all of the other things we do where there is so little payback for where we spend the taxpayers' money.

There are two things I would like to mention in addition to kind of the value-added aspects of arts funding.

If you think back over the history of mankind, what has survived of the great civilizations of this world? The only thing that has survived has been the creative product of the minds of men and women throughout history. Literature, music, architecture, paintings, sculpture, these are the only things that have survived.

□ 2140

If you look around this glorious room that we have the privilege of serving in—famous painting of George Washington, Lafayette, the architecture that's represented here—this is all the creative product of the men and women of generations. This is what our soul speaks to the world, to generations to come, and this is what we're talking about funding.

One of the greatest exports that we have from this country is our cultural product. We export music; we export film; we export drama, theater, all of these things, activities funded by the National Endowment for the Arts. So when we say to our taxpayers, our constituents, what are your values, we can say, you know, those Tomahawk missiles are wonderful.

And I certainly understand that we need to defend our country. But when we talk about our contributions to the history of mankind, humankind, it is undeniable that what we invest, the small amount we invest in supporting our creative genius, will be paid back many, many times over.

So I am proud to stand here and support funding for the National Endowment for the Arts, opposing the Walberg amendment, which would further cut the funding that has already been substantially reduced, and stand for the values of the millions and mil-

lions of men and women and children who not only participate in artistic activities, but also benefit immeasurably through an enhanced quality of life in our country.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLT. I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, last month I gathered almost 200 individuals interested in the arts and humanities to discuss National Endowment for the Humanities and National Endowment for the Arts programs. The turnout was impressive. But considering their eagerness to win endowment grants, it was also a reminder of how tight funding is for these critical programs.

My friend, poet Paul Muldoon, read some poetry to the attendees and reminded all, in his words, the NEA and the NEH are not properly funded. It is a national disgrace. Now, that was before the amendment that is here tonight that would cut the NEA even further.

The NEA and the NEH help ensure a well-rounded education, and result in a well-rounded society. Now, of course the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities are different, but they are similar in what they bring to our Nation.

The arts and humanities inspire our children to explore their own creativity and encourage positive development in the course of their educational careers. The arts and humanities are a fundamental component of our society and they, indeed, warrant Federal funding. The arts and humanities help us know ourselves as a people.

Just a few weeks ago, here on this floor, the House approved a bill that increased the spending for the Department of Defense by \$17 billion. The total funding for the endowments is hardly more than a percent of that increase in defense spending that was passed. Talk about misplaced priorities.

I'm reminded of the often told exchange between Scientist Robert Wilson, the Director of Fermilab, when he was testifying before the Senate and Senator Pastore. The Senator asked, with regard to a science experiment at Fermilab, whether it would help defend this country against the Soviet Union. Replied Dr. Wilson, no, Senator Pastore, this will not help defend us against the Soviet Union, but it will help make our country more worth defending.

This amendment is based on the premise that arts and humanities are a luxury. The author of this amendment to cut the NEA further says America is impoverished. Mr. Chairman, I'll tell you what would leave America really impoverished is if we strangle the arts and humanities.

We've heard what the arts contribute to our economy. The Americans for the Arts, in its report, *Arts and Economic Prosperity*, details that the arts support more than 5 million jobs and generate tens of billions of dollars in government revenue.

Arts are good for our cultural development, yes. They are good for our society at large and good for our economic development as well.

I've heard from a number of my constituents on this matter, and nearly everyone has pleaded with me to preserve as much funding as possible for the arts and for the humanities. As one of them said poignantly, "A Nation without culture is a Nation without a soul."

I strongly oppose this amendment and other efforts to strangle the arts and humanities in America and to defund the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment. Our focus today ought to be on jobs. And as some of my colleagues have already said, funding the arts creates jobs. For negligible investments, we create lots of jobs, because not only are the arts supported, but when you have artistic programs, restaurants and other activities generate jobs all over the community.

And our focus ought to be on education. Those children, for example, who are involved in of the arts, do better in school.

Now we're trying to cut funding for the arts in this amendment, and we cannot ignore why all these cuts are necessary. Last December we passed a tax cut of \$800 billion, \$400 billion a year. Now, we're looking to make cuts. Most of the projections are that we need \$4 trillion over the next 10 years in deficit reduction, \$400 billion a year. I hope we don't ignore the fact that that's the same number, \$400 billion tax cuts a year, and now we're looking for \$400 billion spending cuts a year.

So when we talk about cutting the arts, when we talk about cutting Social Security and Medicare and education and everything else, we cannot ignore the fact that all of these cuts are designed to preserve the tax cuts that we passed last December. And so to preserve those tax cuts—many are going to millionaires, multimillionaires, and oil companies—we find ourselves having to deal with this amendment to cut the arts.

Mr. Chairman, we should not be lulled into accepting caps. Caps just delay the inevitable because caps don't cut anything today. But when you start appropriating under the caps, in a

few weeks or a few months, we'll find that there's not enough money for the arts, there's not enough money for Head Start, there's not enough money for education or Social Security or Medicare. So when you accept the caps, you're ultimately going to make these cuts.

We don't have any crisis today, Mr. Chairman, because some don't want to increase the debt ceiling. The debt ceiling is a perfunctory responsibility of this Congress. We've already spent the money. The debt ceiling just acknowledges what we've already done. We need to just pass the debt ceiling and get back to the regular order where we make choices.

Do we want to cut Social Security and Medicare and the arts in order to preserve tax cuts, many going to the oil companies and multimillionaires? I hope not, and we should begin by defeating this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. McCOLLUM. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, in Minnesota we understand that the arts are an essential part of our economy and the number of jobs it creates. The arts are so vital to our economy and our development and civic life that in 2008, Minnesotans voted to amend our State constitution to raise money, yes, to tax themselves and dedicate part of the revenue to the arts.

Minnesota is the only State in the country where there's a dedicated public funding source for the arts. In our Constitution, Mr. Chair, we passed a legacy amendment. Hunters, anglers, conservationists, parents, seniors, all came together to say the arts, along with preserving our environment, is integral to our legacy, to our way of life in Minnesota.

In my district alone, the arts employ over 8,000 people. And the arts and the culture industry contributes over \$830 million to Minnesota's economy. Investing in the arts makes economic sense, and it's good public policy.

As has been pointed out, for every dollar that is spent by the NEA, \$9 in economic activity is generated. We must make tough choices, given this fiscal crisis, and I believe the NEA's budget has been targeted and it has been shrunk enough.

□ 2150

The NEA's budget has been cut 20 percent since 2010. Our artists, poets, writers, musicians, producers, sculptors, singers, dancers, photographers, and actors contribute millions of dollars to our local economy and create a vibrant social space for us to come together. And we hear time and time again from the major corporations and from the start-up companies, from

computer companies to health care companies to our universities that it is American creativity and space for the arts that allows America to move forward.

So I strongly oppose this cut, and I reject any further attacks on the NEA's budget.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, you've heard it. I will explain: I rose previously to claim the time in opposition, now I am rising to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, if this was not such a late hour, we would have had five or six times as many Members rising in opposition to this amendment. And I trust they reflect the general sentiment of the country.

Winston Churchill, at the height of World War II, was told by his budget director that to conserve money for armaments, they needed to cut the arts. And he turned to him and said, If we do that, what is it that we're fighting for?

The arts reflect the highest aspirations of our humanity. And in fact, in this country, they're a reflection of the true American spirit—our talent, our ability to communicate, our ability to relate to one another.

Now, let me be specific about what this amendment would do, because every single Member of this body has a direct grant from the National Endowment for the Arts going to that congressional district. If this amendment were to pass, more than \$100 million in non-Federal matching funds for NEA awards would be lost. The number of Americans reached as a result will decline by 36 million compared to the number of Americans reached by NEA this year. The number of children and youth will decline by 3.6 million, and in fact there will be a near-17 percent decrease in State and regional partnerships.

I think if the Members fully consider the impact of this, they will realize this is one of the most effective Federal Government programs that we have. We have a gentleman whose name is Rocco Landesman. He could be making considerably more than he's making today in income, but he has chosen to devote his time and attention to leading the National Endowment for the Arts. In fact, he has suggested that, given the fiscal situation that confronts us, perhaps we should reduce the number of platforms for artists so as to save money. But he is determined not to reduce the quality of artistic performance in this country.

We have so many talented people, so much potential, and it is the NEA that reaches out and finds that potential all

over the country. This is a fully national program. Every single congressional district benefits from grants from the NEA. And those grants expand the economy, the focus of the grant, multiple times—I'm trying to recall the number, I think it's five or six times at a minimum, many times 10, 20 times—the amount of money that is contributed to a particular artistic focus when the NEA decides that it's worthy of getting a grant.

They have maintained their credibility. In fact, when they were under attack in the 1990s, they made sure that every grant passes a very high level of scrutiny. Even though I think most of us don't believe in censorship, they understand all the competing political pressures. They have navigated those political waters. The Our Town program that the chairman of the subcommittee referred to is a terrific program. It really develops the best of what America is all about.

This has been a long night. We have tried to fight the good fight over here against any number of efforts to cut programs, to repeal legislation; but this is one of the most important.

I would urge this body to reject this amendment, to show our support for the National Endowment for the Arts, and really for the phenomenal artistic talent that it underscores and generates in this country.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Chair, I rise today to speak of the importance of the National Endowment for the Arts. I would like to thank my friend and fellow Co-Chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus, Representative LOUISE SLAUGHTER, for her tireless efforts in advocating for the arts over the years.

Every day we witness the impact of the arts on our society. The arts in America are an integral component to our cultural vibrancy—fostering creativity and bringing together communities. Museums, performing arts centers, galleries, historical societies, and other cultural institutions not only provide significant contributions to the social fabric of neighborhoods and communities, but also provide significant economic contributions. In my home district in Pennsylvania, 1,410 arts-related businesses provide nearly 6,000 jobs. It is for these reasons that I support responsible investments in the NEA.

As our Nation is facing unprecedented financial challenges, it is critical that we address unsustainable levels of spending. To do this all Federal agencies and recipients of Federal dollars must share in making sacrifices. The fiscal year 2012 Interior Appropriations legislation already includes a 13 percent reduction in spending over fiscal year 2011 and a 20 percent reduction over 2010 for the NEA. Accordingly, I ask that my colleagues not support further cuts to the NEA and oppose the Walberg Amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES
GRANTS AND ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses to carry out the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, \$135,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$125,000,000 shall be available for support of activities in the humanities, pursuant to section 7(c) of the Act and for administering the functions of the Act; and \$10,000,000 shall be available to carry out the matching grants program pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Act, including \$8,000,000 for the purposes of section 7(h): *Provided*, That appropriations for carrying out section 10(a)(2) of such Act shall be available for obligation only in such amounts as may be equal to the total amounts of gifts, bequests, and devises of money, and other property accepted by the chairman or by grantees of the Endowment under the provisions of subsections 11(a)(2)(B) and 11(a)(3)(B) of such Act during the current and preceding fiscal years for which equal amounts have not previously been appropriated.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF
GEORGIA

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 105, line 18, after the dollar amount insert “(reduced by \$13,500,000)”.

Page 158, line 258, after the dollar amount insert “(increased by \$13,500,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would reduce funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities by a mere 10 percent.

I have stood up here and offered amendment after amendment trying to highlight areas of our budget that we can afford reasonable cuts. If you add up all of those modest cuts, the Federal Government could end up saving a significant amount of money. We are facing a fiscal crisis in this Nation, a financial fiasco; and if we can't make the cuts that need to be made, this country is going to go into a total economic collapse.

Now, if someone's broke, they sell their luxury car and get a more efficient one; they stop eating steak and lobster and eat more hamburger and hot dogs. They turn in their membership to the country club. All those things are beautiful things, nice things, luxury things. We have a lot of luxuries that we've been funding

through the Federal Government for a long period of time. But, Mr. Chairman, we can't afford to continue doing so because we are in an economic emergency as a Nation. We are broke. We have unsustainable debt. We have unsustainable debt that's going to cause our children and our grandchildren to live at a lower standard than we live today if we keep this up.

Mr. Chairman, in a race a number of years ago, I said Congress was sick; we need a doctor in the House. I'm a medical doctor, and I do addiction medicine. Government needs an intervention for its spending addiction. In addiction medicine we say, if there's no denial, there's no addiction. We've got a tremendous amount of denial about the economic crisis we face in this Nation. We've just simply got to stop the spending.

When a business goes under water, it's overextended as the Federal Government is, what does it do? It lowers its borrowing level—if the lender doesn't do that—it starts trying to figure out how to reduce the debt, and then it goes through every aspect of its expenditures and tries to cut expenses all across the board in every area. The Federal Government needs to do the same.

□ 2200

And then the business will look at how to raise more revenue. Our Democratic colleagues say that we need to raise revenue by raising taxes, but that will just tax away jobs. We must create jobs here in America. We create jobs in America by getting the tax burden and the regulatory burden off the job creators, the small businesses here in America that are suffering and are suffocating with the burden of over-regulation and taxes. We could create more revenue for the Federal Government, not by raising taxes but by raising taxpayers, and we do that by putting people to work and creating a stronger economy. It's absolutely critical for the future of this Nation. We can't keep going down this road.

The National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, I've heard all the arguments, and for the Smithsonian Institution and other things that a lot of people think are very beautiful and nice, just like that luxury automobile, but we need to stop it. The future of our Nation depends upon it. I'm fighting for America. I'm fighting for the future of our children and my grandchildren. Funding for the National Endowment for the Arts does not need to be a priority in the midst of these trying times, and I urge my colleagues to support a very simple request to reduce its funding by 10 percent.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman, may I make a parliamentary inquiry?

The Acting CHAIR. State your inquiry.

Mr. MORAN. If the Committee does now rise, an amendment has been offered, would not the body, the Committee of the Whole, take up the conclusion of that amendment when we reconvene on the same bill the next time the bill is brought up, whether it be tomorrow, Friday, or Saturday?

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment will still be pending.

The question is on the motion to rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BROUN of Georgia) having assumed the chair, Mr. PAULSEN, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2584) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following title were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 846. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 80 Lafayette Street in Jefferson City, Missouri, as the Christopher S. Bond United States Courthouse, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

S. 1406. An act to designate the United States courthouse under construction at 510 19th Street, Bakersfield, California, as the Myron Donovan Crocker United States Courthouse, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, July 28, 2011, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2610. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Australia pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

2611. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmit-

ting draft legislation to authorize collection of fees under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2612. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Oregon; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan and Interstate Transport Plan [EPA-R10-OAR-2011-0035; FRL-9425-3] received July 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2613. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Louisiana [EPA-R06-OAR-2007-0924; FRL-9323-7] received July 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2614. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Louisiana; Determination of Termination of Section 185 Fees [EPA-R06-OAR-2010-0404; FRL-9430-2] received July 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2615. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference [PA200-4203; FRL-9314-6] received July 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2616. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Regulation To Mitigate the Misfueling of Vehicles and Engines With Gasoline Containing Greater Than Ten Volume Percent Ethanol and Modifications to the Reformulated and Conventional Gasoline Programs [EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-0448; FRL-9428-2] (RIN: 2060-AQ17) received July 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2617. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2011-0383; FRL-9427-9] received July 11, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2618. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Imperial County Air Pollution Control District, Kern County Air Pollution Control District, and Ventura County Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2011-0198; FRL-9425-4] received July 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2619. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Imperial County Air Pollution Control District, Kern County Air Pollution Control District, and Ventura County Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2011-0198; FRL-9429-1] received July

1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2620. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (SJVUAPCD) [EPA-R09-OAR-2010-0907; FRL-9428-7] received July 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2621. A letter from the Chairman, Broadcasting Board of Governors, transmitting proposed legislation to authorize appropriations for the broadcasting Board of Governors for Fiscal years 2012 and 2013; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2622. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting additional legislation the Department requests to be enacted during the first session of the 112th Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2623. A letter from the Inspector General, House of Representatives, transmitting Management Advisory Report — Report No. 11-CAO-05; to the Committee on House Administration.

2624. A letter from the Inspector General, House of Representatives, transmitting Audit Report—Report No. 11-CAO-04; to the Committee on House Administration.

2625. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a draft bill to authorize \$2,174,600,000 for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) major facility construction projects and \$49,292,000 for major facility leases for fiscal year 2012; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

2626. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Modification of Treasury Regulations Pursuant to Section 939A of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act [TD 9533] (RIN: 1545-BK28) received July 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2627. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting proposed legislation to collect certain fees under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); jointly to the Committees on Agriculture and Energy and Commerce.

2628. A letter from the Commission, Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan, transmitting Special Report 5, "Sustainability: hidden costs risk new waste"; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Armed Services.

2629. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a draft bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve Veterans' health care benefits and for other purposes; jointly to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and Oversight and Government Reform.

2630. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting additional legislative proposals that the Department requests be enacted during the first session of the 112th Congress; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services, Foreign Affairs, Oversight and Government Reform, and Education and the Workforce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON
PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. DREIER: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 375. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (S. 627) to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays, and for other purposes (Rept. 112-184). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CLARKE of Michigan, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CRITZ, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. DICKS, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FARR, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HAHN, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HIMES, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HOYER, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEAL, Mr. OLVER, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. REYES, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SRES, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. WATT, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Ms. BASS of California, Ms. RICHARDSON, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. ACKERMAN, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut):

H.R. 2663. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to increase the statutory limit on the public debt; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. NAPOLITANO:

H.R. 2664. A bill to reauthorize the Water Desalination Act of 1996, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. LEE of

California, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. FILNER, Ms. MOORE, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. POLIS, Mr. STARK, Mr. GUTIERREZ, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 2665. A bill to phase out the use of private military contractors; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr. JONES, and Mr. MICHAUD):

H.R. 2666. A bill to neutralize the discriminatory effect of any country that employs indirect taxes and grants rebates of the same upon export if United States trade negotiating objectives regarding border tax treatment in World Trade Organization negotiations are not met; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 2667. A bill to provide for improvements to the administration of bankruptcy in cases under chapter 7 of title 11 of the United States Code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. MICA, Mr. QUAYLE, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. PENCE, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. MARINO, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. DREIER, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. TURNER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. LUTKEMEYER, Mr. FORBES, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. PEARCE, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. REYES, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HONDA, Mr. BACA, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Mr. QUILLEY):

H.R. 2668. A bill to designate the station of the United States Border Patrol located at 2136 South Naco Highway in Bisbee, Arizona, as the "Brian A. Terry Border Patrol Station"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DOGGETT (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. STARK, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. WELCH, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MOORE, Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. TONKO, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. FARR, Mr. MORAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. EDWARDS,

Mr. MARKEY, Mr. HOLT, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. BASS of California, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. ANDREWS):

H.R. 2669. A bill to restrict the use of offshore tax havens and abusive tax shelters to inappropriately avoid Federal taxation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BROOKS (for himself, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CARTER, Mr. PALAZZO, and Mr. WOODALL):

H.R. 2670. A bill to provide that States and local governments may pass laws that identify illegal aliens, deter illegal aliens from entering the United States, apprehend illegal aliens, or encourage or otherwise cause illegal aliens to leave the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARTER:

H.R. 2671. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment and maintenance of an undiagnosed diseases network, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GERLACH (for himself and Mr. ALTMIRE):

H.R. 2672. A bill to clarify the orphan drug exception to the annual fee on branded prescription pharmaceutical manufacturers and importers; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MARKEY:

H.R. 2673. A bill to amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to modify the disposition of qualified treatment qualified outer Continental Shelf revenues under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS (for herself, Mr. RUSH, Mrs. EMERSON, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. OWENS, Mr. CLARKE of Michigan, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. YOUNG of Florida):

H.R. 2674. A bill to amend section 340B of the Public Health Service Act to improve the provision of discounts on drug purchases for certain safety net providers; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RIBBLE (for himself, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. PENCE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. SCHILLING, Mr. KIND, Mr. PETRI, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, and Mr. DUFFY):

H.R. 2675. A bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to authorize producers on a farm to produce fruits and vegetables for processing on the base acres of the farm; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT (for himself, Mr. RIBBLE, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona):

H.R. 2676. A bill to lower health premiums and increase choice for small businesses; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce,

and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H. Res. 376. A resolution calling for the repatriation of POW/MIAs and abductees from the Korean War; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 2663.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which gives Congress the power 'To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers.'

By Mrs. NAPOLITANO:

H.R. 2664.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 2665.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution (Clause 14), which grants Congress the power to make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces."

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H.R. 2666.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and Article I, Section 10, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 2667.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 4 of the Constitution.

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 2668.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section I and Section 8.

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 2669.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BROOKS:

H.R. 2670.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8. "The Congress shall have the power . . . to establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization . . ."

By Mr. CARTER:

H.R. 2671.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. GERLACH:

H.R. 2672.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MARKEY:

H.R. 2673.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS:

H.R. 2674.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, clause 3 to regulate Commerce among the several States.

By Mr. RIBBLE:

H.R. 2675.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 2676.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. 1, §8, Clause 3 of the Constitution: "To regulate commerce among foreign nations and the several states."

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 85: Mr. COHEN and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 104: Mr. ISSA and Mr. BUCSHON.
H.R. 136: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 157: Mr. HECK.
H.R. 365: Mr. REICHERT.
H.R. 436: Mr. GOWDY and Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.
H.R. 452: Mr. STEARNS and Mr. LATOURETTE.
H.R. 530: Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 563: Mr. PITTS.
H.R. 593: Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. JONES, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. LUTKEMEYER, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. NUNNELEE, and Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 645: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 721: Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 748: Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 763: Mr. KISSELL.
H.R. 772: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 831: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 860: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 878: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 942: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
H.R. 1063: Mr. HOLDEN.
H.R. 1172: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 1179: Mrs. HARTZLER and Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 1219: Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. BERMAN.
H.R. 1283: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
H.R. 1381: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.
H.R. 1464: Mr. CARTER.
H.R. 1546: Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. LUJÁN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 1574: Mr. QUIGLEY and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H.R. 1588: Mrs. BLACK.
H.R. 1639: Mr. MCHENRY.
H.R. 1703: Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 1736: Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. CASSIDY.
H.R. 1744: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 1780: Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 1803: Mr. LATOURETTE.
H.R. 1834: Mr. BOREN, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. HECK.
H.R. 1852: Mrs. BIGGETT, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. GALLEGLY.
H.R. 1925: Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 1936: Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 1955: Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 2012: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 2023: Ms. FOXX and Mr. NUNNELEE.
H.R. 2033: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 2108: Mr. ROSS of Arkansas.
H.R. 2123: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 2163: Mr. HEINRICH.
H.R. 2164: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, and Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 2235: Mr. POLIS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. STARK.
H.R. 2249: Mrs. CAPITO.
H.R. 2257: Mr. POSEY, Mr. PITTS, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. KINGSTON, and Mr. MULVANEY.
H.R. 2271: Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 2327: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 2381: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 2402: Mr. HALL.
H.R. 2429: Mr. LANKFORD.
H.R. 2492: Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. McDERMOTT.
H.R. 2505: Mr. BUTTERFIELD and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 2529: Mr. GOODLATTE.
H.R. 2530: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. HAYWORTH, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 2541: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 2544: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 2559: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 2580: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York and Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 2592: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 2594: Mr. HARRIS and Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 2600: Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LATTI, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. RAHALL, and Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
H.R. 2607: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 2644: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. MOORE, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. STARK, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. HANABUSA, Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. CARDOZA, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. OLVER, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. BERMAN.
H.R. 2653: Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. BARROW, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mrs. BLACK, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. WOLF.
H.R. 2659: Mr. OLVER and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.J. Res. 69: Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. CARNAHAN.
H. Res. 19: Mr. HINCHEY.
H. Res. 21: Mr. HINCHEY.
H. Res. 295: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. LANCE, and Mr. ALEXANDER.
H. Res. 342: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL, and Mr. RAHALL.
H. Res. 361: Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H. Res. 364: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. RUNYAN, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. SULIVAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. GRAVES of

Missouri, Mr. HARPER, Mr. CARTER, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. KLINE, Mr. MANZULLO, and Mr. GUTHRIE.

H. Res. 369: Mr. CONAWAY.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY MR. POSEY

AMENDMENT No. 73: At the end of the bill (before the short title) add the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of the Interior for any new oil or gas drilling above the Outer Continental Shelf within 25-miles of the State of Florida.

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY MR. LABRADOR

AMENDMENT No. 74: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to develop or implement a comprehensive conservation plan under the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et

seq.) for the Lake Lowell Unit of the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge.

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY MR. CARTER

AMENDMENT No. 75: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce a State emissions reduction obligation in the final rule entitled "Federal Implementation Plans to Reduce Interstate Transport of Fine Particulate Matter and Ozone in 27 States; Correction of SIP Approvals for 22 States" (popularly referred to as the "Cross-State Air Pollution Rule") signed by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency on July 6, 2011, for a State for which the Administrator did not propose a State emissions budget in the proposed rule entitled "Federal Implementation Plans To Reduce Interstate Transport of Fine Particulate Matter and Ozone" published in the Federal Register on August 2, 2010 (75 Fed. Reg. 45210 et seq.).

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY MR. FLEMING

AMENDMENT No. 76: Page 65, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$48,206,000)".

Page 158, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$48,206,000)".

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY MR. LANDRY

AMENDMENT No. 77: At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

FUNDING LIMITATION RELATED TO REGULATION OF OFFSHORE SERVICE CONTRACTORS

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to regulate, under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), any person that is not a lessee under that Act.

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY MR. NEUGEBAUER

AMENDMENT No. 78: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to add the lesser prairie chicken to the list of threatened species or endangered species published under section 4(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533(c)).

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

IN CELEBRATION OF MISS SADIE THOMAS' 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to stand before you today to celebrate the 100th birthday of one of my constituents, Miss Sadie Thomas.

Sadie Thomas was born on July 27, 1911 in Jeffersonville, Georgia. Aunt Sadie to her family, Sadie spent most of her life on her family farm with her brother John. Sadie and John began their lives as sharecroppers, eventually moving on to their own plot of land. As a small farmer, she worked hard all her life, picking cotton and growing tomatoes, corn, squash and other crops.

From the very beginning, Sadie has remained a deeply religious woman, devoted to her family. When her sister passed away, leaving two children behind, Sadie helped raise both children on her farm with her mother.

To this day she remains a lifelong member of the Lizzie Harrell Baptist Church in Jeffersonville. She now resides near her family in a nursing home in my district.

As her friends and family celebrate her 100th birthday, we are all thankful that she is of sound mind and body. Mr. Speaker, my fellow colleagues, I hope you will join me today in wishing Miss Sadie Thomas a very happy birthday. May God continue to bless her with a long life.

IN HONOR OF CHURCHILL GRIMES

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Churchill "Church" Bragaw Grimes, who on August 31 retires as the Fisheries Ecology Division Director of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center in Santa Cruz, California. The Fisheries Ecology Division of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center provides research focused on Pacific Coast groundfish and Pacific Salmon. Results of their research help to manage fisheries as well as threatened and endangered species in the area. Churchill has made very important contributions to resource conservation and management as the Director of the Fisheries Ecology Division.

Church has been active in the field of fishery science and management for over 40 years. He received both his B.S. and M.S. in biology from the East Carolina University at Greenville, North Carolina and his Ph.D. in

Marine Sciences from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 1977 he became the Assistant Professor of Marine Fisheries at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1983. The following year he joined the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as a Fishery Ecologist in Panama City, Florida. He has since been with the NMFS serving as Chief (acting) Resource Survey Division in Pascagoula, Mississippi; Leader, Fishery Ecology Investigations and Laboratory Director in Panama City; and Laboratory Director and Fisheries Ecology Division Director in Santa Cruz.

Some of Church's many contributions to the field of fishery science and management are his countless publications from his many years of "hands on" research in the lab and at sea. He has received numerous honors and awards including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Bronze Medal in 1996 and again in 2006.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House as I commend Churchill "Church" Bragaw Grimes for all he has done and all he will undoubtedly continue to do. I extend my most sincere thanks and warmest wishes for his success and much happiness in his retirement.

HONORING MONSIGNOR GABRIEL GHANOU

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Monsignor Gabriel Ghanoum for his dedicated service to the Miami area. Monsignor Ghanoum has been a fixture in the community since 1994, and currently serves as pastor of the St. Nicholas Melkite Greek Catholic Church in Delray Beach, Florida.

In 1999 Monsignor Ghanoum started the Spanish Ministry at St. Jude's Melkite Catholic Church, and served as its pastor until 2010. He still celebrates mass with St. Jude's, often given to a standing room only crowd consisting of people from all over the state of Florida, and all over the world. He also provides mass for the homeless community of Miami, the JFK Medical Center and his current parish, St. Nicholas'. It is through his homilies that Monsignor Ghanoum gives his parishioners strength, motivation and insight into the power of prayer and devotion to God.

Throughout his time in Miami, Monsignor Ghanoum has established diverse programs for the needy and homeless, assisted at Miami Children's Hospital, and has served as a Victim's Assistance Coordinator for Child Abuse, among various other programs and services. Currently, he assists the sisters of the Mis-

sionaries of Charity of Mother Teresa in the archdiocese of Miami. Along with his work in Miami, he has been a stalwart supporter of the Mexican Association of Aid to Children with Cancer. It is through programs such as these that Monsignor Ghanoum truly shines, and impacts the lives of countless human beings.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Monsignor Gabriel Ghanoum for his continued service to the Miami community. As a true servant of the Lord, he has dedicated himself to his faith and his community. He has gone beyond the call of duty, and has consistently demonstrated the high values of priesthood. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding individual, and I wish him continued success and happiness in the future.

HONORING THE WORK OF NANCY MERCER AND JILL EGLE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Nancy Mercer and Jill Egle, co-executive directors of The Arc of Northern Virginia, for their tremendous work on behalf of the disabled in our community.

As my colleagues know, The Arc is a leading advocacy and service organization for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, serving more than 7,000 families in Northern Virginia alone. I am sad to share that after 5 years of collaboration, Nancy and Jill have decided to move on, but they have left The Arc stronger than ever.

Under Nancy and Jill's leadership, the local Arc staff, volunteers and community partners have been successful in promoting and protecting the rights of people of all abilities to live comfortably in the community. One of The Arc's primary missions is to provide full inclusion for intellectually and developmentally disabled individuals in all aspects of the community.

Through their combined efforts, The Arc has been expanded its advocacy efforts to become one of the strongest grassroots organizations in the Commonwealth. They spearheaded the formation of the Virginia Ability Alliance, creating a more unified voice for people with disabilities. Thanks to the compelling public awareness campaign, "A Life Like Yours . . . Take a Walk in Our Shoes," Nancy and Jill helped hammer home the message that community support is essential for The Arc to succeed. With the resulting increase in community and financial support, The Arc has been able to help more people with disabilities live comfortably within our community.

Their voice also is being heard by state and national policy makers. The Arc of Northern Virginia helped lead a statewide campaign to

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

eradicate use of the degrading "R" word in Virginia's State Code. They worked with community partners to launch a successful Get Out the Vote campaign that buoyed the participation rate of disabled voters in the 2008 Presidential election, and they recently have used their influence in the international arena to educate representatives from Russia, China, and Korea on the necessity of improving the rights of the disabled globally.

It has been my pleasure to work with both Nancy and Jill, and I have a personal relationship with each of them. As Chairman of the Fairfax Board of Supervisors, I always looked forward to Jill's expert testimony. She successfully raised the level of public discourse on the struggles of the developmentally disabled in Northern Virginia. Nancy's desire to better the lives of those affected by intellectual disability also has been inspiring. She will continue her mission this August as the President and CEO of the PHILLIPS program, an organization dedicated to furthering the lives of the developmentally disabled throughout the National Capital Region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the invaluable work of Nancy Mercer and Jill Egle to improve the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and wishing them continued success in their future pursuits. While their presence will be missed at The Arc, we are glad to know their influence will continue to be felt in our community.

RECOGNIZING SUZANNE STEWART
POHLMAN, FOUNDER OF INTER-
FAITH COMMUNITY SERVICES

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished tenure of a constituent in my district, Ms. Suzanne Stewart Pohlman, on the occasion of her retirement as the founder and executive director of Interfaith Community Services located in Escondido, California.

As the creator, Ms. Pohlman has transformed Interfaith Community Services from a small food pantry into North San Diego County's most comprehensive social service agency and a nationally recognized model organization. Assisting over 35,000 individuals last year alone, Interfaith Services has been dedicated to serving and empowering the low-income, homeless, and underserved in North San Diego County for nearly 30 years.

Ms. Pohlman has established unique collaborations between faith centers, businesses, government and other not-for-profits to successfully achieve Interfaith's mission of providing resources to help persons in need attain self-sufficiency. Additionally, she has pioneered many housing programs, creating emergency, transitional, permanent supportive and permanent affordable housing stock for the North County community. Under Ms. Pohlman's innovative management, Interfaith's programs have received multiple awards and now serves as a not-for-profit incubator to help

emerging organizations develop the capacity to grow and succeed.

Time and again, Ms. Polhman has demonstrated her passion for helping people realize their own potential. I commend Ms. Polhman for her commitment to educating the community on ways—big and small—that we all can work to make a difference. Her hard work and dedication is seen through the lives she has touched.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Ms. Pohlman's nearly three decades of service and leadership to the San Diego community as she retires as the Executive Director of Interfaith Community Services.

A TRIBUTE TO ORLA O'HANRAHAN
ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Ireland, Orla O'Hanrahan, for her outstanding service here in Washington, DC.

Building on her years of experience in the Irish Foreign Service, Orla has brought to her position here tremendous skill, knowledge, diplomacy and enthusiasm.

Her past accomplishments include serving as a popular Consul General in Boston and Joint Director General of the International Fund for Ireland. She held the position of Press Officer for the Irish Embassy in Paris, and also was stationed in London during a time of great conflict and violence between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Having visited Northern Ireland myself during that period, and as a member of the Congressional Friends of Ireland Caucus, I appreciate the important role that diplomats like Orla played during that difficult time which culminated in the successful Good Friday Accord.

Orla is a wonderful public servant and I know my colleagues join me in wishing her continued success and happiness as she returns to Ireland with her family.

HONORING FLORIDA CHIEF
JUSTICE, LEANDER J. SHAW, JR.

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former Florida Chief Justice, Leander J. Shaw Jr. Shaw was born in Salem, Virginia, on September 6, 1930. His parents were Leander J. Shaw, retired Dean of the Florida A&M University Graduate School in Tallahassee, and Margaret Shaw, a retired teacher. He attended public schools in Virginia and received his bachelor's degree in 1952 from West Virginia State College. After serving in the Korean conflict as an artillery officer, he entered law school and earned his

juris doctorate degree in 1957 from Howard University.

Shaw came to Tallahassee in 1957 and followed in the footsteps of his father as an assistant professor of law at Florida A&M University. In 1960 he was admitted to the Florida Bar and went into private practice in Jacksonville, where he also served as assistant public defender. Shaw's hiring marked the beginning of an era that revamped the Florida judicial system. Prior to his hiring no African Americans were working for Duval County. Shaw later joined the State Attorney's staff in 1969, where he served as head of the Capital Crimes Division.

In 1974 Governor Reubin Askew appointed him to the Florida Industrial Relations Commission, where he served until Governor Bob Graham appointed him to the First District Court of Appeals. He served there until January 1983 when Governor Graham appointed him to the Supreme Court. Justice Shaw served as Chief Justice from 1990 to 1992. Following a prestigious career serving the public of Florida, Shaw returned to private practice.

Shaw serves on a number of advisory boards and is a member of various professional and community associations, including the American Bar Association, the National Center for State Courts, and Florida's Human Relations Council and Police Advisory Committee. He has been granted honorary degrees from West Virginia State, Florida International University, Nova University, Washington and Lee University and has been the recipient of such prestigious awards as the Florida Humanist of the Year and the Ben Franklin Award.

Justice Shaw is the father of five children and lives on Lake Iamonia in Leon County.

I submit an article by Tom Cornelison, entitled "Profiles in Courage."

[From Jacksonville Magazine, Nov. 2007]

PROFILES IN COURAGE

(By Tom Cornelison)

Historians debate the merits of his presidency and it is certain his private life did not live up to his public image, but there is little argument that John F. Kennedy was an inspirational leader. When his life was cut short by an assassin in Dallas on November 22, 1963, Kennedy left behind the memories of history that he made and a slender volume of history that he wrote.

It was called Profiles in Courage, a collection of stories about political rather than physical courage in which public officials risked their careers by bucking popular opinion. Just such an episode quietly took place in Jacksonville the week before Kennedy died.

In those days of strict racial segregation throughout the South, Duval County Solicitor Edward M. Booth Sr. and Public Defender T. Edward Austin—a future Jacksonville mayor—each appointed an African-American to their staff. On November 15, 1963, Booth announced the hiring of Alfred R. Taylor while Austin did the same for Leander J. Shaw, who would later serve as chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court. The state's court system was revamped in 1967, but in 1963 the county solicitor functioned as a prosecuting district attorney for non-capital cases. The public defender's office was newly created and supplied legal representation for indigent defendants who could not afford attorneys.

On the second floor of the Duval County Courthouse, near Courtroom No. 8, two men's rooms stand side-by-side. What looks like poor planning today also gives silent testimony to the era in which Taylor and Shaw were appointed. In 1963, one of the men's rooms was labeled "white," the other "colored." Taylor and Shaw could only use the latter because that was the way things were. If they couldn't go in the same men's room as the vilest of white defendants, well, those defendants couldn't use theirs either. It all seemed normal.

"Separate but equal" seems comical when applied to bathrooms and water fountains, but it was grimly serious for society, where services and opportunities were clearly unequal. No black people had served in public or appointive office in Duval County since the enforced integration of the post-Civil War Reconstruction era almost a century before.

"Until Nat Glover was elected sheriff in 1995, we didn't even have a black elected to countywide office after Reconstruction," says Edward Booth Jr., a Jacksonville lawyer and historian who is the son of the 1963 county solicitor. "And the appointments by my father and Mr. Austin took place 32 years before. They were in an era of separate conditions, but it was really an era of separate exclusions."

"The thing is, they didn't have to do it. It was just the right thing to do."

Few controversial decisions are implemented with an in-your-face contempt for the conventional. This was not a movie with inspirational background music. Booth Sr. and Austin presented sound, practical arguments for their action. These centered on the landmark 1963 U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the Gideon vs. Wainwright case. Prior to this ruling, accused Florida lawbreakers in non-capital cases were not entitled to an attorney if they could not afford one. Clarence Earl Gideon, a convicted burglar from Panama City, argued this violated his Constitutional rights and won his case with the help of attorney Abe Fortas, later a U.S. Supreme Court Justice. The story was later dramatized in Gideon's Trumpet, a made-for-TV movie starring Henry Fonda and José Ferrer.

"It was an exciting time in the legal profession. Tremendous changes were taking place," recalls Austin, who is 81 and served as Jacksonville's mayor from 1991-95. "It was also a very busy time. The Gideon decision made a public defender's office necessary because it immediately threw 580 convicted inmates from Jacksonville back into the court system to be retried. We had been sending people without lawyers to prison regularly for years. Very many of these were minorities. It was obvious minorities should be involved in the process. It was just true. There was a great mistrust of the legal system in the black community and we earned that mistrust because the system abused them for decades."

In making his 1963 announcement—timed on a Friday, perhaps to give any resulting anger a weekend to simmer down—Booth Sr. also cited the number of cases involving racial minorities as a reason for the appointment, saying Taylor's experience as a lawyer and, earlier, as a school principal, would be "of immeasurable value . . . in dealing with young Negro defendants."

The term "Negro" was not considered a slur at the time. The Florida Times-Union and Jacksonville Journal both used it in headlines about the appointments. So did the Florida Star, an African-American newspaper that heralded the event as a "Florida

breakthrough" and added "Duval County set a statewide precedent."

The Times-Union reported that "Booth said the services of a qualified Negro attorney would greatly assist in the prosecution of cases involving Negro defendants, who represent the majority of persons coming before the court." Booth also favorably cited "work done by Negro assistants employed by" the Sheriff's Office and Juvenile Court.

Besides the logic of black lawyers dealing with black criminal cases, the joint announcement meant Booth and Austin had each side covered—prosecution and defense. Austin insists this was a coincidence.

"Eddie and I were friendly but I don't remember that we ever discussed it at all," Austin says. "Of course, you're talking about a half-century ago, but I don't think we ever talked. I'm just real glad he did it. Spread some of the risk around."

That risk turned out to be non-existent.

At Taylor's funeral in June 1988, Booth said the only criticism he received was from an angry woman who called him at home the next day. He said she called him back an hour later and apologized.

Austin said his only opposition came before his decision to hire the young lawyer.

"A group of 20 or 25 public officials met with me who really didn't want me to make the appointment," he recalls. "They were not the least bit enamored with my decision and tried to talk me out of it. I said it wouldn't hurt them and it wouldn't hurt me and if it did hurt me, then I'd just go on and do something else for a living."

"Maybe it's because Judge Shaw's credentials were so impressive, but there was never any negative feedback. You pick a winner, you'll be all right. Still, it surprised me, considering the reaction I had gotten before the announcement. It was not the deal-breaker in the community that they thought. Just a sense of calm. I can remember a few members of the Bar Association raised minor objections when Judge Shaw would cross-examine witnesses in rape cases, but that didn't amount to much."

Booth's son believes Kennedy's assassination in Dallas one week later overshadowed the appointments. There is no doubt it ate up all the news space and air time, as anyone who can remember that day knows.

"I'm not sure I want to go there," Austin says. "I think if there was going to be any serious criticism I'd have gotten it the first or second day."

Perhaps the explanation is that racial tension in Jacksonville did not seriously heat up until later in the 1960s.

The younger Booth recalls his house was put under police guard and a slur was spray-painted on the family car when his father successfully prosecuted four Ku Klux Klansmen for brutally attacking an elderly black minister. The September 1965 verdict was the second conviction the elder Booth obtained in a white-on-black crime case with an all-white jury. The defense attorney, incidentally, was J.B. Stoner, the flamboyant white supremacist who later ran for governor of Georgia.

"A lot of people have taken a lot of credit for a lot of things in the advancement of civil rights," says the junior Booth. "There's nothing wrong with that. It's fine that they do. But my dad and Mr. Austin took it in stride."

"All in a day's work," says Austin.

Taylor and Shaw took it in stride, too. An example is a meeting of Austin's staff in which one of the lawyers said, "Look, we can do what we want. We're free, white and 21."

All eyes turned to Shaw. Looking perplexed, he dead-panned, "You want to run that by me again?"

Austin later switched to prosecution and, as state attorney, employed both Taylor and Shaw. Taylor retired in 1977 and died 11 years later. Shaw prosecuted 42 cases and lost only one. In 1979, Gov. Bob Graham appointed Shaw to the state supreme court where he was elevated to chief justice in 1990. He is now 77, retired, and lives in Leon County.

Despite admitted political differences, Austin and Shaw remain close friends. It was Shaw who swore in Austin as Jacksonville's mayor in 1991.

Booth Sr. died in 2006, like Taylor, at age 78.

All but lost to history is a quiet act of political courage that occurred in Northeast Florida some 45 years ago, but it lives on as the memory of a job well done by a man in his eighties and in the pride of a son for his father.

RECOGNIZING BRENDAN MOORE FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brendan Moore for his outstanding work on behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Illinois. For the past two years, Brendan has served as my Legislative Counsel, advising my staff and me on legal issues and doing Judiciary Committee work.

A true Chicagoan and graduate of Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Brendan represented my alma mater with aplomb in his work on various legislative initiatives, including bills to close the gun show loophole and to ensure honest services from our elected officials. Furthermore, his great attitude and hearty sense of humor made working with him a true pleasure.

Perhaps most importantly, as a Notre Dame graduate Brendan gave me someone with whom I could talk ND football—even if the news was usually bad.

Whether it was Honest Services, Judiciary Committee briefings, or football under the Golden Dome, Brendan's thoughtful and professional contributions have been a great boon to our office and we thank him.

As he leaves to pursue public service opportunities back in Chicago, I am confident that his expertise, integrity, and good humor will continue to serve the people of Illinois well. I thank Brendan again for his hard work and wish him the best of luck in the future.

CONGRATULATING REAR ADMIRAL MICHAEL McMAHON

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rear Admiral Michael McMahon, United States Navy, a resident of my home

state of Washington, on his upcoming retirement August 11 after 4 years as Program Executive Officer for Aircraft Carriers and 32 years service to his country.

Rear Admiral Michael E. McMahon was commissioned in 1979 from the University of Colorado where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering. He has also earned a Master of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1986 from the Naval Postgraduate School and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Mechanical Engineering/Materials Science from the Naval Postgraduate School in 1996.

Rear Admiral McMahon's sea assignments included engineering tours onboard USS *Richard S. Edwards* (DD 950), USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67), USS *Ranger* (CV 61), and USS *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70) as Chief Engineer. Rear Admiral McMahon's shore assignments included Ship Design Manager, Future Aircraft Carriers Program (CITNX), Naval Sea Systems Command, PMS-378, and Program Director, Future Aircraft Carrier Program (CVNX), Naval Sea Systems Command, PMS-378. He has served as Engineering and Planning Officer and Business Officer at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and IMF. Rear Admiral McMahon has also served as Executive Secretary to the Naval Research Advisory Committee and Government Advisor to the Defense Science Board. In August 2004, he reported as Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Conversion and Repair, USN, Newport News, Virginia responsible for the U.S. Navy's Aircraft Carrier and Submarine Ship Construction, refueling and repair programs at Northrop Grumman Newport News. On 3 December 2007, Rear Admiral McMahon assumed command as the fifth Program Executive Officer for Aircraft Carriers.

Rear Admiral McMahon distinguished himself in every aspect of his demanding and complex assignment as the Program Executive Officer for Aircraft Carriers. During his tour he led the effort to begin construction of the Navy's first aircraft carrier design in 40 years, the *Gerald R. Ford* Class, and achieved the major milestone of laying the keel of the first ship of the class, CVN 78, in 2009. He also oversaw the beginning of advanced construction of the second aircraft carrier in the class, *John F. Kennedy* (CVN 79), in 2011.

Rear Admiral McMahon provided capable leadership for in-service aircraft carrier programs at PEO Aircraft Carriers. He organized the Naval Sea System Command's support for the time-critical fire restoration of USS *George Washington* (CVN 73). His leadership was key in driving successful delivery of CVN 73 back to the Fleet to support critical Forward Deployed Naval Forces missions. He also oversaw the successful commissioning and delivery of USS *George H.W. Bush* (CVN 77) the last *Nimitz* class aircraft carrier, which transitioned from delivery to deployment in only 24 months. During his tenure the Refueling and Complex Overhaul (RCOH) of USS *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70) was completed under budget and the RCOH of USS *Theodore Roosevelt* was begun. He also oversaw the last drydocking of the Nation's oldest aircraft carrier USS *Enterprise* (CVN 65) and worked to begin the planning for the first nuclear powered aircraft carrier inactivation.

Rear Admiral McMahon's decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Navy Commendation Medal (two awards), Navy Achievement Medal, Liberation of Kuwait Medals (Kuwait and Saudi Arabia), Southwest Asia Service Medal, Navy Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Navy Unit Commendation, Meritorious Unit Commendation, National Defense Medal, and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

For his many years of service to our Nation, I join my colleagues in extending our best wishes upon his retirement and wish him ongoing success in all future endeavors.

HONORING PETTY OFFICER AMILCAR RODRIGUEZ

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary bravery of Petty Officer Amilcar Rodriguez, who was awarded the Silver Star for his valor in combat. The remarkable courage he demonstrated while aiding fellow soldiers at great personal risk represents the highest caliber of service to his country.

A 1998 graduate of Avon High School, Petty Officer Rodriguez was serving as a Navy corpsman, or medic, on November 6, 2009, in Bala Murghab in Afghanistan when a Marine and two Afghan soldiers in his team were shot and wounded by an enemy sniper. Under extreme duress, Rodriguez returned fire, killing two enemy combatants. He then exposed himself to enemy fire and was shot three times while dragging the wounded Marine to safety. As other Marines rescued Rodriguez and his colleague, he told them how to treat his wounded colleague. Later, while still seriously injured, Rodriguez assisted other medics in treating the wounded.

The Silver Star is the third-highest military decoration members of the armed forces can receive, and is only given to soldiers who perform "with marked distinction" and demonstrate gallantry in the face of considerable military adversity. The bravery Petty Officer Rodriguez displayed shows his exceptional dedication to the armed forces and to his fellow soldiers.

In reflection of the Silver Star he was recently awarded, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring the incredible actions, courage and selflessness of Connecticut native, Petty Officer Amilcar Rodriguez.

CIVIL RIGHTS ABUSES IN CYPRUS

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the lives lost to date on Cyprus, and in recognition of the continuing

conflict and civil rights abuses taking place on the island.

On July 20, 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus in response to a Greek led coup, bringing to life a conflict that had long remained dormant. On that day, Turkish armed forces took control of the Northern portion of the island, and continue to occupy nearly 37 percent of Cyprus' territory today.

The continuing occupation has resulted in segregation and division of Greek and Turkish Cypriots, preventing the diverse and peaceful communities that once existed from returning, and inhibiting any communication or peaceful solution to the current crisis.

To date, more than 160,000 Turkish mainland settlers have emigrated to Cyprus, creating an imbalance in the population. In addition to that figure, the continued presence of 43,000 Turkish troops in Cyprus has contributed to tension between either ethnicity.

During the course of this conflict, more than 200,000 Greek Cypriots have been forced from their homes; 520 Greek Orthodox churches have been vandalized; 15,000 ecclesiastical items have been lost or stolen; nearly 60,000 Cypriot artifacts have been illegally transferred to other nations; and the property of displaced Greek-Cypriots, including homes and business, has been commandeered by mainland Turkish immigrants. These human rights violations, historical defacements, and cultural destruction of the Cypriot legacy must be stopped.

Mr. Speaker, this House and the United Nations have consistently passed resolutions calling for protection of the Cypriot people, restoration of property rights, and the return of stolen historic and religious artifacts. It is critical that a peaceful solution to this standoff is reached, so that all Cypriot people can return to their homes, and rebuild the vibrant, diverse and accepting communities that once existed there.

I urge all parties involved to join in negotiating a settlement that will prevent further devastation and restore peace and security to the island of Cyprus.

TRIBUTE TO THE WOUNDED WARRIORS AT WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a tribute poem to the brave men and women who were wounded while serving our country—our Wounded Warriors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center:

100 Years . . .
Throughout all that heartache . . .
And all those most swollen tears . . .
And all of that most courageous courage, so
seen here . . .
From battlefields of honor bright!
From far across those distant shores, those
fights . . .
From deep blue oceans of yore . . .
And all of those heroes, up in those air wars
. . .
Who on land, air and sea . . .

Army, Navy, The Air Force, Coast Guard and the United States Marine Corps . . .
Have all brought their Brothers and Sisters In Arms, to Walter Reed . . .

To Heal!

To rebuild where none lies left!
With but only their fine hearts to bless . . .
As it was all here, that they so received . . .
But The Very Best, at Walter Reed!
Doctors and Nurses and Therapists, Soldiers and Social Workers on this great list . . .

Who have but faced the worst, who have but passed that test!

Cheating death, with but only their most courageous quests . . .

With years of training and devoting, to complete their most noble of notions!

But to heal only our very best!

With only their skills and most courageous hearts, no less . . .

Against All Odds, they would not rest . . .

This Battle, Their Valiant Quest, to win that night so yes!

Day In and Day Out . . .

As their fine hearts to them, so shout . . .

Not to give up, nor give in . . .

For this is how miracles all begin!

All out here on the cutting edge . . .

As their fine hearts are but all so pledged . . .

So pledged, but to heal!

To an oath so true, so real!

To Men and Women without arms and legs . . .

Who without eyes and faces, as to them so pray . . .

And yet, with the stress of each new day . . .

How stoically, all of them have made their ways . . .

But, a thank you is all they ask . . .

As they've seen all of those Mothers crying . . .

Out in the halls, with all that pain and heartache . . . asking why then?

Surely, there is no denying . . .

Holding a young man's hand, until he lays dying . . .

As their fine hearts and souls, so trying . . .

And yet, they go to work each day . . .

Asking not much more, then to win those battles great . . .

To save our most precious heroes, all in their light!

With the Gift of Life, they ask but for one more night!

As each and all, are but quiet heroes in God's eyes . . .

As it's in private that they now so cry!

As they go out all about their jobs each day . . .

Attention, to themselves, they'll not pay . . .

As it's to save precious life, for which they pray!

And when that light once again begins to shine . . .

They must now draw a new battle line!

To rebuild . . . to somehow instill . . .

With Hope, the very will . . . all in a fine hero's heart to live!

And somehow to start all over again!

To ready them to rejoin that fight, or to try to start a brand new life . . .

As it's clear, that they've done as much to help win all those wars!

At Walter Reed, have come . . .

Such magnificent men and women, our daughters and sons . . .

Who to death will not heed!

All because they so believe!

All those lives, and all those stories . . .

And all of those children who'll now know the glory . . .

That glory of having a Mom and Dad, and who one day may grow up to be . . .
An Angel, saving lives at Walter Reed!

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,342,830,116,551.28.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$3,704,404,370,257.48 since then.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

HONORING THE BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church of Madison, located in Morris County, New Jersey as they celebrate their 165th Anniversary.

Bethel was the first African-American Church in the Borough of Madison, New Jersey. Its beginnings date back to 1846 when informal gatherings first took place. After being deeded property in 1850, Bethel emerged 35 years later in 1885. Bethel Madison is a testimony of growth and constancy, thriving throughout the many decades. It has been witness to over a century and a half of American history. The church has seen its fair share of hardships, but it has managed to survive and thrive.

Today, Bethel's unassuming, traditional structure remains, but what takes place inside reflects the church's modernity. Led by Reverend Teresa Rynn Rushdan, the congregation is alive and vibrant as sermons and music professing God's love echo throughout the church each week. Bethel serves the community through numerous programs aimed at feeding and clothing the needy. The church also hosts a variety of community events that allows their followers to connect with each other and the rest of the Madison community.

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church is a place where anyone is welcome to find God. It is a church that welcomes new followers with open arms, regardless of race. Though they are distinguished by the name African, they are a multicultural church. Bethel is truly an embracing ministry devoted to its followers and the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church as they celebrate their 165th Anniversary.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF USPS LETTER CARRIER ED PYRZYNSKI

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the long and distinguished career of Ed Pyrzynski. For over 40 years, he has served as a letter carrier for the United States Postal Service (USPS), and has tirelessly worked to represent and protect the interests of his fellow USPS employees.

The son of Ed and Mary Pyrzynski, Mr. Pyrzynski began his career as a letter carrier for the USPS in 1970. His work was driven by his strong belief that the great service offered by the USPS should be brought to every home and business. Mr. Pyrzynski was also dedicated in ensuring that the most important issues faced by USPS employees were well-represented and considered. In the early 1980s, he became involved with the National Association of Letter Carriers, and was elected as a union steward for the Kedzie Grace Station. Through his work, he helped to promote cooperation between local employees and management by forming committees, organizing station and community events, and identifying various issues for joint resolution.

In the 1990s, Mr. Pyrzynski attended Wright College and Northeastern Illinois University, and graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in training and development. He also began his work with the Illinois Letter Carrier Association, and later became the legislative liaison for the Illinois 5th Congressional District. In this capacity, he worked closely with my district office and traveled to Washington, D.C. in presenting the most salient issues faced by USPS letter carriers and other working Americans.

Today, Mr. Pyrzynski continues his work for the National Association of Letter Carriers by reconciling employee grievances. He was previously involved in the NALC's Dispute Resolution, a joint effort by USPS employees and management to promote accord in reducing the number of cases that go through costly arbitration resolutions. As he retires from his long and illustrious career, I am certain that Ed looks forward to moving to Arizona with his wife Laura, and spending more time with his family including his sons Jason, Seth, Travis, and Jeremy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Ed Pyrzynski and his commitment to the many businesses and residents in the Chicagoland area, and to the interests of its employees. His tireless service and dedication will be missed, and I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO JOE SNEDEKER

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge a local television personality and educator who has parlayed his

regional fame and physical endurance into a community-wide fundraising effort for severely mentally and physically handicapped children in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Joe Snedeker was born at St. Joseph's Hospital in Carbondale, Pennsylvania, on February 19, 1966. At an early age, Joe showed an aptitude for science. After graduating from Millersville University, Joe got a teaching job at Carbondale Area High School. Between teaching; marrying his wife, Dawn; and raising three children, Joseph, Luke, and Aleah, Joe worked at a local television station on weekends. As a sign of his lifelong commitment to education and learning, Joe recently finished his master's degree in Biology/Environmental Science from East Stroudsburg University.

In 1999, Joe was hired full-time at WNEP-TV. Over the last several years, hundreds of thousands of residents in Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania have tuned in to Joe to find out what the daily weather forecast would be. Joe not only provides the weather forecast, but he also seeks to educate viewers about basic scientific principles.

Fourteen years ago, Joe, an avid cyclist, initiated an annual charity bike ride. For several

days each summer, Joe pedals from location to location, raising money for severely mentally and physically handicapped children at St. Joseph's Center in Dunmore, Pennsylvania. Over the years, Joe has started his ride as far away from Northeastern Pennsylvania as Atlantic City, New Jersey; Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts; Cleveland, Ohio; and Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

Thousands of miles pedaled adds up to well over a million dollars raised—money that supports the outstanding work of the dedicated staff, administration, and volunteers at St. Joseph's Center, an independent Catholic agency sponsored by the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary that strives to provide individuals and families who have special needs the opportunity to develop their abilities and potential to the fullest extent possible.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Joe Snedeker for his charitable work on behalf of the mentally and physically handicapped children at St. Joseph's Center in Dunmore, Pennsylvania. Thousands of people—from the families of those children, to the staff and administration of the center, to Joe's devoted viewing audi-

ence—join me in congratulating him and wishing him many years of happy pedaling.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, July 26, 2011, I inadvertently voted "aye" on rollcall No. 650. I intended to vote "no."

FAA JOBS LOST AND STOP WORK ORDERS

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following information regarding loss of FAA Jobs:

FAA NON-EXCEPTED EMPLOYEES BY CITY

[As of 7-29, 10AM]

APPN Desc					
State	City	AIP	F&E PCB & T	RE&D	Grand Total
ALASKA	ANCHORAGE	17	62		79
ALASKA Total		17	62	79	1
ARIZONA	PHOENIX		1		1
ARIZONA Total			1		1
CALIFORNIA	BURLINGAME	17			17
	FULLERTON		2		2
	HAWTHORNE	32	136		168
	LOS ANGELES		2		2
	MOFFETT FIELD			1	1
	OAKLAND		4		4
	PALMDALE		3		3
	SACRAMENTO		5		5
	SAN DIEGO		2		2
	SAN FRANCISCO	1			1
	UPLAND		1		1
CALIFORNIA Total		50	155	1	206
COLORADO	COLORADO SPGS		1		1
	DENVER	1	3		4
	LONGMONT		6		6
	WATKINS	13	3		16
COLORADO Total		14	13		27
CONNECTICUT	WINDSOR LOCKS		1		1
CONNECTICUT Total			1		1
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	WASHINGTON	95	860	61	1016
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Total		95	860	61	1016
FLORIDA	HILLIARD		1		1
	MELBOURNE		4		4
	MIAMI		3		3
	ORLANDO	19			19
FLORIDA Total		19	8		27
GEORGIA	ATLANTA	2	4	1	7
	COLLEGE PARK	27	10		37
	EAST POINT		287		287
	FULTON COUNTY		1		1
	HAMPTON		4		4
GEORGIA Total		29	306	1	336
HAWAII	HONOLULU	5			5
HAWAII Total		5		5	
IDAHO	BOISE		1		1
	TWIN FALLS		1		1
IDAHO Total			2		2
ILLINOIS	AURORA		5		5
	CHICAGO		3		3

FAA NON-EXCEPTED EMPLOYEES BY CITY—Continued

[As of 7-29, 10AM]

APPN Desc					
State	City	AIP	F&E PCB & T	RE&D	Grand Total
ILLINOIS	DES PLAINES	30	103		133
	ELK GROVE VILLAGE		4		4
ILLINOIS Total		30	115		145
INDIANA	FORT WAYNE		1		1
	INDIANAPOLIS		6		6
INDIANA Total			7		7
KANSAS	OLATHE		14		14
	SHAWNEE		1		1
KANSAS Total			15		15
MARYLAND	BALTIMORE		1		1
	GAITHERSBURG		2		2
	HAGERSTOWN		1		1
	ROCKVILLE		2		2
	SALISBURY		1		1
MARYLAND Total			7		7
MASSACHUSETTS	BOSTON		2		2
	BURLINGTON	18	34		52
	CAMBRIDGE		1		1
MASSACHUSETTS Total		18	37		55
MICHIGAN	BATTLE CREEK		4		4
	DETROIT	1			1
	ROMULUS	3	1		4
	SAGINAW		1		1
	WATERFORD		2		2
	WAYNE COUNTY	10			10
MICHIGAN Total		14	8		22
MINNESOTA	FARMINGTON		3		3
	MINNEAPOLIS	13	2		15
MINNESOTA Total		13	5		18
MISSISSIPPI	JACKSON	10			10
MISSISSIPPI Total		10			10
MISSOURI	INDEPENDENCE		11		11
	KANSAS CITY	24	45		69
MISSOURI Total		24	56		80
MONTANA	HELENA	3			3
MONTANA Total		3			3
NEVADA	LAS VEGAS		1		1
NEVADA Total			1		1
NEW HAMPSHIRE	NASHUA		42		42
NEW HAMPSHIRE Total			42		42
NEW JERSEY	ATLANTIC CITY	24	497	118	639
	MORRISTOWN		1		1
	NEWARK		5		5
	NEWTONVILLE		1		1
	POMONA		1		1
	TRENTON		4		4
NEW JERSEY Total		24	509	118	651
NEW MEXICO	ALBUQUERQUE		4		4
NEW MEXICO Total			4		4
NEW YORK	GARDEN CITY	16			16
	ISLIP		6		6
	ITHACA		1		1
	NEW YORK		1		1
	NEW YORK-QUEENS	13	80		93
	QUEENS COUNTY	2	6		8
	ROME		1		1
	SYRACUSE		1		1
NEW YORK Total		31	96		127
NORTH DAKOTA	BISMARCK	6			6
	GRAND FORKS		1		1
NORTH DAKOTA Total		6	1		7
OHIO	COLUMBUS		1		1
	OBERLIN		4		4
OHIO Total			5		5
OKLAHOMA	OKLAHOMA CITY	3	46	84	133
OKLAHOMA Total		3	46	84	133
PENNSYLVANIA	ALLENTOWN		1		1
	ALTOONA		1		1
	AVOCA		2		2

July 27, 2011

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FAA NON-EXCEPTED EMPLOYEES BY CITY—Continued

[As of 7-29, 10AM]

APPN Desc					
State	City	AIP	F&E PCB & T	RE&D	Grand Total
	CAMP HILL	8			8
	CORAOPOLIS		6		6
	DU BOIS		1		1
	LESTER		1		1
	NEW CUMBERLAND	1			1
	SCRANTON		4		4
PENNSYLVANIA Total		9	16		25
PUERTO RICO	SAN JUAN		3		3
PUERTO RICO Total			3		3
SOUTH DAKOTA	HURON		1		1
	SIOUX FALLS		1		1
SOUTH DAKOTA Total			2		2
TENNESSEE	MEMPHIS	9	4		13
TENNESSEE Total		9	4		13
TEXAS	DALLAS		1		1
	EULESS		1		1
	FORT WORTH	42	216		258
	HOUSTON		7		7
TEXAS Total		42	225		267
UTAH	SALT LAKE CITY		5		5
UTAH Total			5		5
VIRGINIA	CHANTILLY		1		1
	DUILLES AIRPORT	9			9
	HAMPTON		1	1	2
	HERNDON		6		6
	LEESBURG		6		6
	LOUDOUN COUNTY		1		1
	NORFOLK		2		2
	VIRGINIA BEACH		2		2
VIRGINIA Total		9	19	1	29
WASHINGTON	AUBURN		3		3
	NEAH BAY				1
	RENTON	29	177		206
	SEATTLE		5		5
WASHINGTON Total		29	186		215
WEST VIRGINIA	BEAVER	2			2
	BECKLEY	1			1
WEST VIRGINIA Total		3			3
Grand Total		506	2822	266	3594

HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP JEOPARDIZES MORE THAN 90,000 AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION AND FAA EMPLOYEE JOBS

	Airport Construc- tion Funding Lost	Airport Construc- tion Jobs Lost	FAA Employee Jobs Lost	Total Jobs Lost
Alabama	\$32,400,000	1,127		1,127
Alaska	69,700,000	2,424	79	2,503
Arizona	35,100,000	1,221	1	1,221
Arkansas	25,900,000	901		901
California	131,500,000	4,573	206	4,779
Colorado	34,200,000	1,189	27	1,216
Connecticut	4,700,000	163	1	164
Delaware	800,000	28		28
District of Columbia	300,000	10	1,016	1,026
Florida	88,000,000	3,061	27	3,088
Georgia	67,100,000	2,334	336	2,670
Hawaii	21,300,000	741	5	746
Idaho	17,500,000	609	2	611
Illinois	90,300,000	3,141	145	3,286
Indiana	19,400,000	675	7	682
Iowa	41,100,000	1,429		1,429
Kansas	41,900,000	1,457	15	1,472
Kentucky	18,700,000	650		650
Louisiana	33,500,000	1,165		1,165
Maine	12,700,000	442		442
Maryland	9,100,000	316	7	323
Massachusetts	17,900,000	623	55	678
Michigan	36,400,000	1,266	22	1,288
Minnesota	36,200,000	1,259	18	1,277
Mississippi	34,600,000	1,203	10	1,213
Missouri	24,600,000	856	80	936
Montana	18,700,000	650	3	653
Nebraska	21,900,000	762		762
Nevada	36,000,000	1,252	1	1,253
New Hampshire	3,700,000	129	42	171
New Jersey	44,700,000	1,555	651	2,206
New Mexico	25,400,000	883	4	887
New York	62,600,000	2,177	127	2,304
North Carolina	45,600,000	1,586		1,586
North Dakota	22,800,000	793	7	800
Ohio	38,900,000	1,353	5	1,358
Oklahoma	54,800,000	1,906	133	2,039
Oregon	16,500,000	574		574
Pennsylvania	28,300,000	984	25	1,009

HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP JEOPARDIZES MORE THAN 90,000 AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION AND FAA EMPLOYEE JOBS—Continued

	Airport Construction Funding Lost	Airport Construction Jobs Lost	FAA Employee Jobs Lost	Total Jobs Lost
Rhode Island	1,100,000	38	.....	38
South Carolina	30,700,000	1,068	.....	1,068
South Dakota	25,700,000	894	2	896
Tennessee	34,700,000	1,207	13	1,220
Texas	72,100,000	2,508	267	2,775
Utah	10,100,000	351	5	356
Vermont	4,800,000	167	.....	167
Virginia	40,500,000	1,409	29	1,438
Washington	37,900,000	1,318	215	1,533
West Virginia	10,800,000	376	3	379
Wisconsin	25,300,000	880	.....	880
Wyoming	15,900,000	553	.....	553
Puerto Rico	15,900,000	553	3	556
Other Territories	9,900,000	344	.....	344
Discretionary Grants	800,000,000	27,823	.....	27,823
TOTAL	\$2,500,200,000	86,954	3,594	90,548

Note: This table was prepared by Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Democratic Staff based on technical assistance from the Federal Aviation Administration. The Airport Construction Jobs Lost column is based on the 2007 Federal-aid Highway Administration model on the correlation between infrastructure investment and employment: \$1 billion of Federal-aid Highway investment creates or sustains 34,779 jobs over a seven-year period.

FAA STOP-WORK ORDERS THAT HAVE BEEN ISSUED

Name of the contractor	Project location(s)	Type of work	Value of the contract
Jacobs Engineering	California, Oregon, Texas, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, D.C., Florida, Minnesota, Illinois, Virginia.	Architect & engineering, construction for en route centers and combined en route and approach facilities.	\$370,000,000
Reliant Contractors	Greenville, MS	Construction of remote communications air-ground facility	97,500
Flinto, Inc.	Gulf Port, MS	Tower construction	11,845,620
Daniel J. Keating Co.	Wilkes Barre, PA	Tower construction	14,721,356
Paul J. Scariano Inc.	New York	Demolition of LGA tower	6,324,387
Sheckler Contracting, Inc.	Leesburg, VA	Roof replacement at en route center	363,000
Nationwide Construction Group	PA, NY	Construction, physical security	718,000
M&M Enterprises	Dulles, VA	Fence construction	56,000
Jones Morgan Inc.	Rochester, NY	Construction	346,000
Boykin Contracting Inc.	Greenwood, MS	Construction	56,000
KOBO Utility & Electric	Hyannis, MA	Construction of Precision Approach Path Indicator lights	37,000
Flinto, Inc.	Memphis, TN	Tower construction	55,953,326
Patriot Electric Inc.	Providence, RI	Fire alarm, construction	237,000
Standard Builders Inc.	Memphis, TN	Painting	18,000
Corinthian	Warrenton, VA	Construction of new Command Center	24,338,718
6K Systems Inc.	Burlington, MA	Computer services	234,000
Chappy Corp.	Baltimore, MD	Site preparation for installation of BWI ASDE-X	2,279,576
AKAL Security Inc.	Baltimore, MD	BWI ASDE-X	91,500
Limbach Co. Inc.	Oakdale, PA	Boiler, construction	205,000
Construction and Service Solutions	Rochester, NY	Roof construction	316,000
Peachtree Mechanical Inc.	VA	Construction at Washington en route center	631,000
Sheckler Contracting Inc.	NY	Construction at JFK tower	155,000
S&E Services, Inc.	Garden City, NY	Construct a catwalk in NY TRACON	1,781,000
Limbach Company LLC	Pittsburgh, PA	Plumbing, construction	175,000
CUSA Consulting Corp.	Erie, PA	Fire life safety, construction	112,000
Postier & Jaekle Inc.	Rochester, NY	Construction	27,000
Petersen-Dean Inc.	Jacksonville, FL	Construction at Jacksonville en route center	55,000
Marathon Electric Inc.	Memphis, TN	Construction at Memphis en route center	88,500
Moulison North Corp.	Portland, ME	Electrical project	9,000
Cornerstone Construction Services	Lawrence, MA	Roof construction	47,000
Pine Tree Elevator	Portland, ME	Elevator project	163,000
CGMC Building Corp.	Poughkeepsie, NY & Danbury, CT	Seismic upgrade	488,000
Prowa ^{CT} Mess Construction Corp.	Lawrence, MA	Facility modernization Construction	123,700
Atlantic Defense Contractor	Portland, ME	Seismic upgrade	935,000
Synthesis Inc.	Ronkonkoma, NY	Drain project	10,000
McKercher Corp.	Miami, FL	Electric project, construction	133,900
Synthesis Inc.	Ronkonkoma, NY	Construction upgrade	256,700
CMGC Building Corp.	Nashua, NH	Mechanical room construction	88,500
LVI Services Security	New York, NY	Construction	1,100,000
Construction Services	Nashua, NH	Construction, attic rehab.	4,670,000
Peachtree Specialty Group	Atlanta, GA	Construction at Atlanta en route center	133,900
Louis Berger & Associates	New York	Asbestos removal, construction	168,500
TJB Air Conditioning and Heating	19 Terminal Doppler Weather Radar facilities	HVAC renovations	1,030,000
Swinton Builders	Palm Springs, CA	Construction of tower	14,229,775
Devon Construction, Inc.	Oakland, CA	Construction of tower	31,000,304
Cobalt Construct	Palmdale, CA	Construction (86% complete), modernization of 2d floor of automation wing and control floor, attic.	12,146,449
Bara Infoware	Sacramento, CA	Replace roof and visitor entrance wall panels at Tracon	759,567
E Corp.	Auburn, WA	2d floor automation wing	2,294,220
Ahtna Engineering Services LLC	Bethel, AK	Airport Approach and Runway Entrance Lights installation	843,816
Archer Western Contractors	Las Vegas, NV	Construction of new tower	43,429,116
Archer Western Contractors	Abilene, TX	Construction of new tower	15,722,800
Archer Western Contractors	Traverse City, MI	Construction of new tower	11,062,093
Archer Western Contractors	Kansas City, KS	2nd floor modernization construction, attic at en route center	2,399,970
Archer Western Contractors	Albuquerque, NM	Construction build out at en route center	1,984,002
Imperial Construction Weatherford TX	Houston, TX	Construction of replacement TRACON	25,085,257
Imperial Construction Weatherford TX	Chicago, IL	Parking lot replacement at en route center	1,500,000
Skanska	Kalamazoo, MI	Construct new tower	14,422,975
Skanska	GFK	Install new radio transmitter receiver	848,500
Skanska	Walnut Ridge, AR	Install new Medium-Intensity Approach Lighting for runway	587,000
Concept Solutions, LLC	Reston, VA	Business Management Support for Joint Planning and Development Office	1,447,999
Allied Technology Group	Rockville, MD	Program Management Technical Support Services for ATO Finance	1,174,421
CGH Technologies, Inc.	Washington, DC	Various projects per Work Order. Support for Aeronautical Information Management (AIM) Obstruction Evaluation.	129,184,768.00
CGH Technologies, Inc.	Washington, DC	Various projects per Work Order. Support for Aeronautical Information Management (AIM) Obstruction Evaluation.	54,075,701.00
CGH Technologies, Inc.	Washington, DC	Various projects per Work Order. Current WO for development support for airports Geographic Information System.	54,075,701.00
Network Designs Inc. (NDI)	Vienna, VA	Security Engineering Support for FAA's Alaska Flight Service Modernization (AFSM) Program.	914,961.54
Lockheed Martin	Washington, DC	Program Management Support for ATO Technical Operations	233,000
AST Eng	Multiple locations	ERAM support services will be halted at all locations except Seattle and Salt Lake City	3.5M
Science Applications International	Las Vegas, Minneapolis, Dulles, Charlotte, Chicago, O'Hare, Ft. Lauderdale, Newark, LaGuardia, Phoenix, Houston, Seattle, Los Angeles.	Engineering support for runway status lights	37M
Sensis Corp.	Las Vegas, Minneapolis, Dulles, Charlotte, Chicago, O'Hare, Ft. Lauderdale, Newark, LaGuardia, Phoenix, Houston, Seattle, Los Angeles.	Runway Status Lights	214M
JVN	Multiple locations	Flight Information Regions	2.3M
Sensis	Multiple locations	ASDE-X	390M
SAIC	Multiple locations	ASDE-X Program Management Office (PMO) Support	104M

FAA STOP-WORK ORDERS THAT HAVE BEEN ISSUED—Continued

Name of the contractor	Project location(s)	Type of work	Value of the contract
Arcon Corporation	Multiple locations	Terminal Automation IV&V	14.1M
Regulus Corp**	Multiple locations	Terminal Surveillance Special Technical	31.8M
Boeing	Multiple locations	Future Air Navigation System Interoperability Team (FIT) Program	200k
Lockheed Martin**	Multiple locations	En Route Communications Gateway	151M
Lockheed Martin**	Multiple locations	HOST Sustainment	619M
L3 Communications**	Multiple locations	Oceanic Integrated Services (OIS) Contract	57.5M
TASC**	Multiple locations	TAQ2	384M
Apptis**	Multiple locations	ATO-Terminal Support Services	20.6M
MCR**	Multiple locations	ATO-T Support Services	25M
TASC/NG**	Multiple locations	ATO-T Support Services	21.8M
SAIC**	Multiple locations	ATO-T Support Services	21.1M
ITT**	Multiple locations	ATO-T Support Services	34.3M
Technology Service Corp**	Multiple locations	Radar Support System	1.7M
A3**	Multiple locations	ATO-T Support Services	3.7M
Enterprise**	Multiple locations	ATO-T Support Services	2M
S&K**	Multiple locations	ATO-T Support Services	2.9M
JMA Group	Washington, DC	Support to Aeronautical Information Management (AIM) Office	3M
CSC Corporation	Rockville, MD	Traffic Flow Management Software System	593M
CNA Group	Alexandria, VA	Analysis, Systems Engineering and Operations Research for the AIM Office	6.2M
Jacobs Facilities Group, Inc.	ZOA Modernize	Curtain Wall Replacement and Mod. 4 Renovation	5,838,000
Jacobs Facilities Group, Inc.	ZHU Admin Wing	Administration Wing Renovation	6,960,000
Jacobs Facilities Group, Inc.	San Juan CERAP	Seismic Upgrade	11,500,000
Jacobs Facilities Group, Inc.	ZIX Curtain Wall	Curtain Wall Replacement	1,770,000
Jacobs Facilities Group, Inc.	ZDC Curtain Wall	Curtain Wall Replacement	2,530,000
Jacobs Facilities Group, Inc.	ZAU Curtain Wall	Curtain Wall Replacement	2,200,000
Jacobs Facilities Group, Inc.	ZMP Major Mechanical	Major Mechanical Upgrade	6,230,000
Jacobs Project Mgmt Co	LiHue ATCT, HI	Seismic Modernization Upgrade	3,700,000
Jacobs Project Mgmt Co	Livermore ATCT, CA	Seismic Modernization	505,000
Jacobs Project Mgmt Co	Palo Alto ATCT, CA	Seismic Modernization	479,000
Jacobs Project Mgmt Co	Santa Maria ATCT, CA	Seismic Modernization	497,000
Jacobs Project Mgmt Co	Anchorage, ATCT, AK	Seismic Modernization	563,000
Jacobs Project Mgmt Co	Salem ATCT, OR	Seismic Modernization	340,000
Jacobs Project Mgmt Co	Hillsboro ATCT, OR	Seismic Modernization	140,000
Jacobs Engineering Group	BACNet Upgrade	BACNet Upgrade	900,000
The Matthews Group	ARTCC Miami	Major Mechanical & Seismic Upgrade	4,200,000
Belfour Beatty Jacobs	ARTCC Jacksonville	Major Mechanical & Seismic Upgrade	8,800,000
Engineering Group	NextGen	NextGen Facilities Design and Prototype	9,800,000
RW Armstrong	San Juan CERAP	Major Mechanical	4,200,000
Burton Construction	ARTCC Denver	Piping Upgrade	250,000
Burton Construction	Guam CERAP	FY12 Consolidated Projects	700,000
Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group	Abilene, TX	Work Release 156—ABI LOC	386,000
Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group	Abilene, TX	Work Release 160—NEXCOM Radio Replacement	1,007,032
Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group	Abilene, TX	Work Release 164—ABQ FAA Telecommunications Infrastructure (1,11)/Microwave Links	235,600
Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group	Abilene, TX	Work Release 179—Abilene ATCT	430,000
Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group	Abilene, TX	Work Release 194—NEXCOM Abilene RTR Relocation	210,000
Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group	Dallas Fort Worth	Work Release 167—NEXCOM Radio Replacement	1,096,066
Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group	Hobby Field	Work Release 176°C—Hobby Remote Transmitter/Receiver (RTR)	268,987
Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group	Houston, TX	Work Release 178 190 TRACON	1,000,000
Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group	Alamogordo, TX	Work Release 185—NEXCOM	325,927
Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group	Alamogordo, TX	Work Release 187—Fiber Optics Transmission System (FOTS) Engineering	400,018
Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group	San Antonio, TX	Work Release 188—Relocation of San Antonio (SAT) Backup Emergency Communications Systems to Stinson Field (SSF) RTR	124,914
Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group	San Antonio, TX	Work Release 193—NEXCOM	103,127
Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group	Beaumont, TX	Work Release 199—NEXCOM Beaumont RTR	68,664
Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group	Woodford, CT	Work Release CT-11—0128 HVAC Modifications F Mills	1,003,784
Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group	Woodford, CT	Work Release Release CT-11—0137 Reconfiguration F Merly	78,121
Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group	Palm Springs, CA	Work Release 348, ARRA Palm Springs, ATCT	545,000
Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group	Oakland, CA	Work Release 353, ARRA Oakland ATCT	985,300
Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group	Northern, AZ	Work Release 361, Northern AZ Airspace Project	91,998
Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group	Chicago, IL	Work Release 196, EIT Chicago	38,645
L3 Communications	Atlantic City, NJ	All the ongoing System Engineering (SE) and Information System Security (ISS) technical activities for System Wide Information Management (SWIM), DataComm, Aeronautical Message Handling System (AMHS), Enroute Radar Intelligent Tool (ERIT), and NextGen Network Enabled Weather (NNEW) would cease. All major milestones for these programs will be impacted and may not be met.	19.6M
General Dynamics	Fairfax, VA	2012-2012 —“Nextgen Integration and Evaluation Capability (NIEC); Conflict Probe Assessment Team (CPAT); Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Simulations, UAS Certificate Of Authorization (COA) Support and support for the JPDO office.	17M
Engility Corp	Atlantic City, NJ	Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast Ground	5.7M
Basic Commerce & Industries, Inc.	Atlantic City, NJ	AWOTES—“Reduce Weather Impact (RWI), NextGen Network Enabled Weather (NNEW), NextGen Weather Processor (NWP), legacy fielded weather systems support, technical support for Program Office and weather technology in the cockpit.	14.5M
Engility Corp	Atlantic City NJ	Local Area Augmentation System—“Technical Support for Ground-Based Augmentation System SIAM and Surface Trajectory Based Operations (STBO).	1.1M
Engility Corp	Atlantic City, NJ	DADSB—“Broadcast Airborne	1.5M
General Dynamics	Fairfax, VA	Nextgen Lab Support	18M
Digital Ibiz	Atlantic City, NJ	Engineering & Maintenance Oceanic Integration and Interoperability Facility lab	1M
Engility Corp	Atlantic City, NJ	Engineering & Programming Support—“Research Development and Human Factors Lab (RDHFL).	7.9M
Four Winds Services, Inc.	Atlantic City, NJ	Aircraft Maintenance	5.4M
HiaSun	Atlantic City, NJ	FASTER pavement test facility/AVGAS	3.6M
JDS Management Services	Atlantic City, NJ	Airway Facilities Tower Integration Lab	5.3M
SRA	Atlantic City, NJ	Airport Test Machine	57M
Hi-Tec Systems	Atlantic City, NJ	Safety Assessment of NSA and Unmanned Aircraft Systems	2M
Cherokee, CRC	Atlantic City, NJ	Terminal Area Safety Support	5M
Lumark	Atlantic City, NJ	Safety assessment of National Airspace System	5.1M
Lumark	Atlantic City, NJ	Technical Editing	9.2M
Embry Riddle Aeronautical Univ.	Daytona Beach, FL	General Aviation Research	20M
TAMI	Atlantic City, NJ	Fire Safety Testing	9.4M
A3 Technology, Inc.	Atlantic City, NJ	Laboratory Technical Services	7.9M
C-FAR Services, LLC	Atlantic City, NJ	Laboratory Technical Services	700K
Engility Corp	Atlantic City, NJ	Navigation Services	600K
JDS Management Services	Atlantic City, NJ	ATC Voice Communications	4.5M
ESG	Atlantic City, NJ	Communications	9.7M
Basic Commerce & Industries, Inc.	Atlantic City, NJ	Surface surveillance	5.4M
Basic Commerce & Industries, Inc.	Atlantic City, NJ	Aeronautical Telecommunication Network (ATN) Software Development and Engineering Support.	7.5M
Honeywell	Conn rapids, MN	Local Area Augmentation System (LAAS)—Modification of Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) landing system Test Bed.	5.3M
Honeywell	Memphis, TN and Houston, TX	Ground Based Augmentation System relocation from Memphis to Houston	650K
Smithers Quality	Atlantic City, NJ	ISO Certification Services for Technical Center Labs	95K
SSI	Atlantic City, NJ	Simulation & Modeling	4.9M
Boeing Aerospace Systems**	Washington, DC	Research, concept development, and prototyping of NextGen technologies	1.7B
ITT**	Washington, DC	Research, concept development, and prototyping of NextGen technologies	1.4B
Metron Aviation**	Washington, DC	Research, concept development, and prototyping of NextGen technologies	1.14B
Booz Allen Hamilton	Washington, DC	Task Order Request Package (TORP) 1073—Systems Tool Application Support	250K
Booz Allen Hamilton	Washington, DC	TORP 1184—Enterprise Architecture and Engineering Support	1M

FAA STOP-WORK ORDERS THAT HAVE BEEN ISSUED—Continued

Name of the contractor	Project location(s)	Type of work	Value of the contract
Booz Allen Hamilton	Washington, DC	Systems Engineering for the National Airspace System	650K
General Dynamics**	Washington, DC	Research, concept development, and prototyping of NextGen technologies	1.18B
NCI INC	Washington, DC and remote from FL	Contract Support work for the National Airspace Implementation Support Contract (NISC) office.	6.1M
Topologie, LLC	Washington, DC	Contract Support for Power Services	680K
Oceus Networks, Inc	Multiple Continental US locations	Installation and support contract	11.4M

*Note: This list reflects projects in various stages of construction. The FAA will continue to update the list as more stop work orders are issued and more information becomes available.
NOTE (**)—Partial Stop-Work Order Issued.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF EDWARD LEITNER ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great joy and honor that I rise to wish Edward Leitner a very happy birthday as he turns 100 years old today. Edward, a resident of Westbrook, Connecticut, is a veteran of World War II and a shining example of this country's Greatest Generation. I had the opportunity to meet Edward last month at a barbeque culminating Wounded Warriors week—an important, seven-day event honoring the sacrifice of heroes like Edward—sponsored by the Connecticut and Westbrook Elks.

Edward was born in New York City on July 27, 1911. In 1920, he and his family moved to the Pond Meadow region of Westbrook where Edward's father had bought a farm. After graduating from the Pond Meadow School—a one-room schoolhouse still standing today—Edward left home at a young age. He went on to work at a variety of different jobs. He worked in a candy factory, held a construction job on the Merit Parkway, and worked for the railroad.

An automotive mechanic by occupation, Edward was inducted into the Army on November 30, 1942. He served as a member of the 100th Infantry Division, 398th Regiment, which put him in the thick of operations across Central Europe, including Germany. The 398th led the way at Heilbronn, Vosges Mountains, and the Battle of the Bulge. To this day, his family proudly recalls hearing about Mr. Leitner's central role in some of the war's most historic and epic battles. Edward, who earned several decorations and positive citations in the Army, was honorably discharged in March of 1946.

Edward's family describes him as their hero. They say he is a guy who can fix anything and do anything—and he has. Edward, for his brave and historic service to this great Nation, is my hero too. Mr. Leitner, despite his extraordinary story and experiences is an unassuming, down to earth gentleman who is a pleasure to meet and an example to us all. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in wishing Edward Leitner a happy 100th birthday and thanking him for his great service.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES T. MALLOY

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant James T. Malloy who served as the last Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives, a man I'm proud to have called a mentor and friend.

Americans knew him as the bellowing voice we'd be waiting for at the start of the annual State of the Union address; the voice that would yell over the hundreds assembled in the House chamber, "Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States." That first introduction came for President Gerald Ford in 1975 only a few weeks after his appointment.

I was privileged to know the man behind the voice, the man who mentored hundreds of members of Congress and staffers who passed through his doorway and the man who was beloved by everyone in this chamber.

Jimmy was incredibly helpful to me when I first came to Congress 24 years ago. He provided a good listening ear and sage advice. Put simply he was an extraordinary human being and he had no bigger fans than those of us from Western New York.

As the proud son of a South Buffalo firefighter, he put Buffalo on the map on a daily basis.

One of Buffalo's other proud sons, Tim Russert, described Jimmy as "a good man, who knew everybody and was always proud of taking care of his own."

"I'll accept that, I like that," Jimmy responded when he heard the description with the humility that personified his rustbelt roots.

In 1994, Jim's last duty was to introduce the new Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich. Since then, there's been no Doorkeeper of the House. I believe no one could possibly follow him. He has been missed in this House and will certainly be remembered fondly by everyone that knew him. He made Buffalo proud and the lives he touched richer. For that, we are all thankful.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees

to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 28, 2011 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED AUGUST 2

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine housing finance reform, focusing on national mortgage servicing standards.

SD-538

Environment and Public Works

Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee

To hold joint hearings to examine a review of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) near-term task force recommendations for enhancing reactor safety in the 21st century.

SD-406

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine health reform and health insurance premiums, focusing on empowering states to serve consumers.

SD-430

2 p.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To receive a briefing on Russian-United States cooperation in the fight against alcoholism, focusing on prospects for sharing experience, strength, and hope on treating alcoholism.

2360, Rayburn Building

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Francis Joseph Ricciardone, Jr., of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, and Norman L. Eisen, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Czech Republic, both of the Department of State.

SD-419

Armed Services

Strategic Forces Subcommittee

To receive a closed briefing on cyber issues.

SVC-217

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

AUGUST 3

9:30 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Securities, Insurance and Investment Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the housing finance system, focusing on the to-be-announced market.

SD-538

10 a.m.

Finance

To hold hearings to examine dually-eligible beneficiaries, focusing on improving care while lowering costs.

SD-215

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Wendy Ruth Sherman, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary for Political Affairs, and Robert Stephen Ford, of Vermont, to be Ambassador to the Syrian Arab Republic, both of the Department of State.

SD-419

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 958, to amend the Public Health Service Act

to reauthorize the program of payments to children's hospitals that operate graduate medical education programs, S. 1094, to reauthorize the Combating Autism Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-416), and any pending nominations.

SD-106

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-342

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine cybercrime, focusing on updating the "Computer Fraud and Abuse Act" to protect cyberspace and combat emerging threats.

SD-226

2 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine debt financing in the domestic financial sector.

SD-538

2:30 p.m.

Environment and Public Works

Children's Health and Environmental Responsibility Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Federal actions to clean up contamina-

tion from uranium mining and milling operations.

SD-406

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 1024, to designate the Organ Mountains and other public land as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System and the National Landscape Conservation System in the State of New Mexico, S. 1090, to designate as wilderness certain public land in the Cherokee National Forest in the State of Tennessee, S. 1144, to amend the Soda Ash Royalty Reduction Act of 2006 to extend the reduced royalty rate for soda ash, S. 1149, to expand geothermal production, and S. 1344, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to take immediate action to recover ecologically and economically from a catastrophic wildfire in the State of Arizona.

SD-366

AUGUST 4

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

SENATE—Thursday, July 28, 2011

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Holy God who inhabits the praises of Your people, look with favor upon us today. Lord, You have been our God from the beginning, so stay close to us and save us from ourselves. In times of tension and strain, keep our lawmakers calm in spirit, clear in mind, and pure in heart. Empower them to perform faithfully and well the duties of their calling. Inspire them with love for You as You give them the wisdom to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with You.

We pray in Your wonderful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TOM UDALL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 28, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will be

in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half.

Following morning business, I will be recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 1938

Mr. REID. Mr. President, H.R. 1938 is due for a second reading, I am told.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1938) to direct the President to expedite the consideration and approval of the construction and operation of the Keystone XL Oil pipeline, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would object to any further proceedings at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have 5 days remaining until a few extremist Republicans—and note I say “a few”—drive our economy off a cliff because they are too radical and inexperienced to compromise. Financial experts are begging Congress to come to an agreement that averts a first-ever default on this Nation’s financial obligations.

This is what one financial analyst said yesterday about the need to avert a default crisis which would spark a global economic depression.

The market is saying we need a deal. Default is starting to seep into the marketplace.

It will not be long, they say, before our financial markets severely react to continued stubbornness by the tea party Republicans, tanking our economy. Wall Street had a very bad day yesterday—its worst in months—largely based on the news that Congress still has not found a path forward.

That does not only affect big investment banks or wealthy investors; all

around the country, ordinary Americans with 401(k)s and college savings accounts lost money yesterday. Their life savings took a hit because a small group of radical Republicans who do not represent mainstream Americans have refused to move even 1 inch toward compromise.

Yesterday’s bad economic news should be a sign to those Republicans who deny reality. Default will rock our financial system to its core. Many reasonable Republicans realize time is running out. They have urged their colleagues to compromise.

Yesterday on the Senate floor, JOHN MCCAIN, the Republican senior Senator from Arizona and President Obama’s opponent in the last Presidential election, asked his own party to return to reality. It “is not fair to the American people to hold out and say we won’t agree to raising the debt limit. . . .”

He called the radical Republican approach—saying it is down and denying the sky is blue—“unfair” and “bizarro.” Those are quotes from JOHN MCCAIN. He further said:

It’s time we listened to the markets. It’s time we listened to the American people and sit down and seriously negotiate.

He was talking to his fellow Republicans and, in particular, to a tea party that does not seem to realize Republicans control only one-half of one branch of government. That faction of the Republican Party is holding our economy hostage. That is an understatement.

My counterpart, Senator MCCONNELL, also urged a return to reason.

We cannot get a perfect solution, from my point of view, controlling only the House of Representatives. So I’m prepared to accept something less than perfect because perfect is not achievable.

That is from Senator MITCH MCCONNELL. Both sides know neither side will get everything it wants. That does not mean we should not come together to find a compromise that gives each side something it needs. Republicans have drawn the line at ending wasteful tax breaks for corporate jet owners and oil companies making record profits. They have vowed to protect corporate welfare at taxpayer expense. Democrats have vowed to protect senior citizens who rely on Social Security and Medicare benefits. We will not allow them to suffer while Republicans protect tax breaks for billionaires.

The compromise plan we are considering in the Senate protects both of these priorities—both parties’ priorities. Whether one agrees with the priorities, the legislation I have on the

floor in the form of an amendment protects those priorities—Democratic priorities and Republican priorities.

Unfortunately, in a concession to Republicans, we did not ask millionaires and billionaires to contribute their fair share. We would have loved to have done it. But the line has been drawn by the Republicans and we followed that. But it does protect seniors who Republicans insist should feel the pain.

It would also avert a default crisis while cutting \$2.5 trillion from the deficit. That is twice as much as the Boehner plan. Yet House Republicans refuse to support the Senate compromise. I am happy to talk to any of my Republican colleagues—I have talked to several of them, I am happy to continue that—to listen to reasonable suggestions to make the Senate compromise legislation even better. That would require tea party Republicans to admit “compromise” is not a bad word.

Legislation is the art of compromise, and they need to learn that. A significant number of House Republicans said their party would rather see this Nation default on its financial obligations than cooperate with Democrats. That says it all. It is hard to comprehend that, but there has been a spate of these Members of the House of Representatives who have said they would rather see the Nation default on its financial obligations than cooperate.

This kind of thinking has been roundly rejected by the American people. Nearly three-quarters of Americans want Congress to compromise, even if neither side gets everything it wants. The American people know we cannot get everything we want.

This thinking has also been rejected by reasonable Republicans. I had the good fortune of serving with the very famous American, Fred Thompson from Tennessee. He was famous before he got here. He is a movie actor. He served in the Senate admirably and went back to do his acting. Former Senator Fred Thompson—by the way, he is a Republican—urged members of his own party in an open letter to the House GOP to recognize a good deal when they see it. That is what he said. “I respectfully suggest that you rake in your chips, stuff them in your pockets, and go home.”

The proposal on the table would cut the deficit by \$2.5 trillion. If their goal is to rein in spending, they already won. That is what Fred Thompson said: “If their goal is to rein in spending, they’ve already won.” Declare victory and leave. Republicans should know—this is Fred Thompson—“when to take their chips and walk away.”

American writer Elbert Hubbard said, “It is easy to get everything you want, provided you first learn to do without the things you cannot get.” That is what this is all about. “It is easy to get everything you want, pro-

vided you first learn to do without the things you cannot get.”

There are things that either side cannot get. Accept that and move on. Republicans cannot get the short-term Band-Aid they will vote on in the House today. It will not get one Democratic vote in the Senate. All 53 members of the Senate Democratic caucus wrote to the Speaker last night—the letter was hand-delivered to him—to tell him why we will not vote for it.

The economy needs more certainty than the Speaker’s proposal would provide. We must not be back in 6 weeks doing the same thing I have been involved in for 7 or 8 months. We do not need to do that. Washington has been locked down with this debt crisis debate. The White House is not doing all they need to do. We are not doing the things we need to do. We cannot come back to this in just a few short weeks. That is what would happen.

We must not be back here in 6 weeks or 6 months debating whether to allow our Nation to default on its financial obligations for the Republican right-wing that seems to be controlling so much of what they are doing in the House.

It would be easy for Republicans to get nearly everything they want if only they embraced the Senate’s true compromise plan and stop, as Senator McCain put it, deceiving the American people—his words not mine.

The question remains, will my Republican colleagues be wise enough to end this stalemate?

SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM EXTENSION AND REFORM ACT OF 2011

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 2608.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2608) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a Landrieu substitute amendment which is at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 588) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Small Business Program Extension and Reform Act of 2011”.

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS UNDER THE SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to extend temporarily certain authorities of the Small Business Administration”, approved October 10, 2006 (Public Law 109-316; 120 Stat. 1742), as most recently amended by section 2 of the Small Business Additional Temporary Extension Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-17; 125 Stat. 221), is amended by striking “July 31, 2011” each place it appears and inserting “July 31, 2012”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on July 30, 2011.

SEC. 3. REPEALS AND OTHER TERMINATIONS.

(a) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—

(1) EFFECTIVE DATE.—A repeal or other termination of a provision of law made by this section shall take effect on October 1, 2011.

(2) RULE.—Nothing in this section shall affect any grant or assistance provided, contract or cooperative agreement entered into, or loan made or guaranteed before October 1, 2011 under a provision of law repealed or otherwise terminated by this section and any such grant, assistance, contract, cooperative agreement, or loan shall be subject to the applicable repealed or otherwise terminated provision, as in effect on September 30, 2011.

(3) APPLICABILITY OF TEMPORARY EXTENSIONS.—A repeal or other termination of a provision of law made by this section shall have effect notwithstanding any temporary extension of programs, authority, or provisions under the Act entitled “An Act to extend temporarily certain authorities of the Small Business Administration”, approved October 10, 2006 (Public Law 109-316; 120 Stat. 1742).

(4) DEFICIT REDUCTION.—Any savings resulting from this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall be returned to the Treasury for deficit reduction.

(b) POLLUTION CONTROL LOANS.—Paragraph (12) of section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(A) The Administration” and inserting “The Administration”; and

(2) by striking “research and development” and all that follows and inserting “research and development.”

(c) SMALL BUSINESS INSTITUTE.—Subparagraph (E) of section 8(b)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(b)(1)) is repealed.

(d) DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE GRANTS.—Paragraph (3) of section 21(c) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(c)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (R) by adding “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (S) by striking “; and” and inserting a period; and

(3) by striking subparagraph (T).

(e) CENTRAL EUROPEAN SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION.—Section 25 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 652) is repealed.

(f) PAUL D. COVERDELL DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE PROGRAM.—Section 27 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 654) is repealed.

(g) PILOT TECHNOLOGY ACCESS PROGRAM.—Section 28 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 655) is repealed.

(h) NATIONAL VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 33 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657c) is repealed.

(2) CORPORATION.—Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the National Veterans Business Development Corporation and any successor thereto may not represent that the corporation is federally chartered or in any other manner authorized by the Federal Government.

(i) LEASE GUARANTEES AND POLLUTION CONTROL.—Part A of title IV of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 692 et seq.) is repealed.

(j) ALTERNATIVE LOSS RESERVE.—Paragraph (7) of section 508(c) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 697e(c)) is repealed.

(k) SMALL BUSINESS TELECOMMUTING PILOT PROGRAM.—Subsection (d) of section 1203 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (15 U.S.C. 657h) is repealed.

(l) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958.—Section 411(i) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 694b(i)) is amended to read as follows:

“(i) Without limiting the authority conferred upon the Administrator and the Administration by section 201 of this Act, the Administrator and the Administration shall have, in the performance of and with respect to the functions, powers, and duties conferred by this part, all the authority and be subject to the same conditions prescribed in section 5(b) of the Small Business Act with respect to loans, including the authority to execute subleases, assignments of lease and new leases with any person, firm, organization, or other entity, in order to aid in the liquidation of obligations of the Administration hereunder.”.

(2) TITLE 10.—Section 1142(b)(13) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “and the National Veterans Business Development Corporation”.

(3) TITLE 38.—Subsection (h) of section 3452 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “any of the” and all that follows and inserting “any small business development center described in section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648), insofar as such center offers, sponsors, or cosponsors an entrepreneurship course, as that term is defined in section 3675(c)(2).”.

(4) VETERANS ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1999.—Section 203(c)(5) of the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 (15 U.S.C. 657b note) is amended by striking “In cooperation with the National Veterans Business Development Corporation, develop” and inserting “Develop”.
SEC. 4. TERMINATION OF EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, effective October 1, 2011, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration may not carry out or otherwise support the program referred to as “Emerging Leaders” in the document of the Small Business Administration titled “FY 2012 Congressional Budget Justification and FY 2010 Annual Performance Report” (or any predecessor or successor document).

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill (H.R. 2608), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the period of morn-

ing business be extended until 5 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each; further, that at 5 p.m. I be recognized.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the clock is ticking. In just a few days, the U.S. Government will no longer have the ability to borrow money to pay its bills—a situation the President and his advisers said would trigger an economic Armageddon.

I was shocked last night when 53 Senate Democrats issued a letter saying they intend to vote against the only piece of legislation that has any chance of preventing all this from happening. Even more shocking is the fact that Democratic leaders and the President himself have endorsed every feature of this legislation except one, and that is the fact that it doesn't allow the President to avoid another national debate about spending and debt until after the next Presidential election. Every other feature of the House bill was essentially agreed to earlier except for one—the President wants to avoid having another discussion about deficit and debt before the election. This assurance is the only thing the President and Senate Democrats are holding out for right now.

The Democrats can try to justify their opposition to the House bill any way they want. They can claim they are worried about a stalemate 6 months from now. They can ignore the fact that of the 31 times Congress and the President have raised the debt limit over the past 25 years, 22 of those debt limit increases lasted less than a year. President Reagan, in 1984, signed three bills in the course of his election year that raised the debt ceiling. It was not unusual. In fact, what is unusual is to ask for \$2.7 trillion in debt limit increase. That is unusual. That is unprecedented.

So what is worse, a default now or a potential default 6 months down the road? Because if those 53 Senate Democrats follow through on their threat to filibuster the House bill, that is what they will be doing—ensuring default now rather than working with us to prevent it later. Why would you want to do that? The answer is, to make the President's reelection campaign a little bit easier.

It is inconceivable to me that the President would actually follow through on this threat. After all, the

President's first responsibility is to do what is best for the country, not his reelection campaign. The same goes for our friends on the other side of the aisle. It is inconceivable to me that they would actually block the only bill that would get through the House of Representatives and prevent a default right now. Inconceivable. It is inconceivable to me that they would do this for no other reason than to help the President avoid having another debate before the election about the need for Washington to get its fiscal house in order. But that is precisely what we may be headed for this weekend—guaranteed default or a bill that takes the specter of a default off the table, while giving us another opportunity to address the very deficits and debts that caused this crisis in the first place.

Senate Democrats are playing with fire, and it is hard to conclude they are doing it for any other reason than politics. So I urge our friends on the other side of the aisle this morning to rethink their position and join Republicans in preventing default.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise this morning to speak to the need to come to an agreement. We need to come to an agreement on how we handle the debt ceiling. We need to come to agreement on addressing our Nation's deficit and debt.

Let us review where we are right now. If you look at our fiscal situation, right now the Federal Government takes in revenues on an annual basis of \$2.2 trillion—\$2.2 trillion—a year, but

at the same time we are spending \$3.7 trillion. That is a shortfall, or a deficit, of more than \$1.5 trillion a year.

I look at these young people here in this Chamber—these great pages from all over the country—and I think about what that means not only for us today—for our economy, for our standing in the world, for the security of our country—but I think about what it means for future generations. What is it we leave them? Do we leave them a country that was founded on the concept of freedom and liberty, that people could pursue life on their own terms, raise their families the way they wanted to raise their families, live the way they wanted to live, do the work they wanted to do, have an opportunity to start a business, to build a life, and be successful and pass something of value on to their children?

I think that is what we all want. That is the Nation we have—the Nation we have had for over 200 years. That is the Nation we want to pass on to these great young people.

So we have had tremendous debate for an extended period of time—for a long time. Many good ideas have been brought forth by both sides of the aisle, by Republicans and by Democrats, on how we should address this debt ceiling agreement, how we should address the deficit and the debt. Nobody has the corner on good ideas. There have been many good ideas brought forward, but now is the time we have to realize we have to come to agreement. The American people want us to come to an agreement.

Today the House is considering the Budget Control Act of 2011, referred to as the Boehner proposal, and they are over there working on it right now. As with any agreement, somebody can certainly find something to criticize. That is always true. No agreement is perfect. But it does represent many of the ideas that both sides have brought forward as a way to come to agreement on this debt ceiling and, more importantly, as a way to start to get our fiscal house back in order. Let's talk about it for just a minute.

Under the proposal, first there would be a reduction in spending, a savings of more than \$900 billion, and that would also provide for a \$900 billion increase in the debt ceiling to get us past this immediate issue. Then, at the same time, it appoints a committee—not a commission but a committee—of Senators and Representatives, 12 members—6 Senators, 3 Republican, 3 Democrat; 6 House Members, 3 Republican, 3 Democrat—who are required to find at least another \$1.8 trillion in savings. Those savings have to be found before there is another increase in the debt ceiling.

That is the right way to do things. That is getting the horse in front of the cart, not the reverse. So they have to find those savings in a bipartisan

way, and they have to bring those concepts back to the House and to the Senate, and the House and the Senate will have a straight up-or-down vote—the elected representatives of the people doing their job for the people in an open and transparent way.

Think about this committee for a minute. Again, there are 12 members: 6 Republicans, 6 Democrats; 6 Senators, 6 Members of the House. They can bring forward all of these great ideas that have been debated in recent months. They can bring forward ideas from the Simpson-Bowles Commission that have gained support. They can bring forward ideas from the Gang of 6 that people believe are meritorious. They can bring forward ideas for savings. They can bring ideas forward for reform. They can bring ideas forward for tax reform that don't raise taxes but actually eliminate loopholes, reduce rates, create a progrowth environment, and the revenues come from a growing economy, not from higher taxes. They can come forward with all of these ideas and more.

But the important point is they must come forward by November with \$1.8 trillion in savings to help get us back on the right path, the right path to good fiscal management. The debt ceiling is not increased in that second step until they do. That is making sure we fulfill our responsibility and do things in the right order.

Then this bill also provides that we have a vote on a balanced budget amendment, and that vote on the balanced budget amendment must be sometime between October 1 and the end of the year. Myself and others have cosponsored a balanced budget amendment, and I strongly believe that is what we need.

I understand there are differences of opinion, but when we look at the situation we recognize we need that fiscal discipline in Washington, DC. If we just think about it for a minute, a balanced budget amendment, how does it work? Well, it works in a way that gets everybody involved, not just in Washington, DC, but throughout this great Nation—because what are we doing? By passing a balanced budget amendment in the Congress, which we have to do with two-thirds of the Senate and two-thirds of the House, what we are doing is starting that balanced budget amendment on its way traveling throughout this country and saying to the people of this good country: What do you want to do?

Why not ask the people? That is how our democracy works. Why not ask them: Do you want to make sure we have a balanced budget that requires Congress to see that, year in and year out, we are living within our means?

Forty-nine States have either a constitutional or statutory requirement to balance their budget to live within their means. Cities do, counties, fami-

lies, businesses. Since three-fourths of the States would have to ratify that balanced budget amendment as well, we say to them: Look, we think we need a balanced budget, and we are going to make sure you have an opportunity to say what you think. I believe that is exactly what we should do.

I bring experience as a Governor. I served as a Governor for 10 years, and we were required to balance our budget every single year. We went to the people and we talked to them.

We said: Here is the plan. We don't have the dollars right now to fund all the things you want. This was back in 2000–2002 when we actually had to reduce our budget, make reductions across the board. We said: But do you know what we are going to do? We are going to make sure we live within our means and we create a progrowth environment, legal taxes and regulatory certainty that will enable business expansion, business growth, entrepreneurship, private investment, and get this economy growing, get jobs, get economic growth. Then with that growth we will make sure each year we fund our priorities; that we set some aside, some reserve aside for a rainy day, and that we do our best to continue to reduce the tax burden on our hard-working citizens. It doesn't happen in a week, it doesn't happen in a month, a year, or 2 years. It takes time to build to the position that you want. But we can do it. We have done it before.

If we look at the late 1980s, coming out of the stagflation of the 1970s and the early 1980s, in the late 1980s we had stagflation—meaning high inflation, meaning high unemployment, an economy that was moribund, people weren't working, a growing deficit. But by creating a progrowth environment and good fiscal management from the late 1980s over into the decade of the 1990s, we not only put people back to work, we eliminated that deficit and we built a surplus. We can do it again. It is all about the right approach.

So here we are today. Today we need to take that first step, and I come back to where I started. It may not be the plan exactly the way everybody wants it, but it is a plan that we can approve, and it brings together concepts that people on both sides of the aisle have brought forward. So now we need to come together and do our work for the American people. We need to come together and pass this agreement.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN of Ohio). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the looming August 2 deadline. This is when the Department of the Treasury estimates the Federal Government will officially hit the \$14.2 trillion debt ceiling. We all know we are at the point where we are because we have a fundamental difference in principle on how our government should be run. At the same time, most agree that our country cannot go into default, so we are in a very tough situation with a very short time period.

That is why I am concerned about the delay on this issue. Delay means harm—harm to Americans and harm to our economic recovery, especially as we grapple with a 9.2-percent unemployment rate, which is the elephant in the room. We must address jobs if we are going to have an economy that is thriving and in a recovery period. A jobless recovery is not a recovery.

The administration's reluctance to resolve this crisis has brought the very real potential of a downgrade in our country's triple A bond rating. As we get closer to next Tuesday, Standard & Poor's and Moody's and other rating agencies await the details of the final debt agreement. Then they will determine if our Nation's triple A credit rating will be downgraded. The implications of the rating could affect consumers at a very bad time. It could include a rise in interest rates on home loans, on small business loans, on student loans, and credit cards.

Yesterday the stock market fell nearly 200 points, a 1.6-percent drop. That was the third straight day of stock market decline. It leaves the Dow Jones Industrial Average down 3.3 percent and nearly on track for its worst week since August of 2010.

The threat of a downgrade is also hurting our dollar. The dollar's value fell and hit a new 2011 low against the Japanese yen and a record low against the Swiss franc.

Two things are clear. First, uncertainty and anxiety are prevalent, domestically and in the global markets. Second, this anxiety underscores the need to address our debt ceiling and deficit reduction simultaneously. While the fundamental principles on which we base our solutions to this crisis are vastly different, I do believe that both sides of the aisle in Congress and both Houses of Congress share the same goal.

The Senate majority leader and the House Speaker have put forward plans. I believe we must find a common ground between the House and the Senate with the proposals that have been put out by the Group of 6, by the majority leader, by the minority leader on our side as well as the Speaker on the House side. There have been a lot of proposals and there have been good parts in several of these proposals where we need to come together and

find the best parts that we can agree on, knowing we are a divided Congress and a divided government, and move forward to a conclusion.

We can get meaningful immediate spending cuts as well as caps on future spending. That would be a very important achievement. It would be a major step forward because that is not where we were when we started. Spending cuts and caps on future spending would be a major step in the right direction. We can allow the debt limit to increase in proportion to the cuts, the real cuts. We can do this without tax hikes, because the fact is, the idea that we can tax our way out of debt has been completely repudiated. So we can cut spending, we can cap future spending, we can raise the debt limit in accordance with those caps, and without any new taxes.

That is a significant achievement as well because certainly the President was talking about increasing taxes, increasing taxes, increasing taxes when this whole negotiation began. We on our side have stood firm against new taxes, knowing this is a very fragile economic time in our country. If we want people to be hired, if we want the unemployment rate to come down, we cannot saddle our small businesses with new taxes.

We can send a clear message to the markets and to our debtors that we can stop spending too much so we will not need to tax any more, and we certainly do not want to borrow as much and have the drag we see on our economy. Americans know that in Washington we are spending too much, we are taxing plenty, and we are borrowing too much.

There is more we can do. We will not get to a balanced budget without looking at entitlements because the discretionary spending is such a small part of our total budget. Our entitlement programs are the major part of the need for reform. Our entitlement programs are nearly bankrupt. If left unchanged, our promises to current and future beneficiaries will be broken.

Mandatory spending is the long-term driver of our debt problems. The Federal Government spends approximately \$2.1 trillion a year on entitlement programs, about two-thirds of our total Federal budget. I have introduced a bill, the Defend and Save Social Security Act, that would put that very important program on a fiscally sound path without cutting core benefits or raising taxes. My proposal will cover the 75-year shortfall, and anyone who is currently 58 years old and above will have no effect whatsoever with the gradual increase in retirement age. The beginning of the increase in retirement age would start with people who are under 58, and then it would be only 3 months a year. So if you are 57 you would only retire 3 months later. If you are 56 it would be 6 months later to start on Social Security.

The Senate majority leader and the House Speaker have offered proposals that call for a bipartisan, bicameral congressional committee to fix the fiscal imbalance in our Nation's finances. It is imperative that this joint committee—if it is passed by both Houses of Congress—confront entitlement reform. Entitlement reform is at the core of any long-term solution to our Nation's financial problems. If we act now, we can make progress in a very gradual way, and if we wait, it is going to be much more stark and much more problematic for people who depend on Social Security or Medicare. The opportunity to raise our debt ceiling is a defining moment in the future of our government. Let us confront the problem today and not delay the inevitable.

The more we delay, the harder it is going to be, and we have seen how hard it is already. We know this has not been an easy process because the talks between the White House and Members of Congress have fallen apart. The talks between Members of Congress on both sides of the Rotunda have fallen apart. We know this has been hard, so let's try to act now to stop it from being harder in the future, which it will be if we don't address our entitlement reforms.

I support a two-step approach. Let's take the first major step—a downpayment of almost \$1 trillion. That is the first step for all of us—to cut spending by nearly \$1 trillion. The second step is long-term deficit reduction that will cut more spending over a 10-year period and address entitlement reform. This can be done in a gradual way but without touching the core benefits, but we have to act now. If we don't, it will not be able to be done.

The financial viability of our country is at stake. The time is here—it is past here—to take the necessary steps to get our fiscal house in order, and I implore my colleagues to take those steps now.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I have served in this body for 19 years, and I will say I have never been more dismayed, more concerned, or more frustrated than I have been these past few days. Every day it gets a little bit worse because day by day our country grows closer to defaulting on our sovereign debt. That is something which has never, ever happened in the history of this country.

The repercussions of this protracted and public debate on whether our government will honor its financial obligations are already evident. This is what we know for sure: The stock market has seen several days of decline as investors sell off securities. The United

States is at high risk of a credit downgrade. Gold prices are climbing as people try to protect themselves from a rating downgrade and a drop in the value of the dollar. In short, default may well have catastrophic economic consequences domestically and internationally.

What is the message we are communicating to the world? Secretary Clinton told me in an evening conversation I had with her—she had just returned from visiting five countries. She said everybody was asking her: What is wrong in your country? What are you going to do?

This is now a worldwide crisis and one we must address. What we are seeing here is, in a sense, a broken government that can't take care of the affairs of its people in a prudent and practical way.

It is absolutely amazing to me that 20 to 70 Members of the House of Representatives believe they can run the government of the United States despite the fact that the Presidency and the majority in the U.S. Senate are controlled by another party. Essentially, they appear willing to allow this great Nation to default rather than compromise and reach a practical solution.

What are the consequences of default for American families? For sure, default would raise interest rates, driving up costs for everyone. For sure, the cost of owning a home, buying a car, buying food, filling a gas tank, and sending children to college will become even more expensive. It will squeeze already tight family budgets and damage this fragile economy. Many people predict a second dip recession. In essence, default causes an immediate tax increase in the form of these rising interest rates on families.

The talk of default is disrupting financial markets and will trigger a sharp fall in the stock market, causing huge losses in retirement accounts and wiping out the gains of 2 years. This morning, I saw a TV story about a man who was selling his mutual funds because he has no confidence in our ability to resolve this crisis—not a good thing to do.

Higher interest rates will also drive up costs for both the Federal and State governments because every 1 percent increase in interest payments for the Federal Government means an additional \$100 billion cost to the government. A default will be devastating for State governments that would see their borrowing costs dramatically increase because their ability to borrow is tied to the interest rates paid by the Federal Government.

The cost of borrowing for States, for municipalities, and for local water districts will all rise. Let me give you an example. My own State of California recently took out a \$5.4 billion loan from five major investment banks

ahead of a possible default to ensure itself against rising interest rates. Here is the sixth largest economy on Earth worried that their interest rates are going to jump, so they take out a \$5 billion loan from investment banks to be able to meet any increased interest on obligations owed.

For the broader economy, default would mean hundreds of thousands of jobs lost every year, according to the Federal Reserve. Chairman Bernanke said:

The economy may be thrown into reverse and employers would start cutting jobs if Congress fails to raise the Nation's legal borrowing authority.

I have heard some say that on August 3, the Treasury will still have enough money to meet our obligations and avoid default. That is simply false. According to the Bipartisan Policy Center, the U.S. Government has \$306.7 billion in payments due in August and will take in an estimated \$172.4 billion in revenue for the month. That is a \$134 billion shortfall for the month of August, so the Treasury will not be able to pay its bills. In other words, 44 percent of U.S. Government bills will go unpaid if the Federal Government fails to raise the debt ceiling by the August 2 deadline.

Treasury would be forced to spend all income inflows covering just six major items: interest, Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, unemployment insurance, and defense vendors. That would mean entire Federal Departments would have no funds, including Justice, Labor, and Commerce. It would mean no funds for veterans' benefits, Active-Duty military pay, IRS refunds, special education, Pell grants, and more. There is simply no way to escape it.

Let me give you an example. On the next day, which is August 3, the Treasury will take in \$12 billion in revenues, but it will still owe \$32 billion in revenues. Let me tell you what that includes. It includes \$23 billion in Social Security payments. I understand 45 million checks are ready to go out during those days. It is \$2.2 billion for Medicare, \$1.8 billion for education, and \$1.4 billion for defense.

If the debt ceiling is not raised by August 2 or if we only reach an agreement for a short-term extension, the already-spooked credit rating agencies could react unfavorably. And here is the problem: Do you want to go back to this same situation in 6 months and go through this all over again? It makes no sense. If the marketplace wants stability and constancy, they are clearly not going to get it knowing this is going to be coming up in 6 months again.

Moody's has said it is possible our credit rating would go down with a short-term increase and warned that an agreement should get us through the year 2012. All right, don't pay attention to it, but that warning is out

there. It is going to take getting through the year 2012, according to at least one of the rating houses.

Fitch has said a deficit deal must be credible and sustainable or U.S. ratings could still be downgraded. Does anybody believe it is credible and sustainable to do this for 6 months and be right back where we are today? I don't think so.

Standard & Poor's has said it may lower the country's long-term credit rating if it concludes that future adjustments to the debt ceiling are likely to be the subject of political maneuvering—not my words, their words. Do you want to go through this in 6 months again with the same results and creating all of the uncertainty for the 6 months between now and then? I don't think so.

In other words, these rating agencies have very real questions about the willingness and ability of this Congress and the administration to timely honor scheduled debt obligations.

Now, I have to say this—and I have been here for 19 years—I have never seen a time when Republicans just do not want to come to an agreement with this President. The President, I think by any standard, has bent over backward, and still Republicans walk away from the negotiating table. Well, let me tell you, I have done a lot of negotiations in my time with big labor strikes and work stoppages—

I would ask unanimous consent for 5 more minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. CORKER. I was given an 11:10 time and saw that we were alternating. I have a conference call. I am glad for the Senator to finish, but if she could make it even shorter than that, it would be appreciated.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. How about 3 minutes?

Mr. CORKER. OK.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the unanimous consent request for 3 minutes? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, there were 2 months of negotiations with the Vice President, and Majority Leader CANTOR walked out. There were negotiations with the President and Speaker BOEHNER, and the Speaker walked out. House Republicans do not like Simpson-Bowles, nor do they like the Gang of 6 plan. These are the two big plans which offer a solution for the future. Instead, they want massive cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and discretionary spending and absolutely nothing from those Americans who are doing very well in this economy—actually, the top 1 percent.

Well, I represent 37 million people. California is bigger than 21 States and the District of Columbia put together. Fifteen million to twenty million people in my State depend on programs

the Republicans want to take a meat axe to—not a scalpel, but a meat axe—SSI, Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare. We have gotten these numbers. We have looked at them for overlapping, and I can truthfully say the number is 15 million to 20 million. Well, look, I want to know how a cut is going to affect these programs.

We could do this if we agree to take 6 months, draft in bill language from the Gang of 6, mandate the hearings, and fast track a bill to the floor of the Senate. Every Member of this body knows it is bill language that spells out what we need to look out for. I need to look out for what happens to the Medicare provider tax because so many hospitals in my State depend on it. If it lasts until 2014, it is OK, but I don't know.

I very strongly believe there is a solution and that reasonable people can work it out, and I hope the leadership of this body will talk with the leadership of the other body.

I thank the Chair, I thank Senator CORKER for his courtesy, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, it is interesting. I have some of the same concerns, maybe with different outcomes, as the Senator from California, but I agree we have not done our work.

Over the course of a little over a year, I have been traveling around the State of Tennessee making citizens aware of the unsustainable deficits our country has. I am sure people on the other side of the aisle have been doing the same. After townhall meetings all across our State in almost every forum my colleagues can imagine—I am sure the Presiding Officer has done the same—people are very aware in my State, as they are across the country, of the fact that we are on an unsustainable course. We are now beginning to have investor publications—the Wall Street Journal this morning wrote an editorial about the fact that no matter what we do regarding the actual proposals before us today, it is likely our country is going to be downgraded. So, here we are, faced with a situation where the types of legislation we are looking at—in both Chambers, I might add, in both Chambers—probably will take us to a place where our country's debt is downgraded.

I wish to first applaud both leaders—Senator REID for bringing forth a proposal today or over the last few days, and Speaker BOEHNER, the leader of the House, for doing the same on the House side. What I wish to say about that is while to me they don't meet the goals or don't meet the test our country needs to have met at this time, at least we are finally talking about proposals that will reduce spending in this country and put us back on a sustainable path. So I appreciate the leadership of

both bodies. Finally, after many months, we are on the right topic.

What I have said all along is that as we approach the debt ceiling, we need to dramatically change the character of spending in this country. My concern is that our work is not quite done. The fact is there is no question of the deadline coming up. Everybody agrees it is, at least the minimum, August 2. I don't think there is any dispute that we have until August 2 to deal with this issue. I also don't think we have yet come up with a solution we need to come up with to dramatically change the character of spending in this country.

What I would say is, look, our work is not quite done. The House has a bill that basically reduces spending over the next decade by \$1 trillion. Candidly, I think we all know that is not a solution that is going to prevent a downgrade in this country. It does have the goal of kicking this to a select committee of some kind that is going to try to incorporate another \$1.8 trillion in cuts. Candidly, that is a big step back from where I think we were a weekend ago, where at least on the cut side—even on the cut side—even the President had agreed to at least \$3 trillion in cuts. That is our understanding. So what we have coming out of the House right now is a bill that doesn't cut as much as the President had agreed to last weekend. We have on this side a bill that cuts about \$1 trillion after it has been scored. Again, I applaud the leader of the Senate for putting forth a bill that at least begins moving us in the right direction, but, again, it is \$2 trillion short of where the President had been with leaders a week ago, or at least that is our understanding, and I am pretty sure that understanding is correct.

We also know the general mantra adopted by Wall Street and by people who are looking at our country around the world is that we need to do something that is at least a \$4 trillion solution.

I would say to the Senator from California who just spoke, I couldn't agree more. We have not addressed this situation the way we should. I don't think there is anything anybody—well, there may be a few—the vast majority of this body does not want to see our country default on its obligations. I don't know of anybody who wants to do that. I want to see dramatic changes in the character of spending for our country, and many people have sought that. Our work is not yet done.

What I would say is, let's have a short-term extension. There is no question that we do not want the sovereign debt of this country to be downgraded because we default. Nobody wants to see that happen. We are at least finally on the right topic. We are talking about spending reductions. We certainly haven't done the work necessary

to achieve the goal we need to achieve in this body. But I couldn't agree more. Let's have a short-term extension. Let's extend it another week or 2 weeks or 3 weeks. A lot of people say, Well, the fact is that will roil the markets. I don't think it will roil the markets. I think they are used to us waiting until an hour before the deadline to work out a solution. I think that has become customary, if you will, in the Senate and in the House of Representatives.

So what I would say is if we don't do the work now—we have a historic opportunity right now. Right now, the whole world, all of our country, all of our citizens are all frustrated. The Members of the House and the Senate are all focused on one thing and that is what kind of a package can we put forth to actually cause our country to be more solvent at this time.

We are finally on the right topic, yet we haven't even, in these aspirational bills that are laid out—we know that with all the actuarial assumptions that exist, with Medicare and Social Security and Medicaid, that if we don't touch trying to make them solvent for the longer haul, we haven't even done our work. The bills before us don't even have as an aspirational goal—for instance, the House bill that is coming over with a select committee that I know Senator REID and Senator MCCONNELL have been involved in—and I thank them for their work—doesn't even lay out that one of the things we are looking at is ensuring Social Security is actuarially sound. The future of these young pages who potentially down the road—not potentially, hopefully—will benefit from Social Security, I think they would like to know that during this historic time we are actually looking at the real issue.

What I am afraid of is we are missing the opportunity for this to be the seminal moment we all thought it was going to be because we don't yet have a product that solves the problem. The product we are looking at in both bodies—and I thank the leaders of both bodies for bringing them forth—does not meet the test. It doesn't dramatically change the character of spending in Washington. It doesn't even stave off a downgrade in U.S. sovereign debt.

We are on the brink of actually doing something great for our country. And because we now have our country's focus and everybody in both bodies is focused on this problem, let's have a short-term extension. I agree. Let's don't default. Let's move back a week or 2 weeks or 3 weeks. But let's don't miss this historic opportunity to do something great for our country, which is exactly what we are doing now.

It is hard for me to believe, seriously, that what we have before us is a \$1 trillion downpayment. It is also hard for me to believe, candidly, that we are going to set up a select committee that

is going to report back in 4 or 5 months when all of us know what the issues are. We understand the math. I know we get ridiculed a lot for the way we act in this body, but I think most of us candidly pretty well understand what the solutions are. We all know nobody gets to work on anything around here until there is an imminent deadline. So even with this committee being potentially set up by mutual discussion down the road—I know there are a lot of negotiations—to me they should report back. I agree with the Senator from California. Let's report back at the end of this fiscal year, September 30—there is no reason to wait—and if that type of bill were to pass where we have a two-stage process, let's go ahead and get the work out of the way.

I want to go back to the bigger picture for a moment and I will conclude momentarily. We have an opportunity right now where we have never been focused in the way we are right now—in the 4½ years I have been here—on something as important as this as it relates to us getting our house in order. We have never been this focused. What I am afraid of, in the name of political efficacy—people saying, Hey, look, let's take what we can get and get on out of here so we don't mess up our potential, on both sides of the aisle, for the 2012 elections—take what you have on both sides. Basically, let's think about it. For the other side of the aisle, the way all of the proposals before us are laid out, there is no dealing with trying to make the entitlements sustainable, so they can run in 2012 on the entitlement issue. With all of the proposals laid out right now, we don't deal with spending appropriately, so our country is probably going to have its debt downgraded, so Republicans can run on the fact that we haven't reduced spending enough. So if we look at it, this works well for everybody, except the citizens of our country.

Again, we are finally on the right topic, which is a rarity here. We are finally focused on the problem. We have two bills that don't go far enough. Again, I applaud both the Democratic leader and the Republican leader for putting forth proposals. We all know they don't do what they need to do—either proposal. We know the aspirational goals of each proposal don't take us far enough.

I would say to all: I agree. Let's don't default. Let's don't buck up against August 3. Let's pass a short-term time extension. Let's take us through the end of August or the first 2 weeks in September, or let's take a week, but let's finish our work in this body. Let's don't miss this seminal opportunity where everybody in this country and everybody in this world is looking at how undisciplined we have been and the opportunity we have before us to actually be disciplined and send a sig-

nal to the world that our future is not the future that Greece is seeing today; our future is the continuation of American exceptionalism all around this world. We are squandering that opportunity right now in this body at a time when we are finally focused on the right topic.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. I thank the Presiding Officer, as I always do.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, Senator TOM HARKIN is on his way from the meeting the Presiding Officer and I were just at because we both want to talk more about this National Mediation Board crisis and also the fact that the FAA is on hold, that we cannot do anything with it. What the House did—you see, one of the revelations of the modern era, which hopefully will last only a couple years, is that the folks in the House are willing to say "no" to the very end. In other words, the question I would raise is that my plan is to raise the stakes on the airlines, doing quite dreadful things to them, in hopes they will engage with the House Members to say we have to have an FAA bill.

As I said yesterday, all I seek is a clean bill of extension. That has been done 20 times on this FAA bill. It has taken us 4 years, and we have not been able to reauthorize it. There are some things to work out, but they can all be worked out.

The House sent over a message saying they did not like what we were doing on the essential air service. Well, the Presiding Officer knows what the essential air service means for rural communities, which is to have it in order that communities have an economic future of any kind at all. But, on the other hand, we have been willing to make reforms. In fact, the reforms we have suggested are more dramatic reforms than the House has suggested: put a cap on the number of airports—some quite dramatic things I actually hate doing in order to try to get agreement on that subject.

But what is more interesting is, that is not what they care about. Mr. MICA, who is my counterpart in the House, has often said he does not have a dog in the essential air service fight. Yesterday I was meeting with him and Secretary LaHood, who is completely with the Senate in our desire to get this done and to break the intransigence of

the House, and my counterpart simply said—I said: Why did you send that over when that is not what you care about? He said: Well, sometimes it is a little political thing.

I was not shocked by that because that is why I knew he had done it, but what it says is they are willing to tank the Federal Aviation Administration unless the Senate caves to their position on the National Mediation Board, which would undo 75 years of labor law and which would take an extraordinary situation, which Senator HARKIN, when he gets here, is going to talk more about.

But the principle they want and they like is the fact that if you have an election—it could be a union election, it could be any kind of an election, but let's say for the purposes of this it is a union election—and people do not show up to vote, as is always the case. Then for those people who did not show up to vote, their vote is automatically characterized as a "no" vote on the idea of certifying to get a union.

This is purely the work of Delta. Most of the legacy airlines are unionized. Delta is not. Delta's CEO makes \$9 million a year, their top management another \$20 million a year. They could practically pay for the whole Essential Air Service Program themselves. But they do not want to fool around with this language to protect their antiworker ambitions.

They have had four union elections in the last several years. They have prevailed. The airline has prevailed in all four of those elections. But they still want this language changed so that if you do not vote, you are put down as a "no" vote; that is, not to be able to organize. That is un-American. It is unprecedented in American history. And it goes against, as I said, 75 years of labor law. That is very dangerous.

What we have to do is to try and make it clear—frankly, the other airlines have been rather tepid in their support of my position. Airlines are a close group and they tend to stay together. They have to stop that. They have to make the House understand that if they persist in this rule, we will have a Federal aviation system that will shut down altogether. I am talking about air traffic controllers. I am talking about the whole deal. It is not a long process. It is a horrible process. It is an antiworker process which they are dumping in our laps. They want to see that happen. They are willing to see that happen. They will not compromise on the National Mediation Board. They will not compromise. They have said that. I have often talked with my counterpart over there, and he says: Well, I do not make those decisions. Those are made at a higher pay grade. He uses that word. Why does somebody run for public office if they simply take orders from other people?

Well, that is sort of the way they do things over there in the House, but it is extremely dangerous.

The truth lies in the fact that the House provision that cuts the Essential Air Service Program by \$16 million—that is what it does. At the same time, the House has been willing to let \$150 million drain from the airport trust fund in less than a week. Every day we do not get this bill resolved, \$25 million drops out of the airport trust fund, which is flush for now but is becoming very unflush very quickly.

The FAA extensions are very necessary. They are not something which people walk around here talking about all the time, but if they find they do not have flights to get to their homes on the west coast or in the South or anywhere else, they will be very angry. People will be very angry. I do not know of any alternative but to ratchet up the pressure, to make those who are blocking this understand they are causing a national disaster and they need to back off from that position.

They have said they will not. Well, will that be the final solution? It may very well be, and we have to understand that. But you cannot negotiate something which is so antiworker. You cannot negotiate that. The President has said he will veto it if it appears in the bill in any form. The House has voted for it. The Senate has voted against it. We have been very clear that it cannot pass over here and will not pass over here. So why are they playing that game?

The airlines are not now even paying for their use of the national airspace system. The carriers also do not appear to care about the impact on the dedicated FAA workforce that serves them—once again, 4,000 already having been furloughed. Most of the airlines are not even passing any savings on to the customers they serve. Why do I say that? Because they are having a tax holiday now because our extension ran out. So all of a sudden they do not have to pay taxes on jet fuel and a number of other things, so they are getting a lot of money. But what will you do with that money? Would you keep it for yourself or would you turn it over to the trust fund or would you keep ticket prices the same and not raise them? Well, they keep it. Frontier Airlines, I think Alaska Airlines, Virgin, all have kept their fares exactly where they were. They are trying to protect the consumer.

Delta and the other airlines are raising ticket prices as fast as they can, even though, because the time has run out on the agreement, they are getting endless millions of dollars. They are choosing to keep it and make a profit for themselves. That is unconscionable behavior in terms of national policy.

What are the real benefits to Delta from what they are doing? How badly were they harmed by the decision, the

NMB decision? After the change, several unionization votes were held among components of their work force, which I have already said. None of those units voted to organize. So what is their game? It is a game. It is politics. It is theology. You cannot let that stand. You cannot allow people to get furloughed who are serious about their jobs, who are engineers and technical people—the first 4,000. Many of them will not come back. They will choose to figure: Well, they will never get this settled. They will go out and find other jobs, and they will be able to get other jobs. It is unconscionable. It is almost you cannot believe you are in this situation, that you are in some “Disney World” somewhere where people do not take life seriously and do not take policies seriously.

I want to reiterate that the Senate appointed conferees—which is sort of necessary to try and reach resolution—on the very day the House sent over its FAA package for us to consider. We appointed conferees. More than 100 days later—100 days later—the House still dragged its feet. The House has still not named any conferees.

What am I to make of that? They are not serious about this. So if they are not serious about it, do we then buckle because they are not serious or do we stand for what is right and what is fair for the people who work for the Federal Aviation Administration and also, frankly, for consumers of aviation all over this country?

I will tell you, you wait until some of these air traffic control systems shut down, the towers shut down because there is nobody to man them. Then business, American business and these airlines are going to understand how bad it is going to be. The only policy I know how to adopt is to try and drive home to them what they are actually doing to their own futures. They will shut themselves down if they continue on their course.

We can still get this process working again, but we need to get the FAA stable first. We should pass a clean extension, that which we have done forever. All extensions are clean. Senator CORKER was just talking about a clean extension on something else. We should pass a clean extension and then get to work finding a compromise on our remaining differences.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and await the presence of Senator HARKIN who will be speaking on this subject.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HAGAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, first, I wish to thank Senator ROCKEFELLER for his leadership on the FAA issue. It is so important in rural areas. It is so important to attract and retain a workforce. It is so important to the local economies in large cities like Cleveland, Cincinnati and Columbus and in smaller communities too. As Senator ROCKEFELLER said, our aviation system is absolutely critical for economic development.

People in big cities might make fun of small airports that they do not have all the hustle and bustle. But we do know medium-sized and smaller airports matter a great deal.

With the refusal of the House to take up a clean extension of FAA, nearly 4,000 employees across the country have been furloughed and dozens of construction projects have come to a halt. In this economy, some radicals in the House of Representatives have decided—because they have a political mission and ideology that does not quite fit with the majority of Americans—they are going to again hold hostage something that simply needs to be done; that is, what is called reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration.

As Senator ROCKEFELLER said, these furloughed employees may be forced to look elsewhere for jobs to meet their mortgage payments or pay for groceries—these are very skilled technicians and engineers. And what does this mean to these construction projects? FAA helps to pay, all over the country, for modernization of airports—rebuilding air traffic control towers, improving runways, and making countless safety improvements.

We have all heard stories—I do not recall that I have ever seen it, but we have heard stories of the Beijing or Shanghai airports or some of these airports—I have not seen them in the last many years—about the new technologies and the modern features of those airports. As a country we cannot afford to fall behind. We have to keep up.

Not passing a clean extension of the FAA bill is exactly the wrong thing to do. The unemployment rate in the construction industry is nearly double the national average. Yet we are idling cranes and we are idling bulldozers all because of a political mission, an ideology that some Members of the House—some radical Members of the House—have decided to inflict on us.

A clean extension of FAA has been done 20 times. All of a sudden it is not. I hope the House gets serious. I hope they appoint conferees and come to the table and work this out. I appreciate very much Senator ROCKEFELLER's leadership. He is making a difference on these important issues, and our House colleagues need to follow.

SUPPORTING AMERICAN
MANUFACTURING

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I wish to talk also about another issue where we should have done a clean extension—as we have done dozens of times in this country. In the past three decades alone, we have avoided default by addressing the debt limit 38 times; 34 of those were with Republican Presidents. That is almost 90 percent of the time we have raised the debt ceiling—more precisely, avoided default—it has been under Republican Presidents.

A lot of us did not like it. We maybe made a public statement saying we did not like their fiscal policy, but we never stood in the way, we never tried to take hostage—take the government hostage or each other hostage by saying—almost like children—if I do not get my way, then I am going to block this and I am going stop—I am going to potentially throw our financial system and our economy into turmoil. What kind of behavior is that for adults?

Then, when I hear Speaker BOEHNER and some of his radical kind of cheerleaders on the far political right say we should do this again in 6 months, I wonder what are they possibly thinking, when we go through this right now.

I spend a lot of time with manufacturers around my State. I love seeing things made. My State is the third largest manufacturing State in the country, exceeded in production only by California, three times our population, and Texas, twice our population. I talk to manufacturers, and some of them are not investing now for a variety of reasons. Mostly they do not see the demand for products because the demand is still anemic in our society, in our economy, for companies to grow.

But they also talk about the uncertainty. They talk about the uncertainty in the economic environment. This is the worst kind of uncertainty we are going to inject into our economy if we are going to say let's do this in 6 months. Do they think anybody in North Carolina or Ohio or around the State, around the country, any businesses are thinking: This is a great time to invest, right when Moody's and Standard & Poor's might downgrade us, right when we do not know what is going to happen in the next week with a potential default.

Do they think anybody is going to make a major investment decision right now? Of course, they are not. So let's do it again in 6 months? When I heard Speaker BOEHNER—I like JOHN BOEHNER personally. He is from my State. Our offices obviously work together in places such as Butler County, Preble County, and the Dayton-Cincinnati areas. But I would have thought people would have laughed when he said: Yes, let's do this again in

6 months because we do not have a jobs problem to worry about. Clearly, we should get this done with and focus—that means cutting the budget. I understand that. We have to work toward a balanced budget.

We knew how to do it in the 1990s. In the early 1990s, President Clinton—I came to the House the year he was elected President. We faced a terrible budget situation and an unemployment situation. But you know what. We cut spending. We increased taxes appreciably for only a relatively few number of people, the wealthiest people in our society. We continued to make investments in education, health care and infrastructure and our economy.

We had almost 8 years—not quite, maybe 7 years some months—of regular economic growth, and 21 million new jobs were created. So we know how to do this. But this crowd wants to hold the government hostage saying, if you do not do it exactly our way, we are going to let the government go to default, and once we solve that, let's do it again in 6 months.

I just think it does not make sense. What we should be doing instead is focusing—I know what an important manufacturing State the Presiding Officer represents in North Carolina, as in Ohio—on manufacturing. We are still a country that makes things. My State is particularly a State that makes things.

The year after what is called the American Recovery Act passed, my State got more new jobs in clean energy than any State in the United States of America. My State is a leader in aerospace. It is a leader in auto and steel and chemicals and cement and paper and aluminum and glass. Yet we are also in the kind of traditional industries, and we are also, as I said, a leader in solar, in Toledo, OH, and other places.

We are a leader in wind turbine component manufacturing, especially in the northeast but all over Ohio. We are a leader in aerospace, as I mentioned. We are a leader in biomedical and biotech, in large part because we have great universities and great teaching hospitals in, I was going to say, prominently in northeast Ohio but also Columbus, also Cincinnati, also Toledo—all over our State. Clearly, we know how to do these things. But what we have seen in the past three decades is a shift in our Nation. Thirty years ago, manufacturing was 25, 26, 27 percent of our gross domestic product. Basically, one-fourth of the dollars in our economy were all about manufacturing.

That created great wealth, because the way to create wealth is to make something, to grow something or to mine something, preeminently. So 30 years ago, manufacturing was some 23, 24, 25, 26 percent of our GDP. Financial services was only 11 percent in those days. Today, it is almost the reverse.

Financial services makes up about 20 or 22 percent and manufacturing makes up only about 11 percent of our GDP and even a slightly smaller percent of our workforce.

Why does this matter? It matters because we know when we make things it creates wealth. Manufacturing jobs pay 20 percent more, on average, than service jobs. We know the difference between retail versus making steel or the difference between fast food restaurant work versus making cars or chemicals or glass or biotech.

We know manufacturing jobs have a strong multiplier effect. So if we have an auto company—let me give an example. The Chevrolet Cruze is a car my daughter just brought—by and large, an Ohio car. It would not have happened if we had not done the auto rescue that so many of my colleagues opposed for ideological reasons, not substantive, practical, let's-make-it-work reasons. Nonetheless, we know the auto industry is coming back and we know manufacturing jobs have increased—far too anemically, but they have increased over the last year.

But the Chevy Cruze, the engine is made in Defiance, OH, and the bumper is made in Northwood, OH, and the transmission is made in Toledo, OH, and the steel comes out of Cleveland, OH, for much of the car. The aluminum wheels come out of Cleveland, OH. The stamping is done in Parma, OH. Some of the other stamping is down in Lordstown, OH. The assembly is done in Lordstown, OH. There are 5,000 people working just on the assembly alone. So that is the multiplier effect. When we assemble in Toledo, we assemble the Jeep. Chrysler assembles the Jeep in Toledo.

Some 3 years ago, only 50 percent of the components for the Jeep were American made. Today, over 70 percent are American made. So we know manufacturing creates all kinds of jobs, making 20 percent more, on average, than service jobs.

Since the beginning of the recession, though, we still see profits at large financial institutions and other service firms increase, but our Nation's unemployment rate is still hovering around 9 percent. So when profits go up for those financial services firms—and I appreciate JPMorgan Chase in Columbus, OH. I met with their top person in Ohio just this week—just moving from Cleveland to Columbus. I know the important work they do in my State. I know they provide thousands and thousands of jobs. That is all a good thing.

But I also know in an economy which is not paying attention to manufacturing, we do not get the multiplier effect, we do not get the higher wages, we do not get the employment growth that we might get otherwise.

That is why, yesterday, Senator ROCKEFELLER and I convened a meeting, where Senator WHITEHOUSE, Senator JACK REED, Senators SCHUMER and KLOBUCHAR and FEINSTEIN and others attended. We talked about a real national manufacturing strategy. That means closing the skills gap. We have a lot of jobs in places such as Iowa and North Carolina, Ohio, where they go unfilled because we do not have well enough connected worker training with those jobs, with the needs. We need to pursue better tax and trade policies. We need to pay special attention to manufacturing.

Yesterday, the Senate sent to the House legislation we passed unanimously that said: When the government buys American flags, rather than 50 percent—a requirement that 50 percent of them be made in the United States—the requirement now is that 100 percent be made in the United States.

Why do we not put more focus on “Made in the USA”? It will matter for us. It matters for our national pride on flags, to be sure, but it matters for our communities, it matters our companies, and it matters for our workers.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I meant to be here earlier when Senator ROCKEFELLER was on the floor speaking about the situation with the Federal Aviation Administration. However, I was unavoidably detained while chairing a hearing on the HELP Committee that just adjourned a few minutes ago. I wanted to be here to discuss with Senator ROCKEFELLER the sad situation we are facing right now with the shutdown of the Federal Aviation Administration.

We are now in the sixth day of the defunding of the Federal Aviation Administration. What that means is that right now we have some 4,000 FAA workers who are furloughed, and tens of thousands of people out of work in airport construction jobs—infrastructure. These are people who are not working for the government; they are working for private contractors who have a contract with FAA for runway construction, putting in lights, safety measures, things like that. So tens of thousands of people are out of work in the private sector because of the cutoff of FAA reimbursements to these businesses around the country.

It is costing the Federal Government about \$25 million in tax revenue a day—\$25 million a day in lost revenue. That money would be plowed back into the economy to pay for aviation operations and for the people who are working out there on construction jobs building runways, lighting systems, and things like that.

At a time when we have so many people who are unemployed in our country—and the underemployment rate is really somewhere between 16 and 18 percent—with over 23 million people in America out of work, what do the Republicans do? They hold up funding for the Federal Aviation Administration, which puts 4,000 more FAA people on furlough and tens of thousands of people working on construction jobs around the country out of work. Why would the Republican Members of this Congress do such a thing? Because they want to overturn a National Mediation Board decision that was handed down a little over a year ago to align the election procedures under the National Railway Labor Act with the provisions that have always been in place under the National Labor Relations Act.

Let me explain that. Under the National Labor Relations Act, which has been in existence since the late 1930s, if you have an election to see whether workers want to organize a union, you count the yeas and you count the nays of those who vote. If the yeas are more than the nays, the workers form a union. If the nays are more than the yeas, they don't form a union. Under the Railway Labor Act, an odd thing took place. Under that, it said that if you have an election for a union, you count the yeas, you count the nays, and then all those people who didn't vote, you put them in the “nay” column. Interesting. If you don't vote, you are an automatic no.

What the National Mediation Board did a year ago was realign this using rulemaking procedures. They said that from now on you would only count the yeas and the nays. You would not assign to one side or the other those who didn't vote. To most of us, that just seems to make plain old common sense. After all, any election for your local school board—and we know the turnout is pretty low; school board elections usually turn out maybe 20 percent of the electorate, maybe less than that. Yet I submit there is probably no more important election in America today than school board elections. I will not get into that right now. What if we said: In all these school board elections, take the yeas, and then all the people who didn't vote, they are a no.

What if we did that in Senate races? That strikes home to people around here. Say a Senator is running for reelection, and if you are lucky, you get a 60-percent turnout of voters. That means the people who don't vote are

considered a “no” vote on the incumbent. Is that what we want to see? If you don't vote, that is a “no” vote on your reelection. Most people would think that is inherently unfair. It is inherently unfair.

The same is true in elections on whether workers want to form a union. There are a lot of reasons people don't vote in an election. Maybe they are sick and they can't go vote. Maybe they can't make up their mind one way or the other. Maybe they said: Well, I see this side, and I see that side, and I cannot make up my mind, so I am just not going to vote. Some people just say: I don't care which side wins; I am disinterested in this election. Thankfully, in America, we don't have somebody forcing somebody to vote. So it makes common sense that if you don't vote, you should not be counted on one side or the other.

The National Mediation Board put this rule in place. They went through all the hearings, the comment period, and all the stuff necessary to pass the rule. Then it was brought up in the Senate within the last year under a procedure called the Congressional Review Act, wherein there is an expedited procedure for the Senate to take up and vote on a regulation as to whether we want to overturn it. It is an expedited procedure, an up-or-down vote. That was brought up here, and, as the chairman of the committee that has jurisdiction over labor, I debated it with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. It was a fairly good debate, I thought, and we voted. The Senate voted not to overturn that regulation. Well, you would think that would be the end of it. No, you would be wrong.

What does that have to do with the FAA? Because the Republicans in the House and some in the Senate are saying they are not going to let this FAA reauthorization bill get through unless and until we overturn the decision—this rule of the National Mediation Board which basically says that if you don't vote in the election, you are not counted on one side or the other. They are holding the FAA hostage—4,000 workers furloughed, tens of thousands in airport construction out of work, \$25 million a day being lost in revenue that would be taken in so we could put these people back to work. It is all because they want to make it harder for workers to form a union.

Think about it this way. We are going to have a Presidential election next year. Let's say all the people who don't vote would be tallied as a “no” vote for the incumbent President, assuming he runs for reelection. Some of my Republican friends would probably like that, and I understand that. Do you think the American people would think that is fair, that if you don't vote, you are counted as a “no” vote?

A Federal district court—they took this to court—also rejected a legal

challenge to these new rules, finding that the National Mediation Board was acting well within its legal authority in modernizing the election.

We see this time and time again. It is happening now in this Congress. Whenever we try to make things more fair or to use a legitimate procedure to address something that I think most people would think would be unfair; that is, counting somebody who didn't vote as a "no" vote—when we do that, Republicans always try to find an end run to try to undo that.

We are down to about 10 percent of our labor force that is now unionized. My friends on the other side will not be happy until there are no more unions in America. They will not be happy until unionization is less than 1 percent, and then only a company-sponsored union, not an independent union.

Right now, Republicans are voting to change the law in the middle of a trial as a special favor to the Boeing company. Boeing was accused of retaliating against its workers for going on strike.

As I have pointed out in numerous talks on the Senate floor, there is a judicial process that has been used by both labor and management for more than 70 years to settle disputes. That process has been to go to the NLRB—and management has done it, as well as labor—to find out if a certain thing was wrong or if a union has overstepped its bounds or if management has overstepped its bounds. The NLRB tries to mediate and get the two sides to agree, but if they can't, a process is set in motion whereby the General Counsel—who, by the way, was a career person, not a political appointee, as some have said—then begins an investigation to see whether the facts as presented warrant the next step, which is bringing the case to an administrative law judge.

That is what happened in this Boeing case. I have heard all this nonsense about how they are trying to take jobs out of South Carolina, trying to destroy right-to-work States. That is nonsense. Right now, the case is before an administrative law judge to see whether Boeing actually retaliated against its employees for their exercising a legal right to organize and bargain collectively as a union.

Did Boeing retaliate against them for doing that? I don't know. My Republican friends seem to think they know. But it should go through the process before the administrative law judge, and that finding can be appealed by either side—management or labor—and it goes to the NLRB, and then they make a decision, which could be appealed to the Federal appeals court or circuit court. That decision can be appealed to the Supreme Court. Yet the Republicans want to interfere in that process and make it a political decision as to whether this case should go forward. Just as they are wrong to try to

change the rules in the middle of a case going forward to benefit Boeing, what is happening now with the FAA is also wrong. They are trying to interfere in the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration to change a rule from the National Mediation Board.

The other day, one of my colleagues was talking about when are we going to stop doing favors for the union bosses or big unions or something like that. I never thought the National Mediation Board rule was a favor to a union. I always looked upon it as a fair decision, regulation, to make it in line with the National Labor Relations Act. Why should we have two separate kinds of election procedures for forming a union in this country? Take it to the American people. It is common sense. I think that most people would say that someone who doesn't vote shouldn't be counted as a "no" vote? As I said, we don't do that in the National Labor Relations Act. We have had this sort of anomaly for years. We finally tried to get it straightened out, and that is what is costing us these jobs and \$25 million a day.

There is another issue they have brought up, and that is the essential air service at a number of small airports. We can debate that. We can talk about essential air service to small airports. The bill would eliminate it. That is about \$16 million a year—\$16 million a year—that it would save. Clearly, that is not what the Republicans care about. Every week—every week—they hold up the FAA reauthorization, it is costing the Federal Government some \$150 million in uncollected taxes to support our airports. So in order to save \$16 million a year, they are willing to cost the government \$150 million a week. Boy, that is some kind of economics on the part of my Republican friends. So strictly from a budget perspective, the House's obstructionism is not just absurd, it is grossly counterproductive.

Again, this is uncalled for, what they are doing, to hold up the FAA reauthorization. As I said, we are now going into the sixth day, and it is going to have an effect on air travel. It is going to have a profound effect on air travel the longer this plays out. So I ask the House Republican leadership to get off of this obstructionism—get off of this—and let us deal forthrightly on the bill before us—which is the FAA reauthorization—and quit trying to overturn this rule of the National Mediation Board.

On essential air service, I think there are probably some compromises that can be made. There are some adjustments and modifications that can be made. I think that is probably so. We ought to work in good will in doing that on the longer term bill. But it is not right to hold up the FAA reauthorization right now on either the essen-

tial air service objections or their trying to overturn the decision of the National Mediation Board.

Again, I want to thank Senator ROCKEFELLER for his leadership on this issue and for his vigorous opposition to the House Republicans' effort both to eliminate totally essential air service and to try to do a backdoor, end run around the National Mediation Board's rule on providing for fair elections for those who seek to belong and to form a union in the airline or railway industry.

With that, Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, let me begin by applauding Senator HARKIN, my colleague from Iowa, for his comments relative to the FAA and the need to put the people who are out of work back to work and to get the FAA reauthorization done. It has been way too long.

We have a number of people who staff the tower that deals with air traffic coming into the United States north of Boston. That tower is in New Hampshire. We have people out of work. We need to get them back to work and we need to see this legislation done and moving forward.

DEBT DEFAULT

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I came to the floor this afternoon because the United States Government is now less than 1 week away from defaulting on its obligations for the first time in our history. As we have heard from economists and business leaders across the country, a default could result in hundreds of thousands of lost jobs and in higher interest rates for every American, yet we are still debating whether we should avoid default. It is a very dangerous game, and we are risking permanent harm to the American economy.

I want to examine one consequence of default for a minute. All three credit rating agencies—S&P, Moody's, and Fitch—have said a default would automatically result in a lower credit rating for the U.S. Government. I think we all understand the principle of credit rating. It is like the credit scores on record for most of us in our personal lives. The better we have been about paying our debts in the past, the better our credit score. When we go to buy a house or a car, when we ask for a loan, the bank looks at that credit score and decides how much interest to charge us. The worse we have been at paying our debts in the past, the lower our score and the more money we pay in interest.

The credit rating agencies are keeping a credit score on the U.S. Government. So far, it has been perfect. The United States has never failed to pay

its debts. That is why we have the lowest interest rates in the world, and loaning money to the U.S. Government is considered the world's safest investment. With a default, that would all change. And here is the key: It would change in just minutes, and that change would last for generations. If we default, the credit rating agencies will lower our credit rating immediately.

I recently had a conversation with Martin Regalia, the chief economist of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. In that conversation he said the market reaction to default would take "nanoseconds." Once we have defaulted, we can never unring that bell. Our special status as the world's safest investment may never return. We will have increased our interest rates for decades to come and maybe even longer. JPMorgan Chase said this week that a lower credit rating could cost our government \$100 billion a year in interest.

This is the worst kind of wasteful spending because that money wouldn't be going to investments in our economy or to secure a better future for our children. It would go to nothing. It would do nothing. It would be money down the drain.

We have a path forward. It is the plan that has recently been proposed by Senator REID. There are a lot of things about this plan I don't like. I am concerned because I don't think it takes a balanced approach toward deficit reduction that I have long called for, and I am disappointed that it lacks the \$4 trillion in deficit reduction we need. But I am ready to support it. And because all the cuts in this bill are cuts that Republicans have already supported, they should be prepared to support this plan too.

The Reid plan would cut at least \$2.2 trillion of our debt while allowing us to avoid default through the end of next year. These two elements are crucial to avoiding the lower credit rating we have been hearing raised as a concern. We need to provide the markets with some long-term certainty that will avoid default, and some proof we can deal seriously with our long-term deficits and debt.

A short-term, 6-month increase, as proposed in the House, would kick the can down the road. It won't prevent a lower credit rating. We need to end this constant threat of default which is paralyzing our government and our economy. The Reid plan achieves this through a combination of cuts to our domestic spending, reduced spending on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and through targeted cuts to mandatory spending. It doesn't raise taxes, and it doesn't touch Medicare, Medicaid, or Social Security.

Again, this is not a perfect plan. I have been on the floor many times in favor of a balanced package that includes cuts to spending—domestic, de-

fense, and mandatory—but also includes increased revenues. The Reid plan doesn't achieve those goals, but I do have hope that we will get there eventually.

This is not a proposal I would have written, but I am 1 of 100 Members of the Senate and 1 of 535 Members of Congress, so I don't get everything I want. None of us here in Congress get everything we want. That is the nature of compromise. That is the nature of democracy. That is why the Framers of the Constitution created checks and balances in government. That is why they created two Chambers in Congress and three branches of government. When you are a leader in government, you don't have the luxury of drawing a line in the sand and walking away. You have to be prepared to stay at the table and to give up something.

I have just laid out what I and I believe many of my colleagues are willing to give up in this proposal—our demand for a comprehensive balanced plan to reduce the deficit. In exchange, I am willing to accept a plan that includes more cuts than any other plan on the table. These are cuts that 40 of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have already supported. This is a plan that I think neither side is going to love but both sides should be able to accept. It is a plan that gets the job done.

We here in the Senate and in Congress have to get the job done, so I urge that we come to the table, we adopt a compromise, and we put this debt ceiling vote behind us.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, we are not in a quorum call?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Correct.

Mr. REID. It is a rare occasion.

ECONOMIC STABILITY

Mr. REID. Madam President, today the House of Representatives will vote on Speaker BOEHNER's short-term plan to raise the debt ceiling. As soon as the House completes its vote tonight, or this afternoon, the Senate will move to take up the message they send to us. It will be defeated. They know that, and the American people now should understand that clearly.

No Democrat will vote for a short-term bandaid approach that will put our economy at risk and put the Nation back in the untenable situation we are in today in just a few short months from now. Economists have said a short-term arrangement holds many of the same risks as a technical default. Democrats are not willing to put our economy on the line for something such as that. It is something we cannot do for the good of the country. Our economy and the financial markets desperately need stability. Speaker

BOEHNER's bill does not provide either. It does not provide stability, and it certainly doesn't help our economy in any way.

I believe it is time for the tea party Republicans to stop resisting compromise. They must join Democrats and Republicans of good will to put the economy ahead of politics.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I wish to underscore what the leader has said.

The bottom line is very simple. Speaker BOEHNER is busy twisting arms right now to try to get his bill passed through the House, but it is a futile gesture because that bill is not going to pass the Senate. We have made that clear in the letter that 53 of us signed yesterday, and nothing has changed. The idea that we will take BOEHNER's bill and pass it or take BOEHNER's bill and tweak it and pass it is not what is going to happen. So we would urge Speaker BOEHNER and all of our Republican colleagues to sit down and negotiate.

Throwing a hot potato over to us that will not pass just delays things a day, and we are simply 4 days away from one of the worst financial catastrophes that could face this country; namely, for the first time in our 230-year history, a refusal to pay the debt. That means the time for these kinds of political games and political posturing is over.

Speaker BOEHNER is having a rough time getting the votes over there, but my guess is he will. But it will not make a darned bit of difference. It will not make a darned bit of difference because it is not going to pass this house, the Senate. It will not pass because a short-term extension risks the same things that no extension risks: a downgrade, a lack of confidence in the markets, and gridlock. We have seen gridlock up to now; 3, 4, 5, 6 months from now the same gridlock will occur. We cannot play with this kind of risky fire.

So our plea to the Speaker is stop continuing to throw pieces of red meat after red meat after red meat, piece after piece after piece of red meat to that rightwing lion in your caucus. Start taming the lion. That is what you have to do because otherwise that lion will devour you and devour the economy of our country.

The kind of narrow ideological approach that we have seen in the House will not get us anywhere. The shame of it all is that not every Member of the House, and I don't believe the Speaker, has that ideology, the sort of my-way-or-no-way ideology, the no-compromise ideology, and it is time to break free. It is time to do what is good for the country.

A short-term solution will not work. The leader has just made clear that as

soon as the House passes its bill, it will be defeated in the Senate. Let's not waste 5, 6, 7, 8 more hours. Let's start negotiating something that will save this country from potential financial catastrophe now.

Mr. HARKIN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. SCHUMER. I would be happy to yield to my friend from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. I thank the Senator from New York for his very lucid remarks and for his great leadership in trying to get through this mess.

I say to my friend, a lot of people in the country are looking and thinking that this is some kind of food fight; that somehow everybody is to blame for this here in Washington.

I ask my friend, the Senator from New York, isn't it true that there are some 50 members of the Republican caucus in the House who have said forthrightly that they will not vote to raise the debt ceiling under any circumstance? One of those, of course, being Representative BACHMANN, who is seeking the Presidential nomination on their ticket, said she would not vote to raise it under any circumstance.

Does the Senator know of any one Democrat, either in the House or the Senate, who has said they would not vote to raise the debt ceiling under any circumstance? I ask the Senator, is there one? I have not been able to find one.

Mr. SCHUMER. I thank my colleague from Iowa for the question. I concur in his findings. I haven't found one either.

Democrats know we have different views on this side of the aisle, and many of us would write deficit-reduction bills differently than some others of us would. But we realize that to let the debt ceiling lapse would be a disaster to not raise it. So I have not heard of a single Democrat who has said the debt ceiling ought to lapse, and I have heard scores of Republicans, elected, official Republicans and thousands of others and groups in that rightwing firmament pushing their members to let this debt ceiling lapse.

My guess is—and God forbid it happens; and we are doing everything we can to prevent it from happening—they will retract that language or they will find ways to explain what they meant because their analysis that it doesn't matter or it will not do much harm is, unfortunately, dead wrong.

Mr. HARKIN. If the Senator will yield for another question. Again, there is a lot of misunderstanding—and I sympathize with this—among the general populous that somehow raising the debt ceiling means that somehow we can go and borrow more money in the future and go further in debt.

Isn't it true that raising the debt ceiling just simply means that we are going to pay for what so many of us, Republicans and Democrats, have voted in the past to appropriate money

for? I ask my friend, it is like using your credit card to go out and buy something, but now you say, I don't want to pay the bill? I think that kind of puts it in terms that the average American can understand. If you have used your credit card, and you have run up a debt, you have to pay the bills; otherwise, your credit is going to go down, and you are going to lose your credit card, and you are not going to be able to do anything else.

Isn't that sort of what we are confronting? In the past, Democrats and Republicans—we all share the blame, perhaps, for having deficits. We can go into the causes of that. I don't mean to do that here. But the fact is, the United States of America has an obligation to pay its bills. The Republicans say, no, they don't want to pay the bills. Doesn't that sort of strike the average American as saying: Wait a minute. No, we have to honor our debts. We have always honored our debts in this country since the Revolutionary War. Is that not the fact?

Mr. SCHUMER. That is absolutely the fact. My colleague from Iowa is exactly correct.

The bottom line is, yes. What we are talking about with the debt ceiling is debts we have already incurred. No American family has the luxury, once they sign up for a mortgage, to tell the bank: Well, I am not going to pay you unless you do A, B, and C. No American family has the luxury of telling the credit card company: Hey, unless you buy me a year's supply of groceries, I am not going to pay my credit card debt.

Once you incur the debt, you have an obligation to pay. That is one of the foundations of American life. It has been that foundation since Alexander Hamilton argued with Thomas Jefferson, and it has served our country well.

The awful example that it would set if America, this great land, this Federal Government said: Well, I am not going to pay the debt, I am not going to pay the debt unless A, B, C, D is done—what kind of example does that send to American families, to American young people? It is the opposite, frankly, of the conservative philosophy—part of which I agree with in this regard—that you pay your bills, that you pay your debts. If you don't, there is a consequence.

So it is just amazing. This is the first time, I believe—check the history books—in American history where a large group in either House of this Congress has made it a campaign not to pay the debt unless they get their way on certain other issues, whatever they be. If every one of us did that, this country would be paralyzed. We wouldn't be able to do a thing. It is leading down a road that nobody should want to travel.

Mr. HARKIN. I would like to ask one more question and then I would yield.

Isn't it true that we—I would say the Senator from New York has been a leader in this and so many others here. We want to, first of all, pay our bills, but then we want to get our deficit under control and reduce our debt. To that end, on the Democratic side, I would say we have tried to propose a balanced approach, I ask my friend from New York, who has been a leader in this area of both cutting spending and also raising revenue so that we are kind of all in this together.

We are asking everyone. We are not willing just to cut the deficit on the backs of the poor or people who are out of work, the elderly on Medicare. We are saying everybody has to take a little bit. But we are also going to ask some sacrifice from those who have much in our society; that we want to raise some revenue from those who have benefited in the last 10, 15 years so much and have gotten so much wealth in our society. We are asking for them also to share in this.

We have proposed that, have we not, I ask the Senator? And has it not been true that the Republican side has been unwilling to ask the richest people in our country to help us reduce the deficit? They will not agree to any revenues. I ask my friend from New York, is that not the case?

Mr. SCHUMER. Again, my colleague from Iowa is on the money.

There needs to be balance. The President has stressed this. I think everyone on our side has stressed this. We do have a serious deficit problem and a serious debt problem. We have to deal with it. I think there is agreement in this Chamber, and I will give some credit to those on the other side of the aisle who made this their signature issue in influencing policy. But if we are going to have to do that and do belt tightening, shouldn't it be across the board?

Here is the fact of the matter: If you are a middle-class person, it is hard to pay for college. It is hard to pay for prescription drugs. It is hard to take that paycheck and make sure it deals with all the needs you and your spouse and your children have. Over the years, we have established ways that the government helps with student loans or with prescription drug programs or other kinds of help. It so happens that the wealthy among us, God bless them, don't need a student loan. They have plenty of money to pay for their children's college. They don't need a prescription drug plan. Even with the high expense of these prescription drugs, they can afford it. God bless them.

The way the wealthy benefit from the Tax Code, because they have a lot of money, is there are tax expenditures, tax breaks they get. They think they are important. I understand that. But they are no more important than helping young people go to college or helping our elderly, average folks pay

for their prescription drugs. If you are going to be across the board and you are going to say no revenues, you are going to have an unbalanced and unfair approach.

Let me say this: Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have tried to scare people. This has not happened just this year but for many years. They say: Democrats want to raise your taxes. That is not the case if you are an average middle-class American. In fact, the President has made it a watch word, and we have religiously concurred and followed, that no one who makes below \$250,000 a year should get any tax increase. That is 97 percent of all Americans.

So when we say we want revenues, we are talking about two things: We are talking about tax breaks, tax loopholes for the very wealthy, whether they be individuals or corporations, and we are talking about tax breaks for the wealthiest among us who, under the previous administration, got much greater breaks than anybody else. That is all we are talking about.

So I would ask my colleagues, I would ask the American people to understand that. Don't be scared when somebody gets up and says they want to raise taxes, that it means your taxes. It doesn't unless, God bless you, you have a whole lot of money or you are a corporation with a very nice little break that may not be as necessary as, say, helping middle-class students go to college or helping the elderly get lifesaving prescription drugs. So there has to be balance.

Now, I know my good colleague from Iowa, who has spent his lifetime creating government programs that help people, it pains him when he hears there has to be spending cuts in those programs. But I have never heard him say: If there are any spending cuts, I am not going to vote for deficit reduction. But the mirror image on this side says: I will not vote for any bill if it even has one plug nickel of revenues. That is not fair. That is not right. That is not balanced. It is totally against what just about every American believes, including a majority of Republicans. So that is why we are making this fight.

I will say one other thing in reference to my colleague's question. It is unfair when the commentators and the people say: Well, on the one hand, the Democrats aren't compromising and, on the other hand, the Republicans aren't compromising. I understand that we should always not just look at our own position and try to understand somebody else's position. That is the way it works around here; otherwise, we would have a dictator, a benevolent dictator. We do not. But when we are willing to give on spending cuts, serious spending cuts we do not like, and the other side says they are not willing to give a nickel on revenues, it is not

each side is failing to give. It is not that each side is compromising a value. It is not that each side has walked about the same distance to come up with a compromise. In this case—it is not true every time—my Republican friends have been unwilling to compromise one jot and we have been willing to do things very painful to us.

I say to my friends who comment and write about this: Be fair. Let the public know who is willing to move away from their hard-line position for the sake of compromise, for the sake of raising the debt ceiling, for the sake of getting our large debt and deficit down, and who has refused to budge. I think the answer is pretty obvious.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). The Senator from Colorado.

THE FAA REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. BENNET. I thank the Senator from Alaska for allowing me to jump ahead in the queue. I will have a word to say about the issues raised by the Senators from Iowa and New York at the end, but I am rising to talk about an issue that is actually separate. I have been out on the floor week after week talking about the debt limit and debt reduction negotiations, but today I want to talk about another absurd and needless Washington-inflicted, what I can only think of as a mistake, and that is the partial shutdown of the FAA. This shutdown—while buried in the headlines—is affecting Colorado jobs and the economy across the United States. Unable to walk and chew gum at the same time, Congress's inability to resolve this impasse has caused the furloughing of thousands of workers nationwide and put at risk several very important summer construction projects at our airports in Colorado.

Earlier this year, the Senate worked together to pass a long-term FAA reauthorization bill. This important bill, which I supported, will modernize our Nation's air transportation system and reduce frustrating and costly delays. The American people would be astonished to learn how antiquated our system is right now. But the House and Senate conference committee have been unable to finalize the bill.

Last Friday, Congress failed to pass a short-term authorization measure to buy negotiators more time. Now certain FAA functions have been shut down. This shutdown makes absolutely no sense to the people in Colorado who rely on this industry for their livelihoods, their businesses, and travel.

I know the same is true in Alaska. It is more than that. Colorado has a short summer construction season—probably not as short as Alaska's, but nevertheless short—and many airports set aside the summer months to complete much-

needed improvement projects, so this shutdown has come at the worst time for them.

In Loveland-Fort Collins Airport in Colorado, they are very near cancelling a planned runway improvement project. Loveland-Fort Collins is a one-runway airport. Officials had already canceled summer flights to accommodate a \$7 million runway rebuilding project. Now they could be forced to shelve the project, which was bringing around 150 jobs to the area.

At Pueblo Memorial Airport—by the way, keep in mind this is about Washington's dysfunction. There are not big policy debates here. It is Washington turning its back on the rest of the country once again. At Pueblo Memorial Airport, officials have said they may be forced to delay a \$12 million runway rebuilding project.

At the Durango Airport, officials are concerned that an ongoing \$3 million apron rehabilitation project—which currently employs 30 Coloradans—will receive a stop-work order next week if Congress refuses to act.

At the Denver International Airport, one of the crown jewels in this country, officials are concerned that the shutdown will affect scheduled concrete and asphalt work on a runway and maintenance on passenger loading bridges.

These delays could affect the overall safety of Colorado airports and they are affecting jobs right now.

Nationwide, an estimated 3,500 FAA workers began to be furloughed this past Saturday; 27 of these workers are in Colorado. They were either sent home or forced to work without pay.

To his credit, Chairman ROCKEFELLER recently introduced legislation that would allow the FAA to continue to pay those workers during the shutdown. I have cosponsored the legislation. I hope the Senate considers doing it today, but we need to do more than that. We have been asked to do more than the bare minimum by our constituents. We have gotten to the point around here where just keeping the lights on somehow is a success. That is a pretty low bar. It is a low bar to Heather Hilgers of Englewood, CO. She is an engineer. Airports hire her to complete construction projects so they can meet FAA safety standards. She wrote to my office:

Next week, if there is no one to reimburse the contractor, the job has to stop. The stall is affecting engineering contracts. The visible impact would be the construction contractors' jobs.

Andrew Vogt of Denver, CO, is also an engineer. He wrote:

It's a frustrating experience that this whole industry has gone through. We are hoping a long-term solution can be achieved in short order.

As a professional engineer, certified construction manager for airport improvement projects, there is literally no work to do this year. . . . Put me back to work.

Jeff Campbell, also of Engelwood, CO—these are not government employees, by the way. We are talking about private-sector employees whose jobs and expectations and salaries and plans for their families are being put on hold by the games that are being played here in Washington.

Jeff Campbell, also of Engelwood, CO, is an aviation engineer who is involved with five projects that are being affected by the shutdown. One is the failing runway at Fort Collins-Loveland. He said 150 people, expecting to begin work next week, are about to be put on hold and the project will have to be rebid for the third time.

A lot of people in Congress talk about putting people back to work. They talk about fiscal responsibility. But this delay is costing thousands of jobs and an estimated \$30 million a day in lost revenue. If this shutdown continues, these losses could dwarf the entire yearly budget of the EAS Program, which some claim is holding up the bill. Congress must not allow the debate over our debt limit or deficit to prevent action on a short-term FAA extension. Such inaction only proves once again to the American people how broken this place is.

It would be a terrible shame for Members of Congress to resolve this debt debate, adjourn, and board their planes home for recess without resolving this issue. What a slap in the face to people all across this country. On behalf of our constituents who make a much more forceful case than I ever could, I implore my colleagues and Members of the House to resolve this impasse and reauthorize FAA now.

THE DEBT LIMIT

With the indulgence of the Senator from Alaska, I want to take the opportunity to say a word or two about this debt limit discussion we are having right now. We face enormous challenges in our country right now. Our economy is almost producing what it was producing before we went into this terrible recession, but we have 14 million people who are unemployed. The great productive American economy has figured out how to produce what it was producing before with fewer people. But we have not figured out how to put people back to work. My own view is that we need to look hard at our Tax Code, our regulatory code, and other things to make sure we are inspiring innovation and job growth here in the United States and we are not just shipping it overseas and saying it is too bad for everybody who is here.

We are at the end of a decade when median family income has declined for the first time in our country's history. It never happened before. The cost of health care has gone up. The cost of higher education has gone up. It is harder and harder for the middle class in this country to survive. If you are a child living in poverty in the United

States, your chances of getting a college education are 9 in 100 in the 21st century in the greatest country in the world.

There are countries all over this globe that sense weakness, that are trying to out-compete us, trying to out-educate us, trying to out-invest in their infrastructure while we play foolish political games. They are not waiting for permission from us to out-compete us.

One of the single greatest assets this country has had since almost its founding has been our bulletproof credit rating. It has been the fortress that is our full faith and credit of the United States. Financial transactions all over the globe, spanning decades, centuries, have been financed based on the strength of our credit, the full faith and credit of the United States, and generation after generation of politicians has done everything they could to protect it, as any mayor in my State, as any superintendent of schools in my State, would do anything to make sure they protected the credit rating of their city or of their school district.

Now we face, for the first time in our country's history, a threat of downgrade, a threat that our interest rates would spike. That is not a political observation; that is coming from the credit rating agencies. They are not politicians. What the math tells us is that every 1-percent increase in our cost of borrowing adds \$1.3 trillion to our debt over the next 10 years, making the problems we face today even harder to solve.

The President knows I have supported for a long time a comprehensive approach, one that would actually make a meaningful difference to our debt and to our deficit, and I will continue to fight for it, as will, I know, the Senator from Alaska. But it is time for Washington to move past these political games and reassure our capital markets that we are not going to be the first generation of Senators to blow up our credit rating over politics, to reduce the full faith and credit of the United States to rubble—for politics. I don't want to be somebody who, 30 years from now or 40 years from now where somebody comes and says: Hey, we detect you were once in the Senate, you were 1 of 100 people here when we compromised one of the greatest assets this country has.

I implore the leadership of both parties, both here and in the House, to work this out. Then let's get on with the tough discussion we have to have about our debt and deficit.

Mr. President, I thank again the Senator from Alaska for allowing me to speak ahead of him, and also for his leadership throughout this entire debate. He, like a number of us, has been working hard with Members across the aisle to try to get a bipartisan solution

that is balanced and that makes sense heading toward the future. I thank him for his leadership.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, my friend and colleague from Colorado is always so passionate on the floor when it comes to the issues pertinent not only to his State and his country. He has laid out such a logical case on the debt of this Nation and why we need to deal with it. I will address the debt also.

But I came down here, like the Senator from Colorado, to talk about the FAA reauthorization bill. I was not planning to come down. I was in my office. As Senators, we have lots of meetings, events, activities and photo ops—meet and greets, they call them. People come in and say hello and chit-chat take a few photographs with you. They are residents from your State.

I was sitting there and having a great conversation with young people, four of them from Girls and Boys Nation here from the American Legion Auxiliary: Clara Farley, from Kodiak, Joseph Mueller from Healy, Derick Hanna from Palmer, and Marissa Torgerson from Anchorage. Then there was another young woman who was there, a young leadership student, Jocelyn Cayce from Juneau.

You know, to have a "photo op" is what they call them. We shake hands and take some photos. It was interesting having this conversation. The first question they asked me was what was going to happen with the debt of this Nation. Before I elaborate on my thoughts and what I told them, I, first would like to talk about the FAA extension because they are both related. The FAA bill and what is going on with the debt is all related. It is related because of the House majority's inability to function and their inability to do their work.

The FAA is a great example. I know the Senator from Colorado mentioned that the conference committee has not brought out a bill. What is amazing about this is the Senate appointed their conferees in April. For those who are watching, the way this works is the House passes a bill and the Senate passes a bill. They are not always exactly the same, so they go to a joint conference committee made up of Members from the House and Members from the Senate—Democrats and Republicans—and they work out a compromise. The Senate appointed their Members to the conference committee in April. The House has not appointed anybody.

The battle we are in is because of one person. There is one person who has decided that 4,000 people should be furloughed—about 80 in Alaska—to stop projects that are critical to the safety of air transportation. I can tell you

there is no other State that depends on air transportation like Alaska, with 82 percent of our communities not able to be accessed by road, they are predominantly accessed by air. For one person in the House to decide he wants to play politics with aviation safety because he doesn't like something—oddly enough, the items he wanted to eliminate are from States that are represented by Democrats and chairmen of committees. It is unbelievable.

I did not come here 2½ half years ago to play those games. I came here to do the work the people of Alaska sent me to do. Part of that work was to make sure the Federal Aviation Administration actually has a reauthorization they can operate under because they haven't had it since 2007. I was elected in 2008. There have been 20 short term extensions of the FAA's authority while the House and Senate try to pass legislation and work out the differences. The Senate did pass a bill. We did our work. We did it, and we did it with a lot of debate.

I sit on the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee with jurisdiction over the FAA. Senator ROCKEFELLER and Senator HUTCHISON, Democrat and Republican, worked in a bipartisan manner with all the members. The Senate passed our FAA bill. The House passed theirs, and now we are waiting for the House to appoint conferees. We are waiting for the House to do something. Not one person. That is not how this system should work. They need to appoint conferees so we can sit down and resolve these final minor issues. Instead the chairman in the House decides he knows best.

Here is what happens: Yes, 4,000 FAA employees get furloughed all across this country. These are people who have mortgage payments to make and kids planning to go to college this fall, or maybe they are the only breadwinner in their homes—but 4,000 people are furloughed.

There are 79 FAA employees in Alaska who have been furloughed. Compound that with the next piece of the equation. Part of the FAA reauthorization bill is to invest in our aviation infrastructure. I think I will hit 100,000-plus miles this year, maybe more, 125,000 miles flying back and forth from Washington to my home State, visiting communities all across my State. I pay a small fee like everyone who flies does. We pay for our airline tickets and a portion goes to the FAA, who then invests this money into making our runways and our air traffic facilities safer. It is the people who fly who pay for our aviation system, and their money goes to the FAA to pay for the improvements that we use to make sure we fly safely. It is not complicated. Yet what is happening because the FAA doesn't have the authority to collect this fee, is the air-

lines and passengers are getting a tax holiday. That fee is important. I will get back to that fee and what has happened with that money.

First, without that money, we cannot do airport construction projects. It is all part of the system. In Alaska it is a pretty important piece.

In Bethel, a project now has a stop-work order issued by the FAA because they cannot complete the project without an extension. As my friend from Colorado mentioned, Colorado has a short construction season, and we have a very short construction season in Bethel, Alaska. We are trying to build a project that improves the approach lights to make it safer for people to land at the Bethel Airport. That project has been stopped. There is no other access to Bethel except by air. Bethel is 400 miles from Anchorage, the largest city in the State, by air. We cannot drive to Bethel. That project has stopped because the House hasn't passed a clean FAA extension.

Another project makes seismic improvements to the air traffic control tower in Anchorage. People say it is just a tower, what does it matter? The tower is old. It needs improvements. It is not only important for Alaska and the people who would work on the project, it is important for this country. We are the third busiest air cargo airport—in the sense of cargo throughput—in the world. We move products that are produced in this country and around the world through Anchorage. If you are shipping something to Europe or Asia and you are west of the Mississippi, the odds are you are coming through Anchorage's international airport.

Almost 700 wide-body jets fly through Anchorage every single week carrying cargo. It is the third busiest airport in terms of cargo throughput in the world. It is an economic engine. It is a job creator. I remember almost 25 years ago when the idea came from a couple of companies, FedEx and UPS. They said: We will look at Anchorage as our international hub because of its location. Today it is a robust facility and many other airlines cargo carriers use our airport facilities. It is huge.

Instead of the House doing their job and appointing conferees to resolve this issue, one person in the House decided he wanted to play politics over the life-safety of our air traffic system, the Federal aviation system, and now that project is not happening. Not only are the 79 FAA employees furloughed in Alaska, but projects in Bethel and Anchorage are not moving forward. So that means the private contractors—it is not government employees who make these improvements and build lighting systems or remodel the tower. It is private contractors who employ people who then pay mortgages and buy cars and spend money in the economy and help our economy move for-

ward. This is clearly a job-killing action. That is what it is. They will say some other reasons, but that is what it is doing. It is killing jobs, and it is hurting America.

Again, it costs more because when the construction season in Bethel is over in the next month or month and a half, we don't get to come back in November and say we are going to finish this project. We can't. The weather conditions don't allow it.

What will happen is, next year the costs will go up because the private contractor will have to remobilize—I hear a lot from folks on the other side over there in the House talk about the private sector. I am from the private sector. I don't know how many of those guys worked in the private sector, but I have. That is where I made my living, and that is how my wife makes her living, from the private sector. They spout off about how they want to support the private sector. Well, pass the FAA reauthorization legislation that the private sector supports and wants moved forward for the creation of more jobs and the opportunity to make our air safer.

Again, it is astounding to me how dysfunctional the House majority is and how they are unable to do their work. They complained a lot earlier this year that the Senate doesn't do their job, and we are not doing our work. We are doing our work. We passed the Military Construction-VA bill. We passed the FAA bill. We passed several things. They go over there and they die. They go over there, and they have one person who decides they know best.

A lot of those guys ran in 2010 on the effort to open government, 72 hours to review bills, which is great. I have not seen it. They had some Rules Committee meeting earlier last night or whatever late night they did it to set the rules on what they are going to vote on in less than 12 or 13 hours. I am sure that has been notified to a lot of people. It is amazing they ran on the fact that they want to open government, the system is broken, and then it is so dysfunctional over there.

The FAA bill, as I mentioned, these airlines collect fees that then go to the FAA to make sure all this happens. It is part of the fee we pay to travel. Now the FAA is not authorized to collect it, but what happened? Several of these airlines jacked up their fees to collect the money for their own. There is \$200 million a week coming from consumers into the pockets of these airlines for their profit, not to improve the safety of the airports, which is what the money is supposed to be designed for. I will say Alaska Airlines—and I am proud to say Alaska Airlines, Hawaiian Airlines, and Spirit Airlines are three examples of companies that did not do that. They did not jack up the price to the consumer for their own bottom

line. Also, remembering that those fees are for the purpose of improving airports and not improving the corporate profits or the CEO's million-dollar-plus checks they get at the end of the year for the work they do.

The problem is—something like this happened many years ago—we are not going to be able to get those resources back to make sure these airports are safer.

I, of course, implore the airlines to do one of two things: Lower those fares they jacked up or put that money aside and work with Congress to make sure that money goes into the fund to ensure that we improve these airports. I challenge every one of those airlines that have done that.

As a consumer who is watching this issue, you should be appalled that \$200 million a week that you thought was going to improve the airports you fly through, it is not. It is going into the pockets for profit for some of these companies. Again, I point out Alaska Airlines, Hawaiian Airlines, Spirit Airlines are a few of the only major airlines that are not doing that. I commend them for that. I commend them for doing the right thing by the consumer.

I was originally coming down and going to talk—as I got inspired by the students sitting there—about the budget, but then I wanted to talk about the FAA. I want to get back to the budget.

As I mentioned, these young people came to my office and asked the first question: What are we going to do about the debt? Great. It is the question of the day. What are we going to do? We can debate how we got here. Everyone got us here: Democrats, Republicans, current, past, everybody. We have a problem. We have a challenge. I know the Presiding Officer is new. You came here to solve problems, create solutions, not just play the politics and push it off for another day, but actually do some things. That is why people sent me here, and I know that is why they sent you here: to do the job the American people expect us to do—I know Alaskans expect me to do.

There is no question in my mind why we are here today. It is because, again, the House majority, I will point out, cannot do their job. They are unable to do their job. They are not dealing with reality.

Do I want to add more debt to the Nation? No. No one does. As my colleague from Colorado earlier said—and I know the Presiding Officer—we have been working on ideas. One thing that is unique about the Senate is there is an effort here—it may not be as visible as the press would like to portray because they would like to see the battles, that is better press. There is a lot of bipartisan discussion going on. The Gang of 6, you can argue if that is good or bad, but the point is three Republicans, three Democrats sat down for

months. In the Budget Committee, we sat down for months. We came up with proposals. We are talking to Republicans. Republicans are talking to Democrats. We are looking for solutions. We are trying to weed through this. The Senate is trying to do this. We are trying to solve this problem and create a solution that moves us forward. But there are several in the House majority over there who believe to drive off a cliff is good policy. I don't know, I don't think that is good policy. I would rather drive on the road, going somewhere. That is what we are trying to do over the next few days.

As I think of the differences—and people say: Well, why don't you just take that deal or this deal? Here is the difference. They are fundamental. They are not complicated. The deal the leader, Speaker BOEHNER, has in the House is about \$900 billion in reductions. It is short term. It has a joint committee to look to the long term. What is the Reid proposal? The Reid proposal, as it is now scored by CBO—the Congressional Budget Office, for those who are watching and wondering what all these things mean—is \$2.2-plus trillion in reductions, almost 2½ times more than the House version, and it is long term. Here is why that is important. I am not voting for anything short term. Let me make that very clear to the Presiding Officer and others who might be watching. If we want to disrupt and continue to disrupt this economy, keep doing these shenanigans and keep doing these 2-, 3-, 4-month deals, that is disastrous to this economy.

I have heard and talked to business leader after business leader, from associations, to individuals, to people back in my home State, and they say over and over: Don't do short term. Whatever you decide, give us certainty—certainty.

The unique thing about the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House: Only we would describe long term as 16, 18 months because that is all we can do around here. But short term, as one can imagine, is 3, 4 months. That would be more disruptive to this economy than anything we can imagine because all we do as we shift it—and I can describe this because I understand this business. I have been in it. My wife is in it. Here is what happens. We will have this same debate in November, probably. Here is what happens in November. This is the biggest time for people who are buying. For retailers, this is the most important time—actually, back to school a little bit, but November through December is when people make their expenditures and are buying things, consuming, and spending money in our economy. But people always like to blame Democrats: It is all about government. I come from the private sector. As I said earlier, that is where I made my living. It is an important part of our economy.

So here we are going to debate, create more uncertainty at the most important time, when consumers are going to try to judge what to do. What do they do? Do they spend a little bit extra for a gift for their friend? Do they go on that trip they were planning? Do they make that extra expenditure? Yet we will have the same debate. So long term is important—again, 16, 18 months, but that is better than the short-term plan.

No businessperson has come to me—and I challenge any businessperson: Pick up the phone. Call me. Let me know. Tell me you want a short term, and I will be happy to come down here to the floor and say that. I will mention your company name. I will tell people: This company is interested in short term. I would be happy to do that. I am not going to get those calls because they know that is not the way to run a business, that is not the way to run a household, and that sure as heck should not be the way we run our government.

So there is a clear difference. For all of those people who—I get a lot of pro and con on this issue, calling my office, sending me e-mails—for all of those people who say: Hey, just vote for the Boehner thing, I will tell them why I will not. I want people to understand clearly my position. It is not about, he is a Republican, I am a Democrat. That is irrelevant. It is short term. It is fewer spending reductions. It keeps us in turmoil. It doesn't move us forward. It is all about shenanigans and game-playing and politics. That is what he is presenting.

Now, maybe the Reid proposal isn't perfect. I know there are Republicans who have some ideas here in the Senate who want to modify it. Great. But it is long term, it has more significant reductions, and it moves us down a path in the right direction. It is not perfect, but I can tell my colleagues that the idea they have over there will not work for this economy.

I have probably spoken too long, but those kids from Juneau and Healy and Anchorage and Kodiak had a great question. When kids are asking that question and they say to me—and I give them the same exact presentation. I say: Here are the differences. I give them the papers and say: Here, you look at it. And they say to me: Why aren't we doing a long term, because these kids are now at an age where they are thinking about their future. They are not thinking about the next weekend; they are thinking about their future. They have a position we could learn a lot from around this place, I will tell my colleagues they made it very clear to me: Whatever you do, make it long term, because they are thinking about their future and where they want to be. It is an incredible commentary when we have kids who have more wherewithal in the sense of

their knowledge of what should be done in the body we sit in today. It should wake us up.

The last thing I will note is this. I think about what my colleague from Colorado said about the value of our position in this world when it comes to ensuring that people understand America will stand behind everything we do—the debt we do, the positions we take. As a matter of fact, it was so important, it was written into the Constitution that we should never question the ability to pay our bills.

For those on the other side who like to spout off, and they pull out of their pocket the little portable Constitution—all of us get those; we all have those—and they cite the Constitution, sometimes they forget sections of it. I hope we don't forget this section. We should never be questioned in regard to our debt. We pay our bills. We stand behind what we do. That is what makes our country different from any country in this world.

So I challenge them to get their job done, maybe on the FAA bill, maybe on this issue involving the debt, but the House needs to get their act together—the majority. Let me make that clear. The majority over there needs to get their job done, quit killing things over there, from jobs to legislation, and focus on the work people sent them here—especially the group of 2010—but who sent me here and sent the Presiding Officer here—we were sent here to do a job.

It is outrageous to me that we cannot move forward when it is so simple in the sense of a plan that gets us on a path that is long term and has better spending reductions. Maybe it is too logical. Maybe that is the problem around here: If it is too simple, too logical, it doesn't work. It has to be complicated with a lot of gamesmanship is the only way it works. I want to prove that wrong.

I thank the Chair for allowing me the time to say a few words. Hopefully, the people who are watching us and listening will hear the real debate and cut through all the moment-in-time politicizing. Maybe, hopefully, they will hear those five kids whom I heard and will hear their concerns and what their position is.

So, again, I thank the Chair for the time, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, are we in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are in morning business.

TRIBUTE TO BERT BLYLEVEN

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to former Minnesota Twins pitcher Bert Blyleven, who this week received his sport's highest honor when he was inducted

into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame.

To Bert, I offer hearty and well-deserved congratulations.

To the rest of the baseball world, I ask the question: What took so long? In the 14 years since he first became eligible for the Hall of Fame, we in Minnesota all assumed that, with his rare talent and Hall of Fame numbers, Bert was a shoo-in, and for many of those 14 years he was considered the best player never to have been inducted. I am proud to say as a Minnesotan and a lifelong Twins fan that this year Bert Blyleven was officially voted into the Hall of Fame.

People in Minnesota all know Bert belongs on the distinguished list of Minnesota Twins already in the Hall of Fame, including Harmon Killebrew, Rod Carew, and Kirby Puckett, as well as two other baseball greats who grew up in St. Paul, MN, and later played for the Twins and were inducted into the Hall of Fame: Paul Molitor and Dave Winfield. Each of them had Hall of Fame careers, and now Bert has finally joined them.

Bert pitched 22 seasons in the Major Leagues, 11 of them for the Twins, but he also took his talents to Texas, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and California. During his career, he won 287 games, he struck out an amazing 3,701 batters, and is fifth on the alltime career strikeout list, with more career strikeouts than pitching greats Tom Seaver, Walter Johnson, Bob Gibson, Greg Maddux, Cy Young, or even his boyhood idol, Sandy Koufax. He pitched 60 shutouts and led the league in shutouts three times. He had a career earned run average of just 3.31. He pitched 242 complete games, something that would be unheard of today. He played on two world championship teams: in Minnesota, with the 1987 Twins and in Pittsburgh. For Twins fans, we all know Bert was a major part of that 1987 Twins world championship team which we all revere for finally bringing a world championship to our State. And we won again in 1991.

Bert mentioned in his acceptance speech on Sunday that he is the first Hall of Famer born in Holland. He moved to California as a child and became interested in baseball by watching Sandy Koufax pitch for the Dodgers. His father Joe, also a baseball fan, built him a pitcher's mound in the backyard, where he developed one of the best curveballs in baseball history. I would like to think if my dad had built me—no, I don't think so.

Bert finished his playing career in 1992. In 1996, he rejoined the Twins in the broadcast booth, where for many years he and Dick Bremer have become familiar voices to Twins fans all over the upper Midwest. I personally love nothing more than watching a Twins game on TV and listening to Dick and Bert, who, in my humble opinion, are

an authoritative and amazingly entertaining broadcast team.

During broadcasts, Bert has created a phenomenon using his telestrator to circle Twins fans who, whether they are in the Target Field or on the road, are holding up signs that catch Bert's interest, and then he will circle them. There is no higher honor for a Twins fan than to be circled by Bert, and every game is packed with fans holding signs that simply say "Circle Me, Bert."

It was great to see that Bert was joined at Sunday's induction ceremony by his wife Gayle, their children, Bert's siblings, and his mother Jenny. During his speech, Bert spoke about his father Joe, who died in 2004 of Parkinson's disease, saying, "I know he is up there right now looking down."

In memory of his father, Bert and his wife Gayle started the "Circle Me, Bert" Web site to raise research money for the National Parkinson Foundation Minnesota. That says volumes about Bert Blyleven. Bert is known in Minnesota for his dedication to other charities and to the community there.

So, once again, Bert, as a lifelong Twins fan, thank you and congratulations. After 14 years of waiting, you are hereby "circled" by the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame, where generations of fans from Minnesota and around the country and around the world will know of your career and of your amazing contributions to the game of baseball and to the community of Minnesota.

Thank you very much. I yield the floor and maybe also put in a word for Tony Oliva and also suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator may speak for up to 15 minutes.

NATIONAL DEBT

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I think it is obvious to the world around us that the atmosphere here is hardly one of comfort or satisfaction. The public does not see the agony of the debate that is taking place, as we watch how dysfunctional the discussion about the national debt has been.

We feel the threat to America's world financial leadership that is lurking around here, and it is not very satisfying to those people whose homes are close to foreclosure or the people who

need to be assured that health care is going to be there for them or that their child who can learn can get an education without mortgaging their future or cannot even get a mortgage on that.

So we look around and we watch and we listen and we see that the Republicans in the House and the Republicans in the Senate are in a search for political gain regardless of the cost to our society and our Nation.

I do not make this statement casually. But after months of watching and listening to the targeted goal of politics over the pain that could follow a default, no other conclusion may be drawn. We want to consider the evidence. By way of example, Vice President BIDEN convened a bipartisan working group to find solutions to get the national debt problem over with, get it resolved, and let us go on to our normal and needed debate and business. After that, Republicans walked out. Walked out.

Next, President Obama offered Republicans what he called a “grand deal” that would reduce the deficit by \$4 trillion. Republicans ran away. Now our majority leader, HARRY REID, has proposed a plan that includes more than \$2 trillion in spending cuts, \$1 in cuts for every dollar the debt limit is increased—and not even insisting on a dollar of revenues, which has been suggested several times.

But there is no way of getting through the obstinacy on the other side. Republicans turn their back time after time. Democrats in this Senate and in the White House have offered the Republicans compromise after compromise. But they do not see their target. Their target is to do damage to the Obama administration so that it hurts sufficiently to discount the progress that has been made for our society under President Obama.

Time and time again the Republicans have changed their demands to find reasons to say no. Are we asking the Republicans to do something radical, something that has never been done before? That is certainly not the case. Over the past half century, the debt ceiling has been raised 75 times, almost two-thirds of those occasions under Republican Presidents. In fact, the debt ceiling was increased 18 times under President Reagan, and 7 times under President George W. Bush.

Our country has never defaulted. So the question that must be raised is: What is different about today? Why, at a time when we already face a real jobs crisis in this country, would Republicans plan for another economic crisis? Why would they do that? Will destroying the economy help Republicans win seats next year when people across our country are already expressing their dissatisfaction with the deadlock they see being displayed?

We heard the minority leader say his No. 1 priority is stopping the President

from winning another term. What a goal that is. He is our President, elected by the people of the country. He has a term of 4 years and will be up for reelection. We hope and we pray that he continues to be the President of our country. What good does it do to target the system?

Make known what it is they stand for. So far we have seen that they stand for nothing that is helpful to the average American. So what we need is a chance to have an honest discussion. Insecurity reigns as people grow more and more conscious about their inability to afford the basics of life, jobs, health care, education. They see prices being raised around them as their purchasing power shrinks. Look at the price of gasoline. You see a perfect example of what is happening. We had one Republican Presidential candidate who was asked: “Does it strike you that as the unemployment rate goes up your chances of winning office also go up?”

Do you know what her answer was? She said, “I hope so.” Hope so. What an outrageous thing to say from the halls of government, the high halls of government. I hope so. I hope that unemployment goes up, says she, so she might have a chance to win office. How cruel that statement is.

Make no mistake, if the United States Treasury runs out of cash next week, the principal burden will fall on middle-class families. But the effects on our total economy will be devastating as well. We may not be able to send out Social Security checks to seniors, benefit checks to veterans, the people who serve the country. Let's stop paying them? Or paychecks to the men and women who now bear our country's uniform in Afghanistan and Iraq. Sorry, we cannot pay you. Is that what we are going to say?

Interest rates could rise almost immediately, greatly increasing the cost of mortgages, car loans, student loans, credit cards, you name it. If middle-class Americans think their 401(k) plan suffered during the Wall Street crisis a few years ago, imagine what will happen to the markets if the U.S. Government cannot pay its bills, or redeem bonds that are ordinarily turned in for cash.

A default will lead to increased job losses at a time when we are still emerging from a recession and 14 million people are now out of work. And those are the relatively short-term impacts. A default crisis will damage our reputation, our credit standing around the world. It will call into question America's credibility, stability, financial leadership. It will make our bonds and our currency less attractive to investors, and we may never recover the exalted status of our financial instrument.

But in response to this looming crisis, our friends, the Republicans, are

digging their trenches deeper and offering little but circuitous routes to avoid a more serious plan to resolve this situation. Their latest trick is to propose a short-term debt limit. That increase will leave us in the exact same position 6 months from now so they will have another opportunity to make political mischief.

Imagine. Imagine. All types of tricks, all kinds of devices to try and cut short something that can be dealt with and left behind. Let's continue trying to solve the serious problems that our country has.

The Boehner plan poses the same grave risk to our economy as default. CNN reported that the Boehner plan would probably still lead to a downgrade of the United States credit rating. Christian Cooper, head of U.S. dollar derivatives trading at Jefferies and Company, said—he is an authority:

From the markets' point of view, a two-stage plan is a non-starter. . . . There is significant risk of a downgrade with a deal that ties further cuts to another vote only a few months down the road.

It is time for the Republicans to remember that all of our citizens are entitled to be heard, not just the wealthy ones, not just the millionaires, the billionaires, the tea partiers and the powerful, because they have positions that get attention when they make phone calls here.

Inherent in our responsibilities is our obligation to preserve our strength as a democratic society. It is time to get serious. No more sleight of hand. Honest discourse is essential. The other day we were reminded—I describe my own reaction. Shock. They had a picture of lovely looking young people walking away from daddy's airplane that they had—whether it is a charter or owned I do not know—to go to camp. I did well in business. I ran a big company. I got there because I got the GI bill to help me. The GI bill helped me start a company with two other fellows that now has 45,000 employees—45,000 jobs—because I was able to get an education under the GI bill. It was fantastic. So when I see what is being prized as a front-page picture in the New York Times of this child, looked like a lovely child walking to camp from daddy's airplane—and to me, I do not object to that. If they make their money the legal, responsible way, they can spend it any way they want. But why in the devil would they not want to contribute something to the underpinnings of this country? I do not understand it. Why is there resistance from those who have made so much that they can have yachts and airplanes and this and that? It is said sometimes here class warfare is what we are witnessing. Class warfare.

The warfare comes from the top down, because average citizens, those who work for a living, those whose jobs right now are often insecure, those who

watch their 401(k), their precious savings maybe dwindling as a result of a negative change in the marketplace—saying to young people and their families, sons and daughters who have the capacity to learn: I wish that I could afford—says dad or mom—to send you to the right kind of a school that your ability suggests you can handle, but we cannot afford it—we do a disservice to that family. We do a disservice to country when those things happen. So I do not understand why those who have so much, made not by their own ingenuity exclusively but made by the fact that we have a foundation in this society of people who want to go to work every day and do the right thing. That is what holds up this facility of ours. I am not talking about the building, I am talking about the facility this country has.

You cannot build a house from the ceiling down, from the chimney down, and you cannot build a society from the top down. You need the underpinnings. You need those people who bring their skills daily to work and hold out hope for their children to succeed. That is what we need. We need a regeneration of the spirit in this country of ours.

But it is not going to happen when the Republicans' dominant view is: No, let's get Obama. That is what we have to do. Foul play. It is almost like desertion. I wore the country's uniform proudly, and that is what we are talking about, loyalty to country. It says we need everybody to participate. We are not going to get it with the foul schemes that are being proposed.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANDERS.) The clerk will call the roll. The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I am about to yield the floor to my distinguished senior Senator JACK REED. I ask unanimous consent at the conclusion of his remarks I be granted recognition.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO GOVERNOR SUNDLUN

Mr. REED. Mr. President, Senator WHITEHOUSE and I have come to the floor today to pay tribute to Governor Bruce Sundlun. He passed away last Thursday. He was an extraordinary gentleman.

I think it is particularly appropriate that my colleague is here along with me because he was the director of policy for Governor Sundlun, and many of

the achievements in the Sundlun administration were directly attributed to Senator WHITEHOUSE's extraordinary efforts.

Today, I am here, first, as a Rhode Islander to say on behalf of the people of my State how much we appreciate the leadership, vision, and determination of Governor Bruce Sundlun. He was elected in the middle of the worst financial crisis in the history of our State since the Great Depression—a collapse of the private credit union system. He got through that crisis as only he could. Then he went on to reconstruct our airport, to reform our workers' compensation system, and to make lasting contributions to the people of Rhode Island.

So I come to salute an extraordinary Governor. I also come as a colleague in government. When Governor Sundlun was elected to the statehouse in 1990, I was elected to my first term in the Congress. I was there to observe his extraordinary intellect, determination, skill, and his relentless commitment to doing his best to help the people of Rhode Island. I saw it firsthand.

Truly, without Bruce's leadership, we would not have weathered the financial crisis of 1991 in Rhode Island. His extraordinary grasp of the financial details, his unwavering determination to do the right thing, not the popular thing, and his ability to withstand withering criticism from all quarters resulted not only in the restitution of the savings of thousands of Rhode Islanders, but essentially the repayment of the moneys that had to be borrowed to take care of the crisis. It was extraordinary work. Frankly, I think everybody in Rhode Island rapidly conceded that only Bruce Sundlun could have done it.

I also come here, like Bruce, as a veteran of our Armed Forces, but unlike Bruce, who was a combat veteran. Bruce joined the U.S. Army and qualified as a pilot in the Air Corps in World War II. He was brave. He was tough. He led his crew with great distinction on numerous bombing raids over occupied Europe. In one of those raids, he was shot down. Of course, he had the presence of mind to keep the aircraft as steady as he could to let crewmen escape.

Finally, at the last moment, he himself parachuted to Earth. He was behind enemy lines without any weapons except his determination, his courage, and his determination, again, not only to survive but to return to the fight.

Through an amazing series of breathtaking episodes that read like a novel, Bruce would go from village to village and seek out the priests in the French village, or Belgian village. He would say in fluent French that he was an American flier and needed their help. He always received their help. He would be given assistance and would be hid for a while. He told me with his

great sardonic smile—that he would find unusual ways to get around. He would go into the village at market time when the ladies of the village parked their bicycles, and he would take one of them and pedal as fast as he could to the next village where he could find another bike. So he covered the route through occupied Europe, finally making his way into Switzerland. That was a remarkable bit of courage.

After the war Bruce continued to distinguish himself in business, and in so many ways. But one thing is that he left a legacy not just to the people of Rhode Island, not just a public record, but he was part of the “greatest generation” that left an indelible image on the soldiers, sailors, aviators, and marines who serve today, a fidelity to duty, of courage, and of determination to serve and sacrifice on behalf of your comrades and your country. That image continues to sustain our forces in the field and this great Nation.

To Governor Sundlun, to his family, as a Rhode Islander, I thank you. As a colleague in government, I thank you. As someone who was inspired by your service to this country, I thank you. May you rest in peace.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am very pleased to follow Rhode Island's distinguished senior Senator with remarks about our friend and our former Governor, Bruce Sundlun. As Governor, he served with some of our colleagues who are in the Senate today, including BEN NELSON, who was Governor of Nebraska, and TOM CARPER who was Governor of Delaware. They served with Bruce, and he was one of those irrepressible characters they remember very distinctly to this day.

Bruce Sundlun had a remarkable Rhode Island life. He was the son of a jewelry store owner, who was the son of an immigrant watchmaker. It turns out that he had real athletic talent. He was a track star, breaking record after record around Rhode Island. It was as a competitor in that era that he first felt the sting of discrimination over being Jewish, and that gave him a lasting characteristic to stick up for the underdog.

As I mentioned at his funeral service, he was the opposite of a fair-weather friend. He became a better friend the stormier the weather got around you.

He went on, with his great generation, to defend our country and fight for freedom around the globe in World War II. He was a pilot of a B-17, the Damn Yankee, at a time when the life expectancy for bomber crews over Europe was not very long. Unfortunately, his aircraft was shot down and crashed in Belgium. He was able to survive the crash, although, as the pilot, he was the last living person out. When he

went back to Belgium years later, people who remembered that day remembered being astonished at the parachute that appeared out of nowhere just above the ground, just before he hit, just in time to save him. But he was injured and hid in the manner of the purloined letter. He hid in plain sight as troops swept the area looking for the survivors of the bomber crash. He laid out in the middle of the field in a deep place in the plowed furrow where you could only see him if you got down at the end of the furrow and looked.

As the Nazi's were poking through the hay bales and prowling through the sheds and looking under whatever they could find, there he lay more or less in plain sight. But still, he was shot down on December 1, 1943. You can imagine how cold it was lying in that field in Belgium while the search went on around him for hours. For the rest of his life, he hated the cold. There was no weather that was too warm for him.

I remember when First Lady Hillary Clinton came to speak in Rhode Island when he was Governor, he was wearing this enormous black sheepskin coat—very thick and warm—as he prepared to step outside of the statehouse and go out on the stone deck looking out over downtown on a cold winter afternoon. Mrs. Clinton started needling him and saying how Jack Kennedy didn't need a coat and it was not really very fashionable and people would question how tough he was if he went out with this big coat on.

So he ended up taking off the coat. He went outside into the bitter cold, made the introduction of the First Lady, turned to welcome her to the podium, and out she came with a smile from ear to ear wearing his coat. He loved that kind of exchange with people. I think he immensely loved the Clintons. He was one of the first Governors—if not the first—to endorse President Clinton, and the Clintons never forgot it.

Bruce did not get to Switzerland until May 5, 1944. He spent 156 days as an American Jewish bomber pilot behind Nazi lines in Belgium and France. No greater testament to this man's resourcefulness and drive could be imagined than succeeding for that long in that circumstance.

When he came back from the war, he went to Harvard Law School and became an attorney at the Department of Justice. He was an assistant to a Rhode Islander who became Attorney General, J. Howard McGrath. He began a successful career in the law. It was also at a time when President Kennedy came to office representing that "greatest generation"—then a new generation—and he trusted Bruce Sundlun to run his inaugural parade, which was the kind of logistics feat that Governor Sundlun loved.

The fact that it snowed like crazy the night before didn't phase him a bit.

The entire parade went off on schedule and without incident, as planned, in very inclement weather because Bruce prepared so well in advance.

He was appointed to the board of COMSAT by President Kennedy. He was the longest serving director of COMSAT, a public-private partnership that helped open the skies to the space age. His business career was remarkable. He took a foundering airline, called Executive Jet, and turned it into the largest private and charter airline in the country. He took a department store in downtown urban Providence, at a time when New England cities were in decline, at a time when cities across the country were losing ground to the suburbs that were sprouting up around them—he took this dying business, I guess you would say, and he saw in that downtown department store a media empire. He went off and began buying radio stations and TV stations and created this remarkable company, the Outlet Corporation, as a media empire. He also turned it into a refuge from time to time.

In the blizzard of 1978, the State of Rhode Island was clobbered by snow. People were trapped downtown for hours and hours, in some cases days. He saw to it that the Outlet Company stayed open, that the cafeteria kept serving, and that the department store that sold clothing gave clothing to whoever needed it. The part of the store that sold bedding was spread all over the store so people could sleep on the bedding. He responded to a crisis better than anybody I know. It brought out his best characteristics, which were certainly necessary when he was elected Governor, because on the very first day of his administration, he was obliged to close more than 30 different lending institutions across Rhode Island, serving more than 300,000 of Rhode Island's 1 million population.

He went from being sworn in, to the receiving line where he greeted all his happy supporters and all the welcoming officials and the well-wishers who came from Rhode Island, and rolled immediately from that into a press conference in which he announced they had to close these institutions because the deposit insurance provider ended up having been crooked and had failed and they could not operate without deposit insurance. So they had to be closed. That was a heck of a way to start a governorship.

He also found out that he had inherited the biggest budget deficit the State had ever seen, and we could never find a State with a bigger percentage deficit than he inherited. The compensation system melted down, and every worker's compensation insurer said: I am leaving the State.

A lesser person might have failed under all that pressure. Not only did Bruce meet all of those exigencies of the moment, he also worked very hard

to set a better ethical tone and restructured our State government so that it would be lasting because most of those things went wrong because of failures in ethics in the Rhode Island State Government.

That was a pretty remarkable added accomplishment on top of solving all those underlying problems. He had confidence in Rhode Island and in America, and we were in a terrible recession. So he went to work and got things done. He built a new airport terminal, he got a new mall started that would be built, he built a new hotel that allowed for the convention center to go forward and so he built a new convention center. He changed the skyline of Providence. He moved one of our universities to a downtown campus. He understood that in times of economic distress, activity was good and positive activity that brought jobs was better still.

In his personal characteristics, he was a remarkable individual. He was relentless, determined, and decisive when issues were presented to him. With his staff, he was demanding and abrupt and terse. I asked him once why he didn't bother to say hello. When a person got a phone call from him, he just started talking at them, and when the conversation was over, he hung up without saying goodbye or any pleasantries. I said: Don't you think it would go a little further if you said hello and goodbye in your telephone conversations? He said: How much time do you think I would waste in my entire life? Add up all the times you have wasted saying hello and goodbye. Doesn't do anything that is productive. He had that kind of attitude. But he was bold and he was willing to take big leaps. I guess, back to his early days as a broad jumper, he was willing to take big, big leaps.

As a staff person, he was extraordinary to work for. I have told the story of opening day. A few of us were in on that news, but it had to be very closely held because it would have created a run on all those banks if word had leaked. So even many of his staff people had no idea this was going on until he announced it. So that was kind of a shocker and made for an interesting time to be a staff person.

On another occasion, he had a couple of raccoons on his property and they were bothering a den of baby foxes. He didn't want the baby foxes to be killed by the raccoons, so he took out a shotgun, went down to the end of his property and shot the two raccoons. He then climbed in the car with his State trooper and headed off to work and, of course, he described the exciting episode of his morning and the trooper said to him: Governor, don't you realize it is against the law to fire off a weapon in the city of Newport? In his customarily brusque and decisive way, he said: Well, take me to the courthouse.

A trial was going on in the Newport County Courthouse, but into the trial walks the Governor and he interrupts the trial and tells the judge: I would like to plead guilty. The judge, thankfully, said: I am not going to accept your plea, I am doing something else right now. Plus, you don't have the benefit of counsel. To which he tartly responded: I am as good a lawyer as there is in Rhode Island. The judge responded: Well, a lawyer who is representing himself has a fool for a client, and on your client's behalf, I tell you I will not accept that plea.

So there is the Governor's staff. The phone rings and the message is: Your boss is in court trying to plead guilty to a criminal offense. One can imagine how that lights up a staff's day. So down we went to help take care of that.

Another day saw the arrival of his daughter. When he was elected Governor, Sundlun had three sons—Tracy, Stuart, and Peter. It turned out there was also a daughter, and at age 16—in midterm—Kara arrived and was recognized as Bruce's daughter from a relationship he had years before. She was taken into the family and is now—and was to the end of his days—as beloved as any of his sons.

But that was an exciting day for staff members, when suddenly the boss turns up with a brandnew 16-year-old daughter nobody knew about before.

He had five wives, in addition to those four children. He led a rich, full, exciting, passionate life, and I miss him very much. He died on Thursday. He died very peacefully, with his family around him. He was 91 years old. I think he probably put about 151 years of living into those 91 years, and he left a family who loved him, a State he had served incredibly well, and staff members who had their lives changed by their exposure to this remarkable, hard-driving, affectionate, bold man.

We are in Washington, as I close, and we are in a situation in which one party is holding the economic future of the country hostage in order to force changes the American public doesn't want, wouldn't vote for, and wouldn't accept if they were consulted on them. But by virtue of having, in effect, a gun to the head of the economy, they want to force these things, such as killing off the Medicare Program.

Americans are wildly opposed to that in huge numbers, and when they found out that was in the House Republican budget, they rejected it by 4-to-1 margins. The response to that was to bring back something called cut, cap, and balance, which had hidden beneath the slogan an even worse cut to Medicare. They didn't learn their lesson the public didn't want this, so they insisted on doing even worse and doing it by holding the economy hostage.

That is the kind of thing Governor Sundlun would not accept. He was, first and foremost, a patriot. As hard

as he worked and as much as he challenged everyone around him, he always had the purpose of making America better, making America stronger, making Rhode Island better, making Rhode Island stronger, and building toward the future. He had incredible confidence. The notion of holding an economy hostage and threatening the well-being of people to force down their throats something they would not want would be completely alien to his patriotic character, and it makes me miss him a lot as we are trapped in this day.

The other party appears to be, in large part, acquiescing to this. Governor Sundlun's streak of willfulness and determination to do the right thing, I think, is missed on the other side of the aisle as much as his patriotism and desire to put the well-being of people first is missed on the first. So he was a man whose life and accomplishments made a great difference in Rhode Island and have great relevance and resonance as we stand here today.

As I said, I miss him very much. He was very important to me, and I wish we had his forceful, patriotic, buoyant, and determined spirit with us today.

Mr. President, I mentioned in my remarks the speech I gave on behalf of Governor Sundlun, which was delivered at his funeral service. I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD those remarks.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

EULOGY FOR GOVERNOR BRUCE SUNDLUN AS DELIVERED BY U.S. SENATOR SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, SUNDAY, JULY 24, 2011

What a man. What a life.

Bruce Sundlun's accomplishments—as a record-breaking athlete, as a resourceful war hero, as a superb lawyer, as a successful business entrepreneur, and as political leader of our state—would each on their own be significant. You could probably write a book about each. Together, packed all into one energetic life, it makes Bruce Sundlun one of the most accomplished and remarkable men in our state's history.

And that's not even counting five marriages, four children, three unsuccessful runs for governor, two dead raccoons, and one long escape on the loose, behind enemy lines.

There's really just no way to fit it all in.

Let me step into my role as a Sundlun staffer, and ask you to think just of his brief four years as governor. Hit (on Day One of his administration) by an unprecedented bank failure affecting 300,000 Rhode Islanders, and by the worst budget deficit in state history, and by an implosion of the state's entire worker's compensation system, and with the urgent need to restore ethics in government, Bruce was the man for that moment, and swung into his customary decisive action.

The budget was promptly and fairly balanced and the whole budget process improved.

Inventive solutions to repay the depositors and clean up the RISDC mess were found and implemented, and those at fault were made to pay—over a hundred million dollars.

His worker's compensation reform moved the state from an embarrassment to a model,

moving what was then the business community's worst problem completely off the problem list for now going on 20 years.

As a problem solver, he had no peer.

And that alone would be pretty extraordinary. But there was that ethics gap. So Bruce wrote Executive Order 91-One, the ethics executive order that succeeding governors renewed virtually unchanged. He reformed our Ethics Commission. He changed the way we appoint judges, to reduce the politics. He changed the way we fund elections, with a public finance plan and donor limits. Through an intense storm of legal and political opposition, he opened up the pension records; putting an end forever to backroom special pension bills. He got our State Police nationally accredited.

He even cleaned up the Capitol literally!

All that was extraordinary—but still not enough.

In the worst economic times the state had seen since the Depression, with a shrinking budget, he decided to extend universal health care to children—and started the program that became Rite Care. Against immense opposition, he built our new airport terminal. He embarked on the Westin Hotel, the Convention Center, and the Providence Place Mall. He finished the Jamestown Bridge and built the Expressway. And even that's not the end of it.

It was an amazing burst of activity. I will bet that almost every Rhode Islander, almost every day, is somehow touched by something Governor Sundlun did.

And through it all, he drove his staff crazy. He was irrepresible, impatient, imperial, unscriptable, combative, frustrating, willful, constantly threw caution to the winds, impossible to keep up with—he drove us nuts.

And we loved him.

We loved him because he was bold and brave, and was warm-hearted and trusting and generous, and because he was willing to throw caution to the winds to do what was right. We loved him because he never once had us make excuses or try to shift the blame.

That was not his style. "Never complain; never explain."

We all remember his Bruce-isms:

"Always touch base with those concerned before taking action."

"How fast would you get it done if the Russians were in South Attleboro?"

"When you've won, stop talking, close your briefcase and leave."

"Message to Garcia."

"Who, what, where, when; don't bother me with why."

The phone calls, at all hours, that began with no "hello" and ended with dial tone.

The road shows known to his staff as "Dome on the Roam," or more precisely, "Bruce on the Loose."

And sometimes just that big foxy grin.

We saw that his qualities of friendship and loyalty had an almost physical force; that he had your back even if you made mistakes (no one ever was thrown under the bus); and that he was a better friend the more the chips were down.

Politics is full of fair weather friends; Bruce Sundlun was your stormy weather friend. Politics is full of people who take tiny cautious steps with their finger up constantly testing the winds; Bruce stepped boldly down the path he thought was right, even if that meant stepping right in it.

People wonder what lives on after they die. Well, Bruce, we do. And every one of us has been changed: made better, and stronger, harder-working and more resourceful, by your vibrant elemental force in our lives.

We've gone on to be judges and lawyers, to run state and federal agencies, to become Senators and councilmen and Lieutenant Governors, banking leaders and senior partners in national accounting firms, but none of us ever will be more proud of anything than the simple title: "I was a Sundlun staffer."

Soozie and Marjorie, Tracey and Stuart and Peter and Kara: Thank you. Thank you for sharing your husband and father with our state. For those who loved and were changed by him, I thank you. For those who knew and were touched by him, I thank you. And for those who never knew him directly, but whose lives are better today because of what he did, I thank you.

As I close, I want to take you back to a scene from that wonderful movie I saw as a kid, "To Kill A Mockingbird." As you'll recall, Atticus Finch takes on the courageous but unpopular defense of a black man wrongfully accused of rape. At the end of the trial, Atticus's daughter Scout—proper name Jean Louise—is up in the gallery of the courtroom, with the black townspeople, who aren't allowed down on the regular courtroom floor. The courtroom floor empties, but they remain, and slowly stand. As Atticus packs his papers together, closes his bag, and walks out, an elderly man leans down to the little girl and says, "Stand up, Miss Jean Louise. Your father's passing."

At the end of this service, as Bruce is taken to his gravesite after 91 years of a life well and fully lived, we will all stand up. And rightly so. A governor will be passing.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE DEBT CEILING

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, there are currently two bills headed for a vote to raise the debt ceiling and to reduce spending. One of those two bills from the House, Speaker BOEHNER's, cuts about \$1 trillion in spending and raises the debt ceiling by \$1 trillion until the end of the year, approximately. That is about how long it would take to run up another \$1 trillion in debt. The other bill from Senate Majority Leader REID cuts about \$1 trillion and raises the debt ceiling about \$3 trillion—or past the 2012 election. This is because the President said emphatically just a few days ago at a press conference:

The only bottom line I have is that we have to extend this debt ceiling through the next election, into 2013.

So it is really quite simple. Speaker BOEHNER's bill lives up to the principle that I thought we had all agreed to: that every \$1 in debt ceiling increase should be tied to a \$1 reduction in

spending. The spenders get an advantage since the spending reductions occur over 10 years, whereas the debt ceiling would increase immediately. But that is the principle on which we have been operating.

Senator REID's bill is a hoax. It uses Washington gimmicks designed to make it look three times as large as it is. In reality, it hikes the debt ceiling \$3 for every \$1 in spending cuts over 10 years. The House bill is 1 to 1, the Senate bill is 3 to 1. We have demonstrated this exhaustively in a Budget Committee analysis that I don't think people would dispute. And the House approach—one of the primary ways this is accomplished is to count the reduction in spending over the war in Iraq and Afghanistan that is projected to occur and has already been projected to occur and count that as a spending cut. Speaker BOEHNER didn't do that. His would look \$1 trillion better also if he used those numbers.

The House approach is honest, it is straightforward, and it achieves \$1 in cuts for every \$1 in debt ceiling increase. It allows us to return to the table in a few months to assess our progress, see what is happening in the economy, and begin working toward the greater cuts that are needed.

Senator REID's bill relies on accounting tricks, takes the debt limit off the table until after the election, and exchanges a record \$3 trillion in debt hike for only one-third as much in debt cuts.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle signed a letter vowing to defeat the Boehner plan. I find this a little shocking, frankly, and surprising. Is it the position of the Senate Democratic majority that \$1 trillion in cuts over 10 years is all we need to achieve between now and 2013? Is it their view that \$1 in cuts for every \$1 in debt limit increase is too steep or is it a political effort to protect the President by pushing the debt limit ceiling past the next election, creating the highest increase in debt ceiling, I think, in history, except for perhaps the one that the super Democratic majority in the Senate slipped through during the passage of the health care bill? Is it this election issue that Democrats would turn down an agreement on and put us at risk of financial disruption of our economy?

So let's step back for a moment and look at the wider context. Washington is often consumed by political fights and blame games. It can be hard to differentiate between facts and talking points. But I would like to provide as honest an assessment as I can as to why we find ourselves in this unfortunate situation at the eleventh hour.

We have a process, a statutory and legal process to arrive at a budget deal every single year. It is written into the law of the United States. The President is required to submit a budget, by law,

each year, and each Chamber is required to pass one separately and then agree on one together.

If the year had begun with a serious budget proposal from the President, we wouldn't be in this mess today. But he submitted a budget that would double our debt in 10 years, while he claimed it would not add to the debt and he claimed it would cause us to live within our means. Indeed, he had a substantial tax increase, very real tax increases of significant amounts, but his spending increased even more than that. So the net total of the President's budget was to make the debt trajectory we are on not better but worse, even with the tax increase. Indeed, his budget next year that he submitted proposed increases for the Education Department, the Energy Department, the State Department, and the Transportation Department—those double-digit increases at a time when we are running the biggest deficit the Nation has ever sustained.

Senate Democrats have refused to pass, meanwhile, in this body—pass or bring up a budget for 820 days, 2 years. The majority leader said it would be foolish to pass a budget. Foolish to not pass a budget?

So these are facts. Our colleagues who run the Senate here have defied the law and sound policy all year long, and now we are paying the price—a last-minute, take-it-or-leave-it, panic vote. Nobody yet knows what is going to be in the legislation finally because of the rejection of any bill that seems to be out there at this time.

If the White House or Senate Democrats had taken the budget process seriously last year and if they had presented a single credible plan to cut spending, we wouldn't be here at this eleventh hour. Indeed, our Democratic colleagues have insisted on secret meetings that shielded them from making any of their budget plans public, that shielded them from any real votes on spending and debt, and it appears those meetings have failed.

Democrats have campaigned and sought control and a majority in the Senate, and they chose, in this time of fiscal crisis, not to engage in the budget process in a serious way. In fact, they are apparently so determined to avoid the public budget process that the Reid bill even includes language designed to circumvent the process for 2 more years.

So you will forgive me if I am a little concerned by all these attacks on the tea party. They didn't start this fire; they sounded the alarm. Before the last election, when Democrats controlled both Chambers of Congress by substantial majorities, every conversation was about increasing spending, more, more, more. Congress passed a stimulus bill—the largest single onetime expenditure ever passed by any Congress or any nation in history, every penny of that

borrowed. We were already hugely in debt. We are now borrowing 40 cents of every dollar. It passed. The Congress also passed the President's massive new health care entitlement. It passed the President's request for extraordinary increases in discretionary spending. Nondefense discretionary spending has gone up 24 percent at a time of record deficits in the last 2 years. We have added \$4 trillion to our gross debt since the President took office. Just in the time since the Senate Democrats last passed a budget, we have spent more than \$7 trillion without a budget. These are the facts.

But after the 2010 election and the emergence of the tea party and commonsense American people who knew better about what is going on in Washington, we have finally begun to look at Washington's spending problems. Now, instead of just raising the debt ceiling with no spending cuts, as the White House initially and repeatedly demanded, we are talking about how to cut some spending.

People in the tea party and those who share their concerns should not be the ones vilified. They are good, decent, patriotic Americans whose only crime is rightly fearing for the future of their Nation. Are they wrong to be concerned when this Congress spends money willy-nilly every day, 40 cents of it borrowed? They know this is not right, and that is the kind of message they have sent to us. We need to listen to the heart of America speaking.

The last point I would like to make is about the issue of compromise. There have been suggestions that the Republicans have simply been unwilling to budge from their position. But the Boehner proposal represents only a small portion of the cuts the Republicans have advocated and that they believe should be achieved. This is truly a critical point and one the White House will not acknowledge. The House budget that they passed, a long-term 10-year budget that would change the debt trajectory of America and put us on a sound financial course in a responsible way, cuts \$6 trillion in comparison to the President's request. The Toomey budget the Senate voted on cuts about \$8 trillion. The House passed a plan, which I cosponsored, that not only cuts and caps spending but that requires the passage of a constitutional balanced budget amendment. In fact, all 47 Republican Senators have cosponsored a constitutional amendment to balance the budget.

The \$1 trillion in cuts Speaker BOEHNER is asking for would be, indeed, a modest first step, an effort to compromise and reach a number that had a realistic chance of passing this body. But under his plan we will return to the table after that \$1 trillion increase in the debt ceiling has been used. This is far from the level of savings I wish

to see, or the Republican House wishes to see. One trillion dollars is a bitter pill for a lot of those Members who know it is not enough. The economists and others and bondholders are telling us we need at least \$4 trillion. That just reduces the crisis nature we are in. That would not come close to putting us on a path to a balanced budget over 10 years. Reducing deficits by \$4 trillion over 10 years when our deficits are going to increase by \$9 trillion to \$13 trillion over 10 years obviously does not solve our debt crisis. But \$1 trillion is even much smaller. That was a figure that was believed that this Senate might accept, so the House Members, in order to avoid a debt crisis and a financial crisis over the debt ceiling, are apparently working hard and maybe they will send it over here, I don't know. They are working hard to try to do that. I think that is a reasonable compromise and a fair approach to this Congress.

We are going to spend around \$45 trillion over the next 10 years. That will add as much as \$13 trillion to the gross debt. It is clear we have a lot more work to do. We are going to be fighting for cuts in spending bills, omnibus bills, continuing resolutions, and in every other place we can to impose fiscal discipline on this country. We must control spending. We must control and conquer the debt.

The President said he wants a balanced approach to the deficit—a balanced approach. But a balance is not a tax hike that bails out the big spenders who surged our spending with stimulus bills and surging 24-percent increases in discretionary spending. He is going to bail them out by raising taxes. We should never have run up that kind of spending. But balance is not a tax hike of that kind. Creating real balance, the right balance, means shifting power away from Washington, placing it in the safe hands of the American people. That is what the voters said last year when they gave a shellacking to the big spenders and that is what we should do now, and that is what I will be working for and I believe a lot of other people in the Congress on both sides of the aisle will be working for.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. McCASKILL). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIORITIZING DEBT

Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, last January—probably late in the month I think it was—it occurred to me that as we proceeded in the direction of ap-

proaching the statutory limit of our borrowing as a government, the discussion was becoming a little bit counterproductive in some respects. One, in particular, was this constant threat we would default on the loans we had taken out as a government, the bonds that were held by millions of Americans, and that a default would have cataclysmic repercussions. It occurred to me that this is an unproductive discussion, in part, because no such default was ever going to happen. Certainly, it didn't need to happen. In the event we didn't raise the debt limit upon reaching it or prior to that, we would have enough ongoing tax revenue to cover the debt service by many multiples.

So I introduced legislation that would clarify this. It would take this risk off the table and try to provide some clarity to markets and to senior citizens who are savers and who have invested their savings in Treasuries and to have a constructive and honest debate about what the implications are of reaching the debt limit without raising it. So I introduced a bill that would instruct the Treasury Secretary to prioritize debt service in the event we didn't raise the debt limit upon reaching it.

Unfortunately, the idea was dismissed by the administration. It was derided. It was castigated. It was described as reckless and irresponsible and unworkable. This idea of prioritizing the payments we would make if we didn't raise the debt ceiling was dismissed out of hand.

Now we have two reports that have come out this week. One cites the fact that senior Treasury officials have been calling around to big banks assuring them that in the event we don't raise the debt ceiling, which we will hit within just a few days, Treasury is assuring the banks there will be no default; they have this covered, and they have taken care of this. The scheduled interest and principal payments on our bonds will occur on schedule.

It is nice that the administration is informing the banks of this. I think it would be nicer still if they would inform the American public and everybody who has such an important stake in ensuring that the U.S. Government not default on its debt. So that was the first report.

The second report came out just late last night—and it has been confirmed today—which is that the Treasury has, in fact, been working on a plan of the very nature they have been deriding and denying for many months now; that they, in fact, have been developing and are continuing to refine a plan to prioritize the payments that will be made in the event the debt limit is not raised by August 2.

I am glad they have finally come to this conclusion. I wish they had approached Congress and worked with us

constructively many months ago when I first suggested we ought to have a plan B, but I would say it is better late than never. But now I think we ought to get this plan, such as it is, exposed to the sunshine of public discourse. We ought to understand what this process will be and Congress ought to have a role in it.

That is why I introduced an updated version of this bill last week. I have 33 Senate cosponsors on the bill. The purpose of the bill is not to be a substitute for raising the debt limit. I understand if we don't raise the debt limit close to August 2, the results will be very disruptive. We can minimize that disruption if we have a game plan, and we ought to work this out. The bill I introduced with a number of colleagues is a bill that identifies three very high priorities, that we ought to make sure we make these payments, whether or not we raise the debt ceiling. We know we will have enough money to do so, and I think we have an obligation to do that.

The three categories embodied in our bill are, first, interest on our debt. By making sure we make those payments we avoid a catastrophic default and we avoid the financial consequences which could be very dire. So that ought to be one of the top priorities. The second, equally important, is making sure we send out all the Social Security checks in full and on time to everybody who has one coming. Senior citizens all across America, including my parents, depend on Social Security checks, and they have earned those benefits by virtue of the contributions they made into that system, in many cases, for many decades.

The third and final item I think ought to be prioritized in the event we don't raise the debt ceiling by August 2 is salaries paid to Active-Duty military. I think the men and women who are risking their lives for all of us deserve to have the peace of mind of knowing that their families back home will not have to wait until Congress gets its act together for them to get their paycheck in arrears. It ought to be done on time.

So these three items, if we add them all and look at the amount they would cost during the month of August and we compare that to the tax revenue that is going to come in the door in August, these three expenses are less than half the amount of tax revenue that is going to come in. Clearly, and obviously, this is easily manageable—or easily affordable, I should say.

Technically, the Treasury and the Fed have some work to do, no doubt, to make sure this is all done smoothly. That is precisely why they should have engaged with us a long time ago, so we could have had a constructive period of time to work out whatever details are necessary so we could have as smooth a functioning process as possible—one

that would have the benefit of a transparent debate.

I acknowledge there might be other items that ought to be added to the list, and we ought to have a debate on the floor to consider those items. What we would end up with is a process that the American people would understand, they would know, they could anticipate, and it would be far more constructive. It is getting late in the day, but maybe it is not too late. I hope this body will take up my bill and it will have that debate, we will have some kind of resolution, and we will provide some guidance. I think it is part of our constitutional obligation to have control over spending that occurs in our government, and this should be no exception.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation. If my colleagues have constructive suggestions of how we can make it better, I welcome them, as I welcome working with the Treasury and the administration, to make sure that we, in the unfortunate event—if it should occur—that we don't raise the debt ceiling by August 2, do everything we can to minimize the disruption that will follow.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

THE DEBT CEILING

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, in 1939, we passed a law and the law created the debt ceiling. Before that law was passed, whenever the Government of the United States of America wanted to borrow money, it had to come to Congress. Congress had to approve it and the President would sign it. We decided then to change it. Instead, we said Congress will approve a certain amount of money that the President can borrow and we will change it as needed. In other words, we don't have to approve every single bond issue, every single borrowing of the Federal Government. In 1939, that is what we did.

Since then, on 89 different occasions, Presidents of the United States have come to Congress and said the money Congress spent I have to borrow to cover. We don't have enough in the Treasury. Eighty-nine different times Presidents have come and asked for the authority to borrow money to cover expenses Congress approved. Fifty-five times Republican Presidents; 34 times Democratic Presidents. Not once—not once—did we ever default. Oh, there was a period, I think in 1979, where there were a few days of technical default, but there was never any conscious decision by Congress not to fund this debt ceiling and extend it.

It is ironic that Members of the Senate have come to the floor and said: I will never vote to extend the debt ceiling as long as I serve in the Senate.

They are the same Members of the Senate who have been voting for and sending to this President requests to spend money. An example: the war in Afghanistan. Some of the most conservative Senators on the other side of the aisle not only want us to wage this war but to stay there and keep spending money. Do we know what it costs? It costs \$10 billion a month for us to protect our troops in Afghanistan. For every \$1 we spend—every \$1 we spend—whether it is on the war, on food stamps, on missiles, on highways—but for every \$1 we spend, we borrow 40 cents. We should not be borrowing all this money, but we do because Congress says there are certainly things we have to do as a nation.

Many of the same Senators who have said to the President of the United States: Do not withdraw the troops from Afghanistan, keep them there even longer, are now coming to the floor and saying to the President: But we are not going to join in asking for the authority you need to provide that money for those troops.

The Senator from Pennsylvania has come here the second day and given his take on what would happen if Congress fails to extend the debt ceiling on August 2–5 days away, August 2. What would happen?

First, understand, this is a self-inflicted wound. We have created this crisis. Madam President, 89 times we have extended the debt ceiling without incident. Presidents of both parties have asked for this over and over.

Who holds the record for extending the debt ceiling the most during his 8-year Presidency? Ronald Reagan. Eighteen times—18 times—more than twice a year, he asked Congress to extend the debt ceiling because under his 8-year watch the debt of the United States tripled.

Who holds the record for second place on the list of increasing the national debt? President George W. Bush, who, I believe, came to us seven or nine times asking to extend the debt ceiling.

It has been done by Presidents of both parties.

Now there is this controversy that is raging between the House and the Senate about whether we extend the debt ceiling. It is a vote we have done customarily without this confrontation in the past. Now we face it. But we have created this crisis. It is a self-inflicted wound, and to blame anybody else for it is just plain wrong. History tells us Congress not only has the authority but, I believe, has the responsibility to extend the debt ceiling. It is hypocritical to pass bills on the floor of the Senate—to call for the President to wage a war or build a building—and then not give this President the authority to borrow the money to do it. That is what I am hearing from the other side.

The Senator from Pennsylvania comes and says: We can live with this

default. We have to figure out how to manage this default. I think he said at one point it could be managed easily. Wrong, completely wrong.

Let me tell you what happens if we default on the national debt for the first time in history. First, what does it do to the reputation of the United States of America? We have a credit report too. I do not know if you can get a free credit report for the government, but we have one. We have a AAA rating. Pretty good, right? The best in the world, the strongest economy in the world. It means when we borrow money, we borrow it at the lowest interest rate because people trust the United States of America to keep its word.

If we borrow money and say we are going to pay it back, we have always done it. We have never defaulted. We are pretty trustworthy as a debtor, and creditors understand that and charge us the lowest interest rates.

If this goes through as promised by the tea party people, and we default on our national debt, for the first time in history, what do you think it is going to do to our credit status? I can tell you what it is going to do. It is going to diminish our credit reputation in the eyes of lenders. What happens when lenders think it is riskier to loan money? They raise interest rates. In other words, the money we borrow to sustain our government will cost us more. How much more? For every 1 percent increase in interest paid by our government on our debt, it costs us \$130 billion a year added to the debt. That is not \$130 billion worth of money for education or \$130 billion worth of money to protect us from terrorism. That is \$130 billion to international bankers and countries that loan us money from this self-inflicted wound.

What else would happen? Sadly, when interest rates on our Federal Government go up, interest rates go up across our economy. It affects every family, every individual, every business in America. It affects how much you pay on your credit card bill, how much you pay for an automobile loan, a home loan, a student loan. All of these are affected. It is as bad, if not worse, than a tax because it hits everybody.

It could not come at a worse time. When our economy is struggling to create jobs, with millions out of work, to think that this unnecessary, manufactured political crisis, self-inflicted wound is going to hurt our economy in its recovery is just plain wrong.

Let me go to the specific point made by the Senator from Pennsylvania. Stay tuned and listen to what he just said. He said to us he has asked our government to tell us how they would manage a default—who would you pay, who would you fail to pay—and the government has not been forthcoming, the President, with a plan on who will be paid and not paid.

Well, we will get that plan, and we will not like it one bit. Here is why. If we do not extend our debt ceiling, in the month of August here are the raw numbers we have to work with. We will have \$172 billion on hand in our Treasury to spend in August, and we will have obligations of \$306 billion.

So what do you do when you have 55 percent of what you need? You make choices. The Senator from Pennsylvania said: Here are my three choices. First, we pay interest on other debts we have so we do not default on everything. That is sensible. Secondly, he said, we pay Social Security because these folks—many of them—have no other source of income. That is sensible too. Then he said we ought to pay our troops in combat and the military. I vote for that too. These men and women are risking their lives and they should be our highest priority. He says we can talk about the rest.

What is the rest? I will tell you what the rest includes. It includes every Medicare payment to every hospital and doctor in America. It includes every payment to a disabled veteran in America. It includes the decision as to whether we are going to fund Federal employees. If they are not your favorite class of people—I happen to think a lot of them, but many people do not—keep in mind some of the things they do that we will have to decide whether we should continue doing.

I was at the Greenville Federal Correctional Facility 2 weeks ago. The men and women risking their lives holding people in prison, thousands of them across the United States—pay them or not? They were not on the list. They were not on the list of the Senator from Pennsylvania.

We just had a meeting where we talked about our weather satellites collecting information about weather around the world, warning people when severe weather patterns are developing. Should we pay NOAA to maintain those satellites in orbit?

As you go through this list—whether you are talking about the FBI fighting terrorism, whether you are talking about the men and women representing the United States at embassies around the world, whether you are talking about law enforcement, whether you are talking about the intelligence agencies of the United States that watch on a minute-by-minute basis the activities of terrorists who would kill us—they were not on the list from the Senator from Pennsylvania. He did not put those on the list.

If we get down to a choice, and if it becomes that terrible a choice, understand this President—no President—wants to face that. They do not have to. It is time for us to get this resolved.

When I call radio shows back in Illinois—and I will bet the Presiding Officer gets the same thing back in Missouri—people are fed up with what they

see going on in Washington. They cannot believe grownups in the House and Senate, paid to do this job, are failing; that they are dragging this out.

I will tell you what I got yesterday: an e-mail from a businessman in Chicago. He is a friend. He has a lot of businesses. He has a lot of people working for him. He had a closing yesterday on a deal worth more than \$100 million to renovate a major building in Chicago. It would have been a lot of jobs. It would have been great for our city. The closing was canceled. The parties at the table said: Until Congress gets this figured out, we are not going to close the deal.

He sent me an e-mail and said: For God's sake, when is this going to come to an end?

I am hearing that all over from people who are just fed up.

The Chicago Tribune printed an article today entitled: "Across state, businesses fret over debt ceiling showdown." They went through a long list of individuals who talked about what this stalemate might mean.

As the article states, Ed Wehmer, with Wintrust Financial Corporation, "worries that a prolonged stalemate could lead to a double-dip recession," even more unemployment.

"The possibility of not getting a Social Security or other government check will make people skittish," Wehmer said. That could weaken consumer spending and hamper economic growth. Higher interest rates, he said, would hit an already stressed real estate market.

A banker in Lake Forest said: "Could you imagine if we ran our business like that," referring to what is going on in Washington. "These are the people who make the regulations we have to live with."

The Illinois Hospital Association figures that its members will have to absorb \$8 billion in federal payment reductions over 10 years as a result of the 2010 health care overhaul act. Now, [they are] bracing for another blow.

"We're concerned that any additional cuts to hospitals, whether through Medicare or Medicaid, will have a dramatic impact on hospitals and health care providers . . ."

The Illinois Finance Authority—all of these groups look at this situation and say: This makes our economy even worse. It is a self-inflicted, politically manufactured problem. It is a crisis which does not have to exist. Should we ignore our debt? Of course not.

Madam President, you know I have worked on this issue for a year and a half now with more specificity than ever in my career. I was on the deficit commission the President appointed. Then I stuck around afterwards as six Senators—the Group of 6, we called ourselves; it was not a very inspired name, but that is what we came up with: three Democrats and three Republicans—and we sat down for 6 months and hammered out an agreement among us to reduce our Federal

deficit by \$4 trillion over the next 10 years, with a balanced approach that puts everything on the table—everything—revenue, entitlements, spending—everything.

We came to an agreement. We presented our agreement to the Senators just 2 weeks ago. Forty-nine Senators showed up at that meeting, Democrats and Republicans. It was amazing. Then we followed up and said: Are you ready to put your name on the bottom line? Will you support moving forward with this bipartisan way to deal with the deficit in a responsible way that does not endanger our economy and make us face bankruptcy as a nation?

We now have 36 Senators, Democrats and Republicans, who have signed up. That is a pretty good number. It shows that this is not an idea that we came up with that does not have legs. Sure, we are going to have to change it. We understand that. But look what happened. Democrats and Republicans sat down—no cameras, no reporters—and worked out a reasonable way to deal with the deficit and our Nation's debt.

What is better? Lurching from this crisis to another crisis 4 months from now, as Speaker BOEHNER suggests, or dealing with this in an honest, bipartisan way today?

Madam President, I can tell you what the American people want us to do—at least I think I know what they want us to do. They do not want us to endanger this economic recovery. They do not want us to kill jobs. They do not want us to hurt businesses. They want us to help this economy recover and create jobs. They want us to extend this debt ceiling so we do not see interest rates going up across America at exactly the wrong time. They certainly do not want to see us put in a position where we have to decide between paying Social Security recipients and our soldiers who are in combat. That is what the administration would face if this crisis that has been manufactured on Capitol Hill continues.

What they expect us to do is to earn our pay as Members of the House and Senate, to work hard to come up with a reasonable approach, and to be willing to give a little. It is the only way you reach a compromise. Compromise is the nature of this political process. Those who condemn it—and there are some who do, who say: Never give up, stick to your principles, never change—we are not going to get a solution. We have to be willing to work together to give and get this done.

Here is what I predict is going to happen soon.

I predict Speaker BOEHNER is going to call his bill on the floor of the House. We have told him in advance it is a nonstarter here. If it passes the House, it will come here, and it will likely be voted down. We will then propose an alternative.

Majority Leader HARRY REID has an alternative which basically extends the

debt ceiling beyond next year so our economy has time to recover. It cuts spending by over \$2 trillion so we address our deficit. It does it with a list of spending cuts that every Republican has voted for so it is not controversial in substance. I think that is the best approach.

He creates a joint committee to deal with the long-term deficit. I have been involved in those, and I think we should. I think it is a good, balanced approach that solves our problem and gets us through this crisis. We are likely to vote on it either tomorrow or the next day. But we are down to 5 days. We are running out of time. We have to get this done.

I want to tell you, any Senator who comes to the floor and says defaulting on our debt and reaching the first point in our history where the credit reputation of the United States is in doubt is OK, it is a good political tactic, they do not understand the gravity of that decision and the impact it will have on businesses and families for generations to come.

This notion that we can pick and choose the checks we are going to send out in August when we are going to have 55 or 60 percent of what we need is going to put us in an impossible position. Deciding among all of the valuable, important functions of government which ones will not be funded—that is an impossible position for this President to be in. We cannot do that to him. We cannot do that to our government. We cannot do this to our country.

I hope that after the House votes today or tonight, whenever it may be, that we take up the measure quickly. Let's move this forward. Let's get this done. Let's avoid this crisis. Let's meet the responsibility we were elected to address.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. KLOBUCHAR). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I understand that we are in morning business and Senators are allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

A HOUSE DIVIDED

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, our greatest Republican President, Abraham Lincoln, in his drive to end slavery, said "a house divided against itself cannot stand." With these few words, Lincoln is calling to us through the echoing halls of history. He is calling

for us to put aside our differences and to become unified into one people, one Nation, one common purpose.

Mr. Lincoln recognized that the issue of slavery was tearing this great Nation apart and that it could not survive half slave and half free. Slavery was the great unfinished business of our Founders. The institution of slavery was so ingrained in the infant country's past and future that even Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison and Franklin could not disentangle it. I am not trying to equate carrying too much debt with slavery, please understand that, but the truth remains. A house divided against itself cannot stand.

This house, this Nation, this Republic, is divided against itself. Our Founders called their effort at establishing a new Nation "a great experiment"—and it has been. Nothing like it had ever been tried and America has been the unequaled success in all of world history. Truly, we are the envy of the world. We began as 13 weak and barely united States but quickly became the strongest country in the Western Hemisphere. About 70 years after we adopted the Constitution, we survived a deadly Civil War. All the while we grew in stature and in favor with other nations. Our economic power grew rapidly. American influence grew as we became the agent of democracy and capitalism for the entire world. Although our military power was slow to develop, we fought on the winning side in two world wars and we grew into an economic, military and cultural super power.

We are a Nation of immigrants, of many faiths, of many races and our national call to union is *E Pluribus Unum*. Out of many, one. Out of many States is forged one Nation. Out of many races is forged one people. Out of many, one. The Founding Fathers had to balance the agrarian interests of the South and West with the industrial and shipping interests of the North and East. They balanced small States and big States. They balanced regions dominated by the frontier with regions dominated by the old world. They balanced Catholicism and Protestantism and Judaism. They balanced English culture with German culture with French culture. Out of many, one. Had previous generations of leaders not achieved oneness, we would not be, could not be, the great Nation we are today. The Senate was added to the Constitution as a compromise. Washington, DC, was placed on the banks of the Potomac as a compromise. States were added to the union as the result of compromise. In this sense, America's ability to find compromise has always been our pathway to greatness. Our Founders established this more perfect union with the clear-eyed knowledge that came from experience that a house divided against itself cannot stand.

Division leads to failure. To make our democracy work, we all must work together. We must acknowledge that we have differences of opinion and differing points of view, but we must commit to unity. The floor of the U.S. Senate is the marketplace for ideas and it is a window into democracy that is a living testimony to the greatness and diversity of our Nation. The floor of the U.S. Senate should not be a graveyard for ideas or innovation or promise. Campaigns should stop at the threshold of this chamber. What happens in this chamber is much greater than any single Senator's political fortunes, and it is much more important than a political party's fate at the next general election. We have a sacred responsibility to the people through the Constitution, and if we orient ourselves to the next presidential election, we are failing in our duty. The U.S. Senate, at its core, by its nature, is where decisions get made. We have our ideological battles here, that is certain, but this is where consensus should be achieved. The Senate should fuel the engine that propels us to a better future, not stall that engine.

All Americans should fully participate in our government. We should register to vote and serve on the jury. We must volunteer in the schools and pay our taxes. We must teach our children about our country, their country, and prepare them for their time to lead. We must tell them that our system of government is the best that man ever devised and that it works. It works very well if we allow it to work.

This moment in history is a day where we can show our children, as well as our Founding Fathers, that this is no longer a house divided. We can show the world that our parents instilled in us the value of *E Pluribus Unum*. America's best days lay ahead if we are mutually committed to that future. It is, however, not possible unless we set aside our differences and work together for that common goal. My fellow Senators, please heed the words of Abraham Lincoln and understand that there is truth of what he said, "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, let me speak for a few minutes about the disappointment I have and I am sure many other colleagues have with the situation we find ourselves in with respect to the partial shutdown of the Federal Aviation Administration.

My colleague from Colorado, Senator BENNET, was on the Senate floor this afternoon and spoke eloquently about how this partial shutdown is affecting his State of Colorado. I wanted to talk briefly about the similar concerns I have for my State of New Mexico.

Frankly, some in this Congress, in my view, have lost sight of what they were elected to do in Washington. Aviation is a critical piece of our transportation infrastructure, a critical piece of our economy. Yet, for nearly a week now, the Congress has failed to extend the necessary authorizations to keep the Federal Aviation Administration doing the work that needs to be done.

It has been over 5 months since the Senate passed its reauthorization bill for aviation programs. That vote was overwhelming; it was 87 to 8. So this was not a partisan bill; this was a bill supported strongly by both Democrats and Republicans.

The bill included a number of programs important to my State of New Mexico and to the entire Nation, including the Airport Improvement Program that provides grants for the construction of runways, taxiways, which help to make airports safer. These projects also create hundreds of jobs in the construction industry in my State and tens of thousands of jobs in the construction industry nationwide.

One of the most important features of the Senate's bill relates to our air traffic control system. Our current system is universally recognized as being antiquated, inefficient, and increasingly it is recognized as being unsafe. The bill we passed out of the Senate dramatically accelerates the FAA's efforts to convert the air traffic control system to one based on satellites and global positioning systems, similar to the GPS many of us have in our cars. When implemented, NextGen—the name given to this improvement of the air traffic control system—will improve safety, will increase efficiency of operations, will reduce delays, and will save fuel and help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Thanks to the good work Chairman ROCKEFELLER and Ranking Member HUTCHISON in the Commerce Committee did, the Senate passed a good bill to reauthorize aviation programs. That was in February. Then in April, the House passed its own version nearly on a party-line vote. The House majority, unfortunately, chose to include partisan and divisive provisions in that legislation that were not appropriate in an aviation bill.

Let me give a little description of what those partisan and divisive provisions I am referring to are. There was an editorial in the New York Times this morning that summed it up well. It says:

Last year, the National Mediation Board changed a rule to make it easier for airline and railroad workers to unionize. Until then, workers who did not vote in union representation elections were counted as "no" votes; after the change [this is the change by the National Mediation Board—its own rules] they are counted as abstentions. Pushed by the airline lobby, House Republicans passed a long-term FAA reauthorization bill that

would have undone the rule change. The Senate's reauthorization bill, passed in February, maintained the rule.

In spite of this difference in the two bills, the Senate did appoint conferees, did begin working to resolve differences—as we should have—and working out the required compromise is never easy. Unfortunately, now the House has decided that in order to gain leverage over the Senate to accept the House anti-union provisions, there would not be any additional clean extensions of existing law.

We have had 20 extensions of existing law to just keep the Federal Aviation Administration operating while the House and Senate negotiate the final resolution of this larger bill. Unfortunately, the situation now is that the Congress's failure to extend the authorization one more time has shut down important aviation programs across the country, and 4,000 FAA employees have been furloughed and forced to go without pay. Across the Nation, important airport improvement projects are now on hold.

In New Mexico, \$26 million in funding for over two dozen projects has been stopped. These include a new firetruck for the airport in Roswell, runway projects in Raton and Santa Rosa, and snow removal equipment in Clayton and Vaughn. In Santa Fe, work on a vital new radar system has been stopped. In Albuquerque, progress has stopped on a \$10 million project to replace the airport parking apron.

What is particularly troubling to me is that the authority to collect the ticket tax has also been suspended. Why should this matter? This is the money that goes into the airport trust fund and allows us to continue to make improvements and maintain our airport infrastructure around the country. This is funding that is used to pay for safety and infrastructure projects at airports in my State and everywhere in the country. As I understand it, it amounts to about \$30 million a day being lost from that trust fund. At a time when we are being told the country is falling behind in its investments in basic infrastructure, this loss of funding is clearly going to have major impacts on airport projects down the road.

People also need to realize that the fact that the FAA is no longer able to collect the ticket tax does not mean people don't have to pay the full price they would be paying if the tax were being charged. The airlines, with very few exceptions, have announced they are going to continue to charge the full price for tickets and pocket the extra money themselves, instead of turning it over for infrastructure projects at our airports.

So here we are. It is simply, in my view, unacceptable for the Congress not to restore to the FAA the authority to collect airline ticket taxes and to resume normal operations.

Senator ROCKEFELLER has introduced a clean extension of the aviation programs. Whatever differences there are between the two bodies in provisions in the short-term extension are trivial compared to this \$30 million a day the Nation is losing in funding for our Nation's airport projects.

We all here in the Senate, in the Congress, and in the country, are focused on the need to extend the debt limit, and that is the most urgent need we face, but in addition to that we need to restore to the FAA the authority to resume its normal operations and to resume payments into the airport trust fund. To leave for an August break without having fixed the problem of the lack of FAA authorization as well would be seriously irresponsible.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the editorial from this morning's New York Times entitled "This Is Called 'Small' Government."

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, July 27, 2011]

THIS IS CALLED 'SMALL' GOVERNMENT

What has happened to the Federal Aviation Administration in the last few days should remind everyone of the costs of the Republicans' obstructionism and their slash-and-burn budget games.

Taxes on airline tickets expired on Friday when the F.A.A. lost its operating authority, including the authority to collect taxes. Passengers are rightly furious at the nation's airlines, many of which are pocketing the difference. But the masterminds of this fiasco are the House Republicans who let this happen.

The F.A.A. has also had to furlough some 4,000 workers. Needed airport construction projects—to maintain runways, build new traffic control towers and upgrade other facilities—have been halted across the country. The only good news is that the air traffic control system is still working because traffic controllers are paid from the Aviation Trust Fund, which still has a positive balance.

All of this happened after House Republicans inserted a new provision into a routine bill to temporarily extend the F.A.A.'s operational authority. The provision would end \$16.5 million in federal subsidies to 13 airports in rural communities. The bill passed the House. But Senate Democrats balked, arguing that the right place for changing policy is in the regular F.A.A. reauthorization bill—noting that the temporary extension has passed 20 times since 2007 without any additional provisions.

"If we can't put an end to these extravagant subsidies, then we will never be able to rein in spending where really hard decisions are necessary," said Tom Petri, the chairman of the House aviation subcommittee, upon submitting the bill. Talk about pound foolish. When the F.A.A. lost operational authority, it lost its ability to collect \$200 million in taxes a week. These taxes would have paid for the airport subsidies in about 14 hours. There is more going on here. As we have seen in many Republican-led states, an attack on "excessive" government spending is also often a bid to break labor unions.

Last year, the National Mediation Board changed a rule to make it easier for airline

and railroad workers to unionize. Until then, workers who did not vote in union representation elections were counted as "no" votes; after the change, they are counted as abstentions. Pushed by the airline lobby, House Republicans passed a long-term F.A.A. reauthorization in April that would have undone the rule change. The Senate's reauthorization bill, passed in February, maintained the rule.

Earlier this month, John Mica, the chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, told an aviation conference that adding the airport subsidy provision to the temporary bill to keep the F.A.A. running is "just a tool" to force the Senate to give in on the union issue.

Next time voters hear Republicans talking about taking a principled stand against government spending, they should keep this sorry and cynical tale in mind.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

THE DEBT CEILING

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I follow my colleague who mentioned our need to prevent default. The need we have—the reason we are here and why there will be a vote in the House and the Senate tonight—has to do with the need of our Nation to prevent default, and also, of course, the need to cut spending. Our problem is that we spend too much. Americans all around the country are calling in to Members of the House and Senate and saying: Hey, let's get things under control and let's cut the spending.

My friends on the other side of the aisle, I am happy to see with the proposals being brought forth, are beginning to understand what my constituents in Wyoming have known from the very beginning: Americans are not taxed too little, Washington spends too much. But the President seems to be more concerned about the next election than about the next generation of Americans.

I was astonished last week when the President was addressing the Nation and he talked about what his bottom line was in this whole debate. He said:

The only bottom line I have is that we have to extend this debt ceiling through the next election, into 2013.

This was the President of the United States saying this:

The only bottom line I have is that we have to extend this debt ceiling through the next election, into 2013.

Since 1962, the debt ceiling has been raised 74 times. On average, the debt ceiling is usually for about 8 months. But now the folks on the other side, and the President, are calling for the largest debt ceiling increase in history and it is designed to last a lot longer than 8 months—almost for a year and a half, as the President wants it to go into 2013; and specifically, as he said, through the next election.

The President's Treasury Secretary has essentially said the same thing. He said:

We have to lift this threat of default from the economy for, you know, for the next 18 months. We have to take that threat off the table through the election.

Well, if the President and the Treasury Secretary get their way, they will be able to ignore the single biggest threat to our national security until after the next election. As the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has said: The greatest threat to our national security is the debt.

The President could have gotten what he wanted last week—which is an increase in the debt ceiling beyond the election—when the House passed its cut, cap, and balance legislation. I was one of the original cosponsors of that in the Senate. I was in favor of it, supported it, and continue to support that. Instead, the President issued a veto threat. He told Democrats in the Senate to kill it. After all, they are still the majority party.

The Senate Democrats, I believe tonight, will have the power to save our country's finances once again. They can do that by passing the Boehner plan—pass it through this body and send it to the President's desk for him to sign. Instead, the majority leader has said no Democrat—not one—will support this plan. It has what the President wants. It raises the debt ceiling. It lets us, as a nation, avoid default. But it doesn't take us beyond the election.

It is interesting. It would seem support by the Democrats for this plan would clearly signal their desire to continue working to rein in Washington's wasteful spending, to get our fiscal house in order. But that doesn't seem to be the signal the President wants to send. The Boehner plan is the only plan currently on the table that can get through the House of Representatives and protect us from default.

Republicans have put forward plan after plan. Democrats and the White House have done nothing but criticize from the sidelines. The White House Press Secretary has even said:

Leadership is not proposing a plan for the sake of having it voted up or down and likely voted down.

That is what he said. He said the Democrats have even sent a letter asking for a long-term debt increase. But how can we have a long-term debt increase if they have no plan to get there? The White House Secretary claimed recently the President's plan is well-known. He said:

There is no plan that has been offered, certainly in the last several months, about which more detail is known.

I say: Where are the details? I want to know how I could get this well-known plan and share it with my constituents back home in Wyoming. How did the CBO score this plan that, according to the President's Press Secretary, is a plan about which so much

detail is known? Where is it? What is the CBO score? Where is the text of it? How can we read it and bring it here and discuss or debate it?

These things don't exist—neither a CBO score nor a text—because the White House has continually refused to release a plan, even with pleas coming from Congress and from the media. I can understand why the President might be reluctant, since the time he last brought a budget to this body it was defeated 97 to 0. Not one Democrat voted in support of what the President had proposed—not one. No one supported the President's budget plan.

There is a Reid plan being proposed. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the Reid plan cuts about \$2.2 trillion from our budget over the next 10 years. But if you dig a little deeper, you find these so-called cuts are accounting gimmicks. The House Budget Committee looked at the Reid plan and their assessment was not very flattering. Let me quote from that assessment:

Reid's plan relies on the inaccurate assumption that surge-level spending in Iraq and Afghanistan is scheduled to continue over the next decade.

No one in America, and I would hope no one in the White House, believes that surge level spending in Iraq and Afghanistan is scheduled to continue over the next decade. But the plan endorsed by the President relies on such an inaccurate assumption. Why is he trying to mislead the American people? The Democrats are claiming to save money by cutting spending that was never, ever going to be spent in the first place. This is the strongest possible proof the White House is not realistically dealing with the situation and is not, in my opinion, serious about realistically and reliably cutting the debt.

In fact, even if you assume the Reid plan would work, it wouldn't cut spending fast enough to keep up with the spending the President is doing. The President wants to borrow at least \$2.4 trillion to get him through the election—to get him into 2013. But the last draft of the floor plan we are going to be asked to discuss cuts \$2.2 trillion over 10 years while raising the debt ceiling by \$2.7 trillion. It would take over a decade to pay back what this President wants to borrow over the next year and a half. So we would still be borrowing at a much higher rate than we are cutting. That is not responsible leadership. Responsible leadership would be to recognize the solution to our country's financial woes, and that solution is to avoid default, while consistently cutting spending and balancing our books the way that families do. That solution would require us to keep working until we get it right. That is the theory at the heart of Speaker BOEHNER's plan.

The President talks about wanting a balanced approach. That means dif-

ferent things to different people. When the President is talking about wanting more taxes, I think what Americans want is actually a balanced budget. Speaker BOEHNER will bring us one step closer to that balance by forcing a vote on the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. I look forward to voting for a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

We live under a constitution in the State of Wyoming, and from the very beginning we have balanced our budget. As a result, we have excess money and scholarships available to all students to study at our universities and community colleges, because year after year we live within our means.

The President talked a bit about public opinion being important in this debate. Yet he is opposed to a balanced budget constitutional amendment. In a recent Sachs/Mason-Dixon poll, 65 percent of Americans say they support a balanced budget constitutional amendment. So where is the respect for that public opinion? The Boehner plan works because its authors have listened to the American people.

The White House refuses to seriously confront the problems facing our Nation, and Democrats are trying to shut down the only plan that can pass the House and save us from default. I am alarmed at their denial about how to solve these problems. The President must not veto America into default. It is time we pass a real plan that cuts spending and avoids default. We don't need to wait until midnight on August 1 or August 2. We can do it, and we should do it today.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended until 7 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each during that time; and further, that I be recognized at 7 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from West Virginia.

TOUGH FISCAL CHOICES

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I rise today to speak about the tough fiscal choices this body, this government, and our President now face. But before I say anything else, I wish to start off with a profound apology. I want to apologize to every West Virginian and all Americans for the terrible process they have been made to endure and witness. With 5 days before the August 2 deadline to raise the debt ceiling, this government faces yet another crisis of its own making. Yet it is not we who pay the price for our failures to govern,

it is the American people. To the tens of millions of American families who work hard to take care of their families, I can only imagine the anger and disgust they have at witnessing a broken government and a President and Members of Congress who can't seem to even agree sometimes on what day it is, let alone on how to solve the Nation's debt crisis.

The American people deserve better.

Some will say Washington is broken and that is the best we can do, but I do not believe that for one moment. Washington may be broken, but it will not break me, and you should not let it break you either. I came to fix things, not to make things worse. I came to solve problems, not to ignore them, and I came to worry about the next generation, not my next election.

I, for one, am willing to make the tough and painful decisions that will improve the lives of every West Virginian and all Americans for generations to come, regardless of what it means for my party or for the next election, and I know I am not alone.

After our beloved Senator Byrd passed away, I chose to run for the Senate for one simple reason: I saw the great challenges our Nation faced: exploding debts and deficits, our Nation's energy dependence, costly wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and a painful jobs and economic crisis, and I wanted to help make things better by bringing a little common sense to Washington. I knew we had to focus on rebuilding America and doing so meant making hard, politically difficult choices.

Some of my colleagues often remind me that fixing problems as complex as our debt crisis isn't easy. But with all due respect, it seems we make it harder than it needs to be. My friends, it doesn't need to be this way.

I did not come to Washington with the illusion that I could reinvent the wheel, but I did come to help balance the wheels and make the car run a little smoother.

Months ago, when I said I would not vote to raise the debt ceiling without a long-term fix, I thought this Congress and our President would be able to tackle the issue head-on and have it done by now. As I made clear on that day, the choices we make to address our debt now will determine whether the vital programs we all deeply care about, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, our veterans programs, education for our children, Head Start, are there for those in need and for the decades to come. However, instead of coming together months ago to focus and deal with the gravity of our debt, we delayed, and we continue to delegate.

While I will never question someone's motivations or their heart, we all have a right to question the strategies of our leaders and colleagues, whether they are Democrats or Republicans, because these strategies have once again

led us to a crisis and the brink of a disaster. At a minimum, this entire process has, once again, fed a growing public cynicism that is corrosive to the very fabric of our government, and we all bear the responsibility for that.

I truly believe we can do better. I know this to be true because we proved it in West Virginia.

When I first became Governor of the great State of West Virginia, our State faced similar grave fiscal concerns. After facing dismal credit ratings for far too long and a dark fiscal future, some thought our State's best days were behind us. But after confronting our fiscal challenges head-on in West Virginia, even during the deepest recession in our lifetimes, we are one of the few States in the Nation that has had its credit rating upgraded the last 3 years in a row, and we had surpluses for 6 years in a row during the toughest times. We did this in West Virginia by cutting spending but not cutting the vital programs or services we hold so dear. We did this not by raising tax rates but by ensuring that everyone paid their fair share in our State. We did this by tackling waste, fraud, and abuse so as to ensure that we took care of those most in need, not those bent on greed. By doing this, we helped to restore confidence to the economy of our State, and that is a factor we can't overestimate.

West Virginia may be a small State, but these are commonsense solutions I strongly believe can apply right here.

I did not blame these fiscal challenges we had in our State on the mistakes made by past Governors or legislators, whether they were Democrats or Republicans. I reached out to all members of our legislature, whether they were on the front row or the so-called back row, and I met with them and anyone who had an idea on how we best could solve our fiscal problems. It required sacrifice, it required patience, and it required trust and respect. Can anyone honestly say that with all that has taken place here? In fact, if we turn on cable news right now, we will see exactly where this broken process stands. We as Democrats sometimes are rushing out to attack our colleagues, the Republicans, and the Republicans are rushing out to attack us, the Democrats.

We are better than this, and for the sake of this Nation's future we must do better. I owe it to all West Virginians and we all owe it to this great Nation to do much better than we have. From time to time, we should remind ourselves we took an oath to do just that.

As idealistic as it may sound, I implore this great body, each Member, the leaders of both bodies, the President, the two parties, and especially the political committees, to put away their political knives and swords and let us do something that has become rare in Washington: Put aside the po-

litical attacks for a few months and actually work together, openly, honestly, with respect for our profound differences, and build a trust that will fix the big problems we face as a nation.

The stakes are too high to do anything else. Our Nation faces not only a threat of default but of a downgrade. The credit rating agencies, such as Standard & Poor's, have made it clear that the United States needs to cut nearly \$4 trillion over the next decade or they will lose the confidence in our long-term ability to pay our bills.

Yet in my estimation, neither of the two plans that are currently proposed by both Republican and Democratic leadership comes close to preventing our Nation from being downgraded or actually solving the debt crisis we face. Each falls far short, whether it is in time or dollars.

The truth is, both of the plans being discussed and that the Senate may consider, one offered by the leader of the Republican Party, Speaker JOHN BOEHNER, and the other offered by the leader of our Chamber and my party, Senator REID, do not solve the Nation's long-term fiscal problems as presented.

Make no mistake, I have the utmost respect for both of these fine public servants. Both find themselves in difficult positions, and I know they are trying their best to do what is right. I understand the desire to prevent our Nation's default. But what we have before us are effectively a short-term fix and a shorter term fix. Either one might prevent a default, which is a good thing, but neither may prevent a credit downgrade, which is a terrible thing.

To me, it doesn't matter if it is a Republican proposal or a Democratic proposal, but including \$1.2 trillion in savings from the wars we should not be fighting as savings doesn't make sense. Saying we will save money that we haven't even budgeted or spent is akin to saying that because your family bought a \$20,000 car instead of a \$50,000 car, you saved \$30,000. It is even worse when we consider we couldn't afford to buy any car in the first place. Most of the American people understand that, and I know in West Virginia they do.

As for Speaker BOEHNER's plan, his was supposed to save \$1.2 trillion, but the Congressional Budget Office just took a look and determined it would save only \$917 billion. So instead of fixing our problem, it kicks the can down the road to 2012, which will be an election year. If we think this process is ugly now, we ain't seen anything yet.

As these two proposals currently stand, I could not, in good conscience, support either one of them unless they include a pathway for a long-term debt fix. While it is true our Nation will suffer if we only enact a short-term deal, we will suffer much more if we fail to fix our greater fiscal problems.

We must solve our Nation's problems now, not in 2012 and certainly not in

2013. This is not just my opinion. As many rating agencies have warned and economists have predicted, every year that goes by, the options on how to fix our looming debt crisis will become worse and worse.

If we are being honest, neither of these proposals, as they stand today, can prevent a credit rating agency's downgrade, an event that would be as catastrophic or maybe even worse than default because I, personally, know a government's climb back from a low credit rating is extremely long and painful.

To be clear, a downgrade in our credit worthiness could lead to selloff of stocks, Treasury securities, and U.S. dollars. Gold prices could rise even higher, and interest rates could increase across the board, which would not only have a devastating impact on consumers, small businesses, and local governments but would make the price of financing our Nation's debt even more costly. At a minimum, the shock to our Nation's confidence from our first-ever downgrade could prove more costly than we could even fathom.

We can't let this happen. For the sake of our Nation's future, we must come to a compromise that acknowledges that a long-term debt fix is needed and our spending is out of control and that raising tax rates, whether it is the rich, the middle class, and most especially even the poor, will not cure our spending problems.

But we must also come to a compromise that acknowledges that tax reform is not the same as raising taxes and that there is something morally wrong when a large corporation, such as G.E., pays zero in Federal taxes while small businesses or a middle-class family pays more.

We must also come to a compromise that finally acknowledges we simply can't fight three wars for years to come while we cut services here at home and we choose to keep taxes low. I have said this before, but it is so important. If I have to choose between rebuilding America and rebuilding Afghanistan, I choose America.

So with the clock ticking toward default, what can we do?

As part of any deal to raise the debt ceiling, I would respectfully encourage leaders in the Senate and the House and our President to find common ground by committing to a guaranteed vote on a long-term fix; otherwise, as I said months ago, I simply cannot support a short-term deal that is just a little better than the shorter term deal.

With all due respect to my colleagues, I will not look West Virginians in the eye and say: Don't worry, all is good; I saved myself for the 2012 election, but you are on your own.

A vote on such a long-term debt fix, I would hope, could come within the next 90 days or a reasonable period of time so as to prevent what I fear the

most, a downgrade of our Nation's credit rating. I believe such a vote on a long-term fix is possible because many good people have already worked hard to put together the framework and pieces of what such a long-term fix could look like.

Already we have seen two promising, commonsense proposals from bipartisan groups: the Bowles-Simpson debt commission, which presented its report nearly 9 months ago, and a similar framework that was presented last week by the bipartisan Gang of 6.

In fact, the day the Gang of 6 announced their proposed framework was one of my better and prouder days as a Senator. For the first time since I have been in the Senate, I saw Democratic and Republican Senators, almost equally divided, come together to put politics aside and agree to the principles of a commonsense solution that recognizes the urgency of fixing our long-term problems.

No plan is perfect; no plan will be. No plan will please all, and no plan can. But within these two plans I believe lies the path our Nation can take if we are to get our fiscal house in order. Of course, some will have other ideas, whether from the right or whether from the left, and we should listen to them all. But I would ask each of us and all the groups that undoubtedly will be mobilized to stop any fix, to think hard about what will happen to our great Nation if we fail and do nothing. What will happen to the programs we cherish, such as Social Security and Medicare, for all those people who depend on that for their only means of livelihood? What will happen to our Nation's defense and to our tax rates? What will happen to the people who are truly in need? What will happen to our seniors, our veterans, and our children if we choose to do little or nothing at all?

Finally, as the negotiations for this long-term fix proceed, I would hope we could all remember that if we are to negotiate in good faith, we must have faith in each other. We cannot turn a fair compromise into the enemy, and we can't tear each other apart with attacks if we are to come together to solve our Nation's great problems. We can respectfully disagree as long as we never forget to respect each other.

As difficult as the next few days and weeks and months will be, I believe we, the President and this esteemed Congress, have the opportunity to make this one of our finest hours. We have within our hands an opportunity where we can prove to the naysayers and the doubters that the government of the people is as great as the people which it serves.

I, for one, am willing to do whatever I possibly can, whatever is asked of me; I will work hard every day, across the aisle, until we have a long-term solution to our debt crisis.

I know no Senator or Member of Congress can do this alone. But together, putting politics aside, we can do this. For the sake of this great Nation, our children, the State I love, West Virginia, and this wonderful country of ours, the United States of America, I truly hope we do.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN). The clerk will call the roll. The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDITS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, at least two times in the last couple of months I have come to the floor to tell my colleagues about some work I am doing on investigation of waste, fraud, and abuse in the Defense Department and primarily to focus them on the work of the Inspector General's Office in regard to how they do audits. So I come to the floor today to renew my call for better audit reports.

As a Senator dedicated to watchdogging the taxpayers' money, audits are a primary instrument in my toolbox. They are like a hammer and a wrench. They are the tools of the trade. But like other Members of Congress conducting oversight, I can't do audits. We don't have staff for that, so we must rely on the inspectors general of the various departments to do the independent audits of the work of those departments. So today I speak about the Defense Department inspector general.

The audit should be the inspector general's primary weapon for rooting out fraud, waste, and theft. Audits should be the tip of their spear, and that spear should have a very sharp point. The mere possibility of audit should have the fraudsters—people who commit fraud—quaking in their boots, but that is not the way it is, at least not at the Defense Department.

The audit weapon belonging to the Defense Department's inspector general is not as effective as it should be. This problem is not entirely the inspector general's own doing. The broken Defense Department accounting system is also to blame. It is incapable of generating accurate and complete finance and accounting data. When the books are in shambles, as they are, then there are no audit trails to follow, and following the money is how we get to the bottom of things when it comes to waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement. Of course, that makes the auditor's job doubly difficult. So the auditors need to adjust the audit strategy to meet the challenge that there is not

a very good financial management system within the Defense Department.

As a watchdog, degraded audit capabilities give me serious heartburn. It puts the taxpayers' money in harm's way. When we have unreliable accounting data coupled with ineffective auditing, theft and waste can thrive undetected. Those concerns are the driving force behind my ongoing audit oversight review.

Starting in January of 2009, I began receiving anonymous letters from whistleblowers. They alleged gross mismanagement in the audit office. In response, my staff initiated an in-depth oversight review. It focused on audit reporting by that Inspector General's Office.

On September 7, 2010, I issued my first report. It evaluated 113 audit reports issued in fiscal year 2009. That study determined that those audits, which cost the taxpayers about \$100 million, were not on target. I offered 12 recommendations for getting the audit process back on track.

Inspector General Heddell responded to my report in a very positive and constructive way. He promised to "transform the audit organization." The newly appointed deputy for auditing, Mr. Dan Blair, produced a roadmap pointing the way forward. He, too, promised reform and transformation and the creation of a "world-class oversight organization." All of this, of course, was music to my ears. All signals were very encouraging. But the big question before us now is this: When will the promised reforms begin to pop up on the radar screen? And that radar screen is our further reading of additional audits as they come out this fiscal year and into the future. When will we see sustained improvement in audit quality?

To establish a solid baseline for assessing the highly touted transformation plan, my staff took another snapshot of recent audits. My latest oversight review is best characterized as a report card, and it was issued on June 1 of this year. Each of the 113 unclassified reports published in fiscal year 2010 was reviewed, evaluated, and graded. After each report was graded, all the scores for each report on each rating category were added up and averaged. This created a composite score for each of the 113 reports.

Although 15 top-quality audits are highlighted in the report card, the overall score for all 113 was D-minus. That is low, I know. Maybe the score should have been a little higher. Obviously, the grading system isn't perfect. It may need some fine-tuning, and we are working on that. But I still believe it provides a rough measure of audit quality.

Clearly, none of the 2010 reports reflected any reforms that Inspector General Heddell put in place in December of 2010 because all those reports were

published 3 months before the reforms went into place before October 1, 2010. That was a good 3 months before those reforms were approved.

Shortly after my report card was issued, Inspector General Heddell pounced on it. He objected to the low score. He complained that it did not adequately reflect \$4.2 billion in what he calls "achieved monetary benefits" identified in the 2010 audits.

To address Mr. Heddell's concerns, I had my staff ask the audit office to prepare an information paper on the reported savings. That document was provided to me on June 20. I call it a "crosswalk." It takes me to the exact page in each report where savings are discussed and identified. This document lists \$4.2 billion in "identified potential monetary benefits" and \$4.2 billion in "collections." These alleged savings were uncovered in 19 reports, including one classified report we didn't look at.

After reviewing the crosswalk, I concluded that Inspector General Heddell had a legitimate gripe about the report card. The report card should have included a section on savings. The first time around, we did not give sufficient credit for those accomplishments. As a practical matter, we gave those reports only partial credit for pinpointing waste. I say partial credit because six of those reports were given top scores in my report card, so they did get some credit—just not enough credit.

In order to fully assess Mr. Heddell's complaints, I directed my staff to reassess the scoring process for all 18 unclassified audits. In rescoring the reports, we asked ourselves key questions such as, Was the audit objective aligned with the inspector general's core mission? Did contract audits connect all the dots in the cycle of transactions? Did they match contract requirements with payments? Did the audits answer the key oversight question, which is, Did the government receive what it ordered at an agreed-upon price and schedule? Did the audit verify the exact dollar amount of alleged fraud and waste using primary source payment records? I do not have time to go into this, but the use of primary source payment records is very important if we are going to follow the money, and following the money is where we determine whether there is fraud, waste, and abuse.

Other key questions we asked were: Were the recommendations tough and appropriate? Did they recommend accountability for waste and mismanagement? Did they propose workable remedies for recovering improper payments? How quickly were the audits completed?

The answers to these questions take us right to the heart and the soul of an audit—any audit, in any department. They are a good yardstick for measuring audit quality.

This is my bottom line: Were the audits hard-hitting, down-in-the-trenches audits that produced results or were they softball audits with no redeeming value?

After completing the review, my staff upped the overall score of those 18 reports from a D-plus to a solid C.

Excellence in several reporting categories pushed the scores up as follows: All reports were highly relevant and were aligned with the core mission. They detected and reported \$4 billion in waste. Most reports offered reasonable recommendations for recovering unauthorized payments.

Poor performance in other categories pulled scores down as follows: Most reports did not verify exact dollar amounts of waste using primary source payment records. I wish to emphasize again the necessity of using primary source pay records. Follow the money. Most dollar amounts for alleged savings were taken from untested Army budget documents. Most did not offer meaningful recommendations for holding responsible officials accountable for waste and mismanagement. Of course, in government, if people are not held responsible for what they do and accountable for what they do, then, of course, we do not see change in culture. So accountability and responsibility and holding people responsible is very important if we are going to bring changes. Then, lastly, I would say, most reports were old and stale, having taken far too long to complete.

I wish to point this out by saying, the single biggest factor that keeps dragging the scores down into the pits is timeliness or lack of it and, in most cases, the lack of it. The Audit Office continues to publish old, stale reports. Of these 18 reports we reviewed and on which I am reporting to you, they took an average of 17 months to complete. Eight took a total of 168 months to complete, and none of these numbers includes the 4 to 6 months it takes to get an audit started. So we are looking at a minimum of 2 years to complete top-quality audits.

Under my scoring system, audits completed in 6 months or less earn a grade A, those completed in 12 months earn a C, and those that take more than 15 months get an F.

These 18 reports, of course, as we can see from my comments, were over the top. So they earned a grade of F for taking so long to finish.

I have said this before, and I wish to say it again. The power of top-quality audit work is greatly diminished by stale information. Out-of-date audits have little impact—with the passage of time, records disappear, particularly financial records—because following the money is a very important part of good auditing. People retire and move on. Money cannot be recovered and no one can be held accountable, and without people being held accountable, we do

not change the culture of organizations.

The new Deputy for Auditing, Mr. Blair, is part of the problem. He has not set any goals for audit completion times. I hope he will do that. Reasonable goals need to be established.

I would like to summarize. In my summarization, I would point out that I wish to talk about the \$4 billion that was potential waste and was saved. These 18 reports clearly put the spotlight on \$4 billion of potential waste. The auditors detected it. They reported it. They did exactly what they are supposed to do. That is a major accomplishment worthy of recognition and praise. So they ferreted out waste. They presumably saved the money.

But what happened to the \$4 billion? Busting \$4 billion in waste did not produce \$4 billion in savings. The savings touted by Inspector General Heddell were lost, in a sense.

Then there is a technical lingo around government: The money got reprogrammed. In plain English, that means it got put to better use but not necessarily saved. As seen through the eyes of this skeptical watchdog, all the loose change got scooped up and shoveled out the backdoor and into the jaws of the Pentagon spending machine on some other program. That machine is known to have an insatiable appetite for money.

The disappearance of the savings is part semantics. The word "waste" is not in the audit lexicon. Sprinkling waste with perfume and calling it savings does not make it savings. Perhaps if the auditors started calling it what it is—waste—it might be easier to reach the Promised Land, but they never got there. Mr. President, 99.9 percent of the \$4 billion got spent. Only in government could we spend all the money and still claim savings.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEBT LIMIT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, later today, we will get a chance—another chance, I should say—to vote to raise the debt limit.

My understanding is, the House of Representatives has delayed the time at which they are going to vote on their plan, the so-called Boehner plan. But at some point I suspect that vote will move forward and we will end up receiving that legislation from the House of Representatives, and we will have an opportunity to act on that as well.

It will be the second bill we will vote on in the Senate that would raise the debt limit. The first one was the cut, cap, and balance plan that was first approved by the House before being sent to the Senate over 1 week ago.

This was a three-pronged approach that would have required a downpayment on our deficits by immediately cutting spending. It would have put us on a path to reform entitlements and cut spending over the medium term by putting a cap on spending as a percentage of our economy. Finally, it would have made sure we do not keep adding to our debt by approving a debt limit increase after a balanced budget amendment to our Constitution was passed by Congress.

This was the Republicans' first choice as to how to deal with this crisis. Unfortunately, Senate Democrats killed this commonsense bill which had the support, according to a CNN poll, of 66 percent of Americans. So we did not have an opportunity to debate it, offer amendments or get an up-and-down vote on that legislation. In the interest of solving the problem before us, it was recognized that probably we would have to find another approach.

There have been a lot of observations made by the media and others that somehow the Republicans need to compromise more in this situation. My only question would be: Compromise with whom? With themselves? Because they are the only ones out there who have put forward a plan. And, in fact, this current proposal that will come from the House of Representatives actually is a compromise. The spending reductions in that proposal are two-thirds of those that were proposed in the House budget that was passed by the House of Representatives earlier this year. So it still addresses the fundamental problem, and Speaker BOEHNER came up with a new plan that would cut spending by \$915 billion and create a process to reduce the deficit by \$1.8 trillion on top of that.

This is not a perfect plan. As I said, it is certainly not our first choice, but it is a plan that cuts spending more than it increases the debt limit, and it does it without raising taxes on job creators. In a little while the Boehner plan will hopefully join the cut, cap, and balance plan as the only plan which has passed a body of Congress.

Senate Democrats do not have a plan to cut spending more than they raise the debt limit. Senate Democrats do not have a plan that can pass a single House of Congress. Of course, this is more than the White House can say, because the White House does not have a plan, period. So when the Boehner plan comes up for a vote here in the Senate, hopefully sometime later this evening, I would encourage my colleagues from across the aisle to support this measure.

They have been speaking constantly about the need to raise the debt limit,

and here is their chance to do so. All they have to do is vote for this bill and send it to the President for his signature and we can put this issue to rest for the time being. Then it puts a pathway in place for us to get, as I said before, to a debate about entitlement reform several months down the road.

I understand there are some concerns among my colleagues on the other side about how long it will be before we would need to increase the debt limit again. But if you look at the past 20 years or so, 72 percent of the time our debt limit increases have been for less than a year. So this increase is hardly out of the normal time range. If you think about it, almost 75 percent of the time—almost three-fourths of the time—we have raised the debt limit, we have done it for less than a year.

What we are talking about here would be something that would take us into next year, at which point we would have to have another vote on the debt limit as we come to a conclusion about the entitlement reform component or element of this particular legislation.

So this increase, as I said, is not out of the normal time range. Markets are not going to care about for how long we increase the debt limit. They simply care that we do not breach the debt limit and, more importantly, over the long term we lay out a long-term plan to cut the debt.

Many of us have spoken on the floor of the Senate in the past and indicated that the real crisis, the real issue before our country right now is not the debt limit, it is the debt. It is the fact that we are borrowing literally 40 cents out of every dollar that we spend here in Washington, DC, and we continue to pile up and accumulate massive amounts of debt that get passed on to future generations and put in great peril the economy of our country and our ability to create jobs. So a longer term increase is not needed to calm the markets.

But what this bill does not do is raise the debt limit past the elections. I think that is where the real rub comes in. Because the President has made it very clear, as have some of my colleagues, that this is one of their major concerns. They want to have a debt limit increase that gets us past the 2012 election. That is a political concern, it is not an economic concern.

But today it has arisen that these concerns are more than political, they are personal. You see, the White House is concerned that this would require Congress to approve another debt limit increase sometime in January, which they complain would ruin their Christmas vacation plans. I certainly do not want to ruin the President or anyone else's Christmas vacation plans, but I think it is a bit more important that we prevent our country from adding \$9.5 trillion to the debt held by the

public, as the President's budget would do. I think it is a bit more important that we prevent our country from being forced to implement severe austerity programs, such as they have had to do in Europe because of their inability to constrain spending. I think it is a bit more important that we reform entitlements so these important programs are around for our children and grandchildren.

Finally, I think it is a bit more important that we leave our country in better shape for our children than the one we received. This has been the American ethic. Each generation has sacrificed so that the next generation could have a better quality of life. Today we risk turning that tradition on its head. If we continue to run up debts and deficits such as those proposed, our children and grandchildren will have an astounding burden to pay off to our country's creditors. We do not have to leave them this burden.

We have proposed, as I said, the cut, cap, and balance plan, which would make great strides in reducing this debt burden. We will have, hopefully later today—if not today perhaps sometime tomorrow—in front of us the Boehner plan, which will make significant downpayments on these burdens.

What I would simply say is that we have consistently now put before this Senate different plans we have had a chance to vote on. We voted on the cut, cap, and balance plan. Unfortunately, it was a tabling motion, it was a procedural motion. It was not an up-and-down vote, because the leader did not want us to get on that legislation and have an opportunity to debate and amend it and ultimately vote on it. But we did have a vote on a tabling motion. Hopefully, we will get a vote on the Boehner plan which, as I said, hopefully will be in front of us in the not too distant future. But my point very simply is there has not been any effort put forward by our colleagues on the other side to, one, put forward a budget which we know now has been I think 820 days since the last time the Senate acted on a budget. You have to go back to April 29 of 2009. That was the last time the Senate voted on a budget.

It starts there. It starts there. That is where we set our priorities. That is where we determine how we are going to spend the people's tax dollars. So we have not had a budget. The House of Representatives passed a budget. They did it on schedule. They did it on time. As far as I know, there are no plans here to move a budget any time in the future.

Then we have the cut, cap, and balance plan that passed the House of Representatives, which was an attempt to deal with the debt limit increase, but do it in a way that forces us to focus on the real issue, which is spending reductions, spending reforms, puts

in place a pathway to get a result on entitlement reform, forces a vote on a balanced budget amendment, which many of us think is a priority if we are going to get long-term spending under control, and then, hopefully later today, we are going to get a vote on the Boehner plan which will come over from the House of Representatives, which is yet another attempt to get the debt limit increased, but do it in a way that actually makes a dent in the long-term challenge facing this country, which again is not the debt limit, it is the debt.

That is the problem. That is fundamentally what we have to deal with. It is fundamentally a spending problem. Much has been made about a balanced approach. What does the other side mean when they say balanced? Usually it means we are going to take more of your money and spend it on more government. Many of us would support tax reform that would close tax loopholes, broaden the base, if you could lower the rates at the same time. I happen to believe that is important if we are going to get the economy growing again and creating jobs. I think you would see tremendous growth as a result of tax reform. But if you talk about raising taxes to pay for even more government, that is precisely the wrong approach. That is why we are in the mess we are in today, because we spend more than we take in. We have been doing it year over year. We have got to learn to live within our means and to quit spending money we do not have.

Many States have amendments in their constitutions that enable them and force them and require them to do this every single year. It is time our Federal Government started operating in a way that makes fiscal sense. I think the American people understand very clearly what this is about. This is about spending. It is about getting Washington to live within its means, to quit borrowing 40 cents out of every dollar it spends, and to put this country on a path fiscally that will ensure we do not bankrupt the country for future generations, and that we get our economy back in a place where it can start growing and creating the jobs we need to get people in this country back to work.

I see the Senator from Utah. I expect he will have some remarks about this subject. There are many of us on this side, I know, who are anxious to vote and certainly are doing everything we can to facilitate this process where we deal with the crisis before us next week, but, importantly, do it in a way that addresses the fundamental issue here which is not the debt limit, it is the debt.

It is time Washington started living within its means, started to make sure we have got a pathway in place for not only cutting spending today but deal-

ing with the long-term issue by putting a balanced budget amendment in our Constitution. I hope my colleagues will join us in this legislation that will come before us sometime we hope later today, and it will be yet another attempt to address this issue. I implore my colleagues here, I think we are going to get most of the Republicans to vote for this. I hope there will be some on the other side who will join us in this endeavor. It is too important to the future of this country not to.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of Colorado.) The Senator from Utah is recognized.

Mr. HATCH. I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to finish my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, before turning to the issue of the moment, I want to thank my dear friend for his good remarks here on the floor of the Senate. He is a great leader, a great human being, and he certainly outlined, I think in a fair way, some of the problems and some of the solutions we might have here on the floor.

But before turning to the issue of the moment, the need to restore the Nation's fiscal stability by reducing our deficits and debt, I want to return to a matter I discussed on the floor yesterday, and that is the FAA reauthorization bill.

I must respond to some of the comments made by two of my colleagues earlier today regarding one of the major sticking points in our efforts to pass the FAA reauthorization bill. Their arguments are, to put it quite simply, fallacious and cannot go unanswered.

As you might expect, these comments were regarding the provision in the House bill affecting the way votes are counted in union elections in the airline industry. My colleagues, the senior Senator from West Virginia and the junior Senator from Iowa, characterize the House's actions as some sort of radical endeavor, a change that lacks justification and common sense.

In fact, the Senator from West Virginia even argued that the House's provisions would "undo 75 years of labor law."

These were his exact words. Well, nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, the claim is so far from being accurate I simply have to assume that my good friend, Senator ROCKEFELLER, simply misspoke. I know this is the line the labor unions and the administration are peddling, but here is the truth: The House of Representatives or Senate Republicans are not trying to undo 75 years of labor law, it is the National Mediation Board—or

NMB, I will call it—that has already done so in a highly partisan fashion.

It is the NMB, controlled by pro-union appointees of President Obama that in a partisan way unilaterally undid 75 years of labor law, and put their finger on the scale for the unions that bankroll Democratic political campaigns.

I know what I am talking about. I won the American Jurisprudence prize for labor law. I have led labor fights on the floor for our side for the last 35 years. House and Senate Republicans are only trying to restore long-lasting labor law following its highly partisan corruption by the National Mediation Board. This is not an opinion. This is fact.

Put the talking points and revisionist history aside, this is what you have: a highly partisan NMB changing 75 years of settled law, settled labor law, to benefit the Democrats' political allies. For 75 years, NMB-supervised elections required that a union receive the votes of a majority of the entire workforce before it can be certified. That has been the law. There is good reason for it. This was not just a mathematical trick to disadvantage unions, as my colleagues have argued. It is plain common sense.

Let's suppose, for example, that only 50 percent of a proposed bargaining unit votes in a union election, and the union wins by a very slim majority of the votes cast. In that case, a union representative would be certified with only the demonstrated support of one-fourth of the bargaining unit. That is what would happen if we follow the language the NMB fallaciously put into their ruling. One-quarter of a workforce could vote to certify a union and bind every other coworker to have to live with that decision. Apparently a commitment to Democratic and true majority rule only matters to the left when it suits them. What is going on in this country is outrageous, not just at the National Mediation Board but the NLRB as well. Democratic radicals, very brilliant labor lawyers, who do not give a darn about what the law is, are now starting to change the laws by regulatory fiat.

Apparently a commitment to democratic and true majority rule only matters when it suits certain people's politics.

The Senator from Iowa compared these votes to Senate and schoolboard elections, suggesting that only a majority of those voting is necessary to prevail. This is a misguided comparison. First, union elections are not a choice among competing representatives. They are, instead, held to determine whether the workers want to be represented at all. Even setting that aside, how many schoolboards are going to be empowered to make decisions that affect every hour of every day an employee goes to work? How

many Senators are elected to serve a small, narrowly defined group of constituents? And, in the end, if your vote is not counted in a Senate or schoolboard election, you will get another chance to vote a few years down the line.

Employees voting in these union elections have no such options. That is why the law has been completely different from what my two friends and colleagues have said on the floor. Requiring the support of the majority of the whole unit before certifying a union representative only makes common sense. This is why the procedure at NMB used for these elections went unchanged for 75 years. Boards appointed by Democratic Presidents Roosevelt, Truman, Johnson, Carter, and Clinton all agreed with that process that the House bill is only attempting to restore.

In fact, the NMB appointed by President Carter unanimously ruled it did not have authority to administratively change the form of the NMB's ballot used in representation elections, and that such a change, if appropriate, can only be made by Congress. That makes sense.

Yet today we have an administration bent on greasing the rails in favor of the unions, and a Democratic Senate all too willing to go along with it. They are so willing that they have opted to stall passage of the FAA reauthorization to prevent Congress from restoring a system that served the Nation and airline industry well for decades. This is another example of the administration showing its true colors. Rather than provide certainty to travelers, the transportation industry, and airports, they are holding up a long-term FAA reauthorization in order to benefit their union allies. It is wrong. This type of thing should not go on. Nor should the National Mediation Board be issuing what ought to be congressional decisions.

I wish we were not having this debate. I wish we could get this FAA reauthorization done. I want to get it done. I don't want anybody furloughed, but these are important issues. This isn't some itty-bitty nonessential issue. I am not going to yield on this issue. I will not let an out-of-control National Mediation Board and their patrons in Congress and the White House rig the rules so a small minority can jam unionization on unwilling employees.

I expect we will be debating this issue for some time. I am willing to have the debate in full view of the public. But, at the very least, I expect my colleagues to acknowledge the truth as to what has transpired at the National Mediation Board. It is not the House of Representatives that has taken a radical position; it is the Obama administration, and some of my colleagues on the other side should know better.

Let me add a couple of other things. I don't enjoy the fact that people are being furloughed. But it is not Republicans who are holding this bill up. It is those people demanding outrageous changes in the law by individuals who were never elected to make those changes. We ought to fire that whole doggone National Mediation Board—or at least the Democrats on the board, who don't seem to care about what the law is.

And it is the same with the NLRB. At least one of them, and maybe more, could not make it through this process and had to be recess appointed. They could care less about what the laws are, and they want to change them without proper congressional approval. It is outrageous. It is not something my friends on the other side should encourage. It just makes sense.

All those Democratic Presidents, until now, have honored that 75-year history of how votes should be taken in union elections. Unions win over 60 percent of their union elections. The system is not unfair. They lose some, sure. But to stack the rules so they can win every time is not right either. It certainly isn't democratic. It is wrong for those employees who didn't have the opportunity, or didn't vote. It is wrong. You can have 10 people vote in a 100-person union, and if 6 vote for it, under their rule, that would change the rule for all 94 of the others. That is what we are ignoring. So much for that. All I can say is I don't want to have anyone whining from the other side, because they are the ones who are holding up the FAA reauthorization. And they are doing it for the most crass of reasons.

THE DEBT CEILING

Turning to the matter that is consuming the Nation, I want to address the so-called August 2 deadline we hit next week.

In early April of this year, Treasury Secretary Geithner informed Congress that Treasury might run out of ways to stay at the debt limit and have enough cash to pay its bills around July 8. About a month and a half later, on May 16, the Treasury Secretary updated his guess to August 2.

This August 2 deadline, which the administration has insisted is when Treasury runs out of sufficient cash to pay bills, was estimated back in the middle of May. It is only reasonable to expect that Congress would be kept apprised of Treasury's cashflow status and estimates. If we indeed face an economic catastrophe on August 2, it is only reasonable to expect warnings from those in government responsible for issuing such updates and monitoring threats to our financial stability.

We have a group in government that is charged with that responsibility. It is called the Financial Stability Oversight Council, or FSOC, set up in the

Dodd-Frank financial regulation law. The FSOC is chaired by the Treasury Secretary and composed of members such as the Federal Reserve Chairman and banking regulations czars. Indeed, the FSOC was sold by Democrats as a body that would be able to spot threats to our financial system and then warn and protect us all.

The President, Treasury officials, the President's Press Secretary, and others in the administration daily warn of catastrophe, crisis, and the potential for conditions even worse than we saw during the financial crisis. They seem to be channeling Dr. Peter Venkman, who, faced with another catastrophe, once predicted a disaster of biblical proportions—human sacrifice, dogs and cats living together, mass hysteria.

Yet through all these predictions, the FSOC has essentially remained silent. That body of unelected bureaucrats either doesn't see an impending threat to stability from the debt limit impasse, or from a ratings downgrade for the United States, or it is too busy writing a mountain of new regulations to make a warning.

I sent a letter, which I wish to have printed in the RECORD, to eight voting members of the FSOC yesterday, asking two basic sets of questions. I ask unanimous consent that that be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE,
Washington, DC, July 27, 2011.

Hon. TIMOTHY GEITHNER,
Secretary, Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC.

Hon. BEN BERNANKE,
Chairman, Board of Governors, The Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC.

Hon. GARY GENSLER,
Chairman, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Washington, DC.

Hon. MARY SCHAPIRO,
Chairman, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, DC.

MARTIN J. GRUENBERG,
Acting Chairperson, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Washington, DC.

EDWARD DEMARCO,
Acting Director, Federal Housing Finance Agency, Washington, DC.

Hon. DEBBIE MATZ,
Chairman, National Credit Union Administration, Alexandria, VA.

JOHN WALSH,
Acting Comptroller, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY GEITHNER, CHAIRMEN BERNANKE, GENSLER, MATZ, SHAPIRO, ACTING CHAIRPERSON GRUENBERG, ACTING DIRECTOR DEMARCO, AND ACTING COMPTROLLER WALSH: The President, on July 25, spoke to the American public about risks associated with failure to raise the statutory debt limit, saying that: "We would risk sparking a deep economic crisis. . ." The President warns of a deep crisis and risks to financial stability.

You, the voting members of the Financial Stability Oversight Council (FSOC), are charged by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act with the

responsibility to identify risks and potential emerging threats to the financial stability of the United States.

Does the Council agree with the President's assessment that possible failure to raise the statutory debt limit by sometime in early August represents an emerging threat to the financial stability of the United States?

Does any voting Council member dissent from whatever is the majority view of the Council? If so, please explain precisely why.

Neither the Minutes of the FSOC July 13, 2011 meeting nor the Annual Report of the FSOC, which was approved on July 22, 2011, identify possible failure to raise the statutory debt limit by August 2 as an imminent risk to the financial stability of the United States worthy of a warning to the American people, and do not come close to recent statements by Treasury officials warning of "catastrophe."

In addition to inquiring about the Council's views on possible risks to financial stability, I write to ask the Council and its voting members about their current knowledge of recent Treasury cash inflows and outflows and projections of those cash flows, daily, through the month of August.

Treasury officials have warned that based on actual and projected revenues and expenditures, along with potential exhaustion of available "extraordinary measures" to avoid breach of the statutory debt limit, the United States will exhaust its borrowing authority under the limit and possibly run out of available cash to pay obligations of the federal government that are due.

Unfortunately, Congress and the American people do not have sufficient information about Treasury's actual and projected revenues, expenditures, and cash flows to make informed judgments. Many Americans and members of Congress are, unfortunately, relying on estimates and projections from either large Wall Street financial institutions or non-governmental organizations often labeled "think tanks." The lack of information is unsatisfactory.

In a May 2, 2011 letter to Congress, Treasury Secretary Geithner stated that as a result of stronger than anticipated tax receipts, Treasury then estimated that extraordinary measures to provide headroom under the statutory debt limit would be exhausted on August 2, 2011. Since that time, more data have become available. Some reports since that time have indicated that receipts may have been turning out higher than previously expected. Further, the Federal Reserve's July 2011 Monetary Policy Report to the Congress identifies that "Federal receipts have risen rapidly lately—they are up about 10 percent in the first eight months of fiscal 2011 compared with the same period in fiscal 2010."

I recognize that receipts and Treasury's cash inflows and outflows can be lumpy and are stochastic. However, the date at which extraordinary measures available to Treasury become exhausted, and cash inflows may prove insufficient to meet incoming obligations that are due, has almost surely changed from the August 2 date estimated by Treasury on May 2. Given incoming data since May 2, does August 2 remain the date with the highest statistical likelihood of being the point in time at which Treasury will run out of extraordinary measures to provide additional headroom under the debt limit and will face insufficient cash inflows relative to obligations that are coming due?

Please provide, by 5:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time on Thursday, July 28, de-

tailed information known by the Council and by any voting member on:

Actual revenues and expenditures through July 27;

Projected or actual daily Treasury cash inflows and outflows for each day between July 28 and August 31, along with methods used to make projections;

Whether, given current projections of cash inflows and obligations coming due, Treasury would run out of cash and not have sufficient cash available to meet all obligations that become due on any date between August 2 and August 31 (projections here mean point estimates, with the acknowledgement that projections are inherently uncertain);

Any cash or liquid accounts available (presently or any time during August) to Treasury, such as Treasury's \$5 billion liquid balance sitting idle in its Supplementary Financing Program Account at the Federal Reserve, established to allegedly assist the Federal Reserve with management of its balance sheet during the financial crisis (the Daily Statement of cash and debt operations of the United States Treasury for Monday, July 25, 2011 indicates that the \$5 billion was available to Treasury on that date);

Current values of securities and other marketable assets available (presently or any time during August) to Treasury, including mortgage-backed-securities and other financial claims amassed by Treasury during the recent financial crisis, which could be liquidated and converted to cash (my request is for total values, not an assessment of the advisability of asset sales);

Contingency plans for generation of cash within Treasury in the event that the statutory debt limit is not raised by August 2, 2011;

Contingency plans of regulators of financial institutions, including any plans for regulatory forbearance, in the event of a ratings downgrade of United States Treasury debt securities;

Contingency plans of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in the event of a ratings downgrade of United States Treasury debt securities, including plans related to "breaking of the buck" by a money market mutual fund, disruptions in the tri-party repo market, disruptions in payment systems or systemically important financial utilities, or creation of programs or facilities with broad-based eligibility under authorities provided by Section 1101 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act;

Any private assurances by any government officials to any financial institution or significant financial market participant that the United States Treasury will not fail to pay principal and interest on Treasury securities even if the statutory debt limit is not raised.

As Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Committee, with a responsibility for oversight of our sovereign debt and Treasury's cash management practices, I am deeply concerned about the lack of information about upcoming cash flows and reliance of Congress and the American people on non-governmental projections of those flows in decisionmaking. Time is of the essence, and I require, as I stated, the information that I have requested by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on Thursday, July 28. Please contact Jeff Wrase at 202-224-4515.

Sincerely,

ORRIN G. HATCH,
Ranking Member.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, one is whether they see any imminent threat

to financial stability from the debt limit impasse, or from an impending downgrade to our Nation's credit rating. Of course, we face warnings of downgrades of our credit rating not merely because of the debt limit impasse; we have had dozens of such impasses in recent decades, with no effect on our credit rating. Yet we do face warnings of a ratings downgrade because of President Obama's acceleration of deficits and debt along our unsustainable fiscal path and unsustainable entitlement promises.

With spending as a share of the economy up to levels not seen since World War II, and a lack of willingness by the administration to break its deficit spending addiction, ratings agencies have been brought to the edge and warn of impending downgrades. Those downgrades would immediately harm job creation, the economy, the cost of credit for every American family and business, and, indeed, overall financial stability.

However, instead of a forthright discussion of this threat, the FSOC chose to instead bury an academic discussion of it in their annual report. Let me remind everyone how important Democrats said the FSOC would be as an early warning system, protecting us from the imminent threats to stability. It was supposed to be a watchdog, a cop on the beat combing global financial markets for imbalances and stability threats, and then giving warning to everyone.

The President, the Treasury Secretary, ratings agencies, Secretary of State, Fed Chairman Bernanke, admirals, investors, former administration officials across party lines—all have issued warnings of threats to financial stability from our fiscal crisis. Yet the FSOC buried whatever observation it has about our crisis in its annual report.

Another set of questions I asked the FSOC involves Treasury's cashflows through August and the date at which Treasury now believes it is most likely to run short of cash. I asked about contingency plans that Treasury, the Fed, and bank regulators have if there is a ratings downgrade. Reports of meetings of Treasury Secretary Geithner, Fed Chairman Bernanke, and New York Fed President Dudley suggest that contingency plans certainly are in the works.

Yet as the ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, the administration has provided me with no information on what those plans might be, in spite of my responsibility for oversight of debt and cash operations at Treasury. I wish I could say I was surprised, but the fact is, the promise of the most open, deliberative, and rational administration in history has given way to a highly secretive and partisan operation that denies the people of this country the leadership they are owed.

Perhaps I am supposed to wait, as in the past, for news reports on Sunday afternoon before the opening of financial markets in Asia to find out what we would do if an economic catastrophe in fact unfolds.

It is an unsatisfactory and unacceptable state of affairs that the American people and Members of Congress do not have updated and sufficient information about Treasury's cashflows and liquid assets, or the contingency plans of our financial regulators. It is disturbing to me that in recent days Members of Congress in both Chambers have gone to their respective floors to discuss Treasury's cash and liquidity position using information supplied either by large Wall Street financial institutions, or by nongovernmental think tanks.

Press reports of the U.S. Treasury's financial condition have also been relying on these sources. Why? Why do Members of Congress not know details of Treasury's projected cashflows for August? Why are we relying on dated numbers Treasury gave us months ago? How can we decide whether August 2, a threshold date estimated by Treasury back in May, is even close to some sort of deadline date for dealing with the debt limit?

Maybe the date is July 29. I don't know, and neither the administration nor the FSOC has told us. Maybe the date is August 15. I don't know, and neither the administration nor the FSOC has told us. I don't know. The American people don't know. This is unacceptable.

Wall Street firms have recently put out their own projections and say that August 2 may not be relevant at all. Maybe it will be August 8 when Treasury runs into a cashflow problem. Maybe it will be August 13. Does Treasury still believe August 2 is the date when cashflow problems are most likely to arrive, given new information on government receipts since early May? If not, we need to know, and we need to know how that assessment has been made. If so, then why is Treasury not telling us and showing us why?

My letter to FSOC members, which includes the Treasury Secretary, includes a request for updated information about Treasury cashflows and liquid assets. Given warnings from the administration that there is special urgency to act by August 2, time is of the essence, so I asked to receive responses from the FSOC members by 5 o'clock today, which is now an hour and a half ago. I have received no reply about Treasury cashflows and liquid assets. Nothing. Radio silence.

Television cameras can't be turned on in this town without capturing some administration official reminding Americans about the looming default, but they are unable to provide Congress with the numbers that would show when the default would happen,

after all these months of recommending we should know, and after warnings months ago.

Let me say this again. I asked for, and have not received, critical information about the state of our Nation's short-term finances that I specifically requested from eight voting members of the FSOC, including the Secretary of the Treasury.

I have received no response at all regarding the cash and liquid assets Treasury has and expects to have available. But worse than the refusal by the Treasury Secretary and the FSOC members to inform us about the Nation's cash position is their refusal to keep the American people duly informed about the state of our finances. It is, quite simply, a shirking of their responsibility to the citizens of this country. Rather than providing transparency—which we were promised—the administration has chosen to scare Social Security recipients about their benefits in politicized debt-limit negotiations.

We are debating debt and deficit plans that involve trillions of dollars. Yet we only have guesses about how much cash the Federal Government expects to have in August from a nongovernment think tank and from Wall Street firms. This is unacceptable.

Mr. President, one of the most troubling aspects of this lack of disclosure is the way it is affecting our Nation's seniors. I listened to my constituents in Utah, and many of them who rely on Social Security are very worried, and they are, frankly, scared. The Obama administration has been hard at work frightening them about the prospects of default. More concerned about his election prospects than resolving this crisis, President Obama commented recently that he could not guarantee Treasury would be able to make Social Security payments in early August.

Really? This fearmongering is shameful—absolutely shameful. For the President to threaten not to send out Social Security checks is a stain on his Presidency. Those relying on Social Security benefits rightfully count on timely payments. They worked hard and paid taxes, and timely benefit payments are due to them. These payments can and should be assured, no question.

Why is the President using the politics of fear on our seniors? I think we all know the reason. Given the information that is available, it appears that roughly \$50 billion of Social Security payments are due during August. Recent estimates from outside sources put flows in the Treasury of between \$170 billion and over \$200 billion in August from various tax receipts and other sources. That alone is more than enough to pay \$50 billion in Social Security payments, with cash left over for the \$30 billion due on our debt in August and more.

Perhaps the President is worried about the timing of cashflows in August. Yet even if all \$50 billion of Social Security payments come due on August 3—and they won't—Treasury can easily get its hands on cash to pay those bills. According to the Daily Treasury Statement for July 26, Treasury has \$5 billion sitting idle at the Federal Reserve. Treasury can call that up. They can call up the Fed right now and get that \$5 billion in cash.

Treasury has roughly \$90 billion in mortgage-backed securities that it bought in the financial crisis to bail out the housing markets. It sold \$10.6 billion of those just last month. Treasury can go out and sell more next week if it is worried about not having cash to pay seniors. It could raise almost \$80 billion.

There are many more options for Treasury to get cash, and if the administration had any concern for seniors it would have had its officials working hard since at least May to ensure enough cash is available in August. Treasury could easily have \$50 billion of cash on August 3 to pay our seniors if it wants to do that.

Why, then, did the President choose to strike fear into all of our Nation's seniors? Why would the President say to our seniors that he could not guarantee there would be cash available to pay benefits in August when he can absolutely guarantee there would be cash available?

It seems clear the President has chosen to use fear and to scare seniors in order to boost his chances at reelection and to strengthen the hand of our friends on the other side who are insistent on raising taxes as a means of deficit reduction. If we raise taxes, I guarantee you the other side will spend every dime of it. It will not be used to pay down the deficit, and especially with a Presidential election in a couple of years.

Using Social Security and the financial security of our seniors as bargaining chips in a political poker game over the debt ceiling is, to put it bluntly, shameful. To do so to try to raise taxes at a time when unemployment is 9.2 percent and trending up—and that doesn't even include the underemployment rate, which is hovering around 17 percent when you count those who will not even look for jobs anymore, and others who will not work—well, it represents an odd way to express concern about jobs.

The only reason Social Security payments would not be made in August by the administration would be a conscious choice by the administration to stiff seniors and to blame Republicans. It would be a conscious political choice, not a choice forced by the debt limit or lack of cash.

Well, Mr. President, it is time for me to conclude, but I want to be clear. The American public has been shortchanged

by the new Financial Stability Oversight Council that was created by the job-killing Dodd-Frank financial regulation act. That is one of the worst bills I have seen in all of my 35 years.

The FSOC, chaired by Treasury Secretary Geithner, has refused and ignored my request for basic information about government finances and government contingency plans in the face of dire warnings of threats to our Nation's financial stability.

I don't enjoy coming on the Senate floor and excoriating this administration and the President and FSOC. But this is shameful. The American people deserve transparency, and they deserve accountability. Yet the administration and its regulators chose instead to withhold information from the people and their elected representatives in Congress. The refusal by members of FSOC, including the Treasury Secretary, to provide simple information about government finances is unacceptable and requires investigation and action.

Mr. President, we have to get to where this government starts to work again. We shouldn't have to rely on Wall Street for these figures or rely on Wall Street to know what the administration's plan is. We shouldn't have to rely on anybody except those who are designated to provide this information. Unfortunately, they haven't done that.

I admit, I only gave them a few days, but they have been working on this for months. I don't know about their office, but I tell you one thing. We get things done on time. We are at rug-cutting time on the floor of the Senate and in the House of Representatives. We know August 2 is the heralded date by this administration. Since they chose the date, I think they should justify what they are going to do and how they are going to do it; to make sure if we don't somehow increase the debt ceiling, which I am not going to do, we at least know what their plan is.

I hope the administration will get a little more active on some of these things that are so important on Capitol Hill—important to Democrats as well as Republicans. We need to have the facts. We need accountability, we need transparency, and I am calling on the administration to get on the ball.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the urgent need to act on the debt ceiling before the August 2 deadline. While I believe we have reached a defining moment as

a country, which has not been wasted—we need to reduce our debt—we also can't afford to play Russian roulette with our economy by toying with the debt limit.

We have had months to work this out. Yet less than 6 days from a possible default that would plunge this country into a serious crisis, here we stand in opposite corners of the boxing ring. The markets are jittery, investors and businesses are deeply concerned, but, most importantly, the people of this country are fed up with this political stalemate. They do not want their interest rates to rise, the value of the dollar to fall, and they do not want to see their retirement savings decimated again because some in Washington believe if they refuse to compromise, the resulting crisis will score them political points.

Ever since the economic downturn, families across the country have sat down at their kitchen tables to make the tough choices about what they hold most dear and what they can learn to live without. We all know those conversations. They have to end with compromise.

A poll released Monday by the Pew Charitable Trusts found that 68 percent of Americans say lawmakers who share their views on this issue, on either side, say those lawmakers should compromise. So people who actually share a view with a particular lawmaker, 68 percent of them say lawmakers should compromise, even if it means striking a deal they disagree with.

Just 23 percent say lawmakers who share their views should stand by their principles even if it leads to default.

My colleagues and I don't need polls to tell us that. We have all had our offices flooding with calls and e-mails in the last few days from well-meaning constituents with advice and from those who are mad and asking us to work it out. Just this morning I received this e-mail from Dave and Cheryl of Northfield, MN. This is what it says:

Dear Amy,

The political positioning and wrangling over the Federal Budget and debt ceiling limit has gone on long enough! It's time for our elected leaders to step up and resolve the debt ceiling and budget crisis in a mature, adult fashion. We realize that this is easier said than done, but after experiencing the shutdown of the State of Minnesota, it is unconscionable to even have the possibility of the crisis that we will face as a nation if we don't raise our debt ceiling and begin reducing the deficit. We urge you and your colleagues to do all it takes to resolve this issue prior to the deadline. There has to be some compromise that can be identified. Each side will need to give to make this happen—let's focus on the art of compromise and get this wrapped up. It's time to show the world that we are still a truly great nation and can step up to resolve the challenges placed before us. The greater good of the nation has to be placed as a top priority. Hoping and praying for successful resolution to the outstanding issues.

That is Dave and Cheryl of Northfield, MN—just citizens who sent an e-mail today. I wish everyone in this Chamber and everyone over in the House would listen to this today. I think it sums it up very well.

Outside the Halls of Congress there isn't much disagreement over the urgency to act or the consequences of failing to do so. There also isn't a lot of disagreement over the importance to our economy of a long-term extension. Who seriously believes dragging this country through this again in 5 or 6 months will help our economy get back on track?

Economists and experts from across the political spectrum have warned that a short-term approach would likely lead to a downgrade of our credit rating, which would cost us billions of dollars more in interest payments on our existing debt and drive up our deficit. For families and businesses, it would mean a spike in interest rates, making everything from mortgages, car loans, and credit cards more expensive.

I think the most common refrain I hear from the business community in Minnesota when we talk about what it will take to spur investment and create jobs in this country is a need for certainty—certainty in the Tax Code, certainty in expenses, certainty in our government's budget. Let's provide some certainty.

After months of debate, it is clear what sort of plan is needed to garner the support necessary to get us across the finish line. We will all ultimately have to accept things with which we don't necessarily agree. It is time to get serious about advancing a deal that is both fair and achievable.

On August 2, the borrowing authority of the United States will be exhausted. No one benefits if we are unable to reach an agreement by this deadline. Every day that passes without a deal only increases uncertainty in the markets and puts the brakes on economic activity. Failure to bring the national debt under control also threatens America's future, but the danger of default threatens our economy today.

We have two options: We can either set a precedent of holding our debt hostage to political maneuvering, raising the cost of borrowing and increasing our deficit at the same time or we can show the world we are serious about working together to address our fiscal challenges to reduce the debt, reduce the cost of borrowing, and strengthen our financial outlook. I believe the choice is clear, and I believe a lot of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle know that.

The sooner we can agree on a long-term package, the better for our economy and the better for our country. It is time to put our political differences aside and work on an agenda that strengthens our economy, promotes fiscal responsibility, and increases global

competitiveness because if we refuse to have an honest conversation, if we insist on using the debate as a vehicle for rhetoric only, we will not just be doing ourselves a disservice, not just be doing this institution a disservice, we will be cheating our children and grandchildren out of knowing the America in which we grew up. If we are committed to our country and not to unmoving ideologies, we will get this done.

Last month, I received a lesson in what commitment as a public servant means when I attended the funeral of Jack Murray, who was the former mayor of International Falls, MN, right on the Canadian border. It is a town where they often test cars to show that they can withstand the cold, but it is a hardscrabble, thriving town.

Mayor Murray was a decorated marine who served for 14 years as a member of the city council and for 14 more years as mayor. He figuratively and literally wore "I love International Falls" on his sleeve with a button he was never without. At his funeral—and he was 89 years when he died—we heard countless stories of his commitment to his city that didn't end when he retired. The priest at the funeral told this story. He said that every morning, including the morning Mayor Murray died, he would rise early and walk the streets of International Falls. He would wear his orange highway vest to keep him safe, at 89, and he would have a cup of coffee and a bag for trash, and he would walk the streets of his beloved town collecting trash up until the day he died. He was a public servant to the end. He believed in his town, in his State, and in his country. And that is an example for all of us now.

We are all public servants. We must have a commitment to the larger good, to our country, and to the people we represent. None of us wants to see our economy crippled. Democrats don't want it. Republicans don't want it. So what are we waiting for? It is time for Congress to step forth and show some leadership. It is time for us to work together to show the American people that Washington isn't broken; that, instead, we are willing to put aside our politics to do what we were elected to do, to do what is right for America.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the period of morning business be extended until 8:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each and, further, that at 8:30 I be recognized.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. The reason we are extending morning business is the House is having trouble passing the bill, I understand, and so we are waiting until action is taken. They started at 4:30, and it is taking longer than they anticipated. As I understand, they have another caucus in which they are now engaged. It is 7 o'clock, so that is why I thought that at 8:30 we would have a better idea whether they are going to take action tonight.

Again, I would suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, we are here awaiting the action of the House of Representatives. We don't know whether the House is going to pass the JOHN BOEHNER proposal, but regardless of what they do, we have the solution right underneath our noses. There have been discussions today. I have had a number of discussions with our colleagues. I have had a discussion first this morning with my colleague from Florida and I have had discussions with others.

It seems to me the obvious solution, since we are now at the eleventh hour and getting close to the 59th minute of the eleventh hour, is that we take elements of the Reid proposal, the McConnell proposal, and the Boehner proposal. So I would suggest our leadership consider, regardless of what happens in the House—because the Senate is going to have to act on something to get 60 votes to meet the filibuster threshold in this Chamber and then send a package back to the House. I would suggest it be this: that we take the Reid proposal which includes the larger amount of spending cuts. Senator REID at first said that is \$2.7 trillion. Maybe it has been by CBO marked down to about \$2.2 trillion. But whatever that larger amount—clearly larger than the Boehner proposal, even though some would argue it is the Iraq and Afghanistan war wind-down savings we would get, but whatever it is, it is larger than the House proposal—and

use that as the first cut by lifting the debt ceiling. But there would be a sequence of events that would happen after that to avoid what the Senate Democrats do not want, which is that the markets and the rating agencies cause the debt instruments—the U.S. Treasury bills—to be downgraded. There needs to be certainty for those rating agencies, for the U.S. Government debt, and it could be achieved this way: We have a BRAC-like committee—that being a committee that would be composed equally of Republicans and Democrats—that would come up with a package that would then come back to each House, no amendments, for an up-or-down vote.

The fail-safe backup, in case that committee were not able to come to agreement or in the event that it came back to both Houses and one of the Houses did not pass it, that we would then have the McConnell proposal, which is that the President would request the increase of the debt and there would be this procedure that Senator MCCONNELL laid out that there would be a resolution of disapproval. If there were such a disapproval, then the President, of course, could veto it. In order for the President's veto to be overridden, there would have to be a two-thirds vote. There would not be a two-thirds vote, and, therefore, there is the assurance that we would have the raising of the debt ceiling to get us through this next year and a half.

It seems as though it is right under our nose, if the parties will just realize that now is the time we have to act to find a workable solution so we can get the votes.

If we can get, with that kind of proposal, 60 votes in the Senate, then it goes down to the House, whether they pass the Boehner proposal or not. At the eleventh hour and the 59th minute, recognizing what is at stake for the country, then the House of Representatives is going to do the right thing and they are going to pass it.

I am just a little country boy, but it seems to me sometimes we get so wrapped up in all the intricate details that the obvious solution is right there under our nose, staring us in the face. I respectfully request the Senate consider this.

I yield the floor.

CRISIS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to bring attention to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa. More than 11 million people—twice the population of my State of Maryland—are now in need of emergency assistance to survive.

Large portions of the Horn of Africa region are now in the grip of one of the worst humanitarian crises in the region in recent decades. Nearly half of the population in Somalia is in urgent

need of assistance, and malnutrition rates are on the rise in neighboring Ethiopia and Kenya. Without the immediate action of the international community, it is projected that an additional 180,000 people will perish in the coming months due to the drought and famine.

It is difficult to fully comprehend the levels of human suffering currently occurring in the region, as refugees flee famine-affected areas. People are literally walking for days without food and water to try to reach food and safety. More than 166,000 desperate Somalis are estimated to have fled their country to neighboring Kenya and Ethiopia in recent months—approximately 3,500 people are arriving every day at refugee camps in those countries compounding the already tenuous humanitarian situation in the region.

On July 21, the United Nations declared a famine in two regions in southern Somalia. This declaration is not done lightly and is the first declared since 1992. Famine is only declared when acute child malnutrition rates exceed 30 percent and more than 2 people per 10,000 die per day. The U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID, reports that the under-5 death rates in southern Somalia are higher than 4 children per 10,000 per day in all areas and as high as 13 to 20 per 10,000 per day in areas of south central Somalia. Already, outbreaks of measles, cholera, and watery diarrhea have been reported in affected areas as well. Unless this is addressed immediately through immunization campaigns and medical treatment, more people will perish from these preventable diseases.

The United States is one of the largest donors of emergency assistance to the region, helping more than 4.4 million of those in need and providing over \$431 million since last October. The actions taken by our Nation and the international community in anticipation of the drought last year has helped save countless lives. Through the Famine Early Warning System, we saw data come in, and we were able to move resources into the region and implement programs to provide food in critically affected areas throughout the Horn of Africa. However, emergency assistance alone cannot solve the underlying long-term problems. The United States continues to provide longer term development assistance through Feed the Future and other programs, which are working in the region to address the root causes of hunger and malnutrition.

USAID Administrator Shah was in Kenya last week and met with Somali refugees there. He met with a woman who had traveled for 33 days by foot with her two children and suffered a robbery along the way, in order to arrive at a refugee camp in Kenya and have access to safety, food, and basic human security. He also visited with a

4-year-old boy who, in the acute malnutrition wing of the hospital at the camp, weighed only 19 pounds and was reliant on a nasal feeding tube and very specific feeding regimens in order to, hopefully, survive. There are countless more stories like this, of people who risked their lives to bring themselves and their families to a safe environment.

This crisis has several contributing factors—most notably the worst drought on record in 60 years, which has devastated crops and livestock. But another major contributor to this crisis is the complete lack of governance in Somalia, a failed state for more than two decades, and the ongoing conflict there and in particular, the al-Qaida-affiliated Somali militia, al-Shabaab. Since 2009, al-Shabaab has prevented most Western aid organizations from operating in their territory, and it is no coincidence that the areas of famine are areas controlled by al-Shabaab. My sincerest hope is that al-Shabaab will stand aside and allow international organizations to assist people in their territory, people essentially held hostage by this radical, Islamist group.

The U.N. estimates that an additional \$300 million will be needed just in the next few months to help those affected by this humanitarian disaster and that approximately \$1.8 billion will be needed to fully address the massive scope of this crisis and help the people in the Horn of Africa. Without this crucially important funding, nearly 200,000 people could die. To date, this appeal is less than half way met by the international community. The international community must do more to meet this appeal.

This situation is a clear example of the critical importance of maintaining a strong U.S. commitment to emergency food assistance. The House of Representatives passed a fiscal year 2012 Agriculture appropriations bill that would cut funding for emergency food assistance by 75 percent from just 3 years ago. This comes at a time when not only is there famine in the Horn of Africa, but around the world needs are increasing as food prices remain high and the number of people affected or displaced by natural disasters and conflict continues to increase.

The international disaster assistance level specified in the House State-Foreign Ops appropriations bill for fiscal year 2012 would result in emergency humanitarian programming reaching 19 million fewer disaster-affected people than it would if the account were appropriated at the fiscal year 2011 level, based on average costs per person by the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance at USAID between 2006 and 2009.

If we cut the migration and refugee assistance and emergency refugee and migration accounts, as the House Foreign Operations bill does, we would

jeopardize U.S. support for many of the world's 48 million forcibly displaced people, the majority of whom are assisted and protected by the international community. This includes almost 1 million Somalis. Before the current crisis in the Horn, 725,000 Somalis were seeking refuge in the region. Since the onset of the current crisis, 100,000 Somalis have arrived in Kenya and 75,000 in Ethiopia. Obviously, cuts of that magnitude would lead to catastrophic consequences. This could affect millions; primarily women and children suffering from hunger as a result of conflict and natural disasters would lose access to lifesaving food. This would significantly reduce America's ability to address instability in volatile countries and decrease its capacity to respond quickly to the needs of hungry people affected by conflict and natural disasters.

Aside from the national security implications for the United States in this already unstable region, the U.S. Government has a moral responsibility to help the least fortunate, both at home and abroad. As a global leader, the United States should not shy away from helping the least fortunate, regardless of race, religion, or nationality. In addition, the United States should encourage greater international participation. It is the moral, human course of action to take, but it is also the smart thing to do: a more stable and prosperous Somalia keeps the rest of the world and the United States more secure as well.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, today I join Senator MIKE JOHANNIS and Congressman ADRIAN SMITH of Nebraska in paying tribute to the National Park Service, which will be celebrating its 95th anniversary this year on August 25, 2011.

The National Park Service currently administers 394 units across 49 States and U.S. territories, including five National Park Service units in our home State of Nebraska. These units consist of the Agate Fossil Beds National Monument, Homestead National Monument of America, Missouri National Recreational River, Niobrara National Scenic River, and Scotts Bluff National Monument. In addition, the National Park Service administers five National Historic Trails, including the California, Oregon, Pony Express, Mormon, and Lewis and Clark.

National Park areas generate \$12 billion in tourism dollars to local economies, creating 247,000 private-sector jobs. Within Nebraska, National Park Service units generate approximately 8.8 million in tourism dollars and create approximately 170 private-sector jobs. And in western Nebraska, Agate Fossil Beds and Scotts Bluff monuments, along with the Chimney Rock

National Historic Site, which is an affiliated area of the National Park Service, generate close to \$3 million in tourism dollars and create 90 private-sector jobs.

Nebraska has been supportive of the mission of the National Park Service even before the agency existed. In fact, in 1914, 2 years before the National Park Service was created, citizens in the Scottsbluff/Gering area sought to get a National Park or Monument established. Prominent local champions included elected officials and newspaper editor, A.B.Wood.

Scotts Bluff National Monument is named for a fur trapper by the name of Hiram Scott who was wounded and deserted by his companions in 1828. He gained immortality by making his way to a magnificent formation of bluffs along the North Platte River before succumbing to his wounds. It was for Hiram Scott that Scotts Bluff National Monument, Scotts Bluff County, and the city of Scottsbluff have been named.

Scotts Bluff National Monument, which rises 4,649 feet above sea level, was an imposing landmark which guided wagon trains along the California, Oregon, Pony Express, and Mormon Trails. Native Americans originally called this natural formation *ma-a-pate*, which translates into "hill that is hard to go around."

The Summit Road to the top of the bluff was completed in 1937, allowing visitors to drive to experience the spectacular view of the valley 800 feet below. This road is the oldest existing concrete road in Nebraska and includes the only three automobile tunnels in our State.

In the Scottsbluff/Gering area, numerous events to commemorate the 95th anniversary of the National Park Service have been scheduled for August 2011, beginning with a Kick-Off Ceremony at Scotts Bluff National Monument on August 12, 2011. Platte Valley Attractions, a coalition of visitor venues in and around the area, is hosting a variety of events and special exhibits through grants and donations from local and regional sponsors to commemorate the theme, "Westward Expansion as seen through National Parks," including: Farm and Ranch Museum is hosting westward expansion orientation films and an interactive exhibit of westward expansion transportation methods.

Midwest Theater is hosting both the premiere of a new documentary film on the Pony Express and a film by Ken Burns on America's National Parks.

North Platte Valley Museum is hosting a westward expansion map exhibit.

Western Nebraska Community College is hosting a seminar, "Recognizing and Preserving Westward Expansion," with speakers who are all nationally recognized in their fields.

Western Nebraska Community College sponsored a summer youth camp that developed posters to help promote these commemorative events.

Again, on behalf of the people of Nebraska, we offer our congratulations to Scotts Bluff National Monument on its Kick-Off Ceremony and the National Park Service on its 95th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL JAMES E. CARTWRIGHT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to GEN James E. Cartwright, who is retiring after 40 years of accomplished military service. Since becoming the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on August 4, 2007, General "Hoss" Cartwright has testified numerous times and provided expert testimony, leadership, and advice to Congress, the President, and the American people regarding our Nation's security and the future of our Armed Forces.

General Cartwright hails from Rockford, IL. He graduated from the University of Iowa in 1971 and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps shortly thereafter. The general served as a naval flight officer in the F-4 and as a pilot in the F-4, OA-4 and the F-18. His flying career culminated with command of the First Marine Aircraft Wing in Okinawa, Japan. The general is also a distinguished graduate of the Air Command and Staff College and earned his master of arts in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College.

After an assignment as the Director for Force Structure, Resources and Assessment, J-8, on the Joint Staff, then-Lieutenant General Cartwright was selected for promotion to general and became the first Marine Corps officer to lead U.S. Strategic Command. While at STRATCOM, General Cartwright led the development of strategies during a rapidly evolving national security environment, particularly in the areas of cyber, space, nuclear proliferation, and missile defense. He reorganized the command to increase interagency cooperation and streamlined operations. As a result of the changes the general implemented at STRATCOM, the effectiveness of the command for the deployed warfighter increased substantially to meet the new challenges of the 21st century.

During the last 4 years, General Cartwright has served as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. One of his top priorities has been to reduce the loss of American lives in combat by leveraging technology and streamlining acquisition processes to quickly give new capabilities to the battlefield. His efforts to lead the MRAP program resulted in a 50 percent decrease in deaths attributed to improvised explosive device attacks.

The general can take pride in many other notable accomplishments, including the integration of technologies that enabled the destruction of a failing satellite by a missile for the first time and the successful raid against Osama bin Laden.

During his service, General Cartwright took every opportunity to recognize the efforts and sacrifice of the 2.4 million active, guard and reserve members of the Armed Forces and their families. He remains actively engaged for the benefit of our wounded warriors and always remembers the families of those who made the ultimate sacrifice on our battlefields. General Cartwright will be remembered for his strategic intellect and his ability to drive innovative change. His tenure leaves a lasting legacy to the Armed Forces. I appreciate his extraordinary service to our country and wish him all the best in the next chapter of his life.

NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, as we celebrate the U.S. Navy's centennial of aviation, I would like to personally recognize the exceptional contributions of the men and women, past and present, who have served at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island.

From the base's commissioning day on September 21, 1942, to the present, it has been the mission-ready men and women of Naval Air Station Whidbey Island who have protected the skies of the Pacific Northwest and projected power throughout the world.

A long tradition of excellence began on Whidbey Island during World War II when it was named Ault Field, in memory of Commander William B. Ault who was missing in action following the Battle of the Coral Sea. During the war, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island's patrol planes flew long-range navigation training missions over the North Pacific to protect the Pacific Northwest from the real threat of attack that gripped Alaska and the region. During this period, the earliest squadrons of F4F Wildcats, PV-1 Venturas, F6F Hellcats and SDB Dauntless's, also etched their place in U.S. Navy's distinguished history.

Naval Air Station Whidbey Island continued their legacy of excellence throughout each subsequent conflict. Their patrol planes proved to be paramount to successful operations during the Korean War and their initial deployments to Southeast Asia in 1972. Today, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island remains the premier naval aviation installation in the Pacific Northwest.

Currently the proud home of the EA-6B Prowlers, EA-18G Growlers, P-3 Orions and the EP-3E Aries, I know Naval Air Station Whidbey Island will continue to protect not only the Pacific

Northwest, but the whole United States, for the next 100 years.

In recognition of the past century's naval aviation achievements, I would truly like to thank the men and women both in and out of uniform and the veterans of Naval Air Station Whidbey Island for their service and sacrifice.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS E. "JAKE" FISHER

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I pay tribute to a dedicated public servant from my home State of Missouri. Jake Fisher has devoted his professional life to helping others through his work at the University of Missouri Delta Center.

Shortly after graduation from high school, Jake was employed at the University of Missouri Delta Center as a farmworker I. From that position, he was promoted to technician, senior technician, and research specialist. In 1986 he became the assistant superintendent. Three years later, Jake was promoted to Superintendent of the Delta Center and continues to serve in that leadership role today. Next month, Jake will retire after 50 years of dedicated service to agriculture research in Missouri.

Besides his work at the Delta Center, Jake serves on the board of directors for a number of organizations, including Progressive Farm Credit Services of Southeast Missouri, Pemiscot-Dunklin Electric Cooperative, M&A Electrical Cooperative, Associated Electrical Cooperative, and Pemiscot County Port Authority. He is a member of the executive committee of the Research Administrator's Society. Along with his service to these organizations, Jake is a 32nd degree Mason and Shriner.

Due to his selfless efforts, Jake has received numerous awards, including the State Farm Management Award in 1981 by Production Credit Association of Eastern Missouri. He was named "Man of the Year in Service to Agriculture" by the Progressive Farmer Magazine in 1995 and in 1996 was granted honorary membership to the University of Missouri Ag Alumni Association. He was awarded a lifetime membership to the Cotton Producers of Missouri in 1997 and in 2000 received the outstanding staff award by the University of Missouri's College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. In 2001, Jake was named "Ag Leader of the Year" by Missouri Ag Industries Council. He was honored with the A.C. Burrows Service Award in 2009 by the Association of Missouri Electrical Cooperatives. In 2011, Jake received the Agribusiness Service Award from the Sikeston, MO, Chamber of Commerce. He was awarded the Frank Stork De-

mocracy Award in 2011 by the Missouri Association of Electrical Cooperatives. In 2006, the conventional soybean variety "Jake" was named for Jake Fisher.

Jake is also a loving and devoted husband to his wife of almost 50 years, Shelly, and an outstanding role model for his daughter, Stacey Kersey, and for his grandsons, Gunnar Young and Kasen Kersey.

Thomas E. "Jake" Fisher's career has been built on character, dedication, and service to his fellow Missourians. His accomplishments during his 50 years of loyal service will be felt for generations to come. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this great Missourian and extending our best wishes as he begins a new chapter in life.●

REMEMBERING DR. DON LINKER

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Dr. Donald Linker of Marin County, who passed away on June 16, 2011. Dr. Linker dedicated his personal and professional life to helping others and was passionate about living his life to the fullest.

Donald Linker was born and raised in Louisville, KY. He graduated from the University of Michigan and received his doctor of medicine from the University of Kentucky, School of Medicine.

Don served honorably in the U.S. Navy as a doctor treating marines in Vietnam. After his service, he moved to San Francisco, married, and had three children. He opened his own medical practice and after many years of practicing medicine, returned to school and received his master's in public health from UC Berkeley.

Don Linker was an activist and philanthropist who was committed to bettering his community. He was a founding member of the Foundation for Reed Schools in Tiburon and also served a number of other organizations, including the Jewish Community Federation, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the Marin Community Federation, the Bernard Osher Foundation, and the Buck Center for Research and Aging.

Don was an adventurous man with a fiery demeanor and an infectious spirit who loved travel and extreme sports. One of his passions was pushing himself to the limit physically. He loved windsurfing, skiing, and mountain biking, and some of his greatest personal accomplishments involved those activities.

Don was a friend who will be greatly missed by all those whose lives he touched.

I send my heartfelt sympathies to his family, including his son Kevin Linker, daughters Jodi Linker and Dana Linker, son-in-law Richard Steele, brother Stephen Linker and his grandchildren Lauren and Sarah Steele.●

TRIBUTE TO JORDAN BURROUGHS

• Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the best collegiate wrestler in America, Jordan Burroughs, who is an All-American from my alma mater, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Earlier this year Jordan was awarded the Dan Hodge Trophy, which is often referred to as the "Heisman Trophy of wrestling." This award is named in honor of Dan Hodge, who was undefeated during his 3-year career at the University of Oklahoma. The criteria considered for the Hodge Trophy, according to the University of Nebraska, are the wrestler's record, number of pins, dominance on the mat, past credentials, quality of competition, sportsmanship, and heart.

Wrestling at 165 pounds, Jordan compiled an impressive 36-to-0 record this last season and captured his second crown from the National Collegiate Athletic Association; his first was in 2009. Despite Nebraska facing one of the toughest schedules in the Nation this year, Jordan had only three matches this season which did not end by pin, tech fall, or a major decision.

Congratulations also go to Nebraska's head wrestling coach, Mark Manning, who recruited Jordan from Winslow Township High School in Sicklerville, NJ, where Jordan was listed as the seventh best high school wrestler in the country. As Coach Manning says, "Winning the Hodge Trophy puts Jordan in an elite group of wrestlers and makes a strong statement about him as an athlete."

Most recently, Jordan Burroughs added to his list of impressive tournament wins by taking home his first senior international wrestling gold medal on July 17, 2011, at the Outstanding Ukrainian Wrestlers Memorial International in Kiev, Ukraine. There will be other matches between now and next year, but his ultimate goal is to compete at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, England.

From the Garden State to the Cornhusker State, Jordan Burroughs makes us all proud as America's best collegiate wrestler of 2011. As a former Husker, he will forever remain in the hearts of Big Red fans everywhere who will continue rooting for him wherever his travels take him.●

TRIBUTE TO PAMELA LYNNE WELLER

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today I wish honor Pamela Lynne Weller, legal special assistant to Commissioner Thomas H. Moore at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, CPSC. Ms. Weller is retiring after more than 26 years of distinguished Federal Government service.

Pamela was born in Baltimore and has lived in Maryland for most of her life. She graduated with honors from

the University of Maryland and received her law degree from Georgetown University.

Pamela began her Federal service during her last year of law school, when she worked for Senator Lawton Chiles on the Government in the Sunshine Act, Public Law 94-409, and later for Senator Richard Stone. For part of that time she actually worked for both Senators simultaneously, for Senator Chiles as part of a law school program and as a salaried employee of Senator Stone. After graduation, she continued working for Senator Stone on a variety of important issues through the end of his term of office.

After leaving Senator Stone, she went to work at the Civil Aeronautics Board, CAB, as an assistant to board member James Smith, as the agency worked through the deregulation of the national air transportation system, and then as it wound down its operations prior to being incorporated into the Department of Transportation.

Following nearly 10 years of continuous government service, Pamela went to work in the private sector, opening her own law practice. She continued in this line of work for over 11 years, specializing in family law and real estate transactions.

In 1995, she went back into the public service to become an assistant to Commissioner Thomas H. Moore at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. During her work for Commissioner Moore, the longest serving Commissioner in the agency's history, she advised him on all agency actions including rulemakings, enforcement actions and administrative matters. Additionally, she served as acting chief of staff during Commissioner Moore's 9-month stint as acting chairman of the agency in 2001 and 2002. She also helped construct his 2007 legislative proposals to Congress, a number of which were incorporated into the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008, Public Law 110-314.

During her notable tenure at CPSC, Ms. Weller has played a significant role in protecting the public from unreasonable risks of injury posed by consumer products. On numerous occasions, she has demonstrated inspiring leadership and has always been considered a valued employee at the CPSC.

Mr. President, I am pleased to thank Pamela Lynne Weller for her honorable service to our Nation, and I wish her a rewarding retirement.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages

from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13441 WITH RESPECT TO LEBANON—PM 16

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared with respect to the actions of certain persons to undermine the sovereignty of Lebanon or its democratic processes and institutions is to continue in effect beyond August 1, 2011.

Certain ongoing activities, such as continuing arms transfers to Hizballah that include increasingly sophisticated weapons systems, serve to undermine Lebanese sovereignty, contribute to political and economic instability in the region, and continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared on August 1, 2007, to deal with that threat and the related measures adopted on that date to respond to the emergency.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, July 28, 2011.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1938. An act to direct the President to expedite the consideration and approval of the construction and operation of the Keystone XL oil pipeline, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with

accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2676. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations" ((44 CFR Part 65) (Docket No. FEMA-2011-0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2677. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interim Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations" ((44 CFR Part 65) (Docket No. FEMA-2011-0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2678. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations" ((44 CFR Part 65) (Docket No. FEMA-2011-0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2679. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to acquisitions from entities that manufacture articles, materials, and supplies outside of the United States for fiscal year 2010; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2680. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Obsoleting Rev. Rul. 58-225" (Rev. Rul. 2011-15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2681. A communication from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Departmental Offices, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Department of the Treasury Acquisition Regulation" (RIN1505-AC04) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2682. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Chapter 4 Implementation Notice" (Notice 2011-53) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 26, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2683. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services related to the sale of Colt M4 Carbines to the Ministry of Defense of Malaysia in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2684. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Office of Government Contracting and Business Development, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Fiscal Year 2010 Report to Congress on Minority Small Business and Capital Ownership Development; to

the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC-2685. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Helicopter Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; Northeast United States" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0078)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2686. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Restricted Areas R-4401A, R-4401B, and R-4401C; Camp Shelby, MS" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2008-0110)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2687. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Update of August 2001 Overflight Fees" ((RIN2120-AJ68) (Docket No. FAA-2010-0326)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2688. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Antidrug and Alcohol Misuse Prevention Programs for Personnel Engaged in Specified Aviation Activities; Final Regulatory Flexibility Determination" ((RIN2120-AH14) (Docket No. FAA-2002-11301)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2689. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Standards; Rotor Overspeed Requirements" ((RIN2120-AA62) (Docket No. FAA-2010-0398)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2690. A communication from the Program Analyst, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Vehicle Labeling—Fuel Economy, Greenhouse Gas and Other Emissions" (RIN2127-AK73) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2691. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Manual Requirements" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2001-11133)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2692. A communication from the Program Analyst, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Make Inoperative Exemptions; Vehicle Modifications to Accommodate People with Disabilities, Side Impact Protection" (RIN2127-AK77) received in the Office of the President of the

Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2693. A communication from the Program Analyst, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Insurer Reporting Requirements; List of Insurers Required to File Reports" (RIN2127-AK90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2694. A communication from the Assistant Chief Counsel for General Law, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazardous Materials; Miscellaneous Amendments" (RIN2137-AE46) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2695. A communication from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Hazardous Materials Safety, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazardous Materials Transportation; Revisions of Special Permits Procedures" (RIN2137-AE73) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2696. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures (48); Amdt. No. 3431" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 30789)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2697. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures (81); Amdt. No. 3430" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 30788)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2698. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures (136); Amdt. No. 3432" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 30790)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2699. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures (25); Amdt. No. 3433" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 30791)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2700. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Quotas and Atlantic Tuna Fisheries Management Measures" (RIN0648-BA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Com-

mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2701. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization Program" (RIN0648-AY33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2702. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization Program; Amendment 37" (RIN0648-BA11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2703. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Northern Rockfish, Pacific Ocean Perch, and Pelagic Shelf Rockfish for Catcher Vessels Participating in the Limited Access Rockfish Fishery in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XA538) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2704. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Shallow-Water Species Fishery by Catcher/Processors in the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XA539) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2705. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Deep-Water Species Fishery by Catcher Vessels in the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XA536) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2706. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch for Catcher Vessels Participating in the Rockfish Entry Level Trawl Fishery in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XA543) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2707. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Northern Rockfish and Pelagic Shelf Rockfish for Trawl Catcher Vessels Participating in the Entry Level Rockfish Fishery in the Central Regulatory Area of

the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XA546) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2708. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XA542) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2709. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Closure of the Directed Butterfish Fishery" (RIN0648-XA523) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 1302. A bill to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Tracy, California, to the City of Tracy (Rept. No. 112-40).

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1313. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-41).

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 401. A bill to help Federal prosecutors and investigators combat public corruption by strengthening and clarifying the law.

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 409. A bill to ban the sale of certain synthetic drugs.

S. 839. A bill to ban the sale of certain synthetic drugs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 1434. A bill to protect information relating to consumers, to require notice of security breaches, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 1435. A bill to amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to exclude child care from the determination of the 5-year limit on assistance under the temporary assistance for needy families program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 1436. A bill to provide \$50,000,000,000 in new transportation infrastructure funding through bonding to empower States and local governments to complete significant infrastructure projects across all modes of transportation, including roads, bridges, rail and transit systems, ports, and inland waterways, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 1437. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out programs to provide youth in racial or ethnic minority or immigrant communities the information and skills needed to reduce teenage pregnancies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. LEE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. RISCIO, Mr. COBURN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. VITTER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HATCH, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BURR, Mr. COATS, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. ENZI):

S. 1438. A bill to provide that no agency may take any significant regulatory action until the unemployment rate is equal to or less than 7.7 percent; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself and Mrs. HAGAN):

S. 1439. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding ready school needs reviews; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 1440. A bill to reduce preterm labor and delivery and the risk of pregnancy-related deaths and complications due to pregnancy, and to reduce infant mortality caused by prematurity; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. INOUE (for himself and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 1441. A bill to provide assistance for workforce investment activities to unique populations in Alaska and Hawaii; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 1442. A bill to provide that Members of Congress may not receive pay after October 1 of any fiscal year in which Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 1443. A bill to extend certain trade preferences to certain least-developed countries in Asia and the South Pacific, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 1444. A bill to provide for the presentation of a United States flag on behalf of Federal civilian employees who are killed while performing official duties or because of their status as Federal employees; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1445. A bill to designate certain conduct by car and truck rental companies relating to motor vehicle safety defects and recalls as unfair and deceptive acts or practices to be regulated by the Federal Trade Commission,

and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. LEE, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. PAUL, Mr. VITTER, Mr. KYL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. COATS, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. BURR, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 1446. A bill to free States to spend gas taxes on their transportation priorities; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1447. A bill to amend the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act to authorize the use of grant funds for dating violence prevention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 1448. A bill to exempt off-highway vehicles from the ban on lead in children's products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 48

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 48, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of pharmacists in National Health Services Corps programs, and for other purposes.

S. 252

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 252, a bill to permit a State to elect to receive the contributions of the State to the Highway Trust Fund in lieu of the Federal-aid highway program apportionment of the State for the subsequent fiscal year, and for other purposes.

S. 260

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 260, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation.

S. 387

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. 387, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to provide flexible spending arrangements for members of uniformed services, and for other purposes.

S. 401

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 401, a bill to

help Federal prosecutors and investigators combat public corruption by strengthening and clarifying the law.

S. 409

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 409, a bill to ban the sale of certain synthetic drugs.

S. 797

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 797, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 961

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 961, a bill to create the income security conditions and family supports needed to ensure permanency for the Nation's unaccompanied youth, and for other purposes.

S. 1025

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1025, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the national defense through empowerment of the National Guard, enhancement of the functions of the National Guard Bureau, and improvement of Federal-State military coordination in domestic emergency response, and for other purposes.

S. 1048

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1048, a bill to expand sanctions imposed with respect to the Islamic Republic of Iran, North Korea, and Syria, and for other purposes.

S. 1061

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1061, a bill to amend title 5 and 28, United States Code, with respect to the award of fees and other expenses in cases brought against agencies of the United States, to require the Administrative Conference of the United States to compile, and make publically available, certain data relating to the Equal Access to Justice Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1251

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON)

and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1251, a bill to amend title XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to curb waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

S. 1265

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1265, a bill to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the land and water conservation fund to maximize the effectiveness of the fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 1359

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1359, a bill to make the National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Pass available at a discount to members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

S. 1392

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1392, a bill to provide additional time for the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to issue achievable standards for industrial, commercial, and institutional boilers, process heaters, and incinerators, and for other purposes.

S. 1433

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1433, a bill to pay personnel compensation and benefits for employees of the Federal Aviation Administration.

S. RES. 132

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 132, a resolution recognizing and honoring the zoos and aquariums of the United States.

S. RES. 216

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 216, a resolution encouraging women's political participation in Saudi Arabia.

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 216, *supra*.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 1435. A bill to amend part A of title IV of the Security Act to exclude child care from the determination of the 5-year limit on assistance under the temporary assistance for needy families program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today too many families are at risk of losing the child care assistance that helps maintain their financial stability and ensure the well-being of their children. That is why I am introducing the Children First Act to address the growing unmet need for affordable and safe child care.

Until now, most states were able to maintain their child care assistance programs through the recession due to the additional \$2 billion in Federal Child Care and Development Block Grant, CCDBG, funding for 2009 and 2010 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, ARRA.

However, with only a portion of these ARRA funds being continued, and with persistent state budget gaps, many states are forced to scale back child care assistance for families. Some states' waiting lists for subsidized child care are beginning to rise and a few states have stopped or plan to stop providing child care assistance to families who are not receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, TANF, together.

Cuts and restrictions in the availability of child care assistance make it harder for parents to afford child care and have forced some parents to leave their jobs and turn to welfare programs for support. Children lose access to the stable, good-quality child care that encourages their learning and development and prepares them for school success. And child care programs can find difficulty filling their classrooms, leading them to lay off staff or close their doors entirely. That is wrong and we can do better.

Child care consumes a large portion of family budgets, and can cost up to \$18,773 annually for full-time care depending on where the family lives, the type of care, and the age of the child. Child care prices are higher than other household expenses and typically exceed the average amount families spend on food. In 39 States and the District of Columbia, the average annual price for child care for an infant in a child care center was higher than even a year's tuition at some 4-year public colleges.

Without assistance, many low-income families can find it impossible to secure child care. For example, in 2007, the median monthly income of families receiving child care assistance was just \$16,680 a year. Nearly half, 49 percent, of families receiving child care assistance live below the poverty line and 86 percent of these families were single parent households. In these challenging

economic times, it is especially important to help low and moderate-income families with their child care costs.

The Children First Act which I am introducing today will help address the growing unmet need for affordable and safe child care. It will help—States meet the significant demand for child care assistance by increasing funding for mandatory child care by \$500 million for fiscal year 2012, \$700 million in 2013, and \$750 million in 2014 thru 2021, resulting in an increase of \$3.45 billion over 5 years and \$7.2 billion over 10 years.

This increase is necessary because only about one in six children eligible for Federal child care assistance receives help and there have been no increases in mandatory' child care funding since 2007. This increased funding will be used to provide approximately 212,000 additional children access to safe and affordable child care as compared to current funding levels.

The Children First Act would exclude child care from the definition of TANF assistance so that unemployed families who receive child care assistance will not have it count towards the 5-year time limit for Federal TANF assistance. The legislation would also ensure that the minimum child care health and safety standards required for providers receiving Child Care Development Block Grant, CCDBG, funding also apply to providers who receive funding through TANF. In Massachusetts, all licensed providers are required to the same health and safety standards regardless of subsidy type received.

This legislation would increase the availability of child care for parents who are required to work. States are currently prohibited from withholding or reducing assistance to a single parent with children under 6 who does not meet work requirements for reasons related to the unavailability or unsuitability of appropriate, affordable child care arrangements. The Children First Act would prevent States from withholding or reducing cash assistance to parents of a child with children under age thirteen.

Enactment of this legislation is incredibly important for my home State of Massachusetts which currently has approximately 24,000 children on a waitlist for child care subsidies. The high cost of child care is the most significant issue facing families currently on the waitlist in Massachusetts. Massachusetts families pay more on average than families in all other states for child care, with the average price of full time care in center based settings totaling \$18,773 for an infant and \$13,158 for a preschooler. This legislation will help lower the waitlist and help our children become more productive citizens.

I would like to thank a number of organizations who have been integral to

the development of the Children First Act and who have endorsed it today, including the including the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFSCME, the Children's Defense Fund, CLASP, the National Women's Law Center, and the Service Employees International Union, SEIU.

These reforms would significantly increase access to stable and affordable child care to low-income families and would make our Nation's children more prepared for school and success later in life. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate to pass this legislation.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 1437. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out programs to provide youth in racial or ethnic minority or immigrant communities the information and skills needed to reduce teenage pregnancies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Communities of Color Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Act.

Teen pregnancy is closely linked to a number of issues that affect the welfare of children in our Nation, particularly child poverty. A child in the United States is nine times more likely to grow up in poverty if their mother gave birth when she was a teen, if the child's parents are unmarried when they are born, and if the mother did not graduate from high school.

The United States has the highest teen pregnancy rate of any developed nation. Each year close to 750,000 teens in the United States become pregnant. Despite some progress in reducing teen pregnancy overall, many minority communities continue to struggle with disproportionately high rates of teen pregnancy.

Over half of all Latina and African American girls will become pregnant at least once before they turn 20. In 2009 the teen birth rate for Latinas, African Americans and American Indians/Alaska Natives was more than double the teen birth rate of non-Hispanic Caucasians.

The Communities of Color Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Act takes would address teen pregnancy in communities of color by supporting teenage pregnancy prevention programs that work with community-based organizations that are experienced in serving youth in ethnic and racial groups with the highest teen pregnancy rates; using multimedia campaigns to provide public health education and increase awareness about teen pregnancy, and researching what factors contribute to disproportionately high rates of teenage and unintended pregnancy in communities of color.

I am proud that our country has made progress in reducing the rate of teen pregnancy by one third over the last decade, but our work is not done. We need to strengthen our efforts, especially among the youth in communities of color who are now so much more likely to face the unexpected and difficult challenges of parenting before they have finished growing up themselves.

I am pleased to be joined in this effort by Representative LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, who is sponsoring this legislation in the House, as well as Hispanas Organized for Political Equality, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, the Futures Without Violence, and the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health.

I urge my colleagues to join us in taking the next step forward in preventing teenage pregnancy by supporting this important legislation.

By Mr. INOUE (for himself and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 1441. A bill to provide assistance for workforce investment activities to unique populations in Alaska and Hawaii; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, Mr. BEGICH and I recognize that Alaska and Hawaii's educational and workforce needs are linked to the indigenous cultures, learning styles, and geographical realities of our home States. We would like to commend the University of Hawaii Maui College for their hard work and dedication in developing a Remote Rural Hawaii Training Project. Over the years, the University of Hawaii Maui College has led the way in education and workforce development. Since the inception of the Rural Development Project in 1997, the University has supported 300 hundred projects. The initial projects served over 29,000 participants. We would also like to praise Cook Inlet Tribal Council for their dedication and efforts relating to workforce development for Native Alaskans. For example, in fiscal year 2010 the Alaska's People Career center served 2,269 job seekers and they helped 58 people obtain their General Educational Development diploma. These initiatives, many made possible by the unique environment created by the natural resources of Alaska and Hawaii, have proved to be an invaluable source of current and future growth of workforce development and training programs. We are truly impressed by the innovative projects developed by these two organizations and we need continued support for workforce development in these unique populations in Alaska and Hawaii.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1441

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Workforce Investment for Unique Populations in Hawaii and Alaska Act of 2011”.

SEC. 2. ASSISTANCE TO UNIQUE POPULATIONS IN ALASKA AND HAWAII.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Labor is authorized to provide assistance to the Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Incorporated, and the University of Hawaii Maui College, for the unique populations who reside in Alaska or Hawaii, respectively, to improve job training and other workforce investment activities (as defined in section 101 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.)).

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal year 2012 and each subsequent fiscal year.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 1443. A bill to extend certain trade preferences to certain least-developed countries in Asia and the South Pacific, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Asia-South Pacific Trade Preferences Act to help some of the world’s poorest countries sustain vital export industries and promote economic growth and political stability.

This legislation will provide duty free and quota free benefits for garments and other products similar to those afforded to beneficiary countries under the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act.

The countries covered by this legislation are 13 Least Developed Countries, LDCs, as defined by the United Nations and the U.S. State Department, which are not covered by any current U.S. trade preference program: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Kiribati, Laos, Maldives, Nepal, Samoa, Solomon Islands, East Timor, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

They are among the poorest countries in the world.

Nepal has per capita income of \$240. Unemployment in Bangladesh stands at 40 percent. Approximately 36 percent of Cambodia’s population lives below the poverty line.

Each country faces critical challenges in the years ahead including poor health care, insufficient educational opportunities, high HIV/AIDS rates, and the effects of war and civil strife.

The United States must take a leadership role in providing much needed assistance to the people of these countries.

Yet humanitarian and development assistance should not be the sum total

of our efforts to put these countries on the road to economic prosperity and political stability.

Indeed, the key for sustained growth and rising standards of living will be the ability of each of these countries to create vital export industries to compete in a free and open global marketplace.

We should help these countries help themselves by opening the U.S. market to their exports as we have done for other developing countries in the past.

By doing so, we will demonstrate the best of American values: reaching out to a neighbor in need and helping him to stand on his own two feet.

Success in this endeavor will ultimately allow these countries to become less dependent on foreign aid and allow the United States to provide assistance to countries in greater need.

But make no mistake. These countries will not automatically receive the trade benefits provided by this legislation.

Our efforts to promote economic growth, jobs, and political stability will fail if these countries are strangled by human rights abuses, corruption, and the absence of the rule of law.

Instead of lifting the citizens of these countries out of poverty and giving hope for a better future, we will ignore our values and sustain the status quo. So, this legislation has been drafted to ensure that the benefits are granted on a performance-driven basis.

That is, to be eligible, a beneficiary country must demonstrate that it is making continual progress toward establishing rule of law, political pluralism, the right to due process, and a market-based economy that protects private property rights.

So, this legislation would help promote democracy, human rights, and the rule of law while sustaining vital export industries and creating employment opportunities.

The beneficiary countries have a clear incentive to stay on the right path or they will lose the benefits of this bill.

I firmly believe that these benefits will make a difference.

The garment industry is a key part of the manufacturing sector in some of these countries.

In Nepal, the garment industry is entirely export oriented and accounts for 40 percent of foreign exchange earnings. It employs over 100,000 workers, half of them women, and sustains the livelihood of over 350,000 people.

The United States is the largest market for Nepalese garments and accounts for 80–90 percent of Nepal’s total exports every year.

In Cambodia, approximately 250,000 Cambodians work in the garment industry supporting approximately one million dependents. The garment industry accounts for more than 90 percent of Cambodia’s export earnings.

In Bangladesh, the garment industry accounts for 75 percent of export earnings. The industry employs 1.8 million people, 90 percent of whom are women, and sustains the livelihoods of 10 to 15 million people.

Despite the poverty seen in these countries and the importance of the garment industry and the U.S. market, they face some of the highest U.S. tariffs in the world, averaging over 15 percent.

In contrast, countries like Japan and our European partners face tariffs that are nearly zero.

Surely we can do better.

By targeting the garment industry, we can make a real difference now in promoting economic growth and higher standards of living.

This legislation will help these countries compete in the U.S. market and lift their and let their citizens know that Americans are committed to helping them realize a better future for themselves and their families.

Doing so is consistent with U.S. goals to combat poverty, instability, and terrorism in a critical part of the world. We should not forget that the vast majority of the people from these beneficiary countries are Muslim.

The impact on U.S. jobs will be minimal.

Currently, the beneficiary countries under this legislation account for only 4 percent of U.S. textile and apparel imports, compared to 24 percent for China, and 72 percent for the rest of the world.

These countries will continue to be small players in the U.S. market, but the benefits of this legislation will have a major impact on their export economies.

At a time when we are trying to rebuild the image of the U.S. around the world, we need legislation such as this to show the best of America and American values. It will provide a vital component to our development strategy and add another tool to the war on terror. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1443

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Asia-South Pacific Trade Preferences Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) It is in the mutual interest of the United States and least-developed countries to promote stable and sustainable economic growth and development.

(2) Trade and investment are powerful economic tools and can be used to reduce poverty and raise the standard of living in a country.

(3) A country that is open to trade may increase its economic growth.

(4) Trade and investment often lead to employment opportunities and often help alleviate poverty.

(5) Least-developed countries have a particular challenge in meeting the economic requirements of and competitiveness necessary for globalization and international markets.

(6) The United States has recognized the benefits that international trade provides to least-developed countries by enacting the Generalized System of Preferences and trade benefits for developing countries in the Caribbean, Andean, and sub-Saharan African regions of the world.

(7) Enhanced trade with least-developed Muslim countries, including Yemen, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh, is consistent with other United States objectives of encouraging a strong private sector and individual economic empowerment in those countries.

(8) Offering least-developed countries enhanced trade preferences will encourage both higher levels of trade and direct investment in support of positive economic and political developments throughout the world.

(9) Encouraging the reciprocal reduction of trade and investment barriers will enhance the benefits of trade and investment as well as enhance commercial and political ties between the United States and the countries designated for benefits under this Act.

(10) Economic opportunity and engagement in the global trading system together with support for democratic institutions and a respect for human rights are mutually reinforcing objectives and key elements of a policy to confront and defeat global terrorism.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ASIA OR SOUTH PACIFIC COUNTRY.**—The term “Asia or South Pacific country” means a country listed in section 4(b).

(2) **BENEFICIARY ASIA OR SOUTH PACIFIC COUNTRY.**—The term “beneficiary Asia or South Pacific country” means an Asia or South Pacific country that the President has determined is eligible for preferential treatment under this Act.

(3) **FORMER BENEFICIARY ASIA OR SOUTH PACIFIC COUNTRY.**—The term “former beneficiary Asia or South Pacific country” means a country that, after being designated as a beneficiary Asia or South Pacific country under this Act, ceased to be designated as such a country by reason of its entering into a free trade agreement with the United States.

SEC. 4. AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE; ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President is authorized to designate an Asia or South Pacific country as a beneficiary Asia or South Pacific country eligible for preferential treatment under this Act—

(A) if the President determines that the country meets the requirements set forth in section 104 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3703); and

(B) subject to the authority granted to the President under subsections (a), (d), and (e) of section 502 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2462), if the country otherwise meets the eligibility criteria set forth in such section 502.

(2) **APPLICATION OF SECTION 104.**—Section 104 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act shall be applied for purposes of paragraph (1) by substituting “Asia or South Pacific country” for “sub-Saharan African country” each place it appears.

(b) **COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE FOR DESIGNATION.**—For purposes of this Act, the term “Asia or South Pacific country” refers to the following or their successor political entities:

- (1) Afghanistan.
- (2) Bangladesh.
- (3) Bhutan.
- (4) Cambodia.
- (5) Kiribati.
- (6) Lao People’s Democratic Republic.
- (7) Maldives.
- (8) Nepal.
- (9) Samoa.
- (10) Solomon Islands.
- (11) Timor-Leste (East Timor).
- (12) Tuvalu.
- (13) Vanuatu.

SEC. 5. ELIGIBLE ARTICLES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Unless otherwise excluded from eligibility (or otherwise provided for in this Act), preferential treatment shall apply in accordance with subsections (b), (c), and (d).

(b) **CERTAIN ARTICLES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The President may provide duty-free treatment to any article described in subparagraphs (B) through (G) of section 503(b)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2463(b)(1)) if—

(A) the article is the growth, product, or manufacture of a beneficiary Asia or South Pacific country; and

(B) the President determines, after receiving the advice of the International Trade Commission in accordance with section 503(e) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2463(e)), that the article is not import-sensitive in the context of imports from beneficiary Asia or South Pacific countries.

(2) **RULES OF ORIGIN.**—The duty-free treatment provided under paragraph (1) shall apply to any article described in that paragraph that meets the requirements of section 503(a)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2463(a)(2)), except that for purposes of determining if the article meets the 35-percent requirement under subparagraph (A)(ii) of such section—

(A) if the cost or value of materials produced in the customs territory of the United States is included with respect to that article, an amount not to exceed 15 percent of the appraised value of the article at the time it is entered that is attributed to such United States cost or value may be applied toward meeting the 35-percent requirement; and

(B) the cost or value of the materials included with respect to that article that are produced in one or more beneficiary Asia or South Pacific countries or former beneficiary Asia or South Pacific countries shall be applied toward meeting the 35-percent requirement.

(c) **TEXTILE AND APPAREL ARTICLES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The preferential treatment described in subsection (a) of section 112 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721(a)) shall apply with respect to textile and apparel articles described in paragraphs (1), (2), (4), (5), (7), and (8) of subsection (b) of such section and paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection that are imported directly into the customs territory of the United States from a beneficiary Asia or South Pacific country except that such section 112 shall be applied and administered with respect to such articles—

(A) in subsection (a), by substituting “a beneficiary Asia or South Pacific country (as defined in section 3 of the Asia–South Pacific Trade Preferences Act)” for “a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country described in section 506A(c) of the Trade Act of 1974”; and

(B) in paragraphs (1), (2), (4), (5), (7), and (8) of subsection (b), by substituting “beneficiary Asia or South Pacific country” and “beneficiary Asia or South Pacific countries” for “beneficiary sub-Saharan African country” and “beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries”, respectively, each place such terms appear.

(2) **TEXTILE AND APPAREL ARTICLES ASSEMBLED FROM REGIONAL AND OTHER FABRIC.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Textile and apparel articles described in this paragraph are textile and apparel articles wholly assembled in one or more beneficiary Asia or South Pacific countries or former beneficiary Asia or South Pacific countries, or both, from fabric wholly formed in one or more beneficiary Asia or South Pacific countries or former beneficiary Asia or South Pacific countries, or both, from yarn originating either in the United States or one or more beneficiary Asia or South Pacific countries or former beneficiary Asia or South Pacific countries, or both (including fabrics not formed from yarns, if such fabrics are classifiable under heading 5602 or 5603 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States and are wholly formed and cut in the United States, in one or more beneficiary Asia or South Pacific countries or former beneficiary Asia or South Pacific countries, or any combination thereof), whether or not the textile and apparel articles are also made from any of the fabrics, fabric components formed, or components knit-to-shape described in paragraph (1) or (2) of section 112(b) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721(b)) (unless the apparel articles are made exclusively from any of the fabrics, fabric components formed, or components knit-to-shape described in paragraph (1) or (2) of such section 112(b)).

(B) **LIMITATIONS ON BENEFITS.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Preferential treatment under this subsection shall be extended in the 1-year period beginning January 1, 2012, and in each of the succeeding 10 1-year periods, to imports of textile and apparel articles described in subparagraph (A) in an amount not to exceed the applicable percentage of the aggregate square meter equivalents of all textile and apparel articles imported into the United States in the most recent 12-month period for which data are available.

(ii) **APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.**—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term “applicable percentage” means 11 percent for the 1-year period beginning January 1, 2012, increased in each of the 10 succeeding 1-year periods by equal increments, so that for the period beginning January 1, 2022, the applicable percentage does not exceed 14 percent.

(3) **HANDLOOMED, HANDMADE, FOLKLORE ARTICLES AND ETHNIC PRINTED FABRICS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—A textile or apparel article described in this paragraph is a handloomed, handmade, folklore article or an ethnic printed fabric of a beneficiary Asia or South Pacific country or countries that is certified as such by the competent authority of such beneficiary country or countries. For purposes of this subsection, the President, after consultation with the beneficiary Asia or South Pacific country or countries concerned, shall determine which, if any, particular textile and apparel goods of the country or countries shall be treated as being handloomed, handmade, or folklore articles or an ethnic printed fabric.

(B) **REQUIREMENTS FOR ETHNIC PRINTED FABRIC.**—Ethnic printed fabrics qualified under this paragraph are—

(i) fabrics containing a selvedge on both edges, having a width of less than 50 inches,

classifiable under subheading 5208.52.30 or 5208.52.40 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States;

(ii) of the type that contains designs, symbols, and other characteristics of Asian or South Pacific prints—

(I) normally produced for and sold on the indigenous Asian or South Pacific market; and

(II) normally sold in Asia or South Pacific countries by the piece as opposed to being tailored into garments before being sold in indigenous Asian or South Pacific markets;

(iii) printed, including waxed, in one or more beneficiary Asia or South Pacific countries; and

(iv) fabrics formed in the United States, from yarns formed in the United States, or from fabric formed in one or more beneficiary Asia or South Pacific countries from yarn originating in either the United States or one or more beneficiary Asia or South Pacific countries.

(4) SPECIAL RULE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Preferential treatment under this subsection shall be extended through December 31, 2019, for textile and apparel articles that are wholly assembled in one or more beneficiary Asia or South Pacific countries or former beneficiary Asia or South Pacific countries, or both, regardless of the country of origin of the yarn or fabric used to make such articles.

(B) COUNTRY LIMITATIONS.—

(i) SMALL SUPPLIERS.—If, during a calendar year, imports of textile and apparel articles described in subparagraph (A) from a beneficiary Asia or South Pacific country are less than 1 percent of the aggregate square meter equivalents of all textile and apparel articles imported into the United States during that calendar year, such imports may be increased to an amount that is equal to not more than 1.5 percent of the aggregate square meter equivalents of all textile and apparel articles imported into the United States during that calendar year for the succeeding calendar year.

(ii) OTHER SUPPLIERS.—If, during a calendar year, imports of textile and apparel articles described in subparagraph (A) from a beneficiary Asia or South Pacific country are at least 1 percent of the aggregate square meter equivalents of all textile and apparel articles imported into the United States during that calendar year, such imports may be increased by an amount that is equal to not more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of 1 percent of the aggregate square meter equivalents of all textile and apparel articles imported into the United States during that calendar year for the succeeding calendar year.

(iii) AGGREGATE COUNTRY LIMIT.—In no case may the aggregate quantity of textile and apparel articles described in subparagraph (A) imported into the United States during a calendar year under this subsection exceed the applicable percentage set forth in paragraph (2)(B)(ii) for that calendar year.

(d) OTHER RESTRICTIONS.—The provisions of subsections (b)(3)(B) and (e) of section 112 and section 113 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721 and 3722) shall apply with respect to the preferential treatment extended under this section to a beneficiary Asia or South Pacific country by substituting “beneficiary Asia or South Pacific country” for “beneficiary sub-Saharan African country” and “beneficiary Asia or South Pacific countries” and “former beneficiary Asia or South Pacific countries” for “beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries” and “former sub-Saharan African countries”, respectively, as appropriate.

(e) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 6002(a)(2)(B) of the Africa Investment Incentive Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-432) is amended by inserting before “by striking” the following: “in paragraph (3),”.

SEC. 6. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.

The President shall monitor, review, and report to Congress, not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, on the implementation of this Act and on the trade and investment policy of the United States with respect to the Asia or South Pacific countries.

SEC. 7. TERMINATION OF PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT.

No duty-free treatment or other preferential treatment extended to a beneficiary Asia or South Pacific country under this Act shall remain in effect after December 31, 2022.

SEC. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The provisions of this Act shall take effect on January 1, 2012.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 1444. A bill to provide for the presentation of a United States flag on behalf of Federal civilian employees who are killed while performing official duties or because of their status as Federal employees; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Civilian Service Recognition Act of 2011. This bill ensures that the next of kin of Federal civilian employees killed in the line of duty are presented a United States flag honoring the service and sacrifice of their loved one. This legislation is cosponsored by Senator LIEBERMAN and is a companion to a bi-partisan bill introduced by Representative HANNA. Representative HANNA's bill was recently reported favorably by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform by unanimous voice vote.

Every day, Federal civilian employees serve our nation at home and abroad, fulfilling critical roles that protect our citizens, our economy, and our freedom. Some put their lives at risk when doing so. Approximately 100,000 Federal civilian employees have served alongside the U.S. military in Iraq and Afghanistan over the last decade. Since 1992, nearly 3,000 Federal civilian employees have died in service of their country, including 24 killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Employees who make this ultimate sacrifice deserve the utmost gratitude and respect from their nation.

U.S. law currently requires that a United States flag be presented to the next of kin of deceased U.S. military veterans, but no law or government-wide policy requires that Federal civilian employees killed in the line of duty be similarly recognized. Some Federal agencies have already established internal practices to honor employees killed in service with a U.S. flag, but others have not. Every Federal civilian employee who dies as a result of their

honorable service to this country should at least be recognized with the symbolic but nonetheless significant appreciation embodied in the presentation of an American flag.

The bill I am introducing today would remedy the current inconsistency. It requires that Federal agencies present a flag to the next of kin of Federal civilian employees killed in the line of duty. In the unusual circumstance where the national security, such as in the case of a covert employee, or employee misconduct dictate otherwise, the requirement would not apply. It is a modest but meaningful step in expressing our condolences and gratitude to the families of those killed while serving this country; reminding Federal employees that their service and sacrifices are appreciated; and highlighting the important role Federal employees play, sometimes at great personal risk, in promoting the general welfare of this great Nation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1444

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Civilian Service Recognition Act of 2011”.

SEC. 2. PRESENTATION OF UNITED STATES FLAG ON BEHALF OF FEDERAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES KILLED WHILE PERFORMING OFFICIAL DUTIES OR BECAUSE OF THEIR STATUS AS FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) EMPLOYEE.—The term “employee” has the meaning given that term in section 2105 of title 5, United States Code, and includes—

(A) individuals who perform volunteer services at the discretion of the head of an executive agency; and

(B) an officer or employee of the United States Postal Service or of the Postal Regulatory Commission.

(2) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term “executive agency” has the meaning given that term in section 105 of title 5, United States Code, and includes the United States Postal Service and the Postal Regulatory Commission.

(b) PRESENTATION OF FLAG.—Upon receipt of a request under subsection (c), the head of an executive agency shall pay the expenses incident to the presentation of a flag of the United States for an individual who—

(1) was an employee of the agency; and

(2) dies of injuries incurred in connection with such individual's status as a Federal employee.

(c) REQUEST FOR FLAG.—The head of an executive agency shall furnish a flag for a deceased employee described in subsection (a) upon the request of—

(1) the employee's next of kin; or

(2) if no request is received from the next of kin, an individual other than the next of kin as determined by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

(d) EXCEPTIONS.—Subsections (b) and (c) shall not apply if—

(1) the head of the executive agency determines that fulfilling the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) would endanger the national security of the United States or require the disclosure of classified information; or

(2) the employee is excluded from compensation for death under section 8102(a) of title 5, United States Code.

(e) EMPLOYEE NOTIFICATION.—The head of an executive agency shall provide appropriate notice to employees of the agency of the flag benefit provided under this Act.

(f) REGULATIONS.—The Director of the Office of Personnel Management, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Homeland Security, may prescribe regulations to implement this Act.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 588. Mr. REID (for Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. COBURN)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2608, to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 588. Mr. REID (for Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. COBURN)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2608, to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Small Business Program Extension and Reform Act of 2011”.

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS UNDER THE SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to extend temporarily certain authorities of the Small Business Administration”, approved October 10, 2006 (Public Law 109-316; 120 Stat. 1742), as most recently amended by section 2 of the Small Business Additional Temporary Extension Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-17; 125 Stat. 221), is amended by striking “July 31, 2011” each place it appears and inserting “July 31, 2012”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on July 30, 2011.

SEC. 3. REPEALS AND OTHER TERMINATIONS.

(a) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—

(1) EFFECTIVE DATE.—A repeal or other termination of a provision of law made by this section shall take effect on October 1, 2011.

(2) RULE.—Nothing in this section shall affect any grant or assistance provided, contract or cooperative agreement entered into, or loan made or guaranteed before October 1, 2011 under a provision of law repealed or otherwise terminated by this section and any such grant, assistance, contract, cooperative agreement, or loan shall be subject to the applicable repealed or otherwise terminated provision, as in effect on September 30, 2011.

(3) APPLICABILITY OF TEMPORARY EXTENSIONS.—A repeal or other termination of a provision of law made by this section shall have effect notwithstanding any temporary extension of programs, authority, or provisions under the Act entitled “An Act to extend temporarily certain authorities of the Small Business Administration”, approved October 10, 2006 (Public Law 109-316; 120 Stat. 1742).

(4) DEFICIT REDUCTION.—Any savings resulting from this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall be returned to the Treasury for deficit reduction.

(b) POLLUTION CONTROL LOANS.—Paragraph (12) of section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(A) The Administration” and inserting “The Administration”; and

(2) by striking “research and development” and all that follows and inserting “research and development.”.

(c) SMALL BUSINESS INSTITUTE.—Subparagraph (E) of section 8(b)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(b)(1)) is repealed.

(d) DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE GRANTS.—Paragraph (3) of section 21(c) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(c)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (R) by adding “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (S) by striking “; and” and inserting a period; and

(3) by striking subparagraph (T).

(e) CENTRAL EUROPEAN SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION.—Section 25 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 652) is repealed.

(f) PAUL D. COVERDELL DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE PROGRAM.—Section 27 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 654) is repealed.

(g) PILOT TECHNOLOGY ACCESS PROGRAM.—Section 28 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 655) is repealed.

(h) NATIONAL VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 33 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657c) is repealed.

(2) CORPORATION.—Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the National Veterans Business Development Corporation and any successor thereto may not represent that the corporation is federally chartered or in any other manner authorized by the Federal Government.

(i) LEASE GUARANTEES AND POLLUTION CONTROL.—Part A of title IV of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 692 et seq.) is repealed.

(j) ALTERNATIVE LOSS RESERVE.—Paragraph (7) of section 508(c) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 697e(c)) is repealed.

(k) SMALL BUSINESS TELECOMMUTING PILOT PROGRAM.—Subsection (d) of section 1203 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (15 U.S.C. 657h) is repealed.

(l) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958.—Section 411(i) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 694b(i)) is amended to read as follows:

“(i) Without limiting the authority conferred upon the Administrator and the Administration by section 201 of this Act, the Administrator and the Administration shall have, in the performance of and with respect to the functions, powers, and duties conferred by this part, all the authority and be subject to the same conditions prescribed in section 5(b) of the Small Business Act with respect to loans, including the authority to execute subleases, assignments of lease and new leases with any person, firm, organiza-

tion, or other entity, in order to aid in the liquidation of obligations of the Administration hereunder.”.

(2) TITLE 10.—Section 1142(b)(13) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “and the National Veterans Business Development Corporation”.

(3) TITLE 38.—Subsection (h) of section 3452 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “any of the” and all that follows and inserting “any small business development center described in section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648), insofar as such center offers, sponsors, or cosponsors an entrepreneurship course, as that term is defined in section 3675(c)(2).”.

(4) VETERANS ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1999.—Section 203(c)(5) of the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 (15 U.S.C. 657b note) is amended by striking “In cooperation with the National Veterans Business Development Corporation, develop” and inserting “Develop”.
SEC. 4. TERMINATION OF EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, effective October 1, 2011, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration may not carry out or otherwise support the program referred to as “Emerging Leaders” in the document of the Small Business Administration titled “FY 2012 Congressional Budget Justification and FY 2010 Annual Performance Report” (or any predecessor or successor document).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 28, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-G50 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 28, 2011, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 28, 2011, at 10 a.m. in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 28, 2011, at 10 a.m. in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled "FDA User Fees: Advancing Public Health" on July 28, 2011, at 9:45 a.m., in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 28, 2011, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 28, 2011, at 2:15 p.m. in room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on July 28, 2011, at 10 a.m., in SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 28, 2011, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION OPERATIONS,
SAFETY, AND SECURITY

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 28, 2011, at 10 a.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled, "Aviation Fuels: Needs, Challenges, and Alternatives."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sub-

committee on National Parks be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 28, 2011, at 2:30 p.m., in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, on behalf of Senator BINGAMAN, that three interns in his office, Shannon Simpson, Brooke Jordy, and Trey Debrine, be granted floor privileges during today's business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the two fellows in Senator ROCKEFELLER's office, Dale Orth and Janice Phillips, be granted floor privileges during consideration of S. 123.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Emily Boydston and Kevin Paulsen of my staff be granted floor privileges for the duration of today's proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF
THE CHAIR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are awaiting action of the House of Representatives on their bill. For that reason, I will ask unanimous consent that we recess subject to the call of the Chair, and I will make that motion in just a minute.

For the information of all Senators, I don't expect or anticipate any action here before 9 o'clock, so I doubt we would reconvene before 9 p.m. tonight.

So I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objections the Senate, at 7:43 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 10:45 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. DURBIN).

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, thank you very much. I apologize to everyone for the late hour. We have been waiting for the House to conduct their business and they are having trouble conducting it. As a result of their not sending us

the material we need, we are going to have to wait until tomorrow to do our work.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2011

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, Friday, July 29; that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate recess until 11 a.m.; and that at 11 a.m., the Senate be in a period of morning business until 12 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; further, that at 12 p.m. I be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. For all Democratic Senators, they should be aware that we are going to have a caucus at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 10:48 p.m., adjourned until Friday, July 29, 2011, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

DAVID T. DANIELSON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY (ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY), VICE CATHERINE RADFORD ZOI, RESIGNED.

LADORIS GUESS HARRIS, OF GEORGIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MINORITY ECONOMIC IMPACT, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, VICE JOSE ANTONIO GARCIA, RESIGNED.

THE JUDICIARY

EVAN JONATHAN WALLACH, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT, VICE ARTHUR GAJARSA, RETIRING.

RONNIE ABRAMS, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE LEWIS A. KAPLAN, RETIRED.

RUDOLPH CONTRERAS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, VICE RICARDO M. URBINA, RETIRED.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, July 28, 2011

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBSTER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

July 28, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL WEBSTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill and a concurrent resolution of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1188. An act to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government.

S. Con. Res. 26. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the designation of the year of 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

PAUL CALLAHAN'S LAST DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Paul Callahan, a dedicated staff member in the office of the Second Congressional District of South Carolina. After 8 years in Washington, Paul will be departing the office at the end of this month to return home to South Carolina.

Paul has been a faithful servant for the people of South Carolina's Second

Congressional District since November 2003. He has served in a variety of capacities, ranging from scheduler to legislative correspondent to senior legislative assistant. Paul truly fulfills the role of "dedicated Hill staffer." Most recently, Paul's portfolio has consisted of banking and financial services, housing, telecommunications, and foreign affairs. His hard work has been a valuable asset in the office for the citizens of South Carolina.

It is with sincere gratitude that I would like to thank Paul for his expertise and enthusiasm. You will be missed in the office, and I wish you well. I wish you, Jenni, Charlotte, Judah, and month-old Penelope all the best as you enter this next phase of life and move back to Taylors, South Carolina.

MORE TAXES DESTROY JOBS

Mr. Speaker, according to The Wall Street Journal on July 27, Robert Barro correctly argues that raising tax rates on Americans is not helpful in putting Americans back on the path to prosperity. Raising taxes does not present a feasible solution in engineering and economic recovery. The solution is to cut spending, just as has occurred previously in Canada in 1993 and in Germany under Chancellor Angela Merkel.

The reason our country finds itself in this current fiscal situation is due to Washington's out-of-control spending during the last 3 years. A failed \$787 billion stimulus package in 2009 led only to a waste of taxpayer money along with a hole even deeper than what it intended to fix. But the current administration moved forward with the belief America can borrow and spend its way out of a recession. That has proved to be false.

Now the President wants to raise taxes as a way to pay for all this spending. This is irresponsible. Higher revenues will only lead to one thing—more government spending. Tax increases destroy jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

CUT, CAP, AND BALANCE VS. INVEST, BUILD, AND GROW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Cut, cap, and balance—that's the Republican economic vision. Democrats should have a different economic vision for America—invest, build, and grow.

Invest: Conservatives say the Federal budget should be like families and businesses, and I agree. But families and businesses don't balance their budgets as Republicans pretend. Families and businesses go into debt by investing rationally in their future. Families go into debt by purchasing homes and cars and sending their children to college. Businesses go into debt to grow their companies. We should invest in things that will put Americans to work in a full employment economy and make America's future bright with balanced economic growth.

Build: We need to put America back to work by building America. The New Deal did not pull us out of the Great Depression; World War II did. The government—not the private sector—the government's conduct of the war and the government's role in steering the economy won World War II and pulled us out of the Great Depression. Government did that. Government stimulated the public and the private economy. If we rationally invest a similar amount of money in our domestic economy as we did to win World War II, we can pull America out of this Great Recession just like we pulled America out of the Great Depression.

Grow: We need to grow the economy in a balanced fashion. Two large tax cuts in 2001 and 2003 to the wealthy and big corporations—the so-called "job creators"—didn't create jobs in the private sector. Indeed, only 1 million net new jobs were created between 2001 and 2009, all government jobs. The private sector reported minus 600,000 jobs. So much for giving tax breaks to the "private job generators."

Some argue against all debt, but all debts aren't bad because all debts are not the same. A \$50,000 gambling debt is bad because it has no return. The last decade showed that gambling on tax cuts for the rich to create jobs was bad. Gambling on two wars and not paying for them was bad. Gambling on a new prescription drug law that was unpaid for was horrible. And gambling on unregulated financial institutions that failed was bad. They resulted in a housing market collapse, slow economic growth, high unemployment, and huge deficits and debts—all bad.

So I think we've gambled enough on the theory that budget cuts and tax cuts generate private sector jobs and more taxes. The Laffer Curve is truly a laugh.

One more point, however, Mr. Speaker, where Republicans are right. We do have a spending problem. We spent too

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

little in the economic stimulus package of 2009 and we spent it on the wrong things, one-third of which were tax cuts for the rich that conservative Republicans insisted be included, even though they still voted against it. Rather than spending to create jobs by directly investing in things we need—new schools, new hospitals, new water and sewer systems, public transportation, high speed rail, bridges, ports, airports, and more—Congress passed an economic stimulus package that kept us from falling into a Great Depression. But it was not enough to generate the growth necessary to create the number of jobs that we need. But too many in Congress drew the wrong conclusion.

It reminds me of a man whose house caught on fire, and when he tried to put it out with a garden hose, he concluded that water does not put out fires. Water does put out fires, Mr. Speaker, but you have to have enough of it to fit the size of the fire. You have to put it in the right place.

So, there you have it, Mr. Speaker, two choices for America: Cut, cap, and balance or invest, build, and grow. That's the choice before the American people. Both visions offer constitutional amendments.

Cut, cap, and balance offers a balanced budget amendment that guarantees slow growth and few jobs. But a different vision of invest, grow, and build can be enhanced with a different set of constitutional amendments—education, health care, and the environment, just to name three.

According to the Congressional Research Service, over 51 percent of all jobs in America are tied to the First Amendment—television networks, radio stations, the recording industry, wire services, Facebook, Google, iPad, movie studios, the Internet, newspapers, magazines, and more. In fact, most corporate activity in America is defined as First Amendment activity.

How many jobs would be created if we added an amendment to the Constitution that gave every American student the right to a public education of equal high quality? How many new elementary schools would have to be built? How many old schools would have to be rehabilitated and made modern?

□ 1010

How many teachers and counselors would have to be hired? How much wire installed for the Internet? How many computers built and purchased? How many desks built and bought? That's what H.J. Res. 29, an education amendment, would demand.

How many jobs would be created if we added an amendment that guaranteed every American the right to health care of equal high quality? how many new hospitals built? how many doctors, nurses, dentists, administrators, and technicians trained?

Mr. Speaker, a different vision of America is possible. I am not giving up on our country, and neither should we.

BUDGET CONTROL ACT OF 2011

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. POMPEO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, throughout history, great change has mostly come from steady, determined hard work performed over long, long periods of time. Think of our Revolution. It took years. Think of the war that freed the slaves and the progression towards racial equality. It has taken years. Think of the continued long march against radical Islamic terrorism that continues today.

Today, the challenge we face is a frightening economic challenge. We must put people back to work. We've got to grow our economy so we can pay off the crushing debt that has been heaped upon the next generation over the past 40 years. It is the fight of my generation. There are two world views to tackle this problem that threaten our Republic.

The first, offered by the President and those who control Washington, D.C. today, is more government, more spending, more redistribution of wealth, and more physical and spiritual dependence on government. The American people rejected this world view on November 2, 2010.

Then there is a second view. It is one that offers liberty and freedom from government instead of control by government. It recognizes that the left's morally misguided policies will expand government, suffocate growth, further depress job creation, and push millions of people farther away from any hope of rising out of poverty. These policies negatively impact American culture by squelching individual responsibility and initiative and work ethic. America has always had a cultural bias in favor of productive work, and has disapproved of the easy acceptance of charity and welfare payments when these are not necessary and when one can provide for oneself.

These competing visions of America frame the debate over reducing our Nation's spending addiction. It is the fight we're having today. So, today, I will vote for a bill that for the first time in decades begins to turn the tide against the radical job-killing spending of our current President.

Now, it's true that the election of President Barack Obama in 2008 and the Democratic retention of the Senate in 2010 continue to have consequences, so this bill is necessarily insufficient. It does not complete the mission. If this plan is all we ever do, we plainly will have failed the task that the new class of freshmen was sent to Washington, D.C. to take on.

But it is not all we'll do. We will continue to execute the will of the Amer-

ican people, and we will hold this Republic together by ending this spending addiction that has afflicted this town for decades. This bill is the Lexington and Concord of the American Revolution. It is Antietam to our Civil War. It is D-day to World War II. It is the first skirmish in a very long battle.

That great Kansan, General Eisenhower, did not declare victory on June 6, 1944, after America successfully commenced its liberation of Europe. Rather, he acknowledged a good day, that the battle had been joined, and he had a deep recognition that he needed to continue to execute his battle plan.

The American people spoke on November 2, 2010, and we now begin to do what they demand that we do.

This bill we vote on today honors that commitment. We said we would not raise taxes. This bill does not do that. Our President complains. We said we would not increase the debt limit beyond the amount of spending reductions that we undertake. This bill does that. Our President complains.

These were bold commitments we made to the American people, especially when Washington, D.C. continues to be controlled by liberal Democrats. How could we be sure that a rump group of Republicans could accomplish this? It had never been done before—but today, we have an opportunity as this monumental struggle begins.

How big will our Federal Government be? Will our country return to its constitutional role of having bounded government?

In Kansas, I know that the battle sometimes looks messy—big challenges often look that way. Today, however, I can say clearly that we have stopped a President intent on growing government, and we have begun to head down a path towards prosperity for our Nation and our freedom. It's a good day.

U.S. MUST LEAD GLOBAL RESPONSE TO FAMINE IN HORN OF AFRICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, last week, the United Nations declared famine in Somalia and reported urgent needs in Ethiopia and Kenya. On our nightly TV news and in our daily papers, we are seeing the pictures of people dying, of children suffering from extreme malnutrition, and of mothers carrying their babies, walking over 100 miles in search of food and safe haven.

Tens of thousands of people in Somalia have already died. The Horn of Africa is suffering a devastating drought, with this year being recorded in some locations as the driest or second driest year on record since 1951. The impact has been compounded by war, neglect and spiraling food prices.

Currently, some 11.5 million people across east Africa urgently need food aid, medical supplies and care. More than 130,000 Somali refugees have left their country for refugee camps along the borders of Ethiopia and Kenya. They arrive exhausted and physically depleted. News reports estimate that about 1,300 Somali refugees arrive in northern Kenya every single day. They join already overcrowded camps, and stress the ability of the Kenyan Government and humanitarian agencies to provide food, water, emergency care, and shelter.

Working with local partners and NGOs such as Doctors without Borders, Save the Children, and Italian Aid, UNICEF will be vaccinating hundreds of thousands of children. Dehydrated and suffering from malnutrition, these children, especially those under the age of 5, are particularly susceptible to the measles, polio, diarrhea, and pneumonia.

To date, in fiscal year 2011, the United States has provided over \$450 million in humanitarian aid to the Horn of Africa through USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance and the Food for Peace program, along with refugee assistance from the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration.

But much more needs to be done. The next 3 to 6 months will be critical. The drought is expected to worsen, at least through the end of the year, and then we will wait to see what happens during the next cycle of rains. Will communities be able to recover? Will small farmers be able to plant new crops or will heavy rains produce floods that drive communities deeper into poverty?

My colleagues need to understand, however, that the current crisis, as terrible as it is, could have been much worse. There is good news amongst so much tragedy. The last time a drought of this magnitude hit Ethiopia, over 14 million people faced starvation. This time, about 4.5 million Ethiopians are in need of emergency aid. The difference? Since 2005, the United States and other donors have made significant investments in Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Program.

I saw firsthand several of these programs in 2007. They helped small farmers and poor communities diversify the crops they planted, broaden their sources of income, create local markets, better manage their water resources, and increase the nutritional content of their own diets and those of their children. This has enabled over 7.5 million Ethiopians to withstand the worst effects of the current drought. These families and communities are not part of the 4.5 million Ethiopians who require urgent humanitarian aid.

Mr. Speaker, these programs work. They were models for Feed the Future, our current global program to promote

sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition. It's how you end global hunger, Mr. Speaker. It's the difference between needing to help rescue 4 million people rather than 14 million people. It's also the difference between investing \$6 per person each year so they become more food secure and resilient to disasters—or having to invest \$250 per person to deliver emergency relief that only covers 3 to 4 months.

It's the smart way to invest our development resources. Mr. Speaker, this is why I am so appalled by what happened yesterday in the markup of the State-Foreign Operations appropriations bill.

□ 1020

Development, humanitarian, and disaster aid programs were all brutally cut. These cuts come on top of the Agricultural appropriations bill that devastated our emergency food aid programs.

With the worst drought in 60 years hitting the Horn of Africa, these cuts amount to the United States turning its back on its own strategic interests and walking away from our international commitments.

Instead, we need to increase our emergency response to the current crisis, ensure that we have the resources to invest in long-term development, and continue our global leadership in ending hunger and famine once and for all. We need to do better, Mr. Speaker.

[From IRIN, July 27, 2011]

ANALYSIS: HORN OF AFRICA AID MUST ALSO BUILD LONG-TERM RESILIENCE

GENEVA.—The images of starving children bear grim witness to the extent of the crisis affecting millions of people in the Horn of Africa, but they also symbolize a failure to act in time, say aid experts.

"It is a colossal outrage that the warnings went unheeded, that the lessons of previous famines have been ignored," says Barbara Stocking, chief executive of Oxfam.

The crisis in the Horn of Africa, triggered by drought, conflict and high food prices, is affecting at least 11.6 million people, with two regions of southern Somalia suffering from famine. And the situation may well deteriorate.

But the crisis, experts say, could have been mitigated by mobilizing the necessary resources ahead of time. There is increasing evidence that helping people become more resilient to the naturally recurring cycles of drought is far more effective than responding after disaster has struck.

It is also sound use of donor money, they say. As such, helping farmers find alternative livelihood options, or teaching them to grow drought-resistant crops, is far more effective than providing food aid when the harvest has failed.

"We have hard evidence, including from Africa, that we need only five Swiss francs [US\$6.20] per capita per annum to build up resilience," said Mohammed Mukhier, who heads the Disaster Risk Reduction unit at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

"If you take the emergency response and emergency operations, you might need 200 francs [\$250] per capita to deliver relief as-

sistance for periods of just three or four months."

Humanitarian agencies and donors agreed at an emergency meeting in Rome on 25 July that the response to the crisis must address the immediate needs of the desperate population and help build resilience to avert similar crises in the future.

RISK REDUCTION

Using donor money wisely is particularly urgent in view of the threats posed globally by natural disasters, including increasingly frequent storms, floods and droughts. Advocates of the risk reduction strategy argue that donors can no longer afford to provide funding for disasters primarily after the fact. The cost is rising and compromising regular development investment.

Yet, warnings of impending disaster in the Horn of Africa went largely unheeded.

"Measures that could have kept animals alive—and provided milk, and income to buy food—would have been much cheaper than feeding malnourished children, but the time for those passed with very little investment," said Simon Levine, of the Overseas Development Institute. Now, "it is far too late to address anything but the worst symptoms", he wrote on the website of the independent British think-tank.

While massive funding often goes to post-disaster response, funds for preparedness and contingency planning are relatively scarce. Risk prevention is often hard to fund as it does not generate the same kind of media as a high-profile emergency response. Government donors answer to taxpayers and need to demonstrate impact—something that is difficult to do when disaster has been averted.

With donors mobilized—even if funds pledged still fall well short of the US\$2 billion needed—the focus in the Horn of Africa is now on emergency as well as long-term assistance.

"Short-term relief must be linked to building long-term sustainability," said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. "This means an agricultural transformation that improves the resilience of rural livelihoods and minimizes the scale of any future crisis. It means climate-smart crop production, livestock rearing, fish farming and forest maintenance practices that enable all people to have year-round access to the nutrition they need."

Kanayo F. Nwanze, president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), stressed that building resilience in farming and herding communities required a long-term commitment. "But time—as we can see from the devastating situation in the Horn of Africa—is running out," he told delegates at the meeting in Rome.

The challenge of seeking to avoid future food insecurity crises in the Horn of Africa is daunting. Conflict has severely hampered development and relief efforts in Somalia, and affects the mobility of pastoralists and their livestock, which is key to food security in the region.

But disaster risk reduction is increasingly seen as a humanitarian imperative, crucial to battling poverty and achieving sustainable development.

"Building resilience of farming and herding communities in East Africa requires a long-term, sustained commitment on the part of the region's governments and the international donor community," said Kevin Cleaver, IFAD's associate vice-president.

"The rains will fail. But let us not fail, too."

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE PRESS CONFERENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, time is up. It is time for the administration to quit stalling and make a decision on the Keystone XL pipeline project, the pipeline that comes from our friends in Canada from Alberta all the way down to my congressional district in southeast Texas, to the refineries in Port Arthur, Texas.

The House has done its job this week by passing a bill to move this decision along. Now it's the Senate's turn to pass this bill so that the administration finally makes a decision on the Keystone XL project that will create thousands of American jobs and decrease our dependence on unfriendly nations for energy.

I commend my friend from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) for passing this legislation and being the spearhead of this legislation.

All that has to happen is the State Department has to make a decision and the administration has to support that decision one way or the other. It's been 3 years for the administration to make a decision, yes or no, on the XL pipeline. It's time to fish or cut bait. Pick a horse and ride it. The administration must make a decision.

And this should be, to me, an easy choice for this administration. Either they can force Americans to continue to rely on unfriendly foreign countries for our energy, like Venezuela and the Middle Eastern dictators, by depriving Americans of a reliable source of oil at a time when gas prices are around \$4, or they can work with our friends in the north to supply over 1.4 million barrels of oil per day.

Pipelines are the proven and safe, efficient source of energy. Best of all, this project creates thousands of jobs at a time when unemployment in this country is 9.2 percent. And it is climbing. I would think this job-creating, shovel-ready project—which my liberal friends always talk about—would be something they would support and the administration would support.

As the administration continues to stonewall our own domestic production, we must safely and immediately look for ways to meet energy needs.

The country needs energy. It needs jobs. This project provides both. What's the holdup, Mr. President?

For every barrel of oil shipped a thousand miles, less than one teaspoon of liquid is lost from a pipeline. Transporting goods by pipeline has the lowest carbon footprint as compared with other transportation modes. Crude oil has to get to America some way. It either comes by barge or truck or rail or marine, and pipelines historically are the safest way to transport crude oil.

Attacking a pipeline on environmental grounds seems to be absurd to

me. Pipelines have been the most cost-effective and environmentally sound way to transport oil and natural gas. A medium-sized pipeline, which is about 150,000 barrels a day, requires operating more than 750 trucks or a 75-car train every day to transport the same amount of crude oil.

Transporting oil through a pipeline is far safer than using transportation by oil tankers. When an oil tanker has a major oil spill, millions of barrels of oil can be spilled in a matter of a few minutes, a few hours, or just a few days.

Nearly half a million miles of natural gas and crude oil pipelines are in the United States—500,000 miles of pipeline. Over half of these are in the State of Texas alone—270,000 miles of pipeline. And about one-third of all of the Nation's pipelines, I understand, go through the energy capital of the world, my district in southeast Texas.

If we don't use the crude oil from Canada in this pipeline, the Canadians could very easily, instead of having a north-to-south pipeline, have a pipeline east-to-west and pipe it to the west coast, and then ship it to our good buddies, the Chinese, who want to buy it.

You know, America's energy plan seems to be twofold: send money to Brazil and let the Brazilians drill off their coast, and we'll buy their crude oil; and the second part is, make sure we use those cute little curly CFL light bulbs. And that's it.

It's time that we take care of ourselves. This is a good project for America, American jobs, and a way to get crude oil into the United States. It's time for the White House to make a decision.

And that's just the way it is.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

DEBT CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. With one simple vote last December, Congress precipitated the so-called debt crisis. We voted to extend all of the Bush tax cuts at a cost of \$4 trillion over 10 years. I voted "no."

So now, the debate comes down to what's more important to the American people—Social Security or tax cuts; Medicare or tax cuts; jobs or tax cuts. That's what this debate is all about right now—preserving tax cuts, particularly tax cuts for the wealthy and the largest multinational corporations in this country.

Some are still trying to drag Social Security into this debate. Social Security did not cause one penny of this

debt. In fact, Social Security is the largest owner of Federal debt in the world. They're the largest investor in Federal debt. Social Security did not cause this problem. Yes, long term, starting in 2037, Social Security is projected to only be able to pay 73 to 75 percent of benefits. We can solve that simply. Ask all Americans to pay the same percent of their income into Social Security.

Today, if you earn over \$106,800, you pay a lower percentage of your income into Social Security. Lift that cap. You could lower the tax for everybody. All those who earn less than \$106,800, they'd get a little tax cut. Everybody who earns more than \$106,800 would pay the same percent of their income in taxes as those who earn less. That's fair. It solves Social Security's problems forever.

Then there are others who say well, it's Medicare. Medicare is the thing we've got to kill. The Ryan plan, the Republican plan: kill Medicare. Turn it into a voucher program. That's their solution there. Future seniors would have a subsidy to go to a government-sponsored exchange to buy private health insurance, and the voucher would be far less than the cost of health insurance. We don't need to kill Medicare to save it or to preserve the tax cuts.

Medicare, we could do away with the Bush-Republican unpaid-for prescription-drug benefit that subsidizes the pharmaceutical and insurance industries and instead say Medicare, we'll negotiate lower drug prices for all people on that program and give them an at-cost benefit. That saves \$20 billion a year.

We could reform the way we buy durable medical equipment and save another \$20 billion a year. And then we could move on to paying doctors for good results rather than volume, saving tens of billions more.

Yes, we can fix Medicare. We don't need to destroy it to perpetuate tax cuts.

And then tax cuts create jobs. That's the reason we have to maintain the tax cuts, according to the Republicans. Tax cuts create jobs. Well, we're in the 11th year of the Bush tax cuts, the third year of the Obama tax cuts that supposedly are creating jobs. Well, where are the jobs? In fact, we just had a really good demonstration of this last week.

Last Friday, all taxes on airline tickets expired. Now, Republicans said, well, that will get passed on to the consumers. No. Most of the airlines are keeping the money. That's another issue. But did those tax cuts create jobs? No. Actually so far they've cost us 94,000 jobs—4,000 Federal employees. Now, they hate Federal employees, so that doesn't matter to them. But 90,000 private-sector construction jobs. Building of critical security and safety

projects on airports all across the country has ground to a halt because they stopped us from continuing to collect that fee, that tax on people who use the system.

So tax cuts actually have destroyed 94,000 jobs. But they have profited a number of the airlines. One major airline, \$4 million extra a day because, guess what, they raised their ticket prices to capture that money. They didn't refund it. A couple like Alaska have refunded it, but most of the airlines, no.

□ 1030

So we're putting a lie to a lot of their policies here, and the biggest core part of their policy is trickle-down economics. It failed in the Reagan years and it's failing again now.

Give billionaires, the job-creators, tax cuts, and they'll create jobs for us little people. Well, guess what; no. Maybe they hired another pool boy or someone else on the yacht. There are a few jobs there. They're now hiring private jets to fly their kids to camp in Maine. Yes, there's a job there, but not the jobs that 18 million American people need.

If we restore the taxes on airline tickets, we would put 90,000 construction workers, private sector workers back to work, and 4,000 government employees. And if we fully fund our transportation needs in this country, we could put another 2.7 to 3.5 million people to work.

No, they want to cut investment in transportation and infrastructure. Bridges are failing. They're falling down. The roads are potholed. Transit systems are decrepit, and the Republican answer is: Give people back their money and cut spending on those wasteful things like mass transit, bridges, and highways.

And, oh, by the way, under their plan, we lose another 600,000 private sector jobs on top of the 20 percent unemployment in construction.

It's time to get real around here. Put America back to work. If Americans were working, that would solve one-quarter of the deficit problem. Stop the tax cut mayhem.

OPEN LETTER TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, I have voted to raise the debt ceiling where the bill makes America's financial condition better, not worse.

In my judgment, both the Reid and Boehner plans fail to adequately address unsustainable deficits that threaten America with insolvency and bankruptcy. Both plans push the debt ceiling issue to 2012 or 2013, at which time a financially weaker America will

confront a worse debt ceiling crisis. Both plans simply are not up to the seriousness of the financial challenges America faces.

Washington must put 2012 election considerations aside and put America's interests first and foremost, now. Congress and the White House can and must do better, now. America deserves better, now. And quite frankly, we have no choice but to do better, now.

Years of spending binges by the Federal Government have come home to roost. America's debt exceeds \$14 trillion. America has suffered 3 consecutive years of trillion-dollar deficits and faces trillion-dollar deficits into the foreseeable future. Annual deficits and accumulated debt force America to confront two major financial threats, both with one common cause: unsustainable budget deficits.

In the short term, America faces a debt ceiling crisis. If the debt ceiling is not raised, economic hardship will ensue, unemployment rates will rise, and America's gross domestic product will decline. Over a longer term, however, America faces a larger, more serious debt crisis. If trillion-dollar deficits continue to run rampant, America's insolvency and bankruptcy is certain, which risks America's national defense capabilities, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, NASA, and everything else that the government provides.

The question is not whether Congress will raise the debt ceiling; the question is when and how. I have already voted to raise the debt ceiling \$2.4 trillion as part of the Cut, Cap, and Balance bill. We're cutting FY12 expenditures by a modest \$111 billion in the context of a \$1.5 trillion deficit, capping Federal Government expenditures within historically justifiable 18 to 24 percent ranges, and passing a balanced budget constitutional amendment that protects future generations of Americans from the financial mess we now face.

I am prepared to vote to raise the debt ceiling again, so long as Congress substantively addresses our underlying deficit problem while protecting our fragile economy and jobs market. As best I can with the limited and changing information available, I have examined both the Boehner and Reid plans. While they differ in many respects, they also share common concepts:

Neither plan purports to immediately raise taxes. Neither plan cuts spending in FY 2012 or 2013 by as much as 5 percent of this year's \$1.5 trillion deficit. Neither plan eliminates annual trillion-dollar deficits in the foreseeable future. Both plans raise the debt ceiling by at least \$1 trillion and as much as \$2.7 trillion. Both plans kick the can down the road and force America to revisit the debt ceiling crisis in either 2012 or 2013, at which time America's debt burden will be much higher and America will be that much weaker.

Neither plan heeds Standard and Poor's or Moody's credit downgrade warnings. Neither plan cuts America's short- or long-term deficits enough to minimize the risk of downgrade in America's credit rating, a downgrade that will drive up America's debt service cost and cut funding for all other Federal Government programs. To make matters worse, if America's interest rates go up, State and local private interest rates are likely to also go up, thereby hurting Americans at all levels.

There is only one reliable solution that I can discern that protects America from both financial threats: a debt ceiling increase coupled with a balanced budget constitutional amendment that is phased in over a 5-year period of time.

In as much as constitutional amendments often take years to pass, time that America does not have, the first step must be to raise the debt ceiling when Congress passes a substantive balanced budget constitutional amendment. If the Senate and House concur, this can be done in as little as a week.

The second step, equally important, raises the rest of the debt ceiling when the States ratify the proposed balanced budget amendment, thus giving States a needed incentive to ratify the balanced budget amendment in less than 1 year.

This approach solves both financial threats.

Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, I pray that Washington has the strength to do what it must before it is too late. America is on the verge of a downward spiral. We must act now, and we must act in substantive ways.

DEBT CEILING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about our current fiscal situation and how we got to where we are today. The thought that America would default on its obligations is unimaginable.

This afternoon, we're going to begin a debate on Speaker BOEHNER's debt ceiling legislation, and I'll comment later on why I oppose the Speaker's approach. But before we begin that debate, I think it's important to acknowledge, step back, and review how we got to where we are.

The success of the 1993 Deficit Reduction Act, which was vehemently opposed by our Republican friends, led to a decade of prosperity and surplus. President Clinton balanced the budget for the first time since 1969 and ran surpluses for 4 years. Between 1998 and 2000, the publicly held debt was reduced by \$363 billion, the largest 3-year pay down in American history. Under Presidents Reagan and Bush, the debt

held by the public quadrupled. By the time Bill Clinton left office, the budget was on track to pay off the entire publicly held debt on a net basis by 2009. Remember, Alan Greenspan warned us that we were paying down the debt too quickly. The clock in Times Square, which chronicled the deficit, was actually turned off at the end of the Clinton years. But, unfortunately, there were those who thought that we should shift course.

Economic growth averaged 4 percent during those Clinton years, compared to an average of 2.8 percent during President Reagan's years. The economy grew for 116 consecutive months, the most in history, fueled by more than 22.5 million jobs that were created during those 8 years, the most jobs ever created during a single administration and more than were created in the previous 12 years.

On January 20, 2001, when George W. Bush took the oath of office, the CBO estimated that the total budget surplus for 2002 to 2011 would be \$5.6 trillion. And their campaign began to spend that surplus in earnest, despite warnings. President Bush began taking us down that fiscal path by enacting tax cuts, first in 2001 of \$1.3 trillion, and again in 2003, \$1 trillion, that cost the government going forward almost \$4 trillion. The other major expenditure in those years was our idea that you could simultaneously engage two wars and cut taxes by \$2.3 trillion. Remember the argument about weapons of mass destruction that took us to the unnecessary war in Iraq.

While some question tax cuts in wartime, including people like Mr. Lincoln, others thought it brilliant. The Republican leader at the time or the deputy leader at the time said it was patriotic to cut taxes in a time of war. Well, I wonder if the 2.2 million more veterans who have served us with honor and distinction in Iraq and Afghanistan are going to feel that way when proposals come down the road to draw back on the benefits that they've earned. During the Bush years, our country spent \$1.5 trillion in Iraq and on national defense.

The turnaround in our budget picture during the Bush years was remarkable. In October of 2008, CNN reported that the debt clock had run out of numbers. The debt clock actually had exceeded 13 digits that had been allotted, so the clock had to be revised.

□ 1040

According to one report at the end of the Bush term, the number of jobs in the Nation increased by 2 percent. That's the lowest or most tepid growth at any time since data began to be collected seven decades ago. Gross domestic product was at the lowest pace for a period of that length of time since the Truman administration. And the price that America has paid for the

theology that suggested during all of those years that tax cuts paid for themselves, you can't find a mainstream economist in this town today who will acknowledge that argument. And yet we hear now more tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.

By the time that the Bush years ended, the debt had increased to \$10.6 trillion, setting a record for any administration. And incidentally, the TARP vote that we hear so often, that took place in October of 2008, that's a very important consideration. That was during President Bush's years.

But let me give you a quote that I think sums up much of what we did during those years. Dick Cheney told the Treasury Secretary at the time, Paul O'Neill: Reagan proved that deficits don't matter. We won the midterm elections, this is our due.

We embraced the prescription D Medicare benefit that we're paying a price for today.

So here we are. My Republican colleagues try to place the blame for this situation on the current administration. There were many of us who saw what was happening with the reckless expenditure during those years and the price that America paid.

We need to vote to raise the debt ceiling. It's the responsible position for all of us to take.

CHANGING THE DIRECTION OF THIS COUNTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, almost 7 months ago I stood in this Chamber and took the oath of office. It was one of the proudest days of my life.

Since my swearing-in, we've worked together to change the direction of this country, and we've changed it for the better. We've cut Federal spending by \$361 billion. We've repealed an unpopular and unwanted government health care plan. And we've started dialing back some of the overregulation that's been slowing our economic growth.

During my short time here in Washington, I've heard some very passionate arguments, and I've seen some very heated debates. But they are nothing. Mr. Speaker, like the angry, confusing, misleading rhetoric I've heard in the last 2 weeks regarding the raising of the debt ceiling.

Some media reports around the Capitol make it seem like we will never come to an agreement. Not only are Democrats and Republicans seemingly miles apart, but it appears as if both parties have splintered internally. The bickering is dividing our government. It's dividing the American people, and it's bringing us to the brink of financial disaster.

Based on the calls my office has received over the past several days, my

neighbors back in northeastern Pennsylvania want it to stop. They want a solution, and I'm sure every one of you and your neighbors back home do too.

There is no such thing as the perfect deal. There is no such thing as complete and total victory. Many of us came here opposed to raising the debt ceiling. Many of us prefer the Cut, Cap and Balance approach. Many on the other side prefer a clean debt ceiling increase with no spending cuts.

While the Budget Control Act is far from perfect, it accommodates the priorities of the people sitting on both sides of the table, both sides of the aisle, and both sides of the Capitol. If we, in this Chamber, if our friends in the other Chamber, or if the President holds out for the perfect plan, well, the United States will likely default on its obligations. As the responsible stewards of the people's government, we cannot let that happen. And I am confident that we will not let it happen.

But we need to work together. We need to trust each other. We need to realize that the perfect deal is neither possible nor practical.

We are at a critical moment in our history. This country has lived far beyond its means for far too long. The out-of-control spending has been going on in Washington for generations. Governments spent as if there were no tomorrow; and now we and our children and our grandchildren are left to pay the price.

I know the debt ceiling has been raised before, to the benefit of both Republican and Democratic administrations. Well, I wasn't there then and I didn't create this mess, but I'm sure going to clean it up, and that's why I'm here. That's why the people of northeastern Pennsylvania sent me here.

And while the thought of re-election should never, never enter anyone's mind when we're doing the people's business, let me say that this issue is far bigger than the next election. This issue is far bigger than one man or one branch of government or one political party.

How we solve this looming crisis is the defining issue of this Congress. We can either continue on the path that we've been on, a path of reckless spending, of increasing taxes, of mounting debts and deficits; or we can change our direction. We can put the brakes on the out-of-control spending. We can forge a new direction, one of fiscal responsibility, one of capped spending, one of balanced budgets.

We can send a message to the American people and to the world that the United States is getting its fiscal house in order. And if we do that, we can bring stability to the shaky global economy. We can reassure skeptical business owners and encourage them to create jobs. And we can create a better financial future for our children and our grandchildren.

I believe our choice is clear. I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, when you reach for your voting cards today, first take a glance at the pictures in your wallets, of your children and your grandchildren.

We are not Republicans; we are not Democrats. We are Americans. Today, let's put the American people first.

FAMINE IN EASTERN AFRICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the catastrophic famine that continues to unfold in the Horn of Africa. Eastern Africa is currently in the grips of the worst drought in 60 years, affecting 11 million people in Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya. According to the U.N., Somalia now faces the highest malnutrition rates in the world, and some 3 million Somalis are in desperate need of immediate emergency aid.

The U.N. estimates that tens of thousands of Somalis have died of drought-related causes in the past few months, and acute malnutrition rates in the country's southern region now exceed 30 percent.

Thousands more are fleeing areas controlled by the al Qaeda-affiliated militant group, Al-Shabaab which, even in the face of such large-scale human suffering, refuses to allow major humanitarian groups to deliver aid. Some 50,000 Somalis have returned to the capital, despite continued violence and instability, in search of food and medicine.

Others have sought refuge from hunger and warfare in neighboring countries. Nearly 400,000 Somalis have crowded into Kenya's Dadaab refugee camp, a complex designed to house only 90,000 people. Another 9,000 arrive in the camp each week, and thousands of other Somalis continue to flee Ethiopia in search of food. Many, particularly children and the elderly, do not survive the harsh trek.

The warning signs of impending disaster have been visible for months, but the international community has been slow to respond. Aid is slowly now beginning to trickle in, however. The U.N.'s World Food Program has begun an emergency airlift of food. The first flight arrived in Mogadishu yesterday, bringing 10 tons of nutritional supplements for children. The World Food Program says that is enough to treat 3,500 malnourished children for 1 month. Clearly, the need is far greater. The World Food Program plans to increase its efforts in hope of reaching over 2 million people in Somalia's south.

Likewise, the United States has provided much assistance to 4.4 million drought-affected people in Eastern Af-

rica. Since last October, our government has given \$383 million in life-saving aid, including 348,000 metric tons of food.

□ 1050

Further, this week the Obama administration announced a further \$28 million in emergency assistance for famine relief in Somalia. This aid is critical, and I commend the President for these steps. However, the scale of the current crisis requires a much greater response, as well as creative solutions tailored to the unique threats posed by Somalia's persistent instability and violence. For example, because al Shabaab is a terrorist organization, we continue to impose restrictions on aid organizations delivering assistance to the hard-hit regions under its control. We need to work with these humanitarian groups to ensure that, despite Somalia's continuing warfare and lack of governance, desperately needed aid can reach the most vulnerable men, women, and children.

Mr. Speaker, we need to act quickly to fight famine and save lives. We also need to address the long-term underlying causes that have left Somalia's people so vulnerable to drought and malnutrition. Even before the most recent crisis, Somalia was locked in a cycle of warfare, lawlessness, and bitter poverty. One expert recently called Somalia's current plight a catastrophic failure of all the systems that people rely on to survive. That's why part of our response must be an investment in resilience and food security; part of our response must be an effort to address the long-standing violent conflict that has torn Somalia apart; part of our response must go toward long-term economic development and capacity building.

We need to act immediately to ensure that humanitarian aid can reach the millions of eastern Africans who face imminent malnutrition and starvation that we're watching every day on television. I urge the United States and the international community to immediately scale up efforts to deliver urgent assistance to children and other vulnerable individuals.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

MAKING PROGRESS AND HISTORY WITH THE BUDGET CONTROL ACT AND BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. As America watches and the world watches from afar, Wash-

ington, D.C., debates a debt ceiling increase and debates various proposals for confronting it in a manner that is consistent with our commitment to this generation and the next.

For the past 10 years, I've been fighting runaway Federal spending, deficits, debt, and takeovers here in Washington, D.C., by both political parties. Now I recognize if you owe debts, pay debts. This Congress has an obligation to defend the full faith and credit of the United States of America and find a way to pay our bills. But this Congress also has an obligation to keep faith with this and future generations by restoring fiscal responsibility and discipline to our national Treasury.

I have come to the conclusion over the last decade that Washington, D.C., is not only broke; it's broken. As a colleague of mine said earlier this week, the American people don't just want a deal, they want a solution. And I rise to say that I believe a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States is that solution.

I told my colleagues earlier this week I did not want to vote for any increase in the debt ceiling unless this Congress did everything in its power to send a balanced budget amendment to the Senate and to the States. Earlier today, we learned that Speaker BOEHNER and Leader CANTOR had made a decision for this Friday to bring two separate balanced budget amendments to the floor, and I heartily support their decision.

The first balanced budget amendment will include spending limitations and require a supermajority on tax increases, and I support those measures. But the second balanced budget amendment hasn't seen action here on the House floor for 15 years. Fifteen years ago, what is commonly referred to as the "historic" or the "clean" balanced budget amendment received overwhelming and bipartisan support, some 300 votes on the floor of the House of Representatives and almost passed the Senate.

I believe that by bringing that historic balanced budget amendment to the floor of this Congress this week we are doing all we can to send the balanced budget amendment to the Senate and to the States. And with that, I inform my colleagues today that I will support the Boehner plan, I will support the Budget Control Act, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in doing the same.

Now, the Budget Control Act has much to recommend it. It has no tax increases, and we have confirmed from the CBO dollar-for-dollar spending cuts to match any increase in the debt ceiling. And there are mechanisms for additional cuts and additional reforms. But the Budget Control Act also includes a requirement that the Senate vote between October and November of this year on a balanced budget amendment. Again, let me say, a balanced

budget amendment to the Constitution has not been considered in the Congress for 15 years, despite overwhelming public support across this country.

Now, I'm for the version of the balanced budget amendment with various limits, but I believe it's vitally important that Republican leadership has chosen to bring the bipartisan version to the floor, to play it straight and give us a fighting chance to get those two-thirds votes necessary to amend the Constitution.

So I rise to announce my support for the Budget Control Act. I rise to express gratitude to Speaker BOEHNER and Leader CANTOR, who listened to colleagues like myself who thought we could improve the circumstances of this vote by accelerating and improving our choices for a balanced budget amendment. And, frankly, I also rise to commend all of my colleagues who have held out for a better deal. I want to say from my heart, this is better.

History is often made in unexpected ways and at unexpected times. I believe, with the consideration of the Budget Control Act on the floor today, we have an opportunity to make progress toward restoring fiscal discipline to Washington, D.C.; but I believe with consideration of the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States tomorrow, we have an opportunity to make history.

So I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Budget Control Act on the floor today. But I also urge all of my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats alike, to join us as we make a good faith effort to send a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States to the Senate and to the States. Let us put into the national charter that this national government, for this generation and the next, must again live within our means.

POVERTY IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. I rise today as a founding cochair of the 39-Member Out of Poverty Caucus to talk about the millions of people living in poverty in America.

Nearly 45 million Americans live in poverty, and one in five children are growing up in poverty. The recession may be over for big corporations and the superrich, but for far too many Americans the recession is actually a depression.

Yesterday, the Out of Poverty Caucus held a press conference with organizations working on the front lines with low-income and poor people. We heard stories of more homelessness, long lines at food pantries, and the desperation felt by so many. Our Nation's

unemployment rate remains at an unacceptably high 9.2 percent. Millions of Americans who have lost their jobs are finding it harder and harder to find a new one. These new ranks of the long-term unemployed and their families are facing the stark reality of life in poverty for the first time.

The ongoing impact of the recession on struggling families and those facing or living in poverty simply must not be ignored. But instead of working to improve the lives of millions of Americans in poverty, the Republican Party continues their drive to plunge our Nation into default and our economy over the brink.

Speaker BOEHNER has unveiled yet another Republican plan that fails to do what America needs. His plan fails to end the threat of default. His plan targets the programs aimed at America's most vulnerable—our seniors, our children, and our low-income families—for more draconian cuts.

Trying to balance the budget on the backs of the poor is morally wrong.

□ 1100

We need a balanced approach that balances targeted cuts with the revenue that we need. We must make sure that we can pay the benefits that we owe to our seniors, protect Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, and safeguard our most vulnerable communities.

Mr. Speaker, while the Nation's unemployment level remains unacceptably high, for some minority communities it was double digits even before the recession began. The unemployment rate for African Americans today is recorded at 16.2 percent and Latinos recorded at 11.2 percent. And what many of us have known for a long, long time now, African Americans and Latinos have lost 18 to 20 times their net worth, more so than white Americans due to structural inequalities where race is a factor. These numbers are horrific and speak to the larger crisis facing our Nation, the jobs crisis.

Let me share the story of one American who is looking for a job. Reverend David was laid off from his job as the successful director of a faith-based nonprofit that served the disadvantaged and worked to put people on a path to self-sufficiency. Now he is relying on the very safety net programs that he used to connect others to. He diligently job hunts week after week. David and his wife rely on unemployment benefits to make ends meet, and he is worried about what he will do when he reaches the 99-week limit of those benefits.

Reverend David is not alone. Forty-five million Americans worry about where they will sleep at night, if their children will eat, what will happen if they need medical attention, and when will they secure a living-wage job.

We must work together to help the millions of Americans who are still

struggling to recover from the Great Recession.

As the first order of business, I call on the Speaker to bring my legislation, H.R. 589, to the floor for an up-or-down vote immediately. It would add 14 weeks of retroactive emergency unemployment benefits to those long-term unemployed known as 99ers who continue to face uncertainty and hardships. Passing this extension will stimulate our economy, not to mention that it is our moral responsibility to help those in need.

But people really want to work. Instead of creating jobs, Republicans are holding our economy hostage, putting forth policies that will create more unemployment and more job loss. Instead of quickly passing a clean debt ceiling vote, the Republicans are marching lockstep to create this default.

Instead of supporting the vital human needs programs that will protect our most vulnerable, Republicans are trying to balance the budget on the backs of the poor while maintaining these tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires and Big Oil.

Mr. Speaker, there is no more time for these Republican games. The American people expect us to put partisanship aside to protect our economy and create jobs. The American Dream has been a nightmare for the 45 million living in poverty, and is turning quickly into a nightmare for millions who are falling from middle income into the ranks of the poor.

The bill put forth today by Republicans guarantees this tragic outcome.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2608. An act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

LEGACY OF FREEDOM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. NUNNELEE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NUNNELEE. Mr. Speaker, last week the remains of Corporal Judge C. Hellums of Paris, Mississippi, were returned from the Parroy Forest near Luneville, France, and given a proper burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

In the fall of 1944, following the Normandy invasion, Corporal Hellums' unit, the 773rd Tank Battalion, was fighting its way east through France toward the German border. The M-10 tank destroyer to which he was assigned was attacked. Two men survived

with serious injuries, but Corporal Hellums, along with Private First Class Lawrence N. Harris of Elkins, West Virginia, and Private Donald D. Owens of Cleveland, Ohio, were killed in the attack. All evidence at the time indicated that their remains had been destroyed.

Over the last decade, through the cooperation of a French citizen who had been exploring the forest and the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command using DNA evidence and forensic identification tools, the remains of these heroes were identified.

On July 20, 2011, 67 years after their deaths, they were given the proper burial they had been denied as they were laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

To these heroes, we say: Welcome home, and may you rest in peace.

While these soldiers were identified, we still have 72,000 American soldiers who are unaccounted for from World War II, and more than 83,000 from all wars who are missing in action.

Staff Sergeant Leroy Leist is one of those Americans. In 1944, his World War II bomber was shot down over the North Sea. His body, along with several of his fellow crewmembers, was never recovered. For more than a decade, Adrian Caldwell has worked tirelessly to locate her father's remains and bring them home. All of our fallen war heroes deserve a proper burial, and my office is working with Mrs. Caldwell to ensure that her father receives what he earned—the honor and gratitude from the country he served and gave his life to defend.

This repatriation reminds us that freedom is not free. We enjoy the liberty of a free Nation today because of men like these who answered freedom's call. And the way we honor their sacrifice is to remember them and call them by name.

The Greatest Generation is passing to their heavenly reward at a rate of over a thousand people a day. These are veterans who left their homes to fight in faraway places. These are families who supported those efforts. We cannot thank them enough before they are called home.

The other way we honor their sacrifice is to pass on the legacy of freedom that they died to defend. When I conduct town hall meetings around Mississippi, I ask a question: Do you believe your grandchildren will live a better life than you lived? For the first time in American history the answer to that question is no.

Sixty-seven years from now, and 167 years from now, successive generations will review the actions of our generation. Only history will record if we answered freedom's call.

AMERICAN DREAM SHATTERED BY NIGHTMARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RANGEL. My colleagues, yesterday I was talking about the American Dream. But then again, I was thinking about how many people woke up this morning concerned about our national debt.

When you represent the type of district that I do, and many other Members, they're concerned about can they get a job or can they keep the job they have. They're concerned about the bills and obligations that they have. They're concerned about whether they can keep their kids in school and whether they can keep food on the table, whether they can keep the dignity and pride and not have their dream shattered by this nightmare that their country owes \$14.3 trillion.

We're making a special appeal to Americans, Republicans and Democrats, not to allow our country to get caught in a position that we don't pay our bills. I suspect that a lot of my constituents would say: Well, how the heck did I get that bill? How do we owe \$14.3 trillion, and what did I have to do with it?

And I guess we have to say honestly: You didn't have much to do with it. You did not go into countries and get involved in three wars. You were not responsible for saying that the richest of Americans and corporations that are receiving large profits should have and continue to have preferential tax treatment.

Well, why are you telling me then that I have to pay the debt? If we all have to pitch in on this, what about the guys who will not be making a sacrifice?

Well, that's kind of difficult to explain to these people. But you tell them that there are people in the Congress who truly believe that they can address their problem by having a constitutional amendment.

□ 1110

I know it's a stretch, but that's what some of us have to deal with in the Congress. But you've heard some of them this morning say the only answer to our problem is to have a vote in the House of Representatives and persuade two-thirds of our Members that in the United States Constitution we will require a balanced budget.

Now, after we get two-thirds here—and we can't get two-thirds to agree to anything but, hey—then we have to get two-thirds from the Senate. And we only hold the Senate by one vote, but it's a commentary because after we do that, then we have to go out to the States and ask the State legislators to approve what we have done, at least two-thirds of the States. That's their answer to those people who had an American Dream.

It would seem to me that along the line they may ask: Who received the benefits of all of this debt? And I would suspect that a lot of the people that manufacture military equipment had a windfall. I would suspect that those people that were able to take jobs overseas, the profit-and-loss books look like they did pretty well. And the financial section, our committee voted for and it was approved by the President, \$789 billion to be given to the financial community. And God knows they say these are the people that can create the jobs.

Well, I don't know whether any economist agrees with that, but they have enjoyed these tax cuts for decades, and we now are at the highest unemployment that we've ever been. And it would seem to me that those who have, through the benefits of all of our taxpayers, received this windfall, that it's not asking too much to ask them to invest in their country, to invest in jobs, to not look at how much profit they can make overseas but how many lives can they have to get a decent salary, to be able to join the union, to be able to pay their bills, and at the same time be able to go back to work.

This answer that everyone makes a sacrifice, it's not talking about the private sector that made the money. I don't even know why "sacrifice" is even used in any dialogue. What we're basically saying is that we have to cut spending. Well, everyone would agree to that. But these people that are receiving benefits from their government are the ones that will be making the sacrifice. And as we cut the benefits—whether we're talking about education benefits, health care benefits, supplements to pensions, or sometimes the only funds that they have in retirement, Social Security; whether we're talking about checks for the disabled who cannot work—now they want to cut those programs and the people that provide the service. So that means that they will be increasing the number of people that are unemployed.

It just doesn't make sense that we have unemployment compensation and other things for people to have disposable income, but we cut \$4 trillion from those people that are trying to survive.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to address the House.

DO THE RIGHT THING FOR AMERICA: BALANCE THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, there's no question this Congress for many years has had a problem with spending.

The Democratic Congress developed a bigger and bigger appetite for spending for 40 years, as it held the majority for years and years.

Then Republicans took the House in 1995, and they forced a balanced budget

on President Clinton. They had friction between the President and the Congress, and that allowed this country to have a balanced budget.

Who would have ever thought—I certainly wouldn't. I know I have got some Democratic friends who would have thought it, but I wouldn't—but when we got a Republican President and we had Republican majorities in the House and Senate, we began to spend again. There wasn't the friction there to hold spending down, and Republicans, I would submit, lost their way and began spending too much money.

My first year in Congress, in 2005 and 2006, we shouldn't have spent the money we did. And I can recall being here on the floor and having Democratic friends beating us up, rightfully so, because in 2006 we spent \$160 billion more than we had coming in. We didn't have to do that. We shouldn't have done that.

I would never have dreamed that 5 short years later that with the Democratic majority the spending would have exploded once they had no friction between a Democratic President and a Democratic Congress, and that we would go from the \$160 billion in deficit spending in 2006 that Republicans got beat up for to \$1.6 trillion in deficit spending—10 times more—and people still thinking that's somehow okay.

It wasn't okay for Republicans to overspend by \$160 billion, and it's not okay for this Democratic Senate and President to continue to push to spend \$1.6 trillion more than the \$2.2 trillion we supposedly will have coming in.

Now we're told today we're going to have a vote on a Republican bill. A little surprising to some of us Republicans. We passed a bill, Cut, Cap, and Balance. It wasn't what I wanted. I liked the balanced budget amendment with a percentage of GDP cap on spending to help rein Congress in, and that was negotiable on the percentage. But it also had \$111 billion out of \$1.6 trillion that would have been cut from spending. That just wasn't enough. But the balanced budget amendment, if it had been passed and become part of the law, was enough of a game changer it was worth voting for.

Then the Senate sits back and says, We're not going to go for that. We're not going to pass anything, so pass something else. And now our leadership has heard the call of Leader REID down the hall and is going to bring another bill.

And I know the intentions of both sides of the aisle want the best for the country. I get that. I understand that. We have different ideas on how that can be done. And I know that there are people in my party that want to keep beating up on me because I can't vote for a bill that only cuts \$1 trillion out of \$15 trillion to \$16 trillion that will be

deficit spending over the next 10 years. Because it's easy to do the math: We cut \$1 trillion out of \$15 trillion, \$16 trillion over the next 10 years, and if we can keep doing that, and there are no assurances we can, every 10 years cut another trillion, then when I have my 207th birthday, we can celebrate that year a balanced budget, and we will have only added \$120 trillion to the \$14.3 trillion deficit now. I can't vote for that.

Politically we're told, this is the political thing to do. You've got to do the political thing. If you don't vote for the Boehner bill, you're voting for Obama. That's not true. If the Senate will pass anything—anything—then we could drive this to a conference committee and get a compromise. The Senate has to pass something.

Well, think about this scenario very quickly: We pass this, say, hypothetically. The Senate says, Oh, well, you pushed us to the edge of the cliff; we didn't want to vote for this. Then they pass it just like we did, and the President says, I was going to veto but we're on the edge of the cliff. A 100 percent Republican bill; they wouldn't compromise. And now they say, Well, gee, Republicans inherited the economy.

It's not right practically; it's not right politically. Let's do the right thing for America.

THE SOMALIA CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the Horn of Africa is currently suffering from the worst drought in 60 years, one of the worst humanitarian crises in recent memory. For both moral and national security reasons, it demands a strong, clear, sustained response from this institution.

Last week, famine was declared in parts of southern Somalia. This means acute malnutrition rates among children now exceed 30 percent, that more than two people per 10,000 die every day, and that people are not able to access food or other basic necessities.

□ 1120

One out of every five households in famine-declared areas have no food at all. The malnutrition rates in Somalia are currently the highest in the world. In the last few months, tens of thousands of Somalis, the majority of them children, have died as a result of causes related to malnutrition. In some of the most affected areas, an estimated 310,000 children are acutely malnourished.

The worst may be yet to come. Eight million people are in need of assistance in Ethiopia and Kenya. Unless the global community and humanitarian

agencies intervene now, it's predicted that the entire south of Somalia will face famine within the next 2 months.

Nearly a thousand people are arriving daily at overcrowded refugee camps in Kenya and Ethiopia. Many have journeyed for weeks to get there. According to Josette Sheeran, executive director of the U.N. World Food Program, the roads to these camps "are becoming roads of death. Over half the women I talked to had to leave children to die or had children die. In the Horn of Africa, we could lose a generation." And the troubles do not end there. Sexual violence against women in these already overcrowded refugee camps is on the rise.

This crisis didn't happen overnight. The eastern Horn of Africa is prone to chronic food insecurity. What is more, below-average rainfall in late 2010 and the spring of 2011 anticipated drought conditions, which have been dramatically worsened by the fact Somalia has not had a central government since 1991. Drought conditions have also progressively worsened throughout the year in Ethiopia and Kenya.

To address the ongoing crisis, Secretary Clinton recently announced that the United States would provide another \$28 million in aid for people in Somalia and for Somali refugees in Kenya, in addition to the over \$431 million in food and nonfood emergency assistance already provided for the region this year.

It's a good start. But we need to ensure that the appropriate U.S. funds are available to address this crisis this year and that Congress provides enough funding to maintain our ability to really address these crises. It is a matter of life and death for the most vulnerable people in the world.

We do this not just out of moral responsibility, although that should be compelling enough. It is also because our national security interests need to be represented to maintain the capability to combat food insecurity in the Horn of Africa and other critical regions around the world. It's about our national security. Anti-hunger programs can help this crisis and strengthen international diplomacy. Yet, unfortunately, we have seen the money for international food aid cut back severely. When we fight hunger and poverty, we undercut the recruiting base of those who would threaten us—the terrorists who would threaten us.

Let me conclude by saying we know what we can do to help. We have the ability to alleviate hunger and suffering of millions in the Horn of Africa. We know that doing so is the right thing to do. It makes us safer in the long run. We lack the political will to do the right thing. I urge my colleagues, support funding for these critical programs in the coming budget for the millions of suffering in Somalia,

Kenya and Ethiopia, for the humanitarian crisis of the future, for the continued safety and the security of the United States.

**BROWN CHAPEL A.M.E. CHURCH
145TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SEWELL. I rise today to recognize the 145th anniversary of Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Selma, Alabama. For 145 years, Brown Chapel has been a pillar in the Selma community, and she stands today as a powerful symbol of the civil rights movement for the major role that this church played in the events that led to the adoption of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

One hundred forty-five years ago, just 2 years after the Emancipation Proclamation, freed slaves began worshipping, first in private homes, and eventually in the basement of the Hotel Albert in Selma, Alabama. One hundred forty-five years ago, on August 31, 1867, an African Methodist Episcopal missionary, Brother John Turner, addressed the group assembled in the basement of the Hotel Albert and extended them an invitation to unite with the African Methodist Episcopal connection.

Two years later, in 1869, these visionary church members bought a plot of land on Sylvan Street, now known as Martin Luther King Street. This beautiful edifice of Brown Chapel that stands today, with its imposing twin towers and Romanesque revival styling, was built in 1908 by a black builder, Mr. A.J. Farley. Today, we celebrate 145 years of Brown Chapel—a history of faith, courage, and leadership.

It took great courage in the early 1960s to defy an injunction that forbade all churches in Selma, Alabama, from holding mass meetings. Most churches in Selma refused to disobey the court order, but Brown Chapel opened its doors to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and became that wonderful church of courage that played such an integral role in the civil rights movement. Brown Chapel became an icon of the movement.

It was from Brown Chapel that they marched on Bloody Sunday, 2 days later on Turnaround Tuesday, and on March 21, 1965, the day when the Selma to Montgomery march was finally completed. Leading the infamous Bloody Sunday was Hosea Williams, as well as our esteemed colleague in this Chamber, Congressman JOHN LEWIS of Georgia.

The story of Bloody Sunday will go down in the annals of history as a pivotal event in the civil rights movement. On March 7, 1965, at the Edmund Pettus Bridge, six blocks from Brown

Chapel A.M.E. Church, mounted troops confronted the marchers on that bridge. Sheriff Jim Clark and his posse charged the marchers with tear gas and with billy clubs. That night, ABC News interrupted regularly scheduled programs to air footage of Bloody Sunday. By morning, news of the event had spread to nearly every American household, and thousands of supporters began to walk to Selma. The Selma to Montgomery march and the subsequent outrage led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

For 145 years, Brown Chapel has been a powerful agent of change. It has been a place where socioeconomic and racial barriers have been challenged, a place where barriers that divide our Nation have been broken down.

Brown Chapel continues to make history. On March 4, 2007, then-Senator Barack Obama, a Presidential candidate, gave the address for the annual Bridge Crossing Commemoration. It was during this address in 2007 that Barack Obama thanked the “Moses Generation” and challenged the “Joshua Generation.” In his famous “Joshua Generation” speech, Obama asked what the present generation would do to fulfill the legacy, the obligations, and the debts that we owe to the people before them.

As a proud member of Brown Chapel Church, I had the privilege of being there that day. And for me, his words were a call to action. It was because people prayed in Brown Chapel and people marched on the Edmund Pettus Bridge that a little black girl from Selma, Alabama, could dream and could one day stand here in this wonderful Chamber as the first black Congresswoman from the State of Alabama.

Brown Chapel has been a pillar in my hometown of Selma, Alabama; and it still remains so today. I am a proud member of this church and have been for the last 30 years of my life. I was raised in this beautiful historic church, and I know its significance. I am now proud to represent the Seventh Congressional District of Alabama and proud of the many giants on whose shoulders I stand.

In honor of the 145th anniversary of the historic Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church, I, TERRI A. SEWELL, Representative to the United States Congress from the Seventh District of Alabama, do hereby recognize Brown Chapel for its numerous contributions to the city of Selma, the State of Alabama, and this Nation. I ask those present today to join me in celebrating 145 years of historic Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church.

□ 1130

CREDIT DEFAULT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority has once again proven its complete irresponsibility by putting our economy at risk in handling our Nation's finances. A little over a decade ago, there were projected surpluses as far as the eye could see. The Nation had achieved a firm financial footing. That was before the George Bush administration and the Republicans took us on a spending spree, paying out trillions in huge tax cuts, skewed to—guess who?—the top 2 percent, the wealthy, whose investment decision then killed jobs in our country. The last month that George Bush was in office, we lost over 700,000 jobs just in that month. The Bush Administration plunged the Nation during that decade into two wars they refused to pay for.

History tells the story.

Then came the big economic collapse of 2008 during the Bush Administration that included a loss in Federal revenues, which followed the largest economic downturn since the Great Depression, due to George Bush's capitulation to Wall Street abuse. Now, Republicans claim to care about the Federal deficit?

Well, yes, revenues have shrunk by about \$400 billion a year because of the financial crisis they created we're trying to dig ourselves out of. Spread out over 10 years, that covers the, roughly, \$4 trillion we're trying to eke out of this sick economy to pay down our debt. But it's a very delicate balance we're attempting because there are 14 million Americans out of work and up to 24 million who are working part time, who want to work full time, or others who have completely given up and dropped out. We can't hurt them more.

Fewer jobs mean lower revenues at all levels. It means lower profits to many companies, and it certainly means lower revenues into the Federal Treasury because there are more people who are on unemployment; more people who rely on government assistance, more people who rely on public health because their private insurance has dried up. How many people now can't afford to pay their COBRA? Millions who are not earning paychecks are not able to pay their contributions to Social Security and Medicare. So it's a vicious cycle.

In any time of economic downturn, national economic policy must act like a fulcrum on a teeter-totter. It has to level impacts on people so they can reposition. The government has to at the Federal level help prop up the American people until they can find their footing again. It doesn't take a mental giant to figure that out. Unemployment is the major cause of the deficit that we are bearing now; yet we hear almost no discussion about jobs and how to create jobs, to get rid of unemployment, as the reemployed and

lift the economy—healing the Republic. Rather than talking about how to create jobs and how unemployment causes lost revenues and kills more jobs, all we're hearing is take more flesh off the bones of families and communities. House Republicans have placed the entire economy at risk now to satisfy the ideological wishes of a few.

The American public sees what's happening. Importantly, they're feeling directly what is not happening. Nobody is being fooled. I've heard from thousands of people back home in northern Ohio who are concerned that the Republican leadership is playing politics—playing with fire—during a time when our economic recovery is very, very fragile. Putting our Nation's credit rating at risk is totally irresponsible and will cause more economic harm. I had somebody tell me yesterday he's trying to renegotiate his home loan, and the mortgage company wanted to raise the interest rate a quarter percent because of the market uncertainty all of this is causing.

Since World War I, our country has always received a AAA status from credit rating agencies because, until now, we have always put the Nation first—not any political party first, but the Nation first. To force America to default for the first time in history would hurt our Republic and every working family, and it would hurt those who are out of work even more. It would mean higher interest rates on cars, on home loans, on credit cards, on student loans. It would mean fewer jobs and less growth.

Instability, uncertainty, creates a downdraft on the recovery. Congress should be focusing on economic recovery and creating jobs if we want to close that deficit gap. You balance budgets by full employment economies. We surpassed the debt limit over 2 months ago, and come August 2, the Treasury will simply not be able to pay all the bills that are currently due.

Yes, it's long overdue to reach a compromise. Instead, Speaker BOEHNER has walked away from the negotiating table and has chosen to roll out a hasty bill that hasn't gone through the normal committee process. Apparently, many in his own party reject it. This isn't leadership for America at a time when she needs it. It may be capitulation to Grover Norquist and his lobby, but our responsibility is far greater.

Mr. Speaker, the way that you balance budgets is to put people to work and grow the economy. I support a balanced, bipartisan solution to reduce our deficit, create jobs and grow our economy, to expand our middle class and protect Medicare, Social Security and Medicaid beneficiaries. The solution to deficits is robust job growth and full economic recovery. Let's spend two months putting that initiative forward!

THE AMERICAN DEBT LIMIT HELD HOSTAGE—AN UNNECESSARY CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, today we face an unnecessary crisis. The debt limit has never before been held hostage by any political party, because it is in every American's best interest to protect the credit of the United States; but now ideologues in Congress have hijacked this issue, and have pushed our Nation to the brink of default in rejecting all offers of compromise.

Calls for massive spending cuts, and spending cuts alone, without raising any revenues whatsoever are irresponsible at least and deliberately destructive at worst. They would default on our debt, causing a global financial crisis, rather than see hedge fund managers, corporate jet owners or phenomenally profitable oil companies pay higher taxes. Their call for fiscal responsibility rings hollow, and the fiscal history of the last three decades shows that.

This chart shows the growth of America's national debt since 1980.

At the end of the Carter administration, the national debt was less than \$1 trillion. Twelve years later, with President Reagan's 8 years and the first President Bush's 4 years, the national debt had grown by more than 300 percent—it had quadrupled—and we were mired in debt. The Reagan-Bush economic policies greatly increased the debt and led to soaring deficits and rising interest rates. It ended in a recession.

In 1993, President Clinton was under severe pressure from the very Republicans who had meekly followed the two Republican Presidents as they raised the national debt by over 300 percent. President Clinton championed a balanced austerity program with, roughly, equal spending cuts and revenue increases—the Clinton years. Republicans in both the House and Senate voted unanimously against that program, arguing it would cost jobs and cause a recession, but the exact opposite occurred. More than 20 million jobs were created under the Clinton administration, and each of the last three budgets of the Clinton Presidency produced a surplus. Those three budgets were the only budgets and surplus in the last 40 years, and Clinton's balanced program is considered highly successful by economists. President Clinton raised taxes on those who could afford it and reduced spending to shrink our deficit, and the economy grew by leaps and bounds.

The fiscal record of the second President Bush is a record of utter irresponsibility. It began with massive tax cuts, skewed sharply toward the wealthy, and with trillions of dollars

spent on two long, unpopular wars—all of that paid for by borrowing. It ended in the Great Recession, caused by the collapse of an unregulated housing market which was fueled by Wall Street greed. President Bush turned President Clinton's surplus into more than 5 trillion additional dollars added to our national debt—all the way up to here—almost doubling the debt again.

President Obama was inaugurated during the worst month of job losses in the Great Recession and cannot be blamed for what happened before, but the recovery has stalled, and we're short 12 million jobs.

History has shown us what works and what doesn't. The Reagan-Bush economics led to hugely increased debt. The Clinton economics eliminated the deficit and accelerated economic growth, but it required some sacrifice by all Americans to fix the national problem.

Now Republicans want to slash social programs, gut Medicare and Social Security benefits, and further reduce taxes for the wealthiest few. The Republicans threaten default on our debt. The only plan they offer would add hundreds of thousands of people to the unemployment lines by eliminating jobs in the public sector. They would protect the wealthiest few at the expense of the entire country. They offer no plan to create jobs and no long-term solution. Yet America needs a long-term solution, and that must include spending reduction and revenue increase in balanced proportion.

□ 1140

DEBT CEILING HOSTAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the elaborate Kabuki dance continues here on Capitol Hill surrounding the angst about increasing the debt ceiling. I think what we are seeing can be summarized in three words: "recklessness," "abuse," and "hypocrisy."

First of all, it is reckless for my Republican friends to hold the debt ceiling discussions hostage in an attempt to achieve other political goals. There have already been significant costs. American currency has weakened. We've watched a slide of the stock market since last Friday when the agreement blew up as Speaker BOEHNER walked away from his work with President Obama. We've watched premiums being paid now to ensure United States debt. People are making adjustments that are having consequences right now and eroding the confidence that we have had globally in the strength of American commitments to pay its debt—a confidence that has resulted in record low-interest rates that have

benefited everybody in the United States, and that is at risk.

The irony is that there is no reason for this to occur. We have increased the debt ceiling 102 times since this unusual little law was enacted in 1917. The United States, you recall, is one of only two countries in the entire world that goes through this charade of having to vote to finance spending that we've already done.

It has always been routine. We did this routinely for President Bush. The irony is now when we are facing another adjustment in the debt ceiling, ironically most of the debt, \$9.5 billion, was incurred as a direct result of the policies of the two Presidents Bush and Ronald Reagan. There is a great little chart on page A-14 in today's New York Times that outlines this.

Instead of making it routine and making whatever pontification people will do on the floor of the House, which they have done since 1917, now all of a sudden we have thrown a monkey wrench into the process. We've raised the specter of default. We're having people speculate whether there's enough money to go to August 2 or August 5. We're speculating about what debts, what bills the President will pay.

The irony is that this Republican recklessness is actually empowering the President of the United States to make decisions about whether to pay Chinese creditors or honor our obligations to senior citizens or people who do business with the United States.

Absolutely outrageous.

Wouldn't you think Congress would like to make these decisions rather than punting to the President? Well, no. In fact, the Republicans are more than willing to punt to the President the decision about lifting the debt ceiling, even though the law that we have puts that responsibility on Congress. It's reckless and it's unnecessary.

Second, there is an abuse of power. You know, the American public overwhelmingly wants a balanced solution with a little bit of revenue increase, maybe taking some unjustified tax loopholes, not slashing budgets unilaterally. They want a balanced approach. But my Republican friends, having taken control of one Chamber, now think that they ought to be able to dictate to the other body, dictate to the President of the United States, have it their way or the highway. It's not what the American public wants. It's not what should happen in our system of democracy, where there should be some give-and-take and some compromise.

But no, what we're seeing is an unfortunate abuse of power on the part of some people who are willing to take hostage the debt ceiling negotiation and risk economic damage to the United States, to our families, and businesses.

And third, it is a case of hypocrisy. You know, the Republican plan, the so-

called Cut, Cap, and Balance—and they passed it last week on the floor of the House—would require cutting spending for the government to 18 percent of the overall economy. Interesting number. Ronald Reagan never even proposed a budget that was less than 21 percent.

They're talking about draconian cuts to things that the American public relies upon—everything from food safety to infrastructure to education. But when the time came to vote for it, this week, they voted "no" on an amendment that would have implemented that type of cut.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Oregon has expired.

TRADE AGREEMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JENKINS. Where is the President's plan?

If I had a nickel for every time I have heard that question, we would be much closer to resolving our debt crisis. But the President and my friends across the aisle have still not answered the most important question of all: Where is their plan for job creation?

House Republicans have a plan. At the core of this plan is passing the three pending trade agreements. These trade agreements have the ability to immediately create thousands of jobs, open new markets for our farmers, ranchers, and manufacturers, and to play a pivotal role in growing our economy. Yet, the President continues to stand in the way.

These agreements create jobs, period.

So let's pass these agreements with South Korea, Colombia, and Panama. Let's reauthorize the GSP and the Andean Trade Preference Act and finally fulfill our duty to the American people.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 47 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DOLD) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day. We give You thanks for all people who, through

courage and selfless devotion, have carried the banner of righteousness before us and have pointed the way to the high ideals of human dignity that are the handiwork of Your creation. These are our American ancestors.

Bless now the men and women of the people's House. Call forth leaders from their number who understand that courage, exercised in the fulfillment of their legislative responsibilities, might cost them popularity now but reap them praise in the future from our American descendants. May they take solace in knowing that it has always been this way with great leaders.

We thank You for their hard work. Give them the consolation of knowing they will have done their best work for all of our Nation.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LAMBORN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SUSTAINING NUCLEAR DETERRENCE AFTER NEW START

(Mr. LAMBORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a critical component of America's national security, our nuclear deterrence. Yesterday, the House Armed Services Committee Strategic Forces Subcommittee held a hearing on sustaining nuclear deterrence after New START. This hearing made it absolutely clear that the nuclear policy provisions in the House fiscal year 2012 National Defense Authorization Act are critical to our nuclear deterrence strategy.

The ink was barely dry on the New START Treaty, and the administration

was already talking about deeper cuts. We need to slow down and wait for nuclear modernization to catch up to arms control. We must be wary of any further unilateral reductions of the U.S. nuclear deterrent, which is critical to America's defense and that of over 30 of our allies. Congress has an obligation to scrutinize U.S. nuclear policy and force structure to ensure that we have a sustainable and effective deterrent, which is why the House NDAA nuclear policy provisions must become law.

WE DON'T DEFAULT

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Here's what we should do to avoid default: increase the debt ceiling with no strings attached. Here's how to get out of debt: end the wars, save \$1 trillion in 10 years; repeal tax cuts to the wealthy, save another \$1 trillion; Medicare for all, end the \$400 billion yearly subsidies for the health insurance industry; renegotiate trade agreements with workers' rights, human rights, and environmental quality principles to save millions of jobs and billions of dollars.

The Fed creates money out of nothing and gives it to banks. Why should our country go into debt, borrowing money from banks when we have the constitutional power to create money and invest in jobs? We could have another New Deal, putting millions to work, rebuilding America's roads and transportation system. We could have a Works Green Administration where NASA is the incubator of jobs, designing and engineering wind and solar microtechnologies for private sector manufacturing, distribution, installation, and maintenance in millions of homes, saving money and energy and protecting the environment.

We are the United States of America, the greatest country on Earth. We envision wealth; we don't default. We create wealth; we don't default. We build wealth; we don't default.

REID DEBT PLAN

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the American people can finally see HARRY REID's debt ceiling plan. Only 5 days before the deadline set by the President, the Senate majority leader finally put something on paper and submitted it to the Congressional Budget Office. I think we understand why he waited so long to do this. The plan before the Senate is filled with gimmicks and does almost nothing to put our country on a better fiscal footing.

Of course, the largest gimmick is claiming to save \$1 trillion by shutting

down wars that are already winding down. Despite having these phantom cuts in his bill, Majority Leader REID gives the President the full amount of debt ceiling increase that he needs to push everything past next year's election. Once again, the financial security of our country would be sacrificed for political expediency.

By contrast, Speaker BOEHNER's plan cuts spending by \$1 for each \$1 increase in the debt limit. It may not be perfect, but it is necessary to keep us paying our bills and prevent a debt rating downgrade. It is a start to getting our country back on the path to a balanced budget.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

(Ms. ESHOO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today with a coat of many colors. It is a little unusual to do this, but I'm very proud of it. And I think everyone will recognize this because this is the traditional white coat that doctors wear. It was given to me by the passionate residents at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital in my district.

All of its pockets hold notes, and the notes were signed by the doctors and the nurses, all in support of a remarkable program in our country that has trained thousands of pediatricians and pediatric specialists over the last 12 years, the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education Program.

It was first created in 1999 because there was a shortage of pediatricians in our country and subspecialists. And this program today has been wildly successful, increasing the number of pediatricians by 35 percent. Congress needs to approve this and keep in place those that take such good care of our children.

WHAT KIND OF LEGACY WILL WE LEAVE?

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, we are in the midst of an important debate. It's a debate on the debt ceiling and our spending crisis. But fundamentally, it's a debate about the future direction of our country, the next generation, and getting Americans back to work. Jobs are the cure for an ailing economy and the elixir for a bright and secure future. We cannot continue down the current path of fiscal irresponsibility. We cannot continue to commit generational theft of our children's and grandkids' futures.

What kind of legacy will we leave for this country and its future generations? Will we leave a legacy of debt? No, that's not what I want. We must

not pass on to the generation of tomorrow the mistakes of our leaders today who, until now, remain unwilling to make the tough decisions and cut spending to create jobs and grow our economy. We can and must do right; and by God's grace, we will.

□ 1210

COMPROMISE AND A BALANCED APPROACH

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, Republicans claim that they want to lower the government spending, but they sure have a funny way of showing it. First, they refused to compromise with the President on a proposal that would lower the deficit by \$4 trillion. Now they refuse to compromise on a long-term plan that would result in meaningful deficit reduction.

Even after the stock market plunged yesterday, Republicans still refuse to compromise. Why? Because they're more interested in scoring political points and protecting the tax breaks for the ultrarich corporations that ship jobs overseas.

We must not balance the budget on the backs of our seniors and the poor by cutting Social Security and Medicare. We need a balanced approach. We need to work together. No taxes, no jobs.

Let's stop this dangerous game of chicken before we have an economic disaster. We must compromise, and it shouldn't be "my way or the highway."

BALANCING THE BUDGET

(Mr. STUTZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to thank every vocal constituent and American for pushing us up to this point today when we will consider a tax-free and sensible budget control plan in exchange for raising our Nation's debt ceiling.

Is it perfect? Far from it. Will I vote for it today? Yes. The alternatives are too scary to comprehend.

No matter how many times you try to put them down or call them names, the Tea Party movement and many others that share their views have had a monumental impact on the debt ceiling debate. Know this: If left to its own devices, Washington would have completed just another perfunctory raising of the debt ceiling, or worse, more taxes and more spending.

Call them hobbits. Call them what you like. I call the Tea Party and others who wish to fight to get this country on a proper fiscal trajectory true patriots.

The reality here on Earth, Mr. Speaker, is that America is a great Nation, and we wish to remain that way.

DEFAULT IS NOT AN OPTION

(Mr. ALTMIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, with the clock tick, tick, ticking away towards a default on our financial obligations for the first time in American history, we need to come together to find bipartisan solutions. It's time to stop holding America's credit rating hostage.

To be clear, what we face is not a possible government budget shutdown. The consequences of default would have far-reaching and long-lasting effects. The increase in interest rates resulting from a default could cost Americans an additional \$10 billion in borrowing costs, and the loss in confidence from investors in government securities worldwide could easily send America into another recession. Default is simply not an option.

I support commonsense compromise solutions to reduce our deficit and return to balanced budgets.

I hope that my colleagues on both sides are ready to put the partisan politics aside and move forward with a plan to help keep America and the U.S. in good financial standing.

REPUBLICAN DEFAULT ACT

(Mr. PETERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Republican Default Act, which will require deep cuts in Medicare while preserving tax breaks and loopholes for millionaires and large corporations. It is beyond disappointing that Republicans have squandered a real opportunity to put our Nation on a sustainable fiscal path.

Many of my constituents are afraid the Republican leadership will continue bending to the Tea Party demands to drive our economy toward a self-inflicted recession.

The risks here are very real. Default or a credit downgrade will hurt middle class families with higher mortgage and credit card interest rates and higher costs for food, gas, and utilities.

Republicans need to stop playing reckless games with our economy and start working for what the American people want: comprehensive deficit reduction that shares the burden equally, strengthens Medicare and Social Security, ends tax giveaways, and puts our country back on the path to fiscal stability.

HOPING FOR A SPIRIT OF CONSENSUS

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, as we continue to hope that a spirit of consensus

will come forth to avoid this self-inflicted wound, I think it's well to think of a general principle on how we should approach our fiscal challenges, and that is that a nation that does not learn from its clear, unambiguous mistakes is bound to repeat them. And, in fact, the problem with the Republican plan that will be on the floor today is that it not only repeats the mistakes that occurred during the Bush administration, it enshrines them into permanent law.

Now, I remember very well where Alan Greenspan came before us years ago during the last President's administration and said that we needed to have massive cuts for multimillionaires and further cuts for the oil industries, because if we didn't do that the United States Government would just have too much money in the kitty.

That didn't work out too well. In fact, because of those giant mistakes, it blew a hole in the deficit.

Do not repeat them. Let's go back and solve this problem the real way.

RECOGNIZING CAPE COD BASEBALL LEAGUE'S ALL-STAR GAME

(Mr. KEATING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Cape Cod League's All-Star Game, which is taking place in Fenway Park on Friday, July 29.

I rise, not just because this organization embodies the best of America's pastime, but because the league has decided to dedicate this year's game to the memory of Christina-Taylor Green, the youngest victim of the Arizona shootings that took the lives of six people and injured 13 others, including our colleague, Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS.

Christina was an avid baseball fan who hoped one day to become the first female major league baseball player. Her father, John, is a scout with the Los Angeles Dodgers, and the family spent summers in Cape Cod, in part so he could scout players in the Cape Cod Baseball League.

For those of you who are not familiar with the Cape Cod Baseball League, it's the Nation's premier amateur league and gives fans like Christina the opportunity to watch future major league players up close.

In Christina's honor, league players will wear commemorative patches on their shirts, and her brother, Dallas, will throw out the first pitch.

Additionally, Christina inspired the league to arrange for a Cape Cod Baseball League baseball to be brought into space by Congresswoman GIFFORDS' husband, Mark Kelly, and the astronauts on board the final mission of Space Shuttle *Endeavor*. The "Spaceball" covered 6.5 million miles during this trip.

Baseball games are wonderful examples of old-fashioned American fun, and I commend the Cape Cod League for their heartfelt tribute. Sadly, Christina, whose innocent life was lost too early, will only be there with us in spirit; yet that unique American spirit, to achieve new heights, the same we saw in her desire to be the first female major league baseball player, will continue to inspire us.

BOEHNER DEFAULT PREVENTION BILL

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I'm told that this afternoon this House will vote on the Boehner default prevention bill, in direct contravention of House rules, with limited debate and no opportunity for amendment. One of the most important discussions we need to have as a country—limited debate and no opportunity for amendment.

I would welcome that debate. I'd love to talk about what's involved in gutting Medicare and Social Security without asking the very wealthiest people in this country to participate in solving this problem. I'd love to have that debate. And we will, later, not today.

What I'm rising to talk about today, though, is the fact that this bill would have us having exactly this discussion 6 months from today, talking about default and credit ratings and the impacts of default, instead of talking about what every American wants this Chamber to be focused on, which is what we can do to bring about jobs.

This is not a good bill. But the notion that it would have us having this conversation again in 6 months is reason enough for every Member of this Chamber to reject that bill this afternoon.

□ 1220

STOP THE GOP FROM ENDING MEDICARE

(Ms. CASTOR of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to work together to resolve our debt reduction strategy, and I rise to urge my GOP colleagues to abandon their efforts to end Medicare as we know it.

For 45 years, Medicare has been that fundamental promise to our parents and our grandparents that if they work hard, if they play by the rules, and if they pay into Medicare, they're going to be able to live their retirement years in dignity, and that their children will have economic security because we won't be worried about the

economic challenges that a diagnosis or an emergency situation or health condition would bring.

It's fundamentally unfair that the debt racked up over the last decade with two wars put on a credit card, tax breaks for special interests, and other special provisions, and now the GOP is looking to end Medicare as we know it and to undermine that fundamental promise. We're not going to stand for it. We can work together on a more reasonable solution, and I urge my colleagues to do so.

LIFE SCIENCES JOBS AND INVESTMENT ACT

(Ms. SCHWARTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHWARTZ. As we seek ways to get America's economy growing again, one part of this effort must be to create the right environment to grow private-sector, cutting-edge jobs and cutting-edge industries. That is why I have joined several of my colleagues in a bipartisan, bicameral basis to introduce legislation that will keep America on the front edge of scientific research and development and offer new opportunities for job creation in America's life sciences industry.

This legislation provides targeted tax credits to promote innovation, entrepreneurship, and new, high-quality jobs here at home. It expands on the research and development tax credit, and allows companies to bring back overseas earnings for the purpose of creating American jobs and investing in American startup companies.

American universities, research centers, and private companies are the world leaders in medical sciences and the development of new medical devices and therapeutics, but we are no longer alone. This legislation will help ensure that our life sciences industries maintain their competitive edge in the global marketplace.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of innovative small businesses and the new jobs that they create. Let's help them create the cures and treatments of tomorrow right here at home today.

LINCOLN'S WARNING STILL STANDS

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. "Fellow-citizens, we cannot escape history," said Lincoln in an address to Congress in 1862. "We of this Congress and this administration, we will be remembered in spite of ourselves. No personal significance or insignificance can spare one or another of us. We, even we here, hold the power and bear the responsibility."

Lincoln didn't say that on one side of the battle lay a Democratic victory,

and on the other side a Republican defeat, or vice versa. Lincoln didn't say that this was a victory achieved without great compromise. Lincoln didn't say, if you do things my way, with my party, we'll win this one. He told the story of a Nation that faced terrible consequences and yet still had the extraordinary foresight and fortitude to charge ahead toward a victory that included compromise.

"We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best hope of Earth." His warning stands today.

HEADS UP AMERICA

(Mr. GARAMENDI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARAMENDI. Heads up America. This isn't just about raising the debt limit; this is about fundamental change in all the things that we hold dear here in America.

If you care about Medicare for your parents, or if you happen to be 65, pay attention to what's going to be on this floor in the next couple of hours. If you think Social Security is important to you or to your parents and to your future as the foundation for your pension, pay attention to what's going on here. Because have no doubts, America, that the Republican Party is putting forth, using the debt limit as a lever, putting in place fundamental changes in Medicare, basically looking to terminate Medicare as we know it, and changing Social Security so that it is no longer the foundation for your pensions.

Heads up America. Watch carefully, because the Republican Party is going right at the very heart of the most stable and most important parts of every retiree's future. Pay attention. Pay attention. Because this is a critical moment.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are advised to address their remarks to the Chair.

WE NEED A BIPARTISAN DEBT COMPROMISE

(Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I've heard many of my Republican friends claim that providing the private sector with certainty and then getting out of its way is one of the ways Congress spurs economic recovery. Unfortunately, Speaker BOEHNER's plan does neither of those two things. It delays a catastrophic default only for a short time, keeping this crisis

going before requiring the same charade in 6 months time.

If House Republicans are so unwilling to consider compromise today, if they eschew the bipartisan compromise that's proposed under Simpson Bowles, the Biden Group, and the bipartisan Gang of Six, why should the American people have any faith that when they come back in 6 months they will be more willing to compromise?

Where the Boehner plan fails, the Senate proposal provides economic certainty to the American economy through 2012, while protecting Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security from the drastic cuts the Boehner plan envisions. And according to the CBO, the Senate plan's \$2.2 trillion in deficit reduction is more than double the Boehner plan of \$915 billion.

The American people have spoken, Mr. Speaker, in poll after poll, on our phones, in our emails and at our offices. Get a bipartisan compromise now.

VOTE "NO" ON DEBT CEILING LEGISLATION

(Mr. MCNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the majority's debt ceiling proposal.

Democrats and Republicans agree that raising the Federal debt is unsustainable, that the default is absolutely unacceptable, and that we must set our country on a course of fiscal responsibility. But the majority's unwillingness to propose a solution that has any chance of working is putting our economy at risk and threatening the wage earners and senior citizens of America. We can find good solutions, but this bill is not the way.

Now, in the few days that we have left, it will take all of us working together to find sensible solutions. Americans expect leadership from the President to solve this budget stalemate, and alternatives to the bill do exist.

Americans want jobs, jobs, jobs and a responsible budget. There is a better approach that protects wage earners and senior citizens. I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation we are considering today.

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO LEBANON—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112-47)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared with respect to the actions of certain persons to undermine the sovereignty of Lebanon or its democratic processes and institutions is to continue in effect beyond August 1, 2011.

Certain ongoing activities, such as continuing arms transfers to Hizballah that include increasingly sophisticated weapons systems, serve to undermine Lebanese sovereignty, contribute to political and economic instability in the region, and continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared on August 1, 2007, to deal with that threat and the related measures adopted on that date to respond to the emergency.

BARACK OBAMA,
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 28, 2011.

□ 1230

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 627, BUDGET CONTROL ACT OF 2011

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 375 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 375

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (S. 627) to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, modified by the amendments printed in part B of that report, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) two hours of debate, with one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules, 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means, and 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. (a) It shall be in order at any time through the calendar day of July 31, 2011, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules if the legislative text that is the object of the motion was available to Members, Delegates, and the Resident Commissioner on the legislative day before consideration, except that a motion described in subsection (b) may not be entertained until the third legislative day on which the legislative text that is the object of the motion is available to Members, Delegates, and the Resident Commissioner.

(b) If the Speaker entertains a motion to suspend the rules relating to a measure proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution under subsection (a) debate under clause 1(c) of rule XV shall be extended to two hours.

SEC. 3. When the House adjourns by operation of section 4 of this resolution on any legislative day during the period from August 1, 2011, through September 6, 2011, it shall stand adjourned until the third constitutional day thereafter at a time to be announced by the Speaker in declaring the adjournment (except that when the House adjourns on September 6, 2011, it shall stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on September 7, 2011).

SEC. 4. On each legislative day during the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution:

(a) the Speaker may dispense with legislative business, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to section 3 of this resolution after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV; and

(b) if the Speaker does not dispense with legislative business, the Speaker may at any time declare the House adjourned pursuant to section 3 of this resolution.

SEC. 5. On each legislative day during the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution (except a day before August 8, 2011, on which the Speaker does not dispense with legislative business pursuant to section 4), the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved.

SEC. 6. Each day during the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution shall not constitute a calendar day for purposes of section 7 of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1546).

SEC. 7. Bills and resolutions introduced during the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution shall be numbered, included in the Congressional Record, and printed with the date of introduction, but may be referred by the Speaker at a later time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my very good friend from Rochester, New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), the distinguished ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DREIER. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the consideration of this rule.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, this rule provides for consideration of the Budget Control Act of 2011. It provides for 2 hours of debate, as the Reading Clerk just said. One hour is equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules. That'll be yours truly and Ms. SLAUGHTER, and 30 minutes will be equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means, and 30 minutes will be equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget.

Mr. Speaker, since 1962, there have been 74 increases in the debt ceiling. At this moment, we begin what is clearly the single most historic debate on any measure that addresses increasing the debt ceiling. Why? Because for the first time we are working to get at the root cause of why it is that the debt ceiling needs to be increased.

As the debate negotiations over the looming debt ceiling limit have proceeded over the last weeks and months, people across this country are asking: How did we get to this point? How was the crisis created and how do we resolve it? As is often the case, we can't hope to reach a solution without understanding the fundamental problem.

At the very start of this process several months ago, many of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle advocated strongly and worked very, very hard for an increase in the debt ceiling that had no strings attached to it at all; had nothing attached to it at all. They argued that the debt ceiling had been increased 10 times over the last decade, and it was just a perfunctory legislative act that should be done without any broader debate or accompanying policy changes.

Mr. Speaker, that approach is precisely the fundamental problem. And that approach is one that has, throughout the past several decades, led to what for all intents and purposes was little more than a blind increase in the debt ceiling itself. For years and years and years, the Federal Government has spent money that it does not have, expanding the size and scope of government and its reach without regard to the long-term fiscal consequences.

When the tax dollars ran out, Mr. Speaker, it turned to borrowing voraciously. Each and every time the borrowed money ran out, the Federal Government just borrowed more. It was always clear that catastrophic consequences would ensue if the U.S. Government defaulted on its obligations. So Congress took the path of least resistance and simply raised the debt ceiling. But sometimes, Mr. Speaker, the path of least resistance is, in fact, the road to ruin.

Raising the debt ceiling, without taking measures to address the underlying issues merely put off the crisis

for a short time, making it larger and more entrenched in the process. That's how we got to the point where we are today.

And that's why from the very outset Republicans have insisted that this time would be different. We refused to contemplate yet another debt ceiling increase without addressing the underlying cycle of reckless, unaccountable spending and borrowing.

Yes, we absolutely must avert the looming crisis that could force the United States Government to default and put our ailing economy into a tailspin. But, Mr. Speaker, we cannot and will not do so in a way that creates an even bigger crisis down the road.

Republicans put Washington on notice that the era of unchecked spending was coming to an end at the start of this Congress with the passage of H.R. 1, which dramatically cut spending for the current fiscal year. We continued the process of imposing new levels of fiscal discipline with the passage of our budget resolution for the coming fiscal year. This measure outlined not just spending cuts but long-term reforms that would help to prevent entitlement programs from collapsing into insolvency and dragging the rest of the economy along with them.

In May of this year, at the Economic Club of New York, Speaker BOEHNER once again outlined the Republican agenda for creating growth and opportunity, creating jobs and opportunity for our fellow Americans through greater fiscal discipline and more rigorous accountability for the size and scope of government.

From the very start of this new majority, Mr. Speaker, and at every step of the way since, Republicans have been fighting for real solutions to the fiscal mess that the country finds itself in. We promised that we would start a new course, and it is with a great deal of pride, Mr. Speaker, that I stand here and say we have done just that.

Today's underlying legislation, this underlying measure is a dramatic stride forward in our ongoing quest. While we have steadily laid the groundwork over the last 6 months, this plan represents the single most significant, most fundamental reform to our fiscal situation in the modern era.

It makes immediate, enormous cuts in Federal spending. These cuts are greater than the corresponding increase in the debt ceiling, ensuring that action taken to avert an immediate crisis is coupled with a massive down payment on dealing with the long-term crisis.

It sets caps on spending in order to impose discipline and accountability on the process going forward. It establishes a joint select committee that will be directed to identify at least \$1.8 trillion in additional cuts and guarantee an expedited vote on those cuts later this year.

□ 1240

This is a critical component to the long-term solution.

Mr. Speaker, you know very well that we've had countless commissions over the years that have proposed ideas for cutting deficits. Some ideas have had more merit than others, but their merit has been immaterial because no serious proposal has been afforded congressional consideration. This measure before us ensures that Congress will address the proposals that we receive.

Now, for the last 6 months, the House of Representatives has taken a number of key steps to rein in spending and ensure greater accountability and discipline in the use of taxpayer dollars. Yet they have been held up indefinitely by our friends in the other body. Today's underlying measure would eliminate the challenge by guaranteeing a clean up-or-down vote in both Chambers of the work product that emerges from this Joint Select Committee. The entire Congress, Mr. Speaker, will have no choice but to consider real solutions. Each and every Member of the House and the Senate will have to go on record. No deficit commission, Mr. Speaker, no deficit commission, no plan, no proposal that has come before has had that kind of guarantee, the kind of guarantee that is included in this measure that's before us.

Today's underlying measure also moves the process forward on a balanced budget amendment. Taken together, these proposals represent a radical departure from the status quo. Mr. Speaker, they fundamentally alter our Federal spending process in order not just to avert an immediate crisis but to diffuse the ticking timebomb of our \$14.3 trillion national debt.

Mr. Speaker, global markets, U.S. job creators, and, most importantly, the American people are watching what we do here today. They want to see bold and credible action that restores confidence in our economy now and in the future.

This legislation, Mr. Speaker, delivers that very action that the American people, that U.S. markets and the global markets are seeking. It's a plan for the short, medium, and long term. It fundamentally alters the current landscape and helps to ensure that we never get back to where we are right now, and that is, as we all know, on the brink of a fiscal and economic catastrophe.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues—and I hope very much that we will be able to enjoy bipartisan support. I urge them to support both the rule that allows for consideration of this measure and the underlying legislation.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I thank the gentleman, my friend Mr. DREIER, for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we all recognize that we have two separate but equally urgent issues facing our country: raising the debt ceiling and reducing the Nation's debt. In this Congress we should make a serious effort to do both. However, after 100 years, almost, of protecting the full faith and credit of the United States by raising the debt ceiling without pause, the majority's decided to hold the debt ceiling hostage in order to push drastic cuts and place the burden of future debt reduction squarely upon the middle class. This unprecedented effort to put ideology before country has led us to the brink of default, a prospect that is all too real as we vote today.

The plan we're considering today is not the product of a bipartisan compromise. No matter how many times anybody says that, it does not make it true. We're considering a bill the majority knows will never be approved by the Senate nor signed by the President. Members of the House are being told to vote on legislation despite having no idea, no idea, what cuts are in this bill. Any Democrat who votes for this bill could be cutting Social Security or heating for low-income families and not even know it. To ask the House to vote on undisclosed cuts is a cynical waste of time.

Furthermore, the bill shrugs aside the burden of governing. It asks us to vote like a mock government that will be set up and pass the buck to a commission to make decisions for us, leaving us to simply rubberstamp what they decide. That is not why I ran or was elected to Congress, and it is an abandonment of the responsibilities we are sworn to uphold.

Today's reckless plan would put us right back in the same situation a few months from now when the atmosphere is even more politically charged by the coming election. Our economy and our markets won't have the stability they need. Credit agencies will have no choice but to downgrade the U.S. debt. This would cause interest rates to rise, effectively raising taxes for every American family.

The leaders of the majority know this and said so publicly, but they don't seem to care. In a June 13 interview with Politico, Majority Leader CANTOR said, "We feel very strongly that one of the reasons why we continue to see an ailing economy is that people have very little confidence, have very little certainty in terms of where we are headed." In that same interview, he was explicit that he wants a single debt ceiling vote for this Congress and not, as he said, "a series of short-term extensions, as some have suggested."

The following week Politico quoted Leader CANTOR saying, "If we can't make the tough decisions now, why would we be making them later? I don't see how multiple votes on a debt

ceiling increase can help get us to where we want to go." Yet here we are today considering a bill that will require a second debt ceiling vote just 6 months from now.

Not only is this bill awful policy and a waste of our time, but the rule before us clears the way, which will come as a great surprise to Members, for a constitutional amendment that would give a simple majority the ability to cut spending, while only allowing the government to raise revenues—that is, to go after the people who are more able to pay and to get corporations to pay their own way—by having to have approval of three-fifths of the House to do that. In other words, they are sacrosanct; the poor always give.

This cut-first, think-later approach would directly harm the middle class. The amendment stacks the deck in favor of future cuts to Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid while making it virtually impossible to close tax loopholes for oil companies and millionaires who own private jets.

As if this was not enough, the process by which we will vote on this amendment is a disgrace to this institution. Under today's rule the majority proposes we consider a constitutional amendment under suspension of the rules, the most closed procedure that we have. As we all should know, suspension of the rules is designed for non-controversial legislation such as naming a post office or congratulating a winning sports team. To give a constitutional amendment the same consideration as renaming a post office is embarrassing for us and a disgrace to the dignity and tradition of the House.

In closing, today's debate is about fairness. Are we a nation that asks the most of those who have the least? It certainly appears so. Or are we a nation of shared sacrifice and fairness, a nation that asks every American to do his fair share? Today's bill turns upside-down any notion of fairness and proposes radical changes to our Constitution that would protect millionaires and special interests while making it easier than ever to take from the middle class.

For this reason I strongly urge my colleagues to vote "no" on today's rule and the underlying legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my friend from Lawrenceville, Georgia (Mr. WOODALL), now in his seventh month as a Member of Congress, the Budget Committee's representative from the Committee on Rules.

Mr. WOODALL. I very much thank the chairman for yielding.

That's right, 7 months—7 months.

I'm one of the new guys on Capitol Hill, and I ran for Congress to do exactly what we're doing down here today.

There are going to be a lot of folks down here with accusations and re-

criminations. I just want you to know I'm going to be the guy down here with a smile on my face because today is why I came to Congress.

Seventy-three times, I'm told by folks who have been here longer than I, this Congress has taken a withdrawal out of America's ATM.

Mr. DREIER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WOODALL. I would be happy to yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. I thank my friend for yielding.

I just wanted to say it's 74 times.

Mr. WOODALL. Seventy-four times. I appreciate the chairman for correcting me. Seventy-four times that America's ATM card has been stuck in, no funds to withdraw, and yet cash has been dispensed. And not once, I'm told by my friend from New York, not once have we ever tied any spending decisions to increasing America's credit line. That's outrageous. That's outrageous.

But today we do. Today we do. Today we say the buck stops with the 112th Congress. The buck stops with us.

□ 1250

Mr. DREIER. Will the gentleman yield again?

Mr. WOODALL. I would be happy to yield to the chairman.

Mr. DREIER. I've just been informed by the staff that both the gentleman and I are wrong, Mr. Speaker. It's 75 times that this has taken place. I've just been told by the Congressional Research Service. So we're just being very modest in our assessment of it so far. But we're up to 75, as of right now.

Mr. WOODALL. I thank the chairman.

Mr. DREIER. I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. WOODALL. That almost takes the smile off my face. Can you believe that? Seventy-five times this Congress, the people's House, the most responsive body we have in Federal Government, has reached in with that ATM card and taken that money out, with absolutely no funds on deposit. Again, the buck stops today.

Now, in fairness, Mr. Speaker, this bill does not do everything I wanted it to do. I wanted more. And each and every time we've had an opportunity—we had an opportunity in H.R. 1, that continuing resolution we passed. A great process, a great debate, great conclusion. This does not go as far as the House budget—the budget that we passed that day.

Mr. Speaker, you remember we considered absolutely every budget that any Member of Congress brought to the floor of this House. We decided on one. This doesn't do as much as that did. But you know what this does do? This says we're not going to increase the credit line by a penny unless we're cutting a penny too, because the problem in this town, I have learned, Mr.

Speaker, in 7 months, is not that we don't spend enough. It's not. And that's a legitimate disagreement I have found that we have. But it is not that we don't spend enough. The problem is that we spend too much.

Mr. Speaker, do I wish that we were doing more in this bill today? Yes, I do. But I smile with pride because we could have been yet another Congress, Congress No. 76, where we just kick the can down the road and accept no responsibility at all. We don't do that, Mr. Speaker. The buck stops here. I'm in strong support of this rule.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts, my colleague on the Rules Committee, Mr. MCGOVERN.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I rise in strong opposition to this closed rule, to this closed process, and to the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, I keep expecting lion tamers and acrobats to appear on the House floor. Because this process, under this Republican leadership, has become a complete circus. The underlying Boehner plan should be called the Republican Default Act.

The rule allows the Republican leadership to bring a radical balanced budget amendment to the Constitution before the House, but right now we have no idea what that amendment will look like. This is crazy.

Our Founding Fathers spent weeks and weeks arguing over every clause, conjunction, and comma in the Constitution. But today, my Republican friends treat it as just another excuse for a partisan press release. And why are they doing this, Mr. Speaker? It's simple. Politics. The Speaker of the House made that clear in a radio interview. He argued that the reason the Republicans should support his radical plan to slash Medicare and Social Security and education and medical research is that "Barack Obama hates it, HARRY REID hates it, NANCY PELOSI hates it."

And yesterday, in a meeting of the Republican conference, their leadership tried to rally votes for this bill by playing a clip from the movie, "The Town." The quote they used—and I guess this was supposed to be inspirational—was this: "I need your help. I can't tell you what it is, you can never ask me about it later, and we're gonna hurt some people."

The problem is, Mr. Speaker, that the people they're going to hurt are senior citizens on Medicare and Social Security. They're going to hurt children who don't have enough to eat. They're going to hurt students trying to afford a college education. They're going to hurt the very people who can least afford to take the hit, all in the name of protecting tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires. Their approach is reckless. Their approach is

wrong. Their approach is unfair. And I urge my colleagues to vote against this rule and against this bill.

Mr. DREIER. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise to simply congratulate my colleague for the success that he had last night in the Rules Committee in encouraging the Rules Committee to adopt a measure that will ensure that we would have the 3-day layover requirement in place for consideration of any balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. The gentleman offered the amendment, and I'm very pleased that the Rules Committee saw fit to make it in order. I want to congratulate the gentleman.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DREIER. I would be happy to yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I appreciate it very much. The problem is you're bringing it under a suspension of the rules, the most closed process that we have in this House. There are no amendments. Quite frankly, even 3 days is not enough to do the proper and due diligence on a constitutional amendment to the United States Constitution.

Mr. DREIER. Reclaiming my time, I would say to my friend that in both 1962 and 1983 constitutional amendments were brought up in this House under suspension of the rules. This is not at all unprecedented. What is unprecedented is the fact that we said there would in fact be, based on the gentleman's amendment, a 3-day layover requirement addressed to ensure that Members would have an opportunity to see the proposed constitutional amendment before it is voted on.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to a very distinguished former Rules Committee member, my very good friend, the gentleman from Oklahoma, TOM COLE.

Mr. COLE. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise to support the rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this is the second time that this Congress has chosen—this House—has chosen to raise the debt ceiling in a responsible and historic way, that is, not only allowing the ceiling to go up, but coupling it with real reductions in long-term spending that we all know need to occur. So far, the President and the other body have both failed to act. The Senate, just for the record, hasn't even passed a budget in 2 years, hasn't moved a piece of legislation in this crisis. Frankly, it has done nothing.

The President is now a born-again deficit hawk. It's a false conversion. Let's just look at the record. He appointed a deficit reduction commission and then refused to adopt any of its recommendations. He sent this body and the other body a budget that was so flawed, it failed 97-0 in a Democratic

Senate. He asked for a clean vote on the debt ceiling in this body. He was given that vote, and he got fewer than a hundred of my friends on the other side to vote with him. He's talked about a plan, but never presented a plan in public. Frankly, the President in this crisis has failed to lead.

But we have not failed to act.

I'm proud of our Speaker, I'm proud of our Congress, and I know I'm going to be proud of the House at the end of the day because this House is going to do the right thing for the American people. We'll see if the Senate and the President will follow suit.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I am pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina, an expert on the Constitution, Mr. PRICE.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, since our Republican colleagues assumed the majority in January, we have swung from one artificially created crisis to the next.

In the spring, we barely dodged a government shutdown. Now we face an unprecedented and unnecessary crisis over raising the debt ceiling, an event that's occurred more than 70 times since 1964. And we're already hearing rumblings of another potential shutdown in October at the end of the current fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, the most baffling part of this legislation is that it requires us to have this debate all over again in 6 months.

Time and time again, I've heard my Republican colleagues say that private capital has not found its way back into the market because of economic uncertainty. Surely the majority cannot believe that going through this debate again in 6 months would do anything to increase market stability or reduce uncertainty.

Mr. Speaker, lurching from one politically motivated calamity to the next is doing our economy great harm. It's doing our country great harm. We need a bill that addresses the default issue for the long term, not one that will require us to repeat this madness in a matter of weeks. It's past time for the majority to bring such a bill to this floor, so that we can focus on bringing jobs back and building our economy for the long haul.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, at this time I am happy to yield 3 minutes to another hardworking member of the Committee on Rules, my good friend from Spring Hill, Florida (Mr. NUGENT).

Mr. NUGENT. I thank the chairman of the Rules Committee, the gentleman from California, for allowing me to speak on this topic.

We have an obligation to ensure that government doesn't default on its debts for the first time in history. I've always said that America is a country that keeps her promises, and those promises include our debts. The Senate

hasn't acted. The President hasn't acted. So today, the House is considering yet another solution to keep these promises. I'm not just talking about promises to our creditors. If we default, we break promises to our seniors, to our troops, and to our veterans. Such a scenario, in my view, is just totally unacceptable.

□ 1300

The Budget Control Act is a way forward. It's a down payment on serious spending reforms. It's cuts now, and it's more cuts in the future. Most importantly, it requires both chambers of Congress to vote on a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

Future cuts and future spending caps are all well and good, but they don't hold our feet to the fire. We all know, if the Federal Government wants to spend money, they will do it. They've proven that time and time again. The Budget Control Act recognizes that we can't keep spending what we don't have, which is why it requires Congress to vote on a balanced budget amendment.

It's a new promise to the American people—a promise that we are going to do better, a promise that we will only spend what we collect.

President Obama says he wants a balanced approach. What we want, what the American people want, is a balanced budget. The President has done plenty of telling us what he won't do. What President Obama hasn't told us is what he will do. What President Obama has are his speeches. Speeches aren't plans.

A plan is what we have here in front of us today. It's a good plan. Could it be better? All of us on this side of the aisle believe it could be. We passed a resolution of Cut, Cap, and Balance, but that died in the Senate. So, today, we are talking about what is going to move this country forward, what is going to set us up on a path of sustainable spending, not what we're currently living with, which is an addiction. We have a spending addiction in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to yield my friend from Spring Hill an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. NUGENT. A plan is what we have here in front of us today, and it's a new way forward. I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle recognize that and move with us.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY).

Mr. MARKEY. The Republican Party's deficit plan is very simple: one, prolong the default crisis; two, push the Nation to the very brink of economic collapse; three, repeat it all again and again until election day 2012.

The Republican Party cares only about political victory. They don't want compromise. They want capitulation.

And if America goes into default, it will be your fault.

We now have the pluperfect form of the Republican Party's political paradox: Republicans hate government, but they have to run for office in order to make sure it doesn't work. In 1995 and '96, the Republican Party shut down the Federal Government. In 1997 and '98, the Republicans shut down the Congress over impeachment. Earlier this year, they threatened to shut down the Federal Government again unless they got an extension of tax cuts for the very rich.

And now Republicans are trying to shut down the entire economy. Republicans are turning Americans into the laughingstock of the world.

If our Nation defaults, it will devastate Americans all across the country. If you have an adjustable rate mortgage, you will pay more. If you have a credit card, you will pay more. If you have a small business, you will pay more.

This Republican default will impose a Tea Party tax on the entire country. It will force Americans to pay billions more of their hard-earned money when they can least afford it. The Tea Party has congressional Republicans wrapped around its little finger, but it's the American people who are going to get squeezed. The Republican Party doesn't care. After all, it was the Bush administration and congressional Republicans who put us on this course in the first place.

The only way to end this historic nightmare is to resolve another massive deficit—the leadership deficit in the Republican Party.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to say to my very good friend from Massachusetts that, as I listen to those remarks, I am really struck by the fact that our view is that we're in this together, and I will say for the record that we care about absolutely everything that my friend said we don't care about.

We as a Nation have a challenge that needs to be addressed in a bipartisan way. The measure that is before us today is one that was—and I underscore the word "was"—agreed to by the Senate majority leader, HARRY REID, and by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, JOHN BOEHNER. Now, I know that Senator REID is not at this juncture supportive of this measure; but it's important to note that we need to bring about greater spending cuts.

I know that I speak for most all of my Republican colleagues when I say that this is really the beginning of a process towards reducing the size and scope and reach of government. We feel passionately about the need to expand

individual initiative and opportunity in this country, and to characterize us as doing nothing but wanting to close down the government and being controlled by some outside group, Mr. Speaker, we as Republicans want to work in a bipartisan way because we recognize that Barack Obama is the President of the United States and that the Democrats have control in the United States Senate. That's why Speaker BOEHNER has worked diligently in pursuing the goals and the priorities that we have, but at the same time, he has recognized that we can't get it all.

No one is happy with this measure that is before us. Speaker BOEHNER is not happy with this measure that is before us, but he understands that we have to ensure that we don't see the Nation go over the brink and that we do, in fact, increase the debt ceiling, but his goal has been to get to the root cause.

As we've now found out, 75 times the debt ceiling has been increased since 1962. In fact, I'm told that former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, as he's on his book tour, is now talking about the fact that we've seen the increase that he had to vote on in 1962. It was a \$250 billion increase in the debt ceiling at that time, and it was the first of 75 increases that we've had. Never before in our history have we, Mr. Speaker, focused on getting at the root cause of why it is we have to increase the debt ceiling.

So it was a very interesting presentation that my friend just gave, but I will tell you that I want to work with him and that I want to work with other Democrats to make sure that we address this and do it for the American people.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I rise in strong opposition to the Republican Default Act, which represents a continued effort by our Republican colleagues to hold our economy hostage while forcing an ideological agenda and jeopardizing our economy.

Yet again, our colleagues across the aisle have put forward a legislative proposal that would lead to crippling cuts in Medicare, Social Security and Medicaid, all while refusing to even consider ending ill-advised tax breaks for the most fortunate Americans.

Who absorbs the total burden from these drastic cuts, Mr. Speaker? Our seniors and working families, that's who.

On a day when Exxon Mobil's second quarter profits soared 41 percent and they earned \$10 billion, it is simply unconscionable for us to ask seniors, working families, children, and middle

class folks to bear the burden of our deficits when we are asking nothing—nothing—of corporations, special interests and the wealthiest few. This short-term debt limit increase measure fails to instill the necessary confidence in the American people that we have their best interests at heart, and it certainly does little to calm our creditors throughout the world.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in opposition to this reckless, dead-on-arrival bill that the majority of the Senate and the President oppose so that we can find legitimate compromise with a long-term solution. Mr. Speaker, Democrats have been sitting at the compromise table for a very long time. There is a cold, empty chair across the table from us. It is time for the Republicans to warm that seat.

□ 1310

Mr. DREIER. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maine, a former member of the Rules Committee, Ms. PINGREE.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. I thank my former colleague for her wonderful work and for recognizing me today.

Mr. Speaker, about an hour ago, I met with a wonderful group of religious and civic leaders from around this country. After our meeting, they walked into the Capitol Rotunda, they got down on their knees to pray, and at this moment, they are being arrested.

They were praying for those who will be hurt the hardest by the bill that we are considering today. They were praying for seniors who will face rising costs for their prescription drugs. They were praying for low-income Americans who depend on heating assistance to stay warm in the winter. They were praying for working families who already struggle to make ends meet and find a way to send their kids to college. They were praying for the millions of Americans who don't have high-priced lobbyists to protect them.

You know who can afford those lobbyists? Corporations who ship jobs overseas and are protected by this bill, the big oil companies whose subsidies are protected in this bill, the millionaires and billionaires whose tax breaks are protected in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, the men and women arrested today were standing up for the families that find it harder and harder to afford basics like groceries and heat and health care.

I urge you to vote against this rule and against this bill and join them, the members of the faith and civic community, who are standing up for those Americans.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume to say to my good friend from Maine and former Rules Committee colleague

that obviously we want to do everything we can to ensure that people do receive their Social Security checks.

On July 12, the President of the United States said that if we don't see an increase in the debt ceiling take place by August 2, that he can't guarantee that Social Security checks will in fact go out.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's pretty apparent that we have a proposal before us. It's a proposal that Speaker BOEHNER and Senator REID worked on in good faith last weekend. Senator REID is no longer supportive of this. But this is what was a bipartisan work product that came forward to ensure that we could increase the debt ceiling and to ensure that we would not see our Nation go into default.

So I would say to my friends who are advocating a vote against this, any Member who does vote against this is voting for us to go into default. Why? We are faced with a very, very certain time limit. It happens to be August 2.

Now, we've just gotten word that our colleagues in the other body are, upon passage of this measure here in the House of Representatives, potentially moving to table the measure in the Senate. Mr. Speaker, that will only slow down and undermine the opportunity for those people who have been on their knees in the great Rotunda of this Capitol praying to ensure that no one is denied their Social Security check, that enhances the prospect of those Social Security checks not being delivered.

So, Mr. Speaker, I will say that I pray that we don't go into default. I pray that our Nation does not go over the edge, and I hope and pray that we are able, in a bipartisan way, to successfully address this issue.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield myself 30 seconds just to say that we know very good and well where the majority stands on Social Security and Medicare because we heard the Ryan proposal, and everybody knows it in the country. Those programs are to be changed from what we have, and we're working really hard here to help them out, maybe what you would consider a temporary solution.

I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. I thank the gentlelady.

Bond rating houses have already predicted that if we have a short-term fix to the debt ceiling here in the House today, we risk the downgrading of the creditworthiness of this country. Now, the GOP has proved itself fundamentally ill-suited to governance on this issue. They were for a big deal before they were against it, they were against a short-term fix before they were for it, and at least two walkouts from negotiations they asked for.

They can't accept a "yes" from the United States Senate getting what they wanted in the proposal: \$2.2 trillion in cuts, no revenue, and a fix through 2012, providing the very certainty just in the last campaign cycle they preached about forever.

So why would they insist on this plan, a short-term fix that actually cuts less spending? Speaker BOEHNER said, "to make sure the Democrats don't prevail in the Senate or at the White House." That simple. And that cynical.

It is no coincidence that the Republicans chose the clip from "The Town." The topic has Ben Affleck talking about, "We're going to harm some people." And his colleague jumps up and says, "Whose car are we going to use?" Reportedly, in the Republican caucus, somebody jumped up and said, "I'll drive the car."

I'm afraid that's true.

They're willing to drive the car to harm some people today. Though what they forgot to tell their caucus was that that scene is about a group of people plotting a crime. And that's what it will be today if we pass this seductively simple, short-term plan that will hurt America and hurt America's families.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire of the Chair how much time is remaining on each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 6½ minutes, and the gentlewoman from New York has 13½ minutes.

Mr. DREIER. I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Let me now yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Thank you, Ms. SLAUGHTER, for your generosity. And I want to thank the gentlelady from Maine for recounting the prayers of Americans. And I would ask them to continue to pray, because compromise is part of the democratic way.

But my friends on the other side did not tell you correctly why we are now involved in frivolous activity on the floor. We're not raising the debt ceiling. And the reason is there are 53 Senators in the other body that have signed a letter that said they're absolutely not going to vote for this draconian presentation. And the reason—and let me call the roll.

The reason they're not going to vote for it is because it is a short-term solution to a long-term problem. It has no revenues along with cuts. Sixty-four percent of the American people say balance it, cuts with revenues, to invest in our Nation.

Let me read the roll why Senators are not voting, the other body is not voting. Democrats recognize this is not the way to go.

You will lose your Medicare. Pell Grants will not be available for our

young people. Medicaid will see in its loss seniors being put out of nursing homes. And then we'll have Social Security, our safety net, being trampled on. The loss of America's savings. The Dow went down 200 points yesterday. Just wait until under this bill we do it again and again and again, Americans will lose their shirt. The American Dream of buying a home will be lost. And all of our mobility systems, America's railroads and airports and airlines, will be jeopardized.

Pay our bills. And if we cannot pay our bills, Mr. President, use the Constitution and use the 14th Amendment if we cannot pay our bills.

To my friends on the other side of the aisle, many of us have already voted for a clean debt ceiling. We're willing to do it again. But we will not suffer the idea of a one-sided government that takes away entitlement, that caps spending that is for those who are in need and balances an amendment on the backs of those who are suffering from devastating disasters in States like Missouri, States like Alabama, with all of the flooding.

This is not the way to go. Vote "no" on this rule and "no" on the underlying bill.

Pray for America.

□ 1320

Mr. DREIER. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH).

Mr. WELCH. I thank the gentlelady.

Mr. Speaker, this is a bad situation. There are two failures: One is the process by which we got here, where we've abandoned a willingness to compromise when compromise is required; and second is to propose a plan that's not balanced with revenues as well as with spending cuts.

I just want to go through the process. This institution is responsible for making decisions about taxing and spending. Those are contentious debates; always have been, always will be. But whenever we've made progress, there's been a recognition that the Republican argument, that we have to watch how we spend our money, has validity, and that the Democratic argument, that we have to have fairer taxes, has had merit. This is a one-sided approach.

There were negotiations that were promising. In May, the Biden group began negotiations to avert a crisis. On May 16, the U.S. hit the debt ceiling, and Treasury moved money around to avert the August 2 deadline. June 23, the majority leader, Mr. CANTOR, walked out because revenues were on the table. July 3, President Obama and Speaker BOEHNER meet to work out a "grand bargain" deal. It was very promising, \$4 trillion in deficit reduction by combining revenues as well as cuts. President Obama, incidentally,

put on the table things that were giving enormous heartburn to many Democrats, but he said, We have to compromise for the greater good. The Speaker indicates on July 9 that the "grand bargain" is unlikely due to differences on revenues, so he leaves. July 22, Mr. BOEHNER walks away from the debt talks, saying that we can't have revenue.

So now we have the bill. The bill is defective in this fundamental respect: It is going to damage the economy; \$1 trillion in cuts, increasing on a short-term basis the debt ceiling, followed by \$1.8 trillion that will hurt Medicare and Social Security. This is going to be very harmful for the economy.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

Mr. COHEN. I appreciate the time.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the reputation of this United States House of Representatives and Congress is at a low ebb because of the fact that we haven't acted prior to this date, the fact that the reputation of the United States of America is on the line, and we're being talked about at the same level as the economies of Spain and Greece and Ireland and Portugal. This should never have happened. I'm embarrassed as I see the greatest power on Earth and the country that's been the greatest country on Earth through my entire life possibly diminish because of the actions of the other side and not getting this debt ceiling resolved.

The ratings of the United States will go down. That will cause interest rates to go up, and it will cause us to lose jobs. And to extend this for just 6 months—which is what is happening—means the same Kabuki theater will take place again in 6 months. The American public doesn't want to see it. Moody's doesn't want to see it. Standard and Poor's doesn't want to see it. The markets don't want to see it. The world doesn't want to see it. When I was in Europe with the Bundestag in Germany, they almost laughed at us, and they said, You are like Greece and Ireland and Portugal. And that should not happen. It should not have happened in this country and while we're in charge.

So I would ask this United States Congress, Mr. Speaker, to have a 2-year extension, enough money to lift this ceiling to where this President won't have to deal with it again and the next President can deal with it. And if it is, as I hope, President Obama, the Republicans won't have to work to see that he is not reelected because he will be term-limited, so they can work at ease. And if it's a Republican, they can even have more ease. But let's be fair and let's extend this for 2 years.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I am very happy to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Savannah,

Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON), a hardworking member of the Committee on Appropriations and one of our cardinals.

Mr. KINGSTON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I must begin, Mr. Speaker, by asking, do you have the President's plan? Or perhaps, do any of the Democrats over there have the President's plan? I keep hearing that this plan is not a good one; it's not a compromise; it hasn't been vetted. I would like to see the President's plan. That way, I can sit down with a cheat sheet and compare the President's plan with the plan of Senator REID, with the plan proposed by Speaker BOEHNER. There's nothing, nothing but silence.

How long has he been President? Nearly 3 years. He knew the debt crisis was looming out there. He knew that there would be a debate about the debt ceiling. Indeed, as a Senator, in 2006, Barack Obama voted "no" to a debt ceiling increase, citing lack of leadership. Well, surely since that moment in 2006, he knew he would have to be dealing with the debt ceiling. He knew Medicare needed reform. He knew that Social Security needed reform. He continued the war, which he campaigned against. He continued the Bush tax cuts, which he now cries is the whole problem, that that's why we're in this situation.

It's even more appalling, Mr. Speaker, when you read his statement, July 12, just a few weeks ago, "I cannot guarantee that those checks"—speaking of Social Security checks—will "go out on August 3 if we haven't resolved this issue because there may simply not be the money in the coffers to do it." That's what the President believes, but he has no plan? How can he face the seniors of the United States of America?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DREIER. I yield my friend an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. KINGSTON. How can he say to the seniors of America, I might not be able to pay you your Social Security, and then not offer a plan? Well, God bless the Speaker, and God bless the people who have, in good faith, engaged in this discussion and offered plans. Indeed, the Republicans have already passed one plan, Cut, Cap, and Balance. The Senate, in their cowardliness, tabled it, refused to even vote on it. In fact, this was the same Senate who rejected the President's budget 97-0. Today we offer a second plan. If the Democrats have a plan, let them put it on the table. If the President has a plan, let us look at it so we can compare.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, since I have extra time and didn't give him enough in the first place, I yield 2 more minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

Mr. MCGOVERN. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

I would like to insert into the RECORD at this time a letter from 53 United States Senators saying that they will not support the Boehner default plan.

Mr. Speaker, this proposal that we are debating today is dead on arrival. We are wasting precious time. We are fast approaching a deadline that we need to address, and here we are, debating a bill that we know is going nowhere in the United States Senate.

I would urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, enough of the theatrics. This is time for a grownup moment. This is time to act like adults, to work with the Senate, to work with the President, to come up with a bipartisan deal, and to get this job done.

But let's understand why we are where we are. When Bill Clinton left office, we had a balanced budget. We had surpluses. When President Bush took over and the Republicans, what happened? Tax cuts, mostly for wealthy people that weren't paid for; a prescription drug bill that wasn't paid for; two wars that weren't paid for. And we end up in this terrible debt situation.

And what do my friends propose as a way to get out of it? They propose a bill that would make drastic cuts in programs that benefit the poor and the most vulnerable in our country. What they propose is eviscerating Medicare and Social Security. They propose cutting education money so that our kids can afford to go to school. They propose balancing the budget on the backs of the middle class and the most vulnerable in this country. It is wrong. It is shameful. It is an outrage to bring a bill like this to the floor.

□ 1330

And given the fact that we know it's going nowhere, this is just politics. Enough. I think the American people have had enough. They want us to get together to do our job, and I would urge my Republican colleagues to pull this bill from the floor and get serious about negotiating a real deal.

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, July 27, 2011.

SPEAKER JOHN BOEHNER,
U.S. Capitol, H-232,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: With five days until our nation faces an unprecedented financial crisis, we need to work together to ensure that our nation does not default on our obligations for the first time in our history. We heard that in your caucus you said the Senate will support your bill. We are writing to tell you that we will not support it, and give you the reasons why.

A short-term extension like the one in your bill would put America at risk, along with every family and business in it. Your approach would force us once again to face the threat of default in five or six short months. Every day, another expert warns us that your short-term approach could be nearly as disastrous as a default and would lead to a downgrade in our credit rating. If our credit is downgraded, it would cost us

billions of dollars more in interest payments on our existing debt and drive up our deficit. Even more worrisome, a downgrade would spike interest rates, making everything from mortgages, car loans and credit cards more expensive for families and businesses nationwide.

In addition to risking a downgrade and catastrophic default, we are concerned that in five or six months, the House will once again hold the economy captive and refuse to avoid another default unless we accept unbalanced, deep cuts to programs like Medicare and Social Security, without asking anything of the wealthiest Americans.

We now have only five days left to act. The entire world is watching Congress. We need to do the right thing to solve this problem. We must work together to avoid a default the responsible way—not in a way that will do America more harm than good.

Sincerely,

Harry Reid; Richard J. Durbin; Charles E. Schumer; Patty Murray; Jeanne Shaheen; Ben Nelson; Bernard Sanders; Claire McCaskill; Mary L. Landrieu; John F. Kerry; Al Franken; Patrick J. Leahy; Christopher A. Coons; Barbara A. Mikulski; Barbara Boxer; Ron Wyden; Robert Menendez; Carl Levin; Sherrod Brown; Herb Kohl; Richard Blumenthal; Mark Begich; Michael F. Bennet; Thomas R. Carper; Frank R. Lautenberg; Dianne Feinstein; Max Baucus; Debbie Stabenow; Bill Nelson; Kirsten E. Gillibrand; Maria Cantwell; Kent Conrad; Mark R. Warner; Kay R. Hagan; Sheldon Whitehouse; Daniel K. Inouye; Daniel K. Akaka; Tim Johnson; Mark Udall; Joe Manchin III; Amy Klobuchar; Benjamin L. Cardin; Tom Udall; Joseph I. Lieberman; Jeff Bingaman; Jack Reed; Jon Tester; Jeff Merkley; Tom Harkin; Jim Webb; John D. Rockefeller IV; Mark L. Pryor; Robert P. Casey, Jr.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time and am prepared to close.

Mr. DREIER. Then I will reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this is a terrible rule. It trivializes the Constitution, endangers Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, and says to the world, The United States Congress is incapable of doing its job.

The majority's risking a calamitous default on our debt, and they're doing so in the name of politics. The Republicans' "my way or the highway" approach is dead wrong, and I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing both this rule and the underlying bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. I yield myself the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized for 4 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, not one Member of this House likes the fact that we are here today and that we're facing the issue that is before us. As we've found throughout this debate, 75 times since 1962 the United States Congress has been in a position where it's had to increase the debt ceiling. And

here we are again today, dealing with a very unpopular increase in the debt ceiling because it has to be done.

Democrat and Republican alike recognize that we can't let our Nation go into default. We are the greatest Nation the world has ever known, and we can't follow the trend that we have seen in Europe of Greece, Portugal, Ireland, and other countries.

But, Mr. Speaker, we're getting close. We're getting close. The President of the United States has requested that we have an increase in the debt ceiling so that our Nation doesn't default. When that request was made of Speaker BOEHNER, he chose to work together in a bipartisan way, recognizing that the President of the United States is a Democrat, the United States Senate is controlled by Democrats, the United States House of Representatives is controlled by Republicans.

The most recent message that was sent by the American people came last November. Last November we saw a net gain of 63 seats for the Republican Party. It had been decades and decades and decades, in fact, three-quarters of a century since we'd seen that kind of gain for the Republican Party here in the House of Representatives.

So, Mr. Speaker, the message was overwhelming. The message was, create jobs, get our economy growing, and get our fiscal house in order. And that's exactly what we're trying to do.

So as we are faced with this 76th increase in the national debt since 1962, Speaker BOEHNER has said we're not going to do it as it's been done the last 75 times. We are going to insist that we bring about dramatic spending cuts. In fact, we want to see spending cuts that actually exceed the level of the debt ceiling increase.

Now, it was on July 12, as we've said, that President Obama said if we don't have this increase in the debt ceiling, he couldn't, on August 3, guarantee that Social Security checks would go out. And so we have this measure before us, Mr. Speaker.

We've heard that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle and on the other side of the rotunda are planning to simply table this measure if it passes the House of Representatives. Now, we all learned in school how a bill becomes a law, and we know very well that one House passes a measure and the other House is to address it.

Now, we saw Cut, Cap and Balance pass the House of Representatives, and our colleagues on the other side of the Capitol chose to table it. And now the word comes that if we pass this today that they're going to choose to table it.

Well, this is the plan that is before us. It is a plan that was worked on in good faith by Speaker BOEHNER and the Democratic leader of the United States Senate, HARRY REID. Now, I know that Senator REID no longer supports this plan, but last weekend he did. And I be-

lieve that we have a responsibility to step up to the plate, take action, increase the debt ceiling, but do so by addressing the long-term challenges and get at the root cause of why it is we have to increase the debt ceiling.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the rule and then the underlying legislation which will allow us to have the debt ceiling increased and ensure that our Nation does not go into default.

I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 238, nays 186, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 663]

YEAS—238

Adams	Ellmers	King (NY)
Aderholt	Emerson	Kingston
Akin	Farenthold	Kinzinger (IL)
Alexander	Fincher	Kline
Amash	Fitzpatrick	Labrador
Austria	Flake	Lamborn
Bachus	Fleischmann	Lance
Barletta	Fleming	Landry
Bartlett	Flores	Lankford
Barton (TX)	Forbes	Latham
Bass (NH)	Fortenberry	LaTourette
Benishek	Fox	Latta
Berg	Franks (AZ)	Lewis (CA)
Biggart	Frelinghuysen	LoBiondo
Bilbray	Gallegly	Long
Bilirakis	Gardner	Lucas
Bishop (UT)	Garrett	Luetkemeyer
Black	Gerlach	Lummis
Blackburn	Gibbs	Lungren, Daniel
Bonner	Gibson	E.
Bono Mack	Gingrey (GA)	Mack
Boustany	Gohmert	Manzullo
Brady (TX)	Goodlatte	Marchant
Brooks	Gosar	Marino
Broun (GA)	Gowdy	McCarthy (CA)
Buchanan	Granger	McCaul
Bucshon	Graves (GA)	McClintock
Buerkle	Graves (MO)	McCotter
Burgess	Griffin (AR)	McHenry
Burton (IN)	Griffith (VA)	McKeon
Calvert	Grimm	McKinley
Camp	Guinta	McMorris
Campbell	Guthrie	Rodgers
Canseco	Hall	Meehan
Cantor	Hanna	Mica
Capito	Harper	Miller (FL)
Carter	Harris	Miller (MI)
Cassidy	Hartzler	Miller, Gary
Chabot	Hastings (WA)	Mulvaney
Chaffetz	Hayworth	Murphy (PA)
Coble	Heck	Myrick
Coffman (CO)	Hensarling	Neugebauer
Cole	Herger	Noem
Conaway	Herrera Beutler	Nugent
Cravaack	Huelskamp	Nunes
Crawford	Huizenga (MI)	Nunnelee
Crenshaw	Hultgren	Olson
Culberson	Hunter	Palazzo
Davis (KY)	Hurt	Paul
Denham	Issa	Paulsen
Dent	Jenkins	Pearce
DesJarlais	Johnson (IL)	Pence
Diaz-Balart	Johnson (OH)	Petri
Dold	Johnson, Sam	Pitts
Dreier	Jones	Platts
Duffy	Jordan	Poe (TX)
Duncan (SC)	Kelly	Pompeo
Duncan (TN)	King (IA)	Posey

Price (GA)	Ryan (WI)	Thompson (PA)
Quayle	Scalise	Thornberry
Reed	Schilling	Tiberi
Rehberg	Schmidt	Tipton
Reichert	Schock	Turner
Renacci	Schweikert	Upton
Ribble	Scott (SC)	Walberg
Rigell	Scott, Austin	Walden
Rivera	Sensenbrenner	Walsh (IL)
Roby	Sessions	Webster
Roe (TN)	Shimkus	West
Rogers (AL)	Shuster	Westmoreland
Rogers (KY)	Simpson	Whitfield
Rogers (MI)	Smith (NE)	Wilson (SC)
Rohrabacher	Smith (NJ)	Wittman
Rokita	Smith (TX)	Wolf
Rooney	Southerland	Womack
Ros-Lehtinen	Stearns	Woodall
Roskam	Stivers	Yoder
Ross (FL)	Stutzman	Young (AK)
Royce	Sullivan	Young (FL)
Runyan	Terry	Young (IN)

NAYS—186

Ackerman	Garamendi	Owens
Altmire	Gonzalez	Pallone
Andrews	Green, Al	Pascarell
Baca	Green, Gene	Pastor (AZ)
Baldwin	Grijalva	Pelosi
Barrow	Gutierrez	Perlmuter
Bass (CA)	Hahn	Peters
Becerra	Hanabusa	Peterson
Berkley	Hastings (FL)	Pingree (ME)
Berman	Heinrich	Polis
Bishop (GA)	Higgins	Price (NC)
Bishop (NY)	Himes	Quigley
Blumenauer	Hinojosa	Rahall
Boren	Hirono	Rangel
Boswell	Hochul	Reyes
Brady (PA)	Holden	Richardson
Braley (IA)	Holt	Richmond
Brown (FL)	Honda	Ross (AR)
Butterfield	Hoyer	Rothman (NJ)
Capps	Inlee	Roybal-Allard
Capuano	Israel	Ruppersberger
Cardoza	Jackson (IL)	Rush
Carnahan	Jackson Lee	Ryan (OH)
Carney	(TX)	Sánchez, Linda
Carson (IN)	Johnson, E. B.	T.
Castor (FL)	Kaptur	Sanchez, Loretta
Cicilline	Keating	Sarbanes
Clarke (MI)	Kildee	Shakowsky
Clarke (NY)	Kind	Schiff
Clay	Kissell	Schrader
Cleaver	Kucinich	Schwartz
Clyburn	Langevin	Scott (VA)
Cohen	Larsen (WA)	Scott, David
Connolly (VA)	Larson (CT)	Serrano
Conyers	Levin	Sewell
Cooper	Lewis (GA)	Sherman
Costa	Lipinski	Shuler
Costello	Loeb	Shulsky
Courtney	Loefgren, Zoe	Slaughter
Critz	Lowey	Smith (WA)
Crowley	Luján	Speier
Cuellar	Lynch	Stark
Cummings	Maloney	Sutton
Davis (CA)	Markey	Thompson (CA)
Davis (IL)	Matheson	Thompson (MS)
DeFazio	Matsui	Tierney
DeGette	McCarthy (NY)	Tonko
DeLauro	McCollum	Towns
Deutch	McDermott	Tsongas
Dicks	McGovern	Van Hollen
Dingell	McIntyre	Velázquez
Doggett	McNerney	Visclosky
Donnelly (IN)	Meeks	Walz (MN)
Doyle	Michaud	Wasserman
Edwards	Miller (NC)	Schultz
Ellison	Miller, George	Waters
Engel	Moore	Watt
Eshoo	Moran	Waxman
Farr	Murphy (CT)	Welch
Fattah	Nadler	Wilson (FL)
Filner	Napolitano	Woolsey
Frank (MA)	Neal	Wu
Fudge	Oliver	Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—8

Bachmann	Giffords	Lee (CA)
Chandler	Hinchey	Payne
Chu	Johnson (GA)	

□ 1401

Messrs. RUNYAN, FLAKE, SOUTHERLAND, FITZPATRICK, DENT, TIBERI, KINGSTON, and DENHAM changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on House Resolution 375, the Rule providing for consideration of S. 627. Had I been able to cast my vote I would have voted “no.”

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Pursuant to House Resolution 363 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2584.

□ 1401

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2584) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, with Mr. DOLD (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, July 27, 2011, amendment No. 13 printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) was pending, and the bill had been read through page 106, line 8.

Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment by Mrs. BLACKBURN of Tennessee.

Amendment by Ms. RICHARDSON of California.

The first amendment by Mr. LANKFORD of Oklahoma.

Amendment by Mr. GOSAR of Arizona.

The second amendment by Mr. LANKFORD of Oklahoma.

Amendment No. 14 by Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

Amendment by Mr. WALBERG of Michigan.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. BLACKBURN

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded

vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 114, noes 314, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 664]

AYES—114

Adams	Hall	Paul
Aderholt	Harper	Paulsen
Akin	Harris	Petri
Amash	Hartzler	Pitts
Bartlett	Hensarling	Poe (TX)
Barton (TX)	Herrera Beutler	Pompeo
Benishke	Huelskamp	Posey
Bishop (UT)	Huizenga (MI)	Price (GA)
Blackburn	Hunter	Quayle
Boustany	Hurt	Ribble
Brady (TX)	Issa	Rigell
Brooks	Johnson (OH)	Roe (TN)
Broun (GA)	Johnson, Sam	Rogers (MI)
Buerkle	Jordan	Rohrabacher
Burton (IN)	Kingston	Rooney
Campbell	Kline	Roskam
Canseco	Labrador	Ross (FL)
Cantor	Lamborn	Royce
Chabot	Landry	Ryan (WI)
Chaffetz	Lankford	Scalise
Conaway	Latta	Schweikert
Culberson	Long	Scott (SC)
DesJarlais	Luetkemeyer	Scott, Austin
Duncan (SC)	Mack	Sensenbrenner
Duncan (TN)	Marchant	Sessions
Farenthold	Marino	Southerland
Flake	McClintock	Stearns
Fleischmann	McCotter	Stutzman
Forbes	McHenry	Terry
Fox	Miller (FL)	Thornberry
Franks (AZ)	Miller (MI)	Tipton
Garrett	Mulvaney	Walsh (IL)
Gingrey (GA)	Murphy (PA)	Westmoreland
Goodlatte	Neugebauer	Whitfield
Gowdy	Nugent	Wilson (SC)
Graves (GA)	Nunnelee	Wittman
Graves (MO)	Olson	Woodall
Griffith (VA)	Palazzo	Yoder

NOES—314

Ackerman	Bucshon	Courtney
Alexander	Burgess	Cravaack
Altmire	Butterfield	Crawford
Andrews	Calvert	Crenshaw
Austria	Camp	Critz
Baca	Capito	Crowley
Bachus	Capps	Cuellar
Baldwin	Capuano	Cummings
Barletta	Cardoza	Davis (CA)
Barrow	Carnahan	Davis (IL)
Bass (CA)	Carney	Davis (KY)
Bass (NH)	Carson (IN)	DeFazio
Becerra	Carter	DeGette
Berg	Cassidy	DeLauro
Berkley	Castor (FL)	Denham
Berman	Chu	Dent
Biggert	Cicilline	Deutch
Bilbray	Clarke (MI)	Diaz-Balart
Bilirakis	Clarke (NY)	Dicks
Bishop (GA)	Clay	Dingell
Bishop (NY)	Cleaver	Doggett
Black	Clyburn	Dold
Blumenauer	Coble	Donnelly (IN)
Bonner	Coffman (CO)	Doyle
Bono Mack	Cohen	Dreier
Boren	Cole	Duffy
Boswell	Connolly (VA)	Edwards
Brady (PA)	Conyers	Ellison
Braley (IA)	Cooper	Ellmers
Brown (FL)	Costa	Emerson
Buchanan	Costello	Engel

Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleming
Flores
Fortenberry
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Gosar
Granger
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Heinrich
Herger
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hultgren
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
(TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kucinich
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Lee (CA)

Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lujan
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Lynch
Maloney
Manzullo
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Noem
Nunes
Oliver
Owens
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Platts
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Rivera
Roby
Rogers (AL)

NOT VOTING—4

Bachmann
Chandler

Giffords
Hinchev

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1420

Mr. GOHMERT and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Rogers (KY)
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross (AR)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stark
Stivers
Sullivan
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiberi
Tierney
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Webster
Welch
West
Wilson (FL)
Wolf
Womack
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. RICHARDSON

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. RICHARDSON) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 168, noes 258, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 665]

AYES—168

Ackerman
Andrews
Baca
Baldwin
Barrow
Bass (CA)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Bilbray
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Campbell
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (IL)
DeGette
DeLauro
Dent
Deutch
Dingell
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Fattah
Filner
Fitzpatrick
Frank (MA)

Fudge
Gerlach
Gibson
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith (VA)
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holt
Honda
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
(TX)
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Shlaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stark
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Wilson (FL)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NOES—258

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Amash

Austria
Bachus
Barletta
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Benishhek

Berg
Biggert
Billirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn

Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Culberson
Davis (CA)
Davis (KY)
DeFazio
Denham
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Eillmers
Emerson
Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fincher
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hall
Harper
Harris
Hartzler

Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Holden
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meehan
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi

Pence
Peterson
Petri
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Quigley
Reed
Rehberg
Renacci
Ribble
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (FL)
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Webster
Welch
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—6

Bachmann
Bass (NH)

Chandler
Giffords

Hinchev
McIntyre

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1426

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LANKFORD

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the first amendment offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 161, noes 263, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 666]

AYES—161

Adams	Graves (MO)	Nunnelee
Aderholt	Griffin (AR)	Olson
Akin	Griffith (VA)	Palazzo
Amash	Hall	Paul
Bartlett	Harper	Paulsen
Benishek	Harris	Pearce
Berg	Hayworth	Pence
Biggert	Hensarling	Petri
Bilbray	Herger	Pitts
Black	Hinojosa	Poe (TX)
Blackburn	Huelskamp	Pompeo
Bono Mack	Huizenga (MI)	Posey
Boren	Hultgren	Price (GA)
Boustany	Hurt	Quayle
Brady (TX)	Johnson (IL)	Behberg
Brooks	Johnson (OH)	Ribble
Broun (GA)	Johnson, Sam	Rigell
Buchanan	Jordan	Roby
Buerkle	King (IA)	Roe (TN)
Burgess	Kinzing (IL)	Rogers (MI)
Burton (IN)	Kline	Rohrabacher
Calvert	Labrador	Rokita
Campbell	Lamborn	Roskam
Canseco	Landry	Ross (FL)
Cantor	Lankford	Royce
Carter	Latta	Ryan (WI)
Chabot	Lewis (CA)	Scalise
Chaffetz	Long	Schilling
Coble	Lucas	Schock
Conaway	Luetkemeyer	Schweikert
Crawford	Lummis	Scott (SC)
Culberson	Lungren, Daniel	Scott, Austin
Denham	E.	Sensenbrenner
DesJarlais	Mack	Sessions
Dold	Manzullo	Shuster
Duffy	Marchant	Smith (NE)
Duncan (SC)	Marino	Stearns
Farenthold	McCarthy (CA)	Stivers
Fincher	McCaul	Stutzman
Flake	McClintock	Sullivan
Fleming	McCotter	Terry
Flores	McHenry	Thornberry
Foxx	McKeon	Tipton
Franks (AZ)	McKinley	Walsh (IL)
Gallegly	McMorris	Webster
Gardner	Rodgers	Welch
Garrett	Mica	West
Gibson	Miller (FL)	Wilson (SC)
Gingrey (GA)	Miller, Gary	Womack
Gohmert	Mulvaney	Woodall
Goodlatte	Myrick	Yoder
Gosar	Neugebauer	Young (AK)
Gowdy	Nugent	Young (IN)
Granger	Nunes	
Graves (GA)		

NOES—263

Ackerman	Barletta	Bilirakis
Alexander	Barrow	Bishop (GA)
Altmire	Barton (TX)	Bishop (NY)
Andrews	Bass (CA)	Bishop (UT)
Austria	Bass (NH)	Blumenauer
Baca	Becerra	Bonner
Bachus	Berkley	Boswell
Baldwin	Berman	Brady (PA)

Braley (IA)	Hastings (FL)	Peterson
Brown (FL)	Hastings (WA)	Pingree (ME)
Bucshon	Heck	Platts
Butterfield	Heinrich	Polis
Camp	Herrera Beutler	Price (NC)
Capito	Higgins	Quigley
Capps	Himes	Rahall
Capuano	Hirono	Rangel
Cardoza	Hochul	Reed
Carnahan	Holden	Reichert
Carney	Holt	Renacci
Carson (IN)	Honda	Reyes
Cassidy	Hoyer	Richardson
Castor (FL)	Hunter	Richmond
Chu	Inslee	Rivera
Cicilline	Israel	Rogers (AL)
Clarke (MI)	Issa	Rogers (KY)
Clarke (NY)	Jackson (IL)	Rooney
Clay	Jackson Lee	Ros-Lehtinen
Cleaver	(TX)	Ross (AR)
Clyburn	Jenkins	Rothman (NJ)
Coffman (CO)	Johnson (GA)	Roybal-Allard
Cohen	Johnson, E. B.	Runyan
Cole	Jones	Ruppersberger
Connolly (VA)	Kaptur	Rush
Cooper	Keating	Ryan (OH)
Costa	Kelly	Sánchez, Linda
Costello	Kildee	T.
Courtney	King (NY)	Sanchez, Loretta
Cravaack	Kingston	Sarbanes
Crenshaw	Kissell	Schakowsky
Critz	Kucinich	Schiff
Crowley	Lance	Schmidt
Cuellar	Langevin	Schwartz
Cummings	Larsen (WA)	Scott (VA)
Davis (CA)	Larsen (CT)	Scott, David
Davis (IL)	Latham	Serrano
Davis (KY)	LaTourette	Sewell
DeFazio	Lee (CA)	Sherman
DeGette	Levin	Shimkus
DeLauro	Lewis (GA)	Shuler
Dent	Lipinski	Simpson
Deutch	LoBiondo	Sires
Diaz-Balart	Loeb sack	Slaughter
Dicks	Lofgren, Zoe	Smith (NJ)
Dingell	Lowe	Smith (TX)
Doggett	Lujan	Smith (WA)
Donnelly (IN)	Lynch	Southerland
Doyle	Maloney	Speier
Dreier	Markey	Stark
Duncan (TN)	Matheson	Sutton
Edwards	Matsui	Thompson (CA)
Ellison	McCarthy (NY)	Thompson (MS)
Elmers	McCollum	Thompson (PA)
Emerson	McDermott	Tiberi
Engel	McGovern	Thierney
Eshoo	McIntyre	Tonko
Farr	McNerney	Towns
Fattah	Meehan	Tsongas
Finler	Meeks	Turner
Fitzpatrick	Michaud	Upton
Fleischmann	Miller (MI)	Van Hollen
Forbes	Miller (NC)	Velazquez
Fortenberry	Miller, George	Visclosky
Frank (MA)	Moore	Walberg
Frelinghuysen	Moran	Walden
Fudge	Murphy (CT)	Walz (MN)
Garamendi	Murphy (PA)	Wasserman
Gerlach	Nadler	Schultz
Gibbs	Napolitano	Waters
Gonzalez	Neal	Watt
Green, Al	Noem	Waxman
Green, Gene	Olver	Whitfield
Grijalva	Owens	Wilson (FL)
Grimm	Pallone	Wittman
Guinta	Pascarell	Wolf
Guthrie	Pastor (AZ)	Woolsey
Hahn	Payne	Wu
Hanabusa	Pelosi	Yarmuth
Hanna	Perlmutter	Young (FL)
Hartzler	Peters	

NOT VOTING—8

Bachmann
Chandler
Conyers

Giffords
Gutierrez
Hinchey

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1432

Mr. DOLD changed his vote from
“no” to “aye.”
So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 130, noes 295, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 667]

AYES—130

Akin	Garamendi	Pearce
Alexander	Garrett	Peters
Altmire	Gibson	Petri
Bartlett	Gosar	Poe (TX)
Barton (TX)	Gowdy	Pompeo
Becerra	Graves (GA)	Price (NC)
Benishek	Grijalva	Quayle
Berg	Harper	Reed
Bilbray	Harris	Ribble
Bishop (UT)	Hartzler	Rokita
Blackburn	Heck	Rothman (NJ)
Blumenauer	Himes	Royce
Bono Mack	Huelskamp	Ryan (OH)
Brady (TX)	Huizenga (MI)	Ryan (WI)
Brooks	Hultgren	Scalise
Broun (GA)	Issa	Schilling
Burgess	Johnson (IL)	Schock
Butterfield	Johnson, Sam	Schrader
Campbell	Jordan	Schweikert
Cantor	Kildee	Scott (SC)
Carney	Kind	Scott, David
Chabot	King (IA)	Sensenbrenner
Chaffetz	Landry	Serrano
Chu	Langevin	Shuler
Cicilline	Lankford	Slaughter
Clarke (MI)	Larson (CT)	Smith (NE)
Coble	Lipinski	Smith (WA)
Connolly (VA)	Mack	Southerland
Cooper	Maloney	Speier
Courtney	McGovern	Stark
DeFazio	McHenry	Stutzman
DeLauro	McMorris	Tonko
Denham	Rodgers	Tsongas
DesJarlais	Michaud	Van Hollen
Dingell	Miller (FL)	Walden
Doyle	Miller (MI)	Walsh (IL)
Duffy	Moran	Waxman
Duncan (SC)	Mulvaney	Welch
Engel	Murphy (CT)	West
Fincher	Nadler	Wilson (SC)
Flake	Nunes	Yoder
Fleming	Palazzo	Young (AK)
Fortenberry	Pastor (AZ)	Young (IN)
Franks (AZ)	Paul	

NOES—295

Ackerman	Bishop (GA)	Canseco
Adams	Bishop (NY)	Capito
Aderholt	Black	Capps
Amash	Bonner	Capuano
Austria	Boren	Cardoza
Baca	Boswell	Carnahan
Bachus	Boustany	Carson (IN)
Baldwin	Brady (PA)	Carter
Barletta	Braley (IA)	Cassidy
Barrow	Brown (FL)	Castor (FL)
Bass (CA)	Buchanan	Clarke (NY)
Bass (NH)	Bucshon	Clay
Berkley	Buerkle	Cleaver
Berman	Burton (IN)	Clyburn
Biggert	Calvert	Coffman (CO)
Bilirakis	Camp	Cohen

Cole Jackson Lee
 Conaway (TX)
 Conyers Jenkins
 Costa Johnson (GA)
 Costello Johnson (OH)
 Cravaack Johnson, E. B.
 Crawford Jones
 Crenshaw Kaptur
 Critz Keating
 Crowley Kelly
 Cuellar King (NY)
 Culberson Kingston
 Cummings Kinzinger (IL)
 Davis (CA) Kissell
 Davis (IL) Kline
 Davis (KY) Kucinich
 DeGette Labrador
 Dent Lamborn
 Deutch Lance
 Diaz-Balart Larsen (WA)
 Dicks Latham
 Doggett LaTourette
 Dold Latta
 Donnelly (IN) Lee (CA)
 Dreier Levin
 Duncan (TN) Lewis (CA)
 Edwards Lewis (GA)
 Ellison LoBiondo
 Ellmers Loebsock
 Emerson Lofgren, Zoe
 Eshoo Long
 Farenthold Lowey
 Farr Lucas
 Fattah Luetkemeyer
 Filner Luján
 Fitzpatrick Lummis
 Fleischmann Lungren, Daniel
 Flores E.
 Forbes Lynch
 Foxx Manzullo
 Frank (MA) Marchant
 Frelinghuysen Marino
 Gallegly Markey
 Gardner Matheson
 Gerlach Matsui
 Gibbs McCarthy (CA)
 Gingrey (GA) McCarthy (NY)
 Gohmert McCaul
 Gonzalez McClintock
 Goodlatte McCollum
 Granger McCotter
 Graves (MO) McDermott
 Green, Al McIntyre
 Green, Gene McKeon
 Griffin (AR) McKinley
 Griffith (VA) McNeerney
 Grimm Meehan
 Guinta Meeks
 Guthrie Mica
 Gutierrez Miller (NC)
 Hahn Miller, Gary
 Hall Miller, George
 Hanabusa Moore
 Hanna Murphy (PA)
 Hastings (FL) Myrick
 Hastings (WA) Napolitano
 Hayworth Neal
 Heinrich Neugebauer
 Hensarling Noem
 Herger Nugent
 Herrera Beutler Nunnelee
 Higgins Olson
 Hinojosa Oliver
 Hirono Owens
 Hochul Pallone
 Holden Pascarell
 Holt Paulsen
 Honda Payne
 Hoyer Pelosi
 Hunter Pence
 Hurt Perlmutter
 Inslee Peterson
 Israel Pingree (ME)
 Jackson (IL) Pitts

NOT VOTING—7

Andrews Fudge Sullivan
 Bachmann Giffords
 Chandler Hinchey

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
 Two minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1439

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced
 as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. LANKFORD

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
 business is the demand for a recorded
 vote on the second amendment offered
 by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr.
 LANKFORD) on which further pro-
 ceedings were postponed and on which
 the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
 amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
 ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
 has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 5-
 minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
 vice, and there were—ayes 198, noes 227,
 not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 668]

AYES—198

Adams Fleischmann Marchant
 Aderholt Fleming Marino
 Akin Flores McCarthy (CA)
 Alexander Forbes McCaul
 Amash Foxx McClintock
 Austria Franks (AZ) McCotter
 Bachus Gallegly McKeon
 Barletta Gardner McKinley
 Bartlett Garrett McMorris
 Barton (TX) Gibbs Rodgers
 Benishek Gingrey (GA) Meehan
 Berg Gohmert Mica
 Bilbray Goodlatte Miller (FL)
 Bilirakis Gowdy Miller (MI)
 Bishop (UT) Granger Miller, Gary
 Black Graves (GA) Miller, Gary
 Blackburn Graves (MO) Murphy (PA)
 Bonner Griffin (AR) Myrick
 Bono Mack Griffith (VA) Neugebauer
 Boren Guinta Noem
 Boustany Guthrie Nugent
 Brady (TX) Hall Nunes
 Brooks Harper Nunnelee
 Broun (GA) Harris Olson
 Buchanan Hartzler Palazzo
 Burchon Hastings (WA) Paul
 Buerkle Hayworth Pearce
 Burgess Heck Pence
 Burton (IN) Hensarling Poe (TX)
 Camp Herger Pompeo
 Campbell Huelskamp Posey
 Canseco Huizenga (MI) Price (GA)
 Cantor Hultgren Quayle
 Capito Hunter Rehberg
 Cardoza Hurt Renacci
 Carter Issa Ribble
 Cassidy Jenkins Rigell
 Chabot Johnson (IL) Rivera
 Chaffetz Johnson (OH) Roby
 Coble Johnson, Sam Rogers (AL)
 Coffman (CO) Jones Rogers (MI)
 Cole Jordan Rohrabacher
 Conaway Kelly Rokita
 Costa King (IA) Ros-Lehtinen
 Crawford King (NY) Roskam
 Crenshaw Kingston Ross (FL)
 Culberson Kinzinger (IL) Royce
 Davis (KY) Kline Ryan (WI)
 Denham Labrador Scalise
 DesJarlais Lamborn Schilling
 Duffy Landry Schmidt
 Duncan (SC) Lankford Schweikert
 Duncan (TN) Latta Scott (SC)
 Ellmers Long Scott, Austin
 Emerson Lucas Sensenbrenner
 Farenthold Luetkemeyer Sessions
 Fincher Lummis Shimkus
 Fitzpatrick Mack Shuster
 Flake Manzullo

Smith (NE)
 Smith (TX)
 Southerland
 Stearns
 Terry
 Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry
 Tipton

Turner
 Walberg
 Walsh (IL)
 Webster
 West
 Westmoreland
 Whitfield
 Wilson (SC)

NOES—227

Ackerman
 Altmire
 Andrews
 Baca
 Baldwin
 Barrow
 Bass (CA)
 Bass (NH)
 Becerra
 Berkley
 Berman
 Biggert
 Bishop (GA)
 Bishop (NY)
 Blumenauer
 Boswell
 Brady (PA)
 Braley (IA)
 Brown (FL)
 Butterfield
 Calvert
 Capps
 Capuano
 Carnahan
 Carney
 Carson (IN)
 Castor (FL)
 Chu
 Cicilline
 Clarke (MI)
 Clarke (NY)
 Clay
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Cohen
 Connolly (VA)
 Conyers
 Cooper
 Costello
 Courtney
 Cravaack
 Critz
 Crowley
 Cuellar
 Cummings
 Davis (CA)
 Davis (IL)
 DeFazio
 DeGette
 DeLauro
 Dent
 Deutch
 Diaz-Balart
 Dicks
 Dingell
 Doggett
 Dold
 Donnelly (IN)
 Doyle
 Dreier
 Edwards
 Ellison
 Engel
 Eshoo
 Farr
 Fattah
 Filner
 Fortenberry
 Frank (MA)
 Frelinghuysen
 Fudge
 Garamendi
 Gerlach
 Gibson
 Gonzalez
 Gosar
 Green, Al

Payne
 Pelosi
 Perlmutter
 Peters
 Peterson
 Petri
 Pingree (ME)
 Pitts
 Platts
 Polis
 Price (NC)
 Quigley
 Rahall
 Rangel
 Reed
 Reichert
 Reyes
 Richardson
 Richmond
 Rogers (KY)
 Rooney
 Ross (AR)
 Rothman (NJ)
 Roybal-Allard
 Runyan
 Ruppersberger
 Rush
 Ryan (OH)
 Sanchez, Linda
 T.
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Sarbanes
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Latham
 LaTourette
 Lee (CA)
 Levin
 Lewis (CA)
 Lewis (GA)
 Lipinski
 Shuler
 Simpson
 Sires
 Slaughter
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (WA)
 Speier
 Stark
 Stivers
 Sutton
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Tiberi
 Tierney
 Tonko
 Towns
 Tsongas
 Upton
 Van Hollen
 Velázquez
 Visclosky
 Walden
 Walz (MN)
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters
 Watt
 Waxman
 Welch
 Wilson (FL)
 Wolf
 Woolsey
 Wu
 Yarmuth
 Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—7

Bachmann Hinchey Sullivan
 Chandler McHenry
 Giffords Stutzman

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1445

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MR. BROWN OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROWN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 110, noes 317, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 669]

AYES—110

Adams	Gohmert	Miller, Gary
Akin	Goodlatte	Mulvaney
Amash	Gowdy	Myrick
Bartlett	Graves (GA)	Nunnelee
Barton (TX)	Graves (MO)	Paul
Benishek	Griffith (VA)	Pence
Bishop (UT)	Harris	Petri
Black	Hartzler	Poe (TX)
Blackburn	Hayworth	Pompeo
Bono Mack	Hensarling	Posey
Brady (TX)	Herger	Price (GA)
Brown (GA)	Huelskamp	Quayle
Buerkle	Huizenga (MI)	Renacci
Burgess	Hultgren	Roe (TN)
Burton (IN)	Hunter	Rogers (MI)
Camp	Hurt	Rohrabacher
Campbell	Issa	Rokita
Canseco	Johnson (IL)	Royce
Cassidy	Johnson (OH)	Scalise
Chabot	Jordan	Schilling
Chaffetz	King (IA)	Schweikert
Coble	Kingston	Scott (SC)
Coffman (CO)	Kline	Scott, Austin
Conaway	Labrador	Sensenbrenner
Denham	Lamborn	Sessions
DesJarlais	Landry	Smith (NE)
Duncan (SC)	Lankford	Southerland
Duncan (TN)	Latham	Stearns
Fincher	Long	Stutzman
Flake	Luetkemeyer	Walberg
Fleming	Mack	Walsh (IL)
Flores	Manzullo	West
Forbes	Marchant	Wilson (SC)
Foxx	McClintock	Wittman
Franks (AZ)	McHenry	Woodall
Gallegly	Miller (FL)	Yoder
Gibbs	Miller (MI)	

NOES—317

Ackerman	Berg	Brady (PA)
Aderholt	Berkley	Braley (IA)
Alexander	Berman	Brooks
Altmire	Biggart	Brown (FL)
Austria	Bilbray	Buchanan
Baca	Bilirakis	Buchon
Bachus	Bishop (GA)	Butterfield
Baldwin	Bishop (NY)	Calvert
Barletta	Blumenauer	Cantor
Barrow	Bonner	Capito
Bass (CA)	Boren	Capps
Bass (NH)	Boswell	Capuano
Becerra	Boustany	Cardoza

Carnahan	Honda	Price (NC)
Carney	Hoyer	Quigley
Carson (IN)	Inslee	Rahall
Carter	Israel	Rangel
Castor (FL)	Jackson (IL)	Reed
Chu	Jackson Lee	Rehberg
Ciilline	(TX)	Reichert
Clarke (MI)	Jenkins	Reyes
Clarke (NY)	Johnson (GA)	Ribble
Clay	Johnson, E. B.	Richardson
Cleaver	Johnson, Sam	Richmond
Clyburn	Jones	Rigell
Cohen	Kaptur	Rivera
Cole	Keating	Roby
Connolly (VA)	Kelly	Rogers (AL)
Conyers	Kildee	Rogers (KY)
Cooper	Kind	Rooney
Costa	King (NY)	Ros-Lehtinen
Costello	Kinzing (IL)	Roskam
Courtney	Kissell	Ross (AR)
Cravaack	Kucinich	Ross (FL)
Crawford	Lance	Rothman (NJ)
Crenshaw	Langevin	Roybal-Allard
Critz	Larsen (WA)	Runyan
Crowley	Larson (CT)	Ruppersberger
Cuellar	LaTourette	Rush
Culberson	Latta	Ryan (OH)
Cummings	Lee (CA)	Ryan (WI)
Davis (CA)	Levin	Sánchez, Linda
Davis (IL)	Lewis (CA)	T.
Davis (KY)	Lewis (GA)	Sanchez, Loretta
DeFazio	Lipinski	Sarbanes
DeGette	LoBiondo	Schakowsky
DeLauro	Loebback	Schiff
Dent	Lofgren, Zoe	Schmidt
Deutch	Lowey	Schock
Diaz-Balart	Lucas	Schrader
Dicks	Luján	Schwartz
Dingell	Lummis	Scott (VA)
Doggett	Lungren, Daniel	Scott, David
Dold	E.	Serrano
Donnelly (IN)	Lynch	Sewell
Doyle	Maloney	Sherman
Dreier	Marino	Shimkus
Duffy	Markey	Shuler
Edwards	Matheson	Shuster
Ellison	Matsui	Simpson
Ellmers	McCarthy (CA)	Sires
Emerson	McCarthy (NY)	Slaughter
Engel	McCaul	Smith (NJ)
Eshoo	McCollum	Smith (TX)
Farenthold	McCotter	Smith (WA)
Farr	McDermott	Speier
Fattah	McGovern	Stark
Finer	McIntyre	Stivers
Fitzpatrick	McKeon	Sullivan
Fleischmann	McKinley	Sutton
Fortenberry	McMorris	Terry
Frank (MA)	Rodgers	Thompson (CA)
Frelinghuysen	McNerney	Thompson (MS)
Fudge	Meehan	Thompson (PA)
Garamendi	Meeks	Thornberry
Gardner	Mica	Tiberi
Garrett	Michaud	Tierney
Gerlach	Miller (NC)	Tipton
Gibson	Miller, George	Tonko
Gingrey (GA)	Moore	Towns
Gonzalez	Moran	Tsongas
Gosar	Murphy (CT)	Turner
Granger	Murphy (PA)	Upton
Green, Al	Nadler	Van Hollen
Green, Gene	Napolitano	Velázquez
Griffin (AR)	Neal	Visclosky
Grijalva	Neugebauer	Walden
Grimm	Noem	Walz (MN)
Guinta	Nugent	Wasserman
Guthrie	Nunes	Schultz
Gutierrez	Olson	Waters
Hahn	Oliver	Watt
Hall	Owens	Waxman
Hanabusa	Palazzo	Webster
Hanna	Pallone	Welch
Harper	Pascrell	Westmoreland
Hastings (FL)	Pastor (AZ)	Whitfield
Hastings (WA)	Paulsen	Wilson (FL)
Heck	Payne	Wolf
Heinrich	Pearce	Womack
Herrera Beutler	Pelosi	Woolsey
Higgins	Perlmutter	Wu
Hultgren	Peters	Yarmuth
Himes	Peterson	Young (AK)
Hinojosa	Pingree (ME)	Young (FL)
Hirono	Pitts	Young (IN)
Hochul	Platts	
Holden	Polis	
Holt		

NOT VOTING—5

Andrews	Chandler	Hinchey
Bachmann	Giffords	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1451

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. WALBERG

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 181, noes 240, answered “present” 1, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 670]

AYES—181

Adams	Fleming	Lankford
Aderholt	Flores	Latham
Akin	Forbes	Latta
Alexander	Foxx	LoBiondo
Amash	Franks (AZ)	Long
Bachus	Gallegly	Lucas
Bartlett	Gardner	Luetkemeyer
Barton (TX)	Garrett	Lungren, Daniel
Benishek	Gibbs	E.
Berg	Gingrey (GA)	Mack
Bilbray	Gohmert	Manzullo
Bilirakis	Goodlatte	Marchant
Bishop (UT)	Gosar	Marino
Black	Gowdy	McCarthy (CA)
Blackburn	Granger	McCaul
Bono Mack	Graves (GA)	McClintock
Boustany	Graves (MO)	McHenry
Brady (TX)	Griffith (VA)	McKeon
Brown (GA)	Guthrie	McMorris
Bucshon	Hall	Rodgers
Burgess	Harper	Miller (FL)
Burton (IN)	Harris	Miller (MI)
Calvert	Hartzler	Miller, Gary
Camp	Hastings (WA)	Mulvaney
Campbell	Heck	Myrick
Canseco	Hensarling	Neugebauer
Cantor	Herger	Noem
Carter	Herrera Beutler	Nugent
Cassidy	Huelskamp	Nunes
Chabot	Huizenga (MI)	Nunnelee
Chaffetz	Hultgren	Palazzo
Coble	Hunter	Paul
Coffman (CO)	Hurt	Pearce
Conaway	Issa	Pence
Cravaack	Jenkins	Petri
Crenshaw	Johnson (OH)	Pitts
Culberson	Johnson, Sam	Poe (TX)
Davis (KY)	Jones	Pompeo
Denham	Jordan	Quayle
DesJarlais	Kelly	Rehberg
Duncan (SC)	King (IA)	Renacci
Duncan (TN)	King (NY)	Ribble
Ellmers	Kinzing (IL)	Rigell
Emerson	Kline	Roby
Farenthold	Labrador	Roe (TN)
Fincher	Lamborn	Rogers (AL)
Flake	Landry	
Fleischmann		

Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Roskam
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schilling
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin

Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stearns
Stutzman
Sullivan
Terry
Thornberry

Upton
Walberg
Walsh (IL)
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Woodall
Yoder
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

Whitfield
Womack

Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Johnson (IL)

NOT VOTING—10

Bachmann
Buerkle
Carson (IN)
Chandler
Ellison
Giffords
Hinchey
Johnson, E. B.
Payne
Wilson (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1458

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) having assumed the chair, Mr. DOLD Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2584) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 377

Resolved, That the following named Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES.—Ms. Hochul.

(2) COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY.—Ms. Hahn.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BUDGET CONTROL ACT OF 2011

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 375, I call up the bill (S. 627) to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 375, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in part A of House Report 112-184, modified by the amendments printed in part B of the report, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

S. 627

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE*.—This Act may be cited as the “Budget Control Act of 2011”.

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS*.—

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—TEN-YEAR DISCRETIONARY CAPS WITH SEQUESTER

Sec. 101. Enforcing discretionary spending limits.

Sec. 102. Definitions.

Sec. 103. Reports and orders.

Sec. 104. Expiration.

Sec. 105. Conforming amendments to the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974.

TITLE II—VOTE ON THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

Sec. 201. Vote on the balanced budget amendment.

Sec. 202. Consideration by the other House.

TITLE III—DEBT CEILING DISAPPROVAL PROCESS

Sec. 301. Debt ceiling disapproval process.

TITLE IV—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON DEFICIT REDUCTION

Sec. 401. Establishment of Joint Select Committee.

Sec. 402. Expedited consideration of joint committee recommendations.

Sec. 403. Funding.

Sec. 404. Rulemaking.

TITLE V—PELL GRANT AND STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM CHANGES

Sec. 501. Federal Pell Grants.

Sec. 502. Termination of authority to make interest subsidized loans to graduate and professional students.

Sec. 503. Termination of Direct Loan repayment incentives.

Sec. 504. Inapplicability of title IV negotiated rulemaking and master calendar exception.

TITLE I—TEN-YEAR DISCRETIONARY CAPS WITH SEQUESTER

SEC. 101. ENFORCING DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS.

Section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 251. ENFORCING DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS.

“(a) *ENFORCEMENT*.—

“(1) *SEQUESTRATION*.—Within 15 calendar days after Congress adjourns to end a session there shall be a sequestration to eliminate a budget-year breach, if any.

“(2) *ELIMINATING A BREACH*.—Each non-exempt account shall be reduced by a dollar amount calculated by multiplying the enacted level of sequestrable budgetary resources in that account at that time by the uniform percentage necessary to eliminate a breach.

“(3) *MILITARY PERSONNEL*.—If the President uses the authority to exempt any personnel account from sequestration under section 255(f),

NOES—240

Ackerman
Altmire
Andrews
Austria
Baca
Baldwin
Barletta
Barrow
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonner
Boren
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brooks
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Butterfield
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Castor (FL)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crawford
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummins
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Duffy
Edwards
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fitzpatrick
Fortenberry
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge

Garamendi
Gerlach
Gibson
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guinta
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hastings (FL)
Hayworth
Heinrich
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
(TX)
Johnson (GA)
Kaptur
Keating
Kildee
Kind
Kissell
Kucinich
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
LaTourette
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebach
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lujan
Lummis
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinley
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Olson

Oliver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pelosi
Perlmuter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Platts
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Rivera
Rogers (KY)
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schradler
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Shuler
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stark
Stivers
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch

each account within subfunctional category 051 (other than those military personnel accounts for which the authority provided under section 255(f) has been exercised) shall be further reduced by a dollar amount calculated by multiplying the enacted level of non-exempt budgetary resources in that account at that time by the uniform percentage necessary to offset the total dollar amount by which outlays are not reduced in military personnel accounts by reason of the use of such authority.

“(4) PART-YEAR APPROPRIATIONS.—If, on the date specified in paragraph (1), there is in effect an Act making or continuing appropriations for part of a fiscal year for any budget account, then the dollar sequestration calculated for that account under paragraphs (2) and (3) shall be subtracted from—

“(A) the annualized amount otherwise available by law in that account under that or a subsequent part-year appropriation; and

“(B) when a full-year appropriation for that account is enacted, from the amount otherwise provided by the full-year appropriation.

“(5) LOOK-BACK.—If, after June 30, an appropriation for the fiscal year in progress is enacted that causes a breach for that year (after taking into account any sequestration of amounts), the discretionary spending limits for the next fiscal year shall be reduced by the amount or amounts of that breach.

“(6) WITHIN-SESSION SEQUESTRATION.—If an appropriation for a fiscal year in progress is enacted (after Congress adjourns to end the session for that budget year and before July 1 of that fiscal year) that causes a breach for that year (after taking into account any prior sequestration of amounts), 15 days later there shall be a sequestration to eliminate that breach following the procedures set forth in paragraphs (2) through (4).

“(7) ESTIMATES.—

“(A) CBO ESTIMATES.—As soon as practicable after Congress completes action on any discretionary appropriation, CBO, after consultation with the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall provide OMB with an estimate of the amount of discretionary new budget authority for the current year, if any, and the budget year provided by that legislation.

“(B) OMB ESTIMATES AND EXPLANATION OF DIFFERENCES.—Not later than 7 calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) after the date of enactment of any discretionary appropriation, OMB shall transmit a report to the House of Representatives and to the Senate containing the CBO estimate of that legislation, an OMB estimate of the amount of discretionary new budget authority for the current year, if any, and the budget year provided by that legislation, and an explanation of any difference between the 2 estimates. If during the preparation of the report OMB determines that there is a significant difference between OMB and CBO, OMB shall consult with the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate regarding that difference and that consultation shall include, to the extent practicable, written communication to those committees that affords such committees the opportunity to comment before the issuance of the report.

“(C) ASSUMPTIONS AND GUIDELINES.—OMB estimates under this paragraph shall be made using current economic and technical assumptions. OMB shall use the OMB estimates transmitted to the Congress under this paragraph. OMB and CBO shall prepare estimates under this paragraph in conformance with scorekeeping guidelines determined after consultation among the House and Senate Committees on the Budget, CBO, and OMB.

“(D) ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS.—For purposes of this paragraph, amounts provided by annual

appropriations shall include any discretionary appropriations for the current year, if any, and the budget year in accounts for which funding is provided in that legislation that result from previously enacted legislation.

“(b) ADJUSTMENTS TO DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS.—

“(1) CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS.—When the President submits the budget under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, OMB shall calculate and the budget shall include adjustments to discretionary spending limits (and those limits as cumulatively adjusted) for the budget year and each outyear to reflect changes in concepts and definitions. Such changes shall equal the baseline levels of new budget authority and outlays using up-to-date concepts and definitions minus those levels using the concepts and definitions in effect before such changes. Such changes may only be made after consultation with the Committees on Appropriations and the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate and that consultation shall include written communication to such committees that affords such committees the opportunity to comment before official action is taken with respect to such changes.

“(2) SEQUESTRATION REPORTS.—When OMB submits a sequestration report under section 254(e), (f), or (g) for a fiscal year, OMB shall calculate, and the sequestration report and subsequent budgets submitted by the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, shall include adjustments to discretionary spending limits (and those limits as adjusted) for the fiscal year and each succeeding year, as follows:

“(A) EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS; OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS/GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM.—If, for any fiscal year, appropriations for discretionary accounts are enacted that—

“(i) the President designates as emergency requirements and that the Congress so designates in statute on an account by account basis; or

“(ii) the President designates for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism and that the Congress so designates in statute on an account by account basis; the adjustment shall be the total of such appropriations in discretionary accounts designated as emergency requirements or for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism, as applicable, and the outlays flowing in all fiscal years from such appropriations.

“(B) CONTINUING DISABILITY REVIEWS AND REDETERMINATIONS.—(i) If a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a fiscal year is enacted that specifies an amount for continuing disability reviews under titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act and for the cost associated with conducting redeterminations of eligibility under title XVI of the Social Security Act, then the adjustments for that fiscal year shall be the additional new budget authority provided in that Act for such expenses for that fiscal year and the additional outlays flowing therefrom, but shall not exceed—

“(I) for fiscal year 2012, \$623,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(II) for fiscal year 2013, \$751,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(III) for fiscal year 2014, \$924,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(IV) for fiscal year 2015, \$1,123,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(V) for fiscal year 2016, \$1,166,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(VI) for fiscal year 2017, \$1,309,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(VII) for fiscal year 2018, \$1,309,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(VIII) for fiscal year 2019, \$1,309,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(IX) for fiscal year 2020, \$1,309,000,000 in additional new budget authority; and

“(X) for fiscal year 2021, \$1,309,000,000 in additional new budget authority.

“(ii) As used in this subparagraph—

“(I) the term ‘continuing disability reviews’ means continuing disability reviews under titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act and redeterminations of eligibility under title XVI of the Social Security Act; and

“(II) the term ‘additional new budget authority’ means the amount provided for a fiscal year, in excess of \$273,000,000, in an appropriation Act and specified to pay for the costs of continuing disability reviews under the heading ‘Limitation on Administrative Expenses’ for the Social Security Administration.

“(C) HEALTH CARE FRAUD AND ABUSE CONTROL.—

“(i) If a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a fiscal year is enacted that specifies an amount for the health care fraud abuse control program at the Department of Health and Human Services (75-8393-0-7-571), then the adjustments for that fiscal year shall be the amount of additional new budget authority provided in that Act for such program for that fiscal year and the additional outlays flowing therefrom, but shall not exceed—

“(I) for fiscal year 2012, \$270,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(II) for fiscal year 2013, \$299,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(III) for fiscal year 2014, \$329,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(IV) for fiscal year 2015, \$361,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(V) for fiscal year 2016, \$395,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(VI) for fiscal year 2017, \$414,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(VII) for fiscal year 2018, \$434,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(VIII) for fiscal year 2019, \$454,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(IX) for fiscal year 2020, \$475,000,000 in additional new budget authority; and

“(X) for fiscal year 2021, \$496,000,000 in additional new budget authority.

“(ii) As used in this subparagraph, the term ‘additional new budget authority’ means the amount provided for a fiscal year, in excess of \$311,000,000, in an appropriation Act and specified to pay for the costs of the health care fraud and abuse control program.

The adjustment for outlays shall only be for the outlays flowing from the additional new budget authority and the total outlays adjustments made for any fiscal year shall not exceed the total adjustments made for that fiscal year in new budget authority.

“(c) DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMIT.—As used in this part, the term ‘discretionary spending limit’ means—

“(1) with respect to fiscal year 2012, for total discretionary spending: \$1,043,000,000,000, in new budget authority of which new budget authority for function 050 shall be between \$535,440,000,000 and \$568,560,000,000;

“(2) with respect to fiscal year 2013, for total discretionary spending: \$1,047,000,000,000 in new budget authority of which new budget authority for function 050 shall be between \$537,440,000,000 and \$570,560,000,000;

“(3) with respect to fiscal year 2014, for total discretionary spending: \$1,066,000,000,000 in new budget authority;

“(4) with respect to fiscal year 2015, for total discretionary spending: \$1,086,000,000,000 in new budget authority;

“(5) with respect to fiscal year 2016, for total discretionary spending: \$1,107,000,000,000 in new budget authority;

“(6) with respect to fiscal year 2017, for total discretionary spending: \$1,131,000,000,000 in new budget authority;

“(7) with respect to fiscal year 2018, for total discretionary spending: \$1,156,000,000,000 in new budget authority;

“(8) with respect to fiscal year 2019, for total discretionary spending: \$1,182,000,000,000 in new budget authority;

“(9) with respect to fiscal year 2020, for total discretionary spending: \$1,208,000,000,000 in new budget authority; and

“(10) with respect to fiscal year 2021, for total discretionary spending: \$1,234,000,000,000 in new budget authority; as adjusted in strict conformance with subsection (b).”.

SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.

Section 250(c) is amended as follows:

(1) Strike paragraph (4) and redesignate succeeding paragraphs accordingly.

(2) In paragraph (7)(C) (as redesignated), strike “the food stamp program” and insert “the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program”.

(3) Strike paragraph (13) (as redesignated) and insert the following new paragraph:

“(13) The term ‘outyear’ means a fiscal year one or more years after the budget year.”.

(4) At the end, add the following new paragraphs:

“(19) The term ‘emergency’ means a situation that—

“(A) requires new budget authority and outlays (or new budget authority and the outlays flowing therefrom) for the prevention or mitigation of, or response to, loss of life or property, or a threat to national security; and

“(B) is unanticipated.

“(20) The term ‘unanticipated’ means that the underlying situation is—

“(A) sudden, which means quickly coming into being or not building up over time;

“(B) urgent, which means a pressing and compelling need requiring immediate action;

“(C) unforeseen, which means not predicted or anticipated as an emerging need; and

“(D) temporary, which means not of a permanent duration.”.

SEC. 103. REPORTS AND ORDERS.

Section 254 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended as follows:

(1) In subsection (c)(2), strike “2002” and insert “2021”.

(2) In subsection (f)(2)(A), strike “2002” and insert “2021”.

SEC. 104. EXPIRATION.

(a) REPEALER.—Section 275 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING CHANGE.—Sections 252(d)(1), 254(c), 254(f)(3), 254(f)(4), 254(g), and 254(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall not apply to the Congressional Budget Office.

SEC. 105. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET AND IMPOUNDMENT CONTROL ACT OF 1974.

(a) ADJUSTMENTS.—Section 314 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended as follows:

(1) Strike subsection (a) and insert the following:

“(a) ADJUSTMENTS.—After the reporting of a bill or joint resolution or the offering of an amendment thereto or the submission of a conference report thereon, the chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives or the Senate may make appropriate budgetary adjustments of new budget authority and the outlays flowing therefrom in the same amount as required by section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.”.

(2) Strike subsections (b) and (e) and redesignate subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (b) and (c), respectively.

(3) At the end, add the following new subsections:

“(d) EMERGENCIES.—If a reported bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, contains a provision providing new budget authority and outlays or reducing revenue, and a designation of such provision as an emergency requirement pursuant to 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the chair of the Committee on the Budget shall not count the budgetary effects of such provision for purposes of title III and title IV of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and the Rules of the House of Representatives.

“(e) ENFORCEMENT OF DISCRETIONARY SPENDING CAPS.—It shall not be in order in the House of Representatives or the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, or conference report that would cause the discretionary spending limits as set forth in section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act to be exceeded.”.

(b) MOTION TO STRIKE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—(1) In the House of Representatives, if a reported bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, contains a provision providing new budget authority and outlays or reducing revenue, and a designation of such provision as an emergency pursuant to this section, the chair of the Committee on the Budget shall not count the budgetary effects of such provision for purposes of title III and title IV of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(2) In the House of Representatives, a proposal to strike a designation under paragraph (1) shall be excluded from an evaluation of budgetary effects for purposes of title III and title IV of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(3) An amendment offered under paragraph (2) that also proposes to reduce each amount appropriated or otherwise made available by the pending measure that is not required to be appropriated or otherwise made available shall be in order at any point in the reading of the pending measure.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(11) The terms ‘emergency’ and ‘unanticipated’ have the meanings given to such terms in section 250(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.”.

(d) APPEALS FOR DISCRETIONARY CAPS.—Section 904(c)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended by striking “and 312(c)” and inserting “312(c), and 314(e)”.

TITLE II—VOTE ON THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

SEC. 201. VOTE ON THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT.

After September 30, 2011 and not later than December 31, 2011, the House of Representatives and Senate, respectively, shall vote on passage of a joint resolution, the title of which is as follows: “Joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.”.

SEC. 202. CONSIDERATION BY THE OTHER HOUSE.

(a) HOUSE CONSIDERATION.—

(1) REFERRAL.—If the House receives a joint resolution described in section 201 from the Senate, such joint resolution shall be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. If the committee fails to report the joint resolution within five legislative days, it shall be in order to move that the House discharge the committee from further consideration of the joint resolution. Such a motion shall not be in order after the House has disposed of a motion to discharge the joint resolution. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption

without intervening motion except twenty minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. If such a motion is adopted, the House shall proceed immediately to consider the joint resolution in accordance with paragraph (3). A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

(2) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—After the joint resolution has been referred to the appropriate calendar or the committee has been discharged (other than by motion) from its consideration, it shall be in order to move to proceed to consider the joint resolution in the House. Such a motion shall not be in order after the House has disposed of a motion to proceed with respect to the joint resolution. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

(3) CONSIDERATION.—The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against the joint resolution and against its consideration are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to its passage without intervening motion except two hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent and one motion to limit debate on the joint resolution. A motion to reconsider the vote on passage of the joint resolution shall not be in order.

(b) SENATE CONSIDERATION.—(1) If the Senate receives a joint resolution described in section 201 from the House of Representatives, such joint resolution shall be referred to the appropriate committee of the Senate. If such committee has not reported the joint resolution at the close of the fifth session day after its receipt by the Senate, such committee shall be automatically discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution and it shall be placed on the calendar.

(2) Consideration of the joint resolution and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 20 hours, which shall be divided equally between the majority and minority leaders or their designees. A motion further to limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint resolution is not in order. Any debatable motion or appeal is debatable for not to exceed 1 hour, to be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the motion or appeal. All time used for consideration of the joint resolution, including time used for quorum calls and voting, shall be counted against the total 20 hours of consideration.

(3) If the Senate has voted to proceed to a joint resolution, the vote on passage of the joint resolution shall be taken on or before the close of the seventh session day after such joint resolution has been reported or discharged or immediately following the conclusion of consideration of the joint resolution, and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate.

TITLE III—DEBT CEILING DISAPPROVAL PROCESS

SEC. 301. DEBT CEILING DISAPPROVAL PROCESS.

Subchapter I of chapter 31 of subtitle III of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 3101(b), by striking “or otherwise” and inserting “or as provided by section 3101A or otherwise”; and

(2) by inserting after section 3101, the following:

“§3101A. **Presidential modification of the debt ceiling**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) \$900 BILLION.—

“(A) CERTIFICATION.—If, not later than December 31, 2011, the President submits a written certification to Congress that the President has determined that the debt subject to limit is within \$100,000,000,000 of the limit in section 3101(b) and that further borrowing is required to meet existing commitments, the Secretary of the Treasury may exercise authority to borrow an additional \$900,000,000,000 subject to the enactment of a joint resolution of disapproval enacted pursuant to this section. Upon submission of such certification, the limit on debt provided in section 3101(b) (referred to in this section as the ‘debt limit’) is increased by \$400,000,000,000.

“(B) RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—Congress may consider a joint resolution of disapproval of the authority under subparagraph (A) as provided in subsections (b) through (f). The joint resolution of disapproval considered under this section shall contain only the language provided in subsection (b)(2). If the time for disapproval has lapsed without enactment of a joint resolution of disapproval under this section, the debt limit is increased by an additional \$500,000,000,000.

“(2) ADDITIONAL AMOUNT.—

“(A) CERTIFICATION.—If, after the debt limit is increased by \$900,000,000,000 under paragraph (1), the President submits a written certification to Congress that the President has determined that the debt subject to limit is within \$100,000,000,000 of the limit in section 3101(b) and that further borrowing is required to meet existing commitments, the Secretary of the Treasury may exercise authority to borrow an additional amount equal to \$1,600,000,000,000 if the amount of deficit reduction achieved pursuant to the enactment of the joint committee bill as set forth pursuant to section 401(b)(3) of the Budget Control Act of 2011 is greater than \$1,600,000,000,000, subject to the enactment of a joint resolution of disapproval enacted pursuant to this section.

“(B) RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—Congress may consider a joint resolution of disapproval of the authority under subparagraph (A) as provided in subsections (b) through (f). The joint resolution of disapproval considered under this section shall contain only the language provided in subsection (b)(2). If the time for disapproval has lapsed without enactment of a joint resolution of disapproval under this section, the debt limit is increased by the amount authorized under subparagraph (A).

“(b) JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except for the \$400,000,000,000 increase in the debt limit provided by subsection (a)(1)(A), the debt limit may not be raised under this section if, within 60 calendar days after the date on which Congress receives a certification described in subsection (a)(1) or within 15 calendar days after Congress receives the certification described in subsection (a)(2) (regardless of whether Congress is in session), there is enacted into law a joint resolution disapproving the President’s exercise of authority with respect to such additional amount.

“(2) CONTENTS OF JOINT RESOLUTION.—For the purpose of this section, the term ‘joint resolution’ means only a joint resolution—

“(A)(i) for the certification described in subsection (a)(1), that is introduced on September 6, 7, 8, or 9, 2011 (or, if the Senate was not in session, the next calendar day on which the Senate is in session); and

“(ii) for the certification described in subsection (a)(2), that is introduced between the date the certification is received and 3 calendar days after that date;

“(B) which does not have a preamble;

“(C) the title of which is only as follows: ‘Joint resolution relating to the disapproval of the President’s exercise of authority to increase

the debt limit, as submitted under section 3101A of title 31, United States Code, on _____’, with the blank containing the date of such submission; and

“(D) the matter after the resolving clause of which is only as follows: ‘That Congress disapproves of the President’s exercise of authority to increase the debt limit, as exercised pursuant to the certification under section 3101A(a) of title 31, United States Code.’.

“(c) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

“(1) RECONVENING.—Upon receipt of a certification described in subsection (a)(2), the Speaker, if the House would otherwise be adjourned, shall notify the Members of the House that, pursuant to this section, the House shall convene not later than the second calendar day after receipt of such certification.

“(2) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—Any committee of the House of Representatives to which a joint resolution is referred shall report it to the House without amendment not later than 5 calendar days after the date of introduction of a joint resolution described in subsection (a). If a committee fails to report the joint resolution within that period, the committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution and the joint resolution shall be referred to the appropriate calendar.

“(3) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—After each committee authorized to consider a joint resolution reports it to the House or has been discharged from its consideration, it shall be in order, not later than the sixth day after introduction of a joint resolution under subsection (a), to move to proceed to consider the joint resolution in the House. All points of order against the motion are waived. Such a motion shall not be in order after the House has disposed of a motion to proceed on a joint resolution addressing a particular submission. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion. The motion shall not be debatable. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

“(4) CONSIDERATION.—The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against the joint resolution and against its consideration are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to its passage without intervening motion except two hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. A motion to reconsider the vote on passage of the joint resolution shall not be in order.

“(d) EXPEDITED PROCEDURE IN SENATE.—

“(1) RECONVENING.—Upon receipt of a certification under subsection (a)(2), if the Senate has adjourned or recessed for more than 2 days, the majority leader of the Senate, after consultation with the minority leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the Senate that, pursuant to this section, the Senate shall convene not later than the second calendar day after receipt of such message.

“(2) PLACEMENT ON CALENDAR.—Upon introduction in the Senate, the joint resolution shall be immediately placed on the calendar.

“(3) FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is in order at any time during the period beginning on the day after the date on which Congress receives a certification under subsection (a) and, for the certification described in subsection (a)(1), ending on September 14, 2011, and for the certification described in subsection (a)(2), on the 6th day after the date on which Congress receives a certification under subsection (a) (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) to move to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and all points

of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion to proceed is not debatable. The motion is not subject to a motion to postpone. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the resolution is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business until disposed of.

“(B) CONSIDERATION.—Consideration of the joint resolution, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between the majority and minority leaders or their designees. A motion further to limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint resolution is not in order.

“(C) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—If the Senate has voted to proceed to a joint resolution, the vote on passage of the joint resolution shall occur immediately following the conclusion of consideration of the joint resolution, and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate.

“(D) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCEDURE.—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate, as the case may be, to the procedure relating to a joint resolution shall be decided without debate.

“(e) AMENDMENT NOT IN ORDER.—A joint resolution of disapproval considered pursuant to this section shall not be subject to amendment in either the House of Representatives or the Senate.

“(f) COORDINATION WITH ACTION BY OTHER HOUSE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If, before passing the joint resolution, one House receives from the other a joint resolution—

“(A) the joint resolution of the other House shall not be referred to a committee; and

“(B) the procedure in the receiving House shall be the same as if no joint resolution had been received from the other House until the vote on passage, when the joint resolution received from the other House shall supplant the joint resolution of the receiving House.

“(2) TREATMENT OF JOINT RESOLUTION OF OTHER HOUSE.—If the Senate fails to introduce or consider a joint resolution under this section, the joint resolution of the House shall be entitled to expedited floor procedures under this section.

“(3) TREATMENT OF COMPANION MEASURES.—If, following passage of the joint resolution in the Senate, the Senate then receives the companion measure from the House of Representatives, the companion measure shall not be debatable.

“(4) CONSIDERATION AFTER PASSAGE.—(A) If Congress passes a joint resolution, the period beginning on the date the President is presented with the joint resolution and ending on the date the President signs, allows to become law without his signature, or vetoes and returns the joint resolution (but excluding days when either House is not in session) shall be disregarded in computing the appropriate calendar day period described in subsection (b)(1).

“(B) debate on a veto message in the Senate under this section shall be 1 hour equally divided between the majority and minority leaders or their designees.”.

“(5) VETO OVERRIDE.—If within the appropriate calendar day period described in subsection (b)(1), Congress overrides a veto of the joint resolution with respect to authority exercised pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a), the limit on debt provided in section

3101(b) shall not be raised, except for the \$400,000,000,000 increase in the limit provided by subsection (a)(1)(A).

“(6) SEQUESTER.—(A) If within the 60-calendar day period described in subsection (b)(1), Congress overrides a veto of the joint resolution with respect to authority exercised pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection (a), OMB shall, immediately, sequester pro rata amounts from all discretionary and direct spending accounts as defined in section 250(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900(c)) (as in effect September 30, 2006) equal to \$400,000,000,000. No reduction of payments for net interest (functional category 900) shall be made under any order issued under this paragraph.

“(B) Section 255 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall not apply to this section, except that payments for military personnel accounts (within subfunctional category 051), TRICARE for Life, Medicare (functional category 570), military retirement, Social Security (functional category 650), veterans (functional category 700), and net interest (functional category 900) shall be exempt.

“(g) RULES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE.—This subsection and subsections (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f) are enacted by Congress—

“(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, and as such it is deemed a part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in that House in the case of a joint resolution, and it supersedes other rules only to the extent that it is inconsistent with such rules; and

“(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as relating to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.”.

TITLE IV—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON DEFICIT REDUCTION

SEC. 401. ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this title:

(1) JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE.—The term “joint committee” means the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction established under subsection (b)(1).

(2) JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE BILL.—The term “joint committee bill” means a bill consisting of the proposed legislative language of the joint committee recommended under subsection (b)(3)(B) and introduced under section 402(a).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a joint select committee of Congress to be known as the “Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction”.

(2) GOAL.—The goal of the joint committee shall be to reduce the deficit by \$1,800,000,000,000 or more over the period of fiscal years 2012 to 2021.

(3) DUTIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—

(i) IMPROVING THE SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM FISCAL IMBALANCE.—The joint committee shall provide recommendations and legislative language that will significantly improve the short-term and long-term fiscal imbalance of the Federal Government.

(ii) RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES.—Not later than October 14, 2011, each committee of the House of Representatives and the Senate may transmit to the joint committee its recommendations for changes in law to reduce the deficit consistent with the goal described in subsection (b)(2) for the joint committee’s consideration.

(B) REPORT, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than November 23, 2011, the joint committee shall vote on—

(I) a report that contains a detailed statement of the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the joint committee and the CBO estimate required by paragraph (5)(D)(ii); and

(II) proposed legislative language to carry out such recommendations as described in subclause (I) which shall include a statement of the deficit reduction achieved by the legislation over the period of fiscal years 2012 to 2021.

Any change to the Rules of the House of Representatives or the Standing Rules of the Senate included in the report or legislative language shall be considered to be merely advisory.

(ii) APPROVAL OF REPORT AND LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE.—The report of the joint committee and the proposed legislative language described in clause (i) shall require the approval of a majority of the members of the joint committee.

(iii) ADDITIONAL VIEWS.—A member of the joint committee who gives notice of an intention to file supplemental, minority, or additional views at the time of final joint committee vote on the approval of the report and legislative language under clause (ii), shall be entitled to 3 calendar days in which to file such views in writing with the staff director of the joint committee. Such views shall then be included in the joint committee report and printed in the same volume, or part thereof, and their inclusion shall be noted on the cover of the report. In the absence of timely notice, the joint committee report may be printed and transmitted immediately without such views.

(iv) TRANSMISSION OF REPORT AND LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE.—If the report and legislative language are approved by the joint committee pursuant to clause (ii), then not later than December 2, 2011, the joint committee shall submit the joint committee report and legislative language described in clause (i) to the President, the Vice President, the Speaker of the House, and the Majority and Minority Leaders of both Houses.

(v) REPORT AND LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE TO BE MADE PUBLIC.—Upon the approval or disapproval of the joint committee report and legislative language pursuant to clause (ii), the joint committee shall promptly make the full report and legislative language, and a record of the vote, available to the public.

(4) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The joint committee shall be composed of 12 members appointed pursuant to subparagraph (B).

(B) DESIGNATION.—Members of the joint committee shall be appointed as follows:

(i) The majority leader of the Senate shall appoint 3 members from among Members of the Senate.

(ii) The minority leader of the Senate shall appoint 3 members from among Members of the Senate.

(iii) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint 3 members from among Members of the House of Representatives.

(iv) The minority leader of the House of Representatives shall appoint 3 members from among Members of the House of Representatives.

(C) CO-CHAIRS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—There shall be 2 Co-Chairs of the joint committee. The majority leader of the Senate shall appoint one Co-Chair from among the members of the joint committee. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint the second Co-Chair from among the members of the joint committee. The Co-Chairs shall be appointed not later than 14 calendar days after the date of enactment of this section.

(ii) STAFF DIRECTOR.—The Co-Chairs, acting jointly, shall hire the staff director of the joint committee.

(D) DATE.—Members of the joint committee shall be appointed not later than 14 calendar days after the date of enactment of this section.

(E) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—Members shall be appointed for the life of the joint committee. Any vacancy in the joint committee shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled not later than 14 calendar days after the date on which the vacancy occurs in the same manner as the original designation. If a member of the committee leaves Congress, the member is no longer a member of the joint committee and a vacancy shall exist.

(5) ADMINISTRATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To enable the joint committee to exercise its powers, functions and duties, there are authorized to be disbursed by the Senate the actual and necessary expenses of the joint committee approved by the co-chairs, subject to Senate rules and regulations.

(B) EXPENSES.—In carrying out its functions, the joint committee is authorized to incur expenses in the same manner and under the same conditions as the Joint Economic Committee as authorized by section 11 of Public Law 79-304 (15 U.S.C. 1024 (d)).

(C) QUORUM.—7 members of the joint committee shall constitute a quorum for purposes of voting, meeting, and holding hearings.

(D) VOTING.—

(i) PROXY VOTING.—No proxy voting shall be allowed on behalf of the members of the joint committee.

(ii) CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATES.—The Congressional Budget Office shall provide estimates of the legislation (as described in paragraph (3)(B)) in accordance with sections 308(a) and 201(f) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 639(a) and 601(f)) (including estimates of the effect of interest payment on the debt). In addition, the Congressional Budget Office shall provide information on the budgetary effect of the legislation beyond the year 2021. The joint committee may not vote on any version of the report, recommendations, or legislative language unless such estimates are available for consideration by all members of the joint committee at least 48 hours prior to the vote as certified by the Co-Chairs.

(E) MEETINGS.—

(i) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 45 calendar days after the date of enactment of this section, the joint committee shall hold its first meeting.

(ii) AGENDA.—The Co-Chairs shall provide an agenda to the joint committee members not less than 48 hours in advance of any meeting.

(F) HEARINGS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The joint committee may, for the purpose of carrying out this section, hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, require attendance of witnesses and production of books, papers, and documents, take such testimony, receive such evidence, and administer such oaths the joint committee considers advisable.

(ii) HEARING PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CO-CHAIRS.—

(I) ANNOUNCEMENT.—The joint committee Co-Chairs shall make a public announcement of the date, place, time, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted not less than 7 days in advance of such hearing, unless the Co-Chairs determine that there is good cause to begin such hearing at an earlier date.

(II) WRITTEN STATEMENT.—A witness appearing before the joint committee shall file a written statement of proposed testimony at least 2 calendar days prior to appearance, unless the requirement is waived by the Co-Chairs, following their determination that there is good cause for failure of compliance.

(G) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Upon written request of the Co-Chairs, a Federal agency shall

provide technical assistance to the joint committee in order for the joint committee to carry out its duties.

(c) **STAFF OF JOINT COMMITTEE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Co-Chairs of the joint committee may jointly appoint and fix the compensation of staff as they deem necessary, within the guidelines for Senate employees and following all applicable Senate rules and employment requirements.

(2) **ETHICAL STANDARDS.**—Members on the joint committee who serve in the House of Representatives shall be governed by the House ethics rules and requirements. Members of the Senate who serve on the joint committee and staff of the joint committee shall comply with Senate ethics rules.

(d) **TERMINATION.**—The joint committee shall terminate on January 13, 2012.

SEC. 402. EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION OF JOINT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

(a) **INTRODUCTION.**—If approved by the majority required by section 401(b)(3)(B)(ii), the proposed legislative language submitted pursuant to section 401(b)(3)(B)(iv) shall be introduced in the Senate (by request) on the next day on which the Senate is in session by the majority leader of the Senate or by a Member of the Senate designated by the majority leader of the Senate and shall be introduced in the House of Representatives (by request) on the next legislative day by the majority leader of the House or by a Member of the House designated by the majority leader of the House.

(b) **CONSIDERATION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**—

(1) **REFERRAL AND REPORTING.**—Any committee of the House of Representatives to which the joint committee bill is referred shall report it to the House without amendment not later than December 9, 2011. If a committee fails to report the joint committee bill within that period, it shall be in order to move that the House discharge the committee from further consideration of the bill. Such a motion shall not be in order after the last committee authorized to consider the bill reports it to the House or after the House has disposed of a motion to discharge the bill. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion except 20 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. If such a motion is adopted, the House shall proceed immediately to consider the joint committee bill in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3). A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

(2) **PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.**—After the last committee authorized to consider a joint committee bill reports it to the House or has been discharged (other than by motion) from its consideration, it shall be in order to move to proceed to consider the joint committee bill in the House. Such a motion shall not be in order after the House has disposed of a motion to proceed with respect to the joint committee bill. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

(3) **CONSIDERATION.**—The joint committee bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against the joint committee bill and against its consideration are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint committee bill to its passage without intervening motion except 2 hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent and one motion to limit debate on the joint committee bill. A motion to reconsider the vote on passage of the joint committee bill shall not be in order.

(4) **VOTE ON PASSAGE.**—The vote on passage of the joint committee bill shall occur not later than December 23, 2011.

(c) **EXPEDITED PROCEDURE IN THE SENATE.**—

(1) **COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION.**—A joint committee bill introduced in the Senate under subsection (a) shall be jointly referred to the committee or committees of jurisdiction, which committees shall report the bill without any revision and with a favorable recommendation, an unfavorable recommendation, or without recommendation, not later than December 9, 2011. If any committee fails to report the bill within that period, that committee shall be automatically discharged from consideration of the bill, and the bill shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

(2) **MOTION TO PROCEED.**—Notwithstanding Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is in order, not later than 2 days of session after the date on which a joint committee bill is reported or discharged from all committees to which it was referred, for the majority leader of the Senate or the majority leader's designee to move to proceed to the consideration of the joint committee bill. It shall also be in order for any Member of the Senate to move to proceed to the consideration of the joint committee bill at any time after the conclusion of such 2-day period. A motion to proceed is in order even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to. All points of order against the motion to proceed to the joint committee bill are waived. The motion to proceed is not debatable. The motion is not subject to a motion to postpone. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint committee bill is agreed to, the joint committee bill shall remain the unfinished business until disposed of.

(3) **CONSIDERATION.**—All points of order against the joint committee bill and against consideration of the joint committee bill are waived. Consideration of the joint committee bill and of all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith shall not exceed a total of 30 hours which shall be divided equally between the Majority and Minority Leaders or their designees. A motion further to limit debate on the joint committee bill is in order, shall require an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members duly chosen and sworn, and is not debatable. Any debatable motion or appeal is debatable for not to exceed 1 hour, to be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the motion or appeal. All time used for consideration of the joint committee bill, including time used for quorum calls and voting, shall be counted against the total 30 hours of consideration.

(4) **NO AMENDMENTS.**—An amendment to the joint committee bill, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint committee bill, is not in order.

(5) **VOTE ON PASSAGE.**—If the Senate has voted to proceed to the joint committee bill, the vote on passage of the joint committee bill shall occur immediately following the conclusion of the debate on a joint committee bill, and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested. The vote on passage of the joint committee bill shall occur not later than December 23, 2011.

(6) **RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCEDURE.**—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate, as the case may be, to the procedure relating to a joint committee bill shall be decided without debate.

(d) **AMENDMENT.**—The joint committee bill shall not be subject to amendment in either the House of Representatives or the Senate.

(e) **CONSIDERATION BY THE OTHER HOUSE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If, before passing the joint committee bill, one House receives from the other a joint committee bill—

(A) the joint committee bill of the other House shall not be referred to a committee; and

(B) the procedure in the receiving House shall be the same as if no joint committee bill had been received from the other House until the vote on passage, when the joint committee bill received from the other House shall supplant the joint committee bill of the receiving House.

(2) **REVENUE MEASURE.**—This subsection shall not apply to the House of Representatives if the joint committee bill received from the Senate is a revenue measure.

(f) **RULES TO COORDINATE ACTION WITH OTHER HOUSE.**—

(1) **TREATMENT OF JOINT COMMITTEE BILL OF OTHER HOUSE.**—If the Senate fails to introduce or consider a joint committee bill under this section, the joint committee bill of the House shall be entitled to expedited floor procedures under this section.

(2) **TREATMENT OF COMPANION MEASURES IN THE SENATE.**—If following passage of the joint committee bill in the Senate, the Senate then receives the joint committee bill from the House of Representatives, the House-passed joint committee bill shall not be debatable. The vote on passage of the joint committee bill in the Senate shall be considered to be the vote on passage of the joint committee bill received from the House of Representatives.

(3) **VETOES.**—If the President vetoes the joint committee bill, debate on a veto message in the Senate under this section shall be 1 hour equally divided between the majority and minority leaders or their designees.

(g) **LOSS OF PRIVILEGE.**—The provisions of this section shall cease to apply to the joint committee bill if—

(1) the joint committee fails to vote on the report or proposed legislative language required under section 201(b)(3)(B)(i) by November 23, 2011; or

(2) the joint committee bill does not pass both Houses by December 23, 2011.

SEC. 403. FUNDING.

Funding for the joint committee shall be derived in equal portions from—

(1) the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the contingent fund of the Senate from the appropriations account "Miscellaneous Items", subject to Senate rules and regulations.

SEC. 404. RULEMAKING.

The provisions of this title are enacted by Congress—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the House of Representatives and the Senate, respectively, and as such they shall be considered as part of the rules of each House, respectively, or of that House to which they specifically apply, and such rules shall supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent therewith; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change such rules (so far as relating to such House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of such House.

TITLE V—PELL GRANT AND STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM CHANGES

SEC. 501. FEDERAL PELL GRANTS.

Section 401(b)(7)(A)(iv) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a(b)(7)(A)(iv)) is amended—

(1) in subclause (II), by striking "\$3,183,000,000" and inserting "\$12,183,000,000"; and

(2) in subclause (III), by striking "\$0" and inserting "\$8,000,000,000".

SEC. 502. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY TO MAKE INTEREST SUBSIDIZED LOANS TO GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS.

Section 455(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY TO MAKE INTEREST SUBSIDIZED LOANS TO GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraph (B) and notwithstanding any provision of this part or part B, for any period of instruction beginning on or after July 1, 2012—

“(i) a graduate or professional student shall not be eligible to receive a Federal Direct Stafford loan under this part; and

“(ii) the maximum annual amount of Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford loans such a student may borrow in any academic year (as defined in section 481(a)(2)) or its equivalent shall be the maximum annual amount for such student determined under section 428H, plus an amount equal to the amount of Federal Direct Stafford loans the student would have received in the absence of this subparagraph.

“(B) **EXCEPTION.**—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to an individual enrolled in course work specified in paragraph (3)(B) or (4)(B) of section 484(b).”.

SEC. 503. TERMINATION OF DIRECT LOAN REPAYMENT INCENTIVES.

Section 455(b)(8) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(b)(8)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by amending the header to read as follows: “(A) **INCENTIVES FOR LOANS DISBURSED BEFORE JULY 1, 2012.**—”; and

(B) by inserting “with respect to loans for which the first disbursement of principal is made before July 1, 2012,” after “of this part”;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “with respect to loans for which the first disbursement of principal is made before July 1, 2012” after “repayment incentives”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) **NO REPAYMENT INCENTIVES FOR NEW LOANS DISBURSED ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2012.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of this part, the Secretary is prohibited from authorizing or providing any repayment incentive not otherwise authorized under this part to encourage on-time repayment of a loan under this part for which the first disbursement of principal is made on or after July 1, 2012, including any reduction in the interest or origination fee rate paid by a borrower of such a loan, except that the Secretary may provide for an interest rate reduction for a borrower who agrees to have payments on such a loan automatically electronically debited from a bank account.”.

SEC. 504. INAPPLICABILITY OF TITLE IV NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING AND MASTER CALENDAR EXCEPTION.

Sections 482(c) and 492 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1089(c), 1098a) shall not apply to the amendments made by this title, or to any regulations promulgated under those amendments.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 2 hours, with 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules, 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means, and 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget.

The gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) and the gentlewoman from

New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) each will control 30 minutes; the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN), and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the measure before us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, it's about 1½ minutes after 3 p.m. on July 28, 2011. At this moment, we begin the debate on one of the most crucial items that we have had or will have before us.

Since 1962, on 75 different occasions, the United States Congress has chosen to increase the debt ceiling to ensure that we paid our past obligations. It has been done 75 times without ever having any strings attached whatsoever.

Last November, we all know that there was an overwhelming message that was sent by the American people to Washington, DC; and that message was, number one, create jobs, get our economy back on track, and in so doing, rein in the dramatic increase in the size and scope and reach of government that we witnessed in the past several years. We all know that in the last 4 years we've had an 82 percent increase in non-defense discretionary spending. And so the message that was sent was: That has to come to an end.

So Speaker BOEHNER, when asked by the President of the United States to move an increase in the debt ceiling, said that he was willing to do that. He recognized, as I believe an overwhelming majority of both Democrats and Republicans in this institution recognize, it is absolutely essential that we increase the debt ceiling. We have to do everything that we can to ensure that Social Security checks get to those retirees. We have to make sure that the many other obligations that we have are in fact met.

And on that one issue of Social Security, we know that on July 12 the President of the United States in a speech said that if we don't see an increase in the debt ceiling by August 2, he could not guarantee that on August 3 those Social Security checks would go to our retirees. And so, Mr. Speaker, what happened was Speaker BOEHNER said we want to make sure that those Social Security checks get out. We want to make sure that we increase the debt ceiling so our Nation doesn't de-

fault and follow the pattern of Greece, Portugal, Ireland, and other countries in the world that have gone through tremendous economic devastation.

But what the Speaker said is that, while we are going to, in increasing the debt ceiling, meet those obligations of the past, we are not going to do it the way it has been done the last 75 times. We are going to get to the root cause of why it is that we have to increase the debt ceiling, and that is the runaway spending that Democrat and Republican, alike, decries regularly. And so the Speaker said that he would increase the debt ceiling, but he wanted to ensure that we cut spending in an amount that was greater than the level of the debt ceiling increase.

And so he began discussions, recognizing that Republicans—those who won this majority last November—only controlled the United States House of Representatives. Speaker BOEHNER does not look at the world through rose-colored glasses. He knows that the Republicans don't control the United States Senate and he knows that he has to work with President Obama. But he does know that the last statement that was made by the American people in November of last year was we've got to have a dramatic change in the course that we have been on. And so he began negotiating. He began discussions. He began working over the past several weeks and months to try to put together a bipartisan effort so that Democrats and Republicans, alike, could come together and ensure that those Social Security checks get out and that the other obligations that we have are in fact met and that we do increase our debt ceiling.

We've all followed, and the American people are following very closely, the global markets are following closely, this debate and the discussions that are taking place. It came to a head last weekend when we know that the President of the United States had requested a 50 percent increase in the level of taxes to be increased from \$800 billion to \$1.2 trillion, and the Speaker of the House said that that was a non-starter. So the Speaker said that he wanted to work with the bipartisan leadership of the United States Congress, both Houses of Congress. And so last weekend we know that Speaker BOEHNER and the Democratic Majority Leader of the United States Senate, HARRY REID, came together and fashioned, by and large, the measure that is before us today.

Now, I'm the first to say that HARRY REID no longer supports this measure. HARRY REID has indicated that he does not support it. We have this letter from the 53 Senators. We have word that they're going to table this measure when it passes the House of Representatives. But it's important, Mr. Speaker, for everyone to recognize that what is before us today is, by and large, a

measure that is not what Speaker BOEHNER would write if he were doing it on his own. It's a measure that is the byproduct of bipartisan discussion and, as the Speaker likes to say, the ability to find common ground.

We are, today, in a position where we face, in just a few days, the prospect of those Social Security checks not going out. And, Mr. Speaker, that's why I don't like this measure, but I'm voting for it. I'm voting for it because I want to get those Social Security checks out, I want to make sure that the United States of America does not default, and I believe that that's the responsible thing for us to do.

What we have before us in the House of Representatives is the closest thing to a bipartisan agreement. First of all, we know that, by and large, there have been no other plans put forward, but the plan that does exist—there are very few plans put forward. The plan that has been put forward by Senator REID is one that does not enjoy bipartisan support and it was not put together in a bipartisan way. This one was, by and large, even though it does not have the support of Senator REID any longer, was put together based on the discussions they had. I believe that this measure is deserving of strong bipartisan support here in the House of Representatives and from our colleagues in the United States Senate as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues, in the name of sanity and in the name of ensuring that we maintain the solvency and the strength of the greatest nation the world has ever known, that we pass this measure and that we send it to our colleagues in the United States Senate so that they can do the same, and so that when it's placed on the desk of the President of the United States, he will have his opportunity to ensure that what he predicted as a possibility for August 3, that being that Social Security checks do not go out, will not happen.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1510

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Massachusetts seek to control the time of the gentlewoman from New York?

Mr. MCGOVERN. Yes, I do.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, to open debate, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished Democratic whip.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

There is no common ground here, nor was it sought. We find ourselves at an unprecedented place today. America stands on the brink of default. It stands there, my friends, because the leadership of this House has failed to act in a timely and responsible way.

This is an unprecedented status for America, an intolerable place, and Americans are understandably outraged at this politically caused impasse that confronts us, the consequences of which for every American and our country have been correctly characterized as "catastrophic."

For more than two centuries, an American default has been unthinkable. The men and women who came before us in this Chamber built up the full faith and credit of the United States until it became the bedrock of the world's economy. Despite their differences, they agreed that the honor that comes from paying our bills responsibly and on time was a moral obligation.

Now our Nation is on the verge of breaking that trust. If America fails to pay its bills and default comes, the wound to the global economy, to jobs across this country, to our standing among nations, that wound will be entirely self-inflicted. It cannot and must not come to that.

Americans have overwhelmingly called on us to come to a balanced, bipartisan solution, one that pays our bills, reduces our deficit, and draws common contributions from all Americans—not only the vulnerable and the unconnected, but also those who have enjoyed our Nation's prosperity.

That is the consensus of the vast majority of the people who sent us here. They understand that "my way or the highway" is no way to govern. They understand that all of us who had a hand in accumulating our debt must share the work of paying it off. They understand that the prosperity and prestige of our country are at stake right now. And they are relying on the ability of this body to put partisanship aside.

There will, in fact, be bipartisan opposition to this bill, but I predict there will be no Democrat for this bill because bipartisanship was not sought.

So I am deeply concerned that the short-term plan offered by Speaker BOEHNER would put us right back, right back here on the precipice of imminent default in just a few months, casting a pall of uncertainty over our economy and leading to a job-destroying credit downgrade.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. HOYER. Each of us, ladies and gentleman of this House, has a duty to end this impasse. Let's live up to that duty by voting down this partisan legislation.

And then let's come together on a balanced, bipartisan solution to reduce our deficit and pay our bills. I suggest to my friend from California that Majority Leader REID has offered just such a plan. In fact, it incorporates exactly what Speaker BOEHNER suggested

in his speech in New York City. Let us embrace that plan. After this fails, let the Senate send it to us.

This is a moment of great crisis for our country and for our citizens, a crisis that demands our putting aside partisanship and politics for the good of our people. We're not there yet, but it is my great hope that we as a body can live up to that challenge. Our fellow citizens expect it, our duty demands it, our oath requires it.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I would just say to my very good friend from Maryland, the distinguished whip, that bipartisanship has been sought, and I am seeking it right now. So I hope very much that we will be in a position where we will be able to enjoy bipartisan support for this.

I yield 2 minutes to my very good friend, the gentlewoman from Hinsdale, Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT), a hardworking member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mrs. BIGGERT. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, there is not a single Member of Congress or the administration who did not know that this day was coming. Washington was spending tax dollars faster than ever before, and the debt ceiling was caving in.

The question is: How do we respond? Do we protest? Do we argue? Or do we govern?

Last November, the voters asked for change. That's how this House stopped the largest tax increase in history and cut spending this year to levels not seen since 2008.

Today, we have the opportunity to take the next step by passing the Budget Control Act. This is a balanced compromise that will avert a default and stop the cycle of debt that is draining our economy. It makes nearly \$1 trillion in immediate cuts—more than the debt increase—caps future spending, and lays the groundwork for additional savings in a balanced budget amendment.

In a perfect world, some of us would like more cuts. Those on the left also want a bigger plan—or at least a big enough debt increase to carry the President beyond the next campaign.

But the American people care about jobs, not politics. They want solutions that will restore confidence, credit, and growth in the United States. And neither a default nor a 2-year budget gimmick will accomplish that task. This bill will.

I urge my colleagues on both sides to recognize that good politics is about doing what's right for the American people. Let's take this opportunity, cut spending, and put America back on a sound fiscal path to prosperity.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, we are 5 days away from a historic, unprecedented, and needless default. Instead of

acting responsibly and in a bipartisan way to raise the debt ceiling, the Republican majority continues to hold the American economy hostage to press their agenda.

Even though the debt ceiling was raised seven times under President Bush, even though 110 current Members of the majority have voted to raise the debt ceiling in the past, the majority continues its dangerous game of brinksmanship.

Included in this bill is \$917 billion in cuts mostly to critical public investments like education, infrastructure, biomedical research, law enforcement, and food safety. They will all be slashed. And yet these programs, which are called discretionary programs, they are only 3.1 percent higher than they were 5 years ago, less than what it was under both Ronald Reagan and the first Bush administration.

It is disingenuous for this majority to pretend that these public investments, critical to job creation and economic growth, are the source of our deficit problems. The primary reason the deficits have grown is because revenues are lower than they have been in 60 years—15 percent lower thanks to the Bush tax breaks for the wealthy—and because we initiated two wars on the Nation's credit card.

If the majority was serious about deficit reduction, they would allow for additional revenue by asking the wealthiest Americans and corporate special interests to share in the sacrifice rather than seeking to protect them—which they do—in this legislation.

The majority is not serious. This bill is not about deficit reduction. It is about using the threat of default to enact a radical agenda, one that will cost jobs and undermine the American economy, where middle class families would have an opportunity for a decent retirement.

In a few months they are coming back, \$1.6 trillion in cuts to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. This form of hostage taking is not responsible leadership. It's the wrong direction for our country. I urge my colleagues to vote against this incredible, outrageous piece of legislation, and I call on the majority to quit playing political games.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I would say to my good friend that I believe that the majority is serious, and I believe that the Democrats are serious in their quest to ensure that we don't default. This is their opportunity to step up to the plate and make sure that it doesn't happen.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield 2 minutes to my very good friend from Gold River, Mr. LUNGREN, the hardworking chairman of the Administration Committee.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, what is incredible, what is outrageous, what is unprece-

dent is the amount of debt that we are incurring on a daily basis and have been doing for some time. Those who are being held hostage are our children and our grandchildren and their futures. The question we have is whether or not we are going to reach a balanced approach.

□ 1520

What do I say a balanced approach would be? A balanced approach is when we are once again creating jobs in this economy.

What those on the other side have led us to believe is that the answer to our problems is to follow the European experience over the last 30 to 40 years, and that is to rely more on government, higher taxes, with the net result of a shrinking private economy and fewer jobs.

What is unprecedented is that we are now in the longest period of continuous unemployment that we've seen since the Great Depression. What is unprecedented is that if you call this a recovery, it is the most jobless recovery in the history of modern-day United States. What it is, is very much like what we've seen in Europe over the last 30 years.

So the question before us is do we follow the European experience with greater reliance on government; greater balance, which translated means "taxes," when we know that not a single economist of any repute would tell us that the answer to our jobless situation is to tax those who create the jobs?

That's why this is such an important vote for us today. That is, we will show that the way to the future is the American way; the way we've done it in the past: reliance on the private sector, allowing the ingenuity, the creativity, the risk-taking, the courage of the American people to bring us back to prosperity.

Those on the other side, the gentlewoman from New York just suggested that the way to do that is through the expansion of government programs. That's not the essence of how we create jobs.

We are in an unprecedented period of time; that is true, Mr. Speaker. We must act in an unprecedented way, and that is to follow the Boehner plan.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Robert Greenstein, the president of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, says that if enacted, the Boehner bill could well produce the greatest poverty and hardship produced by any law in modern history.

CENTER ON BUDGET
AND POLICY PRIORITIES

July 25, 2011.

STATEMENT: ROBERT GREENSTEIN, PRESIDENT,
ON HOUSE SPEAKER BOEHNER'S NEW BUDGET
PROPOSAL

The plan is, thus, tantamount to a form of "class warfare." If enacted, it could well produce the greatest increase in poverty and

hardship produced by any law in modern U.S. history.

This may sound hyperbolic, but it is not. The mathematics are inexorable.

The Boehner plan calls for large cuts in discretionary programs of \$1.2 trillion over the next ten years, and it then requires additional cuts that are large enough to produce another \$1.8 trillion in savings to be enacted by the end of the year as a condition for raising the debt ceiling again at that time.

The Boehner plan contains no tax increases. The entire \$1.8 trillion would come from budget cuts. Because the first round of cuts will hit discretionary programs hard—through austere discretionary caps that Congress will struggle to meet—discretionary cuts will largely or entirely be off the table when it comes to achieving the further \$1.8 trillion in budget reductions.

As a result, virtually all of that \$1.8 trillion would come from entitlement programs. They would have to be cut more than \$1.5 trillion in order to produce sufficient interest savings to achieve \$1.8 trillion in total savings. To secure \$1.5 trillion in entitlement savings over the next ten years would require draconian policy changes.

Policymakers would essentially have three choices: 1) cut Social Security and Medicare benefits heavily for current retirees, something that all budget plans from both parties (including House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan's plan) have ruled out; 2) repeal the Affordable Care Act's coverage expansions while retaining its measures that cut Medicare payments and raise tax revenues, even though Republicans seek to repeal many of those measures as well; or 3) eviscerate the safety net for low-income children, parents, senior citizens, and people with disabilities. There is no other plausible way to get \$1.5 trillion in entitlement cuts in the next ten years.

The evidence for this conclusion is abundant.

The "Gang of Six" plan, with its very tough and controversial entitlement cuts, contains total entitlement reductions of \$640 to \$760 billion over the next ten years not counting Social Security, and \$755 billion to \$875 billion including Social Security. (That's before netting out \$300 billion in entitlement costs that the plan includes for a permanent fix to the scheduled cuts in Medicare physician payments that Congress regularly cancels; with these costs netted out, the Gang of Six entitlement savings come to \$455 to \$575 billion.)

The budget deal between President Obama and Speaker Boehner that fell apart last Friday, which included cuts in Social Security cost-of-living adjustments and Medicare benefits as well as an increase in the Medicare eligibility age, contained total entitlement cuts of \$650 billion (under the last Obama offer) to \$700 billion (under the last Boehner offer). The Ryan budget that the House passed in April contained no savings in Social Security over the next ten years and \$279 billion in Medicare cuts.

To be sure, the House-passed Ryan budget included much larger overall entitlement cuts over the next 10 years. But that was largely because it eviscerated the safety net and repealed health reform's coverage expansions. The Ryan plan included cuts in Medicaid and health reform of a remarkable \$2.2 trillion, from severely slashing Medicaid and killing health reform's coverage expansions. The Ryan plan also included stunning cuts of \$127 billion in the SNAP program (formerly known as food stamps) and \$126 billion in Pell Grants and other student financial assistance.

That House Republicans would likely seek to reach the Boehner budget's \$1.8 trillion target in substantial part by cutting programs for the poorest and most vulnerable Americans is given strong credence by the "Cut, Cap, and Balance" bill that the House recently approved. That bill would establish global spending caps and enforce them with across-the-board budget cuts—exempting Medicare and Social Security from the across-the-board cuts while subjecting programs for the poor to the across-the-board axe. This would turn a quarter century of bipartisan budget legislation on its head; starting with the 1985 Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law, all federal laws of the last 26 years that have set budget targets enforced by across-the-board cuts have exempted the core assistance programs for the poor from those cuts while including Medicare among programs subject to the cuts. This component of the "Cut, Cap, and Balance" bill strongly suggests that, especially in the face of an approaching election, House Republicans looking for entitlement cuts would heavily target means-tested programs for people of lesser means (and less political power).

In short, the Boehner plan would force policymakers to choose among cutting the incomes and health benefits of ordinary retirees, repealing the guts of health reform and leaving an estimated 34 million more Americans uninsured, and savaging the safety net for the poor. It would do so even as it shielded all tax breaks, including the many lucrative tax breaks for the wealthiest and most powerful individuals and corporations.

President Obama has said that, while we must reduce looming deficits, we must take a balanced approach. The Boehner proposal badly fails this test of basic decency. The President should veto the bill if it reaches his desk. Congress should find a fairer, more decent way to avoid a default.

At this point I would like to yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Colorado, my colleague on the Rules Committee, Mr. POLIS.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, this smoke-and-mirrors bill before us today actually stands to increase—yes, increase—the deficit of the United States of America by over \$100 billion.

Let me walk the Speaker through the math here. This is why credit ratings matter: countries that have AA credit ratings—this is a group of them—pay an average interest on their sovereign debt of 3.75 percent. Countries with a AAA rating—this is a 10-year bond, but it would carry across 3-year, 5-year, 30-year in similar degrees—countries with AAA pay 2.98 percent. That's 1.75 percent, almost a 2 percent difference between AAA and AA.

In passing this bill today, which only has a 6-month extension, we are jeopardizing our AAA rating that will be incredibly hard to ever earn back. And in addition to paying 2 extra percentage points on your variable rate home mortgage that middle class families can't afford, 2 points more on your credit card debt, 2 points more on your car debt, in addition to that, Mr. Speaker, the government, the biggest borrower in the country, will pay more interest on the debt. Over 10 years that 1.75 percent difference, which is just

taking the average between AAA and AA, costs over \$100 billion a year in extra interest on the debt. Over a 10-year period, over \$1 trillion of additional interest paid on the Federal debt.

So what are we doing? Cutting \$915 billion and risking adding over \$1 trillion in additional expenditures.

This smoke-and-mirrors effort before us today risks increasing the Federal deficit at a time when we all know we need to decrease Federal spending, we need to decrease our deficit. The last thing we need is to set motion forward to actually up our interest rate, jeopardize our credit rating because of the short-term nature, and increase the interest payments on our Federal debt.

I encourage my colleagues to look at these numbers and vote "no" on the underlying bill.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds to say to my friend that he is absolutely right: if we go into default, if we don't extend the debt ceiling, we are, in fact, going to see an increase in interest rates. The fact of matter is the ratings agencies like Standard & Poor's say that we not only have to increase interest rates but we have to put into place a deficit reduction plan that will pay down our debt, and that's exactly what's happening.

With that, I would like to yield 2 minutes to our hardworking colleague from the Energy and Commerce Committee, the gentlewoman from Brentwood, Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my support for the Budget Control Act of 2011, what I like to call Cut, Cap, and Balance 3.0.

Last week the House passed Cut, Cap, and Balance 1.0 in bipartisan fashion. Not surprisingly, Senator REID and his Democrat colleagues in the Senate failed to even allow for a vote. Speaker BOEHNER then offered Cut, Cap, and Balance 2.0, which, according to the CBO, failed to generate sufficient savings to accompany the debt ceiling increase. So the Speaker went back to the drawing board, found more cuts and reductions, and I applaud him for that.

Today the House will once again ensure that our Nation will take another step by enacting legislation that cuts spending more than any increase in the debt ceiling, does not raise taxes on America's families and job creators during a time of economic hardship, and ensures an up-or-down vote on the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. And I thank my constituents and the small business owners who have called to encourage me in this process to say let's get this job done.

Let it be known that this is merely a small foundational step to ensure that we put this Nation on the road to fiscal health, and it is historic. By passing the Budget Control Act, we will take

away President Barack Obama's blank check. For the first time, debt limit legislation will cut spending, lock in these cuts, cap future spending, does not raise taxes, ensures that balanced budget amendment vote, and keeps our attention on the Nation's fiscal problems.

House Republicans are saying the buck stops here. Let's get to work addressing our Nation's fiscal woes and cutting the spending problem in Washington, D.C.

For that, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the Budget Control Act.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert into the RECORD a recent New York Times editorial entitled "The Republican Wreckage."

[From The New York Times, July 25, 2011]

THE REPUBLICAN WRECKAGE

House Republicans have lost sight of the country's welfare. It's hard to conclude anything else from their latest actions, including the House speaker's dismissal of President Obama's plea for compromise Monday night. They have largely succeeded in their campaign to ransom America's economy for the biggest spending cuts in a generation. They have warped an exercise in paying off current debt into an argument about future spending. Yet, when they win another concession, they walk away.

This increasingly reckless game has pushed the nation to the brink of ruinous default. The Republicans have dimmed the futures of millions of jobless Americans, whose hopes for work grow more out of reach as government job programs are cut and interest rates begin to rise. They have made the federal government a laughingstock around the globe.

In a scathing prime-time television address Monday night, President Obama stepped off the sidelines to tell Americans the House Republicans were threatening a "deep economic crisis" that could send interest rates skyrocketing and hold up Social Security and veterans' checks. By insisting on a single-minded approach and refusing to negotiate, he said, Republicans were violating the country's founding principle of compromise.

"How can we ask a student to pay more for college before we ask hedge fund managers to stop paying taxes at a lower rate than their secretaries?" he said, invoking Ronald Reagan's effort to make everyone pay a fair share and pointing out that his immediate predecessors had to ask for debt-ceiling increases under rules invented by Congress. He urged viewers to demand compromise. "The entire world is watching," he said.

Mr. Obama denounced House Speaker John Boehner's proposal to make cuts only, now, and raise the debt ceiling briefly, but he embraced the proposal made over the weekend by the Senate Majority Leader, Harry Reid, which gave Republicans virtually everything they said they wanted when they ignited this artificial crisis: \$2.7 trillion from government spending over the next decade, with no revenue increases. It is, in fact, an awful plan, which cuts spending far too deeply at a time when the government should be summoning all its resources to solve the real economic problem of unemployment. It asks for absolutely no sacrifice from those who have prospered immensely as economic inequality has grown.

Mr. Reid's proposal does at least protect Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. And

about half of its savings comes from the winding down of two wars, which naturally has drawn Republican opposition. (Though Republicans counted the same savings in their budgets.)

Mr. Boehner will not accept this as the last-ditch surrender that it is. The speaker, who followed Mr. Obama on TV with about five minutes of hoary talking points clearly written before the president spoke, is insisting on a plan that raises the debt ceiling until early next year and demands another vote on a balanced-budget amendment, rejected by the Senate last week. The result would be to stage this same debate over again in an election year. Never mind that this would almost certainly result in an immediate downgrade of the government's credit.

We agreed strongly when Mr. Obama said Americans should be "offended" by this display and that they "may have voted for divided government but they didn't vote for a dysfunctional government." It's hard not to conclude now that dysfunction is the Republicans' goal—even if the cost is unthinkable.

I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, the biggest problem in this country is not that the American Government is about to breach its debt ceiling; it's that too many American families have already breached their debt ceilings. We have a jobs crisis in this country, and this should be our principal focus.

Now, somewhere in America today, some decision-makers are not getting much help with that jobs crisis. A hospital that's thinking about adding a rehab lab and adding a couple hundred jobs wonders how much Medicare revenue it's going to get. This bill says wait 6 months and we'll let you know.

An entrepreneur who has a software company who is about to finally get off the ground is thinking about borrowing some money to hire more people, but she doesn't know what the interest rates are going to be. This bill says wait 6 months and we'll let you know.

And, yes, there's a diabetic, a person who's worried about whether they should keep their house or not because their health care bills are rising and they're worried that Medicare may not pay as many of their diabetic bills as they have right now. And we're saying to her wait six months; we'll let you know.

We can't wait to solve this problem. The Republicans should listen to their own leadership, who spoke out against a short-term fix to this problem: "We feel very strongly that one of the reasons why we continue to see an ailing economy is that people have very little confidence, have very little certainty in terms of where we are headed."

I completely agree with Majority Leader ERIC CANTOR, who said that in June. We should listen to Mr. CANTOR's advice. We should adopt a long-term plan and put America back to work, get back to the negotiating table today.

□ 1530

Mr. DREIER. I yield 2 minutes to our thoughtful and hardworking colleague from Allentown, Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT).

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Budget Control Act. First and foremost, we, the United States House of Representatives, have an obligation to govern. We have a tremendous responsibility to the American people to consider this plan that ensures our Nation does not default on our Nation's commitments while at the same time places this country on a sustainable fiscal path.

Let me be clear: Defaulting on America's obligations to our creditors, to our seniors, disabled veterans, activity military personnel, college students, and many others is not an option. This bill prevents a default and it pays our bills. Congress must act swiftly to deter a ratings downgrade of our U.S. Government, a downgrade that will affect families and small businesses across the country. Only a sound, credible plan that places us on that sustainable trajectory will prevent that downgrade, driven in part by an unprecedented spending binge by this administration which has blown up the fiscal balance sheet.

A previous speaker said a few moments ago that we're playing games. I can assure you this is no game. This is serious stuff. And speaking of serious, the White House has still refused to offer a serious specific plan in writing that we can review. In fact, in a stinging rebuke of the administration, the nonpartisan Director of the CBO, Doug Elmendorf, said, "We don't estimate speeches."

The Senate has dug in its heels, too. It would be nice if they passed the bill, any bill. It's been 800 days since there's been a budget. It's time for them to act and to move to prevent this type of a fiscal calamity that many have predicted.

Again, I ask my colleagues to support this legislation. It's a step forward. It may not be the final product, but it moves this process forward. I encourage the Senate to take it up.

Most importantly, we have a sacred duty and a solemn obligation to lead and to act. We do have that affirmative obligation to govern for the benefit of our country and for the American people. The world is watching. Americans are watching. It's time for us to lead and demonstrate American exceptionalism.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York, a member of the Budget Committee, Mr. TONKO.

Mr. TONKO. I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for yielding.

We're here today, at long last, to vote on the Republican default plan. After 200 days without a jobs agenda, after 200 days of saying that those

hardest hit by the recession should bear the burden of unbalanced cuts, after 200 days of rhetoric and walking away, my Republican colleagues have finally brought their top secret default plan to the floor for a public debate and a vote.

So, what did they offer up? Courageous leadership? A grand bargain? Sadly, no. When you walk out of negotiations and spend more time talking to the press than to the President, I'm not sure we expected more.

We have before us the same tired policies that got us into this mess—cut taxes for millionaires, give kickbacks to special interests, pay for it all with cuts to the middle class. And never forget the central tenets of the conservative agenda: end Medicare and privatize Social Security.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle will no doubt come to the floor to say the bill explicitly protects Medicare and Social Security from cuts. That claim is blatantly false. It's a desperate campaign speech to counter the backlash that comes when the American people read the bill, like they read the Ryan budget.

So I would ask my colleagues to take another careful look at the bill before us. It is only 57 pages long. There is even a summary online through the Rules Committee Web site. After that careful examination, I would ask you to come before my constituents, before the American people, to myself, and promise us with a straight face that you have no intention of using this legislation to dismantle Medicare and cut Social Security in the next 12 months. You can't.

I don't support these policies, and I cannot support a plan that puts us back in the same bitter, vilifying debate in January. It may be good politics, but it's not good government. I'm tired of it, my constituents are tired of it, and anyone who's watched the nightly news for the last 6 months is tired of it.

Washington loves to kick the can down the road. That's how we got here in the first place. This is our moment. We need a plan, not another Republican manifesto. There are better plans out there. Let us vote on them.

I ask my colleagues to oppose this bill and get back to work.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, at this time I am happy to yield 2 minutes to a good friend and Presidential candidate, the gentleman from Livonia, Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER).

Mr. MCCOTTER. I thank the gentleman from California.

We hear a lot of talk about plans. We hear a lot of talk about secret default plans, Senate plans, the Reid plan, but we've yet to hear about the President's plan.

We live in a period of time where we are engaged in a struggle against economic stagnation, where 30 million

people can't trade jobs because there are no better ones out there, where 14 million people are unemployed. We live in a period of time where inflation is rising, real wages are declining. In short, we live in a period of time in which we are being neither led nor governed.

We are seeing postures, not plans—with one exception. The House Republicans have endeavored to meet the duty that was entrusted to them by the American people, which is to put forward a plan that will prevent the default of the United States and a diminishment of our economic credibility in the world. Unfortunately, what we get in response is not an attempt at honest bipartisan collaboration. Instead, it is more political rhetoric, more partisanship, more posturing.

At this point in time we have before us a plan that can work. It is not a perfect plan. People on both sides of the aisle have their qualms with it. And yet it is a plan that can be helpful to the American people, that can be helpful to ensuring that our economy does not further deteriorate, a plan that can make sure that Big Government no longer crushes the aspirations of the American people to grow this economy, to find employment, to secure their pursuit of happiness around their hearth and home.

For that, I will support this bill, and I would urge my colleagues to do it, because the American people deserve no less.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU).

Ms. CHU. What's not safe under the Boehner default plan?

Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare are not safe under the Boehner default plan. In just 7 months, it forces nearly \$1.6 trillion in cuts from these programs. They will be unrecognizable.

Jobs are not safe under the Boehner default plan. It will force 2 million Americans to lose their jobs, putting greater strain on struggling families.

Our economy is not safe under the Boehner default plan. This short-term deal could lead to an automatic tax increase for every American with a mortgage, car loan, or credit card. It would leave a cloud of uncertainty. Businesses won't invest and our economy won't grow.

Nothing is safe under the Boehner default plan except tax breaks for Big Oil, companies that ship jobs overseas, and the rich.

We must reject this ideological approach and come together on a balanced solution that will ensure that every American will have a safe and secure future.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire of the Chair how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 12¼ min-

utes remaining. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 17 minutes remaining.

Mr. DREIER. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. At this time, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, according to Grover Norquist, who's apparently the real Republican strategist, this is about ensuring that Democrats will never again have the revenue to govern as Democrats. But what does he mean by that? Is he talking about when Roosevelt rescued us from the Great Depression in the 1930s or when we saved the world for democracy in the forties or when we built the middle class with the GI Bill in the late forties? Or when we won the race to space in the early sixties or when we started Medicare and passed civil rights laws in the mid-sixties? Or when President Clinton raised taxes, balanced the budget, generated 20 million new jobs, cut poverty, grew the middle class, passed on projected surpluses as far as the eye could see, and enabled those at the top tax rates to take home more after-tax income than in any prior time in American history?

□ 1540

The fact is that Democrats have made this Nation great by investing in all our people and by raising the revenue necessary to meet our obligations and to secure our future. This is the alternative. This is about an ideology that lowers our sights, diminishes our stature and sells short our future. That is why it should be rejected.

Mr. DREIER. In light of the disparity here, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts, my colleague, Mr. LYNCH.

Mr. LYNCH. I rise today in opposition to the Budget Control Act because I honestly believe that this Nation is better than this bill reflects.

Just so we're clear on the differences here between our positions, this amendment seeks to place the overwhelming burden of this crisis on the backs of senior citizens, and it forces seniors especially to make enormous sacrifices while, at the same time, it allows the richest Americans and oil companies and hedge fund operators to escape any responsibility or sacrifice.

This is not how we should be treating America's Greatest Generation, who survived the Great Depression, who fought in World War II, and who made the sacrifices in their time when their country called upon them. This is not the way to treat the frail elderly or any senior, who, at the end of their working lives, are now on a fixed income.

The way we deal with this crisis will say a lot about America. I think Hu-

bert Humphrey said it best when he said that the true test of any society is how we treat those citizens in the dawn of life, our children; those in the twilight of life, our elderly; and those in the shadow of life, our poor and disabled.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. LYNCH. I just want to say, as Republicans are rallying to the ramparts to save the millionaires from suffering from any loss of a tax loophole, I take a full measure of pride at where the Democrats in this House are standing on this issue. I urge my colleagues to stand with seniors and to vote "no" on this amendment.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I mentioned that last November sent 87 new Republicans to the House of Representatives. To one of them, I yield 2 minutes, the very thoughtful gentleman from Newburgh, Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON).

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for America's financial future.

We are at a time when we need to make every effort to save our Nation's credit rating. The rating agencies have said that raising the debt ceiling is not enough. While I would have preferred the Cut, Cap, and Balance plan, the Budget Control Act vote today and the balanced budget amendment vote tomorrow is the best remaining approach to reduce spending and help avoid a downgrade.

We can institute real reforms today as a first step on a long path to fiscal stability. However, the bill isn't perfect. I wanted more, and frankly, all of our constituents deserve more. The reality is our friends on the other side of the aisle won't allow it.

With years of reckless spending by the Federal Government, instead of making tough choices to address our spending problems, the other side wants to raise taxes on the American people to continue funding Washington, D.C.'s spending spree. In addition, they want us to give the President a blank check to get him through the 2012 election. Well, that's not going to happen. The United States has always maintained a AAA credit rating, and the threat of inaction by our colleagues in the U.S. Senate and no plan offered by the administration puts that at risk.

The House has and will take action.

We need to send a clear message to the American people that we are willing to make the tough choices and work together on behalf of our Nation's citizens. I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill and to take the first step to restoring fiscal responsibility to our Nation.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 2 minutes to a member of the Budget Committee, the

gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH).

Mr. YARMUTH. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, Congress' approval rating is now down around 10 percent, and given the debate on this politically induced default crisis, I have to ask myself: Who are these crazy 10 percent? The American people are looking at this institution right now, and they're asking: What on Earth are you thinking?

They're sick of these games and they're sick of us. They want this default crisis resolved now, and they definitely don't want to repeat it 6 months from now. They understand that a real solution means a real compromise. Our constituents have made it clear that they want shared sacrifice where millionaires, billionaires and oil companies contribute their fair share. They want their Social Security and Medicare benefits to be protected.

Yet this bill, the Republican default agenda, does none of that. In fact, this reckless bill is actually a stealth attack on Medicare and Social Security because it requires large cuts next year that can only come from those programs. The Boehner plan would increase borrowing costs across the entire spectrum of American society, including local and State governments, businesses, and our citizens—producing, essentially, a backdoor tax hike on the American people. It does all this damage to seniors and middle class families while sparing the wealthy from even the slightest inconvenience.

We weren't elected to Congress to run our economy and our country into the ground—to fail to respond to a crisis of our own creation, but here we are. The American people deserve better and are demanding better. We need to defeat this bill so we can move on to a real solution.

Mr. DREIER. At this juncture, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON).

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, frustrated in that, as we sit here on the brink of the financial unknown, families in my district are left hanging, worrying about jobs.

The bill we're debating today fails to address America's number one priority of creating jobs. Instead, it puts us in the exact same position 6 months from now, threatening working families with deep, unbalanced, unfair cuts while protecting tax cuts for millionaires and big corporations that ship jobs overseas.

It has been 200 days of this new Republican-led Congress, and what have we seen? We have seen them target Medicare, working families, the environment, and education—we've even seen them use up time to target en-

ergy-efficient light bulbs—but what we haven't seen them do is target job creation.

I encourage my colleagues to vote "no" on this risky plan and to responsibly raise our debt limit so America can pay its bills and so this Congress can get serious about creating good-paying jobs.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire again as to how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 10¾ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 11½ minutes remaining.

Mr. DREIER. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN).

Mr. LUJÁN. I don't think there is a question. It is very clear that we have to act to prevent a default and a downgrade of our Nation's credit rating. Sadly, the House Republican leadership's plan is not a serious plan to avoid such a downgrade.

It's more smoke and mirrors. We've heard that talked about lately. It will put us right back in the same position in a few months, requiring another vote to raise the debt limit, putting America into a further area where we might be able to see the potential downgrade, costing Americans \$100 billion a year and \$1 trillion over 10 years.

A short-term increase in the debt limit has already been rejected by economists and credit rating agencies, which have made it clear that this plan will likely result in an unprecedented downgrade to our credit rating, leaving higher interest rates for mortgages and student loans for all Americans. In addition, this reckless plan leaves the door open to the same damage as did the Ryan plan.

Mr. DREIER. Will the gentleman yield for just one second, Mr. Speaker?

I would just like to ask the gentleman if he might cite where that is from, the quote of that.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from New Mexico didn't yield.

Mr. DREIER. Oh, I'm sorry. I thought the gentleman had yielded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Mexico controls the time.

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, I ask for order. I don't believe that I did yield.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Mexico controls the time.

Mr. LUJÁN. After that interruption, may I ask how much time is left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 10 seconds.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield my friend an additional 15 seconds.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 25 seconds.

Mr. LUJÁN. I appreciate that, Mr. Speaker.

In addition, this reckless plan leaves the door open to the same damage as the Ryan's plan, to attack Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, while protecting tax breaks for billionaires and corporations.

It is important that we talk to the American people about this and that we have this conversation. I urge my colleagues to reject the partisan gamesmanship and seek a responsible and balanced solution to this crisis.

□ 1550

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, at this time I'm very happy to yield 2 minutes to the next Governor of Indiana, the gentleman from Columbus, Mr. PENCE.

Mr. PENCE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to rise in support of the Budget Control Act of 2011, which is a negotiated compromise between the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and the Republican and Democratic leadership of the United States Senate.

Let me say that again: the Budget Control Act that we will bring to the floor today is a compromise. At a time when people across America long for a Washington, D.C., that is able to reach across the aisle, lower the volume, solve the problem, this legislation comes to the floor. And I'm proud to support it.

The truth is it is a difficult time for people across my beloved Indiana and all across this country. Our economy is struggling. Unemployment is at 8.3 percent in Indiana, 9.3 percent nationally. And I believe that runaway Federal spending by both political parties is a cause and a barrier to our economic recovery today. We simply must put our fiscal house in order.

Now, I know the administration wanted us simply to raise the debt ceiling without conditions, but that was rejected I think almost unanimously in the United States Senate, and we rejected it as well in this body.

What needs to be done today is we need to recognize that if you owe debts, pay debts. We have to raise the Nation's debt ceiling so that we have the money to pay the Nation's bills. But we also owe a debt to this generation of Americans struggling in this economy and to the next generation of Americans that we can only repay through fiscal discipline and reform, and the Budget Control Act does that.

The Budget Control Act does two things that I believe are worth highlighting.

Number one, it ensures in this first installment that there will be a dollar in budget cuts for every dollar in increase in borrowing authority by the United States. That's crucial.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DREIER. I would like to yield my friend an additional minute.

Mr. PENCE. Secondly, the agreement around the Budget Control Act also ensures that there will be a vote in this body now tomorrow and a vote in the United States Senate this fall on a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

There are other aspects of this bill that are meritorious—hard-spending caps, more enforceable than spending caps of the past; the creation of a bipartisan commission to negotiate spending discipline and reforms for the next installment of a debt ceiling increase.

But for my part, making sure that any increase in the debt ceiling is matched dollar for dollar with spending cuts in this bill and for the first time in 15 years bringing a bipartisan version of the balanced budget amendment to this floor of the House and soon to the floor of the Senate are worthy of note. And they should endorse this approach.

This is a very serious time, Mr. Speaker. I welcome the Budget Control Act as evidence that Congress can still compromise. We can still come together across the aisle. We can find a way to pay the Nation's bills and do so in a way that reflects our commitment to fiscal discipline and reform.

Mr. MCGOVERN. At this point, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado, a former member of the Rules Committee, and we miss him, Mr. PERLMUTTER.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, I think we've got to go back 10 years and just talk about where we were at that time.

Under Bill Clinton, this country had a surplus. Revenues exceeded expenses. Things were going along great. We were adding jobs by the millions. Then we have a Republican administration. Two tax cuts, couple trillion dollars, lower revenue. Two wars, couple trillion dollars, more expense. A crash on Wall Street, \$3 trillion in expense to this country.

That's where this expense comes from. That's why we have bills to pay. We had a tough 10 years, most of it under Republican administration. We've got to pay those bills. But the Republican leadership has brought us to the brink of default—something the United States has had full faith and credit for 235 years and they want to bring that right to the brink of default.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are better than that. We have a responsibility. We can't live in turmoil. We need to rebuild the American Dream for people who want a shot at getting ahead in this life, not this brinksmanship.

This is a bad bill and must be defeated.

Mr. DREIER. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia who serves on the Financial Services Committee, Mr. SCOTT.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. America, we really need to pay close attention here.

First of all, this is a terrible bill at the wrong time. Here we are, the number one issue facing the American people is jobs, and this bill is a major job-killer of the highest magnitude. It will average a loss of 40,000 public service jobs in the public sector each month. All we have to do is look at the record from the month of June. In the month of June, the private sector created 58,000 jobs; but because of massive cuts in the public sector, there was a loss of 40,000 jobs each month.

In addition to that, this bill will drastically end Medicare. It will reduce Medicaid payments to the States, and it will severely cut back the checks to our Social Security recipients by an average of \$1,000 each month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield my friend an additional 30 seconds.

And will the gentleman yield to me?

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Well, since you've yielded 30 seconds, which you actually have already taken my last 30 seconds.

Mr. DREIER. I will yield the gentleman additional time if he needs it.

I just am asking my friend where in this bill he can point to where cuts in Medicare are going to take place. I've gone through it and I've not seen it.

I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. You know perfectly well, Mr. DREIER, that the announced cuts in this bill and the setting up with this commission, and, also, your party has already set your record on a road. Your number one target has been to end Medicare.

But let me go back, and I just wanted to answer your question.

It's very important, Mr. Speaker, that we also understand that the other dangerous part about this bill is that in 6 months we will be right back here again which will add greater instability to the markets and further undermine our credibility ratings.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds simply to say that there are in fact exemptions that are in this bill to ensure that Social Security and Medicare are not touched, and we need to remember that. When it comes to this sequestration process, it is not touched.

And for those who are saying that this measure will in fact bring about those cuts, they have not read the bill and are mischaracterizing it.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I must respond.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

Mr. ANDREWS. I would like to ask my friend from California a question, and then I would yield.

Is the gentleman saying that the text says that if the commission set up by this bill reports back a cut in Social Security benefits that that may not be enacted by the commission?

I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. I thank my friend for yielding.

Let me say it's the sequestrations in this bill. Obviously, a bipartisan commission that comes forward—

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to reclaim my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I'm not talking about the sequestrations. I'm talking about the fact that this commission's instructed to find \$1.8 trillion in cuts and Medicare and Social Security are not exempted from those cuts. This is a roadmap, this is a users guide as to how to cut Social Security and Medicare. We reject it.

I yield to my friend.

□ 1600

Mr. DREIER. I thank my friend for yielding.

Let me say this is not a commission. Members should not refer to this as a commission, because the idea of a commission, some sort of outside entity, we're talking about our colleagues in the House and Senate who will be members of the Joint Select Committee who have a responsibility, as colleagues, to report this back.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The time of the gentleman from New Jersey has again expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield the gentleman 10 more seconds.

Mr. ANDREWS. The gentleman is correct. This is not a commission. It is a committee that is empowered to cut Medicare and Social Security. We will not stand for it.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 10 seconds to say to my friend this is not a committee that is empowered to cut Social Security and Medicare. It is a committee, a joint select committee, that is empowered, for the first time, to submit to both Houses of Congress recommendations that we will have an up-or-down vote on.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS).

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the underlying bill. This is nothing more than political posturing by the Republican majority.

And I think it's important for the American people to understand that this majority has asked us time and time again to vote to end Medicare, to cut Social Security, to cut Medicaid, and they're doing it once again. No question about it. What's being offered up by this majority is nothing short of recklessness, absolutely nothing.

The Speaker and the Republican Party know that the President and the Senate are going to reject the bill. I don't even know why we're here on this floor, Mr. Speaker. Rather than spending the last several months developing a real plan that would avoid default, the Republicans have spent months stripping away health care protections, attacking the EPA, jeopardizing jobs, not creating jobs. And here we are, once again, ready to end Medicare, Social Security, cut away Medicaid benefits, and attack the most vulnerable in our communities.

I have to say, Mr. Speaker, if it weren't sad, it would be laughable. The plan would require \$2.7 trillion in deficit reduction over the next 10 years, cut \$915 billion at the offset, and another \$1.8 trillion in December. They're coming after Americans' Social Security checks. They're coming after Medicare. They're coming after Medicaid. That's what this majority is doing. Let's not be fooled by it. It's time for the American people to stand up.

The bill threatens our ability to pay our obligations. They're not interested in paying our obligations. These are debts that we've already incurred. And yet they won't take the money that they've given away to the wealthiest 2 percent of this country. No, they can't give up theirs. The oil and gas companies can't give up theirs. The companies that have offshored jobs can't give up theirs; but they're asking the American people to sacrifice Social Security, Medicare, education, Medicaid.

It's unfair, and we won't stand for it.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 10 seconds to say to my very good friend from Maryland, she has just adequately, very accurately described the measure that has been proposed by the Senate majority leader, HARRY REID.

With that, I am happy to yield 1 minute to my very good friend from Lafayette, Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY), a hardworking member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I think there was a gross distortion of what's being proposed here. And again, the previous speaker just condemned the Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID's bill in the U.S. Senate. That's the only Democratic bill we've had. So it seems to me that there's a little bit of a fight going on on the other side of the aisle between their House Members and the Senate.

To my friend from New Jersey, this committee that's formed is a com-

mittee of active sitting Members of the House and Senate. So in order for anything to be recommended by this committee, it would require, in all likelihood, all of the Democrats to support it.

Mr. ANDREWS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BOUSTANY. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. ANDREWS. If that committee wanted to close tax loopholes, would they need a simple majority or a two-thirds vote of the House?

Mr. BOUSTANY. It would be a simple majority.

Mr. ANDREWS. So it's your position that a simple majority of both Houses could raise taxes?

Mr. BOUSTANY. That's right. That's what we need. We need that to force some movement.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, at this time it's my privilege to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), the distinguished assistant leader.

Mr. CLYBURN. I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, while the clock is ticking, the Republican majority is dicker and the American people are hurting. Our financial markets are on pace for their worst week in nearly a year. State governments are bracing for downgrades in their borrowing capacities, and the gap between those in our society who have a lot and those who have very little is growing.

The Republican majority continues their efforts to divert attention from the self-inflicted crisis with manufactured controversies, holding the American economy hostage to their reckless and dispassionate demands. As the clock ticks toward default and the pain it would bring to middle-income families and those who aspire to become middle income, my friends on the other side continue to play politics. Speaker BOEHNER does not even pretend that this is a serious attempt to solve the problem. He sold this bill to his conference by telling them that it wasn't bipartisan. And with divided government, a plan that isn't bipartisan is no plan at all. It's just a game.

The President and the Democrats in Congress as well as the American people have advocated a balanced approach to reduce the deficit by growing the economy and protecting the most vulnerable, including Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security beneficiaries. We have been willing to make tough, politically difficult compromises.

This bill on the floor today, just like the bill from last week, is yet another partisan time-waster. Our constituents are not interested in any of us voting to cut Medicare or cap Social Security or balancing the budget on the backs of

Medicaid recipients. A 6-month extension is another waste of time.

We must resolve this matter now and ensure the full faith and credit of the United States. Let's defeat the Boehner bill.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inquire of my friend how many speakers he has remaining.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I am the final speaker.

Mr. DREIER. I would encourage my friend to proceed, and then I will offer some closing remarks.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield myself the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 3¼ minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, this bill does nothing to solve our long-term fiscal challenges because everybody here knows that this isn't going anywhere. Instead, it's a political stunt. Instead, it hurdles us closer and closer to a devastating default. For years, Presidents and Congresses of both parties have raised the debt ceiling, recognizing that endangering the full faith and credit of the United States would be a grave mistake.

It's amazing to me how many Republicans I've heard who dismiss the potential of default as no big deal. No big deal? Tell that to the family who would have to pay higher interest rates on their mortgage, their car loan, their student loan. It would be a very big deal to them.

Many of my friends on the other side of the aisle didn't just stand by as we created these massive deficits. They were active participants. They voted for two huge tax cuts—mostly for wealthy people—that weren't paid for, two wars that weren't paid for, a massive prescription drug program that wasn't paid for, and now their solution is to punish the very Americans who can least afford it, all in the name of keeping their rich friends and their special interests happy.

The Boehner plan is unbalanced and unfair. It slashes programs like Social Security and Medicare that benefit the middle class and the poor. But the Republicans insist on protecting tax breaks for oil and gas companies. Just today, ExxonMobil announced profits of \$10.7 billion for the second quarter. Do they really need special tax breaks? The American people sure don't think so.

Poll after poll shows that a vast majority of American citizens prefer a balanced approach. Yes, we need to cut spending. Yes, we need to reform our government. But everybody needs to chip in to do their part, including the very wealthy who have benefited the most.

□ 1610

Now, there are certainly places to save. How about ending wars that

aren't paid for? Right now, we borrow \$10 billion every month for military operations in Afghanistan alone, to prop up a corrupt and incompetent Karzai government.

How about ending wasteful subsidies to big agriculture companies?

How about asking billionaire hedge fund managers to pay the same tax rates as their secretaries?

The truth is that the best way to deal with our long-term fiscal situation is to grow our economy. That means creating jobs and putting people back to work. The last election, I thought, was about jobs. We haven't talked about jobs at all since the new Republican majority came to power. That means investing in things like education and infrastructure and green technology and medical research. That's the kind of economic future the American people deserve.

The Boehner default plan would take us exactly in the wrong direction, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to reject it.

[From Bloomberg, July 26, 2011]

REPUBLICAN LEADERS VOTED FOR DEBT
DRIVERS THEY BLAME ON OBAMA

(By Lisa Lerer)

House Speaker John Boehner often attacks the spendthrift ways of Washington.

"In Washington, more spending and more debt is business as usual," the Republican leader from Ohio said in a televised address yesterday amid debate over the U.S. debt. "I've got news for Washington—those days are over."

Yet the speaker, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell all voted for major drivers of the nation's debt during the past decade: Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the 2001 and 2003 Bush tax cuts and Medicare prescription drug benefits. They also voted for the Troubled Asset Relief Program, or TARP, that rescued financial institutions and the auto industry.

Together, according to data compiled by Bloomberg News, these initiatives added \$3.4 trillion to the nation's accumulated debt and to its current annual budget deficit of \$1.5 trillion.

As Congress nears votes to raise the \$14.3-trillion debt ceiling to avert a default on U.S. obligations when borrowing authority expires on Aug. 2, both parties are attempting to claim a mantle of fiscal responsibility. They both bear some of the blame: Many Democrats contributed to the expenses that are forcing lawmakers to boost the nation's debt limit, as have Republican leaders at odds over how much borrowing authority to hand President Barack Obama and when.

"There's plenty of blame to go around," for the debt, said Robert Bixby, executive director of the Concord Coalition, an Arlington, Virginia-based group that advocates for balanced budgets. "If there had been no Barack Obama, we would still be bumping up against the debt limit."

DEBT HAS DOUBLED

Since 2001, the debt has grown from \$5.8 trillion.

Republicans say the long-term growth of entitlement programs such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, along with depressed tax revenues due to the worst recession since the Great Depression, drive the current debt level.

"Blaming Bush for the structural deficits we've known would come since the early 1990s is beyond irresponsible," said Brad Dayspring, a spokesman for Cantor.

In his address yesterday, Boehner accused Obama of going on the "largest spending binge in American history."

Obama's 2011 annual budget, Republicans note, drove federal spending to a record \$3.8 trillion. Non-defense discretionary spending also grew by 24 percent during the first two years of the Obama administration, they say, adding \$734 billion in spending over the next 10 years.

RECESSION WORSENE DEFICIT

The recession, Obama said in a televised address from the White House yesterday, lowered revenue and required his administration to "spend even more" on tax cuts, unemployment insurance and state and local aid. "These emergency steps also added to the deficit," he said.

Some Democrats also supported the Bush administration programs. In the Senate, Obama voted to finance the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and TARP. He signed legislation extending the Bush-era tax cuts for two years in December.

"Both sides are claiming they're fiscally responsible," said Rudolph Penner, director of the Congressional Budget Office under President Ronald Reagan. "But I don't see much difference in that regard."

BUSH TAX CUTS

The 2001 and 2003 tax cuts, which lowered tax rates on income, dividends and capital gains, increased the federal budget deficit by \$1.7 trillion over a decade, according to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, a non-partisan left-of-center group in Washington that studies fiscal policy.

The two-year extension of those tax cuts that Obama signed will cost \$857.8 billion, according to the Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation.

Boehner has defended the tax cuts, arguing that they didn't lead to the deficit.

"The revenue problem we have today is a result of what happened in the economic collapse some 18 months ago," he told reporters on June 10, according to The Hill newspaper.

The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have cost almost \$1.3 trillion since the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, according to a March 29 analysis by the Congressional Research Service. Operations in Iraq have cost \$806 billion, and in Afghanistan \$444 billion. The analysis shows the government has spent an additional \$29 billion for enhanced security on militia bases and \$6 billion remains unallocated.

MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT

The 2003 Medicare prescription program approved by President George W. Bush and a Republican-dominated Congress has cost \$369 billion over a 10-year time frame, less than initially projected by Medicare actuaries.

Nine Senate Republicans, including Nebraska's Chuck Hagel, along with 25 Republicans in the House, voted against the bill. Hagel argued that it failed to control costs and would add trillions in debt for future generations.

"Republicans used to believe in fiscal responsibility," Hagel wrote in a 2003 editorial in the Omaha World Herald. "We have lost our way."

TARP, the \$700-billion bailout of banks, insurance and auto companies, has cost less than expected. McConnell, Boehner, Cantor and Ryan all voted in October 2008 for the program, which stoked the rise of the Tea Party movement.

Many institutions have repaid the government. The latest estimated lifetime cost of the program is \$49.33 billion, according to a June 2011 report by the Treasury Department. That figure includes the \$45.61 billion cost of a housing program which the administration never expected to recoup.

Rank-and-file Republicans are eager to pin the blame on Democrats, frequently pointing to the economic stimulus signed by Obama in 2009. The total cost of the stimulus will be \$830 billion by 2019, according to a May 2011 Congressional Budget Office report.

That's half the cost of the Bush tax cuts and less than two-thirds of what has been spent on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 5½ minutes remaining.

Mr. DREIER. I yield myself the balance of the time.

Mr. Speaker, as I listen to my friend from the other side of the aisle, Mr. MCGOVERN, talk about what has caused the problem that we're in right now, he failed to mention the failed stimulus bill. He failed to mention the failed health care bill, both horribly expensive.

But I think it's important for us to look at the facts on one of the items that he mentioned. They continue, Mr. Speaker, to engage in this class warfare, us versus them, the multibillionaires, all this sort of stuff over and over and over again.

We happen to recognize that we're all in this together, and there should, in fact, be shared sacrifice. That's why I think it's important for us to look at the facts. Let's look at the facts here.

As we continue to hear people decry the so-called Bush tax cuts, which, as we all know, are no longer Bush tax cuts, they are the Bush-Obama tax cuts. They became that last December when President Obama supported the extension of them.

Let's look at what happened with the 2003 growth-oriented tax cuts. In 2003, Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government had \$1.782 trillion in revenues. That was in 2003 before the growth-oriented 2003 tax cuts went into effect.

Mr. Speaker, in 2007, the Federal Government had a 44-percent increase in the flow of revenues to the Federal Treasury, by virtue of those 2003 tax cuts. They went from \$1.782 trillion to \$2.567 trillion. That's a \$785 billion increase in the flow of revenues to the Federal Treasury after the now Bush-Obama tax cuts were put into place. So this malarkey about the notion of those who are successful are not paying their fair share of taxes is absolutely preposterous.

Now, I want to take the time that I have remaining to shatter a few myths that are out there. First of all, we know right now that we're facing a crisis. Both Democrat and Republican alike in these remarks have made it clear that we're facing a crisis. I have yet to hear anyone—I think maybe the minority whip mentioned the Reid

plan. All anyone's done on the other side of the aisle is malign the Boehner plan and mischaracterize it quite frankly, Mr. Speaker. But I think it's important to look at what it is that we face.

We know that the President of the United States said that if we don't increase the debt ceiling by August 2, on August 3, he does not know whether or not the Social Security checks will actually go out.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we all want to make sure that the Social Security checks go out. This is going to be our one opportunity to vote for a measure that will ensure that we increase the debt ceiling so that those checks will go out and, for the first time in the 75 times that the debt ceiling has been increased since 1962, we're going to get to the root cause of the problem.

In the past 4 years we've had an 82-percent increase, an 82-percent increase in non-defense discretionary spending. And guess what?

The American people last November said that has to come to an end. And you know what? It's going to come to an end when we pass this measure.

I also want to say that we know that the threat of default is out there, and if we don't take action, we know that our credit rating will be downgraded. We know that that will happen. All of the rating agencies have predicted that.

They've also said that simply increasing the debt ceiling is not adequate. We need to make sure that we get ourselves on a path that reduces the debt and reduces our deficits.

Well, Mr. Speaker, what we need to do is we need to recognize also that those agencies have said these proposals are that path. Now, there was a report that S&P had said that in fact if we didn't have \$4 trillion in cuts, which I frankly wish we could, but in light of the fact that this is a bipartisan effort, we're not going to get that high, but they said that if we didn't have \$4 trillion in reductions, that we would still threaten the credit rating.

Well, yesterday, Deven Sharma, the president of Standard and Poor's, testified before the Financial Services Committee and said while we must get on a path towards reducing the deficit and debt, it was inaccurate to say that it had to be a \$4 trillion level. And that's why, as my friends have been quoting these different sources, I was trying to get them on record to say who, in fact, is saying this.

We have to increase the debt ceiling, and we have to get ourselves on a path that will, in fact, reduce our annual deficits and the national debt. The plan that we have before us is far from perfect. Speaker BOEHNER doesn't like it, I don't like it, I don't know of any Republican who likes it. But Speaker BOEHNER and the rest of us recognize that we have a Democratic President and we have a Democratic United

States Senate. And so if we are going to increase the debt, and we are going to, for the first time ever, change the course on the issue of debt ceiling increases by cutting spending, we have to pass this measure.

It grew from this bipartisan compromise last weekend. HARRY REID no longer supports it. I've not heard anyone on the other side of the aisle say that they support it, but it was a bipartisan compromise that was the basis on which Mr. BOEHNER is proceeding.

Let's support this measure, Mr. Speaker.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP).

Mr. CAMP. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I come today in strong support of the Budget Control Act, a legislative approach that cuts out-of-control Washington spending and is a responsible and necessary plan to avoid a default on our Nation's debt.

As we all know, under President Obama we are experiencing our third straight year of deficits in excess of \$1 trillion. In 4 years, President Obama's actions and projected budgets will add more than twice to our debt than was added during the previous 8 years. All told, the debt will double under President Obama's watch and reach a staggering \$26 trillion by 2021. That's double the debt in half the time when compared with the previous administration. Congress must act to cut spending and get our debt under control, and that's what the legislation before us does.

First, the bill cuts more than \$900 billion in Federal spending and meets the expectations of the American people that we cut spending more than we increase the debt limit.

Second, the bill guarantees the House and Senate will vote on a balanced budget amendment. More than half of the States have a balanced budget requirement, and it's time Washington's books are balanced as well.

And third, the bill also demands reforms to the way Washington works by setting up a joint House and Senate committee to find at least \$1.6 trillion in additional savings. Its work product would enjoy expedited consideration in the House and Senate and could not be filibustered.

I'd also like to take a moment to point out that, despite what you've heard from the critics of this approach, that this is the most common way the debt limit is increased, for a short duration and tied to spending reforms. And history is pretty clear on this point.

Over the last 25 years, Congress and the President have acted 31 times to increase the debt limit. Twenty-two of those 31 times were for less than a year. Only 3 of those 31 increases lasted longer than 2 years.

These debt limit increases are often tied to spending reforms and are preceded by very short-term increases. Three examples of those include:

In 1987, there were three short-term debt limit increases prior to a longer term increase that included deficit targets and automatic sequestration provisions.

In 1990, there were six very short-term increases before a longer term increase that included PAYGO, discretionary caps, and other programmatic changes.

And in 1996, there were two very short-term increases to ensure full funding of Social Security and other Federal funds before a longer-term increase included in the Contract with America Advancement Act.

□ 1620

So what we're doing today is what has happened before.

I would also point out that the increase in the debt limit and the binding process to achieve spending reform in Washington is exactly what the financial markets need and expect from us.

Time is short, and this bill may be our last best chance to prevent a default. If we fail to act and the government defaults on its debt, the financial and economic shock waves that will ripple across this country are both unpredictable and unimaginable.

Finally, I want to say a few words about something that's not in this bill, and that's tax increases. While the President continues to insist that tax increases be a part of any debt limit legislation, he has failed to convince even his own party that tax hikes are a good idea. In December of last year, when Democrats controlled both the House and the Senate, Congress refused to raise taxes. And now even Senator REID's own plan to increase the debt limit, which the President has now thrown his support behind, does not include tax increases.

Given the need to avoid default today and get our fiscal house in order for the future, we must pass the Budget Control Act. I urge a "yes" vote on this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

You know, as I've been listening to this debate, I think it's critical that the House needs some truth in speaking.

This bill is not bipartisan. The vote will soon show that. This bill is not a compromise. It does not seek bipartisan common ground. Indeed, it is orchestrated only to find enough common ground among House Republican partisans.

This bill does not reflect compromise. It would compromise, indeed, Medicare and Social Security. It forces massive cuts, consistent with the ideological Republican budget that was unanimously opposed by Democrats.

This bill does not promote certainty for our Nation's economy. Instead, it brings more uncertainty for families facing major financial decisions, for businesses deciding whether to invest or hire, for markets unsure when the next shoe might drop.

This bill is not balanced. Instead, it embraces the Republicans's one-dimensional mantra just again expressed by the chairman of our committee: no end to unjustified tax loopholes or to tax breaks for the very wealthiest, even as so many middle class families have been losing ground.

In a few words, our Nation's economy and jobs are too much to risk on a bill that is a bridge to nowhere between our two Houses.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. I yield 1½ minutes to a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER).

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, we must act now to enact critical spending reforms. While the White House has refused to offer a plan, the Budget Control Act would accomplish this goal.

Will it solve all of our economic problems? No. But instead of discussing how much more Washington will spend, we're now talking about reducing our spending and how to live within our means, just like all Americans must do. For example, the Budget Control Act would cut nearly \$1 trillion in spending over the next 10 years, establish firm spending caps, and require the Senate to vote on a balanced budget amendment.

I urge the Senate and President Obama to stop playing politics and support this bill.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to another member of our committee, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL).

Mr. NEAL. I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding the time.

This argument today is not about new spending. The argument today is about paying our bills. This is the credit card that has come due for the irresponsibility that we witnessed in this Chamber and across this Congress for 8 years of the Bush administration: two wars and \$2.3 trillion worth of tax cuts, a prescription D Medicare drug bill that came due.

Lawrence Lindsey, the President's chief economic advisor at the time, said it was going to cost \$300 billion in Iraq. They fired him. Dick Cheney said \$60 billion in Iraq and in and out in 6 to 8 months. Ten years later, we're in Iraq.

We have created 2.2 million new veterans. They are going to need our care for years to come in our health centers for the VA. It's going to be expensive. Paul Wolfowitz: In and out of Iraq in 2 months, a few billion dollars. The bill, our friends, has come due.

We cannot send a message to markets anywhere that the full faith and

credit of the United States of America is at risk. In the aftermath of World War II, when finances were strained as never before, President Truman had the vision not only to pay off the debt of World War II, but to embrace the Marshall Plan, one of the greatest achievements in American history.

Think of what Mr. Lincoln, who served in this Chamber, by the way, think of what Mr. Lincoln might have said in the midst of the Civil War, America's worst moment, that America would forfeit its expenditures as the bill has come due.

Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Hamilton met in New York with one of the most fateful decisions in American history, to accept the debt of the States, which moved us away from the Articles of Confederation to a constitutional system. And now, at this moment, a political party in our history that always embraced fiscal responsibility, the bill has come due, and it's our obligation to pay it.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee and the chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY).

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Chairman CAMP, the bill, ladies and gentlemen, has come due.

Because Congress holds the purse strings, we just ran the numbers. Since World War II, Democrats in Congress have run up 90 percent of the debt that's held by the public. Ninety percent of the debt that we owe to foreign countries, to other corporations, to you and me have been run up by one side of the aisle. Wouldn't it be great if Democrats joined us in paying the bills that they ran up? But they won't.

Today, Republicans will take responsibility for their mess. We're going to make sure this country pays its bills, but we're going to make sure we start cutting up the credit cards, we change the financial behavior of this country, and that we actually give our kids and grandkids a future that they can count on, that they can afford, a country that's much stronger than the one we're facing today if we don't address this debt problem.

As a conservative, you can't cut soon enough or deep enough for me, but the Budget Control Act starts us on the right step. It cuts \$2.7 trillion in two steps. We cut more than we allow to be borrowed, we make sure there are no tax increases on our children, on our small businesses, on your families. We make sure there is finally a real straight up-and-down vote on a constitutional amendment to finally balance Washington's budget. We get more than half of the spending cuts in the Republican budget proposed by our Budget Chairman PAUL RYAN. More than half of those cuts are put in place because of this bill.

It doesn't solve the problems of America, but I'll tell you what: If you vote this bill down, all we've done is write a blank check to the President; we've given everyone a free ride in Washington until next election, and they will not be held accountable, no one in Congress, for getting our financial house in order.

This bill is the first step. It's the right step. It's where we need to move forward.

□ 1630

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), another member of our committee.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, my neighbors in Texas are saying work together to resolve this crisis without jeopardizing Medicare and Social Security. Adopt a balanced approach that balances the budget by closing some tax loopholes at the same time we cut spending.

But agreeing has not been possible so far when so many of our House colleagues pride themselves on being disagreeable. Instead of protecting the full faith and credit of these United States in the same manner as our Republican colleagues voted to do seven times for President George W. Bush, today's bill really represents little more than a ransom note from those who are using this critical issue to hold our country hostage.

As their price for ensuring our national creditworthiness, they demand that we jeopardize the security for the very young with educational opportunities, and for the old with Social Security and Medicare. Their ransom demands do not share the sacrifice, but they sure do spread the pain—to the young, to the old, to those who are trying to climb up the economic ladder or just not slide backwards.

They talk about tightening the belt. The only belt they're really tightening is right around the neck of the hostages that they've taken.

I believe now is the time to stand firm for those families and to affirm that America will always pay our bills by rejecting this bill and then moving forward with more reasonable legislation.

Mr. CAMP. At this time I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot of talk about the past and how we got here. The American people get it. We have debt, serious debt, a threat to our national security and a threat to our economic prosperity; and a default, putting the full faith and credit of the United States on the line, would make that worse.

This House has passed Cut, Cap, and Balance. We stood up to our responsibility and passed a bill. Now we have a

second bill because it didn't get through the Senate. We have a second bill brought forward consistent with our principles. We're going to cut more than we're going to borrow. We're going to cap spending with real statutory caps, and we're going to ensure that there will be a vote on a balanced budget amendment in both Houses. That's what the American people want. They're demanding it. This is a solid first step to getting debt under control. We need to move forward now.

Let me be clear: this House must act now. The time is running out. The Senate must act on this bill, and the President must sign it. Let's uphold our responsibilities. We have a responsibility to the American people. Let's uphold our responsibility and do what's right for the country.

Mr. LEVIN. Could I inquire of our time, please.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) has 9½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) has 7 minutes remaining.

Mr. LEVIN. It is now my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), another distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this proposal that is brought to us today can be characterized by three words: reckless, hypocritical, and abusive.

It's reckless because for the first time in history we're having people play an elaborate game of fiscal chicken, threatening the full faith and credit of the United States for their own ideological agenda; 102 times we have increased the debt limit since 1917, seven times for George Bush, even though he was fighting unfunded wars and proposing massive tax cuts. People are already paying the price right now as we are starting to see the stock market slide, premiums are increased for ensuring our debt, and there is doubt about where we are going forward.

It is hypocritical because the Republicans have refused to actually back up some of their fanciful rhetoric in their Cut, Cap, and Balance amendment that would require massive cuts to budgets.

Earlier this week, one of our friends from the Republican Study Committee had the temerity to offer an amendment to the bill that is being debated this week on appropriations for Interior and EPA that would have been 11 percent. And what did the Republicans do when faced with a bill that would actually make them impose the cuts that they envision? They ran away from it; 104 of them voted with responsible Democrats saying we're not going to go that way. They don't want to go that way. They're not stepping up and actually doing the cutting. They want to do it far in the future.

Last, it's abusive. We have a divided government. The American public

wants a balanced solution. They welcome tax reform and modest closing of loopholes to be able to avoid massive cuts in the future and to be able to get on a path to fiscal responsibility. But the Republican minority has decided, no, it is our way or the highway even if it means threatening our fiscal future.

Reject this sham.

Mr. CAMP. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BUCHANAN), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, we need to cut spending today and reduce the deficit and avoid the dangerous prospects of putting America for the first time in default.

The bill before us today will accomplish that without raising taxes on the American people. With unemployment being what it is today, in terms of looking at small businesses, it also will not raise taxes on small businesses who are the job providers. I support the Budget Control Act because the time is now for Congress and the President to do what is in the best interest of the American people.

Our economy is struggling. Our current national debt is over \$14 trillion, and we're adding \$4.5 billion a day to our deficit and debt. Let me break that down. That is \$188 million per hour to our deficits and debt, \$4.5 billion a day.

This reckless pattern of borrowing and spending has put our country on the road to bankruptcy. Washington needs to show the American people that we can deal with these challenges today and in the future. I urge my colleagues to support the Budget Control Act.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), another distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I have the greatest amount of respect for the chairman of our committee, the Ways and Means Committee. But I think you're wrong on what you're trying to do today.

Do you remember May 31 of this year, Mr. Chairman? We took a vote May 31. In fact, we took a vote on raising the debt limit. The vote was based upon a resolution introduced in this House by the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee; and he said when he introduced the piece of legislation on this floor that he hoped it would fail. He said we're not going to get enough votes to get this done. And so he set out to undermine his own resolution.

Now JFK said: I do not shrink from this responsibility; I welcome it.

I welcome my responsibility today and what I have to do. I'm going to have a pleasure to vote "no" because I know what has happened since May 31, a day of infamy. So we'll make it known that the bill couldn't pass so the American people understand that. The American people don't want us to

tell them what they need or what they want. They should tell us what they need and what they want. We think we know, and most of the time we don't know on either side of the aisle.

They're choosing to extend the state of political and economic turmoil another 6 months in this bill. We want to go through the holidays doing this back and forth? Won't that be sweet. We'll make people think we're working.

It has been over 200 days and still not one piece of job legislation from the majority on this floor. Decades of the majority's policies exploded the deficit. You know what the cause of it is. The cost of just the Bush tax cuts will be 40 percent of the Federal debt by 2019. And when you add in the two wars, it'll be 47 percent. Who are we kidding here? The Republican budget bill this year added \$6 trillion to the national debt.

I rest my case. Live up to your responsibilities. That's what the American people want us to do.

Mr. CAMP. At this time I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this bill. As a proud member of the freshman class that came to Washington, D.C., in November 2010, I can tell you the culture of this city is changing.

□ 1640

I hear my colleagues on the other side of the aisle put forth the argument that because we've raised the debt ceiling 102 times and seven times under President Bush that somehow it makes it right for us to raise the debt ceiling without dealing with the problem that's causing it to exist in the first place, and that is the uncontrolled spending that has gotten us to this point of \$14.4 trillion of national debt.

As a member of the freshmen class, we have changed the culture of this place because now the debate is happening on the floor of this House, and we're going to take it to the Senate so that they take it to the floor of the Senate and for once openly and honestly debate the issues of the day. Yet they still in the Senate have not heard that call, but through this process, they will.

We wanted more, but we realize that this is just a step in the process. The battle will go on. We will act responsibly today by passing this out of the House and cure the risk that comes from the risk of default.

But don't make any mistake about it: The battle will go on, and this is just the beginning.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to another distinguished member of our committee, the gentleman from the great State of California, XAVIER BECERRA.

Mr. BECERRA. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are way ahead of the politicians. They have been telling us over and over again: We want a balanced approach to reducing our deficits.

One in five Americans has said very clearly: We support the Republicans' slash-and-burn default plan that we see before us that only cuts services to Americans to try to help us balance our budget. But nearly three times as many Americans have been saying over and over again: We want to see a balanced approach between those cuts to very important services, a little bit of pain, but also tax increases on all those folks who have been taking advantage of those tax loopholes and making a ton of money.

The American people don't think it's a good idea to cut Medicare and Social Security and to cut Medicaid to protect tax loopholes for special interests. They've been saying that over and over.

But here's the biggest clue that our Republican colleagues aren't listening to: The American people have said over and over that the biggest deficit our country faces today is a jobs deficit. After 204 days as the majority, Republicans have only given us slash-and-burn politics that have created not one single job for hardworking middle class families. In fact, instead of creating jobs, their major pieces of legislation could potentially cost 2 million more Americans to lose their jobs.

The worst thing about this whole charade is that every single person here in this room today knows that this bill that we're discussing today won't go anywhere. We face the very real possibility of an historic default in under a week, and here we are spinning our wheels.

We all agree that our Nation must not default on its past obligations. The Republican Members here must abandon their "my way or the highway" approach and work across the aisle on a balanced, bipartisan agreement to reduce our deficit, create jobs, and protect our seniors and our middle class.

I say to my Republican friends: America is not short on work ethic; we're short on jobs. It's time for us to get to the business of America and create those jobs.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. It is now my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), who is a member of our committee and the chair of our caucus.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Thank you, Mr. LEVIN.

Mr. Speaker, at this very moment, the whole world is watching in on the United States Congress.

It is a sad day for the United States Congress. We in America, the pre-eminent military, economic, and cultural leaders in the world, are gov-

erning like we're a Third World country. It is a sad time for this body that we cannot come together. Sad is the American public who looks in at this and recognizes that it's theater, except that it's become the theater of the absurd.

In a frail recovery where Americans are already overburdened, what we have in front of us is a manufactured ideological crisis. Eighteen times the debt ceiling was raised for Ronald Reagan, eight times for George Bush, because they would never stand in this body to see a default on the full faith and credit of the United States. As the world looks in and we default on a global economy and we march towards defaulting on a national economy, the most ruinous thing is that we are defaulting on household economies.

What this body should be focusing on is dealing with this deficit and focusing, as Mr. BECERRA said, on the real default that's taking place in Congress: the lack of job creation, the need to put people back to work so that we can restore the dignity that only comes when people are able to sit across their dining table and look at one another and know that they have the dignity that comes from a job.

We need not go through this ideological hostage situation. Why are we holding the American people hostage? Let's put America back to work. We're a better Nation. We're a better body than that.

Mr. CAMP. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL).

Ms. SEWELL. As a freshman Member of this distinguished body, I am completely disappointed in our failure to work together.

Our constituents sent us here to solve America's problems, not create more problems for them. The constituents of the Seventh Congressional District of Alabama sent me here to make sure that I better their lives, not create fear and instability.

The entire world is watching us, and what are we showing them? We're showing them that we're completely detached from reality. We're showing them that we don't care about what their families, local governments, States, and businesses are facing.

America's debts are serious. We all know that. We have to put our fiscal house in order. No one is disputing that. It's how we go about it. No matter how we got here, we have bills to pay and we must pay our bills. That's what we, as Americans, do. We pay our bills.

The Republican bill that's before us does not do that. What it does is it holds hostage America's promise, the

promise that we made to students and to seniors for Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid. It's unfair.

I ask my colleagues in this House to vote against the bill on the floor.

Mr. CAMP. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. LEVIN. In a few words, what is endeavored here is an abdication of responsibility.

This bill is going nowhere. It tries to bind the wounds of a divided Republican caucus. We should do better. We'll have to do better.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I have been listening to my friends on the other side over the course of this afternoon, and I would just say to them: Where is your plan? Where is your legislation to address the debt problems of the United States? Where are your ideas in legislation that is scored by the Congressional Budget Office so that you could bring your alternative to the floor? This isn't the direction that you want to go; where is your plan?

I notice in the other body, the majority has not passed a budget in more than 800 days. Frankly, if they passed a budget on the other side, we might not be in this situation because we would have the avenue of reconciliation potentially available to us. This is the second Congress the other body hasn't passed a budget. We've got no ideas from my friends on the other side on how to address this issue.

So this is the second proposal that we have put forward that has been in legislative form, that has been scored, where you can address the problems that are facing this country.

□ 1650

We've had lots of rhetoric from the other side, but no concrete plans. We've had lots of press releases from the other side, but no proposals. Even the President has not articulated one spending cut after giving us 3 years of trillion-dollar deficits, after putting us on a path to more than double the debt of this country in less than half the time of the previous administration.

So I would say this is the proposal that will get our country onto a fiscal path that will prevent default, that will address the long-term debt obligations that this Nation has run up, frankly, under both parties. But we need to address them now because the trajectory has become so much worse in recent years. This is the plan.

I urge a "yes" vote.

I ask unanimous consent that the balance of my time be yielded to the Budget Committee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Michigan's remaining 2 minutes will be

yielded to the chairman of the Budget Committee.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) a member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. LANKFORD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to speak in support of this bill.

I came on as a freshman, and in January of this year we were already talking about this moment. For months, the conversation has been: How do we reach a point of agreement? There have been lots of different ideas floated around. Very few of those have been put down in writing. But the ideas that have been floated around seem to circle around a central theme: How can we find a middle ground to be able to resolve this issue? I propose this bill is that middle ground.

The debt reduction that's in it was a framework that was formed in the Biden talks. The Select Committee that's in it is something very important to the Senate, that HARRY REID raised that idea. The proposal to have a balanced budget amendment is very important to Republicans to say, Let's have a moment to be able to discuss that. And the statutory caps that are coming are very important to Republicans.

This is a bill that has been discussed in its essence and in its core in a bipartisan fashion. And while we search for a compromise, I would suggest we have found it. And we are about to vote on it. This is a moment to be able to look at it and say it is not the draconian monster that it has been described as. It allows a simple way to be able to handle one of the most difficult issues that we have dealt with in a very long time.

Ultimately, we bump up against an issue that is significant because of this one key truth: Why has this not been a problem before? Why haven't we passed it? Why haven't we just added to the debt ceiling year after year after year? We've done that. But now we have reached \$14.3 trillion. We've now reached 100 percent of GDP. We have to start dealing seriously with how do we start paying down our debt. And not just paying our interest payments, but how do we start paying down our debt. At this moment in time it becomes a key moment to say, Let's resolve the problem, let's start dealing with difficult issues and work on these together, both parties both Houses, to be able to settle the issues. But let's do it in a way that forms long-term solutions.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It's high time that we stopped playing Russian roulette with the Amer-

ican economy and American jobs. And yet that is exactly what this measure does, for the following reason. It says, Okay, America, we're going to pay America's bills, but only for 5 more months—and only if we put in motion a plan that will end the Medicare guarantee and slash education. The proposal before us today will put the American economy and American jobs at even greater jeopardy over the next 5 months than they are today. It deliberately, by choice, keeps the economy under a cloud of instability and uncertainty. It chooses to risk higher interest rates and shrinking retirement funds that hit on every American family.

So why would we choose to intentionally keep this cloud hanging over the country and the American people? We're told that we have to do it in order to force this Congress to reduce the deficit. That's what we're told. But the actions tell a very different story. The actions suggest this is not about reducing the deficit. It's about reducing the deficit in a particular way—the way the Republican plan wants to reduce the deficit. That's why our Republican colleagues walked out of talks three times. That's why they've rejected the balanced approach and framework put forward by the President that says, Let's do \$4 trillion in deficit reduction, and we'll do \$3 trillion in spending cuts and \$1 trillion in revenue. Three dollars of spending cuts to every dollar in revenue from cutting special interest tax breaks and asking the folks at the very top to go back to the rates they were paying during the Clinton administration.

Our Republican colleagues rejected that approach to reducing the deficit because they don't want to end these tax breaks for the purpose of reducing the deficit. In fact, we passed a piece of legislation just a week ago that says we're going to keep America from paying our bills unless we enact a constitutional amendment that makes it easier to cut Medicare and Social Security than it does to cut special interest subsidies. It would say a majority vote, let's just cut Medicare and education, but you need two-thirds, a supermajority, if you want to cut corporate tax breaks for the purpose of reducing the deficit.

So that's what it's all about. This particular issue on the debt ceiling is a manufactured crisis. We've all heard when President Reagan was President, he raised it 17 times. So this is a manufactured crisis in order to try and force and squeeze through a particular deficit reduction plan—a deficit reduction plan that would end the Medicare guarantee, cut education, and yet protect those special interest tax breaks and breaks for the very top.

If we want to be serious about the deficit, we need to do a balanced approach, but let's not hold the entire

American economy hostage. Let's not put us on 5-month to 5-month interest rate and creditworthiness watches in order to jam through a particular idea on deficit reduction.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

I enjoyed listening to the talking points from my friend. I just don't think they apply to this bill.

Russian roulette. This is the second piece of legislation we've brought to the floor to responsibly raise the debt limit while cutting spending. Manufactured crisis. Who went on television to scare senior citizens that their Social Security checks might be in doubt? The President of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the cuts in this bill were agreed to in a bipartisan group. The level of cuts in this bill that go into effect immediately are \$2 billion off the Senate majority leader's cuts in his bill. These were agreed to on a bipartisan basis. We're cutting spending not as much as we want, but at least we're cutting spending. Russian roulette is raising the debt limit without getting borrowing under control. A manufactured crisis is trying to scare seniors and the country into giving this government another blank check to keep spending money we don't have.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Hampshire, a member of the Budget Committee, Mr. GUINTA.

Mr. GUINTA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the bill before us, the Budget Control Act of 2011. Mr. Speaker, this is about leadership. This is about an ability and a willingness of this body to do something right, not for partisan purposes, but for spending reductions and for the country. I hear from the other side that they are concerned about this component or that component. But what I don't see is a plan and a solution. We have not put one, but two different proposals. The one that I cosponsored, Cut, Cap, and Balance, I think is the best and most appropriate way to move forward. But the Senate has decided that they don't want to take up that piece of legislation. So we're here to compromise. We're here to work with the other side of the aisle to get something accomplished on behalf of real structural change in how we spend taxpayer dollars—other people's money.

□ 1700

I took an oath to make sure I uphold the Constitution. I will also make sure that I represent New Hampshire in the manner in which they would like me to represent them. I contend that they would like us to reduce expenditures, to reduce our debt, to reduce our deficit. This bill does that. They also want to see us cap spending. We all have to

live within the means we have. We take in \$2.2 trillion a year, and we're spending about \$3.7 trillion. Nobody in America has that type of balance sheet.

The time to act is now. No more partisan politics. No more baseless charges from Members of this body. Let's do the right thing. Let's make sure that we can send a message to the country that we can work in a bipartisan fashion to do what everybody in the country understands we need to do, which is to spend no more than we take in. That is the goal. That is the objective.

In exchange for that, we allow this President to raise the debt ceiling, to pay for the 41 cents of every dollar that we continue to borrow. That policy has to stop. Those days are over.

I support this bill, and I urge my colleagues here in the House and the Senate to do the same.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. We keep hearing from our colleagues that there wasn't a proposal put forward by the President. The framework is pretty clear, and we can sort of solve this particular piece of it today, if possible. He said he will do \$3 in spending cuts for \$1 of revenue for deficit reduction. If someone wants to take us up on that offer while we're talking about it on the floor, that would be just terrific.

Because our Republican colleagues walked out of that discussion, Senator REID did put on the table a proposal that has been scored by the Congressional Budget Office. I have their score in my hand, dated July 27, 2011. It would reduce the deficit by \$2.2 trillion, more than the \$917 billion score in the Republican proposal. This is a non-partisan, independent CBO score. The difference is he would raise the debt ceiling for 2 years so we don't keep the economy under a cloud, so we don't keep the threat of higher interest rates going into effect, which would be a hit on every American family.

Why we would choose to deliberately keep the economy under a cloud and put jobs at risk is a mystery. The only answer is our Republican colleagues want to use that as a forcing mechanism to ultimately put in place their budget plan, which does end the Medicare guarantee, which does slash education and does protect corporate tax loopholes.

With that, I yield 1 minute to a terrific member of the Budget Committee, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCHWARTZ).

Ms. SCHWARTZ. We are faced with an important moment for our Nation: a moment of enormous economic uncertainty, a moment to significantly reduce our deficit and make the right choices for our future.

The Boehner bill does neither. As a result, it has little support from either side of the aisle because it does not seriously reduce the deficit. It will en-

sure uncertainty in the markets for many, many months ahead, and it cuts \$1 trillion over 10 years.

Speaker BOEHNER had the opportunity, in working with the President, to reduce the deficit, not by \$1 trillion but by \$4 trillion, and he walked away from that plan. The Gang of Six made a bipartisan effort to reduce the deficit by \$3 trillion, and he rejected that plan as well. This moment is about choices. Speaker BOEHNER made a choice to walk away from the plans that offered trillions of dollars in deficit reduction, and he substituted, instead, a political document with significantly less deficit reduction.

This is not a serious proposal, and we have little time to avoid default. Let's stop wasting time. Members from both sides of the aisle should reject this bill because it is an inadequate response to both deficit reduction and because of the harm it will do to our Nation's economy.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. At this time, I yield 2 minutes to a member of the Budget Committee, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

Mr. COLE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Every now and then, Mr. Speaker, you need to just step back and look at the record and put the rhetoric aside.

When this majority showed up in January of this last year, we found a situation where our friends on the other side had failed to write a budget for this year, had failed to pass any appropriations bills and had just sort of gone home.

We had a President who had appointed a debt reduction commission but yet failed to embrace any of their actions at all—not one. Then we heard the President come and address us in this Chamber in a state of the Union message, but for 35 minutes, he didn't bother to mention the looming debt crisis—35 minutes.

The first serious proposal we got from that President, our President, was for a \$400 billion reduction over 10 years that was so laughable that, when it was brought up in the United States Senate, which is controlled by his party, it failed 97–0.

Then the President wanted to have a free vote on raising the debt ceiling. Let's just raise it. Go ahead and see what happens. We obviously don't support that as we think there ought to be some spending reductions, but we said, sure, you've got the vote. Fewer than 100 of my friends on the other side supported their own President when he asked for that vote. They clearly weren't sufficiently motivated to do that.

Now we've reached a point where, last week, we actually did raise the debt ceiling by \$2.7 trillion. We did institute cuts that, frankly, are going to happen anyway—they coincide with my friend Mr. RYAN's budget—and we put

caps on long-term spending. We said just give the American people a chance—just a chance—to vote on a balanced budget amendment. We're not asking that it pass, but don't you think they ought to have the right through their State legislatures to make that decision? We were denied that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. COLE. Now we're at a point where we are about to, once again, raise the debt ceiling and to do it in a responsible way, in a way that I predict, frankly, will probably become the pattern in the future. This body should never raise the debt ceiling again automatically. We've certainly done it on our side, and our friends on the other side have done it. We should always couple it with spending restraint and reform, and that's exactly what we're doing in this measure.

This majority has enacted a budget. My friend has taken a lot of arrows for that budget, but I'm proud to be associated with him. This majority will have twice raised the debt ceiling and coupled it with historic spending cuts.

As for the President's plan that we hear about, I'd just like to see it, just once. I haven't seen anything or heard anything like this since Richard Nixon had a secret plan to end the war. The President must have a secret plan, because it's not on paper; it has not been scored, and it has not been publicly presented to anybody.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has again expired.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. COLE. If the majority leader's plan scores at \$2.2 trillion—and I take my friend's word on that—I guess we really have a \$4 trillion deficit, because we have \$3 trillion, and we don't even count the extra \$1 trillion, which is automatic because the wars are ending. So I think we ought to up ours. We have a \$4 trillion plan. We ought to give the majority leader the credit for finding that additional \$1 trillion.

If you'll just vote for this, you'll have your magic \$4 trillion plan done—our 3, Senator REID's 1. That adds up to what the President wanted. So let's pass this, give the Senate an opportunity to pass it, and give the President of the United States an opportunity to sign it.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. As I was listening to my friend, I really don't think the American people want us to be doing this every 5 months so that it becomes business as usual that we put the country through this crisis situation and with the threat of rising interest rates and all the other negative economic consequences that would happen.

Because the grand bargain is now off the table, Senator REID has put forward a proposal. Again, I have the CBO

scoring of it right here: \$2.2 trillion, with more cuts than in the proposal that's on the table here from our Republican colleagues, the big difference being he doesn't want to say every 5 months "let's put the country into economic crisis" and deal with all the uncertainty between now and 5 months from now that that will create.

With that, I yield 1 minute to a terrific member of the Budget Committee, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN).

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

One of the issues we want on the table here is revenue. The top 400 wealthiest people in the United States of America pay a 17 percent tax rate. My constituents in Youngstown and Akron, Ohio, pay a heck of a lot more than 17 percent.

□ 1710

We hear our friends on the other side say how all of these changes need to occur, how all of these problems need to be solved. But heaven forbid, Mr. Speaker, we ask the 400 wealthiest families in the United States of America to maybe be a little bit patriotic and help us out. And you'll say, Well, these are the job creators. These taxes aren't going into place for another year or two. We've got to get through this downturn.

But we need to send the message to the bond market that we are serious. And for us to be this irresponsible and not ask the wealthiest—what are they being asked to sacrifice here? The top 1 percent, what are we asking them to sacrifice?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. One final point.

The debt that we now are debating was run up by our friends on the other side—two wars, the Bush tax cuts, and a prescription drug plan all on the credit card. And now the same people who've worked their way up in the leadership positions are saying, We're not going to pay the bill. This is irresponsible.

Let's solve this in a balanced way, and let's ask for some shared sacrifice.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

The gentleman, my friend over from Maryland, keeps talking about the Reid plan, the Senate majority leader over in the Senate. His plan, I've got the CBO score, too. It says it's a \$2.7 trillion increase. That means it doesn't raise the debt limit less than we cut spending, so it cuts less. But more importantly, \$1.3 trillion of that money is accounting tricks and budget gimmicks.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are tired of all of the accounting tricks and the budget gimmicks that go on in Washington. Let me explain what \$1.3

trillion of this does. It says that imagine that we're at war for 10 years in Afghanistan and Iraq at surge levels. We assume we're going to be fighting this war for 10 more years with over 100,000 troops in Afghanistan and, oh gosh, wait. We're going to withdraw our troops in 2014. Trillion dollars in savings.

I've got a better idea. Let's pass a bill to cover the Moon with yogurt that will cost \$5 trillion today. And then let's pass a bill the next day to cancel that bill. We could save \$5 trillion. Wait. I got a better idea. Our debt is \$14 trillion. Let's come up with a new plan to spend \$14 trillion, then rescind it the next day and let's save \$14 trillion.

This stuff is fiscal fantasy. You can't make this stuff up, Mr. Speaker. Suggesting that we're going to be in a war at these levels for 10 more years when everybody knows we've already decided not to do that, that does not get us \$1.3 trillion in spending cuts. Only in Washington can you add up math like that. We need real spending cuts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield myself an additional minute to say this is getting serious, Mr. Speaker, very serious. We can't keep spending money we just don't have. Now 42 cents of every dollar coming out of this place is borrowed money. It doesn't just threaten our children and grandchildren any more. It is hurting our economy today.

Half of that money is coming from other countries like China. Why on Earth do we want to give the President a blank check to keep doing that, giving our sovereignty and our self-determination to other countries to lend us money to fund our government. Those days have got to end.

This bill doesn't cut as much as we want. We passed a budget cut \$6.2 trillion in real spending cuts. This cuts about a trillion.

Let's cut this trillion, bank that money, and then go cut some more. That's what we're trying to do to be responsible.

The problem in this town is not that we don't tax Americans enough. The problem is we're spending way too much money.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, of course we should be reducing the deficit. Of course we should make sure that we don't rely on the Chinese as our bankers any more, which is why it's so ironic that our Republican colleagues refuse to cut subsidies for oil companies by one penny for the purpose of reducing the deficit so we don't have to rely on borrowing from China anymore.

In fact, if you look at Exxon's quarterly profits today, they're through the roof. Now, I'm all for having Exxon make money. But why should they

have taxpayer money on top of it? And yet our Republican colleagues get up here and they talk about how we're dependent on China. But they don't want to break that dependency if it means actually asking the top oil companies to get rid of their subsidies for the purpose of deficit reduction. So let's get serious.

Now, with respect to the plan that has been put forward by Senator REID. I listened to my colleague. I would point out to the body that if you look at the Republican budget and the documents that accompanied it when they pointed out what their savings were relative to the CBO baseline, they also show a trillion dollars in savings from the global war on terror. As my friend the chairman knows, that is a function of the way the Congressional Budget Office scores.

But it is also a fact that when the Republican budget was presented, they presented it both relative to the President's baseline and the congressional budget baseline. I would further make the point that even if you took that off the table, the proposal by Senator REID cuts immediately more on spending than the Republican proposal before us today, the difference being he doesn't keep the economy hanging under a cloud for 5 months and make this country go through this exercise just by the end of December.

With that, I would yield 1 minute to the distinguished Member of Congress from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON).

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Soon my colleagues will be quoting Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, and here's a quote they will not read and they will ignore: "In a sense, we've come to our Nation's Capital to cash a check. When the architects of our Republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the 'unalienable rights' of 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.'"

"It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note in so far as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the people a bad check, a check which has come back marked 'insufficient funds.'"

But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. The problem, Mr. Chairman, is not that we spend. It's that we don't honor our obligations. We are a Nation that spends billions of dollars to put a man on the Moon, fund the war in Afghanistan, fund the war in Iraq, but we can't find the money in this Congress to put a man on his own two feet right here in America.

And there is something more fundamental, Mr. Speaker, that is going on

here. This President is being treated differently than other Presidents. No other President has been "stook up," shook down, or held hostage as this President of the United States over this debt vote. This is fundamentally unfair, Mr. Speaker, to change the rules in the middle of the game.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would respectfully ask that Members heed the gavel and only consume the amount of time yielded to them by the floor managers.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas, the chairman of the House Republican Conference, Mr. HENSARLING.

Mr. HENSARLING. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this Nation has a debt crisis not because we are undertaxed but because Washington spends too much. And here we are days before the President's August 2 deadline, and the President of the United States has yet to submit a plan to deal with the debt crisis. Here we are days away from the President's August 2 deadline, and the United States Senate has yet to pass a single plan.

Days before the President's August 2 deadline, not only have House Republicans passed their first plan, in a manner of hours we will vote yet again on another plan to deal with the debt crisis that we must remember is spending driven. It's the President's spending that brought us here.

Now, the bill that we're bringing to the House floor, Mr. Speaker, is not the ultimate solution. But, Mr. Speaker, it ensures that this Nation pays its current bills, like families, like small businesses have to. It gives us the opportunity to actually cut spending.

□ 1720

The amounts are not what they should be, but for the second year in a row, we will have the opportunity to actually reduce spending to save our country and save our children's futures. But most importantly, within this legislation is the opportunity that brings us the ultimate solution, and that, Mr. Speaker, is a balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution. Every family, every small business, almost every State has a provision that says, we have to balance our budget. Should we expect less of a great Nation? Maybe that's why we have the \$14 trillion debt. We must act today, approve this bill, balance the budget for our Nation and future generations.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield myself 2 minutes at this time, Mr. Speaker.

This legislation before us today is a down payment. Does this cut the

amount of spending we need to save the country from a debt crisis? No. Our budget does do that. This is two-thirds of the spending cuts we called for in this category of spending, discretionary spending. Is it 100 percent of the cuts we asked for? No, it's two-thirds of the cuts we asked for.

What does the President's budget do? It actually spends \$130 billion more. I will take two-thirds of the step in the right direction instead of going in the wrong direction, the President's plan.

The Congressional Budget Office, we asked them to take a look at the President's framework. The CBO director told me under oath that they can't score speeches. This plan rejects the President's fiscal demands for tax increases, and it rejects his political demands for a blank check to get him through the election.

What we are doing here today is getting serious about getting spending under control. The spending cuts that are in this bill were already agreed to by bipartisan talks. Why are people hiding from that? This is the second bill we will have passed to avoid a default. That's responsible. It has been 820 days since the Senate even tried passing a budget.

The President, as we know, has yet to offer a plan to fix this problem. We passed a budget to fix this problem. We passed a plan to deal with the debt limit. And now we are passing another plan, based upon mutually agreed to spending cuts that get two-thirds of the cuts we already called for in this category of government. That's reasonable. That's responsible. And that is what we should be doing. Instead, we hear all this empty rhetoric and all this call for a blank check and all these accounting gimmicks and budget gimmicks from the other side who are trying to do everything they can to do anything but cut spending.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, just to be very clear, the Democratic Senate leader Mr. REID has put on the table a plan that would cut more immediately than the Republican plan before us today, even if you don't include the overseas contingency account funding. The difference is, he would not put our economy in jeopardy again just 5 months from now, as the Republican plan did.

With that, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, we're talking about being serious. And here we're considering a \$2 trillion bill, \$200 billion a year, slapped together behind closed doors and sprung on the House less than 24 hours after it was printed, an up-or-down vote, no amendments, and is legislation that 53 Senators already say they are going to oppose.

We have a situation where last December, we passed \$400 billion a year in

tax cuts, and now everybody says we need \$400 billion a year in deficit reduction. This bill does not cut anything. It has caps, promises for cuts in the future. And we don't know what those cuts are going to be. But we know in the continuing resolution, food inspection was cut, FBI agents, air traffic controllers, flu shots, clean water grants, schools, scientific research, community health centers, transportation—we can expect all of those to be cut in the future, all to preserve tax cuts, many for millionaires and oil companies. That's not right. Let's go through the regular process so we know what we're doing.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, you know what we've seen play out here is, a few years back, we provided the tax breaks that went disproportionately to the very wealthy in this country. Now all of a sudden—oh, well, we can't pay our bills anymore, a good part of that reason being the tax cuts. But how are we going to deal with those bills? We're going to sock it to middle class America, whether it's through cuts in education or cuts to Medicare, and all because we don't want to cut subsidies for the oil companies.

Again, as I said, just today, Exxon reported huge profits. God bless them for making all that money. But why do they need any of ours, our taxpayer money? And that is the rub of the issue. It's not whether we reduce the deficit; it's how.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. May I inquire of the Chair how much time remains on either side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Wisconsin has 1 minute, and the gentleman from Maryland has 1¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I will continue to reserve the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I yield myself 45 seconds just to say that we, as a body, need to do two things: Number one, we need to make sure the United States pays its bills. We need to make sure it pays its bills, and we shouldn't do it in a way that puts the American economy in jeopardy every 5 months. Just listen to the folks, the experts who have been monitoring this. They have said that if you do this on a 5-month period, you will risk interest rates going up. Second, we need to reduce the deficit. Of course we do. Let's do it in a balanced way. The President has proposed \$3 in spending cuts to \$1 in revenue, but we can't get our colleagues on the Republican side to get one penny—not one penny—of revenue from closing a corporate tax loophole if the purpose is deficit reduction. And there is the rub.

So let's reject this wrong approach. Senator REID has a proposal on the table. It cuts more than the one that the Republicans have, but it doesn't

put the economy in jeopardy every 5 months.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the last minute to the gentlelady from California (Ms. PELOSI), the terrific Democratic leader in the House.

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I commend him for his tremendous leadership. We couldn't be prouder of the way he has represented the values of the American people, both as the ranking member of the Budget Committee and also at the table in the bipartisan talks with Mr. CLYBURN under the leadership of Vice President BIDEN. It's too bad that the progress that was made in those meetings, to have a balanced, bipartisan initiative to bring to the floor, to give confidence to the markets, and to give confidence to the American people, did not succeed because the Republicans walked away from those talks.

Mr. Speaker, last week, our Speaker, Speaker BOEHNER, said he couldn't reach an agreement with President Obama because they have different visions of our country. President Obama shares the vision of the American people. When we look to find our common ground and take it to a higher ground, I think all Americans agree that we want to educate our children for their own self-fulfillment but also to keep America number one by having innovation, which springs from education and from the classroom. I think all Americans share the higher ground, the common ground when it comes to the creation of jobs, good-paying jobs here in America for the economic stability of America's families and of our economy.

□ 1730

I think all Americans agree that we must have a dignified retirement for our seniors, where they have health and economic security. That's why Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security are so important to the American people.

I think all Americans agree that we must keep the American people safe, both in our national security and our economic security, and we must do so in a fiscally sound way without adding to the deficit. That is President Obama's vision of our country, and I'm sure that Speaker BOEHNER must share those views. So if that is the reason, the different vision of our country, maybe it is, hopefully it is not. Hopefully they share that vision.

Why are we where we are today? I believe it is because it wasn't about not sharing a vision for our country. I believe it is because the purpose of these talks was to reduce the deficit. My belief is that the Republicans came to the table not to reduce the deficit, but to go way beyond that and to dismantle decades of progress made in a bipartisan way for America's great middle class.

If, in fact, the purpose was deficit reduction in a very strong way, we were

on that path. In the Biden talks and in the talks subsequent to it, we all agreed that there had to be substantial cuts, that we had to subject Federal dollars spent to make sure that we got our money's worth for U.S. taxpayers.

Democrats wanted revenue. We wanted sharing of the sacrifice in all of this. Republicans did not.

But we still could come to a place, as Senator REID did and as our distinguished ranking member referenced, to a place that used the proposals that Republicans had in the Ryan budget and in proposals that they had agreed to in the talks to reach a strong deficit reduction number that would enable us to come to agreement and to put this matter to rest until February of 2013, so we would remove all doubt in the markets that we were going to honor our debts, we were not going to default on previous spending. The purpose was not to lift the ceiling so we could spend more. The purpose was to lift the ceiling so we could pay for previous obligations, and that there would be that 18 months of certainty.

Instead, the Republicans have come forth with a proposal that, as I said, dismantled. This isn't about deficit reduction. This is about dismantling the public sector. And in doing so, they want to do it for 6 months, which means the minute this thing would be accomplished, and God forbid that it would be accomplished, we would have to start all over again.

I believe the American people are disappointed that this has taken so long, then angry that it is happening because of the uncertainty it brings to their lives, and, next, disgusted with the whole process. And they are so rightly so, because if our purpose is to reduce the deficit, we certainly can do that. If our purpose is to dismantle progress to the middle class, we won't be a party to it.

I think that the 6-month plan, not only in terms of uncertainty, is also a job killer. It has front-loaded cuts that will deter, impede the growth of our economy, our comeback, and, again, kill jobs. Every day that we are debating this is another day that we are not talking about job creation. Every day.

Republican bills that they have brought to the floor in the first 200 days of their majority, now it's 205, would amount to nearly 2 million jobs lost, just under 10,000 jobs a day lost by the proposals they have brought to the floor.

The American people's top priority is the creation of jobs. Jobs, jobs, jobs, jobs. Instead of this prolonged dismantling of the public sector attempt, we should instead have reached agreement—we still can—on a balanced bipartisan approach.

I want to say something as a mom about this dismantling of the public sector. I view my role in politics as an extension of my role as a mother and

now a grandmother. As parents, all of us know that we want to do everything we can for our children to help them grow, be healthy, to learn, to reach their fulfillment, but there are things we can't do for them. We have to look to the public sector in order for them, and moms can identify with this, I'm sure, to make sure that they have clean drinking water, that the air they breathe is clean, that there is food safety. We can't do that ourselves. We can't do that ourselves. That is a public role.

The list goes on about the education of our children, the health security of our grandparents. Now, being a grandparent myself, but in terms of Medicare, Medicaid, all the things that are important to children, their health, their education, the economic security of their families, the pension security and health security of their grandparents, the safety of their neighborhood, some of these are private roles, some of these are public roles, some are public/private roles.

But, as a mom, I call upon all mothers across the country to understand what this bill does to the health and well-being of America's children. And really, it's quite ironic, because any speech that you hear on the floor, in meetings and all the rest, they say we must reduce the deficit because it's immoral to pass along deficits to our children. Well, I think it's wrong to pass along private or public debt to our children.

But what we are doing here is to pass along to our children a future less bright because of, again, I'll say it again, this dismantling of the public sector, which is an ideological goal long held by our friends. They would rather see seniors pay more for Medicare. They'd rather cut Medicaid and jeopardize Social Security while they give tax subsidies to Big Oil making record profits, tax breaks to corporations sending jobs overseas, and tax breaks to the wealthiest people in our country at the expense of the education of our children and the health and well-being of our country.

I hope that the House will reject this measure. I know that people of good intention to reduce the deficit can find a path to do that. It can't be too late because we have a deadline on August 2.

But I want to pay my respects to President Obama, who has been respectful of every suggestion proposed by the Republicans, giving it the time and attention that they thought it deserved. He tried to accommodate all of those to have a balanced bipartisan approach. And what did the Republicans do? Walk away from the table.

Well, the American people know about this. That's why 50-some percent of the American people support the balanced bipartisan approach that the President says we should strive to achieve, and only about 19 percent of

the American people support the proposal that is put forth by the Republicans.

□ 1740

This House should reject that. We should come together and use the work that has been done already to do something that will remove all doubt that we pay our bills, to remove all doubt that we are a strong economy that recognizes the role we play in the global economy, but also recognizes that all of this has an impact in the lives of everyday Americans as they sit around their kitchen table thinking about what they will do if the cost of credit goes up.

And that means their credit card bills, their car payment, their house payment, student loans and the rest are more expensive to them. This is very costly in terms of confidence and in terms of making ends meet.

Let's be responsible. Reject this bill and get back to work so that on Tuesday we will have met our obligations. That's the least that we can do for our children.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to Speaker BOEHNER's flawed plan to address our urgent need to raise the debt limit and our longer term challenge of reducing our nation's debt.

First, the Speaker's plan is a short-term band-aid, when our economy and markets need certainty. Under the Speaker's plan, we would be back where we are now in a few months, facing yet another possibility of defaulting on our debt. We should pass a debt limit extension that will take us through 2012. Playing with the creditworthiness of the United States is a game that never should have been started.

Second, this bill virtually guarantees cuts to Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security while protecting oil companies and the wealthiest in our country from any pain or paying their fair share. Billionaires are not being asked to pay more in taxes; loopholes that benefit the few are sacrosanct. But the programs seniors and children rely upon receive no such consideration.

Finally, this bill ignores the central problem facing our nation today: we need to put more people to work so they can afford to buy the products and services that will get our economy growing at a healthier pace. We need to make investments that will pay long-term dividends. Cutting funding for infrastructure, education, and child nutrition are short-sighted decisions that will hurt us in decades to come.

The people of Hawaii want Washington to change its ways. They want a compromise. They'd like a plan that is fair and balanced. They want us to reduce the deficit by cutting wasteful spending. They also want the wealthy to pay their fair share. Most of all, they want us to create jobs.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, with six days left until we default on our national debt, there is simply no excuse for the partisan gridlock that has blocked all progress toward a fair and balanced agreement. This week, Congressional switchboards lit up and websites

crashed under the sheer volume of outreach from citizens who wanted their voices heard in this debate. I hope my colleagues were listening. The resounding message I received from Rhode Islanders was that they are tired of political games. They want their leaders to work together to solve this problem in the best interests of the country. We have an opportunity to do that, and we literally can't afford to squander it with the usual Washington politics.

Our surest path to success includes a balanced approach of spending cuts and revenue increases that will reduce our budget deficit, stabilize our rising debt, reassure global markets and create greater economic certainty to bolster our fragile recovery. I will not support a plan that forces benefit cuts in Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid or places the entire burden of deficit reduction on middle-class families, seniors, the disabled and others already struggling through the effects of a deep recession. We must all be willing to share in the sacrifice, and that includes multinational corporations and the richest 2 percent of income earners who received the lion's share of tax breaks under the Bush tax cuts. This approach has bipartisan support in the Senate, as well as from officials in previous Democratic and Republican Administrations.

However, my Republican colleagues in the House have opted to turn a deaf ear to reason, choosing instead to put forward "The Budget Control Act," a politically motivated proposal that makes clear their willingness to drive our nation into default rather than compromise in the best interests of Americans. This short-term extension contains arbitrary spending caps and a Balanced Budget Amendment so conservative in nature that it would deem unconstitutional the fiscal policies of Presidents Reagan and Bush, as well as the budget passed by the Republican House earlier this year.

The most egregious part of this legislation is that it only offers a short-term fix that will force Congress to revisit this same debate in a few months, setting the stage for another partisan fight as lawmakers gear up for the next election. It's hard to imagine how things could get much worse in Washington, but I can promise you we will find out if we have to replay this battle again next year. Moreover, it is exactly the wrong message to be sending the American people and the world. A short-term extension would fail to establish economic certainty, reassure businesses or provide market confidence. In fact, ratings agencies have warned that under the Republican proposal, the U.S. credit rating could still be downgraded, leading to higher interest rates and a tax on all American families.

The Senate is considering legislation that, while imperfect, protects our most vulnerable citizens, cuts more than \$2 trillion, and ensures we avoid a repeat of this dangerous game in a few months. While it may not represent my preferred approach of including both spending cuts and revenue increases, it at least offers a compromise that a majority of members should be able to accept. It is time for both parties to put their differences aside, if not for good, then for long enough to agree on a balanced approach to pay our nation's bills, reduce the deficit and give businesses and markets renewed confidence in the full

faith and credit of the United States. They should never have had to doubt it in the first place.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Budget Control Act and urge its adoption.

America pays its bills. Default on those obligations, by not raising the debt limit, would be dangerously irresponsible.

However, the \$14.3 trillion national debt is utterly unsustainable. Consider the fact that total government spending at all levels has risen to 37% of gross domestic product today from 27% in 1960—and is set to reach 50% by 2038. Today, our national debt has reached 100% of the size of our economy, up from 42% in 1980.

These are trends that, left unchecked, will saddle future generations with burdensome debt and a lack of jobs and opportunities. In this regard, our efforts this week to raise the debt ceiling while firmly addressing the debt crisis is as much a moral as an economic decision.

Over the past several months, we have told the President that we will not support his request to increase the debt limit without serious spending cuts, binding budget reforms and we will not support higher taxes on families and small businesses we are counting on to create jobs.

Last week, I supported the "Cut, Cap and Balance Act," legislation designed to immediately cut federal spending to 2008 levels, before all the "bailouts" and the failed "stimulus" bills. That measure also sought to put the federal budget on a glide path to spending no more than 20 percent of our economy and requires that Congress pass a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution.

Unfortunately, the same Senate Leadership that has not proposed a budget in over two years, will now not even allow a debate on this common-sense bill.

Today, the House considers the Budget Control Act. While far from perfect, this measure finally begins to turn back the tide of federal red ink in several important ways:

It cuts spending by \$917 billion and does not raise taxes that would fuel additional spending. That is a vast improvement over current law.

It keeps the pressure on the President and Congress to cut spending further by providing another opportunity later this year to debate and keeping the pressure on to cut spending.

It creates a process that keeps our underlying fiscal policy problems front-and-center for the foreseeable future rather than ignoring them until 2013.

Contrary to some published reports, the bill contains serious reductions. This legislation cuts \$22 billion in FY 2012 and \$42 billion in FY 2013. Yes, these are still small numbers when placed in the context of overall federal spending. One reason is that the 2012 and 2013 budgets are the only ones that will actually be under the control of this 112th Congress. But even more important is the greater reduction in the budget glide path that will be used in future years. In the years beyond the 112th Congress, the budget savings multiply.

I would add that the Budget Control Act also keeps the focus on cutting spending, requiring a plan by December that cuts at least \$1.8 trillion more.

It is important to note that the debt fight we're engaged in today has set an important precedent. From now on, increases in the debt ceiling will need to be accompanied by equivalent or greater cuts in spending.

On this point, I would remind everyone of the words the President uttered just days ago in the White House briefing room. When asked about the current debt negotiations, he said, 'I don't want to be here doing this. I'd rather be here talking about new programs . . .'

'New programs'? Translated: 'new spending.' Clearly, the President has not listened to the American people.

That is why it is so important to prevent him and his Congressional allies from finding new ways to spend the taxpayers' money. This bill locks in spending cuts for the future.

Of course, the next logical step is to enact permanent budget reforms like a Balanced Budget Amendment to our Constitution. I voted for a balanced budget amendment over ten years ago and I voted for the "Cut, Cap and Balance" bill last week. I look forward to voting for another balanced budget amendment in coming days and would urge my colleagues to give the American people the opportunity to weigh in on this common-sense reform.

Some well-meaning Americans have opposed the bill because they think it does not cut enough. While \$900 billion+ of spending cuts is a genuine deficit reduction, I completely agree that it is far from sufficient to solve our underlying budget problems. In that respect, this House bill is a step in the right direction, nothing more.

Mr. Speaker, I want deeper spending cuts and greater deficit and debt reduction. However, given the stubborn insistence of the President and his Congressional allies on a debt limit increase coupled with new taxes and still more spending, I cannot see how we achieve greater savings at this time.

I, for one, will not give the President a blank check and urge approval of the Budget Control Act.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to S. 627, Speaker BOEHNER's refusal-to-compromise, short-term bill that moves us closer to an unprecedented default.

This bill is not designed to become law. The Senate has made clear the votes aren't there for passage. If it did somehow reach the President's desk, he's publicly declared his intent to veto it.

Yet, here we are in the House of Representatives, wasting what little time we have left before the August 2nd deadline for default, considering this pointless piece of ideology just to appease the Tea Party.

If this doesn't make clear to the American public that the House Republican Majority is incapable of governing, I don't know what does.

The Boehner bill fails to address the number one crisis facing our nation: the instability of our financial standing. By providing only a short term debit limit increase—and guaranteeing we are in this same battle in a few short months—this bill would still lead to a downgrading of U.S. credit which would lead to higher interest rates and a tax on all American families.

The Boehner bill forces our country into this dangerous predicament solely to drive the extreme Republican agenda that demands protection of special interest tax breaks at the expense of vital public programs which people's lives depend on: namely, Medicare, Social Security and Medicaid.

By making clear their refusal to consider any tax increases—even proposals to end corporate welfare for Big Oil and tax breaks for corporate jet owners—BOEHNER's "solution" puts a target on Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. Because the immediate savings in the bill would decimate discretionary spending for the next decade, the only other place to turn will be these social insurance programs that people have paid into their whole lives. Medicare, Social Security and Medicaid would be mined for savings at levels never before seen. The ability of these programs to continue to guarantee financial and health security to senior citizens, people with disabilities, and—in the case of Medicaid, families with low incomes—would be in serious jeopardy.

Avoiding default is critical. It's something Presidents and Congresses from both sides of the aisle have always worked together to do. Unfortunately, Speaker BOEHNER's bill is strictly partisan. It fails to meet the goal of long-term stability and, at the same time, endangers fundamentally important programs that Americans depend upon.

A yes vote on this bill means you don't think the threats of default are real and that you don't believe in guaranteeing Medicare and Social Security for our nation's seniors. I urge my colleagues to vote no.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in vigorous opposition to this ill-conceived legislation. Speaker BOEHNER's plan is not the answer to the urgent issue of raising the debt ceiling. If it becomes law, it will eviscerate the well-being of the American people.

It is, in fact, a disgrace that we are considering this measure at this late hour when we are days away from defaulting on the full faith and credit of the United States. The Republican leadership should have reached a compromise with President Obama and Senator REID weeks ago.

When President George W. Bush was elected, he inherited from President Clinton a surplus of tens of billions of dollars. But during his Presidency, two wars, a series of tax cuts, and a pharmaceutical benefit plan that no one paid for increased our national debt by over \$5 trillion.

After years of irresponsibility, the Republican leadership now wants working families, seniors, pregnant women, children, and the poor to pay for their spending binge.

And they are using the debt limit to try to enforce their extreme Tea Party agenda.

Most of this terrible burden will fall on the programs that provide health and economic security to American families: Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security and the Affordable Care Act.

These are programs I have fought for and supported throughout my service in Congress.

But they face a terrible toll, inflicted in two cruel steps.

First, the Republican plan imposes immediate cuts approaching \$1 trillion. Then, Congress is required to legislate, later this year,

another series of massive spending cuts of at least \$1.6 trillion.

These Republican budget cuts would have severe consequences.

They would end Medicare as we know it, ending its guarantees of coverage for hospital care, chemotherapy, doctor's visits, and prescription drugs. In its place, the Republicans want to substitute a voucher system where seniors would be forced into the private market to buy health insurance with only limited financial support from the government.

The Republican budget plan already approved by the House will increase premiums and cost sharing by at least \$6,000 per person. The cuts required by this legislation would be even deeper.

The Republican budget cuts will destroy Medicaid too. Their budget, approved by the House, would cut Medicaid in half by 2022, leaving tens of millions of people without access to care. People in nursing homes would be cut off. The Republican budget would also slash support for the Children's Health Insurance Program which, together with Medicaid, cover over one third of America's kids.

Medicaid is the primary payer for long-term care and the home and community-based services that help people stay out of nursing homes. Who will now bear the \$72,000 per year cost of a nursing home for an 85-year-old grandmother who collects \$10,000 a year in Social Security benefits? Her children will try, but only the rich will be able to afford the costs in today's economy.

Social Security is next in line. The Republicans claim this legislation doesn't affect Social Security. But with budget cuts of this size—and no new revenues—Social Security will be on the chopping block. This bill gives a new 12-member committee a blank check to raise the retirement age, cut benefits, and squeeze the poorest retirees even harder.

The Republican cuts also go to the heart of other public health programs that are so essential to all of us. Budget cuts of the magnitude sought by the Republicans mean severe funding reductions in biomedical research to fund the cures we need for diseases like cancer, heart disease and Alzheimer's. Food safety enforcement will be curtailed. Programs to discourage tobacco use and prevent the marketing of tobacco to children will be threatened.

It is almost unthinkable that we find ourselves in this position today. We are on the brink of a fiscal emergency. If we do not pass a debt limit extension, the United States Government will default next week. Yet there still is no compromise.

The President, the Treasury Secretary, and others have outlined in explicit detail that default risks another catastrophic financial crisis and severe harm to American families, including the stoppage of Social Security checks, paychecks to our armed forces, and government contracts with the private sector. Food stamps, disability and veterans payments, paychecks to federal workers, IRS tax refunds, and black lung disease benefit payments are all vulnerable to interruption. In all, 70 million people and companies will be affected beginning next week.

In addition, we will lose, for the first time in our history, our AAA credit rating that establishes the United States as the world's safest

investment. As a result, it will cost more to borrow money across the board, and this will have the effect of a huge tax increase on American households across the country. Municipalities and counties in every state will face this same stark reality—as will small businesses, millions of American homeowners, and countless others.

Speaker BOEHNER's legislation is fatally flawed because it provides for a two-step process to raise the debt limit. This is exactly the wrong approach. We need legislation that is long-term and balanced. That is the only thing that will provide the certainty and stability and confidence our economy needs and that the markets require. Keeping the debt limit on such a short leash only ensures that it will persist as the overriding, unresolved domestic policy issue for the next several months—perpetuating uncertainty and anxiety and discouraging investment and job creation.

By distracting this House from coherent action on what we urgently need to do today—raise the debt ceiling—the Republicans are courting disaster for every American who makes a house payment, or a car payment, or is paying off a credit card balance, or who has a business loan or a personal line of credit.

Mr. Speaker, we are at a very serious point. This is not the moment to engage in fantasy. This House must take its responsibilities seriously and do its proper duty for the nation. And that duty is not to wrap the budget and the American economy in a straightjacket. That proper duty is to authorize the payment of the debts we have incurred, restore certainty, and end the fear and anxiety their brinkmanship has instigated.

The bill before us is a vicious assault on Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, along with public health, scientific research and environmental protection. It is a prescription for default, a recipe for financial chaos, and a checklist of hardship and woe for the American people.

I urge its defeat.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Republican Default Act.

I oppose this bill because it does nothing but guarantee another default crisis in six months. It's nothing more than another partisan gimmick that will quickly be voted down in the Senate.

The majority says it wants a plan to address our nation's deficit, and the President has worked with them to achieve this goal. He has negotiated in good faith and put everything on the table, demanding only that the plan be balanced and responsible. And how did the majority respond? They refused to compromise and walked out of negotiations . . . twice.

Clearly, the majority is more focused on pushing their ideological agenda to end Medicare and preserve tax breaks for Big Oil and Wall Street than forging a good faith compromise to avoid default.

Mr. Speaker, compromising is what the American people send us here to do. As the President said, they voted for a divided government, not a dysfunctional one. It's time to stop the gimmicks and ensure our country does not default on its obligations.

Default would destroy close to 700,000 jobs, spike interest rates on credit cards and mortgages, and cause untold damage to our struggling economy.

Ronald Reagan took the necessary steps to avoid default 17 times. George W. Bush did it 7 times. No games. No gimmicks. Just a clean vote to avoid default and maintain the full faith and credit of the United States.

I urge my colleagues to come back to the table and forge the balanced and responsible compromise the American people deserve.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of S. 627 is postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REED). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote of the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

CHARLES "CHIP" LAWRENCE CHAN POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2548) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6310 North University Street in Peoria, Illinois, as the "Charles 'Chip' Lawrence Chan Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2548

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CHARLES "CHIP" LAWRENCE CHAN POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6310 North University Street in Peoria, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the "Charles 'Chip' Lawrence Chan Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Charles 'Chip' Lawrence Chan Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. LANKFORD. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2548, introduced by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHOCK), would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6310 North University Street in Peoria, Illinois, as the "Charles 'Chip' Lawrence Chan Post Office Building."

With that, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHOCK).

Mr. SCHOCK. I thank the gentleman and my good friend from Oklahoma for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I offer this legislation to designate the Federal post office located at 6310 North University Street in Peoria, Illinois, as the Charles "Chip" Lawrence Chan Post Office Building.

Mr. Speaker, we are quickly approaching the 10th anniversary of the horrific attacks of September 11, 2001. And while as Americans we can recall the events of that tragic day like they were yesterday, I offer this legislation in remembrance of all those Americans who died on that day. Specifically, this legislation would honor the life and sacrifice of Peoria, Illinois, resident Charles "Chip" Chan.

On September 11, 2001, Chip was a 23-year-old bond trader working for the brokerage firm of Cantor Fitzgerald on the 105th floor of 1 World Trade Center when terrorists flew an airplane into his building, killing thousands of individuals like Chip.

Chip graduated from my alma mater, Richwoods High School, in Peoria in 1995 and went on to attend the University of Illinois College of Commerce and Business where he graduated with a degree in economics. Soon after graduating, Chip received his first official job in, of all places, New York City. When trying to describe to family members or friends which tower he worked in, Chip would often say, The one with the antenna on top.

Chip was a member of the St. Thomas Catholic Church in Peoria Heights and was the son of John and Julie Chan. He was the oldest of six boys, brother to Christopher, Craig, Matthew, Mark, and Michael Chan.

When describing his son only days after September 11, his father John described Chip as a good athlete, a good learner, someone who was outgoing in nature and with quick wit, always reading a book on business or economics to help him learn his trade.

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said that one of life's most urgent questions is What are you doing for others? Well, Chip, through the tragic and needless way that his life ended, along with close to 3,000 other Americans that day, did more for others in a way that united our country unlike ever before than many could imagine to achieve in 10 lifetimes.

As we approach the 10th anniversary of September 11, it is my hope that as

a country we will remember what brought us together as a country in the days, weeks, and months after that horrific day. Today, I hope we draw upon that common unity, that sense of patriotism and pride for fellow mankind, as we look our neighbors and complete strangers in the eye and respect that while we may believe in different paths, that in the end we all share the same vision for a strong, secure, fair, and free America.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 2548.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in support of H.R. 2548, which designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6310 North University Street in Peoria, Illinois, as the Charles "Chip" Lawrence Chan Post Office Building.

H.R. 2548 was introduced by our colleague, Representative AARON SCHOCK of Illinois, on July 14, 2011. And I, along with the entire Illinois delegation, are proud cosponsors of the underlying bill. The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform unanimously agreed to report out H.R. 2548, given the sad circumstances that led to the death of the bill's designee.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2548 will rename the post office in Peoria in honor of a young man who was unfortunately a victim of the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

□ 1750

Chip, as he was affectionately known to family and friends, gave the full measure of the greatest devotion that one can display: He gave his life in support of his country and in service to his country.

I have no further speakers, Mr. Speaker, and so I urge passage of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I think this is a wonderful way to be able to honor someone, and this is something that we can do together as a Congress, to be able to honor this individual. I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 2548.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2548.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

CORPORAL STEVEN BLAINE RICCIONE POST OFFICE

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2244) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 67 Castle Street in Geneva, New York, as the "Corporal Steven Blaine Riccione Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2244

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CORPORAL STEVEN BLAINE RICCIONE POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 67 Castle Street in Geneva, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Corporal Steven Blaine Riccione Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Corporal Steven Blaine Riccione Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. LANKFORD. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2244, introduced by the gentleman from New York (Mr. HANNA), would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 67 Castle Street in Geneva, New York, as the Corporal Steven Blaine Riccione Post Office.

The bill is cosponsored by the entire New York State delegation and was reported from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on June 22.

With that, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HANNA).

Mr. HANNA. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2244, which designates a

post office in Geneva, New York, as the Corporal Steven Blaine Riccione Post Office.

I introduced this legislation to extend long overdue recognition to a national hero from the 24th Congressional District.

Corporal Steven Riccione was a native of Geneva, New York. He was a Geneva High School graduate who volunteered to join the Army in 1967 during the Vietnam War.

While on a search and destroy mission with his platoon in Vietnam, Corporal Riccione came under intense enemy fire and became pinned down. Riccione, then a private, saw a machine gunner in his platoon get wounded. As Major General E.M. Strong described in his October 1967 account: "Private Riccione, with complete disregard for his own safety, rushed from his covered position through a vicious hail of enemy fire to aid his wounded comrade.

"He continuously exposed himself to the withering hail of enemy fire, standing up at times, to place effective fire on enemy positions. When his weapon was struck by an enemy bullet and was demolished, he undauntedly picked up a machine gun and charged an enemy bunker, killing two enemy soldiers.

"Shortly after, Private Riccione was mortally wounded while helping to evacuate wounded personnel under heavy enemy fire.

"Private Riccione's devotion to duty and personal courage were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army."

Corporal Riccione was killed in action while helping to evacuate wounded American soldiers.

As a result of Private Riccione's actions, Major General Strong recommended him for the Bronze Star Medal with Valor Device, and the Bronze Star Medal with First Oak Leaf Cluster, which he was posthumously awarded. He was also promoted to corporal.

Mr. Speaker, Corporal Riccione is a source of great pride to his family, his community in Geneva, my congressional district, and indeed to a grateful Nation.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation so that Corporal Riccione's memory may be honored in his own hometown of Geneva, New York, for generations to come.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform minority, I am pleased to present for consideration H.R. 2244, which would rename the United States Postal Service facility at 67 Castle Street in Geneva, New York, as the Corporal Steven Blaine Riccione Post Office Building.

The measure before us was first introduced by Representative RICHARD HANNA from New York on June 21, 2011 and, in accordance with committee requirements, is cosponsored by all members of the New York delegation. Further, H.R. 2244 was taken up by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on June 22, 2011, where it was favorably reported out of committee by voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to briefly highlight some of the achievements and honorable service of Corporal Riccione.

Corporal Steven Riccione was 20 years old when he volunteered to join the United States Army during the Vietnam War. A native of Geneva, New York, and a graduate of Geneva High School, Corporal Riccione served our Nation admirably up to the point of his death in the Quang Tin province of South Vietnam on September 27, 1967. Corporal Riccione died in action while helping evacuate wounded soldiers after a fierce battle with North Vietnamese troops.

No greater gift can one give than to give his life in service to his country and his fellow men. I urge passage of H.R. 2244.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, this is a privilege to be given this chance to honor a great individual who gave his life for our Nation, and I join with the entire delegation of New York to encourage this House to pass this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2244.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

□ 1800

SERGEANT JASON W. VAUGHN POST OFFICE

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2213) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 801 West Eastport Street in Iuka, Mississippi, as the "Sergeant Jason W. Vaughn Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2213

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SERGEANT JASON W. VAUGHN POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 801 West Eastport Street in Iuka, Mississippi, shall be known and designated as the "Sergeant Jason W. Vaughn Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Sergeant Jason W. Vaughn Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 2213, as introduced by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. NUNNELEE), would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 801 West Eastport Street in Iuka, Mississippi, as the Sergeant Jason W. Vaughn Post Office.

This bill is cosponsored by the entire Mississippi State delegation and was reported from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on June 22.

I would like to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. NUNNELEE).

Mr. NUNNELEE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am humbled today to rise in memoriam of Army Sergeant Jason W. Vaughn of Iuka, Mississippi, who gave his life in defense of freedom.

Sergeant Vaughn was assigned to the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Washington. He was only 29 years old.

Sergeant Vaughn was killed in action on May 10, 2007, when a roadside bomb exploded near his vehicle in Baqubah, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He joined the Army in 2002. Sergeant Vaughn first served in Iraq from November of 2003 until 2004. In fact, he was serving his second tour of duty when he was killed in action.

He was the recipient of the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on

Terror Expeditionary Medal, and the Global War on Terror Service Medal. Sergeant Vaughn was buried with full military honors at Oak Grove Cemetery in Iuka, Mississippi, on May 19, 2007. He held the rank of specialist, and he was posthumously promoted to sergeant and awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman Badge. He was a graduate of Tishomingo County High School. By all accounts he was a loyal friend and a great leader.

His father, Walter Vaughn, told the Associated Press, "He had friends all over the place. He was an outgoing type of person. The world lost a leader. My son was a born leader."

RaNae Smith Vaughn spoke proudly of her son: "Jason was a handsome man on the outside and, more importantly, on the inside. We will always remember his smile, bear hugs, love of life, positive attitude, and his way of making everyone around him feel special. His greatest attribute may have been his kind heart. Jay was always extremely considerate of the needs of his family and friends. He never forgot to call and give his mother and his sister a special greeting on birthdays and other special occasions. We as his family are so grateful for the opportunity to have had him in our lives. Jason will live on in our hearts and minds forever."

Sergeant Vaughn also left behind his wife, Contessa W. Vaughn; his stepdaughter, Ashley Martin; and a brother and a sister.

I want to thank my colleagues in the Mississippi delegation and the 112th Congress for their support of H.R. 2213 to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 801 West Eastport Street in Iuka, Mississippi, as the Sergeant Jason W. Vaughn Post Office.

We cannot bring back a husband or a son, but this bill honors his memory and his sacrifice. And it will serve as a constant reminder to the people of Tishomingo County that freedom is not free.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge passage.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague from the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in support and consideration of H.R. 2213, which would rename the United States Postal Service facility located at 801 West Eastport Street in Iuka, Mississippi, as the Sergeant Jason W. Vaughn Post Office.

H.R. 2213 was introduced on June 16, 2011, by our colleague Representative ALAN NUNNELEE from the State of Mississippi. Currently the bill is cosponsored by all four members of the Mississippi delegation and was favorably reported out of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on June 22, 2011, by voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, the achievements and honorable service of Sergeant Jason

Vaughn are certainly worth noting. The son of Walter Glenn and Llalanda RaNae Vaughn, Sergeant Vaughn grew up in his hometown of Iuka, Mississippi, where he graduated from Tishomingo County High School in 1996. Following graduation, Sergeant Vaughn enrolled in Northeast Mississippi Community College before going on to attend Mississippi State University. In 2003 Sergeant Vaughn made the decision to serve his country by enlisting in the U.S. Army. Shortly thereafter, Sergeant Vaughn became a member of the 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, which is based out of Fort Lewis, Washington.

While serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Sergeant Vaughn was tragically killed by an improvised explosive device on May 10, 2007, right outside of Baqubah, Iraq. This heroic soldier was only 29 years of age when he lost his life in service to our great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of this young man's bravery and accomplishments, I ask that we pass the underlying bill without reservation and pay tribute to the commitment and sacrifice made by Sergeant Jason Vaughn.

I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 2213, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2213.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SERGEANT MATTHEW J. FENTON POST OFFICE

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 789) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 Main Street in Little Ferry, New Jersey, as the "Sergeant Matthew J. Fenton Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 789

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SERGEANT MATTHEW J. FENTON POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 Main Street in Little Ferry, New Jersey, shall be known and designated as the "Sergeant Matthew J. Fenton Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Sergeant Matthew J. Fenton Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LANKFORD. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days with which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. LANKFORD. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 789, introduced by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN), would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 Main Street in Little Ferry, New Jersey, as the Sergeant Matthew J. Fenton Post Office. The bill was cosponsored by the entire New Jersey State delegation and was reported from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on June 22.

Sergeant Fenton served his country as a United States marine, training fellow marines as a reserves inspector and instructor. Tragically, Mr. Speaker, on May 5, 2006, Sergeant Fenton passed away at the Naval Medical Center in Bethesda after suffering wounds he received as a result of a suicide attack in Anbar Province, Iraq.

Prior to serving his country, Matthew was no different than many of us. He enjoyed watching baseball, playing poker, and loved his hometown of Little Ferry, New Jersey. He enjoyed rooting for his favorite teams, the Yankees and Giants, but his true goal was always to serve those that were around him. Matthew had a dream of becoming a police officer and serving his local community. His mother, Diane, said that he talked about wanting to become a police officer. She even sent him a civil service book to prepare for that test while he was in Iraq.

□ 1810

He finally has achieved his goal. The Little Ferry Police Department made him an honorary officer posthumously. Sergeant Fenton is a true American hero, making the ultimate sacrifice for those he was proud to serve.

I urge all Members to join me in strong support of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. It is my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the author of this legislation, the gentleman from the Garden State of New Jersey, Representative STEVE ROTHMAN.

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. I thank my ranking member, Mr. DAVIS, for his work on this bill. I would like to thank the chairman for all of his support as well. It is very greatly appreciated by all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero, Marine Sergeant Matthew Fenton of Little Ferry, New Jersey. At just 24 years of age, Matthew Fenton made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. It happened during his service in Iraq's al Anbar province in 2006. Matthew was struck by shrapnel after alerting his comrades to the presence of a suicide bomber. All of them escaped except for Matthew. He passed away 9 days later at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, as a result of his wounds, a day after he received the Purple Heart for his bravery.

I attended Matthew's funeral in 2006, and I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that 5 years later I still vividly recall the pain and deep sadness of his parents, his family, friends, and, yes, the entire community over the loss of this wonderful young man. Matthew represented the best our country has to offer.

Matthew planned to return home to Little Ferry, as has been said, after his service in the Marine Corps. He wanted to continue serving his community as a police officer. There is no doubt in my mind that just as Matthew was an outstanding marine, he would have made an outstanding police officer. Recognizing this fact, the Little Ferry Police Department made Sergeant Fenton a member of the Little Ferry police force after his untimely death, and then they permanently retired his badge number—number 44.

It is a humbling privilege for me to have played a small part in honoring Marine Sergeant Matthew Fenton, having sponsored the legislation naming the post office in his hometown of Little Ferry, New Jersey, the "Sergeant Matthew J. Fenton Post Office."

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and join me in ensuring that Marine Sergeant Matthew J. Fenton is recognized for his selflessness, his courage, and his patriotism, and that he will always be remembered.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I thank the gentleman for introducing this thoughtful measure and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 789.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 789.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

FIRST LIEUTENANT OLIVER GOODALL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1975) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 281 East Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena, California, as the "First Lieutenant Oliver Goodall Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1975

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FIRST LIEUTENANT OLIVER GOODALL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 281 East Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena, California, shall be known and designated as the "First Lieutenant Oliver Goodall Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "First Lieutenant Oliver Goodall Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. LANKFORD. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1975, introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr.

SCHIFF), would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 281 East Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena, California, as the "First Lieutenant Oliver Goodall Post Office Building." The bill was introduced on May 24 and was reported out of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on June 22.

Oliver Goodall was born May 28, 1922. After the United States entered World War II, he joined the United States Army Air Corps at Tuskegee, Alabama, in February 1943. By 1944, he had earned the right to fly as a multiengine pilot and was assigned to the 477th Bomber Group based at Godman Field, Kentucky.

In 1945, First Lieutenant Goodall was among a group of African American officers that were arrested for trying to peacefully integrate an all-white officers' club. This event later came to be known as the Freeman Field Mutiny. This act of courage was an essential step in the movement towards the full integration of the U.S. Armed Forces, which took place in June 1949.

Mr. Goodall moved to Los Angeles after World War II, where he began his career as a postal service employee. After decades of service to both his country and his community, Mr. Goodall was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2007. Sadly, in November of last year, Mr. Goodall passed away at 88 years old.

Mr. Speaker, First Lieutenant Goodall is a very worthy designee of this postal facility naming, and I urge all Members to join me in support of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the author of this measure, Representative ADAM SCHIFF from California.

Mr. SCHIFF. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I want to thank the chair and ranking member for their support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the bill to designate the U.S. Postal Service building located at 281 East Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena, California, as the "First Lieutenant Oliver Goodall Post Office Building." Doing so will honor Mr. Goodall's decades of service to the community and country as a Tuskegee Airman, public information officer, and postal worker.

It's my pleasure to honor the contributions of an inspirational man who answered his country's call to service in the face of immense adversity.

Oliver Goodall and his fellow Tuskegee Airmen fought the injustice of fascism abroad while combating racial segregation at home. The Tuskegee Airmen enlisted as America's first African American military pilots at a time when segregation infused both the armed services and much of the country. The Tuskegee Airmen ex-

hibited commendable spirit and will in serving their country with extraordinary courage and sacrifice even as their every achievement was met with criticism or obstruction.

In June 1941, the Tuskegee program officially began with the formation of the 99th Fighter Squadron at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. The first class graduated in 1942, and the program would eventually graduate 994 pilots, many of whom would go on to serve with valor in the war efforts in Europe.

Goodall entered the service at Tuskegee in February 1943. In October 1944, he graduated as a multiengine pilot and was assigned to the 477th Bomber Group at Godman Field, Kentucky, in January 1945, where he attained his first pilot's rating in 6 months.

Despite an excellent service record, including a Silver Star, 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 14 Bronze Stars, and 744 Air Medals by war's end, the Tuskegee Airmen faced rigid segregation on Air Force bases. White and African American officers and enlisted men were separated in almost all activities, including admittance into the officers' club.

On April 5, 1945, at Freeman Airfield in Indiana where the 447th Bomber Group was stationed, Oliver Goodall and 60 other African American officers challenged the segregation of the officers' club, brushing past the base provost marshal into the all-white officers' club. All of the officers were arrested. Most were soon released. But all of the African American officers on the base were ordered to sign an order that indicated they understood the regulation that officially barred them from the club and established a separate officers' club for African Americans. Goodall and all but eight of the African American officers on the base refused to sign the order and to enter the African American officers' club. Asked why he refused to sign the order, Goodall responded: Because it's just another form of segregation.

The officers that refused to sign the order were arrested again. They were released on April 19, 1945. By then, news of the incident and the dignity that Goodall and the other officers had displayed in entering the whites-only officers' club and refusing to sign the order had spread across the country.

□ 1820

The ensuing protest compelled the War Department to establish the McCloy Committee to investigate segregation in the Armed Forces. The McCloy Committee played a critical role in the abolishment of segregation in the military.

World War II ended in September 1945, and after the conclusion of the war, Oliver Goodall moved to southern California and took a job with the U.S.

Postal Service where he worked until he retired. He was an active member of the community, serving as fund-raising chairman of the Tuskegee Airmen Foundation Scholarship Fund, which assists financially disadvantaged and deserving students interested in the fields of aviation, aerospace and science to achieve academic success. In 1961, he bought a home in Altadena, where he lived until he passed away in October of 2010.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1975 to designate the post office as the "First Lieutenant Oliver Goodall Post Office Building." This legislation is a small but fitting way to honor the legacy of Oliver Goodall and of the other Tuskegee Airmen who bravely stood by their country at a time when few would stand by them.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I want to thank the gentleman from California for his introduction of this very thoughtful measure. I can't help but recall the fact that I was given a Tuskegee Airmen jacket by the DODO Club, the DODO Chapter in Chicago. I wear it whenever I get a chance in honor of Lieutenant Goodall and his fellow Tuskegee Airmen.

I urge the passage of this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, this is a worthy man to be able to honor—a life that served many people and a life that stood up and made a real difference, so I urge the Members to support the passage of H.R. 1975.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1975.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

JOHN PANGELINAN GERBER POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1843) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 489 Army Drive in Barrigada, Guam, as the "John Pangelinan Gerber Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1843

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. JOHN PANGELINAN GERBER POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 489 Army Drive in Barrigada, Guam, shall be known and designated as the "John Pangelinan Gerber Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "John Pangelinan Gerber Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LANKFORD. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. LANKFORD. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1843, introduced by the gentlelady from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO), would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 489 Army Drive in Barrigada, Guam, as the "John Pangelinan Gerber Post Office Building." The bill was introduced on May 11, and was reported from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on June 22—and I look forward to hearing the gentlelady say the name correctly.

Sergeant John Gerber was born on May 31, 1951, in Ordot, Guam. He was not only known for serving in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam war, but also for his hospitality and assistance towards his fellow marines in later years. During Operation Desert Storm, Sergeant Gerber assisted our troops by offering to host any individual or group associated with the 3rd Marine Division who was en route to the Middle East. His offer was accepted by many marines, and over time, nearly 20,000 marines had visited him.

Later in life, Sergeant Gerber led a campaign to rename Route 1 in Guam from "Marine Drive" to "Marine Corps Drive" to recognize the 1,548 marines who had lost their lives and the 6,000 marines who were wounded during the Liberation of Guam. In 2008, he established the Pacific War Museum on Guam to display World War II memorabilia and educate the public on the War in the Pacific.

As a result of his dedication in educating citizens on Marine Corps his-

tory, Sergeant Gerber was the 2011 recipient of the Colonel John H. Magruder Award. Sadly, he received the award following his death in 2010 at just 58 years old. He is survived by his wife, Mel, and his four children.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in support of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. It is my pleasure now to yield such time as she may consume to the author of this measure, the delegate from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO).

Ms. BORDALLO. I thank the chairman and the ranking member.

I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1843, a bill that honors the life and the service of John Vincent Pangelinan Gerber. This bill would rename the "Guam Main Post Office Facility" to be the "John Pangelinan Gerber Post Office Building" as a tribute to his tireless work of advocating for veterans on Guam and for educating the public of Guam's importance during World War II and of the role of the United States Marine Corps in liberating our island. John, himself a proud marine and lifetime resident of the village of Ordot, Guam, died on May 4, 2010, at the age of 58.

John was a patriotic American who took pride in his island and his Chamorro heritage. After graduating from high school, he quickly enlisted in the Marine Corps and completed basic training at the Marine Corps Depot in San Diego. He was subsequently deployed to Vietnam where he served with the Fleet Logistics Command in support of the 1st and 3rd Marine Divisions. When he completed his tour in Vietnam, John was assigned to the Bravo Company at Marine Barracks Guam, where he remained until he was honorably discharged as a corporal on June 3, 1975.

Following his service in the Marine Corps, John worked as a radio disc jockey. His show, "Wireless Rock," was the most popular of its time on Guam. He opened the Wireless Rock Music Box, a record store in Guam's capital city of Hagatna, and later established a charter boat tour company. He led tourists through the island's best fishing and dive spots, making him one of the pioneers of what is now recognized as "culture-based eco-tourism" on Guam. John then attended the University of Guam where he received a degree in public administration. The marines, however, were never, ever far from his mind.

In 1992, John joined the Guam Chapter of the 3rd Marine Division Association, and devoted his time to helping his fellow marines and veterans. He strove to promote and preserve the story of the 3rd Marine Division to memorialize its role in the War in the Pacific and particularly with regard to the Liberation of Guam during World War II.

John extended this generosity to active duty marines and servicemembers who visited Guam on temporary duty or other deployments. With help from the Guam Chamber of Commerce's Armed Services Committee and other veteran organizations on the island, John hosted numerous fiestas at his home in Ordot, welcoming more than 20,000 marines, sailors, soldiers, airmen, and guests to partake in the Chamorro culture and hospitality.

His home, which became known as Gerber's Ranch, contained his collection of World War II vehicles, weapons, uniforms, and artifacts. These items would later be transferred to the Pacific War Museum, which John established to educate the public about the Marine Corps' role in the Liberation of Guam. John opened the museum to the public on July 21, 2008, for the 64th anniversary of the Liberation of Guam.

In 2004, John led the effort to rename Guam's main thoroughfare, Route 1, from "Marine Drive" to "Marine Corps Drive" in order to ensure that the sacrifices of the marines who liberated Guam are never forgotten. He saw this opportunity to honor the 1,548 marines who lost their lives and the 6,000 marines who were wounded during the Liberation of Guam from enemy forces during World War II. The defining moment in this effort came when he pulled a handcart with a billboard—demanding action—the entire 27 miles from Andersen Air Force Base to Naval Base Guam. In doing so, he rallied support for his issue and spurred many Guam residents to advocate for recognizing those who fought and died for Guam.

□ 1830

On the day after his march, Route 1 was officially named Marine Corps Drive.

A year after this victory in 2005, the Department of Defense announced that the marines from the 3rd Expeditionary Force would be relocating from Okinawa, Japan, to Guam. So John, along with many others on Guam, viewed this relocation as a homecoming, and he was the first to defend the Marine Corps and the strategic importance of this realignment.

Although John will not be able to greet these marines as he had done for so many servicemembers who had visited Guam, his legacy will continue through his work with our community and in the Pacific War Museum.

These efforts were recognized this year when the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation bestowed on John the Colonel John H. Magruder Award for his excellence in depicting and perpetuating Marine Corps history.

Mr. Speaker, John Gerber was an extraordinary man whose greatest dream was to ensure that our veterans, those who made the greatest sacrifices for our country, would not be forgotten.

Renaming the Guam main post office facility will serve as a permanent tribute to his legacy. I urge my colleagues to cast their vote to support this bill.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I want to thank the gentlelady for her introduction of this measure. I urge its passage.

I yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I join the others that have already stood before you to support the passage of H.R. 1843, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1843.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

MATTHEW A. PUCINO POST OFFICE

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2062) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 45 Meetinghouse Lane in Sagamore Beach, Massachusetts, as the "Matthew A. Pucino Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2062

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. MATTHEW A. PUCINO POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 45 Meetinghouse Lane in Sagamore Beach, Massachusetts, shall be known and designated as the "Matthew A. Pucino Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Matthew A. Pucino Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. LANKFORD. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2062 was introduced by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING). It would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 45 Meetinghouse Lane in Sagamore Beach, Massachusetts, as the Matthew A. Pucino Post Office. The bill was reported from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on June 22.

Matthew Pucino, a United States Army Special Forces soldier, born in Hudson, Massachusetts, was killed in Afghanistan on November 23, 2009, when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

Matthew enlisted in the United States Army in 2002 as a Special Forces candidate and went on to earn the Green Beret as an engineer sergeant. Matthew was conducting a combat patrol in eastern Afghanistan near the Pakistani border when his all-terrain vehicle was struck.

He was an intelligence sergeant with the 20th Special Forces Group, and he had been on his second deployment. He had also served in Iraq with the 5th Special Forces Group. As a result of his bravery in his first deployment in Iraq, Matthew was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Army Commendation, and Global War on Terrorism Service Medals.

According to his cousin, Anthony, Matthew joined the military after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks because he wanted to help protect America and Americans.

Mr. Pucino was 34 years old. He left his wife, Crystal; his parents, Albert and Kathryn Pucino of Orlando, Florida; and his sister, Lisa.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in support of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he might consume to the author of this measure, Mr. KEATING of Massachusetts.

Mr. KEATING. I thank the gentleman for yielding his time.

I rise today to honor Sergeant Matthew A. Pucino of Sagamore Beach, Massachusetts, who lost his life on November 23, 2009, after his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device while conducting a mounted patrol in Afghanistan.

Sergeant Pucino enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2002 as a Special Forces candidate. He went on to complete the Special Forces qualification course and earned the coveted Green Beret as a Special Forces engineer sergeant. In July of 2009, he deployed for the third time in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as a member of the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force in Afghanistan.

Sergeant Pucino was highly decorated, which is a testament not just to

his abilities as a soldier, but to his true character. This includes such honors as the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Non-commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Parachutist Badge, and the Special Forces Tab.

In tribute to Sergeant Pucino's ultimate sacrifice for our country, I have joined with my colleagues in the Massachusetts delegation in introducing H.R. 2062 to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 45 Meetinghouse Lane in Sagamore Beach, Massachusetts, as the Matthew A. Pucino Post Office.

I respectfully urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation in honor of Sergeant Pucino—a hero, not just to the citizens of Massachusetts, but to all Americans.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Massachusetts on this very thoughtful measure, I urge its passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANKFORD. I join with the gentleman to urge all Members to pass H.R. 2062, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2062.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

CECIL L. HEFTTEL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2149) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4354 Pahoa Avenue in Honolulu, Hawaii, as the "Cecil L. Hefttel Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2149

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CECIL L. HEFTTEL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4354 Pahoa Avenue in Honolulu, Hawaii, shall be known and designated as the "Cecil L. Hefttel Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Cecil L. Hefttel Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LANKFORD. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. LANKFORD. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2149, introduced by the gentlelady by Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA), would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4354 Pahoa Avenue in Honolulu, Hawaii, as the Cecil L. Hefttel Post Office Building.

This bill was introduced on June 13 and was reported from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on June 22.

Cecil L. Hefttel was born September 30, 1924. He was an accomplished businessman and a politician who served his community for many years. Mr. Hefttel was a well-known figure in Honolulu, Hawaii, and served five terms as a Member of the House of Representatives.

In the 1960s, Mr. Hefttel began his career in Hawaii when he started Hefttel Broadcasting and took over the KGMB television station. In 1976, Mr. Hefttel ran for Congress, won five consecutive terms and then resigned from Congress in 1986 to run for Governor, but was defeated in the primary.

Mr. Hefttel returned to the broadcasting business until 2004. He then returned to his community to serve as a member of the board of education. Cecil Hefttel died February 4, 2010, at the age of 85. His service to the Honolulu community will never be forgotten. I urge my colleagues to support the passage of the bill.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1840

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. It is my pleasure to yield such time as she might consume to the gentlewoman from Ha-

waii (Ms. HANABUSA), the author of this measure.

Ms. HANABUSA. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank the ranking member for affirmatively looking upon H.R. 2149.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous career of the late Representative Cecil L. Hefttel. H.R. 2149 is a bill which designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4354 Pahoa Avenue in Honolulu, Hawaii, as the Cecil L. Hefttel Post Office Building.

Representative Hefttel was a very unusual person and a very accomplished man. He was known for his prowess in building radio and television broadcasting stations in Hawaii. Many of us grew up in Hawaii with his creations, like "Checkers and Pogo," which was the most popular children's show; J. Akuheab Pupule, one of the most popular radio personalities; and the legends themselves, who still rule our airwaves in the show of "Perry & Price," Michael W. Perry and my good friend Coach Larry Price. They still are the first and the highest-ranking radio shows in Hawaii.

Cecil Hefttel was elected to the 95th Congress to represent the First Congressional District of Hawaii. While in Washington, Representative Hefttel's first assignment was to the Education and Labor Committee and, ironically, the Post Office and Civil Service Committee. Representative Hefttel was re-elected four times, serving for a total of five terms in this body. During the 96th Congress, Representative Hefttel was elected to the Ways and Means Committee where he stayed until his resignation in 1986 to run for Governor of our beautiful State of Hawaii.

While in office, Representative Hefttel sponsored 160 bills, and it is important to note this because these bills evidenced his vision and farsightedness. He was a champion of tax reform and energy independence, an issue that is very popular today, but may not have been as popular back then, always showing aloha for his constituency.

In response to President Reagan's tax cut proposal, Representative Hefttel said, "I cannot support a tax proposal which would benefit me so much more than those of my constituents who earn less than \$30,000 a year." Similar statements are being made today. This is what defined Cecil Hefttel both as a Member of Congress and a person from Hawaii.

In 1983, Representative Hefttel was involved in a car crash near the Lincoln Memorial which left him with severe injuries. The accident occurred before cars were legally required to have airbags. This experience helped shape Representative Hefttel's view of government regulation and the private sector. Remember where he came from, a very successful businessman. After the accident, Representative Hefttel unsuccessfully filed suit against General Motors,

blaming his accident on faulty breaks in his Oldsmobile. It is important to note that after the accident, he received a letter saying there may be something wrong with his brakes.

Though Representative Heftel, as a businessman, probably was not in favor of regulations, it is important to note that in the 99th Congress, he introduced legislation that would provide criminal penalties for manufacturers who failed to notify owners of motor vehicle safety defects, something that we have all come to expect and are protected by today. This shows you who Representative Heftel was and the fact that he always placed the public, the people, and his constituents first. He went through his service here in the Congress displaying this kind of independence and courage, looking to these important issues.

I want to say that on a personal note, I was able to meet Mr. Heftel in the year 2004. It was at a dinner event where, actually, I met his daughter Susan first. And when we spoke of her father, she told me, I think my dad would like to meet you. So we sat at dinner first and had several meetings after that. And he told me about his experiences in Congress.

But more important than that, he shared with me his passion for education and how he believed that he still had it in him to come and make change in the education system in Hawaii.

So in that same year, at the age of 80, Cecil Heftel was successfully elected to the State Board of Education for the Oahu-at-large seat, and there he served for 4 years, making an effort to leave his mark on education, as he did as a Member of Congress and also as the greatest communications person we will see in the State of Hawaii.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2149, naming the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4354 Pahoehoe Avenue in Honolulu, Hawaii, in honor of Cecil Heftel. I do this not only to honor him and to pay our respects to someone who served the State so well, but I do this because I want for especially the youth of today, when they go by that post office and they see the name Cecil L. Heftel to ask, Who was Cecil L. Heftel? And I believe that when they learn his story and they see how he served in this body and how over time his experiences shaped his legislation, legislation that we may not have thought that would be something he would have supported, and how he put his constituents first, and also his genius, his absolute genius in communications and his creation of all the legends over time, that they will be inspired, and that among them, one day, we may see another Cecil L. Heftel.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentlelady for her introduction of this very thoughtful measure, I urge its passage, and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 2149, and I also yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Congresswoman HANABUSA's bill to designate the post office in the neighborhood of Kahala in Honolulu as the Cecil L. Heftel Post Office Building.

Cec Heftel, as he was known to everyone in Hawaii, is remembered for his keen business sense, his pursuit of excellence as a broadcaster, and his decade of service representing Hawaii's 1st Congressional District. He passed away in February 2010.

In looking over the legislation that Congressman Heftel introduced during his tenure, I was interested to see that he introduced forward-looking bills to provide incentives for renewable energy and to establish a comprehensive research and development program for domestic hydrogen fuel capability. He also introduced legislation to restore the wartime recognition to the Filipino veterans of World War II to entitle them to the benefits they earned. The Congress finally acted on this issue in 2009, giving these veterans a measure of long-awaited justice.

I am sure that the naming of the post office in Cec's memory in the community where he lived means a great deal to his widow, Rebecca Heftel, his children, grandchildren, and his many friends, former colleagues, and employees.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2149.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CHARLES "CHIP" LAWRENCE CHAN POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will now resume on H.R. 2548.

The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 2548) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6310 North University Street in Peoria, Illinois, as the "Charles 'Chip' Lawrence Chan Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2354

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX) at 11 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.

IMPACT OF INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION FAILURES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 2056) to instruct the Inspector General of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to study the impact of insured depository institution failures, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-185) on the resolution (H. Res. 382) waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1188. An act to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

S. Con. Res. 26. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the designation of the year of 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent, Committee on Financial Services.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE
PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House reports that on June 28, 2011 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 2279. To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend the airport improvement program, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, July 29, 2011, at 9 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Speaker-Authorized Official Travel during the second and third quarters of 2011 pursuant to Public Law 91-384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO GEORGIA, UKRAINE, KYRGYZSTAN, AND MONGOLIA, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JUNE 4, AND JUNE 11, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. David Dreier	6/04	6/07	Georgia		894.00		(³)				894.00
Hon. David Price	6/04	6/07	Georgia		737.00		(³)				737.00
Hon. Susan Davis	6/04	6/07	Georgia		894.00		(³)				894.00
Hon. Brad Miller	6/04	6/07	Georgia		894.00		(³)				894.00
Rachael Leman	6/04	6/07	Georgia		894.00		(³)				894.00
John Lis	6/04	6/07	Georgia		894.00		(³)				894.00
Asher Hildebrand	6/04	6/07	Georgia		794.00		(³)				794.00
Hon. David Dreier	6/07	6/08	Ukraine		355.25		(³)				355.25
Hon. David Price	6/07	6/08	Ukraine		355.25		(³)				355.25
Hon. Susan Davis	6/07	6/08	Ukraine		355.25		(³)				355.25
Hon. Brad Miller	6/07	6/08	Ukraine		355.25		(³)				355.25
Rachael Leman	6/07	6/08	Ukraine		355.25		(³)				355.25
John Lis	6/07	6/08	Ukraine		355.25		(³)				355.25
Asher Hildebrand	6/07	6/08	Ukraine		355.25		(³)				355.25
Hon. David Dreier	6/08	6/09	Kyrgyzstan		317.00		(³)				317.00
Hon. David Price	6/08	6/09	Kyrgyzstan		317.00		(³)				317.00
Hon. Susan Davis	6/08	6/09	Kyrgyzstan		317.00		(³)				317.00
Hon. Brad Miller	6/08	6/09	Kyrgyzstan		317.00		(³)				317.00
Rachael Leman	6/08	6/09	Kyrgyzstan		317.00		(³)				317.00
John Lis	6/08	6/09	Kyrgyzstan		317.00		(³)				317.00
Asher Hildebrand	6/08	6/09	Kyrgyzstan		317.00		(³)				317.00
Hon. David Dreier	6/09	6/11	Mongolia		332.00		(³)				332.00
Hon. David Price	6/09	6/11	Mongolia		226.00		(³)				226.00
Hon. Susan Davis	6/09	6/11	Mongolia		332.00		(³)				332.00
Hon. Brad Miller	6/09	6/11	Mongolia		332.00		(³)				332.00
Rachael Leman	6/09	6/11	Mongolia		332.00		(³)				332.00
John Lis	6/09	6/11	Mongolia		332.00		(³)				332.00
Asher Hildebrand	6/09	6/11	Mongolia		226.00		(³)				226.00
Committee total											12,818.74

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

HON. DAVID DREIER, JULY 13, 2011.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO DENMARK, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 3 AND JULY 5, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Steny Hoyer	7/03	7/05	Denmark		1,029.50		10,898.80				11,928.30
Mariah Sixkiller	7/03	7/05	Denmark		1,029.50		10,898.80				11,928.30
Committee total											23,856.60

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. STENY H. HOYER, July 18, 2011.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO COLOMBIA, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 18 AND APR. 20, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Steny Hoyer	4/18	4/20	Colombia		764.00		(³)				764.00
John Hughes	4/18	4/20	Colombia		764.00		(³)				764.00
Committee total											1,528.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

HON. STENY H. HOYER, July 22, 2011.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Rob Woodall	6/04	6/05	Kuwait		432.05		(³)				432.05
	6/05	6/06	Iraq		0.00		(³)				
	6/06	6/07	Pakistan		81.00		(³)				81.00
	6/07	6/09	Afghanistan		28.00		(³)				28.00
	6/09	6/10	Germany		123.00		(³)				123.00
Committee total					664.05						664.05

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

HON. PAUL RYAN, Chairman, July 13, 2011.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Richard Nugent	6/04	6/05	Kuwait		456.15		(³)				456.15
	6/05	6/06	Iraq		0.00		(³)				
	6/06	6/07	Pakistan		91.80		(³)				91.80
	6/07	6/09	Afghanistan		39.06		(³)				39.06
	6/09	6/10	Germany		189.82		(³)				189.82
Committee total					776.83						776.83

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN, Chairman, July 27, 2011.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Louie Gohmert	6/06	6/09	Philippines		630.00		(³)				630.00
	6/09	6/10	Qatar		296.00		(³)				296.00
	6/10	6/11	Kuwait		83.00		(³)				83.00
	6/11	6/13	Turkey		207.00		(³)				207.00
Committee total					1,216.00						1,216.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

HON. LAMAR SMITH, Chairman, July 20, 2011.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Nick Rahall	4/02	4/04	Egypt		410.50		6,925.90				7,336.40
Hon. John Duncan	4/21	4/23	Beijing		632.00		(³)				632.00
Hon. Tim Holden	4/21	4/23	Beijing		632.00		(³)				632.00
Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson	4/21	4/23	Beijing		632.00		(³)				632.00
Hon. Dan Lipinski	4/21	4/23	Beijing		632.00		(³)				632.00
Jimmy Miller	4/21	4/23	Beijing		632.00		(³)				632.00
John Anderson	4/21	4/23	Beijing		632.00		(³)				632.00
Ryan Seiger	4/21	4/23	Beijing		632.00		(³)				632.00
Joseph Wender	4/21	4/23	Beijing		632.00		(³)				632.00
Caroline Califf	4/21	4/23	Beijing		632.00		(³)				632.00
Hon. John Duncan	4/23	4/25	Hong Kong		878.00		(³)				878.00
Hon. Tim Holden	4/23	4/25	Hong Kong		878.00		(³)				878.00
Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson	4/23	4/25	Hong Kong		878.00		(³)				878.00
Hon. Dan Lipinski	4/23	4/25	Hong Kong		878.00		(³)				878.00
Jimmy Miller	4/23	4/25	Hong Kong		878.00		(³)				878.00
John Anderson	4/23	4/25	Hong Kong		878.00		(³)				878.00
Ryan Seiger	4/23	4/25	Hong Kong		878.00		(³)				878.00
Joseph Wender	4/23	4/25	Hong Kong		878.00		(³)				878.00
Caroline Califf	4/23	4/25	Hong Kong		878.00		(³)				878.00
Jimmy Miller	4/25	4/27	Seoul, Korea		700.00		(³)				700.00
John Anderson	4/25	4/27	Seoul, Korea		700.00		(³)				700.00
Ryan Seiger	4/25	4/27	Seoul, Korea		700.00		(³)				700.00
Joseph Wender	4/25	4/27	Seoul, Korea		700.00		(³)				700.00
Caroline Califf	4/25	4/27	Seoul, Korea		700.00		(³)				700.00
Hon. John Duncan	4/25	4/27	Seoul, Korea		700.00		(³)				700.00
Hon. Tim Holden	4/25	4/27	Seoul, Korea		700.00		(³)				700.00
Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson	4/25	4/27	Seoul, Korea		700.00		(³)				700.00
Hon. Dan Lipinski	4/25	4/27	Seoul, Korea		700.00		(³)				700.00
Committee total					20,300.50		6,925.90				27,226.40

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

HON. JOHN L. MICA, Chairman, July 18, 2011.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2631. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—2-Propenoic acid, 2-methyl-, phenylmethyl ester, polymer with 2-propenoic acid and sodium 2-methyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propen-1-yl)amino]-1-propanesulfonate(1:1), peroxydisulfuric acid ([HO)S(O)2]2O2 sodium salt (1:2)-initiated; Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0327; FRL-8878-4] received July 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2632. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Maneb; Tolerance Actions [EPA-HQ-OPP-2010-0327; FRL-8878-6] received July 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2633. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; Modifications to Indiana Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Non-attainment New Source Review Rules [EPA-R05-OAR-2010-1002; FRL-9430-7] received July 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2634. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plan; New Jersey and New York; Final Disapproval of Interstate Transport State Implementation Plan Revision for the 2006 24-hour PM2.5 NAAQS [EPA-R02-OAR-2010-1025; FRL-9436-2] received July 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2635. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Ohio; Control of Gasoline Volatility; Correction [EPA-R05-OAR-2006-0976; FRL-9430-5] received July 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2636. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Ohio; Volatile Organic Compound Reinforced Plastic Composites Production Operations Rule [EPA-R05-OAR-2010-0036; FRL-9430-9] received July 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2637. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plan; Kansas; Final Disapproval of Interstate Transport State Implementation Plan Revision for the 2006 24-hour PM2.5 NAAQS [EPA-R07-OAR-2011-0279; FRL-9436-1] received July 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2638. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plan; Missouri; Final Disapproval of Interstate Transport State Implementation Plan Revision for the 2006 24-hour PM2.5 NAAQS [EPA-R07-OAR-2011-0215; FRL-9435-9] received July 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2639. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire and Rhode Island; Infrastructure SIPs for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R01-OAR-2008-0639; EPA-R01-OAR-2008-0641; EPA-R01-OAR-2008-0642; EPA-R01-OAR-2008-0643; A-1-FRL-9431-2] received July 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2640. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Kansas [EPA-R07-OAR-2011-0304; FRL-9434-3] received July 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2641. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri [EPA-R07-OAR-2011-0309; FRL-9429-1] received July 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2642. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Nebraska [EPA-R07-OAR-2011-0310; FRL-9434-4] received July 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2643. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana and Ohio; Disapproval of Interstate Transport State Implementation Plan Revision for the 2006 24-hour PM2.5 NAAQS [EPA-R05-OAR-2009-0805; FRL-9435-8] received July 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2644. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Notice of Approval of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Permit Issued to Cape Wind Associates, LLC (EPA Permit Number OCS-R1-01) [A-1-FRL; 9431-8] received July 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2645. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Deferral for CO2 Emissions from Bioenergy and Other Biogenic Sources under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) and Title V Programs: Final

Rule [EPA-HQ-OAR-2011-0083; FRL-9431-6] (RIN: 2060-AQ79) received July 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2646. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Determination of Attainment, Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; Correction [EPA-R05-OAR-2009-0512; FRL-9430-6] received July 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2647. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Finding of Failure to Submit Section 110 State Implementation Plans for Interstate Transport for the 2006 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Fine Particulate Matter [EPA-HQ-OAR-2011-0338; FRL-9435-7] received July 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2648. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Finding of Substantial Inadequacy of Implementation Plan; Call for Iowa State Implementation Plan Revision [EPA-R07-OAR-2010-1083; FRL-9434-7] received July 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2649. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of State, Local and Tribal Affairs, Executive Office Of The President, Office of National Drug Control Policy, transmitting the Office of National Drug Control Policy High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program Report to Congress June 2011; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON
PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SESSIONS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 382. Resolution waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (Rept. 112-185). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BERMAN:

H.R. 2677. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue regulations to reduce helicopter noise pollution in residential areas of Los Angeles County, California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. MALONEY, and Ms. BASS of California):

H.R. 2678. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out programs to provide youth in racial or ethnic minority or immigrant communities the information and skills needed to reduce teenage pregnancies; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. ESHOO (for herself, Mr. LANCE, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 2679. A bill to reduce preterm labor and delivery and the risk of pregnancy-related deaths and complications due to pregnancy, and to reduce infant mortality caused by prematurity; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FLEMING:

H.R. 2680. A bill to establish a commission to conduct a comprehensive review of Federal agencies and programs and to recommend the elimination or realignment of duplicative, wasteful, or outdated functions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. ROSS of Arkansas, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. LATTA, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. CARTER, Mr. DENT, Mr. BOREN, and Mr. ALTMIRE):

H.R. 2681. A bill to provide additional time for the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to issue achievable standards for cement manufacturing facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GRIMM (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. OWENS):

H.R. 2682. A bill to provide end user exemptions from certain provisions of the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas (for himself, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. ROSS of Arkansas):

H.R. 2683. A bill to require that members of the Armed Forces who were killed or wounded in the attack that occurred at a recruiting station in Little Rock, Arkansas, on June 1, 2009, are treated in the same manner as members who are killed or wounded in a combat zone; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BOSWELL:

H.R. 2684. A bill to establish a competitive pilot program that utilizes community, innovation, and technology to improve physical fitness education and curriculum in elementary schools and secondary schools; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BROOKS (for himself and Mr. BACHUS):

H.R. 2685. A bill to increase the statutory limit on the public debt by \$750,000,000,000 upon the adoption by Congress of a balanced budget constitutional amendment and by an additional \$750,000,000,000 upon ratification by the States of that amendment; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CROWLEY:

H.R. 2686. A bill to amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to exclude child care from the determination of the 5-year

limit on assistance under the temporary assistance for needy families program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KINGSTON:

H.R. 2687. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease certain lands within Fort Pulaski National Monument, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. MALONEY (for herself, Ms. BASS of California, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. STARK):

H.R. 2688. A bill to amend the Crime Control Act of 1990 to require certification of State and law enforcement agency reports related to missing children, to require that certain information be provided to individuals reporting a missing child, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MOORE (for herself and Mr. REICHERT):

H.R. 2689. A bill to amend the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act to authorize the use of grant funds for dating violence prevention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 2690. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to direct the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation to conduct an annual independent financial audit of the Union Station Redevelopment Corporation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PAYNE:

H.R. 2691. A bill to amend title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to encourage and support parent, family, and community involvement in schools, to provide needed integrated services and comprehensive supports to children, and to ensure that schools are centers of communities, for the ultimate goal of assisting students to stay in school, become successful learners, and improve academic achievement; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SIRES:

H.R. 2692. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to modify the procedures governing the closure or consolidation of postal facilities; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. DREIER:

H.R. 2693. A bill to cut spending, maintain existing commitments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committees on the Budget, Energy and Commerce, Education and the Workforce, Ways and Means, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON (for herself and Mr. DENHAM):

H. Con. Res. 67. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H. Res. 377. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. BIGGERT (for herself and Mr. HOLT):

H. Res. 378. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that

strong consideration should be given to the role of science education in the educational accountability system as it works to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. NORTON, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. MICHAUD, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SIRES, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. COHEN):

H. Res. 379. A resolution condemning the terror attacks on government buildings in Oslo, Norway, and a youth camp on Utøya Island, Norway, on July 22, 2011, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. PAULSEN (for himself, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. ROSKAM, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. KIND, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. BERG, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. PETRI, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. COBLE, Mr. LANCE, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mrs. NOEM, and Mr. MICHAUD):

H. Res. 380. A resolution condemning the July 22, 2011, attacks in the Kingdom of Norway; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SCHILLING (for himself, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mr. MANZULLO):

H. Res. 381. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the memorial park on Hero Street USA, in Silvis, Illinois, should be recognized as Hero Street Memorial Park and should continue to be supported as a park by the Town of Silvis at no cost to United States taxpayers; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. BERMAN:

H.R. 2677.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is introduced pursuant to the authority delineated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD:

H.R. 2678.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 2679.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, the General Welfare Clause.

By Mr. FLEMING:

H.R. 2680.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. SULLIVAN:

H.R. 2681.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRIMM:

H.R. 2682.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas:

H.R. 2683.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution (Clauses 12, 13, 14, 16, and 18), which grants Congress the power to raise and support an Army; to provide and maintain a Navy; to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces; to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia; and to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the foregoing powers.

By Mr. BOSWELL:

H.R. 2684.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. BROOKS:

H.R. 2685.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8. The Congress shall have Power . . . to pay debts. . . .

Article V. The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution. . . .

By Mr. CROWLEY:

H.R. 2686.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KINGSTON:

H.R. 2687.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Mrs. MALONEY:

H.R. 2688.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause I and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. MOORE:

H.R. 2689.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 2690.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. PAYNE:

H.R. 2691.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution

The Congress shall have Power***To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. SIRE:

H.R. 2692.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to clause 3(d) (1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee finds the authority for this legislation in article I, section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. DREIER:

H.R. 2693.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 2 of section 8 of article I.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 58: Mr. PENCE and Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 280: Mr. BROOKS.

H.R. 282: Mr. BROOKS.

H.R. 287: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. KILDEE, and Ms. BERKLEY.

H.R. 298: Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 333: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 422: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 436: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.

H.R. 451: Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 605: Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 674: Mr. RIVERA, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. HALL, Mr. GUTHRIE, Ms. GRANGER, and Mr. BARLETT.

H.R. 683: Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 687: Mr. BOREN.

H.R. 704: Mr. BROOKS.

H.R. 735: Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 787: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mrs. EMERSON.

H.R. 808: Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. HOLT, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 835: Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 942: Mr. CARTER.

H.R. 1048: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. ELLISON, Mrs. MALONEY, and Mr. STARK.

H.R. 1106: Ms. EDWARDS.

H.R. 1138: Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 1161: Mr. TERRY and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1164: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H.R. 1179: Mrs. SCHMIDT and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 1195: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 1206: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. GIBSON, and Ms. HAYWORTH.

H.R. 1351: Mr. DICKS and Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 1375: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 1461: Mr. HEINRICH.

H.R. 1464: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H.R. 1466: Mr. CLAY, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. BASS of California, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 1511: Mrs. MYRICK and Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 1550: Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 1558: Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 1580: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 1614: Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 1639: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 1697: Mr. HOLDEN and Ms. HAYWORTH.

H.R. 1700: Mr. BARTLETT.

H.R. 1706: Mr. WATT.

H.R. 1755: Mr. BOREN.

H.R. 1761: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 1775: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 1780: Mr. BOSWELL.

H.R. 1847: Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. OLVER, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KUCINICH, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. CARNAHAN, and Mr. SARBANES.

H.R. 1865: Mr. BOREN and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.

H.R. 1876: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 1931: Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 1951: Mrs. MALONEY.

H.R. 1966: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 1983: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1994: Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 2000: Mr. BROOKS.

H.R. 2016: Mr. ELLISON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. BERKLEY, and Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 2032: Ms. GRANGER and Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 2088: Mrs. BIGGETT.

H.R. 2092: Mrs. ROBY.

H.R. 2104: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 2107: Mr. MCINTYRE.

H.R. 2108: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 2115: Mr. HECK.

H.R. 2159: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 2164: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. HALL, Ms. GRANGER, and Mr. ROSS of Florida.

H.R. 2167: Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 2182: Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia.

H.R. 2190: Mr. FARR.

H.R. 2200: Mr. FALCOMA, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. HALL.

H.R. 2214: Mr. CLARKE of Michigan, Ms. FUDGE, and Mr. DREIER.

H.R. 2247: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 2250: Mr. BARTON of Texas, Ms. SEWELL, and Mr. SHIMKUS.

H.R. 2255: Mr. CARNEY.

H.R. 2257: Ms. HAYWORTH.

H.R. 2271: Mr. KING of Iowa and Mrs. MYRICK.

H.R. 2306: Mr. STARK, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 2377: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. LANCE, Mr. HOLDEN, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 2387: Ms. HANABUSA and Mr. PITTS.

H.R. 2395: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 2397: Mr. COBLE.

H.R. 2407: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 2418: Mr. PLATT.

H.R. 2421: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 2447: Mr. TURNER, Mr. GRIMM, and Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H.R. 2482: Mr. HEINRICH.

H.R. 2492: Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. LANCE, and Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 2500: Mr. LATHAM, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. LONG.

H.R. 2501: Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 2505: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 2529: Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 2540: Mr. FARR, Mr. CLAY, Mr. RUSH, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 2543: Mr. MORAN, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, and Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 2545: Mr. LIPINSKI and Mr. WALSH of Illinois.

H.R. 2547: Ms. EDWARDS and Mr. LUJÁN.
 H.R. 2561: Mr. FLAKE, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. QUAYLE.
 H.R. 2563: Ms. BORDALLO and Mr. RANGEL.
 H.R. 2566: Mrs. CAPPS.
 H.R. 2567: Mr. FILNER.
 H.R. 2568: Mr. HINOJOSA.
 H.R. 2575: Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas.
 H.R. 2580: Ms. HAYWORTH.
 H.R. 2592: Mr. SCHILLING.
 H.R. 2594: Mrs. LUMMIS.
 H.R. 2599: Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. HINCHEY.
 H.R. 2602: Mr. BROOKS.
 H.R. 2617: Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. BROWN of Florida, and Mr. LUJÁN.
 H.R. 2639: Ms. EDWARDS.
 H.R. 2644: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. KEATING, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CRITZ, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. ISRAEL.
 H.R. 2651: Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. WALSH of Illinois, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. PENCE, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GOWDY, and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
 H.R. 2653: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. NUGENT, and Mr. LOBIONDO.
 H.R. 2659: Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, and Mr. CONYERS.
 H.R. 2662: Mr. BROOKS, Mr. MULVANEY, and Mr. STUTZMAN.
 H.R. 2663: Mr. CLAY, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. FALEMOAVALA, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FILNER, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ISRAEL, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. STARK, Mr.

TONKO, Mr. BOSWELL, Ms. HOCHUL, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. BACA, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. PELOSI, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 2664: Mr. LUJÁN.
 H.R. 2670: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
 H.R. 2671: Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.
 H. J. Res. 2: Mr. LANKFORD.
 H. Res. 25: Mr. GIBBS.
 H. Res. 111: Mr. FINCHER.
 H. Res. 136: Ms. NORTON.
 H. Res. 216: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia and Mr. STARK.
 H. Res. 238: Mr. COBLE.
 H. Res. 342: Mr. HONDA.
 H. Res. 364: Mr. BERG, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. WEBSTER.
 H. Res. 369: Mr. BARTLETT and Mr. FORTENBERRY.
 H. Res. 374: Mr. DREIER.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT No. 79: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:
 SEC. _____. For an additional amount for "Smithsonian Institution—Salaries and Expenses" for the National Museum of African American History and Culture (as authorized By: sections 7(b)(2)(B), 8(c), and 11(a)(2) of the National Museum of African American History and Culture Act (20 U.S.C. 80r-5(b)(2)(B), 80r-6(c), and 80r-9(a)(2))) there is hereby appropriated, for "Smithsonian Institution—

Facilities Capital" for construction of a building for the Museum (as authorized By: section 8(c) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 80r-6(c))) there is hereby appropriated, the amount otherwise provided for "Smithsonian Institution—Salaries and Expenses" is hereby reduced by, and the amount otherwise provided for "Smithsonian Institution—Facilities Capital" is hereby reduced by, \$5,000,000, \$65,000,000, \$5,000,000, and \$65,000,000, respectively.

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT No. 80: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:
 SEC. _____. None of the funds made available By: this Act may be used to carry out sections 431(b), 435, or 438 of this Act (relating to stationary source greenhouse gas prevention, waters of the United States, and silvicultural activities, respectively).

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT No. 81: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:
 SEC. _____. None of the funds made available By: this Act may be used in contravention of section 104(k), or section 128, of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(k), 9628).

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MR. RIGELL

AMENDMENT No. 82: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:
 SEC. _____. None of the funds made available By: this Act may be used to purchase lands that would result in a net increase in Federal land holdings (other than lands acquired to be held in trust for the benefit of a federally recognized Indian tribe).

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING S&S FOOD STORES

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, in 1961, Lester and Anne Scaff took a leap of faith and purchased a small market on US 41 in Lake City. At that time, the young couple had no idea that their lives and their business were about to grow into a lifetime of joy and community involvement.

Over the years they purchased more stores which came with new challenges to learn and grow. With a strong belief in customer service, the Scaff's growth continued through the 1980s and beyond. They expanded into eight surrounding counties and were able to target their growth to become a leading employer in the region. That original small company now owns 44 convenience stores and 3 Scaff's Markets.

However, from their corporate office, Lester and Anne Scaff still engage in the daily operations using the same careful, guiding hands that crafted the small one-store operation that grew into the people oriented, customer friendly business that exists today. They continue to be thankful for their customers over these 50 plus years.

S&S Food Stores and the Scaffs take pride in being good neighbors. Their commitment to serving their communities has been evident with the many fundraising activities and charitable contributions donated throughout the years. In fact, the S&S team members have collected close to a million dollars for the Children's Miracle Network/Shands Hospital.

Congratulations to Lester and Anne Scaff and the employees of S&S Food Stores for their 50 years of service to the State and their community.

COMMEMORATING THE BIRTH OF
MR. LOU LARA

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the birth of Mr. Lou Lara, a constituent of mine who, on this day, turns 103 years old. Over the course of his life, Mr. Lara has given many reasons for his community and indeed his country to be proud. Born in West Babylon, New York, Mr. Lara went on to serve his country in the National Guard. He got an education and went on to become an engineer where he went to work for the government. Despite his age, he continues to enjoy woodworking, and brings a smile and joy to all those around him at Twining Village

in Holland Bucks County, where he lives in an independent living community. Mr. Lara's life has served as the model by which many others can use as an example of how to live a fulfilling life while at the same time giving service to one's country and community.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT E. MEEHAN
ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to pay tribute to Robert (Bob) Meehan as he retires from Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, Inc. It is my distinct pleasure to add my congratulations to that of his family, friends and colleagues as they celebrate in honor of a man who has been involved in every aspect of Horizon's business markets for 20 years. For all the leadership he has shown and the contributions he has made over the years, Bob Meehan is a worthy recipient of the accolades he will receive on July 26, 2011.

I consider it an honor to have served on the Board of Directors of the YMCA of Newark and Vicinity with Bob Meehan for a number of years. Not only has Bob been an asset to the Board with his business savvy and creativity but he also served in several leadership positions including Board President. Bob was instrumental in revitalizing key Y programs and steering the organization through a difficult financial period. He has been a mentor to new Board members and I have been advised that Bob has also been a mentor to many Horizon employees including my New Jersey Chief of Staff.

Bob and I have two other things in common; we both graduated from Seton Hall University and we both spent a number of years with Prudential Insurance Company. Prudential's loss was definitely Horizon's gain as Bob made his mark in a variety of marketing and customer service related areas. His efforts on behalf of the customers and employees of Horizon will long be remembered and Bob's incredible style will be greatly missed by all those who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Mr. Speaker, I know my fellow members of the House of Representatives agree that Bob Meehan has been an integral part of Horizon. Bob's retirement is the culmination of a stellar career and we wish him well in this new and exciting phase of his life.

RECOGNIZING 95 YEARS OF SUCCESS BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, today I join Senator BEN NELSON and Senator MIKE JOHANNIS of Nebraska in paying tribute to the National Park Service, which will be celebrating its 95th anniversary on August 25, 2011.

The National Park Service currently administers 394 units across 49 states and U.S. territories, including five National Park Service units in our home State of Nebraska. These units consist of the Agate Fossil Beds National Monument, Homestead National Monument of America, Missouri National Recreational River, Niobrara National Scenic River, and Scotts Bluff National Monument. In addition, the National Park Service administers five National Historic Trails, including the California, Oregon, Pony Express, Mormon, and Lewis and Clark.

National Park areas generate \$12 billion in tourism dollars to local economies, creating 247,000 private-sector jobs. Within Nebraska, National Park Service units generate approximately \$8.8 million in tourism dollars and create approximately 170 private-sector jobs. And in western Nebraska, Agate Fossil Beds and Scotts Bluff Monuments, along with the Chimney Rock National Historic Site, which is an Affiliated Area of the National Park Service, generate close to \$3 million in tourism dollars and create 90 private-sector jobs.

Nebraska has been supportive of the mission of the National Park Service even before the agency existed. In fact, in 1914, two years before the National Park Service was created, citizens in the Scottsbluff/Gering area sought to get a National Park or Monument established. Prominent local champions included elected officials and newspaper editor, A.B. Wood.

Scotts Bluff National Monument is named for a fur trapper by the name of Hiram Scott who was wounded and deserted by his companions in 1828. He gained immortality by making his way to a magnificent formation of bluffs along the North Platte River before succumbing to his wounds. It was for Hiram Scott that Scotts Bluff National Monument, Scotts Bluff County, and the City of Scottsbluff have been named.

Scotts Bluff National Monument, which rises 4,649 feet above sea level, was an imposing landmark which guided wagon trains along the California, Oregon, Pony Express, and Mormon Trails. Native Americans originally called this natural formation *ma-a-pa-te*, which translates into "hill that is hard to go around."

The Summit Road to the top of the Bluff was completed in 1937, allowing visitors to

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

drive to experience the spectacular view of the valley 800 feet below. This road is the oldest existing concrete road in Nebraska and includes the only three automobile tunnels in our State.

In the Scottsbluff/Gering area, numerous events to commemorate the 95th anniversary of the National Park Service have been scheduled for August 2011, beginning with a Kick-Off Ceremony at Scotts Bluff National Monument on August 12, 2011. Platte Valley Attractions, a coalition of visitor venues in and around the area, is hosting a variety of events and special exhibits through grants and donations from local and regional sponsors to commemorate the theme, "Westward Expansion as seen through National Parks," including:

Farm and Ranch Museum is hosting westward expansion orientation films and an interactive exhibit of westward expansion transportation methods.

Midwest Theater is hosting both the premiere of a new documentary film on the Pony Express and a film by Ken Burns on America's National Parks.

North Platte Valley Museum is hosting a westward expansion map exhibit.

Western Nebraska Community College is hosting a seminar, "Recognizing and Preserving Westward Expansion," with speakers who are all nationally recognized in their fields.

Western Nebraska Community College sponsored a summer youth camp that developed posters to help promote these commemorative events.

Again, on behalf of the people of Nebraska, we offer our congratulations to Scotts Bluff National Monument on its Kick-Off Ceremony and the National Park Service on its 95th anniversary.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF BOB
MOWBRAY

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, the small town of Bradford, Illinois this month lost one of its most beloved residents. Bob Mowbray dedicated his life to actually living the words we utter so frequently about loving God and country. He first served his country in his youth, as a corporal in the Marines during the Korean conflict. After he returned home, he served his community in Bradford as the Postmaster for 36 years. He also was a loyal and active member for 58 years of the American Legion, Post #445.

When he was drafted by the Marines, he left behind a promising possible career as a big league pitcher. Even though he chose to return home instead of pursuing his baseball dreams, he never lost his passion for America's pastime.

Anyone who knew Bob knew about his unabashed love for sports, especially the Bears, the Bulls, and the White Sox. But what very few people knew—including those closest to him—was that he acted out his faith in God through his quiet charity. Bob wouldn't talk

about it, but he was extremely generous, even giving money to support those he had never met.

Although he never had children of his own, all the children of Bradford—and even many in the surrounding towns—knew about Postmaster Mowbray. Bob brought in countless bags of candy over the years, always having a treat ready to slide over the counter to every kid who came in. And with that piece of candy would come a gentle nod and a warm smile.

Bob Mowbray was a man of few words, but he left a deep impression on many. He will be missed.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 90TH
BIRTHDAY OF BERNICE FRIED-
LANDER

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today it is my honor to pay tribute to Bernice Friedlander, who will mark her 90th birthday on Saturday, July 30, 2011, in Houston, Texas. On this special day we will all look back and see the hallmarks of a life well lived. Her quiet determination, unfailing kindness, and unyielding spirit have made her a pillar not only of a proud and loving family, but of all that have come to know her.

Beneath a humble and quiet exterior lies a generous and kind soul. She is beloved not for a litany of accomplishments, but simply for who she is. With such an uplifting and giving nature it is easy to see why she inspires so much love and warmth in others.

For decades she was the dedicated wife of her beloved husband, the late Silas Friedlander. She has been a wonderful mother to her adoring daughters Nancy and Susie, and a generous and doting grandmother to Kevin, Nick, Tyler, and Ashley.

We throw modesty aside today so that we can give the heartfelt thanks that Bernice is long overdue. Her unending love and devotion to those who have the privilege of calling her family have made their lives so much richer for having had her there. Happy birthday Bernice, may you enjoy yourself in happiness and good health for many years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RUNAWAY
REPORTING IMPROVEMENT ACT
OF 2011

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce bipartisan legislation, the Runaway Reporting and Improvement Act of 2011, along with my friend and colleague Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I am also pleased to be joined by Representatives KAREN BASS, GWEN MOORE, and PETE STARK.

The estimated number of youth that runaway or are 'thrown away' in the U.S. each

year is between 1 and 1.7 million. While the reasons youth run away from home vary, the heightened risk for exploitation and victimization are the same for all of them.

One of the risks for runaway girls and young women is an increased risk for sex trafficking. Young girls who runaway or have been 'thrown away' from home are usually propositioned for sex within 24 hours of leaving home. Many runaway youth engage in 'survival sex' in exchange for food and shelter. Other risks include exposure to drugs and alcohol and violence.

One of the few things more terrible than learning a child is missing would be to learn that everything possible isn't being done to find him or her. The National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database is designed to help make information sharing easier so that missing children can be found and provided with any needed services.

According to a New York Times' series, 'Running in the Shadows', as many as 16 percent of reported runaways are never entered in to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database.

The Runaway Reporting Improvement Act of 2011 would help solve this problem and protect missing children by making two small but useful changes to the Crime Control Act of 1990. First, the bill would require law enforcement agencies to certify that they comply with Federal law by entering all missing children into the NCIC database. Second, it would require that law enforcement officers provide the reporter of a missing child with information about the services of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the National Runaway Switchboard, as well as 24-hour, toll-free contact information for those resources. NCMEC and NRS have a long and successful history of helping parents and law enforcement agencies work together to find and protect missing kids. Parents and guardians with missing children need to be given information so they are not isolated during this time of crisis.

Mr. Speaker, we simply must do better by our children. The necessary resources are in place but they are not being used to their full potential. The Runaway Improvement Act of 2011 will help ensure that these existing resources are used to find and protect the families that need them the most.

IN MEMORY OF MR. A.J. LEGER,
LOCAL ENTREPRENEUR, DEDICATED
VOLUNTEER TO SOUTH-
EAST TEXAS COMMUNITY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Mr. A.J. Leger, a dedicated community volunteer, a veteran of the Marine Corp, and a shining example of a successful entrepreneur here in America. Growing up in Lafayette, Louisiana, Mr. Leger had a jump start on his career in the restaurant business back in 1952 at the ripe age of 12 years old working as a busboy at Don's Seafood

and Steakhouse in his hometown. Who would have thought nearly 16 years later he would own his own restaurant employing his own busboys. His is a story familiar to all of us, as this is the story of America and the opportunities afforded to its citizens.

Soon after his graduation, Mr. Leger married his high school sweetheart, Patricia, before spending 6 years in the Marine Corps. After being honorably discharged, Mr. Leger picked up where he left off on his restaurant career becoming kitchen manager at Don's Seafood in both Baton Rouge and Shreveport locations. In 1968, Mr. Leger decided to cross the Sabine River, and open up with his two business partners one of the longest running and most successful restaurants in Beaumont, Texas, Don's Seafood located right off Interstate 10.

Mr. Leger served for over 40 years as an active member of the Sabine Area Restaurant Association, was awarded Outstanding Restaurateur Sabine Area Chapter by the Texas Restaurant Association and in 1997 the association selected him for their highest honor by induction to the TRA's Hall of Fame.

In his free time, Mr. Leger could be found cooking for local fundraisers and charitable organizations such as the Young Mens Business League, Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce, City of Beaumont, Texas Fire Museum, Boys Haven, and at the Texas State Capitol. Best known for his gumbo, Mr. Leger once said he had "cooked enough gumbo to float a battleship, over 12,000 lobsters, and millions of pounds of crawfish".

On Tuesday, May 31, 2011, Mr. Leger went to be with our Lord but he will always be remembered and highly thought of by the many lives he touched and the countless hours he devoted giving back to the community he called home. Mr. Leger leaves behind his high school sweetheart, Patricia, to whom he was married for 52 years and three loving daughters, Rhonda, Angie, and Jodie with families of their own, including five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, stories like A.J. Leger's remind us of what truly makes America a great Nation. It is an honor to join with the Southeast Texas community in honoring the life of Mr. A.J. Leger.

HONORING ANTHONY "SONNY"
BERTONE

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Vermont veteran on his 90th birthday, Anthony "Sonny" Bertone.

A resident of Bennington, Vermont, Mr. Bertone served his country with bravery and honor in the United States Army during the Second World War. Mr. Bertone was assigned to Company "C" of the 634th Tank Destroyer Battalion, a Company that at many times was assigned to campaigns under General George S. Patton.

Mr. Bertone fought in some of the most important campaigns throughout the war, including Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge. Mr.

Bertone also fought to secure the Ludendorff Bridge at Remagen, Germany and concluded his service in Czechoslovakia.

Mr. Bertone was honorably discharged from the Army in 1945 and received the Croix De Guerre. Upon leaving the Army, Mr. Bertone went on to raise his family in New Jersey before moving to Vermont.

As Vermont's Representative in this Congress, I ask that Mr. Bertone be recognized for his accomplishments and applauded for his service to the state of Vermont and the United States of America.

46TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF MEDICARE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, today, Congressman ED TOWNS joined millions of grateful recipients in celebrating the 46th anniversary of the enactment of Medicare, signed into law on July 30, 1965 by President Lyndon Johnson. Today, Medicare provides comprehensive health care coverage to 47 million Americans, including 39 million seniors and eight million people with disabilities under the age of 65 years old. Many consider Medicare one of the crowning achievements of the Democratic Party.

"On the 46th anniversary of Medicare it is important to recognize the profound impact it has had on American families. Slightly more than half of Americans over the age of 65 years had health coverage in 1964. Today coverage is virtually universal," stated TOWNS. "Because of Medicare, millions of Americans enjoy guaranteed benefits and affordable premiums for health care at a time in their lives when they need it most."

Medicare is arguably the best anti-poverty program to ever come out of Congress. Nearly 30 percent of seniors lived below the poverty line in 1964. Since Medicare was signed into law that number has dropped to 7.5 percent. Recent studies have shown, the average Medicare beneficiary saves hundreds of dollars per year in premiums because of Medicare. Most Americans believe Medicare must be preserved, regardless of age.

"Support for Medicare is nearly universal among Americans across the political spectrum, yet we have heard recently proposals that would end the program as we know it," TOWNS stated. Some of my colleagues passed a budget that would replace Medicare with a voucher system where seniors would be forced to spend \$6,000 on average to purchase private insurance. I have made a commitment to vigorously fight any policies that would change Medicare. Medicare is a program that has worked well for millions of Americans and their families and I will do all I can to preserve it."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 308, I was delayed in leaving a meeting with a constituent off the House floor during this two-minute votes series and was unable to cast my vote before the vote was closed.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

INTRODUCTION OF THE BILL TO PROVIDE FOR AN ANNUAL AUDIT OF THE UNION STATION REDEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce a bill to require greater accountability for a prized federal asset, Union Station in Washington, D.C. My bill would require an annual audit by the Department of Transportation Inspector General of the Union Station Redevelopment Corporation, USRC, and Union Station, which is owned by the Department of Transportation. For decades, no official audit has been performed and, increasingly, questions have been raised about the management and condition of the facility.

Commissioned by Congress, Union Station first opened in 1907 as a train facility for the nation's capital, with a much heralded design by the famous architect Daniel Burnham. The station once was the largest building in the nation's capital. However, Union Station deteriorated from a bustling transportation hub and commercial center as rail use declined in the 1950s. Following a long series of failed ideas, wasted federal funds, cost overruns, major utility needs and mismanagement, Congress passed the Union Station Redevelopment Act (P.L. 97-125) in 1981, authorizing the Secretary of Transportation to create USRC, a non-profit corporation, to spearhead the redevelopment of Union Station into a modern facility, to maintain and expand it into a great intermodal facility, and to protect the federal government's interest in the station. In 1988, Union Station, which had become a neglected, boarded up wasteland hardly fit for trains, reopened after a multi-million dollar renovation with federal funds as a beautiful historically restored facility, shopping mall, and major multi-modal transit hub and tourist destination.

When I chaired the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management, we held what likely were the first hearings on Union Station since the USRC was formed and the renovations were completed. I was astonished to find that there was no master plan to account for the major renovations and modernizations planned for inside and outside of the station, including reconstruction of Columbus Circle, expanded Metro access for the busiest Metrorail station in the region, development of Burnham Place,

a three-million square foot mixed-use development project over the rail tracks, and indispensable expansion of the concourse and waiting areas for Amtrak, the Maryland Rail Commuter Service, MARC, and the Virginia Railway Express, VRE. Today, the various components of Union Station have developed a master plan for the station, including a separate Amtrak master plan that currently is being developed because of the urgent need to improve capacity and service along the Northeast Corridor. Yet both the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management have met significant resistance as we continue to press USRC to create an intercity bus deck in its existing space, in accordance with its mission to develop and maintain a true intermodal facility. It was only after two hearings and letters from the committee and from me that USRC developed a "pilot" intercity bus deck. Even so, after failed negotiations with intercity bus companies, it has required many meetings between USRC and me and my staff, a meeting with Chairman MICA and me, and the inclusion of the Department of Transportation, which, by statute, chairs the USRC Board of Directors, to finally jumpstarted meaningful discussions on a permanent intercity bus program.

The audit is particularly essential now because of increasing evidence that USRC may not be able to meet its mandate to be self-supporting. For example, Union Station contains the kind of popular retail shops and restaurants that pay significant taxes everywhere else in the city, including in other federal buildings. However, USRC has asked the District of Columbia for a reduced Possessory Interest Tax assessment, a tax levied by the District on private businesses located in federal buildings. Yet USRC was given authority under the Union Station Redevelopment Act to negotiate lease agreements in this valuable property in order to ensure that the needs of Union Station would be covered, but USRC has negotiated a master retail lease that obligated USRC to pay half of any Possessory Interest Tax, thereby depriving USRC of significant funds that could be used for station maintenance and improvements. USRC says that its payment of the Possessory Interest Tax would hinder its mission of maintaining and preserving Union Station. The amount of the Possessory Interest Tax is small compared to Union Station's needs and casts further doubt about USRC's ability to meet its congressional mandate to make Union Station self-supporting.

Although USRC was created in 1984 to ensure that Union Station would be self-sustaining, it is impossible for Congress or the public to gauge the health and progress of USRC without a proper audit. Particularly today, when there are no federal funds to rehabilitate Union Station, as Congress provided before, it is essential that we have a definitive and continuing view of the financial viability of Union Station, beginning with a full annual audit that is made available to Congress and to the public.

Major planned development, ongoing negotiations on the intercity bus deck and questions about USRC's maintenance and needed improvements for Union Station make an offi-

cial annual audit essential. With nearly 90,000 visitors passing through Union Station every day, Congress is obligated to track the financial condition of this great asset in order to protect the significant federal investment and to avoid another cycle of the disrepair that once led to the closure of the facility. The only responsible course is to require a full annual and public audit of this historic federal property.

CONGRATULATING GLEN HAEGE,
"AMERICA'S MASTER HANDY-
MAN", ON HIS INDUCTION INTO
THE MICHIGAN BROADCASTING
HALL OF FAME

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House Floor today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to a wonderful Michigander who is commonly referred to as "America's Master Handyman". When you think of home improvement shows in Detroit, Michigan, one might be quick to mention the popular TV sitcom of the 1990s, "Home Improvement" which featured Michigan native Tim Allen as Tim "The Toolman" Taylor. As you know, this was a fictional show and character. But what I bet many didn't realize is this: there is a real home improvement expert who does exist in Detroit and has had one of the most successful careers long before Tim Allen hit our TV screens.

His name, Mr. Speaker, is Glen Haege, known quite simply as "America's Master Handyman". His name might sound familiar if you are or know someone who is a "do-it-yourselfer". Glen is a nationally renowned radio talk show host, television personality, author, and columnist. He offers people advice with any type of home improvement project and has an uncanny ability to answer any question posed to him. Not even the Toolman's right-hand man, Al Borland, could hold a hammer to him.

Glen's training in the home improvement business started at the retail level where he worked as a store manager and a corporate manager. But Glen was a man destined for much larger audiences.

His extraordinary talents recently earned him the very prestigious award presented by the Michigan Association of Broadcasters for his lifetime of accomplishments: Glen was inducted into the Michigan Broadcasting Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to put this prestigious award into perspective. Mr. Haege joins the ranks of the late great Detroit Tigers Broadcaster and Major League Hall of Famer, Ernie Harwell, and the company of other outstanding individuals who have made a long and lasting impact on the industry and whose talents are never to be forgotten. He shares this rare distinction with people like Bob Reynolds, Mike Whorff, Dick Purtan, Ray Lane, Diana Lewis, Mort Crim, Bill Bonds, Sonny Eliot and J.P. McCarthy just to name a few.

Glen's broadcasting career started in 1983 by making appearances on several Detroit

radio and TV shows offering insightful home maintenance techniques to those seeking assistance. These appearances catapulted Glen to a new job hosting his own radio show in 1987. He soon began taking on even more responsibilities as magazine writer and columnist for the Detroit News. Glen's polite, courteous and genuine caring personality allowed him to add listeners and their trust to his ever-expanding and popular show, and more and more readers to his columns.

Eventually in 1996, his show became nationally syndicated and was one the best known home improvement shows in the country. His current program on WJR 760-AM, "The Handyman Show with Glenn Haege", reaches over 1.3 million listeners a week and airs on 150 radio stations across the U.S.

In addition to his own radio program, Glen stays extremely busy with the little spare time he has by producing television shows, appearing on other radio stations offering free advice and tips, attending home improvement conferences, authoring books, and serving as President and CEO of his own business, H&S Services. Yet he also finds the time to maintain his own website that helps him reach out to even more people seeking guidance on their home improvement projects.

Glen is a great teacher and his considerable expertise helps countless people save time and money, inspires them to believe they can be "do-it-yourselfers" while also cautioning them that sometimes professionals are indeed the best option.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Mr. Glen Haege on this most recent recognition as he joins the 2011 Class in the Michigan Broadcasting Hall of Fame. I am very happy to see his hard work, dedication and commitment officially recognized by the Michigan Association of Broadcasters.

Lastly, I want to personally congratulate Glen on this notable achievement and thank him on behalf of the scores of people he has helped by converting their homes into more comfortable, efficient and beautiful living spaces. We are very fortunate indeed to have this outstanding man living in our magnificent state, and I am very proud to call him my constituent and friend.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH
COUNTRYMAN

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Joe Countryman as he retires from his position as President of MBK Engineers. Through his work as an expert engineer, he has protected numerous regions of California, including Sacramento and the Central Valley, from flooding. Over the last 45 years, his engineering excellence has safeguarded the lives, homes and businesses of millions of Californians. I ask all my colleagues to join me today in honoring a true leader of the Sacramento community.

In the Sacramento area, flooding is of paramount concern to all of us. Joe's work has

been crucial to protecting us from disaster, first as a senior civilian at the Army Corps of Engineers and then as the President of MBK Engineers. In 1986, during the historic storms, he managed the Folsom Reservoir flood operations for the Army Corps of Engineers. His decisions and resolve helped avoid a potential disaster for hundreds of thousands of residents in Sacramento along the American River, as a catastrophic flood threatened our dams and levees. Since then, he has worked to improve flood control operations at Folsom Reservoir, Oroville Dam, Shasta Dam, and other critically important sites across the Western United States. He has been influential in countless other projects not only in California, but also in Nevada, Utah, and Colorado.

Since I was elected, I have turned to Joe for his advice on a number of flood protection projects. Mr. Countryman is known not only for his incredible work in his field, but for his integrity and ability to communicate complex engineering and hydraulic information to the public. He has received many honors, including the Award of Merit from San Jose State University, the Commander's Award for Distinguished Service by the Army Corps of Engineers, and the American Society of Civil Engineers' Region 9 Lifetime Achievement Award. He is a member of the American Society of Engineers, the Flood Plain Managers Association, the Environmental and Water Resources Institute, and has been acknowledged as a Diplomate Water Resources Engineer for the American Academy of Water Resources Engineers.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize and thank Joe Countryman for his remarkable service not only to Sacramento, but to many other communities throughout the nation, and for his innovation and accomplishments in the field of engineering. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Countryman on his service and retirement. His expertise will certainly be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 307 I was delayed in leaving a meeting with a constituent off the House floor during this two minute votes series and was unable to cast my vote before the vote was closed. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE NOMINATION OF REBECCA WODDER

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern regarding the recent nomination of Rebecca Wodder as Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Until recently, Ms. Wodder served as president of American Rivers, an environmental organization that specializes in the removal of dams across the United States. Under the direction of Ms. Wodder, American Rivers removed over 200 dams in 13 states from 1999 to 2010. In total, the organization claims credit for the removal of 150 dams across America. In many cases, the lawsuits that preceded the removal of these dams cost U.S. taxpayers millions of dollars. This clearly demonstrates that Ms. Wodder's agenda hinges on practices that result in the expenditure of vast amounts of federal time and money in exchange for the promotion of an environmental agenda that has shown questionable results.

The Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks oversees and coordinates all policy decisions made by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service. For someone who has spent much of her career battling the very agencies she will control, this is a prime example of the fox guarding the hen house. Indeed, American Rivers touts the fact that they have "secured the planned removal of more than 100 dams on some 55 rivers in the next five years." I doubt very seriously whether Ms. Wodder will conduct an unbiased assessment on the merits of these and other projects during her tenure at the Interior Department.

American Rivers is currently party to seven lawsuits against American taxpayers and the federal government. At a time when Congress is attempting to get our fiscal house in order, we do not need a litigious leader who has brought millions of dollars in lawsuits against our government.

Furthermore, many Americans living along rivers depend on them to support their livelihoods. During this summer alone, flooding has caused insurmountable damage to these communities. If we are going to expend capital on our inland waterways, Congress and the Obama Administration should be focused on maintaining flood control and preserving valuable river infrastructure, not increasing the disparity of funding between fish and wildlife conservation measures and human protection.

The protection of wildlife is a valid concern that should be addressed in a thoughtful manner. However, when efforts to protect wildlife result in irresponsible policy decisions, we must take a stand for the safety of our constituents.

I was proud to join 38 of my colleagues from all corners of this country in sending the following letter to the Senate. In light of not only the country's current financial crisis but also devastating floodwaters that continue to batter our river communities, I urge all of my colleagues in the House and the Senate to carefully consider the nomination of Rebecca Wodder as Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks. The consequences for millions of Americans could be dire.

Hon. BARBARA BOXER,

Hon. JEFF BINGAMAN,

Hon. JAMES INHOFE,

Hon. LISA MURKOWSKI.

DEAR SENATORS: As you consider President Obama's nomination of Ms. Rebecca Wodder as Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks at the Department of the Interior, we respectfully write to let you know of our serious concerns with her record as the head of

American Rivers, a single-purpose interest group focused on litigating against the federal government and removing economically important infrastructure. We seriously question whether she could adequately represent broader and more balanced interests at the federal level, especially at a fragile economic time with national unemployment exceeding nine percent.

The position for which Ms. Wodder has been nominated oversees the management of at least 180 million federal acres and would have a direct influence on current and potential federal regulations impacting private lands, water rights, energy projects and other infrastructure. This is troubling given her past activities at the Wilderness Society and American Rivers, a non-governmental organization with a long record of receiving American taxpayer dollars while actively litigating against the federal government on multiple fronts. Between 1988 and 2011, American Rivers has either sued or been a party to 150 lawsuits against various parties, mostly the federal government. In fact, American Rivers is currently party to seven lawsuits against American taxpayers and the federal government.

One illuminating piece of litigation revolves around American Rivers' long-standing lawsuit against the federal government's operation of four multi-purpose dams in the Pacific Northwest. These dams, located on the lower Snake River in Washington state, provide multiple benefits including emissions-free, renewable hydroelectricity (enough power to serve a city the size of Seattle), navigation to deliver agricultural products to market, recreation and the good-paying jobs associated with these benefits. Writing in the August 25, 2003 edition of *The Dissident Voice*, Ms. Wodder wrote that "Breaching the four dams on the lower Snake River would be the single most effective way to bring back wild salmon." This is a completely unproven statement and the reality is breaching these dams is an extreme action that would have devastating economic impacts across an entire region while not actually assisting fish recovery. Despite broad agreement, including from the Obama Administration, on a biological opinion for Columbia Basin salmon recovery, Ms. Wodder's organization continues an over decade long lawsuit campaign against the federal government in an effort to demolish these dams.

There are numerous examples of how the policies advocated by Ms. Wodder at American Rivers will have serious impacts throughout the country. First, she effectively advocated for federal regulations that caused up to 40 percent unemployment in parts of the San Joaquin Valley, California by diverting farm water under the guise of protecting the Delta smelt, a three-inch fish. Second, she endorsed last Congress' controversial legislation (H.R. 5088 and S. 787) that many argued could allow the EPA to regulate street and gutter water run-off and man-made ditches. This could cause significant job loss throughout rural America and the National Association of Counties, a non-partisan entity composed of locally elected officials, was concerned that this legislation could lead to "more court cases" and federal groundwater regulation. Third, by naming the Susquehanna River as one of "America's most endangered rivers," her organization attempted to stifle the domestic production of affordable natural gas through hydraulic fracturing.

Furthermore, we are also concerned that this appointment may run afoul of President

Obama's own goal of ensuring that political appointees would not work on regulations or contracts directly and substantially related to their prior employer. Ms. Wodder has received significant, long-term compensation during her tenure at American Rivers. As previously noted, the organization currently has numerous pending lawsuits against the very agencies over which she would have regulatory authority and for others that directly or indirectly have been involved in litigation with the Interior Department. This creates a very real and serious conflict of interest.

As Members of the House of Representatives, we appreciate the unique role of the Senate in the confirmation process. Nonetheless, the policies advocated by this nominee would be so detrimental to jobs, our economy and the livelihood of rural Americans that we felt compelled to make our views known and ask that you take them into consideration.

Sincerely,

BLAINE LUETKEMEYER.

DROUGHT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, the people of the Horn of Africa are facing a devastating crisis. A severe drought has left millions of children, women, and men in Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti malnourished. Many are on the verge of starvation. According to the World Food Program, more than 11 million people in the Horn of Africa require food assistance due to the drought.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) reports that below-normal spring rains in the eastern Horn of Africa led to below-normal harvests and shortages of water and grazing resources for livestock. Livestock health has deteriorated markedly, and milk production has declined significantly. Food prices throughout the eastern Horn of Africa continued to rise during the month of June, contributing to food insecurity for the population.

The conditions in Somalia are especially severe. According to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), which is supported by USAID, two areas of southern Somalia are already experiencing famine. Famine exists when at least 20 percent of the population has extremely limited access to basic food requirements, acute malnutrition exceeds 30 percent, and the death rate exceeds 2 out of every 10,000 people per day for the entire population. Death rates are above the famine threshold in two areas and are elevated across the south. Tens of thousands of people have already died in the past three months.

FEWS NET projects that famine will spread across all regions of southern Somalia within one to two months. The network estimates that 3.7 million people are in crisis nationwide, and 3.2 million of them require immediate, life-saving assistance. These severe conditions are expected to remain at least through December of this year. FEWS NET has declared this Africa's worst food security crisis since Somalia's 1991-1992 famine.

The effects of the drought in Somalia have been exacerbated by the lack of an effective central government and continuing conflict with al-Shabaab terrorists.

Drought has also affected Kenya and Ethiopia, where the situation is complicated by the arrival of large numbers of refugees from Somalia, many of them suffering from acute malnutrition.

The U.S. Government has already spent a total of approximately \$458.7 million on humanitarian assistance in the Horn of Africa during fiscal year 2011. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton issued a statement on July 20th expressing concern on behalf of the U.S. Government. She noted that additional international assistance for the region is needed and announced an additional \$28 million in U.S. assistance to Somalia and Somali refugees in Kenya. However, more needs to be done. FEWS NET has called for an immediate, large-scale, and comprehensive response to save tens of thousands of lives.

I am deeply concerned that the State and Foreign Operations appropriations bill for fiscal year 2012, which was marked up yesterday, will not provide sufficient funds for critical priorities like these. The bill includes an 18 percent cut in development assistance, which funds projects such as food security and basic education. The bill also cuts international disaster assistance by 12 percent compared to the fiscal year 2011 level and a shocking 42 percent compared to the fiscal year 2010 level. Such drastically reduced funding levels will not allow the United States to help millions of people in need or respond to emergencies, such as famines, hurricanes and earthquakes.

I have seen children who were starving. It is a terrible sight to see. We cannot sit by idly and allow thousands of children to die and not take any action to help them. To do so would be contrary to our national interests and contrary to our values.

I call upon my colleagues and indeed all Americans to show compassion to our brothers and sisters in Africa. And I call upon the U.S. Government to organize a comprehensive effort to save the lives of millions of hungry people throughout the Horn of Africa.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF CRAIG PROSSER

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Craig Prosser, retiring city manager of Tigard, Oregon. Craig has announced his retirement at the end of July, capping a 35-year career of distinguished service to our community.

Craig began serving Tigard in 1999 as finance director, and since 2005, as city manager. Craig's accomplishments include the formation of the city's first urban renewal district, the Tigard-Lake Oswego Water Partnership, as well as major improvements along Pacific Highway. He also oversaw the opening of the Westside Express Service Commuter line that runs through Tigard. Craig's foresight helped

to make Tigard an attractive place to live and do business. Because of his leadership, Tigard was able to retain crucial city services through one of the worst financial crises in our country's history.

Craig has been a consensus builder who has always focused on the needs of the citizens, and he has worked tirelessly to address their concerns. He has approached his work with integrity and a true sense of dedication while empowering staff and those around him. In his retirement announcement Craig said, "I would be willing to put the City of Tigard staff up against any public workforce in the state, if not the nation. The citizens of Tigard are fortunate to have such dedicated elected officials and public employees working on their behalf."

Former Oregon Governor Tom McCall once said, "Heroes are not giant statues framed against a red sky. They are people who say, this is my community, and it is my responsibility to make it better." Craig Prosser truly is an American hero, for he has devoted much of his life to making his community better.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Craig for his outstanding service and for providing a heroic example to us all.

HONORING UNITED STATES MARINE LANCE CORPORAL CODY JAMES ELLIOTT

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor 21-year-old United States Marine Lance Corporal Cody James Elliott of Pismo Beach, California. On June 12, 2011, while out on patrol, LCPL Elliott ran to help his Brother in Arms, Josh McDaniels, who had been injured in an IED explosion. While en route to his fallen comrade—without regard for his own safety—LCPL Elliott was severely wounded by another IED explosion. Every day, magnificent men such as Cody shine on the battlefields of honor, bringing their light of heroism and selflessness to the darkness of war—making us all proud to be Americans. In the blast, LCPL Cody lost his left leg, broke his tibia in his right leg, and lost one of his fingers. In just a few short weeks, he has come a long way in dealing with his wounds and is moving full speed towards recovery. With the help of his family, he continues to recover and show us what it means to bravely serve our country. I ask that this poem penned in his honor by Albert Caswell be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

RUN TO ME

(By Albert Caswell)

Run . . .
Run to me . . .
On battlefields of honor bright . . .
There are but all of those who so carry the fight!
All with their most magnificent light! To win that day, to that night!
Who so shine, all in their most sacrificial light . . .
Who for all of their Brothers In Arms, are but so ready to die!

All in the blood that binds them, this most sacrificial tie!
 Which brings such tears to the Angel's eyes!
 As it was on the day in June, when Cody you so ran . . . as your heart so swooned!
 As your Brother Josh lay dying, as you ran to him . . . not asking why then!
 All in your most magnificent shades of green, oh yea you United States Marine!
 As when that bomb went off, as you lie there in all its cost . . .
 All in what you had given, all in what you had lost!
 As the tears rolled down your face, all in what this war had brought!
 As up ahead but lie a new front . . .
 Only twenty-one years old, and barely hanging on . . .
 As it was then there you so saw you had a choice!
 As you told yourself, get up Marine . . . while listening to your most inner voice!
 As from deep down within, but came such a force!
 As now Cody, your new life would so begin . . .
 With that first step, all in that pain and heartache which lie so up ahead . . .
 As somehow, you lifted up your fine head and so said!
 I did not die, I am not dead! As you so chose to feel that wind upon your face . . .
 All for your Fallen Brothers, all in your heart they now so hold such a special place!
 For you've got a life to live, as now you picked up the pace!
 A life to lead, as it's now Cody you've so chosen to move at light speed!
 For you are a United States Marine, all in what your recovery has so seen . . .
 You see, people like you Cody . . . so give to us all what we so need!
 Because, You So Teach Us! And You So Be-seech Us!
 As so deep down inside, You So Reach Us!
 With all of your most courageous faith, You So Speak To Us Out On Our Ways!
 For you will run, and you will breathe . . . and oh yea Cody you will so succeed!
 And if I ever, I so have a son . . . I pray that he may be as courageous as you my son . . .
 Whose heart to me so runs! Because, Cody in heaven you need not arms or legs, and that's where you are going one day . . .
 And, you will hear our Lord so say, "Cody, Run To Me!"
 All for what you gave, Run To Me!

CONGRATULATIONS DIANE
HARPER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Diane Harper on her upcoming retirement. After working for Northrop Grumman for almost 23 years, Diane's last day with the company will be July 29, 2011. Having over 40 years of defense-related experience, her career has taken her from the House Armed Services Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives to the Office of the Secretary of Defense to the Department of the Navy. Also at the Northrop Grum-

man Corporation, she was primarily responsible for acting as the liaison between the United States Congress and the Corporation with regard to legislation relevant to the company and national defense issues.

Diane, and her husband, Mike Harper, have been very encouraging to me and my wife Roxanne during my Congressional service. We appreciate their friendship and wish her Godspeed in the next stage of her life.

IN HONOR OF JAKE FISHER

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jake Fisher of Portageville, Missouri for his years of service to the University of Missouri Delta Center. The people of my congressional district, the state of Missouri, and Missouri's flagship University are forever grateful for Jake's contributions and commitment to making the Delta Center what it is today, a world-renowned research facility we can all be extremely proud of.

The Delta Center has grown to be the jewel of the University of Missouri land grant system under Jake's leadership. This is a testament to Jake and the dedicated staff and faculty he works with on a daily basis. Every time I visit the Delta Center, I am encouraged by the work I see and what it means for the future of agriculture and our state.

Jake's leadership has been critical in providing the faculty and staff with the vision and necessary resources to discover new solutions, address needs for our state and help the welfare of our citizens through scientific advancement in agriculture. His forward thinking has been instrumental in the Delta Center making great advancements which will lead the future and keep our agricultural producers on the frontline in meeting the challenge of feeding a growing world population.

Not only is the Delta Center a world renowned research facility, it also remains an integral part of the community in Southeast Missouri. Jake has worked to forge a strong partnership between local communities, area producers, the entire Southeast Missouri region and the Delta Center. These partnerships make the Delta Center a special place for the people of Southeast Missouri and have contributed to its successes over the years.

Everybody back in Missouri knows Jake outside of his role at the Delta Center as a selfless member of the community. Whenever there has been a disaster or other challenge facing the community, Jake always lends a helping hand to neighbors in need. When a historic ice storm struck our area in 2009, cutting off power and heating to our residents during the coldest part of the year, Jake was one of the first to step up and help the community by opening up part of the Delta Center as a warming center where many of the utility crews were fed as they worked to restore power.

As Jake steps back from his leadership role at the Delta Center, I am certain the center will be in good hands. However, it will be a dif-

ficult transition for many, including me, as he has personified leadership for the Delta Center over the years. It is hard to think of the Delta Center without Jake Fisher.

More than anything, I appreciate having Jake's friendship; and I look forward to keeping it for years to come.

Congratulations, Jake, on a job well done and best wishes for you and Shelly as you enter a new and exciting part of your lives.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT AND GLORIA NOBLE OF QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Robert and Gloria Noble of Quincy, Massachusetts. They will be recognized for their tremendous contributions to our community on August 1, 2011, when Manet Community Health Center will bestow the first Elizabeth A. Swanton Community Service Award upon Mr. and Mrs. Noble.

This award is presented in memory of Elizabeth A. Swanton, a former member of the board of Manet Community Health Center who passed away in January 2011 at the age of 69. She dedicated 30 years of her life advancing the Manet mission, including her service as President of the Manet Board of Directors. The award recognizes an individual or group who, like Elizabeth Swanton, has demonstrated a significant commitment to volunteerism and community service.

Robert and Gloria moved to Quincy in 1951, a year after they married. Immediately, they immersed themselves in civic life and community service. Some of their more notable roles—and there are many—include Bob's service as Massachusetts Commander of the American Ex-Prisoners of War and Gloria's tenure as Director of D.O.V.E., which seeks to help victims of domestic violence.

For over two decades, they have also helped to organize Quincy holiday celebrations as members of the Quincy Christmas Festival Committee. In 2008, the couple was recognized for their commitment to the community with the Quincy Sun's "Citizen of the Year" award.

Their life has not only been rich in accomplishments and accolades, but also in family. They have been blessed with four children, 10 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren, and have been fortunate enough to watch their family grow roots in Quincy.

Bob and Gloria are known throughout Quincy as true local heroes, and they have created a legacy of community service on the South Shore that will be hard to match and surely never forgotten. When I think of them, the words that come to mind include devoted, selfless, caring and committed. Our communities are all better thanks to their tireless activism. They are, without a doubt, a perfect choice for the first-ever Elizabeth A. Swanton Community Service Award.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CECIL L. HEFTTEL

HON. COLLEEN W. HANABUSA

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous career of the late Representative Cecil L. Heftel. H.R. 2149 is a bill which designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4354 Pahoa Avenue in Honolulu, Hawaii, as the "Cecil L. Heftel Post Office Building."

Known for his prowess in building radio and television broadcasting stations, in 1976, Cecil Heftel was elected to the 95th Congress to represent the First Congressional District of Hawaii. While in Washington, Representative Heftel's first assignments were on the Education and Labor Committee and the Post Office and Civil Service Committee. Representative Heftel was reelected four times, serving a total of five terms. During the 96th Congress, Representative Heftel was elected to the Ways and Means Committee where he stayed until his resignation in 1986 to run for Governor of Hawaii.

While in office, Representative Heftel sponsored 160 bills and was a champion of tax reform and energy independence, always showing aloha to his constituency. In response to President Ronald Reagan's tax cut proposal, Representative Heftel said "I cannot support a tax proposal which would benefit me so much more than those of my constituents who earn less than \$30,000.00 a year." Statements like this would define who Cecil Heftel was, both inside Congress and out.

In 1983 Representative Heftel was involved in a car crash near the Lincoln Memorial that left him with severe injuries. The accident occurred before cars were legally required to have airbags. This experience helped shape Representative Heftel's view of government regulation in the private sector. After the accident, Representative Heftel unsuccessfully

filed suit against General Motors, blaming his accident on faulty brakes in his Oldsmobile. Though General Motors had sent Representative Heftel a letter explaining that his specific car model might have faulty brake, he did not receive the letter until after the accident occurred.

Upon his return to the 99th Congress, Representative Heftel immediately introduced legislation that would provide criminal penalties for manufacturers who fail to notify owners of motor vehicle safety defects. This continued a trend of Representative Heftel using his life experience to impact his constituency and put forward efficient and innovative laws that lasted until his resignation.

In 2004 at age 80, Heftel was successfully elected to the state Board of Education for the Oahu-At-Large seat continuing his passion for public service into his golden years.

In light of a career dedicated to advancing the common good, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2149 and name the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4354 Pahoa Avenue in Honolulu, Hawaii, as the "Cecil L. Heftel Post Office Building."

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION TO CONDEMN THE TERRORIST ATTACKS IN NORWAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution condemning in the strongest possible terms the cold-blooded terror attacks that wounded as many as 96 people and took 76 lives in Norway on July 22, 2011. The attacks commenced with the brutal bombing of government buildings in Oslo, and the violence then reached its peak with a twin attack at a youth camp on Utoya Island, where the majority of casualties were children.

Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg condemned the attacks as "peacetime Nor-

way's deadliest day", and I urge my colleagues to stand by Norway, a great friend and ally, in its darkest hour by supporting this resolution.

For the Norwegian government and people, these attacks are an atrocity, a nightmare, and a national tragedy.

For the world, this is a stark reminder that, as long as hatred and intolerance are allowed to persist, even the most peaceful of nations are not immune to its devastating effects.

A founding member of the United Nations and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Norway is the home of the Nobel Peace Prize and offers a safe haven to refugees and the politically persecuted. Many of its police officers don't carry arms.

To think that even this peaceful society can be the target of brutal, relentless hatred and violence is utterly shocking, and a call for action is necessary. The international community must not stand for this type of ideological violence, and this resolution reaffirms the resolve of Congress to combat all forms of terrorism, both domestically and abroad. It also expresses deep sympathy, solidarity, and condolences for Norway and reaffirms our joint commitment to peace and the elimination of actions motivated by hatred and religious or cultural intolerance worldwide.

Despite the terrible violence committed against unarmed and innocent civilians, the country has courageously demonstrated that their commitment to peace, freedom, and tolerance remains unwavering. Morten Helleso Johansen, an 18-year-old survivor of the attack, expresses this sentiment in no uncertain terms. "I want to return to that Island next year," he says. "It is the best way to honor the memory of those who died by showing that I'm not afraid, and that I'm not silenced!"

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to personify Morten's courageous spirit by supporting this resolution and honoring the victims and survivors of this tragedy. To those who perpetuate fear, hatred, and intolerance throughout the world, we say: "We are not afraid, and we will not be silenced!"

SENATE—Friday, July 29, 2011

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, who covers the heavens with clouds and prepares the rain for the Earth, You take pleasure in those who have reverence for Your Name. Bring peace to our Nation and world as you fill us with Your spirit. Empower our lawmakers to break through stalemates with constructive action. Give them such wisdom that their challenges will be met with cooperation and competence. Lord, help them to comprehend the global repercussions of some poor decisions and the irreversibility of some tragic consequences. Energize them with Your power and guide them with truth and light. Quicken their ears to hear, their eyes to see, their hearts to believe, and their wills to obey You before it is too late.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 29, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COONS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will recess until 11 a.m. today to allow for a Democratic caucus. At 10 a.m. we will have that caucus. At 11 a.m. the Senate will be in morning business until 12 noon. At noon I will be recognized. That is the order now before the Senate; is that right?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is correct.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, although the House of Representatives has not yet voted on Speaker BOEHNER's plan, that plan is flawed. That is why they have struggled for days to pass this inadequate legislation without a single Democrat even being involved in the process. They have plowed forward looking only to Republicans.

But as the battle to pass the continuing resolution went forward to keep our government open for business just a few months ago, the Republican leadership realized they were unable to get the necessary votes for the CR and they reached out to Democrats. Speaker BOEHNER had to look to Democrats; he did not have enough votes. Obviously he should have looked to the Democrats again.

That is the way we need to move forward on something that is bipartisan. That is how it is supposed to work, Democrats and Republicans working together for our country. The bandaid approach to the world crisis—and it is an embarrassment—to Congress, frankly to the country and to the world—is a sad commentary.

United Senate Democrats, all 53 of us, have informed the Speaker that his legislation was doomed in the Senate because we would not vote for a short-term extension of the debt ceiling. It would put our great Nation on a path to another default extravaganza as we have experienced in the last few weeks.

Frankly, that new extravaganza would start in a matter of weeks again.

Virtually every expert—economist, rating agency, market analyst—has said the kind of short-term plan the Speaker has proposed is no answer to the crisis. Republicans created the crisis, and what they want to do is no answer to it.

If we are really trying to avert the kind of financial calamity default would bring, the Republicans' plan is not a solution. I had a very sobering conversation a half hour ago with Secretary Geithner. Right now, businesses cannot borrow—big businesses, what they use to survive, moving money for bonds and other things; that is how the world economy works—they cannot borrow more money than overnight because no one knows what the interest rate will be tomorrow. So the Republican plan is not a solution. As the experts say, all too soon we would be back in the midst of partisan wrangling with our economy once again held prisoner by extremists in the Republican party lead by the tea party.

Our economy cannot bear this kind of uncertainty any longer. Congress and the White House are on lockdown, and the business of the country is not being conducted. I say no, not again, will we fight another battle such as the one in which we are now engaged. We cannot do that. That is why a short-term extension is not what we need. It is not what this Congress will do.

But default is not an option either. We cannot wait for the House any longer. It is time for Republicans to stop the political games and embrace compromise. No matter how long Republicans delay, the deadline will not move. We have hours—I repeat hours—to act. That is why by the end of today I must take action on the Senate's compromise legislation.

The legislation in point would cut \$2.5 trillion from our deficit over the next decade and avert default on our national debt. It would protect Social Security and Medicare without raising a penny of revenue. The question is: Will today's Republicans break away from the shrill voice of the tea party and return to the Republican Party of Ronald Reagan?

This is likely our last chance to save this Nation from a default. I have invited Senator MCCONNELL to sit down with me and to negotiate in good faith, knowing that the clock is running down. I hope he will accept my offer. I cannot do this alone. There are only 53 of us, and under the rules that Republicans put in place—it used to be used sparingly but is used all of the time now—we will need to get 60 votes; a majority is not good enough.

I know the Senate compromise bill the Democrats have offered is not perfect in the eyes of the Republicans. It is not certainly perfect in the eyes of the Democrats. But together we must make it work for all of us, because it is the only option. The settlement on the table will never give either party everything it wants, but it already meets the Republicans' demands. JOHN MCCAIN, the Republican senior Senator from Arizona, President Obama's opponent in the Presidential election, has asked his party to compromise. He did it here on the Senate floor.

He said, it "is not fair for the American people to hold out and say we won't agree to raising the debt limit." He called the radical Republican approach "unfair" and "bizarro." It is time we listen to the markets, he said. It is time we listen to the American people and sit down and seriously negotiate.

Former Senator Fred Thompson, whom I served with here in this body, a Republican, asked Members of his own party to come to their senses. "I respectfully suggest that you rake in your chips and stuff them in your pockets." That was his quote. He believes they have already won—all discretionary spending, no revenue.

I hope my friend, Senator MCCONNELL, will come to me by the end of the day and indicate what constructive ideas he has to move the process along. My door is open. I will listen to any ideas to get this done in a way that prevents a default and a dangerous downgrade to our country's credit rating.

Time is short. That is an understatement. Too much is at stake to waste even one more minute. The last train is leaving the station. This is our last chance to avert a default. The vote on this compromise will determine whether we enter the frightening world of default. A vote for the Senate compromise will be a vote on the financial obligations of this great Nation to pay the bills.

I would ask my friends, my Republican friends, break away from this thing going on in the House of Representatives. They were going to vote at 4:30 yesterday, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30—10:30 they finally quit. Rumors flying around. Rumors flying around. The Wall Street Journal said they put too much money in for Pell grants. They were going to take that out. Rumors flying around they need a balanced budget amendment added. Rumors that the Speaker was seen in my office—which he did not come. All these rumors made no sense.

The scariest thing is, late last night, Leader CANTOR said from the House: You have three choices: Boehner, cut, cap and balance, or default. That is the second ranking Member in the Republican leadership who said that.

We need to honor the financial obligations we have with the country. So a

vote against the compromise I have talked about—now listen to what my compromise is: No revenue. The Congressional Budget Office has scored it more than \$2.4 trillion, which will take us to probably—not probably, it will take us to March of 2013. We can do the country's business. There is a joint committee that will be set up to see if we can do some good work on a more long-term approach and to get back to work doing our country's business.

I repeat: CBO and OMB have scored our bill for more than \$2.4 trillion—not billion, trillion dollars. That is dollar for dollar, as the Speaker said he wants to reduce the debt. So a vote against this compromise will be a vote to default on the full faith and credit of the United States.

I repeat to everyone within the sound of my voice: We have the framework of a bill. We are going to change it. I have some ideas that we need to change. I want to discuss them with the Republican leader. If anyone has any other ideas, come to me. But the time has come to make a decision. The time factors are very clear. Why am I filing tonight on my bill? Why? There is no more time. I have to do it tonight. Would I like to wait until tomorrow to see if there is some good will that comes from the Republican side? Of course I would. But I would suggest to my friends on the other side of the aisle, this is a pretty good deal. They, in effect, as Fred Thompson said, have gotten everything they want and should put those chips in their pockets and walk away and declare victory.

There will be no time left to vote on another bill or consider another option in the Senate. This is our last, best chance to preserve the character and credit of our great Nation.

Mr. SCHUMER. Will my colleague, the majority leader, yield for a question?

Mr. REID. I am happy to.

Mr. SCHUMER. I thank our leader.

Mr. President, the leader outlined it well. The House, for all its machinations, delays, and struggles, is pursuing a path to nowhere because their bill will not pass, will not become law. Fifty-three of the fifty-three Democrats have signed a letter saying they will not vote for it, and the President has said he will veto it—all for a simple reason: because if we do this short term, we don't calm the markets and, at the same time, we start all over in a few weeks going through this again.

As the leader said—and it is true—the bill he will put on the floor is our only chance, and the reason it is our last chance is very simple: After tonight, anything put on the floor—is this true, Mr. Leader, that after tonight, if we were to put anything on the floor, given the rules of the Senate, nothing could be voted on before default would occur?

Mr. REID. I say to my friend from New York, under the rules we have in

the Senate, if I move tonight, we cannot have the final vote until Tuesday morning. The country defaults at 12 o'clock on Tuesday on its debt.

Mr. SCHUMER. Will the leader continue to yield?

Mr. REID. Sure.

Mr. SCHUMER. That means this bill the leader will put on the floor tonight is the last train out of the station, and it also means, given the rules of the Senate, that only with bipartisan cooperation can we do it.

So we are hoping and praying that our colleagues from the other side of the aisle, led by their leader—and 15 signed a letter talking about a bipartisan compromise as part of the Gang of 6, or Gang of 8—that that group could come forward and make suggestions, not simply say the Boehner bill because that will not pass, but make suggestions on modifications to the Reid plan. That is our only hope of avoiding default, and we must act now. Is that a correct depiction of the status on the floor and of where we are headed?

Mr. REID. That is absolutely true.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I will ask one more question. If we are unable to come to a compromise on the leader's bill, there is virtually no time, no matter what the House does, for the Senate to do anything before default is over. That means our Republican colleagues have the ball in their hands in terms of default; is that correct?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have been told personally by some Republicans in the Senate they will do everything they can to stop legislation from proceeding. That is not a majority; it is a handful of people on the Republican side of the aisle.

That is why I said in my remarks that I hope the Republican Party will turn back to the party of Ronald Reagan. He raised the debt ceiling 19 times during the time he was President. He was a man who compromised. That was who he was. He hated communism. Who was the man who brought down the Iron Curtain? Ronald Reagan. He was willing to compromise even with somebody he spoke of in the worst terms. He knew how to compromise, and even though he was elected as the most anti-Communist President in the history of the country, the day he was elected he sent his embassy personnel to the Soviet Union so they could work with them. That led to the great decision by our countries to bring down the Iron Curtain.

Mr. SCHUMER. I see that the minority leader is here, and I thank the majority leader for yielding.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, if the minority leader doesn't mind, I would like to ask the majority leader a question.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. During the period of time we were waiting yesterday for a

decision by the House of Representatives, which they still didn't come to—during that period of time, we had an opportunity to have many personal conversations among Senators—Democrats and Republicans—and I would say that unanimously, to a person, Democratic and Republican Senators agreed that a default would be an economic disaster for the United States of America.

The majority leader has been briefed this morning by the Treasury Secretary about some of the prospects of default. We have heard only one that I know of—a Republican Senator—come to the floor and say that a default on our debt could be managed very easily.

I want to ask, since I have heard from business leaders in Illinois of closings that were literally canceled this week for multimillion-dollar investments in the city of Chicago in the State of Illinois because of what is happening in the House of Representatives, can the majority leader please tell us, as much as he can at this moment, what the prospects are if we do reach the point of default on this national debt?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am familiar with the situation in Illinois where a \$146 million construction project was turned down at the last minute because they were so afraid of the credit.

Mr. DURBIN. I have one further question. In terms of the impact on our Nation, as the Secretary of the Treasury has told the leader, can he give us, for the record, an idea of what we face if the Republicans in the House continue to delay and hold to a strategy that has no hope of passage?

Mr. REID. Secretary Geithner said it has already started. The international community is extremely worried they could only get overnight loans. It is extremely precarious for our country.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it is not surprising that I have a little different take on what has been happening in the last few days than my colleague, the majority leader.

Let me explain what has been going on in Congress this week. The American people have been waiting on us to do something to prevent default. They want us to end this crisis right now. Over in the House of Representatives, we have the Speaker of the House doing his job. Speaker BOEHNER has been doing the hard work of governing, working day and night to put together a bill that can actually pass the House of Representatives and end this crisis now. He should be commended for his efforts.

What about over here in the Senate? The contrast could not be starker. Rather than working in the last few days toward a solution to the crisis the way the Republican majority in the House has, the Democratic majority in the Senate has been wasting precious time rounding up “no” votes to keep this crisis alive. Rather than being responsible and doing their duty and coming up with a bill that can actually pass, they have been busy signing up people for the “not good enough” caucus and ginning up opposition to everything else.

Lawmakers should be working a solution to the crisis, not a blocking strategy. Our Democratic friends in the Senate have offered no solutions to this crisis that could pass either Chamber—not one. Instead, all day long yesterday we got chest-thumping comments about how they are going to kill any piece of legislation that comes over from the House, that it is dead on arrival.

Democrats are out bragging about how they are going to prolong the crisis instead of doing the hard work of trying to solve it. That includes the President.

Look, if the President hadn't decided to blow up the bipartisan solution that Members of Congress worked so hard to produce last weekend, we would be voting to end this crisis today.

Instead, Democrats in Congress are still talking about blocking a solution to the crisis, and the President is rolling out new mileage standards today. Let me repeat that. Here we are a few days from when the Secretary of the Treasury says we will be in a default situation, and the President of the United States is rolling out new mileage standards today.

How about this: How about a plan from Democrats in Washington that can pass both Chambers, prevent the crisis, and protect Americans from a worsening economy?

I suggest to my friends on the other side this morning that they start taking their responsibilities as a majority party a little more seriously because at this point, the only people who are disregarding the consequences of default are Senate Democrats—not the Republicans in the House but Senate Democrats.

Republicans have been doing the hard work of governing this week. It is

about time our Democratic friends join us.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate my friend's statement. I didn't hear it all, but I certainly heard the context of the statement. We are willing to work with him and his staff, as we have, to try to come up with a solution. I want the record to reflect very clearly, as I said in my remarks this morning, for my friends who didn't have the opportunity to hear it, we cannot have in this country a 6-month extension because a 6-month extension is no extension. A 6-month extension of what we are dealing with would put us back, in a matter of weeks, in the same fiscal extravaganza trying to move forward with the work of the country.

The country is locked down. Congress is inoperable. The White House is unable to do very much because they are focused on this huge problem. I want the record to be spread with the fact that I will work as closely as I can on any suggestions they have, as I have indicated. But, please, everyone, don't come to me with a 6-month extension.

The proposal I am moving forward with—and Fred Thompson said take your chips, my Republican friends, and put them in your pocket and walk away—gives the Republicans everything they have asked for: no revenues, \$2.4 trillion in cuts. That is a pretty good deal. That is not a 6-month deal; it is a solution that takes us until 2013, in the month of March.

Help me work through this. I have no pride of authorship. If somebody can figure out another way to improve that suggestion, I will work with them. I am willing to work with them. As I have said on the floor before—and I don't want anybody to consider this as a sign of weakness—I have compromised my whole life. When I practiced law, that is what I did in trying to represent people and get a result. I believed many times that I was a failure when I had to go to court. But I went to court over 100 times to try cases to juries.

I always believed that compromise was the right thing to do, even in the law. As a legislator, it is a sign of integrity and confidence when you say you will compromise. Legislation is the art of compromise.

Again, I am here indicating to the world that I have spent my whole adult life trying to compromise and build consensus.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for up to 5 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as long as it is in morning business, no.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. ALEXANDER. As one Senator, I thank the majority leader and the Republican leader for their comments. We all know what we need to do. We have two objectives. At a time when we are borrowing 40 cents of every dollar we spend, we need to reduce the debt. We also need to honor our obligations, and we know why. There is nobody on the Republican side of the aisle I know of who thinks we should not honor our obligations.

We know that on August 3 there will not be enough money to pay all the bills. We don't want the most credit-worthy Nation in the world to go to a place where it begins to pay its bills selectively out of a cigar box, which is why I am hopeful—and I believe all of us are hopeful—that we can find a way for the two leaders to recommend to us and the House a solution that the President will sign, which will reduce our debt and honor our obligations.

But to suggest that the majority leader's proposal—his bill—which he offers in good faith, I know that—is a compromise, that is a little hard to accept. It is a Democratic proposal. The other side has spent most of its time this week saying: We can get 53 of us to make sure that as soon as the Republican proposal passes the House, if it does, we will beat it in an hour. We will not even consider it. We will kill it. We are not going to vote on it. We will table it and put it away.

That is not the spirit of compromise. The proposal the Speaker is trying to pass may be about the only thing he can pass in the House of Representatives. That may not be what a Democratic Senate would like, but this is a Democratic Senate and that is a Republican House. We have to come up with something that both can pass and the President will sign. We all know that.

I hope the spirit of today, tomorrow, and Sunday is that we spend less time plotting about how we can defeat each other's proposals as quickly as possible and more time working together to come up with ways to reduce spending and honor our obligations.

The Democratic whip is on the Senate floor. I have probably undermined his support in some groups for complimenting him for his courage. I support the same thing he does. For example, the work of the Gang of 6 is supported by one-third of the Senate, a very good example for the rest of us in the Senate about what can be accomplished when we work together.

I hope we will recognize the Speaker is trying as hard as the majority leader to come up with something that can pass the House. The majority leader

wants something that can pass the Senate, but it must pass both and be signed by the President. We must reduce our spending and we must honor our obligations, and every single Republican Senator as well as every Democrat knows that, I think.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will stand in recess until 11 a.m.

Thereupon, at 10:02 a.m., the Senate recessed until 11 a.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Acting President pro tempore.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12 noon, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Illinois.

THE DEBT CEILING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this is a historic weekend in Washington, and I think those who are visiting the Capitol and following the proceedings understand the gravity of the decisions that lie before us.

On August 2, our debt ceiling expires. That has never happened in our history. One time there was a technical period of 1 or 2 days, but there has never been a long period of time when the United States of America basically defaulted on its debt. And it is a very serious matter. It is one that affects our Nation, our debt, and literally every family and business that lives within our boundaries.

Here is the reason why it is so important. In 1939, we created this law which said that a President could come to Congress periodically and ask for the authority to borrow money to pay for the things Congress has already appropriated. So, as an example, when Members of the House and Senate say to the President of the United States: We want you to continue to wage war in Afghanistan, at the cost of \$10 billion a month, this President knows he will have to borrow about \$4 billion a month to meet that congressional appropriation. You see, we borrow about 40 cents for every dollar we spend.

Similarly, when it comes to the payments we make to our veterans who are disabled, we have promised them: We will pay you because you served our country and you lost a limb or you were injured, and we will compensate you for that loss for the rest of your life. We understand in making that commitment we are also making a commitment to borrow the money necessary to do it.

So periodically a President will come to Congress and say: I understand our obligations which you have sent to me and I have approved, and now I ask you to extend my authority to borrow the money to meet those obligations. That has happened 89 times since 1939. Since we passed this law, Presidents of both parties have come to Congress and asked for that authority. As I mentioned, not one time did Congress say no except that one technical period in I believe 1979–89 times, 55 times by Republican Presidents and 34 times by Democratic Presidents.

When you look at the Presidents who have requested extensions of the debt ceiling I have just described, the President who holds the record for the most requests is President Ronald Reagan, who, in an 8-year period of time, asked to have the debt ceiling of the United States extended 18 times, more than twice a year. During the Ronald Reagan Presidency, the debt of the United States tripled. That is why he came to Congress so often.

The President who ranks second in terms of increasing our national debt during his 8 years is President George W. Bush. The debt of America virtually doubled during his Presidency because we waged two wars we didn't pay for; we did something we had never done in our history: cut taxes particularly for the rich in the midst of a war; and we had many programs unpaid for.

So President after President has used this statutory authority to come to Congress and ask for approval to extend the debt ceiling. President Obama has done the same. As of August 2, his authority to ask to borrow money will expire. That is a serious moment if we default on the debt. It will be the first time it has happened in our history.

What will it mean to the United States of America to default on our debt and fail to extend the debt ceiling? Well, imagine if you decided as a homeowner to stop making your mortgage payments. Within a period of time, you would receive a phone call from your creditor saying: Did you forget your check this month? And if you say: No, I am just not going to pay it, you understand the consequences—your credit status is going to be affected.

The credit status of the United States is the best in the world. We have a AAA bond rating—the highest of any nation—and because we have that high bond rating, we have the lowest interest rates that we pay to borrow money.

Well, go back to the homeowner. If you have just defaulted on your mortgage, your credit report is going to look pretty bad. The likelihood that you could turn around and borrow money the next month is in doubt, and if someone will loan you money at that point, it will be at the highest interest rate because you are a risk now; you failed to make your mortgage payment. Similarly, if the United States fails to extend the debt ceiling, our credit rating will go down from AAA, the interest rate charged the U.S. Government will increase, and what has been considered the rock-solid, best economy in the world will be jeopardized by this action.

What does it mean for the interest rate on the debt of the United States to go up? This calculation has been made by many, and I believe it is accurate. For every 1 percent increase in the interest rate the United States pays on its debt, we will add \$130 billion a year to our debt—\$1.3 trillion, roughly, over a 10-year period of time. So the failure to extend the debt ceiling, the default of the United States, and higher interest rates will make our debt worse. That is why what we are facing this week in Washington is so terrible, because what we are dealing with here is a politically manufactured crisis. We are dealing with a self-inflicted wound.

Because the House Republicans under Speaker BOEHNER refuse to extend the President's request for the debt ceiling when our current authority expires August 2, we could find ourselves paying higher interest rates and even deeper in debt. And it gets worse because when the interest rates paid by the U.S. Government go up, interest rates across our economy go up. What it means is that a lot of innocent people who are borrowing money to buy a car or a home or to pay for college loans or to pay off their credit card are going to pay more. It is like imposing a tax on every family and business in America at the worst possible time. We are recovering from a recession. Too many people are out of work. Businesses need to expand and borrow money. Raising interest rates stops that. This doesn't have to happen. This self-inflicted wound by the House Republicans and Speaker BOEHNER does not have to happen.

In fairness to Speaker BOEHNER, his goal is to reduce America's debt. I accept that challenge. In fact, for the last year and a half, I have engaged personally on a bipartisan basis to meet that challenge, first as a member of President Obama's deficit commission, the Bowles-Simpson fiscal commission. We sat for months and listened to testimony, and finally 11 out of 18 of us voted for the report issued. What it came up with was a 10-year plan to reduce our debt by \$4 trillion—not easy. It sounds as though it would be easy when you look at all the money we

spend, but when you get into the specifics, it is politically painful. But what we agreed to do was to put everything on the table. And I want to tell you, I did that with some reservation.

I am concerned about many things in our country but two things in particular. I am concerned about the most vulnerable people in America, those who are aged, poor, and sick. I want to make certain that at the end of the day, America still has a safety net, that this good and caring Nation is doing everything it can to help these people.

What programs do they rely on? Well, they rely on the earned-income tax credit under our Tax Code, the childcare tax credit, Medicaid, the health insurance that covers one-third of the children in America and many elderly people in nursing homes. So when we talk about cuts in these programs, I was very sensitive to them and determined to make sure we didn't cut any more than necessary to reach our goal.

We also put revenue on the table. We have to do that. How can we ask working families in America to pay more on their children's college student loans and be prepared to sacrifice and how can we ask the seniors in America to be willing to sacrifice when it comes to their Medicare Program and not turn to the wealthiest people in our country and ask them to join in this sacrifice? That has become the major stumbling block in this negotiation. You see, Republican Speaker BOEHNER has said: I will not accept any—underline the word “any”—tax increases on the wealthiest people in America. I will agree, he said, to cut everything else, every other benefit for every other person, but not one penny more in taxes from the wealthiest people in America. That doesn't strike me as fair or just or reasonable, but that is where we are.

We also put spending cuts in this program, substantial spending cuts so that every single program in America would be closely inspected, reduced in spending, and move us toward a deficit-reduction goal.

Then I went a step further. I joined with five of my colleagues—three Republicans and three of us on the Democratic side—and we sat down for 6 months and worked on something called the Gang of 6 and came up with a specific plan of how to do this.

Well, Mr. President, you know we had a meeting a couple weeks ago, and we invited most of the Members of the Senate to come and listen to what we had proposed. Forty-nine Senators showed up, Democrats and Republicans, in a room not far from here and listened as we laid out what we considered a bipartisan plan to deal with the deficit. We then went back to those Senators and said: How many of you will put your name on the line to join us in a bipartisan effort to reduce the

deficit? And we are now up to 36 Senators who have done that. Over one-third of the Senators have signed on to a bipartisan effort to reduce the deficit.

What a sharp contrast that is from what is going on in the House of Representatives, where right now the Speaker of the House, the Republican Speaker, is negotiating only with Republican Members to pass a plan. I don't think that is what the American people sent us here to do. I don't think they said to Democrats, come to Washington but don't speak to Republicans, or to Republicans, come to Washington but don't speak to Democrats. The bottom line is that, Democrats and Republicans notwithstanding, we are all Americans, and we all have a responsibility.

So here we are today at this impasse, and Speaker BOEHNER announced Monday night, when he had a press conference at the same time as the President's announcement to the Nation, that he had a plan—he called it a bipartisan plan—that he would pass in the House of Representatives. We expected that to happen Tuesday, and it didn't; and then Wednesday, and it didn't; and then yesterday, and he failed to pass it then, too. We waited all night until 11:00—when we finally adjourned—for the Speaker to pass what he considered to be a good plan and for us to react to it. Now we hear the Speaker may be able to get to it later in the afternoon or in the early evening hours. Mr. President, this is unacceptable.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator has used 10 minutes.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent for 5 additional minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, that is unacceptable. By my calculation, we have 4 days before we default on our debt, 4 days before the American economy suffers this mortal blow, 4 days before we default on America's full faith and credit for the first time in our history, 4 days while businesses across America are withholding agreements and negotiations that create jobs, 4 days where America people have to worry that if we default on our debt, the government will have to pick and choose those who will receive government checks in August.

The Senator from Pennsylvania came to the floor for the last 2 days and said: Oh, if we default on the debt, we can manage that. Really? If we default on the debt, we will have \$172 billion to spend and \$306 billion in obligations.

He said: Well, of course we have to pay interest on the other debts. We don't want to default on everything. OK.

He said: Of course we have to pay everybody under Social Security. Yes.

He said: Of course we have to pay our soldiers who are in combat. Agreed. All good ideas.

Then he said: And then we will work the others out.

Whom did he leave off the list? He left every Federal employee off the list. That would be all of the people working at the Central Intelligence Agency monitoring terrorists to stop them from attacking the United States. That would be the air traffic controllers in our airline system across America. That would be the Federal prison guards working the Federal correctional facilities. That would be all of our veterans receiving disability checks.

Easily managed? Not so fast. It wouldn't be easily managed. There would be losers in that process, and many of them are innocent people who would be lost to the frustration of this political process.

There is a way through this, but the only way through it is if Members of both parties come together and do it quickly. I don't think it is going to happen in the House. The House has decided they are going to do an all-Republican, all-day approach. That isn't going to solve the problem in the House or the problem on Capitol Hill.

This morning, the majority leader, HARRY REID, standing at this desk, turned to Senator MCCONNELL from Kentucky, the Republican leader, and said: Now it is our turn. Now we have to step up. Now we have to come up with a bipartisan approach and show leadership. Senator REID is right. Senator MCCONNELL has demonstrated in the past that he has been willing to do that and now more than ever he should. I think the 36 Senators who have stepped up, joined me and others in saying we can find a bipartisan way to deal with this must be heard. Our voices must be heard but, more importantly, the spirit of compromise must be heard. That is what the American people expect of us. They didn't send each of us here to win every battle under our own terms and not give. They sent us here to govern and to respect this great country.

I would sincerely hope we will approach the next 72 hours with the spirit of humility—humility to understand that so many innocent people across America, families and businesses, are waiting on us and counting on us. We cannot fail them. No one will care at the end of the day who has the great political headline, but we will all be judged—Democrats and Republicans, House and Senate—as to whether we met our constitutional obligation to this Nation and the people who live here.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, the challenges we face are difficult. I am proud of the work the House of Representatives has done. I do not appreciate it being suggested that somehow

they are unreasonable because I don't believe that is fair to say about them. They worked very hard. They complied with the congressionally mandated statutory requirement to pass a budget. They passed a 10-year budget that was honest and open. It was publicly debated in the House of Representatives. They passed it, and it would have fundamentally altered the debt trajectory of America. It would put us on a sound path. It could have gone a little farther, frankly, but it goes farther than anything else we have seen and puts us on the path to a sound economic future.

What happened in the Senate? I am ranking Republican on the Senate Budget Committee. We are required to mark up a budget in the Senate by law. It doesn't say you go to jail if you don't follow the law. It doesn't have any penalty, I will acknowledge. It is a law, but we don't have to follow it, except we certainly have an obligation to do so. Certainly we would want, I think, to have a budget in the Senate. We have not had one now for over 800 days, over 2 years. We were within a week—less than that—of commencing hearings to mark up a budget that would be moved by the Democratic majority. When they do so, it is not even subject to a filibuster. It can be passed with 50 votes, and there are 53 Democrats in the Senate. The majority party always has that obligation to move a budget. Senator REID, the Democratic leadership, decided they wouldn't do it. He said it would be foolish to have a budget so we haven't passed a budget.

The House has said it would reduce spending by up to \$5 trillion or \$6 trillion. Because of the Senate's objection and the President's objection, they have agreed to raise the debt limit by \$1 trillion, and they have agreed to cut spending in America by \$1 trillion. They have tried to reach an agreement so we wouldn't have a shutdown. Then, all of a sudden, my Democratic colleagues now come forward and say they don't want to accept that. They want the Reid amendment.

The Reid amendment has the same actual savings. We have looked at the numbers and we have seen how they have done it. There is about a \$1 trillion savings in the Reid bill with a reduction in spending of about \$1 trillion. He claims it is \$2.7 trillion. That is almost three times what it actually achieves. Therefore, they want to continue to raise the debt limit by almost \$3 trillion, the largest amount it has ever been raised. Why? Because the President said so. This is what the President said a week ago:

The only bottom line that I have is that we extend this debt ceiling through the next election, into 2013.

The President thinks this is about him. It is all about him. This is about America and what is good for this

country. It is not about the President. It is not about politics. If it were about politics, I wouldn't vote for the Boehner amendment and neither would a lot of those patriotic Members of the House because it is not enough. It does not do what we need to do. We need to do \$4 trillion, \$5 trillion, \$6 trillion over 10 years. The debt is going to increase over the next 10 years from \$9 trillion to \$13 trillion, and \$1 trillion is not enough. It can only be seen as a step in the right direction. So forgive me if I am a little frustrated about that.

I want to talk about something that is problematic and needs to be known. It is not being focused on, and this is Senator REID's amendment and his solution to the deficit problem. He wants to raise the debt ceiling so we can keep borrowing money and spending more than we take in. We are borrowing 40 cents of every dollar we spend. The President this morning said he liked the Reid amendment and is what he wishes to see. He doesn't like the House version. I think there are some things we all ought to think about and know that are in the Reid amendment.

As I have said, we have gone 821 days without a budget. The law requires us to have a budget. A lack of a congressional budget contributes to our fiscal nightmare. Since we last passed a budget, we have spent \$7 trillion. The reason we don't have a budget is because it is carefully and deliberately orchestrated that we not have one by the leadership of this Senate. They have planned for just the eventuality that is occurring. I have warned for weeks and months on the floor of the Senate that we would be at the eleventh hour with people scurrying around in secret, plotting deals to try to figure out how to deal with the crisis this Nation faces. That is exactly what is happening.

Today it was announced that the second quarter economic growth was 1.3 percent. That is anemic and well below what we were hoping to see and thought we might. We have had expert testimony that the debt we have pulls down economic growth. Had the Senate adopted a budget in a timely manner this year, as the House did, we would not be at this last-minute crisis. It was deliberately orchestrated because it gives maximum leverage to the President and the press. The question becomes not what is in the deal, but do you have a deal? Just do anything. We are going to be in a crisis if you don't pass something. We want a deal. The House has come up with a very reasonable compromise. It looks as though some people want to have this fuss and put us through the crisis even when they get basically what they have asked for.

The Reid amendment to increase the debt limit deems two consecutive budget resolutions for fiscal years 2012 and

2013. In other words, it basically takes over the budget process and sets the basic spending numbers. Does the President think the Senate should go 2 more years without crafting or passing a budget? We have already gone 2 years. The Reid amendment sets spending allocations for most Senate committees at the Congressional Budget Office's rising baseline. These are bureaucratic members. They work hard, but they are not elected. They are not constitutionally accountable. It says we are going to deem the amount we spend by what CBO has projected our growth in spending to be, and CBO projects growth in spending. They don't set that as right for America, but they project that is what will occur under the current circumstances. This deems those higher growing numbers as what should be.

Without hearings or debates on these allocations, this provision would provide a further excuse for avoiding a budget and increase the likelihood that the Congressional Budget Act will be violated for the third straight year. This is an abrogation of the responsibilities of the Senate and of the Budget Committee of the Senate. We are not elected to the Senate and chosen to sit on the Budget Committee to see most of the budget levels automatically raised based on a set of spending growth projections by the CBO. They are not empowered to do that. They don't claim to, actually. I should not demean them. They do what their duty is. It is this kind of process that has placed the country in a financial crisis.

We keep locking in spending levels that are going up. When we reduce the growth in spending a little bit, you know what we say we are doing? We are cutting spending, and it is spending more. That is the way the budget is. When they say we are going to save \$1 trillion through the House plan—

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. SESSIONS. I would ask for 2 additional minutes to wrap up.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. The provision that takes over that and sets us on an automatic growth course is not the right one. Both the Reid amendment and the House bill say we save about \$1 trillion over the next 10 years. I would note that the difference between the two is how long or how much is achieved by that. Senator REID wants almost 2 years and the House Members would do it based on a dollar-per-dollar manner. That \$1 trillion in the Reid amendment does not reduce spending. It only reduces the growth in spending, and that is one of the reasons Congress is able to hide the amount of money we are spending every year. That is one reason debt is so high.

The Budget Committee should be allowed to fulfill its duties. The Budget

Committee should be allowed to mark up in fiscal year 2012. It will begin October 1 of this year. We need a budget now. We are past due. Once a budget is adopted by the committee, it should be taken to the full Senate and allowed to be amended as the law provides. I am disappointed that the President doesn't seem to agree with that. He seems to have bought into the idea that the regular processes of the Senate should not be followed. He agrees with Senator REID, apparently, that if they can keep it all bottled up to an end and we come up on a crisis, they can all maneuver in secret and cut a deal. They feel that is the way we serve the American people.

I feel strongly that we are undermining the great power and responsibility of the Senate as that place where the great issues are discussed publicly and openly and where we are accountable and cast votes. Let me say again, the reason the majority leader did not want a budget to come up is because when you bring a budget up, you have to vote, people have alternatives, they offer amendments, and the Members go on record. He is protecting his Members from having to do the primary responsibility of Senators who are before the world to cast their vote and to be accountable to the people who sent them there.

It is not good for this body. This body should be engaged in a historic debate about the threat the debt poses to our future, and we have been unengaged. The discussions are being taken in secret without the American people being able to hold their representatives accountable. I object.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Missouri.

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I try to listen very carefully to folks at home. I would not quarrel with my friend from Alabama in saying that it is very clear to me—and it has been clear to me for a long time—that Missourians are very worried about spending in the Federal Government. In fact, my friend from Alabama and I started work on this before, if one can say—we were trying to cut spending before cutting spending was cool. He and I were working this floor for votes to try to do something about spending long before last November's election.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Yes.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the Senator for recalling that event. I know the Senator continued working across the aisle on another proposal that has the potential to be more effective than even the one we worked on together last year. So I thank the Senator for being willing to work in a way that could be effective to do better.

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I thank my friend from Alabama. There

is nothing wrong with walking across the aisle and finding common ground. Frankly, it is what I thought would be common when I came to the Senate. It is kind of what I learned in the history books; that it would be common.

I have been watching what is developing, knowing my folks at home want us to cut spending. I certainly have been part of wanting to cut spending. I have watched this debt ceiling approach. It is like watching a movie and watching a car driving along, and you are in a camera above it and you see what is ahead, and you see this cliff and you see this car driving toward this cliff, and you are thinking, as you start tensing—Oh, surely, you are not going to go over the cliff.

Well, they have an opportunity to avoid going over the cliff. They are not going to go over the cliff. We are not going to see these people die. They are not going to drive over that cliff. They are not going to knowingly drive over a cliff. I have been thinking for the last several weeks: There is no way people who are elected—because they love their country—are going to let the car go over the cliff. I have to tell my colleagues, I am worried.

What do we have to do to keep from going over the cliff? Make no mistake about it. It is a cliff. It is a historic moment for our country. Never before in the history of our country have the world markets been worried about whether the United States of America will pay its bills. Never has that happened before in our history. So what does it take?

Well, it is not complicated what it takes. It takes one basic ingredient: compromise. To keep from going over the cliff, all we have to do is compromise.

I will tell my colleagues, reading my mail and listening to phone calls that have come in on the answering machine—and I am going to take phone calls myself over the weekend—what Missourians are now saying: Please don't go over the cliff. Please compromise. I am confident that is what most Missourians want.

Compromises have already occurred—big compromises. Most of us on this side of the aisle believe the way we get at our long-term debt structure is a responsible approach that includes some revenues. I advocate cleaning out the goodies in the Tax Code so we can lower tax rates. I don't understand how we can vote to gut the Medicare Program and at the same time vote to continue writing checks to Big Oil. I cannot conceive how a Member votes that way. I cannot imagine I would vote to keep writing a taxpayer check to the most wealthy and profitable corporations in the history of the world at the same time I was voting to put Medicare on a voucher program. That would be saying to seniors, if they are 83 and they have three chronic illnesses, and

they run out of Medicare coverage, they are on their own. I can't imagine doing that.

But we compromised. We compromised and said: OK, we will set revenues aside, for now. You will not vote for revenues, Republican Party. Members of the House in the Republican Party, you will not vote for revenues.

So we took revenues off the table. By the way, some people in my party were not happy with that. I got those phone calls: Why did you capitulate? Why did you give in? We gave in because we care about our country, and we don't want to go over the cliff. That is why we gave in. So we gave in on revenues.

The Republicans wanted us to cut spending by more than we raised the debt ceiling. It is a political thing we need to do, not required by the economics, but we have done that. So now we put revenues aside—compromise. We have said we are going to cut spending by more than the rise in the debt ceiling.

Now the only thing we have not compromised on, the only thing—which I think is, really, when we think about it—I didn't think, frankly, this may have been as big of a deal until I stand here today—is to do this again in 6 months, to leave this loaded gun on the table. We are going to leave this loaded gun on the table for our economy?

People can talk to small businesses right now and learn they are scared about what is going to happen next week. Will they be able to borrow money? Will people be able to afford to borrow money to buy cars? Will they be able to afford to borrow money to buy homes?

We talk about the economy going in a tailspin, and we want to keep that loaded gun on the table for another 6 months? There is no way we can provide the certainty in this kind of economic climate if we leave the loaded gun on the table.

So the only thing we have not agreed to that is in the Boehner plan—well, it depends on which plan it is. They keep changing it to try to get enough votes. I don't know what it is today. But the only thing we are not going to budge on is saying to this country and our business community and our job creators: We are going to kill job creation for sure for the next 6 months by telling you we want to repeat this ridiculous exercise in 6 months. We are not going to do that.

The irony is, the people who want us to do that are the people who have been preaching certainty: We have to have certainty. By the way, let's do this again in 6 months. We have to have certainty. It is important we do this again in 6 months.

I know the leader is working on trying to get a compromise today, and I am confident that before the day is over there will be some kind of compromise that will be before this body that we will have a chance to vote on.

I will tell my colleagues this: People will never hear me brag about refusing to compromise. Some of my colleagues from Missouri who serve in the House of Representatives are willing right now to brag about refusing to compromise. They are willing to say it is a good thing to go off the cliff. I will never brag about refusing to compromise because I don't think that is what we do here. When we look back in history, America's brightest moments usually happened around the table of compromise. The most difficult questions this country has wrestled with through the years, we have forged a way forward through compromise, and that is what we needed to. That is what we need tomorrow. That is what we need as we approach the edge of the cliff.

So my last message I will leave with my colleagues across the aisle is this: We have shown our willingness to compromise. Please show us yours. Please show us yours and allow us to vote. Allow us to vote on the compromise. If my colleagues don't want to vote for the compromise, then don't vote for it. But allow us a chance to vote for it. Is that too much to ask, just to allow us an opportunity to move to a vote, to avoid this country having a permanently diminished status in the world? I don't think that is too much to ask.

So let us vote, and if my colleagues can't compromise on the substance of the compromises that will be put forward, at least allow our voices to be heard by allowing a vote.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be equally divided.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended until 3:30 this afternoon, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each; further, that at 3:30 p.m. the majority leader be recognized.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH SOUTH KOREA, COLOMBIA, AND PANAMA

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I want to remind my colleagues that this work period was supposed to be our opportunity to finally enact, after years of delay, the Free Trade Agreements with our allies South Korea, Colombia, and Panama.

These agreements were signed over 4 years ago, and this administration has had more than 2½ years to submit them to Congress for consideration, but they have failed to do so. Unfortunately, we are going to have to continue to wait at least until September before we get a vote.

Why does it matter that we pass these agreements? It matters for two reasons: first, because expanding trade opportunities creates American jobs; second, because we live in a competitive global economy and other nations are not standing still while we delay.

Economists overwhelmingly agree that expanding trade opportunities creates jobs. The Obama White House, for example, estimates that enactment of these three trade agreements will boost exports by at least \$12 billion, supporting over 70,000 American jobs.

The fact that lowering barriers to U.S. exports will create jobs for American workers is common sense. Consider that our market is already largely open to foreign imports, including those from Korea, Colombia, and Panama. Without trade agreements to ensure similar treatment for our exporters, American businesses will continue to face high tariff and nontariff barriers abroad.

Consider one example: the market for agricultural products in Korea, which is the world's thirteenth largest economy. Korea's tariffs on imported agricultural goods average 54 percent, compared to an average 9-percent tariff on these imports into the United States. Mr. President, 54 percent added on for us to get our agricultural products into Korea; only 9 percent for them to get those same products into the United States, that is a 45-percent differential.

Passage of the Korea Free Trade Agreement will level this playing field. Yet this administration continues to delay sending the agreements to Congress. The Obama White House would prefer to hold these agreements hostage because of a desire to expand the

Trade Adjustment Assistance Program rather than improve the competitive position of American producers.

At a time of near record unemployment and slow economic growth, this delay is unacceptable. I want to put a fine point on that by saying that just this morning the numbers came out. The Bureau of Economic Analysis released its advance estimate of growth in the inflation-adjusted gross domestic product, GDP, for the second quarter. According to the advance estimate, annualized GDP growth in the second quarter was 1.3 percent.

They went back and revised the first quarter of 2011. They revised it downward to .4 percent, down from a reported rate of 1.9 percent. So they have adjusted downward the first quarter growth rate from 1.9 percent down to .4 percent, and we now know, according to the advance estimate at least, that second quarter GDP growth is only 1.3 percent—way under what the assumptions have been, way under what the estimates have been, and way under what it is going to take for us to get the economy turned around and growing again and get people back to work.

Couple that with the job-crushing regulations, the taxes that have come since this administration has taken office, and it is making it very difficult for our economy to recover and to grow and to get back on track. So the administration wishes to hold these agreements hostage because of their desire to expand the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program rather than get these producers back access to these markets we should have access to in some of these countries, and we cannot afford to wait any longer to do that.

The reasons are very clear. We have an economy that is sluggish, that is struggling to get back on its feet. We have three free trade agreements that have been hanging around here languishing literally now for 4 years that would open up export opportunities and, as I said, even according to the President's own estimates, add 70,000 jobs to our economy.

The position of Leader McCONNELL and Republican Senators has been consistent from the beginning. We are happy to have a debate on the merits of expanding trade adjustment assistance and to consider this bill as a stand-alone measure. But we will not hold the trade agreements hostage to consideration of trade adjustment assistance.

I want to commend my colleagues Senators PORTMAN and BLUNT for the letter they recently spearheaded with 10 other Republican Senators committing to support the necessary procedural votes to consider trade adjustment assistance as a stand-alone measure and on its own merits.

In light of this letter, it is very clear the administration has run out of excuses for not submitting the trade agreements to Congress.

I ask unanimous consent, Mr. President, to have the Portman-Blunt letter printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, July 19, 2011.

President BARACK OBAMA,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: as Republican Senators, we urge you to submit the Korea, Colombia and Panama trade agreements as soon as possible, with the understanding that we will support a separate Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) bill that reflects the bipartisan reforms negotiated by Chairmen Baucus and Camp and the White House.

In order to move this process forward, we commit to supporting cloture on the motion to proceed to such a TAA bill and cloture on the bill itself. We believe that the trade agreements and TAA should receive separate up or down votes on their merits.

We therefore urge you to separate the pending trade agreements and TAA, and immediately submit the three trade agreements to Congress.

Sincerely,

Roy Blunt, Scott P. Brown, Rob Portman, John Boozman, John Hoeven, Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski, Johnny Isakson, Ron Wicker, Dan Coats, Thad Cochran, Mike Johanns.

Mr. THUNE. There is a path forward in both the House and the Senate for trade adjustment assistance, and we have bipartisan majorities in both Chambers waiting to vote for the Korea, Colombia, and Panama agreements. So why are we still waiting for the White House to do the right thing and send us these agreements?

This ongoing delay is having a real impact on American businesses, and it will only get worse. On July 1, the European Union-Korea trade agreement went into effect. According to press reports, European exports to Korea rose 16 percent in the first 13 days after the Korea-EU Free Trade Agreement entered into force.

Let's be clear about what this means. Korean consumers are choosing to buy German, French, and British cars, electronics, and agricultural products rather than American-made products because these European products now have a price advantage. This was entirely preventable if we had acted on the U.S.-Korea agreement sooner.

Likewise, the Canada-Colombia agreement will go into effect on August 15. This will result in an advantage for Canadian goods, such as construction equipment, aircraft, and a range of other industrial and agricultural products. Much as with Korea, the United States businesses will find themselves at a competitive disadvantage because we have failed to act.

Again, this did not have to happen. The administration finalized its labor action plan for Colombia back in April. We have had plenty of time to consider these agreements over the past several months. Instead, we are facing a situa-

tion where United States wheat producers are likely to be completely shut out of the Colombian market once the agreement with Canada has gone into effect.

This is amazing, when you think about it, when you consider that just a few years ago American wheat producers dominated the market in Colombia with a 73-percent market share. That was as of 2008.

In 2010, for the first time in the history of United States-Colombia trade, the United States lost to Argentina its position as Colombia's No. 1 agricultural supplier.

Consider the story of three crops we grow in South Dakota: soybeans, corn, and wheat. The combined market share in Colombia for these three U.S. agricultural exports has decreased from 81 percent in 2008 to 19 percent as of 2010—a decline of 62 percentage points in a 2-year period; an 81-percent to a 19-percent market share in corn, wheat, and soybeans, for American agricultural producers. Think about that. That is a staggering collapse, which was totally avoidable, totally preventable, if we had simply acted on these trade agreements much sooner. This is the real cost of our delay while our trading partners continue to pursue new regional and bilateral trade agreements.

We are living in a global economy where America cannot afford to stand still on trade. As Senator BAUCUS noted at a recent Finance Committee hearing, in 1960, exports accounted for only 3.6 percent of our entire U.S. GDP; today, exports account for 12.5 percent of our GDP. Exports of U.S. goods and services support over 10 million American jobs.

It is long past time we get back in the game by passing the three pending trade agreements. America's manufacturers, America's farmers, and America's service providers cannot afford to wait any longer. So I call upon the administration to submit the trade agreements to Congress before the August recess. We are not going to be able to consider these agreements until September, but sending them to Congress now will send a strong signal that this administration is finally serious about getting them done. It would also be an important show of good faith to our close allies, South Korea, Colombia, and Panama. These job-creating, market-opening trade agreements should be at the top of the agenda when we get back in September.

Again, I want to reemphasize the importance of that in light of these economic numbers, the data that is coming out that points out that in the second quarter of this year our economic growth was a sluggish 1.3 percent, and that the revised estimate now for the first quarter of this year was .4 percent.

We will never get the unemployment rate down, we will never get America's

economy expanding and back on its feet, we will never start dealing with these massive debt issues we have, one, if we do not cut spending—which is the other issue we are debating today—but also if we are not growing and expanding the American economy.

We can do that. There are so many things these trade agreements would do not only for agricultural exporters but for other producers of American goods, and we ought to be doing that. It is high time we at least do some of the things we can do to get the economy growing again. I cannot emphasize enough the lost market opportunities, the lost chance at economic growth, the lost jobs that are associated with the fact that this administration has delayed now, since they have been in office—2½ years—in submitting these three free trade agreements to Congress, three free trade agreements that have broad bipartisan support from Congress, which we as Republicans have been waiting to act upon now for almost the 4 years since these agreements were negotiated in the first place.

So it is high time we change that. It is one thing that we can do to affect the economy in this country, among the other things. I would simply add as sort of a final point, the debate we are having about the debt limit is also one that needs to be dealt with if we are going to get serious about growing the economy and creating jobs.

If we look at the economy, we look at this President's economic record, and we look at the data, almost every metric we can measure, he has made this economy much worse. The President has said repeatedly—and he said it in his speech the other night—he blames the previous administration for where we are today. I do not think anybody here will dispute the fact that he inherited a difficult set of economic circumstances. But there is no question, if we look at every metric, that he has made the situation much worse.

Whether that is unemployment, which is up 18 percent—there are 2.1 million more people unemployed today than there were when he took office—whether it is the debt, which has grown by 35 percent since he took office; whether it is the number of Americans who are receiving food stamps, which has gone up by 40 percent since he took office—and I might add in my State of South Dakota, a 58-percent increase in the number of people receiving food stamps.

The cost of health care in this country is up 19 percent since this President took office. The cost of gasoline has gone up almost 100 percent—99 percent—since this President took office. The amount of the debt per person in this country has gone up by \$11,000. Every American now owes \$11,000 more as their share of our Federal debt since this President took office.

The economic record of this administration is abysmal. It is high time we took the steps to do something about that. It strikes me at least, as I look at the policies they have been putting in place, that they seem to want to make it more difficult and more expensive for people in this country to create jobs. We see that in regulations coming out of all of these various agencies. We see it in the massive runup in the growth, in the size of government, the new mandates that have been imposed on a lot of our small businesses as a result of the new health care bill, the new taxes that have been imposed on our small businesses as a result of the new health care legislation.

At every turn American small businesses, which create the jobs that will get this economy growing again, tell us the economic uncertainty, the job-crushing policies that are coming out of this administration have been a major inhibitor, a major impediment to them creating jobs and getting people back to work in this country.

The trade agreements are just something I would add on to that list. We have three trade agreements that have been teed up. It has been almost 4 years since they were negotiated. This administration has been in office now for 2½ years. The President continually gets up, as he did at the State of the Union, and talks about wanting to double the trade in 5 years, talks about supporting these three trade agreements. Yet it is a very simple thing. All he has to do is submit them to Congress. The trade agreements are negotiated. All he has to do is send them here. We are ready to act to put Americans back to work, to open up export opportunities to American producers, to get the economy growing again, and create jobs.

I hope in addition to dealing with the issue of runaway spending and debt, which, in my view, is the predominant issue we need to deal with—and, clearly, between now and Tuesday we have to get a solution in place that will avert the economic adversity we could be dealing with, the adverse circumstances if we do not deal with that. But that needs to be accompanied by serious reductions in spending, spending reforms. Then we have to be putting in place policies that will enable economic growth in this country, that will make it less expensive, less difficult for small businesses to create jobs, not more difficult.

Unfortunately, that is the record to date of this administration. I hope we can change that and start today by sending these trade agreements to the Congress so we can act on them and get these things approved and get American businesses exporting to these three countries.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE DEBT CEILING

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, we are now reaching a critical hour in the Congress of the United States on the question of extending the debt limit of the Nation and of fundamentally dealing with the debt of the Nation. I don't think there is any serious person in either body who does not understand that we must deal with the debt itself as we extend the debt limit. We are borrowing 40 cents of every dollar we spend. The gross debt of the United States will reach 100 percent of our GDP by the end of this year. The best economists in the country, of whatever philosophical stripe, are telling us we are on an unsustainable course that must be changed.

Mr. President, in the midst of this, we have had the House so far unable to send us a package. Now, we are told they do have the votes because they have added a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution as part of their package. The balanced budget amendment they previously proposed in the House of Representatives can never pass the Senate—at least as this body is currently constituted—and it should not pass this body. It is deeply flawed. To attach that to a measure that has to pass both Houses before Tuesday of next week, frankly, is an indication of a lack of seriousness on the part of our colleagues in the House of Representatives.

Ultimately, there has to be a bipartisan agreement. Our friends in the other party control the House of Representatives, the Senate is controlled by my party, the Democratic Party, and we have a Democrat in the White House. No serious person can fail to understand that putting an amendment to the Constitution of the United States that is deeply flawed into that package absolutely guarantees it cannot pass in this Chamber. That would take a two-thirds vote. I don't believe it would even command a simple majority here, much less a two-thirds vote.

So here we are at the eleventh hour, and people in the other body seemingly are still not serious about coping with the challenge of both extending the debt limit to avoid a default, which would be catastrophic, and dealing with the debt itself. I understand ideological rigidity. The time for that is past. The time now is to work together

in some reasonable way so we advance legislation that both extends the debt limit to avoid the catastrophic consequences of a default and deals with the debt threat itself.

The New York Times on Wednesday had this story: "On All Levels of the Economy, Concern About the Impasse." What they were talking about is the rating agencies saying that if we don't do both, if we don't extend the debt limit and deal effectively with the debt itself, they are going to downgrade the rating of our credit as a country. The story goes on to say:

Economists and analysts are trying to gauge the costs to the economy and consumers if the United States loses its solid-gold credit rating—a move that appears more likely now that the stand-off in Washington over government spending has calcified. Some economists say the effects of lowering the Federal Government's credit rating to AA from AAA can be measured in the billions of dollars in increased borrowing costs for the government and in the billions more that consumers, corporations, states, and municipalities will have to pay for their credit. It also could erode consumer and business confidence, slowing even further the economy and job creation.

It has started already. We have just learned the latest numbers on economic growth. They were a tepid 1.3 percent. This uncertainty being created by a failure to deal with our debt and with an extension of the debt limit is creating a headwind for our economy, reducing economic growth, slowing job creation, and costing us a stronger recovery.

I want to remind colleagues that every 1 percentage point increase in interest rates adds \$1.3 trillion to the deficits. So kicking this can down the road and not facing up to it has enormous consequences: \$1.3 trillion added debt for every 1 percent increase in interest rates. This is just the effect on the Federal Government. Trillions more would be the effect on consumers, on companies, and on other levels of government with an increase in interest rates.

The proposal by the Speaker that apparently the House is now prepared to send us has fatal flaws, and here they are:

First of all, it would repeat the default crisis in just 6 months. That would continue the uncertainty and put the economy at further risk. Our friends on the other side have repeatedly said how uncertainty is hurting this economy, and now they themselves want to create more uncertainty. It makes no sense.

The Boehner plan includes significantly less deficit reduction than does the Reid plan. The Boehner plan, as I understand it—we have not been able to calculate his newest version fully—was in the range of \$1 trillion of savings. Majority Leader REID's plan is well over \$2 trillion of savings.

Third, the Boehner plan provides no firewall between security and nonsecu-

rity spending. That means even deeper cuts on the domestic side of the ledger because we all know what happens if you don't have a firewall.

Finally, it requires an irresponsible balanced budget amendment approach that has been clearly rejected here and will be rejected again. That is certain.

Standard & Poor's has warned against repeated debt ceiling debates. Here is what they said on July 26:

We would be concerned if we thought that the debt ceiling debate would come back and be open and we'd have to go through all this again and again and again. That would be a negative, in our view.

This is the rating agency that determines what the interest rates will be on the debt of our country—not directly but indirectly because if they rate down our creditworthiness, that will increase interest rates. So they are sending a very clear signal: Don't do the Speaker BOEHNER plan that has only a 6-month extension and repeat this whole process and create more uncertainty and put the economy further at risk. To avoid a U.S. credit rating downgrade, S&P wants to see a bipartisan debt-reduction effort, not the totally partisan approach Speaker BOEHNER has for the moment chosen to pursue. I don't know what could be more clear.

The other body is in control of our friends in the other party; this body is in control of the Democrats. At the end of the day, we have to come together. We have to work together.

Now, I have been part of two efforts to work together.

Last year, the fiscal commission—18 of us were given the responsibility to come up with a plan to get our debt under control. At the end of the day, 11 of the 18 agreed on a plan—5 Democrats, 5 Republicans, and 1 Independent—fully bipartisan. I was proud to be part of the 11 who agreed to that plan.

This year, I have been part of the Group of 6—3 Democrats, 3 Republicans—who were asked by about 30 of our colleagues to see if we could find a way to implement the findings of the commission because for the commission's findings to be implemented, they had to have a super-supermajority. They had to have 14 of the 18 agree, and even though we had 11 of 18, it wasn't enough. So about 30 Senators met at the beginning of this year, the end of last, and asked a group of us—6, 3 Democrats and 3 Republicans—to see if we could come up with a bipartisan plan. We worked all year, hundreds of hours, and we have agreed. We have laid out a plan for our colleagues. It is the only bipartisan plan before either Chamber.

Speaker BOEHNER at this late hour is still pursuing a plan only on the Republican side of the aisle and only in one Chamber. That can't possibly be a recipe for success.

David Beers, Standard & Poor's global head of sovereign ratings, said this on July 26:

We will measure the deal on a number of parameters. One is, is it credible? And credibility, among other things, means to us that there has to be some buy-in across the political divide, across both parties, because politics can and will change going forward. And if there's ownership by both sides of the program, then that would give us more confidence. It's not just about the number. It's about the all-in intent.

Mr. President, are our colleagues listening? The solution cannot be found on just one side of the aisle in one Chamber. This is going to require bipartisan, bicameral cooperation. We are going to have to act like adults, not like kids in a schoolyard pointing fingers, spreading rumors, spreading blame. That will not lead to success.

Here is the circumstance we face. The red line is the spending line of the United States going back 60 years, and the green line is the revenue line of the United States going back 60 years. What you can see is that the revenue of the United States as a share of our national income is the lowest it has been in 60 years. Spending as a share of our national income is the highest it has been in 60 years. Revenue is the lowest, spending is the highest—that is why we have record deficits. Clearly, you have to work both sides of the equation to get a solution.

Some of our friends on the other side are saying: Don't touch revenue. Some of our friends on both sides are saying: Ah, and don't touch entitlements. Don't touch Medicare, don't touch Social Security, don't touch Medicaid.

If you can't touch revenue and you can't touch the entitlements, you can't solve the problem by definition. When you are borrowing 40 cents of every dollar and you exclude all revenue—that is half the equation—and you exclude 60 percent of Federal spending—if you eliminated all the rest of Federal spending, every dime for defense, for nondefense discretionary, if you eliminated every dime, it wouldn't solve the problem. At some point we have to get serious and real with the American people. The balanced budget amendment our colleagues in the House sent us previously, that has already been rejected here once. Now they are putting it in the package to send to us again at the eleventh hour—it is a balanced budget amendment that is as deeply flawed as any amendment I have seen in 25 years in this Chamber.

Let me review what our friends on the other side sent us in a balanced budget amendment that was rejected here just in the last few weeks:

No. 1, it would restrict the ability to respond to economic downturns—meaning we would compound the decline. That is bad economics, and it is not going to pass.

No. 2, it uses Social Security funds to calculate balance and subjects that

program to the same cuts as other Federal spending even though Social Security has its own trust fund and is separately funded.

No. 3, it shifts the ultimate decisions on budgeting to unelected and unaccountable judges.

No. 4, it requires a State ratification process that could take years to complete. We don't have years to wait for a State ratification process for a constitutional amendment. We need to make these spending and revenue decisions ourselves, and do it now. It is our responsibility. Let's not wait for the States to ratify a constitutional amendment before we take the action that is necessary.

The balanced budget amendment the House previously sent us has the risk of turning a recession into a depression. Why do I say that? There is no provision in the amendment they sent us for an economic downturn as being an exemption from the balanced budget requirement. That is Hoover economics all over again. How many times do we have to learn the harsh lesson that when we are in an economic freefall, the only entity big enough to pull us out is the collective organization of our government? That is the only place that has the muscle to prevent a recession from turning into a depression. The balanced budget amendment our colleagues sent us before would absolutely lock down the Federal Government's ability to respond. That would be a profound mistake and contradict all we have learned in economics since the Great Depression.

This is what Norman Ornstein, a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, said about this constitutional amendment. He called it a "really dumb idea."

This is what he said:

Few ideas are more seductive on the surface and more destructive in reality than a balanced budget amendment.

Here is why: Nearly all our States have balanced budget requirements. That means when the economy slows, States are forced to raise taxes or slash spending at just the wrong time, providing a fiscal drag when what is needed is countercyclical policy to stimulate the economy. In fact, the fiscal drag from the states in 2009-2010, was barely countered by the Federal stimulus plan. That meant the Federal stimulus provided was nowhere near what was needed but far better than doing nothing. Now imagine that scenario with a federal drag instead.

The Washington Post ran an editorial about the House balanced budget amendment headlined, "A Bad Idea Returns."

Rewriting the Constitution is the wrong way to deal with the debt.

Here is what they said in their editorial:

Worse yet, the latest version would impose an absolute cap on spending as a share of the economy.

It would prevent Federal expenditures from exceeding 18 percent of the Gross Domestic Product in any year. Most unfortun-

nately, the amendment lacks a clause letting the government exceed that limit to strengthen a struggling economy. No matter how shaky the State of the Union, policymakers would be prevented from adopting emergency spending such as, the extension of unemployment insurance and other countercyclical expenses that have helped cushion the blow of the current economic downturn.

It doesn't stop there. This is what Senator McCain said on the Republican balanced budget amendment proposal on July 27:

What is amazing about this, some members are believing we can pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution in this body with its present representation, and that is foolish. That is worse than foolish. That is deceiving many of our constituents. . . . That is not fair to the American people to hold out and say we will not agree to raising the debt limit until we pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. It is unfair. It is bizarre. Maybe some people who have only been in this body for 6 or 7 months or so believe that. Others know better. . . . It is time we listened to the markets. It is time we listened to our constituents. Most of all, it is time we listened to the American people and sit down and seriously negotiate something. . . .

Senator McCain had it exactly right. Sending us a deeply flawed balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States at the eleventh hour is not designed to achieve a result. It is designed to achieve a headline, a bumper sticker slogan that will not help us solve the problem.

Here is what a top economic adviser to former President Reagan said about the House balanced budget amendment. This is Bruce Bartlett, a former Reagan administration top economic adviser. He said:

I have previously explained the idiocy of right wing advocates . . . of a balanced budget amendment. However, the new Republican balanced budget proposal is especially dimwitted. . . . In short this is quite possibly the stupidest constitutional amendment I think I have ever seen. It looks like it was drafted by a couple of interns on the back of a napkin. Every Senator cosponsoring this balanced budget amendment should be ashamed of themselves.

That is from a former top economic adviser to Ronald Reagan. Is anybody listening? Is anybody paying attention to how far off base things have slipped in the other body to send us at this moment, at this critical juncture, a plan that has absolutely no chance of passing in this body, and should not?

What is so deeply flawed is—in addition to the other points I have made—the balanced budget amendment the House Republicans sent us earlier set a spending cap of 18 percent of GDP. Well, let's add up what that would mean.

We can see Social Security is the red band. That is about 5 percent of GDP. If we add defense and all other non-health care spending, that takes us up to about 16.5 percent of GDP. Interest on the debt takes us to over 18 percent of GDP.

Do you notice what is missing? Medicare. In the Republican plan they sent to us with a spending cap of 18 percent of GDP, if we fund Social Security, if we fund defense and other nonhealth spending, and we fund interest on the debt, there is no money left. There is no money for Medicare. There is no money for Medicaid. There is no money for any health care spending. That is what the House of Representatives sent us in the last several weeks as a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

When some on our side called it cut, cap, and kill Medicare, they were not kidding. If we add it up, it does not add up. Not only that, the balanced budget amendment our colleagues in the House sent us in the last few weeks also said it would take a two-thirds vote to get any additional revenue even though revenue is the lowest it has been in 60 years. They would apply a two-thirds requirement to get more revenue. Really? So they would protect with a two-thirds vote requirement every tax scam, every offshore tax haven, every abusive tax shelter that is currently being used by some to avoid and evade the taxes they owe our country.

I have shown this picture on the floor of the Senate many times. This is a little building in the Cayman Islands. It is a little five-story building that claims to be home to 18,857 companies. They all say this is their business headquarters. I have said that is the most efficient building in the world. A little five-story building down there, and it is the headquarters of 18,000 companies. Anybody believe that? Anybody believe that 18,000 companies are operating out of that little building down in the Cayman Islands? They are not operating their businesses out of there. They are engaged in a giant tax scam to make all the rest of us pick up their responsibilities.

All of us who pay what we owe are getting stuck by the companies that are hiding out in this little building down in the Cayman Islands avoiding the taxes they owe our country. There are no taxes down in the Cayman Islands, so they operate out of this little building down there, five-story building, 18,000 companies. They avoid paying the taxes they owe and stick all the rest of us with the responsibility. That is not right.

The constitutional amendment our colleagues in the House of Representatives sent us would protect that behind a wall of a two-thirds vote, which means we would have an impossible time ever fixing this problem. It is hard to get a 60-percent vote much less two-thirds. They would protect every offshore tax haven, every abusive tax shelter, every unfair tax preference that is in the current code because they would require a two-thirds vote to change it. That flawed amendment is

not going to pass the Senate—not now, not later this year, not next year because it, itself, would require a two-thirds vote. It is not going to happen. So I would say to our colleagues in the other Chamber that sending us a totally partisan approach with a deeply flawed constitutional amendment is not going to work. It is not going to help solve the problem.

Now is the time for us to join in a serious dialogue about solving the problem—solving the debt threat overhanging the country which will require not a \$1 trillion package as is in the House offering but a \$4 trillion package. The occupant of the chair well knows of what I speak. He was Governor of West Virginia. He dealt with a fiscal crisis in his State, and he guided his State through that crisis not by operating just on one side of the aisle but by working together with people on both sides to come up with solutions, not political slogans.

We are way beyond that. We are within days of a default on the debt of the United States that would have catastrophic consequences for the economy of our country.

It is time. It is time, I say to my colleagues, to come together to do something that can pass—to deal, yes, with the debt limit but also to deal with the debt itself. It will be an empty gesture if we just extend the debt limit and we don't deal with the debt itself.

Our leader, to his credit, has put something together that begins to take ideas from both sides of the aisle to try to resolve this crisis. It would save the Nation from an immediate economic crisis. It would provide a significant downpayment on deficit reduction—more than \$2 trillion—and it would put in place a special joint congressional committee, equally divided, Democrats and Republicans, to find additional savings. Also, there is no new revenue in this plan. Our friends on the other side have thus far said—at least in the House of Representatives—they can accept no new revenue, none, not a penny. So our leader has said: OK. I don't like that, but if that is your line in the sand, for right now we will accept it so we can find a solution both sides can support. So no new revenue, more than \$2 trillion of spending cuts, and a special joint committee to come up with a plan to achieve even greater savings. That is a pretty good offer to the other side to say: We hear you. We want to work with you because we need a solution.

We are just days away from a true crisis, one that would be self-inflicted. I say to my colleagues, let's not go there. Let's come together. We have shown we can do it in the past. We need to do it now—not with blame, not with finger-pointing, but by saying this is a time to join together, to stand shoulder to shoulder to prevent irreparable damage being done to our country.

I say to my colleagues: Now is the time, this day, we have to find a way to come together.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor. I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). The clerk will call the roll. The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the looming August 2 deadline for raising the debt ceiling and making reforms, or budget cuts at least, that would allow us to show we are not going to have business as usual in Washington but that we are going to raise the debt ceiling with the necessary reforms.

Despite the differences in this body, we are all here to share three concerns:

First, we do know at this point, because of the time it has taken us to cobble together something that could be put through both of our Houses and signed by the President, that we have fundamental differences in the principles of how we should run our government. I think it is very clear that Republicans have stood for no taxes, especially in this economic environment. We believe piling taxes on top of the cost of the Obama health care system that is in the process of being implemented would keep our businesses from hiring people and getting this 9.2-percent unemployment rate down. I think we all agree we need to bring that unemployment rate down, but we have fundamental differences about what is causing it and how we can solve it.

No. 2, we all agree, I believe, or 95 percent of us agree, that we cannot default on the debt in our country. I do believe in both Houses the vast majority believe we should not go into default. The costs of a default are not being considered nearly enough. The costs of a default, of interest rates going up, of having to give backpay, having to correct some of the many issues we will face by having some of the people who are owed money but not paid, and having to pay interest and extra interest if we are in default. We cannot allow that to happen. I think we all agree on that.

We are all troubled with the delay in resolving this issue. The delay I think has been caused for many reasons. Of course, our fundamental differences are one. But I believe that although Members of Congress and leaders in Congress have been talking for a long time, the President has never put forward a real plan.

The Senate majority leader and the House Speaker have put forward plans. I believe there is a common ground

that can be found between these two proposals. But they are not the same. In fact, I think the Republican leader in the Senate has also put forward a plan, and I think we are seeing the different pieces of the plans that have been put forward now starting to come together.

I believe the Boehner plan is a good one. I believed in the cut, cap, and balance legislation, where you cut spending now to make your downpayment, you cap spending every year for the next 10 years at a level that brings down the overall deficit, and you send a balanced budget amendment to the States for ratification. I feel so certain if we could pass a balanced budget amendment from this Congress and send it to the States, it would be ratified and it would put us on the real course for fiscal responsibility, the course that would assure that Social Security is sound, that Medicare works, and that our children and grandchildren will not inherit a debilitating debt that hurts our economy. So I do believe that cut, cap, and balance legislation was the right way forward. But Congress is split. We have a majority of Democrats in the Senate and Republicans in the House. Therefore, we are not going to get everything that any one of us believes is right. Certainly we are not going to get the Boehner plan in the Senate. But it is the right approach, and we will have to take a few steps at a time and I hope we will be able to come to terms on a way forward with the principles of cutting spending, putting a cap on spending, and not raising the debt ceiling any more than the cuts that can be counted.

That is what concerns me about the Reid plan. Senator REID is calling for \$2.7 trillion in an increase in the debt ceiling. The purpose, as the President has stated, is to get through the next election in 2012 and not deal with this again. But the next election should not be the focus. The focus should be, how do we show that our country is on the right track to get this enormous debt whittled down by whittling down the deficits and having sound budget principles.

This \$2.7 trillion would be the largest debt ceiling increase in the history of America. The previous largest debt limit increase was \$1.9 trillion, which President Obama signed into law in February of last year.

This debt ceiling increase in Senator REID's proposal is not paid for. It offers \$1 trillion in cuts for a \$2.7 trillion increase. Many of those cuts are illusory. They are not cuts that can be counted. To say we are going to label \$1 trillion of cuts savings from leaving Afghanistan and Iraq is not credible. We don't know what the obstacles are going to be in Afghanistan and possibly Iraq. We also don't know what we might have to do in the Middle East going forward.

Afghanistan is not settled. We have to have a certain level of stability on the ground in Afghanistan or we will have wasted the billions we have already spent and the lives of our military personnel in Afghanistan because it will go back to the way it was before, a center for terrorism that will or can come to our country. It did once already. We have been over there to try to wipe out al-Qaida and the Taliban. We have been over there losing American lives and spending American taxpayer dollars to protect our country from another 9/11. To say we are going to cut \$1 trillion in the future over the next 10 years when we aren't placing the emphasis on what are the conditions on the ground is not sound policy, and it is certainly not sound national security policy. So that is illusory.

Then the other parts of the cuts that I think are very hard to decipher are cutting waste, fraud, and abuse, which we all want to do, but we don't have the guarantee of those cuts.

I think it is important for us to look at the cuts and try to make sure that if we are going to raise the debt ceiling, we raise it only the amount of the actual cuts that we can produce.

In Majority Leader REID's legislation there is a joint committee. There is also one in the Boehner bill. In the majority leader's legislation the committee has to report, but its product doesn't have to be passed and enacted before the debt ceiling is lifted. That is the real problem in Senator REID's proposal. The bill would lose its expedited status, and the joint committee would dissolve on January 13, 2012 under Senator REID's proposal and then we would still have the lifting of the debt ceiling that has already been enacted. That is not the way to go forward.

The joint committee proposed in the Boehner plan is forced to produce savings, and the forcing mechanism in this case is the fact that the debt limit can't be increased unless the cuts are enacted. So you will keep the governor on the debt increase by assuring that there have to be cuts in spending dollar for dollar.

Third, there is no balanced budget amendment included in the Reid proposal and, in fact, there is no requirement that we even vote on a balanced budget amendment.

I know that it would be very difficult to pass a balanced budget amendment right now out of Congress, but I do believe it is the best thing we could do for the long-term security of our country. So I would hope as we come together—because we know the reality here. The Reid bill is not going to pass the House and the Boehner bill is probably not going to pass the Senate. So we have got to come together with a plan. Maybe it is a short-term plan that has a dollar-for-dollar cut along with the raising of the debt ceiling or maybe we can get more after we dis-

patch the two bills that are now before the Congress, and try to put something together that has the best parts of both.

I could not support the Reid plan as it is today and I do support the Boehner plan, but I also know that neither of them is going to pass the other House. So I think it is incumbent on us to now go forward and let's quickly start doing the work that could produce results, and that is to try to get the best of both of these before the August 2 deadline. I think we have got to be open to what can work that stays within the principles of no tax increases and no debt ceiling increase without the same amount of dollars at least to be cut from spending, with real cuts that can be assured. I think the American public is looking not for promises but for the assurance in the law that we will not be able to raise the debt ceiling without some cutting of spending and reforms that would equal the amount the debt ceiling has increased. We can go forward with those principles which I think both sides would agree to at this final few days we have before that debt ceiling is reached. It is time to vote on these bills and then get down to the real work of determining what is the best in both that we can pass in both Houses.

Thank you.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BEGICH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to engage in a colloquy with my Republican colleagues for up to 30 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today as the Nation watches the activities in the Capitol and on Capitol Hill as someone from the State of Wyoming, where we live within our means and balance our budget every year, and as a result we actually have a surplus in the State. Contrast that to what is happening in Washington with an incredible debt—\$14 trillion—more than people can actually fathom.

But people understand spending more than they have or more than comes in, and families all around the country realize they can't do that. Well, in America, as a nation we have been doing that for many years—spending money we don't have, sending out more than comes in, to the point we have had to borrow and borrow and borrow and borrow. Each time we borrow too much, which continues to happen, we have to raise the debt ceiling—the amount of money that can be borrowed.

The President has now asked that we raise the debt ceiling again, but he has

asked that it be raised the largest amount in the history of our country—in the history of this great land. That has an impact on people and families all around the country. They are concerned because they know they can't spend more than they bring in, they can't spend more than they have.

They think back to the days of John Kennedy saying: "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," and people in Wyoming are concerned that it may switch one day to: Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what your country must do for China because last year, of every dollar we spent in this country, 41 cents of it was borrowed, half of it from overseas, and a lot of it from China.

So how do we stay a great and strong nation, the leader of the world, when we owe that kind of money to another country—a country that does not necessarily have our own best interests at heart?

That is why as this debate and discussion is going on about the debt ceiling, the debt limit, people in Wyoming tell me their biggest concern is not the debt limit, it is the debt. The debt is the threat. It is a threat to our own national security. Those aren't just my words; those are the words of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff who said the greatest threat to our national security is our debt.

So I am so pleased to be joined on the floor of the Senate by my colleague from Nebraska, a neighbor, a next-door neighbor, a former Governor of Nebraska, who, as a Governor, lived with a system where he had to balance the budget every year, and the buck stopped with him.

So I ask my colleague from Nebraska, a former Cabinet Member who has run a major Cabinet and a department within the U.S. Government, perhaps he could share with us what was involved in having to make those tough decisions and actually being held to make those decisions.

Mr. JOHANNIS. I thank the Senator from Wyoming. It is my pleasure to be on the Senate floor with him and to talk about my experience in dealing with the reality of a balanced budget amendment.

As I said a couple of weeks ago when I spoke on the floor about this issue, I heard many come to the floor who said: This is a bad idea. This is bad policy. Some have even gone so far as to describe it as almost kind of a radical approach. I have lived with a balanced budget amendment. I have to say I did not find it to be a radical approach whatsoever.

In the State of Nebraska where I was Governor for 6 years, and actually prior to that when I was mayor of the State capital, the community of Lincoln, I had to balance the budget. I had no choice whatsoever about that. In

fact, in Nebraska, we had an additional provision. Decades and decades ago, when those who wrote the Nebraska Constitution started thinking about what kind of State they wanted, I think they wisely realized that at some point the politicians would try to hand off or give away the State treasury and promise everything to everybody for obvious reasons: to get elected, to get reelected.

So in the State constitution they said we can't borrow over \$100,000. So we had two requirements. One was that on an annual basis the budget had to be balanced, and the spending could not exceed the revenues. The second requirement was that we couldn't issue any bonds or debt to balance that budget and, in fact, we go so far as to not have any debt whatsoever, really. We have a few lease-purchase agreements on some equipment, but that is it. We don't even have debt for our highways. We don't lay a mile of concrete for a highway if we don't have the money to pay for it.

So for those who have described this as sort of a radical approach, let me describe to them how this approach has worked in our State.

Today in our State, our unemployment rate is 4.1 percent—4.1 percent. I will go across the State very soon and do townhall meetings in large communities—from the largest, Omaha, to some of our very smallest. I can almost assure my colleagues that one of the comments I will hear in our rural communities where they are working hard to be business friendly and grow jobs and opportunities for their residents, they will say to me: One of the challenges we have, MIKE, is finding the skill of labor we need to fill the jobs we are creating.

I will also share with my colleagues that this experiment—this radical approach that some have described—has resulted in a legislative session that ended early this year, that balanced the budget, and did not borrow any money. I will also share with my colleagues that our pensions are funded. There are no stories about Nebraska pensions are underfunded; that they have been borrowing out of the pensions so someday when somebody retires the pension will not be there for them.

I will wrap up my comments by drawing the contrast. The contrast with the government that I find here is this: For over 800 days we haven't had a budget. Under the leadership of my friends on the other side of the aisle, the Democrats, we have not had a budget for now going on 3 years. We are being asked to approve the largest debt increase in our Nation's history. That is what this debate is all about.

In addition, we are closing in on \$15 trillion worth of debt. The projection is that in about 4 or 5 years from now we will owe \$20 trillion of debt.

My colleague mentioned I was in the Cabinet. When I came to join the President's Cabinet as the Secretary of Agriculture and I shook the Lieutenant Governor's hand who has now been the Governor for 8 years—he is now the President of the National Governors Association—I wished him well. I did not have to say to him: I am very sorry about all the debt I have taken on, because there was none. The bills were paid, the budget was balanced, the pensions were funded, the unemployment rate was low, and he has continued that conservative legacy.

By comparison, when Barack Obama leaves the Presidency, he will tell his successor: I ran up the largest debt in our Nation's history—larger than any President in front of me. That is the legacy he will leave behind for his children and his grandchildren and ours, and that is the sobering reality of today's debate.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments of the Senator from Nebraska. I think about the fact that he had to use honest figures, honest accounting.

I see now a proposal by the majority leader that, to me, seems to be full of accounting gimmicks, tricks, things such as using money as savings that was never intended to be spent at all, saying we will save all of this money by not being at war in Iraq or Afghanistan for the next 10 years and counting \$1 trillion in savings when there was never even an intention to spend that in the first place. I don't think anyone in this body or on Capitol Hill believes we will be at surge levels for the next 10 years in 2 wars, Afghanistan and Iraq.

So I ask my colleague from Nebraska—and we are also joined by our colleague from South Dakota—he couldn't have done something like that in balancing his budget in Nebraska?

Mr. JOHANNIS. Mr. President, we would never have done that. Had I walked into the unicameral for my State of the State Address and done things such as are being proposed here today, I literally would have been run out. The State senators would have looked at the Governor and said: We need a new Governor. And I think they would have joined in a very bipartisan response to that kind of approach.

My colleague is absolutely right. I looked through the proposal, and I have to say, in all due respect to the majority leader, this isn't going to get the support I think he hopes for. It isn't going to happen. It is going to be voted down. It will not go to the finish line because people just can't support it.

This idea that somehow we are going to get a savings because we are not going to be funding the surge levels in Afghanistan, well, no one was going to do that. The President wasn't asking for it. That money was never re-

quested. So to grab that out, as somebody pointed out—and I wish I could remember who—in a column today, they said that is like trying to grab a savings based upon the fact that we will not be invading Canada this year.

Well, yes, we are not going to invade Canada, but that is not budget savings, and it is not a budget savings to somehow claim we are not going to fund the Afghanistan war for the next 10 years at surge levels because that was never anticipated.

I want to solve this problem, but we have to be real with the American people about how we are solving this problem—with real savings. I know it is painful. My goodness, I have been there. I have cut budgets before. I have had to lay off people. But I think we have to just be straight with the American people and say this is what it is going to take to get there.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, my colleague from South Dakota is here, and he has been a Member of this body longer than I have. To me, this debt ceiling increase seems to be the largest in history by any standard, whether we include inflation or not. I think the previous largest one was \$1.9 trillion, and that was also with this President.

So when we think about this President and what he inherited and where we are now, it seems to me—I would ask my colleague from South Dakota to respond—it just seems he is making it worse.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I certainly echo what has been said by my neighbors, my colleagues from Nebraska and Wyoming. Their States, as well as mine, all have a balanced budget amendment that requires our States to live within our means. Our States do it. They do it the old-fashioned way. They do it by—in our case, in the State of South Dakota, this year—having to make some hard decisions about spending. But they balanced their budget, and they did it without raising taxes, which I think is a great model for what we ought to be doing in Washington, DC.

As the Senator from Wyoming has pointed out, this is the largest requested increase in the debt ceiling in history. At \$2.4 trillion—and, of course, I think we are going to be asked at some point to vote on the Democratic leader's proposal, which, as both of my colleagues have pointed out, doesn't get us there.

If we even use the standard I think everybody realizes makes a lot of sense—and that is if we are going to increase the debt limit by \$2.4 trillion, we also ought to look at how we reduce spending by \$2.4 trillion. That way we are getting a dollar-for-dollar reduction in spending, and we are fundamentally addressing the real issue, which isn't the debt limit, it is the debt.

We all talk about the debt limit, and it is looming, looking us right in the

eye right now. But the real issue is the fact that year over year over year we continue to spend more than we take in.

We are not living within our means. Both Senators have talked about a balanced budget amendment. I was here as a freshman Congressman in 1997, the last time that was voted on. It was voted on in the Senate. It never made it to the House because it needed a two-thirds vote, and it got 66 votes in the Senate. Had it been able to pass here and come to the House, I think we would have passed it.

I cannot help but think how much better our fiscal situation would be today had we been able to do that back in 1997, because at that time the overall Federal debt was \$5 trillion. Today it is \$14 trillion. So there has been a \$9 trillion increase in the Federal debt in that short amount of time.

It is important we tackle this issue. It is important we do it in a way so the American people know we are serious—that this is not gimmicks, this is not smoke and mirrors and all the things that I think make people in this country so cynical about the way Washington, DC, operates.

As the Senator mentioned, the Reid proposal on the debt limit essentially counts over \$1 trillion in savings that were never going to be spent in the first place. So it is a gimmick and it is not real. It is phony. We all know that.

We have to get real. We have to put forward a serious effort if, one, we are going to convince the American people we are serious about this, but, more importantly, if we are going to do something meaningful about getting this spending and debt situation under control.

I hope we will be able to defeat that when it comes to the floor and actually do something, if we can get the House bill over here, which has not only spending cuts in the near term but also a process whereby we can get some entitlement reform that deals with the big drivers of Federal spending; that is, Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and then also get a vote on a balanced budget amendment such as all of our States have on the books and which has enabled our States to live within their means, not spend money they do not have, and continue to, in spite of this down economy, perform above the average.

I think of all of our States, probably in terms of unemployment, in terms of economic performance—if you look at them relative to other areas around the country—living within their means. It is a good model if you want to have a good, strong economy and create jobs for the people in your States. That is something we ought to be doing at the Federal level, and that is why it is so important we take the right approach. The bill that will come over from the House of Representatives

does that. The bill that has been proposed by the Senate Democratic leader does not.

Mr. BARRASSO. It is interesting because my colleague from South Dakota mentioned this figure, this two point some trillion dollars. People in Wyoming last week said: How do they come up with that number? Like the Senator, I agree that for every \$1 they want to increase the debt limit, they should say we should find \$1 of real savings, honest savings, savings you can point to, as the Senator needed to do as Governor, and as we believe here.

That is what the approach they are dealing with in the House does. They have come up with a way to raise the debt ceiling, deal with avoiding a default, and they extend this for a number of months.

People say: Well, how do you get this \$2.4 trillion number? The President had a White House press conference last week, on July 22, and he said—it is astonishing. The President of the United States told the country:

The only bottom line that I have is that we have to extend this debt ceiling through the next election, into 2013.

Not extend the debt ceiling so we can avoid default, not so we can focus on jobs and the economy and the overall debt and the spending, but so that—as he said, his bottom line, the only bottom line, is that we have to extend it beyond the next election.

Then the Treasury Secretary was on one of the television shows on July 24, and he said:

Most important, we have to lift this threat of default . . . for the next 18 months. We have to take that threat off the table through the election. . . .

This debt is the threat. This debt of nearly \$15 trillion, going to over \$20 trillion in the next couple years, to me is the threat. The elections can take care of themselves. I think the American people will be shocked, astonished, and disappointed to hear that is the President's only bottom line.

I do not know what the Senator's comments or thoughts are on that, but I am expecting better.

Mr. THUNE. If you think about what this debate ought to be about, it ought to be about America's economic security. It ought to be about making sure we are putting the country on a sustainable fiscal path and creating the conditions for economic growth, and I would argue there is a direct correlation between those two. If we do not get spending and debt under control, I think we are going to bankrupt the country, we are going to increase interest rates, we are going to make it more difficult and more expensive for businesses in this country to create jobs. So clearly there is a direct correlation between the issue of spending and debt and the economy. But the economy and the implications of what we do here on the economy ought to animate every-

thing we do. We ought to be thinking about: How is this going to impact the economy? We should not be thinking about politics. That is why it was disturbing to hear the President say his prerequisite in all this is that we get through the next election. To me, that was a statement that was profoundly about politics and certainly not about America's economic security, which ought to be first and foremost in our minds.

Subsequent to that, even yesterday, you had members of the President's team suggesting this might somehow disrupt the Christmas vacation. I thought: You know, of all the things we ought to be thinking about right now, the next election, the next holiday—those probably are not going to be consequential if we do not take steps to address the issue before us today; that is, this massive increase in our Federal debt, the year-over-year deficits we continue to run, the fact that we continue to live way outside of our means. That is what I think the American people want to see us focused on. I think that is what the people of South Dakota certainly want to see us focused on as well.

Mr. JOHANNES. That is exactly what the people of Nebraska want to see us focused on.

The debate that is occurring now absolutely is one of the most important debates we have had literally in the history of this country. It was encapsulated in a statement in a column today that I read from a man I have a lot of respect for, Charles Krauthammer. He said this about this debate. He said:

We're in the midst of a great four-year national debate on the size and reach of government, the future of the welfare state, indeed, the nature of the social contract between citizen and state. The distinctive visions of the two parties—social-democratic vs. limited-government—have underlain every debate on every issue since Barack Obama's inauguration: the stimulus, the auto bailouts, health-care reform, financial regulation, deficit spending. Everything. The debt ceiling is but the latest focus of this fundamental divide.

He could not be more right. This is a debate that must occur, as uncomfortable as it may be. Think of where we have been as a nation in the last year and a half. Literally, when the President came to office, the first thing he wanted us to do was to pass a trillion-dollar stimulus plan, if you factor in the interest that was going to be paid, on promises that it was going to fix the economy and employ people, that unemployment would not go over 8 percent.

What happened? Unemployment shot beyond that. Today we see the growth of our economy is literally pitiful. There is no way this economic growth can deal with employing more people.

Then what was the next thing? A health care bill that, quite honestly,

the vast majority of Americans did not want. And by the day, story after story, analysis after analysis comes out and says all the promises made during this health care debate by the President and the Democrats will not be fulfilled. There was a story yesterday that this is not going to bring health care costs down. This increases health care costs, and it is one thing after another thing after another thing.

The American people spoke loudly and clearly in November. They said: Get the fiscal condition of the United States under control. I will say this. I do not think anybody is expecting miracles. It took us decades to get in this position. It is going to take concerted, conservative effort to get out of this position over a period of time. But it is on debates such as this where this must start. It is on debates such as this where we must force this government to be smaller, to be more efficient; otherwise, the legacy we leave behind for our children and our grandchildren is \$20 trillion of debt in 4 more short years. They will have their own wars to fight. I wish they would be free of war. But they will have their own wars to fight, their own flu pandemics to deal with, their own items on their agenda—education or health care, whatever, that they want to improve—and where will they begin? They will begin with a \$20 trillion debt in 4 years. That, as a nation, should be unacceptable to us. That is why we need to do everything we can at every stage to turn this around and start this Nation on the right course.

Mr. THUNE. I also had the opportunity to read the very column the Senator from Nebraska is referring to, the Krauthammer column this morning, and I was struck by many of the same things the Senator observed. I think it is important to note that we are a nation historically that has believed in a limited role for the government. That is what distinguishes us in many respects from some of our European allies. I think what this debate on the debt limit does, with the broader debates we need to be having here about spending and debt and budgets—that is, if we ever had a debate on a budget. As the Senator said, we have not had now a budget in 821 days. April 29, 2009, was the last time this Senate passed a budget. So it is hard to talk about these big issues we need to be focused on when you do not even get a budget on the floor of the Senate to have an opportunity to debate and vote upon.

In fact, when you think about the fact that we spend \$3.7 trillion annually of the American people's tax money, you would think you would have some idea, some blueprint, some path of how you are going to spend that. Yet we have not had that here. So we have not had an opportunity to debate that budget.

But this does get at the heart of a very big philosophical difference. Our friends on the other side of the aisle have a view of government that is much more expansive, which is why I think they can explain passing the multitrillion dollar health care bill a year ago and the trillion dollar stimulus bill and the new CLASS Act, which is going to be another entitlement program that will end up running huge deficits into the future.

I do not think that is what the American people have as a vision for this country. I think we need to get back to a role, a size for our government that is consistent with the historical average, the historical norm. It might surprise some of my colleagues to know, if you go back to the formative stages of our Nation's history, in the year 1800, we only spent 2 percent of our GDP on our government—2 percent. This year, we are going to spend over 24 percent. Arguably, life has gotten a lot more complicated. There is a lot more going on in this country, and certainly there is a responsibility that government has. But we have gotten away from the concept that I think is the foundation of this great country; that was a belief in a limited role for the Federal Government, not this expansive, sort of Western European social democracy type approach which the Senator from Nebraska alluded to.

I certainly think the people in my State of South Dakota, and I would argue in Wyoming and Nebraska, as I said before, have a history and a tradition and a heritage of living within their means. Also, I think they have an understanding of what government should and should not do. I certainly believe the people whom I represent want us to get back to that. And it starts here. It starts now. It starts by getting spending under control, by putting Federal spending on a downward trajectory instead of this consistent incline we have seen. In the last 2 years, we have seen non-national security discretionary spending increase by over 24 percent. If you add the stimulus spending in there, it was 84 percent. That is how much spending has increased in the last 2 years of this administration.

That has to stop. I think the American people sent a loud, clear message in November of last year, and it is incumbent upon us to have listened to that message and to do everything we can to get this train turned around. I think we are going to have a big fight over that because the other side believes the way you fix this debt crisis is to increase your revenues, to raise taxes, which would be a huge mistake, particularly now in the middle of an economic downturn.

It starts by getting spending under control. It starts by keeping tax rates and regulations low on our job creators in this country, and creating conditions that are favorable to economic

growth and job creation, as opposed to what we are seeing now, which is more and more regulation, higher taxes, more mandates—all the things that make it more difficult for our job creators to do what they do the best; that is, to get people in this country back to work.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the column that has been referred to, the Charles Krauthammer column from this morning's Washington Post called "The Great Divide."

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, July 29, 2011]

(By Charles Krauthammer)

THE GREAT DIVIDE

We're in the midst of a great four-year national debate on the size and reach of government, the future of the welfare state, indeed, the nature of the social contract between citizen and state. The distinctive visions of the two parties—social-democratic vs. limited-government—have underlain every debate on every issue since Barack Obama's inauguration: the stimulus, the auto bailouts, health-care reform, financial regulation, deficit spending. Everything. The debt ceiling is but the latest focus of this fundamental divide.

The sausage-making may be unsightly, but the problem is not that Washington is broken, that ridiculous ubiquitous cliché. The problem is that these two visions are in competition, and the definitive popular verdict has not yet been rendered.

We're only at the midpoint Obama won a great victory in 2008 that he took as a mandate to transform America toward European-style social democracy. The subsequent counterrevolution delivered to that project a staggering rebuke in November 2010. Under our incremental system, however, a rebuke delivered is not a mandate conferred. That waits definitive resolution, the rubber match of November 2012.

I have every sympathy with the conservative counterrevolutionaries. Their containment of the Obama experiment has been remarkable. But reversal—roll-back, in Cold War parlance—is simply not achievable until conservatives receive a mandate to govern from the White House.

Lincoln is reputed to have said: I hope to have God on my side, but I must have Kentucky. I don't know whether conservatives have God on their side (I keep getting sent to His voice mail), but I do know that they don't have Kentucky—they don't have the Senate, they don't have the White House. And under our constitutional system, you cannot govern from one house alone. Today's resurgent conservatism, with its fidelity to constitutionalism, should be particularly attuned to this constraint; imposed as it is by a system of deliberately separated—and mutually limiting—powers.

Given this reality, trying to force the issue—turn a blocking minority into a governing authority—is not just counter-constitutional in spirit but self-destructive in practice.

Consider the Boehner Plan for debt reduction. The Heritage Foundation's advocacy arm calls it "regrettably insufficient." Of course it is. That's what happens when you control only half a branch. But the plan's achievements are significant. It is all cuts,

no taxes. It establishes the precedent that debt-ceiling increases must be accompanied by equal spending cuts. And it provides half a year to both negotiate more fundamental reform (tax and entitlement) and keep the issue of debt reduction constantly in the public eye.

I am somewhat biased about the Boehner Plan because for weeks I've been arguing (in this column and elsewhere) for precisely such a solution: a two-stage debt-ceiling hike consisting of a half-year extension with dollar-for-dollar spending cuts, followed by intensive negotiations on entitlement and tax reform. It's clean. It's understandable. It's veto-proof. (Obama won't dare.) The Republican House should have passed it weeks ago.

After all, what is the alternative? The Reid Plan with its purported \$2 trillion of debt reduction? More than half of that comes from not continuing surge-level spending in Iraq and Afghanistan for the next 10 years. Ten years? We're out of Iraq in 150 days. It's all a preposterous "saving" from an entirely fictional expenditure.

The Congressional Budget Office has found that Harry Reid's other discretionary savings were overestimated by \$400 billion. Not to worry, I am told. Reid has completely plugged that gap. There will be no invasion of Canada next year (a bicentennial this-time-we're-serious 1812 do-over). Huge savings. Huge.

The Obama Plan? There is no Obama plan. And the McConnell Plan, a final resort that punts the debt issue to Election Day, would likely yield no cuts at all.

Obama faces two massive problems—jobs and debt. They're both the result of his spectacularly failed Keynesian gamble: massive spending that left us a stagnant economy with high and chronic unemployment—and a staggering debt burden. Obama is desperate to share ownership of this failure. Economic dislocation from a debt-ceiling crisis nicely serves that purpose—if the Republicans play along. The perfect out: Those crazy Tea Partiers ruined the recovery!

Why would any conservative collaborate with that ploy? November 2012 constitutes the new conservatism's one chance to restructure government and change the ideological course of the country. Why risk forfeiting that outcome by offering to share ownership of Obama's wreckage?

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, how much time do I have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Time has expired.

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask unanimous consent to speak for an additional 4 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BARRASSO. I wanted to do that because I also want to have printed in the RECORD—and I will read just a couple of paragraphs—a letter that appeared in today's Casper Star Tribune by Eric Mitchell. It is titled "Smarter than you think." He says:

I think they think I'm not so smart because I'm too young to know what they're doing, like raising the national debt. Don't they know that I owe the country about \$45,000? I'm only 10 years old. I could buy a lot with \$45,000. I could almost buy a home, I could buy property, I could buy a boat and get fish for family and friends.

He is from Crowheart, WY, a small community.

He said:

I would buy guns and ammunition to hunt for food for my family. I could buy books so I could learn more. Forty-five thousand dollars could buy a lot of stuff. That's more than my dad earns. But it wouldn't buy everything.

This is a 10-year-old. He said:

Government shouldn't try to buy everything. It is my job and the people's job to buy the things we need. I don't want the government to think for me. They don't know that I'm a little brother who doesn't like it when my big brothers tell me what to do, because they aren't always responsible for their own things. I don't tell my brothers what to do with their money. I'm smarter than they think I am. They should follow the rules.

Here you have a youngster in Wyoming who knows of values, who is raised in a family where they live within their means, lives in a State where we balance our budget every year, and I think the lesson Eric has for the people of Wyoming and the people of this country is one we should listen to: We should live within our means, not spend more than we have, not continue to borrow. And the threat to our Nation, our greatest threat to our national security continues to be the debt, and it is incumbent upon this institution to deal with that.

I ask unanimous consent the letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Casper Star Tribune, July 29, 2011]

SMARTER THAN YOU THINK

(By Eric Mitchell)

What does the government think of me?

Money. Like the banking commercials, I'm not a name, I'm a number.

I think they think I'm not so smart because I'm too young to know what they're doing, like raising the national debt. Don't they know that I owe the country about \$45,000? I'm only 10 years old. I could buy a lot with \$45,000. I could almost buy a home, I could buy property, I could buy a boat and get fish for my family and friends.

I would buy guns and ammunition to hunt for food for my family. I could buy books so I could learn more. Forty-five thousand dollars could buy a lot of stuff. That's more than my dad earns. But it wouldn't buy everything.

Government shouldn't try to buy everything.

It is my job, and the people's job, to buy the things we need. I don't want the government to think for me. They don't know I'm a little brother who doesn't like it when my big brothers tell me what to do, because they aren't always responsible for their own things. I don't tell my brothers what to do with their money.

I'm smarter than they think I am. They should follow the rules.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a unanimous consent request that has been cleared by the Republican leader. I ask unanimous consent that morning

business be extended until 6 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each during that period of time; further, that at 6 p.m. I be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized for whatever time I shall consume as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, there is a simple reason we are all talking about the debt limit increase. It is the fact that this President has spent more money than I ever believed would be possible. So far, he has spent over \$10 trillion in 3 years, and next year, if he has his way, he will spend another \$3.5 trillion.

I remember so well back during the Clinton administration—I think it was 1995—I was outraged. I came down to this podium. I said: Can you believe a President has a budget of \$1.5 trillion? And this President has spent \$10 trillion in this short period. If he had not spent all of this money, then we would not be here talking about a debt limit increase right now. I hate to sound so partisan about it, but it is truly a partisan issue.

The Democrats have supported his spending, and the Republicans have not. The Boehner plan we are going to vote on—they are going to vote in the House today, and I think we may have an opportunity to vote here later on tonight—may not be perfect. None of the stuff around here is perfect. But it is good. It has dramatically improved over the last 12 hours. It allows the debt limit increase but only after we significantly cut spending. Never before have we tied—in the history of this country—a debt limit increase to spending cuts, but it is something we have to do now that we are so far into this mess.

The first step to this plan cuts spending by over \$900 billion in exchange for a \$900 billion increase in the debt limit. That will last the President until around February. I think it is a fair deal. I would like to cut the spending more, but we can only do so much when we only control the House.

The second step of this plan is also good. It establishes a mechanism to quickly consider \$1.8 trillion in additional spending cuts between now and the end of the year.

It also requires Congress to pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution and send to it the States for ratification. This is something that just happened in the last 12 hours. People were talking about, well, do we really want to do something? A balanced budget amendment is the only way it is going to be good for now and for the future.

We have been talking about this for many years. I remember so well, way back in the 1970s, I was in the State Senate in Oklahoma when Carl Curtis, a very wonderful gentleman from Nebraska—he was a Senator, had been a Senator for quite some time. He was the perennial author of the balanced budget amendment, but he never could get it through. He had an idea. He came to me in the State of Oklahoma and he said: You know, Inhofe, we have been trying to get this balanced budget amendment for a long time, and they excuse they use is, you are never going to get the required number of States to ratify it.

He said: I have come up with an idea. We will get three-fourths of the States to preratify a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

Well, that is kind of ingenious.

He said: Why don't you be the first State?

So I did. We passed, by resolution in my State of Oklahoma, in 1975 I believe it was, a ratification of a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution that did not exist. That is kind of neat. We actually got up to almost three-fourths of the States, and some of the other forces knocked it down. But that is how long we have been doing this.

But in the intervening years, there hasn't been 1 year where we have talked about a balanced budget amendment that it has not come up for discussion. Well, this is probably the first time it is a possibility because we have never been in the spending situation we are in right now—as I said, \$10 trillion just 3 years.

So right now, we have added that in the last 12 hours. If that legislation passes, the President will get an additional debt limit increase. So we are tying it to behavioral patterns in spending and austerity. That is a smart way to do it.

This proposal would keep the debt limit and the spending debate at the forefront of the national conversation. We must have this conversation. If we do not, we will be worrying about things a lot worse than an increase in the debt limit. The President wants nothing to do with it. He just wants a blank check to increase the debt so he can continue to raise the deficit. Why do I think this? Well, if we undid all of his policies today, the policies that so rapidly increased spending and are killing our economy, then we would not need a debt limit increase.

The President's spending addiction is the only reason we are here talking about a debt limit increase. This is unilateral. This is the President—his budget. It is not a group of people, it is him. A lot of people are asking: Does anyone in Washington really care? One guy doesn't—the President of the United States. His actions are what we are talking about today. We are looking at failed policies.

Referring to the chart, first is ObamaCare. We are talking right now about trying to get something like \$800 billion in these negotiations so we can increase the debt limit. In one fell swoop, ObamaCare was \$1.5 trillion. This plan costs over the current decade, when fully implemented—the 10-year cost nearly doubles to \$2.5 trillion. This law dramatically expands government's influence in the health care sector, and together with Medicare and Medicaid, it will result in the financial ruin of this great country.

Second, we have the failed stimulus plan. We all know it didn't meet any of President Obama's expectations. It met all of mine because I didn't expect much. It didn't help the economy. It expanded the size of government. Even though we were opposed to it—I am among the most conservative Members, and Senator BOXER is a very proud liberal. She and I together tried to have an amendment to take some of the \$800 billion and put a large amount into infrastructure.

Right now, we have to have roads and highways and bridges. We are supposed to do that here. Of course, they didn't do it. Only 3 percent of the \$800 billion went for that type of infrastructure. Over \$1 trillion of this amount, once you add in the costs, that is how we get up to \$1 trillion, the cost of interest we have to pay for extra spending. That is a total of \$2.5 trillion.

So we have the stimulus of \$1 trillion and ObamaCare of \$1.5 trillion. Then there is the President's relentless pursuit for regulation. Whatever the President hasn't been able to do legislatively, he is attempting to do through regulation—most of it through the EPA. Cap and trade is a good example. We have debated that since the Kyoto Treaty was up. Clearly, the votes are not there. Right now, in this Chamber, we would not get 25 votes for cap and trade. Yet everybody is talking about how it is important to have cap and trade. Now he is trying to do it through regulation. That alone would cost the American people \$300 trillion to \$400 trillion a year—not just one shot; that is a year.

There is the boiler MACT legislation, which is maximum attainable controlled technology. In other words, what can we do? What do we have the technology to do to stop emissions? We don't have it. But he has that, and that was billions of dollars a year.

Ozone regulations: He was going to announce this week a tightening of the ozone regulations that would put 608 of our counties in America out of attainment. I am from Oklahoma, and it would put 15 of our counties out of attainment. They cannot recruit industry in those counties, and they cannot hire people, and many will have to go out of business because of the ozone regulations. It is not, in my opinion, legal the way he is doing it because he

is supposed to address it every 5 years. It was done in 2008 on new technology, which is a requirement. Today, he is trying to do it using the same 2008 technology. Again, it is extremely expensive. That casts a tremendous cloud of uncertainty over the business sector, and that is a key reason they announced today that the economy is growing at 1.3 percent a year. That is terrible, especially when we consider the recession we are in.

As a general rule, economies recover rapidly when coming off of a financial recession. It is not unusual for countries to grow at 4, 5, 6 percent for the years following a recession. But we can't even get around 2 percent. That has a huge negative effect on the economy and the government. The President's regulatory agenda is the reason our unemployment rate is above 9 percent, and it is the reason our economy is growing so slowly. Because of this, our tax receipts are way off their historic levels. If we can get the economy to grow faster at a sustained period of time, the effect on tax revenues is unbelievable. This is pretty well accepted. I always said that every 1 percent increase in the economy equals about \$50 million in new revenue. That is the way to grow revenue.

Certainly, President Kennedy knew it, President Reagan knew it, and so the best way to increase revenue and get the economy moving again is, of course, to increase growth. If the economy grows at a rate that is 1 percent faster than presently forecast for the next decade, Federal tax revenues will grow by \$3 trillion.

I conservatively estimate that the cost to Federal revenues of the President's regulatory agenda has been \$1 trillion. So we have, through his regulatory behavior, another \$1 trillion. That brings our total to \$3.5 trillion.

Then in there is an increase in non-security discretionary spending, which has added up to \$500 billion in spending.

There is the expanded and increased spending on unemployment benefits, which is also a consequence of his regulatory policies that have killed the economic recovery, and the cost of that is another \$500 billion.

Together, all these failed policies add up to a \$4.5 trillion contribution to the Federal deficit.

Since Inauguration Day, the debt has increased by \$3.7 trillion. It is on pace to increase by more than \$5 trillion by the end of the President's first term. If we undid all of these failed policies, we would not find ourselves in the situation we are in today. We would not be debating this because it would not be necessary. It is because of the President that we are even talking about raising the debt ceiling. If we could undo the President's policies, we would not need to raise the debt ceiling at all.

Where is the President? He has been totally absent from this entire debt

conversation. Today, he is meeting with terrorists from Cote d'Ivoire, and he is probably going to play golf in the afternoon—I don't know. But he is not participating. He doesn't seem to care about debating the debt ceiling. He wants to raise the deficit. If he did care, he would see the need for the Boehner plan, endorse it, and sign it into law. I guess that is too much to ask.

We are going to have a chance to do that tonight. They are going to have a vote in the House around 6 o'clock on the Boehner plan, and it will come over here, and we will have an opportunity to do that. If the Democrats support us—a handful of them—we will be able to get that passed. We will wait until tonight to see what happens.

HOUSE MEETING

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, there is a terrorist visiting with the President right now. I will elaborate. So many people are looking the other way and don't know what is going on in Africa. I have been on this floor nine different times talking about the atrocities that have been committed in Cote d'Ivoire.

They had a President there named Laurent Gbagbo. He and his wife are great people, friends of this country. An election took place, and I stood here and showed how it was fraudulent, and the guy who won is named Alassane Ouattara.

Right now, as we speak, at this very moment, President Obama is meeting with the rebel leader and potential war criminal Alassane Ouattara in our Nation's Oval Office. This is an unwise and grossly misguided decision on behalf of President Obama. It is, in fact, an outrage that our President would welcome with open arms a man who is responsible for the deaths of at least 3,000 people and the displacement of a half million refugees in Cote d'Ivoire.

Ouattara is an illegitimate usurper who has scandalized Cote d'Ivoire's electoral system and wrongfully ousted democratic incumbent Laurent Gbagbo.

Beginning late last year, Ouattara fraudulently won Cote d'Ivoire's Presidential election, and after Gbagbo revealed the fraud he led a rebel army that violently overthrew the Gbagbo government, with the support of the French military, which wrongly intervened in this former French colony.

This is a picture that depicts one of Ouattara's death squads murdering, maiming, raping. This is happening as we speak.

Who is in the President's office? Alassane Ouattara. As a result, Amnesty International reported on July 28 that half a million Ivorians are displaced in postelection violence and are prevented from returning home because of a "climate of fear" that continues to reign in this country. Am-

nesty International specifically singles out Ouattara's security forces and his state-sponsored militia composed of Dozos—they are called—who continue to target pro-Gbagbo ethnic groups.

Dozos, traditional hunters, are a mercenary group that both Amnesty International and the International Committee of the Red Cross blame for carrying out a massacre in April of at least 220 people in the western town of Duekoue.

Here they are in this photo. You can see the charred bodies of those murdered by Ouattara, who is in the President's office right now. There are executions going on. There is a photo of a person who was burned and beaten on the back—from the political opposition. That is what is happening today.

Amnesty International alleges that these forces under Ouattara's command are continuing to engage in "documented crimes under international law and human rights violations and abuses, including extrajudicial executions and other unlawful killings, rape, and other sexual violence, torture, other ill treatment and arbitrary arrest and detention, as well as the consequences of a high level of displacement, pervasive insecurity, and intentional destruction of homes and other buildings not justified by military success."

They are talking about this. We can see that this person was being tortured. This photo is of someone from the cabinet—the Gbagbo cabinet. He tried to make a statement—Ouattara said he is trying to keep some of those people, but here he is in the middle of killing him. He died after this. Here they are executing another person they found as a Gbagbo supporter.

This is happening today as we speak. Ouattara's bloodletting seems unabated, and he doesn't seem to be interested in restraining his forces from eliminating perceived pro-Gbagbo supporters. He does not deserve an invitation to our White House or an audience with the President in the Oval Office.

Instead of participating in our Nation's debt crisis, President Obama is meeting with this killer and human rights abuser. Even today, while Ouattara is in the President's office, his death squads are roaming the streets of Abijan. It is an outrage, and maybe now we understand where some of the priorities are.

With that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LIEBERMAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE DEBT CEILING

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, too many Ohioans are struggling—as are people all over the Nation—in this economy. They are watching Washington with disgust as some politicians are risking economic catastrophe. The House of Representatives continues to waste time as our Nation stands just 4 days away from a catastrophic default. Instead of working with us on a bipartisan basis in the Senate on a compromise measure to prevent a crisis, House Republicans are cutting closed-door deals to find votes on a bill that has no chance of becoming law. We are simply running out of time for these kinds of games.

Only a bipartisan bill coming out of the Senate, negotiated with Republican Leader MCCONNELL and Democratic Leader REID, provides hope for a way out of this impasse. As the majority leader moves forward, I ask my Republican colleagues across the aisle to proceed with its work and not delay the resolution with filibusters and procedural tricks.

In the spirit of compromise, Majority Leader REID has come forth with a plan to reduce the deficit by \$2.2 trillion. It is truly a compromise because it meets the Republicans' main criteria. It incorporates some of Senator MCCONNELL's language. It contains spending cuts to roughly match the debt ceiling increase through 2012—the spending cuts in the Reid plan are ones Republicans had previously agreed to and, in many cases, advanced—and it contains no revenue increases, all criteria and demands from overwhelming numbers of Senate Republicans.

The majority leader's plan is not perfect. It is not the balanced approach I hoped it would be. But most importantly, right now, it prevents a default, it reduces the deficit—a critical imperative for our children and grandchildren—and it protects Medicare and Social Security and Medicaid.

My office is being swamped with calls and e-mails from Ohioans who cannot believe we are so close to default. I can't either. Let me read a couple letters from Ohio voters. Both of these individuals self-identify as Republicans when they write to me. The first one is from Representative MARCY KAPTUR's district, which is in northern Ohio, along the lake. He says:

I am a 40-plus-year-old Republican who has tried to work to eliminate the tax money we use that is now paid to oil and gas companies as tax subsidies. I don't like my tax money being given to these companies with Senators' blessings. I would like to ask both of you—

He sends this, apparently, to myself and my colleague, Senator PORTMAN—

to support a balanced approach being proposed by the President and put debt and deficit to bed until an election can be held and the American people can determine who should be in Congress. We should have listened to Ronald Reagan when he said this should not have been undertaken.

Meaning the debt limit issue.

The debt limit is on past bills and should not be raised and not be used as a political volleyball and upset our financial institutions.

Another letter writer—again, a Republican—says:

I did not vote for our current President, but I have to side with him on the debt ceiling issues. I am exhausted by the political bickering that goes on in Washington. Quit the child-like fighting and get this thing done. The American people are tired of it all.

A default would risk what amounts to a permanent tax hike on all Americans. Interest rates could rise for anyone applying for a home mortgage, a car loan or a college loan. Credit costs for all borrowers would climb. Governments at every level, businesses, not for profits, homeowners, credit card holders, even several States have already been placed on a credit watch. Every State would be hurt by a Federal default, which is why Governors of both parties are calling for a deal.

There could be repercussions for pension funds and money market funds that guard the retirement savings of middle-class families. A default on our obligations would be a knockout blow to the financial security of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System. These are public employees who have spent their lives working in Ohio's courts and schools and many other public positions in local and State government. That is why the Director of OPERS—the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System—sent a letter with nine of her colleagues pleading:

America is now a debtor nation and must show the world the nation's word is its bond. It is critical that the debt ceiling be raised to avoid a default.

The Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, obviously, represents Republicans and Democrats alike.

As a member of the Senate Banking Committee, I heard Chairman Ben Bernanke, a Republican appointee, speak in March, and he said default would be “an extremely dangerous and very likely recovering-ending event.”

Just today, several mayors of Ohio's large- and medium- sized cities—for example, the cities of Hillsboro, South Euclid, Chillicothe, North Royalton, Lancaster, Akron, Middletown, Shaker Heights, Reynoldsburg, Dayton, Steubenville, Solon, Newark, Fairfield, and other cities, Republicans and Democrats alike—wrote:

As Mayors, we rely on the partnership of the federal government to help us create jobs and grow our communities. Uncertainty surrounding the federal budget puts key programs like Community Development Block Grants and Community Oriented Policing Services in jeopardy. Job-creating infrastructure projects would come to a halt without the full support of our federal partners. Inaction on the debt ceiling threatens programs like Social Security that our citizens rely on to survive.

I have heard the Presiding Officer—in a meeting today, in fact—talk passion-

ately about the uncertainty this would inject into our economy—to follow the House lead—and do this again in 6 months and the irresponsibility of that proposal. As difficult as this has been for people on all sides and the contentiousness and anger, it doesn't matter whether we are angry or it is contentious around here, but what does matter is the message it sends to main street—Main Street Connecticut, Main Street Hartford, Main Street Columbus, Main Street New Haven and Toledo. When businesses are thinking about expansion, when they are thinking about taking a loan out or thinking about borrowing money, they are not going to do it when we are in the midst of a financial crisis such as we are in now. If we were going to do this again in 6 months, you can bet we would have the same kind of divisions, the same kind of arguments.

The assistant majority leader told the story today about a Chicago businessperson who is terrified of this and what would happen if we didn't raise the debt ceiling, if we went into default; what might happen 6 months from now if we went through it again.

So the responsible position is for this body, on a bipartisan basis, to work on the McConnell-Reid plan, to pass this, send it to the House of Representatives, and for them to pass it. We can then focus on job creation and on deficit reduction, but we will have moved forward together in a way that we have not for far too long a period of time.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Of course.

Mr. DURBIN. There have been Members of the Senate and House who have gone before the cameras and come to the floor in each of those bodies and argued that defaulting on the national debt is really not a big deal, although we have never done that one time in our history—we had one technical default for a few days but never really defaulted on our debt one time in our history.

I ask the Senator from Ohio, in the response he is getting back from Ohio and I am getting back from Illinois from people who are genuinely concerned about a default on the national debt, I wonder if he has been hearing from Social Security recipients who are asking whether they will be receiving their checks after August 2 if we default on their debt. I wonder if he is getting calls from disabled veterans whom we promised to stand by the rest of their lives who receive monthly checks for their medical care and other things. Has he heard from small business leaders in Ohio, as I have in Illinois, who are suggesting that an increase in interest rates at this moment in time is exactly wrong when it comes to job creation?

I would like to ask the Senator from Ohio, when one of our colleagues from

Pennsylvania comes to the floor and says defaulting on the national debt can be easily managed and no one will notice—I would like to ask the Senator from Ohio whether that is his impression.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. That is surely not my impression. I appreciate the comments from the assistant majority leader from Illinois.

I listen to the words, as I have read, that Ronald Reagan said. The debt limit was raised 18 times in the 8 years of the Reagan administration, and each time it was, there were people who didn't like doing it. Nobody likes to vote for that. But there was never this: let's go up to the edge and take a chance. President Reagan always preached—as Presidents have since in both parties—that this is not a risk we can take, and I know this.

I hear from Social Security beneficiaries, I hear from veterans, I hear from small businesspeople, and I hear from contractors around Wright-Patterson Air Force Base that they don't think we should take this risk, that they are—some use the word “terrified” getting this close to default, and most can't really believe we are this close. I can't, either.

The Senator from Illinois and I have talked about this many times over the last few months, that we figured there would not be these lines in the sand and this belief that it doesn't matter if we default and we would get to a solution. But we haven't been able to.

But no responsible people in elected office that I can think of in the last 30 or 40 years have wanted to go this close to default and play chicken and just think, well, maybe it won't hurt us much. We know what happens with interest rates. We know what might happen with Social Security checks and veterans' benefits and prison guard pay and airport safety and food inspectors—all of those functions that matter. I don't know why any responsible leader in this body or the other body would want to take that risk.

Mr. DURBIN. I would like to ask through the Chair if the Senator from Ohio would yield for this question.

He may recall the time not that long ago when we closed down the government of the United States for a period of time, and there were some radio talk show hosts who argued that America wouldn't notice, just as they are arguing now that America won't notice if we default on our national debt. I know the Senator from Ohio can recall that and the fact that America did notice, and those who engineered that crisis paid a heavy political price.

What I am really getting to at this point, though, is to ask the Senator from Ohio—Monday night, when the Speaker of the House, JOHN BOEHNER, went on national television with the President of the United States and announced he had a bipartisan plan, he

called it, that he could pass in the House of Representatives, many of us had the impression that was going to be done on Tuesday. Well, it wasn't done on Tuesday or Wednesday or Thursday. It is only today that they are voting on it, some 5 or 6 days later.

I would like to ask the Senator from Ohio, losing that 4- or 5-day period of time when we could have been moving forward to a compromise—the impact that has as we face this looming deadline of a default on our national debt on August 2.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. I thank the Senator for that comment and question. This is clearly more dangerous for our economy and our country, from Wall Street to Main Street, than what happened when they closed the government down 15 years ago or threatened to a few months ago. That was troubling, and that was damaging to our country, but we don't know what exactly would happen here. We are almost sure interest rates would go up. We are almost sure many people who benefit from government services directly would see those benefits go away. Whether it is a Social Security check or whether it is food safety or running the airports safely, all of those things would be at risk.

I have heard a lot of sort of brouhaha or a lot of strong words out of the House and a lot of promises, but there seems to be too many people in that Chamber who don't really see the seriousness of this, don't see that this really does put our economy in jeopardy.

You know, it is not just our economy. That is the most important part, but it is also our reputation around the world. It is the strength of the dollar. It is the blot on our national reputation. I haven't been to Europe in a long time, but I hear reports from people around the world that they are saying: What is going on in the United States of America that you can't even agree on raising the debt ceiling so you can really focus on things such as jobs?

I had a meeting just last week—Senator ROCKEFELLER and I, earlier this week—and there were eight or nine Senators who joined us to talk about focusing on a jobs agenda and what we need to do to restore American manufacturing. In a State such as Illinois, and in Connecticut—the other Senator from Connecticut was in our meeting and talked about Bridgeport and New Haven and all the manufacturing that is done in this country. We are still a major manufacturing country. This is going to hurt manufacturers. It is going to mean they can't borrow to meet payroll or borrow to expand or borrow to create more jobs.

Why would we risk any of this instead of getting this done by focusing on job growth, and focusing on getting our budget in order? We know how to do this. In the 1990s—and the Presiding Officer and the assistant majority leader

were very much part of it—in the 1990s, we got to, one, a balanced budget and, second, we got to 21 million private sector jobs net increase because we passed a responsible budget. It had some tax increases for upper income people. It also had some tax breaks in it for middle-income people. It also had major cuts and major investments. And we did all of that because we wrote a thoughtful budget—didn't get a lot of help from the other side, but put that aside, we did it right, we got to a budget surplus, and we created 21 million jobs. We know how to do this. But we didn't see anybody playing these kinds of games: Maybe we just let the debt ceiling go and go into default. We just could not take this chance.

I thank the Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I wish to thank my colleague from Ohio for talking about this issue because it is on the minds of everyone here on Capitol Hill and across the Nation. We are getting a lot of e-mails and phone calls and letters, and it is understandable because this is the first time in our Nation's history that we face default on our national debt.

I received a letter from Amy in Germantown, IL, downstate. We have a lot of German families in our State, and we have a town named "Germantown." Amy contacted me and said:

Please do your utmost to compromise on a budget solution before the deadline expires. Our family has already weathered multiple economic downturns due to the dot-com bubble burst, 9/11, and most recently the subprime mortgage crisis. We are responsible with our income, saving for our children's education and our retirement. However, we are extremely nervous about our savings and investments once again. If the United States of America defaults on its loan obligations, it is likely we will see a significant reduction in the value of our 401K and 403B investments, as well as the investments we have made for our children and grandchild's education.

... I cannot stand by another day and listen to all the elected officials in Washington talk about their convictions. Please remember your constituents and their situations.

Another letter from Scott in Bloomington, IL:

Dear Senator, I thought I'd offer you a real life personal example of what you are doing to common Americans by dragging out to the last minute the resolution of the Federal debt limit. Ironically, every August 1st, I receive a distribution from a tax-deferred retirement account. That account includes a variety of investments, not the least of which are equity mutual funds. The failure to provide leadership in Congress, along with the President and House leaders, will probably cost me about \$5,000 this year. I will never see this money again. The recent fall in the equity markets is a direct result of the nervousness you are creating by failing to resolve the Federal debt limit issue, playing the usual political games. I respectfully request that you share this message with all of your colleagues as a reality check. Stop your games played for your own personal advantage, and start thinking about the people you are supposed to be serving.

A letter from David in Casey, IL:

I am retired and don't look forward to having my Social Security or veterans benefits cut. Why is it the rich get by with no additional taxes and we are taxed and our benefits in jeopardy? So why don't you elected officials wake up, start living like the rest of the population, put politics aside and do what is right for the country.

From the Lincoln Courier newspaper:

"From what I'm hearing, interest rates would go up," said Jim Muschinske, revenue manager for the Illinois Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability. "Some people may be more hesitant to buy big-ticket items they would have to finance."

As a result, sales tax revenues are going to suffer for local governments. "That could start a ripple effect," the newspaper went on to write.

"If the consumer pulls back, corporations would be more hesitant to add to their payroll," Muschinske said. "They may cut or, at the very least, not hire. At this stage of the recovery, we would hope hiring would be further along."

What troubles me the most is this is a manufactured political crisis. This is a self-inflicted political wound. Eighty-nine times since 1939 we have routinely—except for one little glitch—extended the debt ceiling. We have done it under Republican Presidents 55 times and Democratic Presidents 34 times. It is bipartisan.

All the President is asking for is the authority to borrow the money to pay for what Congress has spent. Members of Congress who come to the floor and pledge "I will never vote to extend the debt ceiling" are the same Members of Congress who just weeks ago said to the President: Stay in Afghanistan, stay the course, spend the money. We have got to do it. Mr. President, \$10 billion a month in Afghanistan. For every dollar we spend, we have to borrow 40 cents. So for President Obama to keep the promise made by these same Members of Congress, he has to borrow funds to do it. Now that he has asked for authority to borrow it, they are saying: Oh, no, we want nothing to do with borrowing the money. And that is why we are here today.

Mr. President, let me say a word about the other issue that is being debated; that is, the deficit. And I know you feel as seriously about it as I do. The deficit in this country has to be addressed. We are leaving a debt to our children that is unimaginable, and we have to change it.

I have been working for a year and a half with the deficit commission the President created and with a group called the Gang of 6, and we have come up with a bipartisan approach to deal with this. It is sensible. It spreads the pain—and there will be pain—to everyone across America and puts everything on the table—everything. We don't spare anyone except the poorest and most vulnerable in our Nation.

We basically said to people: We have to raise revenue, and we have to start

by increasing the tax burden of those in the highest income categories. I think it stands to reason. If we are asking for sacrifice from working families who are paying for college student loans, why wouldn't we ask the wealthiest people in America to pay a little more on their taxes?

Secondly, we put all of the Federal spending on the table, and we make dramatic cuts in Federal spending—not just on the side of the ledger that deals with nondefense but also in the Defense Department. There are some Members of Congress who argue that you cannot cut a penny from the Department of Defense.

When I was on the deficit commission, we had experts who came in from the Pentagon, and we learned that the Pentagon and the Department of Defense is the largest Federal employer in America.

But then Senator CONRAD of North Dakota asked an important question. He said: Beyond those Federal employees in the Department of Defense, how many contractors, how many contract employees work for the Department of Defense?

The expert said: I have no idea.

Senator CONRAD said: Well, give me a range.

Well, he says, between 1 million and 9 million.

That is quite a range. I think it is evidence that we ought to look at every single contract in the Department of Defense. Believe me, there are some of them that shouldn't be there where we are paying too much money and not getting the security we expect for our Nation.

So we need to look at both sides of the ledger—the defense side and the nondefense side—and save the money. Keep our troops safe and keep America safe, but don't waste money on that which doesn't make us safe.

Finally, the entitlement programs—and this is where many people across America do get nervous. I believe in Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid. I particularly believe we have a commitment to seniors who paid their entire working lives into these programs expecting them to protect them when they reached the age of retirement.

This year, on January 1, 10,000 Americans reached the age of 65, qualifying for Social Security and Medicare. On January 2, another 10,000; January 3, again. And for 19 more years, every day 10,000 more people will qualify for Social Security and Medicaid. Welcome to the baby boomers. Those who were born after World War II are now reaching retirement age and with that expect, because they paid in for a lifetime, to receive Social Security and Medicare. Now we need to look at those programs and ask, What can we do to make them stronger longer? We may have some disagreement about exactly

how that is done, but we both agree that if we don't touch Medicare and leave it as is, in a matter of 6, 7, or 8 years, it will be insolvent, unable to pay its bills. That is unacceptable. We need to find ways to make Medicare a strong, viable program that will pay the medical bills of seniors and the disabled when they need them.

Social Security, the same. There is good news in Social Security; it is solvent for 25 years. We cannot say that about many programs, if any, in Washington. But the bad news is at the end of 25 years, benefits would have to be cut 22 percent. That is tough. A lot of people have no other source of income.

What I have suggested, and I hope people will listen carefully: Small changes we make today in Social Security will play out over 25 years to buy the solvency we need in this program for decades to come. Every penny of savings in Social Security needs to be reinvested right back into Social Security so we do not take the savings from Social Security for general deficit reduction—not at all. Whatever savings are there, put them back into the Social Security Program.

There are ways to do this. We could do it in a sensible fashion, and the only way I can say that with some confidence is I have done it. When I first got elected to Washington in 1983, they said: Welcome to Washington. Social Security is broke.

We sat down and fixed it. We bought over 50 years of solvency at that time. We can do it again. We have to think about this in thoughtful terms, preserve the basic benefits of these programs but give them a longer life so they will be there when they are needed in the future. Our Gang of 6 came up with a bipartisan agreement to deal with this. Thirty-six Senators of both parties have agreed to join us in this effort, and I hope it becomes the basis for us addressing our deficit crisis and that we avert what clearly is a manufactured political crisis coming August 2 and that we extend this debt ceiling so we do not hurt our recovering economy. We cannot hurt the innocent businesses and families across America who count on us for leadership.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PEACEFUL AND JUST RESOLUTION IN GEORGIA

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 113, S. Res. 175.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 175) expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to ongoing violations of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Georgia and the importance of a peaceful and just resolution to the conflict within Georgia's internationally recognized borders.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I know of no further debate. I ask the Senate to vote on the adoption of the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing no further debate, the question is on the adoption of the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 175) was agreed to.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. I ask unanimous consent the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be agreed to, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 175

Whereas, since 1993, the territorial integrity of Georgia has been reaffirmed by the international community and 36 United Nations Security Council resolutions;

Whereas the United States-Georgia Strategic Charter, signed on January 9, 2009, underscores that "support for each other's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders constitutes the foundation of our bilateral relations";

Whereas, in October 2010, at the meeting of the United States-Georgia Charter on Strategic Partnership, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stated, "The United States will not waiver in its support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity";

Whereas the White House released a fact sheet on July 24, 2010, calling for "Russia to end its occupation of the Georgian territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia" and for "a return of international observers to the two occupied regions of Georgia";

Whereas Vice President Joseph Biden stated in Tbilisi in July 2009 that the United States "will not recognize Abkhazia and South Ossetia as independent states";

Whereas, according to the Government of Georgia's "State Strategy on Occupied Territories," the Government of Georgia has committed itself to a policy of peaceful engagement, the protection of economic and human rights, freedom of movement, and the preservation of cultural heritage, language, and identity for the people of Abkhazia and South Ossetia;

Whereas the August 2008 conflict between the Governments of Russia and Georgia resulted in civilian and military casualties, the violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia, and large numbers of internally displaced persons;

Whereas large numbers of persons remain displaced as a result of the August 2008 conflict as well as the earlier conflicts of the 1990s;

Whereas the August 12, 2008, ceasefire agreement, agreed to by the Governments of

Russia and Georgia provides that all troops of the Russian Federation shall be withdrawn to pre-conflict positions;

Whereas the August 12, 2008, ceasefire agreement provides that free access shall be granted to organizations providing humanitarian assistance in regions affected by violence in August 2008;

Whereas the recognition by the Government of Russia of Abkhazia and South Ossetia on August 26, 2008, was in violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia;

Whereas Human Rights Watch concluded in its World Report 2011 that "Russia continued to occupy Georgia's breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia and strengthened its military presence in the region by establishing a military base and placing an advanced surface-to-air missile system in Abkhazia";

Whereas the parties have taken some constructive steps in recent months, including the resumption of direct flights between Russia and Georgia, Russian troop withdrawal from the Georgian village of Perevi, and regular participation in the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism;

Whereas these positive steps neither adequately address the humanitarian situation on the ground nor constitute full compliance with the terms of the August 2008 ceasefire agreement;

Whereas, on November 23, 2010, before the European Parliament, Georgian President Saakashvili declared that "Georgia will never use force to restore its territorial integrity and sovereignty";

Whereas Secretary of State Clinton stated in Tbilisi on July 5, 2010, "We continue to call for Russia to abide by the August 2008 cease-fire commitment . . . including ending the occupation and withdrawing Russian troops from South Ossetia and Abkhazia to their pre-conflict positions";

Whereas the Russian Federation blocked the extension of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Mission to Georgia and the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia, forcing the missions to withdraw from South Ossetia and Abkhazia;

Whereas troops of the Russian Federation stationed in Abkhazia and South Ossetia continue to be present without the consent of the Government of Georgia or a mandate from the United Nations or other multilateral organizations;

Whereas, at the April 15, 2011, meeting in Berlin between the foreign ministers of Georgia and NATO, Secretary of State Clinton stated, "U.S. support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity remains steadfast. . . . We share Georgian concerns regarding recent Russian activities that can negatively affect regional stability";

Whereas, on April 25-26, 2011, Foreign Minister of Russia Sergei Lavrov made a high-profile visit to Abkhazia and South Ossetia, which was immediately criticized by the Department of State as "inconsistent with the principle of territorial integrity and Georgia's internationally recognized borders";

Whereas the Senate supports United States efforts to develop a productive relationship with the Russian Federation in areas of mutual interest, including non-proliferation and arms control, cooperation concerning the failure of the Government of Iran to meet its international obligations with regard to its nuclear programs, counter-terrorism, Afghanistan, anti-piracy, and economics and trade; and

Whereas the Senate agrees that these efforts must not compromise longstanding

United States policy or United States support for its allies and partners worldwide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) affirms that it is the policy of the United States to support the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Georgia and the inviolability of its borders, and to recognize Abkhazia and South Ossetia as regions of Georgia occupied by the Russian Federation;

(2) calls upon the Government of Russia to take steps to fulfill all the terms and conditions of the 2008 ceasefire agreements between Georgia and Russia, including returning military forces to pre-war positions and ensuring access to international humanitarian aid to all those affected by the conflict;

(3) urges the Government of Russia and the authorities in control in the regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia to allow for the full and dignified return of internally displaced persons and international missions to the territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia;

(4) supports peaceful, constructive engagement and confidence-building measures between the Government of Georgia and the authorities in control in South Ossetia and Abkhazia and encourages additional people-to-people contacts; and

(5) affirms that finding a peaceful resolution to the conflict is a key priority for the United States in the Caucasus region and that lasting regional stability can only be achieved through peaceful means and long-term diplomatic and political dialogue between all parties.

ENCOURAGING WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN SAUDI ARABIA

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 114, S. Res. 216.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 216) encouraging women's political participation in Saudi Arabia.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution (S. Res. 216) encouraging women's political participation in Saudi Arabia, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment and an amendment to the preamble.

(Strike the parts in boldface brackets and insert the parts shown in italics.)

S. RES. 216

[Whereas, on September 22, 2011, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is scheduled to hold its first nationwide municipal elections since 2005, with voter registration open as of April 23, 2011;

[Whereas the Government of Saudi Arabia has announced—as it did in 2005—that women will be unable to run for elective office or vote;

[Whereas, on March 28, 2011, president of the general committee for the election of municipal council members Abd al-Rahman Dahmash stated, "We are not prepared for the participation of women in the municipal elections now.";

[Whereas Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Prince Saud Al Faisal stated in an interview after the 2005 election that he assumed women would be allowed to vote in future elections, and that this would benefit the election process because women were "more sensible voters than men";

[Whereas the decision by the Government of Saudi Arabia to continue to disenfranchise women in the September 2011 municipal elections is inconsistent with a series of commitments made by the Government of Saudi Arabia;

[Whereas, in January 2003, Saudi Arabia proposed to the League of Arab States the "Covenant for Arab Reform," resulting in the adoption of the "Tunis Declaration" at the May 2004 Arab Summit, which declared, among other things, a "firm determination" to "pursue reform and modernization" by "widening women's participation in the political, economic, social, cultural and educational fields";

[Whereas these declarations were reaffirmed at the Arab Summit in Algiers on March 23, 2005, and at the Riyadh Summit held in Saudi Arabia on March 28, 2007;

[Whereas, in April 2009, Saudi Arabia ratified the Arab Charter on Human Rights, which states in article 24(3), "Every citizen has the right . . . to stand for election or choose his representatives in free and impartial elections, in conditions of equality among all citizens that guarantee the free expression of his will.";

[Whereas, on June 10, 2009, the Government of Saudi Arabia accepted the majority of the recommendations put forward by the United Nations Human Rights Council's Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review including to "[a]bolish all legislation, measures and practices that discriminate against women . . . In particular, to abolish legislation and practices which prevent women from participating fully in society on an equal basis with men," and to "end the strict system of male guardianship and give full legal identity to Saudi women";

[Whereas the Government of Saudi Arabia has indicated that it is supportive of the human rights of women;

[Whereas, in November 2010, Saudi Arabia was elected to the Executive Board of UN Women, emphasizing the commitment of the Government of Saudi Arabia to the rights of women;

[Whereas 'Abd al-Rahman Dahmash, the president of the general committee for the election of municipal council members, has stated that Saudi women will be granted the right to vote in the next municipal elections scheduled to be held in 2015; and

[Whereas, while the United States Government acknowledges the deep cultural and religious traditions and sentiments within Saudi society, without the right to vote on par with men, women in Saudi Arabia are denied not only a fundamental human right but also the ability to contribute fully to the economic development, modernization, and prosperity of their own country: Now, therefore, be it]

Whereas, on September 29, 2011, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is scheduled to hold its first nationwide municipal elections since 2005;

Whereas the Government of Saudi Arabia has announced—as it did in 2005—that women will be unable to run for elective office or vote;

Whereas, on March 28, 2011, president of the general committee for the election of municipal council members 'Abd al-Rahman Dahmash stated, "We are not prepared for the participation of women in the municipal elections now.";

Whereas the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, Prince Saud Al Faisal, stated in an interview after the 2005 election that he assumed women would be allowed to vote in future elections, and that this would benefit the election process because women were "more sensible voters than men";

Whereas, on June 6, 2011, the Majlis Al-Shura Consultative Council adopted a resolution recommending that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ministry of Rural and Municipal Affairs take the necessary measures to include female voters in future municipal elections;

Whereas the decision by the Government of Saudi Arabia to continue to disenfranchise women in the September 2011 municipal elections is inconsistent with a series of commitments made by the Government of Saudi Arabia;

Whereas, in January 2003, Saudi Arabia proposed to the League of Arab States the "Covenant for Arab Reform," resulting in the adoption of the "Tunis Declaration" at the May 2004 Arab Summit, which declared, among other things, a "firm determination" to "pursue reform and modernization" by "widening women's participation in the political, economic, social, cultural and educational fields";

Whereas these declarations were reaffirmed at the Arab Summit in Algiers on March 23, 2005, and at the Riyadh Summit held in Saudi Arabia on March 28, 2007;

Whereas, in April 2009, Saudi Arabia ratified the Arab Charter on Human Rights, which states in article 24(3), "Every citizen has the right . . . to stand for election or choose his representatives in free and impartial elections, in conditions of equality among all citizens that guarantee the free expression of his will.";

Whereas, on June 10, 2009, the Government of Saudi Arabia accepted the majority of the recommendations put forward by the United Nations Human Rights Council's Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review including to "[a]bolish all legislation, measures and practices that discriminate against women . . . In particular, to abolish legislation and practices which prevent women from participating fully in society on an equal basis with men," and to "end the strict system of male guardianship and give full legal identity to Saudi women";

Whereas the Government of Saudi Arabia has indicated that it is supportive of the human rights of women;

Whereas, in November 2010, Saudi Arabia was elected to the Executive Board of UN Women, emphasizing the commitment of the Government of Saudi Arabia to the rights of women;

Whereas 'Abd al-Rahman Dahmash, the president of the general committee for the election of municipal council members, has stated that Saudi women will be granted the right to vote in the next municipal elections scheduled to be held in 2015; and

Whereas, while the United States Government acknowledges the deep cultural and religious traditions and sentiments within Saudi society, without the right to vote on par with men, women in Saudi Arabia are denied not only a fundamental human right but also the ability to contribute fully to the economic development, modernization, and prosperity of their own country: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, [That the Senate—

(1) calls on the Government of Saudi Arabia to allow women to participate, both as voters and candidates for elective office, in the September 2011 elections;

(2) supports the women of Saudi Arabia as they endeavor to exercise their human rights; and

(3) believes that it is in the interest of Saudi Arabia and all nations to permit women to run for office and vote in all elections.]

That the Senate—

(1) urges the Government of Saudi Arabia to allow women to fully participate, both as voters and candidates for elective office, in the September 2011 elections;

(2) supports the women of Saudi Arabia as they endeavor to exercise their human rights and participate equally in society; and

(3) believes that it is in the interest of Saudi Arabia and all nations to permit women to run for office, receive civic education, and vote in all elections.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. I ask unanimous consent the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 216), as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 216

Whereas, on September 29, 2011, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is scheduled to hold its first nationwide municipal elections since 2005;

Whereas the Government of Saudi Arabia has announced—as it did in 2005—that women will be unable to run for elective office or vote;

Whereas, on March 28, 2011, president of the general committee for the election of municipal council members 'Abd al-Rahman Dahmash stated, "We are not prepared for the participation of women in the municipal elections now.";

Whereas the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, Prince Saud Al Faisal, stated in an interview after the 2005 election that he assumed women would be allowed to vote in future elections, and that this would benefit the election process because women were "more sensible voters than men";

Whereas, on June 6, 2011, the Majlis Al-Shura Consultative Council adopted a resolution recommending that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ministry of Rural and Municipal Affairs take the necessary measures to include female voters in future municipal elections;

Whereas the decision by the Government of Saudi Arabia to continue to disenfranchise women in the September 2011 municipal elections is inconsistent with a series of commitments made by the Government of Saudi Arabia;

Whereas, in January 2003, Saudi Arabia proposed to the League of Arab States the "Covenant for Arab Reform," resulting in the adoption of the "Tunis Declaration" at the May 2004 Arab Summit, which declared, among other things, a "firm determination" to "pursue reform and modernization" by "widening women's participation in the political, economic, social, cultural and educational fields";

Whereas these declarations were reaffirmed at the Arab Summit in Algiers on

March 23, 2005, and at the Riyadh Summit held in Saudi Arabia on March 28, 2007;

Whereas, in April 2009, Saudi Arabia ratified the Arab Charter on Human Rights, which states in article 24(3), "Every citizen has the right . . . to stand for election or choose his representatives in free and impartial elections, in conditions of equality among all citizens that guarantee the free expression of his will.";

Whereas, on June 10, 2009, the Government of Saudi Arabia accepted the majority of the recommendations put forward by the United Nations Human Rights Council's Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review including to "[a]bolish all legislation, measures and practices that discriminate against women . . . In particular, to abolish legislation and practices which prevent women from participating fully in society on an equal basis with men," and to "end the strict system of male guardianship and give full legal identity to Saudi women";

Whereas the Government of Saudi Arabia has indicated that it is supportive of the human rights of women;

Whereas, in November 2010, Saudi Arabia was elected to the Executive Board of UN Women, emphasizing the commitment of the Government of Saudi Arabia to the rights of women;

Whereas 'Abd al-Rahman Dahmash, the president of the general committee for the election of municipal council members, has stated that Saudi women will be granted the right to vote in the next municipal elections scheduled to be held in 2015; and

Whereas while the United States Government acknowledges the deep cultural and religious traditions and sentiments within Saudi society, without the right to vote on par with men, women in Saudi Arabia are denied not only a fundamental human right but also the ability to contribute fully to the economic development, modernization, and prosperity of their own country: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) urges the Government of Saudi Arabia to allow women to fully participate, both as voters and candidates for elective office, in the September 2011 elections;

(2) supports the women of Saudi Arabia as they endeavor to exercise their human rights and participate equally in society; and

(3) believes that it is in the interest of Saudi Arabia and all nations to permit women to run for office, receive civic education, and vote in all elections.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration en bloc of the following resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 242, S. Res. 243, S. Res. 244.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, without any intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

The resolutions, with their preambles, read as follows:

S. RES. 242

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

Whereas ovarian cancer is the deadliest of all gynecologic cancers;

Whereas ovarian cancer is the 5th leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the United States;

Whereas almost 21,000 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2011, and 15,000 will die from the disease;

Whereas these deaths are those of our mothers, sisters, daughters, family members, and community leaders;

Whereas the mortality rate for ovarian cancer has not significantly decreased since the "War on Cancer" was declared 40 years ago;

Whereas all women are at risk for ovarian cancer, and 90 percent of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer do not have a family history that puts them at a higher risk;

Whereas some women, such as those with a family history of breast or ovarian cancer, are at a higher risk for the disease;

Whereas the pap test is sensitive and specific to the early detection of cervical cancer, but not ovarian cancer;

Whereas there is currently no reliable early detection test for ovarian cancer;

Whereas many people are unaware that the symptoms of ovarian cancer often include bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain, difficulty eating or feeling full quickly, urinary symptoms, and several other symptoms that are easily confused with other diseases;

Whereas in June 2007, the first national consensus statement on ovarian cancer symptoms was developed to provide consistency in describing symptoms to make it easier for women to learn and remember the symptoms;

Whereas there are known methods to reduce the risk of ovarian cancer, including prophylactic surgery, oral contraceptives, and breast-feeding;

Whereas, due to the lack of a reliable early detection test, 75 percent of cases of ovarian cancer are detected at an advanced stage, making the overall 5-year survival rate only 45 percent;

Whereas there are factors that are known to reduce the risk for ovarian cancer and that play an important role in the prevention of the disease;

Whereas awareness of the symptoms of ovarian cancer by women and health care providers can lead to a quicker diagnosis;

Whereas, each year during the month of September, the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance and its partner members hold a number of events to increase public awareness of ovarian cancer; and

Whereas September 2011 should be designated as "National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month" to increase public awareness of ovarian cancer: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the goals and ideals of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

S. RES. 243

Promoting increased awareness, diagnosis, and treatment of atrial fibrillation to address the high morbidity and mortality rates and to prevent avoidable hospitalizations associated with the disease

Whereas atrial fibrillation is a cardiac condition that results when the usual coordi-

nated electrical activity in the atria of the heart becomes disorganized and chaotic, hampering the ability of the atria to fill the ventricles with blood, and allowing blood to pool in the atria and form clots;

Whereas an estimated 2,500,000 people in the United States are living with atrial fibrillation, the most common "serious" heart rhythm abnormality that occurs in people older than 65 years of age;

Whereas atrial fibrillation is associated with an increased long-term risk of stroke, heart failure, and all-cause mortality, especially among women;

Whereas people older than 40 years of age have a 1-in-4 risk of developing atrial fibrillation in their lifetime;

Whereas an estimated 15 percent of strokes are the result of untreated atrial fibrillation, a condition that dramatically increases the risk of stroke to approximately 5 times more than the general population;

Whereas atrial fibrillation accounts for approximately 529,000 hospital discharges annually;

Whereas atrial fibrillation costs an estimated \$3,600 per patient for a total cost burden in the United States of \$15,700,000,000;

Whereas better patient and health care provider education is needed for the timely recognition of atrial fibrillation symptoms;

Whereas an electrocardiogram is an effective and risk-free screen for heart rhythm irregularities and can be part of a routine preventive exam;

Whereas there is a dearth of outcome performance measures that focus on the management of atrial fibrillation; and

Whereas evidence-based care guidelines improve patient outcomes and prevent unnecessary hospitalizations for individuals with undiagnosed atrial fibrillation and for patients once atrial fibrillation is detected: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of Health and Human Services should work with leaders in the medical community to explore ways to improve medical research, screening and prevention methods, and surveillance efforts in order to prevent and appropriately manage atrial fibrillation, including by—

(1) advancing the development of process and outcome measures for the management of atrial fibrillation by national developers;

(2) facilitating the adoption of evidence-based guidelines by the medical community to improve patient outcomes;

(3) advancing atrial fibrillation research and education by—

(A) encouraging basic science research to determine the causes and optimal treatments for atrial fibrillation;

(B) exploring development of screening tools and protocols to determine the risk of developing atrial fibrillation; and

(C) enhancing current surveillance and tracking systems to include atrial fibrillation; and

(4) improving access to appropriate medical care for patients suffering from atrial fibrillation by encouraging education programs that promote collaboration among the Federal health agencies and that increase public and clinician awareness of atrial fibrillation, including risk assessment, screening, treatment, and appropriate clinical management.

S. RES. 244

Congratulating Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. for 100 years of service to communities throughout the United States and the world, and commending Omega Psi Phi for upholding its cardinal principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift

Whereas Omega Psi Phi is the first international fraternal organization to be founded on the campus of a historically black college;

Whereas Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. was founded at Howard University in Washington, District of Columbia, on November 17, 1911, by undergraduates Oscar James Cooper, M.D., Frank Coleman, Ph.D., and Edgar Amos Love, D.D., and their faculty advisor Ernest Everett Just, Ph.D.;

Whereas, on November 17, 2011, Omega Psi Phi will celebrate 100 years of service to communities throughout the United States and the world in many diverse fields of endeavor;

Whereas, in 2011, Omega Psi Phi has more than 700 chapters throughout the United States, Bermuda, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, South Korea, Japan, Liberia, Germany, and Kuwait;

Whereas Omega Psi Phi has maintained a commitment to the betterment of mankind, the enhancement of the community, and the enrichment of collegiate men through dedication to its cardinal principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift;

Whereas Omega Psi Phi chapters participate in activities that uplift their communities, including voter registration, illiteracy awareness, Habitat for Humanity, health awareness programs, and youth mentoring;

Whereas the men of Omega Psi Phi have distinguished themselves in the field of science, including Dr. Ernest Everett Just, an internationally known biologist, Dr. Charles Drew, who perfected the use of blood plasma, Dr. Ronald E. McNair, an astronaut and member of the flight team aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger, Charles Bolden, an astronaut and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and Dr. Fred Drew Gregory, an astronaut and graduate of the United States Air Force Academy;

Whereas the men of Omega Psi Phi have distinguished themselves in the field of sports, including Dr. Robert M. Screen, the tennis coach at Hampton University and the coach with the most wins in the history of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, Michael Jordan, who was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2009, Charlie Ward, the winner of the Heisman Trophy in 1993 and a former guard with the New York Knicks of the National Basketball Association, Dr. LeRoy Walker, a former president of the United States Olympic Committee, and Terrance Trammell, a world champion hurdler;

Whereas the men of Omega Psi Phi have distinguished themselves in the field of government, including William Hastie, the first Governor of the Virgin Islands, Lawrence Douglas Wilder, the first black Governor of Virginia, Togo West, a former Secretary of the Army, James E. Clyburn, a Member of the House of Representatives from South Carolina and the 26th Majority Whip of the House of Representatives, Jesse Jackson, Jr., a Member of the House of Representatives from Illinois, and Hank Johnson, a Member of the House of Representatives from Georgia;

Whereas the men of Omega Psi Phi have distinguished themselves in the field of the

arts, including Langston Hughes, the poet laureate who excelled as a poet, playwright, novelist, lyricist, and humorist, and William "Count" Basie, an internationally known pianist, composer, arranger, and band leader; and

Whereas Omega Psi Phi will commemorate its history and promote its continued success at its centennial celebration to be held July 27 through July 31, 2011, in Washington, District of Columbia: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. for 100 years of service to communities throughout the United States and the world; and

(2) commends Omega Psi Phi for upholding its cardinal principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HOEVEN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE DEBT CEILING

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise once again to urge my colleagues to come together and address this debt ceiling to reduce our deficit and debt. We are at the 12th hour, and it is vitally important to the American people we move forward. I believe there is opportunity to do that. I think it is important we move forward in a way that makes sure we address the root of the problem. The problem is, we have a deficit and a debt that is out of control. As we work together to reach agreement on this very important debt ceiling issue, we need to be mindful that we have taken a big step forward in reducing the deficit and debt that our country faces.

Let's start by taking just a minute to look at the numbers. Today this country has total revenues coming into the Federal Government at about \$2.2 trillion. At the same time, we have expenses of \$3.7 trillion, leaving an annual deficit of more than \$1.5 trillion. Our debt is now in the range of \$14.5 trillion. It is hard to even imagine what \$1 trillion is, let alone \$14.5 trillion. We are borrowing 40 cents of every dollar we spend, and our debt is growing \$4 billion a day—\$4 billion a day. The unemployment is 9.2 percent, and the latest GDP growth came out for the second quarter for this year. It was an anemic 1.3 percent.

We need to get our economy growing. We need to get people back to work. We need to get people working, and at the same time we have to control our spending. It is time to act.

We are faced with two different pieces of legislation at this point. One is the Boehner plan, or the Budget Control Act of 2011, that the House will be

voting on very soon, I believe. Also, there is another plan, the Reid plan, in the Senate. Although they have some similarities, as configured now they are different plans and different approaches.

One, very importantly, gets us on the road to recovery. The other one doesn't. Let's take just a minute to talk about each of those respective plans to make sure we understand them. As they vote on them in the House, and as we face those important votes this evening or tomorrow or, hopefully, very soon, we can understand the differences between these approaches so we can find a way to come together on an approach that we can pass in this Chamber and also in the House, and, of course, that truly moves our country forward.

Under the Boehner proposal there is \$917 billion in savings that must be provided in order to raise the debt ceiling, and that allows the first tranche of increase in the debt ceiling in the amount of \$900 billion. Those savings have to be identified first—in fact, more than the amount of the debt ceiling increase.

Then the second tranche to increase the debt ceiling beyond that \$900 billion, an additional \$1.8 trillion in savings, has to be identified and provided—\$1.8 trillion in savings. That is \$2.7 trillion in savings to get this country back on the road to financial health in order to raise the debt ceiling. That is fundamentally important because that is the fundamental issue. It doesn't fully solve the problem, but it gets us on the right path, and we have to get going on the right path.

The second tranche of savings is done by a committee of six Members of the Senate—three Democrat, three Republican—and six Members of the House—three Republican, three Democrat—in a bipartisan committee. I think that committee offers us real opportunity. Here is why: The committee has to come up with recommendations for real savings by November. It is bipartisan, and it is a straight up-or-down vote in the House or the Senate to put those savings in place, and those savings must be identified before we raise the debt ceiling further. So it is something we have to do.

Let's think about that committee for a minute. That is a committee that can bring in the ideas of the Gang of 6. That is the committee that can bring in the Simpson-Bowles concept. That is a committee that can bring in tax reform. That is a committee that can bring in entitlement reform. These are the things we are going to need to address to get this economy going and get control of our spending. I know we have put together many pieces of legislation that have been bipartisan and have been very important for this country, and I think this committee truly offers us that opportunity. I hope

it is something we in the Senate can find a way to come together on and that we can get our colleagues in the House to join us.

In my view, I do think we need to engage in tax reform. I think the right kind of progrowth tax reform—some of the concepts brought forth by the Gang of 6—can truly help us to stimulate economic activity. I think the real way to get revenue for this country is through economic growth—not higher taxes, through economic growth. Expand the pie, the rising tide that lifts all boats.

If we can engage in tax reform to stimulate economic growth, we reduce that unemployment rate by more than 9 percent. That is good for every American, but it is also the way we create revenue to get us out of this deficit and debt at the same time that we control spending.

I absolutely believe it can work, and I think that we need to convince our Members we need to come together and make it happen.

The Boehner proposal also includes a balanced budget amendment, and I know that has been an issue of great debate in this Senate. I believe we need a balanced budget amendment. I have said it many times before. I come from a background in my State, as a Governor, where we balanced our budget every year. There are 49 States that either have a constitutional or statutory priority to balance their budget. We need that fiscal discipline in Washington, DC. I think we need it to make sure we don't get ourselves into this situation in the future years for ourselves or for these young people we see here today with us.

When we compare the approach of the Boehner plan, it is different from the Reid plan. It is important that we understand that. The Reid plan does provide that we identify \$900 billion in savings, but that provides that once we have identified that \$900 billion in savings, we raise the debt ceiling by \$2.7 trillion, unlike the Boehner proposal where we are finding significantly more savings than we are increasing the debt ceiling. This is just the opposite. We are increasing the debt ceiling \$2.7 trillion but only requiring \$900 billion in savings. That doesn't get at the root of the problem. That continues the underlying problem of too much spending and too much debt. Like the Boehner proposal, the Reid proposal does provide for a committee. That is important. That is good. Unlike the Boehner proposal, it doesn't require that committee bring back the savings and that we put those savings in place before the debt ceiling is increased. It doesn't have the teeth we need to make sure we get this job done for the American people, and that is a problem. They are different approaches, and it doesn't include a balanced budget amendment.

There has been talk that we must work together to find a way to bridge the gap and the differences, and I think that is true. We have to find ways to come together. Time is growing short. We need to get it done now. I think it is the approach identified in the Boehner plan that we need to take. We need to get our colleagues in this Chamber to join with us to do it. It is the only piece of legislation that can pass the House, but, more importantly, it is a big step forward. It is a big step in the right direction for our country.

I thank the Chair.

I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I would ask to speak for 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, while we are waiting for people to decide what the rest of us can vote on in regard to cutting down on the national debt and what we can do about being able to continue our government to function tomorrow, all of this is about uncertainty, and we read about the uncertainty every day in the newspaper because people don't know what we are going to do. That then causes businesses, small and large, not to hire, and it seems as though they have a lot of cash they would like to spend and invest wisely. Some of that would surely create a lot of jobs and get our economy moving. Of course, the situation today where the revision of the quarterly economic growth has come out even less for the second quarter than we anticipated, it brings a lot of things to mind as to what we can do to create jobs. With 9.2 percent unemployment, that has to be our concentration.

I would like to advise my colleagues that a lot can be learned from history. We must change course if we want to change jobs. The 2007 to 2009 recession was officially over during the year 2009, and here we are still with 9.2 percent unemployment.

So this month happens to be the second-year anniversary of the official start of the recovery. But what kind of a recovery, with 9.2 percent unemployment? It seems to be an unofficial recovery; in other words, a recovery in name only. We have had about 2.8 percent annual growth average per year of that 2 years; and, of course, I just said the growth of the last quarter was revised downward. When we compare what we have during this recovery from what was a very bad recession with the recovery of the last deep recession, which was in 1981 and 1982, we

compare this 2.8-percent growth now with a 7.1-percent growth for the recovery after the 1981 to 1982 deep recession—of course, we can go even further because, as I said, compare 7.1-percent growth after the deep recession of 1981 and 1982 with the 2.8-percent average growth so far during this 2 years of recovery, which has now slowed down to probably 1.5-percent growth. So statistically and actually, and for the people who are unemployed, recovery has, in fact, been very stalled since its very beginning 2 years ago, as we celebrate the 2-year anniversary of a so-called recovery, and still with 9.2-percent unemployment.

I say we must change course. If we want to go back to comparing now with the 1983 and 1984 period of time when we had a much more vibrant recovery, people tend to blame the weak economy today, during this recovery, on high personal savings rates. But, in fact, people are spending more now than they did in the 1983 to 1984 recovery because, today, the savings rate is about 5.6 percent, and in 1983 to 1984, the other recovery, it was 9.4 percent. So we can't say people aren't spending enough is why we don't have a recovery.

Then they tend to blame it on weak housing, but if we look at the difference between now and 1983 and 1984, that doesn't seem to be a very good reason.

Net exports are less now than they were in the 1983 and 1984 recovery. The growth of consumption and the growth of investment is 60 to 70 percent less now than it was in the 1983 and 1984 recovery.

So what can we learn from this history that made the recovery of 1983 and 1984, the last great recession we had compared to this recession, better than the recovery now? Why have we stalled today when we didn't stall in a comparable period of recovery after the last great recession? If the above doesn't explain it, then what does explain it? Why, then, was the recovery of the 1980s so much more vigorous than the recovery now if we are, in fact, in a recovery—and people would doubt that.

That is the question where I think we can learn from history. Political leaders ought to learn from the lessons of the past. There are a lot of lessons that can be learned going back over a long period of time: mistakes made in the Great Depression of the 1930s, or let's say the gigantic inflation of the 1970s. The 1930s and the 1970s were tough decades, but during those tough times and remembering them—and maybe other tough times as well; I am just picking out the Great Depression of the 1930s and the gigantic inflation of the 1970s—but these lessons learned by political leaders in the 1980s and 1990s led us to very unprecedented growth during those two decades when 44 million jobs

were created. If 44 million jobs were created during those decades, why do we have such small job growth now? I think the answer is that we went back to basic principles that this country was founded upon: political and economic freedom. The principles that dominated the decades of the 1980s and 1990s when 44 million new jobs were created aligned with the principles that are the foundation of our country: political and economic freedoms. Those were limited government, incentives to produce, incentives for entrepreneurship, emphasis upon private markets, and rule of law. These tended to be in ascendancy during the decades of the 1980s and 1990s and it led to monetary policy that brought about price stability. It brought about lower marginal tax rates. Regulations encouraged competition and innovation. We had welfare decisions that were devolved down to the States where they could be handled more efficiently, and we had spending restraints that led to balanced budgets during the late 1990s, paying down \$568 billion on the national debt.

So there was great hope that what was done during the 1980s and 1990s that brought about 44 million new jobs would extend into the 21st century and that we would continue to bring market-based principles into Social Security and other entitlement programs, bring market-based principles into education, bring market-based principles into health care. Because if these market-based principles worked during the 1980s and 1990s of the last century and created 44 million jobs, the success of that ought to carry over into other government policies so we could continue down the road of creating jobs instead of stagnating as we have now.

But sometime after 2000—and that doesn't mean just after President Obama was elected, because there was a Republican President before that—but sometime after 2000 both political parties compromised—and I want to emphasize both political parties—on the principles of limited government. They did it for a multitude of reasons. Some of these reasons were that they thought government ought to control business cycles to a greater extent, that we ought to increase home ownership, and we know how that worked out: We ought to have a policy that people ought to be able to buy a house they can't afford. Now we know that is a stupid policy, but at the time we didn't know it; also the prescription drug issue, as an example, although there were some market-based principles put into that.

But, anyway, there were a multitude of reasons why we ought to compromise the principle of limited government, but it ended up more interventionist and it made the Federal Government more powerful, and we ended up with unintended consequences: the financial crisis we still

remember and we are still trying to get out of; the recession, which I have already talked about, of 2007 and 2009, of which we are celebrating 2 years of supposed recovery that isn't real recovery; we have had a great amount of expanded government debt; and now we have this nonexistent recovery with 9.2-percent unemployment.

I think, looking back, how did this happen? I was here when it happened. It reminds me of the story about—well, I guess I ought to say it and then give the story. It happened so slowly, and all of these things added up to be bad to bring about the great recession, and now not a very good recovery, because each one of them happened independent of the other and without one relating to the other. So it reminds me of the story of the frog and the water. If you throw a frog in boiling water, he will jump out and live. If you put a frog in cold water and gradually heat it up to a boil, it is going to accommodate the changes and die. So these policies slowly developed and we got into the situation we are in right now. I will say it again: Change came so slowly, it crept up on us.

Then, of course, what happened? The crash came. We had this Federal intervention in housing. I stated it before: Buy a house even if you can't afford it. We eliminated a lot of Federal Reserve accountability, particularly when they didn't have to report on monetary growth on a regular basis as they did before. Then we had these countercyclical fiscal policies that failed. We had, during periods of growth in our economy, unrealistically low interest rates by the Federal Reserve action. Then, of course, we had government bailouts. This has led to things all getting worse since 2009. We had more intervention. We had loose monetary policies, QE1 and QE2, of the Federal Reserve. We had a stimulus plan that was supposed to keep unemployment under 8 percent, and since it was passed in February of 2009, unemployment has never been below that. It has always been above 8 percent. It is 9.2 percent now, but it was even over 10 percent. We had the Cash For Clunkers Program. We had the first-time homeowners tax credit. All of these together have not brought recovery, even though the economists tell us we are in the second-year anniversary of a recovery.

What did they bring that has stalled the recovery? What they have brought is more uncertainty, and more uncertainty is bad for the economy because, as I said when I started out, there is plenty of money out there in corporations. There are plenty of small businesses that want to hire, but they do not know what we in this Congress are going to do to them so they are not moving forward. Consequently, the unemployment rate is not going down. And right this very hour, as people are

trying to find something that can pass this body and the other body so we do not have default, it even brings more uncertainty, and you read it in the morning paper, this morning's paper. So you have to come to the conclusion, with all of this intervention bringing about all this uncertainty, that big government is not a very good manager.

Then, as I said, this did not happen just since President Obama became President. This happened over the period of time of this decade and maybe even going back a little bit into the other decade. But just since President Obama was elected, we have added yet more complex intervention: the health care reform bill, Dodd-Frank, the Consumer Protection Bureau.

The President this very week has been talking about increasing taxes, only he does not use the word "taxes." We have to have more "revenue" or we have to have "balance." But it still adds up, all of these things out there, that government does not know what all these rules and regulations—do you realize that in health care reform, there are 1,690 delegations of authority to the Secretaries to write regulations? And they are not going to be written for years. But that brings so much uncertainty.

So we have more uncertainty, plus unintended consequences that come out of these, like right now, rising health care costs because of the bill, deterring new investments because of Dodd-Frank and deterring risk-taking. Risk-taking is what entrepreneurship is all about, and entrepreneurship is mostly related to small businesses, where 70 percent of the new jobs are created.

Government intervention is the problem because government intervention or government not making decisions all adds up to more uncertainty. So I think the solution is to unwind government intervention in all these regulations of EPA and all the other government agencies. Every day in the newspaper, you see some new regulation coming out. If you want to get people to hire, you ought to just shut down the printing presses for a while.

One sure thing though: We can thank God we have run out of monetary and fiscal ammunition because it has not worked anyway. We are going to probably have a great deal of inflation because of what the Fed did. We have no more spending we can do because all the spending we have done has not done the good it was supposed to do. We need no more greater debt, and we do not have any more zero interest rates to put out there because that is practically where it is right now.

Instead, what we need is spending controls, and what we need is free market principles. Historical evidence shows what works and what does not. I said what works and what does not is

shown from the lessons learned from the depression of the 1980s and the gigantic inflation decade of the 1970s. So people in the 1980s and 1990s changed to policies that were market-oriented, and we created 44 million new jobs. So we ought to be learning from history. Historical evidence shows what works and what does not. And right this day, in this town, interventionists in the market control today. We need to restore less intervention, the policies of the 1980s and the 1990s to restore jobs. Remember, it created 44 million new jobs.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WHITEHOUSE). The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, are we under a time agreement?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 10 minutes.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, for several months now, I have been on the floor speaking, urging both Republicans and Democrats to listen to Americans and take this unique opportunity we have before us to do what is right for our country's future.

Mr. President, 2010 sent an unmistakable message. Americans do not want us to spend beyond our means, more than we take in. They do not want higher taxes. They do not want budget gimmicks, and more smoke and mirrors. They want real, serious solutions to address our real, serious problem. We have worked several months to try to do that.

As I talk to Hoosiers all across the State of Indiana—businesspeople, retired workers, young people, and others—I sense the fear, frustration, disappointment and even anger in a growing number of people that started in 2010 and is accumulating as we continue to careen toward a potential budget default without a sensible or serious plan in place to get us back on the right track toward fiscal health.

American families are scared. They are scared, and they are frustrated, and I think rightfully so. They are worried about paying next month's bills. They are worried about getting a loan to buy a house or credit to help support a business. They are worried about being able to pay for their kids to go to school in the fall, just a few weeks away.

Our seniors are scared. Throughout this debate, they have been used over and over again as a political football for scare tactics. My phones are ringing off the hook with seniors basically saying: We have been told you are going to take away all of our benefits, but that is absolutely not true. We are trying to save those benefits. We are trying to take the reasonable measures necessary so those benefits for Social Security and Medicare are there for seniors in the future.

American businesses are frustrated. They are sick and tired of Washington's inability to act. The Washington

Post reported this week that “business leaders are growing exasperated with Washington. And they say dysfunction in the political system is holding them back from hiring and investing.” The markets are jittery. We have seen a pretty good drop in the markets just this week. The dollar fell to a new low against the yen, and the yen is not doing that well. We continue to see stocks tumble.

So many have asked: Why haven’t we acted yet? What are we waiting for? Why haven’t we passed a bill to avoid this default? Why are we in this period of uncertainty, taking it right up as the clock ticks toward August 2?

While the President refused to even put forth a plan, House Republicans have been working to pass legislation. They passed the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act. They brought it here to the Senate floor. We were not even allowed to debate or vote on it or have amendments. For those who do not like it, there would have been an opportunity to improve it, there would have been an opportunity at least to have a “yes” or “no” vote on whether this was the path to where we needed to go. But we did not have that opportunity.

Now, even as I speak, we are moving toward another vote in the House—something similar coming forward tonight by Speaker BOEHNER and Republicans in the House. Unfortunately, it looks as if we are going to be blocked from debating that bill. There will be yet another motion to table, to deny the opportunity to move forward.

We know there are things going on behind the scenes, but this does not provide any assurance to the American people that whatever is being debated and put together is going to solve the problem. We are days away from exhausting our financial options, and we do not even allow those bills that do come before us to be debated.

Now, we have few options left in these few days remaining:

We can, No. 1, default and watch our U.S. economy be downgraded, interest rates rise, and the confidence in the United States as a place to safely invest your money deteriorate all around the world. This would be the first default in American history, except for a technical glitch some many years back.

The second option before us is we can pass legislation that is below where we need to be and where we ought to be, but we were not able to get there. Although it would avoid a default, it might not avoid a downgrade of our credit because it has not matched and met the minimal requirements of what most who have analyzed this situation have understood we need to undertake.

The third option—which has not been talked about too much, but several of us have been discussing this possibility—is to pass a short-term extension that will avert a default and allow

us to continue to work for a serious fix that gets to those minimal measures necessary to make progress toward fiscal health.

That first option is not a viable option. Default has consequences we cannot begin to understand, and eventually those bills which the American people and their congressional representatives have put in place have to be paid because those promises were made.

The second measure—it may be what we are faced with, perhaps the best of the worst; is passing subpar legislation that begins the process of addressing it but is woefully short of really what needs to be done.

The third option, the short-term extension, is a way we can avoid the default and we can achieve cuts for the amount of necessary borrowing authority to get us through this period of time, whether it is 2 weeks or 4 weeks or 8 weeks. This short-term period of time would allow us to make yet one last-ditch chance to try to bring forward something that will avoid default but also put us on the road to fiscal health.

So I am urging my colleagues, if we cannot come up with something better than what we have, to give that serious consideration. What are those minimum levels? A \$4 trillion cut over 10 years has been told to us over and over and over by anyone who has analyzed this situation as the minimal amount necessary to go forward. Others suggest quite a bit more. The Gang of 6 was working on, I believe, at least \$4 trillion cut over that period of time. Simpson-Bowles provided for \$4 trillion or more. Senator COBURN has brought out a plan, and others have suggested we need to be in the \$9 trillion to \$10 trillion range. But everyone has said you need to at least be at \$4 trillion, and we are short of that, considerably.

We are also short of having serious commitment, plan and timetable to address the structural unraveling of our mandatory entitlement systems—Medicare and Medicaid and Social Security. This has been the political football kicked around, scaring seniors and others by saying Congress is here to try to take away their benefits, when actually we are here trying to save those benefits. But without structural changes in those programs, it is driving this deficit to a point which will be unsustainable in terms of providing benefits for those who need them.

We are going forward without a commitment to balance our budget, which I think is absolutely, ultimately the only thing that will keep us from doing binge spending here. The tendency is to want to say yes to everybody and no to nobody. We need something that will force us to be faithful to the Constitution of the United States, to have a balanced budget and not spend more than we take in.

Also, we all know we need an overhaul of our complicated Tax Code to make American businesses more competitive and to spur economic growth. After all is said and done, what this is really about is getting our fiscal house in order, getting our economy moving again—there was a terrible number this morning about the virtually small, almost nothing, lack of growth in the first and second quarters of this year—but getting the economy growing again so we can get people back to work.

That is what it is all about. We are not here to have Draconian cuts just for the fun of it. We are here to get our budget in balance so we can get our economy moving so people can have viable jobs for the future, so those kids coming out of college have a place to go, so the 55-year-old worker who is laid off and may never get back to work can get back to work, and so those who are seeking meaningful employment to pay their mortgage and raise a family and buy a home and send their kids to school will have the ability to do that. That is what it is all about. We are not doing this just for the fun of it. It is no fun to tell people we have to cut this and cut that and sacrifice here and sacrifice there. But we have put ourselves in the position where we have no other choice. To spend all of this time here, 7 months of diligent work by a lot of people—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator’s 10 minutes is up.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 1 more minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COATS. Thank you, Mr. President. And I thank my colleague, also, for her patience.

To send us here, after 7 months, and come up with something that is short of the minimum, that continues the uncertainty—are they going to be able to pull it together with this two-stage process and gathering Senators and Congressman together to put a plan together that we have not been able to do in the first 7 months but we will do it in the next 5 months? A lot of people have some real problems with that.

I want to close by saying we cannot give up on the process of getting America back to fiscal health. We have to keep working. I have proposed a way here to try to do something better than what we are going to be faced with in doing in order to avoid this default.

I am hoping we have the opportunity to do that. If not, I am hoping we have the commitment to go forward and do what we all know we need to do for the sake of the future of this country—the country we love and want to be prosperous for the sake of the future of American families and their children.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise during this very critical debate

about the deficit crisis to talk for a few minutes about what this means for Michigan and for the families and the businesses I represent. I grew up in a small northern town of Clare, MI, where my family ran the automobile dealership, the Oldsmobile dealership, and my mom was a nurse at the local hospital.

My first job was washing the cars on the car lot. It was a time when people believed in America and the full faith and credit of America. I cannot imagine—I cannot imagine—my parents and my grandparents ever believing it would be possible for America to default on its obligations.

But here we are today, and that is a very real possibility. It is outrageous because it does not have to be this way. We have been through a lot in Michigan. I know you know that, Mr. President. We have had more people out of work than any other State in this recession. In fact, we have been hit harder, longer, deeper than any other State. We took the brunt of the recession, and people are now just starting to get back on their feet. They are the lucky ones.

When people in Washington talk about this deficit crisis as though it is just another political game, it is not a game. It is not a game to the families I represent. It is not a game to seniors I represent. It is not a game to the small businesses or to the manufacturers that have worked very hard to turn things around and move forward in our State. It is not a game to the people who are worried about what is going to happen on Tuesday if we cannot come together and create a solution, which we absolutely have to do.

There are nearly 2 million people in Michigan, senior citizens and people with disabilities, who have earned their Social Security benefits and might not receive them next week. We have 1.6 million seniors, people such as my mom, who may not be able to see their doctor and use their Medicare next week.

Michigan has 700,000 veterans, men and women who have bravely served our country, and they expect us to keep our promise to them as a country. Those are the people I am thinking about today as we are trying to find a bipartisan compromise.

We have to solve this problem and we need to get it done now and there is no reason that cannot happen. I am hearing from small business owners. I have been on the phone today talking to small business owners, the people whom we need in Michigan to turn the economy around. They are doing everything they can to grow their companies and to create jobs. But now they need customers, and they have customers who are saying they are afraid to make a purchase, they are holding onto their dollars, they are afraid to buy a house or furniture.

Today, I talked to friend of mine in northern Michigan, a prominent auto dealer, who indicated he has people who normally come in every 3 years and buy a new car, and they are just sitting because they do not know what is going to happen. They do not know what is going to happen in the economy. They do not know what is going to happen to them and their families and they are waiting. They are waiting for us. They are waiting for Washington to get its act together and to solve this problem and to move on to the other challenges in front of us, particularly to focus on jobs.

Our recovery has already taken hits. We saw that in the economic numbers that came out this morning. Families from Michigan have already taken the one-two punch of higher food prices, higher gas prices, and now we have people talking seriously about letting the country default which will lead to higher interest rates for people trying to raise their families, for small businesses trying to hire new employees.

The last thing they need—that anybody needs—is higher interest rates. A default would cripple the ability of our companies to create jobs, and it is the people who are already hurting the most, the middle-class working families, who will pay the biggest price, once again. That is wrong.

Worst of all, that scenario would be entirely self-inflicted by people on both ends of this building who are not willing to come together and work together on a bipartisan basis to resolve this. There is absolutely no reason why this country needs to default on its obligations. There is no reason.

I am hearing from seniors in Michigan who are scared that they might not get their Social Security checks next week. They are living check to check—benefits they have worked their whole lives to earn, and it is absolutely ridiculous they would have to worry about that in the greatest country in the world and all because people in Washington cannot seem to sit down and work this out.

For many seniors in Michigan, that is all they have to live on. That is all they have to pay their rent, to buy groceries, to pay for their medicine. They are worried about how they are going to live if this country goes into default.

I am hearing from veterans in Michigan, many of whom were left disabled after their service, who are angry, and rightly so, that the country they fought for might default on their payments for the first time.

I am hearing from young people who are worried about their future and the future of their generation if Congress allows the full faith and credit of the United States to come into question.

We all know it is critical to be able to cut the deficit. We also need to grow the economy. We need a full, balanced package. But we understand the crit-

ical nature and the importance of cutting this deficit that has been allowed to accumulate over the last decade. We have already cut spending. We will cut more.

The bipartisan plan that will soon come before us, and I wish to thank Senator REID for his leadership in bringing this forward and working so diligently and our colleagues across the aisle who have been working in the Senate to create a bipartisan plan. But the plan that will be before us cuts spending by nearly \$2.5 trillion, and it does even more. It creates a second step that is absolutely critical if we are going to tackle the rest of the story, the rest of the country's challenges so we can create a truly balanced approach to eliminating the deficit.

People in Michigan understand that to do that, that includes cutting the special subsidies and other special interest spending through the Tax Code and creating a fairer Tax Code, so that reducing our deficit is not, once again, put on the backs of middle-class families and senior citizens who have already paid a heavy price.

This has to be balanced, long term, fair, to solve the problem and allow us to grow the economy and create jobs. I so appreciate and have worked very hard to make sure the plan in front of us protects and maintains Medicare and Social Security. This has been a top priority for our majority.

The plan Senator REID will be offering does that. Most important, the Senate plan creates certainty for the economy and the markets until 2012. People in Michigan do not want us having this debate every month. They certainly do not want us having this over and over and over again and we know because we have heard that the plan which will come to a vote in the House, unfortunately, will not have bipartisan support, does not solve the problem, does not stop us from being downgraded in our credit rating, does not put us in a situation for long-term problem solving.

It keeps us stuck in the mud for months over and over again by only addressing the debt ceiling for 4 months or 6 months. We will be right back here again stuck when we need to be able to solve this and move on and focus on growing our economy so businesses can create jobs. People in Michigan have had enough. I have had enough. They have had enough.

One man called my office earlier today. He said: I do not want to relive this nightmare in a few months. I could not agree with him more. We cannot be in a situation where we are not creating economic certainty, solving this problem, and then moving forward as a country in a global economy. We have a lot of work to do to be able to compete around the world and make sure our businesses are creating jobs here at home.

Families and small businesses in Michigan have been through enough. It is time to get this done. We have to do it together. It is about working together. It is about creating a bipartisan plan, and it is time to get that done. I know my colleagues in the Senate on both sides of the aisle know the seriousness of this situation. I certainly know our leader does, and I am grateful for his persistence and focus in bringing people together to solve this.

We have a serious debt crisis that we can and must solve, and the House must join us in a bipartisan solution. We also have a jobs crisis in our country. We need to resolve the current impasse and then focus like a laser on growing our economy so companies can create jobs, so we can get out of debt, and we can stay out of debt.

I would strongly urge my colleagues, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle in this Chamber, to continue to work together to find a solution, to come together, to get this done in the Senate. I would urge my colleagues, on behalf of the hard-working men and women of the State of Michigan, it is time to come together to get this done. We know what needs to be done. We know it has to be bipartisan, and we know we have to work together. People in Michigan are saying enough is enough. It is time to get this done.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be extended until 6:45 p.m. today, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, and that at 6:45 I be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Utah is recognized.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to give my full speech.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE DEBT CEILING

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, according to President Obama and Treasury Secretary Geithner, the Federal government will default on its obligations in 5 days, on August 2, 2011.

It is clear that some Democrats, including President Obama, want to use this fiscal crisis to raise taxes.

Under the guise of closing loopholes, the administration wants to set the stage for tax increases to finance historic levels of government spending.

When this President came into office, he saw himself as the second coming of Franklin Roosevelt. He was going to finish the work that LBJ was unable to complete. And a fawning media was happy to encourage his grandiose vision for national economic reordering.

I get a big kick out of this "Time" magazine article entitled "The New Deal."

Using the financial crisis of 2008 and 2009, he was going to transform the United States into a European-style social democracy.

Businesses, and the individuals who start them, would no longer be free entities with property rights. They would be arms of the state that exist for the purpose of funding ever expanding welfare programs.

Taxation would no longer be a necessary evil, with citizens and businesses recognizing a legal duty to pay what was owed, but understanding that they were ceding their property rights to the government to provide for certain public goods.

Instead, businesses and taxpaying citizens would be obligated to share their wealth with the state.

Because the progressives running the administration do not believe in natural rights to liberty and property because they think everything a family or business makes is in fact due only to the largesse of the state paying taxes is no longer something that must be done, but something that people should want to do.

They owe it to the government to pay taxes, since that money is not really theirs anyway. In this new progressive political community that the President hopes to create, taxation becomes shared sacrifice, and taxpayers become gleeful participants in "spreading the wealth around," as the President once put it.

But the President and his party have hit a brick wall. The spending part was easy. The taxing part is hard.

For all of the talk about how Republicans are divided on the issue of raising the debt ceiling, you only have to scratch the surface to see the deep divisions among Democrats.

The reason that the President has offered up no plan to reduce spending, and the reason Democrats have not passed a budget in over 800 days, is because they are badly divided.

They all want the massive levels of new spending that the President pushed through in his stimulus and ObamaCare. But not all want to pay for it.

They all want to maintain existing levels of entitlement spending. But not all want to raise the taxes necessary to pay for it.

They know that some of their constituents like all this spending, but they know that the vast majority of Americans reject the President's funding of his leviathan state through higher taxes.

So they do nothing.

The President has no plan.

I want to repeat that again.

The President has no plan.

Maybe if we shout it from the rooftops, the media will start to take notice.

The President has no plan. And Senate Democrats don't either; certainly not one that addresses our current fiscal crisis.

The critical issue we face is more than imminent default on our obligations. That is unlikely to happen. It certainly should not happen. In my opinion, it will only happen if the President wants it to happen. On Wednesday, I asked the Financial Stability Oversight Council, which is chaired by Secretary Geithner, to provide me and the rest of this institution with an assessment of the cash position of the United States. As Congress considers options for raising the debt ceiling, it needs to know precisely how Treasury plans to pay its bills, and when it is going to fall short of cash to do so.

I asked that the Secretary respond to this reasonable request by yesterday afternoon. The Secretary chose not to respond. I want to be clear that this unresponsiveness by his Treasury Secretary is unacceptable. President Obama needs to understand that this failure to provide the Senate with critical information is not tolerable and will not be forgotten.

Still, I am confident that the Nation will get through this immediate crisis, and there will be no default. But that is only part of the problem. The real issue remains. The United States cannot support the level of spending President Obama has given us and that Democrats from the New Deal onward have bequeathed to the Nation in the form of ever expanding entitlement spending programs.

That is the real issue. And the majority leader's proposal does not address this, any more than the President's White House bromides about a balanced solution address it.

The real threat to this Nation is not the threat of a downgrade due to default.

The real long-term threat is a downgrade of the Nation's credit rating because President Obama has written checks that this country can't cash.

The real threat is that interest rates will go up for businesses, families, students, homeowners and anyone who has to borrow money. The economic ramifications of a downgrade threaten to bowl over our fragile economy. Job creation remains weak. Annualized growth in real inflation-adjusted GDP was only 1.3 percent in the second quarter. This follows on the heels of .4 percent growth in the first quarter.

Along with many others, I have said that if we do not get our spending under control, we are on a glide path to Greece and other Eurozone countries whose credit ratings are destroyed and whose bonds have junk status. Those countries would not have solved their problems by allowing the government to borrow more. Their only way out was to reduce the size of their welfare states.

Yet this is what the President, and the Treasury Secretary, and congressional Democrats are suggesting as a solution. They would have you believe that everything will be set right if only we give the President the legal authority to borrow an additional \$2.7 trillion.

Americans are not buying this snake oil. I know that Utahns are not buying it. They understand that our nation's fiscal problem is spending. Giving the President more power to borrow more money is not going to fix that problem. Reducing spending is going to fix that problem.

The numbers could not be more clear.

As we can see, here are the Federal taxes and spending as a percentage of GDP. The red line is the spending line. We can see it is out of control in the 2012 Obama budget. The blue line is the average of what it has been in the past. We can see it is tremendously below where the President's budget is taking us.

Federal spending, as a share of our economy is trending at a pace 15 to 20 percent greater than its historical average of 20.6 percent of GDP. If we leave in place this year's level of taxation, including the marginal rate relief of the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts, and patch the alternative minimum tax—or AMT—the Federal tax take will equal or exceed its historic share of the economy.

Liberals suggest that the deficit and debt must be addressed through tax increases.

This is either deliberately misleading or sadly delusional.

Maybe we have found the truly shovel-ready policies of my friends on the other side, and they smell like a freshly fertilized farmer's field. Or maybe my friends on the other side simply refuse to come to grips with reality. But sticking their heads in the sand is not an option here. The markets, and the American people, understand the nature of our crisis.

Non-defense discretionary spending is at historic levels. And our entitlement programs are headed for bankruptcy. This fiscal year we have a projected budget deficit of \$1.5 trillion.

We have a debt of over \$14.3 trillion.

President Obama's budget assumes \$13 trillion in new debts. This spending needs to be brought to heel. But the proposal of the majority leader does not get the job done.

It allows for the largest debt ceiling increase in history.

This makes sense. President Obama has given us the largest deficits in our history, and his borrowing needs are historic as well.

To pay for his political science experiment to turn the United States into Sweden, he earlier required a \$1.9 trillion debt limit increase. That was the largest in the Nation's history.

But now he is coming back for another \$2.7 trillion.

Conservatives understand that this is not sustainable. It is one thing to raise the debt limit. It is another thing to do so without reforms that would keep us from getting into a fiscal crisis of this magnitude again. That is why I, and many others in Congress, pledged to vote against a debt ceiling increase prior to the institution of immediate spending cuts and spending caps, and sending a strong balanced budget amendment with taxpayer protections to the States for ratification.

To be clear, that commitment to cut, cap, balance passed the House with bipartisan support. The Senate could have taken up that bill last week, but Democrats chose to table it rather than debate it. And the President chose to tell us what he did not support rather than what he does support.

Any increase in the debt limit needs to be accompanied by serious spending reductions, but the bill of the majority leader does not get us there. All it does is provide President Obama with an opportunity to borrow more money to pay for more spending.

The President would get a \$2.7 trillion debt limit increase but less than \$1 trillion in cuts.

And most of those cuts are gimmicks. They assume savings from war spending that the President has not requested and that is unlikely to materialize.

It does not include a balanced budget amendment. And most importantly from my perspective, it assumes a massive tax increase in 2013 by allowing the 2001 and 2003 tax relief to expire, allowing the AMT to hit middle-class taxpayers, and allowing for increases in estate taxes that are a small business and job killer.

You won't see that though in the talking points. They bury the breadth of that tax hit in their baseline assumptions.

But we know that President Obama and his liberal allies are planning massive tax increases on the middle class. While their rhetoric suggests that we can fix our debt crisis just by raising taxes on the rich and closing loopholes, the reality is that they are setting the stage to roll back tax expenditures.

And cutting back tax expenditures will be a tax increase on middle income itemizers.

When Democrats talk about tax expenditures, they are talking about your ability to purchase a home, or save for retirement, or give to your church, or put away money for your children's education.

That is where the money is. It is not in bonus depreciation for corporate jets. And it is not in tax benefits for energy companies. It is not in changing the treatment of carried interest for private equity companies. It is not in repealing the deduction for mortgage interest related to yachts used as second homes.

This issue of tax expenditures is confusing and demands greater clarity. As ranking member of the Finance Committee, it is my responsibility to correct the record on what the curtailment or elimination of tax expenditures would really mean for taxpayers and families.

I have spoken about tax expenditures a number of times in the last few weeks, but given the failure of the President and his congressional allies to take on our spending crisis, I want to reemphasize the essential point—if Democrats are allowed to balance the budget their way, it will result in new tax burdens for the middle class.

Tax expenditures are not "spending through the tax code." They are an opportunity for you to keep more of your own money.

And they are not, by and large, special interest benefits that disproportionately benefit wealthy taxpayers. The Democrats' rhetoric on expenditures does not jibe with the reality of our Tax Code. The data are clear. Tax expenditures tend to skew towards taxpayers below the President's definition of the rich.

Let's work through some examples of what concrete proposals to cutback tax expenditures would yield in revenue and what they will mean to middle income Americans.

I am going to take a look at the budget outline presented by our friend and colleague, the distinguished chairman of the Senate Budget Committee. The Senate Democratic Caucus outline was discussed among the larger Democratic Caucus. Republican members, including long-standing Budget Committee members, were briefed by reading the details of the outline in the Washington Post. The Senate Democratic budget called for \$2.38 trillion in tax increases when measured against the current policy baseline. The current policy baseline represents the level of taxation Americans are currently paying.

According to materials released by Senate Budget Committee Democrats, they are looking at three categories of tax increases.

The first category would raise marginal rates on single taxpayers with \$500,000 and over in income and married couples with \$1,000,000 and over in income. For those taxpayers, including many small business owners, the marginal rates would rise by 17 percent. According to the Tax Policy Center, the TPC, a think tank often cited by our friends on the other side—certainly not a conservative think tank—at least 38 percent of flowthrough income, much of it small business income, would be subject to the marginal rate hike.

The marginal rate on capital gains and dividend income would rise by 33 percent. Keep in mind the IRS Statistics of Income group reports that 65

percent of capital gains income would be hit by this tax hike. Add in the tax increases from ObamaCare, and in less than 18 months the marginal rates on capital gains and dividends will rise by 59 percent. Is that a positive signal for investors to move capital into projects? That tax hike represents \$380 billion of tax increases in the Democratic budget.

Now, look at this chart, the Senate Democratic budget tax increases. The total tax increases needed are \$2.380 trillion. They suggest, No. 1, raise the marginal rates on singles over \$500,000 and married couples over \$1,000,000. That would be \$380 billion. No. 2, closing corporate loopholes and curtailing offshore tax evasion is \$262 billion. After that, the remaining tax increases needed from tax expenditures would be \$1.738 trillion.

So, again, we would take the total tax increases needed—\$2.380 trillion—

reduce that by the \$380 billion gained from raising the marginal rates on singles earning over \$500,000 and married couples over \$1,000,000 and closing corporate loopholes and curtailing offshore tax evasion with \$262 billion, and the remaining tax increases needed from the tax expenditures alone would be \$1.738 trillion.

The second category of tax increases in the Democratic budget is a set of concepts we have heard about for years in Senate floor speeches. President Obama frequently refers to them as well. We also see these concepts mentioned in the vast left-of-center DNC think tank establishment and by liberal pundits. They fall into two groups of proposals: The first group is closing corporate loopholes, and the second group is curtailing offshore tax avoidance or evasion.

Again, as you can see, they want to increase taxes by \$2.380 trillion by rais-

ing the marginal rates on singles earning over \$500,000 and married couples earning over \$1,000,000, which is \$380 billion. Then they want to close corporate loopholes and curtail offshore tax evasion, and they think they can save \$262 billion on that. That still leaves \$1.738 trillion.

The Finance Committee Republican staff compiled all known, specified, and scored proposals in these two groups. Staff calculated the proposals as summing \$642 billion over 10 years. The numbers are Joint Committee on Taxation scores.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a summary of the staff calculations.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

	JCT Estimates	Treasury estimates (in billions)
Other revenue changes and loophole closers	\$ 262	\$ 336
Eliminate fossil-fuel preferences	40.7	46.2
Increase unemployment taxes	47.4	61.0
Simplify the tax code	(10.7)	0.4
Reduce the tax gap and make reforms	(10.1)	1.4
Modify estate and gift tax	3.1	\$ 19.50
Sum	\$ 332	\$ 464
Total tax expenditures from Conrad budget	\$ 2,380	\$2,380
Subtract estimates from raising marginal rates	380	19.50%
Subtract other revenue changes and loophole closers	262	
Amount needed from tax expenditures	\$ 1,738	

Mr. HATCH. To President Obama's credit, he put his money where his rhetoric is. Most of the loophole closures and offshore measures were contained in his budget.

If we subtract the two categories of tax increases, there remains \$1.73 trillion in tax increases the Senate Democratic budget must find by cutting back tax expenditures.

Here we go again. This is a very important chart. I will remind everyone of something I mentioned in my first discussion of tax expenditures. The Joint Committee on Taxation warns us that tax expenditure figures are not the same as revenue estimates for policy changes.

In March 2011, the CBO released a set of budget options for deficit reduction. On the revenue options, CBO and Joint Committee on Taxation estimated the proposals. There are a number of them that deal with cutbacks on tax expenditures.

If we start with the Senate Democratic budget's target of \$1.73 trillion, we can see an illustration of some policy options that tax writers would have to consider. I have a chart that lists the revenue raised from some of these options.

Let's look at this chart. It may be difficult to read on a television monitor, so I will go through these. These are tax expenditure policy options from the Congressional Budget Office to

raise revenue. In other words, we have a tax to take away these tax expenditures.

No. 1 would be eliminate the deduction for State and local taxes. I don't think many people are going to want that to happen.

No. 2, they will tax Social Security benefits similar to the defined-benefit distributions. That is \$438 billion right there in increased taxes.

No. 3 is tax investment income from life insurance and annuities. That is \$260 billion.

No. 4, curtail the deductions for charitable giving. Can you believe that? That is \$219 billion.

No. 5, gradually eliminate the mortgage interest deduction. Take that away from people who buy homes?

That is \$215 billion.

No. 6, eliminate the child tax credit. That is \$117 billion.

No. 7, raise tax rates on capital gains. That is \$49 billion.

No. 8, eliminate education tax benefits, which is \$48 billion.

No. 9, reduce 401(k) contribution limits, which is \$46 billion.

And No. 10, tax carried interest as ordinary income, which is \$21 billion.

Well, the first one should cause some concern to my friends on the other side. It would eliminate the State and local income and sales tax deduction. The so-called blue States generally have very high local and State tax bur-

dens. Eliminating that deduction would mean the constituents of my friends representing those States will find themselves with an effective tax increase of up to 35 percent. That is what they are doing to themselves. Eliminating this deduction would yield revenue of \$862 billion over 10 years.

The second one would reduce the aftertax value of Social Security benefits received by seniors. This CBO option would tax Social Security benefits like we do employer-provided defined benefit retirement plans. Funny how much fur has flown over Social Security reform. Yet this cutback on Social Security benefits has flown under the radar. It appears not all tax expenditures are about corporate jets and yachts. That proposal would raise \$438 billion over 10 years. I mean, come on, hit Social Security for something like that?

Well, let's look at the third tax expenditure cutback option. That would tax the inside buildup in life insurance. Here is an example. Under current law, if a father and mother buy a \$100,000 life insurance policy and make the surviving spouse or children beneficiaries, death will trigger a tax-free benefit of \$100,000. Under this option, this tax expenditure—if they get rid of that—the difference between the face amount of the policy and premium payments would be taxable. According to the CBO option book, that new tax would

raise \$260 billion over 10 years. Who wants to do that?

The fourth on the list is a tax benefit near and dear to many of my fellow Utah families. It is the itemized deduction for charitable donations. Under this option, only those deductions that exceed 2 percent of adjusted gross income would be deductible. For many Utahns who tithe—and I am one of them—10 percent of our gross income, this would mean an automatic cut of 20 percent of our deduction. This would affect not just Utahns but charitable givers all over the country. This proposal would reduce the tax benefit of charitable giving by \$219 billion over 10 years.

Now, the fifth one is well-known to tens of millions of our constituents. It is the home mortgage interest deduction. If a taxpayer saves up a down payment and borrows for a home, they can take the interest paid on the mortgage as an itemized deduction. This proposal would gradually eliminate the home mortgage interest deduction. In 10 years, the deduction would be gone. This proposal would raise \$215 billion over 10 years.

The sixth tax expenditure cutback option involves the current \$1,000-per-child tax credit. That credit drops to \$500 per child in 18 months if the 2001–2003 tax relief plans are not extended. It is, by definition, limited to low- and middle-income taxpaying families. CBO tells us if we were to eliminate it, there would be \$117 billion raised over 10 years.

The seventh tax expenditure cutback would partially eliminate the tax expenditure for the lower rate on capital gains and dividends. It would, in effect, eliminate 25 percent of that tax expenditure and significantly drive up capital gains and dividends rates. As I indicated earlier, the top marginal rate on capital gains and dividends is set to rise by 59 percent in less than 18 months if the President and my friends on the other side get their way. This option—though described as a cutback on a tax expenditure—would drive that rate up higher.

The marginal rate on two-thirds of capital gains income would be driven up 72 percent. It would raise \$49 billion, though, over 10 years, for our tax-seeking friends.

The eighth tax expenditure cutback option would sharply curtail tax benefits for families who send their kids to college. It would eliminate the Hope Scholarship and lifetime learning credits and phase out the student loan interest deduction. For that half of the population that pays the freight in society, the 49 percent who pay income tax, our friends on the other side are telling them their load is just going to get much heavier. That would be their message to middle-income American families who want to send their kids to college. This option would raise \$48 billion over 10 years.

The ninth tax expenditure cutback option would reduce limits on contributions to retirement plans. About 50 percent of American workers participate in retirement plans. They save for their own retirement. They do not look to rely only on Social Security. There is bipartisan consensus that for America to remain prosperous, families and individuals must save more during their working lives. Yet this option would go in the other direction. It would mean less in retirement savings. CBO says it would raise \$46 billion over 10 years if we take that one away.

Now, the tenth tax expenditure cutback option is one we have heard much about from my friends on the other side. It would tax partnership interests—known as carried interest—like ordinary income rather than capital gain. Interestingly enough, with a solidly Democratic Senate last year, this revenue raiser did not pass. There is a lot of speculation about that. I will not join it, but it is curious that when constituencies that favor Democrats decisively raised legitimate concerns about the possible negative effects on private equity and enterprise value, this proposal didn't quite make it past the finish line. That proposal would raise \$21 billion over 10 years.

If you assume no interactive effects, the list of options I walked through adds up to \$2.27 trillion in tax hikes. That is a lot more than called for by the Senate Democratic budget outline. Recall that outline produced by Senate Democrats boiled down to \$1.73 trillion in cutbacks on tax expenditures. But look at how broad these tax hikes are. They hit big chunks of the 49 percent of American households who pay income taxes.

Take a look at the chart again. This is a chart that confirms what many of us have suspected. Although they might not come clean about it, when you look at the code and you look at our deficits, there is only one place for Democrats to go if they are going to close the deficit their way, with no meaningful spending reductions. They are going to have to hit tax expenditures, and specifically those that benefit middle-class itemizers.

They hit residents of blue States. They hit seniors. They hit everyone who owns a life insurance policy. They hit everyone who takes an itemized deduction for giving to their church, local food kitchen, or other charities. They hit everyone with a mortgage, everyone who receives a child tax credit, and anyone with capital gains. They hit middle-income families and students who benefit from education tax benefits. They hit those who save for retirement. They hit those folks who start up businesses and take a future profits interest in the form of a capital gain. But to hear the President talk, you would think we could get there by taxing corporate jets and yachts.

I am accustomed to the media carrying the water of liberal politicians, but there has been a real dereliction of duty in allowing President Obama to get away with this. Even at this late date, he is still getting away with it. He has no plan. Tell me. He has no plan. Show it to me. He talks about his plan, but we have yet to see it in writing. In fact, there is no plan.

The press ridiculed Richard Nixon for his secret plan to end the war in Vietnam. But here we are in a catastrophic crisis, and President Obama gets a pass when it comes to his secret plan to balance the budget.

To suggest that a debt crisis triggered by \$14.3 trillion in debt can be fixed by taxing the luxuries of evil rich people is so childish and lacking in seriousness that the President should have been called out on it immediately. But he wasn't. He was allowed to get away with it.

President Obama's balanced approach—he talks about a balanced approach all the time—one that includes meaningful reductions to his historic levels of spending, is a plan for economic stagnation and national ruin, and it is a plan to bankrupt seniors.

He wants shared sacrifice. From whom? We were shown that the middle class is going to get hit the hardest. I want shared prosperity by cutting back on spending and getting the Federal Government out of most of our lives in ways that are intrusive and costly, to being able to get jobs and raise jobs and do what has to be done in this country.

It is a plan to bankrupt our seniors. The President knows this, as do his colleagues in Congress. He knows his supposed plan does nothing to fix the long-term trajectory of his deficit spending. So the question folks need to ask is, what is he hiding? How does the left plan on closing the gap and balancing the budget their way? The answer is the elimination or reduction of tax expenditures. And that means middle-class tax increases. To hear my friends on the other side, you would think the only folks hit by Democratic tax increases will be corporate jet owners, yachtsmen, and millionaires. But when you peek behind the rhetorical curtain, you find that does not pan out. Most of the tax base is in the middle and upper middle income families who make up that 49 percent of Americans who are the only ones who shoulder the burden of the income tax.

We know that the recent numbers are the bottom 51 percent of all households do not pay income taxes. No, it is the 49 percent of Americans who shoulder the burden of the income tax; that is where the money is. As I have shown with the CBO and Joint Committee on Taxation options, that is where you have to go. Without a counterbalancing rate cut, this version of tax reform

means fewer resources for home ownership, retirement savings, and charitable giving.

But don't say I did not warn you. Those who want to treat tax expenditures as some abstract budgetary honey pot risk having the folks who make the honey, the taxpaying bees, to rightfully sting you. As one who hails from the Beehive State, I can tell you, you will feel the sting.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MERKLEY). The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am here this afternoon to discuss our work toward addressing the national debt and staving off a collision with our debt ceiling or a default on our financial obligations.

First, I wish to commend Majority Leader REID for putting forward a proposal which would make a very serious \$2.4 trillion downpayment on deficit reduction and, most importantly, end the impasse over the debt ceiling. I encourage my Republican colleagues to support it or offer some reasonable changes that would allow them to support it.

But let me also address some developments on the other side of the Capitol, where an extremist group of House Republicans is continuing their "my way or the highway," what President Lincoln called "rule or ruin," approach to these negotiations.

Amazingly, news reports indicate that Pell grants—Pell grants—may be put on the chopping block in Speaker BOEHNER's latest effort to appease the most extreme members of his party. This is getting ridiculous. Rhode Island's great Senator Claiborne Pell first proposed the grants that now bear his name. He envisioned a grant that would enable low-income students to attend our country's wonderful colleges and universities so they too could share in the American dream. Why do these far-right extremists in the House want to snuff that out?

In 1976, the first year Pell grants were fully funded, a full Pell grant paid 72 percent of the cost of attendance at a typical 4-year public college. Today, a full Pell grant covers 34 percent of those costs, and even that they are willing to attack. This vital assistance from Pell grants can often mean the difference between being able to attend college or not. With many families in Rhode Island and across America still struggling in this struggling economy, we should be looking for ways to strengthen Pell grants, not weaken them. America needs more college graduates, not fewer.

During my time in the Senate, we have taken steps to improve the Pell grant program. After 4 years of level funding under President Bush, we began to increase the maximum grant from \$4,050 in academic year 2006–2007

to \$5,050 for this coming academic year. We also increased the minimum family income that automatically qualifies a student for the maximum Pell grant, a change which better reflects today's economic realities.

Despite the clear need for continued investment in our future through Pell grants, a need that has long had bipartisan support and backing, a group of House Republicans this year began an outright assault on Pell grant funding. These grants are needed more than ever, as the economic downturn has led more people to seek higher education in an effort to find a job. But not to this band of extremists. The House Republican budget would have slashed Pell grants, reducing the average award by \$1,775, and cutting off more than 1.3 million Americans, including nearly 5,800 students in Rhode Island.

I understand the need to find savings in the Federal budget and to make difficult choices, and Leader REID's proposal offers up \$2.4 trillion worth. But we could also make bad choices in going about this, and of all the bad choices we could make, cutting Pell grants is among the worst. America needs a highly trained workforce, and Pell grants help make the promise of a college education a reality.

After America spoke out and the Senate defeated the extreme House Republican budget, I hoped the assault on the Pell grant was behind us, at least for a while. Yesterday, however, The Hill, a newspaper here in Washington, reported that some Republican House Members are opposing Speaker BOEHNER's debt ceiling increase bill over funding if it provides for Pell grants. In this article, someone called Pell grants welfare. Some welfare, helping kids afford college and pursue their dreams. Today there is talk that cuts to Pell grants are being discussed as the pound of flesh required by the most far-right Members of the Speaker's caucus as the price of supporting his bill. Remember that these House Republicans continue to protect every tax giveaway to special interests, every one, while they want to cut off access to college for regular kids.

The simple fact is Pell grants help lower income people achieve dreams of college and improve those young people's prospects for careers and employment. It is good for them and it is good for America. The Pell grant program doesn't give a free ride, but it does give a boost and is a wise investment in the future of our country, a future where the fates of nations will depend on the education of their people.

Earlier this week, student and education advocacy organizations, including the Education Trust, Campus Progress, the National Council of LaRaza, and the United States Student Association, joined together to "Save Pell." I applaud their advocacy and commitment in fighting for Pell

grants, and I am proud to join their effort. I strongly urge the far-right extremists who are pulling their party and the House of Representatives and this country over the cliff to end their reckless attack on the American middle class, take the victory you have been offered, and stop the damage.

Ronald Reagan in 8 years I believe raised the debt ceiling 18 times. The Tea Party has been here 6 months and has put the country on the brink of default days away. Instead, I ask my colleagues to work with Democrats on a bipartisan solution that does not attack the fundamental underpinnings of a successful middle class, such as Medicare, Social Security, Pell grants. Avert the looming debt ceiling collision and reduce our deficits.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Mr. THUNE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNET). Objection is heard.

The clerk will continue with the call of the roll.

The legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll, and the following Senators entered the Chamber and answered to their names:

[Quorum No. 4]

Begich	Conrad	Murray
Bennet	Coons	Pryor
Blumenthal	Durbin	Reid (NV)
Brown (OH)	Johanns	Sanders
Cantwell	Lautenberg	Schumer
Cardin	McConnell	Thune
Casey	Merkley	Whitehouse

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A quorum is not present.

Mr. REID. Thank you, Mr. President. I move to instruct the Sergeant at Arms to request the attendance of absent Senators, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 76, nays 23, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 119 Leg.]

YEAS—76

Akaka	Blunt	Cantwell
Baucus	Boozman	Cardin
Begich	Boxer	Carper
Bennet	Brown (MA)	Casey
Bingaman	Brown (OH)	Chambliss
Blumenthal	Burr	Coats

Cochran	Kohl	Reid
Collins	Kyl	Reid
Conrad	Landrieu	Rockefeller
Coons	Lautenberg	Rubio
Corker	Leahy	Sanders
Durbin	Levin	Schumer
Feinstein	Lieberman	Shaheen
Franken	Lugar	Shelby
Gillibrand	Manchin	Snowe
Hagan	McCaskill	Stabenow
Harkin	Menendez	Tester
Hatch	Merkley	Thune
Hutchison	Mikulski	Udall (CO)
Inouye	Moran	Udall (NM)
Isakson	Murkowski	Warner
Johanns	Murray	Webb
Johnson (SD)	Nelson (NE)	Whitehouse
Kerry	Nelson (FL)	Wyden
Kirk	Portman	
Klobuchar	Pryor	

NAYS—23

Alexander	Graham	McConnell
Ayotte	Grassley	Paul
Barrasso	Heller	Risch
Coburn	Hoeven	Roberts
Cornyn	Inhofe	Sessions
Crapo	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
DeMint	Lee	Vitter
Enzi	McCain	

NOT VOTING—1

Wicker

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A quorum is present.

The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, may we have order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will be in order.

Mr. REID. I thank the Chair.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

ESTABLISHING THE COMMISSION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT PROCESSING DELAYS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate a message from the House with respect to S. 627.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair lays before the Senate a message from the House which, the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Resolved, that the bill from the Senate (S. 627) entitled "An Act to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays" do pass with an amendment.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment to that legislative matter, and I move to table the motion to concur and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. McCONNELL. Will the majority leader yield for a question?

Mr. REID. Yes, without losing my right to the floor.

Mr. McCONNELL. Is it the majority leader's intention, after we have the

vote on tabling the proposal that came over from the House, to file cloture on the Reid budget?

Mr. REID. Yes.

Mr. McCONNELL. I say to my friend, we would be happy to have that vote tonight. And I will also mention to my friend that the House of Representatives intends to vote on the Reid amendment tomorrow afternoon at 1 o'clock. In order to accommodate the schedules of Senators, we would be more than happy to accommodate the majority and have the vote on the Reid budget tonight.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, through the Chair, I say to my friend, the distinguished Republican leader, let's hope they are more timely on their 1 o'clock vote than they have been in the last few days.

I would say this very directly: We would be happy to have a vote on the Reid amendment just like the House did today, a majority vote. We have gotten into a situation that is untoward. Everything that moves is a supermajority. That isn't the way it should be. So we are happy to have a vote anytime. But it should be a majority vote just like the House had. They had a majority vote today, and they had an overwhelming extra vote of none. So we would be happy to have a simple majority vote on the Democratic proposal that we are putting forward.

Mr. McCONNELL. Is that a consent?

Mr. REID. That is a consent that we will be happy to have a vote if it is a simple majority vote.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, let me say that this is almost an out-of-body experience to have someone suggest a 50-vote threshold on a matter of this magnitude in the Senate. I am perplexed, Mr. President—genuinely perplexed—that my friend, the majority leader doesn't want to vote on his proposal as soon as possible. I object.

Mr. REID. Let's have order. Let the Republican leader be heard.

Mr. McCONNELL. I object.

Mr. REID. So it is obvious to the world that in the Senate this is now another filibuster. That is what this is; it is a filibuster to stop us from moving forward on legislation. This is a filibuster in any name that you want.

I am disappointed. I asked for a roll-call vote on the tabling motion. I ask that we move forward.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to table the motion to concur.

The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 120 Leg.]

YEAS—59

Akaka	Hagan	Nelson (NE)
Baucus	Harkin	Nelson (FL)
Begich	Hatch	Paul
Bennet	Inouye	Pryor
Bingaman	Johnson (SD)	Reed
Blumenthal	Kerry	Reid
Boxer	Klobuchar	Rockefeller
Brown (OH)	Kohl	Sanders
Cantwell	Landrieu	Schumer
Cardin	Lautenberg	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Lee	Tester
Conrad	Levin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Lieberman	Udall (NM)
DeMint	Manchin	Vitter
Durbin	McCaskill	Warner
Feinstein	Menendez	Webb
Franken	Merkley	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Wyden
Graham	Murray	

NAYS—41

Alexander	Crapo	McConnell
Ayotte	Enzi	Moran
Barrasso	Grassley	Murkowski
Blunt	Heller	Portman
Boozman	Hoeven	Risch
Brown (MA)	Hutchison	Roberts
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Chambliss	Isakson	Sessions
Coats	Johanns	Shelby
Coburn	Johnson (WI)	Snowe
Cochran	Kirk	Thune
Collins	Kyl	Toomey
Corker	Lugar	Wicker
Cornyn	McCain	

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I oppose the motion to table the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 627, the Budget Control Act of 2011. Although I do not support the bill as written, I believe that the Senate should proceed to it in an effort to amend the bill to include greater spending cuts, caps, and provisions which will boost our economy like progrowth tax and regulatory reform.

I strongly oppose the proposal put forth by Senate Majority Leader REID. The bill is filled with accounting gimmicks and does nothing to encourage enactment of a constitutional balanced budget amendment—an essential step towards ending our unsustainable deficits and debt that enjoys bipartisan support in both Chambers of Congress. Amazingly, as our economy continues to struggle, the Reid proposal appears to assume a tax hike upwards of \$3 trillion, which would kill jobs and impede efforts to grow the economy and reduce our staggering debt in the process.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT NO. 589

(Purpose: To cut spending, maintain existing commitments, and for other purposes)

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment to S. 627 with an amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 589 to the House amendment to S. 627.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the Reid motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 627, with amendment No. 589.

Harry Reid, Max Baucus, Barbara Boxer, Carl Levin, Tom Harkin, Benjamin L. Cardin, Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Patrick J. Leahy, Mark R. Warner, Patty Murray, Christopher A. Coons, Richard Blumenthal, Sherrod Brown (OH), Kent Conrad, Mark Begich, John F. Kerry, Debbie Stabenow.

AMENDMENT NO. 590 TO AMENDMENT NO. 589

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 590 to amendment No. 589.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following new section:
SECTION

This Act shall become effective 5 days after enactment.

MOTION TO REFER WITH AMENDMENT NO. 591

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a motion to refer the House message to the Budget Committee with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to refer the House message to the Senate Budget Committee with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered 591.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following new section:
SECTION

This Act shall become effective 3 days after enactment.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on that motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 592

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have an amendment to my instructions, which is also at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 592 to the instructions on the motion to refer the House message on S. 627.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "3 days" and insert "2 days".

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 593 TO AMENDMENT NO. 592

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment to my instructions, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 593 to amendment No. 592.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "2 days" and insert "1 day".

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Would the Senator withhold?

Mr. REID. If my friend the Republican leader wishes to speak, I, of course, would withhold.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. I thank the majority leader.

I wish to commend the Speaker of the House, JOHN BOEHNER, for his determination and perseverance.

It wasn't easy, but Speaker BOEHNER has been working tirelessly over the past few months and especially over these past few days to build consensus within his party and to pass a bill through the House that would end this crisis and take an important step toward getting our fiscal house in order.

While Democrats in the Senate have been over here plotting about how they can prevent a solution to this crisis, Speaker BOEHNER rolled up his sleeves and did the hard work needed to prevent the crisis. So I thank him for taking his responsibilities as a legislator, as a leader, and as a citizen so seriously and getting the job done. He and the other Republicans in the House have now passed two bills that would not only end this crisis, but would actually do something about its root cause.

They know as well as I do that Washington cannot continue to borrow 40 cents of every dollar it spends and not expect a reckoning. It may not be this Tuesday. But unless we do something to rein in our spending and our debt an even bigger crisis will come. That is why House Republicans have insisted on including a provision in the legislation they just passed that would only allow Congress to raise the debt ceiling if it also passes a law that requires Washington to balance its books.

This isn't exactly a radical proposal.

If Congress's inability to live within its means is the reason for this crisis, then why not pass a law that requires it? It makes perfect sense to almost everybody in America except a few hundred Democrats in Washington.

But that has been the story of this whole summer.

A lot of people look at Washington right now and say what they are seeing is a dysfunctional government. This isn't dysfunction. What you see in Washington right now is Democrats refusing to admit they've got a spending problem, and fighting any attempt to get it under control.

That is what this is all about.

Just take a look at what has been happening here in the Senate over the past 48 hours.

Rather than do their duty and come up with a bill that can pass, Senate Democrats have been busy ginning up opposition to everything else. Senate Democrats have not offered a single solution to this crisis that has a chance of passing either Chamber in Congress. Think about that: we have been staring at this deadline for months. And the majority party in the Senate hasn't even made the effort to come up with a solution that could pass a Chamber they control!

They have put all their energy into defeating everything else.

The majority leader claims he has a plan.

Well, here is what it does.

It asks Congress to make the largest debt ceiling increase in history, without paying for it.

It creates a committee that has no real power to generate more savings down the road.

And it doesn't require us to balance our books.

Until yesterday, the only reason Senate Democrats had for opposing the House bill was that it didn't raise the debt limit beyond the next Presidential election.

Yesterday, they came up with another excuse. They said the debt limit increase doesn't last long enough to provide certainty to the markets.

Leave aside the fact that Democrats have spent the last 2½ years perfecting the art of creating economic uncertainty.

Leave that aside.

The fact is, of the 31 times the debt limit has been raised over the past 25

years, 22 lasted less than a year. And I don't recall any of the Democrats who voted for those increases expressing any concern about economic uncertainty.

The simple truth is this: Senate Democrats have no good reason whatsoever for opposing the bill the House just passed.

This bill was actually negotiated in direct consultation with the Democrat leaders who now claim to oppose it.

You want proof? Well, ask yourself this: why does the Reid bill have the same title as the bill the House just passed? Coincidence? Why do the two bills contain pages of identical text? Coincidence? Look through it yourself.

Look at the Democrat priorities that are in there. How do you think they got in there?

I will tell you how: because they put them in there.

So it is an absolute mystery to me why any Democrat in the Senate would have opposed that bill.

There isn't an argument against it that is left standing. And we would all be voting to approve it right now if President Obama hadn't told Democrats to oppose it last weekend. The only reason—the only reason—we are even still talking about this crisis is because the President of the United States doesn't want to have another debate about his own fiscal recklessness before his next election.

One more thing.

Just so there is no doubt that Democrats in Congress have abdicated their responsibility by failing to produce a solution of their own, I have a suggestion. Let's test out the Reid bill. Let's call it up and vote on it tonight. See how it does. Let's see the fruits of the Democrats' labors. Let's see what they came up with as this crisis approached.

The Speaker has sent over two bills that could end this crisis now. Let's call up the majority leader's bill and see if it will fly. And if it doesn't, then let's take up the House bill, pass it, and end this crisis now.

But Republicans have done our job.

Mr. President, I just wanted to ask my friend one more time. We have here a situation where the Senate has voted to table, in effect, the House-passed measure and the majority leader has filled up the tree and filed cloture on his proposal. As I indicated earlier, every single member of my conference here in the Senate would be happy to move up that vote.

As we all know, the markets are waiting to see if we are going to act. It strikes me that it might make sense for all of us on a bipartisan basis to go on and act as rapidly as possible. I believe every Member of the Senate has pretty well determined how they would vote on cloture on the motion to proceed to my friend's measure. Therefore, I would again ask consent that we immediately proceed to a vote on invoking cloture on the Reid amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is very obvious there should be a vote on my amendment and it should be with a simple majority. That is the way it has traditionally been in this body until the Republicans have tried to establish a supermajority, which doesn't work. This is a filibuster. This is something that should not be filibustered. They should back off the filibuster and let us vote. Let us vote. That is where we are. We feel very strongly on this side that if the House can pass something with a simple majority, so can we.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is noted.

The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I don't want to belabor this. I would just finally point out that we are in the rather curious position that the House of Representatives tomorrow at 1 p.m. will vote on the Reid proposal before my friend and his conference are willing to let us vote on his proposal.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we know that if the legislation in the House of Representatives had required a supermajority, we would not be dealing with the Boehner—I am trying to say a nice word—the Boehner legislation. We wouldn't be doing that.

We are here now. We have tried our utmost to come up with a fair proposal that deserves an up-or-down vote. It is fair. It reduces the debt by \$2.4 trillion. In fact, most every bit of it includes material that the House has voted on before, the Senators have voted on before. It is something we should do. It is fair.

We have tried to compromise. That is not a bad word. I had a tentative meeting set with some Republican Senators this afternoon. The meeting didn't come to be. I have asked my friend the Republican leader to negotiate, and he has chosen not to do that. That is too bad.

I want to move forward. And if my friend wants to negotiate with others, fine. My door has been open all day. But we are doing the right thing. We will not agree to a 6-month extension, putting our country in jeopardy in just a few weeks. The Ryan budget has been out there whacking Medicare, whacking Medicare fraud. The cut, cap, and whatever it was does the same thing.

What I have put forward is a fair proposal. It is something we should do. It would get rid of the disaster that is facing us. It is the right thing to do.

The American people want us to work this out, and we have tried. We have given. We have compromised. There has just been no give on the

other side. In fact, Mr. President, it has been quite the opposite.

We had a wonderful agreement set up here between the two people who ran the Budget Committee for years, Senators CONRAD and GREGG, a wonderful proposal to move forward expedited procedures. What happened? When we moved to it, seven Republicans who sponsored the legislation didn't vote for it. Then we moved forward with the Biden group. What happened with that? The Republicans walked out of that meeting. We had a situation where meetings were going on with the President. Leader CANTOR from the House walked out on that meeting. Speaker BOEHNER walked out on the President twice. The Gang of 6, trying to work something out, one of the leaders—the most vocal leader of that group took a sabbatical leave and stepped back in just a few days ago.

We have tried our utmost to negotiate something in fairness. We are where we are. We want an up-or-down vote on my proposal.

If the Republicans continue to filibuster this, they are going to have to show at 1 o'clock Sunday morning or thereabouts that they are going to continue the filibuster. We are not going to give up on this.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I think we all agree it is fairly routine to have the 60-vote threshold in the Senate, particularly on a matter of enormous significance such as this. It is almost unheard of to suggest that a matter of this magnitude would be dealt with at a 51-vote threshold.

Where are we? It is an interesting history lesson my friend gives us about various debates we have had in the past, but this is where we are right now. Where we are right now is our good friends on the other side do not want us to move forward with a vote on what they are advocating.

Mrs. BOXER. Yes, we do.

Mr. DURBIN. Majority vote.

Mr. MCCONNELL. We just heard the majority leader talk about—could we have order in the Senate, Mr. President?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will be in order.

Mr. MCCONNELL. We just heard the majority leader making the arguments on the merits for his proposal. That is what we wish to move forward with. We would be happy to have the vote on cloture on his measure tonight so we could move forward and finally get a resolution here. We have the curious position the majority is in effect stopping action on its own proposal and the House of Representatives tomorrow will vote on the Reid proposal, apparently before the Senate will vote on the proposal of the majority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Finally, the Republican leader said we don't need to carry this on forever. I agree with my friend. This legislation is of utmost importance. It has great significance, as he said. All the more reason there should not be a filibuster being conducted on this legislation. Our country is in the throes of an economic disaster. To think that they would filibuster this, they are not negotiating, and that is why we are at the last—we waited as long as we could to come forward with something that we would try to get through here. But we have not been able to do it because they have not negotiated in good faith. All the negotiation has been with ourselves.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this evening, the Senate is considering S. 627, as amended by the House of Representatives—the bill now called the Budget Control Act of 2011. Earlier this week, the House Republican Leadership used a procedural maneuver to strip from this bill bipartisan provisions to strengthen the Freedom of Information Act, FOIA, that unanimously passed the Senate. I urge the Senate to restore the bipartisan Leahy-Cornyn Faster FOIA Act of 2011, as originally and unanimously passed by the Senate in May, when the Senate considers its budget bill.

The Faster FOIA Act enjoys broad bipartisan support from across the political spectrum. The Senate unanimously passed this bill in May, after the Judiciary Committee favorably reported the bill by voice vote. Recently, more than 35 transparency organizations urged the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to act on this legislation. On Tuesday, the Washington Post editorialized that the House should promptly enact this bipartisan bill to improve the FOIA process.

Senator CORNYN and I first introduced the Faster FOIA Act in 2005, to address the growing problem of excessive FOIA delays within our Federal agencies. During the intervening years, the problem of excessive FOIA delays has not gone away. We reintroduced this bill in 2010, and the Senate unanimously passed it last year. The current bill is the most recent product of our bipartisan work to help reinvigorate FOIA.

The Faster FOIA Act would establish a bipartisan Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays to examine the root causes of excessive FOIA delays. The Commission would recommend to Congress and the President steps that should be taken to reduce these delays, so that the administration of the FOIA is more equitable and efficient.

The Faster FOIA Act will help ensure the dissemination of government information to the American people, so that our democracy remains vibrant and free. This is a laudable goal that we all

share. Neither Chamber of Congress should allow partisan politics to obstruct the important goal of this bill.

The ongoing debate in Congress about the national debt has made clear that we must find ways to work together, across party lines and ideologies, to address the many challenges facing our Nation. This bipartisan spirit is at the core of the Faster FOIA Act. I have said many times that open government is neither a Democratic issue, nor a Republican issue—it is truly an American value and virtue that we all must uphold. I urge the Senate to include the Faster FOIA Act in its budget bill, and I urge the Congress to promptly enact this good government measure.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the letters in support of reinstating the Faster FOIA Act in the final debt ceiling package.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SUNSHINE IN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE,
Arlington, VA, July 29, 2011.

Hon. HARRY REID,
U.S. Senate.
Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
U.S. Senate.
Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
U.S. House of Representatives.
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
U.S. House of Representatives.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER REID, MINORITY LEADER MCCONNELL, SPEAKER BOEHNER, AND MINORITY LEADER PELOSI: We urge the Congress to reinstate the bipartisan, uncontroversial language strengthening the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) that was removed from S. 627, the Faster FOIA Act, as it was amended to address the unrelated issue surrounding the debt limit. The original language would create a bipartisan commission to recommend concrete ways to strengthen transparency in the federal government and has broad, bipartisan support.

The Sunshine in Government Initiative is a coalition of media associations promoting government transparency, especially focusing on FOIA. SGI members include the American Society of News Editors, the Associated Press, Association of Alternative Newsweeklies, National Newspaper Association, Newspaper Association of America, Radio Television Digital News Association, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press and Society of Professional Journalists.

Especially in this fiscal environment, the Faster FOIA Commission would help the public understand how taxpayer dollars are being spent by bringing together experts inside and outside the government to look “under the hood” of agency FOIA operations and to propose within a year the most realistic, effective and cost-efficient improvements to improve government transparency.

The Freedom of Information Act is the vital law that helps ensure the public can see what its government is up to while protecting personal privacy, national security, trade secrets and other important interests. The Commission's work should provide timely insight to help inform next steps that Congress with your leadership might under-

take to strengthen transparency in the federal government.

Sincerely,

RICK BLUM,
Coordinator.

JULY 28, 2011.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, The Capitol, Washington, DC.
Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, The Capitol, Washington, DC.
Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate, The Capitol, Washington, DC.
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER REID, MINORITY LEADER MCCONNELL, SPEAKER BOEHNER AND MINORITY LEADER PELOSI: On behalf of the undersigned organizations concerned with government openness and accountability, we are writing to urge you to restore the bipartisan Faster FOIA provisions in S. 627, now known as the Budget Control Act of 2011.

This week, Speaker Boehner took S. 627 as a vehicle for his budget bill. This procedural maneuver could shave a few days off of Senate consideration, should the House pass the Boehner budget control bill. However, in doing so, the Speaker unnecessarily stripped the Faster FOIA Act from S. 627, completely replacing the language with the budget bill. If the Faster FOIA language is not restored in S. 627, the bipartisan progress made by the Senate on the legislation will be wiped out. This is a setback for openness and accountability in the executive branch, and bipartisan action in Congress.

The Senate unanimously passed the Faster FOIA Act, authored by Senator Leahy (D-VT) and Senator Cornyn (R-TX) in May. The legislation would establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Processing Delays (the Commission) to examine several thorny issues that create unreasonable bars to public access under the FOIA and recommend to Congress and the President steps that should be taken to reduce delays and make the administration of the FOIA equitable and efficient throughout the federal government.

The Faster FOIA Act enjoys strong support among a broad range of non-governmental organizations. Recently, more than 35 organizations joined to urge the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to act on the legislation. A recent editorial in the Washington Post also called on the House to embrace the bill in the same bipartisan spirit as the Senate in the interest of improving the FOIA process.

We urge you to advance openness and accountability to restore the bipartisan Faster FOIA provisions in S. 627. We thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

American Library Association, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington—CREW, Electronic Frontier Foundation, Freedom of Information Center at the Missouri School of Journalism, Fund for Constitutional Government, National Freedom of Information Coalition, National Security Archive, OMB Watch, OpenTheGovernment.org, Project On Government Oversight—POGO, Public Citizen, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

MORNING BUSINESS

BROWN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I believe libraries are critical institutions to our Nation and our democracy. Today, I recognize one library in particular, Brown University Library, for its 150th anniversary as Rhode Island's oldest Federal Depository Library.

The Federal Depository Library Program was established by Congress to ensure that the American public could access government records and information locally. The 10 depository libraries in Rhode Island are part of a network of more than 1,200 libraries nationwide that provide free access to Federal Government materials, both in print and online.

In 1861, under a newly enacted law granting each Senator the authority to assign one depository in their State, Senator James F. Simmons designated the Brown University Library as an official depository to receive U.S. Government publications. While Brown University had been receiving government documents through various channels since revolutionary times, this designation established Brown as the first depository library in Rhode Island and one of the earliest so designated libraries in the Nation.

For the past 150 years, the Brown University Library has helped students, faculty, and residents throughout Rhode Island find and use government information. The collection at Brown contains a wide variety of government documents that reflect the rich history of Rhode Island and the Nation as a whole, including historical debates surrounding the adoption of the 13th amendment abolishing slavery and legislation authored by my predecessor Senator Claiborne Pell establishing the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. It is also home to a wealth of information useful to Rhode Islanders, such as demographic data on the changing and diverse nature of the State's population; a vast array of health and wellness materials; and business and economic news and reports.

Since 1994, Brown and other Federal depository libraries have worked in partnership with the U.S. Government Printing Office to make government information in a digital format directly accessible to the public via the Internet. First, through the GPO Access online system, and now through GPO's Federal Digital System, the American public has free access to authenticated information from all three branches of the Federal Government.

Across the country, Federal depository libraries enable the public to stay informed on the workings of our government and provide free access to all types of essential information. Addi-

tionally, they play a vital role in preserving the historical record of our democracy. I congratulate Brown University Library for its 150 years of serving as a resource for the people of Rhode Island and am proud to celebrate an institution that is dedicated to informing Rhode Islanders and advancing the values of our democracy.

TRIBUTE TO DAVE JOHNSON

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today, with several of my colleagues to recognize the outstanding service and contribution of a fellow Hoosier and life-long public servant, Dave Johnson.

Dave first joined my staff in 1987 and he has been a brilliant resource to me over the years since then. Dave is a truly gifted individual. He is knowledgeable about all facets of agricultural and food policy and is able to see all of the potential opportunities and challenges with proposed legislation. Dave is always prepared to interact with a Member on the Senate floor during consideration of agriculture legislation, and equally at ease in dealing with Indiana constituents or farmers from anywhere in the United States. His mark can be found on countless pieces of Senate food and agriculture legislation, ranging from nutrition to biomass to conservation. Dave is always an available and willing resource to members on the Agriculture Committee, or other members from the Senate as a whole who seldom delve into agricultural policy discussions.

Dave and I have shared one true passion over our years of service—nutrition. I have long been an advocate of nutrition programs, and specifically a supporter of the school lunch program. It has been Dave's dedicated counsel and advice that has helped to shape these important programs into what they are today. I remember that on one occasion, while traveling back home in southern Indiana, I learned from my constituents of some of the deficiencies in a local summer children's nutrition program. I shared these concerns with Dave, and within a matter of days Dave responded to my request and had a bill on my desk. That legislation proposed a pilot project, which was approved by Congress, and today has been expanded to a nationwide program.

Dave has never been intimidated by the vastness of diversity in agriculture. He has always been able to determine the appropriate solution to a real problem, and then draft the implementing legislation to go along with it. He is never too busy to take the time to mentor young staff members by sharing his vast knowledge and experience, and he is always willing to reach across the aisle to contribute to more effective results for American agriculture.

Dave, I don't know how we will write a farm bill without you. You will be sincerely missed.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend Dave Johnson for 23 years of service to the Federal Government. I am very grateful for his effective and dedicated leadership as chief counsel of the Senate Agriculture Committee during the time I served as chairman of the Committee.

He also served in important jobs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, as well as the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. The farm bills that Mr. Johnson helped draft during his career are impressive examples of his insight and good judgment.

The far-reaching effects of his contributions to the field of agriculture are illustrated by the successes we have had as a Nation as a result of our food and agriculture policies. I congratulate Dave Johnson for his impressive career of improving the quality of life of rural America.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Dave on his 23 years of service as a public servant. His career, including service in the Senate, the Department of Agriculture and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, has led him to be one of the most influential staffers on legislation supporting farmers, ranchers and the less privileged across the country.

For those of us who have had the pleasure of knowing and working closely with him, we know Dave as a true professional and an extremely thoughtful individual. His knowledge and experience have served as a virtual encyclopedia for policy makers on this Committee and in the Executive Branch. The talent and knowledge that Dave possesses reflects a career of dedicated service that cannot be replicated or easily replaced. His well-earned departure will create a void that will be difficult to fill.

As I look back at Dave's career and the years I served as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I can say I am particularly proud of Dave's work on nutrition and food assistance programs. I know my colleagues and I can attest to Dave's care for and dedication to improving the lives of the less privileged. His tireless efforts to secure funding for the hungry and less privileged through the 1996 farm bill, the 1994 Child Nutrition Act and countless other pieces of legislation are a testament to his sense of duty and his nonpartisan approach to identifying solutions that advance the promise of our great Nation to all of our citizens. I was always honored to have his passion and advocacy for the disadvantaged on my side of the aisle.

Dave has made a real impact on the lives of all Americans and has done so with a modest approach that sought solutions over recognition. Dave is one of the most modest individuals I have ever met and I am certain his modesty

is born of his upbringing. Dave's approach to work in Washington, DC, has always been governed by the lessons he learned on his family farm in rural Indiana. He does not boast of his many achievements nor lecture those who seek his counsel or advice. I have always known him to be quiet and unpretentious in spite of his achievements and station. He has sought to act as a mentor to young staffers and wise counsel to the Senators and policy makers who have called on him throughout the years.

On behalf of my former agriculture committee staff and for myself, I want to thank Dave for his service to the U.S. Senate and to our country. I wish him the best as he moves on to his next adventure.

Mr. JOHANNIS. Mr. President, I rise today to echo my colleagues in recognizing Dave Johnson for his commitment to public service. Having spent 23 years working on agriculture and food policy for the Federal Government, Dave has demonstrated a rare dedication to an industry that provides food, feed, fiber and fuel to people all around the globe.

While serving as Secretary of Agriculture, I had the privilege of working closely with Dave, who was Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. I fondly remember the many hours Dave spent putting pen to paper and drawing together our ideas into legislative language for Congress to consider as part of the 2007–2008 farm bill process. His knowledge of agriculture policy and his work ethic were invaluable to our efforts. The many hours we spent working on farm policy led to a friendship that I continue to appreciate.

Twenty-three years is a long time to spend as a public servant and Dave has earned our sincerest gratitude for his years of service to farmers, ranchers, conservationists, nutrition advocates, rural Americans and all those affected by USDA policies, who have directly or indirectly benefitted from his work.

I wish Dave the very best as he opens a new chapter in his life. I am confident that with his positive attitude, principled approach and genuinely kind heart, success will follow him down whatever path he chooses.

Mr. ROBERTS. I would like to take a few moments this morning to wander from regular order to recognize a long-time staffer and public servant who will be retiring next Friday.

August 5 will be Dave Johnson's last day as a Republican staffer on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. It will also be the end of a 23-year career in public service—most of that right here on this committee.

Dave has served me as ranking member since March. He previously served as both the chief Republican counsel and deputy staff director of this com-

mittee. His service includes working for Chairman LUGAR from 1987 to 1991 and again from 1994 to 2003. He then served Chairman COCHRAN from 2003 to 2005 and Chairman CHAMBLISS from 2005 to 2007. And from 2007 to 2008 he served then-Secretary of Agriculture MIKE JOHANNIS as a deputy chief of staff at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He then moved to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission where he served until we convinced him to come back and help us get up and running this past spring.

Dave's record speaks for itself. But I am not sure some understand just how valuable his service has been to this Committee and agriculture and nutrition policy.

As those who know Dave can tell you, his first love has been nutrition policy. He has worked on numerous child nutrition bills and the nutrition title of no less than four farm bills, by my count. I also know that if you sit down and visit with him, he'd probably tell you that one of his proudest moments was the work he did on the 1996 Welfare Reform Act.

Dave has always been a straight shooter. He gives you the answers you need to hear. But one of his greatest strengths is reminding you of the things you haven't considered and need to think about. He has been a tremendous mentor to young staff on both sides of the aisle and he was often the first stop many of them made when looking for advice on how to learn the ropes of the committee.

Finally, Dave's attention to detail and proofing proposed legislation is legendary. If you are scrubbing a bill and making sure it is done right, his is the set of eyes you want on it. A member of my staff was once told by a former member of the Senate Parliamentarian's office that a farm bill Dave had helped write and scrub was "among the best written bills we've ever seen come through the Senate."

That pretty much sums up Dave's service to this committee. Dave, as a former bucket-toter myself, thank you for your years of service to our country, the Senate, the members of this Committee and our constituents. You have been a true public servant and we all wish you only the best as you head home to Indiana.

Job well done.

THE READY SCHOOLS ACT

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, August marks the start of a new school year for more than 1.8 million students in Ohio. It is a time of excitement and nervousness as students prepare for challenging classes, different classmates, and new teachers.

As the summer winds down, high school students are cramming in the summer reading that they pushed off in favor of a bike ride with friends or a

game of baseball. Middle school students are crossing their fingers in hopes that their best friend from the last school year is in their class this year. And soon-to-be kindergarteners are practicing their numbers and letters in preparation of their first day of elementary school.

Student readiness for kindergarten is generally defined by the Ohio School Readiness Initiative as a child who has age-appropriate cognitive and social skills and a healthy mind and body. Student readiness can be fostered through a child's participation in high-quality and developmentally appropriate preschool programs like Head Start. These programs are important because if a child is not prepared for elementary school, they are more likely to fall behind their better-prepared peers and remain behind as they progress through school.

However, it is equally important that schools are prepared to accept and support all students as they arrive at the schoolhouse door. Student readiness also means school readiness.

That is why I am introducing The Ready Schools Act of 2011 with my colleague Senator KAY R. HAGAN of North Carolina. This legislation incorporates the recommendations of a report conducted by the congressionally commissioned National Education Goals Panel, which states that elementary "school readiness" involves not only preparing each child for school, but also preparing schools to support each child's learning and development needs.

The Ready Schools Act of 2011 would require title 1 eligible Local Educational Agencies to work with their elementary schools to develop a ready-school needs review. This review would focus on ways an elementary school can develop policies that would create a positive school environment. It would help teachers provide students with developmentally and culturally appropriate curriculums. Finally, it would empower collaboration with early childhood education providers in the school attendance area to ensure a smooth transition from preschool to elementary school.

In my State of Ohio, the SPARK Ohio partnership has led the way in an effort to make every school a "ready" school. Through a strong partnership comprised of the Sisters of Charity, the Ohio Department of Education, the WK Kellogg Foundation and others, SPARK Ohio has helped developed a "ready" school needs review that is now a national model. I am proud of these efforts, and the hard work of the students, administrators, teachers, and families that have ensured the success of the more than 40 "ready" schools in Ohio.

The Ready Schools Act is about more than making our schools the best they can be. It is about making Ohio, and all

States in the Nation, the best they can be. By strengthening the alignment and delivery of early education, our youngest students can continue on a path of academic and life achievement. Research shows that third-grade reading skills can serve as an indicator of whether or not a student will graduate from high school. And not only is school readiness an educational imperative, it is an economic one as well. High school students dropping out from the class of 2010 alone will cause the State of Ohio over \$10 billion in lower lifetime earnings, higher health care costs, and crime related costs.

The building blocks critical to a lifetime of learning are laid during the elementary school years. This is why I am proud to introduce the Ready Schools Act. It will not only improve our system of education but will ultimately lead to a stronger nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO HAL DAVID

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the 90th birthday of Hal David, a wonderful lyricist who has entertained the world with his delightful songs for more than half a century.

Born in Brooklyn, Hal David developed a talent for music at an early age while studying violin and playing in bands. His first hit record came in 1949 with "The Four Winds and the Seven Seas" by Vic Damone. During the 1950s, David began his legendary collaboration with composer Burt Bacharach, and the two created hit songs such as "Walk on By," "I'll Never Fall in Love Again," "The Look of Love," and "What the World Needs Now Is Love." Hal's talents earned him four Academy Award nominations, including an Oscar for "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head" from the film "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid"; and an induction into the Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Hal David has also fought to protect and promote other songwriters. As president of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, ASCAP, he worked tirelessly to protect the intellectual property rights of musicians. As chairman & CEO of the Songwriters Hall of Fame, he helped create the Songwriters Hall of Fame Gallery at the Grammy Museum in Los Angeles.

Hal David's extraordinary songs will continue to touch the lives and hearts of future generations. I invite all of my colleagues to join me in honoring Hal David as he celebrates his 90th birthday.●

ISABEL, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I recognize the com-

munity of Isabel, SD, on reaching the 100th anniversary of its founding. Located in Dewey County, Isabel has a strong farming and ranching tradition, which has been passed on through the generations. Isabel will celebrate its centennial August 2-7, 2011.

Isabel began its settlement in the spring of 1910 along the Milwaukee Railroad and the town became a legal corporation on March 13, 1911. Isabel was named for the daughter of President Earling of the Milwaukee Railroad. With its vast prairie, Isabel was a prime location for cattle and sheep ranching. The Homestead Act of 1908 encouraged pioneers to move West and these pioneers built the first stores and businesses in Isabel. Businesses allowed local farmers and ranchers to thrive and became hallmarks of the community.

Isabel will celebrate its 100th anniversary with an All School Reunion, a parade, two rodeos, powwows, and dances. Isabel's centennial celebration will also include a wagon train and trail ride, which will retrace an old wagon route to neighboring settlements.

Isabel's strong sense of community helped the town endure challenges in its early settlement, including the severe drought of 1911. Isabel continues to be a steadfast farming and ranching community today. I am proud to honor Isabel on its 100th anniversary. Isabel holds the virtues and values that lay at the very heart of South Dakota.●

TRIBUTE TO J. MICHAEL MILEY

• Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, today I recognize a fellow Hoosier, Mr. J. Michael Miley, as he nears the end of his term as the 106th chairman of the Nation's largest insurance association, the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America, IIABA. Mike is an executive with the Gibson Insurance Group in Plymouth, IN, and was installed as the association's chairman last September.

Mike began his insurance career in 1973 and joined the Gibson Insurance Group in 1983. His relationship with the IIABA began in 1978, when he became a member of the Marshall-Fulton-Starke Counties Independent Insurance Agents Association, ultimately climbing the ranks to serve as its president. During his affiliation with the Independent Insurance Agents of Indiana, IIAI, Mike served at numerous posts, and was elected to the executive committee of IIAI and served as president in 1995. He was elected Indiana's State national director to the board of IIABA in 1997.

Over the years, Mike has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the 1987 Chairman of the Year Award for his work on the New Products and Services Committee, Indiana Agent of the Year Award both in 1989 and 2006, Honorary Commissioner of Insurance

in 1990, and in 1991 he was the first recipient of the Harry P. Cooper Public Image Award.

On the national level, he has proven his leadership capabilities by serving on the boards of Membership Services, Inc., Agency Administrative Services, Inc., and Trusted Choice, Inc. Mike also held leadership roles as a board member of Big "I" Advantage, as chairman of IIAA Agency Administrative Services, Inc., and as a member of the Professional Liability Committee.

Mike has also been very active in his community, including work with the United Way of Marshall County. His volunteer efforts with the group include fundraising as well as serving as a board member and president in 1998 and 1999.

Mike attended Arizona State University and lives in Plymouth, IN, with his wife Cindy and their two children, Margaret and Matthew. I would like to commend Mike's commitment to his profession, his community, and our State of Indiana, and I wish him and his family all the best in their future endeavors.●

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Rapid City, SD. Rapid City has recently been designated America's "Most Patriotic Town" by Rand McNally and USA Today in their inaugural Best of the Road competition, which recognizes achievements of small towns across the country. Rapid City will be one of five towns featured on USA Today's Web site, www.bestoftheroad.com, and featured in the new 2013 Rand McNally Atlas.

Rapid City is the second-largest city in South Dakota and is located on the eastern slope of the Black Hills in the western part of the State. Nearby Mount Rushmore National Memorial and Ellsworth Air Force Base make Rapid City a patriotic mecca. However, I believe it is not the location but the people of Rapid City that gave the town the honor of being named the most patriotic town in America.

The citizens of Rapid City live their lives in support of both their community and their country. This patriotic town strives for excellence while its residents live the American dream. I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens and the community of Rapid City on this accomplishment and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages

from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:05 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2056. An act to instruct the Inspector General of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to study the impact of insured depository institution failures, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2149. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4354 Pahoa Avenue in Honolulu, Hawaii, as the "Cecil L. Heftel Post Office Building".

H.R. 2548. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6310 North University Street in Peoria, Illinois, as the "Charles 'Chip' Lawrence Chan Post Office Building".

At 5:06 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 440. An act to provide for the establishment of the Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia.

H.R. 2244. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 67 Castle Street in Geneva, New York, as the "Corporal Steven Blaine Riccione Post Office".

At 7:52 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment:

S. 627. An act to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 789. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 Main Street in Little Ferry, New Jersey, as the "Sergeant Matthew J. Fenton Post Office".

H.R. 2213. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 801 West Eastport Street in Iuka, Mississippi, as the "Sergeant Jason W. Vaughn Post Office".

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 789. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 Main Street in Little Ferry, New Jersey,

as the "Sergeant Matthew J. Fenton Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2056. An act to instruct the Inspector General of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to study the impact of insured depository institution failures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2149. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4354 Pahoa Avenue in Honolulu, Hawaii, as the "Cecil L. Heftel Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2213. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 801 West Eastport Street in Iuka, Mississippi, as the "Sergeant Jason W. Vaughn Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2244. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 67 Castle Street in Geneva, New York, as the "Corporal Steven Blaine Riccione Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2548. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6310 North University Street in Peoria, Illinois, as the "Charles 'Chip' Lawrence Chan Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2710. A communication from the Chief of Planning and Regulatory Affairs, Food and Nutrition Services, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cooperation in USDA Studies and Evaluations, and Full Use of Federal Funds in Nutrition Assistance Programs Nondiscretionary Provisions of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, Public Law 111-296" (RIN0584-AE20) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2711. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Importation of Shepherd's Purse With Roots From the Republic of Korea Into the United States" (RIN0579-AD26) (Docket No. APHIS-2009-0086) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2712. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Karnal Bunt; Regulated Areas in Arizona, California, and Texas" (Docket No. APHIS-2009-0079) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2713. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Effective Date for Swap Regulation" (17 CFR Part 1) re-

ceived in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2714. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Agricultural Commodity Definition" ((17 CFR Part 1) (RIN3038-AD23)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2715. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prohibition on the Employment, or Attempted Employment, of Manipulative and Deceptive Devices and Prohibition on Price Manipulation" ((17 CFR Part 180) (RIN3038-AD27)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2716. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Large Trader Reporting for Physical Commodity Swaps" ((17 CFR Parts 15 and 20) (RIN3038-AD17)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2717. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Business Affiliate Marketing and Disposal of Consumer Information Rules" ((17 CFR Part 162) (RIN3038-AD12)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2718. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Privacy of Consumer Financial Information; Conforming Amendments Under Dodd-Frank Act" ((17 CFR Part 160) (RIN3038-AD13)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2719. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Ted F. Bowlds, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2720. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-8189)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2721. A communication from the Secretary, Division of Trading and Markets, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Large Trader Reporting" ((17 CFR 240.13h-1) (RIN3235-AK55)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2722. A communication from the Secretary, Division of Corporation Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Ratings" (RIN3235-AK18) received in the Office of the President of the

Senate on July 28, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2723. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Diesel-Powered Motor Vehicle Idling Act" (FRL No. 9445-9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2724. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of California; Interstate Transport of Pollution; Interference with Prevention of Significant Deterioration Requirement" (FRL No. 9446-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2725. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Lead; Clearance and Clearance Testing Requirements for the Renovation, Repair, and Painting Program" (FRL No. 8881-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2726. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision to the California State Implementation Plan; San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District" (FRL No. 9444-3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2727. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision to the California State Implementation Plan; South Coast Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 9437-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2728. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision to the California State Implementation Plan, South Coast Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 9446-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2729. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Format and Content of License Termination Plans for Nuclear Power Plant Reactors" (Regulatory Guide 1.179, Revision 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2730. A communication from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of

a rule entitled "Alternative to Minimum Days Off Requirements" (RIN3150-AI94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2731. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Discontinuance of High-Low Method for Substantiating Travel Expenses" (Announcement 2011-42) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2732. A communication from the Acting Comptroller of the Currency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report on Credit Ratings"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2733. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2011-0113-2011-0120); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2734. A joint communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Legislative and Public Affairs, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Joint Summary of Performance and Financial Information for Fiscal Year 2010"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2735. A communication from the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act Inventory Summary as of June 30, 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2736. A communication from the Senior Associate General Counsel, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director of the National Counterterrorism Center; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC-2737. A communication from the Staff Director, United States Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the appointment of members to the New Hampshire Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2738. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Closure" (RIN0648-XA554) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2739. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch for Catcher Vessels Participating in the Rockfish Entry Level Trawl Fishery in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XA558) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2740. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursu-

ant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Northern Rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XA557) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2741. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Inseason Action to Close the Commercial Gulf of Mexico Non-Sandbar Large Coastal Shark Fishery" (RIN0648-XA541) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2742. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic; Closure of the 2011-2012 Commercial Sector for Black Sea Bass in the South Atlantic" (RIN0648-XA552) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2743. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Mosby, MO" ((RIN2120-AA66)(Docket No. FAA-2010-0608)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2744. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Madison, SD" ((RIN2120-AA66)(Docket No. FAA-2011-0135)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2745. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Campbellton, TX" ((RIN2120-AA66)(Docket No. FAA-2010-1053)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2746. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Lincoln City, OR" ((RIN2120-AA66)(Docket No. FAA-2010-0987)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2747. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Florence, OR" ((RIN2120-AA66)(Docket No. FAA-2010-0986)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2748. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation,

transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; BRP-Power Train GmbH and Co. KG Rotax 912 F3, 912 S2, 912 S3, 912 S4, 914 F2, 914 F3, and 914 F4 Reciprocating Engines" ((RIN2120-AA66)(Docket No. FAA-2011-0456)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2749. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; L'Hotelier Portable Halon 1211 Fire Extinguishers" ((RIN2120-AA66)(Docket No. FAA-2011-0506)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2750. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Schweizer Aircraft Corporation (Schweizer) Model 269A, A-1, B, C, C-1, and TH-55 Series Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2011-0593)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2751. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Model FALCON 7X Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2011-0477)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2752. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A318, A319, A320, and A321 Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2011-0573)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2753. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A330-200 and -300 Series Airplanes, and Model A340-200 and -300 Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2010-1277)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2754. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc (RR) RB211-524 Series Turbofan Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2011-0624)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2755. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Model FALCON 7X Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-

2011-0152)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2756. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Model DC-9-81 (MD-81), DC-9-82 (MD-82), DC-9-83 (MD-83), DC-9-87 (MD-87), and MD-88 Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2010-1203)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2757. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300 B4-600, B4-600R, and F4-600R Series Airplanes, and Model C4-605R Variant F Airplanes (Collectively Called A300-600 Series Airplanes); and Model A310 Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2010-1197)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2758. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A330-200 and -300 Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2009-1212)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2759. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Model DHC-8-400 Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2011-0260)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2760. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Model DHC-8-400 Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2011-0036)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2761. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model EMB-120, -120ER, -120FC, -120QC, and -120RT Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2010-0546)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2762. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Model FALCON 7X Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2011-0259)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2763. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Costruzioni Aeronautiche Tecnam srl Model P2006T Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2011-0326)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2764. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Model 737-600, -700, -700C, -800, -900, and -900ER Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2010-0853)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 605. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to place synthetic drugs in Schedule I.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1449. A bill to authorize the appropriation of funds for highway safety programs and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 1450. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to provide for the establishment of a commercial truck safety program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1451. A bill to prohibit the sale of billfish; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Mr. REED):

S. 1452. A bill to promote simplification and fairness in the administration and collection of sales and use taxes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 1453. A bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to allow the transport, purchase, and sale of pelts of, and handicrafts, garments, and art produced from, Southcentral and Southeast Alaska northern sea otters that are taken for subsistence purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. INOUE):

S. 1454. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for extended months of Medicare coverage of immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant patients and other renal dialysis provisions; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BENNET, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. Res. 242. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. INOUE, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. Res. 243. A resolution promoting increased awareness, diagnosis, and treatment of atrial fibrillation to address the high morbidity and mortality rates and to prevent avoidable hospitalizations associated with the disease; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. Res. 244. A resolution congratulating Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. for 100 years of service to communities throughout the United States and the world, and commending Omega Psi Phi for upholding its cardinal principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 245. A resolution designating November 2011 as "Stomach Cancer Awareness Month" and supporting efforts to educate the public about stomach cancer; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 48

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 48, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of pharmacists in National Health Services Corps programs, and for other purposes.

S. 362

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 362, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a Pancreatic Cancer Initiative, and for other purposes.

S. 387

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Delaware

(Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 387, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to provide flexible spending arrangements for members of uniformed services, and for other purposes.

S. 409

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) were added as cosponsors of S. 409, a bill to ban the sale of certain synthetic drugs.

S. 605

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 605, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to place synthetic drugs in Schedule I.

S. 811

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 811, a bill to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

S. 966

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 966, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for osteoporosis and related bone disease education, research, and surveillance, and for other purposes.

S. 1013

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1013, a bill to renew the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to approve demonstration projects designed to test innovative strategies in State child welfare programs.

S. 1025

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1025, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the national defense through empowerment of the National Guard, enhancement of the functions of the National Guard Bureau, and improvement of Federal-State military coordination in domestic emergency response, and for other purposes.

S. 1058

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1058, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure transparency and proper operation of pharmacy benefit managers.

S. 1096

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1096, a bill to amend title

XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to, and utilization of, bone mass measurement benefits under the Medicare part B program by extending the minimum payment amount for bone mass measurement under such program through 2013.

S. 1119

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1119, a bill to reauthorize and improve the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1144

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1144, a bill to amend the Soda Ash Royalty Reduction Act of 2006 to extend the reduced royalty rate for soda ash.

S. 1203

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1203, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of home infusion therapy under the Medicare Program.

S. 1335

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1335, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide rights for pilots, and for other purposes.

S. 1348

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1348, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to encourage the nationwide observance of two minutes of silence each Veterans Day.

S. 1359

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1359, a bill to make the National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Pass available at a discount to members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

S. 1372

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1372, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding environmental education, and for other purposes.

S. 1395

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors

of S. 1395, a bill to ensure that all Americans have access to waivers from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 1417

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1417, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the credit for qualified fuel cell motor vehicles and to allow the credit for certain off-highway vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 132

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 132, a resolution recognizing and honoring the zoos and aquariums of the United States.

S. RES. 216

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 216, a resolution encouraging women's political participation in Saudi Arabia.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 1450. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to provide for the establishment of a commercial truck safety program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I introduce the Commercial Truck Safety Act of 2011 to address one of my top priorities, and one of my constituents' greatest concerns in recent years, keeping trucks on the Interstate Highway System whenever and wherever possible.

Improving truck safety has been one of my key concerns for more than a decade. What seemed like a simple task so many years ago has become a long battle, fighting for common sense changes that would allow all trucks in Maine to use the Interstate system.

In 2009, Senator COLLINS and I, and our colleagues from Vermont, were able to secure a one-year pilot program that allowed 100,000-pound trucks on Interstates in Maine. The program reinforced the need for a permanent change to the outdated and inconsistent regulations that govern the weight of trucks on our Interstate highways.

During the 2009-2010 pilot program, there were 14 fewer crashes, a 10 percent improvement, involving six-axle vehicles, even with increased traffic volume on Maine's Interstate system. In fact, there were no fatal crashes on the Interstate during the pilot pro-

gram, and 5 fewer injuries on secondary roads.

Maine's Department of Transportation collects fatal accident data regarding large trucks, and more than 96 percent are on secondary roads, not the Interstate, including the portion of I-95 that has a permanent exemption. Crash rates for Maine trucks on secondary roads are 7 to 10 times higher than on Interstate highways.

Trucks belong on the highway, but Interstate highway weight limits are inconsistent across state lines, and shippers are forced to use secondary roads to move goods through states still restricted by weight limits established decades ago. In the 122 miles between Hampden and Houlton, Maine, a common route for shippers, these legal 100,000-pound trucks are forced to pass by 9 schools, 270 intersections, and more than 3,000 driveways.

The Commercial Truck Safety Act will allow states to petition the Secretary of Transportation for a waiver from current Interstate weight limits. The Secretary would have the authority to authorize a 3-year pilot program, during which time state engineers, highway users, and safety advocates would weigh the advantages and disadvantages, and report to the Secretary who could then set reasonable, permanent weight limits.

The Secretary would authorize a 3-year pilot program within a state, and require the creation of a safety committee, composed of engineers, safety advocates, and highway users. This team would report to the Secretary on whether the pilot program should be made permanent, eliminating the need for individual States to come to Congress for special exemptions.

Under my plan, only six-axle vehicles would be eligible to carry loads over 80,000 pounds. A 2000 Federal Highway Administration study noted that these trucks cause LESS fatigue on both rigid and flexible pavements. There is no question that allowing these vehicles on the Interstate will have safety, environmental, and efficiency benefits.

A total of 27 States already have some type of permanent exemption, and 47 states allow trucks weighing over 80,000 pounds on some roads within their State. To offer a clear picture of this, if you are driving a 100,000-pound truck from Gary, Indiana, just outside of Chicago, to Portland, Maine, you would be forced to unload the additional weight to continue on the Interstate in Maine, or travel through the state on local roads, needlessly raising the risk of an accident on a local road or street. Conversely, and inexplicably, you can drive a truck weighing 90,000 pounds all the way from Kansas City, MO to Seattle, WA, exclusively on the Interstate system.

If a State's chief highway engineer can certify the safety of a route, and the condition of a road, a State should

have the flexibility to change its weight limit on Interstate highways.

Pulp and paper produced in Bucksport and Lincoln, Maine, are vital to the economic health of my State, but with the return to previous weight limits, Maine is at a significant disadvantage due to the higher cost of transportation caused by this fundamental inequity. Some of my constituents noted that the pilot program increased efficiency so appreciably, it was as if the factory had been moved 200 miles closer to the customer. While at first glance this may seem insignificant, we must not forget that diesel prices are well above \$4.00 per gallon, and tractor trailers operate at approximately 6 miles per gallon. Not only will this bill save fuel and costs for shippers, it will reduce costs for states. A 2004 study commissioned by the Maine Department of Transportation indicates that a permanent change would reduce the state's pavement costs by more than \$1 million per year. It would also cut bridge rehabilitation costs by more than \$300,000 per year.

It is critical that we maximize our current highway capacity, and ensure that freight movement is efficient and timely. The Commercial Truck Safety Act will provide states with the flexibility they need to improve freight mobility and increase safety on our highways. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and allow States to update truck weight limits that no longer enhance safety or boost our economy.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Mr. REED):

S. 1452. A bill to promote simplification and fairness in the administration and collection of sales and use taxes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, "Level the Playing Field."

When I ask small business owners what they would like the Federal Government to do to help them thrive, the answer I most frequently hear is, "level the playing field."

It may be a cliché, but there's truth to it. Most small businesspeople don't want a government handout. They don't want special treatment. They just want to be able to compete fairly against other businesses.

That is why I am introducing the Main Street Fairness Act.

If you are a small business owner in Peoria or Springfield or Alton, you compete against neighboring businesses down the street and, increasingly, with sellers on the internet. The businesses down the street have to collect the same State sales taxes that you do. But, many internet sellers don't.

That means internet sellers have a built-in price advantage. That isn't fair, and it's not a level playing field.

The Main Street Fairness Act would address that. The bill would give Congressional endorsement to the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement, which 45 States and the District of Columbia created years ago to help make it feasible for businesses selling online to collect State and local sales taxes already owed.

Why is this Agreement necessary? The Supreme Court ruled in the early '90s that the maze of current sales tax rules and rates was too complex to expect online retailers to comply. The States worked together to address that problem.

The Main Street Fairness Act says that any State that wants to do so can require online retailers to collect the same sales taxes that Main Street businesses collect, provided that small online retailers are exempt, online retailers are compensated for any startup administrative costs associated with collecting sales taxes, and all retailers are treated equally regarding sales tax collection.

Let me be as clear as I can on one point: this bill is NOT a tax increase.

It doesn't amend the Internal Revenue Code in any way. It simply provides states the option to require all retailers to collect the sales taxes that are already owed.

The Main Street Fairness Act provides two other big benefits.

First, consumers will no longer be asked to itemize the sales taxes they owe from their online purchases on their year-end tax forms. Few consumers comply with the law today—most don't know they should—but the Main Street Fairness Act would eliminate the need to do so.

Second, State and local governments would collect taxes that are already owed.

It is no secret that many States and cities, including the State of Illinois and local governments across my State, are struggling to balance their budgets.

The State of Illinois estimates that we lose as much as \$153 million each year in unpaid taxes on internet sales alone.

Passing the Main Street Fairness Act would help State and local governments balance their budgets without cutting spending or raising new taxes.

The Main Street Fairness Act is supported by the National Governors' Association, National Conference on State Legislatures, Governing Board of the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement, National Retail Federation, International Council of Shopping Centers, Retail Industry Leaders Association, and the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts.

The Main Street Fairness Act will level the playing field for our small businesses. I urge its passage.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1452

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Main Street Fairness Act”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Consent of Congress.

Sec. 3. Findings.

Sec. 4. Authorization to require collection of sales and use taxes.

Sec. 5. Determinations by governing board and judicial review of such determinations.

Sec. 6. Minimum simplification requirements.

Sec. 7. Limitation.

Sec. 8. Expedited judicial review.

Sec. 9. Definitions.

Sec. 10. Severability.

Sec. 11. Sense of Congress on digital goods and services.

SEC. 2. CONSENT OF CONGRESS.

Congress consents to the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) States should be encouraged to simplify their sales and use tax systems.

(2) As a matter of economic policy and basic fairness, similar sales transactions should be treated equally, without regard to the manner in which sales are transacted, whether in person, through the mail, over the telephone, on the Internet, or by other means.

(3) Congress may facilitate such equal taxation consistent with the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Quill Corp. v. North Dakota*.

(4) States that voluntarily and adequately simplify their tax systems should be authorized to correct the present inequities in taxation through requiring sellers to collect taxes on sales of goods or services delivered in-state, without regard to the location of the seller.

(5) The States have experience, expertise, and a vital interest in the collection of sales and use taxes, and thus should take the lead in developing and implementing sales and use tax collection systems that are fair, efficient, and non-discriminatory in their application and that will simplify the process for both sellers and buyers.

(6) Online consumer privacy is of paramount importance to the growth of electronic commerce and must be protected.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION TO REQUIRE COLLECTION OF SALES AND USE TAXES.

(a) GRANT OF AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Member State under the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement is authorized, subject to the requirements of this section, to require all sellers not qualifying for the small seller exception to collect and remit sales and use taxes with respect to remote sales sourced to that Member State under the Agreement.

(2) REQUIREMENTS FOR AUTHORITY.—The authorization provided under paragraph (1) shall be granted once all of the following have occurred:

(A) Ten States comprising at least 20 percent of the total population of all States imposing a sales tax, as determined by the

most recent Federal census, have petitioned for membership and have become Member States under the Agreement.

(B) The following necessary operational aspects of the Agreement have been implemented by the Governing Board:

(i) Provider and system certification.

(ii) Setting of monetary allowance by contract with providers.

(iii) Implementation of an online multistate registration system.

(iv) Adoption of a standard form for claiming exemptions electronically.

(v) Establishment of advisory councils.

(vi) Promulgation of rules and procedures for dispute resolution.

(vii) Promulgation of rules and procedures for audits.

(viii) Provisions for funding and staffing the Governing Board.

(C) Each Member State has met the requirements to provide and maintain the databases for sales and use taxes and the taxability matrix described in the Agreement, pursuant to requirements of the Governing Board.

(3) LIMITATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authorization provided under paragraph (1)—

(A) shall be granted notwithstanding any other provision of law; and

(B) is dependent upon the Agreement, as amended, meeting the minimum simplification requirements of section 6.

(b) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The authorization provided under subsection (a) shall terminate for all States if—

(A) the requirements contained in subsection (a) cease to be satisfied; or

(B) any amendment adopted to the Agreement after the date of the enactment of this Act is inconsistent with the provisions of this Act.

(2) LOSS OF MEMBER STATE STATUS.—The authorization provided under subsection (a) shall terminate for a Member State, if such Member State no longer meets the requirements for Member State status under the terms of the Agreement or the provisions of this Act.

(c) DETERMINATION OF STATUS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Governing Board shall determine if Member States are in compliance with the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) and whether each Member State meets the minimum simplification requirements of section 6, and shall reevaluate such determination on an annual basis.

(2) COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION.—Upon the determination of the Governing Board that all the requirements of subsection (a) have been satisfied, the authority to require a seller to collect and remit sales and use taxes shall commence on the first day of a calendar quarter at least 6 months after the date the Governing Board makes its determination.

(3) NONCOMPLIANCE DETERMINATION.—Upon a final determination by the Governing Board that a Member State is not in compliance with the minimum simplification requirements of section 6 or is otherwise not in compliance with the Agreement, that Member State shall lose its remote seller collection authority on the earlier of—

(A) the date specified by the Governing Board; or

(B) the later of—

(i) the first day of January at least 2 years after the Governing Board finally determined the State was not compliant; or

(ii) the first day of a calendar quarter following the end of one full session of the

State's legislature beginning after the Governing Board finally determined the State was not compliant.

For purposes of this section, the terms "final determination" or "finally determined" shall mean that all appeals processes provided for in the Agreement have been exhausted or the time for pursuing such appeals has expired. An action before the Federal Court of Claims pursuant to section 5 shall not operate to stay a State's loss of collection authority.

(4) **RESTORATION OF AUTHORITY.**—Any Member State that loses its collection authority under this section must comply with all provisions of this section to have its remote seller collection authority restored.

SEC. 5. DETERMINATIONS BY GOVERNING BOARD AND JUDICIAL REVIEW OF SUCH DETERMINATIONS.

(a) **PETITION.**—At any time after the Governing Board has made the determinations required under section 4(c), any person who may be affected by the Agreement may petition the Governing Board for a determination on any issue related to the implementation of the Agreement or on a Member State's compliance with this Act or the Agreement.

(b) **REVIEW IN COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS.**—Any person who submits a petition under subsection (a) may bring an action against the Governing Board in the United States Court of Federal Claims for judicial review of the action of the Governing Board on that petition if—

(1) the petition relates to an issue of whether—

(A) a Member State has satisfied or continues to satisfy the requirements for Member State status under the Agreement;

(B) the Governing Board has performed a nondiscretionary duty of the Governing Board under the Agreement;

(C) the Agreement—

(i) continues to satisfy the minimum simplification requirements of section 6; or

(ii) otherwise continues to be consistent with the provisions of this Act; or

(D) any other requirement of section 4 has been satisfied; and

(2) the petition is denied by the Governing Board in whole or in part with respect to that issue, or the Governing Board fails to act on the petition with respect to that issue not later than the 6-month period beginning on the day after the date on which the petition was submitted.

(c) **TIMING OF ACTION FOR REVIEW.**—An action for review under this section shall be initiated not later than 60 days after the denial of the petition by the Governing Board, or, if the Governing Board fails to act on the petition, not later than 60 days after the end of the 6-month period beginning on the day after the date on which the petition was submitted.

(d) **STANDARD OF REVIEW.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In any action for review under this section, the court shall set aside the actions, findings, and conclusions of the Governing Board found to be arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with law.

(2) **REMAND.**—If the court sets aside any action, finding, or conclusion of the Governing Board under paragraph (1), the court shall remand the case to the Governing Board for further action consistent with the decision of the court.

(3) **NONMONETARY RELIEF.**—In connection with any remand under paragraph (2), the court may not award monetary relief, but may award declaratory and injunctive relief.

(e) **JURISDICTION.**—

(1) **GENERALLY.**—Chapter 91 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 1510. JURISDICTION REGARDING THE STREAMLINED SALES AND USE TAX AGREEMENT.

"The United States Court of Federal Claims shall have exclusive jurisdiction over actions for judicial review of determinations of the Governing Board of the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement under the terms and conditions provided in section 5 of the Main Street Fairness Act."

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO TABLE OF SECTIONS.**—The table of sections for chapter 91 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item: "1510. Jurisdiction regarding the streamlined sales and use tax agreement."

SEC. 6. MINIMUM SIMPLIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The minimum simplification requirements for the Agreement are as follows:

(1) A centralized, one-stop, multistate registration system that a seller may elect to use to register with the Member States, provided a seller may also elect to register directly with a Member State, and further provided that privacy and confidentiality controls shall be placed on the multistate registration system so that it may not be used for any purpose other than the administration of sales and use taxes. Furthermore, no taxing authority within a Member State or a Member State that has withdrawn or been expelled from the Agreement may use registration with the centralized registration system for the purpose of, or as a factor in determining, whether a seller has a nexus with that Member State for any tax at any time.

(2) Uniform definitions of products and product-based exemptions from which a Member State may choose its individual tax base, provided, however, that all local jurisdictions in that Member State with respect to which a tax is imposed or collected, shall have a common tax base identical to the State tax base of that Member State. A Member State may enact product-based exemptions without restriction if the Agreement does not have a definition for the product or for a term that includes the product. A Member State shall relax the good faith requirement for acceptance of exemption certificates in accordance with section 317 of the Agreement, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) Uniform rules for sourcing and attributing transactions to particular taxing jurisdictions.

(4) Uniform procedures for the certification of service providers and software on which a seller may elect to rely in order to determine Member State sales and use tax rates and taxability.

(5) Uniform rules for bad debts and roundings.

(6) Uniform requirements for tax returns and remittances.

(7) Consistent electronic filing and remittance methods.

(8) Single, State-level administration of all Member State and local sales and use taxes, including a requirement for a State-level filing of tax returns in each Member State.

(9) A provision requiring the elimination by each Member State of caps and thresholds on the application of sales and use tax rates and exemptions based on value, provided that this limitation does not apply to the items identified in sections 308C, 322, and 323

of the Agreement, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(10) A provision requiring each Member State to complete a taxability matrix, as adopted by the Governing Board. The matrix shall include information regarding terms defined by the Agreement in the Library of Definitions. The matrix shall also include, pursuant to the requirements of the Governing Board, information on use-, entity-, and product-based exemptions.

(11) A provision requiring that each Member State relieves a seller or service provider from liability to that Member State and local jurisdiction for collection of the incorrect amount of sales or use tax, and relieves the purchaser from penalties stemming from such liability, provided that collection of the improper amount is the result of relying on information provided by that Member State regarding tax rates, boundaries, or taxing jurisdiction assignments, or in the taxability matrix regarding terms defined by the Agreement in the Library of Definitions.

(12) Audit procedures for sellers, including an option under which a seller not qualifying for the small business exception may request, by notifying the Governing Board, to be subject to a single audit on behalf of all Member States for sales and use taxes. The Governing Board, in its discretion, may authorize such a single audit.

(13)(A) Subject to subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), and (E), a provision requiring that in order for a Member State to require collection with respect to remote sales under section 4, the Member State shall provide compensation for expenses incurred by a seller directly in administering, collecting, and remitting sales and use taxes to that Member State. Such compensation may vary in each Member State as provided in the Agreement.

(B) Congress hereby finds that the compensation for expenses incurred by sellers required of Member States under the terms of the Agreement, as in effect on the enactment of this Act, is the minimum compensation necessary, when considered in connection with the simplification requirements contained in the Agreement on the date authority to require collection commences under section 4, to satisfy the requirement under subparagraph (A) on such date.

(C)(i) A provision requiring that the minimum compensation required of a Member State under subparagraph (A) may be modified as follows:

(I) Adjusted in relationship to changes in the size of the small business exemption adopted by the Governing Board.

(II) Decreased as additional simplifications and improvements in technology reduce collection costs.

(III) Increased if provisions of the Agreement are adopted that increase collection costs.

(ii) Any such modification in the minimum required compensation must be based on an independent review of the expenses incurred by sellers in administering, collecting, and remitting sales and use taxes and shall consider all changes impacting such expenses and take into account and be proportional to the increase or decrease in the expenses incurred by sellers in administering, collecting, and remitting sales and use taxes.

(D) The compensation required by subparagraph (A) shall be provided pursuant to the implementation schedule set out in the Agreement. Nothing in this Act shall prohibit a Member State from providing compensation greater than the amount required by this Act or the Agreement or on a date earlier than required by this Act or the Agreement.

(E) Compensation necessary to meet the requirement of subparagraph (A) may be provided to a seller or a third party service provider whom a seller has contracted with to perform the sales and use tax responsibilities of a seller.

(14) Appropriate protections for consumer privacy.

(15) Governance procedures and mechanisms to ensure timely, consistent, and uniform implementation and adherence to the principles of the streamlined system and the terms of the Agreement.

(16) A uniform rule to establish a small seller exception to a requirement to collect authorized by this Act.

(17) Uniform rules and procedures for sales tax holidays.

(18) Uniform rules and procedures to address refunds and credits for sales taxes relating to customer returns, restocking fees, discounts and coupons, and rules to address allocations of shipping and handling and discounts applied to multiple item and multiple seller orders.

(b) REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE SIMPLIFIED TAX SYSTEMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The requirements of this section are intended to ensure that each Member State provides and maintains the necessary simplification to its sales and use tax system to warrant the collection authority granted to such Member State in section 4.

(2) REDUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDENS.—The requirements of this section should be construed—

(A) to require each Member State to substantially reduce the administrative burdens associated with sales and use taxes; and

(B) as allowing each Member State to exercise flexibility in how these requirements are satisfied.

(3) EXCEPTION.—In instances where exceptions to the requirements of this section can be exercised in a manner that does not materially increase the administrative burden on a seller obligated to collect or pay the taxes, such exceptions are permissible.

(c) NO REQUIREMENT TO EXEMPT FROM OR IMPOSE TAX.—Nothing in this Act or the Agreement shall require any Member State or any local taxing jurisdiction to exempt, or to impose a tax on any product, or to adopt any particular type of tax, or to impose the same rate of tax as any other taxing jurisdiction.

SEC. 7. LIMITATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed as—

(1) subjecting a seller to franchise taxes, income taxes, or licensing requirements of a Member State or political subdivision thereof; or

(2) affecting the application of such taxes or requirements or enlarging or reducing the authority of any Member State to impose such taxes or requirements.

(b) NO EFFECT ON NEXUS, ETC.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—No obligation imposed by virtue of the authority granted by section 4 shall be considered in determining whether a seller has a nexus with any Member State for any other tax purpose.

(2) PERMISSIBLE MEMBER STATE AUTHORITY.—Except as provided in subsection (a), and in section 4, nothing in this Act permits or prohibits a Member State from—

(A) licensing or regulating any person;

(B) requiring any person to qualify to transact intrastate business;

(C) subjecting any person to State taxes not related to the sale of goods or services; or

(D) exercising authority over matters of interstate commerce.

SEC. 8. EXPEDITED JUDICIAL REVIEW.

(a) THREE-JUDGE DISTRICT COURT HEARING.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any civil action challenging the constitutionality of this Act, or any provision thereof, shall be heard by a district court of 3 judges convened pursuant to the provisions of section 2284 of title 28, United States Code.

(b) APPELLATE REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an interlocutory or final judgment, decree, or order of the court of 3 judges in an action under subsection (a) holding this Act, or any provision thereof, unconstitutional shall be reviewable as a matter of right by direct appeal to the United States Supreme Court.

(2) 30-DAY TIME LIMIT.—Any appeal under paragraph (1) shall be filed not more than 30 days after the date of entry of such judgment, decree, or order.

SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this Act the following definitions apply:

(1) GOVERNING BOARD.—The term “Governing Board” means the governing board established by the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement.

(2) MEMBER STATE.—The term “Member State”—

(A) means a Member State as that term is used under the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) does not include associate members under the Agreement.

(3) NONDISCRETIONARY DUTY OF THE GOVERNING BOARD.—The term “nondiscretionary duty of the Governing Board” means any duty of the Governing Board specified in the Agreement as a requirement for action by use of the term “shall”, “will”, or “is required to”.

(4) PERSON.—The term “person” means an individual, trust, estate, fiduciary, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or any other legal entity, and includes a State or local government.

(5) REMOTE SALE.—The term “remote sale” means a sale of goods or services attributed to a particular Member State with respect to which a seller does not have adequate physical presence to establish nexus under the law existing on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act so as to allow such Member State to require, without regard to the authority granted by this Act, the seller to collect and remit taxes covered by this Act with respect to such sale.

(6) REMOTE SELLER.—The term “remote seller” means any seller who makes a remote sale.

(7) STATE.—The term “State” means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

(8) STREAMLINED SALES AND USE TAX AGREEMENT.—The term “Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement” (or “the Agreement”) means the multistate agreement with that title adopted on November 12, 2002, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and unless the context otherwise indicates as further amended from time to time.

SEC. 10. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act, an amendment made by this Act, or the application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional,

the remainder of this Act, the amendments made by this Act, and the application of the provisions of such to any person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 11. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON DIGITAL GOODS AND SERVICES.

It is the sense of Congress that each Member State that is a party to the Agreement should work with other Member States that are also parties to the Agreement to prevent double taxation in situations where a foreign country has imposed a transaction tax on a digital good or service.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. INOUE):

S. 1454. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for extended months of Medicare coverage of immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant patients and other renal dialysis provisions; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the “Comprehensive Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Patients Act” with my colleagues Senators COCHRAN, LEVIN, CARDIN, SCHUMER, INOUE, and BROWN of Massachusetts.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that about 13 percent of American adults, 26 million people, have chronic kidney disease. Some of these individuals can improve their condition with medication and lifestyle changes, but approximately half a million of them have irreversible kidney failure, or end-stage renal disease, ESRD. These patients require dialysis or a kidney transplant to survive.

Organ transplantation is a medical success story. Thousands of transplants are done every year, and for the patients fortunate enough to receive a donated organ, the quality and length of their lives can be dramatically improved. Of the more than 28,000 transplants performed in 2010, over 16,898 of them were kidney transplants.

A large portion of these kidney transplants were paid for by the Medicare system, which provides healthcare to aged and disabled Americans, as well as those living with ESRD. Medicare also covers dialysis for patients who have not received a donor kidney and immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant recipients. Organ transplant recipients must take immunosuppressive drugs every day for the life of their transplant to reduce the risk of organ rejection.

In 2000, Congress wisely eliminated the 36-month time limitation for aged and disabled beneficiaries who had Medicare status at the time of transplant. So today, for an older or disabled person on Medicare, immunosuppressive drugs are covered by Medicare for the life of the transplant.

However, we still have an unfair and unrealistic gap in coverage for people

with ESRD who are neither disabled nor elderly. For those transplant recipients, Medicare coverage, including coverage of immunosuppressive drugs, ends 36 months after transplantation. Without regular access to immunosuppressive drugs to prevent rejection, many patients find themselves back in a risky and frightening place, in need of a new kidney. This is economically inefficient and morally wrong.

Since Medicare covers the cost of the transplant for end stage renal disease, it makes sense for Medicare to preserve this investment by covering anti-rejection drugs. It would be far less expensive for Medicare to cover immunosuppressive drugs at a cost of \$10,000 to \$20,000 a year than to pay for dialysis at \$78,000 a year or another transplant at a cost of \$110,000 if a patient's kidney fails and he is once again eligible for Medicare coverage.

I am pleased to introduce the Comprehensive Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Patients Act along with my colleagues. This legislation would allow kidney transplant recipients to continue Medicare coverage for the purpose of immunosuppressive drugs only. All other Medicare coverage would end 36 months after the transplant.

It is time to pass this legislation to provide continuous coverage for immunosuppressive drugs through Medicare. My legislation will reduce the need for dialysis and kidney re-transplants and provide reliable, sustained access to critically important, life-saving medications for thousands of Americans. In both moral and economic terms, this is the right decision.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1454

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Comprehensive Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Patients Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. EXTENDED MONTHS OF COVERAGE OF IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUGS FOR KIDNEY TRANSPLANT PATIENTS AND OTHER RENAL DIALYSIS PROVISIONS.

(a) MEDICARE ENTITLEMENT TO IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUGS FOR KIDNEY TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS.—

(1) KIDNEY TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS.—Section 226A(b)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 426-1(b)(2)) is amended by inserting "(except for eligibility for enrollment under part B solely for purposes of coverage of immunosuppressive drugs described in section 1861(s)(2)(J))" before ", with the thirty-sixth month".

(2) INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE ONLY FOR COVERAGE OF IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUGS.—

(A) Section 1836 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395o) is amended—

(i) by striking "Every" and inserting "(a) IN GENERAL.—Every"; and

(ii) by inserting at the end the following new subsection:

"(b) INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUG COVERAGE.—Beginning on January 1, 2012, every individual whose insurance benefits under part A have ended (whether before, on, or after such date) by reason of section 226A(b)(2) is eligible for enrollment in the insurance program established by this part solely for purposes of coverage of immunosuppressive drugs."

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Sections 1837, 1838, and 1839 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395(p), 42 U.S.C. 1395(q), 42 U.S.C. 1395(r)) are each amended by striking "1836" and inserting "1836(a)" each place it appears.

(3) ENROLLMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS ONLY ELIGIBLE FOR COVERAGE OF IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUGS.—Section 1837 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395(p)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(m)(1) Any individual who is eligible under section 1836(b) to enroll in the medical insurance program established under this part for purposes of coverage of immunosuppressive drugs may enroll only in such manner and form as may be prescribed by regulations, and only during an enrollment period described in this subsection.

"(2) An individual described in paragraph (1) may enroll beginning on the first day of the third month before the month in which the individual first satisfies section 1836(b).

"(3) An individual described in paragraph (1) whose entitlement for hospital insurance benefits under part A ends by reason of section 226A(b)(2) on or after January 1, 2012, shall be deemed to have enrolled in the medical insurance program established by this part for purposes of coverage of immunosuppressive drugs."

(4) COVERAGE PERIOD FOR INDIVIDUALS ONLY ELIGIBLE FOR COVERAGE OF IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 1838 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395q) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(g) In the case of an individual described in section 1836(b), the following rules shall apply:

"(1) In the case of such an individual who is deemed to have enrolled in part B for coverage of immunosuppressive drugs under section 1837(m)(3), such individual's coverage period shall begin on the first day of the month in which the individual first satisfies section 1836(b).

"(2) In the case of such an individual who enrolls in part B for coverage of immunosuppressive drugs under section 1837(m)(2), such individual's coverage period shall begin on the first day of the month in which the individual first satisfies section 1836(b) or the month following the month in which the individual so enrolls, whichever is later.

"(3) The provisions of subsections (b) and (d) shall apply with respect to an individual described in paragraph (1) or (2).

"(4) In addition to the reasons for termination under subsection (b), the coverage period of an individual described in paragraph (1) or (2) shall end when the individual becomes entitled to benefits under this title under section 226(a), 226(b), or 226A."

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1838(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395q(b)) is amended, in the matter following paragraph (2), by adding "or section 1837(m)(3)" after "section 1837(f)" each place it appears.

(5) PREMIUMS FOR INDIVIDUALS ONLY ELIGIBLE FOR COVERAGE OF IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUGS.—Section 1839 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395r) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the following new sentence: "No increase in the premium shall be effected for individuals who are enrolled pursuant to section 1836(b) for coverage only of immunosuppressive drugs."; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(j) DETERMINATION OF PREMIUM FOR INDIVIDUALS ONLY ELIGIBLE FOR COVERAGE OF IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUGS.—The Secretary shall, during September of each year, determine and promulgate a monthly premium rate for the succeeding calendar year for individuals who enroll only for the purpose of coverage of immunosuppressive drugs under section 1836(b). Such premium shall be equal to 35 percent of the monthly actuarial rate for enrollees age 65 and over, determined according to paragraph (1), for that succeeding calendar year. The monthly premium of each individual enrolled for coverage of immunosuppressive drugs under section 1836(b) for each month shall be the amount promulgated in this subsection. Such amount shall be adjusted in accordance with subsections (c) and (f)."

(6) GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION.—Section 1844(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; plus";

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(4) a Government contribution equal to the estimated aggregate reduction in premiums payable under part B that results from establishing the premium at 35 percent of the actuarial rate under section 1839(j) instead of 50 percent of the actuarial rate for individuals who enroll only for the purpose of coverage of immunosuppressive drugs under section 1836(b)."; and

(C) by adding at the end the following flush matter:

"The Government contribution under paragraph (4) shall be treated as premiums payable and deposited for purposes of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1)."

(7) EXTENSION OF SECONDARY PAYER REQUIREMENTS FOR ESRD BENEFICIARIES ELIGIBLE FOR COVERAGE OF IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUGS.—Section 1862(b)(1)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395(y)(b)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "With regard to immunosuppressive drugs furnished to an individual who enrolls for the purpose of coverage of immunosuppressive drugs under section 1836(b) on or after January 1, 2012, this subparagraph shall apply without regard to any time limitation, except that when such individual becomes entitled to benefits under this title under sections 226(a) or 226(b), or entitled to or eligible for benefits under this title under section 226A, the provisions of subparagraphs (A) and (B), and the time limitations under this subparagraph, respectively, shall apply."

(8) ENSURING COVERAGE UNDER THE MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAM.—Section 1905(p)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(p)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting "or an individual who is enrolled under part B for the purpose of coverage of immunosuppressive drugs under section 1836(b)" after "section 1818".

(9) PART D.—Section 1860D-1(a)(3)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-101(a)(3)(A)) is amended by inserting "(but not including an individual enrolled solely for coverage of immunosuppressive drugs under section 1836(b))" before the period at the end.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 242—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BENNET, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 242

Whereas ovarian cancer is the deadliest of all gynecologic cancers;

Whereas ovarian cancer is the 5th leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the United States;

Whereas almost 21,000 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2011, and 15,000 will die from the disease;

Whereas these deaths are those of our mothers, sisters, daughters, family members, and community leaders;

Whereas the mortality rate for ovarian cancer has not significantly decreased since the "War on Cancer" was declared 40 years ago;

Whereas all women are at risk for ovarian cancer, and 90 percent of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer do not have a family history that puts them at a higher risk;

Whereas some women, such as those with a family history of breast or ovarian cancer, are at a higher risk for the disease;

Whereas the pap test is sensitive and specific to the early detection of cervical cancer, but not ovarian cancer;

Whereas there is currently no reliable early detection test for ovarian cancer;

Whereas many people are unaware that the symptoms of ovarian cancer often include bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain, difficulty eating or feeling full quickly, urinary symptoms, and several other symptoms that are easily confused with other diseases;

Whereas in June 2007, the first national consensus statement on ovarian cancer symptoms was developed to provide consistency in describing symptoms to make it easier for women to learn and remember the symptoms;

Whereas there are known methods to reduce the risk of ovarian cancer, including prophylactic surgery, oral contraceptives, and breast-feeding;

Whereas, due to the lack of a reliable early detection test, 75 percent of cases of ovarian cancer are detected at an advanced stage, making the overall 5-year survival rate only 45 percent;

Whereas there are factors that are known to reduce the risk for ovarian cancer and that play an important role in the prevention of the disease;

Whereas awareness of the symptoms of ovarian cancer by women and health care providers can lead to a quicker diagnosis;

Whereas, each year during the month of September, the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance and its partner members hold a number of events to increase public awareness of ovarian cancer; and

Whereas September 2011 should be designated as "National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month" to increase public awareness of ovarian cancer: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the goals and ideals of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 243—PROMOTING INCREASED AWARENESS, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT OF ATRIAL FIBRILLATION TO ADDRESS THE HIGH MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY RATES AND TO PREVENT AVOIDABLE HOSPITALIZATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DISEASE

Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. INOUE, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 243

Whereas atrial fibrillation is a cardiac condition that results when the usual coordinated electrical activity in the atria of the heart becomes disorganized and chaotic, hampering the ability of the atria to fill the ventricles with blood, and allowing blood to pool in the atria and form clots;

Whereas an estimated 2,500,000 people in the United States are living with atrial fibrillation, the most common "serious" heart rhythm abnormality that occurs in people older than 65 years of age;

Whereas atrial fibrillation is associated with an increased long-term risk of stroke, heart failure, and all-cause mortality, especially among women;

Whereas people older than 40 years of age have a 1-in-4 risk of developing atrial fibrillation in their lifetime;

Whereas an estimated 15 percent of strokes are the result of untreated atrial fibrillation, a condition that dramatically increases the risk of stroke to approximately 5 times more than the general population;

Whereas atrial fibrillation accounts for approximately 529,000 hospital discharges annually;

Whereas atrial fibrillation costs an estimated \$3,600 per patient for a total cost burden in the United States of \$15,700,000,000;

Whereas better patient and health care provider education is needed for the timely recognition of atrial fibrillation symptoms;

Whereas an electrocardiogram is an effective and risk-free screen for heart rhythm irregularities and can be part of a routine preventive exam;

Whereas there is a dearth of outcome performance measures that focus on the management of atrial fibrillation; and

Whereas evidence-based care guidelines improve patient outcomes and prevent unnecessary hospitalizations for individuals with undiagnosed atrial fibrillation and for patients once atrial fibrillation is detected: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of Health and Human Services should work with leaders in the medical community to explore ways to improve medical research, screening and prevention methods, and surveillance efforts in order to prevent and appropriately manage atrial fibrillation, including by—

(1) advancing the development of process and outcome measures for the management of atrial fibrillation by national developers;

(2) facilitating the adoption of evidence-based guidelines by the medical community to improve patient outcomes;

(3) advancing atrial fibrillation research and education by—

(A) encouraging basic science research to determine the causes and optimal treatments for atrial fibrillation;

(B) exploring development of screening tools and protocols to determine the risk of developing atrial fibrillation; and

(C) enhancing current surveillance and tracking systems to include atrial fibrillation; and

(4) improving access to appropriate medical care for patients suffering from atrial fibrillation by encouraging education programs that promote collaboration among the Federal health agencies and that increase public and clinician awareness of atrial fibrillation, including risk assessment, screening, treatment, and appropriate clinical management.

SENATE RESOLUTION 244—CONGRATULATING OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC. FOR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND THE WORLD, AND COMMENDING OMEGA PSI PHI FOR UPHOLDING ITS CARDINAL PRINCIPLES OF MANHOOD, SCHOLARSHIP, PERSEVERANCE, AND UPLIFT

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 244

Whereas Omega Psi Phi is the first international fraternal organization to be founded on the campus of a historically black college;

Whereas Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. was founded at Howard University in Washington, District of Columbia, on November 17, 1911, by undergraduates Oscar James Cooper, M.D., Frank Coleman, Ph.D., and Edgar Amos Love, D.D., and their faculty advisor Ernest Everett Just, Ph.D.;

Whereas, on November 17, 2011, Omega Psi Phi will celebrate 100 years of service to communities throughout the United States and the world in many diverse fields of endeavor;

Whereas, in 2011, Omega Psi Phi has more than 700 chapters throughout the United States, Bermuda, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, South Korea, Japan, Liberia, Germany, and Kuwait;

Whereas Omega Psi Phi has maintained a commitment to the betterment of mankind, the enhancement of the community, and the enrichment of collegiate men through dedication to its cardinal principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift;

Whereas Omega Psi Phi chapters participate in activities that uplift their communities, including voter registration, illiteracy awareness, Habitat for Humanity, health awareness programs, and youth mentoring;

Whereas the men of Omega Psi Phi have distinguished themselves in the field of science, including Dr. Ernest Everett Just, an internationally known biologist, Dr.

Charles Drew, who perfected the use of blood plasma, Dr. Ronald E. McNair, an astronaut and member of the flight team aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger, Charles Bolden, an astronaut and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and Dr. Fred Drew Gregory, an astronaut and graduate of the United States Air Force Academy;

Whereas the men of Omega Psi Phi have distinguished themselves in the field of sports, including Dr. Robert M. Screen, the tennis coach at Hampton University and the coach with the most wins in the history of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, Michael Jordan, who was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2009, Charlie Ward, the winner of the Heisman Trophy in 1993 and a former guard with the New York Knicks of the National Basketball Association, Dr. LeRoy Walker, a former president of the United States Olympic Committee, and Terrance Trammell, a world champion hurdler;

Whereas the men of Omega Psi Phi have distinguished themselves in the field of government, including William Hastie, the first Governor of the Virgin Islands, Lawrence Douglas Wilder, the first black Governor of Virginia, Togo West, a former Secretary of the Army, James E. Clyburn, a Member of the House of Representatives from South Carolina and the 26th Majority Whip of the House of Representatives, Jesse Jackson, Jr., a Member of the House of Representatives from Illinois, and Hank Johnson, a Member of the House of Representatives from Georgia;

Whereas the men of Omega Psi Phi have distinguished themselves in the field of the arts, including Langston Hughes, the poet laureate who excelled as a poet, playwright, novelist, lyricist, and humorist, and William "Count" Basie, an internationally known pianist, composer, arranger, and band leader; and

Whereas Omega Psi Phi will commemorate its history and promote its continued success at its centennial celebration to be held July 27 through July 31, 2011, in Washington, District of Columbia: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. for 100 years of service to communities throughout the United States and the world; and

(2) commends Omega Psi Phi for upholding its cardinal principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift.

SENATE RESOLUTION 245—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 2011 AS "STOMACH CANCER AWARENESS MONTH" AND SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT STOMACH CANCER

Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 245

Whereas stomach cancer is 1 of the most difficult cancers to detect and treat in the early stages of the disease, which contributes to high mortality rates and human suffering;

Whereas stomach cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer mortality worldwide;

Whereas, in 2009, an estimated 21,000 new cases of stomach cancer were diagnosed in the United States;

Whereas, in 2010, it was estimated that 10,000 people in the United States would die from stomach cancer;

Whereas the estimated 5-year survival rate for stomach cancer is only 26 percent;

Whereas approximately 1 in 113 individuals will be diagnosed with stomach cancer in their lifetimes;

Whereas an inherited form of stomach cancer carries a 67- to 83-percent risk that an individual will be diagnosed with stomach cancer by 80 years of age;

Whereas, in the United States, stomach cancer is more prevalent among racial and ethnic minorities;

Whereas better patient and health care provider education is needed for the timely recognition of stomach cancer risks and symptoms;

Whereas more research into effective early diagnosis, screening, and treatment for stomach cancer is needed; and

Whereas November 2011 is an appropriate month to observe "Stomach Cancer Awareness Month": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 2011 as "Stomach Cancer Awareness Month";

(2) supports efforts to educate the people of the United States about stomach cancer;

(3) recognizes the need for additional research into early diagnosis and treatment for stomach cancer; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States and interested groups to observe and support November 2011 as "Stomach Cancer Awareness Month" through appropriate programs and activities to promote public awareness of, and potential treatments for, stomach cancer.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 589. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 627, to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays.

SA 590. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 589 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 627, *supra*.

SA 591. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 627, *supra*.

SA 592. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 591 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 627, *supra*.

SA 593. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 592 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 591 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 627, *supra*.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 589. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 627, to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays; as follows:

Strike all after "Section" and insert the following:

1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the "Budget Control Act of 2011".

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.

TITLE I—DISCRETIONARY SPENDING CAPS AND ENFORCEMENT

Sec. 101. Discretionary spending limits.

Sec. 102. Senate budget enforcement.

TITLE II—OTHER SPENDING CUTS

Subtitle A—Federal Pell Grant and Student Loan Program Changes

Sec. 211. Federal Pell Grant and student loan program changes.

Subtitle B—Farm Programs

Sec. 221. Definition of payment acres.

TITLE III—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON DEFICIT REDUCTION

Sec. 301. Establishment of Joint Select Committee.

Sec. 302. Expedited consideration of joint committee recommendations.

Sec. 303. Funding.

Sec. 304. Rulemaking.

TITLE IV—DEBT CEILING DISAPPROVAL PROCESS

Sec. 401. Debt ceiling disapproval process.

TITLE I—DISCRETIONARY SPENDING CAPS AND ENFORCEMENT

SEC. 101. DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS.

(a) **POINT OF ORDER.**—It shall not be in order in the House of Representatives or the Senate to consider any bill, resolution, amendment, motion or conference report that includes any provision that would cause the discretionary spending limits as set forth in this section to be exceeded.

(b) **LIMITS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In this section, the term "discretionary spending limits" has the following meaning subject to adjustments in paragraph (2) and subsection (c):

(A) For fiscal year 2012—

(i) for the security category \$606,000,000,000 in budget authority; and

(ii) for the nonsecurity category \$439,000,000,000 in budget authority.

(B) For fiscal year 2013—

(i) for the security category \$607,000,000,000 in budget authority; and

(ii) for the nonsecurity category \$440,000,000,000 in budget authority.

(C) For fiscal year 2014, for the discretionary category, \$1,068,000,000,000 in budget authority.

(D) For fiscal year 2015, for the discretionary category, \$1,089,000,000,000 in budget authority.

(E) For fiscal year 2016, for the discretionary category, \$1,111,000,000,000 in budget authority.

(F) For fiscal year 2017, for the discretionary category, \$1,134,000,000,000 in budget authority.

(G) For fiscal year 2018, for the discretionary category, \$1,156,000,000,000 in budget authority.

(H) For fiscal year 2019, for the discretionary category, \$1,180,000,000,000 in budget authority.

(I) For fiscal year 2020, for the discretionary category, \$1,203,000,000,000 in budget authority.

(J) For fiscal year 2021, for the discretionary category, \$1,227,000,000,000 in budget authority.

(2) **AUTHORIZED ADJUSTMENT TO LIMITS.**—

(A) **ADJUSTMENTS FOR BUDGET SUBMISSION.**—When the President submits a budget under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, OMB shall calculate and the budget shall include adjustments to discretionary spending limits (and those limits as cumulatively adjusted) for the budget year and each out year equal to the baseline levels of new budget authority using up-to-date concepts and definitions minus those levels using the concepts and definitions in effect before such changes. Such changes may only be made after consultation with the committees on Appropriations and the Budget of the House

of Representatives and the Senate and that consultation shall include written communication to such committees that affords such committees the opportunity to comment before official action is taken with respect to such changes.

(B) ADJUSTMENTS FOR CONGRESSIONAL ENFORCEMENT.—For the purposes of Congressional enforcement of the limits in this section, the Chairmen of the Committees on the Budget of the Senate and House of Representatives may adjust the discretionary spending limits in amounts equal to the adjustments made pursuant to subparagraph (A) as contained in the President's budget. Any adjustment made pursuant to this subparagraph shall not constitute a repeal or change to the limits contained in this section.

(C) ESTIMATES AND OTHER ADJUSTMENTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—

(A) LIMITS AND SUBALLOCATIONS FOR CONGRESSIONAL ENFORCEMENT.—After the reporting of a bill or joint resolution relating to any matter described in paragraph (2), (3), or (4), or the offering of an amendment thereto or the submission of a conference report thereon—

(i) for the purposes of enforcement of the discretionary spending limits in the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of that House may adjust the discretionary spending limits in this section, the budgetary aggregates in the concurrent resolution on the budget most recently adopted by the Senate and the House of Representatives, and allocations pursuant to section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, by the amount of new budget authority in that measure for that purpose; and

(ii) following any adjustment under clause (i), the Committee on Appropriations of that House may report appropriately revised suballocations pursuant to section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to carry out this subsection.

(B) OTHER ADJUSTMENTS.—For the purposes of determining an end of the year sequester pursuant to subsection (f), when OMB submits a sequestration report under subsection (f)(7) for a fiscal year, OMB shall calculate, and the sequestration report and subsequent budgets submitted by the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, shall include, adjustments to discretionary spending limits (and those limits as adjusted) for the fiscal year and each succeeding year through 2021 upon the enactment of a bill or resolution relating to any matter described in paragraphs (2), (3), or (4).

(C) ESTIMATES.—

(i) CBO ESTIMATES.—As soon as practicable after Congress completes action on any discretionary appropriation, CBO, after consultation with the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall provide OMB with an estimate of the amount of discretionary new budget authority for the current year (if any) and the budget year provided by that legislation.

(ii) OMB ESTIMATES AND EXPLANATION OF DIFFERENCES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 7 calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) after the date of enactment of any discretionary appropriation, OMB shall make publicly available on the day it is issued and, on the following day, shall be printed in the Federal Register a report containing the CBO estimate of that legislation, an OMB estimate of the amount of discretionary new budget authority for the current year (if any) and the budget year provided by

that legislation, and an explanation of any difference between the 2 estimates.

(II) DIFFERENCES.—If during the preparation of the report OMB determines that there is a significant difference between OMB and CBO, OMB shall consult with the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate regarding that difference and that consultation shall include, to the extent practicable, written communication to those committees that affords such committees the opportunity to comment before the issuance of the report.

(D) ASSUMPTIONS AND GUIDELINES.—OMB estimates under subparagraph (C) shall be made using current economic and technical assumptions. In its final sequestration report, OMB shall use the OMB estimates transmitted to the Congress under this paragraph. OMB and CBO shall prepare estimates under this paragraph in conformance with scorekeeping guidelines determined after consultation among the House and Senate Committees on the Budget, CBO, and OMB.

(E) ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS.—For purposes of this paragraph, amounts provided by annual appropriations shall include any new budget authority for the current year (if any) and the advance appropriations that become available in the budget year from previously enacted legislation.

(2) OTHER ADJUSTMENTS.—Other adjustments referred to in paragraph (1)(B) are as follows:

(A) CONTINUING DISABILITY REVIEWS AND SSI REDETERMINATIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If a bill or joint resolution is reported making appropriations in a fiscal year of the first amount specified in subclauses (I) through (X) of clause (ii) for that fiscal year for continuing disability reviews and Supplemental Security Income redeterminations under the heading "Limitation on Administrative Expenses" for the Social Security Administration, and provides an additional appropriation for continuing disability reviews and Supplemental Security Income redeterminations for the Social Security Administration, or one or more initiatives that the Office of the Chief Actuary determines would be at least as cost effective as a redetermination of eligibility under the heading "Limitation on Administrative Expenses" for the Social Security Administration of up to an amount further specified in that subclause, then the discretionary spending limits, allocation to the Committees on Appropriations of each House, and aggregates for that fiscal year may be adjusted by the amount in budget authority not to exceed the additional appropriation provided in such legislation for that purpose for that fiscal year.

(ii) AMOUNTS SPECIFIED.—The amounts specified are—

(I) for fiscal year 2012, an appropriation of \$758,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$237,000,000;

(II) for fiscal year 2013, an appropriation of \$758,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$390,000,000;

(III) for fiscal year 2014, an appropriation of \$778,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$559,000,000;

(IV) for fiscal year 2015, an appropriation of \$799,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$774,000,000;

(V) for fiscal year 2016, an appropriation of \$822,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$778,000,000;

(VI) for fiscal year 2017, an appropriation of \$849,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$804,000,000;

(VII) for fiscal year 2018, an appropriation of \$877,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$831,000,000;

(VIII) for fiscal year 2019, an appropriation of \$906,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$860,000,000;

(IX) for fiscal year 2020, an appropriation of \$935,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$890,000,000; and

(X) for fiscal year 2021, an appropriation of \$963,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$924,000,000.

(iii) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this subparagraph, the terms "continuing disability reviews" and "Supplemental Security Income redeterminations" mean continuing disability reviews under titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act and redeterminations of eligibility under title XVI of the Social Security Act.

(iv) REPORT.—The Commissioner of Social Security shall provide annually to the Congress a report on continuing disability reviews and Supplemental Security Income redeterminations which includes—

(I) the amount spent on continuing disability reviews and Supplemental Security Income redeterminations in the fiscal year covered by the report, and the number of reviews and redeterminations conducted, by category of review or redetermination;

(II) the results of the continuing disability reviews and Supplemental Security Income redeterminations in terms of cessations of benefits or determinations of continuing eligibility, by program; and

(III) the estimated savings over the short-, medium-, and long-term to the Old-age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance, Supplemental Security Income, Medicare, and Medicaid programs from continuing disability reviews and Supplemental Security Income redeterminations which result in cessations of benefits and the estimated present value of such savings.

(B) INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE TAX ENFORCEMENT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If a bill or joint resolution is reported making appropriations in a fiscal year to the Internal Revenue Service of not less than the first amount specified in subclauses (I) through (X) of clause (ii) for tax activities for that fiscal year, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap (taxes owed but not paid), and provides an additional appropriation for tax activities, including tax compliance activities to address the Federal tax gap, of up to an amount further specified in that subclause, then the discretionary spending limits, allocation to the Committees on Appropriations of each House, and aggregates for that fiscal year may be adjusted by the amount in budget authority not to exceed the amount of additional appropriations for tax activities, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap provided in such legislation for that fiscal year.

(ii) AMOUNTS SPECIFIED.—The amounts specified are—

(I) for fiscal year 2012, an appropriation of \$7,979,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$2,519,000,000 for tax activities, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap;

(II) for fiscal year 2013, an appropriation of \$7,979,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$3,132,000,000 for tax activities, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap;

(III) for fiscal year 2014, an appropriation of \$8,204,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$3,542,000,000 for tax activities, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap;

(IV) for fiscal year 2015, an appropriation of \$8,444,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$3,975,000,000 for tax activities, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap;

(V) for fiscal year 2016, an appropriation of \$8,710,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$4,486,000,000 for tax activities, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap;

(VI) for fiscal year 2017, an appropriation of \$9,012,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$4,538,000,000 for tax activities, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap;

(VII) for fiscal year 2018, an appropriation of \$9,330,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$4,585,000,000 for tax activities, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap;

(VIII) for fiscal year 2019, an appropriation of \$9,667,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$4,626,000,000 for tax activities, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap;

(IX) for fiscal year 2020, an appropriation of \$9,989,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$4,688,000,000 for tax activities, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap; and

(X) for fiscal year 2021, an appropriation of \$10,315,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$4,754,000,000 for tax activities, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap.

(iii) DEFINITION.—As used in this subparagraph, the term “additional appropriation for tax activities, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap” means new and continuing investments in expanding and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the overall tax enforcement and compliance program of the Internal Revenue Service and fully funding operational support activities at the Internal Revenue Service. New and continuing investments include additional resources for implementing new authorities and for conducting additional examinations, audits, and enhanced third party data matching.

(iv) APPROPRIATION.—The first amount specified in subclauses (I) through (X) of clause (ii) is the amount under one or more headings in an appropriations Act for the Internal Revenue Service that is specified to pay for the costs of tax activities, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap.

(v) ADDITIONAL AMOUNT.—The amounts further specified in subclauses (I) through (X) of clause (ii) are the amounts under one or more headings in an appropriations Act for the Internal Revenue Service for the amount of the additional appropriation for tax activities, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap, but such adjustment shall be 0 (zero) unless the appropriations Act under the heading “Operations Support” for the Internal Revenue Service provides that such sums as are necessary shall be available, under the “Operations Support” heading, to fully support tax enforcement and compliance activities.

(C) HEALTH CARE FRAUD AND ABUSE CONTROL.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If a bill or joint resolution is reported making appropriations in a fiscal year of the first amount specified in subclauses (I) through (X) of clause (ii) for program integrity or fraud and abuse activities under the heading “Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Account” program for the Department of Health and Human Services for that fiscal year, and provides an additional

appropriation for program integrity or fraud and abuse activities under the heading “Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Account” program for the Department of Health and Human Services of up to an amount further specified that subclause, then the discretionary spending limits, allocation to the Committees on Appropriations of each House, and aggregates for that year may be adjusted in an amount not to exceed the amount in budget authority provided in such legislation for that purpose for that fiscal year.

(ii) AMOUNTS SPECIFIED.—The amounts specified are—

(I) for fiscal year 2012, an appropriation of \$311,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$270,000,000;

(II) for fiscal year 2013, an appropriation of \$311,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$299,000,000;

(III) for fiscal year 2014, an appropriation of \$326,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$314,000,000;

(IV) for fiscal year 2015, an appropriation of \$340,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$332,000,000;

(V) for fiscal year 2016, an appropriation of \$356,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$350,000,000;

(VI) for fiscal year 2017, an appropriation of \$373,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$356,000,000;

(VII) for fiscal year 2018, an appropriation of \$391,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$354,000,000;

(VIII) for fiscal year 2019, an appropriation of \$411,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$354,000,000;

(IX) for fiscal year 2020, an appropriation of \$430,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$356,000,000; and

(X) for fiscal year 2021, an appropriation of \$451,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$356,000,000.

(iii) DEFINITION.—As used in this subparagraph, the term “program integrity or fraud and abuse activities” means those activities authorized by section 1817(k)(3) of the Social Security Act and other related program integrity activities, including administrative costs, in the Medicare Advantage and the Medicare Prescription Drug Programs authorized in title XVIII of the Social Security Act, in section 1893 of the Social Security Act, in Medicaid authorized in title XIX of the Social Security Act, and in the Children’s Health Insurance Program (“CHIP”) authorized in title XXI of the Social Security Act.

(iv) REPORT.—The report required by section 1817(k)(5) of the Social Security Act for each fiscal year shall include measures of the operational efficiency and impact on fraud, waste, and abuse in the Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP programs for the funds provided by an adjustment under this subparagraph.

(D) UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IMPROPER PAYMENT REVIEWS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If a bill or joint resolution is reported making appropriations in a fiscal year of the first amount specified in subclauses (I) through (X) of clause (ii) for in-person reemployment and eligibility assessments and unemployment insurance improper payment reviews under the heading “State Unemployment Insurance and Employment Service Operations” for the Department of Labor for that fiscal year, and provides an additional appropriation for in-person reemployment and eligibility assessments and unemployment insurance improper payment reviews under the heading

“State Unemployment Insurance and Employment Service Operations” for the Department of Labor of up to an amount further specified in that subclause, then the discretionary spending limits, allocation to the Committees on Appropriations of each House, and aggregates for that year may be adjusted by an amount in budget authority not to exceed the additional appropriation provided in such legislation for that purpose for that fiscal year.

(ii) AMOUNTS SPECIFIED.—The amounts specified are—

(I) for fiscal year 2012, an appropriation of \$60,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$10,000,000;

(II) for fiscal year 2013, an appropriation of \$60,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$15,000,000;

(III) for fiscal year 2014, an appropriation of \$61,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$19,000,000;

(IV) for fiscal year 2015, an appropriation of \$61,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$24,000,000;

(V) for fiscal year 2016, an appropriation of \$62,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$28,000,000;

(VI) for fiscal year 2017, an appropriation of \$63,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$28,000,000;

(VII) for fiscal year 2018, an appropriation of \$64,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$29,000,000;

(VIII) for fiscal year 2019, an appropriation of \$64,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$30,000,000;

(IX) for fiscal year 2020, an appropriation of \$65,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$31,000,000; and

(X) for fiscal year 2021, an appropriation of \$66,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$31,000,000.

(iii) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this subparagraph, the terms “in-person reemployment and eligibility assessments” and “unemployment improper payment reviews” mean reviews or assessments conducted in local workforce offices to determine the continued eligibility of an unemployment insurance claimant under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, title III of the Social Security Act, and applicable State laws, to ensure they are meeting their obligation to search for work as a condition of eligibility, and to speed their return to work.

(iv) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION.—The amounts further specified in subclauses (I) through (X) of clause (ii) are the amounts under the heading “State Unemployment Insurance and Employment Service Operations” for the Department of Labor for the amount of the additional appropriation for in-person reemployment and eligibility assessments and unemployment insurance improper payment reviews, but such adjustment shall be 0 (zero) unless the appropriations Act providing such additional appropriation also provides the full amount requested under the heading “State Unemployment Insurance and Employment Service Operations” for the Department of Labor for grants to States for the administration of State unemployment insurance laws in the budget submitted for that fiscal year under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code.

(3) OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENTS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES.—

(A) CAP ADJUSTMENT.—The discretionary spending limits, allocation to the Committees on Appropriations of each House, and aggregates for that year may be adjusted by an amount in budget authority not to exceed the amount provided in such legislation for

that purpose for that fiscal year, but not to exceed in aggregate the amounts specified in subparagraph (B) for any—

(i) bills reported by the Committees on Appropriations of either House or in the Senate, passed by the House of Representatives;

(ii) joint resolutions or amendments reported by the Committees on Appropriations of either House;

(iii) amendments between the Houses, Senate amendments to such amendments offered by the authority of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, or House amendments to such amendments offered by the authority of the Committee on Appropriations in the House of Representatives; or

(iv) conference reports; making appropriations for overseas deployments and related activities.

(B) LEVELS.—

(i) LEVELS.—The initial levels for overseas deployments and related activities specified in this subparagraph are as follows:

(I) For fiscal year 2012, \$126,544,000,000 in budget authority.

(II) For the total of fiscal years 2013 through 2021, \$450,000,000,000 in budget authority.

(ii) LEVELS FOR CONGRESSIONAL ENFORCEMENT.—For each fiscal year after fiscal year 2012, Congress shall adopt in the concurrent resolution on the budget for that fiscal year an adjustment for overseas deployments and related activities, provided that Congress may not adopt an adjustment for any fiscal year that would cause the total adjustments for fiscal years 2013 through 2021 to exceed the amount authorized in clause (i)(II).

(iii) ACCOUNTING FOR OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES.—In any report issued under subsection (f)(7), OMB shall state the total amount of spending on overseas deployments and related activities for fiscal years 2013 through 2021 and the estimated amount of budget authority adjustment remaining for that period.

(C) ADJUSTMENT FOR OFFSET OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENT COSTS.—The levels set in subparagraph (B) may be further adjusted by the amount of budget authority provided in legislation for additional costs associated with overseas deployments and related activities if the amount of budget authority above those levels is offset.

(4) ADJUSTMENTS FOR DISASTER FUNDING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If, for fiscal years 2011 through 2021, appropriations for discretionary accounts are enacted that Congress designates as being for disaster relief in statute, the adjustment shall be the total of such appropriations in discretionary accounts designated as being for disaster relief, but not to exceed the total of—

(i) the average funding provided for disasters over the previous 10 years, excluding the highest and lowest years; and

(ii) for years when the enacted new discretionary budget authority designated as being for disaster relief for the preceding fiscal year was less than the average as calculated in clause (i) for that fiscal year, the difference between the enacted amount and the allowable adjustment as calculated in clause (i) for that fiscal year.

(B) OMB REPORT.—OMB shall report to the Committees on Appropriations in each House the adjustment for disaster funding for fiscal year 2011, and a preview report of the estimated level for fiscal year 2012, not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act.

(d) LIMITATIONS ON CHANGES TO THIS SECTION.—Unless otherwise specifically provided in this section, it shall not be in order in the Senate or the House of Representatives to

consider any bill, resolution (including a concurrent resolution on the budget), amendment, motion, or conference report that would repeal or otherwise change this section.

(e) WAIVER AND APPEAL.—

(1) WAIVER.—In the Senate, subsections (a) through (d) shall be waived or suspended only—

(A) by the affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn; or

(B) if the provisions of section (f)(8) are in effect.

(2) APPEAL.—Appeals in the Senate from the decisions of the Chair relating to any provision of this section shall be limited to 1 hour, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the appellant and the manager of the measure. An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under this section.

(f) END-OF-YEAR SEQUESTER FOR EXCEEDING DISCRETIONARY CAPS.—

(1) SEQUESTRATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 14 calendar days after the end of a session of Congress (excluding weekends and holidays) and on the same day as a sequestration (if any) under section 5 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, there shall be a sequestration to eliminate a budget-year breach, if any, within the discretionary categories as set by subsection (b).

(B) OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENTS.—Any amount of budget authority for overseas deployments and related activities for fiscal year 2012 in excess of the levels set in subsection (c)(3)(B)(i), or for fiscal years 2013 through 2021 that would cause the total adjustment for fiscal years 2013 through 2021 to exceed the amount authorized in section (c)(3)(B)(II), that is not otherwise offset pursuant subsection (c)(3)(C)(i), shall be counted in determining whether a breach has occurred—

(i) for fiscal years 2012 and 2013, in the security and non-security categories by amounts in the same proportion as the total amount designated in that fiscal year for overseas deployments and related activities in security and non-security accounts, respectively; and

(ii) for fiscal years 2014 through 2021, in the discretionary category.

(C) EMERGENCY SPENDING.—

(i) EFFECT OF DESIGNATION IN STATUTE.—If, for any fiscal year, appropriations for discretionary accounts are enacted that Congress designates as emergency requirements in statute pursuant to this subparagraph, the total of such budget authority in discretionary accounts designated as emergency requirements in all fiscal years from such appropriations shall not be counted in determining whether a breach has occurred, and shall not count for the purposes of Congressional enforcement.

(ii) DESIGNATION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—If an appropriations Act includes a provision expressly designated as an emergency for the purposes of this section, the Chair shall put the question of consideration with respect thereto.

(iii) POINT OF ORDER IN THE SENATE.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—When the Senate is considering an appropriations Act, if a point of order is made by a Senator against an emergency designation in that measure, the provision making such a designation shall be stricken from the measure and may not be offered as an amendment from the floor.

(II) SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEALS.—

(aa) WAIVER.—Subclause (I) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(bb) APPEALS.—Appeals in the Senate from the decisions of the Chair relating to any provision of this subparagraph shall be limited to 1 hour, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the appellant and the manager of the bill or joint resolution, as the case may be. An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under this subparagraph.

(III) DEFINITION OF AN EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—For purposes of subclause (I), a provision shall be considered an emergency designation if it designates any item as an emergency requirement pursuant to this subparagraph.

(IV) FORM OF THE POINT OF ORDER.—A point of order under subclause (I) may be raised by a Senator as provided in section 313(e) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(V) CONFERENCE REPORTS.—When the Senate is considering a conference report on, or an amendment between the Houses in relation to, an appropriations Act, upon a point of order being made by any Senator pursuant to this subparagraph, and such point of order being sustained, such material contained in such conference report shall be deemed stricken, and the Senate shall proceed to consider the question of whether the Senate shall recede from its amendment and concur with a further amendment, or concur in the House amendment with a further amendment, as the case may be, which further amendment shall consist of only that portion of the conference report or House amendment, as the case may be, not so stricken. Any such motion in the Senate shall be debatable under the same conditions as was the conference report. In any case in which such point of order is sustained against a conference report (or Senate amendment derived from such conference report by operation of this subsection), no further amendment shall be in order.

(2) ELIMINATING A BREACH.—Each non-exempt account within a category shall be reduced by a dollar amount calculated by multiplying the baseline level of sequesterable budgetary resources in that account at that time by the uniform percentage necessary to eliminate a breach within that category.

(3) MILITARY PERSONNEL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President may, with respect to any military personnel account, exempt that account from sequestration or provide for a lower uniform percentage reduction than would otherwise apply, provided that the President has notified Congress of the manner in which such authority will be exercised pursuant to paragraph (7)(A)(ii).

(B) REDUCTIONS.—If the President uses the authority to exempt any military personnel from sequestration under paragraph (7)(A)(ii), each account within subfunctional category 051 (other than those military personnel accounts for which the authority provided under subparagraph (A) has been exercised) shall be further reduced by a dollar amount calculated by multiplying the enacted level of non-exempt budgetary resources in that account at that time by the uniform percentage necessary to offset the total dollar amount by which budget authority is not reduced in military personnel accounts by reason of the use of such authority.

(4) **PART-YEAR APPROPRIATIONS.**—If, on the date specified in paragraph (1), there is in effect an Act making or continuing appropriations for part of a fiscal year for any budget account, then the dollar sequestration calculated for that account under paragraphs (2) and (3) shall be subtracted from—

(A) the annualized amount otherwise available by law in that account under that or a subsequent part-year appropriation; and

(B) when a full-year appropriation for that account is enacted, from the amount otherwise provided by the full-year appropriation.

(5) **LOOK-BACK.**—If, after June 30, an appropriation for the fiscal year in progress is enacted that causes a breach within a category for that year (after taking into account any sequestration of amounts within that category), the discretionary spending limits for that category for the next fiscal year shall be reduced by the amount or amounts of that breach.

(6) **WITHIN-SESSION SEQUESTRATION.**—If an appropriation for a fiscal year in progress is enacted (after Congress adjourns to end the session for that budget year and before July 1 of that fiscal year) that causes a breach within a category for that year (after taking into account any prior sequestration of amounts within that category), 15 days after such enactment there shall be a sequestration to eliminate that breach within that category following the procedures set forth in paragraphs (2) through (4).

(7) **REPORTS.**—

(A) **SEQUESTRATION PREVIEW REPORT.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 5 days before the date of the President's budget submission for CBO, and the date of the President's budget submissions for OMB, OMB and CBO shall issue a preview report regarding discretionary spending based on laws enacted through those dates. The preview report shall set forth estimates for the current year and each subsequent year through 2021 of the applicable discretionary spending limits for each category and an explanation of any adjustments in such limits under this section.

(ii) **NOTIFICATION REGARDING MILITARY PERSONNEL.**—On or before the date of the sequestration preview report, the President shall notify Congress of the manner in which the President intends to exercise flexibility with respect to military personnel accounts under paragraph (3).

(B) **SEQUESTRATION UPDATE REPORT.**—Not later than August 15 for CBO, and August 20 for OMB, OMB and CBO shall issue a sequestration update report, reflecting laws enacted through those dates, containing all of the information required in the sequestration preview reports. This report shall also contain a preview estimate of the adjustment for disaster funding for the upcoming fiscal year.

(C) **FINAL SEQUESTRATION REPORT.**—Not later than 10 days after the end of session for CBO, and 14 days after the end of session for OMB (excluding weekends and holidays), OMB and CBO shall issue a final sequestration report, updated to reflect laws enacted through those dates, with estimates for each of the following:

(i) For the current year and each subsequent year through 2021 the applicable discretionary spending limits for each category and an explanation of any adjustments in such limits under this section, including a final estimate of the disaster funding adjustment.

(ii) For the current year and the budget year the estimated new budget authority for each category and the breach, if any, in each category.

(iii) For each category for which a sequestration is required, the sequestration percentages necessary to achieve the required reduction.

(iv) For the budget year, for each account to be sequestered, estimates of the baseline level of sequesterable budgetary resources and the amount of budgetary resources to be sequestered.

(D) **EXPLANATION OF DIFFERENCES.**—The OMB reports shall explain the differences between OMB and CBO estimates for each report required by this paragraph.

(8) **SUSPENSION IN THE EVENT OF LOW GROWTH.**—Section 254(i) and subsections (a), (b)(1), and (c) of section 258 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 with respect to suspension of this section for low growth only shall apply to this section, provided that those sections are deemed not to apply to titles III and IV of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and section 1103 of title 31, United States Code.

(g) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **NONSECURITY CATEGORY.**—The term “nonsecurity category” means all discretionary appropriations, as that term is defined in section 250(c)(7) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, not included in the security category defined in this Act, but does not include any appropriation designated for overseas deployments and related activities pursuant to section (c)(3) or appropriation designated as an emergency pursuant to this Act.

(2) **SECURITY CATEGORY.**—The term “security category” includes discretionary appropriations, as that term is defined in section 250(c)(7) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, in budget functions 050 and 700, but does not include any appropriation designated for overseas deployments and related activities pursuant to section (c)(3) or appropriation designated as an emergency pursuant to this Act.

(3) **DISCRETIONARY CATEGORY.**—The term “discretionary category” includes all discretionary appropriations, as that term is defined in section 250(c)(7) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, but does not include any appropriation designated for overseas deployments and related activities pursuant to section (c)(3) or appropriation designated as an emergency pursuant to this Act.

(4) **ADVANCE APPROPRIATION.**—The term “advance appropriation” means appropriations of new budget authority that become available one or more fiscal years beyond the fiscal year for which the appropriation act was passed.

(5) **DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS.**—The term “discretionary spending limits” means the amounts specified in this section.

(6) **DEFINITIONS.**—To the extent they are not defined in this section, the terms used in this section shall have the same meaning as the terms defined in section 250(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(h) **SEQUESTRATION RULES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsections (g) and (k) of section 256 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall apply to sequestration under this Act.

(2) **INTERGOVERNMENTAL FUNDS.**—For purposes of sequestration under this section, budgetary resources shall not include activities financed by voluntary payments to the Government for goods and services to be provided for such payments, intragovernmental funds paid in from other Government accounts, and unobligated balances of prior year appropriations.

SEC. 102. SENATE BUDGET ENFORCEMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) For the purpose of enforcing the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 through April 15, 2012, including section 300 of that Act, and enforcing budgetary points of order in prior concurrent resolutions on the budget, the allocations, aggregates, and levels set in subsection (b)(1) shall apply in the Senate in the same manner as for a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2012 with appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2011 and 2013 through 2021.

(2) For the purpose of enforcing the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 after April 15, 2012, including section 300 of that Act, and enforcing budgetary points of order in prior concurrent resolutions on the budget, the allocations, aggregates, and levels set in subsection (b)(2) shall apply in the Senate in the same manner as for a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2013 with appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2012 and 2014 through 2022.

(b) **COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS, AGGREGATES AND LEVELS.**—

(1) As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this section, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget shall file—

(A) for the Committee on Appropriations, committee allocations for fiscal years 2011 and 2012 consistent with the discretionary spending limits set forth in this Act for the purpose of enforcing section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974;

(B) for all committees other than the Committee on Appropriations, committee allocations for fiscal years 2011, 2012, 2012 through 2016, and 2012 through 2021 consistent with the Congressional Budget Office's March 2011 baseline adjusted to account for the budgetary effects of this Act and legislation enacted prior to this Act but not included in the Congressional Budget Office's March 2011 baseline, for the purpose of enforcing section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974;

(C) aggregate spending levels for fiscal years 2011 and 2012 and aggregate revenue levels fiscal years 2011, 2012, 2012 through 2016, 2012 through 2021 consistent with the Congressional Budget Office's March 2011 baseline adjusted to account for the budgetary effects of this Act and legislation enacted prior to this Act but not included in the Congressional Budget Office's March 2011 baseline, and the discretionary spending limits set forth in this Act for the purpose of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; and

(D) levels of Social Security revenues and outlays for fiscal years 2011, 2012, 2012 through 2016, and 2012 through 2021 consistent with the Congressional Budget Office's March 2011 baseline adjusted to account for the budgetary effects of this Act and legislation enacted prior to this Act but not included in the Congressional Budget Office's March 2011 baseline, for the purpose of enforcing sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(2) Not later than April 15, 2012, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget shall file—

(A) for the Committee on Appropriations, committee allocations for fiscal years 2012 and 2013 consistent with the discretionary spending limits set forth in this Act for the purpose of enforcing section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974;

(B) for all committees other than the Committee on Appropriations, committee allocations for fiscal years 2012, 2013, 2013 through 2017, and 2013 through 2022 consistent with the Congressional Budget Office's March 2012

baseline for the purpose of enforcing section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974;

(C) aggregate spending levels for fiscal years 2012 and 2013 and aggregate revenue levels fiscal years 2012, 2013, 2013–2017, and 2013–2022 consistent with the Congressional Budget Office's March 2012 baseline and the discretionary spending limits set forth in this Act for the purpose of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; and

(D) levels of Social Security revenues and outlays for fiscal years 2012 and 2013, 2013–2017, and 2013–2022 consistent with the Congressional Budget Office's March 2012 baseline budget for the purpose of enforcing sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(c) **SENATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD.**—

(1) Effective on the date of enactment of this section, for the purpose of enforcing section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress), the Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget shall reduce any balances of direct spending and revenues for any fiscal year to 0 (zero).

(2) Not later than April 15, 2012, for the purpose of enforcing section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress), the Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget shall reduce any balances of direct spending and revenues for any fiscal year to 0 (zero).

(3) Upon resetting the Senate paygo scorecard pursuant to paragraph (2), the Chairman shall publish a notification of such action in the Congressional Record.

(d) **FURTHER ADJUSTMENTS.**—

(1) The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise any allocations, aggregates, or levels set pursuant to this section to account for any subsequent adjustments to discretionary spending limits made pursuant to this Act.

(2) With respect to any allocations, aggregates, or levels set or adjustments made pursuant to this section, sections 412 through 414 of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress) shall remain in effect.

(e) **EXPIRATION.**—

(1) Subsections (a)(1), (b)(1), and (c)(1) shall expire if a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2012 is agreed to by the Senate and House of Representatives pursuant to section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(2) Subsections (a)(2), (b)(2), and (c)(2) shall expire if a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2013 is agreed to by the Senate and House of Representatives pursuant to section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

TITLE II—OTHER SPENDING CUTS

Subtitle A—Federal Pell Grant and Student Loan Program Changes

SEC. 211. FEDERAL PELL GRANT AND STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM CHANGES.

(a) **FEDERAL PELL GRANTS.**—Section 401(b)(7)(A)(iv) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a(b)(7)(A)(iv)) is amended—

(1) in subclause (II), by striking “\$3,183,000,000” and inserting “\$13,683,000,000”; and

(2) in subclause (III), by striking “\$0” and inserting “\$7,500,000,000”.

(b) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY TO MAKE INTEREST SUBSIDIZED LOANS TO GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS.**—Section 455(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY TO MAKE INTEREST SUBSIDIZED LOANS TO GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any provision of this part or part B, for any period of instruction beginning on or after July 1, 2012—

“(i) a graduate or professional student shall not be eligible to receive a subsidized Federal Direct Stafford Loan under this part;

“(ii) the maximum annual amount of Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans such a student may borrow in any academic year (as defined in section 481(a)(2)) or its equivalent shall be the maximum annual amount for such student determined under section 428H, plus an amount equal to the amount of Federal Direct Subsidized Loans the student would have received in the absence of this subparagraph; and

“(iii) the maximum aggregate amount of Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans such a student may borrow shall be the maximum aggregate amount for such student determined under section 428H, adjusted to reflect the increased annual limits described in clause (ii), as prescribed by the Secretary by regulation.

“(B) **EXCEPTION.**—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to an individual enrolled in coursework specified in paragraph (3)(B) or (4)(B) of section 484(b).”.

(c) **INAPPLICABILITY OF TITLE IV NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING AND MASTER CALENDAR EXCEPTION.**—Sections 482(c) and 492 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1089(c), 1098a) shall not apply to the amendments made by this section, or to any regulations promulgated under those amendments.

Subtitle B—Farm Programs

SEC. 221. DEFINITION OF PAYMENT ACRES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1001(11) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8702(11)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking “subparagraph (B)” and inserting “subparagraphs (B) and (C)”; and

(B) by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) in the case of direct payments for the 2012 crop year, 59 percent of the base acres for the covered commodity on a farm on which direct payments are made.”.

(b) **PAYMENT ACRES FOR PEANUTS.**—Section 1301(5) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8751(5)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking “subparagraph (B)” and inserting “subparagraphs (B) and (C)”; and

(B) by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) in the case of direct payments for the 2012 crop year, 59 percent of the base acres for peanuts on a farm on which direct payments are made.”.

TITLE III—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON DEFICIT REDUCTION

SEC. 301. ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this title:

(1) **JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE.**—The term “joint committee” means the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction established under subsection (b)(1).

(2) **JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE BILL.**—The term “joint committee bill” means a bill consisting of the proposed legislative language of the joint committee recommended under subsection (b)(3)(B) and introduced under section 302(a).

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established a joint select committee of Congress to be known as the “Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction”.

(2) **GOAL.**—The goal of the joint committee shall be to reduce the deficit to 3 percent or less of GDP.

(3) **DUTIES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—

(i) **IMPROVING THE SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM FISCAL IMBALANCE.**—The joint committee shall provide recommendations and legislative language that will significantly improve the short-term and long-term fiscal imbalance of the Federal Government and may include recommendations and legislative language on tax reform.

(ii) **CONSIDERATION OF OTHER BIPARTISAN PLANS.**—As a part of developing the joint committee's recommendations and legislation, the joint committee shall consider existing bipartisan plans to reduce the deficit, including plans developed jointly by Senators or Members of the House of Representatives.

(iii) **RECOMMENDATIONS OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE COMMITTEES.**—Not later than October 14, 2011, each committee of the House of Representatives and Senate may transmit to the joint committee its recommendations for changes in law to reduce the deficit consistent with the goals described in paragraph (2) for the joint committee's consideration.

(B) **REPORT, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than November 23, 2011, the joint committee shall vote on—

(I) a report that contains a detailed statement of the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the joint committee and the CBO estimate required by paragraph (5)(D)(ii); and

(II) proposed legislative language to carry out such recommendations as described in subclause (I).

No amendment to the Rules of the House of Representatives or the Standing Rules of the Senate shall be in order in the legislative language required in subclause (II).

(ii) **APPROVAL OF REPORT AND LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE.**—The report of the joint committee and the proposed legislative language described in clause (i) shall require the approval of not fewer than 7 of the 12 members of the joint committee.

(iii) **ADDITIONAL VIEWS.**—A member of the joint committee who gives notice of an intention to file supplemental, minority, or additional views at the time of final joint committee vote on the approval of the report and legislative language under clause (ii), shall be entitled to 3 calendar days in which to file such views in writing with the staff director of the joint committee. Such views shall then be included in the joint committee report and printed in the same volume, or part thereof, and their inclusion shall be noted on the cover of the report. In the absence of timely notice, the joint committee report may be printed and transmitted immediately without such views.

(iv) **TRANSMISSION OF REPORT AND LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE.**—If the report and legislative language are approved by the joint committee pursuant to clause (ii), then not later than December 2, 2011, the joint committee shall submit the joint committee report and legislative language described in clause (i) to the President, the Vice President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Majority and Minority Leaders of both Houses.

(v) REPORT AND LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE TO BE MADE PUBLIC.—Upon the approval or disapproval of the joint committee report and legislative language pursuant to clause (ii), the joint committee shall promptly make the full report and legislative language, and a record of the vote, available to the public.

(4) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The joint committee shall be composed of 12 members appointed pursuant to subparagraph (B).

(B) APPOINTMENT.—Members of the joint committee shall be appointed as follows:

(i) The majority leader of the Senate shall appoint 3 members from among Members of the Senate.

(ii) The minority leader of the Senate shall appoint 3 members from among Members of the Senate.

(iii) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint 3 members from among Members of the House of Representatives.

(iv) The minority leader of the House of Representatives shall appoint 3 members from among Members of the House of Representatives.

(C) CO-CHAIRS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—There shall be 2 Co-Chairs of the joint committee. The majority leader of the Senate shall appoint one Co-Chair from among the members of the joint committee. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint the second Co-Chair from among the members of the joint committee. The Co-Chairs shall be appointed not later than 14 calendar days after the date of enactment of this section.

(ii) STAFF DIRECTOR.—The Co-Chairs, acting jointly, shall hire the staff director of the joint committee.

(D) DATE.—Members of the joint committee shall be appointed not later than 14 calendar days after the date of enactment of this section.

(E) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—Members shall be appointed for the life of the joint committee. Any vacancy in the joint committee shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled not later than 14 calendar days after the date on which the vacancy occurs in the same manner as the original appointment. If a member of the committee leaves Congress, the member is no longer a member of the joint committee and a vacancy shall exist.

(5) ADMINISTRATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To enable the joint committee to exercise its powers, functions, and duties, there are authorized to be disbursed by the Senate the actual and necessary expenses of the joint committee approved by the Co-Chairs, subject to Senate rules and regulations.

(B) EXPENSES.—In carrying out its functions, the joint committee is authorized to incur expenses in the same manner and under the same conditions as the Joint Economic Committee as authorized by section 11 of Public Law 79-304 (15 U.S.C. 1024(d)).

(C) QUORUM.—Seven members of the joint committee shall constitute a quorum for purposes of voting, meeting, and holding hearings.

(D) VOTING.—

(i) PROXY VOTING.—No proxy voting shall be allowed on behalf of the members of the joint committee.

(ii) CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATES.—The Congressional Budget Office shall provide estimates of the legislation (as described in paragraph (3)(B)) in accordance with sections 308(a) and 201(f) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 639(a) and 601(f)) (including estimates of the effect of

interest payment on the debt). In addition, the Congressional Budget Office shall provide information on the budgetary effect of the legislation beyond the year 2021 and the Congressional Budget Office and Joint Committee on Taxation may provide information on the budgetary effect of the legislation relative to alternative fiscal scenarios. The joint committee may not vote on any version of the report, recommendations, or legislative language unless such estimates are available for consideration by all members of the joint committee at least 48 hours prior to the vote as certified by the Co-Chairs.

(E) MEETINGS.—

(i) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 45 calendar days after the date of enactment of this section, the joint committee shall hold its first meeting.

(ii) AGENDA.—The Co-Chairs shall provide an agenda to the joint committee members not less than 48 hours in advance of any meeting.

(F) HEARINGS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The joint committee may, for the purpose of carrying out this section, hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, require attendance of witnesses and production of books, papers, and documents, take such testimony, receive such evidence, and administer such oaths the joint committee considers advisable.

(ii) HEARING PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CO-CHAIRS.—

(I) ANNOUNCEMENT.—The Co-Chairs shall make a public announcement of the date, place, time, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted not less than 7 days in advance of such hearing, unless the Co-Chairs determine that there is good cause to begin such hearing at an earlier date.

(II) WRITTEN STATEMENT.—A witness appearing before the joint committee shall file a written statement of proposed testimony at least 2 calendar days prior to appearance, unless the requirement is waived by the Co-Chairs, following their determination that there is good cause for failure of compliance.

(G) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Upon written request of the Co-Chairs, a Federal agency shall provide technical assistance to the joint committee in order for the joint committee to carry out its duties.

(c) STAFF OF JOINT COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Co-Chairs may jointly appoint and fix the compensation of staff as they deem necessary, within the guidelines for Senate employees and following all applicable Senate rules and employment requirements.

(2) ETHICAL STANDARDS.—Members on the joint committee who serve in the House of Representatives shall be governed by the House ethics rules and requirements. Members of the Senate who serve on the joint committee and staff of the joint committee shall comply with Senate ethics rules.

(d) TERMINATION.—The joint committee shall terminate on January 13, 2012.

SEC. 302. EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION OF JOINT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

(a) INTRODUCTION.—If approved by the majority required by section 301(b)(3)(B)(ii), the proposed legislative language submitted pursuant to section 301(b)(3)(B)(iv) shall be introduced in the Senate (by request) on the next day on which the Senate is in session by the majority leader of the Senate or by a Member of the Senate designated by the majority leader of the Senate and shall be introduced in the House of Representatives (by request) on the next legislative day by the majority leader of the House of Representa-

tives or by a Member of the House of Representatives designated by the majority leader of the House of Representatives.

(b) CONSIDERATION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

(1) REFERRAL AND REPORTING.—Any committee of the House of Representatives to which the joint committee bill is referred shall report it to the House of Representatives without amendment not later than December 9, 2011. If a committee fails to report the joint committee bill within that period, it shall be in order to move that the House of Representatives discharge the committee from further consideration of the bill. Such a motion shall not be in order after the last committee authorized to consider the bill reports it to the House of Representatives or after the House of Representatives has disposed of a motion to discharge the bill. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion except 20 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. If such a motion is adopted, the House of Representatives shall proceed immediately to consider the joint committee bill in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3). A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

(2) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—After the last committee authorized to consider a joint committee bill reports it to the House of Representatives or has been discharged (other than by motion) from its consideration, it shall be in order to move to proceed to consider the joint committee bill in the House of Representatives. Such a motion shall not be in order after the House of Representatives has disposed of a motion to proceed with respect to the joint committee bill. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

(3) CONSIDERATION.—The joint committee bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against the joint committee bill and against its consideration are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint committee bill to its passage without intervening motion except 2 hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent and one motion to limit debate on the joint committee bill. A motion to reconsider the vote on passage of the joint committee bill shall not be in order.

(4) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—The vote on passage of the joint committee bill shall occur not later than December 23, 2011.

(c) EXPEDITED PROCEDURE IN THE SENATE.—

(1) COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION.—A joint committee bill introduced in the Senate under subsection (a) shall be jointly referred to the committee or committees of jurisdiction, which committees shall report the bill without any revision and with a favorable recommendation, an unfavorable recommendation, or without recommendation, not later than December 9, 2011. If any committee fails to report the bill within that period, that committee shall be automatically discharged from consideration of the bill, and the bill shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

(2) MOTION TO PROCEED.—Notwithstanding rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is in order, not later than 2 days of session after the date on which a joint committee bill is reported or discharged from all committees to which it was referred, for the

majority leader of the Senate or the majority leader's designee to move to proceed to the consideration of the joint committee bill. It shall also be in order for any Member of the Senate to move to proceed to the consideration of the joint committee bill at any time after the conclusion of such 2-day period. A motion to proceed is in order even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to. All points of order against the motion to proceed to the joint committee bill are waived. The motion to proceed is not debatable. The motion is not subject to a motion to postpone. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint committee bill is agreed to, the joint committee bill shall remain the unfinished business until disposed of.

(3) **CONSIDERATION.**—All points of order against the joint committee bill and against consideration of the joint committee bill are waived. Consideration of the joint committee bill and of all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith shall not exceed a total of 30 hours which shall be divided equally between the Majority and Minority Leaders or their designees. A motion further to limit debate on the joint committee bill is in order, shall require an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members duly chosen and sworn, and is not debatable. Any debatable motion or appeal is debatable for not to exceed 1 hour, to be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the motion or appeal. All time used for consideration of the joint committee bill, including time used for quorum calls and voting, shall be counted against the total 30 hours of consideration.

(4) **NO AMENDMENTS.**—An amendment to the joint committee bill, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint committee bill, is not in order.

(5) **VOTE ON PASSAGE.**—If the Senate has voted to proceed to the joint committee bill, the vote on passage of the joint committee bill shall occur immediately following the conclusion of the debate on a joint committee bill, and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested. The vote on passage of the joint committee bill shall occur not later than December 23, 2011.

(6) **RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCEDURE.**—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate, as the case may be, to the procedure relating to a joint committee bill shall be decided without debate.

(d) **AMENDMENT.**—The joint committee bill shall not be subject to amendment in either the House of Representatives or the Senate.

(e) **CONSIDERATION BY THE OTHER HOUSE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If, before passing the joint committee bill, one House receives from the other a joint committee bill—

(A) the joint committee bill of the other House shall not be referred to a committee; and

(B) the procedure in the receiving House shall be the same as if no joint committee bill had been received from the other House until the vote on passage, when the joint committee bill received from the other House shall supplant the joint committee bill of the receiving House.

(2) **REVENUE MEASURE.**—This subsection shall not apply to the House of Representatives if the joint committee bill received from the Senate is a revenue measure.

(f) **RULES TO COORDINATE ACTION WITH OTHER HOUSE.**—

(1) **TREATMENT OF JOINT COMMITTEE BILL OF OTHER HOUSE.**—If the Senate fails to introduce or consider a joint committee bill under this section, the joint committee bill of the House of Representatives shall be entitled to expedited floor procedures under this section.

(2) **TREATMENT OF COMPANION MEASURES IN THE SENATE.**—If following passage of the joint committee bill in the Senate, the Senate then receives the joint committee bill from the House of Representatives, the House-passed joint committee bill shall not be debatable. The vote on passage of the joint committee bill in the Senate shall be considered to be the vote on passage of the joint committee bill received from the House of Representatives.

(3) **VETOES.**—If the President vetoes the joint committee bill, debate on a veto message in the Senate under this section shall be 1 hour equally divided between the majority and minority leaders or their designees.

(g) **LOSS OF PRIVILEGE.**—The provisions of this section shall cease to apply to the joint committee bill if—

(1) the joint committee fails to vote on the report or proposed legislative language required under section 301(b)(3)(B)(i) by November 23, 2011; or

(2) the joint committee bill does not pass both Houses by December 23, 2011.

SEC. 303. FUNDING.

Funding for the joint committee shall be derived in equal portions from—

(1) the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the contingent fund of the Senate from the appropriations account "Miscellaneous Items", subject to Senate rules and regulations.

SEC. 304. RULEMAKING.

The provisions of this title are enacted by Congress—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the House of Representatives and the Senate, respectively, and as such they shall be considered as part of the rules of each House, respectively, or of that House to which they specifically apply, and such rules shall supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent therewith; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change such rules (so far as relating to such House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of such House.

TITLE IV—DEBT CEILING DISAPPROVAL PROCESS

SEC. 401. DEBT CEILING DISAPPROVAL PROCESS.

Subchapter I of chapter 31 of subtitle III of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 3101(b), by striking "or otherwise" and inserting "or as provided by section 3101A or otherwise"; and

(2) by inserting after section 3101, the following:

"§ 3101A. Presidential modification of the debt ceiling

"(a) IN GENERAL.—

"(1) \$1.2 TRILLION.—

"(A) **CERTIFICATION.**—If, not later than December 31, 2011, the President submits a written certification to Congress that the President has determined that the debt subject to limit is within \$100,000,000,000 of the limit in section 3101(b) and that further borrowing is required to meet existing commitments, the Secretary of the Treasury may exercise authority to borrow an additional \$1,200,000,000,000 subject to the enactment of a joint resolution of disapproval enacted pur-

suant to this section. Upon submission of such certification, the limit on debt provided in section 3101(b) (referred to in this section as the 'debt limit') is increased by \$416,000,000,000.

"(B) **RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.**—Congress may consider a joint resolution of disapproval of the authority under subparagraph (A) as provided in subsections (b) through (f). The joint resolution of disapproval considered under this section shall contain only the language provided in subsection (b)(2). If the time for disapproval has lapsed without enactment of a joint resolution of disapproval under this section, the debt limit is increased by an additional \$784,000,000,000.

"(2) **ADDITIONAL AMOUNT.**—

"(A) **CERTIFICATION.**—If, after the debt limit is increased by \$1,200,000,000,000 under paragraph (1), the President submits a written certification to Congress that the President has determined that the debt subject to limit is within \$150,000,000,000 of the limit in section 3101(b) and that further borrowing is required to meet existing commitments, the Secretary of the Treasury may exercise authority to borrow an additional amount equal to \$1,200,000,000,000 subject to the enactment of a joint resolution of disapproval enacted pursuant to this section.

"(B) **RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.**—Congress may consider a joint resolution of disapproval of the authority under subparagraph (A) as provided in subsections (b) through (f). The joint resolution of disapproval considered under this section shall contain only the language provided in subsection (b)(2). After the time for disapproval has lapsed without enactment of a joint resolution of disapproval under this section, the debt limit is increased by the amount authorized under subparagraph (A).

"(b) **JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.**—

"(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except for the \$416,000,000,000 increase in the debt limit provided by subsection (a)(1)(A), the debt limit may not be raised under this section if, within 55 calendar days after the date on which Congress receives a certification described in subsection (a)(1) or within 15 calendar days after the Congress receives the certification described in subsection (a)(2) (regardless of whether Congress is in session), there is enacted into law a joint resolution disapproving the President's exercise of authority with respect to such additional amount.

"(2) **CONTENTS OF JOINT RESOLUTION.**—For the purpose of this section, the term 'joint resolution' means only a joint resolution—

"(A)(i) for the certification described in subsection (a)(1), that is introduced on September 6, 7, 8 or 9, 2011 (or, if the Senate was not in session, the next calendar day on which the Senate is in session); and

"(ii) for the certification described in subsection (a)(2), that is introduced between the date the certification is received and 3 calendar days after that date;

"(B) which does not have a preamble;

"(C) the title of which is only as follows: 'Joint resolution relating to the disapproval of the President's exercise of authority to increase the debt limit, as submitted under section 3101A of title 31, United States Code on _____' (with the blank containing the date of submission); and

"(D) the matter after the resolving clause of which is only as follows: 'That Congress disapproves of the President's exercise of authority to increase the debt limit, as exercised pursuant to the certification under section 3101A(a) of title 31, United States Code.'.

"(c) **EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**—

“(1) RECONVENING.—Upon receipt of a certification described in subsection (a)(2), the Speaker, if the House would otherwise be adjourned, shall notify the Members of the House that, pursuant to this section, the House shall convene not later than the second calendar day after receipt of such certification.

“(2) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—Any committee of the House of Representatives to which a joint resolution is referred shall report it to the House without amendment not later than 5 calendar days after the date of introduction of the joint resolution described in subsection (a). If a committee fails to report a joint resolution within that period, the committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution and the joint resolution shall be referred to the appropriate calendar.

“(3) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—After each committee authorized to consider a joint resolution reports it to the House or has been discharged from its consideration, it shall be in order, not later than the sixth day after introduction of a joint resolution under subsection (a), to move to proceed to consider the joint resolution in the House. All points of order against the motion are waived. Such a motion shall not be in order after the House has disposed of a motion to proceed on a joint resolution addressing a particular submission. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion. The motion shall not be debatable. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

“(4) CONSIDERATION.—The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against the joint resolution and against its consideration are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to its passage without intervening motion except two hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. A motion to reconsider the vote on passage of the joint resolution shall not be in order.

“(d) EXPEDITED PROCEDURE IN SENATE.—

“(1) RECONVENING.—Upon receipt of a certification under subsection (a)(2), if the Senate has adjourned or recessed for more than 2 days, the majority leader of the Senate, after consultation with the minority leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the Senate that, pursuant to this section, the Senate shall convene not later than the second calendar day after receipt of such message.

“(2) PLACEMENT ON CALENDAR.—Upon introduction in the Senate, the joint resolution shall be immediately placed on the calendar.

“(3) FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is in order at any time during the period beginning on the day after the date on which Congress receives a certification under subsection (a) and for the certification described in subsection (a)(1), ending on September 14, 2011 and for the certification described in subsection (a)(2) on the 6th day after the date on which Congress receives a certification under subsection (a) (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) to move to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion to proceed is not debatable. The motion is not subject to a motion to postpone. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed

to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the resolution is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business until disposed of.

“(B) CONSIDERATION.—Consideration of the joint resolution, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between the majority and minority leaders or their designees. A motion further to limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint resolution is not in order.

“(C) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—If the Senate has voted to proceed to a joint resolution, the vote on passage of the joint resolution shall occur immediately following the conclusion of consideration of the joint resolution, and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate.

“(D) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCEDURE.—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate, as the case may be, to the procedure relating to a joint resolution shall be decided without debate.

“(e) AMENDMENT NOT IN ORDER.—A joint resolution of disapproval considered pursuant to this section shall not be subject to amendment in either the House of Representatives or the Senate.

“(f) COORDINATION WITH ACTION BY OTHER HOUSE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If, before passing the joint resolution, one House receives from the other a joint resolution—

“(A) the joint resolution of the other House shall not be referred to a committee; and

“(B) the procedure in the receiving House shall be the same as if no joint resolution had been received from the other House until the vote on passage, when the joint resolution received from the other House shall supplant the joint resolution of the receiving House.

“(2) TREATMENT OF JOINT RESOLUTION OF OTHER HOUSE.—If the Senate fails to introduce or consider a joint resolution under this section, the joint resolution of the House shall be entitled to expedited floor procedures under this section.

“(3) TREATMENT OF COMPANION MEASURES.—If, following passage of the joint resolution in the Senate, the Senate then receives the companion measure from the House of Representatives, the companion measure shall not be debatable.

“(4) CONSIDERATION AFTER PASSAGE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If Congress passes a joint resolution, the period beginning on the date the President is presented with the joint resolution and ending on the date the President takes action with respect to the joint resolution (but excluding days when either House is not in session) shall be disregarded in computing the appropriate calendar day period described in subsection (b)(1).

“(B) VETOES.—If the President vetoes the joint resolution—

“(i) the period beginning on the date the President vetoes the joint resolution and ending on the day on which the Congress receives the veto message with respect to the joint resolution (regardless of whether Congress is in session) shall be disregarded in computing the appropriate calendar day period described in subsection (b)(1); and

“(ii) debate on a veto message in the Senate under this section shall be 1 hour equally divided between the majority and minority leaders or their designees.

“(5) VETO OVERRIDE.—If within the appropriate calendar day period described in subsection (b)(1), Congress overrides a veto of the joint resolution with respect to authority exercised pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a), the limit on debt provided in section 3101(b) shall not be raised, except for the \$416,000,000,000 increase in the limit provided by subsection (a)(1)(A)(i).

“(6) SEQUESTER.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If within the 55 calendar days of receiving the certification described in subsection (a)(1), Congress overrides a veto of the joint resolution with respect to authority exercised pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection (a), OMB shall, immediately, sequester pro rata amounts from all discretionary and direct spending accounts as defined in section 250(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900(c)) (as in effect September 30, 2006) equal to \$416,000,000,000. No reduction of payments for net interest (all of major functional category 900) shall be made under any order issued under this paragraph.

“(B) APPLICATION.—Section 255 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall not apply to this section, except that payments for military personnel accounts (within subfunctional category 051), TRICARE for Life, Medicare (functional category 570), military retirement, Social Security (functional category 650), veterans (functional category 700), and net interest (functional category 900) shall be exempt.

“(g) RULES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE.—This subsection and subsections (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) are enacted by Congress—

“(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, and as such it is deemed a part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in that House in the case of a joint resolution, and it supersedes other rules only to the extent that it is inconsistent with such rules; and

“(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as relating to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.”.

SA 590. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 589 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 627, to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays; as follows:

At the end, add the following new section:
SEC. ____.

This Act shall become effective 5 days after enactment.

SA 591. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 627, to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays; as follows:

At the end, add the following new section:
SEC. ____.

This Act shall become effective 3 days after enactment.

SA 592. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 591 proposed

by Mr. REID to the bill S. 627, to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays; as follows:

In the amendment, strike “3 days” and insert “2 days”.

SA 593. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 592 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 591 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 627, to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays; as follows:

In the amendment, strike “2 days” and insert “1 day”.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Thursday, August 4, 2011, at 2:15 p.m. in room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled “The American Indian Probate Reform Act: Empowering Indian Land Owners”.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224-2251.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Taylor Eggleston, an intern in Senator PAUL’s office, be granted the privilege of the floor for the remainder of this day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR SATURDAY, JULY 30, 2011

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 30; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to concur in the House message to accompany S. 627, the legislative vehicle for the debt limit increase, and that the time from 1:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority and the Republicans controlling alternating 30-minute blocks of time with the majority controlling the first block; further that the time from 7:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first 15 minutes and the majority controlling the final 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, as a reminder to all Senators, the majority leader filed cloture on the motion to concur on the House message with a Reid amendment this evening.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 1 P.M. TOMORROW

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 9:02 p.m., adjourned until Saturday, July 30, 2011, at 1 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MICHAEL E. HOROWITZ, OF MARYLAND, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, VICE GLENN A. FINE, RESIGNED.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

ANNEILA I. SARGENT, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 10, 2016, VICE GERALD WAYNE CLOUGH, TERM EXPIRED.

WITHDRAWALS

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on July 29, 2011 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nominations:

GOODWIN LIU, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT, VICE A NEW POSITION CREATED BY PUBLIC LAW 110-117, APPROVED JANUARY 7, 2008, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 5, 2011.

MICHAEL F. MUNDACA, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE ERIC SOLOMON, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 26, 2011.

BARBARA K. MCQUISTON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (NEW POSITION), WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON MAY 9, 2011.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, July 29, 2011

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NEUGEBAUER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 29, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RANDY NEUGEBAUER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Thank You, Lord, for giving us another day. At the end of a hard week and after a long night, we ask again Your blessing on the Members of this people's House.

There is very hard work to do as the weekend nears. Give each Member strength and wisdom that they might fulfill the awesome responsibility they have to work a solution to our Nation's challenges.

We earnestly pray as well for the families of these men and women during a distressful time. Give them peace and calm as their loved ones labor here. May they know and experience the presence of Your Spirit and know with confidence that the entire Nation is grateful for their generosity. It is their love and support that strengthens the Members of the House.

Bless all families, O God, that their love for each other will be a witness to Your love for each one of us.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CICILLINE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CUT, CAP, AND BALANCE IS THE BEST FOR THE NATION

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, when the President is correct, we should thank him, such as keeping open the Guantanamo Bay detention facility despite his promise to close it. And in the recent past, as Senator in 2006, the President was correct:

"The fact that we are here today to debate raising America's debt limit is a sign of leadership failure. It is a sign that the U.S. Government can't pay its own bills. It is a sign that we now depend on ongoing financial assistance from foreign countries to finance our government's reckless fiscal policies."

House Republicans, with the positive leadership of Speaker JOHN BOEHNER, last week passed the best solution to the debt ceiling: the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act of 2011. The liberals' cowardly response in the Senate was to table it and hide their Members from an open vote. It is not too late for liberals to vote and join conservatives for a solution which creates jobs and stops the President, who is stuck on his failed policies of tax increases, destroying jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

ON THE BRINK OF DEFAULT, TAKE THE ARGUMENT TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Here is how we can take a couple steps back from the brink of a default.

First, raise the debt ceiling until December 31, 2012, without its being contingent on cuts to Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid, or increases in

taxes, or cuts in taxes, or cuts in spending. The attempt to resolve all of these issues at once as the moment of reckoning arrives was never a good idea. It guarantees that the people we were sent here to represent will lose either in the details of a rushed grand bargain or through the consequences of default.

Take the debate to the American people in the next election. Ask the American people if they want cuts in Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, increases in taxes, what kind of cuts in spending, what kind of jobs, programs.

For those who say, "well, that's what we were sent here to do," claim your victory. You've come here and you've changed the terms of the debate. You lose the debate if America defaults. You win if you bring this debate into every district in America in the 2012 election.

When you go home, people will thank you for being able to focus America's attention on these fiscal issues, but you may be surprised to learn that the American people did not want us to burn down the house in an argument over the height of the ceiling.

DEBT CONTRIBUTION ACT

(Mr. STIVERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STIVERS. It has been said, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a small step."

Today, with a looming national debt of over \$14.2 trillion, we need to take dramatic steps to decrease spending, but we can make a difference by taking small steps as well. Throughout our Nation's economic crisis, I've heard from constituents who have said they want to do more to pay off the national debt.

I voluntarily give back \$700 from every paycheck to help pay down the national debt, and I wanted to make it easier for like-minded citizens to do the same. That's why I've sponsored the Debt Contribution Act, which creates a checkoff box on the tax return for individuals who want to donate money to pay down the national debt. It ensures 100 percent of those proceeds are used to pay down the national debt, and it makes sure that it's still a tax deductible contribution, which it has been since 1964.

So with a national debt of over \$14.2 trillion, we won't be running a surplus anytime soon, but we can allow patriotic Americans who want to volunteer

and give money to pay down the national debt to do that, and I hope my colleagues will help me support and pass the Debt Contribution Act.

RECOGNIZING KIDS FIRST, WINNER OF JOHN H. CHAFEE CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP AWARD

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. I rise to recognize Kids First of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, an exemplary community organization for environmental and conservation outreach.

Kids First is the recipient of the John H. Chafee Conservation Leadership Award for its Rhode Island Farm Produce to School Lunch Program, which brings healthy and sustainable nutrition and wellness programs to every school district in Rhode Island. Their strong partnerships with nutritionists, dietitians, chefs, and school administrators have brought important nutrition education programs into schools, and have benefited local produce growers since 1999.

Kids First is a win-win for farmers and students, providing local farmers with a reliable market and schoolchildren with 200,000 pounds of fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables for healthy meals.

I commend and congratulate Kids First for promoting community sustainability through environmental conservation and for growing Rhode Island's local economy.

OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE IS IN PERIL

(Mr. MCKEON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCKEON. As Congress continues to debate proposals to raise the debt limit and rein in Federal spending, I wish to remind my colleagues of the perils of Senator REID's proposal, specifically as it relates to national defense. The Reid plan would cut defense, including funds to maintain the reliability of our nuclear weapons and triad of strategic delivery vehicles that represent our deterrent for both ourselves and our allies.

Because the Obama administration has reduced our strategic forces to the lowest level in decades, the health of our deterrent must be a top national security priority. Prior to the ratification of the New START Treaty, the President committed to fund a host of nuclear modernization efforts that were supported on a bipartisan and bicameral basis. The House also passed language in the fiscal year 2012 Defense authorization bill to ensure the President makes good on these commitments.

We cannot allow a proposal like Senator REID's to jeopardize the reliability and security of our strategic deterrent. We must continue to maintain our investment in our security, stability, and peace.

□ 0910

WAKE UP

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, we must not forget we're here to represent the people of this great Nation. In a recent poll, 2-1 people said that the reason why we are in this crisis is because of the policies of President Bush. So let's look at those policies because that's the best way to understand why we're in this crisis.

You cannot wage two wars and give tax cuts at the same time. Let's not also forget that President Clinton, by many reports, left a \$5 trillion surplus and President Bush left a \$5 trillion deficit—\$10 trillion.

I ask you, if you believe that these tax cuts are so necessary for the economic growth of this Nation, then what happened for these 10 years? Why aren't we facing a booming economy versus just avoiding another Great Depression?

Mr. Speaker, it seems like you're dreaming while the rest of us are living one of the worst nightmares we can possibly imagine.

Mr. Speaker, wake up. Please, wake up.

PREVENT A DEFAULT

(Mr. POLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, the Speaker of this Chamber has a choice to make with 3½ days remaining until we risk default on our debt. And what does that mean to American families? It means higher interest rates on your variable home mortgage. It means higher interest rates on your credit card debt. For our own Federal Government, as well as local and State governments, it means more of our taxpayer money will have to go to interest to service these existing debts.

At this point, the Speaker of this body has a choice. To be sure, he has a negotiation ahead of him. He has compromise ahead of him. He can choose to negotiate and compromise with only those in his own party further to the right than he is within this very body, or to compromise and come to a deal with those who matter and can actually pass something into law that prevents a default.

Namely, I call upon the Speaker to continue negotiations with the Presi-

dent of the United States and the Senate of the United States to resolve this self-caused crisis within 3½ days and avert a fate that will cost middle class families and taxpayers trillions of dollars.

TIME TO COMPROMISE

(Ms. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, nearly 8 months ago we stood on the floor of this House led by the Republican majority, swore the oath of office to uphold the Constitution of the United States, and even read the Constitution here on the floor of the House.

We read in the 14th amendment, Section 4: "The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned."

We read that, and here we are on the brink of default because the Republican majority has failed to compromise. The Republican majority said we won't do what we've done for every other President, which is give him a clean debt ceiling vote on this floor so that he can pay the debts and obligations of the United States.

So seniors are waiting on Wednesday next week to know whether they're going to get their Social Security benefits. Military servicemembers are waiting for their checks. Retirees are waiting for their checks. And we stand here on the brink of default.

I would ask the President of the United States to exercise whatever authority is necessary to pay our seniors their Social Security benefits and to meet the obligations of the United States.

It's time for us to do our job. It's time for this majority to compromise. It's time for us to lead.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 15 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITO) at 2 p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF S. 627, BUDGET CONTROL ACT OF 2011

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-187) on the resolution (H. Res. 383) providing for further consideration of the bill (S. 627) to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 382 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 382

Resolved, That the requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported through the legislative day of August 2, 2011.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), my friend, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SESSIONS. House Resolution 382 waives the requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported by the Rules Committee. This would allow for the same-day consideration of any resolution reported through the legislative day of August 2, 2011. This rule will ensure that Congress has the necessary tools to pass a bill that ensures we cut spending without defaulting on our national debt.

Madam Speaker, today you will hear my friends the Democrats argue about a closed process, but you will not hear them discuss the unprecedented spending spree that my friends the Democrats on the other side of the aisle went through for the last two Congresses. We will discuss how Republicans continue to come up with

thoughtful solutions—and I add, balanced, thoughtful solutions—to our Nation's economic troubles, what we think will, and what has up to now, only failed in the Senate. We will talk about the magnitude of this vote and the importance of reaching an agreement before Tuesday. Madam Speaker, it is time to stop pontificating and start acting like Members of Congress. The Nation calls for a solution, and Republicans are the only ones to offer solutions in legislation, in debate on the floor, and with actual votes.

My friends on the other side of the aisle will go on and on today about how Republicans are closing the process and shutting out Members of Congress, when we're really here providing for the flexibility for the Speaker of the House to simply work with the Senate to ensure a solution to the looming debt crisis deadline is met so that we will not default on our obligations. If my Democrat colleagues were serious about finding solutions to this problem, they would vote in favor of this rule today.

The facts of the case are clear: The chairman of the Rules Committee, the gentleman from California, DAVID DREIER, has issued more open rules in the last month than Congress has seen over the last two Congresses—or for a total of 4 years combined. Additionally, in the 111th Congress, under the leadership of NANCY PELOSI and the chairman of the Rules Committee at the time, LOUISE SLAUGHTER, 26 same-day rules were reported out of the Rules Committee. And in the previous Congress, the 110th Congress, under the same leadership, 17 same-day rules were reported out by the Rules Committee. In comparison, the process regarding these rules in this Congress is a far cry from the previous Democrat leadership's unorthodox and unprecedented closed processes.

I rise today in support of this rule. This rule is essential to allow the House of Representatives the flexibility it needs to ensure the safety and soundness of our country's economic future. Over the past 4 years we've seen record debt and deficits, which have brought us to the crossroad that we face with the looming August 2 deadline for raising the debt ceiling. Americans continue to speak out loudly and clear. And just as they did last November, they are saying it is time to stop the out-of-control spending, wasteful Washington spending, and excessive government. Republicans have cut spending at every opportunity in this Congress, and we are hoping to do that again today.

Discretionary and mandatory spending at Federal levels are on unsustainable paths. In the last 2 years of Democrat control, Congress has approved and the President has signed into law an 84 percent increase in non-defense discretionary spending, and the

President's budget proposes to freeze discretionary spending at these inflated levels. America can no longer support or afford this kind of leadership.

The President's proposed FY 2012 budget also doubles, then triples the Federal deficit over the next 10 years. And while increasing taxes on the Nation's job creators by \$1.6 trillion sounds like a good deal to the President, in fact, free enterprise system employers and American workers know otherwise. Additionally, the President's budget makes no substantial effort to address the unsustainable rate of entitlement spending, one of the major aims of the President's own fiscal commission, which he has ignored. Obviously, the President has no intention of cutting spending or reining in Big Government programs. Big Government, more taxes, more regulations are directly in the President's strike zone. And that is the process he intends to challenge Congress to come right along with him on and keep marching toward the cliff.

Madam Speaker, we're at the end of the road. Once again today, Republicans are saying, We are going to have to make tough choices. That's why we came to Congress. And the majority party will continue to do that today. Over the past 7 months, Republican leadership has been steadfast in their support for cutting spending and getting control of our record deficit and debt. The House passed H.R. 1, a continuing resolution that brought back spending levels to 2008 levels, cutting \$100 billion in 1 year. In April, this House passed a budget that would cut \$6.2 trillion in government spending over the next decade compared to the President's budget. Just last week, this body passed Cut, Cap, and Balance, which would limit discretionary spending, cap spending to a lower percentage of GDP, and lead to a Balanced Budget Act, so Congress could no longer write checks that they can't cash without passing the debt on by asking foreign governments and others to make up the difference for us.

Republicans are willing to pay the balance if the President is willing to cut up the credit card. And that is why we are here also today. Republicans have again and again in the House offered commonsense solutions to rein in spending and cut down our debt. My friends on the other side of the aisle continue to reject every single proposal. So, one might ask, What is their solution? What have they have offered this Nation to spur economic growth and to put Americans back to work, we would ask. So, let me tell you. By raising taxes. By raising taxes on individuals, on small businesses, and corporations alike. This is no wonder why we see stagnant job growth, GDP that lags behind, and high employment rates—and that means we cannot meet the needs of this country.

□ 1410

Even when the increase in taxes hurts our economic recovery, slows job growth and places more uncertainty in the marketplace, our friends the Democrats continue to argue for more spending and more taxation.

President Obama has asked Congress for an increase in the debt ceiling, and my Republican colleagues and I refuse to grant that request without a commitment to long-term spending cuts. We reject President Obama's insistence for a blank check to pay the credit card bills that he has run up over the past 2½ years. President Obama's unwillingness to address the true drivers of our debt assured me and my party that we cannot achieve a true solution to the debt crisis we are facing today unless we're able to make tough decisions.

The Budget Control Act we discussed yesterday and what we will discuss today is a step in the right direction. It accomplishes what Republicans and the American people have been asking for since the beginning of this process. It will reduce spending more than we increase the debt limit, it imposes no new taxes on anyone, and it guarantees to Americans that the House and the Senate will vote in the next 6 months on the only permanent solution to our debt crisis.

Yes, Madam Speaker, the Republicans are here on the floor again working on behalf not only of employers and employees but the middle class of this country, those of us who are concerned about where we are headed. There is nothing in this resolution that should cause anyone to worry about losing Social Security or Medicare. That is not even intended in this process. What is to solve the spending and the debt crisis that we have in this country.

I encourage a "yes" vote on this rule.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, before I begin, I have a point of personal privilege. I thank the gentleman from Texas for the time.

We on the Rules Committee and as Members of Congress rely on the hard work of our staff people, particularly on Rules Committee, working into the wee hours of the night, last night being an example, until 11:30. After 3 years of tremendous service, my Rules associate, Rosalyn Kumar, has accepted another position in the Senate, and I just want to express my appreciation for her hard work.

She hails from the city of Dallas, Texas, and her hometown Representative is my colleague on the Rules Committee, Mr. SESSIONS.

I'd like to yield for a moment to my colleague from Texas.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Rosalyn, congratulations. I am going to miss you. It is a good day for you; it's a bad day for us. It is with regular

occurrence that I look over at you. You have a bright, smiling face. You have the enthusiasm not only of a bright, young professional staffer on the Rules Committee, but I think you will be a true asset to Senator STABENOW, as you take the experiences from a body that does a lot of work to a body that needs to do more work, and I wish you the very best.

If I could, I would also like to tell the gentleman that Jenny Gorski, who is behind me, a professional staff member of the Rules Committee, will also be leaving. I have found out, after this process. She will be going to Congressman DOC HASTINGS' office to be his adult supervision. So we're taking two Rules Committee professional staff members who will aid and help other Members in their betterment.

I again thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. POLIS. I thank the gentleman from Texas, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I want to be perfectly clear about what we're talking about here today. From the moment Speaker BOEHNER walked away from the negotiating table last Friday to the opening bell of the stock markets this morning, shareholders in U.S. stocks, American retirees, investors, our middle class have lost \$405 billion based on Third Way's analysis of data from the Standard and Poor's 500 Index, and Americans stand to lose more if we fail to resolve this crisis.

Third Way has put together a comparison between the interest rate paid on sovereign debt between AAA and AA nations. This is why credit is important. People understand that. Depending on your credit rating, you pay a different rate on your home mortgage. You might have different financing opportunities on your credit card. If America misses a debt payment, the rating agencies have let us know that it likely will result in a downgrade from AAA status to AA status.

I would also point out that this current bill before us would likely lead to that as well because it only contains a short-term, a 6-month renewal of our debt ceiling. Having watched the dysfunction of Congress over the last few weeks, the global investment community, those who loan us money, will say the last thing we need to do is put ourselves through this again in 6 months to ensure stability.

Countries that have AAA ratings have an average 10-year bond rate of 2.98 percent. Countries that have AA have an average bond rating of 3.75 percent. So, three-quarters of a percent difference. What does that mean? It means three-quarters of a percent on your variable rate home mortgage; it means three-quarters of a percent on your automobile; and, yes, it means more government expenditures, bigger government expenditures, just to cover

the debt that we already have. In fact, that difference, that 0.75 percent difference over the next 10 years, will cost taxpayers, in additional interest payments, over \$1 trillion.

So here we are with a bill that cuts spending, cuts \$915 billion of spending, but, because it will likely lead to a downgrade, will cost over a trillion. The bill before us today will increase the deficit by over \$100 billion. At a time of record deficits when we all know we need to enforce fiscal discipline, the last thing we need is an irresponsible bill to increase the deficit by \$100 billion, which is what we have before us today.

Now, if we had this bill before us 2 weeks ago or 3 weeks ago, I would still oppose it—increasing the deficit is the last thing we need to do now—but it would have been an interesting discussion. It would have been maneuvering and politics and all this stuff that this body does too much of in posturing, in my opinion. But here we are 3½ days from the debt ceiling expiring, and the gentleman from Texas and the chairman of our Rules Committee and many others have said, We want to. We know we need to do this. We know we need to do this.

If we know we need to do this, why are we doing this 3½ days before the expiration of the debt ceiling? Why are we potentially passing a bill that will increase the Federal deficit? that will almost certainly lead to a downgrade? that the Senate has said they will kill? that the President has said he will veto?

I understand that the plan was to pass this bill last night. I understand that the majority party was short of a few votes. That would have been yet another window of opportunity for this Speaker, who has had many, to negotiate a real solution, to be the statesman, to work with the President and the Senate to come up with a bipartisan package to increase the debt ceiling, cut spending, decrease the deficit.

The President has talked about decreasing the deficit by \$4 trillion. Instead, we have a force of bill that's likely to increase the deficit by \$100 billion—the last thing we need from Congress at this juncture in time. Three-and-a-half days is how long we have to get this right.

I ask you, Madam Speaker, is this the step we need to take towards that outcome, passing yet another ideological bill that will cost taxpayers \$100 billion and cost middle class families another percentage point on all the debt that they have?

Madam Speaker, there is a route out of this, and the route out of this does not involve the majority party trying to pull back the four or five or six people that they need over there. The path out of this is the Speaker engaging us, engaging all Members of this Chamber, engaging the President of the United

States, who has to sign this at the end of the day, engaging the Senate majority leader and the Senate minority leader, to go back to that table that Speaker BOEHNER walked out on last Friday, to negotiate a real solution to the deficit crisis and the spending crisis that has gripped this country, that could very well lead to a downgrade and increased deficit spending unless we get our arms around it.

□ 1420

Look, I think many on my side of the aisle are open to a compromise. President Obama, himself, has called for a compromise, and I know my office and the offices of many other Members of Congress have received hundreds of calls from constituents who echo that desire to reach a solution on this. I fear that the step before us today is yet another example of the dysfunction of this institution under this leadership, but it's not too late.

I call upon the Speaker to move away from this direction and get back to the negotiating table to establish a real solution: to reduce the deficit, retain our Nation's good credit and faith in our system and show that this institution—the institution of the House of Representatives and the institution of Congress—can work and do what's right for our country.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I would like to yield 5 minutes to a brand new member of the Rules Committee, one of our 87 new Republican freshmen, the gentleman from Lawrenceville, Georgia, Congressman WOODALL.

Mr. WOODALL. I very much thank my friend from Texas for yielding.

It's true. I'm one of the new guys there on the Rules Committee, one of the new guys here in this Congress; and because I haven't been watching this process go on quite this closely before, I'm prepared to answer the questions today of "Why are we here?" and "Why are we here doing this?"

Now, for folks who don't watch the process, who haven't watched it like I have, this rule that we're working on today is to say that you can bring up a bill in the Rules Committee and then bring that bill to the floor on the very same day. That's unusual because regular order in this body says, if you bring something up, let's let it sit overnight so that everybody has a chance to look at it, and we'll bring it up the next day. I'm a big proponent of regular order. I believe we get the best work product out of this body when we work through regular order, and we've done that time and time and time again in this Congress, and we'll do it time and time again in the future.

But today we're faced with a predicament where August 2 is looming on the horizon.

Now, it's Friday. For folks who don't know, we're not going home tonight

after work. Don't worry, Madam Speaker. As you know, this House is going to be in full swing tonight, tomorrow morning, tomorrow night, on Sunday, on Monday to get America through this challenge; but my White House, my President, tells me that August 2 is the day by which we must pass a bill, and here we are at the last hour to make that happen.

Now, why are we at the last hour? That was a question my friend from Colorado asked, and I have the answer: because we didn't actually start this process today. We didn't start it last night in the Rules Committee. We started this process back in February with H.R. 1, a bill to fund the government all the way through October 1 of this year.

It was an open rule. For the first time in the history of this House of Representatives, it was an open rule on a continuing resolution. It took us 5 days, going day and night—24 hours a day at the end—to get that bill discussed fully, because we all had input on that process; we all had things that we wanted to add. This House passed that bill. It went across to our friends in the Senate, and they did nothing.

We had another shot at this in April when we worked through the budget process. That budget process, as you know, Madam Speaker, is supposed to take us through 10 years—10 years. We asked every Member of this House of Representatives to bring their ideas to the floor. The Rules Committee, in its wisdom, made every single budget that any Member of this House offered available as a bill on the floor to consider, and we debated them all. There were some that raised taxes by \$10 trillion. There were others that cut spending by \$10 trillion and all in between. We debated them all, and the House decided on one: the House budget in April of this year. We sent it to the Senate, and they did nothing. In fairness, they did defeat that bill we sent to them. They defeated ours. We only got 40 votes on ours, which was better than when they worked on the President's budget over there—he got zero votes on his. So they're good at defeating things, but they didn't pass anything at all.

That's the partnership we have to have. I say to my friend from Colorado that I'm so proud of our partnership in the Rules Committee and, really, of our partnership beyond the Rules Committee, too, on some of the issues that we work on here. If we could develop the kind of partnership with our friends in the Senate that we've been able to develop between ourselves here on the House side, it would be a completely different situation here in Washington, D.C.

But even as part of that raucous freshman class that folks read about in the newspaper, I don't have the ability to control what goes on in the United

States Senate. All I have the ability to do is to come down here and participate in our process, which in February produced H.R. 1, which could have averted this crisis today; in April produced the House budget, which could have averted this crisis today; and last week produced Cut, Cap, and Balance—which was sent to the Senate and they did nothing—which could have averted this crisis yet again.

In light of all of those failures of action in the Senate, we are forced to come here today. We don't have overnight to lay a bill over. We don't have 72 hours to lay a bill over. We only have 72 hours until my President tells me D-day arrives for our financial markets. So we're here supporting this rule for same-day consideration so that we can do whatever it takes to get the job done.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SESSIONS. I yield the gentleman 2 additional minutes.

Mr. WOODALL. I very much thank the gentleman from Texas.

We're going to do whatever it takes to get the job done, but there is a teaching moment in this process, Madam Speaker. Maybe it's obvious to some of the senior Members. Again, I'm one of the new guys—only 7 months on the job here in Congress—but what I've noticed this week is this:

Last night, we tried to bring up a bill. Now, it was a bill that our Speaker and the majority leader of the Senate negotiated over last weekend. We thought bringing that bill to the floor would be that compromise, and I promise you it was a compromise because it was not what I wanted to bring to the floor of this House. We thought that compromise would be the solution to get America out of this situation.

Mr. POLIS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WOODALL. I would be happy to yield to the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. POLIS. The majority leader in the Senate has never at any time expressed support for this bill and actually opposes this bill.

I would ask the gentleman to clarify that.

Mr. WOODALL. I thank my friend.

There is a lot of conversation in this town, but I maintain that this was the topic of discussion and agreement between the Speaker and the majority leader last week. Absolutely, the majority leader has walked away from that agreement since then, and I don't dispute that; but here's the thing:

We had this agreement on the floor of the House last night, and we couldn't find one Democrat vote in favor of it. Fair enough. Folks ought to vote their consciences; they ought to do what they need to do. We couldn't find one Democrat vote in favor of it, and we've come back with a new bill today that moves us to the right. Now, as someone

who comes from one of the most conservative districts in the country, I think that's fantastic. More moving to the right. Let's keep on moving. There's a lot more space over there. Let's move some more over to the right.

But I say to my friends on the left as we try to get through a crisis, a national crisis, that we only needed a few votes from you last night, and then this would have been a bipartisan bill. Instead, we're back down here today.

Mr. POLIS. I would like to yield 2 minutes to a member of the Budget Committee, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO).

Mr. TONKO. I thank my colleague from Colorado for yielding.

Here we go again, my friends. Here we go again wasting another day of debate on a proposal that is more of a press release than a plan. News broke this morning that, from the moment Speaker BOEHNER walked away from the table last Friday to the opening bell this morning, shareholders in United States stocks lost over \$400 billion.

My colleagues have been unwilling, not unable, to reach compromise in this Chamber. They have been unwilling, not unable, to tell extremists that while they write their press releases and shake their fists, the rest of us must get down to governing. They have been unwilling, not unable, to let us vote on a balanced plan; and that choice, for it was a choice, cost the American economy almost as much in 5 business days as my Republican colleagues are trying to cut from the budget in 5 years. They're using a manufactured crisis to make the problem worse.

So here we are again. My Republican colleagues have wasted another 24 hours making a bad plan worse, a plan that is based on the same tired policies that got us into this mess: cut taxes for millionaires; give kickbacks to special interests; pay for it all with cuts to the middle class, including Medicare and Social Security.

□ 1430

If they try to tell you that these cuts are not in this bill, ask them to sign a pledge that this legislation will not be used to cut benefits for seniors in the next 12 months. They won't.

After my Republican colleagues pulled their bill from the floor last night, they went back to the negotiating table. But with whom? The Senate? No. The President? Surely not. No, they went back behind closed doors to negotiate with themselves to run further to the right at the behest of the most ideologically entrenched members of their caucus. This may be good politics, but it's not good government.

I'm tired of it, my constituents are tired of it, anyone who's watched the nightly news for the last 6 months is tired of it.

Washington loves to kick the can down the road. That's how we got here in the first place. This is our moment. We need a plan, not another Republican manifesto, and there are better plans out there.

So, again, I ask my Republican colleagues, let us vote on a plan that has a chance.

Mr. SESSIONS. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Again, my colleague from Georgia mentioned that there are no Democrats behind this initiative. Again, Democrats were not consulted or talked to to ask for their support or input into this initiative. And you won't find much support for a proposal that would increase the deficit by \$100 billion over 10 years.

The Democrats and our Democratic plan are seeking to decrease the deficit by trillions of dollars over that same period rather than increase it by \$100 billion as the Republican plan does.

Madam Speaker, I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts, my colleague on the Rules Committee, Mr. MCGOVERN.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this closed martial law rule.

Today is a sad, sad day. In just a few days, the process in this House has completely devolved. It's shameful. We've gone from open rules to closed rules to same-day martial law rule all because a few extreme Members of the House refuse to do the right thing.

The rule today paves the way for a bill today that is even a worse bill than the one the Republicans were forced to pull from the floor yesterday. That's not coming together, Madam Speaker. It's pushing us further and further apart.

These last few days have not been about trying to find a united solution. These last few days and last few weeks have been about trying to unite the House Republicans. It has been wasted opportunities.

For weeks and weeks and weeks my Republican friends have walked away from a balanced, fair, and bipartisan approach allowing the United States to pay its bills. They've walked away from a balanced, fair, and bipartisan approach to addressing the Nation's long-term fiscal challenges. Democrats have been willing over and over and over again to move forward on such an approach.

To be honest, I'm not thrilled with some of the things that President Obama has put on the table. But I'm willing to consider them in order to get past this crisis. Unfortunately, the Republican leadership of this House is unwilling to meet us halfway. They're not even willing to meet us a tenth of the way.

All we're asking for, and I think all the American people are asking for, is a balanced approach. All we're asking

for is for everyone to chip in to solve this problem.

I'll say to my friends on the other side of the aisle, if you're going to ask seniors to pay more for their Medicare, if you're going to cut vital investments in education, transportation, medical research, and other programs, then the least you can do is ask the various wealthiest Americans to pay their fair share.

How in the world can my friends on the other side of the aisle justify slashing Medicare while they refuse to ask Big Oil and gas companies or corporate jet owners or hedge fund managers to give up their unnecessary and unjustified taxpayer subsidies. But that's their position, Madam Speaker, not asking billionaires to pay a little bit more but asking middle class families to pay a lot more. It's reckless, it's wrong, it's unfair. And I for one will not go along with it.

My friend from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) says we have to make tough choices. I agree, we have to make tough choices. But why do you always have to be tough on working families or on poor people or on senior citizens? They didn't create this economic crisis.

We're in this mess because of unpaid-for tax cuts, mostly for wealthy people; we're in this mess because of two wars that are not paid for that are on our credit card; we're in this mess because of a prescription drug bill that wasn't paid for.

I would say to my colleagues, enough of the press releases, enough of the theatrics, enough of the political stunts.

I urge you to reject this martial law rule and get back to the negotiating table and avert an economic crisis.

Mr. SESSIONS. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAULO).

Ms. DELAULO. We are now 4 days away from an historic, unprecedented, and needless default that could grind this economy to a halt. And yet, even as they show their disarray to the entire world, this House Republican majority is continuing to hold our Nation hostage to press their radical agenda. Worse, there's only 4 days to go. They're moving in the wrong direction.

The Speaker should have taken yesterday's rebuke by his own party as a clear indication that he needs to go back to the drawing board and pass a debt ceiling increase that both parties can sign on to.

Instead, he and the Republican majority have doubled down on ideology and dangerous brinksmanship requiring that a balanced budget constitutional amendment—a total non-starter—that would threaten Medicare and Social Security be sent to the States before a second debt ceiling increase is approved. This ensures another Republican-created crisis in only a few short months.

This bill slashes \$917 billion from critical public investments: education, infrastructure, research, law enforcement, food safety. And even though the spending on these programs is less than what it was under the Reagan and the first Bush administration, in fact members of the majority even balked at \$17 billion in Pell Grant funding in the bill because to some of them helping Americans go to college is “the welfare of the 21st century.”

We know the deficits have grown because revenues are lower than they’ve been in the last 60 years thanks to the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy and the two wars that have been put on the Nation’s credit card.

With 14 million unemployed, we should be focused on creating jobs, putting Americans back to work. It’s time for the majority to quit playing political games, start acting responsibly with the stewardship of our economy.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill. Start to work on what the American people need most right now—that’s jobs.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I am delighted that the gentlewoman comes down and talks about this game that’s going on about jobs.

I am going to read from an article that I will insert into the RECORD regarding information on tax hikes and what that does to American jobs:

“This past January, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn signed into law a 67 percent increase in the State personal income tax rate and a 45 percent increase in the State corporate tax rate. Between its passage then and June, Illinois lost 56,223 jobs.

“To combat the job loss caused by the higher taxes on businesses, the Illinois Department of Commerce ‘has already shelled out some \$230 million in corporate subsidies to keep more than two dozen companies from fleeing the State.’”

Well, this is exactly what President Obama is suggesting for America, the same thing that they do in his home State in Illinois, raise taxes substantially on all of those rich people and corporations. Madam Speaker, a 56,000 job loss. They’re now having to spend an incredible amount of money to convince people, really to pay them off, just to stay.

This is the game that the Democratic Party plays. This is exactly what the gentlewoman was talking about about the serious elements of jobs and the consequences of killing jobs in this country.

Madam Speaker, I will tell you the Republican Party will not fall victim to raising taxes like the Democratic Party and like President Obama want us to do.

We will not raise the debt limit without making tough choices. And, Madam Speaker, we’re going to add jobs and do the things that are right

that the American people expect us to do. And that’s why we’re here today.

THE REAL-WORLD IMPACT OF TAX HIKES ON AMERICAN JOBS

(By Rep. Pete Sessions & Rep. John Shimkus)

[From the Daily Caller, July 28, 2011]

Over the last few weeks, President Barack Obama has adamantly supported raising taxes on corporations and small businesses that employ millions of American workers as a precondition for cutting our bloated federal spending.

To see the real-world effect of this proposal on jobs and the economy, President Obama’s home state provides a useful and cautionary example.

This past January, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn signed into law a 67 percent increase in the state personal income tax rate and a 45 percent increase in the state corporate tax rate. Between its passage and June, Illinois lost 56,223 jobs, according to statistics released last week.

To combat the job loss caused by the higher taxes on businesses, the Illinois Department of Commerce “has already shelled out some \$230 million in corporate subsidies to keep more than two dozen companies from fleeing the state.”

So not only is Illinois bleeding productive jobs, but it’s now allowing the government to pick winners and losers.

Extracting an ever-increasing toll from job creators is simply the wrong answer for American jobs. Just ask the 56,000 Illinoisans who have lost their jobs since January. Spreading this failure nationwide is simply not an option.

We are in a debt crisis not because we tax too little, but because Democrat-led Washington spends beyond its means. House Republicans have been focused on encouraging and providing certainty (not new burdens) to our nation’s job creators—and trying to get our debt and deficit-spending under control.

The rest of America simply cannot afford more of the failed policies of the president’s home state, and House Republicans will fight against tax hikes so that we may ensure a brighter future for generations to come.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I have an article entitled, “Debt Ceiling Impasse Rattles Short-Term Credit Markets,” again from The New York Times, discussing how this uncertainty that is not being caused by external factors but is being caused by us, by politicians, by people here in this body, is rattling those who lend our country money. And that’s why this plan before us today will increase the deficit by over \$100 billion over 10 years. In addition to those spending cuts, it will cost taxpayers more in interest payments if it jeopardizes our credit rating.

[From the New York Times, July 28, 2011]

DEBT CEILING IMPASSE RATTLES SHORT-TERM CREDIT MARKETS

(By Nelson D. Schwartz and Azam Ahmed)

The reverberations of Washington’s impasse over a debt deal are already being felt in the short-term credit markets, a key artery of the economy that daily supplies trillions of dollars of credit.

Over the last week, big banks and companies have withdrawn \$37.5 billion from money market funds that invest in Treasury debt and other ultra-safe securities, the big-

gest weekly drop this year. Meanwhile, in the vast market for repurchase agreements, in which many financial firms make short-term loans to one another, borrowers are beginning to demand higher yields.

These moves underscore how companies and big financial institutions are beginning to rethink their traditional view that notes issued by the United States Treasury are indistinguishable from cash, even though many experts say they think it is unlikely that the government would miss payments on its obligations.

The \$37.5 billion drop, reported Thursday in a weekly survey by the Investment Company Institute, echoed what other analysts were seeing.

In the first three days of this week, investors pulled \$17 billion from funds that invested only in government securities, a reversal of the daily inflows of \$280 million for much of July, said Peter Crane, the president of Crane Data, which tracks money market mutual funds.

“It’s big, no doubt about it,” he said. “Seventeen billion isn’t a run, but it’s definitely indicative that investors are shifting their assets. If this were to continue for another week or two, it would be very disturbing.”

Though lawmakers have been clashing all week on proposals to cut the deficit and raise the debt limit ahead of an Aug. 2 deadline set by the Treasury Department, bond markets have largely shrugged off the risk of a default or a downgrade of the Washington’s AAA credit rating.

Interest rates on longer-term Treasuries have held steady, but the yield on notes coming due next week, after the deadline, has moved sharply higher in recent days. The yield on Treasury bills coming due Aug. 4 jumped five basis points to 15 basis points, a significant move for a security that carried a yield close to zero earlier this month, said Jim Caron, head of interest rate strategy at Morgan Stanley.

“It’s a tell-tale sign of something that could reverberate if it spreads to other markets, and all the uncertainty with the debt ceiling is the functional equivalent of a tightening,” Mr. Caron said. “I don’t think there is a default risk at all but the market is saying it’s not going to take any chances.”

While money market fund managers say they are not seeing a sizable wave of redemptions yet, they are setting aside more cash, leaving it at custodial bank accounts in case investors demand their money back. At Fidelity, the Boston-based firm that has \$442 billion in money market assets, managers are avoiding Treasury bills that come due on Aug. 4 and Aug. 11, however unlikely a technical default may be.

“We are positioning our portfolio to respond to a downgrade or a default and we are positioning the fund to respond to redemptions,” said Robert Brown, president of money markets at Fidelity. Mr. Brown would not say how much cash was being kept at hand, but said “it’s a higher balance than one would expect to see.”

In the commercial paper market, where companies raise funds for their short-term borrowing needs, buyers are also seeking shorter-term paper.

In the last week, investors have shown signs of wanting quick access to their money, with financial borrowers raising on Wednesday only \$1 million in notes that come due in 81 days or more, according to the Federal Reserve. That is down from \$479 million on July 22.

At the same time, the amount of commercial paper issued with a duration of just one

to four days rose to \$920 million, from \$771 million.

"Investors are scrambling to bolster their liquidity profile," said Chris Conetta, head of global commercial paper trading at Barclays Capital. "They understand that a default or downgrade could be a big, systemic event."

In the repurchase market, known as the repo market, borrowers take loans and in exchange hand over a little more than the equivalent loan amount in securities. Because of their risk-free status, Treasuries are highly favored as collateral, estimated to account for about \$4 trillion in the repo markets.

The fear is that if the United States credit rating drops, the value of those treasuries could respond in kind. Borrowers would then have to post more collateral to obtain their loans, effectively raising the cost of borrowing. That could ripple into the broader market, raising interest rates on all types of loans, analysts warn.

"The repo market is a pressure point because it can have an impact on overall credit availability, which bleeds through to mortgage rates," said Robert Toomey, managing director at the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association. "Treasuries become a little less attractive if they are more expensive to finance."

The overnight repo rate, which started the week at about three basis points, was about 17 basis points Thursday evening, according to Credit Suisse. That means that to finance \$100 million overnight in the repo market it would now cost about \$472 per day, up from about \$83 on Monday.

"It's a bigger deal than a lot of people recognize," said Howard Simons, a strategist at Bianco Research, a bond market specialist. "If you downgrade the securities you have to put more up for collateral and that affects pretty much everybody out there who has held these in reserve. I don't care if you're a bank, insurance company, exchange or clearinghouse."

To be sure, most observers say the ripples in the repo market will not be anything like those felt in the fall of 2008, when creditors lost faith in the ability of banks to pay back their short-term loans. That caused a problem for companies like General Electric, which struggled to finance its daily operations as a result. Back then, the sharp drop-off in repo lending helped bring the financial system to its knees.

"I think people are looking at the U.S. as the cleanest shirt in the dirty laundry pile," said Jason New, a senior managing director at GSO Capital Partners.

"To me, the downgrade is not dropping a boulder in a still lake. This is dropping a pebble, but nevertheless there are still ripples."

□ 1440

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH).

Mr. YARMUTH. I thank the gentleman from Colorado.

Madam Speaker, yesterday our Republican colleagues said that their party was using the leverage of the default crisis to get what they want, their ideological agenda passed. The problem is it's not what the American people want. Our constituents have made it very clear that when we're trying to solve our deficit crisis, they want a real compromise, shared sacrifice, where millionaires, billionaires,

and oil companies are asked to contribute. They also want their Social Security and Medicare benefits protected. Now with the clock ticking on the entire economy, they definitely don't want us wasting time on this hoax of a bill that has no chance of passing in the Senate.

The Republicans took a bad bill and made it worse and less likely to pass, putting in the requirement for sending a constitutional amendment to the States, which requires a two-thirds vote in each body. If that doesn't happen, 6 months from now, what happens? The country defaults again. That may help the Republicans. It may help the Republican leadership save face with the Tea Party and their party, but it does nothing to help the American people or save us from a pending economic chaos.

This isn't leadership. It's the worst type of failure. It's a failure to stand up for what we know is right, a failure to stand up for the American people, and a failure to protect and preserve the United States of America.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, at this time I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Savannah, Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON).

Mr. KINGSTON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, Americans have had to tighten their belts. All around the country, American families have had to decide what is important to them and to divide their needs from their wants. Washington, D.C., has to do that. We have to have not just a balanced approach, we need to have a balanced budget. We need to cut our spending, we need to control our spending, and we need to have accountability so that when Washington politicians make decisions, that the families back home can take a look at it and decide what are the consequences of these decisions.

Now, there have been a lot of consequences that America has suffered because of the failed economic policies of President Obama. One must ask him- or herself, when will President Obama admit that his stimulus program was a failure? When will the President admit that the consequences of his health care mandate has killed jobs? When will President Obama admit that Cash for Clunkers wasn't such a great idea? And, most importantly, when will President Obama admit that it's a failure of leadership not to present a plan to balance the budget to Congress? We need to see the President's plan.

Today, we will be voting on yet another Republican proposal to cut spending and control spending and give accountability to our process, but we have yet to have a bill introduced by the President of the United States. And keep in mind, before he was President, as a Senator, he voted against increas-

ing the debt ceiling, citing a lack of leadership. Today, the bill that we will be considering cuts spending now. It also controls spending because it has an across-the-board trigger that if we spend too much money, there will be a cut.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SESSIONS. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, these cuts are real. They are measurable. This is what the American people need to know, something that is accountable. This puts in place a 10-year budget.

The United States Senate, under HARRY REID's leadership, has not had a budget in 3 years. There's no end to their spending without a budget. American families have budgets. Why doesn't the U.S. Senate?

So this bill puts in accountability, 10 years' worth of accountability. It puts in controls in spending, across-the-board triggers. And finally, it has cuts to it.

Again, Madam Speaker, American families have had to tighten their belts. Washington must do the same thing, and that's what we're doing here today.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this legislation and "yes" on the rule.

Mr. POLIS. The gentleman from Georgia mentioned that the President hasn't introduced a bill. I would just like to point out that the President of the United States cannot introduce a bill in the House or Senate. The President can sign a bill. In fact, in this particular case, he said he would veto this bill because it increases the deficit, it risks increasing it by over \$100 billion.

I would like to submit for the RECORD a study that shows the difference in interest rates between AAA and AA ratings, which demonstrably shows, in fact, that if this bill is passed here today with only a 6-month extension, it would likely cost taxpayers over \$100 billion.

AAA OR AA? IN WHICH CLUB DO WE WANT TO BELONG?

AAA Ratings	10-Year bond yield (%)
Australia	4.92
Austria	3.39
Canada	2.93
Denmark	2.99
Finland	3.13
France	3.25
Germany	2.76
Hong Kong	2.26
Luxembourg	3.29
Netherlands	3.14
Norway	3.24
Singapore	2.10
Sweden	2.75
Switzerland	1.45
United Kingdom	3.04
USA	3.00
AAA Average	2.98

AAA Ratings	10-Year bond yield (%)
AA Ratings	10-Year bond yield (%)
Abu Dhabi	3.84
Belgium	4.32
Chile	2.92
China	4.12
Israel	5.16
Japan	1.09
Qatar	3.95
Saudi Arabia	3.97
Spain	5.99
Slovenia	4.43
Taiwan	1.50
AA Average	3.75

With that, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH).

Mr. WELCH. I thank the gentleman.

What's going on here, Madam Speaker, is extraordinarily dangerous and it's completely unnecessary. We are using the full faith and credit of the United States, the reputation this country has had since its founding that we are a country who pays our bills, we are using that as political leverage to get our way on budget and tax issues. That's wrong. It's dangerous.

Ronald Reagan, no stranger to fierce tax and budget battles, would never allow the linkage to be made that would jeopardize the full faith and credit of the United States. We're a bigger and better country than to threaten that we won't pay our bills. This is wrong. We should raise the debt ceiling cleanly because that is what Americans do. We pay our bills.

Second, the bill before us now is, as my friend from Kentucky said, making a bad bill worse. The process that Americans want is a balanced approach. Balance is revenues along with cuts. Democrats have to make concessions on cuts. We're prepared to do that. The President has led. But there have got to be revenues, particularly when we have got a Tax Code that is completely a mess.

What we've seen is that in the Biden discussions, Mr. CANTOR walked out when there were revenues on the table. The Speaker walked out on the President when revenues were still on the table. And now this bill is attempting to impose a constitutional amendment and has no chance of passing; and it, in effect, is a white flag of surrender to a small group in the Republican caucus who won't pass the bill that was brought to us before.

We've got to work together. That means we've got to put everything on the table. We've got to maintain our credit rating by paying our bills, and we have to have a balanced approach to long-term fiscal stability that requires revenues as well as cuts.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, at this time I yield 2 minutes to another one of our 87 new freshmen, Mr. WOMACK, the former mayor of Rogers, Arkansas, one of the most beautiful cities in America.

Mr. WOMACK. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman not only for yielding some time but also for his glowing remarks about a great community and one of the 10 most livable cities in all of America that I had the privilege of presiding over for about 12 years as mayor, a city that continues to enjoy tremendous economic development and influence in the State of Arkansas.

And let me just say this, using that as a context for my remarks, that I think the model that the community that I had the privilege of presiding over for 12 years is the model that Washington needs. It's a model that balances its budget.

When I inherited that city in 1999 as its mayor, it did not have a balanced budget. The government was in the way. The discriminate developer did not want to develop in that community because there were too many regulations, too many reasons why they could go elsewhere and have better margins. Well, we changed all that, and now the city is flourishing in a remarkable sort of way.

And I want to steal something from a colleague of mine from Mississippi that was said yesterday out on the Triangle in a media event. He said: All across America we're sitting down with legal pads, and we're drawing that line down the middle and we're discussing the amount of income that we have. This is what's happening to families around the country, what kind of income we have and what kind of expenses we have.

□ 1450

Where the expenses exceed the income, we are having to make some very difficult choices as to what do we do without. Well, quite frankly, I think that that's exactly what's happening in this Congress right now. We have to take the legal pad out. We have to decide those things that we can do that we need and those things that we can do without based on the amount of income that we have coming in.

The sad thing is in order to be able to create that kind of fiscal discipline, it's going to take something like a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution in order to guarantee an enforcement mechanism that this Congress or future Congresses cannot undo. So it's that context that I bring to the table today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SESSIONS. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. WOMACK. It is that basis on which I think this Congress should rally behind the plan that we have offered today that is going to cap spending, that is going to cut spending, and is going to require a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution so that future Congresses can't put us in a similar situation that we are in today.

So I would urge a "yes" vote. I support it wholeheartedly, and I would ask the American people to join us by promoting fiscal sanity by approving this piece of legislation.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy.

Well, we are approaching the real prospect of default for the first time in American history, and we have wasted 2 days. While we have wasted 2 days, the American public has lost over \$400 billion of wealth as the stock markets started to slide when Speaker BOEHNER walked away from negotiations with the President. The Republicans have been twisting arms to make a bill that could never pass the Senate even more objectionable by chasing a few extreme Members of their party instead of working with over 180 Democrats on a balanced approach.

I would suggest that people think of three words. First is recklessness. This is the first time in history that we have taken the debt ceiling discussion and held it hostage; 102 times we have increased the debt ceiling since 1917. This is an entirely manufactured crisis.

Second is abuse. This is an abuse of power to try and hold this debt ceiling discussion hostage, refusing to compromise, trying to avoid a balanced approach that is supported by the American public and what ultimately is going to be required to solve this problem.

The third point is hypocrisy. On this floor, earlier this week, when Republicans actually had the chance to vote for real spending cuts that would be required under their bizarre proposal for spending reductions in the future, when they had a chance to vote for it, in this Congress, offered up by the Republican Study Committee—and I think it was misguided, but at least it was honest—and what did the Republicans do? They voted it down, 104 of them, including their own subcommittee chairman, because it was too extreme.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I would like to inquire about the time remaining on both sides, please.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 5 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Colorado has 8½ minutes remaining.

Mr. SESSIONS. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON).

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, many words will be spoken at podiums on the House floor today, some helpful and illuminating, some not. But there are a few facts that need to stand in very stark contrast to all the din.

First, this has never happened in the history of the United States, not from

the first Congress until this very moment, that a Congress, a caucus in this body, has tried to hold hostage the American economy in exchange for raising the debt ceiling. Never before, never. We will distinguish ourselves as a body that has failed and has deliberately harmed the American economy because of obstinacy, stubbornness, and recklessness. First time.

Second, in less than 3½ days, our Nation will default. This will, without a doubt, cause a dramatic amount of cost on the American people in almost every aspect of our lives, whether it's in the area of credit cards, mortgages, car notes, or many other areas. Our State and local governments' costs will go up. Investors, pensioners, 401(k) holders will suffer. This is in no way helpful and in dramatic contrast to everything we have ever done before.

There is no doubt about it, Madam Speaker. The Republicans and the Democrats have a very different view of the role of government. Democrats believe that a government in partnership with a free market works well to guarantee a strong economy for the American people, and Republicans see almost no role for government at all and speak derisively and contemptuously about government all the time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. POLIS. I yield the gentleman 15 additional seconds.

Mr. ELLISON. The American people, I believe, will agree with the Democrats and history will bear us out as being on the right side.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, day after day the American people receive more bad news, economic bad news, about the shape our country is in. That is what Republicans respond to.

Today, news came out that the first quarter GDP that was provided by the Federal Government, first quarter, was actually wrong, dead wrong. They said the GDP growth was 1.9 percent. Today we find out it was .4.

Madam Speaker, the disastrous results of the Obama-Pelosi years are evident. Republicans want jobs. We need a middle class, and we are willing to fight for it. That's why we are here today with commonsense legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Thank you very much for yielding.

I rise in opposition to this rule and in opposition to the bill that we will vote on later today. And, yes, the Bush economic policies have really now come home to haunt us.

It's shameful that the Republican Party continues their drive to plunge our Nation into default and our economy over the brink. And the bill that Speaker BOEHNER has unveiled today does exactly that. His plan fails to end the threat of default.

And his plan targets, mind you, targets the programs aimed at America's most vulnerable, our seniors, our children, and our low-income families for more draconian cuts. And this plan would sign these cuts into the Constitution; it would sign these cuts into stone into the Constitution.

Trying to balance the budget on the backs of the poor is morally wrong and it's economically bankrupt. This rule and this bill begin to erode and dismantle Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security; and it creates more unemployment. There will be more job loss as a result of this rule and bill.

Instead of creating jobs, the Republicans are holding our economy hostage once again and threatening to plunge our economy back into recession. Instead of quickly passing a debt ceiling vote and bill, the Republicans are marching lockstep towards default. Instead of supporting the safety net that will protect our most vulnerable, the Republicans are trying to balance our budget on the backs of the poor while maintaining tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires and Big Oil. It's totally irresponsible to put forth a bill that would put the economy on the brink of disaster once again in 6 months.

Madam Speaker, there is no time for these Republican Tea Party games. This rule and this bill turn the American Dream into a nightmare for millions. Seniors need to know that they will receive their Social Security checks. Veterans need to know that they can go to the doctor. Small businesses need to know that they have some financial security and stability to create jobs.

Defeat this Boehner rule and bill. It's really a default Boehner rule and bill.

□ 1500

Mr. SESSIONS. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

Mr. DEFAZIO. Tax cuts, tax cuts, tax cuts. Tax cuts solve all problems, especially for the millionaire and billionaire job creators.

We're in the 10th year of the Bush tax cuts: \$4 trillion. We're in the third year of the Obama tax cuts: \$1 trillion. Now we have to cut programs to continue the tax cuts that don't create jobs.

What's one of the specified targets? Student financial aid. Hey, they don't know anybody at the country club who can't afford to put their kid through medical school, but at the top of their list is cutting student financial aid.

Cutting investments in transportation that could put millions to work. Stopping taxes on the aviation industry, which is, guess what, capturing the money, not lowering prices, and laying off 90,000 people and stopping critical infrastructure jobs for that industry. Tax cuts, tax cuts, tax cuts.

Let's get real. Let's do things for the American people, put people back to work, and solve the deficit problem.

Mr. SESSIONS. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI).

Mr. GARAMENDI. A very interesting point in our progress here in America. There is a real difference in view, and we're in the process now of choosing which path this Nation will go.

This is not about a deficit. This is about the very nature of America. It's about our heart and soul. Are we going to be a country that uses all of our resources, whether they are the public resources or the private resources, to fill the needs of our people—their education, their health care, their well-being after they retire—or are we going to go a different path and not use all of our potential?

The Republican proposal that's before us—this is not the first—would change America and really drive us back to the 19th century, a time in which the government did not have a social welfare program such as Social Security and Medicare.

Make no doubt about this and have no doubts that the proposal before us is a very significant step towards ending Social Security and Medicare. If that's what the American people want, well, we shall see.

Mr. SESSIONS. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

Mr. ENGEL. I thank the gentleman.

You know, this is political theater at its worst. This bill has no chance of becoming law. It's extreme. It was put together so that the Speaker could pick up the last two or three votes from the extreme element of the Republican Party. We refuse to be held hostage and the American people refuse to be held hostage.

Let me say to my Republican colleagues: Why don't you try working with us? Why don't you try to work with the Democrats? Why don't we kind of move to the sensible middle and have a bill that can pass? This is what the American people want us to do. They are sick of the political posturing. They are sick of this day in and day out. We are now bringing our country to the brink of financial disaster because of cheap political games. Meet us in the middle.

In order to balance our budget, we need to have a cut in spending, yes, but we also need to have those who can afford to pay more pay a little more, and we need to close corporate tax loopholes, not protect the rich. My Republican friends want to balance the budget on the backs of the middle class, want to tell seniors that Medicare as we know it will be destroyed, want to

tell our students that they cannot get Pell Grants. We don't want to do this.

Pass a clean debt ceiling. That's what we need to do. We did it 18 times under Reagan and eight times under Bush. We ought to do it again now and stop the political charade.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, the reason why we're here today is because we're spending too much money.

Another reason why we're here today is because the Democratic Party and the Members—many of them who have spoken today—took \$500 billion out of Medicare, and that's why that system is in real trouble. Republicans will save Medicare, not bankrupt it like our friends the Democrats have done.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

First, in response to the claim of the gentleman from Texas in regards to saving Medicare, well, if ending Medicare is one way of saving it, I guess that would be consistent. In fact, the Republican package that was passed in this House phased out Medicare. Nobody under 55 would receive Medicare.

By definition, Medicare is a medical insurance program for seniors. It would be replaced with a voucher that would pay for part of private insurance that seniors need to get, but it would no longer be Medicare. It would no longer exist. So, certainly, getting rid of Medicare, if you consider that a way of saving it, the Republican budget will do that. But if you want to save Medicare, it requires cutting costs and investing in the system and making it work for more American families.

Again, what we have before us today, Madam Speaker, is not a solution; it's further political machinations of the House. Rather than talking to the President, rather than talking to the Senate, unfortunately, the Speaker of this body has chosen to talk to five or six people, move the bill further away from the middle, further away from what the President will sign, further away from what the Senate will pass with only 3½ days left.

Three-and-a-half days left before what? Three-and-a-half days left before this country jeopardizes our credit rating and our good standing as a Nation that pays interest on our debt. And just as American families, when your credit score gets messed up, you pay more, taxpayers will pay more if this bill passes.

Madam Speaker, it has been estimated that the approximately 1 percent interest rate increase that a downgrade from AAA to AA would provide will cost taxpayers over \$1 trillion over 10 years. And this bill will increase the deficit by \$100 billion.

I urge a "no" vote on the rule and the bill.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the conjecture the gentleman has made and extrapolated this out of what this bill would do. In fact, that's not what the bill does at all.

The bill says that we will approach in a reasonable way and with respect to the American taxpayer—and to the marketplaces—a plan, a plan that will put America on sound financial footing, which would be the envy of the world, which is part of what the Republican Party would choose to do.

Madam Speaker, once again, this rule provides the necessary flexibility the Republican leadership needs to ensure that we do not default on our obligations in the next 4 days. Republicans will continue to provide sound, balanced, and real leadership and pass solutions while the President continues on the pathway—along with the Democratic Party, as we've heard here today—of tax increases and job-killing ideas.

With over 14 million Americans unemployed, a \$1.4 trillion projected deficit this year, and over \$14 trillion in debt, our current financial policies are simply not working. I don't know why we would continue doing what we've been doing when it doesn't work, but perhaps that's what our friends, the Democrats, want to do. We, as Republicans, disagree.

So I'm asking the Democratic colleagues, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, to join their Republican colleagues and me for real fiscal change. Cutting spending and reducing government programs, each of these help us encourage economic growth, not just as we heard in Rogers, Arkansas, but all over this country. It does work, putting Americans back to work.

Madam Speaker, I will insert into the RECORD an article titled, "Texas Bucks National Unemployment Trend," because they do things that balance out the marketplace.

I applaud our Speaker, the gentleman from Ohio, JOHN BOEHNER, for his hard work and commitment to the American people, and those people here in the House of Representatives who will do their duty and provide for real and conservative solutions, market-based answers to get our economy back on track.

Madam Speaker, this Republican House will not raise taxes. We will not raise spending. We will not yield to the old ways of taxing and spending and not listening and then thinking we know better than others.

We're for the free enterprise system.

□ 1510

We're for families back home. We're for job growth and real meaningful opportunities for the future of our children. That is what we stand for.

So we are here today. Yes, we'll stay in town until we get our job done. We're the people who believe in the

free enterprise system. We're the people who believe in the people back home. And we're the people who are going to say "no" to Washington, D.C., taxing, spending, big wasteful government. We are the people, the Republican Party. The elephants are in town, and we have a great memory. We know what works. So, Madam Speaker, I encourage a "yes" vote on the rule.

TEXAS BUCKS NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT TREND

(By Tony Gutierrez)

Finding work may not be quite that simple, but it sure seems that way. While the nation's job growth has limped along since the economic recovery began two years ago, the Lone Star State is enlarging payrolls in Texas-size fashion.

From June 2009 to June 2011 the state added 262,000 jobs, or half the USA's 524,000 payroll gains, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Even by a more conservative estimate that omits states with net job losses, Texas' advances make up 30% of the 1 million additions in the 34 states with net growth.

The stunning showing could play a role in the presidential race. Texas Gov. Rick Perry is signaling he may run for the Republican nomination. If he does, he's likely to ground his campaign in his state's outsized job growth.

Texas' big gains are partly a reflection of its population growth. But the recent job gains are outpacing the rate of population growth in Texas, the nation's second-largest state, with 25 million residents—about 8% of the U.S. population.

INTERACTIVE: SORTABLE CHART: STATE-BY-STATE LOOK AT EMPLOYMENT CHANGES

The state's payrolls have risen 2.9% since the end of the recession, third behind North Dakota and Alaska and far outpacing the USA's 0.4% growth, according to the BLS. Also, Texas' 8.2% unemployment rate is well below the nation's 9.2%.

"For one large state to grow (jobs) so much faster than the rest of the nation is very unusual," says Moody's economist Ed Friedman.

Economists point to an array of factors, including high energy prices that set off an oil-drilling frenzy, rising exports and a conservative banking industry that helped the state sidestep the housing crash.

Yet while energy has been a spark—employment in natural gas, oil and other mining sectors rose by 45,000, or 23%, since the recession ended—growth has been broad-based. During the past two years, professional and business services added 74,000 jobs; education and health care gained 91,000; and leisure and hospitality grew by 29,000, according to BLS.

State officials cite a pro-business climate that Perry helped foster that's drawing scores of businesses from high-cost states—a trend that took on urgency for firms that got lean in the economic downturn.

The 10-year Texas governor is "really focused on creating an environment where people can risk their capital and get a return on investment, and that, in turn, creates jobs for Texans," says Lucy Nashed, spokeswoman for the state's economic development office.

Nashed notes Texas has no state or corporate income tax and keeps regulations at a minimum to allow businesses to grow quickly. She says Perry also has worked to develop a skilled workforce by requiring additional public school classes and pushing

through tort reform to limit frivolous lawsuits. The state, meantime, has doled out more than \$600 million in grants and investments since 2003 to recruit out-of-state companies and help Texas firms expand.

DOES PERRY REALLY DESERVE CREDIT?

Yet some question Perry's role in the so-called Texas Miracle.

James Galbraith, a professor of government at the University of Texas-Austin, largely attributes the state's job growth to the energy and export booms. Texas, he notes, has never had an income tax. From 1990 to 2000, before Perry took office, Texas payrolls swelled 36%, compared with 21% for the nation.

"Rick Perry did not come and find a high-tax, high-service state and dismantle it," Galbraith says. "For something to contribute, there (has to be) a change. There's been a change in oil prices."

Others say the state's low tax burdens exact a high cost: fewer state services. Perry, for example, refused to raise taxes to close a \$27 billion budget gap last spring. Instead, the Legislature slashed more than \$4 billion in funding for public schools the next two years, a move that's likely to lead to tens of thousands of teacher layoffs.

"We're not preparing our children to compete in tomorrow's economy," says Scott McCown, head of Texas' Center for Public Policy Priorities.

Texas ranks 44th in the USA in per-student expenditures and 43rd in high school graduation rates, McCown says. Seventeen percent of Texans lived below the poverty level in 2009, compared with 14% for the nation. The state leads in the percentage of the population with no health insurance and was ninth in income inequality in the mid-2000s, the latest data available, according to McCown and the Economic Policy Institute.

McCown says Texas should not serve as a job-growth paradigm for the rest of the nation.

"If you're saying you want to look like Texas, you're saying you want to be poor and have less health care," he says.

The state's relatively low wages, particularly for low-skilled jobs, stems in part from its status as a right-to-work state with little unionization. That dampens consumer spending and limits economic growth, McCown says. In June, average hourly earnings for private-sector employees in Texas were about 5% lower than the U.S. average.

But Mark Dotzour, chief economist at Texas A&M's Real Estate Center, says the state's lower pay helps it compete in a global economy. "Either you choose to have low-wage jobs or you choose to have no jobs at all," he says.

The state's reasonable cost of living, he adds, makes it possible for many residents to live comfortably on lower salaries. The Dallas area ranks 10th in housing affordability among 82 metro areas with more than 1 million residents, while Houston is 15th, according to the Demographia International Housing Affordability Survey. That's partly because Texas has an abundance of cheap land—another draw for firms looking to relocate.

Other reasons for the state's robust job growth:

The energy boom. Oil prices have nearly tripled since early 2009. High prices spark more exploration and production. Meanwhile, technological breakthroughs have let companies extract natural gas embedded in shale deposits. Barnett Shale in Fort Worth is one of the USA's largest gas fields, and drilling began at the Eagle Ford Shale in

South Texas in 2008. The number of oil and gas rigs in the state has jumped to 850 from 330 in July 2009, says Ana Orozco, economist for IHS Global Insight. Each rig employs a few dozen workers and leads to hiring by engineering firms, pipeline builders and other services.

Exports. Overseas shipments by Texas' strong computer, electronics, petrochemical and other industries rose 21% last year, compared with 15% for the nation, according to the Dallas Federal Reserve Bank. The state also benefits from its proximity to Latin American countries that are big importers of U.S. goods, Friedman says. The surge creates jobs for Texas manufacturers and ports.

No housing crash. Texas never had a housing boom but also avoided the bust that decimated consumer credit and home construction in much of the rest of the nation. While prices of single-family homes more than doubled from January 2000 to their mid-2000s peak in cities such as Los Angeles, Miami and Las Vegas, they rose less than 27% in the Dallas/Fort Worth market, according to the S&P/Case-Shiller Home Price index.

Meanwhile, Texas banks burned by the savings-and-loan crisis in the 1980s were less eager than those in other states to approve risky mortgages. And Texas law limits mortgage debt, including home-equity loans, to 80% of a home's value.

"People didn't use their houses like ATMs," says Dallas Fed Vice President Mine Yucel.

Texas still was hit by the recession. Annual permits for single-family homes declined 59% from their 2005 peak to 2010, but that's less than the nation's 73% plunge, according to Texas A&M. Similarly, employment fell 4% in the downturn; the USA's overall drop was 6.3%. Texas has recovered 380,000 jobs since its December 2009 low and is now just 54,000 shy of its 10.6 million peak.

Population growth. Texas' population grew by 4.3 million, or 21%, during the past decade, more than twice the national pace. About half the total was because of births, but Texas also gained 849,000 residents via state-to-state migration, second only to Florida.

Texas thus benefits from a virtuous cycle: More people are moving there for work, generating consumer demand that creates still more jobs. That's expanded the workforce, keeping the unemployment rate at 8.2%—ranked just 26th in the nation—despite the strong payroll advances.

One recent arrival is Ife Oyedokun, 26, who this month moved to the Austin area from Philadelphia, where he worked as a high school counselor, to be closer to his family. Within two weeks he had a job as a rehabilitation specialist for a growing outpatient facility for the mentally ill.

"I was very surprised," he says. "With just how the economy is now, I figured three, four, five months" to find a job.

'HUNTING' FOR POSSIBLE RELOCATIONS

Companies also are feeling the pull.

Corporate giants including Fluor, Toyota and Medtronic recently moved headquarters or operations to Texas, and eBay, AT&T, Samsung and Cirrus Logic have expanded there. Samsung added about 700 jobs in Austin since last year, enlarging a plant that makes chips for smartphones.

Area business leaders, meanwhile, have aggressively courted out-of-state companies.

The Dallas Regional Chamber this month sent a letter to 50 Illinois corporations, urging them to consider a move to Texas. The mailing includes a side-by-side comparison of the two states that notes Illinois recently

raised corporate and personal income taxes and highlights Texas' lower housing, labor and other expenses.

"States with heavy-duty business taxes, personal taxes or regulatory mind-sets define themselves as our targets," says Chamber CEO Jim Oberwetter. "That's just where we go hunting."

Texas has particularly tried to lure high-tech California companies to lower-cost technology corridors in Austin, Dallas and San Antonio. Medtronic, the Minneapolis-based medical device giant, has moved customer support for its diabetes unit from the Los Angeles area to San Antonio in the past 22 months, creating 750 jobs in Texas.

Jeff Ruiz, head of Medtronic's Texas operations, says the company was drawn by labor costs that are "significantly lower" than those in Los Angeles and a large, high-quality workforce. Ruiz also points to more affordable real estate and the lack of a state corporate tax, though he says the latter was a minor factor. The company, which also received \$14 million in incentives from the state—a figure Ruiz says was comparable with other offers—chose San Antonio from among more than 900 U.S. cities it evaluated.

For some, the benefits are more basic.

Marketing firm Red Ventures this year opened a San Antonio office that's expected to grow to 250 employees from 60 by year's end, says spokeswoman Kylie Craig. Besides the region's ample talent pool, other draws were the city's non-stop flights to Red Ventures' other offices in Miami and Charlotte and its 7.3% unemployment rate.

In cities with high jobless rates, "We're having to sift through (many) unqualified applicants."

Then there's Texas' laid-back lifestyle and lower costs, assets that prompted Vermillion, a start-up developer of blood tests with 29 employees, to move from Fremont, Calif., to Austin about a year ago. "We found it very difficult to recruit people into California because of the cost of living, traffic, congestion," says CEO Gail Page.

The corporate relocations and expansions are having a ripple effect on restaurants, hospitals and other service businesses. Winstead, a Dallas law firm with about 270 lawyers statewide, has added 50 since last year to handle the extra workload from firms, such as Comerica Bank, that have moved to Texas the past few years, says Mike Baggett, Winstead's chairman emeritus.

And after cutting staff in 2009 and 2010, DeMontrold Automotive in Houston has hired about 20 employees the past few months in response to a 20% jump in revenue, says owner George DeMontrold. Houston lost 120,000 jobs in the recession but has gained about 50,000 the last seven months.

"I think people who have held off and not purchased large-ticket items because of uncertainty are a little bit more ready to do it," DeMontrold says.

I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX,

this 15-minute vote on ordering the previous question will be followed by 5-minute votes on:

adoption of House Resolution 382, if ordered;

motion to suspend the rules on H.R. 440, by the yeas and nays;

motion to suspend the rules on H.R. 2244, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 237, nays 185, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 671]

YEAS—237

Adams	Gingrey (GA)	Murphy (PA)
Aderholt	Gohmert	Myrick
Akin	Goodlatte	Neugebauer
Alexander	Gosar	Noem
Amash	Gowdy	Nugent
Austria	Granger	Nunes
Bachus	Graves (GA)	Nunnelee
Barletta	Graves (MO)	Olson
Bartlett	Griffin (AR)	Palazzo
Barton (TX)	Griffith (VA)	Paul
Bass (NH)	Grimm	Paulsen
Benishek	Guinta	Pearce
Berg	Guthrie	Pence
Biggert	Hall	Petri
Bilbray	Hanna	Pitts
Bilirakis	Harper	Platts
Bishop (UT)	Harris	Poe (TX)
Black	Hartzler	Pompeo
Blackburn	Hastings (WA)	Posey
Bonner	Hayworth	Price (GA)
Bono Mack	Heck	Quayle
Boustany	Hensarling	Reed
Brady (TX)	Herger	Rehberg
Brooks	Herrera Beutler	Reichert
Broun (GA)	Huelskamp	Renacci
Buchanan	Huizenga (MI)	Ribble
Bucshon	Hultgren	Rigell
Buerkle	Hunter	Rivera
Burgess	Hurt	Roby
Burton (IN)	Issa	Roe (TN)
Calvert	Jenkins	Rogers (AL)
Camp	Johnson (IL)	Rogers (KY)
Campbell	Johnson (OH)	Rogers (MI)
Canseco	Johnson, Sam	Rohrabacher
Cantor	Jones	Rokita
Capito	Jordan	Rooney
Carter	Kelly	Ros-Lehtinen
Cassidy	King (IA)	Roskam
Chabot	King (NY)	Ross (FL)
Chaffetz	Kingston	Royce
Coble	Kinzing (IL)	Runyan
Cole	Kline	Ryan (WI)
Conaway	Labrador	Scalise
Cravaack	Lamborn	Schilling
Crawford	Lance	Schmidt
Crenshaw	Landry	Schock
Culberson	Lankford	Schweikert
Davis (KY)	Latham	Scott (SC)
Denham	LaTourette	Scott, Austin
Dent	Latta	Sensenbrenner
DesJarlais	Lewis (CA)	Sessions
Diaz-Balart	LoBiondo	Shimkus
Dold	Long	Shuster
Dreier	Lucas	Simpson
Duffy	Luetkemeyer	Smith (NE)
Duncan (SC)	Lummis	Smith (NJ)
Duncan (TN)	Lungren, Daniel	Smith (TX)
Ellmers	E.	Southerland
Emerson	Mack	Stearns
Farenthold	Manzullo	Stivers
Fincher	Marchant	Stutzman
Fitzpatrick	Marino	Sullivan
Flake	McCarthy (CA)	Terry
Fleischmann	McCaul	Thompson (PA)
Fleming	McClintock	Thornberry
Flores	McCotter	Tiberi
Forbes	McHenry	Tipton
Fortenberry	McKeon	Turner
Fox	McKinley	Upton
Franks (AZ)	McMorris	Walberg
Frelinghuysen	Rodgers	Walden
Gallely	Meehan	Walsh (IL)
Gardner	Mica	Webster
Garrett	Miller (FL)	West
Gerlach	Miller (MI)	Westmoreland
Gibbs	Miller, Gary	Whitfield
Gibson	Mulvaney	Wilson (SC)

Wittman
Wolf
Womack

Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)

Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—185

Ackerman	Fudge	Olver
Altmire	Garamendi	Owens
Andrews	Gonzalez	Pallone
Baldwin	Green, Al	Pascarell
Barrow	Green, Gene	Pastor (AZ)
Bass (CA)	Grijalva	Payne
Becerra	Gutierrez	Pelosi
Berkley	Hahn	Perlmutter
Berman	Hanabusa	Peters
Bishop (GA)	Hastings (FL)	Peterson
Bishop (NY)	Heinrich	Pingree (ME)
Blumenauer	Higgins	Polis
Boren	Himes	Price (NC)
Boswell	Hinojosa	Quigley
Brady (PA)	Hochul	Rahall
Braley (IA)	Holden	Rangel
Brown (FL)	Holt	Reyes
Butterfield	Honda	Richardson
Capps	Hoyer	Richmond
Capuano	Inslee	Ross (AR)
Cardoza	Israel	Rothman (NJ)
Carnahan	Jackson (IL)	Roybal-Allard
Carney	Jackson Lee	Ruppersberger
Carson (IN)	(TX)	Rush
Castor (FL)	Johnson, E. B.	Ryan (OH)
Chandler	Kaptur	Sánchez, Linda
Chu	Keating	T.
Cicilline	Kildee	Sanchez, Loretta
Clarke (MI)	Kind	Sarbanes
Clarke (NY)	Kissell	Schakowsky
Clay	Kucinich	Schiff
Cleaver	Langevin	Schrader
Clyburn	Larsen (WA)	Schwartz
Cohen	Larson (CT)	Scott (VA)
Connolly (VA)	Lee (CA)	Scott, David
Conyers	Levin	Serrano
Cooper	Lewis (GA)	Sewell
Costa	Lipinski	Sherman
Costello	Loeback	Shuler
Courtney	Lofgren, Zoe	Sires
Critz	Lowe	Slaughter
Crowley	Luján	Smith (WA)
Cuellar	Lynch	Stark
Cummings	Maloney	Sutton
Davis (CA)	Markey	Thompson (CA)
Davis (IL)	Matheson	Thompson (MS)
DeFazio	Matsui	Tierney
DeGette	McCarthy (NY)	Tonko
DeLauro	McCollum	Towns
Deutch	McDermott	Tsongas
Dicks	McGovern	Van Hollen
Dingell	McIntyre	Velázquez
Doggett	McNerney	Visclosky
Donnelly (IN)	Meeks	Walz (MN)
Doyle	Michaud	Watt
Edwards	Miller (NC)	Waxman
Ellison	Miller, George	Welch
Engel	Moore	Wilson (FL)
Eshoo	Moran	Woolsey
Farr	Murphy (CT)	Wu
Fattah	Nadler	Yarmuth
Filner	Napolitano	
Frank (MA)	Neal	

NOT VOTING—10

Baca	Hinchey	Wasserman
Bachmann	Hirono	Schultz
Coffman (CO)	Johnson (GA)	Waters
Giffords	Speier	

□ 1534

Mr. CLEAVER changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 236, nays 186, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 672]

YEAS—236

Adams	Gowdy	Olson
Aderholt	Granger	Palazzo
Akin	Graves (GA)	Paul
Alexander	Graves (MO)	Paulsen
Amash	Griffin (AR)	Pearce
Austria	Griffith (VA)	Pence
Bachus	Grimm	Petri
Barletta	Guinta	Pitts
Bartlett	Guthrie	Platts
Barton (TX)	Hall	Poe (TX)
Bass (NH)	Hanna	Pompeo
Benishek	Harper	Posey
Berg	Harris	Price (GA)
Biggert	Hartzler	Quayle
Bilbray	Hastings (WA)	Reed
Bilirakis	Hayworth	Rehberg
Bishop (UT)	Heck	Reichert
Black	Hensarling	Renacci
Blackburn	Herger	Ribble
Bonner	Herrera Beutler	Rigell
Bono Mack	Huelskamp	Rivera
Boustany	Huizenga (MI)	Roby
Brady (TX)	Hultgren	Roe (TN)
Brooks	Hunter	Rogers (AL)
Broun (GA)	Hurt	Rogers (MI)
Buchanan	Issa	Rohrabacher
Bucshon	Jenkins	Rokita
Buerkle	Johnson (IL)	Rooney
Burgess	Johnson (OH)	Ros-Lehtinen
Burton (IN)	Johnson, Sam	Roskam
Calvert	Jones	Ross (FL)
Camp	Jordan	Royce
Campbell	Kelly	Runyan
Canseco	King (IA)	Ryan (WI)
Cantor	King (NY)	Scalise
Capito	Kingston	Schilling
Carter	Kinzing (IL)	Schmidt
Cassidy	Kline	Schock
Chabot	Labrador	Schweikert
Chaffetz	Lamborn	Scott (SC)
Coble	Lance	Scott, Austin
Coffman (CO)	Landry	Sensenbrenner
Cole	Lankford	Sessions
Conaway	Latham	Shimkus
Cravaack	LaTourette	Shuster
Crenshaw	Latta	Simpson
Culberson	Lewis (CA)	Smith (NE)
Davis (KY)	LoBiondo	Smith (NJ)
Denham	Long	Smith (TX)
Dent	Lucas	Southerland
DesJarlais	Luetkemeyer	Stearns
Diaz-Balart	Lummis	Stivers
Dold	Lungren, Daniel	Stutzman
Dreier	E.	Sullivan
Duffy	Mack	Terry
Duncan (SC)	Manzullo	Thompson (PA)
Duncan (TN)	Marchant	Thornberry
Ellmers	Marino	Tiberi
Emerson	McCarthy (CA)	Tipton
Farenthold	McCaul	Turner
Fincher	McClintock	Upton
Fitzpatrick	McCotter	Walberg
Flake	McHenry	Walden
Fleischmann	McKeon	Walsh (IL)
Fleming	McKinley	Webster
Flores	McMorris	West
Forbes	Rodgers	Westmoreland
Fortenberry	Meehan	Whitfield
Fox	Mica	Wilson (SC)
Franks (AZ)	Miller (FL)	Wittman
Frelinghuysen	Miller (MI)	Wolf
Gallely	Miller, Gary	Womack
Gardner	Mulvaney	Woodall
Garrett		Yoder
Gerlach		Young (AK)
Gibbs		Young (FL)
Gibson		Young (IN)

NAYS—186

Ackerman	Becerra	Boren
Altmire	Berkley	Boswell
Andrews	Berman	Brady (PA)
Baldwin	Bishop (GA)	Braley (IA)
Barrow	Bishop (NY)	Brown (FL)
Bass (CA)	Blumenauer	Butterfield

Capps Himes
 Capuano Hinojosa
 Cardoza Hochul
 Carnahan Holden
 Carney Holt
 Carson (IN) Honda
 Castor (FL) Hoyer
 Chandler Inslee
 Chu Israel
 Cicilline Jackson (IL)
 Clarke (MI) Jackson Lee
 Clarke (NY) (TX)
 Clay Johnson (GA)
 Cleaver Johnson, E. B.
 Clyburn Kaptur
 Cohen Keating
 Connolly (VA) Kildee
 Conyers Kind
 Cooper Kissell
 Costa Kucinich
 Costello Langevin
 Courtney Larsen (WA)
 Critz Larson (CT)
 Crowley Lee (CA)
 Cuellar Levin
 Cummings Lewis (GA)
 Davis (CA) Lipinski
 Davis (IL) Loeb sack
 DeFazio Lofgren, Zoe
 DeGette Lowey
 DeLauro Lynch
 Deutch Maloney
 Dicks Markey
 Dingell Matheson
 Doggett Matsui
 Donnelly (IN) McCarthy (NY)
 Doyle McCollum
 Edwards McDermott
 Ellison McGovern
 Engel McIntyre
 Eshoo McNerney
 Farr Meeks
 Fattah Michaud
 Filner Miller (NC)
 Frank (MA) Miller, George
 Fudge Moore
 Garamendi Moran
 Gonzalez Murphy (CT)
 Green, Al Nadler
 Green, Gene Napolitano
 Grijalva Neal
 Gutierrez Oliver
 Hahn Owens
 Hanabusa Pallone
 Hastings (FL) Pascarell
 Heinrich Pastor (AZ)
 Higgins Payne

NOT VOTING—10

Baca Gingrey (GA)
 Bachmann Hinchey
 Crawford Hirono
 Giffords Lujan

□ 1540

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, due to my participation in a meeting with some of my constituents, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 672. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this vote.

ESTABLISHING SPECIAL ENVOY FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN THE NEAR EAST AND SOUTH CENTRAL ASIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 440) to provide for the establishment of the Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South

Central Asia, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 402, nays 20, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 673]

YEAS—402

Ackerman
 Adams
 Aderholt
 Akin
 Alexander
 Altmire
 Andrews
 Austria
 Bachus
 Baldwin
 Barletta
 Barrow
 Bartlett
 Barton (TX)
 Bass (CA)
 Bass (NH)
 Becerra
 Benishek
 Berg
 Berkeley
 Berman
 Biggert
 Bilbray
 Bilirakis
 Bishop (GA)
 Bishop (NY)
 Bishop (UT)
 Blackburn
 Blumenauer
 Bonner
 Bono Mack
 Boren
 Boswell
 Boustany
 Brady (PA)
 Brady (TX)
 Braley (IA)
 Brooks
 Brown (FL)
 Buchanan
 Bucshon
 Buerkle
 Burton (IN)
 Butterfield
 Calvert
 Campbell
 Canseco
 Cantor
 Capito
 Capps
 Capuano
 Cardoza
 Carnahan
 Carney
 Carson (IN)
 Carter
 Cassidy
 Castor (FL)
 Chabot
 Chaffetz
 Chandler
 Chu
 Cicilline
 Clarke (MI)
 Clarke (NY)
 Clay
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Coble
 Coffman (CO)
 Cohen
 Cole
 Conaway
 Connolly (VA)
 Conyers
 Cooper

Mack
 Maloney
 Manzullo
 Marchant
 Marino
 Markey
 Matheson
 Matsui
 McCarthy (CA)
 McCarthy (NY)
 McCaul
 McCollum
 McCotter
 McDermott
 McGovern
 McHenry
 McIntyre
 McKeon
 McKinley
 McMorris
 Rodgers
 McNerney
 Meehan
 Meeks
 Mica
 Michaud
 Miller (FL)
 Miller (MI)
 Miller (NC)
 Miller, Gary
 Miller, George
 Moore
 Moran
 Murphy (CT)
 Murphy (PA)
 Myrick
 Nadler
 Napolitano
 Neal
 Neugebauer
 Noem
 Nugent
 Nunes
 Nunnelee
 Olson
 Olver
 Owens
 Palazzo
 Pallone
 Pascarell
 Pastor (AZ)
 Paulsen
 Payne
 Pearce
 Pelosi
 Pence
 Perlmutter
 Peters
 Peterson

NAYS—20

Amash
 Broun (GA)
 Burgess
 Farenthold
 Flake
 Flores
 Graves (GA)
 Jones
 King (IA)
 Labrador
 McClintock
 Mulvaney
 Paul
 Posey

NOT VOTING—10

Baca
 Bachmann
 Black
 Giffords
 Grijalva
 Hinchey
 Hirono
 Poe (TX)
 Speier
 Waters

□ 1546

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CORPORAL STEVEN BLAINE RICCIONE POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 2244) to designate the facility

of the United States Postal Service located at 67 Castle Street in Geneva, New York, as the "Corporal Steven Blaine Riccione Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 418, nays 1, answered "present" 1, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 674]
YEAS—418

Ackerman	Chandler	Flores
Adams	Chu	Forbes
Aderholt	Cicilline	Fortenberry
Akin	Clarke (MI)	Fox
Alexander	Clarke (NY)	Frank (MA)
Altmire	Clay	Franks (AZ)
Amash	Cleaver	Frelinghuysen
Andrews	Clyburn	Fudge
Austria	Coble	Gallely
Bachus	Coffman (CO)	Garamendi
Baldwin	Cohen	Gardner
Barletta	Cole	Garrett
Barrow	Conaway	Gerlach
Bartlett	Connolly (VA)	Gibbs
Barton (TX)	Conyers	Gibson
Bass (CA)	Cooper	Gingrey (GA)
Bass (NH)	Costa	Gohmert
Becerra	Costello	Gonzalez
Benishkek	Courtney	Goodlatte
Berg	Cravaack	Gosar
Berkley	Crawford	Gowdy
Berman	Crenshaw	Granger
Biggert	Critz	Graves (GA)
Bilbray	Crowley	Graves (MO)
Bilirakis	Cuellar	Green, Al
Bishop (GA)	Culberson	Green, Gene
Bishop (UT)	Cummings	Griffin (AR)
Black	Davis (CA)	Griffith (VA)
Blackburn	Davis (IL)	Grimm
Blumenauer	Davis (KY)	Guinta
Bonner	DeFazio	Guthrie
Bono Mack	DeGette	Gutierrez
Boren	DeLauro	Hahn
Boswell	Denham	Hall
Boustany	Dent	Hanabusa
Brady (PA)	DesJarlais	Hanna
Brady (TX)	Deutch	Harper
Braley (IA)	Diaz-Balart	Harris
Brooks	Dicks	Hartzler
Broun (GA)	Dingell	Hastings (FL)
Brown (FL)	Doggett	Hastings (WA)
Buchanan	Dold	Hayworth
Bucshon	Donnelly (IN)	Heck
Buerkle	Doyle	Heinrich
Burton (IN)	Dreier	Hensarling
Butterfield	Duffy	Henger
Calvert	Duncan (SC)	Herrera Beutler
Camp	Duncan (TN)	Higgins
Campbell	Edwards	Himes
Canseco	Ellison	Hinojosa
Cantor	Ellmers	Hochul
Capito	Emerson	Holden
Capps	Engel	Holt
Capuano	Eshoo	Honda
Cardoza	Farenthold	Hoyer
Carnahan	Farr	Huelskamp
Carney	Fattah	Huizenga (MI)
Carson (IN)	Filner	Hultgren
Carter	Fincher	Hunter
Cassidy	Fitzpatrick	Hurt
Castor (FL)	Flake	Inslee
Chabot	Fleischmann	Israel
Chaffetz	Fleming	Issa

Jackson (IL)	Miller (MI)	Sanchez, Loretta
Jackson Lee	Miller (NC)	Sarbanes
(TX)	Miller, Gary	Scalise
Jenkins	Miller, George	Schakowsky
Johnson (GA)	Moore	Schiff
Johnson (OH)	Moran	Schilling
Johnson, E. B.	Mulvaney	Schmidt
Johnson, Sam	Murphy (PA)	Schock
Jones	Myrick	Schwartz
Jordan	Nadler	Schweikert
Kaptur	Napolitano	Scott (SC)
Keating	Neal	Scott (VA)
Kelly	Neugebauer	Scott, Austin
Kildee	Noem	Scott, David
Kind	Nugent	Sensenbrenner
King (IA)	Nunes	Serrano
King (NY)	Nunnelee	Sessions
Kingston	Olson	Sewell
Kinziger (IL)	Oliver	Sherman
Kissell	Owens	Shimkus
Kline	Palazzo	Shuler
Kucinich	Pallone	Shuster
Labrador	Pascrell	Simpson
Lamborn	Pastor (AZ)	Sires
Lance	Paul	Slaughter
Landry	Paulsen	Smith (NE)
Langevin	Payne	Smith (NJ)
Lankford	Pearce	Smith (TX)
Larsen (WA)	Pelosi	Smith (WA)
Larson (CT)	Pence	Southerland
Latham	Perlmutter	Stark
LaTourette	Peters	Stearns
Latta	Peterson	Stivers
Lee (CA)	Petri	Stutzman
Levin	Pingree (ME)	Sullivan
Lewis (CA)	Pitts	Sutton
Lewis (GA)	Platts	Terry
Lipinski	Poe (TX)	Thompson (CA)
LoBiondo	Polis	Thompson (MS)
Loebach	Pompeo	Thompson (PA)
Lofgren, Zoe	Posey	Thornberry
Long	Price (GA)	Tiberi
Lowe	Price (NC)	Tierney
Lucas	Quayle	Tipton
Luetkemeyer	Quigley	Tonko
Lujan	Rahall	Towns
Lummis	Rangel	Tsongas
Lungren, Daniel	Reed	Turner
E.	Rehberg	Upton
Lynch	Reichert	Van Hollen
Mack	Renacci	Velazquez
Maloney	Reyes	Visclosky
Manzullo	Ribble	Walberg
Marchant	Richardson	Walden
Marino	Richmond	Walsh (IL)
Markey	Rigell	Walz (MN)
Matheson	Rivera	Wasserman
Matsui	Roby	Schultz
McCarthy (CA)	Roe (TN)	Watt
McCarthy (NY)	Rogers (AL)	Waxman
McCaul	Rogers (KY)	Webster
McClintock	Rogers (MI)	Welch
McColum	Rohrabacher	West
McCotter	Rooney	Westmoreland
McDermott	Ros-Lehtinen	Whitfield
McGovern	Roskam	Wilson (FL)
McHenry	Ross (AR)	Wilson (SC)
McIntyre	Ross (FL)	Wittman
McKeon	Rothman (NJ)	Wolf
McKinley	Roybal-Allard	Womack
McMorris	Royce	Woodall
Rodgers	Runyan	Woolsey
McNerney	Ruppersberger	Wu
Meehan	Rush	Yarmuth
Meeks	Ryan (OH)	Yoder
Mica	Ryan (WI)	Young (AK)
Michaud	Sanchez, Linda	Young (FL)
Miller (FL)	T.	Young (IN)

NAYS—1

Schrader

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Johnson (IL)

NOT VOTING—12

Baca	Giffords	Murphy (CT)
Bachmann	Grijalva	Rokita
Bishop (NY)	Hinchey	Speier
Burgess	Hirono	Waters

□ 1553

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted as follows: On rollcall No. 671, "no;" rollcall No. 672, "no;" rollcall No. 673, "yes;" rollcall No. 674 "yes."

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 451

Mr. CRITZ. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed from the list of cosponsors of H.R. 451.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

BUDGET CONTROL ACT OF 2011

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 383 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 383

Resolved, That during further consideration of the bill (S. 627) to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays, as amended, pursuant to House Resolution 375, the further amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized for 1 hour.

□ 1600

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my very good friend, the gentlewoman from Rochester, New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), the distinguished ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the measure before us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, as I began yesterday, when we launched the debate, it was exactly 3 p.m. It's 4:01 on Friday, July 29. And as we stand, as I do, or sit here, as any many of our colleagues do, we're exactly 4 days away from that August 2 date at which time

the Department of Treasury has calculated that the Federal Government will run out of money. At that point, we, as a country, will face impossible choices about what obligations to default on first.

As I said, with this August 2 date rapidly approaching, we know that we are faced with the potential of running out of money. We also know that under that kind of scenario, there are no winners, and there are no losers. We have a profound responsibility to resolve the crisis at hand and avert the economic catastrophe that will come if we do not join together and find a way to raise the debt ceiling.

But this looming crisis is not the fundamental problem. We're facing this crisis because of a much larger, much longer-term problem. The Federal Government spends more than it has. If you think about it, Madam Speaker, we don't have a debt ceiling problem; what we have is a debt problem. The former cannot be resolved without addressing the latter. You can't address the debt ceiling issue unless you address the debt issue that is before us. That's precisely what today's process and the amendment that we are putting to the measure that we debated all day yesterday is all about. And the rule before us is moving us toward addressing the root cause of the problem.

We're adding another layer of accountability, something that Democrats and Republicans alike regularly talk about. Accountability is being added to the plan that Speaker BOEHNER is moving forward. With the amendment that we're going to consider that this rule will make in order, the House will proceed with the critical business at hand. We will pass a bold and credible plan to rein in our debt and responsibly avert the crisis that looms just a few days from now.

It's extremely unfortunate that this process has become so lengthy and partisan. I think everyone feels very saddened at the fact that it's become such a lengthy and very, very partisan process. But Madam Speaker, time is running out. Today we have the opportunity to do our work, and with passage of this measure, we will be moving the process forward to help avert the crisis that we potentially face on August 2.

When we pass this out, we will send a measure to the Senate, and as we all know, this is the only proposal that, when we pass it today, that will have passed either House of Congress. We need to have the support to do that. I hope very much that while many of my colleagues who are on the other side of the aisle may not be supportive of all the provisions in the Boehner plan, I hope very much to move the process forward so that we can ensure that our constituents get their Social Security checks on August 3, since we all know the President, in his July 12 speech,

said that if we don't increase the debt ceiling by August 2, he couldn't guarantee that Social Security checks would go out.

So to keep the process moving, to ensure that we get those checks out and address the other very, very important priorities that we need to have funding for, we can pass this in a bipartisan way so that we can get to the Senate, work out our differences as expeditiously as possible, and come back with what clearly has to be a bipartisan compromise to ensure that we are able to decrease spending, getting to the root cause of the problem, and at the same time, do what we all know has to be done and that is increase the debt ceiling.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I thank my good friend, the gentleman from California, the chair of the Rules Committee, for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today we face a self-inflicted crisis, and the majority's proposed solution is no solution at all. The debt ceiling was created, ironically, to avoid forcing Congress to approve every new issue of debt. The debt ceiling was originally introduced to pay for World War I and was designed to be a formality that would help our country and economy operate smoothly and without interruption. All these years later, it having done that, the debt ceiling now appears to have outlived its usefulness. In fact, I believe we should abolish the debt limit altogether and never face a crisis like this again of whether we will be a responsible country that pays our bills. Only one other country has the debt limit, and that is Denmark. I think we really need to look at this as an anachronism from 1917.

Regardless, throughout the life of the debt ceiling, raising the ceiling has never been questioned. Since 1960, the ceiling has been raised 78 times. Throughout this time, there's been no quid pro quo demanded to raise the debt ceiling, no ransom demanded in exchange for raising our debt ceiling and preventing default. That is, until today. Bringing our Nation to the brink of collapse has been a conscious decision of the majority party. Placing ideology before country, they are demanding controversial and unacceptable cuts or else they are willing to let our Nation default.

We have been warned by the United States Senate and the President of the United States that the proposed legislation will not be passed into law. They have said it repeatedly. They have said it clearly. Yet the majority continues to believe this bill can actually avert the danger of default. They're playing a dangerous game of chicken, asking the Nation to give into their demands

if we want the American economy to live to see another day. I simply cannot agree to the extreme demands being put forth by the majority today.

□ 1610

After pulling yesterday's legislation from the floor, the majority has introduced a piece of legislation that demands the impossible. Today's bill doesn't just require a vote on a constitutional amendment; it demands that a constitutional amendment be approved by both Chambers of Congress this fall. If the amendment doesn't pass, then we not only face the prospect of default again 6 months from now, but we have even fewer options to avoid default.

If previous proposals are any guide, the constitutional amendment would place the burden of debt reduction squarely upon the middle class, threatening Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, and Members of Congress would be given a Sophie's choice: Do we vote against this amendment and protect Medicare or do we vote for the amendment to avoid economic default? This is totally unnecessary.

In effect, this legislation releases one hostage and takes another. Six months from now, we would be forced to choose between a constitutional amendment and putting the Nation back on the brink of default. I refuse to trade hostages with the majority and prolong this crisis for another 6 months.

I urge my colleagues to put the country before any ideology and come together to solve an urgent and serious crisis that we are facing today. It's our duty to put the welfare of the country before all else. That is why we were elected by the people who expect us to do just that, and that is what we swear to do. It is time we answered the call.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on today's bill and urgently, urgently, get back to serving the American people. And we spent far too much time on the useless bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds.

I would say to my good friend that I would like to totally associate myself with her remarks at the end in which she said it is absolutely essential for us to work together in a bipartisan way to resolve this issue. But I know this will come as a surprise. When she began her remarks and said that we on our side are working overtime making a conscious decision to bring our Nation to the verge of collapse, that is a slight mischaracterization of exactly where we are.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my good friend from Spring Hill, a hardworking and not-too-well-rested member of the Rules Committee, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. NUGENT).

Mr. NUGENT. I thank the distinguished chair of the Rules Committee, Mr. DREIER, for allowing me to speak.

I will be perfectly honest with you. There is a lot about this rule that I don't love but, quite frankly, we don't have much time left. We need to get something done and we need to get something done now. This rule provides us with the tools and the mechanisms that we need to get our jobs done and bring our economy and our country back from the brink of default.

Default is not an option. The underlying legislation, the Budget Control Act of 2011, saves us from default. Most of all, I support the Budget Control Act of 2011 because it means both Chambers of Congress must pass a balanced budget amendment before the President can raise the debt ceiling once again.

Do I like everything in the bill? No, I don't.

Does it do what the American people and the American economy need and deserve? Yes, it does. And that's why I support both the rule and the underlying legislation.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the ranking member on Ways and Means, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN. The gentleman from California has been talking about moving the process forward. It does not move the process forward to pass a bill that's dead before arrival in the Senate. It doesn't move the process forward to pass a bill that is even more partisan than the one yesterday.

You know, the country has to be wondering, we are 1 day closer to default and, indeed, one step backwards. The Republicans are trying to squeeze out a majority here, and what they are doing is inserting a provision that requires a two-thirds vote in the Senate and the House, and that's completely a nonstarter.

The American public is looking for a solution, not a stalemate, and the House Republicans have become the party of gridlock. Passing this only increases it. It's a move backwards, maybe to protect your flank, but not to protect America.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 10 seconds to say to my good friend that there's a bit of a disconnect from my perspective. So failure to act is not gridlock; passing legislation out of the House of Representatives is, in fact, gridlock.

I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Cincinnati, Ohio (Mr. CHABOT).

Mr. CHABOT. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Our national debt stands at a staggering \$14.3 trillion and we currently borrow more than 40 cents on every dollar we spend, and our President and Democrats in the other body say that a balanced budget amendment is "dead on arrival."

Fifteen years ago, the balanced budget amendment passed the House with a bipartisan vote only to lose by one vote, one vote in the Senate. A con-

stitutional amendment is the only way to ensure that future Congresses live within their means and end the spending binge.

Our colleague, Congressman MCCLINTOCK, might have summed it up best in a Washington Times op-ed earlier this week. He said: Imagine a family that earns \$50,000 a year but is spending more than \$88,000 a year and has a credit card balance of \$330,000 a year.

That's us. We're bankrupt, and Washington is broken.

Why are Senate Democrats and the President so afraid of making a commitment to balance our budget?

Stop the spending. No more empty promises. No more excuses.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGETT).

Mr. DOGETT. You know, yesterday when the Speaker failed to secure the votes for his misbegotten deal, I thought all these Republicans would need to get under way today was a professional physical therapist to help heal the twisted arms, the sprains, perhaps even a dislocation as all that pressure was applied by the Speaker to get those final votes; you know, a therapist to kind of fit the slings and apply the splints.

But, no, the professional obstructionists among the Republicans have yielded for far less than a deep muscle massage. All they need is a meaningless vote on an amendment that is designed to fail, that they know will never rewrite the United States Constitution the way they would like to rewrite it to enshrine a little Republican dogma into the supreme law of the land.

I will admit that, through the years, the balanced budget amendment has gained more interest on my part. It became much more appealing as I saw years of Republicans entering wars without paying for them, insisting upon the mythology—no, indeed, it's really a political theology of Republicans—that you can cut taxes, raise spending, and everything will work out okay.

Their approach, even though their experts told them these tax cuts would drive us into deficit, they insisted on the political alchemy that they could take tax cuts and turn them into surpluses, just as if they could turn hay into gold. If there were one vote I could take to do something about the George W. Bush administration dripping in red ink, I would certainly want to take it, but a constitutional amendment is not a solution. It's an excuse for not having a solution, for not grappling with the financial problems we have. And the only reason it's being brought up this weekend is just to delay this crisis nearer and nearer to the precipice to which this Republican irresponsibility has taken us.

The creditworthiness and the full faith and the credit of the United

States is endangered by the refusal to adopt a balanced approach that would close some tax loopholes and reduce spending all at once. That's what we need. Instead of putting all the burden on the many, demand a little from the few at the top.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to one of our very capable and thoughtful new Members of the 112th Congress, the gentleman from Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN).

□ 1620

Mr. MEEHAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to speak.

As we've been talking so much, I hear so much about a balanced approach. What we really need is a balanced budget.

The concern right now, as I talk to the many phone callers who are calling in, is that America has taken the time to tighten their belts at home; and when you talk to business people, they've made the tough decisions, and they're looking to us now to make the tough decisions as well.

And that's what I think this legislation has done, legislation which we can look at right now and we can put away the arguments from each side, the Republican side and the Democratic side. This is about America right now. The people who are calling in, who are watching, they are watching right now and greatly concerned because of the fact that they feel their economic security is at risk because we can't deal with the long-term implications of this budget and this debt.

There is a plan, and the Republicans in this House have put together a plan. And I'm not going to get into the partisan rhetoric. Let us go around this plan. If we've got differences, let us resolve those differences effectively for the American people. Let us get to work in this House, get it to the Senate, pass it today so we can get the good work done that will allow America to get back to work with a sense of confidence in the future of our economy, get people back to work creating jobs.

Mr. DREIER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MEEHAN. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I would like to compliment him on his very thoughtful remarks, Madam Speaker, and say that as I listen to this newly elected Member of the House, it is very difficult to imagine that he would consciously engage in an effort to bring our Nation to the verge of collapse, because we want to solve this problem and ensure that we can have a strong and vibrant United States of America, creating jobs and getting our economy growing.

I thank my friend for his thoughtful comments.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), a constitutional scholar.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, this rule provides for debate of legislation that was slapped together behind closed doors, providing for trillions of dollars in unspecified cuts. The final version was sprung on the House after being made public just this morning, and now we're expected to vote the whole thing up or down, without amendment, in spite of the fact that 53 Senators are already on record saying that they will oppose it.

This legislation is in response to a manufactured so-called "crisis." We can avoid default on our obligations the same way we have done it almost once a year over the last half century, just increase the debt ceiling. And now this final version calls for default on our obligations unless we pass a constitutional amendment mislabeled a "balanced budget amendment."

The so-called "balanced budget amendment" reported from the Judiciary Committee does not require a balanced budget. In fact, it will make it more difficult to balance the budget, and it will certainly jeopardize Social Security and Medicare. It will also include a provision that requires a three-fifths vote to increase the debt ceiling, as if this week's drama isn't enough of a spectacle.

Madam Speaker, we should end this manufactured crisis, increase the debt ceiling to avoid default, and then seriously focus on legislation that will create jobs and restore fiscal responsibility.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, the inevitable consequence of this bill is that when the United States wants to extend the debt ceiling to pay our bills, we will have to reduce Medicare and Social Security. That is the inevitable consequence of these balanced budget amendments. Therefore, inevitably, this bill will not see the light of day in the United States Senate.

What we ought to do is get to our inevitable obligation, which is to come to an agreement that extends our debt ceiling and makes a responsible down payment on our deficit. The President of the United States this morning outlined a way to do that, and that's what we ought to be working on. He talked about commonality between the two Houses and the two parties on cuts in annual programs in the area of 5, 6, 7 percent—painful, but necessary.

He talked about a fair process where a body that would act between the House and the Senate would consider all the options with respect to entitlement programs. Protecting Medicare

and Social Security benefits, and looking at a contribution from the wealthiest Americans, the former revenue, would be considered and voted on. And certainly that approach would get us out of this period of uncertainty by extending the debt ceiling for the country as was done 17 times without condition for President Reagan, seven times without condition for President George W. Bush.

This is an inevitable waste of time, this bill. It's a bad idea. Let's get on to the better idea of approaching this problem and fixing the problem for this country. Vote "no" on this underlying bill and this rule.

Mr. DREIER. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to yet another constitutional scholar, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT), a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. WATT. Madam Speaker, I think this may be the absolute worst resolution I have seen before this House in the 19 years I've been here. It brings to continuing debate a bill that has already been debated yesterday with an amendment, but there is only 1 minute left in the debate.

And the change that is being made requires the passage of an amendment to the Constitution of the United States in order to ever raise the debt limit again. The effect of that is that we have 1 minute—we don't even have it, the majority has the 1 minute that's left in the debate. We have no time left in the debate on our side to debate whether we will pass an amendment to the Constitution of the United States that literally holds a gun to the head of the economy of the United States of America. We ought to be ashamed of ourselves legislating in this way. This is a terrible way to legislate to provide for a constitutional amendment. If we're going to do it, we ought to at least debate it in good faith.

Mr. DREIER. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN. Madam Speaker, this is a Republican-contrived bankruptcy.

A decade ago, the majority party inherited surpluses as far as the eye could see, and then they promptly took away the revenue that enabled us to balance our budget. They crippled this country with deep tax cuts. In fact, we have the lowest revenue that we've had at any time since before Medicare and basically at any time since before the Great Depression.

What this is going to do and the reason we oppose this is that if this were on the books, we never would have had the ability to rescue the world from the Great Depression in the 1930s; we never would have had the ability to

win the war for democracy in the 1940s; we never would have created a permanent American middle class with the GI Bill that provided the working class with homes and higher education, we never would have won the race to space for the free world in the sixties; we never would have been able to establish Medicare and civil rights legislation in the mid-sixties.

And certainly, had we been stuck in this fiscal straightjacket, President Clinton never could have raised the needed revenue to balance the budget so we never would have been able to create 20 million new jobs as we did in the 1990s, and reduce poverty, and expand the middle class, and create all those trillions of dollars of projected surpluses that the majority inherited and promptly squandered.

This bill will make us a weaker, poorer and smaller country, and that's why it should be defeated.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, at this time I am very privileged to yield 2 minutes to my very good friend from Glendale, Arizona (Mr. FRANKS).

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I certainly thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Obama and the Democrats have constantly and consistently said we need to take a balanced approach to the debt crisis facing America, but they steadfastly refuse to even consider the one truly balanced approach to this program, that being a balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution.

This effort today will be the second time that the House of Representatives will have passed legislation requiring a balanced budget amendment, which would actually create a permanent solution to this crisis and make sure that economic freedom can be available for Americans today and for future generations.

□ 1630

Yet Mr. REID says he will kill this bill as soon as it comes to the Senate, or at least strip out the balanced budget amendment that's in it.

Madam Speaker, if we can get Mr. REID here and the President himself, and I guess we would have to put out an APB on the President because we can't find him. He is AWOL in this debate. But if we could, I would ask him two questions: First, what is your plan to deal with this issue? Secondly, what on earth is so radical about having a balanced budget amendment to create a permanent solution to this problem?

Now, I doubt we would get an answer, Madam Speaker. So today, we will have to do as we have done before, and we will try to proceed without them and try to do something truly historic that will save this Nation and its people from economic ruin.

Madam Speaker, long ago, right after the Constitution was finished, Thomas

Jefferson said: "I wish it were possible to obtain a single amendment to the Constitution. I would be willing to depend on that alone for the reduction of the administration of our government to the genuine principles of its Constitution; I mean, an additional article, taking from the Federal Government the power of borrowing."

Madam Speaker, Thomas Jefferson was right. And how I wish his contemporaries had listened to him about the balanced budget amendment, but they didn't. Now we have a crisis of \$14 trillion facing us as a result of not having this amendment, and it could crush us in a way that no military power has ever done. And in this moment in history in America, we may get a second chance. I hope my colleagues will join us in this historic effort.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), the ranking Democrat on the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, we have a sad spectacle today of a substantive mess brought to us by a procedural bigger mess. But I can't entirely blame Speaker BOEHNER. We have seen him all week forced to retreat continually from an effort to be conservative but somewhat responsible to a position where today we have a bill that no one thinks will solve the problem because it makes as a prerequisite to raising the debt a constitutional amendment that no one thinks will pass.

I remember Speaker O'Neill when I got here, and there's one thing he and Speaker BOEHNER seem to have in common, and that's a theme song. Speaker O'Neill's theme song was "I'll Be With You in Apple Blossom Time." By now, Speaker BOEHNER is entitled to take as his theme song "It's My Party and I'll Cry If I Want To" because his party has forced him to retreat, first of all, from the position he tried to take to get this thing done; and, secondly, from a set of promises he made procedurally. As a result of where we are today, with martial law rules and amendments being sprung and amendments not being vetted, there is no procedural promise that the Republicans made that they have left unbroken.

So we have a flawed bill, brought to us by a weakened Speaker, under an unfortunate and undemocratic process. Once it's out of the way, once whatever impulses have driven members of his own party so to undercut him are satisfied, maybe then in an adult way we can sit down and work this out.

Now, I expect to vote for something I don't like because we have to compromise, but this bill doesn't even begin to meet any kind of serious test.

Mr. DREIER. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the

gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS).

Ms. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I'm shocked. We spent 4 hours on the floor of the House of Representatives in January reading the Constitution, and now we get to spend a minute debating it. It's pretty amazing how much the folks on the other side value the Constitution of the United States.

I'm opposed to the rule, the bill, everything that's connected with it. We approach this August 2 deadline. The markets have closed down yet one more time before this weekend begins. And President Obama has been crystal clear. He said that any agreement to increase the debt ceiling has to extend it to 2013. And yet here we are considering something that the President has said is a nonstarter, the Senate has said is a nonstarter, the American people have said is a nonstarter, and here we are again debating something that will never go anywhere.

The Republican majority really should be embarrassed for the American people. They are putting everything in jeopardy and leaving nothing up to the President to decide come August 2 when this debt ceiling deadline approaches. And placing at risk our retirement security, placing at risk our ability to get credit, our ability to get a home mortgage, all of that because of this recklessness.

The bill that Speaker BOEHNER brought to the floor yesterday and this constitutional amendment that was hurriedly drafted today just to please the far right elements of the Tea Party, I can't even believe we are here today trying to satisfy the far right when we're not busy satisfying the needs of the American public and the markets around the world. Why are we voting on this plan and not one that has a fighting chance of avoiding default?

I want to say, Madam Speaker, it's time for America to get busy here, understanding that the Republican majority is ready to jeopardize our entire future and put at risk our entire future for this garbage.

Mr. DREIER. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, the bill proposed last night by the House Republicans set us up to fail and risk a catastrophic default. Today's gimmick is more of the same. But to win over the crowd calling for default, House Republican leadership would now make the disaster even more likely by including a constitutional amendment likely requiring a three-fifths vote to avoid any future default.

As our Republican colleagues sadly demonstrated yesterday, that thresh-

old will be impossible to meet today and in the future. Their blind adherence to the demands of the default caucus stands in sharp contrast to the desire of most Americans who, according to every poll, are demanding a balanced compromise.

This bill is a blatant, cynical exercise in raw political muscle and nothing more. To the House Republicans bent on turning our Founding Fathers into deadbeat dads, I would respond using Speaker BOEHNER's own words from last year: Hell no, you can't.

Mr. DREIER. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the ranking member on the Budget Committee.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I thank my colleague.

Madam Speaker, there is a little pattern emerging here. First we had our Republican colleagues walk out of the Biden talks. And then twice they walked out of talks with the President. And then they totally rejected a proposal put forward by the Republican leader in the Senate, MITCH MCCONNELL. And last night they said "no" to the proposal put forward by their own Speaker. And that brings us to where we are today.

In order to accommodate the more extreme elements of the Republican Caucus, they had to change the bill once again. Now what they are proposing is that ultimately we turn budget authority over not to the elected Representatives but to a Federal judge who would ultimately decide how we're going to deal with our budget. You talk about passing the buck, you talk about not taking responsibility, now is the time to come together to come up with a reasonable compromise, not to move the parties far apart.

The last point I want to make with regards to the deficit: We want to make sure that we have a plan, a balanced plan, to reduce the deficit. I'm just waiting for my colleagues on the other side to say that they're willing to get one penny from eliminating taxpayer subsidies to the oil companies or closing corporate loopholes for jets—just one penny—for the purpose of deficit reduction. Then we'll know that they're serious about that.

The President has said let's do \$3 in spending cuts and \$1 in revenue. But apparently asking \$1 in revenue by eliminating a subsidy for the oil companies, that's too far. Oh, yes, we owe China. We need to do something about our debt to China, but asking the oil companies to take less taxpayer dollars, Federal taxpayer subsidy dollars, no, we can't do that.

Let's be serious about balancing the budget and getting the deficit under control, but let's do it in a balanced way. This proposal takes us further in

the wrong direction and doesn't bring us together to solve a problem for the American people. Now is the time to get serious.

Mr. DREIER. At this time I am happy to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON), a very hardworking member on the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I think it is very revealing in the debate today that the American people can see that the opposition to the proposal before the House is that we are attempting to even suggest that there be a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, not any specific amendment.

□ 1640

We want, as a constitutional conservative majority, to see a vote in the House and the Senate on a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, something I've coauthored since 2001. Yet the majority is strenuously objecting to that. The minority objects to our effort to control the debt and the deficit without raising taxes. They object to strong spending caps in the future, which by the way, exempts anyone over the age of 55 and under Medicare, Medicaid. They're exempt under the Paul Ryan budget; they're exempt on the proposal that Speaker BOEHNER has brought to us today.

The Speaker has attempted to find the largest possible cuts with the strongest possible enforceable budget caps that could pass a Democrat Senate in order to get it on the desk of the President before the August 3 deadline. The Speaker and this new constitutional conservative majority are doing everything in our power to avoid a default while honoring the trust that the Nation put in us in this landslide election which just occurred in November. The Nation spoke decisively in electing this new majority to the House. We were sent here to control spending, to control the size of the government, to get the government out of our lives, out of our pocket, and back within the bounds of the Constitution as designed by the Founders. And we've attempted to do that.

I applaud Speaker BOEHNER for working so diligently to find the largest possible cut that could possibly pass a temporarily liberal-controlled Senate in the very short span of time that we've got here. We would all like to get more. But if you can get 60, 70 percent of where you need to go to get the Nation back on track to a balanced budget and avoid the brick wall that lies ahead of us on August 3, we need to do so to avoid a default.

I applaud the Speaker for bringing this package to the floor and urge all the Members to support it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to a member of the Judiciary Committee, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I thank the gentlelady very much.

Last night, the Democrats were here waiting while the Republicans could not get their own conference together. If any of you were watching the national news, it was not because we were not ready to vote and to move forward on a compromise. It was because those who believe they had a landslide victory are still talking about elections instead of talking about the American people.

This is the worst bill that any American could ever imagine in the history of this Nation. I tell you that because this bill will in fact default the American Government in 6 months, and it will not adhere to the Constitution, which says the Declaration is the promise and the Constitution is the fulfillment.

We actually have the authority, Mr. President, under the 14th Amendment to raise the debt ceiling by way of acknowledging that the public debt should always be recognized. But in this particular legislation, in 6 months if we do not cut by \$1.6 trillion and pass a balanced budget amendment, the Nation will default.

And the balanced budget amendment is not by a majority. It is 60 percent of this Congress will stop the American people from receiving their just due. We will not have Social Security. We will not have Medicaid. We will not have Medicare. In actuality, the mandate will cause us to support the Republican Study budget, which is \$9 trillion in cuts, 70 percent of discretionary funding. That means all of your Medicare, all of your Medicaid, all of your Social Security.

Madam Speaker, I ask the American people to call in and say, stop the madness and compromise. Do what is right. Mr. President, if not, raise the debt ceiling under the Constitution. You have the authority.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, at this time I am very pleased to yield 1 minute to one of our thoughtful, hardworking new Members of this Congress, the gentleman from Manchester, New Hampshire (Mr. GUINTA).

Mr. GUINTA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding.

What I want to say to the American people is: Let's stop the spending. Let's not call the President or the Congress to say stop this madness. Call this body and say: Stop the spending. Because we have a \$14.3 trillion debt. We have a \$1.6 trillion deficit. Most Americans know and appreciate that that is not sustainable.

We today, through the will of the House and the work over the course of this week and past several weeks, have a piece of legislation that is respon-

sible in that it cuts spending, caps future spending, requires a balanced budget amendment, so the country can finally have a voice—have a voice in how people in this body spend taxpayer dollars.

It's time for us to tell the American people the truth about how their money is being wasted. It is time to stop that spending. It is time to get responsible and serious. And we are here to do that. Not just my freshman class, but this Congress is here to do that. And I ask my friends from the other side to join us in that fight to protect taxpayers and vote for this bill.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I am pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the ranking member, Ms. SLAUGHTER, for her generosity.

I advise my colleagues, budgets will balance when people go back to work. I rise against this amendment, the rule, and the underlying bill as "inartful" dodges from necessity. When a patient is weak, do you pull out their intravenous feeding tubes, or do you help them recover? Do you do everything possible to build their strength, or do you keep shutting off their oxygen machine?

America's economy is struggling to grow after the deep Bush recession triggered by his bailout of Wall Street abuse, two wars, and trillions in tax cuts to the super-rich who, by the way, didn't create any jobs with it. Revenues to our Federal Government have fallen over \$400 billion a year due to unemployment. That's \$4 trillion over a decade. So what does the majority do to the patient? They pull out the tubes, and they now shove them down the elevator chute.

Never before has any political party chosen to hurt America when she was recovering by edging her toward default. Their dangerous behavior has already caused hundreds of billions of dollars of losses in the stock market, pension funds and annuities. Social Security and Medicare checks are threatened, and economic growth and jobs are stalled due to all this uncertainty in the markets.

Madam Speaker, America needs a Congress and President that focus on economic recovery and job creation. Budgets will balance when people go back to work. To delude oneself the cause is otherwise is to take America down the proverbial black hole. Jobs are the answer—not more dodges, not pushing the patient down the shaft, and not proposing amendments that truly dodge the real question, which is full economic recovery for the people of this country.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, may I inquire of my good friend from Rochester how many speakers she has remaining.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I believe I have two.

Mr. DREIER. In light of that, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I am pleased to yield 1½ minutes to my colleague from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY. I thank the gentleman for her leadership.

I rise in opposition to the Republican rule.

We have all been getting numerous phone calls from our constituents who are rightly worried that the interest rates will be going up on their homes, on their cars, on their student loans, because they see that this Congress is in chaos. Already since last Friday, shareholders in U.S. markets have lost over \$400 billion in value just due to the uncertainty and the lack of action. Our constituents' retirement funds have been taking a hit—and will continue to until this issue is decided. We have less than 4 days.

We must stop this “Republican roulette” and get to work on a plan that is realistic, that can pass both Houses. This is a dangerous game, putting forward a partisan bill that, each time it comes back, is more partisan, appealing to a narrower sliver of America.

Madam Speaker, we need to revisit a clean vote on the debt ceiling—as we have done 78 times since 1960. If we don't, the President should do his constitutional duty and raise the debt ceiling on his own under the authority of the 14th Amendment. The Republican leadership has walked out on President Obama, on Vice President BIDEN, on MCCONNELL, and even their own leader, BOEHNER. Then they want us to revisit this in 6 months and put the economy in uncertainty. This is the wrong direction.

I urge a “no” vote.

□ 1650

Mr. DREIER. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN).

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. I oppose the Republican default bill because it will lead to drastic cuts to Medicare and Social Security. Also, I oppose the Republican default bill because it protects tax breaks and loopholes for those Americans who make millions and billions of dollars in income per year. I oppose the Republican default bill because it calls for another default summit, another default crisis, in 6 months, thereby undermining the certainty that American businesses, investors, and families need to create jobs and move our country forward.

With only a short-term increase under the Republican default bill, the full faith and credit of the United States will once again be held hostage to the differences in Washington. The Republicans' short-term plan that cre-

ates uncertainty will result in billions of dollars in increased interest rates that will hurt every single American and will hurt our country.

I urge my Republican colleagues to join with the Democrats, to join with President Obama in creating a balanced plan with shared sacrifice that solves our debt crisis and eliminates this cloud hanging over our economy.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, at this time I am happy to yield 1 minute to the former mayor of one of the 10 most livable cities in the United States of America, the gentleman from Rogers, Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK).

Mr. WOMACK. I thank the gentleman for yielding some time.

On my way over to the Capitol this afternoon, I was accompanied by some young people from back in my district, Payson and McKenna from Mena, Arkansas, and Adam and Grace Anne from Fayetteville, Arkansas; and we were having a conversation about the debate that's going on right now in Washington, the debate about the debt ceiling. I explained to these young people that the current debt of the United States of America, their share of that current debt, is well into the mid-\$40,000 range, \$46,000-or-so of debt.

It is for this very reason that we are proposing what we are proposing, because the only way to keep this debt on these innocent young people from soaring to greater and greater levels, to an area that they can no longer afford, is to restrain, constrain government; and the only sure way to do that, the only guaranteed enforcement mechanism that I know that can accomplish that very thing is a balanced budget amendment.

So on behalf of these young people and on behalf of young people across America, let's quit piling more and more debt on our children and grandchildren. Let's pass the rule. Let's pass this bill.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. In my 1 minute, I want to make a special appeal that we pay close attention to what I consider the most devastating, damaging part of this bill, and that is what we are doing and what the Republicans are doing to Social Security, to Medicare, and to Medicaid.

In this bill, it requires that we set up a joint select committee. There are no protections in here. And it says in order for us to give the raise to the debt ceiling, we must concur and cut \$1.6 trillion from the budget from discretionary funding. The Center for Policy and Budget Priorities has said that since 80 percent of the discretionary areas come from Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare, it doesn't take a genius to know that we're talking about drastic cuts in this area, and they will come out to a tune of about a thousand dollars for each recipient.

Now, I don't know about you all, but we have some people in this country who are hanging on by their fingernails. We have widows, we have seniors, we have youngsters who are depending upon Social Security, depending upon Medicare; and to say that in this measure that we will make these drastic cuts in Social Security and Medicare is totally irresponsible, and for that reason let us vote this measure down.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA).

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, this rule and the bill will further drive a wedge between the two parties rather than bringing us closer to an agreement, which we must have. It's been a week since the bipartisan discussions over the \$4 trillion “grand deal” broke down, and we've seen little progress toward a solution since then.

Missing in today's debate is a bipartisan approach toward our Nation's fiscal health. We must have a bipartisan approach. We can cut through the partisan rhetoric with a balanced package. For me, that means implementing the Simpson-Bowles recommendations to reduce spending by \$4 trillion over the next 10 years, lowering tax rates, ensuring solvency of Medicare and Social Security, and stabilizing our debt.

The House should also consider a clean balanced budget amendment, H.J. Res. 2, which says the country can't spend more than it takes in. This amendment and the Simpson-Bowles recommendations must be coupled with a debt limit increase to get us through the next 18 months.

It's time for cooler heads to prevail. With the clock ticking down, our Nation's first-ever default is at hand. We cannot afford to wait a minute longer. Default is not an option.

Mr. DREIER. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts, ranking Democrat on the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. MARKEY.

Mr. MARKEY. I thank the gentleman.

The Republican Party deficit plan is very simple:

Number one, send the financial markets into a nose dive.

Number two, drive up costs for home mortgages, student loans, and credit cards.

Number three, spook businesses to stall job growth, bringing the Nation to the brink of economic collapse.

Number four, repeat it all again and again until election day 2012.

The Republicans don't want compromise; they want capitulation. The Republicans have brought to the floor a constitutional amendment to balance

the budget that's going nowhere. It is phony. But there's another sinister constitutional amendment being debated here, it's very real; and it will cause our country to default on its obligations.

Amendment 14, section 4, of the Constitution says: "The validity of the public debt shall not be questioned." But this bill would change the Constitution forever—forever.

Under this Republican bill, our country would be pushed into defaulting on our obligations. The Republican Party would turn the 14th Amendment from a guarantee into a question mark. Now, under the Republican bill: "The validity of the public debt shall be questioned." That is what they are doing this weekend.

This is unacceptable and would have a disastrous effect upon our economy and the middle class. The only way to end this historic nightmare is to resolve another massive deficit, the leadership deficit in the Republican Party. We must vote down this constitutional amendment, which will have us not honoring the full faith and credit of the United States which was built into the 14th Amendment of our United States Constitution. They are amending that Constitution here this evening. They are leading us to a default which will be a violation of that Constitution.

Mr. DREIER. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California, the Democrat leader, Ms. PELOSI.

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the gentlelady for yielding and commend her and her colleagues on the Rules Committee for their important work in bringing legislation to the floor.

Madam Speaker, the clock is ticking. The clock is ticking on the need for us to raise the debt ceiling so that we do not default on our past obligations, that we uphold the full faith and credit of the United States of America.

□ 1700

As we continue this debate today, one thing is very clear to me. If our goal were to find deficit reduction in a balanced, bipartisan way, we could certainly do that. We've had models by Simpson-Bowles. We've had the Gang of Six. We've had the President's conversations with Speaker BOEHNER. We could find a path to very serious deficit reduction, but I think it has become very clear that that is not the goal of the Republicans in the House of Representatives.

They keep moving the goalpost, making it very evident that their goal is to reduce the public role in the lives of the American people. That's why, in other legislation on the floor, like the Interior bill that has been debated, you see the abandoning of clean air standards, clean water, food safety. I've said

before I come to this Congress as a mother and a grandmother. We all want to do the best for our children personally, but we need a public role in their education and, again, in clean air, clean water, food safety. We can't do that for ourselves, but part of the Republican plan is to unravel 50 years—five decades at least—of bipartisan progress on behalf of America's middle class families.

Flatout, this bill and the other bills accompanying it will end Medicare, will end Medicare, will say to seniors, You will pay more for your health care costs to get less so that we can give tax subsidies to Big Oil. We will say to those families, We're going to cut Medicaid. What that means to seniors in nursing homes is that we will give tax breaks to corporations sending jobs overseas. We will say to the young people, You're going to pay more for your college loans so that we can give tax cuts to the people at the highest end.

We all know that we have to participate in reducing the deficit. Everybody has to ante up. Why is it that the Republicans insist on having the middle class pay the price so that the high end is off the hook?

If we are concerned about addressing the problems of the American people, we would end this debate. This bill is going nowhere. It is a total waste of time. Every day that we spend on these wastes of time that are not going anywhere is another day we are not talking about the highest priority of the American people, which is job creation, job creation, job creation. That is their priority. We have an obligation to reduce the deficit and get on with it so we can create jobs.

If we are concerned about the economic security of the American people and their families, we must recognize that, since the Republicans' most recent walking away from the table—they've done it on more than one occasion, but last Friday the Speaker and the Republicans walked away from the table—the stock market has dropped 483 points, and the American people have lost over \$400 billion in their personal assets, \$400 billion. Every day that goes by and if the market goes down any more, it comes right out of what the American people have in their 401(k)s, in their pensions and other pensions, and in their savings for their children's educations.

I remember when we had the debate on TARP. We cooperated with President Bush at that time to bring legislation to the floor. It was very unpopular. It was probably the most unpopular vote any of us will have to take, but we were on the brink of a financial crisis, and we had to act; but the Republicans did not step up to the plate, and the market went down 777 points the next day.

Is that what they're waiting for, for the market to go down not 485 points in

the last few days but hundreds of points more, diminishing the personal assets and wealth of the American people? I certainly hope not.

When the Speaker walked away and he made his statement, Speaker BOEHNER, our Speaker, said that we couldn't reach agreement, words to that effect, that we couldn't connect because we have different visions of America. I believe the Speaker when he speaks, but I don't believe we have different visions of America.

President Obama's vision of America is one where we are committed to the education of our children so they can reach their personal fulfillment and so our country through innovation can continue to be number one—committed to creating jobs, good-paying jobs, for America's workers. I think that vision is the vision of the American people, the high ground of where we share values: in the education of our children, jobs for our workers, in the dignified retirement and health security for our seniors, and in the personal safety and national security of our people—all done in a fiscally sound way.

I think that that's common ground on the high ground of values. If you believe that, if you agree with those values, as I think Speaker BOEHNER must agree with President Obama on that vision of America, you couldn't possibly vote for any of the legislation that the Republicans are bringing to the floor in these few days—you couldn't possibly—because they do undermine the education of our children, the financial and health security of our seniors. The deep cuts early on hurt the economic recovery and the creation of jobs. This isn't done in a fiscally sound way as we've taken revenue off the table. Fifty-seven percent of the American people at least think we should have a balanced, bipartisan agreement to end this default and to do so in a way that doesn't take us down this path again.

So let's be clear. What is on the floor today is a balanced budget. Balanced in what way? Balanced in whose favor? It looks like a seesaw to me in favor of the "haves" at the expense of a great middle class in our country. It must be rejected.

For every day that we waste on another Republican ideological ploy or scheme is another day that we are not creating jobs. Since the Republicans took office, which is over 200 days ago—last Saturday it was 200 days, going on 207—the only bills that they have brought to the floor which they claim to be jobs bills are not job creators; they are job losers. H.R. 1 loses about 700,000 jobs—H.R. 2, a similar number; H.R. 34, a similar number with nearly 2 million jobs lost. Almost 10,000 jobs a day they're losing. Their infrastructure bill that they have brought in to committee—they haven't voted on it yet, thank God—is estimated to lose another 700,000 jobs when it's supposed to be the big job creator. Even

the Chamber of Commerce has rejected it as something that will not only not create jobs but will lose current jobs.

So let's get on with the business of job creation. Let's really be honest about what we're here to do in terms of deficit reduction and not use it as an engine for the destruction of the public role that is so important in the defense of our country, in the health of our children, in the security of our seniors and their retirements, and in the vitality and innovation of our economy—and again, do it in a way that is fiscally sound. I don't want to go into how we got here in the first place. Whatever it is, we have to go forward, and we must go forward in the way the American people want us to do: bipartisan, balanced, and with an eye to job creation.

Reject what is on the floor now and support the American people. We owe it to honor the sacrifices of our Founders, the vision of our Founders, the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform, the aspirations of our children and our families. This budget should be a statement of values that honors all of that, and if we are to honor that, we must reject what is being proposed here today.

Mr. DREIER. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I think the consequences of this bill are so dire and the circumstances of this constitutional amendment are so far-reaching and damaging that I implore everybody in the House of Representatives, in the name of the Founding Fathers, in the name of our soldiers fighting for our Nation, for people who kept the economy the envy of the world, for the sake of our children and generations yet unborn, to vote against this rule. I have never felt this way before. The process and everything about this is wrong. They are making it absolutely impossible the next time for us to meet our obligations, and we really should not besmirch the reputations that we have as thoughtful legislators by voting for this.

I urge a “no” vote on the rule and the underlying bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1710

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire of the Chair how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS of New Hampshire). The gentleman from California has 15 minutes remaining.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, we began this debate at 4:01. It's now 5:11.

I urge my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying legislation so that as August 2 approaches, we will be able to say that we have reduced the size and scope and reach of government and we have not allowed our country to go into default.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in complete opposition to this rule and the underlying legislation.

I have never witnessed such a legislative and political travesty. The Republican majority is threatening to take the entire economy hostage unless we write their draconian budget—which would end Medicare and Medicaid—into the Constitution.

Throughout this week, the Republican leadership and Republican caucus have been operating in a world of unreality. The Speaker and his team have persisted in passing legislation that everyone in the real world knows is dead on arrival in the Senate.

Today, we have moved from unreality to fantasy.

We are being told that if we do not pass a constitutional amendment to end Medicare and Medicaid, then the debt limit will not be raised—the United States of America will default—and the American people will suffer grievously.

I want to remind the House why the underlying Boehner legislation is so unacceptable. At its heart, this bill is a mortal threat to Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and the protections of the Affordable Care Act.

The Boehner legislation will end Medicare as we know it by turning it into a voucher program and raising premium costs to beneficiaries by thousands of dollars per year.

Medicaid will be eviscerated, throwing women and children and seniors in nursing homes into great distress.

Social Security will be on the chopping block. The retirement age will be raised and benefits will be cut.

And under a balanced budget amendment, Congress will be placed in a straightjacket and the government will not be able to respond to compelling humanitarian and public health needs in times of economic downturns.

This is not the moment to engage in fantasy. This House must take its responsibilities seriously and do its proper duty for the nation.

The bill before us, with the poison pill of a balanced budget amendment, is a vicious assault on Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, along with public health, scientific research and environmental protection.

I urge the defeat of this rule and the terrible consequences that will flow from it.

Mr. DREIER. I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the “ayes” appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 239, nays 187, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 675]

YEAS—239

Adams	Austria	Barton (TX)
Aderholt	Bachmann	Bass (NH)
Akin	Bachus	Benishek
Alexander	Barletta	Berg
Amash	Bartlett	Biggert

Bilbray	Guthrie	Pearce
Bilirakis	Hall	Pence
Bishop (UT)	Hanna	Petri
Black	Harper	Pitts
Blackburn	Harris	Platts
Bonner	Hartzler	Poe (TX)
Bono Mack	Hastings (WA)	Pompeo
Boustany	Hayworth	Posey
Brady (TX)	Heck	Price (GA)
Brooks	Hensarling	Quayle
Broun (GA)	Herger	Reed
Buchanan	Herrera Beutler	Rehberg
Bucshon	Huelskamp	Reichert
Buerkle	Huizenga (MI)	Renacci
Burgess	Hultgren	Ribble
Burton (IN)	Hunter	Rigell
Calvert	Hurt	Rivera
Camp	Issa	Roby
Campbell	Jenkins	Roe (TN)
Canseco	Johnson (IL)	Rogers (AL)
Cantor	Johnson (OH)	Rogers (KY)
Capito	Johnson, Sam	Rogers (MI)
Carter	Jones	Rohrabacher
Cassidy	Jordan	Rokita
Chabot	Kelly	Rooney
Chaffetz	King (IA)	Ros-Lehtinen
Coble	King (NY)	Roskam
Coffman (CO)	Kingston	Ross (FL)
Cole	Kinzinger (IL)	Royce
Conaway	Kline	Runyan
Cravaack	Labrador	Ryan (WI)
Crawford	Lamborn	Scalise
Crenshaw	Lance	Schilling
Culberson	Landry	Schmidt
Davis (KY)	Lankford	Schock
Denham	Latham	Schweikert
Dent	LaTourette	Scott (SC)
DesJarlais	Latta	Scott, Austin
Diaz-Balart	Lewis (CA)	Sensenbrenner
Dold	LoBiondo	Sessions
Dreier	Long	Shimkus
Duffy	Lucas	Shuster
Duncan (SC)	Luetkemeyer	Simpson
Duncan (TN)	Lummis	Smith (NE)
Ellmers	Lungren, Daniel	Smith (NJ)
Emerson	E.	Smith (TX)
Farenthold	Mack	Southerland
Fincher	Manzullo	Stearns
Fitzpatrick	Marchant	Stivers
Flake	Marino	Stutzman
Fleischmann	McCarthy (CA)	Sullivan
Fleming	McCaul	Terry
Flores	McClintock	Thompson (PA)
Forbes	McCotter	Thornberry
Fortenberry	McHenry	Tiberti
Fox	McKeon	Tipton
Franks (AZ)	McKinley	Turner
Frelinghuysen	McMorris	Upton
Gallegly	Rodgers	Walberg
Gardner	Meehan	Walsh (IL)
Garrett	Mica	Webster
Gerlach	Miller (FL)	West
Gibbs	Miller (MI)	Westmoreland
Gibson	Miller, Gary	Whitfield
Gingrey (GA)	Mulvaney	Wilson (SC)
Gohmert	Murphy (PA)	Wittman
Goodlatte	Myrick	Wolf
Gosar	Neugebauer	Womack
Gowdy	Noem	Woodall
Granger	Nugent	Yoder
Graves (GA)	Nunes	Young (AK)
Graves (MO)	Nunnelee	Young (FL)
Griffin (AR)	Olson	Young (IN)
Griffith (VA)	Palazzo	
Grimm	Paul	
Guinta	Paulsen	

NAYS—187

Ackerman	Butterfield	Connolly (VA)
Altmire	Capps	Conyers
Andrews	Capuano	Cooper
Baldwin	Cardoza	Costa
Barrow	Carnahan	Costello
Bass (CA)	Carney	Courtney
Becerra	Carson (IN)	Critz
Berkley	Castor (FL)	Crowley
Berman	Chandler	Cuellar
Bishop (GA)	Chu	Cummings
Bishop (NY)	Cicilline	Davis (CA)
Blumenauer	Clarke (MI)	Davis (IL)
Boren	Clarke (NY)	DeFazio
Boswell	Clay	DeGette
Brady (PA)	Cleaver	DeLauro
Braley (IA)	Clyburn	Deutch
Brown (FL)	Cohen	Dicks

Dingell	Larson (CT)	Richmond
Doggett	Lee (CA)	Ross (AR)
Donnelly (IN)	Levin	Rothman (NJ)
Doyle	Lewis (GA)	Roybal-Allard
Edwards	Lipinski	Ruppersberger
Ellison	Loeb	Rush
Engel	Lofgren, Zoe	Ryan (OH)
Eshoo	Lowey	Sánchez, Linda
Farr	Lujan	T.
Fattah	Lynch	Sanchez, Loretta
Filner	Maloney	Sarbanes
Frank (MA)	Markey	Schakowsky
Fudge	Matheson	Schiff
Garamendi	Matsui	Schrader
Gonzalez	McCarthy (NY)	Schwartz
Green, Al	McCollum	Scott (VA)
Green, Gene	McDermott	Scott, David
Grijalva	McGovern	Serrano
Gutierrez	McIntyre	Sewell
Hahn	McNerney	Sherman
Hanabusa	Meeks	Shuler
Hastings (FL)	Michaud	Sires
Heinrich	Miller (NC)	Slaughter
Higgins	Miller, George	Smith (WA)
Himes	Moore	Stark
Hinojosa	Moran	Sutton
Hirono	Murphy (CT)	Thompson (CA)
Hochul	Nadler	Thompson (MS)
Holden	Napolitano	Tierney
Holt	Neal	Tonko
Honda	Oliver	Towns
Hoyer	Owens	Tsongas
Inlee	Pallone	Van Hollen
Israel	Pascarella	Velázquez
Jackson (IL)	Pastor (AZ)	Visclosky
Jackson Lee	Payne	Walz (MN)
(TX)	Pelosi	Wasserman
Johnson (GA)	Perlmutter	Schultz
Johnson, E. B.	Peters	Watt
Kaptur	Peterson	Waxman
Keating	Polis	Welch
Kildee	Price (NC)	Wilson (FL)
Kind	Quigley	Woolsey
Kissell	Rahall	Wu
Kucinich	Rangel	Yarmuth
Langevin	Reyes	
Larsen (WA)	Richardson	

NOT VOTING—6

Baca	Hinchey	Speier
Giffords	Pingree (ME)	Waters

□ 1735

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. NEUGEBAUER and FLEMING changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, proceedings will now resume on the bill (S. 627) to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. When proceedings were postponed on Thursday, July 28, 2011, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) had 1 minute of debate remaining on the bill.

Pursuant to House Resolution 383, the further amendment printed in House Report 112-187 is adopted.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

In section 301, in the matter proposed to be inserted as section 3101A(a)(2)(A) of title 31, United States Code, strike “is greater than \$1,600,000,000,000” and insert “is greater than \$1,600,000,000,000 and the Archivist of the United States has submitted to the States for their ratification a proposed amendment

to the Constitution of the United States pursuant to a joint resolution entitled ‘Joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States’”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN).

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the Speaker of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER).

Mr. BOEHNER. My colleagues, I would like to cut through all the fog here rather quickly.

Today’s GDP figures remind us that our economy is still not creating enough jobs. Americans are worried about finding work. They are worried about our economy, and they are worried about the mountain of debt that is facing them and their children.

Today, we have a chance to end this debt limit crisis. With this bill, I think we are keeping our promise to the American people that we will cut spending by more than the amount of the increase in the debt limit. The Congressional Budget Office has certified this commonsense standard, and it has been backed by more than 150 distinguished economists from across the country.

We are also imposing caps to restrain future spending to stop the expansion of government while giving our economy a chance to grow and create jobs, and we are advancing the great cause of a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

What this bill now says is that before the President can request an additional increase in the debt limit, two things have to happen: A joint committee of the Congress must produce spending cuts larger than the increase in the debt limit, and both Houses of the Congress must send to the States a balanced budget amendment.

Listen, the balanced budget amendment, it’s time for this to happen. It enjoys support in both Houses of this Congress, and it enjoys bipartisan and widespread support across our country.

The bill also ends this crisis without raising taxes, which would cripple our economy, and there are no gimmicks. There are no smokescreens here that represent the old and comfortable way of doing things.

Now, the bill before us still isn’t perfect. No Member would argue that it is. It’s imperfect because it reflects an honest and sincere effort to end this crisis by sending a bill over to the Senate that at one time was agreed to by the bipartisan leadership of the United States Senate.

And to my colleagues in the Senate, if they were here, I would say this, if this bill passes, this House has sent you not one, but two different bills to cut spending by trillions of dollars over the next decade while providing an immediate increase in the debt limit. And to

the American people, I would say, we have tried our level best. We have done everything we can to find a commonsense solution that could pass both Houses of Congress and end this crisis.

□ 1740

We have tried to do the right thing by our country, but some people continue to say “no.”

My colleagues, I have worked since the first week of this session when we were sworn in in January to avoid being where we are right this moment, but 2 days after we were sworn in, the Treasury Secretary sent us a letter asking us to increase the debt ceiling. I immediately responded by saying we would not increase the debt ceiling without serious cuts in spending and serious reforms to the way we spend the people’s money.

We passed a budget. The other body spent over 800 days and still no budget, no plan. This will be the second bill we send over to the Senate, and yet not one piece of legislation out of the Senate has passed that deals with this crisis.

And my colleagues, I can tell you that I have worked with the President and the administration since the beginning of this year to avoid being in this spot. I have offered ideas. I have negotiated. Not one time, not one time did the administration ever put any plan on the table. All they would do was criticize what I put out there. I stuck my neck out a mile to try to get an agreement with the President of the United States. I put revenues on the table in order to try to come to an agreement to avert us being where we are, but a lot of people in this town can never say “yes.” A lot of people can never say “yes.”

This House has acted, and it is time for the administration and time for our colleagues across the aisle to put something on the table. Tell us where you are.

Yes, people can be critical of what we’ve done, but where are the other ideas? At this point in time, the House is going to act and we’re going to act again, but it is time for our colleagues across the aisle to tell us what they’re for, tell us how we can end this crisis.

Ronald Reagan has been quoted throughout this debate over the last few weeks, and Ronald Reagan would probably be flattered, I’m sure, if he were here. But Ronald Reagan, on his desk, had a little placard, and that placard was real simple. It said: “It can be done.” I have a replica of that placard on my desk, and let me tell you, Members of this House, it can be done, it must be done, and it will be done if we have the courage to do the right thing.

So for the sake of our economy, for the sake of our future, I’m going to ask each of you, as representatives of the people of the United States, to support

this bill, to support this process and end this crisis now.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the "Budget Control Act of 2011," which, like the previous debt-ceiling bills introduced by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, attempts to resolve our budget ceiling crisis by demanding sharp cuts to domestic programs that ask average Americans to make life-changing sacrifices while not asking America's wealthiest individuals and most profitable corporations to contribute their fair share.

In my lifetime, I have never seen such a concerted effort to ransom the American economy in order to extort the American public. While I support bipartisan efforts to increase the debt limit and to resolve our differences over budgetary revenue and spending issues, I cannot support a bill that unduly robs average Americans of their economic security and ability to provide for their families while constraining the ability of Congress to deal effectively with America's economic, fiscal, and job creation troubles.

The Budget Control Act of 2011 cuts \$22 billion from the Federal Budget for FY2012. Robert McIntyre, of Citizens for Tax Justice testified before the Senate Budget Committee that tax loopholes for corporations, big business owners and business investors cost the Treasury Department \$365 billion in FY2011.

We need to change the tone here in Congress. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said it best when he stated in a recently before the House Committee on Financial Services. "We really don't want to just cut, cut, cut," Chairman Bernanke further stated "You need to be a little bit cautious about sharp cuts in the very near term because of the potential impact on the recovery. That doesn't at all preclude—in fact, I believe it's entirely consistent with—a longer-term program that will bring our budget into a sustainable position."

The Boehner plan does just that it will cut, cut, cut without taking into full consideration the serious cuts to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. This bill is essentially a re-hashed version of the same bill that President Obama promised to veto and the Senate vowed to reject. It asks for \$917 billion in cuts from domestic spending for a \$900 billion increase in the debt ceiling, while demanding nothing in revenue from the nation's wealthiest. This is nothing more than a ransom note, irresponsibly raising the debt ceiling for only a few months so that in just a short period of time, the American public will be hit again for \$1.6 trillion in cuts from Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and veterans benefits. Anyone who believes that this plan will not result in a serious cut to Social Security should consider this . . . Social Security represents 20 percent of all federal spending, making it unrealistic to think such large cuts in mandatory spending will not affect Social Security benefits.

I state here today that the Boehner proposal is ill-conceived and fails to offer a balanced approach to decreasing the deficit. Instead of requiring shared sacrifice, the Boehner plan places the entire burden on the backs of seniors, the middle class and our nation's most vulnerable citizens, while doing nothing to close corporate tax giveaways and increase taxes on those most able to afford them.

The Boehner plan calls for large cuts in discretionary programs of \$1.2 trillion over the next 10 years through strict new spending caps. Most experts predict that the first round of cuts would target discretionary programs, including education, infrastructure, job training and law enforcement. The Boehner plan would then require an additional \$1.8 trillion in savings to be identified by the end of the year as a condition for raising the debt ceiling again at that time. Given the magnitude of these additional required savings, it would result in deep draconian cuts in federal entitlement programs such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. A repeal of health reform's coverage expansions. And a dramatic reduction in safety net programs for vulnerable Americans, such as food stamps and unemployment and disability insurance. This is unacceptable, and each is avoidable if corporations and the wealthy are required to shoulder a fair share of this burden.

The Speaker's plan requires a vote on an ill-advised constitutional balanced budget amendment in both chambers of Congress by the end of this year. The details surrounding exactly which proposed constitutional balanced budget amendment will be voted on are unclear. However, earlier proposals that have appeared in the House of Representatives, including H.J. Res. 1, would have a devastating impact on discretionary spending and on our modest economic recovery.

Passing an amendment to the Constitution is one of the most serious processes the United States Congress can undertake, requiring a two thirds supermajority of support in both the House and Senate and ratification by three fourths (¾) of the States. The Founders purposely made the amendment process a long and arduous one. Do my Republican colleagues really expect Congress to capriciously pass an amendment altering our nation's founding document on such short notice; an amendment that will fundamentally change our country without reasonable time for debate; without the opportunity for a hearing or questioning of witnesses; without any reports as to what impact it may have?

By tying the fate of whether the United States pays its debt obligations to the historically prolonged Constitutional amendment process, the Republicans who support this bill have demonstrated, at this critical juncture in American history, that they are profoundly irresponsible when it comes to the integrity of our economy and utterly bereft of sensible solutions for fixing it.

The Speaker's plan will result in for \$2.7 trillion in deficit reduction and a \$2.5 trillion increase in the debt limit in two stages, with the two debt ceiling increases being conditioned upon enactment of an initial set of spending, cuts and a later, second deficit reduction measure.

I do not believe that Congress should yield its authority to what amounts to a Commission. BOEHNER's plan creates a 12-member joint congressional committee to develop a plan for an additional \$1.8 trillion in deficit reduction that Congress would vote on in December. In addition the Speaker's plan authorizes the president to submit a \$900 billion increase in the \$14.3 trillion debt ceiling immediately after enactment of this bill, and a \$1.6

trillion increase if the \$1.8 trillion deficit reduction measure is enacted. Both debt limit increases would take effect automatically unless Congress enacted resolutions of disapproval. The Speaker's plan also requires the House and Senate to vote by the end of the year on a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. As I have stated before this will tie the hands of Congress.

Finally, as noted above, the Boehner proposal provides only a short-term extension of the federal debt ceiling. This means that the gridlock that now prevails in our government will continue for the remainder of the 112th Congress. According to the Center on Budget and Policy, recent reports have suggested that rating agencies will downgrade the U.S. credit rating if the Boehner proposal is enacted. This would result not only in higher interest costs to the federal government but also would raise the interest rate paid by individuals and families on car loans, credit cards and mortgages throughout the United States. Taken together, all of these factors would undermine the nation's fragile recovery.

There has been a theme this Congress of focusing on cutting programs that benefit the public good and for the most at need, while ignoring the need to focus on job creation and economic recovery. This bill is wasting a tremendous amount of time when we should be focused on paying our nation's bills and resolving our differences!

In my district, the Texas 18th, more than 190,000 people live below the poverty line. We must not, we cannot, at a time when the Census Bureau places the number of American living in poverty at the highest rate in over 50 years, cut vital social services. Not in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis and persistent unemployment, when so many rely on federal benefits to survive, like the Supplemental Nutrition Access Program (SNAP) that fed 3.9 million residents of Texas in April 2011 or the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) Program that provides nutritious food to more than 990,000 mothers and children in my home state.

In 2009, there were 43.6 million Americans living in poverty nationwide. According to the 2010 Federal poverty threshold, determined by the U.S. Census, a family of four is considered impoverished if they are living on less than \$22,314 per year.

Children represent a disproportionate amount of the United States' poor population. In 2008, there were 15.45 million impoverished children in the nation, 20.7% of America's youth. The Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that there are currently 5.6 million Texans living in poverty, 2.2 million of them children, and that 17.4% of households in the state struggle with food insecurity.

There is no doubt that we must reduce the national debt, but my Republican colleague's desire for instant gratification through deep spending cuts to benefits, Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security is reckless and threatens the financial security of millions of Americans.

Instead of closing corporate tax loopholes to reduce the deficit, the Budget Control Act cuts discretionary spending, and requires Congress to draft proposals to cut at least \$1.8 trillion from Medicare and Social Security. This is an outrage, and an insult to the American dream.

Forcing Congress to draft plans to cut 1.8 trillion from Medicare and Social Security forces Members to disregard the best interests of their constituents. Medicare guarantees a healthy and secure retirement for Americans who have paid into it for their entire working lives. Protecting Medicare represents the basic values of fairness and respect for our seniors, including the 2.9 million Texans who received Medicare in 2010.

Any cuts to Medicaid would be just as damaging. Harris County has one of the highest Medicaid enrollment records in Texas. Limits and cuts to Medicaid funds would significantly hurt the citizens of Texas's 18th District. Harris County averages between 500,000 and 600,000 Medicaid recipients monthly, thousands of people who may not have access to healthcare should Congress sacrifice Medicaid to cut spending.

Yes, we must take steps to balance the budget and reduce the national debt, but not at the expense of vital social programs. It is unconscionable that in our nation of vast resources, my Republican colleagues would pass a budget that cuts funding for essential social programs. Poverty impacts far too many Americans and social safety nets provide these individuals with vital assistance.

Perhaps my friends on the other side of the aisle are content to conclude that life simply is not fair, equality is not accessible to everyone, and the less advantaged among us are condemned to remain as they are, but I do not accept that. That kind of complacency is not fitting for America.

As we continue to discuss the necessity of increasing our debt ceiling, I have heard the concerns of many of my constituents and the American people regarding the size of our national debt and the care with which taxpayer money is spent. I, too, am concerned about these issues; for to burden future generations of Americans with tremendous amounts of debt should not be a way to avoid our fiscal responsibilities to the American people. However, the task of resolving our debt ceiling crisis must take precedence over other concerns, including political ideology. The game is up, and the American people understand that increasing the debt ceiling has nothing to do with any new spending and everything to do with paying off the obligations that we have already agreed to and promised to pay.

Prior to the existence of the debt ceiling, Congress had to approve borrowing each time the federal government wished to borrow money in order to carry out its functions. With the onset of World War I, more flexibility was needed to expand the government's capability to borrow money expeditiously in order to meet the rapidly changing requirements of funding a major war in the modern era.

To address this need, the first debt ceiling was established in 1917, allowing the federal government to borrow money to meet its obligations without prior Congressional approval, so long as in the aggregate, the amount borrowed did not eclipse a specified limit.

Since the debt limit was first put in place, Congress has increased it over 100 times; in fact, it was raised 10 times within the past decade. Congress last came together and raised the debt ceiling in February 2010. Today, the debt ceiling currently stands at

\$14.3 trillion dollars. In reality, that limit has already been eclipsed, but due to accounting procedures by Treasury Secretary Geithner, the debt limit can be artificially avoided until August 2nd.

Congress must act now in order to avert a crisis. Never in the history of America has the United States defaulted on its debt obligations.

We must be clear on what this issue means for our country. America has earned a reputation as the world's most trusted borrower. United States Treasury bonds have traditionally been one of the safest investments another country or investor could make. For investors around the world, purchasing a U.S. Treasury bond meant that they held something virtually as safe as cash, backed by the full faith and credit of the United States government.

In turn, with the proceeds from the bonds, the federal government of the world's largest economy is able to finance its operations. If the United States defaults on its debt obligations, the financial crisis that began in 2008 would pale in comparison, according to economic experts. The ensuing economic catastrophe would not only place the U.S. economy in a tailspin, but the world economy as well.

The fact that Congress, a body that typically has its fair share of political battles, has never played political chicken when it came to raising the debt ceiling should give us all pause, and is a testament to the seriousness with which we must approach this issue. However, this time around, my Republican colleagues have created an impasse based upon an ideological commitment to spending cuts. While I understand and share the concern of my Republican colleagues with respect to deficit spending, and will continue to work with them in order to find reductions, now is not the time to put ideology over pragmatism. The reality is that, on August 3rd, the United States will begin to default on its debt obligations if the debt ceiling is not raised.

This unnecessarily places the American public and the economy between a rock and a hard place. Either Congress sides completely with the radical agenda of the Tea Party, which in the irresponsibly pulls the chair out from under the average American while polishing the throne of the wealthiest.

This detour into a spending debate is as unnecessary as it is perilous, as increasing the debt ceiling does not obligate the undertaking of any new spending by the federal government. Rather, raising the debt limit simply allows the government to pay existing legal obligations promised to debt holders that were already agreed to by Presidents and Congresses, both past and present.

Moreover, the impending crisis would have already occurred were it not for the extraordinary measures taken by Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, including the suspension of the investment in securities to finance the Civil Service retirement and Disability Fund, as well as the redemption of a portion of those securities already held by that fund.

If the United States defaults on its obligations on August 3rd, the stock market will react violently to the news that for the first time in history, America is unable to keep its promises to pay. Not once in American history has the country's full faith and credit been called into question.

Once America defaults, investors who purchase U.S. bonds and finance our government will be less likely to lend to America in the future. Just as a person who defaults on a loan will find it harder to convince banks to lend them money in the future, a country that defaults on its debt obligations will find it harder to convince investors to lend money to a government that did not pay.

Showing the world that the United States does not pay its debts makes the purchasing of that debt less desirable because it requires the assumption of more risk on the part of the investors. The proponents of this bill are putting the country at serious risk of losing its status as the world's economic superpower. Our allies will lose faith in our ability to manage global economic affairs. Our status in the world will be diminished, which will undermine our leverage on the world stage that allows us to command the respect and compliance of other nations when it comes to decision-making. This bill will reduce America's ability to compete with a surging China.

Furthermore, any investors that do continue to purchase U.S. Treasury bonds will demand much higher interest rates in order to cover the increased risk. Once a default occurs, investors figure that the chance of the United States defaulting again is much greater, and will require the government to pay higher rates of interest in order to make the loan worth the risk for investors to take on.

Imagine the impact on our stock market if we do not pay our debts. As we have seen throughout the recent financial crisis, a bad stock market hurts not only big businesses and large investors on Wall Street, but small businesses and small investors as well. Families with investments tied to the stock market, such as 401(k)s, pension plans, and savings, will once again see the value of their investments drop. The American people are tired of the uncertainty of the value of their retirement accounts. We must not allow another wild fluctuation to occur due to default and add to the uncertainty still lingering in the minds of citizens.

The Speaker's plan is a short term fix for a long term issue. It is a patch rather than a proper repair. BOEHNER's plan requires that Congress address debt ceiling once again in a short span of time, which will once again lead to market uncertainty in a time when we are trying to rebuild our nation. This plan is not good for Wall Street and it is not good for the American people. The Speaker's bill is a short-term debt limit increase that will only ensure that Congress will go through this exact same standoff again in the next few months. Short-term proposals risk further uncertainty and the potentially damaging downgrade of the U.S. credit rating. The markets have made it clear that a short-term extension is not sufficient and could result in very serious consequences. While Democrats support deficit reduction, we support doing it in a balanced way that provides certainty to the economy.

As if another stock market crisis were not enough, the housing market would take another hit if America defaulted. Higher mortgage rates in a housing market already weakened by default and foreclosures would cause a further depression of home values, destroying whatever equity families might have left in

their homes after the housing crisis. Moreover, the long-term effects would reduce spending and investment in the housing market.

Increasing the debt ceiling is the responsible thing to do. Congress has already debated and approved the debt that an increased ceiling makes room for. However, my Republican colleagues have chosen to use this as an opportunity to hold the American people hostage to their extreme agenda.

Even prominent Republicans like Senator JOHN MCCAIN and Christine Todd Whitman have criticized the radical elements of their party who insist upon holding up the entire political process in order to flaunt their extreme, irrational, and unrealistic ideology. Senator MCCAIN has called the Tea Party's stance and the way they have conducted themselves during this manufactured crisis "bizarre," and I am inclined to agree. Their agenda for this country is even too radical for Speaker BOEHNER, with the Tea Party vowing to reject their leader's own bill.

They live in a world that is not the world that the American people live in. In their world, they believe that taxes are always too high, even on people making over a billion a year in a struggling economy; that any increase in revenue is fundamentally wrong, even if it comes from large corporations who use tax loopholes at the expense of our job-creating small businesses; that investing anything in our economic future above tax revenues is impermissible, even in the midst of an economic downturn; and that tax cuts for the wealthy are always the nation's top priority, even at the expense of people that depend on Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and veterans benefits to survive.

These beliefs place them on the fringe of American society, and yet due to the nature of our political process, they have held up the entire government and placed our economy on the precipice of a turbulent second recession.

If Congress cannot find a resolution then Congress will open the possibility that the President may invoke the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, Section four, which states "the validity of the public debt of the United States . . . shall not be questioned." The argument can be made that if Congress will not resolve our nation's pending default then the President, to protect the interest of our nation, must act. The President would then have to consider his powers under the Fourteenth Amendment which may grant him the authority to raise the debt ceiling, on his own, through executive order if Congress fails to raise the debt limit by the August 2, 2011 deadline. As a body we should not place the President or our country in this position.

For those reasons, I urge my colleagues to consider the constituents in their home districts who would be hurt by this bill. I urge my colleagues to return to the world in which the vast majority of Americans live; a world in which our shared destiny is determined by reasonable minds and good faith efforts to compromise. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke warned that defaulting could "throw the financial system into chaos," and "destroy the trust and confidence that global investors have in Treasury securities as being the safest liquid assets in the world."

Instead of injecting ideological spending cuts and Constitutional amendments into the

traditionally non-political business of raising the debt ceiling, we must work quickly to pass a bill that makes good on our debt obligations and restores confidence in American credit.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, we have reached a critical point in our months-long debate over the best approach to addressing our country's deficit and debt and raising the statutory debt limit. It is important to be clear, that the decision to raise the debt limit is about paying the bills we have already accumulated. The debt limit has been raised over 70 times since 1960 by Republicans and Democrats, in fact, more times under a Republican president. In 11 years, we have gone from a \$5.6 trillion surplus to a \$1.4 trillion deficit. We can argue about how we got here—and I would argue the Bush tax cuts in 2001 and 2003 and the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, all of which I voted against, are the primary reasons—but there is enough blame to go around, and the critical point now is to avoid the first default in the history of the United States of America.

The good news tonight is that we can see the outlines of a final agreement. Both the Boehner plan and the Reid plan seek to enact at least \$2.4 trillion in budget cuts with a similar increase in our debt limit. Both would set up a lawmaker committee to decide which programs to cut with a vote on the package without amendment by both the House and Senate. The key differences are the time-frame for raising the debt limit and the requirement that a Balanced Budget Amendment (BBA) to the Constitution is passed in Congress and sent to the states. The Boehner plan calls for an immediate debt limit increase of \$900 billion which lasts only through the end of this year. The Reid plan would raise the debt limit through the end of 2012. Moreover, while I have voted for a BBA in the past, it is very unlikely it will receive the two-thirds vote necessary in both Houses to be sent to the states, guaranteeing a future default. I believe the Reid plan is the better approach and will vote against the Boehner plan for this reason.

We have heard a great deal in recent weeks about the potential, dire consequences of a default, notably a lowering of our country's credit rating that would cause a rise in interest rates—raising costs for people at every income level—and a likely drop in the stock market, affecting pensions and crippling our economic recovery. One thing that should be clear is that we don't want to go through this again just a few months from now. Financial markets want certainty so businesses can invest and create jobs, and I believe we will be better served to raise the debt limit through the end of next year.

Mr. Speaker, this has been a very tough process. While I will not vote for the Boehner proposal today, I believe we are closer to reaching a final product that represents a workable compromise. And at the end of the day, that is what the American people expect us to do.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, it has been one week since bipartisan discussions over the \$4 trillion "grand deal" broke down yet we have seen little progress toward a smaller package of spending cuts that would allow us to raise the debt limit and begin getting our fiscal house in order.

It's easy to point fingers and cast blame—and there's certainly plenty to go around—but

fundamentally I believe the reason we have seen so little progress is that the American people aren't looking for a short-term solution or a small gesture. They want a "grand deal" that will put us on a fiscally responsible path today and for the future.

We all have our own ideas about our nation's fiscal priorities, but what is missing in today's discussion is a bipartisan, centrist approach to addressing our nation's fiscal health, such as the recommendations by the Simpson-Bowles National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform.

No one party has all the answers, and no one party can do this alone. It's time to put our economy back on the path to fiscal sustainability, and this House should consider the Simpson-Bowles recommendations that aim to accomplish that goal by reducing spending by \$4 trillion over 10 years, lowering tax rates, ensuring the solvency of entitlements such as Medicare and Social Security and stabilizing the debt.

To compliment the \$4 trillion Simpson-Bowles plan the House should also consider a clean balanced budget amendment. H.J. Res. 2, is identical to legislation that passed the House in 1995 with 300 votes and I plan to support it if the House take it up. It is a commonsense approach to ensuring long-term fiscal responsibility by operating the federal government's finances in the same way every American family and even all 50 states must do.

This clean balanced budget amendment, coupled with the Simpson-Bowles recommendations and a debt limit increase to get us through the next 18 months, is a package I believe would find broad bipartisan support in both Chambers of Congress.

Yesterday the House debated Speaker BOEHNER's debt limit proposal, which was yet another example of the partisanship that has paralyzed Washington and disgusted the American people. Leading credit rating agency Standard & Poor's has said the Speaker's two-step approach to the debt limit could still result in a downgrade of our nation's credit rating because of the uncertainty it would create. I simply cannot bring myself to vote for legislation that would yet again call into question the full faith and credit of the United States.

With the possibility of a credit downgrade by national and international bond rating agencies looming over our head, kicking this can further down the road could mean a greater burden on the American people and American businesses in the form of higher interest rates, higher mortgage payments, negative impacts on retirements savings and higher student loans. This is unacceptable and—more importantly—completely avoidable.

It's time for cooler heads to prevail in order to resolve this economic crisis. A balanced approach that includes the Simpson-Bowles deficit reduction recommendations, a clean balanced budget amendment and a one-step, 18-month increase of our nation's debt limit could be the bipartisan solution that has been elusive through all of the partisan rhetoric. With the clock ticking down to our nation's first ever default we cannot afford to wait a minute longer.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, as the clock ticks down toward default, we are debating a

bill that will not solve the debt problem. It will make life worse for 98 percent of Americans—to protect the wealthiest 2 percent of our society. Meanwhile nearly \$1.6 trillion would be cut from programs like Social Security and Medicare.

Yet, despite these cuts, under this bill, we would face the exact same crisis just six months from now. We often hear about the need for “certainty” in the business community. With financial markets ready to tumble and our credit on the brink of a downgrade, how does kicking the can down the road for six months provide certainty?

Failing to resolve this crisis will be disastrous for our economic recovery. Capital that is already hard to come by for entrepreneurs will be even further out of reach for our nation's small businesses. That's some jobs plan.

Working families will pay \$250 more in credit card interest. Mortgage payments will rise by \$1,000. Older workers could lose thousands of dollars in retirement investment.

Mr. Speaker, the American people expect us to act swiftly and responsibly. The bill before us fails on both counts. Let's reject this measure and develop a real solution.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this legislation.

The Republican majority has pushed our economy to the brink of default through its refusal to work with Democrats on a balanced plan to end the default crisis. Despite the fact that this legislation cannot pass the Senate and would be vetoed by President Obama, the Republican majority chose to continue their political gamesmanship rather than bring to the floor a legitimate plan to prevent default.

By presenting a short-term fix rather than a long-term solution, the majority's plan puts our economy at greater risk of a credit downgrade and higher interest rates. American families and businesses cannot afford a higher cost of borrowing, which will raise the price of mortgages, loans, and credit card debt.

Defaulting on the federal debt is not an option. Congress should deliver a balanced plan that ends the default crisis; reduces spending responsibly; and prioritizes the health and security of hard-working middle-class families, senior citizens, and vulnerable Americans.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition to the bill being considered S. 627, The Budget Control Act. This bill should be called the Boehner Default Act because it is just another attempt for Congressional Republicans to hold the American economy and jobs hostage while they relentlessly pursue an extreme partisan agenda that seeks to balance the budget on the backs of seniors and the middle class. This approach has been met with widespread rejection by the public and it should be rejected by the House now.

This bill is not a serious attempt to deal with the national debt limit and it is not responsible legislation. House Republicans need to go back to the drawing board and show real leadership by crafting a plan that does not threaten the United States with a credit downgrade and higher interest rates while providing only a short-term debt limit increase.

It is inexcusable for Congress to have set up yet another partisan standoff on this issue

just a few months down the road. It is unacceptable to slash Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security from our nation's seniors while asking nothing in return from the nation's most wealthy corporations and individuals.

It is time for Republicans to stop trying to score points with their political base and start legislating on behalf of the American people. As the majority party in the House of Representatives, the American people are owed better.

Ms. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

On July 27, Carol Augias from Mahopac, New York wrote to me:

“Representative Hayworth, I have never written to a Congressperson before, however, I am deeply troubled by the debt ceiling stalemate. While I firmly believe that the massive debt we carry in this country needs to be reduced (I personally curtail my spending when my debt exceeds my comfort level), I am very concerned about what may happen if we default on our loans. Please find a way to get this issue resolved prior to the August deadline. Some compromises must take place. Once we have taken care of the immediate issue we, as a Nation, must evaluate our financial position so that our country will continue to flourish and children will also be able to purchase a home, afford a college education.”

Mr. Speaker, Carol is right. We need to resolve the debt limit crisis for the sake of future generations. Just as the American people—like Carol—pay their bills, the federal government must do the same, so we are obligated to raise the Treasury's debt ceiling. But we must do so responsibly because our nation has another critical and painful problem that is related to our enormous debt: 14 million Americans need jobs.

We can make our economy grow, and create jobs, by assuring that the dollars Americans work so hard for are theirs to spend and save and invest. To do this, the federal spending juggernaut has to stop.

And, as Carol pointed out, there is a need for cooperation. We can reform our tax code and close loopholes, as the President has urged, and we can do so without raising net taxes. We cannot, in good conscience, increase the burdens on Americans who need a vigorous economy.

Our nation didn't reach the point of fiscal crisis overnight, and we aren't going to get out of it overnight either—but we can make progress in the right direction now, and continue doing our utmost together to bring this federal government to the right size, and empower our citizens to enjoy the freedom and dignity that is their birthright as Americans.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, many concerned Americans are fed up with a Washington system that doesn't solve the underlying problems facing the nation, including the ongoing debt crisis.

This ongoing debt debate represents not just a crisis, but a crossroads.

In the past few decades, Congress raised the national debt limit more than 70 times, usually with little or no debate. Each time very few people batted an eye and this history has been used by liberal extremists as a reason to continue with the status quo. Now things have changed.

Over the last five years our national debt has increased by more than 50 percent. In just the past three years the debt increased by more than \$4 trillion dollars. Even worse, the debt has increased by \$9.2 trillion since a Balanced Budget Amendment failed by one vote in the Senate 15 years ago. As a result, the total national debt is now nearly equal to our entire economic output.

The independent Congressional Budget Office warns that the federal government's current path of borrowing is unsustainable and could lead to slower economic growth as debt payments consume more and more of our economic output. Add to this that the private-sector agencies like S&P that grade government debt have stated that if Congress doesn't do something to halt the rapid growth of debt they will downgrade the U.S. debt rating, likely driving up interest rates.

The bottom line is simple: the government can pile up only so much debt before it becomes impossible to make the payments without destroying its ability to fund priorities like national defense or Social Security. As the national debt accumulates at a record clip we are quickly approaching that point.

If we don't cut spending now, America will face a painful national reckoning in the coming years. This reckoning will make today's high stakes debate look quaint. That's why this debate is so critical. The longer Congress puts off making tough decisions, the more pain the nation will experience when the music stops.

So when people ask me if I favor increasing the debt limit my response is, “it depends.” Any status quo increase in the debt limit is absolutely out of the question.

However, we have to consider what happens if Congress doesn't increase the debt limit. Someone will not get paid.

We cannot ignore that the government is currently borrowing more than 40 cents of every dollar that it spends. As a result, if Congress does not raise the debt ceiling the federal government would have to slash spending immediately by more than 40 percent. That would endanger America's ability to keep its promises to those who have paid into programs like Social Security for years.

Consider these facts.

If Congress completely eliminated foreign aid the budget would be reduced by only 2%.

If Congress funded only Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid as well as the national defense budget there would be no money left to pay for anything else—not even the interest payments on the national debt.

If Congress prioritized spending that is on auto-pilot, such as unemployment benefits, Social Security, interest payments and the like, there would be nothing left for the defense budget, or any other spending, including education and transportation.

That's why I'm in favor only of drastic spending cuts accompanied by a smaller increase in the debt limit. And for the first time ever, Speaker BOEHNER's bill does just that, by proposing deficit reductions of \$2.7 trillion—including \$22 billion next year. Large reductions like this that protect Social Security and Medicare for current retirees will stop the reckless accumulation of debt and help us avoid the sort of catastrophic debt crisis we will face if Washington continues with business as usual.

It's not news that no one wants to raise the debt limit. The real news is the old way of raising the debt limit is over. Raising the debt limit, as Congress has done in the past, without accompanying spending cuts would be a disaster with severe economic consequences. Washington is in debt because it has a spending problem. It's past time we addressed that and today's bill does just that.

Due to chronic overspending, Washington is at a crossroads. I'm confident that Congress can find a way to tackle this issue responsibly. It will not be without difficult or unpopular decisions. But refusing to make tough decisions today will result in even tougher ones tomorrow. For the sake of future generations of Americans we need to make the right call today and put dramatic, permanent spending cuts in place and pass a Balanced Budget Amendment before raising the debt limit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 375, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman opposed to the bill?

Ms. HOCHUL. Yes, I am opposed to this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Hochul moves to recommit the bill (S. 627) to the Committee on Rules, with instructions to report the bill back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Amend section 401(b)(3)(B) by adding at the end the following new clause:

(vi) PRIORITIZE DEFICIT REDUCTION FROM CORPORATE SUBSIDIES BEFORE CUTTING EDUCATION.—The joint committee shall first consider the elimination of—

(I) oil and gas subsidies for the major integrated oil companies, and

(II) subsidies for corporate use of aircraft, before cutting essential education programs that are necessary for the creation of jobs, economic recovery, and investment in America's future.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. HOCHUL) is recognized for 5 minutes in support of her motion.

Ms. HOCHUL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Well, here we are. The eyes of the world are upon us. The eyes of the American people are upon us, but, most importantly, the eyes of the people who put their faith in us in sending us to this institution are certainly upon us.

As we engage in this debate, I will say there is one thing that is clear to me: that everyone in this room loves this great country. America has stood the test of time and risen above disasters as one people.

In the last decade alone, we've been rattled by wars, unprecedented natural disasters, and the longest recession since World War II. As we approach the 10th anniversary of 9/11, we are reminded of what we can do when we pull together. We are a resilient people. But, Mr. Speaker, never, never in our history has there been an intentional disaster perpetrated by the very people who are sent here to be the caretakers of this country. That is exactly what will happen if we refuse to take action to prevent default and pay our Nation's bills now, not 6 months down the road.

I understand a spirited debate in defense of one's viewpoints certainly, but when I look down at the copy of the Constitution that I keep on my desk, I thank God that our Founding Fathers found it in their hearts to give and take—and, yes, compromise for what is in the best interests of this country.

I can't go back to the Hillview restaurant on Transit Road in Lancaster and look into the eyes of my early-bird seniors and tell them that we didn't get this job done, that we decided to continue this game of political chicken, to dangle default cruelly over the heads of our citizens and our businesses and our economy and hold it hostage while we, as you've heard so many times, kick this can down the road again.

Mr. Speaker, am I really supposed to tell the Greatest Generation that when they passed us the torch, we dropped it because we couldn't compromise? That is why my amendment is a simple statement of America's priorities. It says, before we cut our education for our children, we first must cut subsidies to Big Oil and corporate jets.

This amendment is one of our last chances to reaffirm the values that bind us as a Nation. I know one of these shared values is our sense of obligation to create a better world for our young people to inherit, that we give these young people a better chance at achieving their dreams than even we had. The next generation will be more prosperous and more secure, but only if we invest in it now, in the human capital whose creativity, innovation, and work ethic can ensure this country remains the world's leader and the beacon of hope to others.

But, Mr. Speaker, I feel this is all at risk. Speaker BOEHNER's plan results in consequences I can't imagine anyone in this room really wants.

On top of the unconscionable uncertainty and instability we leave our economy in with this temporary fix, we're putting at risk the investments in education that are so critical for our young people to compete with China, India, and Europe on the global stage.

My amendment is about priorities, the priorities of the people we represent. Slashing programs for seniors, young people, and the middle class all because we're afraid of the influence of Big Oil, that is wrong on so many levels.

I come from a family of entrepreneurs. My mom started a small business. My father helped grow a business of four people to 3,200. I get it. I know what it takes, and I have tremendous respect for companies that have grown to be that size. And if they have a chance to have a corporate jet, I don't begrudge them; that's great. But in this time when we all agree that our deficit must be reduced, tell me why we can't ask them—Big Oil and people who have corporate jets—to give us a hand and help this great country that made them what they are today.

□ 1750

You know, little Seaman's Hardware Store in Genesee County run by generations of the Seaman family, how is it that they pay more in taxes than the big companies that are shipping jobs overseas? I can't explain this to the Seaman family. I don't know about you, but I cannot do that.

And you know what, my constituents are hurting in upstate New York. Some of them, at a time of huge corporate profits, can barely afford to fill the gas tank to get to their minimum wage jobs at the dollar store.

There is one value we share, and that's fairness. This bill is fundamentally unfair.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation, and I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, this doesn't prioritize Social Security. It doesn't prioritize Medicare. It doesn't prioritize veterans. It doesn't propose one item that would cut spending. All it does is engage in class warfare and increase taxes. Vote against the motion to recommit.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 183, noes 244, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 676]

AYES—183

Ackerman
Altmire
Andrews
Baldwin
Bass (CA)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Courtney
Critz
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Gonzalez

Green, Al
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inlee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
(TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kildee
Kind
Kissell
Kucinich
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lujan
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Oliver

Owens
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Ross (AR)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schradler
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewall
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Stark
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NOES—244

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Amash
Austria
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (NH)
Benishkek
Berg
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Broun (GA)

Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Costa
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Denham
Dent

DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emerson
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)

Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Lankford
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer

Lummis
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meehan
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paul
Paulsen
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)

Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (FL)
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souterland
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—5

Baca
Giffords
Hinchey
Speier
Waters

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois changed his vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on passage of the bill will be followed by 5-minute votes on motions to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2213 and H.R. 789, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 218, noes 210, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 677]

AYES—218

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Austria
Bachus
Barletta
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (NH)
Benishkek
Berg
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Denham
Dent
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emerson
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)

Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Granger
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Kelly
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Lankford
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McCotter
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meehan
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson

Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (FL)
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOES—210

Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline

Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cravaack
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar

Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DesJarlais
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Duncan (SC)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Gonzalez
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Inlee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
(TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jordan
Kaptur

Keating
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
Kissell
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebach
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lujan
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (CT)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Oliver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Polis

Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Ross (AR)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (SC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Stark
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—5

Baca
Giffords

Hinchey
Speier

Waters

□ 1825

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, had I been able to attend today's floor proceedings, I would have voted "no" on S. 627—Speaker BOEHNER'S Short Term Default Act.

SERGEANT JASON W. VAUGHN
POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 2213) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 801 West Eastport Street in Iuka, Mississippi, as the "Sergeant Jason W. Vaughn Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 420, noes 0, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 678]

AYES—420

Ackerman
Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Amash
Andrews
Austria
Bachmann
Bachus
Baldwin
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Benishak
Berg
Berkley
Berman
Biggart
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble

Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cravack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)

Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Heinrich
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Inlee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
(TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Kucinich
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta

Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebach
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Lynch
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Oliver
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell

Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polls
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quayle
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Ribble
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)

Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Stark
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Watt
Webster
Welch
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—12

Baca
Gallegly
Giffords
Gohmert

Grijalva
Hinchey
Lofgren, Zoe
Maloney

Paul
Speier
Waters
Waxman

□ 1839

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SERGEANT MATTHEW J. FENTON
POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 789) to designate the facility

of the United States Postal Service located at 20 Main Street in Little Ferry, New Jersey, as the "Sergeant Matthew J. Fenton Post Office."

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BALANCE THE BUDGET

(Mrs. SCHMIDT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, just tonight we passed the debt ceiling vote, and it had a very critical feature, a feature that requires accountability in our House—a balanced budget amendment.

Every day, millions of Americans sit at their kitchen tables, trying to figure out how they pay their bills. But before they write that check and determine how much they're going to have to spend out of that checking account, they first balance that checking account to know how much money is in it. But we, in the United States Congress, don't do that. We don't balance our account. We don't know how much money's in there. We just spend money.

The American public expects accountability from us. In order to have that accountability, we need to do what 49 States in America do, and that's pass a balanced budget amendment. The first of that series of steps was accomplished tonight. Now it's the Senate's turn to pass that balanced budget amendment provision, have both Chambers pass it, and have a majority of the States ratify it. This is what the American public wants. They want us to balance our checkbook, just as they do theirs.

EVERYONE SHOULD SACRIFICE FOR OUR COUNTRY

(Mr. RYAN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, there's something missing in this entire debate. Over the course of the last 30 years, in the 1970s, if you would have seen the real income for the top 1 percent, it accounted for about 9 percent of real income. Today the top 1 percent accounts for 25 percent of real income. The top 400 wealthiest people in the United States of America pay a tax rate of 17 percent, while the fellow in Youngstown, Ohio, is paying a much higher tax rate.

The sky is falling, and the Republican Party wants to make all these huge decisions about how we need to fix our country. We need the wealthiest in our country to become patriots and step up to bat and help us solve this problem. Everyone here is being asked to sacrifice. The military, the middle class, the parents trying to send their kids to college with Pell Grants, the schools that get title I, all are being asked to sacrifice but for the top 1 percent of the wealthiest people in this country. It is absent from this debate.

It is irresponsible for us to continue this process without asking the wealthiest in the United States of America, who have been blessed to live in this country, to help us solve this problem.

PERMANENT ACCOUNTABILITY FROM WASHINGTON

(Mr. HARRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, this evening is a moment in history. Very few times does this House vote to advance an amendment to the United States Constitution, but we did it today. And the gentlelady from Ohio, she just talked about what Americans talk about at home. It's about balancing your checkbook. It's about not spending more than you take in. We don't have a problem with too few taxes here in Washington. We have a problem with too much spending. Mr. Speaker, we still borrow 41 cents out of every \$1, and we're borrowing a lot of that money from the Chinese.

What this bill we passed tonight will do is put us on a track to pass a balanced budget amendment—what Americans are calling for: permanent accountability from Washington. No more spending tricks, no more budget gimmicks. Just do what every American family and business has to do. Just balance our budget.

□ 1850

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRAWFORD). The Chair would remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

AMERICAN ECONOMY IS NOT SAFE

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the House has acted. No time for celebra-

tion—it's not over yet. Until it passes both houses, the American economy is not safe.

Standard & Poor's and Moody's announced to the University of Washington and to Seattle and to King County that if there is a default on Tuesday, these institutions in my State go on the credit watch list for downgrade because they received money from the United States Government, and there is no certainty that the United States Government is going to pay its debts. This is a question about whether the United States is going to be viewed in the world as being responsible and paying their debts.

It's not about the future; it's about what we have already contracted, and this House, led by the Republicans, has put every State, every county, every city, every university that writes bonds for their financing at risk.

It's going to cause people to pay more in the State of Washington and in every other State because of this foolishness. We need a clean lifting of the debt limit.

DEBT LIMIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Thank you very much. This evening I am going to be joined by several of my colleagues. And as they come to the microphone, let me just lay down some of the facts.

Not more than an hour ago this Chamber voted on Speaker BOEHNER's proposal to deal with the debt limit. Very interesting comments that he made prior to the speech—and while I can't quote them precisely—he did say that his whole strategy started way back in January when he told the President that he was going to use the debt limit as a way of getting his way.

Well, we saw what his way is, and that's what was voted on today without any support at all from the Democrats and a lot of Republicans saying that it was not the right way to go.

So what did he propose? We have two very, very basic paths that are facing the American public today. One of those paths is a path that we voted on, which is a path to basically unravel most of the things that America holds dear.

In order to carry out the caps and the \$2.5 trillion in reductions that are in that legislation, we would have to decimate Medicare. There is no way it could possibly continue to provide the services to our seniors and similarly Medicaid, of which 70 percent of that money goes to seniors who are in nursing homes. And so those two critical parts of the foundation of the American society—that is providing health

care to our seniors and the aged, blind, and disabled—are going to get unraveled as a result of the legislation that passed.

Similarly, there is no way to meet those spending reductions without going after Social Security. The other path is one that we have suggested on the Democratic side, and we are going to spend some time talking about these two today, and that is the path that maintains these pillars of the society of America that basically express the values of our country, that our country is one that cares deeply about our citizens, whether they are aged, seniors who may need medical care and who need an income, Social Security and Medicare, or whether they are young children that need an education and those in between that need jobs.

That's the path that the Democrats have offered in the budget that we put forth on this floor that we voted on, that was our recommendation on how to move forward. It failed without any Republican support, but it was a path that basically spoke to the values of this Nation that we have held dear for these many, many years.

I would like to turn now to my colleagues here. I would like to start with my colleague from Oregon, PETER DEFAZIO.

PETER. I know that you have some remarks that you would like to share with us this evening.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Thanks, JOHN. Thanks for helping organize this response to the Republicans.

We do have one real and prevailing crisis in America. It's been with us now since 2008, and that's a jobs crisis. There are probably 20 million Americans who are unemployed, underemployed in this country when you get to the real numbers.

Now, credible economists say if we could find a way to put those people or most of those people back to work and get unemployment down from 9.6 nationally to, say, 4.5 or 5 percent, that would solve a quarter, a quarter of this deficit and debt crisis. That would be \$2.5 trillion over 10 years.

Now, the Republicans here have proposed \$2.7 trillion of cuts over 10 years. So if we could put people back to work, we would have about the same savings.

Then, you know, if we got people back to work and healed the economy a bit, all we have to do, and I talked about this earlier this week, is nothing. Let the Bush tax cuts expire. Go back to the bad old days of Bill Clinton, 3.8 percent unemployment, paying down debt, the rich paying a fair share. Those were the bad old days, according to the Republicans, because those job creators were paying some taxes.

Oh, my God, billionaires required to pay taxes at the rate equal to or higher than their secretaries and the janitors. Can you imagine that? Oh, what disaster. So, now, they are not only cut-

ting programs and ignoring the jobs crisis, they are making the jobs crisis worse.

Last week, they ended the Federal Aviation Administration construction program for safety and security. They stopped collecting the tax. The Republicans stopped collecting the tax. It's a user paid-for system on airline tickets. That's \$30 million a day. Most airlines have taken it as a windfall. So the Republicans' mantra that if we lower taxes on corporations they will pass it through to the consumers—no, sorry suckers. They keep the money and you pay the same.

But then the other mantra is, well, if we get rid of taxes, we will create jobs. That's how you create jobs, by cutting programs and cutting taxes.

Interesting. We have cut taxes on the airline industry by \$30 million a day, \$210 million a week. That's well over—you know, that's a lot of money on a year's basis, over a billion dollars. And guess what? We have lost 94,000 jobs; 4,000 jobs of people in the FAA who oversee the safety and security construction program to make sure taxpayers get a fair value for their dollar and 90,000 private-sector construction jobs across America.

And guess what? The American public doesn't know it yet, but this could well lead to either, you know, opening the door to terrorist attack because we don't do some of the security programs, or causing a runway incursion because we don't finish the runway incursion program before the bad weather in the winter, or I don't get my instrument landing system in Coos Bay, North Bend, before the winter and a plane goes awry, we could have people die because of that. But to them this is all good—we are giving people back their money, or we are giving the corporations the money, and don't worry.

We need to focus on jobs. There is nothing that they have been doing here for the last 6 months, 8 months, 7 months, however long they have been in power—it seems like 10 years—that has created a single job. In fact, they have cost us jobs. They are costing us jobs at an ever accelerating rate, and now they want to cut one other, just one other point. They want to cut all investment in transportation by 35 percent. That's an immediate loss of 600,000 private-sector jobs.

It means we won't deal with the 150,000 bridges of the national highway system that need rebuilding. We won't deal with the half of the payment on the national highway system that needs redoing. We won't deal with the \$70 billion backlog for new equipment for our transit systems, transit systems that are so decrepit in places like the Nation's Capital that people are being killed. We won't deal with any of that.

□ 1900

We won't put millions of people to work building new transit vehicles or

new buses or bridges with steel and all those things with Buy America.

The Republicans say, well, we'll just give the corporations the money and the rich people the money and they'll trickle down on the rest of us. Well, we've been pretty well trickled down upon for way too long. It's time for new priorities. And I would reject the Republican agenda.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. DEFAZIO, thank you very much. You clearly pointed out the dichotomy between the Democratic proposal, which is one of building and creating and putting together a society and an economy that actually works, and the Republicans seem to be just dismantling time after time.

I would like now to turn to Congresswoman BETTY SUTTON, our colleague from the State of Ohio, who has seen the effect of the cuts and what they mean in her district.

So, Ms. SUTTON, if you would care to share with us your thoughts.

Ms. SUTTON. I thank the gentleman for his leadership. You have been a stalwart; and, boy, do we need leadership at this point.

Here we are, it's been 29 weeks, more than 200 days since the Republicans took over the majority of the House, and not only have they not done anything to create jobs or help working families. Here we are today looking at what they have done.

What have they done? After walking away from the table five times in negotiations to restore our Nation's fiscal health, House Republicans have passed a bill today to kick the can down the road so we can continue to have this debate over again in a matter of months. But make no mistake, this is a political dodge. Republicans could not agree on a long-term solution within their own ranks, so they just decided to take a vote on a bill that kicks the can down the road that they know there is not support for, and it's a part of this pattern.

What have they been doing in this over 200 days? They have an agenda that aims to end Medicare, that guts Medicaid, that has threatened Social Security, and at the same time they have even targeted energy-efficient light bulbs. They have used time in this body to do all of these things, while at the same time fighting to preserve tax breaks for the wealthy, for Big Oil, and for companies that ship jobs overseas when at this time we know that we have a jobs deficit in this country.

There is nothing more important that we can do than to, of course, make sure that America pays its bills, but the most important priority facing our Nation is to get America back to work because we can't solve that long-term deficit problem without people having jobs. And, frankly, the American Dream doesn't live if we don't have opportunities for families out there to go

to work and take care of those that they love, to send their kids to college. That's another thing that the Republican agenda has targeted, to put college out of reach again of so many middle class families.

Well, I'm glad to be here with the gentleman from California and my other colleagues to make sure that we explain to the American people that there are people who get it, people who know that the number one priority is to put people back to work, to focus on building our infrastructure, to strengthening U.S. manufacturing, because we know that we have to be a country that makes things, that makes things made out of American iron and steel and manufactured goods; that every time you have a manufacturing job, that there is a ripple effect of four more jobs, or if it's in the auto industry, it's 10 more jobs. We know that if we are not a country that manufactures things, then we are at the mercy of those who do. It is incumbent upon us to stand up to make sure that we focus the agenda.

We've got to stop this political theater, deal with getting the debt ceiling issue dealt with for the long term, not for 6 months, not for 6 months and be right back at this again, leaving the American people to wonder, seniors to wonder whether they're going to get what they need in their Social Security checks, veterans to wonder whether they're going to get what they need. We really, really know that the priority has to be on jobs, and we implore our Republican colleagues to join us.

Two hundred days is too long; 200 days is more than the American people and the American families that I am so honored to serve can take. We must focus on getting people back to work.

Mr. GARAMENDI. It is about jobs. There are very few economists—except maybe some that supported the proposal that the Republicans put together today—but nearly every economist in this Nation said the only way we will ever get this Nation back to a balanced budget is with full employment, putting people to work. And that is the Make it in America agenda.

Let me now turn to Mr. PERLMUTTER from the great State of Colorado, who has some concepts and ideas he would like to share with us this evening.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. I thank my friend from California and Ms. SUTTON from Ohio.

And as they've said, the best way to pay the debt that this Nation has incurred is for people to work. All of a sudden you've got revenue coming in, and you don't have to pay unemployment, you don't have to pay a lot of Medicaid, you don't have to pay COBRA and all these other things. You have revenue coming in and less expense going out.

One of the things about this Nation is that it has always provided to those

people who really are prepared to work, who are prepared to play by the rules, who take responsibility for their lives and the lives of their family members, a chance to get ahead. That's what America has meant to millions and millions of people throughout our history.

And one of the reasons this country was able to provide that kind of a setting for all of us is because 235 years ago or so, this Nation went through a war. And after that war, the States banded together and said, you know what, we as a country will pay the debts of our Revolutionary War. And this young Nation paid its debts and became a strong Nation overnight because it paid its bills. And so for 235 years now we've been paying our bills. You bet. And that's why we have had the strongest credit, the full faith and credit of the United States of America for two centuries.

My friends on the Republican side of the aisle, for the last 3 months or more, have been putting that credit at risk. And I'd like to say there was a real reason for them to do that, but there is no reason. When you have incurred a bill, you pay that bill. You don't say, you know what, we're not going to pay the bill unless some things happen in the future. You pay the bill, and you deal with the future separately.

But not in this Congress, not with this Republican leadership. They tie it all together and say if we don't get our way, we're not going to pay our bills. Well, baloney, that isn't how it works. And so what we've got to do is come together. The President has proposed a balanced approach to getting this country's fiscal house in order.

Now, let's not forget how we got here. Ten years ago, we had a surplus; revenues exceeded expenses. So in these last 10 years we had two big tax cuts—that's a couple trillion dollars under George Bush. We had a couple big wars, which instead of everybody being patriotic and really assisting the country, we would borrow and do it on a credit card—that's a couple trillion dollars. And then we had a crash on Wall Street—another \$2 trillion or \$3 trillion. That's where the debt came from.

Now, I can lay the blame at the feet of the Republican leadership and administration, but we are where we are and we've got to deal with it. And it's got to be done in a balanced way, both the revenue side of the ledger and the expense side of the ledger. If our goal is to pay down the debt, you need more revenue and you need less expense. And it's both sides. And you can't just say we're going to cut, cut, cut. We're going to take it out of Medicare, we're going to privatize Social Security. We're going to eliminate early childhood education. You've got to deal with the expenses, and we know that; but you've got to have revenue.

In this instance, the Republicans say, you know what, we're not going to have additional taxes for millionaires and billionaires and some corporations with loopholes, no, that's off limits. But we are going to go after Medicare, we are going to go after Social Security, we are going to go after early childhood education. That's just not right, and this country knows it.

□ 1910

Every American knows that, so we have to get busy, ladies and gentlemen, because we have work to do. If we are going to restore the American Dream, we have a lot of work to do. And that is what Democrats are going to do. We have a lot of work to do, and it is time to get busy.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. PERLMUTTER, you are so very correct. The American Dream, you laid it out there so well—job, family, home, ability to take care, kids off to school, good health care—the American Dream. When you get old, you've got Medicare, you have Social Security. That's really the foundation.

However, what happened on this floor not more than an hour and a half ago will destroy that dream. Now, we have work to do; indeed, we do. And now I would like to turn to my friend and colleague on the floor, sometimes we call it the East Coast/West Coast show, my friend from New York, Mr. PAUL TONKO.

Mr. TONKO. Representative GARAMENDI, it is a pleasure to join with you, speaking for your base in California, joining with our colleagues from Colorado and Texas and Connecticut and Ohio and Virginia, myself from New York, across this country, we are speaking for the American public. The great populous of this Nation are asking: Where are the solutions? Where is the responsiveness to a job situation, a jobs deficit, a jobs crisis?

The solution here, well, last night we saw it. We saw the drama unfold, not here on the House floor, but behind closed doors. We moved into recess. The Republican leadership of the House said we are going to move to recess. We were fully anticipating a vote last night in short order, but we waited for hours and hours. They didn't have the votes. So what happened? Today they moved for a measure that moved further from the center, took us to the extreme edge in order to get just by a vote to amass sufficient support for a very extreme solution that really kicks the can down the road, as the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON) indicated. It means that we don't have this long-term solution that builds confidence in the economy but, rather, a political response, a political solution that bought enough votes, that puts into play measures that we know will not find support as negotiations need to come to conclusion in just a matter of hours.

And so this has been a disingenuous approach to a very serious issue. But what they are doing is destroying jobs, because as you kill the confidence within our economy by threatening this economy with credit ratings that could be reduced, that call for greater interest payments, from car loans to mortgages to student loans to savings to pension plans, we're putting the people of this country, every household, regardless of income strata, economic strata, at risk. But an assault certainly on the middle class of this country.

And is that the right thing to do when we have this looming dark cloud of a jobs crisis, and how do we solve that? We do it by investing in programs that create jobs and undo the programs that are outmoded, don't create jobs. And we make certain that there is an investment made in innovation, in clean energy, in manufacturing, making things here in America, taking ideas, moving them along, embracing the pioneer spirit of the people of this great land. That's not being done.

What they do is move to destroy some 700,000 jobs. They kill the confidence factor for the economy. They move forward with harmful measures that destroy our economic growth and end Medicare, because with their proposal, we see it clearly, they would end Medicare and transition Social Security into a privatized format.

These are the things that our phones have been ringing off the hook about. We have heard, through the President's encouragement, from several constituents, routinely through this debate of several weeks and months now but enhanced over the last couple of days, and people are very clear, couldn't be clearer: Why do we become a lesser priority than Big Oil and millionaires and billionaires? People are asking that question, and they have every right to.

This is an assault on the values of the middle class of this country. It is a neglectful response to the jobs crisis of this country, and it has moved us further away from the deficit situation with the debt ceiling discussion by moving it to the extreme, because the extreme of their party, in order to get their support, said over the last several hours, the last half day: You want my support, move extreme. Don't move to the moderate zone. Don't build a consensus. And so now the consequences of their action puts this economy at risk and does nothing but reduce jobs rather than promote the investments that will create jobs.

Representative GARAMENDI, it's aggravating. It is ignoring what the public's wishes are, and it's not responding to the challenges of the moment. This is a tipping point moment for the Nation. This is a chance to re-engineer the economy after a long and deep and painful recession, and they are risking that by perhaps pushing us

back into a recession, if not a full-blown depression.

Mr. GARAMENDI. What took place here on the floor, Mr. TONKO, over the last couple of hours was really a charade. It was theater. It had no sense of reality. There is no way that piece of legislation is going to move forward. You said it so very well: It became more and more radical with each iteration over time.

It seems as though there is a small group within the Republican Caucus that really doesn't want government at all. Almost an anarchist attitude about government is bad, get rid of it in every way.

And then there is group in that same caucus that actually published a piece of paper, it came from the leadership, and one of the things that they said that they wanted to do was to bring down the President. Well, we have an election coming up, to be sure. But to use the full faith and credit of the United States, that is the honor and really the dignity, to say nothing of the financial strength of this Nation, to bring down the President seems to be unconscionable.

Mr. TONKO. Our goal here should be to build up a Nation rather than to bring down a President, and it is shameful to even have that acknowledged.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Earlier this afternoon before we started this 1-hour, one of our colleagues on the Republican side brought up a nice little picture of a woman balancing her budget, presumably at home, and a checkbook. She said that 40-some States have a balanced budget amendment, and they balance their budget.

Earlier this afternoon, I was talking to my friend from the great State of Virginia, and he said: Let me share with you how one State balances their budget.

I yield to BOBBY SCOTT.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I would like to bring that up because the legislation that we considered earlier today had a provision that required a constitutional amendment that is mislabeled. It is called the Balanced Budget Amendment.

Well, if you look at the provisions of the bill, not just the title, the provisions, you will see that it requires a three-fifths vote to pass a budget that is not in balance. Every budget that we have considered for the last 9 years and every budget that we will consider for the foreseeable future will be unbalanced in the first year. So all you've done is increase the threshold for any budget to be balanced.

The Republican Study Committee budget, which is probably the most conservative budget in terms of spending on the table, other budgets would probably cut the deficit just as much, but all of those severe deficit reduction bills would require a three-fifths vote.

Now remember, when the Clinton budget passed, it passed by the thinnest of margins. We balanced the budget and were on course to paying off the national debt, created a record number of jobs. The Dow Jones Industrial Average almost quadrupled. Fifty Democrats lost their seats when they voted for that bill. When you vote for deficit reduction, a lot of people will be casting career-ending votes. Increasing the threshold to three-fifths will just make it harder or even more impossible to pass.

What you can get three-fifths for, once you need three-fifths, any kind of budget can pass. You can have more tax cuts, and we got three-fifths votes from the \$800 billion tax cut back in December. But a three-fifths vote, you can pass new tax cuts and new spending. You can make the deficit worse under the balanced budget amendment and probably will.

Also consider that it had the provision of two-thirds vote to increase taxes. That will obviously make it more difficult to balance the budget. Two-thirds vote to spend more than 18 percent of GDP, a number we haven't seen since Medicare was enacted. That means you're going to have pressure on Medicare and Social Security.

Interestingly, if you put all of these things together, you'll notice that you can cut Medicare benefits or Social Security benefits with a simple majority. But to save those programs with new taxes, a two-thirds vote in the House and a two-thirds vote in the Senate. And then to add insult to injury, it requires a three-fifths vote to increase the debt ceiling.

□ 1920

As if the drama that we've been through in the last few days and last few weeks isn't enough of a spectacle, they wanted to make that kind of thing routine, where we'd have to go through this every year. We've had to increase the debt ceiling on average once a year for the last 50 years. They want to go through this spectacle with a supermajority so that we can have these kinds of problems all along.

Now, we heard during consideration of the balanced budget amendment when we were in committee about Arizona's balanced budget amendment and how well it works. And we kept hearing this over and over again. So I thought, I wonder how they do that? So I Googled it.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Excuse me. You said that Arizona has a balanced budget amendment in their Constitution and somehow they balance their budget.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. And I couldn't figure out how they have done it over the past few years. I figured there must be something in there. So we Googled it, thanks to Google. And we found out. The first thing I found

out is, with 6.3 million people, they got \$6.4 billion of stimulus money that the Federal Government borrowed and then sent to them. A thousand dollars for every man, woman, and child—\$4,000 for every family. That helped them balance the budget.

But that wasn't enough. You know what else they did? They sold their State capitol and supreme court building. Did you hear what I said? They sold the State capitol building for \$735 million and sold the supreme court building for \$300 million and leased it back. That extra billion dollars in the budget was necessary for them to balance their budget.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Excuse me for a second, if I might interrupt. One of the proposals coming from some of the Republicans was to sell America's assets. Do you suppose they intended to sell the U.S. Capitol?

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Well, the Arizona State capitol was sold and leased back. So there's no telling what they might want to do. But the really regrettable part of this is the process that we're in. Because we just passed a bill that provides for trillions of dollars in unspecified cuts. They slapped the thing together behind closed doors. The final version was developed this morning after the bill had been debated. There was only 1 minute left in the debate, and they changed the bill. They added in the balanced budget amendment and some other kinds of changes and sprung it on the House.

We finished the debate this afternoon. Vote it up or down, no amendments. We took all that time doing it on a bill that 53 Senators have signed a letter saying that they're going to oppose it as soon as it gets over there.

Now, I said unspecified amendments because they don't cut anything in their bill. There are no cuts. There are caps. So we don't know what the cuts will be because they're just spending caps. We will find out next month what they have in mind because that's when we'll try to appropriate under the caps, and then we'll figure out what actually has to be cut.

But we'd have an idea of what they might cut because earlier this year they had a bill of about \$66 billion. Annualized, that would be about a hundred billion for the full year. In 10-year costs, that would be about a trillion. So if you want to know what a trillion-dollar 10-year cut would look like, we can see it.

Look at what they cut. They cut safety net programs like community action agencies, legal aid, energy assistance for low-income seniors, community health centers, WIC nutrition. All cut. They had investments in our future, education. All kinds of education programs, including Head Start and Pell Grants. Cut. Job training programs in the middle of an economic downturn. Cut. NASA and other sci-

entific research, energy research. Cut. High-speed rail, investments in our future. Immunizations and AmeriCorp. Cut.

Then routine functions of government that you would hope would not have to get cut, like air traffic controllers. They're working so hard, they're falling asleep on the jobs. Cops and firefighters. Cut. FBI agents. We spent the last couple of days in the Judiciary Committee talking about trying to chase down cases involving child pornography, and we don't have enough FBI agents to chase them down. And what do they do? Cut FBI agents.

Clean Water grants, poison control, aid to small shipyards. We have a lot of shipyards in my district. National parks. OSHA—Occupational Safety and Health Administration—personnel cut. FEMA. With all the problems we've got all over the country now, floods and everything, FEMA is cut. They talk about border security. Border protection and border security. Cut. Food inspection.

That's just a small sample of what they had in that. Then in the next bill they're cutting Medicare. All of those cut. And that's just the first trillion.

I yield to the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. I was going to say to my friend, over the course of the last 10 years we know where the debt really came from. It wasn't in early childhood education. It wasn't in national parks. It was in two tax cuts—a couple trillion dollars or more. It was in two wars—at least a couple trillion dollars. And it was in a crash on Wall Street when people were laid off and had to have some kind of assistance.

Obviously, you said Arizona needed assistance—\$6.4 billion and they still sold their capitol.

I would yield to my friend from Connecticut because he has the chart that describes this.

Mr. COURTNEY. Thank you, Mr. PERLMUTTER and Mr. GARAMENDI, for holding this.

As John Adams, our second President once famously said, Facts are stubborn things. This chart here, which is a chart which is using the Congressional Budget Office facts and figures in terms of what happened to this country since 2002, which as my friend indicated, was the last time we had a balanced budget in this country. This chart shows that we have accumulated about \$7.5 trillion in debt. And \$5 trillion of that was due to the policies of the last administration, starting with the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, two wars which, again, lots of debate about whether it was in our national interest. In any case, what is not debatable is that we never paid a penny for either one of those conflicts.

The Bush tax cuts, \$1.8 trillion; non-defense discretionary spending, \$608 billion. TARP, the Wall Street bailout,

which a lot of people forget occurred under the last administration; a Medicare drug benefit which was passed in 2005 and was never paid for. Not a nickel of that benefit was ever paid for with either offsetting revenue or other spending reductions.

And the 2008 stimulus bill which the Bush administration had presented. A lot of people don't remember the check that people got sent during that time. Again, none of those expenditures were paid for. Many of those expenditures, such as the Bush tax cuts and the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, are still recurring expenses, which are still accumulating bills and debts which this country is obligated for.

When the Obama administration took office in January of 2009, they faced an economy that was in free fall. There were 800,000 jobs lost in January of 2009. Obviously, a crisis that needed to be addressed in terms of counter-recessionary policies such as extending unemployment benefits and some stimulus, which is to get work out there in terms of road and bridge construction projects, sewer treatment facilities. I'm cutting a ribbon on Monday morning in my district for a plant which provided a lot of work for people. Again, nonrecurring expenses to deal with the emergency that we faced as a Nation.

When you look at, again, the comparative cost of the policies and the Bush administration and the Obama administration and you think about the fact that we have these bills and expenses which have been accumulated by our Nation since 2002, and yet we had a default debate here an hour and a half ago, where the Speaker, who, by the way, voted for every single one of those Bush policies from 2002 up until President Bush left office, stood on this floor, blamed the debt crisis that we face in our Nation just on one administration, which, again, CBO clearly documents was far less culpable in terms of what the numbers show.

Again, it just shows how really corrosive the partisan debate that's occurred under the 112th Congress since this new majority took office, completing omitting the fact that eight times during the Bush administration they voted to raise the debt ceiling to avoid default. Under Ronald Reagan, 18 times. We've had clean debt limit increases. Yet this administration, the Obama administration, for the first time in American history is being held to a different standard in terms of trying to deal with the debts and obligations of this country.

The rating agencies have spoken loud and clear in terms of the bill that was just voted on here an hour and a half ago. A short-term extension of 6 months is thumbs down from the rating agencies because they see that as just an invitation this coming December to go through the same political

and economic instability that we saw this past week. And that's not what our economy needs today.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. It's in that context that the actions of this Congress have to be taken into consideration because last December we passed an \$800 billion, 2-year tax cut—not new tax cuts—extending the ones that were there.

□ 1930

Had we let them expire, which I think would have been better judgment, we would not be in the situation we're in. We passed \$400 billion a year tax cuts. We now have a general consensus that we need, in the next 10 years, \$4 trillion worth of savings, deficit reduction, about \$400 billion a year, exactly the same as what we did in tax cuts last year. All of these cuts we're talking about are necessary to partially offset the fact that we extended the tax cuts last year. And the process was all up or down. You had to vote it all up or down, one vote, without any choices. We didn't need to extend all of the tax cuts. Maybe if we extended some but not all, we could have avoided cuts in Head Start, in food inspectors, firefighters and those kinds of things. We didn't make the choice step by step. It was, we have to extend the tax cuts, and in order to preserve those tax cuts, we're making the cuts in Medicare and Social Security and Pell Grants and Head Start, clean water grants, poison control, and on and on. It's in that context that these cuts are so regrettable.

Mr. GARAMENDI. If I might, my good colleague from Virginia, on the floor today it was perfectly clear that the Republicans are refusing to even consider any increases in taxes or the elimination of tax breaks, on oil, on corporations that send jobs overseas, it's no. On the high end, the hedge fund managers that have a billion dollars of income, no, they're going to keep those tax breaks.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. On that point, if we do nothing and let them expire—we're not talking about new tax cuts—if we just let them expire, we have enough deficit reduction on the table to match Simpson-Bowles.

Mr. GARAMENDI. There you have it.

Our colleague from Ohio, if you could comment. We're going to do this kind of moving along more rapidly. We've got several different comments. Our colleague from Texas is back.

Please, if you would, and then I'll turn to our colleague from Texas.

Ms. SUTTON. I just want to say one more time, because I know that the people that I represent in northeast Ohio, they don't want government on their backs but they do want government on their side, and how do we show that we're on their side? We focus on the issue that matters to them the most, and all they want is a chance.

They want a chance at that American Dream.

How do we do that? We do that by focusing on jobs, and we do that by focusing on this agenda to Make It in America. What does that mean? It means policies that make sense regarding trade, that instead of fighting to protect companies as the Republicans are through this whole default debacle, instead of protecting those companies that ship jobs overseas, we want to level the playing field, to allow our manufacturers and our workers to fairly compete because we know that they are the best in the world and given a chance, a fair chance, they will not only compete, they will out-compete anybody in the world. We need tax policies that make sense. We need to focus on not only manufacturing but building our infrastructure. The world is working on building their infrastructure, and here we are, we heard the cuts that are going on aimed at our infrastructure.

It is time, it is past time, that we turn to the hard work of putting America back to work, because while we have a jobs deficit, we don't have a deficit of work that needs to be done. Let us get away from this risk of default, let us settle the matter, allow America to pay its bills, because if we don't, we're going to lose even more jobs. Economists tell us we're going to lose 700,000 more jobs if America defaults. We don't want to go in that direction. We want to go in the direction that allows our workers, our companies and our country to make it—Make It in America.

Mr. GARAMENDI. And there's the voice from the central part of the heart of America from the great State of Ohio.

We know that America can make it. This is still the greatest manufacturing center in the world, and part of our job agenda on the Democratic side is what we call Make It in America.

The gentlewoman from Ohio very quickly pointed out several elements in that. I put this up while she was talking so we could think about it.

Trade policy. We can't give away our jobs on trade policy.

Taxes. We talked about the tax issues, corporations getting tax breaks for going offshore.

Energy. We need energy security. We can't afford to continue to pay all of our hard-earned dollars to the petrodictators of the world and the most dangerous places of the world. We need a domestic energy policy, a green energy policy, a clean energy policy, with the tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands of jobs there.

Labor policies. We talked about educating our kids. BOBBY SCOTT from Virginia talked about the cuts that are in the Republican budget when we need to educate, re-educate and prepare our labor force.

Education. In this budget that they just put forward are tremendous cuts to the Pell Grants that allow kids to go to school.

Research. Again, BOBBY, you talked about the research cuts, and the infrastructure we've talked about several times. This is all part of our agenda. This is how we're going to build America, how the American Dream can become a reality once again by making the critical investments on the public side, bringing the private side along.

I know that Texas likes to say everything is great in Texas, but I have talked to our colleague, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, many times we've talked to her on the floor, and it's not all perfect.

Could you share with us the view from Texas?

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. The gentleman from California is very kind for leading this effort, and I'm delighted to be here. We've really got a regional, national perspective here: the gentlemen from Colorado, from Connecticut, the gentlelady from Ohio, and, of course, the gentleman from New York, and the gentleman from Virginia, and Texas.

Texas is a big State. I heard a colleague on this side of the aisle say that Texas has got all kinds of articles to talk about how great a State it is. It's a great State, but when you don't spend money on people, you wind up like Texas, being 43rd in education, or you wind up having the State with the largest number of individuals without health insurance, and so I have joined my colleagues today because I truly believe, standing on this side of the Chamber, that there is an opportunity for bipartisanship. But yet we have individuals who have been influenced by signs that say No Surrender. No Surrender. Those words were more appropriate for our Founding Fathers as they stood against oppression. No Surrender. But these words are not appropriate against the American people, that we won't surrender, no matter what happens to the American people, we in this Congress are so influenced by voices that truly do not have the concept of invest and grow, and they don't have the concept of Make It in America. What a wonderful statement about the greatness of America. Not No Surrender but Make It in America, because America is not broke, and the voices of negativism that would propose legislation that would have us cut without investment, cut without revenue, means that we surrender on the American people.

I wanted to mention that we haven't said what is happening to local government. Here is a major headline that says States Feel Pain Over Debt Impasse. We all come from the people, outside of the Beltway, and what is happening to the States is that the markets are being troubled. I had a

press conference and a meeting with my city comptroller whose investments are in Treasury notes. It's not just what we do here on the floor of the House. Our cities will have a troubled economic infrastructure if the Treasury notes that they have invested in all of a sudden drop with severe, if you will, losses.

And so I wanted to say that this is more than just us, it is more than one person in a leaky boat, it is many of us in a leaky boat. Just in the last 48 hours, to the gentleman, the Dow went down 200 points. In the last 12 hours coming in today, the Asian markets and our markets have seen a dramatic drop, and as you well know, we were here until 11 o'clock at night trying to wait until the conference, in essence, got itself together.

So let me just say that the debt ceiling from my perspective should be a clean one, but we should go forward with innovation, investment, and balanced cutting. We should preserve our Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

Finally let me say this. If the States are being troubled now and people are being influenced by the language or the words No Surrender, can you imagine what happens when 6 months from now the bill that passed with no Democrats, we would come back again to the American people, tell them to be fearful about Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, tell our students they might not have Pell Grants for the second semester, tell people in the midst of buying a house their interest rates will skyrocket, because we'll be back again trying to debate the debt ceiling, and if various draconian measures are not passed such as balanced budget amendments by three-fifths, two-thirds, we will have another default.

□ 1940

We need to be focusing on what is good about America. Make it in America. Invest, innovate and grow, and have mutually balanced sacrifice. That's what will make us great.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Ms. JACKSON LEE, thank you so much.

We have about 10 minutes left here, and I'd like to do lightning rounds.

My colleagues, you've been so eloquent and have really brought these issues to bear, but why don't we all do a wrap—we'll do about a minute—and we'll just pass it around.

Let's start with the great State of New York. So we'll go to the east coast first.

Mr. TONKO.

Mr. TONKO. Thank you, Representative GARAMENDI.

Let me just say that the challenge for America to pay her bills, many of those bills that were accrued before this administration, is not a Republican challenge; it's not a Democratic challenge. It's an American challenge.

The default crisis that is challenging our economy, threatening our economy is not a Republican crisis; it's not a Democratic crisis. It's an American crisis. The jobs crisis is not a Republican crisis or a Democratic crisis. It's an American crisis.

You get the message. We need to come together, not pull farther apart.

I represent what I'd like to call the original Tech Valley. The Erie Canal/Barge Canal were hosted in the 21st Congressional District. It provided for a westward movement. It embraced the pioneer spirit of America. Mill towns became the epicenters of invention and innovation. That same pioneer spirit is in our DNA at the very present day, today. If we invest as we know we should, we will grow jobs; we'll respond to the jobs crisis; we'll create revenues and they'll grow; we'll cut spending required when unemployment rises; and we will solve many crises.

I have seen the region I represent grow per capita, in per capita measurement, to be the number one green-powered job growth region in the country. That happened because of Federal investment and State investment. Let's just make it in America and do sound policy that is bringing us together and not dividing us as the leadership of this House has done with their approach.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Thank you, Mr. TONKO.

Let's move to the great State of Virginia, down in the tidewater country.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Thank you very much, and I appreciate your doing this.

As our friend from New York has said, we need to be focused on jobs. The other side of the aisle is quick to say that you cannot raise taxes in the middle of an economic downturn, and then the next thing they say is we need to cut spending. Spending cuts have a much larger impact on employment because, when you have an agency and when you cut the budget, people get fired immediately. There is a more immediate effect than tax cuts, which you don't pay until later on. It has a larger effect. So, when we start talking about the jobs, these cuts will have an adverse effect on jobs. We need to focus on jobs first.

We wouldn't be going through this kind of attack on our economy, on Medicare, on the education programs if it had not been for the threat to shut down the economy. This threat is unprecedented. We need to pay our obligations. We cannot default. It's actually manufactured, because never in American history has there been any serious effort to fail to pay our obligations as we've been going through in just these past few days.

We need to increase the debt ceiling in the same way we've done it every year, sometimes twice a year—on average about once a year, sometimes twice a year—over the last 50 years. Just in-

crease the debt ceiling. We should not be jeopardizing. We should not be having all this uncertainty in the markets with what's going on here today. As that saying goes, "Just do it."

Mr. GARAMENDI. Indeed, we do. If we're going to have the American Dream continue to be a reality, we've got lot of work to do. We've got to put the American people back to work, and we're going to have to deal with the deficit, and it will take us a while to do it.

Mr. COURTNEY, you very well and eloquently pointed out how we got into the deficit. Please, your final thoughts.

Mr. COURTNEY. Sure. Tonight, I know and every one of us here knows there are a lot of older Americans who are watching this debate extremely closely who are worried about their Social Security checks at the beginning of next month, and they're worried about whether their Medicare is going to be there.

What I would just say—and I know all of us agree—is we all understand that it is our solemn duty to protect a program that just celebrated its 45th anniversary, Medicare, which has made a difference to every single one of us in terms of our parents and our grandparents. We understand that we are not going to allow this political bullying effort, using the tool of the default as a device, to butcher the Medicare program. That is a solemn pledge which I know every single one of us believes in, and we are going to fight until this episode is over in order to make sure that we protect the basic components of retirement security for seniors in America, which is Social Security and Medicare.

Mr. GARAMENDI. How about the view from Colorado?

Mr. PERLMUTTER. I thank my friend from California.

I would say the view from Colorado is, there's a lot of pushing and pulling back here, and I would call upon my moderate friends in the Republican Party, if there are any anymore, to stop this tomfoolery.

No longer can we put the full faith and credit of the United States at risk. I mean, we do have a duty to preserve and protect our Constitution, and the full faith and credit of this country is referred to at least three times in the article about the Congress in the "full faith and credit" section of the Constitution and then in the 14th Amendment. We pay our debts. We pay our bills. So I'd just say that the President has proposed a solid, long-term fiscal plan. It took us 10 years to get into this financial mess from the time we had a surplus under Bill Clinton, and it will take us several years to right ourselves, but we can do it. This is America.

Then as we're doing that, we really do have to focus on making sure that people who play by the rules, who are

responsible and hardworking, have a shot at getting advanced in this world. The best way to do that is through a good job and through making things in America.

For Democrats, really our formula is to innovate, educate, rebuild this economy, and rebuild our infrastructure. That will make this country strong, and it will make Colorado strong. We love our clean energy industry. That's a good place to start.

Mr. GARAMENDI. And from Texas, SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I thank the gentleman.

First of all, thank you for allowing us to really talk about how great America is—I agree with you—and we are not broke. Chairman Bernanke said fast, undefined cuts will hamper the economy, and he is nonpartisan as Chairman of the Federal Reserve.

So what do we need to do?

We need to look at our history. Twenty million jobs were created under the Democratic Presidency of William Jefferson Clinton—and then this President, with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that we supported, 3 million jobs. We know how to do this.

What I would say to my friends is that we have the responsibility to be not “any” party, but Democrats are here to be for the American people, and this weekend, Democrats will be the ones standing in the gap for the American people. I am proud of that.

My last point is, there is no shame in taking care of the vulnerable. The last thing we want to do as we leave this place in these next couple of days with the debt ceiling in place, as it should be, is to leave behind us seniors who may be thrown out of nursing homes because we didn't do what was right. So I say we can do it, and we can do the debt ceiling in the way that creates jobs and protects the American people.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Thank you.

I'll do a wrap here, and we'll be finished for this evening.

Unfortunately, the work has not yet been completed. We do need to lift the debt ceiling. We can, and it will be done one way or the other. The President has the ultimate authority under the 14th Amendment of the Constitution to simply order the Treasury to pay the bills.

All that has gone on here today will devastate the United States. It will devastate it. We've talked about that part of this is the requirement that no more debt ceilings will be lifted until there is a constitutional amendment that requires a two-thirds, or a 60 percent, vote to do anything. That is guaranteed gridlock. The only thing that could take place on a majority vote would be cuts. Think about that, America. In order to raise taxes, in order to end the tax breaks given to the oil companies or the rich barons on

Wall Street, it takes a two-thirds vote. But to cut Medicare?—a majority vote. We're not going to let that happen.

There is one place that the Democratic Party is going to stand, and that is: Keep your hands off Social Security and Medicare. No way. Nohow. I don't care about all of this talk that goes on here. The bottom line is: That is a fundamental building block foundation of this Nation. It brought every senior out of poverty.

□ 1950

There's not a family in America that doesn't depend upon Social Security and Medicare for their parents. Now, if you want that cut, you stay there with what the Republicans are talking about because there's no way that you could possibly carry out what they're proposing unless you go after Medicare and Social Security and Medicaid.

We will not let it happen. This is where we stand. It's not a line in the sand. It is etched into the very heart of the Democratic Party.

With that, I thank my colleagues for joining me this evening, and I yield back the balance of my time.

--- HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. WEST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon tomorrow, and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 1 p.m. on Sunday, July 31, 2011.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

--- THE TRUTH ABOUT THE DEBT CEILING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEST) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WEST. Mr. Speaker, free markets, free enterprise, innovation, and entrepreneurship are the foundation for economic growth and job creation in America.

For the past 4 years, Democrats in Washington have enacted policies that undermine these basic concepts which have historically placed America at the forefront of the global marketplace. As a result, most Americans know someone who has recently lost a job, and small businesses and entrepreneurs lack the confidence needed to invest in our economy. Not since the Great Depression has our Nation's unemployment rate been this high for this long.

Enough is enough. More taxation, regulation, and litigation will not create more jobs. Government takeovers

of the economy have failed while the size and scope of the Federal Government has exploded. Washington has tied the hands of small business owners and job creators with onerous regulations and backward fiscal policies that have stalled the economy, slowed innovation, and destroyed jobs.

We need commonsense growth policies to give small businesses and entrepreneurs renewed confidence in our economy and to remove Washington as the roadblock to job creation.

America is at a crossroads, and House Republicans are committed to taking every possible step to spur private sector job creation and get our economy back on track so that Americans can do what they do best: create, innovate, and lead.

Tonight, my colleague and I will convey the frustrations of small business owners and those who have received the bad end of the stick of horrible policies created by the Obama administration.

At this time, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona, my friend and colleague, Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. I thank the gentleman from Florida.

One of my reasons for asking you for a little bit of your time this evening is one of these days I'm supposed to come here to the floor, and we're putting together an actual presentation of the Medicare actuary report to walk people through, both our citizens and our fellow Members here, the reality of the numbers. But there was so much rhetoric on the floor today, and even within the last couple of hours, that it became one of those “it was time to come back here to the floor.”

These are some slides that we used about a week ago. And it was my great frustration, because how do you manage your government? How do you engage in this political process when we're operating under mathematical folklore? We're living in a fantasy land when you see Members walk up to that microphone, look the public in the eye through that camera and say, If we would just get rid of those incentives to buy corporate jets, if we would just tax Big Oil, if we would just tax those millionaires and billionaires.

So one more time, we're going to actually walk through a little bit of mathematical reality so we might be able to start having an argument, a debate, a discussion that has some basis in fact instead of basis in, I'm going to say whatever is necessary from this microphone to get reelected. And it breaks my heart, but in my 7 months here, I think that happens an awful darn lot.

A quick sample of where we are at today. That's a dollar bill. Do you see this first part? That's 42 percent. So 42 pennies of every dollar this Federal Government is spending today is borrowed. That's why this debate that

we're going through right now is so much more than just the debt ceiling and how much more our borrowing capacity is. It is the fact we're buried in debt and we are crashing, being crushed under that weight.

If you go and read the S&P letters and the Moody's letters, it's so much more than, Raise the debt ceiling or you might get downgraded. It is, You are going to get downgraded unless.

There is a credible plan to demonstrate how you intend to bend this debt curve. That's the real debate around here. That's what you are seeing the Republicans passionately try to discuss with the American people and with our brothers and sisters from the other side that this was so much more than raising the debt ceiling. It was a discussion about saving this Republic.

So if you have a Republic, this government borrows 42 pennies out of every dollar we spend. How long do you think that's going to last?

So what sort of rhetorical things do we get to hear around here? Well, let's actually, now, do a little analysis on a couple of them.

How many of you in the last 24 hours, both either in the gallery or here on the floor with me or my good friend Mr. WEST, have heard Members walk up to microphones, shake their hands and say, No more subsidies for those corporate jets?

Okay. Maybe they're right. But let's actually do the math.

We borrow about \$4.7 billion every single day. And that whole piece of rhetoric, which I know has been tested through polling and focus groups so it is all about politics and campaigning and not the truth to the American people, is 15 seconds of that borrowing every day.

So one more time. We borrow \$4.7 billion every single day, and the rhetoric you hear about the depreciation on the corporate jets, we're going to need to take that away, even if it were something sensible, it's 15 seconds a day. So you nod your head and say, All right. What if we got rid of it? Great. But it's 15 seconds a day.

So let's go on to the next bit of rhetoric we were hearing today.

Big Oil, we need to take away those subsidies, those incentives to go out and find more oil. Well, let's do this. What if the math were we're going to take away those subsidies from all oil, all fossil fuels, not just Big Oil. Well, we borrow \$4.7 billion a day. It's \$2.44 billion a year. Well, that equates to a good 2.2 minutes of borrowing a day.

So let's see. So far the two prime bits of rhetoric we heard here today equal 15 seconds, 2.2 minutes of borrowing, and this is the type of solution we keep getting from the left. And the reason we're getting those types of solutions is because it's tested through polling. It's easy for the public to understand, even though it's horribly untruthful to

the public that's actually trying to get their heads around the scale of this problem.

So let's actually go on to one of the other ones we heard today.

How about those millionaires and those billionaires? You know, those Bush tax extensions. All right. But let's first be honest. They're the Bush tax extensions—they're actually the Bush-Obama tax extensions, because remember President Obama did sign the extension in December.

If you were to take away those tax extensions for every American, not just those millionaires and billionaires, what does it buy you? Remember, once again, we're borrowing \$4.7 billion a day. It would buy you a good 28 minutes of borrowing.

So this rhetoric we hear from the President and around here, I know it may politically be wonderful and it's politically easy to digest, but mathematically, it just isn't the truth, and it doesn't lead you to a solution.

Because think of this one more time. The depreciation on jets, the incentives to find fossil fuels, ending the Bush-Obama tax cut extensions, and assuming—which we did in our math—that every single dime came in, that you didn't slow the economy down, you didn't raise unemployment, we used a magical fantasy number that every dime came back in and was applied straight to the deficit and to the debt, all three of the rhetorical points we heard over and over and over today add up to a half-hour of borrowing.

□ 2000

I turn to my brothers and sisters on the left one more time—and this is starting to become a habit here—what would you like to do with the other 23.5 hours?

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members not to refer to occupants of the gallery.

Mr. WEST. Mr. Speaker, we must empower small business owners and reduce regulatory burdens. Job creators are being bogged down by burdensome regulation from Washington that prevents job creation and hinders economic growth. These regulations are particularly damaging for the real job creators in the country, our small business owners. We must remove onerous Federal regulations that are redundant, harmful to small businesses, and impede private-sector investment in job creation.

The Small Business Administration has reported that government regulations are estimated to cost our economy over \$1.75 trillion a year. To make matters worse, in 2009, the administration considered adding another 184 regulations that are estimated to cost the economy in excess of \$100 million each and are likely to cause more Americans to lose jobs.

At this time, I yield to my friend and colleague from Colorado.

Mr. TIPTON. Thank you, Congressman WEST.

Tonight we're talking about small business in America, the number one job creator in America. I'm a small businessman. I'm not a career politician. It seems to me that once you come to this place and you're surrounded by pillars of marble, vast expanses of grass, and glorious monuments, that it seems to kind of cloud your vision from what's really going on back at home. We're seeing businesses right now—they aren't the megacorporations that are often talked about by our colleagues; they are small businesses trying to provide jobs, trying to be able to build a future.

I live in western Colorado. My district encompasses a good portion of the entire State of Colorado, the eighth-largest congressional district in the United States, 54,000 square miles. The number one employer there, small business. Traveling through that district, I found it remarkable. As I have stopped into those small businesses, visited with the owners, sole proprietorships, Sub S corporations, LLCs, people just trying to make a living, as I visited in those communities with county commissioners, with city council members, one message comes through loud and clear: Government is overregulating America. It is hurting our ability to truly be able to get Americans back to work.

Congressman WEST just mentioned a very important figure. In this country, we are paying \$1.75 trillion a year in terms of regulatory cost. That is impeding America's ability to be able to get back to work. Now some of our friends always want to take that to the extreme, saying that we want to eliminate all regulations. It's not the case.

When we go back to the beginning of the 20th century, when we were starting to build cars in this country, in New York City, there were two automobiles, two cars. They ran into each other. So stoplights are not a bad idea. But the government has overreached. It is hurting small business and our opportunity to truly be able to grow America.

Let me tell you a story about a constituent of mine. He started out with nothing. He and his wife invested and they scraped together dollars and worked hard. And over the course of the years, they've been able to build a small car dealership in western Colorado. He called me up the last few days, and he said, Washington simply doesn't get it. They seem to believe that they need money more than we do here at home. And that brings us back to a lot of the conversations which we have been having over these last few days in terms of the debt and the deficit in this country. We currently have a debt in this Nation of \$14.3 trillion. Come the

end of September, we're going to be adding on another \$1.4 trillion on top of that national debt, a crushing burden on the promise of America.

His granddaughter, she isn't old enough really to know how much she owes. But her portion of that national debt is now well in excess of \$45,000. If our grandchildren are going to inherit the promise of America, we have to restrain, we have to slow down, we have to reduce the spending in Washington, D.C. We simply can't afford it. The numbers are too high. Our colleagues will tell us that taxes are the answer. They like to call it a balanced approach. We need more of your money because Washington needs it more. They failed to point out that through the bills that they have passed through this Chamber—Congressman WEST and I, we weren't here. We didn't help create the problem, but we are certainly here to try to help solve the problem.

They increased the debt on the backs of the American people when they passed ObamaCare, the government-run health care. I'm concerned about that because it is hurting jobs in America. That small businessman who started that business from nothing and was able to grow that car dealership is afraid to hire because he doesn't know what the costs are going to be from the government-run health care. Well, we've got a pretty good idea—at least the upfront costs. It's costing us better than \$1 trillion. Our senior citizens, indeed, are worried about that. Through the actions of our counterparts, we saw that \$562 billion was cut out of Medicare to be able to fund that program. And starting in January this coming year, the President will appoint his 15-member commission to start rationing health care for senior citizens. We're fighting to stop that.

Connectivity which we see in our economy. Between government regulations, excessive taxation, and having too many people in Washington who have never gotten dirt under their fingernails, they've never met a payroll, they've never created a job, they've never worked in the private sector. That's the disconnect between here and at home. We have people right now that are gathering around their kitchen tables. They are looking at the resources that they have coming in and know that they can't spend more than they take in. Tomorrow morning those small businesses are going to unlock the doors. They know that they have to spend within the limitations of the income that they have.

Forty-nine of our States live under a balanced budget requirement, just like the men and women who live in the communities of those States. Isn't it about time, isn't it about time that Washington applied the same principles that they expect out of every American, every American family, to apply to Washington, D.C.? Some will

say "no." But that's a challenge—more importantly, that is the opportunity that we truly face right now in this country. We have an opportunity to change the course of American history for the better, to embrace, once again, the values that truly made this country the freest, the richest, and the greatest nation on the face of the Earth, and that the Earth will truly ever see. American entrepreneurship, American know-how, but we have to have the freedom, the resources, and the opportunity to do that. The government is no longer the steppingstone to success in this country but has, indeed, become a stumbling block.

□ 2010

This is our chance. This is our opportunity. We have many votes here, had a vote today.

This is not the end of the debate, but it is the beginning of a solution. If we embrace that opportunity, that special and unique thing that it is to truly be an American, American exceptionalism, and allow Americans to do what they do best, to innovate, to create and to build, we will be able to get this country back on the right course, but it will not come as long as we continue to build government, protect programs, and forget about the people who sent us to Washington.

Let's stand up once again for the American people, for the small business people who truly make America work and are the number one job creators in our country.

Mr. WEST. I thank my colleague from Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, we know that not all regulations are bad, but so many of them are obstacles to job creation. A recent study by the Heritage Foundation found that an unprecedented 43 major regulations were imposed in fiscal year 2010 with a total economic cost of \$26.5 billion, the highest total since at least 1981.

The cost of regulations is a big obstacle for American job creators. But when you think about regulations, here are examples of some of the ones that can make you laugh.

The Department of Energy requires microwave makers to measure the amount of energy their products use in the "off" position.

The Environmental Protection Agency wants stricter regulations on the amount of dust on American farms.

The Department of the Interior wants to impose a fee on Christmas tree sales to promote Christmas tree sales.

When you think about how government regulations destroy American jobs, these are the statistics that will make you cry. According to a Louisiana State University professor, the Department of the Interior's de facto moratorium of exploration in the Gulf of Mexico could cost 36,137 jobs. In ad-

dition, more than 80,000 jobs could be lost due to the EPA regulations targeting the cement industry; and, finally, EPA greenhouse gas regulations could cost \$1.4 million jobs.

The American people placed an upper limit on the damage that Washington Democrats could inflict on the economy by firing House Democrats in the last election.

In January, we began to implement the Pledge to America, which is focused on providing an environment for economic growth and job creation. We voted to repeal the government takeover of health care, roll back costly Obama administration regulations, cut job-destroying spending and change the culture of Washington, D.C., from one which talks about how much more they can spend, to one which now talks about how much we can cut in spending.

The United States Congress in 2009 passed the President's almost \$800 billion stimulus package, which we now have convincing proof it did nothing to reduce unemployment. Today the House of Representatives has sent nine real-life job creating bills to the U.S. Senate, yet those bills continue to sit, waiting to be voted on, similar to the Cut, Cap, and Balance that we sent over that the Senate majority leader tabled.

I have introduced my own piece of legislation to do my part to try to reduce unemployment, The Small Business Encouragement Act, H.R. 1663.

The President continues with an economic policy based on job-killing overregulation, the specter of increased taxes and the implementation of ObamaCare. How many more months are we going to see this stagnant job growth? We are now at 29 months of unemployment in the United States of America being at or above 9 percent.

The President has to realize his policies have failed. They have failed the American people, and it is time to go in a different direction. The solution lies in economic taxation and regulatory policies which incentivize long-term private sector growth. We must restore confidence, provide access to capital which will create economic certainty. Now is not the time for more rhetoric on spending, borrowing, and raising taxes. Our country is in a crisis, and time is running out.

We must remember that it is those same mom and pop stores on Main Street back in our respective districts that create the jobs for our teenagers during these summer months. It is the local hair salon back home that my wife and my two daughters visit often that would be affected by the uncertainty that persists throughout this Nation.

Economic uncertainty created by our massive Federal debt, burdensome regulatory environment on small businesses, and uncertain tax policy for

2012 is slowing commerce; and we must turn the corner. Today's somber GDP announcement in the last quarter of 1.3 percent growth and the previous quarter, 0.5 percent growth, is further proof that President Obama's administration's economic strategy is not working.

Unemployment still remains above 9 percent, at 9.2 percent nationally; in the inner city and our black communities is at 16.2 percent; and, unfortunately, for our veterans, of which I am one, that unemployment rate is 13 percent.

We just talked about our quarterly GDP growth. That is unacceptable for the most powerful economy in the world. Providing certainty for America's small businesses should be the number one priority for Washington, considering they are the backbone of our Nation's workforce and the engine of our economy.

In May, House Republicans put forth a plan for America's job creators. That includes commonsense policies to remove uncertainty by reducing regulatory burdens, lowering business tax rates to 25 percent, spurring exports by quickly passing the pending free trade agreements, and introducing a budget that gets our Nation's fiscal house in order. The sooner we enact policies like these into law, the sooner our small businesses will be able to lead us out of this economic downturn.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2020

SENATE SHENANIGANS ON DEBT LIMIT BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. It's been quite an eventful day here on the House floor, a lot of scurrying, a lot of things going on in committee rooms, different meeting rooms around the Capitol today. And actually, last night, when I finished talking and meeting with folks around midnight or so, it appeared that Republicans would start today with basically not much change to the bill we had yesterday.

But we had a conference this morning, the Republican Members of Congress, and added to the Boehner bill was the requirement that before the President would get the full tranche of the debt ceiling being lifted there had to be a balanced budget amendment passed from the House—with two-thirds vote, of course—and from the Senate with two-thirds vote and be sent to the States by the Archivist of the Capitol for their ratification.

Now, it's a shame that a balanced budget amendment is needed, but if

there could have been a piece of legislation that were prepared and passed that were tight enough to require always that a balanced approach be taken—no more money spent than money coming in—then we wouldn't have had to worry about a balanced budget amendment. But what we've seen over the last 100 years or so in this country has been runaway spending. And I think of the line Jim Carey had in one of his movies, "Somebody stop me," and Congress needed somebody to stop Congress. But the only way to do that, constitutionally and legally, was to change the Constitution so that Congress could be stopped from spending more money than it took in.

I was going to vote "no" on the Boehner bill as of yesterday, as of last night, but this morning, I found out that the Speaker, as he said he would, had listened to the Conference and put back in the balanced budget amendment requirement. It already had a requirement in there that there would be a vote, but we knew that the Senate had already voted 51 votes to table the balanced budget amendment. They didn't even want to debate it. And now tonight, as I speak, the Senate has wasted no time, with the Majority Leader of the Senate, a Democratic Party leader—I would bet that he has not bothered to read the bill, that he has not bothered to see what's there, and perhaps Majority Leader REID does not know that 70 percent or so of all American adults would like to see a balanced budget amendment passed.

Tonight, again, he is working against the will of the American people, just like he and then-Speaker PELOSI did in pushing for ObamaCare to be passed though a majority of Americans did not want that kind of government intrusion into their lives. Well, Democrats still control the Senate, so once again they're working their private will against the will of the American people.

So as I speak, I don't know what the tally is. It was being taken as I walked onto the floor. But I would imagine that Leader REID would not have brought the Boehner bill, with the requirement of having a balanced budget amendment passed by two-thirds, to the floor of the Senate unless he knew, once again, he had the 51 Democratic Senators who were willing to vote to table the bill that has required so much sweat—I don't know that there were any tears, but there was a lot of sweat and a lot of frustration. I know I've had plenty, anger at times, frustration. But we came together and got the bill done. And I ended up being a "yes" for a number of reasons, but the most important was that the balanced budget amendment was going to be required to pass two-thirds of the House and Senate before the President got the debt ceiling increase that he so desperately wants.

To table that—it's bad enough that the Senate all this time has been trashing things that we've been fighting for and getting accomplished in the House, but to table it? You're not even going to let Republicans who want to speak on this issue come to the floor of the Senate and have a fair debate simply because one party controls the majority? You want to keep the other side from coming to the Senate floor and having a fair debate over a balanced budget amendment. It is just staggering to think that, once again, just like when ObamaCare was crammed down the throats of Americans, not with any sugar, it was a sour piece of medicine, and now, not even to allow debate over a balanced budget amendment to be brought to the Senate floor, I don't think the Founders intended that. I don't think the Founders intended that when 70 percent or so of Americans felt something was critical for the ongoing and good of the country, that you would have one group in either House who would prohibit even discussing, debating a bill, using the rules and 51 Senators to prevent debate. I mean, that's one of the things that helped make this country great.

This was the one place you used to be able to say whatever you wanted. It has been credited to different people, "I disagree with what you say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it," and now it appears the Senate is operating under the rule, "I disagree with what you say, so I am going to use procedural maneuvers and prevent you from saying what you want to say."

And I'll say this about Speaker JOHN BOEHNER, too. He knows that I have not been happy with many of the things that have gone on, but unlike the Majority Leader in the Senate, he has made no effort to prevent me from coming to the House floor and speaking my mind, such as it is, here on this floor. We're supposed to have freedom of speech, but the Senate will not allow the working of the people's will on the Senate floor.

Now, I've heard some people say, Mr. Speaker, that the fact is that by our passing this bill today in the House that we have provided a vehicle for the Senate to use to completely strip out and put some contorted piece of legislation on and send back down here. Well, the fact is that the Senate did not need this bill today to have a vehicle to send a contorted piece of legislation back to us. Now, the Constitution makes clear, anything that produces revenue has to originate in the House. That's the Constitution. But it is also important for people to understand, Mr. Speaker, the lengths to which the rules have been twisted—and I think misused—in order to make something happen that never should have.

A good example is this monstrosity some call ObamaCare. It's got different names, but the original name of this

bill was H.R. 3590, and it calls it: the Bill from the House of Representatives.

So this was a Senate bill—ObamaCare was a Senate bill, started in the Senate, derived in the Senate. Well, then, since the Democrats raised revenue in ObamaCare, created new taxes, introduced taxes, well, that's a revenue-generating bill, then how in the world could the Senate originate the bill since it generated revenue, because the Constitution makes very clear they can't do that.

□ 2030

Well, what the Senate did was take H.R. 3590 entitled, "an act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first time home buyer's credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes." That's ObamaCare.

And I would humbly submit that any bill that starts as a lie, because this bill was a lie, a bill that starts as a lie can't be a very good bill in the end.

We know that any building that has a proper foundation can weather a lot of storms. This bill has a lie for a foundation. The ObamaCare bill, H.R. 3590, "an act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first time home buyer's credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces." And they had to do double page, and this paper is very, very thin so they could get all of this stuff in here.

But it is interesting. You know, the bill started as a bill to help veterans and our military. But this bill, to help veterans and our military, those who are putting their lives at risk for our liberty, for our benefit, that was stripped out and this ObamaCare bill begins with page 1, line 1 of the bill to help our veterans and military, and strikes every single word, deleting every single word in the bill to help veterans and our military, and substitutes therefore ObamaCare.

That bill started as a lie. They took a bill that had nothing to do with health care, and they stripped every word that would help our military and made it ObamaCare. That is phenomenal, just incredible.

So the Senate didn't need us to pass a bill today for them to do the same thing, to take some well-intentioned bill, some bill that did some great things for America, deleting beginning on line 1, page 1, and substituting therefore whatever contorted mess that the Senate is going to send down here.

But the thing is, although some of the Senate leadership has been taking their shots in the media at the House, they have not passed anything. They have fought now today makes twice as the Nation moves toward not having enough money while the House has been embroiled in serious debate and discussions trying to put together a

bill. And we did that, and it had 234 votes. And the Senate immediately tabled it.

The truth is, I thought we should wait for the Senate to do anything. And I disagreed with the Speaker's strategy. The Speaker's strategy was if they won't take that, then let's try again. We will compromise on the things that we want and send a bill that is clearly a compromise of the things that we want, so surely the Senate will take it up and surely they will pass it.

We heard from Majority Leader REID that he was going to make sure that it was dead on arrival, but those kinds of things have been threatened before, too. We know that the President has drawn many lines in the sand that have kept moving. And we have heard the President talk about his bill. I can recall sitting back there during the September speech by the President in here on health care in which he kept talking about his bill, my bill, this bill, and don't misrepresent my bill or I'll call you out. And he was the first one to use the lie word here on the House floor talking about what he believed to be misrepresentations of his bills.

I asked the HHS Secretary a couple of weeks after that, the President keeps talking about my bill, this bill, where can I get a copy of the President's bill? And Secretary Sebelius said: I think he was talking about a set of principles.

So I was right. The President talked about this bill, my bill, this bill, my bill, but he had no bill. People talk about how beautiful his clothes were, but the fact was the emperor was naked. There was no bill. There was no bill then; and now as the President talks about his bill, his ideas, there is no bill. As HARRY REID talks about his bill, there is no bill. Maybe they will finally get around to passing something. There is something filed in the Senate, and as I understand it, Chairman DREIER has filed it down here so that we can take it up. We will see what happens.

But the phenomenal thing is how badly off track this Congress has gotten when one of the Houses, in this case the Senate, will not even allow debate over something that the vast majority of Americans want. Forget Democrat, forget Republican, forget red, forget blue. Let's get responsible.

Mr. Speaker, there is \$160 billion in deficit spending. My second year here, 2006, was not responsible; and Democrats won the majority as the result because they promised we will eliminate that \$160 billion deficit spending. Man, oh, man, were they right. They eliminated \$160 billion in deficit spending. And now this year as a result of their actions, the last four, we will have \$1.6 trillion in spending deficit this year. Bringing in around \$2.2 trillion.

We find out today the numbers from the first quarter of this year, which was very little growth at all in our economy which people got depressed about when the original numbers came out, was about a third of what they originally thought it was. Things aren't looking good. This is President Obama; it's his economy. With the changes that Speaker PELOSI and Majority Leader REID made in the first 2 years of this President's tenure, they set us on a track that is leading to a major crash.

Now, we have already heard in recent days that the August 2 deadline that the President set, just like I said some weeks back, that was not a particularly special day. It did happen to be the day before the President's big birthday celebration, but otherwise it was not a particularly significant day. I know that the group that Tom Daschle helped start, the Bipartisan Policy Center, whatever it is, that they were echoing whatever the President said, that August 2 was going to be the day.

And they lumped in Social Security with everything else. The law is very clear, Social Security gets paid. It is on automatic pilot. Just like in 1985 and just like in 1996, when there was a shortfall 1 month, the Treasury Secretary is supposed to sell off some of the Treasury notes. There is \$2.6 trillion in Treasury notes, sell off enough to pay the benefits and expenses of Social Security. So there is no risk of that failing.

We also know there are many times more than enough money to pay our debts as they come due in August; and so we have been told, well, actually it is not August 2. Maybe it is like a couple of weeks or a couple of weeks beyond that. We are not sure, but sometime in the future. Well, in the House it has been taken seriously even though August 2 was not particularly a magic date. We have passed two bills, and the Senate has passed zero. That's irresponsible. Absolutely irresponsible. That invokes no confidence that this government will ever be able to do what it needs to.

So I know, I have gotten emails, calls, and letters. Members of Congress all over the floor on both sides of the aisle have gotten calls and letters and emails. The majority in my office have encouraged me to stand firm. It is great to represent a district that understands not to cave in to fear-mongering.

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It has been rough in recent days because you never like to be chided by friends who don't like the position you're taking on a bill. But I'm ever so grateful that the bill was made eminently better this morning by adding the requirement that the Balanced Budget Act pass. And not only that,

talking through the day, I do appreciate Speaker BOEHNER face-to-face, eye-to-eye. He has been very gracious all week. It's others that have made it kind of tough at times. He realized something needed to be done. He wants to do something. So, in talking with him and also talking with Chairman PAUL RYAN, the chairman of the Budget Committee, I'm also satisfied that we've got a number of wonderful things coming.

We can perhaps figure at some point the Senate will get concerned about going against the will of the majority of the Senate. At some point they're going to realize: We should not keep going against 70 percent of the American public because a lot of us have got elections next year. So, gee, maybe we better do something that the majority of Americans want.

Well, one of the things that I heard Rush Limbaugh talking about in the nineties when Congress was not even a blip on my radar was the zero baseline budget. And it didn't make any sense to me as he explained it. I thought, that's strange. As it was explained, we have automatic increases in every agency's budget in the Federal Government. Every agency has automatic increases every year. Well, citizens don't get automatic COLAs but their agencies sure get an automatic increase every year. All those budgets, they get automatic increases. Why? We ought to have a zero baseline budget every year so nobody gets an automatic increase in the government agencies. If they want an increase, they ought to have to come in and prove it. And we can save trillions of dollars if we just required every budget in the Federal Government to start out and prove what they need for the year. A zero baseline budget. No automatic increases.

Well, when I got to Congress and was sworn in in January of 2005 and started looking at the things that would make America stronger, a zero baseline budget made sense. During that Congress I filed a bill to require a zero baseline budget. No automatic increases every year. And then back in those days it didn't make sense the Republicans wouldn't bring that to the floor because any time you slowed the automatic increase as a Congress, there were people that called you a draconian fool, you're making draconian cuts, when you weren't making cuts, you were just slowing the rate of growth. It wasn't a cut. The only way to fix that was just say: No automatic increases.

And I pushed for that in my first Congress in 2005 and 2006, and Republicans were in the majority. And our leadership at that time, particularly in 2006, when I talked with some of our leadership then, and I was pushing it, and I was told we just can't do that. We should have. We didn't. We should have

had major tax reform. Well, now is the time. This is a great time to push for a flat tax or a simplified tax that's fair, simpler, and so that everybody has their fair share.

I don't want a mega-rich person paying a 10 or 12 percent income tax. Everybody ought to have some interest financially in what happens here—and not because they make lots of money and don't put anything in. People need to have a vested interest in this Congress by paying income tax in. And the lowest rate is down, I believe, around 15 percent. It may be 5 percent. I've forgotten now. But the top rate has been 39 percent. Some people want it to go higher. And even though the top rate is 39 percent, there are some mega-rich that don't pay 39. Well, why not have a tax that's a fair tax cut across the middle that will be a flat tax. Everybody pays the same amount of tax. That ought to be fair. Everybody ought to have the same thing.

Art Laffer, a great economist that helped revive the dismal economy coming out of the Carter administration, was just saying this week—I agreed with what he said. I have been talking about this, and I appreciate that man's opinion so much. He said we ought to have a flat tax. And he said, I believe you could get there and have the same amount of revenue if you were to have a 12, 13 percent flat tax, and even allow for mortgage interest deduction and to allow for deductions to charitable contributions. That was the main part of the tax. There was another aspect. But, boy, that would be so much more fairer. No mega-rich would get out without paying nothing. GE shouldn't have to pay nothing or, get away with paying nothing just because they're a friend of the administration and get lobbying and all that kind of stuff.

Everybody ought to have to pay something. I'm okay with reducing corporation tax because when you do that, you're reducing the tariff we're putting on our own products. And if you took off the 35 percent tariff we put on every corporate American good produced, there's no telling how many markets around the world would just be begging for American products that would have 35 percent less of a tariff on those goods. We could compete anywhere if we keep the tariff down on our own goods. People talk about putting tariffs on other people's goods. We ought to get it off our own. And then you would see massive amounts of economic boom going on, and people would be hired, and more people would pay the 12, 13 percent income tax. You would have more revenue than ever coming into the American coffers in the Federal Government. That would create jobs. And as people know, the best form of welfare is a job. You feel good about yourself. But it's hard to feel too good about what is going on down there.

As I have said before, down in the Senate, above the door from the Presi-

dent's sitting position, above the left door are the words "Annuity Coeptis." He, God, has smiled on our undertaking. It's part of our Great Seal on the back of every dollar bill. It's hard to believe that God could be smiling on people that will not allow debate on a responsible balanced budget amendment.

In the time I have left, let me just say we've got so many calls, emails, letters, encouragement. And so many of them say, We're praying for you in Washington that you will do the right thing. Some of us happen to believe—and I won't try to push my religious beliefs on others—but some of us happen to believe that as we're told in the Old Testament, the Lord is the source of all wisdom. That there is no wisdom outside of that. Ben Franklin apparently believed that, as he said in 1787, "I have lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth: that God governs in the affairs of men."

Mr. Speaker, Peter Marshall was Senate Chaplain back in the 1940s, and a constituent gave me this book with many of the prayers that he prayed there on the Senate floor. I want to finish, Mr. Speaker, with a prayer prayed by Peter Marshall, U.S. Chaplain for the United States Senate in the 1940s. On the Senate floor, as the Senators are down there. It makes a wonderful prayer.

Peter Marshall prayed:

"We pray to Thee, O Christ, to keep us under the spell of immortality.

"May we never again think and act as if Thou wert dead. Let us more and more come to know Thee as a living Lord who hath promised to them that believe: 'Because I live, ye shall live also.'

"Help us to remember that we are praying to the Conqueror of Death, that we may longer be afraid nor be dismayed by the world's problems and threats, since Thou hast overcome the world.

"In Thy strong name we ask for Thy living presence and Thy victorious power. Amen."

Mr. Speaker, may that be our prayer also tonight.

I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Saturday, July 30, 2011, at noon.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2650. A letter from the Deputy Director, Food and Community Resources, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Competitive and Noncompetitive Nonformula Federal Assistance Programs — Administrative Provisions for Biomass Research and Development Initiative (0524-AA61) received June 20, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2651. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID: FEMA-2011-0002] received July 14, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2652. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket ID: FEMA-2011-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8187] received July 14, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2653. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID: FEMA-2011-0002] received July 14, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2654. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Prompt Corrective Action; Amended Definition of Low-Risk Assets (RIN: 3133-AD81) received July 11, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2655. A letter from the Assistant Deputy Secretary for Innovation and Improvement, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Promise Neighborhoods Program (RIN: 1855-ZA07) received July 12, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

2656. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Interim Enforcement Policy for Certain Fire Protection Issues [NRC-2008-0486] (RIN: 3150-AG48) received July 14, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2657. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Federal Employees Health Benefits Program: New Premium Rating Method for Most Community Rated Plans (RIN: 3206-AM39) received July 14, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2658. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Marking Meteorological Evaluation Towers [Docket No.: FAA 2010-1326] received July 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2659. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc. Model 205A, 205A-1, 205B, 212, 412, 412CF, and 412EP Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0561; Directorate Identifier 2010-SW-001-AD; Amendment 39-16715; AD 2011-12-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 12, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2660. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Model CL-600-2C10 (Regional Jet Series 700, 701, & 702), Model CL-600-2D15 (Regional Jet Series 705), and Model CL-600-2D24 (Regional Jet Series 900) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0159; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-246-AD; Amendment 39-16713; AD 2011-12-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 12, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2661. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Determining the Amount of Taxes Paid for Purposes of the Foreign Tax Credit [TD 9535] (RIN: 1545-BK25) received July 14, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2662. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Update for Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates [Notice 2011-59] July 14, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2663. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Suspension of Reporting Requirements Under Sections 6038D and 1298(f) [Notice 2011-55] received July 14, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2664. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Notice and Request for Comments Regarding the Community Health Needs Assessment Requirements for Tax-exempt Hospitals [Notice 2011-52] received July 14, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SMITH of Texas: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 2076. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify the statutory authority for the longstanding practice of the Department of Justice of providing investigatory assistance on request of State and local authorities with respect to certain serious violent crimes, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 112-186). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. DREIER: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 383. Resolution providing for further consideration of the bill (S. 627) to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays (Rept. 112-187). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SMITH of Texas: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 1002. A bill to restrict any State or local jurisdiction from imposing a new discriminatory tax on cell phone services, providers, or property; with an amendment (Rept. 112-188). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of Texas: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 1059. A bill to protect the safety of judges by extending the authority of the Judicial Conference to redact sensitive information contained in their financial disclo-

sure reports, and for other purposes (Rept. 112-189). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CULBERSON (for himself, Mr. POE of Texas, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 2694. A bill to firewall the Medicare Trusts Funds by restoring to those Trust Funds funds transferred by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS (for herself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. SESSIONS):

H.R. 2695. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to expand and intensify programs of the National Institutes of Health with respect to translational research and related activities concerning Down syndrome, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS (for herself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. SESSIONS):

H.R. 2696. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to expand and intensify programs of the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with respect to translational research and related activities concerning Down syndrome, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. JENKINS (for herself, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. BRADY of Texas, and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 2697. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain footwear, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 2698. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to broaden the special rules for certain governmental plans under section 105(j) to include plans established by political subdivisions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. POE of Texas, and Ms. BUEKLE):

H.R. 2699. A bill to establish policies and procedures in the Peace Corps to provide for the safety and security of volunteers from rape and sexual assault, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. DOYLE):

H.R. 2700. A bill to establish a health and education grant program related to autism spectrum disorders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. SHULER):

H.R. 2701. A bill to promote simplification and fairness in the administration and collection of sales and use taxes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GIBSON:

H.R. 2702. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify the scope of the provision commonly referred to as the "Wire

Act", and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (for himself and Mr. ROONEY):

H.R. 2703. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that members of the uniformed services are entitled to refractive eye surgery; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. LEE of California:

H.R. 2704. A bill to reduce the spread of sexually transmitted infections in correctional facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. LOWEY (for herself and Mr. REICHERT):

H.R. 2705. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance for developing countries to promote quality basic education and to establish the achievement of quality universal basic education in all developing countries as an objective of United States foreign assistance policy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida (for himself, Mr. ROSS of Arkansas, Mr. SHULER, Mr. LATTA, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. BOREN, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. BONNER):

H.R. 2706. A bill to prohibit the sale of billfish; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. NUNES:

H.R. 2707. A bill to establish trade negotiating objectives of the United States with respect to the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures to agricultural products to facilitate trade in agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 2708. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the limitation on the imposition of employment taxes on wages in excess of the contribution and benefit base; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 2709. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the payroll tax relief under the HIRE Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 2710. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal certain tax cuts extended for high income individuals; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 2711. A bill to provide relief payments for non-COLA years to recipients of social security, supplemental security income, railroad retirement benefits, and veterans disability compensation or pension benefits; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are sub-

mitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CULBERSON:

H.R. 2694.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS:

H.R. 2695.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, clause 3 to regulate Commerce among the several States.

By Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS:

H.R. 2696.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, clause 3 to regulate Commerce among the several States.

By Ms. JENKINS:

H.R. 2697.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 2698.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, section 3, clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States)."

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H.R. 2699.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One, Section Eight

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 2700.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill is based is Congress's power under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the Constitution.

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 2701.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 3.

By Mr. GIBSON:

H.R. 2702.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.R. 2703.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 16

The Congress shall have Power To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers,

and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress.

By Ms. LEE of California:

H.R. 2704.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 2705.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 2706.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. NUNES:

H.R. 2707.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 2708.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1.

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 2709.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 2710.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 2711.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1.

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 10: Mr. FINCHER.

H.R. 23: Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. COSTA, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. NUGENT, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H.R. 25: Mr. BRADY of Texas.

H.R. 58: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan and Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.

H.R. 110: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H.R. 190: Ms. DELAURO.
 H.R. 191: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
 H.R. 303: Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 361: Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
 H.R. 363: Ms. KAPTUR.
 H.R. 399: Mr. QUIGLEY.
 H.R. 420: Mr. GIBSON, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.
 H.R. 436: Mr. WEBSTER.
 H.R. 452: Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. WEST, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mrs. SCHMIDT, and Mr. GIBSON.
 H.R. 456: Mr. PASCRELL.
 H.R. 458: Ms. BASS of California and Mr. ELLISON.
 H.R. 459: Mr. ROSKAM.
 H.R. 469: Mr. PAYNE.
 H.R. 493: Mr. COURTNEY and Mr. FORBES.
 H.R. 539: Mr. KILDEE.
 H.R. 652: Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 667: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
 H.R. 674: Mr. FORBES.
 H.R. 675: Mr. HIMES.
 H.R. 718: Mr. LANCE, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. ROHRBACHER, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
 H.R. 719: Mr. SHIMKUS.
 H.R. 721: Mr. SHIMKUS.
 H.R. 735: Mr. RIGELL.
 H.R. 751: Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, and Mr. CLEAVER.
 H.R. 763: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
 H.R. 805: Mr. BOREN.
 H.R. 860: Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. LONG, and Mr. PETRI.
 H.R. 894: Mr. HONDA.
 H.R. 912: Mr. MICHAUD.
 H.R. 942: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
 H.R. 972: Mr. RIGELL.
 H.R. 1031: Mr. OWENS and Mr. ANDREWS.
 H.R. 1041: Mr. GONZALEZ.
 H.R. 1092: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa and Mr. SCHOCK.
 H.R. 1093: Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. KINGSTON, and Mr. PENCE.
 H.R. 1195: Mr. SIREs.
 H.R. 1219: Mr. SIREs and Ms. SCHWARTZ.
 H.R. 1234: Mr. DICKs.
 H.R. 1236: Mr. CAPUANO.
 H.R. 1244: Mr. CARNAHAN and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
 H.R. 1259: Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. RIGELL, and Ms. HAYWORTH.
 H.R. 1283: Mr. PETERSON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. MARINO.
 H.R. 1293: Mr. POLIS and Ms. WATERS.
 H.R. 1318: Mr. DOGGETT.
 H.R. 1327: Mr. LOEBsACK.
 H.R. 1420: Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois.
 H.R. 1452: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. LANGEVIN.
 H.R. 1463: Mr. MARCHANT.
 H.R. 1533: Mr. RIBBLE.
 H.R. 1543: Ms. CHU.
 H.R. 1546: Mr. BOREN, Mr. BARROW, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
 H.R. 1558: Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. GUTHRIE.
 H.R. 1574: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. HOLT, Mr. KILDEE, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
 H.R. 1639: Mr. CARDOZA.
 H.R. 1648: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. WALZ of Minnesota.
 H.R. 1704: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
 H.R. 1724: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California.
 H.R. 1744: Mr. GIBSON.
 H.R. 1776: Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 1792: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
 H.R. 1802: Mr. CICILLINE and Mr. WELCH.
 H.R. 1821: Ms. PINGREE of Maine and Mr. STARK.
 H.R. 1834: Mr. HANNA.
 H.R. 1848: Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
 H.R. 1880: Mr. CAPUANO.
 H.R. 1897: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
 H.R. 1898: Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. BOREN.
 H.R. 1940: Mr. LANCE, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. RIVERA, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey.
 H.R. 1955: Mr. BARTLETT.
 H.R. 1969: Mr. POMPEO.
 H.R. 1981: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
 H.R. 2005: Mr. KISSELL, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. PAULSEN.
 H.R. 2036: Mr. GUTHRIE.
 H.R. 2054: Mr. PITTS.
 H.R. 2057: Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. LANKFORD.
 H.R. 2059: Mr. JONES.
 H.R. 2071: Mr. MARCHANT.
 H.R. 2107: Mr. BISHOP of New York.
 H.R. 2139: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mrs. MYRICK, Mrs. LUMMIS, and Mr. MCKINLEY.
 H.R. 2195: Ms. BROWN of Florida and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
 H.R. 2204: Mr. MCCOTTER.
 H.R. 2214: Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. BASS of New Hampshire, Mr. CRAVAACK, Mr. FLORES, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. SCALISE, and Mr. HURT.
 H.R. 2256: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. KEATING, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. HOLT, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. ANDREWS, and Mr. HINCHEY.
 H.R. 2257: Mr. HULTGREEN.
 H.R. 2280: Mr. WELCH.
 H.R. 2306: Mr. HONDA.
 H.R. 2312: Mr. PITTS.
 H.R. 2346: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
 H.R. 2360: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
 H.R. 2369: Mr. GERLACH.
 H.R. 2402: Mr. HERGER.
 H.R. 2404: Mr. ELLISON and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
 H.R. 2412: Mr. CARNAHAN and Mr. ISRAEL.
 H.R. 2414: Mr. WESTMORELAND.
 H.R. 2458: Mr. HENSARLING.
 H.R. 2459: Mr. BUCSHON.
 H.R. 2463: Mr. OLSON.
 H.R. 2485: Mr. CRAWFORD.
 H.R. 2495: Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 2500: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
 H.R. 2502: Mr. FILNER.
 H.R. 2514: Ms. HAYWORTH.
 H.R. 2524: Mr. STARK and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
 H.R. 2530: Mr. KIND, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. HOYER, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CAPUANO, and Ms. BORDALLO.
 H.R. 2534: Mr. FORBES and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
 H.R. 2541: Mr. MCINTYRE.
 H.R. 2557: Mr. POSEY.
 H.R. 2579: Mr. FORTENBERRY.
 H.R. 2580: Mr. GIBSON.
 H.R. 2581: Mr. FORBES.
 H.R. 2585: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
 H.R. 2604: Mr. PETERSON.
 H.R. 2644: Mr. PIERLUISI, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. HAHN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. PETERS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. FARR, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. WATERS, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. ROY-

BAL-ALLARD, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DINGELL, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
 H.R. 2651: Mr. BARTLETT.
 H.R. 2653: Mr. CARNAHAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. SUTTON, and Mr. OWENS.
 H.R. 2663: Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. TIERNEY.
 H.R. 2664: Mr. FILNER.
 H.R. 2674: Mr. KING of New York and Mr. SIMPSON.
 H.J. Res. 2: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BERG, Mr. LONG, Mr. GRIMM, Ms. HAYWORTH, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, and Mr. WALSH of Illinois.
 H.J. Res. 28: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FILNER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. WATT, and Ms. BASS of California.
 H.J. Res. 29: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FILNER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. WATT, Ms. BASS of California, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, and Ms. LEE of California.
 H.J. Res. 30: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FILNER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. WATT, Ms. BASS of California, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, and Ms. LEE of California.
 H.J. Res. 31: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FILNER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. WATT, Ms. BASS of California, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.J. Res. 32: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FILNER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. WATT, Ms. BASS of California, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, and Ms. LEE of California.
 H.J. Res. 33: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FILNER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. WATT, Ms. BASS of California, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, and Ms. LEE of California.

H.J. Res. 34: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FILNER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. WATT, Ms. BASS of California, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, and Ms. LEE of California.

H.J. Res. 35: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FILNER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. WATT, Ms. BASS of California, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, and Ms. LEE of California.

H.J. Res. 36: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FILNER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. WATT, Ms. BASS of California, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, and Ms. LEE of California.

H.J. Res. 69: Mrs. LUMMIS.

H. Res. 229: Mr. TURNER.

H. Res. 295: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H. Res. 332: Ms. CHU, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mr. GUTHRIE.

H. Res. 333: Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. JONES, and Mr. CARNAHAN.

H. Res. 342: Ms. BORDALLO.

H. Res. 361: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. EDWARDS, and Ms. RICHARDSON.

H. Res. 379: Mr. MACK, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. TOWNS.

H. Res. 380: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. WEST, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. CAMP, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. MOORE, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. DUFFY.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 451: Mr. CRITZ.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MR. POE OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT NO. 83: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Environmental Protection Agency to finalize an order for the pesticide sulfuryl fluoride under section 408 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 346a) that takes into consideration aggregate exposure to other related substances pursuant to section 408(b)(2)(D)(vi) of such Act (21 U.S.C. 346a(b)(2)(D)(vi)).

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MR. RIGELL

AMENDMENT NO. 84: At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

FUNDING LIMITATION RELATED TO ACQUISITION OF LAND

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to prepare, install, or manage a transit system for access to or within Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge.

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT NO. 85: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of Executive Order No. 12898 of February 11, 1994 ("Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations").

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MR. BURGESS

AMENDMENT NO. 86: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to pay the salary of any officer or employee of the Environmental Protection Agency who is receiving special pay consideration under section 207 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 209).

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MR. KING OF IOWA

AMENDMENT NO. 87: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for enforcement activities under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) against

the owner or operator of any concentrated animal feeding operation consisting of less than 1,000 animal units.

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MR. KING OF IOWA

AMENDMENT NO. 88: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to develop numeric nutrient standards for the Mississippi River basin.

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MR. KING OF IOWA

AMENDMENT NO. 89: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines" published by the Environmental Protection Agency in the Federal Register on March 9, 2011 (76 Fed. Reg. 12863 et seq.).

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MR. KING OF IOWA

AMENDMENT NO. 90: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for enforcement activities under the Oil Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Program established under part 112 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, against an owner or operator with respect to a storage container or other facility that is located on a farm (as defined in section 112.2 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations).

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: MR. GOSAR

AMENDMENT NO. 91: At the end of the bill, before the short title, insert the following:

FUNDING LIMITATION RELATED TO BORDER PATROL ACTIVITIES

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to enforce any of the following laws against the United States Border Patrol during border patrol activities on Federal lands:

(1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(2) The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

(3) The National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

(4) The Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE CAREER OF MICHAEL J. CARROLL FROM CHESTER COUNTY, PA

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michael J. Carroll, Chester County, Pennsylvania, on his retirement after his outstanding service and career in law enforcement, most recently as Chief of Police of West Goshen Township.

Chief Carroll served in the United States Air Force from 1961 to 1965, participating in the USAF Honor Guard in the funeral of President John F. Kennedy. After leaving the military, he served in the Tredyffrin Police Department, the Chester County Detective Bureau, and the West Whiteland Police Department before becoming Chief of the West Whiteland Police Department in October 1988.

Chief Carroll has served as staff instructor with the Delaware County Police Academy, has been a guest lecturer at institutions such as West Chester University and the United States Naval Academy, and is a graduate of the FBI Academy. In addition to serving on the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee of Wilmington University and Alvernia University, Chief Carroll is Past President of the Chester County Police Chiefs Association, Past President of the Police Chiefs Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Past President of the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association, and Past President of the International Chiefs of Police Association, and he has benefittingly been inducted into the International Police Association Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, in light of his years of exemplary service to his community and litany of sterling accomplishments too long to record, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Chief Michael J. Carroll for his invaluable contributions to the quality of life of the citizens of West Goshen Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania and our entire nation.

HONORING MS. SHIRLEY THOMAS
UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to recognize a hardworking, dedicated member of my staff, Ms. Shirley Thomas as she prepares to retire from a long and distinguished career of public service. Shirley has committed herself to this great institution for over 20 years, serving the U.S. Senate for 13 years and the U.S. House

of Representatives for 9 years. She has been an essential part of my own staff since almost my first day as the Representative for the 13th District of Georgia.

Shirley was born on February 27, 1953 in Western Kentucky as the eldest of four children. She remains, to this day, a deeply religious woman, devoted to her family and friends. After attaining her certificate in Business Administration from the University of Illinois Business and Clerical Training School, Shirley stayed on to work for the University for almost 8 years. She then relocated to Houston, Texas to work for Dresser Industries, where she primarily worked in the accounting department.

Unfortunately, in 1988, Shirley suffered tremendous injuries after being hit by a car. To recover from her injuries, Shirley came to live in Atlanta, Georgia, where she began her career in public service. Shirley first worked for former Senator Sam Nunn for 8 years until his retirement, and for his successor, Senator Max Cleland for 5 years.

I will remain forever grateful that Shirley then chose to help me serve my own constituents. As a Constituent Services Representative and my Senior Social Security and Medicare Advisor, she worked tirelessly with those citizens most in need of my support. As my district expanded, she began serving as my Office Manager as well as providing administrative support. I am especially thankful for her work in organizing several of my annual district events, including our annual Health Fair and Jobs Fair. Her experience in working with state, federal, and private officials has had an incredible impact on the success of these events. This same experience was crucial when my district was redistricted in 2005. She has been with me for the past nine years, through the historic changes in Medicare and our healthcare delivery system, and in that time has helped countless residents access benefits that are so vital to their well being.

I am extremely proud and thankful for all her hard work. It is with great sadness that I, along with the rest of my staff, wish her a fond farewell as she retires from my office. Shirley, please accept my prayers and best wishes for your future. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support and dedication throughout our many years together.

May God bless you.

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID
LERTZMAN'S TEACHING CAREER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the career accomplishments of my cousin, David Lertzman, who retired this year

after 41 years as a teacher and coach in the Los Angeles Unified School District. A native of California, David began his career in 1970 and would go on to teach and coach at numerous high schools in Los Angeles.

David's academic career revolved around teaching World History, U.S. History, and Physical Education. His passion for education and history led him to participate in a local State University Education Department program that prepared students for a career teaching U.S. History. This program was highly successful, and David would watch many of his former students go on to have distinguished careers in teaching and coaching.

In addition to his teaching accomplishments, David had a very successful coaching career. He coached football, boys gymnastics and girls volleyball. In doing so, he reached many significant milestones. At Hamilton High School in Los Angeles, he holds the record for most wins in school history for the football team and the boys gymnastics team, while at Birmingham High School he holds the record for most wins in school history for girls volleyball. He also served as a founding member of the Los Angeles Volleyball Coaches Association and the Los Angeles Football Coaches Association, and the President of the Los Angeles Coaches Association.

As a former teacher myself, I want to join my cousin Lynne, who has been David's wife for 36 years, their two daughters Stephanie and Carolyn, and their son-in-law, Scott in congratulating him on such a successful career. Teachers hold a special place in our society, and David Lertzman has proven to be at the top of his profession. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF CW3 GEORGE ANDREWS ("ANDY") HOWES

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to solemnly honor Chief Warrant Officer 3 (CW3) George Andrews ("Andy") Howes for his dedication and service to the United States of America. CW3 Howes was listed as missing in action on January 10, 1970 when the helicopter he was co-piloting disappeared in Vietnam. He was just 19 years old.

The remains of CW3 Howes were returned in 1988; however, they were not identified until 2010 through an advance in DNA technology. Nearly 41 years after his disappearance, CW3 Howes' surviving family was notified that Andy was found at last. He could finally receive the honor and recognition he earned for his service and for his ultimate sacrifice.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Andy Howes was born in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1950 and his family moved to Knox, Indiana in 1956. He graduated from Knox High School in 1968 and enlisted in the U.S. Army that September. He received his wings in August 1969 and was then deployed to Vietnam.

CW3 Howes flew helicopter gunships while assigned to the 71st Aviation Company, 16th Aviation Group and America Division. He flew with the Firebirds, a distinguished and decorated gunship unit based in Chu Lai, South Vietnam. On January 10, 1970, a helicopter piloted by Capt. Herbert Crosby and co-piloted by CW3 Howes disappeared while flying in extreme weather conditions. In addition to Capt. Crosby and CW3 Howes, crew members SFS Francis Graziosi and SFS Wayne Allen were lost in the helicopter's disappearance. All of Andy's crew mates have been previously identified, making Andy the last of the crew to return home. Marine Cpl Michael L. Bleeker, his great-nephew, is escorting his remains from Hawaii to Knox, and then to Arlington National Cemetery for burial.

CW3 Howes has been awarded the following medals to honor his service and sacrifice: Air Medal with Numeral Two, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Service stars, Vietnam Campaign Medal with "60" Device, Basic Aviation Badge, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm, and the Purple Heart.

Andy is survived by his brother, Robert Lloyd Howes of Wichita, Kansas, in addition to many cousins, nieces and nephews, all of whom have kept his memory alive and faithfully waited for the day he would come home. Andy's parents, Robert Lindell Howes and Bonnie Andrews Howes have passed away, as has his sister, Valerie Pulver Larew.

It is my solemn duty, and humble privilege, to honor and remember CW3 George Andrews Howes and a life cut tragically short. Andy stands as a testament to the great honor possessed, and sacrifices made, by our men and women in the armed forces, and their families. Those who were fortunate enough to know him were blessed by his presence—and we are all diminished by his loss. I and the grateful citizens of Indiana's Second District are deeply grateful that Andy is back home. We mourn his passing and offer our solemn gratitude for his service.

HONORING MR. BARRY CICERO
FOR HIS INSTALLATION AS JUNIOR
VICE COMMANDER OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION FIRST DIVISION
OF ILLINOIS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has given so much to his country and his community, Mr. Barry Cicero. This Sunday, July 31, Mr. Cicero will be installed as Junior Vice Commander of the American Legion First Division of Illinois, while Derrick David Stinson will be installed as Commander and Lawrence Nohr as Senior Vice Commander. The First Division is one of

three divisions of the American Legion in Illinois and includes all of Cook County with a population of more than 5 million people. Mr. Cicero, and the other officers being installed, have demonstrated impressive dedication to their country and the American Legion, and are certainly deserving of this honor.

Barry Cicero served in the United States Army and has been an active member of the American Legion for 19 years. His home post is the Robert E. Coulter, Jr. Post 1941 in La Grange where he has been active on many projects including chairing Fall Fest, the Legion's popular fundraiser for local veterans. He has held many leadership positions during his time as a member of the American Legion, including Commander of Post 1941 and Commander of the 5th District. He held that position for two terms, a rarity in the American Legion. In addition, Mr. Cicero has been very active in giving to his church and community.

Being installed as Junior Vice Commander of a Division within the American Legion is such a special occasion because it means he will be installed as the Commander of that Division within two years. Mr. Cicero's installation is also special because he will be the first Legionnaire from Post 1941 to become a Division Commander. I am happy to see all of his hard work and dedication bear fruit as he was chosen by his colleagues to be Junior Vice Commander.

I am certain Barry Cicero will provide exemplary service as Junior Vice Commander, and his leadership will bring a prosperous year for the American Legion's First Division and all of the posts within it. Please join me in honoring Mr. Barry Cicero and may he continue to be an asset to Illinois veterans and his community.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOE MORTON

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the work of Alabama State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Joe Morton, who has been a leader in education for 42 years and will officially retire on August 31, 2011.

Dr. Morton grew up in Pleasant Grove and graduated from Hueytown High School. He then received his B.S. degree from Auburn University in 1969 and later his M.A. in 1973 and Ph.D. in 1974 from The University of Alabama.

Upon graduation from Auburn, he began a life of dedicated service to the field of education. He worked his way up from a school teacher to the superintendent of the Sumter County Board of Education. He is presumed to be the youngest person in the history of the state to be a local superintendent of education at the age of 27.

On July 13, 2004, he was selected by Governor Bob Riley to be the State Superintendent of Education. Along with a long-standing love of education, he has always held to the belief that Alabama students have the capability to compete with top students from around the world.

In order to engage students' interest in reading, he created and co-founded the Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI). The ARI has since become a national model and has helped the National Assessment of Educational Process in 2007 achieve the largest gains recorded in Grade 4 Reading. In 2010, AMSTI was recognized by the Center for Excellence in Education as the model of laboratory education in the United States.

Other educational programs he helped create and co-found were the Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI) and the Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators and Students Statewide (ACCESS).

At the request of Governor Riley, Dr. Morton also chaired the Seat Belt Study Commission after a tragic 2006 school bus accident in Huntsville. The Commission's research into school bus safety and seatbelts is considered to be the most extensive in the country.

In 2009, he also launched First Choice, a plan to combat high school dropout rates by doubling the number of graduates. First Choice has already helped deliver a greater number of well prepared high school graduates.

As a result of Dr. Joe Morton's achievements in education, Alabama had the fourth largest increase in the number of students who graduated from high school in the nation. His achievements also paved the way for Alabama to lead the nation in student enrollment gains and Advanced Placement exam scores.

Above all, under Dr. Morton's leadership as Alabama's Superintendent of Education, the state has achieved its greatest overall educational rating in its history.

On behalf of the people of Alabama—especially the thousands of school children who will reap a lifetime of rewards because of his leadership—I wish to extend congratulations to Dr. Joe Morton for a job well done and for his many contributions to better the education and the futures of many Alabamians. My colleagues in the Alabama delegation join me in wishing him and his family the very best as they start a new chapter in their lives.

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS' COMMENTS ON WHAT A BI-PARTISAN COMPROMISE TO THE DEBT CEILING IMPASSE WOULD BE LIKE TO THEM

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, President Obama has urged the American people to call, email and tweet their members of Congress to let them know they want a bi-partisan compromise solution to the dangerous impasse over the debt ceiling that the Republican leadership has engineered. I used my Facebook page to ask my constituents and others who follow my page what a bi-partisan compromise would look like to them.

I wanted to share with my colleagues the responses I have received so far. As you can see, the answers are very thoughtful. And the

majority, not all, but clearly the majority, of responses are in favor of a balanced approach, one that combines new tax revenues with serious spending cuts. That's the approach I personally favor and that President Obama and congressional Democrats have been trying to achieve. Regrettably, we have been met with a stone wall of opposition from the Republican Congress to a balanced compromise. They are pushing for a short-term bill that would make seniors, children, and the middle class pay the burden of our fiscal problems, and that would force us to have this reckless and damaging debate again just months from now.

I want to thank the people who took the time to share their views on my page and I encourage all Americans to continue to make their views known to the Congress about this important issue.

I hope my colleagues find these comments, from people who follow me on Facebook, informative.

Kay: "come now, let us reason together" Praying for reasoning and that people will realize what they are doing. We must live in the solution—we know what the problem is. I'm glad you're there, GEORGE MILLER!

Brian: I think you know what needs to be done. I hope your colleagues do too.

Sue: The right won't compromise and the President has already given away far too much. He needs to take a stand for the American people and sign an executive order invoking the 14th Amendment.

Felix: Well, what do we hold that they want? Settle on the debt in exchange for, say, national CCW reciprocity?

KeKe: I'm concerned with the health bill as well as curbing the expenses for colleges and bringing jobs into our states!

Gayle: Bipartisan compromise would look like the Congress has finally restored some semblance of sanity to the process of government. It would include finally taxing corporations and the rich as they should be taxed, and it would NOT include cutting Social Security programs and other services to the elderly and most at-risk populations. Is that too much to ask? I think not.

Gail: Very unwillingly I opt for a 'compromise' but NOT touching either social security or Medicare...and, in addition, pushing for closing those tax loop holes for the rich. It amazes me how little conscience the Republicans (both moderate and TPers) have with regard to a patriotic generosity towards those who have less.

Pamela: First of all, social security, etc., are NOT entitlements. We've paid in to them. We're not asking for a hand out, we want the money we put into the system. Stop them treating us like children looking for a handout. And I don't see why the President has to be so PC about how we got into this! Lay it right at Bush's doorstep.

Nick: It would close the tax loopholes for corporations and the wealthy, it would reform the tax code to a graduated flat tax, would end the income caps on SSI, and would modify Medicare by extending the age of eligibility to 67, adding small (\$20) co-pays for medical services, and would extend the debt limit until 2014.

Nick: It would also close any and all tax benefits that U.S. Corporations receive by using overseas labor.

Anne: Quite honestly I think we need to reverse Bush's tax cuts and get out of three wars as quickly as possible.

Daniel: The President should use the 14th Amendment option and stop trying to exploit this "debate" for an opening to cut the social safety net. Anyone who votes for a bill—and both the Reid and Boehner plans have these things in them—that puts huge spending cuts in place during the longest unemployment crisis since the Great Depression is not getting my money, time, or vote in 2012. Anyone who votes for a bill that contains provisions for a "super congress" panel that could, say, force through massive spending cuts to SS, Medicare, or Medicaid too quickly for the public to notice is not getting my money, time, or vote in 2012. Any Democrat who attacks the New Deal or Great Society policy template in any way is not getting my money, time, or vote in 2012. Ideals and principles matter. People who think so aren't "sanctimonious," they think what we say and do matters.

Karen: Tax the rich. Close the loopholes. Mega-corps & financiers need to pay their fair share. Reinvest in the United States and their people. Or they will not reinvest their trust in a Congress that has forgotten 'by the People, of the People, for the People. Tell them they are close to committing treason, against the true government of these United States: We the People. We will not be distracted or forget this time. We are awake & We expect Action!

Pamela: There is no compromise at this time. Nor should there be. The full faith and credit of the US should not be held hostage to the budget. Simply raise the debt ceiling and then consider the budget as a separate issue . . . which it is. And THEN eliminate the Bush tax cuts.

Clark: As in the past, a REAL compromise would be a clean debt limit bill, and then the parties can slog it out over the deficit reduction later. The biggest help would be putting most of the unemployed and underemployed back to work, that will whittle down the problem nicely!

Robert: Cut enough to get the debt done . . . there is plenty that could be reduced in our bloated budget. Deal with tax overhauls separately, you don't have enough time to broadly revamp that end of the business in a few days. The Pres needs to drop his politically motivated insistence that the ceiling is raised high enough to avoid dealing with this again until after the election. And would someone please read the 14th Amendment and set clear there is nothing to invoke? It is sad to hear "CNN sound bite" educated numbskulls calling for something they have never read and have no context about how it originally came to be, or what it was trying to address (Civil War era history is apparently not a deeply taught subject in this country . . .). GET 'ER DONE GEORGE!

Ulrich: Stop the WARs!

Nic: Social Security should be self-sustaining and not redistribute wealth. The average American should receive benefits equal to their inflation adjusted contributions, regardless of income. Same with Medicare. The tax code should be simplified. Annual budgets should not run deficits. And don't raise taxes—cut non-essential services. That's it.

Ted: Save money and lives get out of the wars now!! I don't understand the Repub-

licans, they won a huge victory in this debate, no new taxes, no shared responsibility. The Tea party Republicans, are making a mess of this. The President has been very reasonable and willing to compromise. I hope he will use the 14th amendment, section 4 to save our economy and raise the debt c. That's my opinion!!

Maureen: The President is trying to deal with people who do not know or respect the meaning of the word "compromise." For the moment, use the 14th Amendment option. For the long term, raise upper income tax rates, close corporate tax loopholes, decrease defense budget (reduce our overseas presence and military ops). Social Security (insurance, not entitlement!) is not a part of this equation, but what is the big deal about simply raising the ceiling on the FICA-taxable compensation?

Tyson: It's obvious we have a revenue problem as well as a spending problem. Put out a message and scream it louder than the GOP. You have the facts to back it up.

Toni: A bi-partisan compromise. Raise taxes on the wealthiest. Cut what we have to, a bit from everywhere, raise the debt ceiling as there is no alternative apparently. How about for a year rather than six months or two years? In other words, give for the greater good.

Rick: It's time for the Democrats to show some courage in this . . . time for a compromise and to ignore the fundamentalist purity of the freshman Republicans.

Lori: I'm tired of the rhetoric. The solution is: A one page bill that will increase the debt limit. Then . . . a bi-partisan committee to review where Government waste is. I'm sick of the lobbying of the special interests that pay into the superpacs for their agendas. The people understand this and are tired of being condescended to. No elected representative . . . should be enticed with money and perks for their own purposes. GEORGE . . . I have LOTS of ideas . . . and you have probably received them all. Sorry you're not my Congressman anymore.

Dave: The president has already given away TOO MUCH, in the name of bi-partisanship! Any and all giveaways end up as bigger tax breaks for Republicans' Corporate friends anyway. Enough with "compromising!" Invoke the 14th and be done with it!

James: A bipartisan compromise on the debt ceiling would be a simple increase in it WITHOUT ANY STRINGS ATTACHED, just like the nearly trillion dollar bailout of the financial system in October of 2008!

Tom: Simplifying the tax code by eliminating some tax breaks might be good for the country. That might be part of a bill that both parties could accept. You're not really raising taxes that way, in some sense. Another problem is that large corporations that own a lot of land that they can sit on for a century are getting a free ride on some property taxes, due to assessed values lagging behind inflation, which is unsustainable in the long run. Cutting foreign aid when it isn't really in American interests might help reduce spending a little. We really don't get much appreciation from foreigners for all the help we give them, instead they seem to resent us. Probably we should disentangle ourselves from involvement in foreign affairs to some extent.

Keynes should be read in the original, it's perfectly clear from his books that government needs to be lender of last resort in an economic crisis, which he proved in the 1930s. There is some value in the Austrian school of economics, but their doctrines can lead to disaster, as proved by the Hoover policies that led to the Great Depression in the 1930s. Keynes showed the way out of that mess. Government spending on American infrastructure is absolutely necessary to get us out of the current crisis, even if we have to borrow money to do it.

Carol: A clean Debt Ceiling increase. A one pager.

Cathy: Compromise is what statesmen and stateswomen do! We must move forward with balanced cuts and revenue building that does not stop job growth or hurt the poor, elderly, our youth or our vets . . . it must be modest over decades—this is what makes sense. Close the IRS loopholes, cut waste, reform entitlements so they are healthy—these things can not be done overnight—there is no silver bullet—we must be adults and rebuild our economy intelligently and calmly.

Bonnie: I trust that you will represent us well on this issue! I'm so worried for those in our country who have the weakest voice.

Mike: Clean debt ceiling bill. Negotiate the rest in appropriations with an eye toward balancing cuts and revenue increases. No raising eligibility requirements. No benefit reductions. Means testing, possibly. Perhaps raise SS cap beyond \$106,000 . . .

Jean: Perhaps it would simply raise the debt ceiling, as has been done so many times in the past, without including the other crap that the Tea Party idiots are so against. Then work on THAT compromise, which will cut spending AND raise taxes . . . especially on the rich to add to their fair share. Or is that too easy?

Deborah: after the reports of multi billion dollar profits from big oil this week it is time to share with the government across the board . . . The timing of these earnings is not exactly ideal for the Republicans in Congress.

Debbie: What is the big deal on the debt ceiling, really? Why can't it be taken care of as it has been in the past? Yes, I know we are swimming in debt and yes, I know it has to be reined in, but please, please, please not on the backs of our elderly citizens. Does no one in the Tea Party have a mother or father who have social security and medicare as their only source of income and health care? I find the Tea Party's newly elected House members to be arrogant, self-serving and short-sighted. Also, is every wealthy American a job producer? The Republican party seems to think so, because to hear them tell it, raising taxes on the wealthy will limit job growth; there are so many loopholes for the wealthy, that they pay only a fraction of their assessed taxes as it is. Washington is broken and seems beyond fixing, short of ditching everybody up there and starting over again, and I know that's not a fix either.

Jane: There are not enough taxes that could possibly be collected to pay off our debt! Just stop the spending! Obama is running this country into the ground! Wake up people unless you like the idea of losing everything. Not hard to figure out.

Stacey: A bipartisan balanced budget would: (1) pass a clean increase to the debt ceiling

(NO riders or deals attached). (2) Increase in revenues by increasing the tax brackets to pre-Reagan levels. OR by making a 9% flat tax for all Americans, no deductions. (3) Reduce spending by scaling back on foreign wars. (4) Reducing Washington waste, Senators and Representatives pay own way after leaving office like ordinary citizens (they'll collect SS and Medicare too. (5) Keep Social Security and Medicare intact, stop Gov't from borrowing from these programs. The Gov't MUST REPAY, all monies borrowed from SS since Reagan's tenure. (6) Stop subsidizing Big Oil or other conglomerates. (7) Follow California's lead and Congress and Senate does not get paid unless a balanced budget is passed into law by June 30th. Otherwise they work for free until the job is done. No back pay if budget passed after June 30th.

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOROUGH OF HOLLIDAYSBURG

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to recognize the Borough of Hollidaysburg upon the 175th anniversary of its founding. I, along with close to 6,000 of my constituents am proud to call Hollidaysburg home and I am pleased to have the opportunity to call attention to the borough and its history in the House today.

Hollidaysburg, like so many other boroughs in Pennsylvania, has a rich history that stretches back before the founding of our nation to the French and Indian War. Hollidaysburg was first settled in the early 1700's by brothers Adam and William Holliday after their purchase of 1,000 acres of land along the Juniata River from the decedents of William Penn.

As with many small settlements of the time, the community forged from the wilderness by the Holliday family remained small throughout the Revolutionary War and the first few years of America's founding. However, as America began to expand and look west, the population began to grow as important transportation projects like the Huntingdon, Cambria, and Indiana Turnpike were completed.

In 1832, Hollidaysburg underwent a second population boom when the Pennsylvania Main Line Canal opened, giving merchants in the area a way to move their products to Philadelphia and other eastern markets. Two years later, the Allegheny Portage Railroad solidified Hollidaysburg as a center for trade by linking the canal to a railroad connecting Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. Later, at the dawn of the Twentieth Century, the Pennsylvania Railroad established a large switching yard at Hollidaysburg; further solidifying the borough's important role as a link in America's growing railroad infrastructure.

This rapid development in transportation around Hollidaysburg enabled the borough to officially charter itself in 1836. Within a few years, the population surged again, to a record number of 2,000 inhabitants by 1840. The borough's growth in such a short time en-

abled it to become the seat of Blair County and remains a center of commerce and local government to this day. I might add to that list, innovation since Hollidaysburg is the home of the renowned and ageless toy, the Slinky.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the borough of Hollidaysburg for 175 years of history, growth and success. Hollidaysburg continues to boast a vibrant community in a beautiful area of Pennsylvania and I invite the American people to help celebrate its anniversary by visiting the borough to experience all it has to offer first hand.

MOROCCO: ANSWERING THE CALL FOR REFORM AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak to my colleagues today about the relationship between the United States and Morocco. Today, with chaos and conflict spreading in North Africa and the Middle East, it is important that the United States recognize and encourage those countries that share our democratic values and support reforms so badly needed in the region. There is no better friend and ally for America in North Africa than the Kingdom of Morocco.

You may ask, "How has the country fared during the recent crises in the region?" Morocco has largely avoided the tensions, confrontations, and violence common to other countries. There have been few disturbances in the country; and demonstrations for better governance, more transparency, and jobs have been largely peaceful and constructive.

Ties between the Moroccan people and the King are quite strong and it is this bond that supports the partnership that the King has called for in the process to reform the constitution through a consultative process and national referendum—steps unheard of in other parts of the Arab Middle East and North Africa.

Recently, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Taieb Fassi Fihri, visited the United States to talk about the reform process in Morocco, and to consult with United States government officials about how to bring greater stability, security, development, and democracy to the region. He met with senior officials in the White House and State Department. On March 23, Secretary of State Hilary Clinton met with the Foreign Minister to discuss concrete steps to renew and strengthen the strategic relationship between the United States and Morocco. She called it a "very special relationship," and praised the King for his continuing actions to promote reform and enhance economic, political, and social development in Morocco and the broader region.

As Secretary Clinton remarked, "We also look forward with great optimism to further deepening our strong and strategic partnership in working with Morocco on so many issues." Among the areas discussed with the Foreign Minister were cooperation on resolving the Western Sahara conflict and promoting Human Rights.

With regard to the Western Sahara, the Secretary reiterated that the Obama Administration policy is consistent with that of the two previous administrations; and that the Moroccan autonomy proposal for resolving the conflict was "serious, realistic, and credible." The Foreign Minister provided the U.S. government with an update on recent progress in promoting Human Rights and was advised by the State Department that the new reforms were largely satisfactory and met U.S. government concerns.

Among the key changes already launched by Morocco in December 2010 are new and independent institutions and collateral mechanisms to promote human rights in all areas of Morocco, including the Sahara, protecting whistle blowers, providing authority to bring charges against human rights violators, and setting up new channels for reporting human rights abuses. Additionally, a stronger level of human rights protections are included in the constitutional reforms proposed by the King in his speech of March 9, 2011.

From an international reporting perspective, the new process adopted by Morocco will link the new Moroccan Human Rights institutions with the various Special Rapporteurs of the UN Human Rights Commission.

Unfortunately, others who either lack this information or chose to ignore it are supporting a monitoring proposal that ignores the core issues of the Western Sahara conflict: supporting and respecting the rights of the refugees held in the camps in Tindouf, Algeria. The proposal does nothing to address much more serious issues at stake in Western Sahara concerning terrorism, and trafficking in persons, guns, drugs and other contraband.

Morocco has met the State Department's criteria for enhanced human rights protection and reporting, and should be applauded for taking this initiative as part of its continuing reform process and desire to improve the lives of all Moroccans, including the Western Sahara. Morocco is working hard to become the standard bearer for progress, reform, and development in the region. We should do all we can to support these vital efforts.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COAST GUARD TRAINING CENTER PETALUMA

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pride today to honor Coast Guard Training Center Petaluma on the occasion of its 40th anniversary.

Originally known as Two Rock Ranch Station, the 876-acre site was purchased by the U.S. Army for \$97,377 in 1942 and used as an electronic intercept station in World War II. There were two officers and 45 enlisted men assigned to it. Two Rock's use was expanded during the Vietnam War to include training, with a re-created Vietnamese village.

The Coast Guard took ownership of the facility in 1971, renaming it "Coast Guard Training Center Petaluma" and transferring the

Subsistence Specialist School, Storekeeper School, and Radioman School from New York. Since that time, two barracks have been built (Steadman Hall and Horsley Hall) as well as 15 duplex housing units to provide affordable housing to the workforce. Several other buildings for use in training were also constructed (Bauer Building, Juliet-Nichols Building, and Haley Hall). The current replacement value of the facility is close to \$245 million.

During the 1990s, Coast Guard Training Center Petaluma was threatened with closure twice as the U.S. reevaluated its bases. The local community rallied in support, and I was able to work with them and with Coast Guard officials to keep this important facility open.

Today, the Center is home to seven "A" schools for electronics, technician, food service specialist, health service technician, information system technician, operation specialist, storekeeper and Yeoman. There are also 40 "C" schools and a Chief Petty Officer Academy. With a permanently assigned cadre of 500 active duty, civilian, and contractor staff, the facility supports more than 15,000 students per year.

Coast Guard Training Center Petaluma truly embodies its vision: To be a world leader in valid and reliable performance-based training; to be the best place to live and work in the Coast Guard; to be the best and most efficient steward of resources (money and property) in the Coast Guard training system; and to be the most environmentally-friendly Coast Guard base in the world. Having recently attended an event to throw the switch on solar panels that now provide much of the Center's electricity, I have seen first-hand how serious this vision is.

Mr. Speaker, Coast Guard Training Center Petaluma is important to the local community and important to our country. Please join me in congratulating the Coast Guard on the facility's 40th anniversary and wishing it many more years of service.

OPPOSITION TO H.R. 2587, PROTECTING JOBS FROM THE GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE ACT

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, despite the bill's colorful title, the Protecting Jobs from Government Interference Act (H.R. 2587) is a blatant attempt to decleave the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and weaken the rights of American workers. Created in 1935 by the enactment of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), the NLRB oversees the process by which employees form unions and enforces fair labor provisions against violations committed by private sector employers and unions. H.R. 2587 would strip the NLRB's ability to punish businesses for unlawfully relocating or dissolving jobs in retaliation for union organization, and thus eliminate the NLRB's only meaningful enforcement tool to protect working Americans under the National Labor Relations Act.

H.R. 2587 was authored by Representative TIM SCOTT of South Carolina to prevent the

NLRB's ongoing case against the Boeing Company for allegedly violating federal labor laws by opening a non-union passenger plane production facility in South Carolina, rather than in the state of Washington, from moving forward. According to the NLRB, it has evidence that Boeing intentionally moved its facilities to a non-union state in retaliation against unionized workers in Washington. By law, employers may move their facilities to non-union states, but it is illegal for employers to retaliate against employees for exercising their federally-protected right to strike. Whether or not Boeing's actions were illegal is a matter to be decided, but not by politicians.

While millions of Americans are struggling to find employment, the Protecting Jobs from Government Interference Act would neither create nor protect jobs as the title claims. On the contrary, H.R. 2587 would weaken American workers' rights and reduce the number of U.S. jobs by legalizing company reprisals against unions through the dissolution or transfer of jobs to non-union sites elsewhere in the United States and, even more worrisome, somewhere overseas.

As a stalwart advocate for American workers, I cannot support efforts that would take away an important tool in helping to ensure that employers do not violate the law by retaliating against unionized employees. Our nation is stronger when workers join together and bargain for a better life, and when employers respect those rights. To that end, I have long supported efforts in Congress to protect and strengthen the right of American workers in every industry to collective bargaining. While I imagine the dispute between the NLRB and the Boeing Company will be worked out, in the meantime, Congress should not interfere with important legal protections for union workers that are already in place. For these reasons, I am strongly opposed to H.R. 2587.

THE HONOR FLAG—10TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11 ATTACKS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in less than one month, Americans will observe the 10th anniversary of the September 11th terror attacks. Those who witnessed the events of September 11th will always remember that day and what they were doing. It's like those of us that were alive when President Kennedy was assassinated. We remember that day; we remember what we were doing. And the old timers, they remember Pearl Harbor and what they were doing on December 7, 1941. September 11th is a day that we as a Nation should always remember because it reminds us of the preciousness of this Nation and her belief in freedom and liberty. It is something that is without a doubt worth preserving.

As we remember where we were on that fateful day, it is even more important that we remember the 3,000 individuals that lost their lives that day. Many who lost their lives were heroes trying to rescue those trapped by the attacks. When those Twin Towers were set

aflame, those volunteers, those firefighters, those emergency medical folks and those police officers, they rushed as hard as they could to get to that terror from the sky. As a result of their heroism, many got to live another day. There are countless stories of the selfless bravery which occurred on 9/11, how Americans reacted extraordinarily in order to rescue one and other. In the face of attack, we pulled through with a remarkable spirit of unity and compassion that swept through our country.

Shortly after the tragic September 11, 2001 attacks on our great Country, Americans all over the world raised up 'old glory' in patriotic understanding of the events which had just befallen our country. The American Flag has always been a symbol of bringing our Nation together in good times or bad. One of these many flags was the symbol of our Nation's perseverance, was the Flag which was flown over Ground Zero. Still today this flag continues to fly, all around this great Nation in support of our heroes, because of Texas Patriot, Chris Heisler.

In the aftermath of September 11th, Chris Heisler, like many other Americans felt compelled to take action after witnessing his country come under attack. When Chris was gifted this patriotic flag by Texas House of Representatives, he helped organize one of the longest police motorcades in the history of the United States to honor it. The American flag is a symbol to revere, respect, and honor and Chris' profound respect for America's symbol should be commended.

Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, patriotism surged in the United States. Many young men and women enlisted to help fight the war on terrorism. Chris Heisler was part of this movement, and at the age of 34 he put his business career on hold to enlist in the U.S. Army. While serving his country, Chris carried his revered flag with him to Kuwait, Qatar, and Iraq so it could fly with soldiers in combat zones.

Soon soldiers began to refer to this flag as one of honor, as a result the flag is now named the United States Honor Flag. Ten years later, The United States Honor Flag continues to pay tribute to those who have lost their lives in the line of duty protecting the freedoms we all hold dear. The United States Honor Flag has been to many places including Ground Zero in New York, the Pentagon, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Memorial, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, Presidential Libraries, VA Hospitals, and to countless sporting events. The flag has flown for more than 1,000 fallen soldiers and at funerals for police officers and firefighters. Recently it went to Space! It traveled on board the shuttle Atlantis' final mission.

It is one single flag. There's a lot of security details involved in transporting the U.S. Honor Flag. It is kept in a secure case. The Department of Homeland Security has sewn microchips into the seam of the flag to verify its authenticity. The flag is constantly traveling. It is a national treasure that is respected and guarded.

The betterment in our country often originates from the efforts of just one person. The establishment of the Honor Flag serves as an important reminder of the daily sacrifices our Nation's heroes make, and recognizes the

freedoms of Old Glory. In recognition of Chris Heisler's patriotism, in remembrance of the tragic events on September 11, 2001 and for those who continue to fight to preserve our liberty, I am proud to salute Chris Heisler for his loyalty to America, and to the United States Flag.

We should remember those that died, those that got to live, and those that continue to fight for our freedoms today in places all over the world in the name of liberty and freedom.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 25, I missed a couple of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on No. 630 and "nay" on Nos. 631, 632, 634, 635, 636.

TRIBUTE TO DR. STANLEY PEARLE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sadness over the passing of one of America's greatest assets to the field of optometry, and one of my dear friends, Dr. Stanley Pearle. The man behind the eyewear business Pearle Vision, passed away last week at the age of 92 in his home in Dallas, Texas.

Pittsburgh-native Dr. Pearle graduated from Northern Illinois College of Optometry in 1939 and relocated to Dallas to take his board examinations and later marry his high school sweetheart, Elsie. He served in the U.S. Navy for a few years and after World War II he worked for several eye care companies, rising to a management position with Lee Optical in Dallas. Eager to start his own business he left the company in 1961 to open his first store. More than 40 years and 675 company and franchise stores later, Pearle Vision remains a trusted household name with locations across the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico.

His contributions to the world of optometry are world renowned. Dr. Pearle's vision was to change how people were fitted for their eyewear. Initially, eye patients would visit an optometrist for a medical procedure but Dr. Pearle made it a more fashionable purchase and experience in a well-lit store with a vast array of frames to choose from. Pearle Vision has boasted that it is the first nationwide optical retailer and it is all thanks to the vision of Dr. Pearle himself. I knew his wife, Elsie Cohen who was a dear friend of mine. Dr. Pearle is survived by three of his four children, 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Stanley Pearle. I appreciate the dedication and innovative

changes he made to optometry. He will truly be missed.

ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NASA LANGLEY AEROSPACE RESEARCH SUMMER SCHOLARS (LARSS) PROGRAM

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the NASA Langley Aerospace Research Summer Scholars program.

In 1986, under the leadership of Dr. Sam Massenberg along with the support of senior leadership from NASA Langley Headquarters, the Langley Aerospace Research Summer Scholars (LARSS) program was established. This program was designed to create internship opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students and ultimately provide a pipeline of experienced graduates into NASA's workforce. Today, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and commemorate the program's 25th anniversary.

The LARSS program is NASA's oldest year round internship program providing high school, undergraduate, and graduate students hands on research experience working side-by-side with NASA engineers and scientists. This program was "the first of its kind" and has served as a model for other NASA centers.

During the 25 year history of the LARSS program, more than 4,500 competitively selected students from all over the United States and the U.S. territories have participated in the program. The program began with a class of 20 in 1986 and has since grown to include more than 200 students annually. This year the program received its largest applicant pool with nearly 800 applicants applying over the fall, spring, and summer sessions.

The LARSS program has been benefiting engineering undergraduate and graduate students for 25 years. Many of these students join NASA's workforce and have taken a significant role in preserving NASA's leadership in aeronautics and space science. This program has been a catalyst for promoting careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics especially in the African-American, Hispanic, and Native American communities. The result continues to be a well educated, well trained, and diverse engineering and science workforce for NASA. Minorities made up 23% of the 200 scholars participating in the program this past year and that number continues to increase.

Since 2006, the Virginia Space Grant Consortium has managed the LARSS program for NASA under a sub-award from the National Institute of Aerospace. This has allowed the program to grow from a summer only program to a year round program in the spring, summer, and fall. The success of the LARSS program has been recognized by the Langley and Hampton Roads communities, and it was recently ranked sixth on a national list of the "10 Best Internships for 2011" by Vault Career Intelligence.

As the world becomes increasingly relevant on technology, the importance of the United States remaining technologically competitive and producing quality engineers and scientists is vital.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that 25 years later we are able to recognize the importance of this great program and the dynamic impact it has made on American society. On this 25th anniversary of LARSS, I commend NASA for the progress it has made to strengthen STEM education, and I challenge it to continue to inspire our youth to create new ideas, new products and innovative solutions to solve our nation's problems.

It is my hope that LARSS will continue to provide NASA and our nation's engineering and science community a pipeline of problem solvers and innovators. I thank NASA Langley for continuing the great legacy of the LARSS program over the past 25 years, and I look forward to its continued success.

IN HONOR OF REV. DR. JOHN A. SEVERSON CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS OF PREACHING THE GOSPEL

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Rev. Dr. John A. Severson, who will celebrate fifty years of preaching the gospel this weekend. Through these many years, Rev. Dr. Severson has remained dedicated to spreading the Word of God and striving to improve his community, particularly those less fortunate.

John A. Severson was born in Calhoun County in Edison, Georgia to the late Mr. Lucious B. Severson Sr., and the late Mrs. Annett H. Severson. He received his early education in the public schools of Calhoun County, and in 1961, felt the call to ministry.

Rev. Dr. Severson received his Bachelors & Master's Degrees in Ministry from Bethany Theological Seminary, and he received his Doctorate of Theological Studies from the Bethany Divinity College and Seminary, in Dothan, Alabama. Since graduating, Rev. Dr. Severson and has been proclaiming the good news of the gospel to this day, serving several congregations in both Georgia and Alabama.

Presently, Rev. Dr. Severson faithfully serves the Union Missionary Baptist Church congregation, where he has given spiritual guidance for the past thirty-three years. Under his gracious leadership, many in his community have developed a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Further, many physical changes have taken place under his leadership: Rev. Dr. Severson has organized many new ministries and new outreach ministries in the community.

Dr. Severson is the past moderator of the Camilla Missionary Baptist Association; Co-Founder of the Christian Unity—biracial organization; past president of the Baptist Ministries Conference of Dougherty County; a member of Vision Albany; a member of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of

Georgia; and a member of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education—National Baptist Convention, U.S.A. Inc.

As the Founder and CEO of the Union Mission Outreach Center, an outreach ministry for the Union Missionary Baptist Church and community, Rev. Dr. Severson and the congregation continue Jesus' work of helping the poor by providing medicine, eye glasses, and dental care to those community residents who otherwise could not afford it. In addition, Rev. Dr. Severson developed a summer enrichment program held at Union Missionary Baptist Church each summer which is available to the community free of charge.

Mr. Speaker, Rev. Dr. Severson's devotion to the improvement of his community reminds me of Matthew 25:35–37, in which Jesus says, "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me . . . Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Rev. Dr. Severson has done a remarkable job of touching the lives of his congregations, his communities, and especially the least of these. As we mark his fiftieth year of religious service, I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks and sincerest congratulations for his incredible contributions.

COMMEMORATING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, twenty-one years ago on July 26, 1990, the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) was enacted with complete bi-partisan support; opening doors that were once shut and enabling persons with disabilities to go to work, movies, take public transportation and enjoy everyday activities with dignity. Where physical and mental difficulties once served as barriers, countless numbers of employment and educational opportunities are now available as a result of this important piece of legislation.

I am proud to recognize the great work of The Harlem Independent Living Center in my congressional district in Manhattan, an organization that emerged under the ADA, and offers invaluable services for the disabled community such as counseling, training, and job referrals. Under the leadership of Ms. Christina Curry, who heads the center, all disabled New Yorkers have access to these services and the organization works tirelessly to make sure that businesses abide by the ADA.

While there is much to be proud of, we must do more to better accommodate the disabled community. Compared to the national unemployment rate of 9.2%, a disproportionate 16.9% of our disabled Americans are currently unemployed. At a time when we are relying more heavily on advanced technology and Internet services, our hearing and visually impaired are being left behind. Worse, the cuts

proposed under the Republican agenda take away vital support services, including Social Security, which is relied on by 55 million people with disabilities.

I will continue to fight to ensure that all Americans, regardless of background, ethnicity or physical or mental capabilities have the same opportunities to enjoy the American Dream. We owe it to one out of five Americans with a disability, including 16,000 residents in my district, who are counting on Congress to be there for them.

IN TRIBUTE OF MR. BODHISATTWA CHAUDHURI

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations to Dr. Bodhisattwa Chaudhuri, who has been awarded a 2011 Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America Foundation award. Connecticut's Second District is honored to recognize the outstanding achievement of Dr. Chaudhuri's extensive work at the University of Connecticut.

For 45 years, the PhRMA Foundation has assisted scientists with their research. The Foundation believes that science and the world of medicine can improve if scientists have the right resources readily available to them. Scientists who have been supported by the PhRMA Foundation have shared their knowledge with about 20,000 graduate students.

Born in Agartala, India, Dr. Chaudhuri attended the Indian Institute of Science where he received a MS in Chemical Engineering. He then went on to the New Jersey Institute of Technology, where he studied Mechanical Engineering and received his doctorate. Today, Dr. Chaudhuri serves as an assistant professor in the departments of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Institute of Material Sciences at our very own University of Connecticut. He and many of his students are passionate about researching granular mechanics in order to better understand different processes in pharmaceutical manufacturing.

We need leaders and researchers—like Dr. Chaudhuri—who are dedicated to sharing their knowledge with young students. I stand with my constituents in eastern Connecticut in honoring the successful efforts of Dr. Chaudhuri's and interests in pharmaceutical technology and granular mechanics research. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the impressive work of Dr. Bodhisattwa Chaudhuri. May Dr. Chaudhuri and others continue to teach and encourage curiosity in the world of science, medicine, and beyond.

HONORING CPT WILLIAM SMITH

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor CPT William Smith, who passed away

July 15, 2011, at the age of 93. A true American hero, CPT Smith charged the beaches of Normandy, survived the Battle of the Bulge, and continued on to serve in the Korean Conflict.

D-day for CPT Smith began hours before thousands braved the beaches of Normandy on June 6, 1944. Under the cover of darkness, he rowed alone onto Omaha Beach, making ready for his duty as a forward observer. Burying himself for hours beneath a concrete slab and under heavy enemy fire, CPT Smith used only the lights of German artillery to locate their guns, calling in the targets to US Naval ships protecting the invasion. CPT Smith survived D-day, spending 12 grueling hours alone in his make-shift post with nothing but infantry assault elements to protect him.

CPT William Smith also fought in the invasions of North Africa and Sicily. In total, CPT. Smith served in seven European campaigns, including the infamous Battle of the Bulge, never once putting his own safety before that of his country. For his service in the 32nd Field Artillery, 1st Infantry Division, he was awarded the D-Day medal, World War II medal, French Freedom and Jubilee medals and the Bronze Star with V for Valor.

Less than a decade later, CPT Smith once again answered his country's call to duty, serving as an invasion specialist in the Korean Conflict. Upon returning home, he built Kisco Photo Service into a dominant force in the camera and film market. Smith then went on to serve as the Chairman of Sales and Marketing Technology at Columbus Technical College at age 53. Bill never lost touch with his comrades in arms, joining both the VFW Lodge #2398, Worthington, Ohio and AMVETS, Worthington Post #239. He was a member of New England Lodge #4, F & AM and a 32nd degree Mason, Valley of Columbus.

Married 70 years to wife Berni, with two children, Bill and Shirley, Smith fully lived his family values. Smith's son, Bill E. Smith, spoke of his late father as a man of faith, of family, and of community. And that is just how we will remember him.

THE 184TH RETURNS: A MOMENT IN HISTORY

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, on July 25, an exchange of authority took place at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, signifying the end of mission for the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command—the largest Mississippi Army National Guard Unit and the largest one ever led by Mississippians.

The guard unit is more than 250 strong; most are Mississippians; and the size of the unit reflects the size of the mission. They served as headquarters for Joint Sustainment Command—Afghanistan, affecting more than 100,000 U.S. and coalition soldiers and civilians. Over the past 9 months, the unit delivered nearly 414 million gallons of fuel, 26 million pounds of ammo, 110 million meals, and 43 million pounds of mail.

This marks an important moment in history and for military logistics, and the 184th has made Mississippi, the National Guard, and this Nation proud. To them, I am honored to say, "Welcome Home and thank you."

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH IN WADSWORTH, OHIO

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th anniversary of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in my home town, Wadsworth, Ohio.

Sacred Heart has been encouraging the Wadsworth community to participate, celebrate and spread Catholic values for over a century, and quite successfully, I might add. Sacred Heart aims to empower and encourage others to make a positive difference in the world. With their devotion to the community comes the lasting effect of true humanitarian work.

As a proud member of this parish, it has been a truly humbling experience to witness so many students, faculty, volunteers, and citizens brought together by this one entity. Sacred Heart has been a place of learning, sharing the Catholic faith and creating life-long friends for the last 125 years.

It is my pleasure to commemorate this momentous anniversary and to acknowledge all of their accomplishments within the Wadsworth community.

TRIBUTE TO EDITH MAE JORDAN WILCOX

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my profound sadness at the passing of longtime Washington County, Alabama resident and community leader, Mrs. Edith Mae Jordan Wilcox, who passed away on July 12 at the age of 95 after an extended illness.

"Miss Edith"—as she was affectionately known—was born May 23, 1916, in Spencer, Alabama. Her schooling began in the Yarbo one-room school house with her two older sisters. In 1932, she graduated from Murphy High School in Mobile. From there, she attended the University of Alabama where she received an A&S Degree in 1936 and an LLB Degree from the School of Law in 1939. Upon graduation from law school, she was admitted to the State Bar.

Miss Edith and her husband, Roy, married on January 31, 1942. While he served in the Army Air Corps in New Guinea during World War II, Miss Edith became a very active community volunteer and a part of the family's land, timber, and mill business in Jordan.

When Staff Sgt. Wilcox returned from service to his country, they established the Wilcox

and Plemmons Sawmill Company. The company remained a vibrant part of the local economy until it closed in 1980.

Throughout her life, Miss Edith was an avid volunteer. She was actively involved with the board of the Washington County Chapter of the American Red Cross, serving as chairman of the Red Cross Blood Program when it was first introduced in the county. She spent many years traveling throughout the state with the Bloodmobile.

Miss Edith was a member of the committee that organized the Washington County Health Council and was appointed to the Washington County Hospital Board where she served for 10 years.

She was elected State President of the Alabama Extension Homemaker's Council and was an active and founding member of the Washington County United Way. For all her volunteer service, Miss Edith was awarded with the Washington County Humanitarian of the Year Award in 1997.

She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star for over 50 years and served as state officer of the Alabama Grand Chapter. She was also one of the founding members of the Washington County Public Library and served on its board for over 20 years.

In 2002, in recognition for her lifetime of remarkable achievement and public service, Miss Edith was inducted into the Washington County Hall of Fame and a plaque was placed in the courthouse in her honor.

Today, Jordan-Wilcox Stadium at Washington County High School bears her family name as a tribute to her vision and generosity. She donated the land for the building of the Chatom Community Center that is also named for her.

During her long and active life, Miss Edith traveled to over 60 countries and throughout all fifty states. She established an art gallery in Chatom to showcase collectibles and memorabilia from her world travels. The Wilcox Gallery and Foundation will continue to educate and entertain the residents of Washington County for years to come.

On behalf of the people of South Alabama, I extend my deepest condolences to Miss Edith's family, including her daughter, Susan Wilcox Turner and one granddaughter, Jordan Anne Garner. Miss Edith's memory will live on through her great legacy of service to our area.

FAA SHUTDOWN

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, today millions of Americans are waiting to see if the Republicans will stop holding the economy hostage and allow our nation to pay its bills, honor its commitments to senior citizens and veterans, and keep government workers at their jobs. But 4,000 government workers already have been laid off because of Republican intransigence.

The Federal Aviation Administration, FAA, was forced to shut down many of its operations last Saturday, because the House of

Representatives refused to pass a simple bill to extend its funding authorization. As a result, 4,000 FAA employees in 35 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico were placed on furlough. Those affected include many of the FAA's engineers, scientists, research analysts, administrative assistants, computer specialists, program managers, environmental protection specialists, and community planners. These government workers are being forced to live without pay and are unable to do their jobs developing our air travel infrastructure and serving the flying public.

The FAA has assured the American people that air traffic controllers will remain on the job, and the safety of the flying public will not be compromised. However, numerous FAA projects and services have been affected.

Earlier this week, the FAA AN as forced to issue stop work orders to construction and technology contractors for critical airport modernization projects. As a result, dozens of construction projects to build and modernize air traffic control towers and other aviation infrastructure were immediately halted. This work stoppage risks putting numerous construction workers and other private sector employees out of work as well.

In my home state of California, the FAA shutdown has delayed \$131.5 million in funding for projects and furloughed 203 FAA employees in the Los Angeles area alone. But the actual impact on the Los Angeles area is far greater. Los Angeles International Airport, LAX—which is located in my Congressional District—is the world's sixth busiest airport. LAX creates an estimated 59,000 jobs in or near the airport and has a total annual economic impact estimated at \$60 billion. In 2008, 60 million passengers and 1.8 million tons of freight and mail passed through LAX. All of this economic activity depends upon the safety and efficiency of our air travel system.

The work stoppage will have an immediate negative impact on LAX, delaying a much needed project to design and install new runway status lights. These lights improve visibility for pilots and help them see when it is safe to enter, cross or take off on a runway. Stopping work on important projects like this one will not only delay their completion but also significantly increase the long-term costs for taxpayers.

Unfortunately, LAX isn't alone in losing out on these funds. Nationwide, over \$250 million in contracts for runway status lights have been suspended. Also affected are nearly \$20 million in construction and engineering contracts to protect air traffic control towers from earthquakes and over \$14 million in projects to research weather technology systems for air traffic facilities and aircraft cockpits. This is no way to run one of the top air transportation systems in the world.

Why are the Republicans refusing to allow the FAA to reopen its doors? The Republicans certainly cannot claim they are trying to be fiscally responsible. The FAA shutdown is costing the federal government \$30 million a day in lost revenue from uncollected airline taxes.

FAA employees are dedicated public servants who work hard to ensure safe and efficient air travel for the flying public. They are proud of the work they do. I urge my Republican colleagues to let them go back to work.

They need their jobs, and the American people need them.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL FRANCIS
H. DILLON, JR.

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Francis H. Dillon, Jr., a constituent of mine from Great Falls, Virginia, for his 31 years of service to our nation as he approaches his 90th birthday on September 10. I also want to call attention to the fact that his entire family has followed his example of service.

Colonel Dillon served in the United States Army and began his service in 1943 during World War II in the 17th Airborne Division in which he saw combat action during the Battle of the Bulge, Operation Varsity, and the Allied invasion of Germany. He answered his nation's call a second time in 1950, recalled to active duty as an Intelligence Officer during the Korean War. Before retiring from the Army in 1974, he again served his country from 1968–1969 as he commanded the 525th Military Intelligence Group in Vietnam.

In 1947, Colonel Dillon married Martha Getz and together they raised seven sons. Through his example of selfless service, each one of Colonel Dillon's seven sons served in the Armed Forces of the United States. Four of his sons served as career Army officers; Major Francis H. Dillon III (ret.) 20 years, Colonel Peter J. Dillon (ret.) 28 years, LTC Dan P. Dillon (ret.) 26 years and LTC James R. Dillon (ret.) 20 years. Colonel Dillon's second son, Thomas C. Dillon, is a 1975 graduate of the United States Naval Academy and served on active duty in the Navy for nine years. Two of Colonel Dillon's sons served in the National Guard and United States Army Reserve. Sergeant Timothy D. Dillon served in the Connecticut National Guard for four years and the youngest of the seven sons, Major Douglas M. Dillon continues to serve in the United States Army Reserve as a Civil Affairs Officer. Colonel Dillon's sons have served in numerous overseas contingency operations including Operation Desert Shield/Storm, Kosovo, Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Colonel Dillon has four grandchildren who are also current members of Armed Forces. Captain Peter J. Dillon Jr. serves as an Army doctor and is currently deployed to Afghanistan. Duncan Dillon is in his third year at the United States Air Force Academy, Timothy Dillon Jr. is a Private First Class in the Idaho National Guard and enrolled in the University of Idaho Reserve Officer Training Course program and granddaughter, Julie Dillon, just entered her first year at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Two of Colonel Dillon's daughters-in-law have also served in the United States Army. Captain Patricia Dillon served for six years and LTC Maryanne Dillon (ret.) served for 20 years.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Colonel Francis H. Dillon, Jr. and offer the appreciation of a grateful

nation to him and his family for their dedicated service to America.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE
WESTACRES COMMUNITY'S 75TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Community of Westacres in the Township of West Bloomfield, as its residents celebrate its 75th anniversary.

In 1936, as the nation was still in the throes of the Great Depression and stood on the precipice of an unknown future, United States Senator James Couzens partnered with the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and Oakland Housing Inc., to establish the Westacres community. The vision was to build a community where working class Michigan residents and their families could have a place of their own and strive to achieve the American Dream. To this end, Oakland Housing Inc. put forward a number of guidelines to ensure that the residents of Westacres would be families interested in the welfare of their neighbors and in using the land they were provided to help them be self-sufficient.

As with all new communities, Westacres faced a number of challenges, but its residents always rose to meet the call of service to their neighbors. In 1937, to address the need for public safety, residents started the Westacres Fire Department, a volunteer force to protect their community. Residents also took it upon themselves to create the Westacres Credit Union and Westacres Library to provide the financial support and continuing education for their neighbors. The residents also founded the Orchard Lake Community Church and at the height of our nation's need for austerity, established the nation's oldest ride pool to get workers to work while conserving resources.

It is with a sense of great pride that over the last 75 years and from its humble beginnings, the Westacres community has grown and flourished as its residents have moved into America's dynamic middle class. Today, the community has grown to over 300 residences with dozens of families who have been part of Westacres for generations. As was the case when it was founded, service has continued to remain strong with the community residents who volunteer countless hours across the greater southeast Michigan community.

It is with great honor and pride that I represent the community of Westacres, as it celebrates this most auspicious occasion. Through its history, Westacres and its residents represent the powerful success that can be achieved in the face of adversity. Westacres' 75th anniversary is indeed an impressive milestone and I wish its residents many more years of success and service to our community.

THE GOLDEN WEST
HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Golden West Humanitarian Foundation.

Since 1998, the Golden West Humanitarian Foundation has been proactive in combating shortfalls in heavily mine-impacted countries. With innovation, forethought, partnership, appropriateness and affordability as its key strategies for intervention, the Foundation's mandate is to safeguard the lives of men, women and children across the globe where landmine and unexploded ordnance contamination is a major threat. That commitment and investment is most certainly deserving of recognition. Their tireless work brings countries closer to peace and prosperity and serves as inspiration to others to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, in December I traveled to Cambodia and saw first-hand the great work that Golden West Humanitarian Foundation does in that country. Golden West has been actively removing landmines and other unexploded munitions in Cambodia caused by three decades of war. Estimates are that up to six million landmines still remain in Cambodia. Landmines claim more than 200 lives annually and have caused more than 40,000 people to live as amputees. This means that one out of every 230 people living in Cambodia is an amputee.

Mr. Speaker, the 37th Congressional District of California, has the largest population of Cambodians living in the United States. What happens in Cambodia affects my constituents in California. Every time someone in Cambodia is maimed or killed by a landmine, it is likely that person has family members or friends that live in my district.

Mr. Speaker, the Foundation is hard at work doing the important work of removing landmines in Cambodia and elsewhere around the world. Golden West Humanitarian Foundation has implemented several other successful programs. They offer support to Cambodians who, while at work or play, face the risk of death or maiming by these remnants of conflict.

One of Golden West Humanitarian Foundations' most effective programs is its Explosive Harvesting Program (EHP). This program recycles explosives extracted from existing weapons stockpiles to create disposal charges for humanitarian demining. Since its inception, EHP has provided the bulk of all demining explosives used in Cambodia. The Explosive Harvesting Program has deactivated over 200,000 landmines and has removed more than 24 tons of explosives from potential black market sales.

Another effective way the Foundation is preventing unnecessary deaths in Cambodia is through Research and Development. Research into explosive and non-explosive demining tools, as well as landmine and unexploded detection technologies, is where investments have produced impressive returns on investment. The Foundation has provided

cutting edge solutions for problems encountered in humanitarian demining. The technical achievements of their research have been utilized by numerous organizations worldwide.

The Foundation further aids in protecting the most vulnerable group impacted by landmines and unexploded ordnance—children. Children are at a high risk of either dying or becoming physically or psychologically injured from land mines and other detonators in Cambodia. According to reports, there are two active mines in Cambodia for every child. Curious and trusting by nature, children are easily attracted by the explosives' texture and shine and too often find themselves exposed to the risk of harm.

Through their Children's Education Program, the Foundation has put ideas into action and created effective ways of preventing the unnecessary and heart rending death or harm to innocent children. One innovation in particular is the videogame Undercover UXO (shorthand for unexploded ordinance). It is an interactive, aged appropriate tool targeted that helps bring awareness to the children of the dangers land mines and other unexploded ordnance.

Golden West Humanitarian Foundation's work is critical to saving lives in Cambodia and around the world. The Foundation has more than a decade of experience making the world a safer place. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the Golden West Humanitarian Foundation and thanking them for the work that they do.

HONORING DORSEY'S LOCKER

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 70th Anniversary of the Dorsey family's service to the greater Bay Area, and their historic soul food restaurant Dorsey's Locker, which has become an important cultural institution within the African-American community in Oakland, California.

During a week-long community celebration of the restaurant's 70 years in business, we reflect upon the unique role that Dorsey's Locker and the Dorsey family have played in preserving a venue for authentic foods, spoken word artists, burgeoning comedians and diverse music.

In 1941, Mr. and Mrs. Henry and Wilma Dorsey opened the family restaurant in West Oakland. The business relocated in 1956 to Bosn's Locker on nearby Shattuck Avenue, where Clarence Dorsey, with the assistance of brothers Tom, Armstead and Jack, supervised the addition of a cocktail lounge. The restaurant received another personalized addition 3 years later, when Martin Luther Dorsey arrived in Oakland from Texas to build the Locker's existing bar by hand.

Mr. and Mrs. Dorsey continued to provide "Texas-Style" soul food until Henry's death. Dorsey's Bosn Locker was sold in 1986, only to be re-opened in 1996 by the next generation of the Dorsey family, under Dorsey & Associates, Inc.

Currently, Dorsey's Locker is owned by Donald Dorsey and features daily signature

soul food specials and a wide variety of featured entertainment at no extra cost. Whether enjoying live poetry, comedy, karaoke, reggae, or R&B performances during the Locker's nightly supper club, patrons have a familiar space to dine, unwind and enjoy a tried and true Oakland experience.

On behalf of California's 9th Congressional District, I want to extend my congratulations on this important milestone. Thank you, Dorsey family and the Dorsey's Locker community, for all that you do. Through your hard work, generosity and perseverance, so many have built memories, made history, and added to the rich cultural heritage that we share. I wish you enduring success and prosperity as you continue to nourish the bodies, hearts and minds of our community.

59TH NATIONAL PRAYER
BREAKFAST—PART I

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

59TH NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2011, WASHINGTON, DC, CO-CHAIRS, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE JEFF MILLER, FORMER REPRESENTATIVE ANN KIRKPATRICK

Congressman Jeff Miller: Good morning everyone. Welcome to the 59th National Prayer Breakfast. I'm Congressman Jeff Miller from the state of Florida and this is my co-chair, Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick of Arizona.

Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick: Thank you. Good morning to all of you and welcome. What an amazing collection of people this morning and what an exciting opportunity we have. In this room this morning, we have many of the U.S. members of the House and Senate, distinguished judges and members of the administration. We are also joined by people of over 140 nations, parliamentarians and heads of state from around the world.

Congressman Miller: We are all here to pray, to listen, to learn, to build new relationships for the good of the city of Washington, D.C., the United States and the world. If you would, please bow your head with me.

Lord, God of the universe of history and each one of us here today, thank you that we are here and more importantly that you are here with us. We pray that the distractions and worries we brought in here with us will suddenly fade away so we can be present with you and our neighbor today. May everything we say and think and do in and around this breakfast be pleasing to you. Change us with your love and your truth. Thank you for the physical food and the spiritual food we are about to consume. In the wonderful name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

Congresswoman Kirkpatrick: Jeff, I just want to tell you it's amazing that we got this many people into this room for this breakfast. Many of you have probably experienced a very crowded elevator bank this morning, and so my husband and I decided to take the stairwell, and we ended up in the kitchen. And I said, "Well you know—go to the source." But you know what—I always like to thank our people who prepare our

food, our food servers. So, would you join me in a round of applause to those who are serving us? Thank you.

I'm now going to introduce the head table. We are very honored to have Mr. Dudley Hall, who is an associate with Ms. Alison Krauss, Ms. Alison Krauss whose CD I have in my Ford Explorer when I drive around back in Arizona, Congressman Randy Forbes, United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, my good friend Congressman Larry Kissell from North Carolina, Senator Jeff Sessions, Vice President Biden, my husband and the person who guides me throughout my day—Roger Curley, our guest speaker Randall Wallace. We will have the President and Mrs. Obama in a little bit. We have Mrs. Miller, Jeff's wife, Senator Mark Pryor, Jose Enriquez from the Chilean miners, Alfredo Cooper who is the chaplain of the President of Chile, Senator Kay Hagan, and Captain Mark Kelly, the husband of my dear colleague Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. Please enjoy each other's company and your breakfast, thank you.

[President Obama Enters]

Announcer: Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States and Mrs. Michelle Obama.

Congresswoman Kirkpatrick: The vision of this breakfast was first cast by President Eisenhower and the members of a small weekly breakfast group that met in the Senate and House. As they experienced the warmth and strength of praying together, they decided to share the experience with the country and eventually the world.

Congressman Miller: That small group in the Senate and its counterpart in the House continues to meet over five decades later. What we're doing this morning is just a big public version of what we do in private as members of Congress every single week that Congress is in session.

Congresswoman Kirkpatrick: We are happy to report that small groups like this have sprung up in parliaments in almost 200 countries. And many countries and regions of the world hold annual prayer breakfasts just like this one. Isn't it encouraging that people all over the world with very different languages, cultures and ideas can be united in prayer?

Congressman Miller: With us this morning are the President of Equatorial Guinea, His Excellency Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo and the President of Macedonia, His Excellency Gjorge Ivanov. We've also received a letter that I would like to read a couple of excerpts from, from his Majesty King Abdullah II to the National Prayer Breakfast.

"In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful, Mr. President, my dear friends. The National Prayer Breakfast brings together people each year not only in fellowship but in earnest prayer that our generation may do God's good will on earth. I am honored to join your endeavor by letter this morning as I joined you in person just five years ago. We are also linked not only by belief but also, and more basically, our common humanity. However, it is only by truly understanding the best in our faiths and in our common humanity that we can serve God and protect our children's future. In this vein, Jordan has a long and proud heritage of tolerance and moderation. Today Jordanians are working systematically and boldly to expand the zone of understanding and dialogue around the world."

Now as you might imagine, in our House prayer breakfast we don't all agree on everything. In fact, we disagree strongly on many of the issues of today's time. But the beauty

of our prayer breakfast group is that we can pray together in spite of all of our differences. Prayer is a powerful reconciling force. Just because we can't resolve every issue doesn't mean we can't have strong relationships together.

Congresswoman Kirkpatrick: Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers." He didn't say peace lovers because we all love peace. He said, "Peacemakers." It is the obligation of all of us to be peacemakers. Events like the tragedy in Tucson, in my home state of Arizona, and the turmoil in the Middle East today make it clear we have a lot of work to do and prayer is the best place to start.

Congressman Miller: Ann and I, along with our colleagues, have worked all year long to provide you an uplifting and encouraging experience this morning. We hope you receive it in faith and think about how a small prayer breakfast group or a big event just like this one might change your life, your leadership and the place you call home.

Congresswoman Kirkpatrick: Music has an amazing power to touch our emotions and lift our spirits. We are pleased to have with us a supremely talented woman who will give us a worshipful sense of just why we are all here. With her violin and her voice, she has won more Grammy Awards than any female artist. Here to join our hearts together with her beautiful music, Alison Krauss.

[Song by Alison Krauss]

Congresswoman Kirkpatrick: Thank you, Alison. Part of what makes service in the House fascinating is all the different backgrounds of people elected to serve here in Washington. Most of you can remember a civics, a government or a social studies teacher who first taught how nations and people come together to make decisions.

Congressman Miller: The people of North Carolina sent a social studies teacher to represent them here. For our first reading from the Holy Scripture, our friend and brother, Representative Larry Kissell.

Representative Larry Kissell: Mr. President, good morning special guests. I will be reading to you from the New Testament. First I was asked to talk about briefly our best hour of the week as we refer to it in the House. This National Prayer Breakfast began, as you've already heard, with members of Congress meeting with President Eisenhower. Mr. President, we want to thank you for continuing this tradition, it is so important. It is the best hour of the week when members of the House can come together, leave their burdens and cares at the door, and fellowship, pray, laugh, talk and share. It is the best hour of the week. I will be reading to you from Luke Chapter 24, verses 13 through 16 and 28 through 31. You may recognize this as the road to Emmaus story, a time taking place right after the crucifixion of Jesus.

"And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. But their eyes were holden that they should not know him."

"And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. But they constrained Him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them. And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and

they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight."

As we go through our walks of life, whether we are followers of Jesus or even of another religion, it is through Jesus—his words, his action, his love—that we have a way to come together. And we should always walk as if we are going to meet a stranger who is Jesus. Thank you, and God bless this Scripture.

Congressman Miller: We will now hear from our friends in the Senate prayer breakfast group.

Senator Jeff Sessions: Good Morning. I'm Jeff Sessions from Alabama, a Republican.

Senator Mark Pryor: And I'm Mark Pryor of Arkansas, a Democrat.

Honorable Jeff Sessions: We're here on behalf of the Senate prayer breakfast to welcome you.

Senator Pryor: Yes, welcome and thank you for being here this morning. Every Wednesday that the United States Senate is in session, a group of us meet for prayer and fellowship.

Senator Sessions: This is a Senate tradition that has gone uninterrupted since the 1940's, and all who participate in it will tell you that it is the most meaningful period of our week.

Senator Pryor: The Senate prayer breakfast is a time when we can come together in a non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-political way and share our life experiences with one another. Proverbs says, "Just as iron sharpens irons, so one man sharpens another." This is our weekly time of sharpening.

Senator Sessions: The same prayer breakfast co-hosts the National Prayer Breakfast. We are delighted to be here and we hope this time together is a real blessing to you and that you will continue to grow in your faith as we seek to grow in ours. Maybe this morning will inspire you to start your own local prayer breakfast.

Senator Pryor: Thanks again for being here and if you could remember the Senate and senators in your prayers, we would greatly appreciate it.

Senator Sessions: Let me say Amen to that. God bless you, welcome.

Congressman Miller: One of the messages that we hope you will take home from this breakfast is that members of Congress do pray. You can tell your friends back home you even saw one do it here. You also may have read about the many caucuses that we have in the House, the Congressional Black Caucus, a Pro Trade Caucus, the Renewal Energy Caucus, for example.

Congresswoman Kirkpatrick: What you may not know is that we in the House have what we call the Prayer Caucus, and we have asked its leader, Representative Randy Forbes of Virginia, to lead us in our prayer for national leaders. Randy.

Representative Randy Forbes: Could you join me as we pray for the leaders of our country please? Lord, today we thank you that even in the darkest times of our lives your light will guide our way. We thank you that no matter how many times we ignore you, no matter how often we reject you, and no matter how fervently we try to deny your very existence, you have never stopped speaking to us. This morning, we thank you for our country and for the leaders of our country. We pray that you will give them hope, strength and wisdom and measure enough to sustain those they lead. We pray that you will not allow them to falter even when the earth seems to shake around them. We pray that through the noise of the world, they will discern your words. And we pray

that you give them a heart to defend the right of our nation to trust in you. But, Lord, although we do not ask more of them than they can do, that is why this day we turn to you, as King Solomon did generations ago, and ask you, Lord, to heal our land. We ask you to bless our leaders and we ask you to continue to bless the United States of America. Amen.

Congresswoman Kirkpatrick: Since much of what our government does is raise and spend money, it is good to have some people around who know how to make wise decisions with money.

Congressman Miller: So it's good that the people of North Carolina, again, sent us a banker to provide us a reading from the Holy Scriptures, Senator Kay Hagan.

59TH NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST—PART II

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. AKIN.

Senator Kay Hagan: Thank you and good morning. If I wasn't here, and I was actually back in my home state of North Carolina on a Wednesday morning, I would attend a prayer breakfast with a small group of women at my church. And I have asked them today to pray for you and to lift all of you up in prayer and to pray for peace. I do want to read from the Old Testament, Isaiah chapter 40 verses 28 through 31.

"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless. Even youth will faint and be weary and the young will fall exhausted but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary and they shall walk and not faint."

Congressman Miller: Sometimes as busy people we say that we are buried in our work. Our next presenter knows the literal meaning of the term. Along with 32 other miners, he endured 69 days half a mile under ground in a Chilean mine. The world marveled at the technological achievement of their rescue.

Congresswoman Kirkpatrick: Our guest today brings us the story of how God protected and encouraged them until their rescue. Please welcome the man who led those miners in worship and prayer throughout those dark and fearful days, Jose Enriquez. Translating for Jose will be the chaplain of the President of Chile, Reverend Alfred Cooper. [Applause]

[Mr. Jose Enriquez]

Mr. Cooper translating for Mr. Enriquez: First of all, greeting to President Obama and all present, government authorities and church authorities. My name is Jose Enriquez. I thank God for being in this place. I have come to give a testimony of what God did in that mine of San Jose. On the 5th of August, we were surprised by a rock fall and an explosion, and we had to organize ourselves down there to face this crisis. We had many difficulties, but we were able to overcome them. Organizing ourselves into a democratic community, we voted 50 plus one for every major decision and we went along

with it. We realized, however, that we only had one alternative and that was God, himself. We were different creeds and different churches, so I got them all in a circle and began to teach the miners how to pray with participative prayer. We made sure that each one, in his own way, could pray and participate. And as we prayed, we began to know the presence and blessing of God among us down in the mine. We were strengthened and our spirits were revived.

We had some serious problems. We had very little food—for three days only, we had no water and we had to sort out the jobs like repairing the electric and the piping. So we decided that, unless we prayed and God did a miracle, there would be no way out. And that became our daily hope and comfort as we began to pray—that He would do miracles among us and solve our problems.

The first 17 days were the worst, with no communication with the outside world. But we kept preaching the word of God. And God was with us and among us and he began to deal with us and teach and speak to us. He began to reconcile the inevitable tensions that occur in such a situation. And so in this democratic, not secular democratic but praying democratic, community God began to reconcile us together. And so we would get the one with the other and force them to shake their hands and to become reconciled and we maintained the peace and the community spirit down there that way. And then we had the great miracle where the second drill, the first one had passed us by, glanced off a rock and broke in at exactly the right level, at exactly the right angle to enable our rescue. And then of course you know the rest of the story—52 days of surviving down there but now in touch with the outside world. At last we were able to eat. We got our beef steaks that we wanted, and we got all our medication. And then, this was the greatest blessing of all that came down that small pipe, small Bibles, because those fitted. They came down, and I then had a Bible to speak from, and I could preach more powerfully and profoundly from the very word of God. There was one Bible for each man with his name on it.

There is so much to tell you, dear folk. And finally that day came when we were rescued. And even before we went up, I encouraged them to get on their knees and pray one final time. Some wanted to dive into the capsule and get out immediately. But we said, no, hold it, wait one moment: we're going to pray first. We had that final time of prayer together. I said to them, brethren, we pray to our God in a desperate situation, and he answered our prayers. So now we wish to pray and thank God and bless God for all the help from all over the world. We blessed the capsule and thanked God for the work that so many had put into it—the many authorities, politicians, our very President who committed himself sparing no expense or effort to make sure we were found. And then came that great day when we began to come up one by one—which it seems all of you saw, and the whole world was watching. We felt the best way to express what we were feeling was to wear this t-shirt that we sent to be made, it said: "Thank you God. Thank you Lord Jesus. Thank you for having saved us." And then we came out to hug our wives and loved ones. Glory to God!

Congresswoman Kirkpatrick: We know of course that the President does not run the government alone but draws the greatest talent from the 50 states to serve the people. Tom Vilsack previously served as the Governor of the State of Iowa and serves our nation as our Secretary of Agriculture.

Congressman Miller: To pray for the leaders of the world, Secretary Tom Vilsack.

Secretary Tom Vilsack: Let us bow our heads and pray to the God who comforts us and watches over us. For our world leaders, our prayer is for them to remember and to live the beatitudes. Blessed are the leaders who are poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are the leaders who are meek, for they and their people shall possess the earth. Blessed are the leaders who mourn, for they and their people shall be comforted. Blessed are the leaders who hunger and thirst for justice, for they and their people shall be satisfied. Blessed are the leaders who are merciful, for they and their people shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the leaders who are clean of heart, for they and their people shall see God. And blessed are the leaders who are peacemakers, for they and their people shall be called Children of God. Blessed are the leaders who suffer persecution for justice sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Let us pray that our world leaders do justice, love kindness and walk the path according to God's plan. Amen.

Congresswoman Kirkpatrick: There may be no more potent or effective force on good earth than the power of story. There are those precious few gifted artists who can shape the ideas in histories of the human struggle into the form that touches and transforms us all. We have one such artist among us this morning. Randall Wallace has touched audiences around the world with his cinematic masterpieces such as "We Were Soldiers," "Secretariat," my favorite, "Pearl Harbor" and especially, "Braveheart," a tribute to his Scottish ancestor, William Wallace. We look forward to receiving the power of the words he has chosen to share with us this morning. Please welcome Randall Wallace.

Mr. Randall Wallace: Mr. President, Mrs. Obama, Mr. Vice President, members of Congress, international guests, all of you here today, it is a great honor for me to be with you.

An introduction like this sort of covers me with Hollywood glory, and whenever I am introduced that way I feel compelled to tell a story that relates exactly how glamorous I am. My first big break in Hollywood was when I was promoted to producer and sent to take over a television show that was in trouble. The ratings were low, the actors were unhappy, and unhappiest of all was a gorgeous young woman who had been Miss Universe. So, before I went out to meet them, I bought what I considered the essential piece of equipment for a producer: a strap to hold my sunglasses so they could dangle around my neck. My plan was to walk up, say, "Hi, I'm Randall Wallace," snap off my sunglasses, make my point, and then close with a dramatic flourish by putting them on again. I figured the actors would love it. So I walked up to Miss Universe, said "Hi, I'm Randall Wallace," snapped off my glasses and said, "I know you're not happy. You haven't been given enough to do. But I'm in charge of this show now—the writing, directing, everything. So if you have any problems, you come to me." And I snapped my sunglasses back on. But while I was talking, I'd been fidgeting with my tie, and I did this.

There is no fallback position from that position. A friend told me it may have been the first time in Hollywood history that an actress wondered whom she would have to seduce to get out of a job.

Movies are arguably America's most influential export—but guys like me don't seem

the obvious choice to speak at a prayer breakfast. When I was directing "We Were Soldiers" at Fort Benning, Georgia, I found time one weekend to drive over to visit former President Carter's Sunday lesson at his home church in Plains. I asked a friend who knew the Carters to save me a seat, and when I arrived, I found the seat was right next to Rosalyn Carter. Apparently, Mrs. Carter, gracious Southern lady that she is, had wanted to be sure I felt at home. I sat down and Mr. Carter asked the congregation to open their pew Bibles to a passage that was the subject of his lesson. Now I grew up in Baptist churches, and I was familiar with the passage he was about to read. So I took the chance to open the hymn book to check on the lyrics of a hymn I was thinking of using in our film. And as I was thumbing through the hymn book, Mrs. Carter touched my arm and handed me her Bible, opened to the right passage. And I realized in that moment that Mrs. Carter had logically assumed that since I was a Hollywood director I didn't know the difference between a hymn book and a Bible. And I have to admit, it did strike me that I had the perfect chance to steal Mrs. Carter's Bible. If anyone stopped me, I'd just say, "She gave it to me." It was worn with use, marked with joy and tears. Imagine what it would bring on e-bay.

To prepare myself, I've studied the speeches of those who have preceded me in this position in past years. The causes they've advocated from this podium are vital, and I have no way to compete with their accomplishments or their eloquence. So this morning I'd like to do something that as nearly as I can tell is unprecedented for a keynote address at the National Prayer Breakfast. I'd like to speak about . . . prayer. I'm not a philosopher. I'm not a preacher. I'm a storyteller. Like Jesus. As nearly as I can tell, that is my only similarity to Him. Actually there is one other: I too have cried out, "My God, why have you forsaken me."

I've lived a life of tremendous privilege. I grew up just down the road from here, in Lynchburg, Virginia. Virginians are a righteous and sober people, too proud to tell a lie. But I was born in Tennessee. My father was born in Lizard Lick, Tennessee. The men in my father's family are Alton, Elton, Dalton, Lyman, Gleaman, Herman, Thurman and Clyde. They called Clyde, Pete. Nobody knew why.

When I was a child I suffered from attacks of asthma so severe that I couldn't breathe at all, and I had the real sense that if I panicked I would die. Grandmother would hold me in her lap all night long, and she would sing to me, and tell me stories from her childhood, and from the Bible. And she would look into my eyes, and she would smile. And I don't look at blue eyes to this day without seeing hers.

And as I grew older, I found her looking at me in a different way—quietly, distantly, and so I asked her, "Grandmother, why are you looking at me that way?" And she answered, "You remind me of Rufe." Rufe was her husband—my grandfather—who had died before I was born. Of course, I became hungry to learn about him, so I asked my father to tell me what he was like, and he told me this story.

During the Great Depression my grandfather, who was a farmer, decided to open a country store to feed his family. There was no wood to be had and no money to buy any, but he found a wrecked riverboat on the shore of the Tennessee River, and he salvaged that wood to build his store. But he needed cash to buy the stock to sell, and

there was one place in town that paid cash for labor, and that was the plant where they froze huge blocks of ice, and men would pick them up with tongs and sling them up onto wagons so they could sell them to farmers whose homes had no electricity. My grandfather was the only white man who did that job; all the rest were what they then called "colored" men.

So his first day on the job, the supervisor, another white man, approached my grandfather and told him, "Listen, I just want you to know, all I got on this crew besides you is a bunch of . . . Colored men, and I cuss at 'em to make 'em work. So if I forget myself and I call you an S.O.B., don't pay me no mind, I don't mean nothin' by it, that's just the way I am." And my grandfather looked at the supervisor and said, "I understand completely. And I just want you to know that if you do forget yourself, and you call me an S.O.B., and I hit you in the face with a claw hammer, don't pay me no mind, I don't mean nothin' by it, that's just the way I am."

And in that one story I understood exactly who my grandfather was, and exactly who I wanted to be. And I understood the power of a story.

My father, and mother, worked extremely hard so that I could go to school. He was a salesman who loved his customers, and he rose in his company, with promotion after promotion . . . until one day the family-owned company he had worked for twenty years was sold to a professional investment group who knew nothing about the business itself but who believed it would prosper if they fired all the old guys and hired cheaper younger guys. My father was one of the old guys. He was 38. I've always wondered if my father lived his life hungry for the father he'd never had; his own father had died before he was born—the grandfather he'd told me about was my mother's father, not his. He had never been fired from anything. The strongest and best man I ever knew, and he had a complete breakdown.

While he was in the hospital, my sister and I were farmed out to relatives. For awhile, we lived in a house that had no indoor plumbing. When I told my father about that he said, "Well . . . rich people have a canopy over their beds—and we've got a can of pee under ours." And that's when I knew my daddy would be all right.

The last sale he had made for his old company was for 90,000 dollars—in 1961. The first sale he made when he started his next job was for 90 cents. Working one hundred hours a week, he clawed his way back to success. God Bless America. And God bless my Daddy. He told me that I could go to college anywhere—something he and my mother had never gotten a chance to do. I chose the most expensive place possible—and he was so proud. But when I graduated, I didn't want to be a doctor or a lawyer, I wanted to be a writer. I wanted to tell the kind of stories that would let a young man know who his ancestors were, and who he might be. The kind of story that might keep a child alive through a long night.

59TH NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST—PART III

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. BROWN of Georgia.

My first job was in Nashville at a theme park, managing a live show that featured barnyard animals playing musical instruments. I'm not making this up. I had a piano playing pig, named Pigarace. I had a duck that played the drum named Bert Bachquack. You can imagine how proud my parents were.

I had my embarrassments and my setbacks, but I kept writing. I moved to Los Angeles. I got an opportunity in television. I married. We had two beautiful sons. I had purpose in my life, and I worked like I'd seen my father work, with pride and with passion. I'd won a multi-year contract with a thriving company. I bought an old home and remodeled it; I was promoted to producer. Except for an occasional mishap with my tie, life was sweet.

Then the Writer's Guild went out on strike, which caused the company I worked for to void its contract with me. The strike went on forever, and when it was over the company was barely there anymore. I was out of work, my savings were gone. No one would return my phone calls—I'm sure that's never happened where you work.

I kept trying, of course. I was always good at trying. But one day I was sitting at my desk and I was staring at nothing, my stomach in a knot, my hands trembling, and I realized I was breaking down, as my father had. I feared I had failed my father, and my mother and my grandmother. And my greatest fear was that I would fail my sons. I was afraid they would see me come apart, as I had seen my father come apart, and it would be something they could never forget.

I got down on my knees; I had nowhere else to go. And I prayed a simple prayer. I said "Lord, all I care about right now are those boys. And maybe they don't need to grow up in a house with a tennis court and a swimming pool. Maybe they need a little house with one bathroom, or no bathrooms at all. Maybe they need to see what a man does when he gets knocked down, the way my father showed me. But I pray, if I go down, let me go down not on my knees, but with my flag flying."

And I got up and I began to write the words that led to "Braveheart."

Great writers like Robert Frost and Jane Austin have said that an ending that does not surprise the writer won't surprise the reader. When I wrote about William Wallace standing on a battle field ready to die for what he believed, I felt it and when I came to the end I wept.

Was that moment of prayer the single determining factor in the arc of my whole life? Of course not. My teacher and mentor in college, the great Thomas Langford, of Duke University, once told us in class that no decision in our lives stands alone; the trajectory of all other decisions we've ever made points our direction for the future.

Our lives are unfolding stories, they are moving pictures. If we took a freeze frame of Golgotha, on the day that Jesus was crucified, and showed that picture to anyone unfamiliar with the story and asked them to judge who the victor was in that scene, they'd be unlikely to say: "The one hanging on the cross in the middle."

It was from that cross that Jesus cried, "My God! Why have you forsaken me?"

That cry does not amaze me. What does amaze me is that while one of the two thieves hanging on either said of Jesus mocked Him, the other acknowledged the justice of his fate and asked Jesus for help; and Jesus, in the agonies of crucifixion, told him, "Today you will be with me in Paradise." That does more than amaze me. It

makes me believe that any power that could enable Jesus to say that, then, could do anything.

And it seems to me that Jesus' response is the answer to every prayer that thief never prayed. If God is God, then God knows our prayers whether we pray them or not.

So why pray the prayers? To me, it's not because God needs to know my prayers, but because I do.

Prayer sifts us like sand. Take any moment of our lives; take this one. Here, in a room resonant with power. Did we come this morning because we want to feel a closeness to power? Do we come before God because what we truly want is to use the ultimate power we imagine God has? Or do we fall to our knees to admit the truth of our weakness—and stand again, in the strength of that truth?

Jesus said the truth will set us free, and He said the truth is: God is love.

It seems to me that the prayer that comes from Love is the prayer that goes to God.

My father once told me a story of a man drowning in the ocean. He cried out, "Oh God! If you save me, I will spend the rest of my life in serving You!" A few moments later a boat appeared and he was pulled from the water, and on the way back to shore the man lifted his eyes to heaven and said, "Of course You do understand that I meant 'in an advisory capacity.'" But life does not give us the option of Advisory Capacity.

Tolstoy wrote in *War and Peace* that in a battle, one man throwing down his weapon and running away can panic a whole army, and in a panic, one man lifting up the flag and running back toward the enemy can rally a whole army, and no one but God knows what will happen, and when.

What if prayer is the way to glimpse God's true intentions—the divine purpose for each of us? I'm no theologian. I'm not looking for logic; I'm only trying to find an understanding for my experience that prayer matters. Does it change the mind of God? I don't know. I can only tell you that it changes me.

When I was a boy we sang a hymn called "Footsteps of Jesus." Not everyone grew up as I did. I'm sometimes described as a rarity, a filmmaker who might speak freely about prayer. But really I'm not so unusual. All of us dreamers in Hollywood are keenly aware of the falseness of fame, the fleeting nature of beauty, the illusions of power. And when I pray with or for my friends, my first concern is not whether they follow the footsteps of Jesus, but whether I do.

If I've led you to believe my life is any example of righteousness, then maybe you're not familiar with the Tennessee talent for stretching the truth. And even if I could have stolen Mrs. Carter's Bible, I couldn't have kept it. You might own the pages but you don't own the Bible until you've lived it.

Some of you here lead nations. Some of you here lead the world. All of us here have one heart inside us, and it is in that one heart where the whole battle is fought.

There are as many ways to approach the great questions of life as there are people on the earth. But every one of us must stand alone before all that made us, and all that we have been, and that we might be. And dying in your bed, many years from now, would you not trade all the days from that day to this for one chance, just one chance, to open your heart before God Almighty, and to tell Him, "I will lose my life, and I will find it by loving in all the ways You lead my heart to love."

You have a prayer, pray it. Amen.

Congressman Miller: Thank you, Randall. Thank you for inspiring all of us. And now it

is my honor to introduce my President, our President, the President of the United States of America. We have an expression in Florida that you can walk shoulder to shoulder with someone even if you don't see eye to eye. That's the prayerful spirit in which we gather today. It is the genius of our founders that we have one President at a time and it is the higher genius of the Scriptures that we are to pray for our leaders that we may all lead quiet and peaceable lives. Mr. President, first we thank you for your attendance and the strong support that you have given this event and all of the activities that surround it. I speak for all members of Congress here and for millions across our country and around the world, we pray for you each day as you lead our country. Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States, Barack Obama.

President Barack Obama: Thank you so much. To the co-chairs, Jeff and Ann; to all the members of Congress who are here, the distinguished guests who have traveled so far to be here this morning; to Randall for your wonderful stories and powerful prayer; to all who are here providing testimony, thank you so much for having me and Michelle here. We are blessed to be here.

I want to begin by just saying a word to Mark Kelly, who's here. We have been praying for Mark's wife, Gabby Giffords, for many days now. But I want Gabby and Mark and their entire family to know that we are with them for the long haul, and God is with them for the long haul.

And even as we pray for Gabby in the aftermath of a tragedy here at home, we're also mindful of the violence that we're now seeing in the Middle East, and we pray that this violence in Egypt will end and that the rights and aspirations of the Egyptian people will be realized and that a better day will dawn over Egypt and throughout the world.

For almost 60 years going back to President Eisenhower, this gathering has been attended by our President. It's a tradition that I'm proud to uphold, not only as a fellow believer but as an elected leader whose entry into public service was actually through the church. This may come as a surprise, for as some of you know, I did not come from a particularly religious family. My father, who I barely knew—I only met once for a month in my entire life—was said to be a non-believer throughout his life.

My mother, whose parents were Baptist and Methodist, grew up with a certain skepticism about organized religion, and she usually only took me to church on Easter and Christmas—sometimes. And yet my mother was also one of the most spiritual people that I ever knew. She was somebody who was instinctively guided by the Golden Rule and who nagged me constantly about the home-spun values of her Kansas upbringing, values like honesty and hard work and kindness and fair play.

And it's because of her that I came to understand the equal worth of all men and all women, and the imperatives of an ethical life and the necessity to act on your beliefs. And it's because of her example and guidance that despite the absence of a formal religious upbringing my earliest inspirations for a life of service ended up being the faith leaders of the civil rights movement.

There was, of course, Martin Luther King and the Baptist leaders, the ways in which they helped those who had been subjugated to make a way out of no where, and transform a nation through the force of love. There are also Catholic leaders like Father Theodore Hesburgh and Jewish leaders like

Rabi Abraham Joshua Heschel, Muslim leaders and Hindu leaders. Their call to fix what was broken in our world, a call routed in faith, is what led me just a few years out of college to sign up as a community organizer for a group of churches on the Southside of Chicago. And it was through that experience working with pastors and laypeople trying to heal the wounds of hurting neighborhoods that I came to know Jesus Christ for myself and embrace Him as my Lord the Savior.

Now, that was over 20 years ago. And like all of us, my faith journey has had its twists and turns. It hasn't always been a straight line. I have thanked God for the joys of parenthood and Michelle's willingness to put up with me. In the wake of failures and disappointments, I have questioned what God had in store for me and have been reminded that God's plans for us may not always match our own short-sided desires. And let me tell you, these past two years, they have deepened my faith. The presidency has a funny way of making a person feel the need to pray. Abe Lincoln said, as many of you know, "I have been driven to my knees many times by the overwhelming conviction that I have no place else to go."

Fortunately, I'm not alone in my prayers. My pastor friends like Joel Hunter and T.D. Jakes come over to the Oval Office every once in a while to pray with me and to pray for the nation. The chapel at Camp David has provided consistent respite for fellowship. The director of our Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnership's office, Joshua DuBois, a young minister himself, starts my morning off with meditations from Scripture.

Most of all, I've got friends around the country—some who I know, some who I don't know—but I know there are friends who are out there praying for me. One of them is an old friend named Kaye Wilson. In our family we call her Mama Kaye. And she happens to be Malia and Sasha's Godmother. And she has organized prayer circles for me all around the country. She started small with her own Bible study group, but once I started running for President, and she heard what they were saying about me on cable, she felt the need to pray harder. By the time I was elected President, she said, "I just couldn't keep up on my own. I was having to pray eight, nine times a day just for you." So she enlisted help from around the country.

It's also comforting to know that people are praying for you who don't always agree with you. Tom Coburn, for example, is here. He is not only a dear friend but also a brother in Christ. We came into the Senate at the same time. Even though we are on opposite sides of a whole bunch of issues, part of what has bound us together is a shared faith, a recognition that we pray to and serve the same God. And I keep praying that God will show him the light and he will vote with me once in a while. It's going to happen, Tom. A ray of light is going to beam down.

My Christian faith then has been a sustaining force for me over these last few years. All the more so, when Michelle and I hear our faith questioned from time to time, we are reminded that ultimately what matters is not what other people say about us but whether we're being true to our conscience and true to our God. "Seek first his Kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well."

As I travel across the country folks often ask me—what is it that I pray for? And like most of you, my prayers sometimes are general: "Lord, give me the strength to meet the challenges of my office." Sometimes

they're specific: "Lord, give me patience as I watch Malia go to her first dance where there will be boys. Lord, have that skirt get longer as she travels to that dance."

But while I petition God for a whole range of things, there are a few common themes that do occur. The first category of prayer comes out of the urgency of the Old Testament prophets and the Gospel itself. I pray for my ability to help those who are struggling. Christian tradition teaches that one day the world will be turned right side up and everything will return as it should be. But until that day, we're called to work on behalf of a God that shows justice and mercy and compassion to the most vulnerable.

59TH NATIONAL PRAYER
BREAKFAST—PART IV

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. MCINTYRE.

We've seen a lot of hardship these past two years. Not a day passes when I don't get a letter from somebody or meet someone who is out of work, or has lost their home or are without health care. The story Randall told about his father—that's a story that a whole lot of Americans have gone through over these past couple of years.

Sometimes I can't help right away. Sometimes what I can do to try to improve the economy or to curb foreclosures or to help deal with the health care system—sometimes it seems so distant and so remote, so profoundly inadequate to the enormity of the need. And it is my faith, then, that Biblical injunction to serve the least of these, that keeps me going and that keeps me from being overwhelmed. It's faith that reminds me that despite being just one very imperfect man, I can still help whoever I can, however I can, wherever I can, for as long as I can, and that somehow God will buttress these efforts.

It also helps to know that none of us are alone in answering this call. It's being taken up each and every day by so many of you—back home, your churches, your temples and synagogues, your fellow congregants—so many faith groups across this great country of ours.

I came upon a group recently called charity: water, a group that supports clean water projects overseas. This is a project that was started by a former night club promoter named Scott Harrison who grew weary of living only for himself and feeling like he wasn't following Christ as well as he should.

And because of Scott's good work, charity: water has helped 1.7 million people get access to clean water. And in the next 10 years, he plans to make clean water accessible to a hundred million more. That's the kind of promoting we need more of, and that's the kind of faith that moves mountains. And there are stories like that scattered across this room, of people who have taken it upon themselves to make a difference.

Now, sometimes faith groups can do the work of caring for the least of these on their own; sometimes they need a partner, whether it's in business or government. And that's why my administration has taken a fresh look at the way we organize with faith groups, the way we work with faith groups through our Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

And through that office, we're expanding the way faith groups can partner with our government. We're helping them feed more kids who otherwise would go hungry. We're helping fatherhood groups get dads the support they need to be there for their children. We're working with non-profits to improve the lives of people around the world. And we're doing it in ways that are aligned with our constitutional principles. And in this work, we intend to expand it in the days ahead, rooted in the notions of partnership and justice and the imperatives to help the poor.

Of course, there are some needs that require more resources than faith groups have at their disposal. There's only so much a church can do to help all the families in need—all those who need help making a mortgage payment, or avoiding foreclosure, or making sure their child can go to college. There is only so much that a non-profit can do to help a community rebuild in the wake of disaster. There is only so much the private sector will do to help folks who are desperately sick get the care that they need.

And that's why I continue to believe that in a caring and in a just society, government must have a role to play; that our values, our love and our charity must find expression, not just in our families, not just in our places of work and our places of worship, but also in our government and in our politics.

Over the past two years, the nature of these obligations, the proper role of government has obviously been the subject of enormous controversy. And the debates have been fierce as one side's version of compassion and community may be interpreted by the other side as an oppressive and irresponsible expansion of the state or an unacceptable restriction on individual freedom.

That's why a second recurring theme in my prayers is a prayer for humility. God answered this prayer for me early on by having me marry Michelle. Because whether it's reminding me of a chore undone, or questioning the wisdom of watching my third football game in a row on Sunday, she keeps me humble.

But in this life of politics when debates have become so bitterly polarized, and changes in the media lead so many of us to listen and reinforce our existing biases, it's useful to go back to Scripture to remind ourselves that none of us has all the answers—none of us, no matter what our political party or our station in life.

The full breadth of human knowledge is like a grain of sand in God's hands. There are some mysteries in this world we cannot fully comprehend. As it is written in Job, "God's voice thunders in marvelous ways. He does great things beyond our understandings."

The challenge I find then is to balance this uncertainty, this humility with the need to fight for deeply held convictions, to be open to other points of view but firm in our core principles. And I pray for this wisdom every day.

I pray that God will show me and all of us the limits of our understanding, and open our ears and our hearts to our brothers and sisters with different points of view; that such reminders of our shared hopes and our shared dreams and our shared limitations as children of God will reveal a way forward that we can travel together.

And the last recurrent theme, one that binds all prayers together, is that I might walk closer with God and make that walk my first and most important task.

In our own lives it's easy to be consumed by our daily worries and our daily concerns.

And it is even easier at a time when everybody is busy, everybody is stressed and everybody—our culture—is obsessed with wealth and power and celebrity. And often it takes a brush with hardship or tragedy to shake us out of that, to remind us of what matters most.

We see an aging parent wither under a long illness, or we lose a daughter or a husband in Afghanistan, we watch a gunman open fire at a supermarket—and we remember how fleeting life can be. And we ask ourselves how we have treated others, whether we've told our family and friends how much we love them. And it's in these moments, when we feel most intensely our mortality and our own flaws and the sins of the world, that we most desperately seek to touch the face of God.

So my prayer this morning is that we might seek His face not only in those moments, but each and every day; and every day as we go through the hustle and bustle of our lives, whether it's in Washington or Hollywood or anywhere in between, that we might every so often rise above the here and now and kneel before the Eternal; that we might remember, Kaye, the fact that those who wait on the Lord will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not be weary and they will walk and not faint.

When I wake in the morning, I wait on the Lord, and I ask Him to give me the strength to do right by our country and its people. And when I go to bed at night I wait on the Lord and ask him to forgive me my sins, and look after my family and the American people, and make me an instrument of His will.

I say these prayers hoping they will be answered, and I say these prayers knowing that I must work and must sacrifice and must serve to see them answered. But I also say these prayers knowing that the act of prayer itself is a source of strength. It is a reminder that our time on Earth is not just about us; that when we open ourselves to the possibility that God might have a larger purpose for our lives, there is a chance that somehow, in ways that we may never fully know, God will use us well.

May the Lord bless you and keep you, and may He bless this country that we love.

[Song by Alison Krauss]

Congresswoman Kirkpatrick: Thank you so much, Alison. It has been quite a morning.

Congressman Miller: We are grateful to all of our head table guests and our distinguished visitors around the world. We all hope you have something powerful to think about and apply to your leadership challenges wherever you may live.

Congresswoman Kirkpatrick: Prayer is a powerful thing because we all are connected to a powerful loving God. We are all brought to this place and this moment for a reason and it is our responsibility to figure out what we can do to spread the message of hope and faith we received today. One of the things we perhaps all have noticed is that in the world that God has made almost always where there is tragedy, there is also a release of great love. People across the country and around the world have been focused on the terrible senseless shooting 26 days ago in Tucson. It has made us all ask, why, and examine what we can do to make the world where such things don't happen.

Congressman Miller: Most of us have said our prayers for the life and the recovery of all of the victims and especially our colleague Gabby Giffords. This morning we get to pray with her husband Captain Mark Kelly. Captain, we thank you for your own service to our country. As a member of the United States Navy and as an astronaut, we

thank you for being here to lead us in our closing prayer.

Captain Mark Kelly: Congresswoman Kirkpatrick, Congressman Miller, thank you for inviting me here today. I am not so sure I can thank you for having me follow Jose Enriquez, Randall Wallace and the President of the United States, though. What allowed me to be here today, I think, is Gabby's condition. It continues to improve. Every day she gets a little bit better and the neurosurgeons and neurologists tell me that that is a great sign. The slope of that curve is very important. It is good to be here at an event that has become such an important part of our national dialogue. As you can imagine, the last month has been the hardest time of my life and the hardest time of my family's life. It was on January 8th, just four weeks ago on Saturday, that Gabby's life and my life have forever been changed. And we are not the only ones; the shooting has cost other families dearly. Gabby's community in Tucson, my community in Tucson, the people of Tucson are suffering. Suffering deeply, but suffering together. When something like this happens it's natural to think, how? Why could this happen? Why were six people killed? Why was a nine year old girl, an innocent child, killed who just wanted to meet her Congresswoman? Why was Gabby shot through her head and left barely clinging to life? We can't ever know the answers to these questions. We won't. But, thankfully, miraculously, Gabby survives.

I was telling Gabby just the other night, two nights ago that maybe this event, this terrible event, was fate. I hadn't been a big believer in fate until recently. I thought the world just spins and the clock just ticks and things happen for no particular reason. President Lincoln was a big believer in fate. He said "the Almighty has His own purposes." He believed that there was a larger plan. I can only hope and I told Gabby the other night that maybe it is possible that this is just one small part of that same plan. That this event, horrible and tragic, was not merely random, that maybe something good can come from all this. Maybe, it's our responsibility. Maybe it's your responsibility to see that something does.

As many of you know, I'm an astronaut. I've been fortunate on three separate occasions in my life to look down at this planet from space. We orbit the earth at about nearly the same distance that Washington is from my home in West Orange, New Jersey—but from space far above that traffic on the New Jersey Turnpike, you have an entirely different perspective of life on our planet.

It's humbling to see the earth as God created it in the context of God's vast universe. Many of you may also know that my twin brother Scott is also an astronaut. And through this very difficult time, he has been aboard the International Space Station. It's a really tough place to be when your twin brother and your family, and the nation, is going through something that is so difficult. He was asked by several journalists what it's been like to be so far away and unable to return to his family during this time, and I think what he said bears repeating. Scott said, "What we do here in space is incredibly challenging. Our country faces a lot of challenges and the way we address those challenges is through teamwork. And I'd like to see more teamwork with more people not only in government but everyone in meeting the challenges our country faces. Hopefully if anything good can come from this, it's that we learn to work better together." Scott concluded by saying, "We are better

than this. We must do better." My brother is right, I know we will do better, and I know that prayer must be part of that effort.

One morning when Gabby was still in Tucson at the Tucson University Medical Center, I was outside visiting that memorial that just sprung up on the grass in front of the hospital. It isn't a formal religious site but there is a lot of religious material that people left there on the lawn—Bibles, angels, prayers. And the people of Arizona have turned that place into a place of prayer, a pilgrimage site. On that particular morning there was no wind, there were candles burning on the lawn, hundreds of them, and it was like stepping into a church, a place with heaven itself as a ceiling. That reminded me that you don't need a church, a temple or a mosque to pray. You don't even need a building or walls or even an altar. You pray where you are. You pray when God is there in your heart and prayer isn't just asking, it's also listening for answers and expressing gratitude, which I've done a lot lately.

With that, I'd like to conclude with a prayer that my wife's Rabbi, Rabbi Stephanie Aaron who married us, said over Gabby's hospital bed on the first night when this happened on January 8. Rabbi Aaron said, and this is my prayer:

"In the name of God, our God of Israel, may Michael, God's angel, messenger of compassion, watch over your right side. May Gabriel, God's angel, messenger of strength and courage, be on your left. And before you, guiding your path, Uriel, God's angel of light, and behind you, supporting you, stands Raphael, God's angel of healing. And over your head surrounding you is the presence of the Divine."

Thank you. God bless you and please, please, please continue to keep Gabby's thoughts and prayers in your heart, it is really helping. Thank you.

Congressman Miller: I would ask that you all remain in your places to allow the President and the First Lady to depart. Thank you so much for coming Mr. President and thank you for bringing Mrs. Obama with you today.

Congresswoman Kirkpatrick: Jeff, it's been quite a morning, and thank you again for being co-chair with me on this. Thank you and God bless you and now go and make peace.

OPPOSITION TO H. R. 2417 "BETTER USE OF LIGHT BULBS ACT"

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I am compelled to rise in strong opposition to H.R. 2417, the "Better Use of Light Bulbs Act." I oppose the "Bulb Act" because it is costly to taxpayers, harmful to the environment and an impediment to technological innovation. In short, H.R. 2417, the "Bulb" act should be rejected. It is unnecessary and, to put it simply, not a bright idea.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is a thinly veiled attempt to reverse the advances made by the "Energy Independence and Security Act," passed by the Democratic controlled 111th Congress. In fact, the original 2007 light bulb efficiency language was co-sponsored by Rep. UPTON, R-Mich., and then-House Speaker

Dennis Hastert, Ill. Of the 95 Republicans who originally voted for the new energy standards in 2007, 55 of them remain in office, including the current chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee and several members of the Republican leadership. House Energy and Commerce Chairman FRED UPTON and Republican leaders CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, PETER ROSKAM and PETE SESSIONS. It was a good idea then and is a good idea now. I was proud to vote for that bill and oppose this effort to undo it.

Mr. Speaker, the "Energy and Independence Act" did not ban incandescent bulbs; it spurred innovation and economic growth. This growth is put at risk by H.R. 2417. In my home state of California, light bulb standards have spurred innovation and economic growth. It does this not by banning incandescent bulbs, but rather investing in innovative technologies such as advanced incandescent, compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) and light-emitting diodes (LEDs). These policies translate into significant cost savings for American households; H.R. 2417 does not.

Second, the energy efficiency standards threatened by H.R. 2417 translate into huge cost savings for Americans. The standards would save American families, businesses and the country more than \$12.5 billion annually, reducing Americans' energy costs by an average of 7 percent or about \$85 per household each year. In California, standards have already resulted in tens of billions of dollars in utility bill savings for its citizens.

Studies have documented that energy efficient bulbs would save the average California household \$125 a year, while the reliance on inefficient bulbs would cost consumers \$35.6 million in unnecessary and unreasonably higher electricity bills.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is harmful to the environment. The efficiency standards that H.R. 2417 would repeal have been shown to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions. Thus, it is not surprising that H.R. 2417 is strongly opposed by environmental groups like Environment America, the Environmental Defense Fund, and the Natural Resources Defense Fund. They understand the detrimental, long-term effects that a repeal of H.R. 2417 would have on our environment, and what that means for the quality of life of our children and families nationwide.

Efficient light bulbs decrease the level of harmful air pollution by 100 million tons of carbon pollution per year. That is the equivalent to the emissions of 17 million cars. H.R. 2417 would dismantle what have proven to be successful efforts at reducing harmful emissions associated with much-needed energy production and job creation.

Finally, and most importantly, H.R. 2417 will impede new job creation in America. The new standards that H.R. 2417 would repeal are already prompting manufacturers to build new U.S. plants. Nationally, more than 2,000 jobs have already been created at new factories across the country, including Pennsylvania, Ohio, North Carolina, Florida and my home state, California. We need to adopt policies that will create jobs, not jeopardize them as H.R. 2417 does.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2417 is a dim idea that should not see the light of day. Because I am

focused on spurring innovation, conserving energy, protecting the environment and creating jobs, I strongly oppose H.R. 2417, and urge my colleagues to do likewise.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, July 22, and Monday, July 25, 2011, I was unable to be present for recorded votes due to a family commitment. I request the RECORD show that had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 629 (on passage of H.R. 2551), "no" on rollcall vote No. 630 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 363), and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 631 (on approving the journal).

TRIBUTE TO PIETRO SAMBI, APOSTOLIC NUNCIOTO TO THE U.S.

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to inform my colleagues of the recent passing of The Most Reverend Pietro Sambì, who was the Titular Archbishop of Bellicastrum and the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, on July 27 at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. He was 73 years old.

Archbishop Sambì was born in Sogliano at Rubicone (Forlì-Cesena), Italy on the 27th day of June, 1938. He was a respected scholar who had doctorates in both theology and canon law and spoke Italian, English, French and Spanish. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Marino-Montefeltro on March 14, 1964, and began his distinguished career in the diplomatic service of the Vatican's Secretariat of State in 1969.

His overseas assignments included sensitive postings to Cameroon, Cuba, Algeria, Nicaragua, Belgium, India, Indonesia and Cyprus. In 2000, Archbishop Sambì led discussions with Israeli religious and political leaders orchestrating Pope John Paul II's historic visit to Jerusalem. As the Papal representative to Israel in 2002, Archbishop Sambì reportedly helped end a 39-day standoff between Israeli troops and Palestinian militants, who had holed up inside the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

Pope Benedict XVI named Archbishop Sambì as the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States on December 17, 2005, and he was installed in early 2006. Shortly after his appointment, he toured the damage left by Hurricane Katrina. He was deeply involved in efforts to introduce Pope Benedict to American Catholics and he accompanied the Pope during his April 2008 visit to the U.S. and hosted him at the Apostolic Nunciature, where the Pope held a historic private meeting with five victims of

clergy sexual abuse. In September of 2010, he presided at a Mass to mark the 13th anniversary of the death of Blessed Mother Teresa, which coincided with the U.S. Postal Service's issuance of a commemorative stamp in her honor.

Archbishop Sambì received numerous tributes and honors over the years, especially for his ecumenical activities and efforts to increase and secure access to religious sites in the Holy Land.

Like many of my colleagues, I had the honor of knowing Archbishop Sambì through my friend Luca Ferrari, the former Minister Counselor for Public and Legislative Affairs at the Embassy of the Republic of Italy here in Washington. The Archbishop was always willing to gently inform us on theology as well the critical international issues of the day. He was an amiable conversationalist and a good friend, and will be greatly missed by so many of us here in Washington, DC, as well by family, friends and colleagues around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude by urging all of our colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Archbishop Pietro Sambì's service to international relations and understanding, and to express our condolences to his family for their loss. Thank you.

RECOGNIZING SAMUEL FLORES

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Samuel Flores for his dedication and contributions to the city of Seguin and south Texas.

Mr. Flores was born in San Marcos, Texas as the middle child of seven and raised during the difficult years of the Great Depression. During his early years, he lived the arduous life of a migrant worker traveling from California to Minnesota as the seasons changed. At the age of seventeen, he dropped out of school to serve his country and joined the United States Marine Corps. After six years of service, he returned to school. Flores earned a degree in education from Southwest Texas State University, as well as a Master's degree in school administration. After marrying Velia Flores and moving to her hometown of Seguin, Texas, he started working for Harlandale Independent School District where he resided for an accomplished 35 years of service.

Throughout his career in education, he taught mainstream and special education to elementary and secondary school students. He distinguished himself as the first Hispanic Principal for Harlandale Independent School District. He became Director for Special Education for six school districts and later on worked for the Seguin school district as the Attendance Officer. Even after his retirement in 2000, he continued to serve his community by becoming chairman of the Walnut Branch Restoration Project.

Aside from his teaching vocation, Flores dedicated a great part of his life to fighting against discrimination in public places. He

founded the Seguin Bi-racial Committee during the 1960s. Thanks to his hard work and dedication, schools like Texas Lutheran University, now have a Mexican-American Studies program for the benefit of the students. He also assisted in founding the Seguin Boys Club, as well as establishing the Health Unit Project, the Walnut Creek Flood Project, and a new Seguin Post Office. Along with forming these vital programs and initiatives, Mr. Flores served as a member of the Seguin City Council from 1965–2000.

Mr. Flores' tremendous commitment to the Seguin education system and the overall community was honored by having part of Highway 46 in Texas dedicated to him. He was also recognized on the floor of the Texas House of Representatives with a resolution in his honor presented by Edmund Kuempel in 2001.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the time to recognize the dedication, accomplishments, and commitment of the late Samuel Flores.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, I missed rollcall 463 on June 22, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING U.S. ARMY SGT. JEREMY R. SUMMERS

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 29, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize U.S. Army Sgt. Jeremy R. Summers from Bracken County, Kentucky, who lost his life on July 14, 2011 in Paktika Province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. His unit was attacked by enemy forces while he was on duty as a forward scout observer.

Sgt. Summers joined the Army after graduating from Bracken County High School in 2002. He was assigned to Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, out of Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He served tours of duty in Korea and Iraq in addition to his service in Afghanistan. Sgt. Summers was a dedicated soldier and demonstrated great character in his service. His dedication to defending our Republic was proven again when he recently reenlisted in the United States Army.

Sgt. Summers' life is yet another reminder of the high cost of freedom. Today, as we remember the life and accomplishments of this extraordinary Kentuckian, my thoughts and prayers are with Sgt. Summers' family and friends.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICK MULVANEYOF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, July 29, 2011*

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, I missed roll-call No. 598 on July 15, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOE MORTON

HON. JO BONNEROF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, July 29, 2011*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the work of Alabama State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Joe Morton, who has been a leader in education for 42 years and will officially retire on August 31, 2011.

Dr. Morton grew up in Pleasant Grove and graduated from Hueytown High School. He then received his B.S. degree from Auburn University in 1969 and later his M.A. in 1973 and Ph.D. in 1974 from The University of Alabama.

Upon graduation from Auburn, he began a life of dedicated service to the field of education. He worked his way up from a school teacher to the superintendent of the Sumter County Board of Education. He is presumed to be the youngest person in the history of the State to be a local superintendent of education at the age of 27.

On July 13, 2004, he was selected by Governor Bob Riley to be the State Superintendent of Education. Along with a long-standing love of education, he has always held to the belief that Alabama students have the capability to compete with top students from around the world.

In order to engage students' interest in reading, he created and co-founded the Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI). The ARI has since become a national model and has helped the National Assessment of Educational Process in 2007 achieve the largest gains recorded in Grade 4 Reading. In 2010, AMSTI was recognized by the Center for Excellence in Education as the model of laboratory education in the United States.

Other educational programs he helped create and co-found were the Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI) and the Alabama Connecting Classrooms, Educators and Students Statewide (ACCESS).

At the request of Governor Riley, Dr. Morton also chaired the Seat Belt Study Commission after a tragic 2006 school bus accident in Huntsville. The Commission's research into school bus safety and seatbelts is considered to be the most extensive in the country.

In 2009, he also launched First Choice, a plan to combat high school dropout rates by doubling the number of graduates. First Choice has already helped deliver a greater number of well prepared high school graduates.

As a result of Dr. Joe Morton's achievements in education, Alabama had the fourth largest increase in the number of students who graduated from high school in the Nation. His achievements also paved the way for Alabama to lead the Nation in student enrollment gains and Advanced Placement exam scores.

Above all, under Dr. Morton's leadership as Alabama's Superintendent of Education, the State has achieved its greatest overall educational rating in its history.

On behalf of the people of Alabama—especially the thousands of school children who will reap a lifetime of rewards because of his leadership—I wish to extend congratulations to Dr. Joe Morton for a job well done and for his many contributions to better the education and the futures of many Alabamians. My colleagues in the Alabama delegation join me in wishing him and his family the very best as they start a new chapter in their lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICK MULVANEYOF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, July 29, 2011*

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, I missed roll-call No. 601 on July 18, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICK MULVANEYOF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, July 29, 2011*

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, I missed roll-call 602 on July 18, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

CONGRATULATING RECIPIENTS OF
THE WORLD PEACE PRIZE**HON. MELVIN L. WATT**OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, July 29, 2011*

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make sure that we acknowledge in our official record an important event that took place on June 14, 2011 in the Gold Room of the Rayburn House Office Building, the award by the

World Peace Council of the 2010 World Peace Prize.

The World Peace Corps Mission confers World Peace Awards to individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to peacemaking efforts around the world. This year the Top Honor Prize was given to His Holiness Dorje Chang Buddha III and to Hon. Benjamin A. Gilman. The 2010 Roving Ambassador for Peace Award was awarded to the Civil Air Patrol.

H.H. Dorje Chang Buddha III is the highest leader of Buddhism in the world. He was recognized for his support of a wide variety of healing and rescue-relief activities around the world, as well as for his art and poetry, through which he has promoted nonviolence, charity and love for humanity. H.H. Dorje Chang Buddha III is the first Buddhist leader to be awarded the World Peace Prize. In his acceptance speech, H.H. Dorje Chang Buddha III said, "I believe this is not an affirmation of me personally. Rather, it is an affirmation of all human beings who seek happiness, freedom and equality. It is an affirmation of all efforts to selflessly benefit and help others."

Hon. Benjamin A. Gilman served 15 terms in the United States House of Representatives. He was recognized for championing human rights, fighting world hunger and fighting drug abuse and trafficking. While in Congress he served as Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, as Congressional Delegate to the United Nations, on the Ukrainian Famine Commission and as Vice Chairman of the Select Committee on POWs. He organized successful "prisoner exchanges" which freed American citizens held in East Germany, Mozambique, Cuba and several other countries.

The Civil Air Patrol is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. It was recognized for providing disaster relief and emergency services following natural and man-made disasters. The CAP performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Regional Coordination Center. It was credited with saving 113 lives in fiscal year 2010.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating H.H. Dorje Chang Buddha III, Hon. Benjamin Gilman and the Civil Air Patrol for receiving these awards.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICK MULVANEYOF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, July 29, 2011*

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, I missed roll-call No. 612 on July 21, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Saturday, July 30, 2011

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 30, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TED POE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. We ask Your special blessing upon the Members of this people's House. As so many Americans have communicated to them this past week, there is great concern for our future.

Give all Members wisdom, patience, discernment, and courage to use the information they have, the broader understanding of the national concerns, and the responsibility they have been given to lead this Nation into a balanced and secure future.

Grant a double portion of a great prophet's spirit. Bless them, O God, and be with them and with us all this day and every day to come. May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further pro-

ceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PAULSEN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side.

RANDY'S RUN 5K—REMEMBERING MAJOR VOAS

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, last weekend in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, I had the privilege of attending the second annual Randy's Run, which is a 5K race that is run in Eden Prairie in remembrance of U.S. Air Force Major Randy Voas, who lost his life while serving our country a year and a half ago when his CV-22 Osprey helicopter tragically went down in Afghanistan.

Now his family and friends have found a way to honor his life and sacrifice through an annual event that is now used to raise funds for a college scholarship awarded to students at Eden Prairie High School, where Randy graduated from in 1985.

In addition to this scholarship, Randy's Run seeks to increase awareness of the contributions our men and women in uniform make every day to keep America free.

Major Voas may not be with us, but his spirit does live on in the memories of his friends and family and community and through the scholarships for local high school students who share his values.

STANDARD & POOR'S OWN RATING

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. As Congress struggles to come up with this deal over

government debt, we all know that all we have to do is raise the debt ceiling and that the chaos the country is being thrown into is not necessary. Simple: raise the debt ceiling, protect the credit of the U.S., and then debate how to cut our debt afterwards.

We're trapped in a debate where there's another game going on over our heads, and that game involves the rating services, in particular, Standard & Poor's.

Rating agencies help put the U.S. economy in the dumper in 2008. Dodd-Frank was the first effort to hold rating agencies accountable when, in fact, they should have been subject to civil fraud charges as well as revocation of their license at the SEC.

Just a few months after Dodd-Frank passed, Standard & Poor's strikes back with a threat to downgrade U.S. debt, which would cost U.S. taxpayers billions of dollars a year in extra interest payments.

The U.S. is sovereign. Standard & Poor's is not.

When we work to raise the debt ceiling, we should also raise questions about Standard & Poor's. Maybe it's time to downgrade Standard & Poor's to junk status.

HAILING THE HEROISM OF DEAN AND DIANE PETITPREN

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I'm going to tell a story that just happened this past week, which I think is just a vivid display of the human spirit and heroism as well.

There is a fellow named Michael Trapp who had a very lucky week. He was flying his Cessna airplane from his home in New York over to Wisconsin and unfortunately had engine problems. The air traffic control tower lost contact with him, and he crashed his airplane in Lake Huron.

I represent a district in Michigan. If you think of a mitten, this fellow fortunately crashed his airplane right off the tip of the thumb here. The Coast Guard was having a full search and rescue. The Marine Division was out looking for him. A day went by. A night went by. They couldn't find this fellow. Some very good friends of mine, Dean and Diane Petitpren, were out boating in their boat, and Diane Petitpren sees a fellow waving his sock in the middle of Lake Huron, and they saved that man's life.

I just think with everything happening in Washington here this week, it's good for us to take a moment and think about the human spirit and the people that have charitable and caring hearts.

REBUILDING THE AMERICAN DREAM

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. A lot of commentators have been talking about the debt ceiling, the market, the jobs numbers. What we should be talking about is people, families facing tough decisions looking for help from a Congress that doesn't seem interested.

Americans are tired of watching Wall Street speculators, CEOs, and big corporations call all the shots. Working people need a Congress that understands today's tough economic reality and focuses on making their lives better. Unfortunately, because of politics in Washington and extreme ideology, that's not happening.

My Republican colleagues have been very public about their intention to take apart Medicare and Medicaid to pay for yet another tax cut for the millionaires and billionaires and to preserve subsidies for big oil companies. They've decided our current economy is the fault of the American people, and now they're going to empty middle class pockets to pay for it.

The talk in Washington right now is driven by ideology that really has nothing to do with cost savings or preserving the American Dream. What it's really about is who suffers and wins when Congress decides that ideology is more important than job creation and that Social Security and Medicare aren't worth paying for anymore.

It's time we reward people for what they contribute, not for what they can get away with taking.

It's time we expand opportunity and protect the middle class.

It's time to focus on the real crisis in America—the jobs crisis.

CUT, CAP, AND BALANCE IS THE BEST FOR THE NATION

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, led by the positive leadership of Speaker JOHN BOEHNER, House Republicans passed the best bipartisan solution to the debt ceiling last week, the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act of 2011.

Liberals in the Senate chose to hide and had a tabling vote to cowardly avoid a recorded vote on the issue. I urge liberals to join conservatives and vote for a solution which creates jobs and stop the President who is stuck on tax increases destroying jobs.

The President does not have a plan. He even admits he's bluffing. Sadly, this was further revealed yesterday when the gross domestic product was reported to be stagnant.

Additionally, the front page headline today of The Washington Post proclaims, "Economic growth at near standstill."

The President should change course and work for bipartisan proposals to create jobs and preserve the Nation's credit rating.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

□ 1210

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are advised to refrain from making derogatory comments about the Senate.

STOP FRAGGING THE AMERICAN ECONOMY

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. There is absolutely no excuse for this reckless, unpatriotic behavior on the part of the Republicans. The looming default crisis could be resolved in 5 minutes by simply raising the debt ceiling, as was done 7 times under Bush and 18 times under Ronald Reagan. This is the exact opposite of fiscal responsibility. The Republicans, led by their Tea Party radicals, are determined to cripple government and destroy Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security while leaving untouched a hair on the head of millionaires and billionaires or corporations that pay zero in taxes.

I say to the Republicans, stop it. Seniors call sobbing about their Social Security checks. Our soldiers in Afghanistan repeatedly asked Admiral Mullen yesterday, Will we get paid? Will our families get our checks? Shame on the Republicans for making that happen. In battle, when you accidentally shoot your own, it's called "friendly fire." When you deliberately shoot your own, it's called "fragging." Republicans, stop fragging the American economy and the American people.

LET AMERICANS OWN SOME OF AMERICA

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. In this time of money crisis, we talk about the fact that we need revenue. Congress seems to be addicted to taxation as a form of revenue. But there's another way to raise revenue. Did you know, Mr.

Speaker, that 27 percent of the land owned in the United States is owned by Uncle Sam? Fifty-two percent of it in the West is owned by Uncle Sam. How much is that? That's the size of all of Western Europe. So maybe we ought to think about Uncle Sam selling some of that land to Americans, not the National Parks, not the wetlands, these sensitive areas, but that land owned by the Bureau of Land Management that is not in use now. And then we sell that land, some of it, and then it will be revenue-producing because the people who buy it will pay taxes. Local taxes go to schools and help those schools. Something to think about. In this time of raising revenue, maybe Uncle Sam could do without 27 percent of all of the land in America. Let Americans own part of America, not just the Federal Government.

And that's just the way it is.

LISTEN TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, as the debate on avoiding a devastating default has progressed over the last several months, we've heard from many House Republicans that "compromise" is a dirty word. But the voices we should be listening to are those of the American people. What they've said has been loud and clear. According to the NBC/Wall Street Journal poll, 53 percent of Independents and Republicans want Republican leaders to compromise. According to the ABC/Washington Post poll, 77 percent of all Americans think the Republican leadership has not been willing to compromise. According to the Quinnipiac University poll, 67 percent of Americans believe the debt ceiling compromise should be a balance between spending cuts and revenue—yes, revenue. According to the Gallup Poll, 57 percent of Republicans want a compromise plan—that's Republicans. And according to the CBS News poll, 78 percent of Republicans would rather have an agreement that they don't fully support than allow the country to default.

Mr. Speaker, it's long past time we started listening to the American people and reach a compromise to avoid a national default.

COME TOGETHER

(Mr. MCCOTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, the administration and the Democratic Senate, in their posturing, show what America knows: We are being neither

led nor governed. Yet in their policy irresponsibility, they remain united in their party unity.

On the right, take note: It is as unwarranted and injurious for a Republican to call a Tea Partier a hobbit as it is for a Tea Partier to call a Republican a RINO. We cannot unite America if we divide the movement. Consequently, the time has come for the Tea Party to grow up and the Republican Party to wake up and come together to serve and save this great Nation.

ROB PAUL TO PAY PETER

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. The Washington Post: The United States is a lot like a rich businessman who owns two homes, a yacht, millions of dollars in stock, but is in debt because he took out a big loan to buy a private plane.

So here we are. To protect tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires, "the job creators," \$4 trillion over the last 10 years, loopholes for corporate jets, for private jets, for the oil companies, hedge fund billionaires, to continue tax cuts that haven't created a single job, we're going to cut real investment that would create jobs. We're going to reduce investment in transportation infrastructure 35 percent. That's a million jobs. Gone. Last week, you cut off the FAA, 90,000 private-sector jobs and 4,000 government employees. You don't care about the government employees, but what about those private-sector jobs? A lot of them are small businesses. Small businesses—I thought you liked small businesses?

So we're not only going to cut there, but we're going to cut student loans, we're going to cut school nutrition, unemployment insurance, Social Security, and Medicare all so the billionaires can keep cruising at 40,000 feet in their private tax-subsidized jets, above the turbulence. The view looks good from up there, and maybe you'll get a ride.

THE WORLD WAITS

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I taught high school government and history for 4 years. For a bill to become a law, it must pass both Chambers, and then it must be signed by the President. The House has now passed two bills which raise the debt ceiling, cut spending, and address a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. This historical reform for the first time ties a debt increase to a cut in spending.

It is long past time for the Senate to pass something. Their negligence

threatens the fiscal health of this Nation. Once they do, we can conference the bills, which is where compromises are then resolved. Or we can pick up their bill. But until then, the world waits.

COMPROMISE FOR A SOLUTION

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, last night we heard the Speaker of the House, JOHN BOEHNER, talk about how he stuck his neck out and offered new revenues. Well, if so, then instead of chasing the most extreme few Tea Party members of his caucus to craft an even more unrealistic proposal, why doesn't he work with 193 Democrats to lead Congress to the balanced approach that Americans want? New revenue would allow for basic tax reforms, closing expensive unjustified loopholes and making the tax code more fair and simple. We could then cooperate on sensible reductions in long-term spending where there is already bipartisan agreement for agricultural reform, defense, and health care. If JOHN BOEHNER was Speaker of the House instead of speaker of the Tea Party, we could start down the path of fiscal stability and end this artificial crisis.

HELP RESOLVE THE DEBT CRISIS

(Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, for far too long now, previous Congresses have treated increases to America's debt ceiling as temporary problems to be dealt with later on. Well, it's now later on, and we have to deal with this very serious challenge to America's fiscal health. House Republicans have now passed two bills that would end the debt limit crisis while cutting trillions from the deficit.

Today the House will vote down the Reid proposal. The Reid proposal is full of budget gimmicks that the American people are, quite frankly, fed up with. Not only is the Reid plan dead on arrival in the House, but it appears to be dead on departure from the Senate. I urge all of my colleagues to vote against the Reid plan today because it's time for every Member of Congress to join House Republicans in producing not a deal but a solution to this debt crisis, one that makes real spending cuts, one that establishes real spending controls, one that forces the Federal Government to live within its means, and one that doesn't raise taxes on American families and job creators.

□ 1220

DEFAULT CRISIS

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the default crisis, and unfortunately we are still talking about giving America the green light to pay her bills, because the plan this body passed just last night has since failed in the Senate.

Here we are again, my friends. Here we are again wasting another day as the deadline looms even closer. And while the plan passed in this body last night might have been good politics, it's not good government. My constituents are tired of it, I'm tired of it, and, actually, anyone who watched the nightly news for the last 6 months is tired of it.

Washington loves to kick the can down the road. That's how we got here in the first place. This is our moment, but will we seize it? We need a plan, not another Republican manifesto. And there are better plans out there, plans that would create jobs, because the biggest crisis America faces right now is a jobs crisis, plans that will protect Medicare and Social Security and Medicaid, and plans that rely on a fair approach between spending cuts and asking the most fortunate Americans to pay their fair share.

Mr. Speaker, we must compromise and pass that plan. The American people and their economy are counting on us.

REAL SOLUTIONS TO THIS DEBT AND SPENDING CRISIS

(Mr. SCALISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, after yesterday's action here on the House floor, we have sent not one, but two real solutions to this debt and spending crisis over to the Senate.

The Senate has yet to take action on anything. The President refuses to even submit a plan to solve this problem. All we hear from the President are these divisive class warfare speeches. A speech is not a solution to the problem, especially when you hear of all this foolishness about corporate jet owners and millionaires and billionaires. If the President got his way, if the President confiscated every dollar from corporate jet owners and millionaires and billionaires, he himself knows that wouldn't solve the problem.

And yet what you have is a spending problem in Washington. You don't solve a spending problem by sending even more spending to Washington so that they can blow even more money. What we actually need to do is not a

balanced approach, we need a balanced budget amendment to our Constitution, so that you can finally invoke accountability in Washington to solve the spending problem.

Job-killing taxes, more tax increases that only gives Washington more money to spend. Instead of facing the problem, we have got to stop ignoring the problem. The President needs to get his head out of the sand and address the real spending crisis in Washington.

DEBT LIMIT

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, last night the Republican majority in this House, without the support of a single Democrat, did something very dangerous—and I am not talking about the pernicious cuts that would damage the least fortunate in our society. I am not talking about an ill-conceived balanced budget amendment that would surely result in our default. We should debate those things, and people of good will disagree how we do them.

I am talking about the provision of that bill that will bring us back in 6 months to have this discussion again while Americans lose billions of dollars in their retirement accounts, while businesses and our markets face uncertainty. We will do this in 6 more months because of the Republicans.

Now I am a House Democrat. Don't listen to me on this. Listen to the Wall Street Journal editorial page. That Murdochian mouthpiece of malicious malarkey wrote, "Republicans are not looking like adults to whom voters can entrust the government."

Mr. Speaker, according to the Wall Street Journal editorial page, that's just the way it is.

AVOID GOVERNMENT DEFAULT

(Mr. CLARKE of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to offer this House a plan on how Republicans and Democrats can come together, avoid a government default, and do it in a way that really helps the American people. Let's cut the true debt that's crushing Americans today—and it's not the Federal debt.

Americans are underwater on their mortgages, burdened by student loans, maxed out on credit cards. If we help Americans cut their own personal debt, this will free up money where people can responsibly buy things. Businesses will have to hire more people. That's how you create more jobs—by helping Americans become debt-free.

LIFT THE DEBT CEILING

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this morning we join together to express our commitment to one Nation. Unfortunately, we are in a collapse and a crisis because we are, as my good friend from Michigan said, drawn and strangled by those in the Tea Party who believe that America belongs to only one group.

Well, I stand here today to say that we must not take the Tea Party's words that say "do not surrender." That is a selfish position. You do not play surrender games when you work on behalf of the American people. You wonder why the economy is slow? Because it is strangled by inertia and lack of action in raising the debt ceiling. Let's join together in a bipartisan way to lift the debt ceiling. If not, the President has constitutional authority to lift the debt ceiling and get Members to move forward and on helping this country protect the 401(k)s, Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, we are one Nation, not the Tea Party nation. We should represent the people of the United States in creating jobs, we can move the economy, and we can show the world that America is run by adults and we stand for the American people.

I believe I stand for one Nation and to represent all of the people.

LIFE IMITATES ART

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, sometimes art imitates life. Sometimes life imitates art. I think today life is imitating art.

I often reflect on motion pictures and learn from them. When I came up here, it was "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington."

But currently, watching this, I have been thinking about "Blazing Saddles." Remember Mel Brooks and Richard Pryor, they did a movie. They had a city called Rock Ridge, an all-white city, lawless, problems. The governor appointed a handsome, sharp, young, black man to be the sheriff, the first black sheriff ever in Rock Ridge.

He went there and he wanted the townsfolk to help him prepare to beat off the thugs and have a better city. They didn't want to join him. He said, "You'd do it for Randolph Scott." They would have done it for Randolph Scott, and realizing that, they helped Cleavon Little, the sheriff.

The Republicans, well, they'd do it for George Bush, and they did it for George Bush a lot. Mr. Speaker, life imitates art.

LET'S GET BACK TO WORK

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, on August 3 the United States will have \$306 billion in obligations and \$173 billion to address those obligations. At that moment, if the debt ceiling is not raised, our Nation for the first time in its history will default on its obligations.

The cost of borrowing for small business, home mortgages, student and auto loans will all increase. This will hit hard every American and could push this economy into another recession. The American people want a serious and balanced approach to avoid disaster and deal with our Nation's debt problem. They want Congress to work in a bipartisan way to create jobs and new business investment.

The House Republicans' short-term bill does nothing to create economic certainty necessary for sustained economic growth. Instead, it will keep the threat of default alive for months as a continuing drag on this economy. We need a real long-term bill to provide economic stability and certainty. We need a balanced bill that protects Social Security and Medicare, and we need a bipartisan bill we can pass quickly to prevent default.

□ 1230

THE BALL IS IN THE SENATE'S COURT

(Mr. WOODALL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I'm grateful. I hustled over here this morning because I heard there was a question about what kind of options have we provided for the United States Senate and what can we do to get America out of this crisis, and I know the answer.

We've got lots of choices on their desk, Mr. Speaker, and if you talk to them, I hope you'll recommend these. Just look on the desk in front of them; they've got three good choices. You want a long-term solution to this challenge? Ten years. Look at the House budget plan we sent to the Senate in April—10 years we can solve this crisis, 10 years out into the future, cut \$6 trillion out of the budget, put America on a track towards fiscal responsibility.

Is 10 years too long? Mr. Speaker, last week we passed Cut, Cap, and Balance, an 18-month solution to this problem, 18-month solution, cuts spending, caps spending, balances the budget.

Is 2 years too long? Look at what we sent over last night, Mr. Speaker, 6 months. Six months. It also cuts; it also caps; it also balances. A 6-month extension on the debt ceiling.

Mr. Speaker, when you talk to the Senate, please tell them: 6 months, 2

years, 10 years. The House has acted on all of those. They sit in the Senate awaiting on action.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, at what price your vote last night? People have the right to know.

I can tell you what it wasn't for. It wasn't for our seniors. It wasn't to protect their Medicare. And it wasn't to protect those who need help the most, those on Medicaid.

So I ask you again, at what price?

You've heard speeches today about cut, cap, and balance, and we all know that amendment that came in at the 11th hour was on the balanced budget amendment.

So what is this balanced budget amendment that you have put so much faith in? It is not what the people think it is. Mr. Speaker, I believe you have an obligation to tell people that the balanced budget amendment doesn't mean you simply can spend only what you take in. It means you might be able to spend what you take in unless three-fifths of us say you can spend more. That's not what the people think it is.

You've got to stop this facade. As we say in Hawaii: Stop the "shibai," Mr. Speaker. Tell people what they want to know. Tell them at what price you are holding this all up.

PROTECT SENIORS

(Mr. TOWNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I received a call yesterday from a senior citizen in my district that disturbed me greatly. It tore at my heart to hear the fear in her voice as she begged me to do all that I can to protect senior citizens, and I assured her that I would. She went on to say how hard she worked during her life. She kept her part of the bargain, and now she expects her government to do the same.

It really bothers me to hear some people suggest that poor Americans and senior citizens who get checks from the government are freeloaders. Everybody in Congress gets a check from the government. How can they consider themselves as being different?

We need to stop, regroup, and think about what we are doing. We need to think about all those people who have played by the rules, and now we want to change the rules in the middle of the game. Mr. Speaker, that is wrong.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1300

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 1 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1975 and H.R. 1843, if ordered; and approval of the Journal.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

FIRST LIEUTENANT OLIVER GOODALL POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 1975) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 281 East Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena, California, as the "First Lieutenant Oliver Goodall Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 416, nays 0, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 679]

YEAS—416

Adams	Bass (NH)	Bono Mack	Gowdy	Marino
Aderholt	Becerra	Boren	Granger	Markey
Akin	Benishek	Boswell	Graves (GA)	Matheson
Alexander	Berg	Boustany	Graves (MO)	Matsui
Altmire	Berkley	Brady (PA)	Green, Al	McCarthy (CA)
Amash	Berman	Brady (TX)	Green, Gene	McCarthy (NY)
Andrews	Biggert	Braley (IA)	Griffin (AR)	McCaul
Austria	Bilbray	Brown (GA)	Griffith (VA)	McClintock
Bachmann	Bilirakis	Brown (FL)	Grimm	McCollum
Bachus	Bishop (GA)	Buchanan	Guinta	McCotter
Baldwin	Bishop (NY)	Bucshon	Guthrie	McDermott
Barletta	Bishop (UT)	Buerkle	Gutierrez	McGovern
Barrow	Black	Burgess	Hahn	McHenry
Bartlett	Blackburn	Burton (IN)	Hall	McIntyre
Barton (TX)	Blumenauer	Butterfield	Hanabusa	McKeon
Bass (CA)	Bonner	Calvert	Hanna	McKinley
			Harper	McMorris
			Harris	Rodgers
			Hartzler	McNerney
			Hastings (FL)	Meehan
			Hastings (WA)	Meeks
			Hayworth	Mica
			Heck	Michaud
			Heinrich	Miller (FL)
			Hensarling	Miller (MI)
			Herger	Miller (NC)
			Higgins	Miller, Gary
			Himes	Miller, George
			Hinojosa	Moore
			Hirono	Moran
			Hochul	Mulvaney
			Holden	Murphy (CT)
			Holt	Murphy (PA)
			Honda	Myrick
			Hoyer	Nadler
			Huelskamp	Napolitano
			Huizenga (MI)	Neal
			Hultgren	Neugebauer
			Hunter	Noem
			Hurt	Nugent
			Inslee	Nunes
			Israel	Nunnelee
			Issa	Olson
			Jackson (IL)	Owens
			Jackson Lee	Palazzo
			(TX)	Pallone
			Jenkins	Pascarell
			Johnson (GA)	Pastor (AZ)
			Johnson (IL)	Paul
			Johnson (OH)	Paulsen
			Johnson, E. B.	Payne
			Johnson, Sam	Pearce
			Jones	Pelosi
			Jordan	Pence
			Kaptur	Perlmutter
			Keating	Peters
			Kelly	Peterson
			Kildee	Petri
			Kind	Pingree (ME)
			King (IA)	Pitts
			King (NY)	Platts
			Kingston	Poe (TX)
			Kinzinger (IL)	Polis
			Kissell	Pompeo
			Kline	Posey
			Kucinich	Price (GA)
			Labrador	Price (NC)
			Lamborn	Quayle
			Lance	Quigley
			Landry	Rahall
			Langevin	Rangel
			Lankford	Rehberg
			Larsen (WA)	Reichert
			Larson (CT)	Renacci
			Latham	Reyes
			LaTourette	Ribble
			Latta	Richardson
			Lee (CA)	Richmond
			Levin	Rigell
			Lewis (CA)	Rivera
			Lewis (GA)	Roby
			Lipinski	Roe (TN)
			LoBiondo	Rogers (KY)
			Loeb sack	Rogers (MI)
			Long	Rohrabacher
			Lowey	Rokita
			Lucas	Rooney
			Luetkemeyer	Ros-Lehtinen
			Lujan	Roskam
			Lummis	Ross (AR)
			Lungren, Daniel	Ross (FL)
			E.	Rothman (NJ)
			Lynch	Roybal-Allard
			Mack	Royce
			Manzullo	Runyan
			Marchant	Ruppersberger

Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shinkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson

Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southernland
Stark
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky

Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Webster
Welch
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—16

Ackerman
Baca
Brooks
Chu
Clay
Gallegly

Giffords
Grijalva
Herrera Beutler
Hinchey
Lofgren, Zoe
Maloney

Olver
Reed
Rogers (AL)
Speier

□ 1327

Messrs. HURT, WALSH of Illinois, and WOODALL changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 679, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

JOHN PANGELINAN GERBER POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 1843) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 489 Army Drive in Barrigada, Guam, as the “John Pangelinan Gerber Post Office Building”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 3, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 680]

YEAS—414

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Austria
Bachmann
Bachus
Baldwin
Barietta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Benishke
Berg
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Buchson
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clever
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
DeFazio
DeGette

DeLauro
Denham
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fox
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Heinrich
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)

Jackson Lee
(TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Kucinich
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan
Lummis
Lungrun, Daniel
E.
Lynch
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes

Nunnelee
Olson
Olver
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quayle
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney

Ros-Lehtinen
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shinkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson

Stutzman
Sullivan
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Webster
Welch
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—3

Amash
DesJarlais
Ribble

NOT VOTING—15

Ackerman
Baca
Brooks
Chu
Clay

Fleming
Gallegly
Giffords
Grijalva
Hinchey

Lofgren, Zoe
Maloney
Reed
Roskam
Speier

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Two minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1333

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 298, nays 113, answered “present” 2, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 681]

YEAS—298

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Andrews
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Benishkek
Berg
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Billray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Buchshon
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Carnahan
Carney
Carter
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeGette
DeLauro
Denham
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellison
Ellmers
Emerson
Engel
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Fortenberry
Frank (MA)

Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garamendi
Gingrey (GA)
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Green, Al
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heinrich
Hensarling
Herger
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Kelly
Kildee
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kissell
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Landry
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
LaTourette
Latta
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebach
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lynch
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Fleming
Michaud
Miller (FL)

Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Nadler
Neugebauer
Noem
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Pelosi
Pence
Perlmutter
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Polis
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quayle
Quigley
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Ribble
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Rothman (NJ)
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Sanchez, Loretta
Scalise
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schradler
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southernland
Stark
Stutzman
Sullivan
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tonko
Townes
Tsongas
Upton
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden

Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Webster

Welch
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman

Wolf
Womack
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—113

Adams
Altmire
Baldwin
Bass (CA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Buerkle
Burgess
Capuano
Cardoza
Carson (IN)
Cleaver
Coffman (CO)
Conaway
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cravaack
Crowley
Davis (KY)
DeFazio
Dent
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Duffy
Edwards
Eshoo
Farenthold
Filner
Fitzpatrick
Forbes
Foxy
Fudge
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs

Gibson
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Gutierrez
Hanna
Harris
Hastings (FL)
Heck
Herrera Beutler
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
(TX)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Keating
Kind
Kinzinger (IL)
Kucinich
Lance
Latham
Lee (CA)
LoBiondo
Lowey
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McKinley
Miller, George
Moore
Napolitano

Neal
Nugent
Olver
Pallone
Pascarell
Payne
Pearce
Peters
Peterson
Platts
Poe (TX)
Rahall
Renacci
Reyes
Richardson
Rooney
Roybal-Allard
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schilling
Slaughter
Stearns
Stivers
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Turner
Velázquez
Watt
Woodall
Wu
Young (AK)

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—2

Amash

Gohmert

NOT VOTING—19

Ackerman
Austria
Baca
Brooks
Chu
Clay
Flores

Gallegly
Giffords
Grijalva
Hinchey
Lofgren, Zoe
Maloney
Pompeo

Reed
Rush
Speier
Terry
Van Hollen

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1340

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

BUDGET CONTROL ACT OF 2011

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2693) to cut spending, maintain existing commitments, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2693

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Budget Control Act of 2011".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.

TITLE I—DISCRETIONARY SPENDING CAPS AND ENFORCEMENT

Sec. 101. Discretionary spending limits.

Sec. 102. Senate budget enforcement.

TITLE II—OTHER SPENDING CUTS

Subtitle A—Federal Pell Grant and Student Loan Program Changes

Sec. 211. Federal Pell Grant and student loan program changes.

Subtitle B—Farm Programs

Sec. 221. Definition of payment acres.

TITLE III—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON DEFICIT REDUCTION

Sec. 301. Establishment of Joint Select Committee.

Sec. 302. Expedited consideration of joint committee recommendations.

Sec. 303. Funding.

Sec. 304. Rulemaking.

TITLE IV—DEBT CEILING DISAPPROVAL PROCESS

Sec. 401. Debt ceiling disapproval process.

TITLE I—DISCRETIONARY SPENDING CAPS AND ENFORCEMENT

SEC. 101. DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS.

(a) POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the House of Representatives or the Senate to consider any bill, resolution, amendment, motion or conference report that includes any provision that would cause the discretionary spending limits as set forth in this section to be exceeded.

(b) LIMITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term "discretionary spending limits" has the following meaning subject to adjustments in paragraph (2) and subsection (c):

(A) For fiscal year 2012—

(i) for the security category \$606,000,000,000 in budget authority; and

(ii) for the nonsecurity category \$439,000,000,000 in budget authority.

(B) For fiscal year 2013—

(i) for the security category \$607,000,000,000 in budget authority; and

(ii) for the nonsecurity category \$440,000,000,000 in budget authority.

(C) For fiscal year 2014, for the discretionary category, \$1,068,000,000,000 in budget authority.

(D) For fiscal year 2015, for the discretionary category, \$1,089,000,000,000 in budget authority.

(E) For fiscal year 2016, for the discretionary category, \$1,111,000,000,000 in budget authority.

(F) For fiscal year 2017, for the discretionary category, \$1,134,000,000,000 in budget authority.

(G) For fiscal year 2018, for the discretionary category, \$1,156,000,000,000 in budget authority.

(H) For fiscal year 2019, for the discretionary category, \$1,180,000,000,000 in budget authority.

(I) For fiscal year 2020, for the discretionary category, \$1,203,000,000,000 in budget authority.

(J) For fiscal year 2021, for the discretionary category, \$1,227,000,000,000 in budget authority.

(2) AUTHORIZED ADJUSTMENT TO LIMITS.—

(A) ADJUSTMENTS FOR BUDGET SUBMISSION.—When the President submits a budget under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, OMB shall calculate and the budget shall include adjustments to discretionary spending limits (and those limits as cumulatively adjusted) for the budget year and each

out year equal to the baseline levels of new budget authority using up-to-date concepts and definitions minus those levels using the concepts and definitions in effect before such changes. Such changes may only be made after consultation with the committees on Appropriations and the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate and that consultation shall include written communication to such committees that affords such committees the opportunity to comment before official action is taken with respect to such changes.

(B) ADJUSTMENTS FOR CONGRESSIONAL ENFORCEMENT.—For the purposes of Congressional enforcement of the limits in this section, the Chairmen of the Committees on the Budget of the Senate and House of Representatives may adjust the discretionary spending limits in amounts equal to the adjustments made pursuant to subparagraph (A) as contained in the President's budget. Any adjustment made pursuant to this subparagraph shall not constitute a repeal or change to the limits contained in this section.

(C) ESTIMATES AND OTHER ADJUSTMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) LIMITS AND SUBALLOCATIONS FOR CONGRESSIONAL ENFORCEMENT.—After the reporting of a bill or joint resolution relating to any matter described in paragraph (2), (3), or (4), or the offering of an amendment thereto or the submission of a conference report thereon—

(i) for the purposes of enforcement of the discretionary spending limits in the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of that House may adjust the discretionary spending limits in this section, the budgetary aggregates in the concurrent resolution on the budget most recently adopted by the Senate and the House of Representatives, and allocations pursuant to section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, by the amount of new budget authority in that measure for that purpose; and

(ii) following any adjustment under clause (i), the Committee on Appropriations of that House may report appropriately revised suballocations pursuant to section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to carry out this subsection.

(B) OTHER ADJUSTMENTS.—For the purposes of determining an end of the year sequester pursuant to subsection (f), when OMB submits a sequestration report under subsection (f)(7) for a fiscal year, OMB shall calculate, and the sequestration report and subsequent budgets submitted by the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, shall include, adjustments to discretionary spending limits (and those limits as adjusted) for the fiscal year and each succeeding year through 2021 upon the enactment of a bill or resolution relating to any matter described in paragraphs (2), (3), or (4).

(C) ESTIMATES.—

(i) CBO ESTIMATES.—As soon as practicable after Congress completes action on any discretionary appropriation, CBO, after consultation with the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall provide OMB with an estimate of the amount of discretionary new budget authority for the current year (if any) and the budget year provided by that legislation.

(ii) OMB ESTIMATES AND EXPLANATION OF DIFFERENCES.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 7 calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) after the date of enactment of any discretionary appropriation, OMB

shall make publicly available on the day it is issued and, on the following day, shall be printed in the Federal Register a report containing the CBO estimate of that legislation, an OMB estimate of the amount of discretionary new budget authority for the current year (if any) and the budget year provided by that legislation, and an explanation of any difference between the 2 estimates.

(II) DIFFERENCES.—If during the preparation of the report OMB determines that there is a significant difference between OMB and CBO, OMB shall consult with the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate regarding that difference and that consultation shall include, to the extent practicable, written communication to those committees that affords such committees the opportunity to comment before the issuance of the report.

(D) ASSUMPTIONS AND GUIDELINES.—OMB estimates under subparagraph (C) shall be made using current economic and technical assumptions. In its final sequestration report, OMB shall use the OMB estimates transmitted to the Congress under this paragraph. OMB and CBO shall prepare estimates under this paragraph in conformance with scorekeeping guidelines determined after consultation among the House and Senate Committees on the Budget, CBO, and OMB.

(E) ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS.—For purposes of this paragraph, amounts provided by annual appropriations shall include any new budget authority for the current year (if any) and the advance appropriations that become available in the budget year from previously enacted legislation.

(2) OTHER ADJUSTMENTS.—Other adjustments referred to in paragraph (1)(B) are as follows:

(A) CONTINUING DISABILITY REVIEWS AND SSI REDETERMINATIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If a bill or joint resolution is reported making appropriations in a fiscal year of the first amount specified in subclauses (I) through (X) of clause (ii) for that fiscal year for continuing disability reviews and Supplemental Security Income redeterminations under the heading "Limitation on Administrative Expenses" for the Social Security Administration, and provides an additional appropriation for continuing disability reviews and Supplemental Security Income redeterminations for the Social Security Administration, or one or more initiatives that the Office of the Chief Actuary determines would be at least as cost effective as a redetermination of eligibility under the heading "Limitation on Administrative Expenses" for the Social Security Administration of up to an amount further specified in that subclause, then the discretionary spending limits, allocation to the Committees on Appropriations of each House, and aggregates for that fiscal year may be adjusted by the amount in budget authority not to exceed the additional appropriation provided in such legislation for that purpose for that fiscal year.

(ii) AMOUNTS SPECIFIED.—The amounts specified are—

(I) for fiscal year 2012, an appropriation of \$758,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$237,000,000;

(II) for fiscal year 2013, an appropriation of \$758,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$390,000,000;

(III) for fiscal year 2014, an appropriation of \$778,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$559,000,000;

(IV) for fiscal year 2015, an appropriation of \$799,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$774,000,000;

(V) for fiscal year 2016, an appropriation of \$822,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$778,000,000;

(VI) for fiscal year 2017, an appropriation of \$849,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$804,000,000;

(VII) for fiscal year 2018, an appropriation of \$877,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$831,000,000;

(VIII) for fiscal year 2019, an appropriation of \$906,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$860,000,000;

(IX) for fiscal year 2020, an appropriation of \$935,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$890,000,000; and

(X) for fiscal year 2021, an appropriation of \$963,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$924,000,000.

(iii) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this subparagraph, the terms "continuing disability reviews" and "Supplemental Security Income redeterminations" mean continuing disability reviews under titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act and redeterminations of eligibility under title XVI of the Social Security Act.

(iv) REPORT.—The Commissioner of Social Security shall provide annually to the Congress a report on continuing disability reviews and Supplemental Security Income redeterminations which includes—

(I) the amount spent on continuing disability reviews and Supplemental Security Income redeterminations in the fiscal year covered by the report, and the number of reviews and redeterminations conducted, by category of review or redetermination;

(II) the results of the continuing disability reviews and Supplemental Security Income redeterminations in terms of cessations of benefits or determinations of continuing eligibility, by program; and

(III) the estimated savings over they short-, medium-, and long-term to the Old-age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance, Supplemental Security Income, Medicare, and Medicaid programs from continuing disability reviews and Supplemental Security Income redeterminations which result in cessations of benefits and the estimated present value of such savings.

(B) INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE TAX ENFORCEMENT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If a bill or joint resolution is reported making appropriations in a fiscal year to the Internal Revenue Service of not less than the first amount specified in subclauses (I) through (X) of clause (ii) for tax activities for that fiscal year, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap (taxes owed but not paid), and provides an additional appropriation for tax activities, including tax compliance activities to address the Federal tax gap, of up to an amount further specified in that subclause, then the discretionary spending limits, allocation to the Committees on Appropriations of each House, and aggregates for that fiscal year may be adjusted by the amount in budget authority not to exceed the amount of additional appropriations for tax activities, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap provided in such legislation for that fiscal year.

(ii) AMOUNTS SPECIFIED.—The amounts specified are—

(I) for fiscal year 2012, an appropriation of \$7,979,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$2,519,000,000 for tax activities, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap;

(II) for fiscal year 2013, an appropriation of \$7,979,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$3,132,000,000 for tax activities, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap;

(III) for fiscal year 2014, an appropriation of \$8,204,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$3,542,000,000 for tax activities, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap;

(IV) for fiscal year 2015, an appropriation of \$8,444,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$3,975,000,000 for tax activities, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap;

(V) for fiscal year 2016, an appropriation of \$8,710,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$4,486,000,000 for tax activities, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap;

(VI) for fiscal year 2017, an appropriation of \$9,012,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$4,538,000,000 for tax activities, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap;

(VII) for fiscal year 2018, an appropriation of \$9,330,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$4,585,000,000 for tax activities, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap;

(VIII) for fiscal year 2019, an appropriation of \$9,667,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$4,626,000,000 for tax activities, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap;

(IX) for fiscal year 2020, an appropriation of \$9,989,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$4,688,000,000 for tax activities, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap; and

(X) for fiscal year 2021, an appropriation of \$10,315,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$4,754,000,000 for tax activities, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap.

(iii) DEFINITION.—As used in this subparagraph, the term “additional appropriation for tax activities, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap” means new and continuing investments in expanding and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the overall tax enforcement and compliance program of the Internal Revenue Service and fully funding operational support activities at the Internal Revenue Service. New and continuing investments include additional resources for implementing new authorities and for conducting additional examinations, audits, and enhanced third party data matching.

(iv) APPROPRIATION.—The first amount specified in subclauses (I) through (X) of clause (ii) is the amount under one or more headings in an appropriations Act for the Internal Revenue Service that is specified to pay for the costs of tax activities, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap.

(v) ADDITIONAL AMOUNT.—The amounts further specified in subclauses (I) through (X) of clause (ii) are the amounts under one or more headings in an appropriations Act for the Internal Revenue Service for the amount of the additional appropriation for tax activities, including tax compliance to address the Federal tax gap, but such adjustment shall be 0 (zero) unless the appropriations Act under the heading “Operations Support” for the Internal Revenue Service provides that such sums as are necessary shall be available, under the “Operations Support” heading, to fully support tax enforcement and compliance activities.

(C) HEALTH CARE FRAUD AND ABUSE CONTROL.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If a bill or joint resolution is reported making appropriations in a fiscal year of the first amount specified in subclauses (I) through (X) of clause (ii) for program integrity or fraud and abuse activities under the heading “Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Account” program for the Department of Health and Human Services for that fiscal year, and provides an additional appropriation for program integrity or fraud and abuse activities under the heading “Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Account” program for the Department of Health and Human Services of up to an amount further specified that subclause, then the discretionary spending limits, allocation to the Committees on Appropriations of each House, and aggregates for that year may be adjusted in an amount not to exceed the amount in budget authority provided in such legislation for that purpose for that fiscal year.

(ii) AMOUNTS SPECIFIED.—The amounts specified are—

(I) for fiscal year 2012, an appropriation of \$311,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$270,000,000;

(II) for fiscal year 2013, an appropriation of \$311,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$299,000,000;

(III) for fiscal year 2014, an appropriation of \$326,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$314,000,000;

(IV) for fiscal year 2015, an appropriation of \$340,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$332,000,000;

(V) for fiscal year 2016, an appropriation of \$356,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$350,000,000;

(VI) for fiscal year 2017, an appropriation of \$373,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$352,000,000;

(VII) for fiscal year 2018, an appropriation of \$391,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$354,000,000;

(VIII) for fiscal year 2019, an appropriation of \$411,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$354,000,000;

(IX) for fiscal year 2020, an appropriation of \$430,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$356,000,000; and

(X) for fiscal year 2021, an appropriation of \$451,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$356,000,000.

(iii) DEFINITION.—As used in this subparagraph, the term “program integrity or fraud and abuse activities” means those activities authorized by section 1817(k)(3) of the Social Security Act and other related program integrity activities, including administrative costs, in the Medicare Advantage and the Medicare Prescription Drug Programs authorized in title XVIII of the Social Security Act, in section 1893 of the Social Security Act, in Medicaid authorized in title XIX of the Social Security Act, and in the Children’s Health Insurance Program (“CHIP”) authorized in title XXI of the Social Security Act.

(iv) REPORT.—The report required by section 1817(k)(5) of the Social Security Act for each fiscal year shall include measures of the operational efficiency and impact on fraud, waste, and abuse in the Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP programs for the funds provided by an adjustment under this subparagraph.

(D) UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IMPROPER PAYMENT REVIEWS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If a bill or joint resolution is reported making appropriations in a fiscal year of the first amount specified in subclauses (I) through (X) of clause (ii) for in-person reemployment and eligibility assess-

ments and unemployment insurance improper payment reviews under the heading “State Unemployment Insurance and Employment Service Operations” for the Department of Labor for that fiscal year, and provides an additional appropriation for in-person reemployment and eligibility assessments and unemployment insurance improper payment reviews under the heading “State Unemployment Insurance and Employment Service Operations” for the Department of Labor of up to an amount further specified in that subclause, then the discretionary spending limits, allocation to the Committees on Appropriations of each House, and aggregates for that year may be adjusted by an amount in budget authority not to exceed the additional appropriation provided in such legislation for that purpose for that fiscal year.

(ii) AMOUNTS SPECIFIED.—The amounts specified are—

(I) for fiscal year 2012, an appropriation of \$60,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$10,000,000;

(II) for fiscal year 2013, an appropriation of \$60,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$15,000,000;

(III) for fiscal year 2014, an appropriation of \$61,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$19,000,000;

(IV) for fiscal year 2015, an appropriation of \$61,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$24,000,000;

(V) for fiscal year 2016, an appropriation of \$62,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$28,000,000;

(VI) for fiscal year 2017, an appropriation of \$63,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$28,000,000;

(VII) for fiscal year 2018, an appropriation of \$64,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$29,000,000;

(VIII) for fiscal year 2019, an appropriation of \$64,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$30,000,000;

(IX) for fiscal year 2020, an appropriation of \$65,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$31,000,000; and

(X) for fiscal year 2021, an appropriation of \$66,000,000, and an additional appropriation of \$31,000,000.

(iii) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this subparagraph, the terms “in-person reemployment and eligibility assessments” and “unemployment improper payment reviews” mean reviews or assessments conducted in local workforce offices to determine the continued eligibility of an unemployment insurance claimant under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, title III of the Social Security Act, and applicable State laws, to ensure they are meeting their obligation to search for work as a condition of eligibility, and to speed their return to work.

(iv) ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION.—The amounts further specified in subclauses (I) through (X) of clause (ii) are the amounts under the heading “State Unemployment Insurance and Employment Service Operations” for the Department of Labor for the amount of the additional appropriation for in-person reemployment and eligibility assessments and unemployment insurance improper payment reviews, but such adjustment shall be 0 (zero) unless the appropriations Act providing such additional appropriation also provides the full amount requested under the heading “State Unemployment Insurance and Employment Service Operations” for the Department of Labor for grants to States for the administration of State unemployment insurance laws in the budget submitted for that fiscal year under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code.

(3) OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENTS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES.—

(A) CAP ADJUSTMENT.—The discretionary spending limits, allocation to the Committees on Appropriations of each House, and aggregates for that year may be adjusted by an amount in budget authority not to exceed the amount provided in such legislation for that purpose for that fiscal year, but not to exceed in aggregate the amounts specified in subparagraph (B) for any—

(i) bills reported by the Committees on Appropriations of either House or in the Senate, passed by the House of Representatives;

(ii) joint resolutions or amendments reported by the Committees on Appropriations of either House;

(iii) amendments between the Houses, Senate amendments to such amendments offered by the authority of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, or House amendments to such amendments offered by the authority of the Committee on Appropriations in the House of Representatives; or

(iv) conference reports; making appropriations for overseas deployments and related activities.

(B) LEVELS.—

(i) LEVELS.—The initial levels for overseas deployments and related activities specified in this subparagraph are as follows:

(I) For fiscal year 2012, \$126,544,000,000 in budget authority.

(II) For the total of fiscal years 2013 through 2021, \$450,000,000,000 in budget authority.

(ii) LEVELS FOR CONGRESSIONAL ENFORCEMENT.—For each fiscal year after fiscal year 2012, Congress shall adopt in the concurrent resolution on the budget for that fiscal year an adjustment for overseas deployments and related activities, provided that Congress may not adopt an adjustment for any fiscal year that would cause the total adjustments for fiscal years 2013 through 2021 to exceed the amount authorized in clause (i)(II).

(iii) ACCOUNTING FOR OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES.—In any report issued under subsection (f)(7), OMB shall state the total amount of spending on overseas deployments and related activities for fiscal years 2013 through 2021 and the estimated amount of budget authority adjustment remaining for that period.

(C) ADJUSTMENT FOR OFFSET OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENT COSTS.—The levels set in subparagraph (B) may be further adjusted by the amount of budget authority provided in legislation for additional costs associated with overseas deployments and related activities if the amount of budget authority above those levels is offset.

(4) ADJUSTMENTS FOR DISASTER FUNDING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If, for fiscal years 2011 through 2021, appropriations for discretionary accounts are enacted that Congress designates as being for disaster relief in statute, the adjustment shall be the total of such appropriations in discretionary accounts designated as being for disaster relief, but not to exceed the total of—

(i) the average funding provided for disasters over the previous 10 years, excluding the highest and lowest years; and

(ii) for years when the enacted new discretionary budget authority designated as being for disaster relief for the preceding fiscal year was less than the average as calculated in clause (i) for that fiscal year, the difference between the enacted amount and the allowable adjustment as calculated in clause (i) for that fiscal year.

(B) OMB REPORT.—OMB shall report to the Committees on Appropriations in each House

the adjustment for disaster funding for fiscal year 2011, and a preview report of the estimated level for fiscal year 2012, not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act.

(d) LIMITATIONS ON CHANGES TO THIS SECTION.—Unless otherwise specifically provided in this section, it shall not be in order in the Senate or the House of Representatives to consider any bill, resolution (including a concurrent resolution on the budget), amendment, motion, or conference report that would repeal or otherwise change this section.

(e) WAIVER AND APPEAL.—

(1) WAIVER.—In the Senate, subsections (a) through (d) shall be waived or suspended only—

(A) by the affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn; or

(B) if the provisions of section (f)(8) are in effect.

(2) APPEAL.—Appeals in the Senate from the decisions of the Chair relating to any provision of this section shall be limited to 1 hour, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the appellant and the manager of the measure. An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under this section.

(f) END-OF-YEAR SEQUESTER FOR EXCEEDING DISCRETIONARY CAPS.—

(1) SEQUESTRATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 14 calendar days after the end of a session of Congress (excluding weekends and holidays) and on the same day as a sequestration (if any) under section 5 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, there shall be a sequestration to eliminate a budget-year breach, if any, within the discretionary categories as set by subsection (b).

(B) OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENTS.—Any amount of budget authority for overseas deployments and related activities for fiscal year 2012 in excess of the levels set in subsection (c)(3)(B)(i), or for fiscal years 2013 through 2021 that would cause the total adjustment for fiscal years 2013 through 2021 to exceed the amount authorized in section (c)(3)(B)(II), that is not otherwise offset pursuant subsection (c)(3)(C)(i), shall be counted in determining whether a breach has occurred—

(i) for fiscal years 2012 and 2013, in the security and non-security categories by amounts in the same proportion as the total amount designated in that fiscal year for overseas deployments and related activities in security and non-security accounts, respectively; and

(ii) for fiscal years 2014 through 2021, in the discretionary category.

(C) EMERGENCY SPENDING.—

(i) EFFECT OF DESIGNATION IN STATUTE.—If, for any fiscal year, appropriations for discretionary accounts are enacted that Congress designates as emergency requirements in statute pursuant to this subparagraph, the total of such budget authority in discretionary accounts designated as emergency requirements in all fiscal years from such appropriations shall not be counted in determining whether a breach has occurred, and shall not count for the purposes of Congressional enforcement.

(ii) DESIGNATION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—If an appropriations Act includes a provision expressly designated as an emergency for the purposes of this section, the Chair shall put the question of consideration with respect thereto.

(iii) POINT OF ORDER IN THE SENATE.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—When the Senate is considering an appropriations Act, if a point of order is made by a Senator against an emergency designation in that measure, the provision making such a designation shall be stricken from the measure and may not be offered as an amendment from the floor.

(II) SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEALS.—

(aa) WAIVER.—Subclause (I) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(bb) APPEALS.—Appeals in the Senate from the decisions of the Chair relating to any provision of this subparagraph shall be limited to 1 hour, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the appellant and the manager of the bill or joint resolution, as the case may be. An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under this subparagraph.

(III) DEFINITION OF AN EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—For purposes of subclause (I), a provision shall be considered an emergency designation if it designates any item as an emergency requirement pursuant to this subparagraph.

(IV) FORM OF THE POINT OF ORDER.—A point of order under subclause (I) may be raised by a Senator as provided in section 313(e) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(V) CONFERENCE REPORTS.—When the Senate is considering a conference report on, or an amendment between the Houses in relation to, an appropriations Act, upon a point of order being made by any Senator pursuant to this subparagraph, and such point of order being sustained, such material contained in such conference report shall be deemed stricken, and the Senate shall proceed to consider the question of whether the Senate shall recede from its amendment and concur with a further amendment, or concur in the House amendment with a further amendment, as the case may be, which further amendment shall consist of only that portion of the conference report or House amendment, as the case may be, not so stricken. Any such motion in the Senate shall be debatable under the same conditions as was the conference report. In any case in which such point of order is sustained against a conference report (or Senate amendment derived from such conference report by operation of this subsection), no further amendment shall be in order.

(2) ELIMINATING A BREACH.—Each non-exempt account within a category shall be reduced by a dollar amount calculated by multiplying the baseline level of sequesterable budgetary resources in that account at that time by the uniform percentage necessary to eliminate a breach within that category.

(3) MILITARY PERSONNEL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President may, with respect to any military personnel account, exempt that account from sequestration or provide for a lower uniform percentage reduction than would otherwise apply, provided that the President has notified Congress of the manner in which such authority will be exercised pursuant to paragraph (7)(A)(ii).

(B) REDUCTIONS.—If the President uses the authority to exempt any military personnel from sequestration under paragraph (7)(A)(ii), each account within subfunctional category 051 (other than those military personnel accounts for which the authority provided under subparagraph (A) has been exercised) shall be further reduced by a dollar

amount calculated by multiplying the enacted level of non-exempt budgetary resources in that account at that time by the uniform percentage necessary to offset the total dollar amount by which budget authority is not reduced in military personnel accounts by reason of the use of such authority.

(4) **PART-YEAR APPROPRIATIONS.**—If, on the date specified in paragraph (1), there is in effect an Act making or continuing appropriations for part of a fiscal year for any budget account, then the dollar sequestration calculated for that account under paragraphs (2) and (3) shall be subtracted from—

(A) the annualized amount otherwise available by law in that account under that or a subsequent part-year appropriation; and

(B) when a full-year appropriation for that account is enacted, from the amount otherwise provided by the full-year appropriation.

(5) **LOOK-BACK.**—If, after June 30, an appropriation for the fiscal year in progress is enacted that causes a breach within a category for that year (after taking into account any sequestration of amounts within that category), the discretionary spending limits for that category for the next fiscal year shall be reduced by the amount or amounts of that breach.

(6) **WITHIN-SESSION SEQUESTRATION.**—If an appropriation for a fiscal year in progress is enacted (after Congress adjourns to end the session for that budget year and before July 1 of that fiscal year) that causes a breach within a category for that year (after taking into account any prior sequestration of amounts within that category), 15 days after such enactment there shall be a sequestration to eliminate that breach within that category following the procedures set forth in paragraphs (2) through (4).

(7) **REPORTS.**—

(A) **SEQUESTRATION PREVIEW REPORT.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 5 days before the date of the President's budget submission for CBO, and the date of the President's budget submissions for OMB, OMB and CBO shall issue a preview report regarding discretionary spending based on laws enacted through those dates. The preview report shall set forth estimates for the current year and each subsequent year through 2021 of the applicable discretionary spending limits for each category and an explanation of any adjustments in such limits under this section.

(ii) **NOTIFICATION REGARDING MILITARY PERSONNEL.**—On or before the date of the sequestration preview report, the President shall notify Congress of the manner in which the President intends to exercise flexibility with respect to military personnel accounts under paragraph (3).

(B) **SEQUESTRATION UPDATE REPORT.**—Not later than August 15 for CBO, and August 20 for OMB, OMB and CBO shall issue a sequestration update report, reflecting laws enacted through those dates, containing all of the information required in the sequestration preview reports. This report shall also contain a preview estimate of the adjustment for disaster funding for the upcoming fiscal year.

(C) **FINAL SEQUESTRATION REPORT.**—Not later than 10 days after the end of session for CBO, and 14 days after the end of session for OMB (excluding weekends and holidays), OMB and CBO shall issue a final sequestration report, updated to reflect laws enacted through those dates, with estimates for each of the following:

(i) For the current year and each subsequent year through 2021 the applicable discretionary spending limits for each category

and an explanation of any adjustments in such limits under this section, including a final estimate of the disaster funding adjustment.

(ii) For the current year and the budget year the estimated new budget authority for each category and the breach, if any, in each category.

(iii) For each category for which a sequestration is required, the sequestration percentages necessary to achieve the required reduction.

(iv) For the budget year, for each account to be sequestered, estimates of the baseline level of sequesterable budgetary resources and the amount of budgetary resources to be sequestered.

(D) **EXPLANATION OF DIFFERENCES.**—The OMB reports shall explain the differences between OMB and CBO estimates for each report required by this paragraph.

(8) **SUSPENSION IN THE EVENT OF LOW GROWTH.**—Section 254(i) and subsections (a), (b)(1), and (c) of section 258 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 with respect to suspension of this section for low growth only shall apply to this section, provided that those sections are deemed not to apply to titles III and IV of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and section 1103 of title 31, United States Code.

(g) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **NONSECURITY CATEGORY.**—The term “nonsecurity category” means all discretionary appropriations, as that term is defined in section 250(c)(7) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, not included in the security category defined in this Act, but does not include any appropriation designated for overseas deployments and related activities pursuant to section (c)(3) or appropriation designated as an emergency pursuant to this Act.

(2) **SECURITY CATEGORY.**—The term “security category” includes discretionary appropriations, as that term is defined in section 250(c)(7) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, in budget functions 050 and 700, but does not include any appropriation designated for overseas deployments and related activities pursuant to section (c)(3) or appropriation designated as an emergency pursuant to this Act.

(3) **DISCRETIONARY CATEGORY.**—The term “discretionary category” includes all discretionary appropriations, as that term is defined in section 250(c)(7) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, but does not include any appropriation designated for overseas deployments and related activities pursuant to section (c)(3) or appropriation designated as an emergency pursuant to this Act.

(4) **ADVANCE APPROPRIATION.**—The term “advance appropriation” means appropriations of new budget authority that become available one or more fiscal years beyond the fiscal year for which the appropriation act was passed.

(5) **DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS.**—The term “discretionary spending limits” means the amounts specified in this section.

(6) **DEFINITIONS.**—To the extent they are not defined in this section, the terms used in this section shall have the same meaning as the terms defined in section 250(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(h) **SEQUESTRATION RULES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsections (g) and (k) of section 256 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall apply to sequestration under this Act.

(2) **INTERGOVERNMENTAL FUNDS.**—For purposes of sequestration under this section,

budgetary resources shall not include activities financed by voluntary payments to the Government for goods and services to be provided for such payments, intragovernmental funds paid in from other Government accounts, and unobligated balances of prior year appropriations.

SEC. 102. SENATE BUDGET ENFORCEMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) For the purpose of enforcing the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 through April 15, 2012, including section 300 of that Act, and enforcing budgetary points of order in prior concurrent resolutions on the budget, the allocations, aggregates, and levels set in subsection (b)(1) shall apply in the Senate in the same manner as for a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2012 with appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2011 and 2013 through 2021.

(2) For the purpose of enforcing the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 after April 15, 2012, including section 300 of that Act, and enforcing budgetary points of order in prior concurrent resolutions on the budget, the allocations, aggregates, and levels set in subsection (b)(2) shall apply in the Senate in the same manner as for a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2013 with appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2012 and 2014 through 2022.

(b) **COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS, AGGREGATES AND LEVELS.**—

(1) As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this section, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget shall file—

(A) for the Committee on Appropriations, committee allocations for fiscal years 2011 and 2012 consistent with the discretionary spending limits set forth in this Act for the purpose of enforcing section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974;

(B) for all committees other than the Committee on Appropriations, committee allocations for fiscal years 2011, 2012, 2012 through 2016, and 2012 through 2021 consistent with the Congressional Budget Office's March 2011 baseline adjusted to account for the budgetary effects of this Act and legislation enacted prior to this Act but not included in the Congressional Budget Office's March 2011 baseline, for the purpose of enforcing section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974;

(C) aggregate spending levels for fiscal years 2011 and 2012 and aggregate revenue levels fiscal years 2011, 2012, 2012 through 2016, 2012 through 2021 consistent with the Congressional Budget Office's March 2011 baseline adjusted to account for the budgetary effects of this Act and legislation enacted prior to this Act but not included in the Congressional Budget Office's March 2011 baseline, and the discretionary spending limits set forth in this Act for the purpose of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; and

(D) levels of Social Security revenues and outlays for fiscal years 2011, 2012, 2012 through 2016, and 2012 through 2021 consistent with the Congressional Budget Office's March 2011 baseline adjusted to account for the budgetary effects of this Act and legislation enacted prior to this Act but not included in the Congressional Budget Office's March 2011 baseline, for the purpose of enforcing sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(2) Not later than April 15, 2012, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget shall file—

(A) for the Committee on Appropriations, committee allocations for fiscal years 2012 and 2013 consistent with the discretionary spending limits set forth in this Act for the

purpose of enforcing section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974;

(B) for all committees other than the Committee on Appropriations, committee allocations for fiscal years 2012, 2013, 2013 through 2017, and 2013 through 2022 consistent with the Congressional Budget Office's March 2012 baseline for the purpose of enforcing section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974;

(C) aggregate spending levels for fiscal years 2012 and 2013 and aggregate revenue levels fiscal years 2012, 2013, 2013–2017, and 2013–2022 consistent with the Congressional Budget Office's March 2012 baseline and the discretionary spending limits set forth in this Act for the purpose of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; and

(D) levels of Social Security revenues and outlays for fiscal years 2012 and 2013, 2013–2017, and 2013–2022 consistent with the Congressional Budget Office's March 2012 baseline budget for the purpose of enforcing sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(c) **SENATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD.**—

(1) Effective on the date of enactment of this section, for the purpose of enforcing section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress), the Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget shall reduce any balances of direct spending and revenues for any fiscal year to 0 (zero).

(2) Not later than April 15, 2012, for the purpose of enforcing section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress), the Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget shall reduce any balances of direct spending and revenues for any fiscal year to 0 (zero).

(3) Upon resetting the Senate paygo scorecard pursuant to paragraph (2), the Chairman shall publish a notification of such action in the Congressional Record.

(d) **FURTHER ADJUSTMENTS.**—

(1) The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise any allocations, aggregates, or levels set pursuant to this section to account for any subsequent adjustments to discretionary spending limits made pursuant to this Act.

(2) With respect to any allocations, aggregates, or levels set or adjustments made pursuant to this section, sections 412 through 414 of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress) shall remain in effect.

(e) **EXPIRATION.**—

(1) Subsections (a)(1), (b)(1), and (c)(1) shall expire if a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2012 is agreed to by the Senate and House of Representatives pursuant to section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(2) Subsections (a)(2), (b)(2), and (c)(2) shall expire if a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2013 is agreed to by the Senate and House of Representatives pursuant to section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

TITLE J—OTHER SPENDING CUTS

Subtitle A—Federal Pell Grant and Student Loan Program Changes

SEC. 211. FEDERAL PELL GRANT AND STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM CHANGES.

(a) **FEDERAL PELL GRANTS.**—Section 401(b)(7)(A)(iv) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a(b)(7)(A)(iv)) is amended—

(1) in subclause (II), by striking “\$3,183,000,000” and inserting “\$13,683,000,000”; and

(2) in subclause (III), by striking “\$0” and inserting “\$7,500,000,000”.

(b) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY TO MAKE INTEREST SUBSIDIZED LOANS TO GRADUATE AND**

PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS.—Section 455(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY TO MAKE INTEREST SUBSIDIZED LOANS TO GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any provision of this part or part B, for any period of instruction beginning on or after July 1, 2012—

“(i) a graduate or professional student shall not be eligible to receive a subsidized Federal Direct Stafford Loan under this part;

“(ii) the maximum annual amount of Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans such a student may borrow in any academic year (as defined in section 481(a)(2)) or its equivalent shall be the maximum annual amount for such student determined under section 428H, plus an amount equal to the amount of Federal Direct Subsidized Loans the student would have received in the absence of this subparagraph; and

“(iii) the maximum aggregate amount of Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans such a student may borrow shall be the maximum aggregate amount for such student determined under section 428H, adjusted to reflect the increased annual limits described in clause (ii), as prescribed by the Secretary by regulation.

“(B) **EXCEPTION.**—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to an individual enrolled in coursework specified in paragraph (3)(B) or (4)(B) of section 484(b).”

(c) **INAPPLICABILITY OF TITLE IV NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING AND MASTER CALENDAR EXCEPTION.**—Sections 482(c) and 492 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1089(c), 1098a) shall not apply to the amendments made by this section, or to any regulations promulgated under those amendments.

Subtitle B—Farm Programs

SEC. 221. DEFINITION OF PAYMENT ACRES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1001(11) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8702(11)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking “subparagraph (B)” and inserting “subparagraphs (B) and (C)”; and

(B) by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) in the case of direct payments for the 2012 crop year, 59 percent of the base acres for the covered commodity on a farm on which direct payments are made.”

(b) **PAYMENT ACRES FOR PEANUTS.**—Section 1301(5) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8751(5)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking “subparagraph (B)” and inserting “subparagraphs (B) and (C)”; and

(B) by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) in the case of direct payments for the 2012 crop year, 59 percent of the base acres for peanuts on a farm on which direct payments are made.”

TITLE K—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON DEFICIT REDUCTION

SEC. 301. ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this title:

(1) **JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE.**—The term “joint committee” means the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction established under subsection (b)(1).

(2) **JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE BILL.**—The term “joint committee bill” means a bill consisting of the proposed legislative language of the joint committee recommended under subsection (b)(3)(B) and introduced under section 302(a).

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established a joint select committee of Congress to be known as the “Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction”.

(2) **GOAL.**—The goal of the joint committee shall be to reduce the deficit to 3 percent or less of GDP.

(3) **DUTIES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—

(i) **IMPROVING THE SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM FISCAL IMBALANCE.**—The joint committee shall provide recommendations and legislative language that will significantly improve the short-term and long-term fiscal imbalance of the Federal Government and may include recommendations and legislative language on tax reform.

(ii) **CONSIDERATION OF OTHER BIPARTISAN PLANS.**—As a part of developing the joint committee's recommendations and legislation, the joint committee shall consider existing bipartisan plans to reduce the deficit, including plans developed jointly by Senators or Members of the House of Representatives.

(iii) **RECOMMENDATIONS OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE COMMITTEES.**—Not later than October 14, 2011, each committee of the House of Representatives and Senate may transmit to the joint committee its recommendations for changes in law to reduce the deficit consistent with the goals described in paragraph (2) for the joint committee's consideration.

(B) **REPORT, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than November 23, 2011, the joint committee shall vote on—

(I) a report that contains a detailed statement of the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the joint committee and the CBO estimate required by paragraph (5)(D)(ii); and

(II) proposed legislative language to carry out such recommendations as described in subclause (I).

No amendment to the Rules of the House of Representatives or the Standing Rules of the Senate shall be in order in the legislative language required in subclause (II).

(ii) **APPROVAL OF REPORT AND LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE.**—The report of the joint committee and the proposed legislative language described in clause (i) shall require the approval of not fewer than 7 of the 12 members of the joint committee.

(iii) **ADDITIONAL VIEWS.**—A member of the joint committee who gives notice of an intention to file supplemental, minority, or additional views at the time of final joint committee vote on the approval of the report and legislative language under clause (ii), shall be entitled to 3 calendar days in which to file such views in writing with the staff director of the joint committee. Such views shall then be included in the joint committee report and printed in the same volume, or part thereof, and their inclusion shall be noted on the cover of the report. In the absence of timely notice, the joint committee report may be printed and transmitted immediately without such views.

(iv) **TRANSMISSION OF REPORT AND LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE.**—If the report and legislative language are approved by the joint committee pursuant to clause (ii), then not later

than December 2, 2011, the joint committee shall submit the joint committee report and legislative language described in clause (i) to the President, the Vice President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Majority and Minority Leaders of both Houses.

(v) REPORT AND LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE TO BE MADE PUBLIC.—Upon the approval or disapproval of the joint committee report and legislative language pursuant to clause (ii), the joint committee shall promptly make the full report and legislative language, and a record of the vote, available to the public.

(4) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The joint committee shall be composed of 12 members appointed pursuant to subparagraph (B).

(B) APPOINTMENT.—Members of the joint committee shall be appointed as follows:

(i) The majority leader of the Senate shall appoint 3 members from among Members of the Senate.

(ii) The minority leader of the Senate shall appoint 3 members from among Members of the Senate.

(iii) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint 3 members from among Members of the House of Representatives.

(iv) The minority leader of the House of Representatives shall appoint 3 members from among Members of the House of Representatives.

(C) CO-CHAIRS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—There shall be 2 Co-Chairs of the joint committee. The majority leader of the Senate shall appoint one Co-Chair from among the members of the joint committee. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint the second Co-Chair from among the members of the joint committee. The Co-Chairs shall be appointed not later than 14 calendar days after the date of enactment of this section.

(ii) STAFF DIRECTOR.—The Co-Chairs, acting jointly, shall hire the staff director of the joint committee.

(D) DATE.—Members of the joint committee shall be appointed not later than 14 calendar days after the date of enactment of this section.

(E) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—Members shall be appointed for the life of the joint committee. Any vacancy in the joint committee shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled not later than 14 calendar days after the date on which the vacancy occurs in the same manner as the original appointment. If a member of the committee leaves Congress, the member is no longer a member of the joint committee and a vacancy shall exist.

(5) ADMINISTRATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To enable the joint committee to exercise its powers, functions, and duties, there are authorized to be disbursed by the Senate the actual and necessary expenses of the joint committee approved by the Co-Chairs, subject to Senate rules and regulations.

(B) EXPENSES.—In carrying out its functions, the joint committee is authorized to incur expenses in the same manner and under the same conditions as the Joint Economic Committee as authorized by section 11 of Public Law 79-304 (15 U.S.C. 1024(d)).

(C) QUORUM.—Seven members of the joint committee shall constitute a quorum for purposes of voting, meeting, and holding hearings.

(D) VOTING.—

(i) PROXY VOTING.—No proxy voting shall be allowed on behalf of the members of the joint committee.

(ii) CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATES.—The Congressional Budget Office shall provide estimates of the legislation (as described in paragraph (3)(B)) in accordance with sections 308(a) and 201(f) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 639(a) and 601(f)) (including estimates of the effect of interest payment on the debt). In addition, the Congressional Budget Office shall provide information on the budgetary effect of the legislation beyond the year 2021 and the Congressional Budget Office and Joint Committee on Taxation may provide information on the budgetary effect of the legislation relative to alternative fiscal scenarios. The joint committee may not vote on any version of the report, recommendations, or legislative language unless such estimates are available for consideration by all members of the joint committee at least 48 hours prior to the vote as certified by the Co-Chairs.

(E) MEETINGS.—

(i) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 45 calendar days after the date of enactment of this section, the joint committee shall hold its first meeting.

(ii) AGENDA.—The Co-Chairs shall provide an agenda to the joint committee members not less than 48 hours in advance of any meeting.

(F) HEARINGS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The joint committee may, for the purpose of carrying out this section, hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, require attendance of witnesses and production of books, papers, and documents, take such testimony, receive such evidence, and administer such oaths the joint committee considers advisable.

(ii) HEARING PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CO-CHAIRS.—

(I) ANNOUNCEMENT.—The Co-Chairs shall make a public announcement of the date, place, time, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted not less than 7 days in advance of such hearing, unless the Co-Chairs determine that there is good cause to begin such hearing at an earlier date.

(II) WRITTEN STATEMENT.—A witness appearing before the joint committee shall file a written statement of proposed testimony at least 2 calendar days prior to appearance, unless the requirement is waived by the Co-Chairs, following their determination that there is good cause for failure of compliance.

(G) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Upon written request of the Co-Chairs, a Federal agency shall provide technical assistance to the joint committee in order for the joint committee to carry out its duties.

(C) STAFF OF JOINT COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Co-Chairs may jointly appoint and fix the compensation of staff as they deem necessary, within the guidelines for Senate employees and following all applicable Senate rules and employment requirements.

(2) ETHICAL STANDARDS.—Members on the joint committee who serve in the House of Representatives shall be governed by the House ethics rules and requirements. Members of the Senate who serve on the joint committee and staff of the joint committee shall comply with Senate ethics rules.

(d) TERMINATION.—The joint committee shall terminate on January 13, 2012.

SEC. 302. EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION OF JOINT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

(a) INTRODUCTION.—If approved by the majority required by section 301(b)(3)(B)(ii), the proposed legislative language submitted pursuant to section 301(b)(3)(B)(iv) shall be introduced in the Senate (by request) on the

next day on which the Senate is in session by the majority leader of the Senate or by a Member of the Senate designated by the majority leader of the Senate and shall be introduced in the House of Representatives (by request) on the next legislative day by the majority leader of the House of Representatives or by a Member of the House of Representatives designated by the majority leader of the House of Representatives.

(b) CONSIDERATION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

(1) REFERRAL AND REPORTING.—Any committee of the House of Representatives to which the joint committee bill is referred shall report it to the House of Representatives without amendment not later than December 9, 2011. If a committee fails to report the joint committee bill within that period, it shall be in order to move that the House of Representatives discharge the committee from further consideration of the bill. Such a motion shall not be in order after the last committee authorized to consider the bill reports it to the House of Representatives or after the House of Representatives has disposed of a motion to discharge the bill. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion except 20 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. If such a motion is adopted, the House of Representatives shall proceed immediately to consider the joint committee bill in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3). A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

(2) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—After the last committee authorized to consider a joint committee bill reports it to the House of Representatives or has been discharged (other than by motion) from its consideration, it shall be in order to move to proceed to consider the joint committee bill in the House of Representatives. Such a motion shall not be in order after the House of Representatives has disposed of a motion to proceed with respect to the joint committee bill. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

(3) CONSIDERATION.—The joint committee bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against the joint committee bill and against its consideration are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint committee bill to its passage without intervening motion except 2 hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent and one motion to limit debate on the joint committee bill. A motion to reconsider the vote on passage of the joint committee bill shall not be in order.

(4) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—The vote on passage of the joint committee bill shall occur not later than December 23, 2011.

(c) EXPEDITED PROCEDURE IN THE SENATE.—

(1) COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION.—A joint committee bill introduced in the Senate under subsection (a) shall be jointly referred to the committee or committees of jurisdiction, which committees shall report the bill without any revision and with a favorable recommendation, an unfavorable recommendation, or without recommendation, not later than December 9, 2011. If any committee fails to report the bill within that period, that committee shall be automatically discharged from consideration of the bill, and the bill shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

(2) **MOTION TO PROCEED.**—Notwithstanding rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is in order, not later than 2 days of session after the date on which a joint committee bill is reported or discharged from all committees to which it was referred, for the majority leader of the Senate or the majority leader's designee to move to proceed to the consideration of the joint committee bill. It shall also be in order for any Member of the Senate to move to proceed to the consideration of the joint committee bill at any time after the conclusion of such 2-day period. A motion to proceed is in order even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to. All points of order against the motion to proceed to the joint committee bill are waived. The motion to proceed is not debatable. The motion is not subject to a motion to postpone. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint committee bill is agreed to, the joint committee bill shall remain the unfinished business until disposed of.

(3) **CONSIDERATION.**—All points of order against the joint committee bill and against consideration of the joint committee bill are waived. Consideration of the joint committee bill and of all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith shall not exceed a total of 30 hours which shall be divided equally between the Majority and Minority Leaders or their designees. A motion further to limit debate on the joint committee bill is in order, shall require an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members duly chosen and sworn, and is not debatable. Any debatable motion or appeal is debatable for not to exceed 1 hour, to be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the motion or appeal. All time used for consideration of the joint committee bill, including time used for quorum calls and voting, shall be counted against the total 30 hours of consideration.

(4) **NO AMENDMENTS.**—An amendment to the joint committee bill, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint committee bill, is not in order.

(5) **VOTE ON PASSAGE.**—If the Senate has voted to proceed to the joint committee bill, the vote on passage of the joint committee bill shall occur immediately following the conclusion of the debate on a joint committee bill, and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested. The vote on passage of the joint committee bill shall occur not later than December 23, 2011.

(6) **RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCEDURE.**—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate, as the case may be, to the procedure relating to a joint committee bill shall be decided without debate.

(d) **AMENDMENT.**—The joint committee bill shall not be subject to amendment in either the House of Representatives or the Senate.

(e) **CONSIDERATION BY THE OTHER HOUSE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If, before passing the joint committee bill, one House receives from the other a joint committee bill—

(A) the joint committee bill of the other House shall not be referred to a committee; and

(B) the procedure in the receiving House shall be the same as if no joint committee bill had been received from the other House until the vote on passage, when the joint committee bill received from the other House shall supplant the joint committee bill of the receiving House.

(2) **REVENUE MEASURE.**—This subsection shall not apply to the House of Representatives if the joint committee bill received from the Senate is a revenue measure.

(f) **RULES TO COORDINATE ACTION WITH OTHER HOUSE.**—

(1) **TREATMENT OF JOINT COMMITTEE BILL OF OTHER HOUSE.**—If the Senate fails to introduce or consider a joint committee bill under this section, the joint committee bill of the House of Representatives shall be entitled to expedited floor procedures under this section.

(2) **TREATMENT OF COMPANION MEASURES IN THE SENATE.**—If following passage of the joint committee bill in the Senate, the Senate then receives the joint committee bill from the House of Representatives, the House-passed joint committee bill shall not be debatable. The vote on passage of the joint committee bill in the Senate shall be considered to be the vote on passage of the joint committee bill received from the House of Representatives.

(3) **VETOES.**—If the President vetoes the joint committee bill, debate on a veto message in the Senate under this section shall be 1 hour equally divided between the majority and minority leaders or their designees.

(g) **LOSS OF PRIVILEGE.**—The provisions of this section shall cease to apply to the joint committee bill if—

(1) the joint committee fails to vote on the report or proposed legislative language required under section 301(b)(3)(B)(i) by November 23, 2011; or

(2) the joint committee bill does not pass both Houses by December 23, 2011.

SEC. 303. FUNDING.

Funding for the joint committee shall be derived in equal portions from—

(1) the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the contingent fund of the Senate from the appropriations account "Miscellaneous Items", subject to Senate rules and regulations.

SEC. 304. RULEMAKING.

The provisions of this title are enacted by Congress—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the House of Representatives and the Senate, respectively, and as such they shall be considered as part of the rules of each House, respectively, or of that House to which they specifically apply, and such rules shall supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent therewith; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change such rules (so far as relating to such House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of such House.

TITLE I—DEBT CEILING DISAPPROVAL PROCESS

SEC. 401. DEBT CEILING DISAPPROVAL PROCESS.

Subchapter I of chapter 31 of subtitle III of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 3101(b), by striking "or otherwise" and inserting "or as provided by section 3101A or otherwise"; and

(2) by inserting after section 3101, the following:

"§ 3101A. Presidential modification of the debt ceiling

"(a) IN GENERAL.—

"(1) \$1.2 TRILLION.—

"(A) **CERTIFICATION.**—If, not later than December 31, 2011, the President submits a written certification to Congress that the President has determined that the debt subject to limit is within \$100,000,000,000 of the

limit in section 3101(b) and that further borrowing is required to meet existing commitments, the Secretary of the Treasury may exercise authority to borrow an additional \$1,200,000,000,000 subject to the enactment of a joint resolution of disapproval enacted pursuant to this section. Upon submission of such certification, the limit on debt provided in section 3101(b) (referred to in this section as the 'debt limit') is increased by \$416,000,000,000.

"(B) **RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.**—Congress may consider a joint resolution of disapproval of the authority under subparagraph (A) as provided in subsections (b) through (f). The joint resolution of disapproval considered under this section shall contain only the language provided in subsection (b)(2). If the time for disapproval has lapsed without enactment of a joint resolution of disapproval under this section, the debt limit is increased by an additional \$784,000,000,000.

"(2) **ADDITIONAL AMOUNT.**—

"(A) **CERTIFICATION.**—If, after the debt limit is increased by \$1,200,000,000,000 under paragraph (1), the President submits a written certification to Congress that the President has determined that the debt subject to limit is within \$150,000,000,000 of the limit in section 3101(b) and that further borrowing is required to meet existing commitments, the Secretary of the Treasury may exercise authority to borrow an additional amount equal to \$1,200,000,000,000 subject to the enactment of a joint resolution of disapproval enacted pursuant to this section.

"(B) **RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.**—Congress may consider a joint resolution of disapproval of the authority under subparagraph (A) as provided in subsections (b) through (f). The joint resolution of disapproval considered under this section shall contain only the language provided in subsection (b)(2). After the time for disapproval has lapsed without enactment of a joint resolution of disapproval under this section, the debt limit is increased by the amount authorized under subparagraph (A).

"(b) **JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.**—

"(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except for the \$416,000,000,000 increase in the debt limit provided by subsection (a)(1)(A), the debt limit may not be raised under this section if, within 55 calendar days after the date on which Congress receives a certification described in subsection (a)(1) or within 15 calendar days after the Congress receives the certification described in subsection (a)(2) (regardless of whether Congress is in session), there is enacted into law a joint resolution disapproving the President's exercise of authority with respect to such additional amount.

"(2) **CONTENTS OF JOINT RESOLUTION.**—For the purpose of this section, the term 'joint resolution' means only a joint resolution—

"(A)(i) for the certification described in subsection (a)(1), that is introduced on September 6, 7, 8 or 9, 2011 (or, if the Senate was not in session, the next calendar day on which the Senate is in session); and

"(ii) for the certification described in subsection (a)(2), that is introduced between the date the certification is received and 3 calendar days after that date;

"(B) which does not have a preamble;

"(C) the title of which is only as follows: 'Joint resolution relating to the disapproval of the President's exercise of authority to increase the debt limit, as submitted under section 3101A of title 31, United States Code on _____' (with the blank containing the date of submission); and

"(D) the matter after the resolving clause of which is only as follows: 'That Congress

disapproves of the President's exercise of authority to increase the debt limit, as exercised pursuant to the certification under section 3101A(a) of title 31, United States Code."

"(c) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

"(1) RECONVENING.—Upon receipt of a certification described in subsection (a)(2), the Speaker, if the House would otherwise be adjourned, shall notify the Members of the House that, pursuant to this section, the House shall convene not later than the second calendar day after receipt of such certification.

"(2) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—Any committee of the House of Representatives to which a joint resolution is referred shall report it to the House without amendment not later than 5 calendar days after the date of introduction of the joint resolution described in subsection (a). If a committee fails to report a joint resolution within that period, the committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution and the joint resolution shall be referred to the appropriate calendar.

"(3) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—After each committee authorized to consider a joint resolution reports it to the House or has been discharged from its consideration, it shall be in order, not later than the sixth day after introduction of a joint resolution under subsection (a), to move to proceed to consider the joint resolution in the House. All points of order against the motion are waived. Such a motion shall not be in order after the House has disposed of a motion to proceed on a joint resolution addressing a particular submission. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion. The motion shall not be debatable. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

"(4) CONSIDERATION.—The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against the joint resolution and against its consideration are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to its passage without intervening motion except two hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. A motion to reconsider the vote on passage of the joint resolution shall not be in order.

"(d) EXPEDITED PROCEDURE IN SENATE.—

"(1) RECONVENING.—Upon receipt of a certification under subsection (a)(2), if the Senate has adjourned or recessed for more than 2 days, the majority leader of the Senate, after consultation with the minority leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the Senate that, pursuant to this section, the Senate shall convene not later than the second calendar day after receipt of such message.

"(2) PLACEMENT ON CALENDAR.—Upon introduction in the Senate, the joint resolution shall be immediately placed on the calendar.

"(3) FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is in order at any time during the period beginning on the day after the date on which Congress receives a certification under subsection (a) and for the certification described in subsection (a)(1), ending on September 14, 2011 and for the certification described in subsection (a)(2) on the 6th day after the date on which Congress receives a certification under subsection (a) (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) to move to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and all

points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion to proceed is not debatable. The motion is not subject to a motion to postpone. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the resolution is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business until disposed of.

"(B) CONSIDERATION.—Consideration of the joint resolution, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between the majority and minority leaders or their designees. A motion further to limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint resolution is not in order.

"(C) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—If the Senate has voted to proceed to a joint resolution, the vote on passage of the joint resolution shall occur immediately following the conclusion of consideration of the joint resolution, and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate.

"(D) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCEDURE.—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate, as the case may be, to the procedure relating to a joint resolution shall be decided without debate.

"(e) AMENDMENT NOT IN ORDER.—A joint resolution of disapproval considered pursuant to this section shall not be subject to amendment in either the House of Representatives or the Senate.

"(f) COORDINATION WITH ACTION BY OTHER HOUSE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—If, before passing the joint resolution, one House receives from the other a joint resolution—

"(A) the joint resolution of the other House shall not be referred to a committee; and

"(B) the procedure in the receiving House shall be the same as if no joint resolution had been received from the other House until the vote on passage, when the joint resolution received from the other House shall supplant the joint resolution of the receiving House.

"(2) TREATMENT OF JOINT RESOLUTION OF OTHER HOUSE.—If the Senate fails to introduce or consider a joint resolution under this section, the joint resolution of the House shall be entitled to expedited floor procedures under this section.

"(3) TREATMENT OF COMPANION MEASURES.—If, following passage of the joint resolution in the Senate, the Senate then receives the companion measure from the House of Representatives, the companion measure shall not be debatable.

"(4) CONSIDERATION AFTER PASSAGE.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—If Congress passes a joint resolution, the period beginning on the date the President is presented with the joint resolution and ending on the date the President takes action with respect to the joint resolution (but excluding days when either House is not in session) shall be disregarded in computing the appropriate calendar day period described in subsection (b)(1).

"(B) VETOES.—If the President vetoes the joint resolution—

"(i) the period beginning on the date the President vetoes the joint resolution and

ending on the day on which the Congress receives the veto message with respect to the joint resolution (regardless of whether Congress is in session) shall be disregarded in computing the appropriate calendar day period described in subsection (b)(1); and

"(ii) debate on a veto message in the Senate under this section shall be 1 hour equally divided between the majority and minority leaders or their designees.

"(5) VETO OVERRIDE.—If within the appropriate calendar day period described in subsection (b)(1), Congress overrides a veto of the joint resolution with respect to authority exercised pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a), the limit on debt provided in section 3101(b) shall not be raised, except for the \$416,000,000,000 increase in the limit provided by subsection (a)(1)(A)(i).

"(6) SEQUESTER.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—If within the 55 calendar days of receiving the certification described in subsection (a)(1), Congress overrides a veto of the joint resolution with respect to authority exercised pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection (a), OMB shall, immediately, sequester pro rata amounts from all discretionary and direct spending accounts as defined in section 250(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900(c)) (as in effect September 30, 2006) equal to \$416,000,000,000. No reduction of payments for net interest (all of major functional category 900) shall be made under any order issued under this paragraph.

"(B) APPLICATION.—Section 255 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall not apply to this section, except that payments for military personnel accounts (within subfunctional category 051), TRICARE for Life, Medicare (functional category 570), military retirement, Social Security (functional category 650), veterans (functional category 700), and net interest (functional category 900) shall be exempt.

"(g) RULES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE.—This subsection and subsections (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) are enacted by Congress—

"(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, and as such it is deemed a part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in that House in the case of a joint resolution, and it supersedes other rules only to the extent that it is inconsistent with such rules; and

"(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as relating to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House."

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. MCGOVERN. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts will state his inquiry.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, is it true that a bill considered under suspension of the rules denies the minority party the right to offer any amendments or even a motion to recommit?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A motion to suspend is not liable to amendment from the floor.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Further parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his inquiry.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Is it true that a bill considered under suspension of the rules requires a two-thirds supermajority vote in order for a bill to pass?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule XV, a motion to suspend the rules may be adopted by two-thirds of the Members voting, a quorum being present.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Further parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his inquiry.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Is it also true, Mr. Speaker, that a bill considered under suspension of the rules does not pass if it receives a simple majority vote but not two-thirds of the vote?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Further parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his inquiry.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Does this mean that Speaker BOEHNER's bill to raise the debt limit and destroy Medicare would have failed if it were considered under suspension of the rules yesterday?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has not stated a parliamentary inquiry.

Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DREIER. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I think this is the first time that I have offered a Reid proposal in the House of Representatives.

One might ask why it is we are here doing this. It's very apparent to me why it is that we are here doing this, and that is we want to ensure that next Tuesday we see an increase in the debt ceiling so the Social Security checks go out, we bring about spending reductions, and we maintain the credit rating of the United States of America and do all the other things that I believe both Democrats and Republicans, alike, want to have take place.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, we have passed from this House two measures within the last 2 weeks, the Cut, Cap, and Balance measure, and just last night, the Boehner proposal, which, as we all know, stemmed from a bipartisan meeting that he had exactly 1 week ago this afternoon in his meeting

with Senator REID right down along the hall. Unfortunately, Mr. REID no longer supports the proposal that we passed last night, and Senator REID has said on several occasions that his plan is the only plan that can pass both Houses of Congress.

Now, 5 minutes ago, Senator MCCONNELL once again asked Senator REID to bring up this plan that Senator REID said was the only one that could pass both Houses of Congress, and Senator REID said no.

Thursday night, I introduced this measure of Senator REID's and was asked, in the Rules Committee yesterday, by Mr. MCGOVERN, whether or not we would bring it up and I said we didn't plan to. But the fact is Senator MCCONNELL, having made the request now at least twice in the other body to have it brought up, asked us to raise this measure here, and that's exactly what we are doing.

Now, if we look at where it is that we are headed, we all want to have a bipartisan compromise that will ensure that on Tuesday we see that increase in the debt ceiling take place and do these other things. That's what the Speaker of the House and the Democratic leader of the United States Senate, along with Leader MCCONNELL and Leader PELOSI, discussed a week ago today.

And as Speaker BOEHNER said from the well last night, this was an agreement which was supported by Senator REID, but things have changed. Things have changed; we know that. But there is one thing that has not changed, and that is we have to act as quickly as possible. We need to come up with a compromise.

And you know what? Since Senator REID happens to believe that his measure is the only one that can pass both Houses of Congress, we are going to let him know, when we defeat it here in the House of Representatives, that it is not the plan that can gain broad support in the House and the Senate. And so for that reason, Mr. Speaker, we are bringing this up.

We, I believe, should have an opportunity for every Member of this House to go on record on this issue, and I am going to urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this proposal so that we can come together with an important, bipartisan compromise to achieve the goal that we all say that we share.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield myself 3 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, this process has become a joke. It is a disgrace. It's an insult to the American people.

I would say to my friends on the other side of the aisle, now is the time to act like grown-ups. This is the time to put our country before your political party. This is time to put our country before the Tea Party. This is the time to do what's right.

Today, you are bringing up the latest version of the Reid plan under not only a closed rule, but under the most restrictive process we have in the House, usually reserved for noncontroversial bills. There is a \$2.5 trillion bill being brought up under the same process that you bring up bills naming post offices—20 minutes of debate, no amendments allowed. We are not even allowed to offer a motion to recommit. To win, you need a two-thirds supermajority. Under this process, your own bill would have failed. That's right, if your bill were brought up under this procedure, your bill would have lost last night.

Mr. Speaker, the only bill we should consider on the House floor is one that has been agreed to by the House and Senate leaders and the President of the United States.

So why are we doing this today? Let's be honest. You are doing it to score some cheap political points.

I would like to remind the Speaker of the House that he is the Speaker of not just the Republican Party, but that he is the Speaker of the whole House. Now is the time to bring us together, not tear us apart.

□ 1350

Maybe the Reid bill is the one that can unite us because it achieves tremendous savings without decimating Medicare, Medicaid, or Social Security. But Mr. Speaker, to bring it up under this process is cynical, and it demeans the House of Representatives.

I would say to the Republican leadership: Enough political stunts. Our country is facing a terrible economic crisis, a crisis that you created and one that you can avoid, but we've run out of time. Now is the time for leadership, not bad political theater. Now is the time to behave like legislators. Please rise to the occasion.

The Reid bill is not the bill I would have written. It's not the truly balanced approach that I would have hoped for. There are no revenues in this bill. But I think it's the best approach that is on the table right now, and I'm willing to compromise. So I will vote "yes" on this bill. I'm willing to put my country first.

I reserve the balance of my time.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind the Members that remarks in debate must be addressed to the Chair and not to other Members in the second person.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished former chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, my friend from Redlands, California (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, if it were not for the remarks of my colleague from California as well as his colleague from the Rules Committee, I wouldn't be making these remarks. I will begin with a quote:

"The fact that we are here today to debate raising America's debt limit is a sign of leadership failure. Increasing America's debt weakens us domestically and internationally. Leadership means that 'the buck stops here.' Instead, Washington is shifting the burden of bad choices today onto the backs of our children and grandchildren. America has a debt problem and a failure of leadership. Americans deserve better."—Senator Barack H. Obama, March, 2006.

By 2009, Senator Obama had become President Obama. In the 2 years since he became President, Federal spending has increased by over \$500 billion a year. In the past 2 years, he has added nearly \$4 trillion to our national debt. Now President Obama is in favor of increasing the national debt limit. When, oh when, will the real Barack Obama stand up?

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the Democratic whip.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, our neighbors, our friends sent us here to be responsible and to come to the aid of our country at a time of crisis. Our country is at such a time now.

Our people confront uncertainty and fear, and they're looking to us for the courage to compromise and act to prevent default and to prevent gridlock and irresponsibility.

Yesterday, we learned that investors in American stocks lost more than \$400 billion when just a few days ago Speaker BOEHNER said he could not compromise with President Obama. Notwithstanding the remarks of my friend from California, the chairman of the Rules Committee, who talks about a bipartisan compromise, I tell my friend, you have not moved a single centimeter towards compromise with our side of the aisle, not a single centimeter.

And what do we see in the United States Senate, my friends? We see a majority leader of the United States Senate who has a President with him. So, yes, you control one-third, and you control over 40 percent so you can stop things from happening in the Senate, but the people aren't looking to us for what we can stop; they're looking to us for what we can do, for what we can do to make our country healed at this point in time.

So what has Senator REID done with this bill that you introduced—guaranteed to fail. This is the second time you have put a bill on the floor to extend the debt limit guaranteed to fail. It is a pattern, frankly, I say to you, my friends, and it's a pattern that the American public ought not to countenance.

What Senator REID has done is he has taken the view of Speaker BOEHNER and Leader CANTOR and said we need a

long-term solution. And then he has compromised, not notwithstanding the fact that all of us on this side believe that the wealthiest among us should help take us out of this crisis and not rely on the most vulnerable among us. And so there is no revenue in Senator REID's bill, notwithstanding that an overwhelming number of us on this side of the aisle believe that's good policy, and I know that some of you on your side of the aisle believe that as well.

Senator REID has set up a process so that we can continue to look at what we know we need to look at, bringing our deficit and debt down, for which we are all responsible, my friends.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield the gentleman an additional minute.

Mr. HOYER. And so we confront this moment of responsibility. I believe my side of the aisle will overwhelmingly say yes, not because they like this bill, but because they believe it is a compromise that can work because it takes so much of the demands that you have made on your side of the aisle. But if you came to Congress expecting perfection, if you came to Congress expecting only that you do it your way and no other way, you will be disappointed, as all of us are disappointed, because it cannot happen that way. Our Founding Fathers brought us from many places with many perspectives to try to heal our country and provide for the general welfare.

Let us avoid default. Let us set ourselves on a path of compromise. My friends on the Republican side of the aisle, we are going to vote, for the most part, for this bill. We do not believe it's perfect, but we believe it's possible. America expects us to do that.

The summer soldiers and the sunshine patriots will retreat at this time of crisis. Do not do that.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. I would like to yield my friend an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I will say that I was prepared to engage in a colloquy with my good friend from Maryland and explain to him that if Senator REID believes that this is a great compromise, why will he not respond to Senator MCCONNELL's repeated requests to bring it up in the United States Senate?

With that, Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield 1 minute to our Presidential candidate, our good friend from Stillwater, Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN).

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, throughout this debate over guaranteeing insane, never before seen in the history of this country levels of spending, President Obama has coolly stood on the sidelines, his armed crossed,

very simply castigating Republicans for not giving him a \$2.4 trillion blank check. Meanwhile, the only plan that the President has put forward is his February budget, which in itself contained yet one more \$1.5 trillion deficit.

The President has no plan. Only the Republicans have offered plans. Now is the time for the President to show leadership, and the only leadership that he is showing is one that's saying tsk, tsk, tsk, trying to bring us to the brink when in fact we're trying to be responsible and bring this to a successful conclusion.

We call on the President of the United States to finally engage in the process.

□ 1400

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, let me just remind the gentlelady that no one on the Democratic side ever walked out of a meeting.

At this point, I would like to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. LEVIN. I have been here almost 29 years. This is a disgraceful moment. This country wants compromise. What you're doing with this bill is to undermine the chances of compromise. That's what you're doing. You're trying to throw a monkey wrench in the Reid bill before it can even leave the station. That's what you're doing. You're trying to make sure that the Senate cannot work its will.

Why isn't this bill being brought up? Because Senator REID wants to sit down with Senate Republicans and work out a compromise, and you're bringing up this bill to make sure that this will never happen. This is a disgraceful moment, Mr. DREIER. It is a disgraceful moment.

Mr. DREIER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LEVIN. No.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, may I yield time to my friend from Michigan? Am I allowed to yield time to my friend from Michigan?

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. DREIER, you have already spoken. What you are doing here is—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield the gentleman 15 seconds.

Mr. LEVIN. Look, Mr. DREIER, it is very clear what you are doing here. Mr. REID wants to sit down and work with Mr. MCCONNELL. What you are trying to do is to make sure that a signal is sent to the Senate, don't bother.

Mr. DREIER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LEVIN. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. I thank my friend for yielding.

Let me say that the action that we are about to take here today is going to help with the process of seeing Senator MCCONNELL and Senator REID work together.

Mr. LEVIN. Reclaiming my time, Mr. DREIER, that is pernicious nonsense.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind the Members that remarks in debate must be addressed to the Chair and not to other Members in the second person.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I will not only address you, I won't point my finger at you as I address you.

Let me say, Madam Speaker, that Senator MCCONNELL has just minutes ago asked Senator REID to bring the Reid proposal to the floor of the United States Senate. And a decision has been made by Senator REID not to bring the measure up.

On at least two occasions, Senator MCCONNELL has asked, since Senator REID has said that his proposal is the only one that can pass both Houses of Congress, Senator MCCONNELL has asked us to show what we all know, and that is that there is not going to be a majority of support in the House of Representatives for his proposal.

And then when that happens, we look forward to the discussions that will take place with Speaker BOEHNER, Senator REID, Leader MCCONNELL, and Leader PELOSI.

With that, Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG), a hardworking new Member of Congress.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Madam Speaker, we need to cut spending now. We need to control spending in the future. But the American people understand that our foremost constitutional duty here in Congress is to make sure that America is safe.

Former Secretary Gates said that further cuts to our military will mean that there are certain things our military won't be able to do and places they won't be able to go.

This proposal, the Reid-Obama plan, proposes cutting defense spending by \$859 billion over 10 years compared to the President's fiscal year 2011 budget. Yet the President and Senator REID have not told us what places we won't be going and what missions we won't be doing. This is irresponsible. I can't support this proposal.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), a member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. DOGGETT. This Republican ploy is too clever by half. At the very same time Republican Senators are filibustering against bringing up this proposal in the Senate, the House Republicans are insisting on bringing it up here so they can vote it down. While it

is imperfect and imbalanced, this Reid proposal protects educational opportunities for college students, it protects retirement security through Medicare and Social Security, and it provides more important resources for public services than the reactionary House Republican budget.

With House Republicans still at fault for refusing to seek any type of middle ground, the Reid bill is the least worst alternative to avoid default.

As desperate as they were last night to cobble together a handful of votes to pass a partisan Boehner bill, they are even more desperate to defeat this reasonable middle ground because they insist it must have two-thirds of the votes of this body.

Let us join Democrats in unity to approve this proposal.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 10 seconds to remind my friend from Texas that the measure that we voted on last night stemmed from the bipartisan agreement that was put together one week ago this afternoon right down the hall.

With that, I am happy to yield 1 minute to my good friend, the gentleman from Jefferson, Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE).

Mr. SCALISE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

If you look at the Reid bill, it doesn't even start to address the problem. With all of its budget gimmicks and shell games, I think most people recognize that if you had an honest conversation, you would know it doesn't even start to tackle the spending problem.

Now, hardworking American families back home know the problem in America is not that we have corporate jet owners and millionaires and billionaires; the problem is that Washington spends too much money. You don't solve that problem by sending more money up to Washington to spend even more. And so when the President talks about a balanced approach, what he really means is more job-killing tax hikes.

Families back home know what we really need is a balanced budget amendment to put accountability back in place in Washington to control this rampant, out-of-control spending in Washington and to finally attack the real problem, and that's Washington spending. I oppose the bill.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, this agreement offers the calm, reasonable compromise the country wants. Most Americans don't want to let the debt ceiling expire. This bill solves that problem.

Most Americans say, You know what? You probably can cut about 5 percent in most government programs. Not everybody believes that, but that's what this bill does.

Most Americans say that there ought to be some other way to look at difficult entitlement programs and other issues. The bill sets up a process to do that.

What the bill does is recognize the difference between the two parties and puts that difference aside. The majority party wants to make radical changes in Medicare and Social Security; we do not.

We believe that the wealthiest Americans should pay their fair share to solve this problem. The majority party does not. The bill leaves that disagreement aside and focuses on the areas of agreement.

You know, American troops on patrol are not asking under what conditions they should do their duty this afternoon. They're understanding their duty, and they're doing it—and so should we. Pass this bill.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, at this time I am happy to yield 30 seconds to my good friend, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON), a hardworking new Member of the class of 87 people who came in here to change this place.

Mr. TIPTON. Thank you, Mr. DREIER.

When we hear our colleague from Texas say "this is the least worst alternative," and that's our best choice? I think the American people demand and deserve better. It is time that we put people before politics and partisanship aside so that we can have progress for the American people.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for a unanimous consent request.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. As an American, I stand here united with America voting "yes" on this bill to save Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Bipartisan Budget Control Act of 2011, the Reid Bill, which is a legitimate attempt to resolve our debt-ceiling crisis unlike the previous debt-ceiling bills introduced by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, which has attempted to resolve our budget ceiling crisis by demanding sharp cuts to domestic programs that ask average Americans to make life-changing sacrifices while not asking America's wealthiest individuals and most profitable corporations to contribute their fair share.

We must work together to save the American people and do what's right. We are working under one flag and one nation; there are times in which we are 50 states, and times when we exist as a single, united, nation. One single state did not defend the nation after the attacks on Pearl Harbor. One state, on its own, did not end segregation and establish Civil Rights. There are times when the stakes are too high, when we simply must unite as states and act as one. We must today work under one flag and one nation to protect our economy and our people.

We need to change the tone here in Congress. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben

Bernanke said it best when he stated recently before the House Committee on Financial Services, "We really don't want to just cut, cut, cut." Chairman Bernanke further stated "You need to be a little bit cautious about sharp cuts in the very near term because of the potential impact on the recovery. That doesn't at all preclude—in fact, I believe it's entirely consistent with—a longer-term program that will bring our budget into a sustainable position." The Reid plan offers the compromise that the American people want, demand and need. I stand here with so many of my colleagues calling for the protection of Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and other programs that protect the interests of the American people.

In my lifetime, I have never seen such a concerted effort to ransom the American economy in order to extort the American public. I support this bill and efforts to increase the debt limit and to resolve our differences over budgetary revenue and spending issues. I will not support any bill that unduly robs average Americans of their economic security and ability to provide for their families while constraining the ability of Congress to deal effectively with America's economic, fiscal, and job creation troubles.

This plan will result in a \$1.2 trillion increase in the debt limit, \$416 billion of which would automatically occur when the President submits a written certification to Congress that the debt ceiling needs to be increased. The remaining \$784 billion in borrowing authority would be subject to a congressional resolution of disapproval, and Congress would have 55 days to act to reject the increase. Under this bill, after that initial increase, the President would be authorized to seek another \$1.2 trillion increase once the debt limit is within \$150 billion of the debt ceiling, with the entire \$1.2 trillion subject to a congressional resolution of disapproval within 15 calendar days.

The plan I support today establishes statutory caps on discretionary spending that would apply for ten years. These caps would operate similarly to caps established with bipartisan support in the 1990s. If Congress exceeds the caps, across-the-board cuts would enforce the limits. Further additional savings in FY 2012 by security spending would be capped at \$606 billion, or \$3 billion below this year's level. Security spending would be \$19 billion below the Republican budget. This plan finds even more savings by limiting funding for ongoing wars (the so-called "Overseas Contingent Operations") that could be provided outside the discretionary spending caps.

Some of my Republican colleagues have been critical of the Reid bill's proposed savings on war funding. However, winding down the wars, which this year will cost about \$160 billion, will produce very real savings, as both the Office of Management and Budget and the Congressional Budget Office acknowledge. In fact, the Republicans endorsed this approach when they voted for the House GOP budget earlier this year.

My home state of Texas ranks 43rd in education, and last (50th) in the nation in people over 25 who only have a high school education. This bill will protect the hopes and dreams of people who are striving to improve those numbers. It safeguards Pell Grants and maintains the current maximum grant at

\$5,550. Our country has such a firm belief in education, so much so that we as a people have provided free education to all students until the 12th grade, but after that moment with high school diploma in hand a higher education should not become a battle between the haves and the have nots in our society. This plan would end graduate and professional students' eligibility for subsidized Stafford loans, as proposed in the President's FY 2012 budget.

Graduate and professional students would be able to receive unsubsidized federal student loans, and would continue to be eligible to apply for deferment, forbearance, or other loan repayment assistance. The \$18 billion in savings are used to address projected shortfalls in the Pell Grant through FY 2013.

Madam Speaker, the bill will reduce waste, fraud and abuse by promoting efforts to improve enforcement in several areas. The anti-fraud efforts promoted by the Reid bill include: continuing Disability Reviews and SSI redeterminations; Internal Revenue Service tax enforcement; health care fraud and abuse control; and Unemployment Insurance improper payment reviews. According to CBO, these steps would save \$11 billion over 10 years.

The Boehner proposal plan and all the plans proposed by my Republican colleagues they have all just cut, cut, cut without taking into full consideration the serious cuts to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. Their bills have essentially been a rehashed version of the same bills that President Obama promised to veto and the Senate vowed to reject. It asks cuts from domestic spending while demanding nothing in revenue from the nation's wealthiest. The proposals offered by my Republican colleagues has been nothing more than a ransom note, irresponsibly raising the debt ceiling for only a few months so that in just a short period of time, the American public will be hit again for \$1.6 trillion in cuts from Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and veterans benefits. Anyone who believes that those plans will not result in a serious cut to Social Security should consider this . . . Social Security represents 20 percent of all federal spending, making it unrealistic to think such large cuts in mandatory spending will not affect Social Security benefits. The Reid plan, before us today protects Social Security.

I believe that the plan before us is an example of shared sacrifice. It removes the entire burden off the backs of seniors, the middle class and our nation's most vulnerable citizens. The Reid plan will not result in dramatic reductions in safety net programs for vulnerable Americans, such as food stamps and unemployment and disability insurance. This would be and should be unacceptable, and each is avoidable if corporations and the wealthy are required to shoulder a fair share of this burden.

There has been a theme this Congress of focusing on cutting programs that benefit the public good and for the most at need, while ignoring the need to focus on job creation and economic recovery. This bill places us back on the right track. We should be focused on paying our nation's bills and resolving our differences.

In my district, the Texas 18th, more than 190,000 people live below the poverty line.

We must not, we cannot, at a time when the Census Bureau places the number of Americans living in poverty at the highest rate in over 50 years, cut vital social services. Not in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis and persistent unemployment, when so many rely on federal benefits to survive, like the Supplemental Nutrition Access Program (SNAP) that fed 3.9 million residents of Texas in April 2011, or the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) Program that provides nutritious food to more than 990,000 mothers and children in my home state.

In 2009, there were 43.6 million Americans living in poverty nationwide. According to the 2010 Federal poverty threshold, determined by the U.S. Census, a family of four is considered impoverished if they are living on less than \$22,314 per year.

Children represent a disproportionate amount of the United States poor population. In 2008, there were 15.45 million impoverished children in the nation, 20.7% of America's youth. The Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that there are currently 5.6 million Texans living in poverty, 2.2 million of them children, and that 17.4% of households in the state struggle with food insecurity.

Protecting Medicare represents the basic values of fairness and respect for our seniors, including the 2.9 million Texans who received Medicare in 2010.

Any cuts to Medicaid would be just as damaging. Harris County has one of the highest Medicaid enrollment records in Texas. Limits and cuts to Medicaid funds would significantly hurt the citizens of Texas's 18th District. Harris County averages between 500,000 and 600,000 Medicaid recipients monthly, thousands of people who may not have access to healthcare should Congress sacrifice Medicaid to cut spending.

Childhood hunger continues to be a real and persistent problem in the Houston/Harris County area. The number of people participating in the Food Stamp Program in Texas has increased by 82 percent since 2000. However, only 60 percent of those eligible for food stamps in Texas participate in the program.

In Harris County, only 75 percent of children approved to receive free lunch participated, and only 39 percent of children approved to receive free breakfast took advantage of the benefit. Participation numbers are similarly low for those students approved to receive reduced-price lunch and breakfast. During summer months, participation in these federal nutrition programs drops significantly. In Texas the summer participation rate was only 8.1 percent of low income children.

In 2008, when the recession first hit, 22.9 percent of Texas children were living in poverty, the fifth worst rate in the nation. As a result of the economic downturn that began in late 2008 in Texas, and parents losing their jobs, the child poverty rate increased to 24.4 percent in 2009. That is 163,000 more children falling into poverty, or 1.6 million Texas children overall.

Many people assume that Texas was not hit as hard by the recession as other states because our unemployment rate is still below the national average. While our unemployment rate is low compared to the U.S. (8.2 versus 9.8 percent, respectively, in November 2010),

it is still nearly double where it stood in November 2007 (4.4 percent). In fact, Texas' unemployment rate has been around 8 percent for the last 16 months, which is extremely high given Texas' recent history.

Nearly one in three Texas children has no parent with a full-time, year-round job, making them particularly vulnerable.

When a household falls into poverty, children are exposed to increased parental distress, inadequate childcare arrangements, and poor nutrition. In past recessions, it took many years for employment and incomes to rebound, and low-income families rebound more slowly than others.

72 percent of Texas' working families in poverty have at least one parent without health insurance.

Public benefits such as health care or nutrition assistance help families bridge the gaps in difficult economic times and are critical in reducing the effects of a recession. Cutting these supports will hurt child and family well-being and damage the Texas economy by taking money out of the private economy for critical local businesses such as grocery stores and medical providers.

The supplemental nutrition program, WIC, helps low-income pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and young children eat well and stay healthy. WIC provides nutrition education, nutritious foods, referrals to health and human services, breastfeeding support, and immunizations (at some clinics).

More than 802,000 Texas children ages 0–4 (40 percent) received support through WIC. When you look at infants alone, 67 percent received WIC supplements, compared to only 35 percent of children aged 1–4.

The program has grown by more than 176,000 kids between 2000 and 2009, with an increase of 66,000 children from 2007 to 2009 alone.

During the recession, more families needed greater assistance with basic expenses. SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) provided benefits to over 3 million Texans, more than half of which are children (ages 0–17).

In January 2011, more than 2 million Texas children received assistance from SNAP, an increase of nearly 700,000 kids since January 2008. Furthermore, because of added funds from the ARRA, monthly benefits rose 13.6 percent, giving added assistance to families at a time when they needed it most.

The dramatic rise in applications for SNAP initially overwhelmed the already beleaguered state workers who enroll families in these federal benefits. In November of 2009, 43 percent of SNAP applications were not being processed within the federally mandated 30-day time period, leaving hundreds of thousands of families each month waiting for food assistance.

More than 2.8 million Texas children participate in the school lunch program, and close to half of them also receive breakfast. More than \$1.3 billion of federal funding is used to support these programs during the school year. Many counties in Texas also run summer nutrition programs so that kids who depend on school lunches have access to good nutrition when school is closed for the summer.

Perhaps my friends on the other side of the aisle are content to conclude that life simply is

not fair, equality is not accessible to everyone, and the less advantaged among us are condemned to remain as they are, but I do not accept that. That kind of complacency is not fitting for America.

Yes, we must take steps to balance the budget and reduce the national debt, but not at the expense of vital social programs. It is unconscionable that in our nation of vast resources, my Republican colleagues even consider fighting to pass a budget that cuts funding for essential social programs. Poverty impacts far too many Americans and social safety nets provide these individuals with vital assistance.

As we continue to discuss the necessity of increasing our debt ceiling, I have heard the concerns of many of my constituents and the American people regarding the size of our national debt and the care with which taxpayer money is spent. I, too, am concerned about these issues; for to burden future generations of Americans with tremendous amounts of debt should not be a way to avoid our fiscal responsibilities to the American people. However, the task of resolving our debt ceiling crisis must take precedence over other concerns, including political ideology. The game is up, and the American people understand that increasing the debt ceiling has nothing to do with any new spending and everything to do with paying off the obligations that we have already agreed to and promised to pay.

Prior to the existence of the debt ceiling, Congress had to approve borrowing each time the federal government wished to borrow money in order to carry out its functions. With the onset of World War I, more flexibility was needed to expand the government's capability to borrow money expeditiously in order to meet the rapidly changing requirements of funding a major war in the modern era.

To address this need, the first debt ceiling was established in 1917, allowing the federal government to borrow money to meet its obligations without prior congressional approval, so long as in the aggregate, the amount borrowed did not eclipse a specified limit.

Since the debt limit was first put in place, Congress has increased it over 100 times; in fact, it was raised 10 times within the past decade. Congress last came together and raised the debt ceiling in February 2010. Today, the debt ceiling currently stands at \$14.3 trillion. In reality, that limit has already been eclipsed, but due to accounting procedures by Treasury Secretary Geithner, the debt limit can be artificially avoided until August 2.

Congress must act now in order to avert a crisis. Never in the history of America has the United States defaulted on its debt obligations.

We must be clear on what this issue means for our country. America has earned a reputation as the world's most trusted borrower. United States Treasury bonds have traditionally been one of the safest investments another country or investor could make. For investors around the world, purchasing a U.S. Treasury bond meant that they held something virtually as safe as cash, backed by the full faith and credit of the United States government.

In turn, with the proceeds from the bonds, the federal government of the world's largest

economy is able to finance its operations. If the United States defaults on its debt obligations, the financial crisis that began in 2008 would pale in comparison, according to economic experts. The ensuing economic catastrophe would not only place the U.S. economy in a tailspin, but the world economy as well.

The fact that Congress, a body that typically has its fair share of political battles, has never played political chicken when it came to raising the debt ceiling should give us all pause, and is a testament to the seriousness with which we must approach this issue. However, this time around, my Republican colleagues have created an impasse based upon an ideological commitment to spending cuts. While I understand and share the concern of my Republican colleagues with respect to deficit spending, and will continue to work with them in order to find reductions, now is not the time to put ideology over pragmatism. The reality is that, on August 3, the United States will begin to default on its debt obligations if the debt ceiling is not raised.

This unnecessarily places the American public and the economy between a rock and a hard place. Either Congress sides completely with the radical agenda of the Tea Party, which irresponsibly pulls the chair out from under the average American while polishing the throne of the wealthiest.

This detour into a spending debate is as unnecessary as it is perilous, as increasing the debt ceiling does not obligate the undertaking of any new spending by the federal government. Rather, raising the debt limit simply allows the government to pay existing legal obligations promised to debt holders that were already agreed to by Presidents and Congresses, both past and present.

Moreover, the impending crisis would have already occurred were it not for the extraordinary measures taken by Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, including the suspension of the investment in securities to finance the Civil Service retirement and Disability Fund, as well as the redemption of a portion of those securities already held by that fund.

If the United States defaults on its obligations on August 3, the stock market will react violently to the news that for the first time in history, America is unable to keep its promises to pay. Not once in American history has the country's full faith and credit been called into question.

Once America defaults, investors who purchase U.S. bonds and finance our government will be less likely to lend to America in the future. Just as a person who defaults on a loan will find it harder to convince banks to lend them money in the future, a country that defaults on its debt obligations will find it harder to convince investors to lend money to a government that did not pay.

Showing the world that the United States does not pay its debts makes the purchasing of that debt less desirable because it requires the assumption of more risk on the part of the investors. The opponents of this bill are putting the country at serious risk of losing its status as the world's economic superpower. Our allies will lose faith in our ability to manage global economic affairs. Our status in the world will be diminished, which will undermine our leverage on the world stage that allows us

to command the respect and compliance of other nations when it comes to decision-making. This bill will allow America to compete with a surging China.

Furthermore, any investors that do continue to purchase U.S. Treasury bonds will demand much higher interest rates in order to cover the increased risk. Once a default occurs, investors figure that the chance of the United States defaulting again is much greater, and will require the government to pay higher rates of interest in order to make the loan worth the risk for investors to take on.

Imagine the impact on our stock market if we do not pay our debts. As we have seen throughout the recent financial crisis, a bad stock market hurts not only big businesses and large investors on Wall Street, but small businesses and small investors as well. Families with investments tied to the stock market, such as 401(k)s, pension plans, and savings, will once again see the value of their investments drop. The American people are tired of the uncertainty of the value of their retirement accounts. We must not allow another wild fluctuation to occur due to default and add to the uncertainty still lingering in the minds of citizens.

The markets have made it clear that a short-term extension and REID's plan is a long term solution which averts serious consequences.

As if another stock market crisis were not enough, the housing market would take another hit if America defaulted. Higher mortgage rates in a housing market already weakened by default and foreclosures would cause a further depression of home values, destroying whatever equity families might have left in their homes after the housing crisis. Moreover, the long-term effects would reduce spending and investment in the housing market.

Increasing the debt ceiling is the responsible thing to do. Congress has already debated and approved the debt that an increased ceiling makes room for. However, my Republican colleagues have chosen to use this as an opportunity to hold the American people hostage to their extreme agenda.

Even prominent Republicans like Senator JOHN McCAIN and Christine Todd Whitman have criticized the radical elements of their party who insist upon holding up the entire political process in order to flaunt their extreme, irrational, and unrealistic ideology. Senator McCAIN has called the Tea Party's stance and the way they have conducted themselves during this manufactured crisis "bizarre," and I am inclined to agree. Their agenda for this country is even too radical for Speaker BOEHNER, with the Tea Party vowing to reject their leader's own bill.

Texas has the unfortunate distinction of leading the nation as the highest percentage of residents uninsured. More than 5.8 million Texans—including 1.5 million children—lack health insurance. Texas' uninsured rates, 1.5 to 2 times the national average, create significant problems in the financing and delivery of health care to all Texans. One in every four Texans lacks health insurance coverage, and that number is one in every three in large cities like Houston and Dallas. According to the Gallup poll, an average of 26.8 percent of Texas residents was uninsured.

With only 75% of the residents being insured, this means that one in four residents within the state is unprotected and could be in financial stress in case of a medical emergency. This extremely high percentage of residents lacking health insurance coverage is one of the biggest challenges the Texas Department of Insurance and Department of Health face.

Here's an idea that wouldn't cost Texas a dime but would save millions of dollars every year: Remove all barriers restraining nurses from practicing to the full extent of their education and training. No state needs primary care providers more than Texas, which has a severe shortage. Texas ranks last in access to health care and in the percentage of residents without health insurance. Of Texas' 254 counties, 188 are designated by the federal government as having acute shortages of primary care physicians. Of that number, 16 counties have one and 23 have zero. If every nurse practitioner and family doctor were deployed, we still couldn't meet the need. Texans are desperate for health care.

I have worked effortlessly with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to gain bipartisan support for successful passage of an amendment to the landmark healthcare reform bill that made sure no hospital is forced to shut its doors or turn away Medicare or Medicaid patients. Existing physician-owned hospitals employ approximately 51,700 individuals, have over 27,000 physicians on staff, pay approximately \$2,421,579,312 in payroll taxes and \$512,889,516 in other federal taxes, and have approximately \$1.9 billion in trade payables. With approximately 50 physician-owned hospitals, Texas leads the nation in the number of physician-owned hospitals. The Texas economy could lose more than \$2.3 billion and more than 22,000 jobs without these important hospitals.

American families spend almost twice as much on health care—through premiums, paycheck deductions and out-of-pocket expenses—as families in any other country. In exchange, we receive quality specialty care in many areas. Yet on the whole, Americans do not get much better care than countries that spend far less. Americans do not live as long as people in Canada, Japan, and most of Western Europe. This should clearly indicate that health care reform was needed. The landmark bill signed by President Obama will provide coverage to millions of people who currently lack it.

They live in a world that is not the world that the American people live in. In their world, they believe that taxes are always too high, even on people making over a billion a year in a struggling economy; that any increase in revenue is fundamentally wrong, even if it comes from large corporations who use tax loopholes at the expense of our job-creating small businesses; that investing anything in our economic future above tax revenues is impermissible, even in the midst of an economic downturn; and that tax cuts for the wealthy are always the nation's top priority, even at the expense of people that depend on Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and veterans benefits to survive.

These beliefs place them on the fringe of American society, and yet due to the nature

our political process, they have held up the entire government and placed our economy on the precipice of a turbulent second recession.

If Congress cannot find a resolution then Congress will open the possibility that the President may invoke the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, Section four, which states "the validity of the public debt of the United States . . . shall not be questioned." The argument can be made that if Congress will not resolve our nation's pending default then the President to protect the interest of our nation must act. The President would then have to consider his powers under the Fourteenth Amendment which may grant him the authority to raise the debt ceiling, on his own, through executive order and if Congress fails to raise the debt limit by the August 2, 2011 deadline. As a body we should not place the President or our country in this position.

For those reasons, I urge my colleagues to consider the constituents in their home districts who would be helped by this bill. I urge my colleagues to return to the world in which the vast majority of Americans live in; a world in which our shared destiny is determined by reasonable minds and good faith efforts to compromise. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke warned that defaulting could "throw the financial system into chaos," and "destroy the trust and confidence that global investors have in Treasury securities as being the safest liquid assets in the world."

Instead of injecting ideological spending cuts into the traditionally non-political business of raising the debt ceiling, we must work quickly to pass a this bill that makes good on our debt obligations and restores confidence in American credit.

There is in these difficult times no tea party, no Democratic Party, no Republican Party. There is only one party—there is only one party—the party that is the embodiment of one nation—America and we should stand for Americans and one America—I vote "yes" to save America from default and to honor the full, faith and credit.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Ladies and gentlemen of the House of Representatives, this is not a Nation of Tea Party people. It is not a Nation of Democrats or Republicans. It is a Nation of all of us.

And what the Reid plan presents, it represents the Tea Party, the Republicans and the Democrats and the President of the United States. This is what the American people expect us to do. That is what has made this country great. At critical times, we've come together and we have compromised. We're protecting Medicare. We're protecting Social Security. We're protecting Medicaid, as the people of this country want.

And yet, as the Republicans and the Tea Party want, there are no tax increases in this. And as the President of the United States has asked us, there will be a second task in the year 2013.

□ 1410

Ladies and gentlemen of this House, the time is present. It is time for us to do the American thing: Stand up for the American people and let us compromise in the best interests of all of us so this Nation will not go into default.

Mr. DREIER. I yield myself 15 seconds.

Madam Speaker, I think it's very important to note that yesterday and today we are continuing to hear that under the Boehner proposal cuts in Medicare and Social Security would take place, when in fact both the Boehner and Reid proposals have virtually identical plans to put into place a joint select committee that would in fact report back to this institution.

With that, I am happy to yield 1 minute to my very good friend, a member of the Appropriations Committee, the gentleman from Houston, Texas (Mr. CULBERSON).

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I think it's important for everyone to know the reason the House is considering this bill today is to put up another guardrail to show what the House cannot do. It's important in any compromise to understand what can and cannot be done.

The new constitutional conservative majority in the House will not pass the Reid bill because of its devastating cuts to our U.S. military. The House is going to find a way to compromise with the Senate, but it is not going to include massive cuts to the military. As we've established, it's not going to include tax increases. It looks like it's going to include some select committee that's going to make recommendations to the Congress.

We're going to find a way to make sure that American companies do not hit the brick wall of running out of the ability to borrow. But this is one of the most important debates, one of the most important votes we'll have in our brief time here in Congress is to make sure that we're protecting our kids and grandchildren from a crushing unaffordable level of debt. So we're working hard to find what the limits are of what the House and the Senate will do.

We've got to have this vote today to show what the House will not do. And we're not going to cut the military, as the Reid bill would.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield myself 15 seconds.

Madam Speaker, make no mistake about it. From day one, this Republican majority has put Medicare on the chopping block. And the Boehner proposal would decimate Medicare and Medicaid and Social Security as we know it.

At this point, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I would point out to my good friend from

Texas, Madam Speaker, as a constitutional conservative, he should recognize that the Constitution, itself, was a series of compromises.

Our Nation and economy is being pushed closer and closer to default. Hardliners on the right—extremists by any other name—have refused to compromise. We are putting in jeopardy the payment of the Social Security obligations and paying the members of our military. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff yesterday couldn't even answer in the affirmative that he was confident that those payments could be made if we default. We're putting in jeopardy the full faith and credit of our Nation.

Yesterday, seniors in my district called my office in tears, wondering whether we would default and what those consequences would mean for them. These are real people who live on Social Security to survive.

We have many strongly held views on both sides of the aisle. I don't like everything in the Reid proposal before us, but compromise is critical. I recognize that I can't have everything 100 percent my way. Democrats have been at the compromise table for months with an empty chair on the other side of the table. It is time for Republicans to warm that seat across from us.

Mr. DREIER claims that Republicans have brought the Reid proposal to the floor to show that it doesn't represent a bill that can pass the House, yet the process is a sham. The bill has been brought up under a rule that requires a two-thirds vote of this House for passage, which they know cannot happen.

What are Republicans afraid of? They're afraid that a fair process might show just how much support there is for this proposal.

Where are the cooler heads in the Republican Caucus? Where are they? They appear not to exist. Your caucus seems to be held hostage by extremists and have driven the moderates from the room and from the discussion. Allowing extremists to take over is doing harm to our country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 15 seconds.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you.

President Obama and House and Senate Democrats have said we are willing to support cuts even to programs we would normally fight to preserve. Republicans in response have doubled down in a Groundhog Day move that has pushed dead-on-arrival proposals that jeopardize our economy by bringing us closer to the brink of chaos.

At the end of the day, the stewardship of our economy is our responsibility.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I am happy to yield 1 minute to our good friend, a hardworking new Member of

this institution, the gentlewoman from Camas, Washington (Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER).

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, the reason we came here, this caucus is here, the new freshmen are here, is because the American people said, Enough. They said, You're spending too much of our money. And that's what this conversation is about today.

The President stood on the floor across the Rotunda a couple of years ago and said, It's a failure of leadership to raise the debt ceiling. Well, guess what? I came here never expecting to raise the debt ceiling, but I've now compromised. I've twice voted to raise the debt ceiling to cover spending from a failed stimulus, from a health care bill that ends Medicare as we know it. I voted twice for solutions. And that's compromise for me.

When I ran for this seat, I told the people that I serve, I'm not extreme; I am mad. I'm mad that Washington, D.C., thinks you are their piggy bank.

That's what this debate is about. We end it today.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield myself 10 seconds, Madam Speaker, just to remind the gentlelady that she has voted time and time and time again to decimate Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, and we're not going to stand by and let them do that.

At this point I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland, the ranking member of the Budget Committee, Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I think the American people just heard a new definition of compromise: Paying your bills is a compromise. The American family can't wake up one morning and say, Boy, it's a compromise to pay for what I've already incurred. It's a compromise to pay my mortgage. That's a new one for the American people. And it's part of a reckless pattern that we've seen emerging here.

First our Republican colleagues walked out of the Biden talks. Twice they walked out of talks with the President of the United States. Then, when the Republican leader in the Senate put forward a proposal, they ridiculed it. Then, Thursday night, in this very House, they said "no" to the proposal by the Republican Speaker of this House until he amended—the same Speaker who said we need to have an adult moment.

Here's the concluding paragraph of today's Wall Street Journal: Republicans are not looking like adults to whom we can entrust the government.

The American people are looking for that adult moment. If you're not willing to compromise on critical things for the country, you are not fit to govern. And that is why Senator REID put forward a compromise proposal. He doesn't like his own proposal. He would be the first to tell you that. But you know what it did? It met the criteria

our Republican colleagues put forward—\$2.4 trillion in cuts. And even if you take out the war savings, more guaranteed cuts, according to CBO, than the Boehner proposal the other night. It also incorporates McConnell's proposal.

Here's what it doesn't do. It doesn't end the Medicare guarantee. It doesn't cut Social Security. And it doesn't protect tax breaks for special interest corporations.

What we're seeing here is people are holding the American economy hostage. You have to stop playing kamikaze pilot with the future of the American people in order to extract a hundred percent of demands for budgets your way. Compromise is necessary. And that is what Senator REID put forward, a compromise proposal.

Let's show we can govern together.

□ 1420

Mr. DREIER. I yield myself 5 seconds to again say to my colleagues that the measure we voted on last night stemmed from a bipartisan compromise that was put together in this very Capitol one week ago today.

With that, Madam Speaker, I am happy to yield 1 minute to my good friend from Urbana, Ohio (Mr. JORDAN).

Mr. JORDAN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Let's just cut to the numbers and what this bill does. We've got a \$14 trillion debt. This is going to raise the debt ceiling \$2.4 trillion. It's going to achieve a savings of \$18 billion in the first year.

So just think of it the way the American people would see things. You've got a kid who has maxed out the credit card at \$14,000. The kid goes to the bank, and the bank says, Okay. Here's what we're going to do. We're going to give you 2,400 more dollars on the credit card, but you have to promise us, over the next year, you're going to spend \$18 less than you planned on spending.

That's what this bill does. This bill doesn't even come close to starting to solve the problem. That's why we're against it, and that's why it should be defeated.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield myself 5 seconds.

My colleague from California keeps on saying that the Boehner bill was bipartisan. I'll remind him that not one single Democrat voted for that bill because Democrats do not want to decimate Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

At this time, I would like to yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH).

Mr. FATTAH. I assume that some think that the American people are gullible, but this is not a coincidence or happenstance. We've got a Republican majority that took us from trillions in surplus to trillions in deficit,

added a \$7 trillion prescription drug plan, unfunded wars, and then refused any additional revenue. In choking off our country's ability to pay its debt, now they want to walk us towards default. This is a special place in the shadows of the history books for a group of people who in order to gain power are willing to sacrifice America's leadership in this world.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I would like to yield to any of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who will tell me where in the Boehner bill it says that we want to cut Medicare, Social Security or any of the other items that they continue to attack. I would be happy to yield to anyone who can point me to where in the Boehner bill it says that. I am happy to yield to anyone.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DREIER. I yield to my friend from Massachusetts.

Mr. MCGOVERN. In the balanced budget amendment that you have and in the Ryan proposal, you have all of it going after Medicare and Social Security.

Mr. DREIER. With that, I am happy to yield 30 seconds to my good friend from Aurora, Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN).

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, the President of the United States, Barack Obama, has said to the Congress that we need to put America first and get this debt limit done. I agree with that. I agree that we need to put America first and put politics aside.

Last weekend, a bipartisan proposal emerged with Speaker BOEHNER and Majority Leader REID, Senator REID, coming to an agreement, but the President of the United States got ahold of Senator REID and said, Absolutely not.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DREIER. I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds, Madam Speaker.

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. The reason he rejected the agreement was because it didn't have enough money to get him through the election of November 2012. The President's campaign consideration is not putting America first. We need to put America first and vote down the Reid proposal.

Mr. MCGOVERN. May I inquire of the time remaining on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 4 minutes remaining. The gentleman from California has 6¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Maybe the gentleman from California might want to yield to Mr. VAN HOLLEN; but at this point, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I did ask a few minutes ago and expended time by asking anyone to yield. We have a lot of Members here who want to be heard. Mr. MCGOVERN has time if he would like to yield it.

I yield 15 seconds to my friend from Maryland, and maybe Mr. MCGOVERN will yield him 15 seconds. Then we can hear what Mr. VAN HOLLEN has to say.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I thank the chairman for yielding.

If you look at the Boehner proposal, it says we've got to cut \$1.8 trillion. The Speaker of the House has already said that you can't have any revenue as part of that, that you can't close one corporate loophole. In fact, he said that the majority would override any proposal, so the only other way to get it mathematically is to start slashing Medicare and to start going after Social Security.

Mr. DREIER. In reclaiming my time, my point has been made very eloquently by the gentleman, and I very much appreciate it. I thank my friend for his contribution.

Madam Speaker, at this point, I am happy to yield 1 minute to my good friend from Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN).

Mr. MEEHAN. I thank the chairman for yielding.

As we used to say in the courtroom, the facts are that there are no facts. The truth of the matter is that the only people who are cutting \$500 billion from Medicare are the Democrats in their proposal, but that's not my point.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MEEHAN. No, the gentleman will not yield. Let me make my point, and then I'll be off.

The issue here is really one of compromise. I come here as a freshman, as somebody who is looking at this for the first time. When we came in and worked on the bill, the Boehner proposal, the frustration for me was knowing going in that evening that I'd already been made aware that this leadership, the leadership of the party on the other side, had whipped their members so not a single member was ready on the other side to sit and talk to anyone on this aisle. The whip was there: You will not vote. You will not talk.

We were not able.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield 10 seconds to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN).

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Just to be very clear, what we did was eliminate the overpayments to some of the Medicare Advantage plans. Listen, we used much of those savings to close the prescription drug doughnut hole. In your budget, you took the whole \$500 billion, but you reopened the prescription drug doughnut hole at the same time you were eliminating the Medicare guarantee. That's the difference.

Mr. DREIER. I yield myself 5 seconds to say that I thank the gentleman for, once again, pointing out the fact that there is nothing in the Boehner proposal that does anything to cut Social Security or Medicare.

Madam Speaker, with that, I am happy to yield 15 seconds to a new

Member from Zeeland, Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA).

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. I appreciate my colleague from California for yielding.

Earlier, we heard from a colleague from Florida, on the other side of the aisle, who was talking about the Constitution and about the intent of it. Ladies and gentlemen, this is about controlling our spending and accountability with the American people. It might not be in this bill, and it might not be in other bills, but eventually, we have to realize we need to put institutional brakes on our spending because we cannot control our spending in this institution.

Mr. MCGOVERN. This is about protecting Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid.

I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina, our assistant leader, Mr. CLYBURN.

□ 1430

Mr. CLYBURN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, the clock is ticking, the American people are anxiously waiting for responsible leadership, and the Republicans here in Congress are continuing to play political games.

Last night the United States Senate rightly defeated the Boehner bill on a bipartisan vote. That partisan bill was the product of the Republicans' "my way or the highway" approach that held all Americans hostage to exact a ransom payment for Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security beneficiaries.

Now we must find a commonsense compromise. That's why I will vote for the Reid bill today. The Reid bill saves America's economy from the devastation that would result from defaulting on our fiduciary obligations.

Throughout the deliberations on this self-inflicted debt crisis, my bottom line has been to protect Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. This plan contains real spending cuts and deficit reduction to begin putting our Nation's fiscal house in order. It meets the Speaker's requirement that spending be cut by an amount at least as large as the debt ceiling increase. And it does so while protecting Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid beneficiaries. It also safeguards Pell Grants that provide low-income young people the opportunity to go to college and to work to achieve the American Dream.

We must take responsible action now to avert this crisis and move to significant measures to create jobs and generate economic growth.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I am happy to yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Tupelo, Mississippi (Mr. NUNNELEE).

Mr. NUNNELEE. Thank you, Mr. DREIER.

We've heard from our friends on the other side "we want compromise." The American people expect solutions.

This Harry Reid plan offers no real solutions to the out-of-control spending problem. This Harry Reid plan offers no solutions to the broken Washington mess that got us here. So I will vote "no."

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, may I inquire about the time on both sides, please.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 1¾ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from California has 4½ minutes remaining.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, at this time I am happy to yield 1 minute to my good friend from Wantage, New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT).

Mr. GARRETT. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor, as the previous speaker has said, to say this side of the aisle is committed to reaching a solution and not just a deal to this problem. We are committed to reaching out across the aisle and across the other side of this House to reach a compromise.

We have already compromised on the level of cuts going even further. We have already compromised on the level of the caps, raising the caps to make it even easier in that regard as well. We have also already compromised from where we started with regard to a balanced budget amendment, holding true to the idea that we should, as all Americans also agree, eventually pass a change to the Constitution and require a balanced budget amendment.

But at the end of the day, although we will compromise on cuts and we will compromise on caps and we will compromise on moving forward on a balanced budget amendment, let it be clear, as God is my witness, we will not compromise on our principles; our principles of defending the Constitution and defending Americans and making sure that our posterity does not have this excessive debt on it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

Mr. ENGEL. Here we're on the brink of economic disaster and we're wasting time with symbolic political theater at its worst.

We want compromise and solutions and to protect Medicare on the Democratic side. Why don't you try working with Democrats? The American people want us to meet in the middle. They don't want this nonsense.

The debate now focuses only on spending cuts, without closing tax loopholes, and that still isn't enough for some. No wonder The Wall Street Journal said the Republicans don't look like adults to whom voters can entrust the government.

The Democrats want to compromise in the middle, and if the President needs to pull the 14th Amendment, I

think he should do that because the Republicans have shown they don't want compromise at all.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I am happy to yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Newburgh, Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON).

Mr. BUCSHON. Madam Speaker, here we are on the verge of a financial meltdown, and my friends on the other side of the aisle are worried about politics. They are here today worried about protecting the President from having to do his job: lead.

The Republicans in the House are leading. We have passed two bills that would end this crisis, and the Senate hasn't voted on them; they've tabled them.

We're here to lead. We need leadership and we are providing it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. At this time I'm happy to yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Ashland, Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY).

Mr. DUFFY. Madam Speaker, the American people are sick of these kinds of conversations.

My friends across the aisle voted to rob \$500 billion out of Medicare for ObamaCare. They instituted the IPAB Board that's going to ration care for our seniors.

We brought a proposal to this House that was going to root out all loopholes in nooks and crannies where businesses hide their money, and they all voted "no."

The American people are looking for real solutions. And you know what? This Harry Reid bill is full of budget gimmicks that don't get the job done.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, at this time I am happy to yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Biloxi, Mississippi (Mr. PALAZZO).

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, the American people entrusted each Member of Congress with extraordinary power. That's the power to cast votes as their voice in Congress and provide solutions to America's problems. Most of all, they expect us to lead during times of crisis.

House Republicans have led. House Republicans have provided plans and solutions to America's debt crisis. House Republicans have used their voice as Representatives of their district to end the debt limit crisis and begin balancing the budget. We've done our job; it's time the Senate does theirs.

Leader REID and President Obama are all that stand between the American people and a responsible resolution to this debt crisis. I say to our colleagues in the Senate, we were sent here not to punt on difficult decisions. Vote "no" on the Reid plan.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I would like to insert in the RECORD an

article that appeared in *The Wall Street Journal* today entitled “The Debt-Limit Hobbits.”

[From the *Wall Street Journal*, July 30, 2011]

THE DEBT-LIMIT HOBBITS

Political logic and perhaps even common sense seem to be prevailing within the House GOP after Thursday's debt-ceiling vote was postponed—at least among most of the caucus. The shame is that the debt-limit absolutists have weakened Speaker John Boehner's hand in negotiating a final bill with Senate Democrats.

At the most practical level, Mr. Boehner's plan is better than the one Harry Reid supports in the Senate. This remains true of the revisions Mr. Boehner released yesterday, though the irony is that it is less credible and weaker politically than the previous version. The concession the holdouts demanded, and got—a balanced budget amendment—ensures that it cannot pass the Senate. The best but unlikely scenario is that the bill otherwise remains intact.

In the years for which claims of spending restraint are most credible—fiscal 2012 and 2013—the Boehner bill would cut \$25 billion and \$47 billion from the outlays that the Congressional Budget Office projected in March. Off the same baseline, the plan would cut \$756 billion through 2021 in return for an initial \$900 billion in new borrowing. The topline figure of \$1.2 trillion in cuts that everyone cites comes by comparing the Boehner plan to CBO's “budgetary authority” estimate from January, which is far less realistic but is also the platform used in the negotiations led by Joe Biden.

Some will deride \$72 billion in cuts over the next two years as nickels and dimes, and it's true it is nowhere near commensurate to the scale of the spending problem. But it's also incremental progress, which is how the American political system usually changes, and a larger real reduction in government than any time since 1995.

For comparison's sake, Paul Ryan's budget blueprint that the House passed in April would cut \$74 billion in outlays over 2012-2013 and \$746 billion in total over the next 10 years. Accomplishing roughly the same thing via the Boehner plan, with no new tax increases, while controlling only one-half of one branch of government, would be a major GOP achievement.

The plan also includes domestic spending caps, enforced with an automatic sequester for 10 years. Such caps could be overridden by a future Congress, but they make it harder and help to create a culture of fiscal discipline.

Another benefit is that the Boehner bill would require a second debt-limit increase of \$1.6 trillion next year, with conditions. Curbing the size and growth of government is a constant struggle, and the Boehner plan creates another opening for further progress.

By contrast, the Reid plan raises the debt ceiling by \$2.7 trillion now, which effectively closes off debate until after the 2012 election. All told, it cuts spending by \$2.2 trillion compared to the March CBO budgetary authority baseline—though with multiple gimmicks that include \$1.044 trillion in “savings” from winding down the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan that will happen anyway.

Amid this “baseline” confusion, we wish House Republicans had used this debate to reform Washington's fiscal hall of mirrors. Baseline budgeting is a rigged game, with spending increasing automatically each year above the rate of inflation. Anything below that inflated baseline is then called a “cut.”

Even Democratic Governor Andrew Cuomo took on these automatic spending formulas when he set out to tame the New York budget.

Instead of such a useful reform, a GOP faction is fixated on a balanced budget amendment. After Thursday's stall, the new Boehner plan will only authorize the second tranche of debt if two-thirds of both chambers pass such an amendment and send it to the states for ratification. This will not happen.

These columns drew much notice after John McCain quoted our July 27 “tea party hobbits” line on the Senate floor. Senator (sic) Sharron Angle responded that “it is the hobbits who are the heroes and save the land.” Well, okay, but our point was that there's no such thing as a hobbit. Passing a balanced budget amendment this year is a similar fantasy. Yet outfits like the Club for Growth used the amendment as an excuse to flip from opposing the Boehner plan to supporting it. Maybe it should be the Club for Futile Fiscal Gestures.

The main result of this pointless crusade has been to damage Mr. Boehner's leverage and push the final debt-limit increase in Mr. Reid's direction. The Speaker may now have to seek the tender mercies of Nancy Pelosi to get a final bill through the House, and who knows what her price will be.

The debt-limit hobbits should also realize that at this point the Washington fracas they are prolonging isn't helping their cause. Republicans are not looking like adults to whom voters can entrust the government.

I would advise the gentleman from California that our leader is prepared to close for us. I will take 15 seconds and then introduce our leader.

Mr. DREIER. Then I will reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1440

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I implore rational Republicans to join Democrats in passing the Reid bill. I appeal to your sense of responsibility, to your sense of duty, to your country. Have the courage of your convictions to do what's right. Don't be paralyzed by the threats and intimidating tactics of the Tea Party or other extreme groups. Stand up to protect Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security.

I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from California, the Democratic leader, and a defender of Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, NANCY PELOSI.

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I applaud him for his superb leadership of this bill today. I recognize the great leadership of Mr. VAN HOLLEN as the ranking member on the Budget Committee and he and Mr. CLYBURN representing the values of the American people at the negotiating table for this.

I rise in support of the Reid legislation and urge my colleagues to support it because it protects Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare, because it is fair.

But I want to use my time in the following way.

I listened very carefully and very attentively to our Speaker yesterday

when he spoke, and he used the term the bill is not perfect, but we did “our level best.” “Our level best.” One might infer from that that this process is on the level.

How can it be on the level if we're bringing a \$2½ trillion bill to the floor under suspension the same way we might bring the naming of a post office? It's \$2½ trillion, 20 minutes on each side.

Members have said, on both sides of the aisle, this is a very important debate. Well, if it is, why is it brought under suspension, which requires a two-thirds vote, guaranteeing that it will not prevail? Not on the level.

The word “level,” of course, enters into is this a level playing field? Is it on the level for America's seniors to pay more for Medicare for fewer benefits while we give tax subsidies to Big Oil? Is it on the level for us to throw people out of nursing homes by reducing Medicaid so we can give tax breaks to corporations sending jobs overseas? Is it on the level for us to make young people and their families pay more for their college education so we can give tax breaks to the high end? Is it on the level to bring a Boehner bill to the floor that makes all of those cuts, undermines Social Security, eliminates Medicare, and that does not charge one red cent to people who have benefited so much from the greatness of our country?

Is it our best? Is it our best to drag this out for all this time to keep in suspense as to whether we would honor our constitutional responsibility to pay our debts? The Constitution says the national debt has to be recognized.

And recognize we did, President after President, 32 times in recent memory—including when President Bush was President; at that time, even though many of us did not agree with the war in Iraq, did not agree to the tax cuts for the wealthiest people in our country to the tune of hundreds of billions of dollars, did not agree to the giveaway to the pharmaceutical industry. We didn't agree with that policy. That's how we got into debt, turning around from the surplus direction we were going in with President Clinton whose last four budgets were in balance or in surplus. We didn't agree how President Bush took us into debt, but we never, never stood in the way of honoring the full faith and credit of the United States.

Why, then, would we, this one time with this President, decide that we would put up barriers so extreme like changing the Constitution in order to lift the debt limit as a mathematical requirement?

Of course, we must all reduce the deficit. But is it our best to say we're going to use the debate to reduce the deficit to destroy to the public space?

Look at the appropriations bills they're bringing before us. Destroying

the public space of clean air, clean water, food safety, the education of our children, the financial security of our seniors through Medicare and Medicaid. That's what they are doing.

If we are just reducing the deficit here, we have come to those conclusions. We have to do it. We know how to do it.

But if they want to take it to the next step of destroying the public sector, we cannot go to that place when it affects the air our children breathe, the water they drink, the food they eat, the education they receive, the safety of the neighborhoods in which they live.

The Speaker also said that the bill was not perfect. Well, no bill is perfect. But I think I disagree in one respect. I think this bill is perfect in its absurdity. His bill was perfectly absurd. It's perfectly absurd, again, to say to our President, after 32 times lifting the debt ceiling: We're going to change the game for you, Mr. President.

It's perfectly absurd for them to say that the bill they brought to the floor, the Boehner bill that they brought to the floor, was an agreement of the four leaders of the House and Senate, Democrats and Republicans. Either you don't know what you're talking about or it's a perfect absurdity.

Mr. DREIER. Will the gentlelady yield?

Ms. PELOSI. I will not yield to you.

It is very, very important that we all take a deep breath. We have important work to do, an important decision to make. Senator REID has given us a direction to go. No cuts in benefits for Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security beneficiaries.

I wish that we had revenues in there so that those who have benefited from the greatness of the last 50 years of bipartisan progress for the American people would be able to make their contribution, but there is not one red cent of revenue while we're saying kids should pay more for their student loans.

So it's time to end this theater of the absurd. It's time for us to get real. It's time for us to get real and listen to the wisdom of the American people. They have said to us that they support, in overwhelming numbers, a bipartisan, balanced approach, in overwhelming numbers that we should all pay our fair share. And they all agree that we should get this over with so we can get back to work putting the American people back to work by creating jobs.

The Speaker chose, when he didn't have the votes, instead of reaching out in a bipartisan way to see how we could work together, he chose to go to the dark side. I repeat, he chose to go to the dark side by putting forth a bill that he, himself, told his members would sink in the Senate, and I add, lead to default.

We cannot default. We're the greatest country that ever existed in the his-

tory of the world. We're the United States of America.

So let's go from the dark side to the bright side of the American people. Vote "yes" on the Reid bill.

□ 1450

Mr. DREIER. I yield myself the balance of the time.

Madam Speaker, I believe in civil discourse, and I want to say that on several occasions in the past 45 minutes, members of my staff have urged me to have the words taken down that have been offered by Members on the other side of the aisle, and I chose not to. In the name of civility, I chose not to because we have a very serious issue that needs to be addressed, and it's before us, and we need to make sure that in the next several hours, we effectively address it.

Since 1962, on 75 different occasions, we have seen the United States Congress increase the debt ceiling. We keep hearing about the urgency that exists today. Well, I'll tell you what's urgent: If we don't change the course that we've been on the last 4 years, with an 82 percent increase in non-defense discretionary spending, we are not going to have resources for any of the things that my colleagues have talked about. What we need to do and the message that has been sent is that for the first time ever, we are going to change business as usual.

Now I'm going to say something that I probably shouldn't at the very end here. There are some good things in Senator REID's proposal. I believe that the idea of establishing a joint select committee of our colleagues who will come together and make recommendations and force an up-or-down vote in both Houses of Congress is a positive thing. But I will say this: I don't believe that continuing down the road towards increasing the debt ceiling without the kinds of checks that are necessary is the right thing for us to do. Last night's agreement that we voted on here was, in fact, it stemmed from the bipartisan talks that took place right down this hall.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DREIER. Vote "no" on the Reid proposal.

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Bipartisan Budget Control Act, H.R. 2693. Unlike Speaker BOEHNER's bill, which has already been defeated in the Senate, this is the compromise bill that is needed to avert a default and protect our fragile economy.

Congress needs to step up and start governing. Yet, the Republican majority appears uninterested in anything that has not been vetted by the radical wing of their party or designed to embarrass the President. Today is no exception. Rather than holding a real vote on this bill, it is being brought up under suspension of the rules in order to guarantee failure. This is a procedure we use to name post offices and congratulate sports teams. It is not

how we handle serious issues and it is shameful that Republicans are holding a non-serious vote when our nation is three days away from a default.

Make no mistake, this is not the legislation I would have written. It relies on cuts to domestic spending that will hurt the poor and the middle class. It includes no revenues, not even ending the egregious tax subsidies for big oil companies and corporate jet owners. However, the legislation does not cut Medicare and Social Security and protects both from automatic cuts in the future. It also saves \$1 trillion by winding down the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, which have been major drivers of our debt. Finally, unlike the failed Boehner bill, this legislation provides certainty and stability by extending the debt ceiling through next year and ensuring that we will not be on the brink of default once again in a few months.

The long-term fiscal health of our country can only be improved if we make the investments necessary to create jobs and if we put revenues on the table. Unfortunately, House Republicans refused to consider the balanced approach that the American people wanted. Instead, they have driven us to the edge of default and the economic calamity that would result. Now is the time to act to end this crisis. This is not a perfect bill, but it is a responsible solution to the current crisis urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today, the House of Representatives considered and rejected the proposal placed by Senate Majority Leader REID before the Senate. While this is not remotely the solution we need, I voted in favor because this is the best the Republicans in the Senate will allow. It is imperative that Congress keep the hope alive that we will avert default on our nation's obligations. This bill is likely the last and best proposal we will see.

Speaker BOEHNER stated on the House Floor that he was "sticking his neck out a mile," as he negotiated with the President on this issue. If he truly was sincere about this, Congress easily could have found a bipartisan solution to avoid the debt-ceiling crisis and start down a path of fiscal sustainability. I must point out that this crisis is wholly artificial and manufactured, and that the Speaker easily could have avoided it, had he chose to.

While I voted yes today, at some point there are worse outcomes. This action, and Congress's failure to find a longer-term compromise, is a looming cloud over our finances. Repeatedly facing similar self-manufactured crises will further damage the economy and family savings. The sad fact is we did not have to take this path in the first place.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2693, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 2693 will be followed by a 5-minute vote on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 2062, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 173, noes 246, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 682]

AYES—173

Altmire	Gonzalez	Owens
Andrews	Green, Al	Pallone
Baldwin	Green, Gene	Pascarell
Bass (CA)	Grijalva	Pastor (AZ)
Becerra	Gutierrez	Payne
Berkley	Hahn	Pelosi
Berman	Hanabusa	Perlmutter
Bishop (GA)	Hastings (FL)	Peters
Bishop (NY)	Heinrich	Pingree (ME)
Blumenauer	Higgins	Polis
Boswell	Himes	Price (NC)
Brady (PA)	Hinojosa	Quigley
Brown (FL)	Hirono	Rahall
Butterfield	Hochul	Rangel
Capps	Holden	Reyes
Capuano	Holt	Richardson
Cardoza	Honda	Richmond
Carnahan	Hoyer	Rothman (NJ)
Carney	Inslee	Roybal-Allard
Carson (IN)	Israel	Ruppersberger
Castor (FL)	Jackson (IL)	Rush
Chandler	Jackson Lee	Ryan (OH)
Cicilline	(TX)	Sánchez, Linda
Clarke (MI)	Johnson (GA)	T.
Clarke (NY)	Johnson, E. B.	Sanchez, Loretta
Cleaver	Kaptur	Sarbanes
Clyburn	Keating	Schakowsky
Cohen	Kildee	Schiff
Connolly (VA)	Kind	Schwartz
Conyers	Kissell	Scott (VA)
Cooper	Kucinich	Scott, David
Costa	Langevin	Serrano
Costello	Larsen (WA)	Sewell
Courtney	Larson (CT)	Sherman
Critz	Lee (CA)	Shuler
Crowley	Levin	Sires
Cuellar	Lewis (GA)	Slaughter
Cummings	Lipinski	Smith (WA)
Davis (CA)	Lowey	Stark
Davis (IL)	Lujan	Sutton
DeFazio	Lynch	Thompson (CA)
DeGette	Markey	Thompson (MS)
DeLauro	Matsui	Tierney
Deutch	McCarthy (NY)	Tonko
Dicks	McCollum	Towns
Dingell	McDermott	Tsongas
Doggett	McGovern	Van Hollen
Donnelly (IN)	McNerney	Velázquez
Doyle	Meeks	Walz (MN)
Edwards	Michaud	Wasserman
Ellison	Miller (NC)	Schultz
Engel	Miller, George	Waters
Eshoo	Moore	Watt
Farr	Moran	Waxman
Fattah	Murphy (CT)	Welch
Filner	Nadler	Wilson (FL)
Frank (MA)	Napolitano	Woolsey
Fudge	Neal	Yarmuth
Garamendi	Oliver	

NOES—246

Adams	Black	Cantor
Aderholt	Blackburn	Capito
Akin	Bonner	Carter
Alexander	Bono Mack	Cassidy
Amash	Boren	Chabot
Austria	Boustany	Chaffetz
Bachmann	Brady (TX)	Coble
Bachus	Braley (IA)	Coffman (CO)
Barletta	Broun (GA)	Cole
Barrow	Buchanan	Conaway
Bartlett	Bucshon	Cravaack
Barton (TX)	Buerkle	Crawford
Bass (NH)	Burgess	Crenshaw
Benishkek	Burton (IN)	Culberson
Berg	Calvert	Davis (KY)
Biggert	Camp	Denham
Bilbray	Campbell	Dent
Bilirakis	Canseco	DesJarlais

Diaz-Balart	Kinzinger (IL)	Ribble
Dold	Kline	Rigell
Dreier	Labrador	Rivera
Duffy	Lamborn	Roby
Duncan (SC)	Lance	Roe (TN)
Duncan (TN)	Landry	Rogers (AL)
Ellmers	Lankford	Rogers (KY)
Emerson	Latham	Rogers (MI)
Farenthold	LaTourette	Rohrabacher
Fincher	Latta	Rokita
Fitzpatrick	Lewis (CA)	Rooney
Flake	LoBiondo	Ros-Lehtinen
Fleischmann	Loeb sack	Roskam
Fleming	Long	Ross (AR)
Flores	Lucas	Ross (FL)
Forbes	Luetkemeyer	Royce
Fortenberry	Lummis	Runyan
Fox	Lungren, Daniel	Ryan (WI)
Franks (AZ)	E.	Scalise
Frelinghuysen	Mack	Schilling
Gardner	Manzullo	Schmidt
Garrett	Marchant	Schock
Gerlach	Marino	Schrader
Gibbs	Matheson	Schweikert
Gibson	McCarthy (CA)	Scott (SC)
Gingrey (GA)	McCaul	Scott, Austin
Gohmert	McClintock	Sensenbrenner
Goodlatte	McCotter	Sessions
Gosar	McHenry	Shimkus
Gowdy	McIntyre	Shuster
Granger	McKeon	Simpson
Graves (GA)	McKinley	Smith (NE)
Graves (MO)	McMorris	Smith (NJ)
Griffin (AR)	Rodgers	Smith (TX)
Griffith (VA)	Meehan	Southerland
Grimm	Mica	Stearns
Guinta	Miller (FL)	Stivers
Guthrie	Miller (MI)	Stutzman
Hall	Miller, Gary	Sullivan
Hanna	Mulvaney	Terry
Harper	Murphy (PA)	Thompson (PA)
Harris	Myrick	Thornberry
Hartzer	Neugebauer	Tiberi
Hastings (WA)	Noem	Tipton
Hayworth	Nugent	Turner
Heck	Nunes	Upton
Hensarling	Nunnelee	Visclosky
Herger	Olson	Walberg
Herrera Beutler	Palazzo	Walden
Huelskamp	Paul	Walsh (IL)
Huizenga (MI)	Paulsen	Webster
Hultgren	Pearce	West
Hunter	Pence	Westmoreland
Hurt	Peterson	Whitfield
Issa	Petri	Wilson (SC)
Jenkins	Pitts	Wittman
Johnson (IL)	Platts	Wolf
Johnson (OH)	Poe (TX)	Womack
Johnson, Sam	Pompeo	Woodall
Jones	Posey	Wu
Jordan	Price (GA)	Yoder
Kelly	Quayle	Young (AK)
King (IA)	Rehberg	Young (FL)
King (NY)	Reichert	Young (IN)
Kingston	Renacci	

NOT VOTING—13

Ackerman	Clay	Maloney
Baca	Gallegly	Reed
Bishop (UT)	Giffords	Speier
Brooks	Hinchey	
Chu	Lofgren, Zoe	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1513

Messrs. NUNES, MCKINLEY, TIP-TON, and GRIFFITH of Virginia changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Messrs. DAVIS of Illinois, JACKSON of Illinois, FILNER, and MURPHY of Connecticut changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So (two-thirds not being in the affirmative) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 682, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I yield to my friend, the majority leader, for the purpose of asking about the schedule for the rest of the weekend and the upcoming week.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman from Maryland.

Madam Speaker, the House will now meet in pro forma session only tomorrow. Therefore, no votes are expected in the House on Sunday. Given the critical fiscal and economic situation, however, Members should be prepared to return to Washington quickly if needed. We may only be able to assure a few hours' notice, at most.

Lastly, I would say to the gentleman that the House will be in legislative session on Monday, and first votes are expected as early as noon.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his information, and I yield back the balance of my time.

MATTHEW A. PUCINO POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 2062) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 45 Meetinghouse Lane in Sagamore Beach, Massachusetts, as the “Matthew A. Pucino Post Office.”

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Sunday, July 31, 2011, at 1 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2665. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the

Department's final rule — Irish Potatoes Grown in Washington; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-11-0012; FV11-946-2 FIR] received July 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2666. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Watermelon Research and Promotion Plan; Redistricting and Importer Representation [Document Number: AMS-FV-10-0093] received July 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2667. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Beef Promotion and Research; Reapportionment [No.: AMS-LS-10-0086] received July 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2668. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Raisins Produced From Grapes Grown In California; Increase in Desirable Carryout Used To Compute Trade Demand [Docket No.: AMS-FV-11-0013; FV11-989-1 FR] received July 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2669. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Mango Promotion, Research, and Information Order; Reapportionment [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-10-0092] received July 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2670. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Vidalia Onions Grown in Georgia; Change in Late Payment and Interest Requirements on Past Due Assessments [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-11-0016; FV11-955-1 FR] received July 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2671. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 3 (Native) Spearmint Oil for the 2010-2011 Marketing Year [Docket Nos.: AMS-FV-09-0082; FV10-985-1A FIR] received July 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2672. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Olives Grown in California; Decreased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-10-0115; FV11-932-1 FIR] received July 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2673. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the

Department's final rule — Nectarines and Peaches Grown in California; Suspension of Handling Requirements [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-11-0019; FV11-916/917-5 FIR] received July 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mrs. ADAMS:

H.R. 2712. A bill to ensure that all of Brevard County, Florida, is treated as a HUBZone, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself and Mr. McDERMOTT):

H.R. 2713. A bill to limit investor and homeowner losses in foreclosures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 2714. A bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to allow the transport, purchase, and sale of pelts of, and handicrafts, garments, and art produced from, Southcentral and Southeast Alaska northern sea otters that are taken for subsistence purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H. Con. Res. 68. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the President should ensure that the United States does not default on its debt by making every effort to negotiate passage of an increase in the statutory debt ceiling or, all such efforts failing, should use his authority under section 4 of the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution to pay all debts of the United States as they come due; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

99. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of Colorado, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 11-040 supporting the concept of the "Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act" and expressing opposition to any proposed expansion of wild horse HMA's within Colorado and to the creation of any wild horse preserves on public lands in Colorado; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mrs. ADAMS:

H.R. 2712.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States;

The Congress shall have the power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 2713.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the Constitution, giving Congress the authority to establish uniform bankruptcy laws.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 2714.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 436: Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. TIPTON, and Mr. WOODALL.

H.R. 721: Mr. HUNTER.

H.R. 1848: Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. GOWDY, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 2030: Mrs. CAPPS and Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 2359: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 2447: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 2538: Mr. CARNEY.

H.R. 2705: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H. Res. 137: Ms. HAHN.

H. Res. 364: Mr. DENT, Mr. SCHILLING, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. McCOTTER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. AKIN, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Ms. JENKINS, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. TERRY, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. HONDA, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. RUSH, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. ADAMS, Mr. HULTGREN, and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

H. Res. 379: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H. Res. 380: Ms. JENKINS.

SENATE—Saturday, July 30, 2011

The Senate met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PATRICK J. LEAHY, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, great is Your power, and Your understanding is infinite. We need You on Capitol Hill. As we gather this Saturday, a nation looks to our government's legislative branch for responsible action. Deliver our lawmakers from the paralysis of analysis when constructive and prompt action is desperately needed. Faced with potentially disastrous consequences, give the Members of this body the wisdom to work while it is day, for the night comes, when no one can work.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable PATRICK J. LEAHY led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 30, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable PATRICK J. LEAHY, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. LEAHY thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, just as a side note, I am happy to see the second ranking Member of the Senate presiding. The people of Vermont are so fortunate to have the Senator and his wisdom.

Mr. MCCONNELL. If the Senator would yield, I expect he has not done that in 30 years.

Mr. REID. Well, I thought it would be nice to comment on the fact that is reserved for more junior Members. It is nice that my friend from Vermont would be here.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to concur in the House message to accompany S. 626, the legislative vehicle for the debt limit increase. The time from 1:30 to 8 p.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

DEBT CEILING NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Republican leaders in the House of Representatives wasted this week pursuing a rightwing proposal they knew from the start could not pass the Senate. From the very beginning, Speaker BOEHNER's Band-Aid approach was fatally flawed. It would have put us back in this incredible position we are in today—debating whether the debt limit should be increased, something that was increased I don't know really how many times but about 19 or 20 times during the Presidency of Ronald Reagan.

I had a little whisper to my left that said 18 times, so 19 or 20 was not too bad. The Band-Aid approach the Speaker came up with was totally flawed. It would have put us back in this incredible position of fighting to increase the debt limit—something we did 18 times during Ronald Reagan's administration. We would be fighting the clock to prevent financial collapse. We would start that again in just a few weeks.

The Speaker's legislation was a concession to tea party extremists. Yet it barely passed the House yesterday with only Republican votes. It failed on a bipartisan basis last night in the Senate.

There was an excellent article in the New York Times yesterday. The headline was "The Centrist Cop-Out."

The facts of the crisis over the debt aren't complicated. Republicans have, in effect, taken America hostage, threatening to undermine the economy and disrupt the essential business of government unless they get policy concessions they would never have been able to enact through legislation.

That is the way it is. It could not be said more clearly. But knowing all along that this radical legislation, which was neither balanced nor bipartisan, would not and could not pass in

our Chamber, Democrats have been working on a true compromise in the Senate. We have solicited ideas from our Republican friends and colleagues.

Let it never be said that Democrats in the Senate were afraid to compromise. We would welcome compromise. As recently as yesterday, I asked my friend the Senate minority leader to help make this Senate compromise more palatable. But we have heard very little from the Republicans.

I am satisfied that in the conversations I have had with a couple of Republicans this morning—I hope it bears fruit. I spoke to the chairman of the Budget Committee a short time ago. One of the proposals propounded by a Republican—my friend Senator CONRAD is working on it to see if he can work it out so it is language we can all live with. Senator CONRAD is an expert with budget matters. I thought it was important that he take a look at that.

I would have hoped, though, that someone would come to us, come to the bargaining table on behalf of the Republican caucus with ideas to improve a proposal already cut from the Republican cloth. Democrats are still willing to sit down and negotiate. My door is still open. I say again that I appreciate that several of my Republican colleagues have reached out to me in the last few hours hoping to reach a compromise. Senate Democrats welcome their input and look forward to working with them on a path forward.

My friend the Republican leader must generate some more action on behalf of his Republicans. The two parties must work together to forge an agreement that preserves this Nation's economy. We will need input from reasonable Republicans, including my friend the Republican leader, to get this done. But, unbelievably, another filibuster stands in our path. Republican filibusters have become routine. From the smallest measure to the greatest measure of national importance, they stall and delay and use every procedural trick in the book to keep this body from doing its job. But a filibuster at this late hour and when so much is at risk is irresponsible; it puts our economy at risk.

A majority vote was good enough for the Speaker's proposal in the House yesterday, but Republicans believe it is not good enough for the Senate today. And I have heard from my friends on the House side, to show how they are gaming the system over there, that they are going to have a vote on my proposal on suspensions. For those of us who served in the House, this is for naming courthouses and little measures that are of little importance. But

this important matter, this matter dealing with the debt limit of this country, will take a two-thirds vote to pass. So they have gamed this system from the very beginning.

As I said earlier from the New York Times article:

The facts of the crisis over the debt ceiling aren't complicated. Republicans have, in effect, taken America hostage, threatening to undermine the economy and disrupt the essential business of government unless they get policy concessions they would never have been able to enact through legislation.

So they are going through, as I understand, on the House side, an effort to vote on our legislation, setting up a two-thirds standard to get this done, recognizing, of course, as I will outline here in a minute that a filibuster at this late hour here in the Senate and when so much is at risk is really irresponsible, and to say it puts our economy at risk is an understatement, and that is for sure. A majority vote was good enough for the Speaker's proposal in the House, but Republicans believe it is not good enough for the Senate today.

Rather than filibuster, I ask my Republican colleagues to work with Democrats to make our proposal better. We have offered a reasonable, rational way for Republicans to help us avert default.

But let me tell you about the legislation at issue, how we believe how reasonable our legislation is.

This legislation was written by Democrats with both parties' principles in mind. It would avert default while cutting \$2.5 trillion from the deficit over a decade. It includes no revenues—a concession to House Republicans and Senate Republicans. It establishes a joint congressional committee to find additional savings this year and guarantees that the committee's recommendations will see an up-or-down vote on the Senate floor. It takes into consideration that—that committee must take into consideration proposals like the Gang of 6. Literally every single spending cut has been voted on or endorsed by Republicans in both Houses. That is the gist of the legislation: \$2.5 trillion and extending the debt ceiling until March of 2013—a pretty fair deal.

We have made some changes to this proposition. We hope it becomes more amenable to Republicans. We have improved the program integrity language to allow for more savings by combating government waste and fraud.

We have removed a measure that would have raised revenue by selling the spectrum—some \$15 billion—which will be done, and we should do it now, but it caused what is called a blue slip problem, which says if you have any revenue measures, according to our Constitution, they have to originate in the House. So it presents a so-called blue slip problem. I just eliminated it

from this bill. It was \$15 billion out of \$2.5 trillion.

We also added a process conceived by my friend Senator MCCONNELL to allow two additional votes over the next year and a half, two motions of disapproval before the President can raise the debt ceiling.

This proposal also protects Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid benefits.

As you can see, this legislation was designed to appeal to our Republican colleagues as well as to our Democratic colleagues. We are willing to listen to ideas—I have said this several times—from Republican Senators to make this proposal better. But to say the time is short is an understatement. We can amend the underlying legislation that is here before us in the so-called message to the House. We still have time to do that. We could do it tonight and we could still meet the deadline on Tuesday. But we need to do it soon. That is why, at 1:10 in the afternoon this Saturday, I hope I have more Republicans contact me to see if they can work out something to work with us.

Already the economy has gone from bad to worse. Stocks continued a weeklong slide yesterday. I know my Republican colleagues love this country, every single one of them. I believe they want to do what is best for our economy, every single one of them. But I have to say—and I say this for the third time:

The facts of the crisis over the debt ceiling aren't complicated at all. Republicans have, in effect, taken America hostage, threatening to undermine the economy and disrupt the essential business of government unless they get policy concessions they would never have been able to enact through legislation.

That is why together we must avert a default that would jeopardize veterans' benefits, senior citizens' benefits, Social Security payments, and checks for troops, even troops on the front line. It would also effectively raise taxes on every American family: Vermont, Illinois, Kentucky, Idaho, Nevada, all over this country. Oregon. All of the Senators on the floor. Even Wyoming, which does not pay much in the way of taxes. We could do that. It would effectively raise taxes on every American family. And businesses would also suffer by the increase in the cost of everything from groceries to their mortgages.

So I urge my Republican friends to join me and move forward with the only compromise plan that is left—in fact, the only option left at all—to save this country from default.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

DEBT CEILING NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, there is nobody in the Senate I respect and admire more than my counterpart, the Democratic leader. But we have been subjected, last night and again just a few moments ago, I would say to my colleagues from Wyoming and Idaho, to some Orwellian discussion about what is a filibuster. Most Americans, when asked the question "What is a filibuster?" would believe it was delaying something—delaying something.

So we have the astonishing development here that my good friend the majority leader is delaying a vote on something he wants to pass. We were prepared to have this vote last night. We are prepared to have this vote momentarily. We are prepared to have this vote at any point.

I want to disabuse my good friend of the notion that somehow it is going to pass. We just—he has not seen it yet, but we just delivered a letter to his office with 43 of my colleagues on it saying they are not going to vote for it. The House of Representatives is going to speak at 2:30 on this issue. They are not going to vote for it.

With regard to the 60-vote threshold, let me quote my good friend the majority leader:

March 5, 2007: "In the Senate, it has always been the case, you need 60 votes."

January 30, the same year: "60 votes are required for just about everything."

Now, look, we know that on controversial matters in the Senate, it has for quite some time required 60 votes. So I would say again to my friend, it is pretty hard to make a credible case that denying a vote on your own proposal is anything other than a filibuster.

We know that August 2 is Tuesday. The American people are frustrated with us. They want us to come together and reach an agreement. The measure my good friend is offering is not acceptable to the Senate, is not acceptable to the House, will not pass. I think the American people would appreciate it if we go on and get that out of the way and get serious about talking.

With regard to talking, let me say who ought to be in the talks. The majority leader, myself, the Speaker, and the minority leader of the House spent most of last weekend talking to each other. In fact, we were called down to the White House for a meeting around 11 o'clock on that Saturday, and I suggested the President give us a chance to go up to the Hill and see what we could work out together. We came close enough together to where my good friend, the majority leader—while I understand he believes he didn't fully endorse it but at least went down there to advocate what we thought we could

agree to on that Sunday afternoon. The President said no.

I became convinced that even though my friend, the majority leader, and I would love to work this out, we can't do it by ourselves. It has to have the only person who can sign something into law. There are 307 million Americans, but only 1 can sign something into law.

My suggestion to my good friend, the majority leader, is let's vote on his proposal. It is not going to pass. Let's get to talking to the administration again in the hopes that we can come together behind something that can pass both the Senate and the House and be signed into law before Tuesday.

I don't blame anybody for being confused about what has been going on in Congress this week. I will take a moment to explain what is going on right now.

Last night, the Democrats, who control the Senate, proposed a bill that would lead to the largest debt ceiling increase in the history of the United States and which completely ignores the roots of this crisis. This bill has one goal: to get the President through his next election without having to have another national debate about the consequences of his policies. The President wants to make sure this kind of debate doesn't happen again, even as he gets Democrats in Congress to give him permission to add trillions more to the debt. That is what the Reid bill does. It is not going anywhere, as I described. It will not pass the Senate. It will not pass the House. It is simply a non-starter.

Senate Republicans refuse to go along with this transparently political and deeply irresponsible ploy to give the President cover to make our debt crisis even worse than it already is. Forty-three of us, as I indicated, have now signed a letter to the majority leader pledging that we will not vote for his \$2.4 trillion debt limit amendment, which, if enacted, would result in the single largest debt ceiling increase in the history of the United States.

Moreover, as I indicated earlier, we will soon know with certainty that this bill can't pass the House of Representatives, as they will be voting on it shortly.

Since there is no possibility this bill will be enacted into law, I say again to my friend that he can hold the vote on his proposal here and now. We are ready at any point to go on and have that vote and not waste another minute of the Nation's time on this reckless piece of legislation we know will not pass.

Earlier this week, the majority leader told the Speaker of the House he was wasting the Nation's time by proceeding with a bill Senate Democrats pledged to block, which the majority leader himself helped put together but

which he decided to oppose, as I indicated, after the President said he didn't like it.

The question now is this: Why would my friend, the majority leader, waste the Nation's time by refusing to vote on his own bill—his own bill—which we also know will fail? Why would he not take his own advice and get it over with? The answer seems to be obvious. The Democrats are running out the clock. They want to delay the hard work of negotiation until the August 2 deadline they have been warning us about all summer.

The Democrats' entire strategy this particular week, since last Sunday, has been to run out the clock so the Nation focuses more on the August 2 deadline than their own failure to do something about the underlying problem.

Republicans have now passed two pieces of legislation that would put us on a path to fiscal sanity—not one but two have passed the House of Representatives. Democrats spent the last few weeks figuring out how to avoid that particular bill.

Democrats have spent their time talking about the tea party instead of talking about a solution. They have done absolutely nothing but stand in the way of a meaningful solution to this crisis and criticize Republicans for having the audacity to suggest we might try to balance the books.

Now we are reduced to this. They would not even allow a vote on their own bill. They are delaying the inevitable so they can avoid doing anything responsible. It is simply indefensible.

Once again, I ask my good friend the majority leader to let us vote on his legislation. Let's get this irresponsible bill that we know will fail up for a vote so we can get down to the real work of negotiating a solution to the crisis with, as I indicated, the only person in America who can sign something into law, the President of the United States.

The lesson from last weekend is, anything two parties agree to here doesn't mean a thing if the President decides he doesn't like it and that the Democrats will abandon their own agreements if the President doesn't support them. Look, I don't blame them. I have been leader in the party when we had a Republican President. It is a tough spot. One is not a free agent. But we don't have time to go through that again. We have a couple days to work this out, and we cannot do it without the President.

Republicans have proposed solution after solution to this crisis. It is time for our friends on the other side, including the President of the United States, to figure out how we are going to come together and solve this problem.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I believe my distinguished Republican friend must be a little bit confused because he is usually totally logical. He tells the American people this morning he was called to the White House last week and said: Mr. President, let us do the deal, and now he is telling the President he wants the President to do the deal. That is somewhat illogical.

I wish to make sure everybody in the Senate understands clearly that when negotiations took place last Sunday, in a meeting between Leader PELOSI, me, the Speaker, and Senator MCCONNELL, we tried very hard to work something out. But everyone should understand, when we left that meeting, we did not have anything worked out. We had nothing worked out. They were focusing on a 6-month extension, trying to come up with a trigger for the joint committee, which we have never been able to accomplish.

It is OK they keep talking about an agreement the President overruled, but the President cannot overrule an agreement we don't have.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Will my friend yield on that?

Mr. REID. Yes, I am happy to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Then it proves my case, if that is the case. We cannot reach an agreement without the President. We tried to. I will concede the point. My friend says he didn't actually agree to that. I take his word for it. But it makes my point that there simply is no way, under our constitutional system, for my friend and I to work this out. We have to have the President at the table. I think the approach we tried last weekend—we both agree it did not lead to an agreement.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the President of the United States, in the presence of Senator MCCONNELL, Senator DURBIN, Senator KYL, and the House leaders, said to all of us: No President in history has spent as much time as I have on a compliant basis—meaning with leaders—trying to come up with some effort on this budget problem we are having today. The President has spent hours, days, and weeks of his time working on this. As we know, he believed he had—as I understand it—two tentative agreements with the Speaker. The Speaker backed out of both of those.

The President—and I have not spoken to him this morning, but I did several times yesterday—is willing to work with anybody who can give him a proposal. That is my point today. As I said earlier—a letter is coming, terrific—I have not received it yet, but I am sure it is coming. The Republicans say they will not vote for my legislation. What will they vote for? Do they have any ideas? Let me know. I will be happy to work it in. We have gone so far as to even accept the Republican bill we got from the House as a shell. Nobody has to worry about it being my

bill. If we work something out, it will be the Boehner bill, if that makes everyone happy.

Mr. MCCONNELL. If my friend will yield, I think the answer is a bill the President agrees to sign. That is what we were trying to achieve last weekend. We don't have time to ping-pong stuff across the Hill anymore.

I think the majority leader and I are probably in basic agreement that, with 2 days left, the only legislation Congress has time to deal with, and should deal with, is something the President says he is willing to sign. I am certainly not critical of the President for not spending time on this. He has spent enormous time on it. But we have not gotten a result yet.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are here dealing with reality, not a world of fantasy. We are dealing with reality. The reality is, the debt ceiling is fast approaching, and we have to raise it or default on our debt. We have a matter before this body that would increase the debt ceiling until March of 2013. It would reduce the debt by \$2.4 trillion on basically issues that the Republicans voted on. They talk about, I don't think we need to do the overseas contingency fund because the wars that were started—and still going on—by President Bush cost a lot of money, trillions of dollars. The Congressional Budget Office and the Office of Management and Budget have said those wars are winding down. As a result of that, we will save \$1 trillion. They have scored it. That is a reduction in our debt.

I also think that if the Republicans have some way they want to improve my legislation, please let somebody know. If they don't want to call me, call the President of the United States. But we have to work forward. Mine is the only proposal we have. If mine passes, we will continue to push this because it should pass because it is the only proposal we have left.

My friend says let us vote. We say the same thing. Let us vote. We want to vote. Why in the world, on something as important as this, can't we have an up-or-down vote as they had in the House? To underline my point, my friend, the assistant Democratic leader, the whip, served in the House longer than I did. They are taking up over there today, as I understand it, what we call a consent calendar, which are issues that are of minor importance, no controversy whatsoever. They are taking up extending the debt ceiling on that calendar. I think that is unheard of.

We are willing to vote right now, but 60 votes we are not willing to take because this should not be filibustered. We are not going to agree to the 6-month proposal because, as I indicated in my prepared remarks, that would mean we would be back in this mess in a matter of weeks. We want to be fully engaged.

I repeat to the people who are supposedly sending me this letter, what do you want? What do I say to my caucus because my Republican colleagues haven't come up with any alternative. It is easy to do. We can amend my legislation. In the meantime, that will not happen, and we are going to proceed forward and do the best we can to overcome this filibuster.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I will wrap up my comments by pointing out again the comments from my good friend, the majority leader, about the nature of the Senate. He said it has always been the case that we need 60 votes. We all know that. It is widely known in the country as well. Most people believe a filibuster means we are trying to delay something.

I wish to make clear to the American people Senate Republicans are ready to vote on cloture on the Reid proposal in 30 minutes, in an hour, as soon as we can get our colleagues over to the floor. We are ready to vote. By requiring 60 votes, particularly on a matter of this enormous importance, is not at all unusual. It is the way the Senate operates.

I will not belabor it any further. We are happy to vote at any time the majority leader thinks it would be appropriate to vote on his proposal.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, a filibuster is known all over America as a way to stall, prevent votes. That is all this is about. If my Republican colleagues are so anxious to vote, let us have a vote. We would move this matter down the field very quickly.

Finally, the matter that is now known as the Reid amendment, is that the President's first choice? No. He wanted to do what he called the grand deal. He thought he had that worked out with the Speaker. But the President knows what I have put forward is good for the country. It extends the debt ceiling and reduces the debt.

I say to my friend the Republican leader the President will sign my legislation. My friend says he wants something the President will sign. He will sign this. We can pass it tonight and get it through the House and he would sign it tomorrow.

So, Mr. President, I would hope the world understands, our country understands—because all Senators understand—this is another filibuster being conducted in an effort to prevent our moving forward to handle the debt situation we have in our country.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

ESTABLISHING THE COMMISSION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT PROCESSING DELAYS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to refer the House message to accompany S. 627, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 627, an act to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays with an amendment.

Pending:

Reid motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to the bill, with Reid amendment No. 589, to cut spending, maintain existing commitments, and for other purposes.

Reid amendment No. 590 (to amendment No. 589), to change the enactment date.

Reid motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on the Budget, with instructions, Reid amendment No. 591, to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 592 (to the instructions (amendment No. 591) on the motion to refer), of a perfecting nature.

Reid amendment No. 593 (to amendment No. 592), of a perfecting nature.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time from 1:30 to 7:30 is equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees in alternating 30-minute blocks, with the majority controlling the first block of time.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, those who are following this debate—and I think many across America are—should understand what just happened. There was a discussion about the filibuster. A filibuster is a Senate rule that does two things: It says you cannot move an item to a vote, and you have to wait a period of time to have what is called a cloture vote. In order to pass a cloture vote, you need 60 votes, not a majority. So I would just correct, if I can, the record. A filibuster does more than delay the vote; it establishes a higher vote requirement—60 votes, not a majority.

Yesterday, the Speaker of the House brought before his body of 435 Members the proposal to end this deadline. He received 218 votes—one more than half of the membership. He had a majority vote—not one more but a majority vote. We are asking for the same opportunity. Let us bring our proposal forward for a majority vote. The Republicans have refused. They have put us into a filibuster. They have said: No, we will require 60 votes, and we will delay the vote until possibly 1 a.m. Sunday morning. That is where we are.

Let me say a word about the underlying issue. This morning, as many Members of the Senate, I wanted to get away from this place and spend a few minutes reflecting on something other than the give-and-take of the political

debate. I got up early, walked over to Eastern Market, bought a cup of coffee, and sat on a bench for about 3 hours just watching people walk by and trying to clear my mind. While sitting there, I got an e-mail from a buddy of mine from high school. Now, that goes back a few years. His name is Eddie Renollet, and he lives in Florida. I would like to read into the RECORD what my buddy from high school wrote to me this morning. He said:

I sent this e-mail to our Republican Senator from Florida, too. I have rode out the storms of many high seas in the last 20 or so years, but this one has me worried. Let's get the ship on the right course and get this fixed. You all need to get past being Democrats and Republicans. Many mistakes have been made over the past years. Compromise and get this squared away. I am in the later years of my life, and I will be damned, if I want to see it go down the drain because you all can't agree on the debt issue. I am neither a Democrat, Republican, or Tea Party person. I'm an American. And I believe that you both have my best interest at heart.

Eddie Renollet from Florida. I would just say, under these circumstances, he expresses the views of many people across America. This is not a crisis which we couldn't control. This isn't an earthquake or a tornado or a hurricane. It isn't a war. It is a created political crisis.

The extension of the debt ceiling has been done routinely 89 times since 1939—55 times by Republican Presidents, 34 times by Democratic Presidents, and President Ronald Reagan holds the record having extended the debt ceiling 18 times in 8 years, without confrontation, without the American economy threatening a collapse. This is a manufactured political crisis, and it is time for both parties to rise and come up with a solution.

What the majority leader has put on the table—half of it—was a proposal by Senator MCCONNELL, the Republican leader. Some people didn't like it. Majority Leader REID said it will be bipartisan; I am putting MCCONNELL's proposal on the table. I will put a proposal, as well, on the table from our side, make it bipartisan, and move it forward. Now 43 Republican Senators have said they are not voting for it, so we are at a standoff.

A word about the President's role in this: President Obama—and I know this because I attended the meetings as a member of the leadership—spent more time on this issue than any President I can recall. He met at least six or seven times for 2 and 3 hours at a time with the leadership of the House and Senate—Democrats and Republicans—and tried to work out differences. He proposed the creation, under Vice President BIDEN's leadership, of the group that would negotiate. It sat and met for months, and then, finally, the Republican leader in the House, ERIC CANTOR, walked out. He made quite a noise as he left the room, and said: I don't want to be part of this anymore.

Then the President started working with Speaker BOEHNER directly to get something worked out, and twice Speaker BOEHNER walked away from that.

So to fault the President in this is not fair. He has engaged all the leaders time and time again. Last Saturday, Senator MCCONNELL said: We no longer need the President in this picture. We are going to do it ourselves.

Well, we spent a week at it, and we have not achieved that. I am sure the President is ready and willing to do everything in his power to get this back on track.

What is at stake in this debate is the fate of the American economy at a point when we are recovering from a recession with millions of Americans out of work. Those who are showing great bravado and giving great political speeches are calling bluffs with other people's chips. What will happen at the end of the day, regardless of what the politicians say back and forth, is that ordinary people are going to be affected—their lives, their businesses, their savings are going to be affected by what we decide to do in the next few days.

I think what we need to do is clear, and Senator REID's proposal addresses it: No. 1, reduce spending. Let's get this deficit under control. Senator REID's proposal does just that—\$2.4 trillion in spending reductions—all of which have been voted for by Republicans already. So there is no controversy there. It is bipartisan.

Secondly, we cannot lurch into another round of this debate every few months. The President is right, and this bill reflects it, that we need to move this debate until after next year so our economy is strong again, and the next debt ceiling vote will be in 2013. Let's not face this again and again. America doesn't want to see this movie over and over.

I would also say the provision in Senator REID's bill, proposed by Senator MCCONNELL, that would, in fact, say the President has to personally ask to extend the debt ceiling, is a responsibility the President will accept, and he should accept it.

I think what Senator REID last offered is a balanced approach, a bipartisan approach, and it should be the basis for a compromise. But I certainly hope one thing comes out of this exchange on the floor this morning. I hope Senator MCCONNELL will finally agree to sit down with Senator REID, on a bipartisan basis, work with the House leaders and the President, and get this done. The American people are running out of patience, if they haven't already run out of it, and we are running out of excuses.

We have a limited amount of time left to avert a crisis that will affect a lot of innocent people across America. It is time for us to roll up our sleeves,

on a bipartisan basis, and get this job done.

Mr. LEVIN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. DURBIN. I will be happy to yield for a question.

Mr. LEVIN. The Republican leader, a few moments ago, said this happens around here from time to time—that 60 votes are required. Is it not true the reason 60 votes are required from time to time is because there is the threat of a filibuster unless the opponents succeed in getting an agreement that there be 60 votes?

It is the short way to find out whether the debate will be had. Is it not true, though, that it is the threat of a filibuster the opponents make which produces an agreement to get 60 votes?

Mr. DURBIN. The Senator from Michigan has been here longer than I have. He knows this better than I do. But he is right. This threat of a filibuster has raised the vote requirement from a majority to 60, and that is the issue that was being discussed on the Senate floor.

Mr. LEVIN. Is it not true—if I may ask my friend—whether the threat is carried out, we will know tonight at 1 a.m.? Because at 1 a.m. tomorrow morning, we will vote not on the Reid measure but on a motion which 18 Senators signed which reads as follows: That we, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with rule XXII, hereby move to bring to a close the debate on the Reid motion. Is that not true?

Mr. DURBIN. That is what the vote will be at 1 in the morning.

Mr. LEVIN. So what we will be voting on is not, as the Republican leader characterized it—which he says he is willing to vote on right away—the Reid motion but a vote on whether we will end debate on the Reid motion?

And is it not further true that people who vote no tonight are voting to filibuster the Reid motion?

Mr. DURBIN. The Senator from Michigan is correct. Those who say they want to bring this to a vote will have an opportunity to join us in doing so by producing at least 60 votes when we vote at 1 in the morning.

Mr. LEVIN. Finally, would the Senator from Illinois agree, if tonight Republicans refuse to bring this debate to a halt and to allow a vote on the Reid motion, would the Senator from Illinois not agree there will be a strong negative public reaction to a filibuster on a measure in the face of an economic calamity which would avoid that calamity?

Mr. DURBIN. I would agree with the Senator from Michigan. Time is of the essence. Any delay at this point jeopardizes any possibility of a compromise to avert this economic crisis.

Mr. LEVIN. I thank my friend.

Mr. DURBIN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNETT). The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would just add to what Senator REID, Senator DURBIN, and Senator LEVIN have said: that a 60-vote requirement is a filibuster. It is to block this.

Now, speaking of how long people have been here, I came here when President Ford was President. I have served under President Ford, President Carter, President Reagan, President George H.W. Bush, President William Jefferson Clinton, President George W. Bush, and now President Obama. I cannot remember, with any of those Presidents prior to President Obama, of this insistence for a 60-Member vote to raise the debt limit ceiling.

Certainly, with the number of times we raised the debt limit under President Ronald Reagan, I do not remember one single Republican suggesting that we needed 60 votes. The same was true I believe under President George H.W. Bush, and under President George W. Bush. The numerous times the debt ceiling was raised, not a single Republican said it is so important we must have a 60-vote margin.

Yet all of a sudden, with President Obama, the whole criteria changes. Suddenly the rules that were good enough for Republicans with a Republican President are something to be changed with this President.

The American public, Republican or Democratic, can see through that. This is a different standard. We are saying this President must follow different rules from every President before him—Republican or Democrat. There is no way that can be considered fair; no way that can be considered anything but a gimmick.

It is unfortunate that a partisan faction first manufactured this debt limit crisis and now continues to prevent a bipartisan solution. An unwillingness to compromise and find a bipartisan solution has led us to the brink. The United States of America is now just 3 days away from defaulting on its obligations for the first time in the history of this country. And Senators are demanding we have to have a supermajority vote to stop this from happening.

That is not responsible. We are needlessly risking financial turmoil throughout this great country, and it will send ripple effects worldwide. A temporary solution is no solution at all. It would undermine the stability that our economy needs to grow.

Now is the time to set aside partisan bickering, pass a bill. It is the time for the grownups in the room to take over and reach a bipartisan solution on the debt ceiling, as has been done every time in the 37 years I have been here.

A my-way-or-no-way faction in the other body has had no qualms about playing Russian roulette with our entire economy and with every American family in it. Regrettably, as we all saw so clearly again yesterday, the House

leadership's response to win this faction's votes has simply been to shift their bill even further away from helpfulness or reality. Everybody knows the House debt bill, written under this duress, was a sham, with no chance of passing and with no chance of averting a debt catastrophe.

On Friday, at the finish line, shortly prior to a vote on their debt bill, House leaders added to their package the idea of amending the U.S. Constitution with a balanced budget amendment. This was done as a desperate attempt to win a few more votes. This is not the time for bumper sticker politics. It is a time for real leadership and real bipartisan-ship.

Many in this body recall, as I do, the period just two short decades ago when we were able to not only balance the Federal budget but to create budget surpluses that were on their way to paying off the national debt. On the one hand, we had people who said let's pass a constitutional amendment for some time a decade or two decades in the future. We actually voted to balance a budget. Not a single Republican voted to balance the budget. They talked about it, but not a single Republican voted to balance the budget. We had to actually have Vice President Gore vote to break a tie vote. But we balanced the budget. It created enormous surpluses, it started paying down the national debt, over 20 million new jobs were created, and President Clinton was able to give a huge surplus to President George W. Bush. Unfortunately, decisions made by that administration and ratified by the new Congress squandered the surplus and started, once again, piling up debt.

So this good and great Nation does not need the straitjacket of one-size-fits-all change to our Constitution to do what needs to be done. We have done it. What the American people want and need and deserve is a return to wise and disciplined leadership. We need the return of willingness by those of us chosen to serve within the Halls of government, to cooperate and to forge bipartisan solutions.

At this point, Majority Leader REID's debt reduction package of \$2.2 trillion in spending cuts is Congress's best chance to avoid default and prevent a disastrous credit-rating downgrade. Unlike the House plan, the Reid solution is an invitation to consensus. The Senate solution incorporates spending reductions reached in bipartisan negotiations, yielding greater overall budget savings sooner than the House proposal. But it would also save the country the ordeal of going through this torment again just a few months from now. We have seen how this current debate has taken much longer to do what we need to do.

As this calamity has unfolded in slow motion, it has been smothering the chance for action on nearly all other

national priorities, from jobs to national security, to air traffic control. The congressional deadlock has prevented passage of a routine renewal of the Federal Aviation Administration's charter to operate. Today, the Senate could be considering the America Invents Act that is a bipartisan, bicameral bill ready to move across the finish line that creates hundreds of thousands of jobs and unleashes American innovation and does not add a penny to the deficit. But instead of acting on constructive and necessary priorities such as these, we are stuck playing a dangerous game with our economy. The deadline for default would not change. I commend Leader REID for his willingness and desire to work in the spirit of compromise with the Republican leader and others to find a bipartisan solution to halt this perilous march to the edge of the financial cliff.

All American people want this solved now, with a fair solution and through the give-and-take of our representative government, not by some extra special vote but just vote it up or vote it down. I am confident that if we can work together, Congress will avert this looming, man-made economic calamity. It is late but it is not yet too late for Republicans and Democrats to come together, for the sake of our country, in fashioning a bipartisan solution to raise the debt limit, reduce our long-term debt, and give our economy the long-term foundation to prosper.

I have had the privilege to represent Vermont in the Senate for 37 years. I have been blessed enough to witness many times when the Senate has shown its remarkable ability to rise to reflect the conscience of the Nation. I believe now is such a time for Democrats and Republicans in the Senate, for the good of the country, to once again rise to the occasion and to have us be the conscience of the Nation.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, while the distinguished Senator from Michigan is on the floor, who is one of the best legal minds in the Senate, I wanted to engage him to further to take us through the delay tactics that are presently now underway.

Given the fact that we have a solution right underneath our noses, a solution that is so close between the two opposite sides that all we would have to do is to have a majority vote or all we would have to do is to have a few Republican Senators but we are engaged in this stalling tactic that is literally going to take us all night, I would like to ask the distinguished Senator from Michigan, given the rules, given the fact that a filibuster is now underway, what can the minority in the Senate hope to achieve, since we are so close to agreement?

Mr. LEVIN. The reason people filibuster is to try to defeat a measure and stalling and delaying a vote is much worse than just defeating a measure. It is defeating the American economy. It will be putting the economy in a ditch if we do not resolve this issue.

So we have to be very clear on what the vote is tonight. It is not a vote on the Reid measure. It is a vote on this motion to bring the debate—and these are the words of the motion: We, 18 Senators, move to bring to a close the debate on the Reid motion.

That is what we are voting on and the Republican leader tries to coat that or characterize that as a vote on the Reid motion. It is not. We want to vote on the Reid motion. We want to vote. But we will not be allowed to vote on the Reid motion, on the proposal which the majority leader has offered which has a majority support in this Senate; we will not be allowed to vote on that if debate is not ended, if the filibuster continues because 60 Senators are not willing to end it. We will have at least 50-plus to end debate.

But let it be clear, let the public understand that if we are not allowed to vote on the Reid measure tonight, the Republicans presumably will continue their filibuster, and we are not going to just simply allow them to defeat it. We are not going to just simply sit down and say: Well, we couldn't end the debate and the filibuster; we didn't get 60 votes—if we don't—tonight. We are not going to do that. That is not going to happen tonight. This is too important to simply let a minority defeat the will of the majority by a filibuster.

The Republican leader wants to characterize this again, and mischaracterize this, saying he is willing to have a vote right now on the Reid motion. No, he is not. If we were allowed a vote on the Reid motion, that would be fine. That is a regular majority vote. But what the Republican leader wants is to require 60 votes on the Reid motion in order for it to pass. That is not the way things happen under our rules. Under our rules, 60 votes are required to end a debate if the minority threatens a filibuster and insists it will filibuster unless a measure gets 60 votes.

So we know what is happening. We saw it last night. We saw it here today. It is clearly the threat of a filibuster, in the hope we will say that Reid will be pulled down and defeated if we don't get 60 votes. That is what this is all about. This time, we simply cannot allow this measure to be talked to death and a vote denied. We cannot be thwarted because the American economy is at stake.

So tonight, if we don't get 60 votes—and let me repeat this so everyone understands it. Tonight, if 60 votes are not there to end debate, if the Republicans intend to filibuster, then tonight that is what is going to happen. The

public will see very clearly it is a filibuster, if they haven't seen it already.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I will make comments later. I see the Senator from New Hampshire is here.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Hampshire is recognized.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 10 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, as I understand it, we are allocated 30 minutes each. But I have no objection to the Senator having 5 additional minutes as long as 5 additional minutes are added to the Republican side.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the Senator from New Hampshire will have 10 minutes and the Republican side will have an extra 5 minutes.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I appreciate the consideration of my colleague from Georgia.

Mr. President, I come to the floor because I wish to share with people what I am hearing from my constituents in New Hampshire about the situation we are in in Washington.

I have heard from small business owners, from retirees, from working people all across the State, and one of the things that struck me about the majority of people whom I have heard from is they are willing to make sacrifices to help this country address our debt and our deficits. But they want to see us in Congress act and they want to see us compromise. Let me just take a few minutes and share some of the comments I have received from the people of New Hampshire.

First is from Diane, who is from Manchester, our largest city. Diane says:

Please get off the party line and work together. My welfare and the welfare of my small business is at risk. I only employ 5 people, but it's 5 people that don't need to collect unemployment or take another job. Don't take away what's left of my retirement by crashing the market. Work as a "we," not as an "I," and get it done. This is not the first time the debt cap needs to be raised and it won't be the last. Please do what will have to be done anyway so we can continue to bring this country back. I don't want to lose my business. Who is going to win the next election is not what any of you should be thinking about. I believe if you don't act, all of you will lose.

David from Meredith says:

At the age of 25, I am already the owner of a small software company in the lakes region. We currently have five employees with plans to grow. We are expecting our profits for next year to exceed \$1 million. As an employer, small business owner, and at my age, I feel as though I will be greatly affected by budget decisions we make during the next week and into the future. I want to make sure that America stays as one of the best Nations in the world. I have never written a

letter to any Member of Congress before tonight.

Then we have Janine from Auburn who says:

Settle the budget now. The dysfunction in Congress is embarrassing this country. As a small business owner, I can't afford the uncertainty of a political fiasco. If interest rates rise, I can't keep my business afloat. I would rather pay increased taxes.

Eric from Hollis says:

As a small business owner, I am unable to plan and hire employees due to the uncertainty the current standstill in Washington has created. Please get the USA back to work and making progress and stop the bickering.

Then Brenda from Enfield says:

My 77-year-old husband retired last year. I am planning on retiring this year collecting Social Security at full retirement age of 65. We have been good citizens, running our own small business for 40-plus years, and we have been diligent in taking responsibility for our own retirement savings. As you know, over the past 2 years, due to economic pressures, we have faced substantial reductions of our retirement portfolio and, again, now face irreparable damage just as we retire. My husband and I urge you to do whatever it takes to build a cooperative bridge in Congress to protect the economy from further trauma.

Cynthia from Exeter says:

I am receiving Social Security due to a disability, but I would gladly give up \$5 a month if everyone shared in the idea of balancing our Nation's budget issues and deficit. I would like to see revenue raised at the same time I would be willing to sacrifice some of my Social Security.

Finally, Sue from Campton says:

My husband and I would be willing to pay higher income taxes—and we would be in that higher tax bracket—to come up with a compromise to save this great Nation. I hope that when you read this message you will understand that there is a majority of Americans who are willing to sacrifice for our country. Please find compromise. Our great State of New Hampshire and our country depends on it.

I want to tell Diane and David and Sue and all the others who have called and e-mailed and written to me that I agree with them. We must act and we must compromise. That is what I am trying to do. That is why I have supported a comprehensive approach to dealing with this country's debt and deficits. It is an approach that has been bipartisan, offered by the so-called Gang of 6. It addresses all aspects of our budget: domestic discretionary spending, defense spending, mandatory programs, and revenues. But I understand we are not going to be able to get that done between now and Tuesday, so that is why I am willing to support an approach that only makes cuts to the budget, because I know we have to compromise. But compromise means that everyone, all sides—the House and the Senate, Republicans and Democrats—all sides have to give up something. I believe we have good people in the Senate on both sides of the aisle, the majority of whom want to see a resolution to this impasse. The time is

now for all of us to compromise and to do what is in the best interests of this country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PRYOR). The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today when the Chaplain opened the Senate, he prayed for divine guidance to end the paralysis of analysis in Congress. I thought it was an excellent point. When I heard the two leaders speak today I realized where that paralysis was. We were paralyzed by analyzing our differences and failing to look at what we have reached common ground on already.

I have been worried about a default on our debt for some time, but right now I am worried about Congress defaulting on our country. Failure should not be an option for us in this case and it is time we started finding common ground. So for the purpose of discussion, I want to put forward some thoughts about where we agree, some identification of where we do not but where we could be.

We have already agreed, in one form or another—whether it was the Vice President's group or the Speaker's group or whoever—that we ought to have a \$1 trillion downpayment in initial cuts to bring about deficit reduction.

There is common agreement between both sides in the Senate and I think in the House as well that we need a short-term committee, equally divided in a partisan way, to come up with at least another \$1.8 trillion that results in reductions in debt and in deficit. We have agreed on those two things.

Third, we have agreed we do not want to default on our debt. There may be a handful of people around here who think that is a good idea, but with all due respect it is not a good idea and the ramifications of default are already showing themselves in small measures in the market but will show themselves a lot greater next Wednesday if we fail.

Where do we differ? We do not differ on raising the debt ceiling, we just differ on when we raise it, how we raise it, and how long we raise it. The President favors raising it past the election in November 2012. There are others who want to have votes every 6 months or 10 months. Frankly, there is something to be said for waiting until after the November election of 2012 so we have 18 months of stability and predictability in the United States of America; there is not the uncertainty of us coming back.

There are a lot of differences on the other side about whether we have a constitutional amendment on the balanced budget vote. Frankly, I cannot understand why in the end anybody would reject both bodies being able to have a vote in regular order on a constitutional amendment to balance the budget. We are supposed to vote. We

are supposed to confront those decisions. I think an agreement could be reached between those two differences that would ensure us moving closer to an agreement on the entire package.

Third, and probably toughest, we do not disagree on the committee that is appointed to find the \$1.8 trillion or better in savings or cuts, but we disagree on the mechanism with which that is enforced. I want to talk about that for a minute. There is a fear—and a lot of it is justified because of the way we are acting right now—that if you had a committee of 12, 6 Democrats and 6 Republicans, charged with finding \$1.8 trillion or more in reductions, they would never agree; therefore, they would be gridlocked; therefore, those reductions would not take place. I understand that fear and agree with the concern for that fear. So we need a mechanism where there is a risk for them to do that.

One of the discussions that has been floating around—last night it was in a discussion I had with the officer presiding right now—is you should allow the Congress itself to create a committee with an equal number of Democrats and Republicans of some accountable number, such as 10 or 20, to come together. If the committee fails to make its recommendations and make alternative recommendations, that must by requirement of the law be voted on on the floor of the House and Senate. If for some unbelievable circumstance that did not happen, there has to be an absolute fail-safe to ensure that failure is not an option. I have suggested automatic sequestration. I know that causes heartburn with some. But somewhere there is a silver bullet. The Lone Ranger had it. Tonto had it. Wyatt Earp had it. Why can't the Congress find it? Why can't we find the majority bullet that is the enforcement mechanism that ensures we come together on the \$1.8 trillion or more? If we do those things, we have an agreement. We have already agreed in principle on most of them and we understand our differences on the ones we have not agreed on. We ought to be spending the next 24 hours finding out where our differences are and coming to find common ground because we are not that far apart.

I want to go back to the prayer of Barry C. Black this morning. I listen to his prayer just about every morning because it is very insightful. In fact, there is a clear message in it and he is usually talking to all of us because he watches all of us and he is concerned and I am concerned.

I have three children and nine grandchildren. I said in my campaigns the rest of my life is about leaving them a country as prosperous, free, and great as the country my parents left me. If we blink on this issue before us, that is not going to be the case. There is irreparable harm that can come from a fail-

ure to act. It doesn't harm me as a politician, it harms my kids and my grandkids. It harms those people I know on Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid, and it harms those standing right now on a firing line somewhere in Afghanistan, realizing today could be their last day on this Earth so America could live to see another day. That is how serious the consequences are.

I suggest instead of being paralyzed by our analysis of where we differ, let's come to an analysis of where we find common ground. We do on raising the debt ceiling; we know we should raise it. We know we could find \$2.8 trillion and hopefully more in cuts in the deficit and spending over time. We know we have to extend the debt ceiling to some point in time, and if it is past the Presidential election of 2012, let's ensure that each body in regular order can vote on a constitutional amendment to balance the budget, which leaves us with one difference, and that difference is what is the enforcement mechanism on the \$1.8 trillion cut that the joint committee, equally divided, is supposed to come up with.

I submit we can find the common ground to find the silver bullet that causes that to happen and I encourage all of us to forget now where we differ and recognize where we agree and then work on building a bridge on those differences so the United States of America does not default on its debt and the Congress of the United States does not default on its obligation to the people of the greatest country on the face of this Earth, the United States of America.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. I would ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, the discussion has boiled down to a desire by the President to have the largest debt increase in the history of America at a time when our spending is out of control, and this debt ceiling limit that we have now reached is at a point where it does need to be raised.

I thought we had a national consensus that as part of raising the debt ceiling we would begin to change our habits around here; we would do things better; we would not be running up so much debt because every witness who has testified before our Budget Committee has said we are on an unsustainable path. They mean that. We cannot sustain the debt path we are on. We have never been in a deeper fix.

The President wants this huge debt increase, but he only wants to have a

very modest decrease in spending. The bill that is before us would decrease spending about \$927 billion. It might sound like a lot, but over the next 10 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office, we will increase the debt of America by \$10 trillion—\$10,000 billion, not \$927 billion. That will not change the debt trajectory. We have to have more than \$927 billion in spending reductions.

It appears we are not going to be able to get that. The Democratic majority in the Senate will not allow it and say they are prepared to let the country default if we try to cut any more. So we have to continue the dialogue and the debate about the course we are on.

Why is it so important to get a bigger debt ceiling increase? I thought and believed we had an agreement that the debt ceiling should not be increased more than spending is decreased, that spending is decreased over 10 years. We cut it \$1 trillion, we raise the debt ceiling \$1 trillion. We give 10 years of spending cuts, but immediately we get a \$1 trillion increase in the debt ceiling.

Why are we in this fix? I hate to say it, but this is why, there is no doubt about it: The President said last week:

The only bottom line that I have is that we extend this debt ceiling through the next election, until 2013.

Through the next election. It is all about him. It is about politics. It is about his desires, what he wants. That is not correct. This is about America, what is good for our country.

The House of Representatives submitted a fabulous budget earlier this year. It reduced spending by as much as \$6 trillion over 10 years. This bill would only reduce it \$1 trillion. Why would the House of Representatives, after much debate, pleading, hard work, why would they agree to send a bill over here that only does \$1 trillion in spending cuts over 10 years? The reason is they love our country. They know this is a dangerous time. They know at this point in history we don't need to create more uncertainty on top of the tremendously dangerous debt path we are on.

By not raising the debt limit we don't know for sure what will happen. Bad things could happen, so they have made a tremendous compromise in what they proposed and sent it over here. It seems the only thing the President cares about is not having to talk about this again until after he gets re-elected.

I think we need to understand something. This is not enough reduction in spending. It will not change the debt trajectory we are on now, which is on a path to do \$9 trillion to \$13 trillion more in debt added to our Nation's books in 10 years. It is just not enough.

We raise the debt ceiling, and we get out of this immediate crisis, and in doing so we send a message to the

world, the American people and the financial markets that we are still working on it. We are still going to bring down the numbers. We know we cannot continue on this rate of spending. We know that so we are going to work to get the numbers down, and we are not going to wait 2 years after some convenient or inconvenient election. We are going to start early next year or late this year, and we will stay on it until we make the kind of changes that put us on a path to growth and prosperity. I feel strongly about that.

I know people don't want to hear us talking about this bill or that bill or who is for this and how many votes it has. They are tired of hearing that. They want us to make changes. I do not think the American people just want a deal. That is how the media spins it and politicians spin it: Is there a deal? Is there not a deal? The American people want us to change our debt course. They want us to get off the path that is taking us to financial destruction. It really is. I don't know when it will happen, but everybody says we cannot continue, and in a period of years we will be in a situation like Greece, and the numbers are pretty clear in that regard. There is no doubt about it. It doesn't have to happen, so we can do something about it.

Republicans have passed a good budget that would reduce the debt and put us on a path to prosperity. That was rejected by our Democratic leaders. Indeed, they brought it up and mocked it. President Obama called for a conference at the White House. He put Congressman RYAN, the brilliant young budget chairman in the House right in front of him, and then he mocked and attacked the budget that the House did that would actually do something for America and make us better. I don't appreciate that. We have to do something. I am prepared to compromise. I feel deeply that we need to cut more spending than this, but we are at a point in history where we need to pass a debt ceiling increase. We just have to. We don't need to quit talking about the problem. We need to continue the dialogue, continue the debate, and continue to look for and find ways to reduce spending.

The House passed a cap-and-balance bill that would have capped spending and created a permanent constitutional amendment to balance the budget, and then they passed the Boehner legislation that was voted down last night. That legislation would have cut all spending at just about the amount that Senator REID wants, the \$900-or-so billion. Speaker BOEHNER didn't exaggerate how much it was. He agreed to that amount and agreed to raise the debt ceiling immediately by an amount equal to the amount of spending we reduced over 10 years. It was a very generous, significant compromise from the position they believed was correct and

that they took openly and publicly through the normal legislative process when they passed their budget.

Now our Democrats in the Senate have not passed anything. They didn't even bring up a budget. Now it has been 822 days since Congress has passed a budget. A budget was not passed here when my Democratic colleagues had 60 Democratic Senators.

Senator REID said it would be foolish to pass a budget. Why is that? Well, he meant it would be foolish to have his Members actually have to vote.

When you move a budget, it has priority. It cannot be filibustered. It can be passed with a 50-vote margin, but people get to offer amendments and people would have to vote on amendments. The people who produced the budget would have to say how much taxes they were increasing, how much spending they were cutting, and how much debt was still going to be out there, and they did not want to expose themselves. They did not want to come before the American people and show where they stood. They preferred to bring up the House budget and vote it down and mock it while the leadership didn't have the courage or the responsibility to pass a budget themselves. They would show where they wanted to go with the future of America. It is just that simple.

We need to go back to the regular order in the Senate, and that means presenting a budget, bringing up bills, having votes, having amendments, having people be accountable to their constituents. If you were sitting back home, you would want to see government reduce some of this reckless spending. Wouldn't you want to know how your elected officials, the people representing you, voted? Well, we have had no votes, and that has been the plan—to shield the Members from votes so their constituents could not hold them accountable.

For heaven's sake, we don't want to have a vote in January or February when we have an election in November. Why, that is too close. People would see what we did. They might remember it when election day came up. They might not like it that they don't have a plan to do a better job of changing the unconscionable debt course this country is on.

That is the way they think in Washington, and it is not acceptable. We are borrowing 40 cents of everything we spend.

Mr. President, do we have a time agreement at this point?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 5 minutes 20 seconds remaining.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the Chair.

Well, it is a big deal, and we need to get this done. There are just not enough votes to pass the Reid bill, and there are not enough votes to pass the Boehner bill. That is just obvious, even

though Speaker BOEHNER drew down dramatically the amount of spending cuts the House believes should be achieved.

We have to get our folks busy while we are continuing to debate into the night instead of actually recognizing that the Reid bill doesn't have the votes to pass the Senate, and it absolutely doesn't have the votes to pass the House. It just doesn't. At this last desperate moment, hopefully, our leaders will get busy, quit worrying about those things, and actually begin to suggest something we can work on. We really should not be in this position.

As I have explained at some length—and I will not repeat it—but I don't like it. I do not like it. I don't think it is right that we have a couple of Senators and a couple of House Members, our leaders, go off and somehow plop down on the Senate their solution to our problem, and if we don't pass it, the government is damaged and the economy is damaged because they have waited until the absolute eleventh hour-plus to produce it.

It should have never happened that way. It is irresponsible, and it undermines the integrity of the entire congressional process. We have seen this coming all year long. We should not have allowed it to happen in this way.

Well, let me talk a bit more technically about the Reid bill. It purports to reduce spending and savings by \$2.4 trillion. That is not correct. Actually, it reduces the debt that would be increasing by only \$927 billion, and we have done our best with the Budget Committee staff to be honest and fair about it.

That is about the same number Speaker BOEHNER has in his, but Majority Leader REID insists his saves \$2.4 trillion. Why? Because if it is \$2.4 trillion, he can justify that the next time we address this, which will be after the next election, will be 2 years away.

He doesn't cut that much. What he claims is not accurate. Why? Well, they are working into the night to see how they can make the accounting look better. They didn't like the 927 figure, so what do they do? They look at the budget projections where it was projected war costs would be coming down. Actually, we will have a \$40 billion reduction this year in the cost of Iraq and Afghanistan. Those costs are coming down. The President had projected they would come down to \$50 billion soon and would stay at that for the rest of the year, which would mean \$1 trillion less spending. Remember, we are going to increase the debt by \$9 to \$13 trillion, but \$1 trillion would have been—by reducing the war cost, we save \$1 trillion. But that was already in the books. That is already accounted for.

So how did they do it? Well, they came in and they put in a bill that mandated the come-down because, oddly enough, the Congressional Budget Office doesn't assume war costs will come down. The Congressional Budget Office assumes that it will stay up and we will spend this \$1 trillion more on the war when there is no intent to do that. Therefore, they put it in the legislation and require it to come down, these numbers, and all of a sudden CBO scores \$1 trillion in extra savings without any change in spending projections or reality at all.

Speaker BOEHNER didn't count his bill as reducing spending by that \$1 trillion when he took the same numbers, same assumptions that spending on the war would come down. But they did that to try to make it look as though they were reducing spending more; therefore, they could extend the debt limit more, they would make it past the election, and they could get the political result they want. That is really what it is.

Another way they get another \$300 billion gimmick is that if we assume a \$1 trillion reduction in the war, then we are not paying interest on that money because we would have to borrow it because we are already in debt, and every amount we can reduce means we borrow less money. Every less-spending provision saves money, and it also saves interest on that money. Well, it would be \$300 billion in interest saved under the theory—the gimmick—that is being used here. So that really amounts to \$1.3 trillion in overestimating right there on the amount of savings in the Reid plan.

I thank the Chair. I hope we will reject the Reid proposal, and I hope our leaders can achieve in short order a change in our plans for managing our money, raise the debt ceiling, and begin to put this country on a sound path.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Thank you, Mr. President. I am happy to come to the floor with two of my colleagues—my colleague from Minnesota and my colleague from Alaska—to speak about the damage created by the Republicans' insistence on looking at just one side of the equation and failing to understand what businesses need to move forward during the next 28 minutes or so.

As my good friend from Alabama leaves the floor, I wish to say that I have enjoyed working with him on many issues. We have been shoulder to shoulder advocating for gulf coast restoration and many other issues. However, I have to strongly disagree with

some of the points he has just made, and I will go into those in just a moment.

Part of the problem with the Senator from Alabama and other Senators on that side is that when they speak to the American people on this issue, they only talk about one side of the equation; that is, spending. They never, ever talk about revenues. Anybody—any family, any individual, any business, any high school student, any college student—understands—like the commercial running on television now that talks about equations—equations have two sides, not one. There is a spending side and there is a revenue side.

If a family's budget is out of whack—they are spending too much, and they are not taking in enough money—they could get a third job and fix that problem by bringing in more money to the budget or a second job or a part-time job and bring in more revenue, and that problem is solved or they could choose to not get another job and cut back spending all the way down to their income and solve the problem.

The problem with the other side is they are disingenuous. They do not want to be truthful with the American people and say that not only do we have a spending problem, which all Democrats agree with, but we also have a revenue problem, and that is why we are on this floor fighting today.

I wish to show beyond a shadow of a doubt the truth about what I am speaking. This is data from the Senate Appropriations Committee. This shows discretionary defense spending, all other spending, and mandatory programs for 10 years.

In 10 years, from 2001 until today, 10 years later, defense spending has increased \$364 billion—73 percent—and that is because we have had two wars and any number of defense and security issues. We can debate whether that is right, but we have spent 73 percent more money, adjusted for inflation.

For mandatory programs, the increase has gone up 310 percent in 10 years. That is Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. This is the driver. This is the budget-buster. There are all sorts of solutions to that problem. Unfortunately, we are not talking about any of them today. But the push on the spending is coming from mandatory programs.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the charts I have been referring to.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

TABLE 1.2—SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS, OUTLAYS, AND SURPLUSES OR DEFICITS () AS PERCENTAGES OF GDP: 1930–2016

Year	GDP (in billions of dollars)	Total			On-Budget			Off-Budget		
		Receipts	Outlays	Surplus or Deficit ()	Receipts	Outlays	Surplus or Deficit ()	Receipts	Outlays	Surplus or Deficit ()
1930	97.4	4.2	3.4	0.8	4.2	3.4	0.8			
1931	83.9	3.7	4.3	−0.6	3.7	4.3	−0.6			
1932	67.6	2.8	6.9	−4.0	2.8	6.9	−4.0			
1933	57.6	3.5	8.0	−4.5	3.5	8.0	−4.5			
1934	61.2	4.8	10.7	−5.9	4.8	10.7	−5.9			
1935	69.6	5.2	9.2	−4.0	5.2	9.2	−4.0			
1936	78.5	5.0	10.5	−5.5	5.0	10.5	−5.5			
1937	87.8	6.1	8.6	−2.5	5.8	8.6	−2.8	0.3	−*	0.3
1938	89.0	7.6	7.7	−0.1	7.2	7.7	−0.5	0.4	−*	0.4
1939	89.1	7.1	10.3	−3.2	6.5	10.3	−3.8	0.6	−*	0.6
1940	96.8	6.8	9.8	−3.0	6.2	9.8	−3.6	0.6	−*	0.6
1941	114.1	7.6	12.0	−4.3	7.0	11.9	−4.9	0.6	*	0.6
1942	144.3	10.1	24.3	−14.2	9.5	24.3	−14.8	0.6	*	0.6
1943	180.3	13.3	43.6	−30.3	12.7	43.5	−30.8	0.6	*	0.6
1944	209.2	20.9	43.6	−22.7	20.3	43.6	−23.3	0.6	0.1	0.6
1945	221.4	20.4	41.9	−21.5	19.8	41.8	−22.0	0.6	0.1	0.5
1946	222.6	17.7	24.8	−7.2	17.1	24.7	−7.6	0.6	0.1	0.5
1947	233.2	16.5	14.8	1.7	15.9	14.7	1.2	0.6	0.1	0.5
1948	256.6	16.2	11.6	4.6	15.6	11.5	4.1	0.6	0.1	0.5
1949	271.3	14.5	14.3	0.2	13.9	14.2	−0.3	0.6	0.2	0.5
1950	273.1	14.4	15.6	−1.1	13.7	15.4	−1.7	0.8	0.2	0.6
1951	320.2	16.1	14.2	1.9	15.1	13.8	1.3	1.0	0.4	0.6
1952	348.7	19.0	19.4	−0.4	17.9	18.9	−1.0	1.0	0.5	0.5
1953	372.5	18.7	20.4	−1.7	17.6	19.8	−2.2	1.1	0.6	0.5
1954	377.0	18.5	18.8	−0.3	17.3	18.0	−0.8	1.2	0.8	0.4
1955	395.9	16.5	17.3	−0.8	15.2	16.3	−1.0	1.3	1.0	0.3
1956	427.0	17.5	16.5	0.9	16.0	15.4	0.6	1.5	1.2	0.3
1957	450.9	17.7	17.0	0.8	16.2	15.6	0.6	1.5	1.3	0.2
1958	460.0	17.3	17.9	−0.6	15.6	16.3	−0.7	1.7	1.6	0.1
1959	490.2	16.2	18.8	−2.6	14.5	17.0	−2.5	1.7	1.8	−0.1
1960	518.9	17.8	17.8	0.1	15.8	15.7	0.1	2.1	2.1	−*
1961	529.9	17.8	18.4	−0.6	15.5	16.2	−0.7	2.3	2.2	0.1
1962	567.8	17.6	18.8	−1.3	15.4	16.4	−1.0	2.2	2.4	−0.2
1963	599.2	17.8	18.6	−0.8	15.4	16.1	−0.7	2.4	2.5	−0.1
1964	641.5	17.6	18.5	−0.9	15.0	16.0	−1.0	2.6	2.5	0.1
1965	687.5	17.0	17.2	−0.2	14.6	14.8	−0.2	2.4	2.4	*
1966	755.8	17.3	17.8	−0.5	14.8	15.2	−0.4	2.5	2.6	−0.1
1967	810.0	18.4	19.4	−1.1	15.4	16.9	−1.6	3.0	2.5	0.5
1968	868.4	17.6	20.5	−2.9	14.7	17.9	−3.2	2.9	2.6	0.3
1969	948.1	19.7	19.4	0.3	16.7	16.7	−0.1	3.1	2.7	0.4
1970	1,012.7	19.0	19.3	−0.3	15.7	16.6	−0.9	3.3	2.7	0.6
1971	1,080.0	17.3	19.5	−2.1	14.0	16.4	−2.4	3.3	3.0	0.3
1972	1,176.5	17.6	19.6	−2.0	14.2	16.4	−2.2	3.4	3.2	0.2
1973	1,310.6	17.6	18.7	−1.1	14.1	15.3	−1.2	3.5	3.5	*
1974	1,438.5	18.3	18.7	−0.4	14.5	15.1	−0.5	3.7	3.7	0.1
1975	1,560.2	17.9	21.3	−3.4	13.9	17.4	−3.5	4.0	3.9	0.1
1976	1,738.1	17.1	21.4	−4.2	13.3	17.3	−4.0	3.8	4.1	−0.2
TQ	459.4	17.7	20.9	−3.2	13.8	16.8	−3.1	3.9	4.1	−0.1
1977	1,973.5	18.0	20.7	−2.7	14.1	16.7	−2.5	3.9	4.1	−0.2
1978	2,217.5	18.0	20.7	−2.7	14.2	16.7	−2.5	3.9	4.0	−0.2
1979	2,501.4	18.5	20.1	−1.6	14.6	16.2	−1.6	3.9	4.0	−*
1980	2,724.2	19.0	21.7	−2.7	14.8	17.5	−2.7	4.2	4.2	−*
1981	3,057.0	19.6	22.2	−2.6	15.3	17.8	−2.4	4.3	4.4	−0.2
1982	3,223.7	19.2	23.1	−4.0	14.7	18.5	−3.7	4.5	4.7	−0.2
1983	3,440.7	17.5	23.5	−6.0	13.2	19.2	−6.0	4.3	4.3	−*
1984	3,844.4	17.3	22.2	−4.8	13.0	17.8	−4.8	4.3	4.3	−*
1985	4,146.3	17.7	22.8	−5.1	13.2	18.6	−5.3	4.5	4.3	0.2
1986	4,403.9	17.5	22.5	−5.0	12.9	18.3	−5.4	4.5	4.2	0.4
1987	4,651.4	18.4	21.6	−3.2	13.8	17.4	−3.6	4.6	4.2	0.4
1988	5,008.5	18.2	21.3	−3.1	13.3	17.2	−3.8	4.8	4.1	0.7
1989	5,399.5	18.4	21.2	−2.8	13.5	17.3	−3.8	4.9	3.9	1.0
1990	5,734.5	18.0	21.9	−3.9	13.1	17.9	−4.8	4.9	3.9	1.0
1991	5,930.5	17.8	22.3	−4.5	12.8	18.3	−5.4	5.0	4.1	0.9
1992	6,242.0	17.5	22.1	−4.7	12.6	18.1	−5.5	4.8	4.0	0.8
1993	6,587.3	17.5	21.4	−3.9	12.8	17.3	−4.6	4.7	4.0	0.7
1994	6,976.6	18.0	21.0	−2.9	13.2	16.9	−3.7	4.8	4.0	0.8
1995	7,341.1	18.4	20.6	−2.2	13.6	16.7	−3.1	4.8	3.9	0.9
1996	7,718.3	18.8	20.2	−1.4	14.1	16.3	−2.3	4.8	3.9	0.9
1997	8,211.7	19.2	19.5	−0.3	14.5	15.7	−1.3	4.8	3.8	1.0
1998	8,663.0	19.9	19.1	0.8	15.1	15.4	−0.3	4.8	3.7	1.1
1999	9,208.4	19.8	18.5	1.4	15.0	15.0	*	4.8	3.5	1.3
2000	9,821.0	20.6	18.2	2.4	15.7	14.8	0.9	4.9	3.4	1.5
2001	10,225.3	19.5	18.2	1.3	14.5	14.8	−0.3	5.0	3.4	1.6
2002	10,543.9	17.6	19.1	−1.5	12.7	15.7	−3.0	4.9	3.4	1.5
2003	10,979.8	16.2	19.7	−3.4	11.5	16.4	−4.9	4.8	3.3	1.5
2004	11,685.6	16.1	19.6	−3.5	11.5	16.4	−4.9	4.6	3.2	1.3
2005	12,445.7	17.3	19.9	−2.6	12.7	16.6	−4.0	4.6	3.2	1.4
2006	13,224.9	18.2	20.1	−1.9	13.6	16.9	−3.3	4.6	3.2	1.4
2007	13,891.8	18.5	19.6	−1.2	13.9	16.4	−2.5	4.6	3.3	1.3
2008	14,394.1	17.5	20.7	−3.2	13.0	17.4	−4.5	4.6	3.3	1.3
2009	14,097.5	14.9	25.0	−10.0	10.3	21.3	−11.0	4.6	3.7	1.0
2010	14,508.2	14.9	23.8	−8.9	10.6	20.0	−9.4	4.4	3.8	0.5
2011 estimate	15,079.6	14.4	25.3	−10.9	10.7	22.0	−11.3	3.7	3.3	0.4
2012 estimate	15,812.5	16.6	23.6	−7.0	12.5	19.9	−7.4	4.2	3.7	0.5
2013 estimate	16,752.4	17.9	22.5	−4.6	13.6	18.6	−5.1	4.4	3.9	0.5
2014 estimate	17,782.2	18.7	22.4	−3.6	14.4	18.5	−4.1	4.3	3.9	0.5
2015 estimate	18,804.1	19.1	22.3	−3.2	14.7	18.4	−3.7	4.3	3.9	0.5
2016 estimate	19,790.5	19.3	22.6	−3.3	14.9	18.7	−3.8	4.4	3.9	0.5

* 0.05 percent or less.

Note: Budget figures prior to 1933 are based on the "Administrative Budget" concepts rather than the "Unified Budget" concepts.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, what the Republicans fail to tell people, which makes me so angry and should make everyone angry, is that all other spending in the Federal Government has remained flat. There has been a zero-percent increase in 10 years, if we adjust for inflation—zero, not a 2-percent increase, not a 3-percent increase. These are the facts.

It is also true that we are spending more money—25 percent of GDP—than at any time since World War II, but that spending is being driven by defense and mandatory. But what do they want to cut? What are they demanding to be cut today? They are demanding cuts from this line item, including agriculture, health, education, and respite care for the elderly. This is what they want to cut. This is why Democrats are saying: Wait a minute, take a couple of steps back. That is what this fight is really about.

In addition to waging this fight—and one would think this is a big fight to have—we would have it in the safest place possible. Some would think we would be having it in the safest place possible. My colleagues know that in the old western movies, when two guys want to shoot it out, they say: Meet me on the edge of town. Do these guys meet you on the edge of town? No. Do you know where they meet us? Right on Main Street, where small business and big business and self-employed have been struggling for years, coming out of the greatest recession that in large measure they helped to create. Where do they want to stage this fight? On Main Street. That is what this fight is about. They could have chosen any place for this battle, but where do they choose it? They choose it over raising the debt ceiling, which, if we don't fix it in the next 72 hours, it is going to raise interest on every business.

I am already getting piles of letters from Louisiana that I will include in the RECORD from small business owners pleading with us to come to a deal because they are holding the economy hostage.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the letters I just referred to be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

JULY 27, 2011.

Mrs. MONIQUE JONES,
Raceland, LA.

SENATOR LANDRIEU, I am writing with my concern regarding the debt ceiling issue. I am appalled at the current GOP tactics, their inability to compromise and their absolute refusal to put the good of the nation, the economy and the average middle class American before some rigid political ideology. Louisiana may be a red state, but the Tea party does not speak for all of us! Increasingly, I am frustrated and dismayed that there is no ability to grasp even com-

mon sense ideas—debt reduction works by increasing revenue and cutting spending, for example—or their apparent amnesia and the fact that it was previous administrations that put wars on the credit card! Why weren't they shouting over fiscal responsibility back then?

I have contacted my Congressman expressing my lack of support for Cap, Cut and Balance. I am equally not impressed with the Reid plan. I SUPPORT tax increases, closing corporate tax loopholes and . . . please . . . please . . . can Hedge Fund Managers pay their fair share? I'll be frank, my husband and I are small business owners, registered Independents and completely middle class. Our income was decimated by the oil spill, and last year we paid a lot more taxes than GE did. Not fair!

Please Senator, do what is right for the middle class. Get some revenues. Protect Medicare. I understand that we need to cut spending, but not on the backs of the middle class. How about letting the Bush tax cuts expire for starters? The President and the democrats have compromised, but the GOP reminds me of playground bully. Shaking down the other kids for their lunch money. I am appalled that they would rather run the country into the ground than compromise! This moderate Independent is angry.

The President asked that we give you guys a shout out to let you know what we think. I support the Democrats. I will do so in upcoming elections as well. The GOP has proved themselves incapable of actual governance.

Sincerely,

MONIQUE M. JONES.

JULY 27, 2011.

Mr. MATTHEW COPE,
Baton Rouge, LA.

DEAR SENATOR LANDRIEU, What is wrong with revenues?? Or why not close a few tax loopholes (or does that constitute tax increases—bilge water!!).

Look at what people were paying in taxes under Eisenhower—we are supremely under-taxed. Why do people think we can fund multiple wars with tax cuts and no revenues??? No one has an inkling of what sacrifice is. Go see Captain America: it's all about the war effort and doing your part. No one does that (or even thinks about it) anymore. Stop enriching those who need it the least. I am a 40-year-old small business owner—all this default talk is doing nothing but making it harder for me to grow my business. And I vote!!!

Sincerely,

MATTHEW COPE.

JULY 27, 2011.

DAVID BERISS,
New Orleans, LA.

DEAR SENATOR LANDRIEU, please stop the idiotic debt ceiling debate. It is time to raise the debt ceiling and move on to legislation that creates jobs.

Cutting government spending and reducing government jobs is a ridiculous and irresponsible policy when we are trying to recover from a recession. Please stop letting the Republican ideologues drive the political debate in Washington. There is only one issue that matters: jobs. The debt ceiling debate is an artificial crisis and a distraction from what matters.

Get this done and move on!

It is all about jobs, not about stupid ideological smokescreens like "big government," or a "balanced budget amendment" (which is a truly stupid idea, by the way).

Can we count on you to work forcefully to get the Senate (and all of Congress) to focus on issues that really matter, like creating jobs?

Sincerely,

DAVID BERISS.

JULY 27, 2011.

Mr. DANIEL THRELKELD,
Fort Polk, LA.

SENATOR LANDRIEU, first of all, I want to thank you for your support of our military. I am a Captain in the Army and have humbly served our great country for nearly 13 years. I am writing to you today to let you know how disheartened and down-right disgusted I am with how our government is dealing with today's economic problems—in particular the debt ceiling issue. I have dealt firsthand with the enormous emotional trauma caused by the last budget problem which almost caused our young fighting men and women to temporarily stop getting paid. At the time, I was a Battery Commander stationed at Fort Lewis. I had combat veterans who served multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan wearing the weight of this country on their shoulders only to have that same country almost turn its back on their pay and benefits. I had numerous Soldiers who lived paycheck to paycheck, and even a temporary stop in pay would have been devastating to that Soldier and his family. Fortunately, you all reached an agreement several months ago at the last minute in which you passed the 2011 Budget so we could get paid.

Now we are at another impasse, and now the military once again faces the possibility of not getting paid. Not only that, but all of the arguing and bickering amongst our Congressmen & Women are bringing our entire economy down. Bottom line: You (all of Congress and the President) need to reach a deal. Throw out all of the politics, Democrat versus Republican tricks, and unite as Americans and make a deal that will bring our country out of this mess. Don't turn your backs on the very people who elected you. Please, from one humble American to another, make a deal and secure our future. I have faith that you will help make this happen.

Respectfully,

CPT(P) DANIEL S. THRELKELD.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Has anybody read the newspapers this morning? It is full of cartoons: Republicans holding the economy hostage. They are not holding Barack Obama hostage. They are not holding Democrats hostage. They are not holding the Federal Government hostage. They have decided to fight the battle on Main Street, holding economic growth hostage, and they think that is a compromise or a fair fight. This hostage isn't strong enough to survive this siege.

Do we ever hear any one of them say that perhaps we need to raise a penny or two or three? Absolutely not. Now, there are Senators who have agreed to do so, but they haven't been as vocal as they possibly could be. I am honored to serve with many good Republicans who understand this equation has two sides: both taking spending down in the right ways and raising revenue.

Let me get one more fact out there, and I will turn it over to my colleague.

I understand corporate tax rates are higher than some other countries in the world, and our corporations are having some tough times, as well as some businesses. But I am going to submit data for the RECORD which shows that the top 400 companies in this country are not paying a 35-percent rate, they are not paying a 34-percent rate, their practical rate is 17 percent. Why would that be the case? Because this Tax Code is full of loopholes for special interests that many of them on the other side think are justified.

So we are not going to be able to solve all of these problems today, but I wanted to come to the floor on behalf of businesses—small businesses and large—and say that when the Republicans start talking about both sides of the equation, these Democrats, including myself, will walk up and negotiate. In the meantime, we are going to work hard to find a deal that works for the American people, and one solution that will work for the American people is not to have to repeat this 4 months from now.

I am going to conclude with this. Just a few months ago, we were getting letters from the other side saying business needs certainty, business needs to know what taxes they are going to pay. They need to have certainty. And then, all of a sudden, today this side is arguing that we have to go through this debate 4 months from now.

I am telling my colleagues that this hostage will not survive their siege. We have to fix this for the long term now.

I am going to turn it over to my colleague from Minnesota, who is going to talk about the businesses in her State and what she is hearing from businesses in her State and why this is so grossly unfair from Republicans who want to bring this economy to its knees, and they are doing a really good job of it.

I yield to the Senator from Minnesota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I thank very much the Senator from Louisiana for her passionate remarks. There is a reason she has that passion, and it is because we are in the ninth inning. This is it. The time for political posturing is over. There is no more time to say we are not going to talk to each other. There is no more time to pretend we can have one plan and then another plan. It is time to get an agreement.

Look at what has happened in just the past week. The markets have gone down more than they have in over a year. We have seen realtors—and this is a study that just came out a few days ago—people backed away from one out of six deals this past month. If you look at the month before, it was

only 1 out of 25. People are feeling the uncertainty in this economy, and it is time to come to a bipartisan agreement.

Last week, I held a call with business leaders from across my State to update them on the status of negotiations, to hear their thoughts and their concerns, and to answer their questions. Their message back to me was clear and unified: If we fail to act, the consequences for our economy are real and serious. I will be honest. They don't care what combination of votes—Democratic, Republican—it takes to get us across the finish line. Many of them may prefer Republican plans, and some would prefer a Democratic plan. What they want is consistency. They want us to get this done. They want us to not default on our debt. They want a deal to be passed by August 2 that prevents the United States from defaulting on its financial obligations and provides some long-term certainty.

Now, make no mistake, they see our debt crisis as real and serious and something that must be addressed. But while failure to bring the national debt under control is threatening America's future, the danger of default is already harming our economy. We must address both. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has called the possibility of default unthinkable and unacceptable, arguing it will have real, immediate, and potentially catastrophic consequences.

As economists and experts from across the ideological spectrum have said, if this continues, interest rates will rise for everyone. That is what they say. This will mean higher rates for American consumers and the small businesses that drive our economies. Car loans, mortgages, businesses, and student loans will all be more expensive. Higher borrowing costs and a falling dollar means slower economic growth and slower job creation. That is the last thing we need right now.

Just an hour ago I received in my office an e-mail from a major employer in my State saying the commercial paper market nearly seized up yesterday, and by the afternoon only overnight rollovers were possible. That is what they were seeing, and that is identical to what happened to capital markets in September of 2008, according to this major company. They said this in the e-mail:

The sooner the debt limit issue can be resolved, the sooner this market can begin functioning as it should and the sooner lenders will begin lending for longer than overnight.

Here are some things I heard from business leaders in my State. This is from Hubert Joly, the president and CEO of Carlson Companies, headquartered in Minneapolis. It owns and manages over 2,000 hotels and restaurants across this country and across the globe. He writes this:

As one of the largest private family owned companies in the United States, Carlson would like to highlight how critical it is for Congress to reach a constructive compromise before August 2 to ensure that the U.S. does not default on its debt obligations. The ongoing uncertainty—

Note that word—

and lack of resolution of the debt ceiling debate is not healthy for the global financial markets or for consumer confidence. It is highly detrimental to the overall economy and to the travel and hospitality industry which millions of families in the U.S. depend upon for their livelihood. We therefore urge congressional leadership to act in the best interests of the nation and deliver a compromise agreement that avoids default and demonstrates the nation has a credible plan to reduce the federal deficit. A short-term fix is not sufficient, as we must not allow or accept prolonged uncertainty, which will only create volatility and instability for the globe and the U.S. economy.

I have multiple other letters—from snow mobile manufacturers, etc., which I will later put in the RECORD. Since we are having dozens come in every hour, I want to get them all gathered for tomorrow. But one gentleman said this:

In regard to the current debt ceiling situation, default is not an option and reasonable compromise is what we need to add certainty that will lead to growth for American manufacturers.

Certainty and growth. Another one:

The current debate over the debt ceiling has serious implications for American business. For example, the impact to my company will be felt not only by 3,300 U.S. employees, but by suppliers, customers, and, consequently, shareholders.

Just in case you do not draw the connection, these are major businesses that are in small towns throughout my State—sometimes the only major employer in those towns. That is what they are saying. Let me tell you, these are not Democrats who are writing those letters. They are not siding on one particular plan or the other. They are just saying: We need a compromise, and we need it by August 2.

Ken Powell, chairman and CEO of General Mills, a major Fortune 500 company, writes:

We think it is critically important for the entire country—both at the business and individual level—that Congress come to an agreement on this issue and move forward.

An individual from a major financial institution that manages the savings and retirements of over 2 million individual business and institutional clients writes this:

I urge the U.S. Congress to reach a bipartisan agreement to raise the debt ceiling and return the country's focus to economic growth and job creation.

None of us in this Chamber wants to see our economy damaged. Democrats do not want it. Republicans do not want it. As these letters show, the business community in this country knows we cannot have this happen. What they want is for us to work together to show the American people

and the world that Washington is not broken; that instead we are willing to put aside our politics to do what we have been elected to do and get this done. That is what is right for America.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, the Senator from Alaska is here to finish out this segment, which is focusing on the difficulties that businesses are going to have. I thank the Senator from Minnesota for joining us for this segment.

I just want to get something in the RECORD before yielding to the Senator from Alaska.

I said the spending is high, 25 percent of GDP. Everyone acknowledges that. We are working hard to get it down. But I want to put in the RECORD that revenues coming into the Treasury are the lowest since World War II, at 14 percent. We do not have revenues in this solution because Democrats have compromised and conceded on this point, which is a very difficult compromise for us to make when faced with the truth of the situation. But in trying to compromise, we have done that. We have not been met halfway. I hope the minority leader will reengage with the majority leader—having said last night he did not believe he wanted to engage with the majority leader to try to come to a compromise—because businesses are depending on it.

Finally, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an excellent column in the Washington Post today to capstone my remarks.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post]

(By Colbert I. King)

LIMBAUGH'S SINGULAR FOCUS

Rush Limbaugh was responding to my observation during Gordon Peterson's "Inside Washington" show on ABC-7 last weekend that an anti-Obama mood was fueling some of the opposition to getting anything done in Washington. Referring to Limbaugh's commentary earlier in the week, I said that he made "no reference to saving the country, no such reference to averting disaster with the debt ceiling. It was a question of helping or hurting Obama."

I wasn't wrong. Limbaugh continued his anti-Obama rant during last Monday's show: "Mr. King is, in a way, exactly right. . . . The point is you can't save the country if you don't defeat Obama."

Which helps explain the virtual knee-jerk opposition of right-wing Republicans to anything that comes out of the Obama administration. It also explains their willingness to put the country on the path to economic suicide if the downgrading of U.S. debt will help bring down President Obama. For wingers, there is no price too high to pay to break Obama. Sabotaging the president of the United States is, in their view, good for the country.

It seems to have been ever thus. Limbaugh was pulling for the Obama administration's downfall even before the president took the

oath of office. Four days prior to Obama's inauguration as the nation's 44th chief executive, Limbaugh famously declared, "I hope he fails."

Barack Obama, contends Limbaugh, is the danger from which America must be saved.

As the Limbaugh camp sees it, Obama is a threat to the American way of life. They hold that he is the cause of 9 percent unemployment and the reason homeowners are underwater. Three years of Barack Obama—not eight years of George W. Bush—are why prosperity is beyond the reach of many Americans. And it is the prospect of, in Limbaugh's words, "Obama having control over all the money and choosing to whom to send it, to distribute it, or redistribute it," that threatens America.

That Obama hasn't collapsed keeps conservatives like Limbaugh up nights. They won't acknowledge it, but under Obama's leadership—and within three years after inheriting one of America's worst enemies—a bleeding al-Qaeda is on the run, and Osama bin Laden is swimming with the fishes.

Troops are finally coming home from a costly, Bush-inspired Iraq war that is leaving our arch regional foe, Iran, strategically better off than it was before the U.S. invasion.

The automobile and financial services industries—on the ropes when Bush left office—are back on their feet. For the first time, 30 million uninsured Americans will face the future with health insurance.

Not to mention the mess Bush left behind: a projected \$1.2 trillion deficit, two wars and huge tax cuts for the wealthy—all financed by borrowing.

Obama, to be sure, has spent trillions, in part because he was trying to extend health-care coverage and stave off another depression. But prior presidents incurred most of the nation's \$14.3 trillion debt.

The country is going downhill, Limbaugh asserts, "because of policies implemented by [Obama] who, I don't care, is either clueless or is himself a saboteur." Note the allusions to stupidity and subversion—staple slurs in the conservative book of slime.

Make no mistake that is the mindset that stands in the way of saving the country.

Produce a package that staves off default, lifts the debt ceiling high enough to cover federal obligations into 2013, reins in the budget by cutting \$4.5 trillion over the next decade through spending reductions and the elimination of tax loopholes and tax breaks benefiting the rich, and guess what? A solid phalanx of congressional right-wingers, egged on by Limbaugh, says no. And, hell no, if it means Barack Obama might share the credit.

Getting Obama isn't just an important conservative Republican goal; it seems to be their only goal.

And Limbaugh has the unmitigated gall to go on and on about how much he cares about saving the country, telling his listeners: "Every waking moment . . . even when I am on the golf course, I care."

Now that's what you call sacrifice.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I thank the Senator from Alaska, who has been an absolutely outstanding champion for small business not only in Alaska but around the Nation, who will talk with us about this short-term, repeat, 6-month uncertainty and how damaging that would be to businesses in Alaska. I thank the Senator for joining us.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Louisiana very much.

I am happy to join my friend from Louisiana and my friend from Minnesota. I am a small business owner. I have been from my teenage years. My wife is a small business owner. I understand the plight they go through—how to raise capital, how to start a small business, how to take a dream to reality. Sometimes those dreams do not work out so well, and what happens next?

As we sit here and talk about the short term versus the long term, in business you lay out a business plan. It is a long-term plan. Businesses that set a short-term plan are the ones that have those big banners that say: "Going out of business." Those are the short-term planners in the business world.

We debate today—and I think we are a lot closer than maybe the media likes to portray—but it is a difference between in the next 6 months do we deal with this issue and have another debt limit vote in 6 months from now, and another 6 months later, and 6 months, or do we plan for the long term, get our economy more stable, more certain, so businesses can invest and do the right thing?

As I said at the beginning, any business that you see that has a short-term plan usually has a sign that says: "Going out of business" or "Quitting."

We are not going to quit. We are going to have a long-term plan.

I heard earlier today my colleague and friend from Georgia, from the other side, who practiced in real estate, Senator ISAKSON. Both of us have been in the real estate business for many years. As he said, also, we are closer than people think we are. But we have some slight differences, ones we need to make sure we resolve and move to a long-term plan.

Earlier this week, I challenged businesses that want to have a short-term plan to call my office; I would be happy to mention them on the floor of the Senate. I waited and I waited and I waited. No one—not one business—called my office and said: Give me a short-term plan. But I will tell you, several Alaskan businesses did call my office and say: Compromise. Get a long-term plan.

Let me read to you from just a couple.

JoeMarie Thomson from Anchorage owns Crucible Designs, a Web site design firm. She writes:

I'm very concerned about the posturing surrounding the debt ceiling negotiations. As a small business owner I'm already seeing the effects of this uncertainty. My clients are also small business owners and so I am right in the line of fire on this one.

I've heard from more than a few clients that if the U.S. defaults on the debt that the resulting interest rates will put them out of business. With this fear increasing the closer we get to August 2, it's really hurting my bottom line.

Another one, Rita Fleckenstein from Anchorage, owns Rita's Family

Daycare, a small daycare center for children. Her husband is retired Air Force.

It is my sincere hope that you will try to influence your other Alaskan partners to take a balanced approach to solve the current budget crisis. I am a small business owner and loyal Alaskan voter and I am tired of all this posturing among the House members.

She is referring to the debate that occurred last night.

A man from Anchorage:

I am a long time Alaskan, father of two, Iraq war veteran, small business owner, and my small business provides engineers and managers to the oil and gas industry in Alaska. I am a registered independent but am conservative in regards to budgetary issues.

... As a small business owner, I would never jeopardize the well being of my family, my employees, or my clients in regards to a business agreement or transaction. There is always room to compromise and allow all parties engaged in the deal to walk away with the feeling they got a fair deal. ... I fully expect increases in my taxes and am ok with that in order to continue to support our country.

Another one, actually from someone I know well, who owns Arctic Wire and Rope, Eric McCallum. He won Alaskan manufacturer of the year in 1986 and employs 14 people. He is important to our oil and gas industry. Fortunately, Eric has no debt, but he is terribly concerned about the debt crisis. He says small businesses like his are the "canary in the mineshaft" and will be negatively impacted more than big businesses. Eric states:

There will be far more impact on Main Street than Wall Street from this debt crisis.

Eric adds that he is more than willing to pay his fair share to help balance the Federal budget.

These have come in and in and in, and it is amazing to see what people are talking about in my State. There are 68,000 small businesses in Alaska. My wife is one of those. Almost 16,000 employ many employees. The fastest growing segment of our business community in Alaska is small business, growing by almost 31 percent over the last 6 years.

Mr. President, I say to my colleagues, to the Senator from Louisiana, as a small businessperson, all they want to see is certainty. They want the bickering, the partisan bickering to end. They want certainty so they can continue to invest and see their future.

There are just some simple differences that I think the folks from both sides can sit down and work through. One is, clearly, how long should this debt limit increase go for? As I said earlier, if you do a short term, that is the business that is saying: I quit. I am out of business. If you do a long term, it gives certainty and opportunity to plan and build for the future.

Should we have a vote up or down separate from the debt limit issue on a

balanced budget amendment? It is a great debate. More than likely, we will probably have that debate. I have supported a balanced budget amendment before. But it is time we raise the debt limit to create the long-term certainty we need for our small business community not only in Alaska but throughout this country, where they are the backbone that will drive this economy in the right direction.

It is an honor, again, to be down here with the chairwoman of the Small Business Committee. She has worked tirelessly on bill after bill. We were unsuccessful this year on a couple that were critical to small businesses because we could not get past the logjam. Maybe this will break the pathway, if we can get past this debt limit in a bipartisan way, where we can then bring many more other small business bills back to the floor because what I hear most often from Alaskans, beside the frustration of what is going on here, is they want us to focus on building this economy, to get regulation out of the way, to help invest in the needed things to ensure that businesses can create the jobs we desperately need not only for the people who are unemployed today, but for future generations. That is what we need.

So, again, Mr. President, I thank you for the opportunity to speak. Again, I thank my friend from Louisiana for the opportunity to say a few words but also for her leadership and her continued tenacity to fight for the small businessperson every single day.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TESTER). The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Alaska.

Mr. President, how much time do we have in this segment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Three minutes.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I thank the Senators, again, from Minnesota and Alaska for coming and making the point and underlying and scoring the point that this filibuster the Republican caucus is holding today—not allowing us to have a simple majority vote on the Reid plan—is hurting business.

As the Senator said, this is a pattern, unfortunately, it seems like coming from the other side. We had to overcome their filibuster just last year to pass the small business bill that is now having a terrific effect throughout the country in some pockets. We still are not where we would like to be, of course, in job creation, and the recovery is slow. I am starting to think that maybe that is what they want—for the recovery to be slow.

Then they filibustered the SBIR bill, which is the largest single research investment program for small businesses in America. We still cannot get that passed. They are filibustered.

Then they filibustered the EDA bill, which is one of the most important programs to Chambers of Commerce, which is not a liberal stronghold in America. Now they are filibustering this bill and demanding a two-step solution, and no businessperson has written to Congress saying they think that is a good way to go.

The opposite. They are saying: Get this over with now. The uncertainty is killing us.

I will yield to the Senator from Alaska.

Mr. BEGICH. Just for a question. The way I understand this is, for people who may be watching or listening, a filibuster requires 60 votes. All we are asking for is the same thing the House of Representatives did last night on their bill.

Ms. LANDRIEU. A simple majority.

Mr. BEGICH. A simple majority, allow an up-or-down vote so we can determine what plan or what action we take. That is all we are asking for.

Ms. LANDRIEU. It would be clear if we could get 51 votes that the Reid plan would pass, just like the Boehner plan passed. Neither one can get the other side to agree. But at least then we would have the basis for a compromise.

But, no, the Republicans have decided we cannot have that vote. So this is getting strung out, and with every hour, with every day, businesses are hurting. Maybe that is what they want because, then, the President can be blamed for businesses not doing well, when they are the ones who are stepping in the way.

The details from the budget summary that I stated: 14 percent of the revenues coming in—this is on the Web site for anybody who wants to know. I have letters from Louisiana that I printed in the RECORD from businesses that have written to me saying: Not a two-step process, a one-step process. Get a good solution and move on.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I would like to begin by speaking for just a moment about some comments the distinguished majority leader gave this afternoon in his opening comments and then talk a little bit about the general issue we are faced with—frankly, in an effort to see if we can come to common ground.

Let me start with a couple comments the majority leader made this afternoon. He has talked more than once about the fact that in his view, the Republican leaders have wasted time by

pursuing a proposal they knew the Senate would not pass. I think there are two things to say about that.

One could say the same about the majority leader's proposal. He hopes the Senate will not pass that either. So we have two proposals, one by Speaker BOEHNER that passed the House of Representatives but Senator REID declared dead on arrival, and indeed it was tabled last night; the other, the Reid proposal, which is also dead on arrival in the Senate. As Leader MCCONNELL noted this morning, there is a letter that has sufficient signatures on it to defeat it, and, in addition to that, I can tell you I have talked to my colleagues—all my Republican colleagues—and it will be defeated. I think the majority leader knows that.

So the only question with regard to the Senate majority leader's proposal is, Why would we waste additional time debating a proposal we know is going to fail? Why have that vote at 1 a.m. tomorrow morning? Let's get it done, get it over with, and move forward. I think that is the best way to try to reach a conclusion.

I would also note the reason the majority leader declared the Boehner proposal dead was for two reasons; one, because it had a balanced budgeted amendment attached to it. I just wish to make the point that I know most of my Democratic colleagues do not support a balanced budget amendment. But I do think it is worth noting that depending upon which poll, 70, 80, more than 80 percent of the American people support a balanced budget amendment.

I do not think we can blame Speaker BOEHNER for including a balanced budget amendment in the Boehner legislation that was sent over here. It is pretty logical that if the American people say they support something with that degree of support, that we would include it in legislation to try to balance the budget.

But the majority leader here said no. That means it is dead on arrival in the Senate. That should tell us something about the Senate Democrats. President Obama talks about the need for a balanced approach. Speaker BOEHNER says: How about a balanced budget? Leader REID says no. That is the first point.

It seems to me the second point is there is a difference of opinion about how long this debt ceiling extension should last. Speaker BOEHNER has always said there should be at least a dollar-for-dollar reduction in spending for every \$1 the debt ceiling is increased. I think that makes sense. If we are going to increase the debt ceiling \$2.4 trillion, then we ought to have \$2.4 trillion in savings; otherwise, we are going to have to keep on raising the debt ceiling over and over. I would note the savings are savings that occur over a 10-year period of time. So it is not as though we are cutting that im-

mediately, although the debt ceiling extension would be \$2.4 trillion for just the next 16 months. That is how much debt we are going to accumulate, just to the end of President Obama's term in office.

There is not enough savings to do that, that has been agreed to. Republicans have all kinds of ideas about savings that could get to \$2.5 trillion. Democrats have said no. The only thing we can agree on is about \$1.2 trillion. So the Republican leader said: Fine, let's do a debt extension equal to \$1.2 trillion. That takes us at least through the end of the year, and then we will have a committee—both sides agree we need to have a select committee that will make recommendations for how to get the remainder of the savings and potentially more. That is a good idea.

But the President has said he does not want to rely on that process because maybe it will not result in actual savings he can count on. He might have to veto it. For whatever reason, he is not confident it would occur, and he does not want to have to face this issue again at the time he is campaigning for election. I do not blame him for that. He might well view it as a distraction. It certainly is unsettling to the markets.

But I would argue that as much it is a result that we would like to avoid, by the same token, it does focus the public's attention on what we need to do around here, which is reduce spending. We did not get into this mess for any other reason other than the fact that we have spent too much money.

We have had annual spending of about \$1.2 trillion since President Obama became President. We have had annual deficits of about \$1.4 trillion. Do we see any connection there? Obviously, our problem is spending. So we need to get a handle on that. That is why I think the Boehner proposal made sense, but the leader says it was dead on arrival. He was right. The Reid proposal is also dead on arrival. Let's get it over with and move on to a solution we can agree with.

The second thing I wanted to mention, the majority leader has been very critical of what he calls tea party extremists, people who do not want to vote to increase the debt ceiling under any circumstances. It kind of reminds me of Senator Barack Obama, who voted against extending the debt ceiling, and the language is eerily similar. It is "failed leadership" he pronounced. Tea party folks say this represents failed leadership, so we are not going to vote for a debt extension.

The President did not vote for the debt ceiling extension when he was a Member of this body. I do not say that to criticize the President but rather just to suggest to my colleagues that we ought to have the same standard applied to all. If they think it is wrong

for the tea party people to stand on principle and say we are not going to raise the debt ceiling, then they can say the same about President Obama when he was a Senator. But if they are going to criticize the tea party folks for standing on principle, criticizing leadership, saying they do not want to raise the debt ceiling, they might want to think about what their colleague, then-Senator Obama, did.

The fact is, name calling does not help. Let's stop talking about extremist tea party folks. I would not call the President an extremist when he voted against the debt ceiling extension. He has already admitted he made a mistake. Republicans in the leadership in both the House and Senate have made it clear we believe the debt ceiling should be extended. We want to be able to do that, for a variety of reasons we have discussed.

We do not want to put the American economy in jeopardy. We do not want to jeopardize the savings of people who could see those savings dissipate if the stock market continues to go down, and so we do need to get this issue behind us.

The majority leader complained this morning that Republicans need to come talk to him. The minority leader needs to come and talk to him. He said I would have hoped someone would come to us, come to the table, and he specifically referred to Senator MCCONNELL.

My response is, Why do the Republicans always have to come up with the ideas? Three times the House of Representatives has passed a proposal only to be criticized each time by the Democrats who invite them to come up with proposals. Remember, the first was the Ryan budget—savaged by my Democratic colleagues and by the President.

House Republicans said yes; Senate Democrats said no. Then, they came up with cut, cap, and balance, something that is pretty popular around the country. It would cut spending, would cap it, and would ultimately have a balanced budget amendment that would keep it capped. Democrats roundly criticized that. In the Senate, they voted it down.

Finally, JOHN BOEHNER came up with his last proposal, and it also included a balanced budget amendment—declared dead on arrival. The third time Democrats said no. I think Republican leaders are getting a little tired of being invited by our Democratic friends to come up with ideas, only to have them voted down and criticized. Where is the Democratic proposal? Where is the proposal by the President? I think it is time for Democrats to come up with an idea and maybe Republicans can take a look at it to see whether we like it.

Finally, the majority leader said we have another filibuster in our path. "They," meaning Republicans stall and delay. Last night, Leader MCCONNELL

said: Let's have the vote tonight, right now. We do not need to stall or delay another minute.

The majority leader said: No, I do not want to vote on my proposal yet. I want to vote on it at 1 a.m. on Sunday morning. Leader MCCONNELL said today: We are ready to vote on it today without delay—now, at 3 o'clock, at 6 o'clock, whatever. Let's vote on it. We do not need to continue to waste time. The majority leader said: No, we will vote on it at 1 a.m. Sunday morning. OK. I will be here. But I wonder what the American people think of such a dysfunctional body that we cannot even, by unanimous consent, bring a matter to the Senate floor, vote on this motion to invoke cloture to proceed to the leader's bill.

Those are some things I just wanted to comment on that the leader had to say. Finally, what I would like to do is ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD, at the close of my remarks, a Wall Street Journal editorial entitled "The Road to a Downgrade," dated July 28.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, let me quote from a piece of this. The editorial starts by noting that the President:

... inherited a recession and responded by blowing up the U.S. balance sheet. Spending as a share of GDP in the last three years is higher than at any time since 1946. In three years the debt has increased by more than \$4 trillion thanks to stimulus, cash for clunkers, mortgage modification programs, 99 weeks of jobless benefits, record expansions in Medicaid, and more.

The forecast is for \$8 trillion to \$10 trillion more in red ink through 2021. Mr. Obama hinted in the press conference earlier this month that if it weren't for Republicans, he'd want another stimulus.

Wall Street Journal says:

Scary thought: None of this includes the ObamaCare entitlement that will place 30 million more Americans on government health rolls.

Then they conclude:

This is the road to fiscal perdition. The looming debt downgrade only confirms what everyone knows: Congress has made so many promises to so many Americans that there is no conceivable way those promises can be kept. Tax rates might have to rise to 60 percent, 70 percent, even 80 percent to raise the revenues to finance these promises, but that would be economically ruinous.

It concludes:

This insistence on no reform reinforces the notion that our entitlement state is too big to afford but also too big to change politically. This is how a AAA country becomes AA, the first step on the march to Greece.

Charles Krauthammer, a terrific observer of the political scene, in his column Friday in the Washington Post, concluded with the following words:

Obama faces two massive problems—jobs and debt. They're both the result of his spectacularly failed Keynesian gamble: massive spending that left us a stagnant economy

with high and chronic unemployment—and a staggering debt burden.

That is the problem, a staggering debt burden that requires us to increase our debt ceiling, and Republicans are saying: In order to stop this cycle of more promises and more spending, we have to apply some accountability, some common sense, some good judgment. And that means, first and foremost, stop the spending. I note, as I said before, that under President Obama annual spending has gone up \$1.2 trillion in each of the years and the deficit by \$1.4 trillion. I ask again, do you notice any correlation there? That is the problem.

I know my Democratic colleagues love to complain about President Bush. I note that in the year 2007—a year before the recession—the deficit under President Bush was just \$161 billion—a 10th of what the deficit is today.

Mr. President, my colleagues and I all need to focus on the issue before us, which is to begin to reduce spending, to insert some accountability into the process, and to include some system changes so that we can't continue this unwieldy government spending we never seem to be able to stop. The evidence of how difficult it is is the fact that for the last 4 weeks now we have been arguing with each other about how we are going to effect \$2.4 trillion in savings in order to extend the debt ceiling by \$2.4 trillion. We can't figure out a way to do it. That should show you what is wrong with our system and why we need to put in some accountability.

I am confident that over the next 48 hours or so, the White House and legislative leaders are going to find a way to both extend the debt ceiling and come up with savings that begin to create a downpayment on this incredible debt as well as system reforms that will give not just the markets but American businesses and families some sense of assurance that we will be able, in the future, to avoid the problem some European countries are going through right now. But that will mean we have to forget about this business of tax increases—which is the worst medicine possible in a time of recession, as the President himself noted—find ways to reduce spending we can agree upon, provide accountability in our government in the future, and in that way assure everyone that we can continue to grow, that growth will produce prosperity and, ironically, more revenues to the Federal Treasury but, more importantly, the standard of living Americans have become accustomed to and have every right to expect.

I yield the floor.

EXHIBIT 1

[From the Wall Street Journal, July 28, 2011]

THE ROAD TO A DOWNGRADE

Even without a debt default, it looks increasingly possible that the world's credit rating agencies will soon downgrade U.S.

debt from the AAA standing it has enjoyed for decades.

A downgrade isn't catastrophic because global financial markets decide the creditworthiness of U.S. securities, not Moody's and Standard & Poor's. The good news is that investors still regard Treasury bonds, which carry the full faith and credit of the U.S. government, as a near zero-risk investment. But a downgrade will raise the cost of credit, especially for states and institutions whose debt is pegged to Treasuries. Above all a downgrade is a symbol of fiscal mismanagement and an omen of worse to come if we continue the same habits.

President Obama will deserve much of the blame for the spending blowout of his first two years (see the nearby chart). But the origins of this downgrade go back decades, and so this is a good time to review the policies that brought us to this sad chapter and \$14.3 trillion of debt.

FDR began the entitlement era with the New Deal and Social Security, but for decades it remained relatively limited. Spending fell dramatically after the end of World War II and the U.S. debt burden fell rapidly from 100% of GDP. That changed in the mid-1960s with LBJ's Great Society and the dawn of the health-care state. Medicare and Medicaid were launched in 1965 with fairy tale estimates of future costs.

Medicare, the program for the elderly, was supposed to cost \$12 billion by 1990 but instead spent \$110 billion. The costs of Medicaid, the program for the poor, have exploded as politicians like California Democrat Henry Waxman expanded eligibility and coverage. In inflation-adjusted dollars, Medicaid cost \$4 billion in 1966, \$41 billion in 1986 and \$243 billion last year.

Rather than bending the cost curve down, the government as third-party payer led to a medical price spiral.

LBJ launched other welfare programs—public housing, food stamps and many more—that have also grown over time. Last year, the panoply of welfare programs spent about \$20,000 for every man, woman and child in poverty, according to Robert Rector of the Heritage Foundation.

Social Security's fiscal trouble began in earnest in 1972 with bills that increased benefits immediately by 20%, added an annual cost of living adjustment, and created a benefit escalator requiring payments to rise with wages, not inflation. This and other tweaks by Democrat Wilbur Mills added trillions of dollars to the program's unfunded liabilities. Believe it or not, these 1972 amendments were added to a debt-ceiling bill.

None of these benefit expansions were subject to annual budget review and thus they grew by automatic pilot. They are sometimes called "mandatory spending" because Congress is required by law to make payments to those who meet eligibility standards, regardless of other spending needs or tax revenues.

According to the most recent government data, today some 50.5 million Americans are on Medicaid, 46.5 million are on Medicare, 52 million on Social Security, five million on SSI, 7.5 million on unemployment insurance, and 44.6 million on food stamps and other nutrition programs. Some 24 million get the earned-income tax credit, a cash income supplement.

By 2010 such payments to individuals were 66% of the federal budget, up from 28% in 1965. (See the second chart.) We now spend \$2.1 trillion a year on these redistribution programs, and the 75 million baby boomers are only starting to retire.

We suspect that in the 1960s as now—with ObamaCare—liberals knew they had created fiscal time-bombs. They simply assumed that taxes would keep rising to pay for it all, as they have in Europe.

On Monday night Mr. Obama blamed President George W. Bush's "two wars" for the debt buildup. But national defense spending was 7.4% of GDP and 42.8% of outlays in 1965, and only 4.8% of GDP and 20.1% of federal outlays in 2010. Defense has not caused the debt crisis.

Many on the left still blame Ronald Reagan, but the debt increase in the 1980s financed a robust economic expansion and victory in the Cold War. Debt held by the public at the end of the Reagan years was much lower as a share of GDP (41% in 1988 and still only 40.3% in 2008) compared to the estimated 72% in fiscal 2011. That Cold War victory made possible the peace dividend that allowed Bill Clinton to balance the budget in the 1990s by cutting defense spending to 3% of GDP from nearly 6% in 1988.

Mr. Bush and Republicans did prove after 9/11 that the Washington urge to spend and borrow is bipartisan. Republicans launched a Medicare drug benefit, record outlays on education, the most expensive transportation bill in history, and home ownership aid that contributed to the housing bubble. The GOP's blunder was refusing to cut domestic spending to finance the war on terrorism. Guns and butter blowouts never last.

Then came Mr. Obama, arguably the most spendthrift president in history. He inherited a recession and responded by blowing up the U.S. balance sheet. Spending as a share of GDP in the last three years is higher than at any time since 1946. In three years the debt has increased by more than \$4 trillion thanks to stimulus, cash for clunkers, mortgage modification programs, 99 weeks of jobless benefits, record expansions in Medicaid, and more.

The forecast is for \$8 trillion to \$10 trillion more in red ink through 2021. Mr. Obama hinted in a press conference earlier this month that if it weren't for Republicans, he'd want another stimulus. Scary thought: None of this includes the ObamaCare entitlement that will place 30 million more Americans on government health rolls.

This is the road to fiscal perdition. The looming debt downgrade only confirms what everyone knows: Congress has made so many promises to so many Americans that there is no conceivable way those promises can be kept. Tax rates might have to rise to 60%, 70%, even 80% to raise the revenues to finance these promises, but that would be economically ruinous.

Yet Mr. Obama and most Democrats still oppose any serious reform of Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. This insistence on no reform reinforces the notion that our entitlement state is too big to afford but also too big to change politically. This is how a AAA country becomes AA, the first step on the march to Greece.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 12½ minutes remaining.

Mr. RUBIO. Then 12½ minutes.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I rise on the floor today to speak on the tremendous issue that has captivated the attention of our country.

I do not enjoy or relish the partisan role of attack dog. I never found any fun in that. I don't think it is constructive, and I don't intend to become that in the Senate.

I have only been here for 7 months, which means I haven't been here long enough to think any of the stuff that is going on is normal. I certainly don't think anything that goes on around here too often is normal. So I think the fact that I have only been here for 7 months has served me well in that regard.

One of the things I have noticed this week is that Washington is full of—and rightfully so—people from all over the world and our country who have traveled here this week to come and watch their government at work and to see the monuments of the city, and they have found themselves in the middle of this debate.

I think it is important to remind people about what we are debating. It is not a complicated issue. It is straightforward, and here is the way I describe it. The United States—and these are rough numbers but accurate—spends about \$300 billion a month. It has \$180 billion a month that comes to the Federal Government through taxes and other sources of revenue. That means that in order to meet its bills at the end of every month, it needs to borrow \$120 billion.

For much of the history of this country, there have been increases in the debt limit and the ability to borrow money. But what has happened over the last few years is that it is no longer a routine vote because the people who give us our credit rating are saying: Too much of the money you spend every month is borrowed, and we want you to show us how over the next 10 years you are going to borrow less as a percentage of what you spend. So that is why, for years, where the debt limit was routine, it can no longer be routine.

This wasn't just made up in a conservative think tank. The reality is that we cannot continue to borrow 40 to 41 percent of every dollar the government spends, which is what brought us to this point. You would think that, seeing that, our government and leaders in both parties would react to that immediately and work on it.

I have heard a lot of talk today about delaying tactics and delaying votes. I argue to you that this issue has been delayed at least for the last 2½ years. In the 2 years before I even came here, neither this Chamber nor the other proposed or passed a budget. It is a startling figure that for the last 2 years this government has operated without a budget. Think about that. Two years have gone by without a budget.

The first 2 years President Obama was in office, no budget. Some people would stay: Well, that is because of the

partisanship in Washington. That is not true. In the 2 years before I got here, the House and Senate were controlled by members of the Democratic Party, the President's party. In this Chamber, in at least 1 of those 2 years, they had 60 votes; 60 out of the 100 Members here caucused with the Democrats. On Christmas Eve of 2009, they were able to pass a health care bill that was very controversial because they had the 60 votes in the President's party.

Do you know how long it has been since this Chamber proposed a budget? It has been 822 days. That is a long time. A lot of things have happened in the last 822 days, but proposing a budget is not one of them. We got here in January. Seven months have passed, and there is still no budget. Again, there has not been a budget passed, proposed, or offered, and there is still no budget—822 days and every single day I have been here.

In the last 7 days on this debt debate, we have finally seen a proposal from the Senator from Nevada, the majority leader. You would think he would have brought it to the floor. Not until last night. Again, he offered a proposal over the weekend, and still for 6 days we sat around and we did nothing around here. It was never brought to a vote.

You would think these issues would have been worked on in January, February, and March—nothing. This Chamber has done nothing. Talk about delay tactics—they have been delaying for 2½ years.

The President doesn't have the luxury of some of these things. By law, he has to propose a budget. And he did. I will tell you how ridiculous that budget was. Not a single Member of the Senate voted for it, including Democrats. It increased the debt. That is how absurd the budget was.

Where is the President's plan? We have not seen it. Here is the President's plan: a blank sheet of paper. He hasn't offered a plan. Again, if this were a Republican President, I would say the same thing. I do not understand how, on an issue of this magnitude, of this generational importance, the President of the United States has not offered a plan. If somebody has seen the President's plan, please send it to me because nobody else has seen it. It doesn't exist.

This has been their plan all along, by the way. The plan all along was not to take a position, let the days count down until we got to this point, with 72 hours to go, and force a vote on something they wanted. I believe that has been the plan the entire time. You can see it carrying itself out.

Do you want to know why people across America get grossed out by politics? It is by watching this kind of stuff happening. First of all, today and for much of this time, I have heard attacks and name-calling. If we had \$1

billion for every time I hear the words “tea party extremists,” we could solve the debt problem.

Let me read some quotes about the debt limit. I found some pretty extreme quotes, and here is one:

The fact that we are here today to debate raising America’s debt limit is a sign of leadership failure. America has a debt problem and a failure of leadership. Americans deserve better. I therefore intend to oppose the effort to increase America’s debt limit.

That is from a tea party extremist, right? No. This is a quote from March 16, 2006, from then-Senator Barack Obama of Illinois.

I found another extremist quote:

Because this massive accumulation of debt was predicted, because it was foreseeable, because it was unnecessary, because it was the result of willful and reckless disregard for the warnings that were given and for the fundamentals of economic management, I am voting against the debt limit increase.

That must be a tea party extremist Member of the House, right? No. This is from March 16, 2006, from Senator JOE BIDEN of Delaware.

Last but not least is a quote from September 27, 2007:

I find it distasteful and disturbing to increase the debt limit yet again. Clearly, we need to change course. And this debt limit bill is just another reminder of that.

That is Majority Leader REID from Nevada on that date in 2007.

Yet now these same quotes in this context, where we are talking about raising the debt limit more than it has ever been raised in one vote, is extremism? This name-calling is absurd, and it sets this process back.

The other thing I hear: Oh, it is not reasonable. It is a waste of time. This bill cannot pass the Senate—talking about the House bill. Does that disqualify a bill? Well, the Senate bill cannot even pass in the Senate.

Mr. KERRY. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. RUBIO. Yes.

Mr. KERRY. I thank the Senator, and I appreciate it.

I ask the Senator this: As ironic as it may be that on occasion people in the past have indeed voted against the debt limit—both Republicans and Democrats alike—is it not true that in those situations, those votes did not hold the Nation hostage, did not come at a moment of enormous economic fragility, as we are in today, and did not run the risk of default because it was going to pass overwhelmingly every time? Is that not true?

Mr. RUBIO. I will say two things. First, if the Senator from Illinois, Barack Obama, had gotten his way, we would have been in the same position we are in right now. He voted against it. The President has now said he made a mistake and would not have said that were he here today. My point is that the rhetoric 2 years ago was not considered extremist language.

Now, I think it is a myth. There may be a handful of people in the House and

Senate, perhaps, who believe the Nation doesn’t have to raise the debt limit, but by and large everybody recognizes that something must be done about it. I speak for myself, not for any other Member of the Chamber.

What I have also said is that it would be a terrible mistake to lose this opportunity to do something meaningful about the debt and that the debt limit gives us an opportunity to do something meaningful about the debt because the crisis America faces is not one I have defined but one defined by the ratings houses and agencies that have said: If you do not get spending in order, we don’t care whether you raise the debt limit or not, we will downgrade you. What that means is an increase in interest payments for every American.

Mr. KERRY. If the Senator will yield, I appreciate what the Senator is saying. First of all, everybody understands the danger of the rating agencies right now. The problem is, we have to reach across the aisle and negotiate. We have to come to an agreement. Right now, there is not a lot of negotiating going on.

I ask the Senator if he doesn’t agree that there is an enormous difference between the—a moment ago, the Senator said “if he had gotten his way.” The whole point is that everybody knew he wasn’t about to get his way. That was a truly symbolic vote. Today, however, is it not true that we are on the brink of a default, and the absence of negotiation or of a settlement presents us with a far more serious consequence to the unwillingness to raise the debt ceiling today?

Mr. RUBIO. I just ask, is it possible to negotiate with someone who does not have a plan or will not offer a plan or put a plan on the table? The fingerprinting is relevant, but it is not an essential issue here.

Also, in March of this year—March 30, to be exact—I wrote an op-ed piece that ran in the Wall Street Journal which outlined the things I was looking for to be a part of this debate. I was told in March of this year that we didn’t have enough time to do all those things, although later we found that perhaps we did—this grand bargain.

I am prepared, as I stand here today, if there is a meeting going on after this, I am prepared to discuss the things I believe we need to do, not just to raise the debt limit—raising the debt limit is the easiest thing this country has to do right now. That is one vote away. It is hard to show the world we are serious about putting our spending in order so that we can pay our bills down the road.

That is a combination of things I have outlined very clearly not just in March of this year in the Wall Street Journal but in repeated speeches on this floor.

We need to do two things. We need to grow our economy. While the debt is

the biggest issue in Washington, jobs are the biggest issue facing America. If we can get more people back to work, we will have more people paying taxes. If we had more people paying taxes, we would have more revenue for our government. So that is the first thing we need to do, figure out how we can create jobs in America, and I think there is bipartisan agreement on what we can do to do that.

The President himself mentioned regulatory reform as a necessity in his State of the Union. Let’s do it. We have all talked about tax reform—flattening and simplifying our Tax Code. If there are things in that Tax Code that do not belong there because they are the process of good lobbying instead of good policy, then let’s go after those things. Let’s talk about that.

I think we all agree there have to be some changes in discretionary spending. But we also agree that doesn’t solve the problem. That is a small piece of our overall budget. We have to save Medicare, because it goes bankrupt if we leave it the way it is. We have to save Medicaid, because it goes bankrupt if we leave it the way it is.

I can tell that you history will back me up on what I am about to say. There is no government—run by conservatives, Republicans, Democrats, put whoever you want there—if given the opportunity, that will not spend more money than it has. It will do it. It will do it every time. That is why I believe there are at least 20 Members of the Senate in the other party who have voted for some version of the balanced budget amendment. Yet it is something we cannot get a vote on, much less discuss here in the Senate.

I believe there can be compromise on those outlines. But since I believe my time is about to expire, let me close with this. Compromise is fantastic. I would love nothing more than to leave this building tomorrow night having said the Republic still works; I was able to stand shoulder to shoulder with people from States far from mine, with views different from mine, but who love their country so much we were able to come together and save it when it faced this catastrophe. I would love nothing more than compromise. But I would say to you that compromise that is not a solution is a waste of time. If my house is on fire, I can’t compromise about which part of the house I am going to save. You save the whole house or it will all burn down. We either save this country or we do not. To save it, we must seek solutions.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, we have arrived at a moment of truth:

The American economy and our standing in the world hang in the balance as a result of the Republican plan to derail the functioning of our country and bring about the precarious prospect of a major default in our financial condition.

Democrats have bent over backward to compromise. Yet the Republicans continue to put our country in jeopardy. The American people and the American economy are determined for a reprieve from this disaster. We just heard comments by our colleague from across the aisle about getting our tax structure in order. It reminds me of a condition where there is a fire in a house and people start arguing about the color of the fire engine.

What we have in front of us is an imminent disaster that could upset the balance of our functioning as a society and put America, for the first time, in a position of having less support from around the world; preventing people who are hard at work from being able to make ends meet. So we ask: Isn't this a time for our Republican friends to stop playing "gotcha," stop putting politics ahead of the needs of our middle-class families and, instead, start putting the people before politics?

Make no mistake, the people we serve are nervous and concerned. Purchasing power has declined while wage increases have been insufficient for family needs. Many in America are working their fingers to the bone to get out of this economic squeeze and keep their families intact, while all this time the richest among us see monumental gains in their incomes and their wealth.

The people who have the burdens of maintaining our infrastructure, running our military, and defending the very foundation of our democratic country are struggling daily to stay in their homes, hold on to their health care, and get their kids to college. The American people are the ones—the ordinary people, the middle-income people—who will suffer the most if the Republicans force the U.S. Government to default next week. Fourteen million Americans are already out of work, but more than half a million may join the unemployment line if we don't raise the debt limit.

That is only the beginning. The default crisis will send interest rates skyrocketing, which will be adding even more expense on the American middle class, making it harder for them to meet basic family needs. They will be forced to pay higher interest rates for mortgages, student loans, car loans, and credit cards. That money won't help create jobs or rebuild our economy. It will be going to the banks and to China and to investors who are going to demand higher yields for U.S. bond purchases because they will be seen as less reliable in their likelihood of being paid back.

We are also likely to see another calamity on Wall Street if the United States doesn't pay its bills. The stock markets have already been seeing daily declines in anticipation of a reckless attempt to put politics in the middle of a financial Armageddon. One analysis found that shareholders in U.S. stocks lost more than \$400 billion during the past week, while House Republicans were fiddling with a scheme they knew would never become law. But they do not want to write law, they want to destroy the Obama Presidency. That is what the mission is.

The Dow has just had its worst week in a year, and consumers do not have spare dollars for investments because their incomes are consumed by spending money on basic necessities, and because they are aware of losses that will occur from the prospect of default.

Imagine what it will mean to the 401(k) savings of middle-class Americans—much of it accumulated over years—if faith in our country and its value decline sharply as default looms ahead. Their values can go down precipitously.

Other retirement savings can also be wiped out—all because of these punitive actions by Republican representatives. The pain will be excruciating for the neediest Americans. Seniors living on a fixed income can be forced to go without their Social Security checks and the critical health care they receive through Medicare. We might not be able to deliver promised benefits to veterans or paychecks for the men and women wearing our country's uniform in Afghanistan and Iraq.

I want to be clear: A default will injure America's reputation throughout the world. It will weaken faith in the world's most respected financial power, leaving our country's credibility, stability, and financial leadership in doubt. Simply put, defaulting on the debt could trigger an economic collapse of historic proportion.

That is why I plead with our Republican colleagues to join us without delay in adopting Majority Leader REID's plan. Senator REID's plan will provide certainty for middle-class Americans and to the markets because it will provide stability through 2013, and stability is what we need right now.

This plan isn't perfect. Many of us, including me, believe it should include revenues. It doesn't. But that is why it is called a compromise. After we adopt this plan and step back from the brink, we need to work on a balanced approach to get our country back on sound economic footing. That means asking the wealthiest among us to pay their fair share.

I am one of those who was very fortunate in my business experience. I started a company with two other fellows and we have 45,000 employees today. Why? Because our country was there

for me after I served in uniform in World War II. I was able to get an education at Columbia University, and we started a company called ADP. Now 45,000 people have their jobs because of ADP.

Our Republican colleagues have to abandon their obsession to protect the wealthiest among us at an unaffordable cost to the poor and the middle class, and recognize the value of our country's human infrastructure. No economy can grow if it doesn't invest in physical infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, railways, and no society can prosper if it doesn't invest in education. We need to prop up our human infrastructure to fill the future jobs in technology and science and research.

Let's face it, building houses and other physical facilities are never built from the top down. The work requires a strong foundation to guarantee reliability, endurance, and safety, now and for the future. Middle-class families form America's foundation—the pillars of strength, faith in the future, a belief that Americans can survive challenges and catastrophes, and the further belief that no place on Earth exists with more freedom and liberty than our blessed country. But all that could evaporate if default is permitted to occur.

Over the past half century, the debt ceiling has been raised 75 times—almost two-thirds of them under Republican Presidents. In fact, the debt ceiling was increased 18 times under President Reagan and 7 times under President George W. Bush. Our country has never defaulted on its obligations, and default must be prevented if we love our country.

It is time for the Republicans to abandon their "my way or the highway" approach. It is time for the Republicans to stop playing politics with our country's economy. The time for politics is election day 2012—not now.

Let's do our work, keep our precious ship steady and afloat. Majority Leader REID's plan is our last best hope to avoid a disaster, and we need to act on it without further delay.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor, and the remainder of any time I may have.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, if there is one thing in this long, difficult debate there is no question about, one thing all of us have long known, one simple truth we must get past if we are going to avoid default, it is that any bill to get us out of this crisis will need Democratic and Republican votes. There is no partisan solution—no other path, no magic trick at the eleventh hour. There is just compromise. After all the bluster, all the back and forth, and all the posturing, there is just the bill we have before us today. It is a bill that doesn't have everything that all of

us want. It is not the bill that any one of us would have crafted, if we had our way. But it is a bill that can and should be passed to avoid an economic catastrophe that would leave families in every single one of our States reeling.

I understand that compromise has been hard to come by in these negotiations, no matter how hard we try. But with Senator REID's bill, we have taken the Republicans at their word. We have come to the negotiating table and have put forward a plan that goes to great pains to meet every one of the criteria they have called for.

They said they wanted cuts that exceed the debt limit raise. This bill delivers that. They said they wanted no new tax revenues. This bill delivers that. They said they wanted to put in place a process to make even more cuts later. This bill delivers that. They have said they too want to avoid default. This bill is our way out.

I know my Republican colleagues don't want to see us default. I know while we don't see eye to eye on all issues, we all fight for the people of our States. So I know my Republican friends are hearing the same things from families in their home States that I am hearing from mine. I know their offices have been flooded with calls and e-mails from families trying to figure out what they would do if the support they depend on to stay in their homes or put food on their table is suddenly cut off. I know they are hearing from the same seniors and veterans and college students with the same message: Put America first. Get it done. Compromise.

I got a letter just like that from Anne Phillips, from Tacoma, WA, who, after 18 years working, was laid off during the recession. Anne told me about how she felt she was doing the responsible thing by getting up and dusting herself off and going back to college. But now, she said, she is worried sick because of the fact that the interest rates on her student loans, which she relies on to pay for her school, would shoot up if we defaulted. In her letter, Anne made clear who the real victims of this default would be. She said:

Ultimately people like me, my husband, my family, and all the people I know, who are doing their best every day to make a contribution to society will pay the expense.

I also heard from a woman named Brenda Starkey and her husband, retired Navy veterans from Republic, WA. They told me if we don't meet this challenge, they may not be able to afford Medicare payments or VA medical copayments, not to mention basic necessities such as food or electricity or water. Brenda wrote:

I was taught in school about Henry Clay and his great compromise. I still believe this is the way our government is supposed to work, with both sides giving some ground until a common position is met. We deserve more from our government.

I also heard from Social Security recipients such as Alisa Terry from Bellingham, WA, who told me how important that monthly check is to her and just what it would mean if it didn't go out next month. She said, simply:

Social Security is my lifeline. It stands between me and homelessness.

This isn't just about politics; it is about these people and millions more who may not even realize their well-being is on the line today. It is about average American families whose credit card interest rates would skyrocket. It is about homeowners whose mortgage payments will increase by over \$1,000 a year. It is about rising food and utility and gas prices and what that would mean for our already cash-strapped families, and it is about retirement plans that would plummet.

These Americans are looking for real leadership and a real solution to this problem. They don't want more games or gimmicks or short-term patches. For anyone who believes a short-term extension is a good idea, I want everyone to envision what that would mean.

Imagine we are right back here on the brink doing the same thing in 5 short months, only now we are 5 or 6 months closer to an election and the battle lines are drawn deeper than they are today, and we are also smack in the middle of one of the most important economic times of the whole year for retailers and consumers, the holiday season. Imagine what the effect of this crisis and this standstill would feel like then. Imagine holiday shoppers worried that their credit card interest rates are going to shoot up or that next month's mortgage payment is going to break the bank or retailers reluctant to stock their shelves or hire because they are worried about a major disruption in the economy or seniors on Social Security worried their check will not be mailed and their heating bill will go up, not to mention veterans or college students or our troops who would, once again, be put in the spiral of anxiety and insecurity at the holiday times.

They don't want to relive this. America doesn't want to go through this again, and they shouldn't have to—no body should. That is exactly why we need to come together now.

As I said before, the bill in front of us this evening is not ideal. But it gets us to where we need to get to today to protect our families and small businesses across America from market uncertainty and the threat of default. This legislation does make deep and serious cuts to government spending. It does protect Medicare and Social Security benefits that we promised to our seniors and it puts the country on a more sustainable fiscal track and allows us to continue working to reduce the debt and deficit without the threat of economic calamity hanging over our heads again.

Democrats have compromised and compromised again and again, and this bill that is before us now is the fruit of those compromises. It is also the last and best hope of preventing us from defaulting in a few short days on the full faith and credit of our Nation for the first time in our history. There is no other choice. The markets are waiting and watching. Credit rating agencies are waiting and watching. Countries around the world are waiting and watching. But, most important, the American people are waiting and watching. I hope we pass this bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I rise to address this issue of the debt limit and how we are going to go forward. I think it is important, given the conversation I have been hearing this morning, to understand some of the key features that are under discussion.

The first is that the plan that came from the House last night, the Boehner plan, requires the second half of the debt ceiling to be lifted only if a balanced budget amendment is passed and sent out to the States. In other words, it puts a two-thirds vote of each Chamber basically on the process 6 months from now.

What that does is it says to our Nation that we are going to be in continuous debate over this issue the next 6 months, facing a two-thirds vote that is very unlikely to happen. So this crisis is not going to end, not on August 2, not on August 3, not on August 4 but not for 6 months into the future. Then it is not going to end because we are not going to have a two-thirds vote.

It sends exactly the wrong message to our business community which is waiting for a sense of stability that we are through this moment. It sends the wrong message to the international world that is looking at the question of whether they are going to buy Treasury bills. It sends the wrong message in regard to our reputation in the world.

This plan of continuing the crisis for 6 months in order to bring this Nation to its knees just so folks campaign on the fact that they will do better, if you will, does not represent the best of the American spirit. We should be coming together to solve problems, not to extend problems, not to amplify problems, not to hurt families across the United States of America and hurt small businesses across this land.

The second thing the proposal did that we faced last night is it took defense spending off the table for 2 years. Why is this important? It is important because defense spending has grown by over 300 percent in the last decade. It is important because the recent Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates, said there are over \$100 billion of defense programs that do not contribute to our national security. We must be looking

at programs that do not contribute for their intended purpose if we are going to take and address our fiscal situation with the best possible path for America.

Then the Speaker said: Do you know what. There is going to be a supercommittee, but I, the Speaker, am only going to allow it to consider cuts to direct spending, and I will not appoint anyone who would look at the full range of options that is to include programs tucked into the Tax Code.

Just a few minutes ago, my colleague from Florida said if there are tax programs which are there not because of good policy but because of good lobbying, those need to be on the table. He is absolutely right. It is a situation where every citizen understands that whether we spend \$10,000 on a grant or spend \$10,000 on a tax credit, it is the same \$10,000.

There is a reason the Boehner plan has put tax loopholes and tax earmarks and tax programs off the table; that is because inserted into the Tax Code are programs for the wealthy and the well-connected. Why do they want their programs in the Tax Code? Very simply, they avoid the annual authorization process. They avoid the annual appropriations process. In a way, we can think of them as superprograms because they don't get reviewed regularly. That is where the well-connected and the wealthy want to have their programs placed, and they have been very successful. It has been over a quarter century since we have had a systematic review of these programs. But here we are in a fiscal crisis. It makes sense to examine the tax loopholes, many of which have outlived their use, and many others which may still be very valid—and those are the ones we should keep—but we need to examine all of them.

I had a colleague come to the floor the other day, a colleague across the aisle, and he made this argument. He said: There are some tax programs that benefit the middle class, and he proceeded to put up all these charts and all these numbers about programs that benefit the middle class. He concluded that because some of the tax programs benefit the middle class, no tax programs should be discussed as part of this issue.

Well, let's apply the same logic to our appropriations programs. Can't anyone say there are some direct spending programs that benefit the middle class? But then do we turn around and say all these programs should be left unexamined as a result? Of course not. Nor was my colleague across the aisle willing to make that argument. But why did he make such an absurd argument that because some programs are useful, we shouldn't look at any of the programs in the Tax Code? Because he wanted to protect the programs for the wealthy and well-con-

nected. I will tell you, today, there is something terribly wrong with coming to this floor to protect the programs for the best off in our society and doing so under the false claim that they are here to fight for working families. That is wrong, and that is why we must look at every single program.

There is another problem in the bill that we have; that is, if you take Boehner at his word and he is going to take the \$1.5 trillion in the Tax Code under tax expenditures and not allow them to be examined, then the only place we end up going to reach the numbers involved is Medicaid and Medicare: Medicaid, health care for the poor; Medicare, health care for our seniors.

It seems there are Members of this Chamber who want to think of health care as a special privilege for only those who are wealthy in our society. Maybe they should come and live in my community, where we understand that the quality of life is deeply dependent upon one's health.

There was indeed a very interesting experiment in Oregon over the last few years. We did not have enough funds for everyone to participate in Medicaid, called the Oregon Health Plan, and so there was a lottery. So for the first time anywhere in the Nation, there was the ability to study those who got to sign up against a control group of those who didn't. We found out Medicaid made a profound difference in people's lives. It shouldn't come as any surprise that health care makes a profound difference, but many people on this floor have questioned whether health care matters. It is always interesting to hear people who have access to health care, who have it because they are wealthy, who have it because they have a job right here that gives them health care, wondering why we should bother to care about health care for others. These issues are issues we must address as we go forward.

Let me note then that if we proceed with a plan that is guaranteed to paralyze this Chamber over the next 6 months, with an impossible hurdle at the end of that period, we will destroy this economy. We are flat right now. We are not gaining ground. We had a bill, small business innovation bill, research bill on the floor, debated it for 6 weeks, a routine bill. My colleagues across the aisle voted not to end debate so there couldn't be a vote on taking this bill forward.

They were deeply determined to prevent bills creating jobs from getting to the President's desk. Indeed, because we have not been able to take those key pieces of legislation and go forward, here we are with a flat economy.

Now they want to take it to its knees. If we create this uncertainty over the next 6 months, the interest rate goes up on the Treasury bills, the interest rate goes up on home mortgages, the interest rate goes up on car

loans, the interest rate goes up on small businesses, and we get greater unemployment. Is that the outcome we want? Interest is an empty tax, a tax on every family. The estimate is it would be about \$2,000 a year and it buys us nothing, nothing but destruction of the economy. That must not happen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNER). The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments of the Senator who preceded me. We are heading into a territory where we have never been before.

In Washington you get to get your Sunday funnies on Saturday, so I took a little peek at "Dilbert" today. I hope everybody will look at that because it emphasizes the problem.

"Dilbert" says:

I am preparing for the complete meltdown of our financial system. I've got six months of food and water. I have batteries and flashlights and gold coins.

The lady with the triangular hair says:

I'm prepared too. I have your home address and I noticed that your preparations are light on defensive weaponry.

And she says:

Could you add some protein bars to the shopping list?

I want to share with you a letter from a 10-year-old in Wyoming that made our statewide newspaper. He wrote:

What does the Government think of me?

... They think I'm not so smart because I'm too young to know what they're doing, like raising the national debt. Don't they know that I owe the country about \$45,000. I'm only 10 years old. I could buy a lot with \$45,000.

... That's more than my dad earns. But it wouldn't buy everything.

Government shouldn't try to buy everything.

It is my job, and the people's job to buy things we need. I don't want the Government to think for me. They don't know I'm a little brother who doesn't like it when my big brothers tell me what to do, because they aren't always responsible for their own things. I don't tell my brothers what to do with their money.

I'm smarter than they think I am. They should follow the rules.

I thank Eric Mitchell, Crowheart, WY, for his sage advice.

Mr. President, it is disappointing to be here today addressing the U.S. Senate on a topic that we should have dealt with months ago. Our country is in a financial crisis. Erskine Bowles, the cochairman of the Deficit Commission, coined the situation we face as, "the most predictable economic crisis in history," and yet there is no clear path forward to deal with both the short-term need to raise the debt limit and the long-term need to get spending under control. I am disappointed we have made this discussion about the debt ceiling instead of our ever increasing spending. When you spend beyond your means, you have to cut back.

The plans we are considering at this stage in the debate are plans for the

next year to 2 years. While there is merit in making the spending cuts these bills make, they are not the ultimate solution.

We need more significant action. We need to move forward with something bold. My Republican colleagues and I have proposed such plans. I have proposed a solution that would cut just 1 penny from every dollar we spend for 6 years and then cap spending at the historical amount of revenue we take in during the 7th year. In the 8th year, we would have a balanced budget.

Unfortunately, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle refuse to even debate measures like my penny plan or the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act or even the plan put forward by Speaker BOEHNER. At the same time they refuse to debate these measures, they refuse to put forward their own plan for long-term structural changes. They are only willing to debate plans that make changes in the short term, and so we are stuck here debating a plan that is deeply flawed.

I think it is important to look at where the debate is today versus where it was when President Obama was sworn in. It is clear that we have come a long way from where we were when President Obama took office.

In 2009, Democrats in Congress passed a so-called economic stimulus bill that cost \$1 trillion. To pay for it, we borrowed that money, and as the unemployment numbers prove, all that borrowing didn't solve our economic problems. Apparently, we spend over \$275,000 per job—and none of those employees got paid that well. In 2010, President Obama's second year in office, Democrats in Congress forced through an unpopular health care bill which was wrought with budget gimmicks and will ultimately cost our country trillions of dollars. The President's attempt at health care reform was so unsuccessful that the largest problem facing our debt and deficit situation is what we will do to contain health care costs. Another trillion dollars borrowed. Another trillion dollars wasted.

The American people were fed up with congressional Democrats' reckless spending spree and, in November 2010, they voted for real change. Those votes ushered in a new attitude, and 7 months into a Republican-controlled House of Representatives, the debate is entirely different. Instead of looking at where we can spend more money, we are looking at what we can cut. Instead of looking at how to borrow more money, we are looking at how we can change our spending habits so that we have a spending plan that will work in the future. Republicans have heard the people's call for smaller government and less spending, and are committed to taking action.

Earlier this year, Republicans led efforts to cut spending in appropriations

bills for the first time in years. Now, we need to find a solution to cut trillions of dollars of spending at the same time we allow the President to have some additional borrowing authority to pay for the purchases we have already made. The cuts Republicans have proposed are the largest cuts ever seen, but it still isn't enough to fix the problem long term.

Why aren't we looking at a long-term solution to this problem? Why are we forced to look at short-term, piddly spending cuts at the same time we give the President the ability to borrow lots more money? This isn't one person or one party's fault.

The President does have us in a box. During his State of the Union Message, the President could have explained to the American people the dire situation we are facing. The Deficit Commission had already painted the picture. The President needed to premiere that picture. He could have explained that we are borrowing more than 40 cents of every dollar we spend—much of it from China. He could have explained that we are on a spending spree that must be stopped. That was and is the true state of the Union.

After the State of the Union, he could have sent us a serious budget proposal modeled after his own Deficit Commission. Instead, he used the State of the Union to talk about more spending and his budget was such a ridiculous proposal it didn't receive a single vote—Republican or Democratic—when it was put before the Senate.

While the President has failed to lead and deserves a substantial portion of the blame, we in Congress have also put ourselves in this box. During the last administration, we should have worked to contain spending. While we missed that opportunity, when it was clear that we needed to make a major change this year, Democrats in the Senate should have ignored the President's lack of leadership and put forward a budget proposal in the Senate. The House passed a budget, but rather than taking their proposal seriously, my Democratic colleagues demonized the plan as the end of Medicare. They preferred finding a campaign issue as opposed to actually solving the financial problems we face.

Unfortunately, we are quickly running out of options. We are at a catch 22. The country can't afford more debt, but has to have it. If we don't raise the debt ceiling, we won't be able to pay all of our bills and interest rates will go up. On the other hand, if we pass a plan that doesn't fundamentally change the way we do business in Washington, we increase the debt limit with no end in sight and interest rates go up.

The majority in the Senate that brought you banking reform has run up a huge debt and we have all maxed out the Nation's credit cards. Now they want to increase the amount of the

mortgage. Imagine trying to get a loan when nothing has been paid on the principle of the previous loan. Now imagine the lender's reaction when he is told that the mortgagee will be back shortly for another loan.

Let me put this in concrete terms because it might be easier to understand. I am trying to keep these numbers proportional to the \$14 trillion debt. Imagine that you have a loan on a very large house with a mortgage of \$1.4 million. Since buying the house, you have made interest payments, but not a single payment on the principal. You determine you need more money to spend, so you go to the lender and request an additional loan of \$230,000. At the same time you do that, you are honest and you warn the lender that you will be back each year for the next 9 years asking for \$100,000 more each year. You also let the lender know that you don't want to have to pay off any of the principal on the loan, just make interest payments each year.

I don't think any lender would take you seriously, but if he or she did, they would explain that you would have to obtain a variable rate loan. A variable rate loan means that changes in the risk or the economy could drive interest rates much higher and there would be no protection from those higher interest rates. In other words, your loan with an excellent interest rate of 2.5 percent could go to an interest rate of 5 percent or 10 percent, or like under President Carter, over 18 percent a year. A 1 percent increase in interest rates for the U.S. debt would cost another \$1.3 trillion over 10 years. That is just a 1 percent raise.

The lender would point out that the raise in debt plus the rise in interest rates could result in your entire paycheck going to interest—and the interest payments would have to come ahead of food, clothing, and any social needs—for you, or for your children or your parents or your grandparents. That is what we are talking about here as the future for the United States—interest payments on the debt being the only thing we could pay for.

If the banker were foolish enough to consider such a loan, he would want to know what spending changes you were going to make. He would expect changes immediately, not piddly changes this year for a promise of a big change in the 9th year. He would want some proof that you are serious.

If we act now and agree to cut 1 percent—the 1 percent solution, just 1 penny of each dollar—from all our spending and reduce the cap to the new spending by that level for each of the next 7 years, the lender “might” consider your loan. There is a good chance he would expect 2 percent or 3 percent in cuts for the first year to demonstrate that you are serious about kicking your spending habit.

We are in that situation today in Congress. The President is asking for a

\$2.4 trillion loan increase—the largest loan increase in our Nation's history. Our lenders will explain to us, if we are worried about the low income, the downtrodden, and the less fortunate today, we should see what will happen to those individuals if we don't cut spending. If we reach a situation where all of our revenues are going to interest payments on the debt, the future prioritization to pay for our debt will be unbearable. We can't go out 18 months. The American people don't trust us. We need to be accountable to the people. We need an enforceable, accountable plan with quicker results.

Some might argue that the lender would just expect you to bring in more money. My Democratic colleagues suggest just that when they say we must raise taxes. But everyone knows that if you ask your boss for a raise because you can't control your spending, you could be fired or demoted and, as a result, you would be bringing in less revenue. I don't need to tell you that our bosses—the American people—don't think much of how we have been working for them, and they don't expect a tax increase each time Washington gets addicted to giving away money.

The plan the majority leader has offered uses budget gimmicks to avoid real spending cuts and gives the President a debt limit increase that, while politically expedient, fails to put our country on a workable path. It doesn't provide a way to assure any substantial cuts will be made. While it maybe makes some necessary spending cuts today, it does not provide us with relief from our long term challenges and does not put us in a situation where we would be forced to make the tough choices.

We know that the majority leader's proposal won't pass. Every Republican has made clear that they will oppose the proposal and so it doesn't have the chance to move forward. We have made clear that we will not give the President the single largest debt ceiling increase in history for double the average time generally allowed since 1940 through the proposal the majority leader has offered. We have offered to vote on his proposal time and time again, and for reasons beyond comprehension, he refuses to allow a vote. He did a vote within 30 minutes of the time that the House bill came over here, but he wants to drag out the vote on his bill. I know delay will bring the pressure until the last minute, but that is not how a reasonable government works. I wish we had taken action earlier to avoid the situation we find ourselves in today. I wish the proposal before us was a serious effort to make structural change to how we spend money.

Instead we all know the plan put forward by the majority leader will be voted down later tonight or tomorrow, and we will be in the same place we are

right now—in the box where we need to raise the debt limit, but we also need to make structural changes to get our fiscal house in order to keep the markets from melting down.

We do recognize that we are about to enter territory where our country has never been. The stock markets are already reacting. Because we are debating short-term solutions, this debate will continue on even after we act on the debt ceiling.

I hope we can come together on a debt ceiling increase and a plan for real spending cuts. That is where the emphasis needs to be, and it has to have enforcement. I hope the debt ceiling is limited to the amount of guaranteed cuts. I hope we can put our country on a sustainable, fiscal path.

I yield the floor.

Mr. PAUL. I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with my Republican colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, we are in the midst of a debt crisis, I think some of it created by the President because he has refused to take off the table the fact we would default on our debt. I think that is irresponsible, and without a doubt the President should come forward and say he will pay the interest on the debt.

On our side we have been willing to compromise all along. We have been offering plans. We passed two plans in the House. Now we have a plan before us, a Democratic plan, to raise the debt ceiling, and there are some of us who would vote for this Democratic plan who might require some amendments or some compromise. There would have to be some input from our side. Yet even though this bill was introduced yesterday and Republicans said they would vote for it, the Democrats are now filibustering their own bill. What is funny is, they filibuster their own bill and then point fingers and say we are trying to stop things. We are here today to try to move things forward.

In the spirit of trying to reach a compromise before the deadline comes, I would ask unanimous consent that the vote on the pending cloture motion occur immediately or as soon as possible, 5 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, under the filibuster rules of the Senate, there is a requirement of 60 votes for cloture. We have said we are prepared to move to a timely vote on this pending amendment, a majority vote, the same as Speaker BOEHNER had in the House. I would object unless the Senator from Kentucky wants to amend his unanimous consent request to make it clear that this will be a unanimous consent which I have spelled out in detail, if he would like me to present it.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I would remind the Senator that there is a difference between the Senate and the House. Our Founding Fathers gave great power and leeway to the Senate. We were meant to be a check and a balance against unbridled enthusiasm sometimes from one party or another. So I would object to that motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. DURBIN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I would ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to present an amendment. This amendment would be an amendment to the Reid bill. Under this amendment what would happen is, I have at least 10 Republicans who will vote for the Harry Reid bill which would allow a compromise, which allows the debt ceiling to rise.

I know the President is worried about having campaign time. He is worried about getting back out and doing some fundraisers. He does not want to consider the debt ceiling again before his reelection campaign. So this amendment I would offer would allow us to move forward in a bipartisan way.

All Republicans are asking for is that we balance our budget gradually over a 7- to 8-year period. What this amendment would do that I am asking unanimous consent to present is an amendment that says we will raise the debt ceiling contingent upon passing a balanced budget amendment.

I would ask unanimous consent I be allowed to present this amendment to the Reid bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. PAUL. What I think this illustrates is compromise—the pundits say compromise is the mark of an enlightened person. We are trying to compromise. I just offered to pass the leader's bill. I have offered to work with them. I am from the tea party. They say we will not compromise. I am willing to raise the debt ceiling. In fact, we worked on a motion that has gotten more votes than any other motion that has been set forward, and that was cut, cap, and balance that would have required a balanced budget amendment to be passed but would have raised the debt ceiling.

What do we hear from the other side? Intransigence. Who is refusing compromise? It sounds to me like the other side is refusing compromise.

I have with me my distinguished colleague from Utah and would like to hear his thoughts on where the fault lies and where we could come to if we were to compromise to try to find an agreement.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, a number of us, myself included, have been arguing since January—ever since we arrived here and were sworn in this very room—that the national debt is a permanent problem. The almost \$15 trillion that we now owe as a nation is permanent. It is going to take a long time to pay off. There are people who are not yet old enough to vote. There are people who will be born in a few years who are not even here who will one day have to assist in paying off that debt.

The fact that this is a long-term problem means it requires a long-term solution. That is why we have been saying all along that we ought not raise the debt limit yet again—extending our national debt by another \$2.5 trillion, more or less, without a permanent solution in place.

Herein lies the problem. It is difficult or impossible for one Congress to come up with a set of budget numbers that would necessarily bind future Congresses. We can come up with a plan to cut \$2 trillion or \$3 trillion over a 10-year or 15-year period, but if future Congresses don't want to go along with that, they can find their way out of it. This has happened again and again as we have seen with Gramm-Rudman-Hollings, as we have seen with the pay-go rules. Congress becomes a walking, breathing waiver unto itself. We need a permanent solution. This is why we have settled on the need for a balanced budget amendment.

As my distinguished colleague—the junior Senator from Kentucky—has just pointed out, there is no intransigence in our position. Those of us who identify with the Republican Party, those of us who identify with the tea party are people who want a solution. We were sent here with a mandate by voters, a mandate that says the Federal Government is too big and too expensive.

Now, resistance to this message from the other side of the aisle, as vehement as that resistance may be, is not genuine if what it says is, in this instance the insistence for a balanced budget amendment is itself reflective of an unwillingness to compromise. There are myriad opportunities to compromise within that general framework. We have offered that. We have extended that.

Republicans have now submitted no fewer than two bills that have passed the House of Representatives to address the debt limit issue, both of which have been stopped dead in their tracks over here without further opportunity, most importantly, without a response by the Democratic Party in the Senate or otherwise.

If there is either party in this discussion that is refusing to compromise, it is not ours. If there is any group that has failed to offer solutions, it cannot be described as the tea party movement.

I ask my colleague—the junior Senator from Kentucky—do you see any element within the tea party movement, any element within the Republican Party that is unwilling to compromise or that is wanting to block just for the sake of blocking?

Mr. PAUL. No. From going to hundreds of tea party rallies and grassroots rallies with voters across America, what I see is they want what is best for America. I don't think they particularly care whether it is a Republican plan or Democratic plan. They want what is best for America. They want a solution.

The problem with the debate in Washington is all of the proposals seem to want to add more debt. We have \$14 trillion worth of debt, and both the Republican and the Democratic proposal will add \$7 trillion to \$8 trillion more in debt.

What I think the folks in the tea party want—and those who are concerned about passing on the debt to their kids and grandkids want—is to spend less. I think a great contrast and what illustrates the problem is spending is going up 7 percent a year. Nobody is talking about cutting that spending. They are talking about cutting the rate of growth of that spending.

There is a new plan out called the one penny plan. It would have real cuts of one penny on every dollar spent. The other side pulls their hair and says: Oh, you are so radical.

We say: We want to cut one penny out of every dollar of government spending. Is that radical?

The President has said it is a dysfunctional place. He is right in that sense. I think some of the dysfunction comes from the hypocrisy or from the other side not really listening.

For example, the balanced budget amendment. They say polls show routinely 75 percent of Americans are for it. Routinely, about 14 percent of Americans seem to be approving of this body. The question I would have is—maybe it is we are not listening well enough. Maybe we are not doing what the people want.

Mr. LEE. That certainly appears to be the case. It is a reminder to us of the fact that no matter how much we might be tempted at times to demagogue this issue, no matter how tempting it might be for certain Members of this body to cast blame elsewhere, they cannot escape one simple fact, which is the American people are demanding more. They are demanding that we spend less. They are demanding that we stop this barbaric practice of perpetual massive-scale deficit spending. Why? Because it erodes individual liberty. It takes money people have not yet made and spends it and obligates them to repay it—in some cases before they are old enough to vote, in other cases before they are even born. We need a permanent solution.

When we put something in the Constitution, it serves as a permanent reminder of the fact that we, as a people, have made a decision, and we are going to move forward. Not everybody will necessarily agree as to how best we should move forward having made that decision. The American people overwhelmingly, to the tune of 75 percent, support the idea that we should amend the Constitution to restrict Congress's deficit spending power.

Mr. PAUL. When people talk about Washington being dysfunctional, and they are upset with what is going on in Washington, I think one of the things that upsets people is hypocrisy—people who say one thing and do another. That is a sad state of affairs. People run on one idea and then they completely change their ideas.

The President was a Senator, and he spoke on the Senate floor. Here are his words in 2006.

The fact that we are here today debating raising America's debt limit is a sign of leadership failure.

He was sort of pointing fingers. Everybody's pointing fingers. It is someone else's fault. I call that sort of the empty partisanship. His conclusion, then, is voting to raise the debt limit would send a bad signal. It would send a signal to our leaders that they are doing the right thing.

I have often said there is no objective evidence that Washington or Congress is spending our money wisely.

The Pentagon says they are too big to be audited. They cannot balance their books. There was \$100 billion unaccounted for in the budget last year. There are \$5 billion worth of duplicate programs the GAO found. There are, I believe, 82 different programs to train workers. Could we not deal with one Federal program training workers instead of 82 different ones doing the same thing? But this is it. The President said raising the debt ceiling would be a mistake. Now that he is President, he has changed his mind. I think the hypocrisy of that is what makes Americans unhappy.

The President said the same thing on war. He said no President should unilaterally go to war without congressional authority, and here we are at war in Libya with no vote in Congress. He said he has a piece of paper from the United Nations. We didn't elect the United Nations. We have a Constitution, and it requires those issues be debated in Congress.

People are unhappy because we are not doing the people's business. We haven't had a budget in 800 days. Do you know what. It is against the law. It is against the law not to have a budget. We haven't had a budget in 800 days, but the budget law says we should have a budget every year. We are supposed to match our appropriations bills with the budget. We are not doing it.

The American people are unhappy we are dysfunctional and that we are not

doing the people's business. We have also become profligate spenders—spending money we don't have. I think we risk great dangers.

I ask the question to this Senator from Utah: What is the answer? How do we get out of this when we seem to be so far apart, and even on both sides we don't seem to be tackling the issues in a way that would allow for significant cuts in spending?

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I have a friend by the name of Ron McMillan, who lives in my hometown of Alpine, UT. He is the author of a number of books dealing with business negotiations, dealing with trying to figure out how compromise can be reached.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senators has expired.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for an extension of 2 minutes to finish our thoughts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. I don't object, as long as this side is given an additional 2 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEE. In that series of books, the crucial conversation line of the books, one of the things he encourages people to do is to find whatever common ground they can reach.

I think there is common ground among the American people generally that we should balance our budget. Not everyone agrees about how we balance the budget, what should be cut, but they do agree we should balance it. That being the case, that is where we ought to focus our efforts. We should focus our efforts on amending that law of laws, that 224-year-old document that fostered the development of the greatest civilization the world has ever known. We should change it, again, to improve it, to restrict Congress's borrowing power.

The plan proposed by the Democrats that is now about to come before us puts our budgeting process on autopilot. It doesn't require another budget for 2 years, preserving the ability of ObamaCare to fund itself without a single additional debate in Congress. This is wrong. This is not the right approach. I object to it. For that reason, I, along with some of my other Republican colleagues, am prepared to vote on this and vote no on it right now. We are not the ones delaying this vote.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I would say that what Americans don't like is empty partisanship. That is what is going on today. Democrats are standing and beating their chests saying: Republicans will not let us have a vote. It is untrue. I have offered to have the vote. We have seen the objection before our own eyes. They would not vote on this.

Let's dispense with the empty partisanship. Let's move forward and have

a vote. If they would let us have one amendment—an amendment that would gradually balance the budget over 7 to 8 years—I will vote for their proposal and I will ensure enough votes that it will pass.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, before I yield to the Senator from North Carolina, I wish to note that last night, the two Senators who just finished their colloquy had an opportunity to vote for the Boehner plan which required a constitutional balanced budget amendment. Both Senators Lee and Paul are registered as having voted to table the Boehner approach, which includes that requirement for a balanced budget amendment.

I yield to the Senator from North Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mrs. HAGAN. Mr. President, we are here debating the government's fiscal deficit. It is an important topic, one worthy of serious debate. Of course, I wish I could characterize the mindless partisanship of the last several months as serious debate, but I fear this doing nothing debate is distracting us from another deficit that is front and center in the hearts and minds of the American people; that is, the jobs deficit.

Just yesterday, the Department of Commerce reported that the economic recovery has been far slower than previously thought. Our economy grew at a rate of less than 1 percent in the first half of 2011. That is not news to the hard-working families of North Carolina where unemployment statewide is almost 10 percent and nearly one-half million people are looking for work. They have been struggling since the housing boom went bust 4 years ago. Those people with jobs haven't seen the size of their paycheck increase, but their monthly bills have certainly been increased, along with the cost of gasoline. Just getting to your job in the morning, if you are fortunate to still have one, is more expensive. Yet we spend all our time in Washington bickering, posturing, and name-calling. Our constituents must be watching from home scratching their heads and wondering why Washington is debating whether we should avoid a default that would make this economy even worse.

Let me tell my colleagues what is happening in North Carolina. Since the start of the recession in 2007, we have lost over 300,000 jobs in my State. More than two-thirds of the counties—68 out of 100—have unemployment rates above 10 percent. In my hometown of Greensboro, the unemployment rate is stuck at 10.8 percent—the same level as last year. That is right, no change in 12 months. People are working harder without getting ahead or looking for work longer without being able to find

a job. Yet we continue to spend all our time in Washington bickering and posturing and name-calling.

The people of North Carolina and the people of this great country are fed up with political games. They are telling me enough is enough. What they want is for Members of Congress to come to the table—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—and find bipartisan solutions that can get our economy growing and put people back to work; for example, commonsense legislation such as the America Works Act that I introduced to create a nationwide and industry-recognized portable credential system so employers with job openings can find those workers with the right skills, and workers with the right skills can find the jobs they are qualified for.

There is also the bipartisan Hire a Hero Act that my colleague from Massachusetts and I introduced to combat the unacceptable trend of higher unemployment among our veterans.

Let us not forget we have a program that has been expired since February that helps workers who have had their jobs shipped overseas find new work. There is action we could take, but these commonsense ideas aren't getting their due time because of the partisan shenanigans going on now.

This past month, I went on a budget-listening tour across North Carolina, and the messages I kept hearing were that we need to address our mounting debt and get our long-term fiscal house in order. We borrow 40 cents of every \$1 we spend, and it is hurting our ability to invest wisely in the things we need to, such as education, infrastructure and research and development that will ensure a prosperous American future.

Yesterday, with my office receiving a barrage of calls from concerned constituents, I answered the phones all afternoon. The message I heard was loud and clear: Please stop the partisan posturing and get something done.

Unfortunately, the plan from the House falls far short of those goals of bipartisanship and consensus. Instead of aiming for compromise and certainty, it represents just another partisan, short-term patch that ensures the debate will drag on for another 6 months. After what Washington has put our country and the market through, I don't know anybody who thinks it is a good idea to do this for the next 6 months.

We all need to remember what we were put in office to do. We were not sent to fight for the sake of fighting. We were not sent to see who could win the most political points, and we certainly were not sent to throw this country into a default crisis because of our own inability to compromise.

But we were sent to get the work done. We were sent to work together on solutions to the most pressing challenges of our time. Most important, we

were sent to rev up the great American economic engine to allow businesses to hire and to get the American people back to work.

The clock is ticking. The challenges of reducing our debt and our deficit are undoubtedly difficult, but they are not impossible—not if Washington takes to heart the message of principled compromise and leadership I receive every day from North Carolinians. We must commit to a balanced, bipartisan plan that reduces our debt while protecting our seniors, students and veterans and makes the critical investments in education, infrastructure, and research and development we need for a prosperous American future. We need to focus on the most important goal of all; that is, jobs, jobs, jobs.

I urge all my colleagues to support the Reid amendment and to put this crisis behind us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, we are faced with a difficult challenge, and we know the American people watching us over so many days now understand the basic challenge we face. It is a challenge of reducing deficit and debt and cutting spending but also making sure we have a bipartisan agreement to pay our bills and to meet our obligations.

I think if I had to boil it down to four words, it is these, in terms of what people in Pennsylvania have told me we must do. It is very simple, but I think it encapsulates everything we have to do in the next couple hours—the next couple days—and that is compromise for our country. That is what people are looking for, people all across the country.

I hear from families in Pennsylvania all the time. These are families who have led lives of struggle and sacrifice, families who have lived through so much already. Many remember and have lived through the Great Depression and World War II and wars after that, economic downturns, personal tragedies, job loss—all kinds of misery and all kinds of difficulty. But throughout our State, and I think throughout the country, people have figured out a way to work together, to compromise in their own lives, even when they don't want to make a compromise, and they have figured out a way to work together, whether it is at a work site or at home.

I hear these same messages from people all the time. Let me give a sample of some of the feedback I have gotten from Pennsylvanians just in the last couple days. We purposefully chose three excerpts from three letters from three parts of our State: southwestern Pennsylvania, the middle of the State, and the eastern side of our State.

From Fayette County, way out in western Pennsylvania, here is an excerpt from a letter I just received:

In order that we do not dip back into recession, it is imperative that responsible people start acting in a responsible manner. Get this issue resolved in a manner that is best for the American people and not what is best for "political parties."

That is part of one letter from southwestern Pennsylvania.

Then, I move to the middle of our State, literally called Centre County:

Please stop the bickering and work together to get the job done. . . . Do your jobs. Come to a compromise.

That is what people in the middle of Pennsylvania wrote to me just recently.

Then, thirdly, an excerpt from a letter in the eastern part of our State, Bucks County, a suburban Philadelphia community. I will read two sentences from this letter:

We must immediately raise the debt ceiling so that we do not default on our debt payments that would negatively impact our Nation. Next we must tighten our belts and develop plans to reduce expenditures and raise revenue which would pay off all debt just like my family's household did.

There we have it, three parts of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, three different letters from three different constituents, all expressing some fundamental, basic sentiments they have and I think some very fundamental messages.

What are they? I think I can boil them down to four. The first is work together and compromise. That is in almost every letter we see: work together and compromise.

The second is they want us to cut spending. They know that in their own lives they have had to cut spending. They have had to change their spending habits to deal with this economic trauma they have been living through. Even if they haven't lost a job, even if they haven't lost their house or their hopes or their dreams, they have had to cut spending.

The third is to focus on jobs. One of the casualties of week after week of focusing on this question of raising the debt ceiling meant we weren't taking action to incentivize the creation of jobs by use of the Tax Code or other strategies.

Fourthly, I think the message they are telling us, obviously, is to reduce deficit and debt. They know we may not be able to put in place a plan right now to be able to do that, but they expect us to put in place the foundation for that or strategy or a pathway to get to substantial deficit and debt reduction. So whether it is cutting spending or reducing deficit and debt or whether it is telling us to compromise and work together or focus on jobs, I think the message the people of Pennsylvania are giving me—and by extension all of us—is very clear.

That is why, when I look at what is in front of us tonight when we are debating—we are going to be debating the proposal set forth by the majority lead-

er—some basic elements in here that aren't just sound policy, but they are, in fact, incorporating compromise, already significant compromise; for example, making sure that if one side said we have to have a dollar-for-dollar reduction in spending to meet the challenge of raising the debt ceiling, the majority leader's plan does that.

One side says we should not have any revenue, we should not have any additional revenue as part of this agreement. The majority leader said: OK. I will accept that. I will compromise. So there are two significant and substantial compromises he has already made in this proposal, and he is open to more, as he has said all day long, and for many days now, he has been open to more compromise.

The legislation cuts spending significantly. There is almost \$2 trillion alone in spending reductions for so-called discretionary spending. There are lots of savings in other ways throughout the legislation. It creates a bipartisan committee that will recommend additional deficit reduction to be voted on by the end of this year. Then, an important part of what the majority leader has put forward today—or yesterday, I guess—in his proposal was part of what Senator MCCONNELL put forth, the Republican leader.

So by my count, there are three or four major compromises already in what the majority leader put forth. And he is open to more compromise. I think that is what the people of Pennsylvania expect me to do, and I think that is what the people of the United States expect all of us to do.

Finally, one of the best parts of this proposal is that it gives us certainty. I hear from businesspeople all the time—big firms, medium-sized firms, and small businesses. They tell us over and over that in addition to the pressure they feel—the difficulty they have in keeping their employment levels up, the difficulty they have in making ends meet in the aftermath of a recession—they tell us over and over: We are business leaders, and we need certainty or I am running a small business in Pennsylvania, and I need certainty. I need to know what my tax rates will be. I need to know what the business climate will be like. Please give me certainty.

One of the best features of what the majority leader put forth is there is certainty. We are not going to have to debate this and fight about it every 6 months. It provides some certainty into calendar year 2013. That is why I think a 6-month extension makes no sense at all. But you do not have to take our word for it. The rating agencies have made it very clear—if you do a 6-month extension, you are taking a very dangerous step that could lead to a downgrade in our credit rating.

So I think the Reid plan already has substantial compromise, and, of course,

we can compromise more. So I think it is very clear what the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are telling me. In the midst of all the suffering—in our case, 479,000 people still out of work. We have an unemployment rate of 7.6, which some States wish they had. But it does not really matter what a percentage is; when you have 479,000 people out of work, even though the number has been going down for the last year, people are hurting. They are still struggling. They are still worried. They are anxious. They are worried about their children's future. The least they ask of us in this debate, the least we must do for them, is to come together, work together, surrender some political points of view, surrender some personal disagreements we have, come together, and reach a compromise. I believe what they are telling us over and over is that we need a compromise for our country.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I rise today to give a voice to Minnesotans to relay their thoughts on how Congress should resolve this impasse and raise the debt ceiling to avoid a default.

On Wednesday, I received an e-mail from a constituent in St. Louis Park, my hometown. His e-mail reads:

Dear Senator. I am a Republican. I am a Minnesotan. I am a small business owner. I am considered to have a high income relative to the average American. . . . Here's my request: Please work together to get this debt limit impasse settled.

On Thursday, I received this e-mail from a man in Bloomington. He writes:

I'm a small businessman in the middle of a fund raising effort. The concern over the debt ceiling has caused all the angel investors to put off any discussion of investment until they know what is going to happen. This has stopped my ability to raise funds which will lead to new high quality jobs in Minnesota. I support a simple bill that increases the debt limit to get us through the 2012 elections as has been done hundreds of times before.

Yesterday, I received an e-mail from a couple in Bemidji:

We are retired small business owners who are watching our very very conservative retirement account drop and plunge due to the inability of Congress to come up with a plan for the debt ceiling. We trust your judgment as a Senator, but plead with the Congress and the Senate to come up with a solution. We absolutely cannot afford to see our retirement savings sink again like it did in 2008. . . .

And it is not just individual citizens. I received a letter from Dakota County's administrator. The letter reads, in part:

If the federal government does not resolve its fiscal issues in a timely and responsible manner, it will drive up costs to taxpayers here in Dakota County. . . . Being able to borrow at the lowest possible rates has meant that our County's taxpayers have gotten more and better public facilities—from

libraries to senior housing to highway interchanges—and saved hundreds of thousands of dollars for both property taxpayers and senior housing residents in the past several years alone.

The city of Chaska reached out to my office, explaining that they are planning to sell debt in August to fund a street reconstruction program and refund their water treatment plant. If Congress fails to act, these projects will come at a much higher cost to residents of Chaska.

I received a particularly compelling e-mail yesterday from a woman from Falcon Heights. She wrote:

I am writing again to say I support the President and realize a need to compromise. It is scary for a 66 year [old] retired schoolteacher who has Medicare and social security. Scarier is a default and what it would do to the economy.

That is advice from Sue. Sue gets it. She gets that Congress's failure to act may have a direct impact on her but the impact is really for the whole economy. And Sue is asking for us to compromise.

And compromise we have. Let me make one thing clear: Leader REID's plan is a compromise. Let me make another thing clear: House Speaker BOEHNER's plan is a tea party plan.

HARRY REID's plan is a true compromise. It contains all spending cuts and zero revenues. During these debates, there have been lots of ratios floating around. Senator CONRAD, the budget chairman, proposed a balanced and sensible plan that had a 1-to-1 spending cut to revenue ratio. Personally, I liked that approach. President Obama was negotiating a 4-to-1 or even 5-to-1 spending cut to revenue ratio. In the Reid plan, there is no ratio. It is 100 percent cuts and zero revenue.

Secondly, it contains dollar-for-dollar spending cuts to match the debt ceiling increase. This is exactly what the Republicans had been asking for. Yet, this morning, I learned that 43 of my Republican colleagues have signed a letter to Leader REID signaling their opposition to his proposal. Why? Well, they say the savings from winding down the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan do not count. Specifically, they say these savings are "a widely ridiculed accounting gimmick that breeds cynicism." Yet all but 3 of the 43 Senators who signed this letter voted for the Ryan budget on May 25 of this year. That budget counted the same drawdowns as almost identical in savings. So those savings were legitimate enough to secure their support for the Ryan budget but not legitimate enough to secure their support for Leader REID's debt ceiling compromise. Here we are on the precipice, and suddenly they have done a 180-degree turn. Either these savings count or they do not. You cannot have it both ways.

So we are proposing exactly what Republicans have been saying they want. Yet, instead of accepting this deal,

they are using what precious time we have to push forward with their agenda. And it is not even their agenda, it is the tea party agenda. Their radical agenda is a wolf in sheep's clothing.

Last night, we voted down Speaker BOEHNER's plan, which requires the passage of a balanced budget constitutional amendment. A balanced budget amendment sounds, on its face, sensible, but in reality, all of the current House proposals for a balanced budget amendment would have disastrous consequences for our Nation.

A balanced budget constitutional amendment would do permanent damage to our social safety net by slashing spending to 18 percent of GDP. That is what they all propose. We have not had a spending ratio that low since 1966, and today's America is very different than in 1966. We have a much older population. Today, we have a higher percentage of people drawing on Social Security and Medicare benefits—more than ever before. Health care costs are 50 percent higher. Even during President Reagan's tenure, spending averaged 21 percent of GDP.

What would an 18-percent cap really mean? Well, let's use the Republican Study Committee's budget, proposed in April, as an example. A budget such as theirs is roughly what we would expect if we capped spending at 18 percent of GDP. Their budget cut nondefense discretionary funding by 70 percent by 2021. Like the Ryan plan, the Republican Study Committee's budget ended Medicare as we know it, changed it into a voucher program, and raised eligibility to 67, but it did it more quickly. Their budget raised the Social Security retirement age to 70. It resulted in important programs such as food stamps and Medicaid getting cut by 50 percent.

The Republican Study Committee's budget was the Ryan budget on steroids. I would like to remind you of what happened to it on the House floor—this is an interesting story—because this story shows you just how extreme this budget was.

Most House Republicans did not actually want such a harmful, Draconian budget to be the official House budget, but many of them wanted to go on record to brag to their tea party supporters that they voted to slash \$9 trillion in Federal spending. So they scheduled a vote and just assumed Democrats would vote it down for them. Then they could just blame the Democrats.

Well, the minority whip, STENY HOYER, caught wind of their plan and had an idea. Moments before the vote, he asked Democrats to vote "present." This would leave the onus squarely on the Republicans to vote it up or down. Chaos erupted in the House, as Republican leadership realized what was happening. Too many votes had been cast in favor of the radical budget, and it

was on the verge of actually passing. Frantically, Republican leadership got a number of their Members to switch from "yes" to "no." In the end, 119 Republicans voted in favor and 120 against. Crisis averted. That is how bad this plan was. And a balanced budget amendment that caps spending at 18 percent would essentially do exactly the same thing. This is a perfect example of political posturing.

We voted down Speaker BOEHNER's plan last night for that very reason. His plan was not about finding a real solution; it was all about political posturing. If it became law, it would subject Americans to a very scary Republican Study Committee reality. House Republicans have shown they do not really want that. The American people definitely do not want that. The American people have clearly said they want compromise, they want an honest effort to meet in the middle. Sue from Falcon Heights is one of them.

Leader REID has responded to the pleas of the American people by offering us a sensible compromise. I urge my colleagues to be statesmen for the sake of the country. Please come to the table. We are trying to work with you for the sake of the country. The clock is ticking.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, how much time is remaining in the period allotted to Democrats?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 4 minutes 20 seconds remaining.

Mr. DURBIN. Thank you. I see Senator COBURN is on the floor. I assume he is the first speaker on the Republican side.

I wish to thank the Senator from Minnesota for his comments on our budget situation. For the many who have gathered here and are watching this at home and listening to this debate, this is a historic weekend where we have an opportunity—in fact, a challenge—to come forward and craft a bipartisan solution which is good for this country and avoids—avoids—the disaster that would happen Tuesday night if we fail to extend our debt ceiling.

The United States of America has never failed to extend its debt, not once. In the last 72 years, since we enacted this law, we have had requests from Presidents on both sides of the aisle to extend the debt ceiling 89 times—55 times by Republicans, 34 times by Democrats. The President who holds the record for extending a debt ceiling—is President Ronald Reagan, 18 times in 8 years, tripling the national debt.

Not once, not one time, did he face what we are facing here, a threat from the other side of the aisle that if we do not give in to their requests, we will default on our national debt. That

would be a catastrophe. It is one thing to call a bluff. It is another to call a bluff with someone else's chips, because the victims—if we default on this debt—will not be Members of Congress. The victims will be families and businesses all across the United States.

If we watch interest rates go up as we are in the midst of an economic recovery, people will be laid off. More people will be unemployed. That is exactly the wrong thing to do. We need to come to an agreement. We need to come to our senses. What the American people have told us across the board is we need to reduce spending, we need to reduce our deficit, we need to do it in a sensible way, as the Senator from Minnesota said, to carefully choose these areas of waste and inefficiency and unnecessary spending but not to cut the essential benefits that people need.

You will hear those come to the floor and say, oh, we are just spending more money. Well, the obvious answer is, in some respects we are. But keep in mind this one statistic. On January 1 of this year, 10,000 Americans reached the age of 65. On January 2, another 10,000. On January 3, again. Every day since January 1 and every day for the next 19½ years, the baby boomers are now reaching retirement age. Having paid into Social Security and Medicare for a lifetime, they fully expect and deserve the legal benefits they have been promised. That is a new obligation of government, but one that we accepted when we enrolled them in the system. Now we can find ways to make sure those benefits are going to be guaranteed into the future with sensible changes in entitlement programs and with sensible changes in our spending.

I find it hard to believe that many on the other side are arguing they cannot find 1 penny—1 penny—that can be saved in the Pentagon. I think we can save money there without endangering our security.

I find it also difficult to understand the argument that we cannot raise 1 penny in taxes on the wealthiest people in America if we are asking everyone else across the board to sacrifice. We have got to have a balanced approach. The Presiding Officer from Virginia was part of a group of six Senators, three Democrats and three Republicans—we have been joined in our effort by the Senator from Colorado, Mr. BENNET—trying to find a bipartisan way to deal with this deficit situation.

I am heartened to say that some 36 Senators have come forward, on both sides of the aisle, saying we can deal with this as adults. We can deal with it in a comprehensive and balanced way. We can keep our promise to people when it comes to the basic programs such as Social Security and Medicare, and we can do it in a fashion that reduces our deficit and avoids the crisis which we are facing.

So I hope that—I see the Senator from Oklahoma here. He was part of

that gang. It seems as though we have all gathered here on the floor at this moment—many of us have. I would hope in that spirit we can come to a bipartisan agreement to resolve the current crisis.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I have been listening in my office for the last several hours to the debate. I think there is one thing that has not been brought out in the debate. When Washington says it is going to cut spending, it is untruthful with the American public, because both the Boehner bill and the Reid bill increase discretionary spending over the next 10 years by—one of them \$830 billion, and the other \$832 billion.

How is it that we can, with a straight face in this body, talk about a cut when, in fact, CBO says we are going to actually increase the spending in the discretionary accounts over the next 10 years nearly \$1 trillion.

You have heard the debate in the House, in the Senate, of a spending cut. And, of course, that goes to what the heart of the problem is in our country; words get twisted around to the advantage of the politicians but to the disadvantage of the American citizens. We are in trouble financially. Most people will agree with that. We have programs that are in difficult straits.

As a matter of fact, they are broke, they are not just in difficult straits. Here are the ones that are broke. Medicare Part A trust fund. Worst-case scenario this year to 2016. That is the fund that solves and pays for hospitalizations for our seniors.

We have heard a lot of statements said about Medicare. The average Medicare recipient paid \$130,000 into Medicare. The average Medicare recipient takes \$350,000 out. How long do we think that can continue? How long can we continue to tell seniors that we can continue a program based on its utilization rates, based on its reimbursement rates, based on the tax rates, that has a \$220,000 difference between what goes out in benefits versus what comes in? It is broke.

Medicaid is broke. The reason it is broke is because the States are broke trying to take care of it. We mandate what they must do, and yet the States are choking on Medicaid, and we are choking on matching the amount of dollars. Under the Affordable Care Act, it is now estimated 25 million more people will go into Medicaid. So it is broke.

The Census. It was broke before it started. It cost twice what it did 10 years ago, \$8 billion more than what was estimated.

Fannie and Freddie. We know they are broke. They are \$190 billion—that you have now committed for, to pay to get them out of hock—Congress created that \$190 billion. That is where we

are today. It is going to be \$300 or \$400 billion that we have to pay—we will be required to pay, citizens of this country.

Social Security. People say it is not broke. We have \$2.5 trillion worth of IOUs. Well, the fact is, that money is gone. Congress stole it, spent it on other things. Now we lack the ability to go into international financial markets to borrow that money to put that trust fund whole.

So why do we need to reform Social Security? So we can make sure it is there in the future. What we do know is in 2032 now, according to the trustees, everybody on Social Security will only get 77 percent of what they are promised, and every year after that it will decline, so that when my kids are on Social Security, they will get about 40 percent of what the average Social Security recipient gets now. We know we can fix it. We know we can fix it and make it sustainable forever. But we will not do that because that is politically difficult.

The U.S. Post Office is bleeding every day. Yet we have not fixed it. We are going to do a gimmick to buy some time. But the fact is, we have set it up under a system when they negotiate labor contracts under the arbitration system. They cannot consider the financial health of the Post Office. That would be like paying somebody to mow your grass and saying, they will set the price on it and you cannot negotiate what the price is. Yet they are going to lose \$8 to \$10 billion this year and more every year going forward, and we have not fixed it, not done anything.

Cash for Clunkers. Absolute—when you look at the dollars—and the home buyer program, the new home buyer program—they actually had a negative effect on the economy. That is what the studies show now. So we blew through all of that money.

The highway trust fund—what is used to build highways and roads and bridges in our country—is broke. We are looking for \$13 billion to try to make it whole, and all we did was transfer the last 3 years to that. Rather than reform it, we did not do anything about it.

The new government-run health care program. Here is what we know. The new studies show that over half of the employers in this country will drop their insurance for the people who presently have insurance at work. Hundreds of billions of dollars of additional taxpayer money is going to be required to subsidize the exchanges those people are going to go into, because the penalty for dropping somebody's insurance is economically too low to keep employers from doing that.

We have all of these programs that are broke, and we have a discussion about the debt ceiling, but we are not talking about what is the real problem. This government is twice the size it

was 10 years ago. Twice as big. It would be great if all of it were constitutional, it would be great if it were all effective, it would be great if it were all efficient, and it would be great if we could afford it. But the fact is, we are where we are today, with a \$1.6 trillion deficit, because we cannot afford the government we have.

So we have not concentrated on the very areas where we can find mutual agreement. We have had three bipartisan bills in here where we have cut money, significant money, billion here, \$5 billion here, \$7 billion here, \$3 billion here, go through the Senate with vast majority votes, only to go nowhere, because the allowance for the debate on the underlying bills was stopped. The bills were pulled.

So what do we do? Well, the first thing we do is we look at what the problems are. What are the problems? We have 100 different programs with 100 sets of bureaucracies for surface transportation alone. Why do we do that? Why have we not fixed it? That is a question the American people ought to be asking.

We have 82 programs to improve the quality of our teachers, run by the Federal Government across 7 different agencies. Only one of them is at the Department of Education. Why are we doing that? Where is the assessment of how well they work? Where are the metrics to say we should be spending this money in this way because we are getting a return? Not one of them has a metric on it. Not one of them has ever been measured on whether it is effective.

We have 88 economic development programs in 4 agencies, for which we spend \$6.8 billion, and we have another 100 economic development programs in 6 other agencies, for which we spend another \$4 billion, and not one of them has ever been measured to see if it improves economic activity. And if, in fact, it does, why do we have 188 separate agencies to stimulate economic development? I mean, this is not complicated stuff. It is common sense. Every American, other than the Congress, would fix that.

We have 56 programs to teach financial literacy to the American people. First of all, I question whether we ought to be teaching anybody financial literacy as a government when we run it so poorly. But if, in fact, we do, why do we have 56? And, oh, by the way, not one of them has ever been measured to see if it effectively teaches somebody financial literacy.

We have 47 job training programs which cost \$18 billion a year, 9 different agencies, 9 different sets of bureaucracies, and all of them but three overlap with the other. That is according to the Government Accountability Office. Why? Why would we do that?

We have 18 programs for food for the hungry. That is something we all want

to be involved in. Eighteen? Why 18 sets of bureaucracies? How well are they working? Are they effective? Could we do them better? The question has not even been asked by Congress.

We have homeless programs for both prevention and assistance—20, 6 different agencies. So you have 20 different sets of bureaucracies that are designed to do the same thing.

Disaster response and preparedness, inside FEMA alone. Inside FEMA alone, we have 17 different programs, inside that one agency, which is part of the Department of Homeland Security.

I ask the question: Why? Why hasn't it been a priority for us to work on this?

Mr. KERRY. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. COBURN. Yes.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, it may surprise the Senator—I hope not, and I don't think so—but it might surprise people listening to us to hear from this side of the aisle that a lot of us have enormous respect for what the Senator has been talking about and fighting for and what he has achieved. I might add he is one of those courageous Senators who has come together in the last months working as part of the so-called Gang of 6 to try to bridge the gap and see if we cannot find a way forward.

As I listen to him, there is an enormous amount of common sense in the questions he is asking. These are questions all of us need to join in. We need to join into them in a process that allows us to be able to work in a balanced way on the grand bargain, as you call it, the big fix. I ask the Senator, because I think a lot of Americans listening to the debate—and I have been listening on the floor and listening some back in the office—people have to be saying these guys have been talking past each other because we hear things over there that sound reasonable and we hear things on this side that sound reasonable. But people are asking: What is hanging up this process? Why is the entire country being held hostage?

I ask my colleague if he would help us kind of bear down on what we need to do. I ask him if it is not fair and accurate to say that the so-called Gang of 6—a terrible name—maybe we can call them G6 or something—but they came together with an understanding that we needed balance in the approach to satisfy both sides and build a critical mass. That balance requires cuts. We have to put the big items—big ticket items on the table, and that means fixing Social Security, reforming it for the long-term; Medicare and Medicaid, which are unsustainable on their current paths; defense, where we have to find a handle on some of the procurement and expenditures. The Senator has joined in this. We have to close some tax loopholes and have tax reform and find some level of revenue at

an appropriate ratio that allows us to fix this. That is where the problem has been. There is a group of folks in the House who have insisted no revenue at all.

I ask the Senator, isn't it fair to say the Gang of 6 came up with a more balanced approach in which, I believe, the Senate could find a ground of compromise—what Senator REID has proposed, I believe, has cuts that the Republicans have supported—maybe not quite enough yet and maybe we can negotiate that.

(Mr. DURBIN assumed the Chair.)

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, Let me reclaim my time. There are absolutely no cuts in what either Senator REID or Speaker BOEHNER proposed in discretionary spending. The spending will rise \$832 billion over the next 10 years in the discretionary accounts.

Only in Washington is that a cut. Quite frankly, I am willing to work with my colleagues. I have been out there. I said we have to move and eliminate some of these loopholes; we have to reform the Tax Code. I am willing to take heat from my side on that.

What I am not willing to take anymore is a Senate that will not work on the details of the specific problems. What I am trying to do is outline where the problems are. Where is the leadership? We didn't do it when we were in charge either, I say to Senator KERRY. There has been a failure of leadership in this country, in this body, to attack these very problems. When we have 47 job training programs and none of them are working well—because that is what we do know, because the very few times they have been looked at, they don't work—and we are spending \$18 billion a year and we are not fixing them, the American people have to say: What is wrong with you all?

What we have to do is evaluate the effectiveness of every program in the Federal Government. We have to limit the overhead cost to Federal programs. We have put ideas out there—and this is \$9 trillion worth of cuts—not Washington cuts but American cuts—money we are not going to spend that is less than what we are spending today, not money we are not going to spend that we would have spent more the next year. These are real cuts. Each one of these is in here, backed by the facts, not biased. We could disagree with where we make cuts but not with the facts in here.

All the facts come from the Congressional Research Service, the General Accounting Office, the OMB, the President's budget, in terms of his recommendations and why, and the CBO. We will not go there.

My problem with the Senate is that we will not do our work. We are as guilty—and this is not partisan to me. Our country's future is at stake. When we have two bills—one last night and

one today—that are literally lying to the American people when they say cuts, I think it is unconscionable.

Mr. KERRY. Will the Senator further yield?

Mr. COBURN. Let me finish, if I may. I will yield to the Senator in a moment. The fact is, we will not tell the truth to the American people.

The first truth is, if we will be honest with them, they will understand the necessities that will have to be brought forward to be able to solve the problem. But denying what the problem is, we will never get consensus in this country and the embrace of the American people to do what everybody in this body knows is eventually going to have to be done.

In 5 years, we will not have a Medicare system that is similar to the Medicare system we have today. It is absolutely unsustainable. We will never be able to borrow the money to do it. We are going to get a debt downgrade no matter what we do. So rather than continue to be dishonest with the American people about the status of where we are, we ought to embrace them and call for the very things that made this country great—the sacrifice of the citizens to rebuild the potential for our future, recreate a renewal in our country that embraces the things that made us great—a true free enterprise system, with a limited government that will actually allow people to be rewarded for their hard work and their blood, sweat, and toil—get that back and have the government take a fair share of that. On the upside, it should be more; on the downside, it should be less. I agree.

The question is, Will we do it or will we continue a charade to the American people, continuing to tell them we are going to cut \$900 billion out of the discretionary budget when, in fact, we are going to increase it \$32?

There is only a \$2 billion difference between Senator REID's plan and Speaker BOEHNER's plan on discretionary spending. Both are untruthful to the American people. Both of them take the American people as a lap and say we can wink and nod at them and tell them something that is not true and walk out of here saying we spent less money. We are only going to spend less than we planned to spend, which was too much in the first place, which was unsustainable.

Our deal is that we don't have the courage to actually make the cuts listed in here. We don't have the courage to eliminate the waste, and we don't have the courage to eliminate the duplication. Why? Because every one of these programs has a political backing. We are politicians. Unfortunately, too often, we are that instead of statesmen. It is time for us—both sides—to lead this country, to lead the country in a vision of here is the real truth of our problem.

Now let's have a debate about what should be the No. 1 priority. How much should we spend on defense? Should we continue to allow contracts to go way overrun? Should we continue to allow requirement creep in contracts—not just in defense but in homeland security, HHS. The same problems we have in defense we have in all the other big agencies. We buy \$64 billion worth of IT every year in this country, and \$37 billion of it is wasted, totally blown. Why? What have we done about it? Not one thing. We don't look at the high risk for the GAO on IT. Every year that happens. The Census Bureau spent \$600 million on a device that never worked. There was no penalty for the company that did it. We paid it anyway. It was a cost-plus contract, and the reason it never worked is because we had requirement creep all the way through.

We don't have any grownups making the purchases for this country—nobody with experience. So we are doing the wrong thing at the wrong time. We need to be doing the right things at the right time for the right reasons, considering that we make sure we take care of those who need it and demand participation from everybody else.

We need to cap the total number of Federal employees—not because we want to but because we don't have any other choice. We don't have to let anybody go; just through attrition we can downsize the Federal Government.

We waste \$15 billion every 5 years on managing properties in this country that we own that are vacant. Yet we are spending that money on them. We cannot get a real property bill through. How valuable to us is \$15 billion? We have to start paying attention to the pennies, nickels, and dimes. We will not do it.

Unnecessary government printing—including us. I have been trying to get the elimination of this for 3 years. There are millions of dollars we can save by not printing the copies of this every day, which nobody looks at—except I did see my good friend from Illinois looking at a vote last night. But he could have gotten it online out of his BlackBerry. We are tearing down trees to print paper we don't need.

Mr. President, how much time do I have?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 8½ minutes remaining on the Republican side.

Mr. KERRY. Will the Senator yield for a moment?

Mr. COBURN. Yes.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I ask the Senator, again—I am trying to help us get out of this predicament where we have a couple days before the United States defaults. Everything the Senator has said is worthy of inquiry. Isn't it true that if we could get—part of the Reid proposal and the Boehner proposal proposes a joint committee that will be

structured somewhat like a Base Closing Commission, which will require the Senate and the House to vote in an expeditious fashion on these kinds of proposals, whatever the joint committee proposes, and if the joint committee doesn't succeed in proposing something, hopefully, either the Gang of 6 or the Simpson-Bowles commission will.

Isn't the key to resolving this crisis and not defaulting our ability to be able to come together on a sufficient trigger or some sufficient mechanism that guarantees we are actually going to deal with this in a similar fashion to what the Senator is raising?

Mr. COBURN. I don't disagree that those negotiations are going on as we speak. I am not a party to them. I don't know if the Senator from Massachusetts is. I suspect the Presiding Officer is. We are not going to decide that. That will come to us for a decision. Look, I worked for a long number of months with my colleagues from the other side of the aisle. I put my name on a bill that doesn't fix it, but it was something to get us moving. It is better than where we are today. I agree with the Senator. But that is not good enough. We are not good enough yet to be where we need to be if we are actually going to solve the problem.

Let me finish going through this. We need to end no-bid contracts in this country. To give a specific example, before he left, Senator LeMieux got through on the business bill prescreening of payments on Medicare payments, so we don't just pay them and then go chase the fraud. We got through a bill that required the Centers for Medicaid Services to put in a program to look to see if they ought to pay the bill.

What they did is signed a cost-plus contract for \$77 million with a firm that has never done that before and didn't take a fixed-price contract from firms that have already done it before. Tell me how we let that happen. Yet it happened. When we had testimony in the committee, they said it was a fixed-price contract, only to write back and say it was not a fixed-price contract. We need some common sense in our government.

We need to disclose the text and cost of legislation prior to passage. We need to identify duplicative government programs. We have done that in here. There are hundreds of thousands of them throughout the Federal Government. We need to eliminate them. We need to mandate congressional oversight. That is where our leaders have failed on both sides. They have not mandated the committee chairmen to do the oversight required to solve this problem. We need to freeze the size of this government. We cannot afford the government we have. The debate is about what will happen in the future. What will be the revenue increases and the spending increases?

Nobody is talking about decreasing the size of the Federal Government. We can't afford this government. We can't afford to continue to spend the money we are spending.

I will close with this. If we continue to be less than straightforward with the American people about what we are doing, about the Reid bill—and the reason I wanted to debate the Boehner bill is I wanted to make this point on the Boehner bill—when we call something a cut of \$900 billion, just because the CBO says we are going to spend \$900 billion less than what we were planning to spend, but it's still \$832 billion more than what we are spending now, that is not a cut anywhere except in Washington. We ought to admit it. If that is the best we can do, the American people need to know that is the best we can do. But we can't play the games anymore.

I have another colleague, I think, who would like to speak, and with the remaining time, I would yield to her.

Is the Senator from Alaska interested in speaking?

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I thank the Senator from Oklahoma. It is my understanding we were bumping up against the vote at 5:30. Is that correct, Mr. President?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republicans have 3 minutes 15 seconds remaining.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I had hoped to be able to speak at greater length than 3 minutes this afternoon, but the message that Senator COBURN has been delivering is so incredibly important. I want to join Senator KERRY's remarks in thanking him for being one who has been working to find not a deal but to find a solution to the issues we face today.

As we have deliberated all day long, there has been a lot of finger-pointing, a lot of blame. As the Senator from Massachusetts has noted, a lot of times it seems as if the comments are just going past one another rather than directed in a purposeful way that would actually make a difference to this debate.

We started out this morning with messages from the leader arguing over who was filibustering. We have all talked about the need to see compromise, and then we go on to say why we can't compromise. What we need to be working toward is a solution to the problem as opposed to attempting to cobble together a deal at the last moment that will gain those necessary votes.

The one thing I would hope we are all working toward is to avoid the default we all fear. We have all been listening to our constituents calling us this weekend. As we read our e-mails, as we talk to friends and neighbors, the concern is very real. One thing we have managed to do on a bipartisan basis in this Congress over the past few days is

to incite fear in the American public, to make our constituents angry, frustrated, and mad. Well, misery loves company. We are angry, frustrated, and mad here. But I would like to suggest, as the hours wind down, we come together as a body in the Senate and the House to find that compromise.

Senator ISAKSON stood on the floor earlier this afternoon and spoke of the contours of a proposal that worked to integrate the good ideas of several different Members—of Senator REID, of Speaker BOEHNER, and of the minority leader, Senator MCCONNELL. We should be working to find those areas where we agree because those areas are, in fact, in place.

I am hopeful, Mr. President, as the majority leader comes back in from his meetings he will have some encouraging news for us as we work through these last hours.

I would like to gain some additional time later on this evening to speak more in detail, but I see the majority leader before us waiting to speak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PRYOR). The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll and the following Senators entered the Chamber and answered to their names.

[Quorum No. 5]

Brown (MA)	Johanns	Murray
Cantwell	Kerry	Pryor
Carper	Landrieu	Reid (NV)
Coburn	McCain	Schumer
Durbin	Merkley	
Feinstein	Murkowski	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A quorum is not present.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to instruct the Sergeant at Arms to request the presence of absent Senators, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHUMER). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 75, nays 20, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 121 Leg.]

YEAS—75

Akaka	Gillibrand	Murray
Baucus	Graham	Nelson (NE)
Begich	Hagan	Nelson (FL)
Bennet	Harkin	Portman
Bingaman	Hatch	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heller	Reed
Blunt	Johanns	Reid
Boozman	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Boxer	Kerry	Rubio
Brown (MA)	Kirk	Sanders
Brown (OH)	Klobuchar	Schumer
Burr	Kohl	Shaheen
Cantwell	Kyl	Shelby
Cardin	Landrieu	Snowe
Carper	Lautenberg	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Chambliss	Levin	Thune
Coats	Lugar	Toomey
Collins	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Conrad	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Corker	Merkley	Webb
Durbin	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Moran	Wicker
Franken	Murkowski	Wyden

NAYS—20

Alexander	Enzi	McConnell
Ayotte	Grassley	Paul
Barrasso	Hoeben	Risch
Coburn	Isakson	Roberts
Cochran	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
Cornyn	Lee	Vitter
Crapo	McCain	

NOT VOTING—5

DeMint	Inhofe	Lieberman
Hutchison	Inouye	

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A quorum is present.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today the Speaker and Republican leader held a press conference to announce they are in talks with the President and that a bargain to raise the debt ceiling is in the works and is close.

Mr. President, Members of the Senate, that is not true. I just spent 2 hours with the President and Vice President and Leader PELOSI. It is fair for me to say that the engagement there is not in any meaningful way. The Republican leader still refused to negotiate in good faith. Revenue is off the calendar—no way we can talk about revenues. Entitlements—oh, they are after entitlements: Medicare, Social Security.

The Speaker and Republican leader should know that merely saying we have an agreement in front of television cameras doesn't make it so. The Republican leader at the press event says he is engaged. Fortunately, Members of his caucus, at least as far as I am concerned, and my Members, are more engaged than he is. There are meaningful talks going on with some of his Members with some of my Senators. While the Republican leader is holding meaningless press conferences, his Members are reaching out to me, and other Members, as I have just indicated. They are coming forward with thoughtful ideas to try to move the process forward. I welcome their ideas and ask all Members to continue these discussions. America is watching us,

and they are demanding a result that is balanced.

I say to my friend—and he is my friend—the Republican leader, I will come to his office, I will go to the White House with him, I will do anything I can do to try to move this process forward, but I say as respectfully as I can to my friend the senior Senator from Kentucky that the process has not been moved forward during this day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader—the Republican leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the fact is that the only way we are going to get an agreement before Tuesday is to have an agreement with the President of the United States—the only person in America of the 307 million of us who can sign something into law. I am more optimistic than my friend the majority leader. We have both talked to the President today, talked to the Vice President several times. I think we have a chance of getting there.

What I think is not helpful is the process we are going through here on the Senate floor: having show votes over live quorums, having reluctance on the part of the majority to have a vote on a measure they favor, which we have been prepared to vote on since last night.

Look, we need to be in a position where all of us in the leadership can come back here and say that we think we have reached a framework of an agreement we can recommend to our Members and be briefing our Members. The sooner we can do that, the sooner we can reassure the American people we are going to get a result on a bipartisan basis. So that is what I am working on, and I am not interested in scoring any political points. I am interested in getting an outcome for the American people, and the only way that can be done is with the President of the United States, and we are going to continue to work on that, get this problem solved, and let everybody in the country know we are not going to default for the first time in our history. That is how I am going to spend my time until we get that outcome and I can come up here and recommend it to my colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are here today right now for this reason. It is spelled f-i-l-i-b-u-s-t-e-r—filibuster. There are delaying tactics proceeding right now. They will not allow us to have a vote, an up-or-down vote on our amendment, and this is a filibuster. By any other term, it is a filibuster. That is why we are here. I hope the negotiations go on. We are willing to be as fair as we can, but there has to be something that the President and Vice President BIDEN and the rest of us think is a step in the right direction. I guess talking is a step in the right direction, but that is about it.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the matter we have before us, which is amendment No. 589—that we have an up-or-down vote on that, as we have all the time, of course. There would be no points of order, as we do it here all the time. Have a vote on it right now.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, these are direct quotes from my friend the majority leader. He says: "In the Senate it has always been the case you need 60 votes." "Always been the case you need 60 votes." This is the majority leader of the Senate. For him to suggest that a matter of this magnitude, in a body that requires 60 votes for almost everything, is going to be done with 51 votes makes no sense at all. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, first of all, it is unconscionable that the Republicans would filibuster legislation to prevent a default on national obligations. Frankly, it is unprecedented. Since 1962, Congress has raised the debt limit 74 times, including 18 times under President Reagan, and there was never a threat of a filibuster, and it was always by majority vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I might say I actually cut short a conversation with the Vice President to come out here for this important vote on a live quorum. I would like to get back to work so we can hopefully solve this problem.

It seems to me it would be a good idea for the majority to decide to allow the vote on the proposal they say they are in favor of; therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the vote on the pending cloture motion occur at 6:30.

Mr. REID. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. A filibuster in any other words—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, you can put lipstick on it, a nice suit, even a skirt sometimes, it is still a filibuster.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask for order in the Chamber.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator withhold for a moment?

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. I ask unanimous consent that I may be able to complete my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, later tonight we will vote on the majority leader's bill to reduce the deficit and increase the Nation's statutory debt limit. Earlier today the House of Representatives decisively rejected the majority leader's proposal. If I got it right, the vote was 246 to 173. Thirteen did not vote, but there were 11 Democrats who voted against the proposal as well. It will be defeated here in the Senate later this evening or whenever the majority leader allows it to be voted on. It is fine with me, whatever he decides to do.

As a substantive matter, I deeply oppose the efforts of the majority leader. His plan does not tackle the task at hand. The President would get a \$2.7 trillion debt limit increase but less than \$1 trillion in cuts, and most of those cuts are gimmicks, budgetary gimmicks. They assume savings from more spending that the President has not requested and that will be unlikely to materialize. It does not include a balanced budget amendment. Most important from my perspective, it assumes a massive tax increase in 2013 by allowing the 2001 and 2003 tax relief to expire, allowing the AMT to hit the middle-class taxpayers, and allowing for increases in estate taxes.

Most important, from my perspective, the majority leader's approach assumes a massive tax increase in 2013 by allowing the 2001 and 2003 tax relief to expire, allowing the alternative minimum tax to hit middle-class taxpayers, something we have not allowed, and allowing for increases in estate taxes that are a business and job killer.

We are scheduled to vote on this bill late this evening, actually early on Sunday morning. Americans might ask why in the world are we doing this? Republicans were ready to take this vote yesterday evening. This delay in voting does not match with the asserted urgency of raising the debt ceiling. Yesterday, the Senate majority leader stated on the floor that the country defaults on its debt at 12 midnight on Tuesday.

Tuesday is August 2; is this true? What are these claims based on that the majority leader is making? Amazingly, we do not know for a fact whether the United States does run short of cash to pay all its obligations on August 2. We were told by the Treasury Secretary way back in May that August 2 might be a date when Treasury runs out of money to pay our bills. We have seen estimates of the Treasury's cash position on the floor that came either from a local think tank or from Wall Street financial firms.

The Treasury will not give us updated information. It is outrageous. The last time Treasury informed Congress of its estimates of its cash position was in May when it backed off of a prior guess and extended their estimate of running dry of cash by 3 weeks. Since that last update, I made a simple request of members of the Financial Stability Oversight Council, commonly called FSOC, which is chaired by the Treasury Secretary. I asked for an update on Treasury's cash and liquid assets to be delivered by close of business on Thursday, and I asked for that as ranking on the Senate Finance Committee.

I also asked for contingency plans of Treasury and our financial regulators outlining what they will do if the debt limit is not raised or if we face a ratings downgrade on our U.S. debt. Treasury has not responded to this request. It is outrageous. They know what they are going to do.

We were told the Nation will fall off a financial cliff on August 2 at midnight. That is a lot of precision, down to the hour. Is it true? I don't know. The American people don't know. Social Security recipients in Utah don't know and Treasury won't tell us. I might add the rating agencies don't know either. We are being asked to give the President the largest increase in debt limit in our Nation's history. Get that. We are being asked to give the President the largest increase in our debt limit in our Nation's history. His last one was the largest at that time. We were asked to consider policies that involved trillions of dollars, with no effects that will occur over decades, with no current information about how much money the government has and expects to have over the next few days and weeks.

Treasury told me yesterday that they are working on getting me some information. Yet I still don't know how much money Treasury now has to pay its bills and neither does anybody else on the floor. We don't know how much it expects to have over the next few days and weeks or whether Treasury still believes that midnight August 2 has any particular significance. The politicians all insist August 2 is the date. I am beginning to have my doubts. If that was the case, wouldn't it make sense for the majority leader to schedule votes commensurate with this urgency? Why waste more than 24 hours, which is what the majority leader did by refusing our offer to vote last night on his bill. It is not going to change the vote.

It is not unreasonable to conclude that maybe that August 2 date is not all it is cracked up to be. We can't say for sure because the administration, despite my request more than 48 hours ago, has refused to provide Congress with information regarding its cash position. But others seem to think so.

Yesterday, Moody's Investors Service stated, clearly:

It remains our expectation that the government will continue with timely debt service. . . . If the debt limit is not raised before August 2, we believe that the Treasury would give priority to debt service payments and could thus postpone a potential debt default for a number of days.

Does Moody's know more than our Treasury Secretary and FSOC that has been set up to help us to understand these things? They have been working on it for months. Why can't they give us the information?

This analysis is consistent with everything my colleague and friend from Pennsylvania, Senator TOOMEY, has been saying for months.

He understood early on that regardless of the rhetoric there would be no default on August 2. The administration is fully capable of prioritizing payments. There is a much more pressing issue than imminent default—a credit downgrade due to the failure of Congress to use this opportunity to take significant deficit reduction measures. That is the real takeaway from Moody's report:

Reductions of the magnitude now being proposed, if adopted, would likely lead Moody's to adopt a negative outlook on the AAA rating. . . . The chances of a significant improvement in the long-term credit profile of the government coming from deficit reductions of the magnitude proposed in either plan are not high.

That is Moody's. Our debt has become so unmanageable that we face a credit downgrade with consequent higher interest rates if we do not enact a big-time deficit reduction package.

This year is our third straight trillion-dollar deficit. Our national debt is \$14.5 trillion. The President's budget would add \$13 trillion in additional debt if he gets his way. I don't know about you, but I cannot tolerate that. That is added to already almost a \$15 trillion debt today.

I have spoken previously about the debt bubble the Nation finds itself in, but I wish to reemphasize that point in light of the warnings from ratings agencies that our credit faces a downgrade absent real deficit reduction. Currently, Federal debt held by the public equals a modern record of about 69 percent of GDP and it is headed to 100 percent and we all know it.

The Congressional Budget Office reports that current tax and spending law takes that figure to 76 percent of GDP over the next 10 years, and we all know it is going to hit 100 percent if we keep going with what the President is doing and, unfortunately, with what my friends on the other side are doing.

To put that number in perspective, at the end of fiscal year 2008, the debt held by the public reached about 41 percent. That is less than 2½ years ago. That was under the Bush administration. That is 41 percent compared to 70 percent today. As bad as the 76-percent

figure is that we will reach—according to the Budget Office—President Obama's budget would raise debt held by the public to 87 percent of GDP by his own actuaries. I have to tell you they very seldom have been accurate or right. They are always low.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, if we continue current tax policy and don't raise rates, fix the alternative minimum tax, provide estate tax relief, provide for a fix to the physician payment system—that is the SGR—policies supported by clear majorities of Americans by 2021, debt held by the public will reach no less than 97 percent, which is precisely what I have been talking about.

Here is the sticky wicket. CBO projects the cost of simply paying the interest on all this debt will rise to \$792 billion—that is if CBO is right and generally they are on the low side—in other words, 3.3 percent of GDP in 2021. What happens if interest rates go up? They are likely to up. Currently, interest rates are very low. The 10-year Treasury rates are currently around 3.5 percent.

During the past 2 years, this administration has spent recklessly, raising the total debt from \$10.6 trillion to almost \$14.5 trillion today. Because debt was cheap, the President was able to take on a lot of it. The true cost of this debt was hidden by low interest rates.

What will happen when interest rates rise? What happens if interest rates rise to levels seen during the 1980s or 1990s? Think of my suggestion that these rating agencies of government are always low. Interest rates are going to rise and the costs are going to rise too.

During the 1980s, rates on 3-month Treasury bills and 10-year notes rose to over 8 percent and 10 percent, respectively. During the 1990s, rates on 3-month and 10-year notes rose to 5 percent and 6.6 percent, respectively. That cost as laid out by CBO could be astronomical. Under President Obama's 2012 current budget, the CBO projects deficit rates over the next 10 years resulting in an estimated \$10 trillion being added to this \$14.5 trillion public debt—a 100-percent increase.

Under the scenario where interest rates rise to the historical average of the 1990s, the public debt is projected to grow an additional \$8 trillion or a 77-percent increase. Under the scenario where interest rates rise to the historical average of the 1980s, the public debt would grow \$14.5 trillion, doubling in size. This is the real impact of Moody's warning.

It is bad enough that President Obama has taken on so much debt that it may result in a downgrade of our credit, but it is even worse that faced with that downgrade he and his Democratic allies refused to deleverage. Should we get downgraded for failure to enact a serious deficit reduction

package, our debt will only grow larger because increased interest rates will increase the cost of borrowing. We all know about budgetary gimmickry around here, and this place is filled with it. This economic debt is filled with it. The arguments about the future are filled with it.

Americans should be less concerned about the August 2 deadline than the fact that over the long term our debt bubble runs the risk of becoming a debt spiral that turns into a death spiral for our economy.

Let me close by making two points. First, given the treacherous fiscal waters we are in, Congress and the American people need to know where the U.S. Treasury stands. It is unacceptable that they are being asked to make decisions based on a proclaimed August 2 deadline with no facts to back it up.

I urge all Americans, all Utahans, and all Social Security recipients to get in touch with the Treasury right now and ask them to show us the money. Call Treasury, send them an e-mail, send out a tweet. Show us the money. We have a right to know cash in the Treasury comes from the taxes that hard-working Americans pay. Government is charged with stewardship over use of that cash. Withholding information is a shirking of that responsibility, and I do not think anybody on this floor believes that Treasury does not know what they are going to do. I don't believe any Senator believes they should be stopping the information from coming to us, especially at this time.

We should not run Treasury and manage taxpayer resources the way Bernie Madoff ran his hedge funds, by taking cash and when asked for information refusing to give it and just saying: Trust me.

I have a simple question: Does Treasury expect to run out of cash on Tuesday, August 2? The President and his Treasury Department must answer this question—which brings me to my second point. It is much more critical that we get a deficit reduction package right than that we adhere to this arbitrary August 2 deadline. There is one bill that gets that right from my perspective, and that, of course, is cut, cap, and balance. So far, the only bipartisan votes taken by the Congress in this debt ceiling debate are the vote for cut, cap, and balance in the House and the House vote to defeat the majority leader's bill. Those are the only two that are bipartisan.

This debate is not over yet. I expect Senator REID's bill to fail tonight, but then it is back to the drawing board. My hope is that the President will then do what he has so far refused to do; that is, to take a leadership role in this debate, to stand up to his base and encourage his party to take real steps to reduce the deficit. I am not going to hold my breath.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, might I inquire how much time is left on the Republican side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 13 minutes remaining.

Mr. BARRASSO. Thank you, Mr. President.

Following my colleague from Utah who talked about getting the President engaged in these discussions, I noticed a large story in Thursday's New York Times: "President on Sidelines in Critical Battle over Debt Ceiling." President on the sidelines.

We are at a time where we are facing the largest threat to our national security, and we cannot have the President on the sidelines.

When I talk about the single largest threat to our national security, I am not talking about a terrorist organization. I am not talking about wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. I am not talking about natural disasters, disease, epidemics, and not famine. I am talking about our national debt. Our national debt is the threat. It is the greatest threat to our national security.

I will tell my colleagues this isn't a problem for one party, the other party; it is a problem for all of us as Americans. I am not the only one who is saying that. Actually, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, ADM Mike Mullen, has said the most significant threat to our Nation's security is our debt. Let me repeat: The most significant threat to our national security is our debt. My colleagues may notice that Admiral Mullen makes no mention at all of the debt ceiling. He is speaking specifically about the debt. He is doing that because the debt ceiling isn't the problem; our national debt is the threat.

We have \$14 trillion of debt, and it continues to grow. We are borrowing every day over \$4 billion. That is over \$2 million every minute.

We say: Where does the money come from? Well, of the money we spent last year in this country, over 41 cents of every dollar we spent—over 41 cents of every dollar—is borrowed money, a lot of it from foreign countries, and specifically from China. How do we stay a strong and independent leader of the world if we owe that kind of debt to anyone, especially to another country who may not have our best interests at heart?

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff clearly understands this. But it is not just our military leaders who understand this, families and business owners all across Wyoming understand it, and the American people understand it. We all know what the American people want. They want cuts to spending now, they want to control spending in the future, and they want accountability. They sure don't believe they are getting it out of Washington.

I received an e-mail this week from a gentleman from my hometown of Casper. He looked at this whole thing and he said:

The fact that the debt ceiling needs to be raised is where the problem lies. This is a systemic problem that will either be fixed or it will eventually destroy this Nation. I urge you to stand strong and oppose any spending that exceeds revenue. Using the debt ceiling, we understand, this could be a painful path. It could lead to economic problems. My forefathers put their lives at risk to prevent this kind of idiocy that the Federal Government has become.

He is talking about a debt of \$14 trillion.

He said:

Every one of my family members and neighbors is prepared to weather the storm now to prevent future catastrophe.

My friends on the other side of the aisle are focused on the debt ceiling. It seems to me they have lost sight of the real problem, and that problem is the debt. Instead of working toward a higher debt ceiling, we need to be discussing ways to get our fiscal feet back on the floor, to get our fiscal house in order, and to provide the accountability the American people want.

I listened to the President's address to the Nation last Monday night. It seemed to be more of a campaign speech than an address about the issues facing this country. There was blaming going on, it seemed to me. Scare tactics, class warfare. He used the word "balanced" about seven times. He kept talking about a balanced approach.

Americans don't want a balanced approach; they want a balanced budget. They want a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. That is the way we do it in Wyoming. That is the way many States do it. They want us to live within our means and balance the budget year after year after year.

There is a lesson we could learn from so many States around the country: Live within your means every year.

The American people want us to seek a real solution. They want a real solution that provides them with the peace of mind to know they will not be subjected to this sort of activity on a repeated basis. They want the peace of mind as well as the economic security that they believe as Americans—they believe as Americans—is a basis for this great country. They are looking for a solution that recognizes the current system in Washington is broken, and they are looking for a solution

that says we realize we need to take immediate action to fix it.

Why is it broken? Why do we need immediate action? It is broken because we have failed to live within our means for so very long. It is also broken because this body, the Senate, has not had a budget for over 800 days. For over 800 days there has not been a budget in the Senate. One brought forth by the President failed; it got no votes. Ninety-seven people voted against it. Not one Democrat voted for the President's budget—not one.

It seems to be broken because Washington is more focused on short-term political gain instead of the long-term consequences of our actions. We saw that a little earlier with the discussions on the Senate floor. I am ready to vote on the proposal on the Senate floor. The minority leader recommended a vote immediately. Yet it was objected to by the majority leader.

Since the beginning of this entire debate, I have had a very clear bottom line. We need to avoid defaulting and implement the spending controls to get our finances back in order. What is the President's bottom line? The President said it:

The only bottom line I have is that we have to extend this debt ceiling through the next election into 2013.

The President's only bottom line: Ignore and avoid the biggest threat to our national security until after the next election.

Contrary to what the President wants, we cannot ignore, we cannot avoid this issue until after the next election. People all across the country are worried about their jobs. They are worried about the economy. They are worried about the debt, and they are worried about the spending. The American people want us to take action. They want us to cut costs. They want us to control spending. They want us to enforce accountability across every branch of the Federal Government. They would like us to put progress ahead of partisanship. They want us to put people before politics. The decisions that must be made aren't easy for either party. This isn't about Democrats, Republicans, Independents; it is about America. It is about this country.

People all across the country—and I have been in my office since early this morning, and we have been answering the phones. What I am hearing is what all of my colleagues should be hearing if they are answering their phones: Enough is enough. That is what the American people are saying.

We are now at the eleventh hour, and we must not lose sight of our goal. It is more important to find a real solution than it is to settle for a quick compromise.

So I look at some of these letters and calls and e-mails that have been coming in, and one is from Pinedale, WY. It says:

It is better to bite a small bullet now than a cannon shell later on.

That is a Wyoming way of talking. That was from Pinedale, WY.

A couple from Casper, a different e-mail:

This country is in dire financial straits. Since I work for the Federal Government, I have more to lose than most Americans, but I don't want to give this administration a blank check.

This is someone who works for the Federal Government; I don't want to give the administration a blank check.

We have to get this country back on track to fiscal responsibility and this is the open debate. I realize my job could be cut just to get there, but the national debt is too large to ignore.

This is a Wyoming person talking, putting the country in front of politics and putting the country in front of himself.

He goes on to say:

We must get it under control or there is more to lose than just our jobs. The economic consequences of not getting this under control will devastate this country years down the road. We have to start now before it is too late.

Then another from a woman in Casper who said:

It is time to cut up the Federal Government's credit card. The current debt situation is an insult to all of us who live within our means. People in the country live within their means; States that balance their budget every year live within their means. It is time for Washington to live within its means.

People are tired of the budget tricks. They are tired of the accounting gimmicks. They are tired of the empty promises. That is what is affecting the people of this country. They want accountability, and it is our responsibility to provide it to them.

People are looking for peace of mind, for good judgment, and they want people to listen to them. Yet what I see are people focused on politics on the other side of the aisle at a time when the greatest threat to our Nation—to this great country, to America—is a national debt that is out of control and that is increasing at the rate of over \$4 billion every year.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized to complete my comments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KERRY. Is there a time limit?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Ten minutes. The Democrats have the next 30 minutes.

Mr. KERRY. I ask to be informed when I have 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. President, when Harry Truman served in the seat Senator McCaskill of Missouri holds today, he used to sit back over there, in back of the row where a lot of the newer Senators sit.

He, from that vantage point, would often watch the great debates on the New Deal. He listened long into the night. He used to frequently write home to his wife Bess.

One late night after a long debate, he wrote about his experience of sitting in the Senate—this was early on—and of the awe he felt sitting in this institution and looking across at his colleagues. I assume imagining the ghosts of Calhoun and Clay and other great Senators.

He wrote to his wife, and he said: I sit here in the Senate looking at this institution and at my colleagues and I pinch myself and I say, “How the hell did I get here?”

A number of months later, it was very late at night, and he was again sitting there, and he wrote to his wife, again watching the debate and looking across at his colleagues, and he wrote to her and said, “I ask myself, how the hell did they get here?”

Anyway, I suspect at this moment in America a lot of Americans are looking at the Senate, at the Congress, and they are asking a similar question, wondering whether we get it.

I have enormous respect for this institution. I still believe in the phrase “the world’s greatest deliberative body,” which has, unfortunately, become a punch line in these days, but when we are bipartisan and serious is still a true description, still possible when we rise to the moment. I have seen the Senate over the course of 26 years in those moments, as have other colleagues here. I have seen it with Ted Kennedy and Bob Dole and so many others. I have seen what can be accomplished here.

Regrettably, today, our allies and our enemies abroad and our friends here at home—the American citizen—are watching with either alarm or, in the case of our enemies, delight as they question America’s leadership. Some abroad have even suggested this is a sign, a moment of American decline. So even without default, believe me, just the absence of decision and the presence of partisan chaos—they are running up a huge cost for this country.

The other day, I received a letter from 20 mayors from Massachusetts. The letter states:

The time to compromise and resolve this issue is now.

They complained that their communities were under the microscope from Moody’s because we had not gotten our acts together here in Washington. Their letter was honest and eloquent. And, frankly, it should not be so difficult for their warnings and their example to be heeded in the Congress.

The mayors’ call for compromise, frankly, should not be so difficult. The call for compromise by the American people ought to be listened to and acted on and in very short order.

I have served in the majority and I have served in the minority since I have been here. I have served with Republican Presidents, Democratic Presidents, in both situations, when we are in the minority and in the majority. I have cast tough votes in times of divided government, under Republican and Democratic Presidents, from Reagan to Obama, and I have never seen the governing process so broken because one faction of one side has made compromise—the essence of democracy and the bedrock of our governing system—not just a dirty word but, in their view, a form of treason.

The warnings of mayors were echoed yesterday by the leaders of our financial industry. Yesterday, CEOs of major financial institutions wrote:

Our economic recovery remains very fragile. A default on our Nation’s obligations, or a downgrade—

Just a downgrade—

of America’s credit rating, would have an enormous impact on Americans and on investor confidence—raising interest rates for everyone who borrows, undermining the value of the Dollar, and affecting stock and bond markets—and, therefore, dramatically worsening our Nation’s already difficult economic circumstances.

Those are their words. Notwithstanding that, we continue to see our own well-being at risk.

This is one of those times where it is not cliché and it is not hyperbole to say that the whole world is watching, because the whole world has something at stake in what we do or do not do. For the world, there are serious consequences in that. As chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I have heard from officials all over the world and global business leaders, and the message is always the same. They are watching in amazement, in puzzlement, and horror at what is going on in Washington. Our friends and allies, whose economic fortunes and economies are linked to our own, doubt us, and they are worrying about the impact of our dysfunction on their economies. Our economic rivals—believe me, our economic rivals—are laughing all the way to the bank. At a time of global economic uncertainty, we should absolutely not be adding to that uncertainty by failing to resolve our debt crisis. The International Monetary Fund is warning that actions still need to be taken to stave off contagion from Europe’s sovereign debt crisis.

It is not insignificant that while HARRY REID has been busy trying to find Republicans to join Democrats in a bipartisan solution, Speaker BOEHNER was exclusively negotiating to end the civil war between the responsible and the unreasonable within the Republican Party. The Speaker negotiated with Republicans to make a bad bill worse.

I think the distinction between what has happened in the House and the Sen-

ate is a very important one in terms of where Americans are going to find a resolution to this challenge. Here in the Senate, we have been working day and night, talking with Democratic and Republican colleagues across the aisle in order to find a way forward. And for most of us—or at least many of us; certainly, a sufficient number to be able to pass a solution—for them, there are not any preconditions. Everything is on the table. But we are still facing the obstinate, ideological rigidity from House Republicans—House Republicans—who have threatened to take our Nation into default and downgrade the Nation’s credit rating and do even more harm to a fragile economy simply to get their way.

So what is it that divides us right now? I think a lot of Americans listening to the debate probably have a serious question about: What is the difference between these folks? What is it that divides them?

Well, the Boehner plan, which was sent over here, had three fundamental problems in it that Democrats were unwilling to support.

First, it would force huge cuts in Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid because of the structure and manner of the cuts they were demanding.

Second, it included a constitutional amendment provision which required that the constitutional amendment actually be passed within 6 months before the next debt limit could be raised. Because there is no certainty that would happen or could happen, it set up an automatic default. So the Boehner plan was setting up the U.S. Government to go right through this exercise again and have an automatic default.

Third, there was a timeframe in the Boehner amendment that required us to go back and visit this in February of next year, which would have meant the minute we come back in September, the entire Congress would have been consumed with the very same thing we have been doing now, which would not give certainty to the marketplace.

So it was not politics that prevented us from proceeding forward on the Boehner plan. It was the substance of that plan.

The Reid plan, which we are debating right now, which is on the floor, is a plan that because of the Republican insistence on no revenues has no revenues. Many people on our side of the aisle object to that. But we have accepted that is the price we need to pay as a matter of our compromise in order to get out of this crisis. So we have compromised on revenues.

It has cuts. All the cuts are cuts the Republicans have already voted for that, again, many of our folks do not like. But they have compromised, our folks, and they have provided the cuts that the Republicans asked for. Because it has a timeframe that goes until after next year, that means we

will provide certainty to the marketplace and avoid a downgrade of our credit. The Boehner plan would guarantee a downgrade of our credit. So these are enormous differences.

Finally, the Reid plan provides a tight process, a plan that we know is familiar around here. Like the way we deal with military bases, we require votes. The votes have to take place, and we would be required within a very short number of months to deal with America's long-term debt and budget crisis, and people would have an ability to put their cuts on the table.

But we would also, we hope, have an opportunity to have revenues. That is the big sticking point here in the Senate. We need to know that if there is a trigger that is used in an automatic way in which money is going to be held back, that money has to be held back in a fair and balanced way. You do not just cut, you also have to have the possibility of revenue. Because if you do not have the possibility of revenue, then the side that only wants to cut can wait for nothing to happen and the cuts take place automatically. There is no threat to them. There is no leverage for them to come to agreement on the other things.

That is reasonableness, I believe. I think what we are looking for here is reasonable. It is fair, and it is balanced. The House strategy has been essentially not to negotiate, not to negotiate.

We also know there are a lot of misstatements out here. Senator REID corrected one a moment ago about a deal. In addition to that, we keep hearing people say that there is no plan, that the President does not have a plan, that nothing has been reduced to writing.

Well, as Senator Moynihan used to say here: Anybody is entitled to their own opinion, but they are not entitled to their own facts. The fact is, the President put a detailed plan for \$4.7 trillion of cuts over 10 years with reductions in defense, and Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, all on the table to find savings in those programs.

It is incredible to me to keep hearing people say there is no plan when there has been plan after plan. Chairman of the Budget Committee CONRAD has been warning us for years about this. He sought to get a bipartisan deficit commission created by the Senate. It could not happen because the Republicans blocked it. So what happened? President Obama appointed one of his own. It reported back. We still have not dealt with that.

Because the votes aren't there to support a simple increase in the debt limit, we've bent over backwards to find a compromise that links the debt limit to commitments on significant deficit reductions.

Back in February, the President offered a budget that included more than

\$1 trillion in deficit reduction. When Republicans said his budget didn't contain enough cuts, he came out with a new proposal two months later which provided a comprehensive, balanced deficit reduction framework to cut spending, bring down our debt and increase confidence in our nation's fiscal strength. This framework would have reduced the deficit by \$4 trillion in 12 years or less and reductions would have been phased in over time to protect and strengthen our economic recovery and the recovering labor market. It contained a balanced approach to bringing down our deficit, with three dollars of spending cuts and interest savings for every one dollar from tax reform that contributes to deficit reduction. It called for \$770 billion in non-security discretionary spending cuts, \$400 billion security spending cuts, \$489 billion in Medicare and Medicaid savings, \$360 billion in other mandatory savings, and \$1 trillion from tax reform. How could I repeat this proposal if it hadn't been written down?

After that was rejected, in his negotiations with the Speaker, the President put an unprecedented \$4.7 trillion dollars of deficit reduction on the table, including painful cuts to programs millions of working Americans depend on, even cuts we Democrats hate as a matter of principle—and the President offered them along with closing wasteful corporate tax loopholes in order to achieve "shared sacrifice." I believe it would have had significant support in the Senate—instead, House Republicans rejected it and walked away from the process.

The so-called "Gang of Six" in the Senate worked for months to strike a compromise that was balanced as well—it too could have won significant backing here in the Senate and was applauded by Senators as ideologically and philosophically different as me and the conservative senator from Oklahoma, TOM COBURN. For House Republicans, this too was unacceptable, because they believe there is not a single new revenue or tax savings that can be supported in the entire 72,000 page U.S. Tax Code.

Recognizing both the stakes for our country, the danger to the economy, and House Republican intransigence, Majority Leader HARRY REID has now offered approximately \$2.2 trillion in deficit reduction without additional revenue, composed of cuts Republicans had previously supported. That too was rejected. The leader's proposal would give our economy the certainty it needs to create jobs today, not 6 months from now and it provides a certain process for Congress to do its work for the next 4 months.

Time and time again, I hear those absolutists criticizing the President and majority leader's handling of the situation. They ask what our plan is? Well, take your pick—we have offered com-

promise after compromise and every time they have said no.

No, the House Republicans would rather spend their time negotiating with themselves and criticizing other proposals than negotiating with Democrats or trying to show that they are willing to compromise.

Here in the Senate, Senator McCONNELL offered a reasonable compromise that would get us past this hurdle. He proposed a path forward in good faith as way to provide stability for our economy and not have this saga continue. What did House Republicans do? They walked away from even a Republican proposal to ensure our nation didn't default and our economy wasn't hurt.

So what do House Republicans want? They want legislation called the Cut, Cap and Balance Act. It is so extreme that even PAUL RYAN's draconian budget wouldn't fit into its limits.

A week ago today, the Senate defeated the bad version—cut, cap and balance. This vote made it extremely clear that cut, cap and balance did not have a path forward, but repeatedly House Republicans push for it even though it has already failed in the Senate and the President threatened to veto it.

So when the talk of the "grand bargain" failed, what did the House Republicans do? They further entrench themselves in an extremist position and turn to a new way of passing cut, cap and balance. Have they tried to find a way forward to reaching a real compromise? No, they continue to negotiate among themselves.

And their current refusal to negotiate across party lines flies in the face of the very Republican principles they have espoused.

Why do we oppose the Boehner plan? Because the experts have said that Boehner's plan could trigger many of the consequences as default itself—including a surge in interest rates that will hurt every American with a mortgage, a student loan, a car loan, or a credit card—because it would make passage of a balanced budget amendment a condition for increasing the debt ceiling in 6 months. In other words—automatic default if they don't get their way. Since there is not two-thirds support in the House and Senate for this amendment, it guarantees default.

Bruce Bartlett, a former economic adviser to President Reagan said:

This is quite possibly the stupidest Constitutional amendment that I think I have ever seen. It looks like it was drafted by a couple of interns on the back of a napkin.

Mr. President, that is President Reagan's adviser.

Just the other day, my friend and colleague Senator McCain stated that thinking a balanced budget amendment can pass—"is worse than foolish." He went to say:

That is not fair to the American people to hold out and say we will not agree to raising the debt limit until we pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. It is unfair. It is bizarre.

We can't do this. We can't keep going down this road. This stalemate cannot stand. It is time for us to reach across the aisle. Senator REID's plan tries to do that. It doesn't touch the Republican holy grail of revenues. Not a dime. And 100 percent of the spending cuts in Senator REID's deficit reduction plan were supported by Republicans. They were included in proposals from Speaker BOEHNER's plan, House Majority Leader CANTOR, and House Budget Committee Chairman RYAN. Just last night, Senator REID amended his plan to include Senator MCCONNELL's provision to give the President the authority to increase the debt limit in steps. This gives Members of Congress the chance to register disapproval for increases in the debt limit. This is yet another compromise by the Democrats.

So I think there has been a great effort by Democrats to make changes to deal with the Republican objections. I would ask, what is the single Republican concession? What is it they have given as a matter of compromise? Nobody can tell you that because there has not been one. In fairness, in the Gang of 6, a great group of Republicans joined with Democrats, and they did make a concession, and they took political risks. They went out and said: Yes, there have to be cuts, but there also have to be revenues. I applaud those Republicans who joined in that effort. That is what we need to find here now. That is the way we are going to make the difference here.

It is the place to start a compromise but it takes two sides to compromise. And it takes both Houses of Congress to pass a bill. It shouldn't be this difficult for Congress to do its most fundamental job under the Constitution and preserve the credit rating and reputation of the most powerful nation on Earth.

And it doesn't take an amendment to the Constitution for us to balance the budget either. It takes the courage of our convictions. We have been here before. In the 1990s, our economy was faltering because deficits and debt were freezing capital. We had to send a signal to the market that we were capable of being fiscally responsible. We did just that and as a result we saw the longest economic expansion in history, created over 22 million jobs, and generated unprecedented wealth in America, with every income bracket rising. But we did it by making tough choices. We cast tough votes and some Senators even lost their seats but they committed the country to a path of discipline that helped unleash the productive potential of the American people. Working with Republicans, we came up with a budget framework that put our

Nation on track to be debt free by 2012 for the first time since Andrew Jackson's administration. It didn't take a constitutional amendment—it took courage.

Mr. President, we can do that again—if we get real. If we get serious. There is a bipartisan consensus just waiting to lift our country and our future if Senators are willing to sit down and forge it and make it real. If we are willing to stop talking past each other, to stop substituting sound bites for substance. If we are willing finally to pull ourselves out of ideological cement that has been mixed over in the House.

I believe we can compromise. I think the only place to resolve this crisis is in compromise.

I believe I have additional time, but I wanted to know where I am with time. I will wrap up very shortly.

As we know, it takes both Houses to pass a bill. It should not be this difficult for Congress to do its most fundamental job under the Constitution. It does not take an amendment to the Constitution to balance the budget. How could I say that? Because in the 1990s, we balanced the budget. We created 23 million new jobs. We raised the income of everybody in America. And the fact is we did what was necessary to put us on a track to pay down the debt of our country by 2012. We sent a signal to the marketplace.

We can do this again if we get real, if we get serious. I believe there is a bipartisan consensus here in the Senate waiting to lift our country and our future, if Senators are willing to sit down and forge it and make it real, if we stop talking past each other. The world's most deliberative body could become that again. But the reason it is not viewed as that today is not that the institution itself has failed; it is not that it cannot be deliberative. It is because the people in it have not yet decided to live in the tradition of those predecessors who earned the reputation for this institution. It is because, unlike the years when I first came here in the 1980s, some have decided to use this institution for a 24/7 365-days-a-year campaign, to make everything that happens here the prisoner of ideology and politics rather than the instrument of debate and decision.

I think it would do us good to remember that until recent history, this institution has been the birthplace of compromise and delivered some of the great legislative achievements that have reshaped our Nation out of compromise, bipartisan compromises here in the Senate—the passage of the Social Security Act of 1935, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1969, the creation of Medicare in 1965, Social Security reforms of 1983.

We all know that during the Constitutional Convention, Roger Sherman and Oliver Ellsworth of Connecticut developed a bicameral legislative struc-

ture that broke a deadlock, and it created—it is in the Constitution. It is why we have a Senate and a House today: compromise.

Everyone who remembers the history books remembers the Compromise of 1850 drafted by Henry Clay that diffused a 4-year confrontation between the slave States of the South and the free States of the North. Even in our most difficult moments, we have been able to find a way to compromise.

In the end, it is people who define this place. It is we Senators. And in my conversations with colleagues on the other side of the aisle, I am convinced there are plenty of people here who are prepared to reach across the aisle and prove that the United States and the U.S. Senate can live up to this moment. I believe that in the next 48 hours the Senate will prove our ability to live up to our constitutional and our personal responsibility.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HAGAN.) The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, how much time is remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 11 minutes remaining.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I will take 11 minutes. I ask unanimous consent that when the time comes back on the Democratic side, I be granted an additional 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I would like to remind the American people why we are in the midst of the present crisis, days away from when the United States of America, the wealthiest Nation in the world, will not be able to pay its bills. Let me be clear. The Senator from Oklahoma earlier had a chart up saying we are broke, broke, broke. We are the wealthiest Nation in the history of the world. We have the highest per capita income of any major nation in the world. If we are so rich, why are we so broke?

The issue here, despite what some may suggest, is not about new borrowing or new spending; it is about paying the bills for what we have already incurred. Yet the Republicans, after running up a huge credit card bill under George Bush, do not want to pay the bills. As every American knows, if you use your credit card, you run up debt, and you have to pay the bills. And throughout American history, whether a Democratic or Republican Congress or a Democratic or Republican President, that is what we as a nation have done.

On this point, it could not be more clear than this letter to Senator Howard Baker from President Ronald Reagan:

The full consequences of a default or even the serious prospect of default by the United States are impossible and awesome to contemplate. Denigration of the full faith and

credit of the United States would have substantial effects on the domestic financial markets and on the value of the dollar in exchange markets. The Nation can ill afford to allow such a result.

President Ronald Reagan, 1983. It can't get much clearer than that. However, today Ronald Reagan would find himself losing in a Republican Party primary because he would not be pure enough for the tea party.

Because Republicans in the House are unwilling to do what even Ronald Reagan said needs to be done, we find ourselves in the midst of a manufactured crisis—a manufactured crisis—one without precedent: one House of Congress willing to jeopardize the economy of the United States unless the country capitulates and accepts policies that otherwise do not enjoy majority support, policies that could not pass the Congress, policies that would be vetoed by the President. This is simply unprecedented.

I believe this unprecedented action requires an unprecedented response. As at other critical junctures in our history, the President must act boldly to protect our Constitution and, more important, our country. The Constitution never envisioned that one House of Congress would willingly destroy the economy of the United States in order to obtain policy objectives it could not achieve through the normal legislative process. Yet that is the situation in which our Nation finds itself.

The legislative process is hard. It is frustrating. Trust me, there are many ideas and proposals I have fought my entire career on to become law, and they are never the way I envisioned starting out because you make compromises along the way. Yet rather than engaging in the hard work of persuading the American people, persuading a majority of the House, persuading a majority of the Senate, persuading the President—a task which often takes years and multiple elections—the House Republicans want to short-circuit the legislative process by holding the economy hostage.

For example, if the Republicans in the House put forward a bill to eliminate Medicare, it would not get anywhere. Yet, with their cut, cap, and balance budget amendment, it would shrink the government to the size it was prior to Medicare even taking hold, and that would mean we would have to do away with Medicare. However, that could never pass here on its own.

Likewise, I read that Speaker BOEHNER recently suggested to the President that the House would vote to allow the United States to pay its bills if the President would agree to repeal health care reform—in other words, take health insurance away from 30 million Americans and allow health insurance companies to deny coverage based on preexisting conditions.

The House could never achieve these policy objectives through the normal process, so they hold the economy hostage. Think about that. This is not just the attitude of the Republican Party with respect to the debt limit. The Republican Party has adopted an entirely new approach to democracy that is wholly undemocratic. If they cannot win elections or win the court of public opinion, they insist on holding the country hostage.

The minority leader has been frank about this approach to governing. In a recent speech about a balanced budget amendment, the minority leader of the Senate, the Republican leader, said the following:

The time has come for a balanced budget amendment that forces Washington to balance its books. . . . The Constitution must be amended to keep the government in check. We've tried persuasion. We've tried negotiations. We've tried elections. Nothing has worked.

Say again? Say again? We have tried elections, and nothing has worked? What is he implying?

Furthermore, I would say to the Republican leader, we had surpluses in 1998 and 1999 and 2000 and 2001. We had 4 years of surpluses. Yet, somehow, "We've tried elections. Nothing has worked." Is he implying that somehow we need to have another course of action outside of elections, outside of persuasion, outside of negotiation?

President Bush's former speech writer, David Frum, recently commented on increasingly absurd and unrealistic demands put forth by House Republicans before they will agree not to destroy the American economy. He noted:

Why doesn't the new Boehner bill just require Obama to resign in favor of a Republican before the second debt ceiling increase? Tidier.

Sadly, that is not too far from the truth. In the face of this radical—radical and cynical—approach to governing, we are faced with a manufactured crisis. Indeed, the ramifications for our economy, for our middle class, indeed for America's ability to trust and believe in their government—the stakes could not be higher.

In response, in the absence of a balanced approach that could be agreed upon broadly in the Senate and the House, I believe the President must act boldly. He must carry out his constitutional duty to honor the commitments the U.S. Government has made. I believe the President, under the 14th amendment of the Constitution, must honor the obligations of the U.S. Government.

As the Supreme Court noted in *Perry v. United States*, Chief Justice Hughes' opinion:

The fourteenth amendment, in its fourth section, explicitly declares: The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, . . . shall not be questioned. While this provision was undoubtedly in-

spired by the desire to put beyond question the obligations of the government issued during the Civil War, this language indicates a broader connotation.

Chief Justice Hughes goes on to say:

The Constitution gives to the Congress the power to borrow money on the credit of the United States, an unqualified power, a power vital to the government, upon which in an extremity its very life may depend. The binding quality of the promise of the United States is of the essence of the credit which is so pledged. Having this power to authorize the issue of definite obligations for the payment of money borrowed—

Listen to this—

the Congress has not been vested with authority to alter or destroy those obligations.

One more time. Congress has unlimited power to borrow, but "the Congress has not been vested with authority to alter or destroy those obligations." I do not think it could be more clear. It could not be more clear. Congress has not been vested with the authority to alter or destroy the Nation's credit obligations. Of course, that means the Congress cannot through its actions repudiate the Nation's debt, but it also means, through its inaction—failing to raise the debt ceiling—it cannot repudiate our country's obligations. Thus, rather than somehow prohibiting the President from taking action to protect the full faith and credit of the United States, as some have suggested, I believe the clear reading of the 14th amendment, as supported by *Perry v. United States*, I believe the President is obligated—obligated—to ensure that, in the words of the 14th amendment, the public debt not be questioned.

I know legal scholars have spent some time in recent weeks debating the meaning of the 14th amendment with respect to the debt ceiling. But where there is debate on the meaning of the Constitution, where there is no precedent, where the courts have not weighed in, where under our system of government we cannot just walk across the street to the Supreme Court and ask them for an advisory opinion, I want to remind the President that the Constitution does not belong to law professors, it does not belong to political pundits, it does not belong to columnists; rather, it belongs to the American people. And you, Mr. President—you, Mr. President—have been entrusted by the American people, in a very clear election, as it says right here in the Constitution, "to faithfully execute the office of the President of the United States and to the best of your ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

So the 14th amendment makes clear the full faith and credit of the United States cannot be destroyed. The only case on point ever decided by the Supreme Court said the Congress cannot alter or destroy those obligations—cannot. So if the Congress, through inaction—through inaction or action tries

to destroy or alter those obligations, I believe it is incumbent upon the Chief Executive to exercise his authority—to exercise his authority—to make sure the full faith and credit of the United States is not jeopardized—is not jeopardized.

The President should use his authority to do so.

I will give you three examples where there is no precedent, where there is no clear authority in the Constitution, but where the President exercised that kind of authority.

Thomas Jefferson purchasing the Louisiana Purchase.

In Thomas Jefferson's letter to Senator Breckenridge, he agonized over whether he, as President, had the authority under the Constitution to consummate the treaty for the purchase of the Louisiana Territory. But in the end—he even said in his letter that perhaps we need a constitutional amendment to go to the Congress and the States and be ratified before I can do this. But in the end, he realized that would take a long time, it might fall through, and all kinds of bad things would happen. So even one of the Framers of our Constitution, Thomas Jefferson, took action even though there was no clear authority in the Constitution for him to do so. In fact, Members of the House went after him for it. But he decided it was better, as he said, to ensure the future benefits of the United States rather than some minor violation of the Constitution.

A second example: President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. There was no authority whatsoever for him to do that, but he did it, even though some people, at that time, went after him because he didn't have the clear authority in the Constitution to do so.

A third example: Franklin Roosevelt and the lend-lease program in Great Britain to make sure they could fight off the Nazi invasion of Great Britain, a clear success. Franklin Roosevelt wrote that he didn't think that was probably constitutional, but he instructed his Attorney General—he gave his own Attorney General a legal opinion, from the President, saying that the country needed to have this done. He went ahead and did it. Again, some people took after him on it, but we all realized it was the right thing to do for the survival of our own country.

Those were just three instances—three big ones—where, again, there was no clear authority by the Constitution but no prohibition in the Constitution for the President to do so, and where the vital security of the United States was at stake.

I will close on this: I believe this is just like those times. The security and the future improvement of the United States and future generations depends upon the President taking this action boldly and forthrightly to preserve the

integrity and to make sure the obligations and the full faith and credit of the United States is not questioned.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. COATS. Madam President, I wonder if I may ask how much time is allocated. We are a little out of kilter with the allocation of time. How much time do I have to speak? I want to make sure my colleagues have sufficient time to speak also.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Republicans control the next 24 minutes.

Mr. COATS. I will not begin to use that amount of time. I think I can use 10 minutes or less, and I will leave some time for my colleagues.

I can't count how many times I have been here speaking about the same subject, but this subject occupies all of us and it has done so for this entire session of the Congress.

Three days are left until we reach that date on which the White House and the Treasury has said we will default. Right now, we are debating on a Saturday night over a bill that has already been defeated in the House of Representatives by a substantial vote, including with Democratic support. We are debating a bill tonight that we know will not pass here. The irony of being charged with filibustering the majority leader's bill, the Reid bill, is somewhat bizarre given the fact that Republicans are willing to give Senator REID and the Democrats a vote on this bill as soon as they want it. It has been going on now for many hours. I think everything that can be said for or against this bill has probably been said. Nevertheless, the majority leader himself objected to our offer to stop talking on both sides and get to the vote. That is where we are.

I have been talking for some time now about the fact that the current fiscal crisis the United States faces demands Congress to recognize seriously the enormity of the problem and come forward with a bold plan. We need a bold plan to begin to address, over a period of time, what is necessary to assure the financial markets and the American people that we understand the plight we are in; that we have taken not only rational steps but significant steps to address the problem we are in; and that we are willing to put comprehensive plans in place to get us on the path to fiscal health.

Yet here we are, and after months of debate, we are now debating over just a small step forward, which, in my opinion, will not begin to satisfy the serious problems we have. A small step will not begin to satisfy all of those who are concerned about whether we truly grasp what is necessary to be done; whether we truly understand that we need to send a signal to the financial world, to the world itself, and

to the American people, that we have taken the necessary steps to put our country on the right fiscal path.

Now, it is clear, and it has been said so many times, that our spending addiction has become much worse in the last 2½ years. We have seen a 24-percent increase in non-defense discretionary spending under the Obama administration. We have seen a staggering increase in the debt from \$10.6 trillion on Inauguration Day to \$14.3 trillion today—a \$3.7 trillion increase in just a 2½-year period of time. Clearly, these attempts by the President to address our economy have not succeeded. The President's stimulus plan cost an additional \$862 billion, and we haven't seen an economic stimulus. The latest reports are staggering to all of us as we find out that our growth in the first quarter of this year was far under what had been projected and had been calculated initially, and unemployment is not going down. People are out of work.

Clearly, we need to make significant strides forward. I will not go into all of the details of the flaws of the Reid plan. It has been talked about, and it was soundly rejected by the House. We know it will not achieve the necessary number of votes to go forward, but we are debating it.

I want to talk about the larger question, which is, are we going to take significant steps to put us on the right track, or are we going to compromise to the point where the rating agencies, the financial world, and even the American people look at it and say: Is that it? Is that all you can do?

What is interesting is that my colleagues on the other side have talked about a compromise. They say we should move to the middle. But it is like taking a scale of 10 and reducing it down to 4, and instead of a compromise being 5, they have lowered the top line to 4 and said we need to get down to 2 or 1½. And if we are not willing to go that far, then they say we are not willing to compromise. That is distorted logic.

More important, it is logic, or illogic, that is driving us to an incomplete solution to a very real problem. It doesn't take much to understand how this is being viewed. Just in the last couple of days, the New York Times ran a headline basically saying "Recovery Still Slow and New Data Show Little Growth Ahead."

The Washington Post has a headline, "A Stranglehold on our Domestic Policy," by Michael Gerson, who used to be one of my staff members.

There is another one by Robert Samuelson, "Why Are We in the Debt Fix? We Have to Address Healthcare Spending." The Wall Street Journal reports, "U.S. GDP Grows just 1.3 percent." On and on it goes.

My own view of this—which is not because I am a brilliant economist, I am

not; and not because I am a financial analyst, I am not—but I have talked to dozens of people who don't have political skin in the game but simply have analyzed this in an objective way and indicated that, unless we come forward with something close to—actually something above a \$4 trillion limit in spending reductions over a decade, combined with a path to entitlement programs restructuring and curbing excessive mandatory spending, combined with an overhaul of our complicated Tax Code to make American businesses more competitive and spur economic growth, we will not be addressing the problem.

So the problem is that too many people are thinking that if we just end up with this compromise, if one side or the other will move just a little, we will be able to increase or avoid default on the debt limit, and we will have addressed the problem.

For those who say this is just step 1, and we can address it in step 2—the balance we weren't able to do here—I don't think the American people have much confidence in that. I don't think the American people have much confidence when we say we will have a group of Senators and Congressmen, on a divided basis of Republicans and Democrats, sit down and then report something to us and that will solve the problem.

The difficulty there is that those are the same people here who have not been able to solve it in 7 months of debate—sometimes with Democrats and Republicans engaging in those debates. I don't think it is going to be solved because we may arrive very much at the same stalemate that has arisen after these 7 months of debate, partly because there are two visions in place here. I think what this debate is all about is this: what is the proper role of the Federal Government, and what can the Federal Government afford to do and not afford to do?

On the one hand, we have people who say government has grown too big. Republicans are saying we cannot afford big government anymore, and it is hurting the economy. That is a vision for the future that is very different from our colleagues across the aisle, who basically see government as much more engaged in the process and don't want to cut back on a number of programs and a number of initiatives and policies that have been put into place over the years.

It is not quite that clearly divided by this aisle. There are people on both sides who have shades of one way or shades of the other way. But the reality is, if we look around the world and look at models as to what makes economies flourish and what makes governments financially stable, we see that an overgrowth of promises—overpromising Parliaments and Congresses—finally bridges us to the point

where we no longer can afford what we have promised people. That is where we are now.

Without putting those practices into place, I fear that whatever we do will not be sufficient. We will get the downgrade anyway, and we may get a precipitous action that puts us in a far more difficult situation than it would have been had we come forward with something significant now, at a level in which those who are analyzing this say we have it, the U.S. government is serious about it, they have locked it in and made sure it can't be overturned, and injected certainty into the future. Even though some of that certainty is painful, it will be rewarded, I believe, with support because it is sufficient to take the necessary first steps.

Knowing we are 3 days away from default, I propose that if we can't come to agreement on something sufficient, we should provide an extension, short-term, whether it is 4 weeks, 6 weeks, or 8 weeks, guarantee that we will not default with the amount of money on the increase in the debt ceiling, in return for an equivalent amount of spending cuts. This would give us some time to come together and do what I have outlined—or something close to it—so that in the end we do not have an immediate default, and we do have a commitment to go forward and put something of substance in place and give it one last shot.

Maybe I am a starry-eyed optimist. Maybe I am just hoping that whatever we do can be built upon and brought to the point where it will become effective, rather than fearing that what we do will be relegated as a step far too short to address the problem of our time.

Madam President, I wish we had done more. I think we still can do more. But decisions have to be made in a very quick matter of time, whatever we do. Even if we end up passing something that is insufficient, I hope we will start work the very next day on addressing the real problems that we face and putting something into place that will restore confidence and ensure that America is not going to become a second-rate nation; that we are not going to see a devaluation of our dollar and a loss of confidence in the American people, investors, and the world. I hope we put something in place that ensures America will still be the place to do business, to live, to prosper, and to have a safe haven for funds.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I appreciate the comments of my colleague from Indiana whom I heard a moment ago. I think he is absolutely right. We have deeper and more important problems we need to address, along with the important decisions we make over the next 24 hours on the

debt limit. It is necessary to extend the debt limit, but it is not sufficient. We also have to deal with these underlying fiscal problems, and I think my colleague from Indiana stated that well.

I rise to talk about the debt limit proposal and how we can provide a pathway forward on a bipartisan basis—again, not just to solve this immediate problem that confronts us but also to deal with these deeper and very serious problems we have with our fiscal deficits and a weak economy. It may be good to start by asking why we are here. We are here because we have a law that says the U.S. Government can borrow only so much. The law says the U.S. Government can borrow only up to \$14.3 trillion.

That is a lot of money—\$14.3 trillion. It is approximately 95 percent of our economy. This is unprecedented, of course. We have never had debts at this level before. Many economists look at this and believe it is already having a very negative impact on our economy to have this huge debt out there because it affects the private sector. But we have come to this \$14.3 trillion limit, and now, in order for government to continue to provide everyday government services, benefits to our troops, veterans, Social Security, and so on, the limit needs to be raised.

The Federal Government now borrows more than 40 cents of every \$1 that is spent. It seems to me only common sense that when we have maxed our credit card, which is what the Federal Government has done, and when we have this deep underlying problem of these huge deficits—\$1.4 trillion this year, a record level also—and mounting debt, we should deal with the underlying problem before we extend the credit card limit. So that is why we are here.

I think it is an appropriate debate. I wish it could have been resolved sooner. I think it can be resolved over the next day or so, but I think it is an important discussion we have to have. The President has made it clear he would like the debt limit increased, and he would like it increased high enough to last through the 2012 election. Interesting, because election day is not part of the economic calendar. It is not the end of a fiscal year. It is not the end of a calendar year. It is the political calendar. It is unfortunate during this time of such budgetary uncertainty, we seem focused on political deadlines.

Meeting this request the President has made—that it be extended until beyond the election—would be the largest debt increase that has ever been approved by the Congress. It would be over \$2 trillion. So, again, I think it is appropriate we have this discussion before we agree to the largest debt limit increase in the history of our country. We have never raised the debt limit that much at one time before.

The President also says we need to do this because the markets want the certainty that a long-term debt limit increase will provide. I think there is something to that, in the sense of market certainty. If there could be a longer debt limit increase, I suppose it would add to market certainty. But markets don't just want a solution to this debt limit issue. In fact, I would argue what they want even more is a solution to the soaring debt itself, and this is not based on conjecture, it is based on looking at what those who are analyzing our economy say.

We have all heard about Fitch, Moody's, and Standard & Poor's. These are the credit agencies a lot of people have been talking about. They are the ones threatening to downgrade our debt. They say we should extend the debt limit, but they also say that is just the first step; that we also have to deal with the underlying fiscal problems in our country or the downgrade will occur. They want a serious commitment to reining in the spending spree that has buried us in debt in the first place. So this has to be dealt with.

A friend of mine, Keith Hennessey, sent me an e-mail tonight, and he had an interesting way to put it, for people who follow the financial markets. He said: We face both a liquidity crisis right now—which is that the Federal Government can't borrow to meet its needs—but we also face a solvency crisis—which is that the accumulation of the Federal Government deficits into the debt are at historic levels, and already harming the economy in very significant ways. So we need to deal with both.

One way to show this commitment to the solvency problem—to the debt problem—is to be sure we guarantee \$1 in spending cuts for every \$1 we raise the debt limit. There is a formula that was laid out several months ago by Speaker BOEHNER, and I think it has been widely agreed to. We will see it in what Majority Leader REID has proposed. As we will talk about in a minute, unfortunately, some of the budget savings he thought were there, based upon the Congressional Budget Office analysis, are not real cuts, but that was the formula he used. The President has also talked about this formula, and I think it is widely agreed we need to be sure we are only extending the debt limit to the extent that we are reducing spending. So if it is going to be over \$2 trillion of debt limit extension, we need to find \$2 trillion in spending reductions over time.

It is interesting. As I have analyzed how this formula would work over time, it actually makes sense for our economy. If we raise the debt limit \$1 but also cut \$1 in spending, it not only helps us in the short term but over a 10-year period, what the CBO tells us in terms of what the debt is likely to be, just about at the 10th year we would

actually balance the Federal budget. We will not get rid of the debt—the debt will continue to grow all during that time period, unfortunately—but there would actually be, at the end of that process, an annual balanced budget by repeatedly applying that formula every time we need to raise the debt limit.

I don't think that necessarily was the intent when the formula was derived, but it is interesting that it is a formula that makes sense to get us to, at least over 10 years, the point where we are not spending more than we are taking in. Given that the President and the majority leader would like to see a debt increase of over \$2 trillion, and Republicans—and even many Democrats—want to be sure there is an equal size spending cut, it seems to me there is an obvious way forward.

We can raise the debt limit for this extended period of time, but we have to require equal spending cuts, and they have to be real. If they are not meaningful and credible spending cuts, then we will have the same negative economic consequences we have been talking about tonight: The credit agencies will downgrade our debt and we will have higher interest rates, which will affect every American family—student loans, credit card loans, certainly our mortgages. It will affect small businesses trying to get credit and that are trying to hire people. If you have a car loan, it will affect you. It affects the entire economy. So we have to deal with this issue in a real way, in a way that is credible and meaningful.

Unfortunately, the proposal that Majority Leader REID put forward, which was intended to meet this formula we have talked about—\$1 spending cuts for every \$1 in increases—has some spending cuts that do not meet that standard of being credible and meaningful. The biggest one is about \$1 trillion in what is called the global war on terrorism spending reduction.

A little background on this. When we are writing the budget baseline, the Congressional Budget Office says we have to assume all the discretionary spending that is happening now will continue into the future. So they assume, for the next 10 years, we will spend about \$150 billion a year on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. But nobody believes or hopes that will happen. It has not been requested by the President. No one intends to spend that money. In fact, the President's own budget assumes that instead of the \$1.7 trillion that would be spent over the next decade, we will spend about \$600 billion. That is what the President's budget says. That is what people assume. This means Senator REID's proposal to take credit for cutting an additional \$1.1 trillion that is not going to be spent anyway is not going to be viewed as a credible proposal. Why? Because it is money that is not planning to be spent.

It is a little akin to a family saying: Let's assume we are going to take a vacation we are never going to take, and it is going to cost us \$10,000 and then saying: We saved \$10,000 on our budget.

I wish it weren't so. I wish the \$1.1 trillion was a credible spending reduction we could rely on. But the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, and many other observers have looked at this and said: Frankly, it is not a meaningful reduction in spending. So there are some meaningful reductions in spending in the proposal of the majority leader, but this particular one, unfortunately, is a big part of what he has proposed. Out of his \$2.7 trillion in cuts, about \$1.1 trillion is this proposal on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. We might hear it referred to on the floor as the OCO spending—overseas contingency operations.

I think one thing we should do as a Congress is make sure these cuts are meaningful and credible, and we can do that.

Second, let's expand this initial round of spending cuts. Right now, if we take out the war spending we just talked about and then look at the Congressional Budget Office's score of the majority leader's proposal, the cuts are just under \$1 trillion. It is still a substantial, and I think a credible, proposal of just under \$1 trillion, but that is all that is guaranteed. However, Washington is scheduled to spend about \$46 trillion over that same period—the next decade. Think about that: \$46 trillion and increase spending, by the way, by about 57 percent during that time period.

I think we can do a lot better than just cutting \$1 trillion over the next 10 years, and I think we can do it in a bipartisan fashion. I say that because I have identified \$2.8 trillion in spending reductions that have been agreed to by some bipartisan process.

The Biden talks, the Gang of 6, the President's fiscal commission, and some of the President's own discussions specifically came up with some spending reductions in addition to this \$1 trillion. So my hope is, we can take some of these spending cuts that have been agreed to through some bipartisan process and apply them to this initial package.

Finally, Majority Leader REID and Speaker BOEHNER's proposals both have this deficit reduction committee. It is an approach which makes sense, to be sure we get at the longer range problem, which is our unsustainable—very important but unsustainable—entitlement programs; tax reform, which will help stimulate more economic growth; and budget reform, which is clearly needed.

I have been here 6 months. We have done nothing on a budget. In fact, the Senate hasn't done a budget in 2 years. It sounds like we are in need of some reforms to make this place work. So this committee makes sense.

The majority leader calls for the committee to reduce the budget deficit to 3 percent of GDP. I think that is an interesting proposal. I think we need to be sure we know how long it would take to reach that level and how long we should maintain it, because there is no timeframe in his proposal.

So 3 percent of GDP, does that mean we would wait until a certain time period and, say, if it is a 10-year proposal, the ninth year or tenth year and suddenly make those reductions? If so, the reductions would not be nearly as significant.

Instead, we should put a timeframe in place, 5 years or 10 years—I would prefer 5—and say that there will be reductions starting in the first fiscal year to meet the 3-percent target. If you don't do that, then over that period of time, 5 years or 10 years, we will not see the kinds of reductions in spending that I think Majority Leader REID wishes to see and I know that many of us here on this side of the aisle believe are necessary.

Eventually, we have got to balance the budget, as we talked about earlier, and it needs to be something within the 3-percent committee that leads us to that.

Also, under the majority leader's bill, there is no requirement to actually enact any of the deficit reduction committee's reforms. I think he has a very interesting proposal in terms of having an expedited process on the floor, an up-or-down vote, no amendments. I think that is smart. But if the deficit reduction committee deadlocks or if the deficit reduction committee fails to get the votes here on the floor of the Senate, there needs to be some mechanism, a fail-safe mechanism or so-called trigger for accomplishing dollar-for-dollar cuts.

The House plan responsibly makes much of this debt limit increase contingent on the cuts being actually approved and signed into law. If the President and Majority Leader REID want the entire debt limit increase now, we would need some guarantee that this deficit reduction would actually take place. A commonsense compromise would be to add sequestration language, meaning you sequester across the board all spending, if the deficit reduction doesn't work, deadlocks, or doesn't pass on the floor even under these procedures. I would say you could limit that sequestration to the size of the debt limit increase, not even the size that Speaker BOEHNER has, which was \$1.8 trillion, or Leader REID I think assumes, which is even higher than that for his debt reduction committee, but just be sure it meets this formula of \$1 spending cuts for every \$1 of extension for the debt limit. That seems to be the kind of proposal that, at this late hour, could be agreed to and certainly should be.

Sequestration, by the way, is not a new concept. It has enforced nearly

every budget reform law of the past 20 years in the Congress. It can guarantee that, one way or another, we will receive the deficit reduction equal to the debt limit increase, which is, again, the intent by Majority Leader REID, Speaker BOEHNER, and others.

Finally, I think we need to allow the Senate to vote on a balanced budget amendment. Let's have a vote. Leader REID has talked about that, Speaker BOEHNER has talked about that. I think it is important to provide the representatives of the American people the opportunity to have an up-or-down vote on a balanced budget, or in many forms of a balanced budget, because there are different iterations of a balanced budget.

It seems this path forward should be able to satisfy both sides. The President and the majority leader would get the larger debt increase limit they want; there would be guaranteed deficit reduction necessary to begin fixing the budget and assuring financial markets that we are up to the task.

I think when you look at the various options we have before us, there is a way forward here. There is a way forward that says, Let's ensure that we have this upfront spending; let's remove the global war on savings gimmick; let's strengthen the initial savings, provide guarantees that this deficit reduction committee will actually work; and then let's have a vote on the balanced budget amendment.

Finally, I have heard the President talk about the importance of having a debt limit increase because of the market uncertainty in the economy. I agree that we need to do everything we can to stimulate this economy right now. We had bad news this week.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent for 30 additional seconds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PORTMAN. However, again getting back to our earlier discussion, if we simply extend the debt limit and don't deal with the underlying issue of our fiscal problems, what we called earlier the solvency crisis, we will have these same negative economic consequences.

With low growth in this quarter and, unfortunately, high unemployment over 9 percent, we need to do everything we can to encourage pro-growth economic policies, including tax reform, as we talked about, as well as using the energy resources we have in this country, regulatory relief, and, yes, dealing with our debt and deficit.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I rise to speak on the Reid amendment.

First of all, I am sorry we are engaged in a filibuster. We are using par-

liamentary procedure in a way that only delays us taking votes. We are days away from default. We are days away from our bond rating being downgraded. If we fail to raise the debt limit, the United States of America will be irrevocably fractured. We cannot fail and we cannot falter. We must act, and we must act tonight.

Last night, the Senate rejected the Boehner plan because it wasn't a solution. It would lead us over the cliff because it did not meet certain tests. If the Republicans force us into default or downgrade, it will be the biggest tax increase on Americans. When interest rates go sky high, it will be a tax on Americans.

We know that we have to agree to additional spending cuts, but it has got to be long term. We have to have a path forward for eliminating tax earmarks and entitlement reform that does not lead to a stampede to shrink Social Security benefits or to raise the Medicare age.

Mr. BOEHNER took it upon himself last week to come up with a solution. He told the President he—Mr. BOEHNER—was the guy to do it. Well, he didn't succeed. His proposal was failed leadership and failed economics because it did not meet the threat to our economy from default and downgrade. Mr. BOEHNER insisted that there be a vote in December to raise the debt ceiling; that the House and Senate must pass a balanced constitutional amendment. That is false. In America we can guarantee a vote, but we can't guarantee an outcome.

Here are the facts: We will be downgraded if we don't take action or if action is not taken seriously. So we must have serious policy, we must have a pragmatic process to reform taxes, and also the way to deal with entitlements. Those who rate our credit, such as Moody's, said a short-term extension would lead to downgrade in credit. Under the Boehner proposal we would be downgraded immediately because of his criteria.

The Republicans' refusal to say yes to the \$2 trillion spending cut that is proposed in the Reid resolution is mind boggling. We are agreeing to \$2 trillion worth of cuts.

As a Democrat, as a New Deal Democrat, as a Fair Deal Democrat, I have now agreed to more cuts than I would ever do under any other circumstances. I have compromised. Other Democrats of my political persuasion have compromised. Where is the compromise on the other side? We need compromise, first of all, to get a vote, and then to get it done. I am scared that if we go into a default, interest rates will skyrocket. But the President is going to have to set priorities. Benefits will be affected.

Today I have a Marine Corps pin on. Why did I wear a Marine Corps pin? First of all, because of their words

"Semper Fi," always faithful. How about us? Why can't we be as good as the military we send into war? Those men and women are willing to put their lives on the line to fight and defend for democracy. Why can't we be willing to put our political careers on the line to fight and defend for democracy? I am willing to make the tough choices. I have already made a tough choice to support the significant and Draconian cuts in domestic spending with very little coming out of defense, but more should come. I wanted to get rid of sacred cows such as the ethanol subsidy, such as the oil and gas subsidy, those sacred cows that slurp it up and milk the public trough. But, oh, no. We couldn't go to revenues, we just had to go to cuts.

So guess what. Democrats have compromised. We have gone 80 percent of the way. Why can't they come the other 20 percent and say yes to REID? REID gives us a deadline through 2013, which provides the certainty that the credit ratings would like. We make a significant downpayment on reducing the debt, and we have a political process—and I am willing to put more teeth in it—a political process to get rid of tax earmarks. And that is what they are; make no mistake, they are tax earmarks for the pampered and the prosperous. I am ready to reform that and then take a look at entitlement reform.

I think the Reid proposal is the path forward. But I say, as we wrap up, could we put politics aside? Could we put partisan sniping aside? Could we not come together? We on this side of the aisle have made 80 percent of a compromise. We look to the other side to give us the other 20 percent. It will not be giving the Democrats that; it will be ensuring the solvency and security of the United States of America.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the alternating blocks continue until 9 p.m. in the following manner: the majority controlling the time until 8:20 p.m.; Republicans controlling the next 30 minutes; and the majority controlling the remaining time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, the tea party Members in the House have achieved a remarkable feat. As the New York Times put today:

The scope of their victory in reshaping the debt ceiling bill to reflect the fiscal hawkishness of the most conservative House Members cannot be overstated.

In other words, despite Democratic control over the White House, despite Democratic control over the Senate, despite overwhelming opposition from the American people, a small minority of the Members of the Republican-con-

trolled House have successfully pushed an extreme rightwing agenda onto the American political landscape. This rightwing ideology is a set of beliefs which represents the interests of the wealthiest people in this country and the largest corporations. It is an ideology which ultimately wants to destroy Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, and make devastating cuts in education, Head Start, environmental protection, nutrition, infrastructure, and every other program which protects the interests of working families and the middle class.

It is an ideology which believes that despite the fact that the rich are getting richer, the middle class is shrinking, and poverty is increasing, all of the burden for deficit reduction should rest on working people, despite the fact that in the last 25 years the top 1 percent has achieved 80 percent of all new income. But this rightwing ideology says we have got to cut back on education, we have got to cut back on health care, we have got to cut back on Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and every other program a middle class and a working class, hurting desperately in the midst of this recession, depend upon.

In my view, this is an ideology which is grotesquely immoral and it is also bad economic policy. It has failed time after time, most recently during the Bush administration when, during his 8 years in office, we lost 500,000 private sector jobs, the worst job performance record in modern American history. It is an ideology which, in poll after poll, has been rejected by the American people.

For example, a few days ago a Washington Post poll came out, and 72 percent of the American people—and this is similar to every other poll I have seen—said that if we are going to be effective in dealing with deficit reduction, the most preferred way is to ask those people making more than \$250,000 a year to pay more in taxes—72 percent of the American people.

The Republicans, on the other hand, have fought time and time again to say that the wealthy and the largest corporations, some of which make billions in profit, pay nothing in taxes. They are not to be asked for 1 cent of sacrifice in deficit reduction; just working families, just children, just the elderly, just the sick.

It seems to me in this very late date of this debate we face four options, none of which is particularly good.

The first option is what some of the rightwing extremists have wanted all along: Let us default. It is not a problem. So what if millions of Social Security recipients don't get their check. So what if veterans don't get the check they were promised. So what, if sick people who were dependent upon Medicare and Medicaid cannot get the medical help they need? No problem, let's

default. Clearly, most of us understand that scenario would be a disaster for this country, for our economy, and, in fact, for the entire global economy.

The second option we are looking at is a bill that was passed Friday in the Republican House, the so-called Boehner bill. This bill would require massive cuts right now to a wide variety of programs and, most importantly, it would bring this congressional circus back into action immediately because within 6 months we would have to go over this debate once again. That is an absurd proposal. And included in that proposal, because they want huge amounts of cuts 6 months from now, no question, massive cuts to Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid—that is what the Boehner proposal is about.

The third option is the Reid bill. This bill, while by no means as destructive as the Boehner bill, is also bad news for working families. Because of the Republican commitment to the wealthiest people in this country and the largest corporations, it also would make heavy cuts on working families and not one penny of revenue coming from the rich and large corporations.

Let me discuss the one remaining option that seems to me to make at least some sense. It is not a great option but the best available. That has already been spoken about by my good friend TOM HARKIN. It seems to me that the least onerous option available to us today is for the President of the United States to exercise his authority under the 14th amendment to the Constitution to pay the debts incurred by the United States. The Constitution is very clear in saying that the debts of the United States "shall not be questioned."

The President swears an oath to protect and defend the Constitution, and many constitutional scholars believe the 14th amendment gives the President the authority and responsibility to pay our debts regardless of the dysfunctionality of the U.S. Congress. I think that is just what he should do if he is left with no other way to protect the full faith and credit of the United States.

I believe former President Bill Clinton is absolutely right in saying that if he were still in the White House, that is what he would do. Clinton said, and I agree with him:

I think the Constitution is clear and I think this idea that the Congress gets to vote twice on whether to pay for expenditures it has appropriated is crazy.

Let me be clear about what exactly this means and why it is so important that the President use this amendment now, at this particular moment in history. Let's remember that the debt ceiling was raised 18 times under Ronald Reagan and 7 times under George W. Bush, when the national debt increased by some \$5 trillion. If we concede to the rightwing Republicans and

if we make all of these cuts right now because they refuse to raise the debt ceiling, this sets a horrendous precedent for the future of congressional action. What this would mean is that no matter what legislation and appropriations were passed by the future Congress, the new Congress could simply say: We refuse to pay those bills. This would cause massive uncertainty in the financial market, drive interest rates up, and cloud the entire legislative process of the U.S. Congress. That is wrong and must not happen.

I understand there are those who disagree with this option, and I respect that. But I think we have an obligation to our senior citizens and our veterans to say: Yes, you are going to get the Social Security checks and the other benefits you have been promised. We have an obligation to our children and to the sick that, yes, you are going to get the Medicare and Medicaid benefits you have been promised. Incredibly, we have an obligation to the men and women in our Armed Forces who are putting their lives on the line. We have an obligation to them to make sure they get paid.

If Republican recalcitrance prevents us from reaching an agreement, then the President of the United States must do what is best for our people and for the future of this country. He must use his constitutional authority under the 14th amendment to pay our debts.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MIKULSKI). The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, how much time do I have under the order?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 13½ minutes remaining on the Democratic side.

NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 246, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 246) recognizing and commending the 2011 National Veterans Wheelchair Games, to be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, August 1 through August 6, 2011.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I rise today in favor of this resolution to recognize the importance of the National Veterans Wheelchair games which will be held in Pittsburgh, PA, starting August 1. This resolution recognizes the great contributions that this event makes towards improving the lives of disabled veterans and commends the organizers of this event.

I am proud to welcome veterans from across the country to Pittsburgh, PA,

this year as they participate in the 31st annual National Veterans Wheelchair Games. The games offer veterans with disabilities an opportunity to foster improved health through competition. Veterans can participate in 17 different events which include swimming, rugby, bowling, soccer and track and field events. These games have allowed for veterans, including those who have served in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom a chance to meet with other wheelchair athletes and to continue to use their athletic skills in competition.

Participants come from almost every State in the United States, from Puerto Rico and from the United Kingdom. They range from world class athletes to first time competitors. A quarter of the athletes will be participating for the first time.

As a Senator representing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, home to over 1 million veterans, the care and treatment of veterans is one of my highest priorities. I firmly believe that this country must be grateful for the safe homecoming of every single man and woman who has served in harm's way. Our joy at their return must be reflected in our commitment to helping all those who have served, especially those who are coping with devastating physical injuries and illnesses.

During my time in the U.S. Senate, I have sponsored and supported legislation to help our Nation's veterans. I strongly believe that treatment and rehabilitation of our Nation's veterans should be among our highest priorities. These games offer our Nation's veterans an opportunity to overcome adversity and work towards rehabilitation. As such the games deserve our support and attention.

It is with great pride that I offer this resolution to recognize the contribution that this event makes towards improving the lives of disabled veterans and commend the organizers and volunteers of this event. I thank Senator TOOMEY for joining me in sponsoring this and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I further ask that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 246) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 246

Whereas the National Veterans Wheelchair Games are a multi-event sports and rehabilitation program for veterans who use wheelchairs for sports competition due to spinal cord injuries, amputations, or neurological problems;

Whereas the National Veterans Wheelchair Games is the largest annual wheelchair sporting event in the world, attracting roughly 600 athletes annually;

Whereas in 2011, the National Veterans Wheelchair Games will be held August 1 through August 6, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;

Whereas competitive events at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games include table tennis, archery, swimming, quad rugby, weightlifting, air guns, nine-ball, basketball, softball, bowling, handcycling, power soccer, trapshooting, Super "6" slalom, a motorized wheelchair rally, and track and field events;

Whereas the National Veterans Wheelchair Games provide veterans with disabilities the opportunity to enhance their quality of life and promote better health through sports competition; and

Whereas past National Veterans Wheelchair Games have produced national and world-class champions and given newly disabled veterans, including veterans who have served in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, a chance to participate in events with other wheelchair athletes and to continue to use their athletic skills in competition: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the significant contribution that the National Veterans Wheelchair Games make to the lives of disabled veterans who have selflessly served the United States; and

(2) commends the organizers and volunteers of and the participants in the 2011 National Veterans Wheelchair Games for their efforts in service of the United States.

ESTABLISHING THE COMMISSION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT PROCESSING DELAYS—Continued

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I want to say that I listened very carefully to the remarks of the senior Senator from Maryland about where we find ourselves. I want to associate myself with her remarks on what a dire situation we are in at this moment. We really stand tonight on the edge of an economic calamity. Why is that? America is at the brink of being unable to pay our bills, bills we already voted to pay way in the past. When you raise the debt ceiling, it is not about future spending, it is about meeting your obligations.

How did we get to this debt? How did we get to this debt? For many years, we ran deficits, and they added up.

But I remember that when Bill Clinton was President—Madam President, I know you remember this—we balanced the budget. We didn't have a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution; we balanced the budget by sitting down and figuring out what was wasteful spending, what were important investments. We had economic growth, 23 million new jobs, and all the revenues that came with them. We had surpluses.

When George W. Bush became President, he said about this surplus: I have to give this back to the people. And he

gave it back to the millionaires and the billionaires. He put two wars on the credit card. Poof—there went the surplus. Then he had a prescription drug benefit, but he didn't pay for it, and there went the surplus. Two wars on the credit card, prescription drug benefit on the credit card, and tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires on the credit card, and all of a sudden, we started to see the debt rise.

My Republican friends who have suddenly discovered this debt never said a word when George Bush was President and we raised the debt ceiling nine times. Did you see the Democrats out here on the floor threatening to hold up the whole country? Did you see the Democrats saying: We won't give George Bush an increase in the debt ceiling unless he does whatever we want. We didn't do that. We should not ever do that. That is what is going on here. Republicans, led by the far extreme of their party, are holding this country hostage, and they are saying that unless they get their way, they will not relent.

I pray and I hope—and I am talking to my Republican friends in these hours—we will be able to come to some agreement. But I will say this: We are now facing a filibuster by my Republican friends. They will not allow us to vote on the Reid amendment with just a majority vote. They are demanding a supermajority. What I find interesting is they did not demand a supermajority vote over in the House on the Boehner proposal. That was done by a simple majority. Now they say we need a supermajority to vote on the Reid proposal.

HARRY REID has his door wide open; you know that as well as I. He has invited MITCH MCCONNELL—all the Republicans: Come on in. I am here. I am ready to negotiate. What is it that you need?

So far, we know there are conversations going on among Members. We do not see that leadership coming from Leader MCCONNELL. I hope he is rethinking this because the whole world is watching. They see a filibuster tonight. They understand which side is trying to resolve it.

How did we really get here? I explained how we got to the debt. How did we get to this moment? The debt ceiling needed to be raised, and our Republican friends said to our President: We are not going to give you a clean debt ceiling increase. We want to sit down and work on some cuts to the budget.

Guess what. The President said: I don't know, but we will do it. Come on in, we will do it.

Then the President said: You know what. Let's get a really big deal. Let's get a \$4 trillion deal. Let's get out of this budgetary crisis.

The President gave and gave, and what was the reward? First ERIC CAN-

TOR stalked out of the talks. He stalked out. "I don't want to be part of this." He took his little blanky and went home.

Then JOHN BOEHNER—he is in the talks, and he walks out of the talks not once but twice. He said: Well, I am done with this. I am going to work with the people on Capitol Hill. I am going to go talk to the bipartisan leadership here.

We said: Fine. We will try to work with you.

But they want everything their way: My way or the highway. If you ever looked up what "compromise" means, it means everybody gives a little.

We didn't want to attach this to the debt ceiling increase, but we said: OK, we will do it. You feel strongly about it. We will do it.

They said: OK. We don't want any new revenues.

They don't want to touch millionaires and billionaires. God forbid they should pay \$5 more a year to help us.

We said: You know what, we think it is wrong, but if that is what you are saying, we will just do cuts.

That was not happy. HARRY REID did more cuts than the Republicans—twice as many. That still was not good enough for them. It is always more of what they want.

I raised a family, and I know sometimes it is tough. This is the American family. If you have an argument between two kids in your family—I had two children. Now I have four grandchildren. They argue, and you have to say: Let's listen to each other first. I will give up something, and you give up something. Let's meet in the middle.

Oh, no. Then you think: Wait a minute, why do they think they deserve every single thing they want? What are they thinking? Do they run the Senate? No. The Democrats do.

Madam President, you and I just won reelection. You are the longest serving woman ever in this Senate. I am so proud to know you. You have had some hard races in your life. I had the toughest race in my life coming back here, but I came back here. Leader REID came back here. PATTY MURRAY came back here. MICHAEL BENNET came back here. And we run the Senate. President Obama is the President. He happens to be a Democrat. And in the House, the Republicans won a huge victory—a huge victory. The Republicans run the House, the Democrats run the Senate, and the President is a Democrat. Let's see, that is three branches, two-thirds run by the Democrats. The Republicans want it all. If one of my kids did that, if they were arguing with the other one, I would say that is not right. I am not even asking for two-thirds. As Senator MIKULSKI said, we have come a long way from where we want to come. Where have they come? They have not come toward us. Now the plan the Republicans want is to revisit this debt

crisis in 3 months, 4 months, 5 months from now. Imagine roiling the markets.

I used to be a stockbroker a very long time ago. In those years when the President got a cold, the market went down, everyone was worried. We never had a crisis like this. Do you know we have raised the debt limit 89 times in our history? No political party—no Republican Party, no Democratic Party—has ever held the debt ceiling increase hostage to their desires, hopes, and dreams.

What does the other side want? They will be honest—not all of them. They want cuts in Social Security, Medicare. They even had a proposal over in the House to end Medicare as we know it. We are not going there. We will not go there. We will not be revisiting this every 3 or 4 months. It is a recipe for a downgrade in our bonds. It is a recipe for turmoil in the marketplace. It is a recipe for higher mortgage rates. It is a recipe for more unemployment. It is a recipe for chaos.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Will the Senator yield?

Mrs. BOXER. I would be happy to.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. I was on the phone today listening to people call in from Ohio, taking calls. I heard so many people very afraid of the Boehner legislation and what might come out of a further compromise. Senator REID, as the Senator said, has offered a good many cuts and doing this in a way that is bipartisan.

Is the Senator hearing that in her State there is a real fear that the Republicans in the House are insisting on Social Security and Medicare cuts and what that would mean to people in her State?

Mrs. BOXER. Absolutely. We are the largest State in the Union with 38 million people. We have more people on Social Security and Medicare than any other State. They know what the stakes are. They are smart. If we look at the polls, 70 percent of the people say: Tax millionaires and billionaires; they should pay their fair share. Spare Social Security, Medicare, education and the things that we need.

We are here in a manmade crisis. This is unnecessary. This has never been done before, and I think the people have to understand that. Never ever has this been done before. We raised the debt ceiling 18 times when Ronald Reagan was President. I happened to be in the House of Representatives. Yes, a few people here and there voted no once in a while, but no one ever thought of bringing down that vote. We cannot have the greatest country in the world defaulting on our bonds. We cannot have us defaulting on our contracts.

Small businesses are calling me—I say to my friend from Ohio and my friend from Maryland and my friend from Alaska—and they are saying they cannot get credit now. The banks are

fearful. They are only getting overnight credit. What are we doing in this manmade crisis? We have a long history of working together at times such as this.

Leader REID's office is open. The door is open. This is the time to work together. We have until 1 in the morning when we hope we can get an up-or-down vote on Leader REID's proposal. I know there are talks going on. I have been talking to my Republican friends. They want to find a way out of this. But you know what. We have to pledge allegiance to the flag, not to Grover Norquist. We have to do what is right for the country. I pray and I hope that we do.

I will say this: If we fail, I hope the President will invoke the 14th amendment. Everyone should read it. It says the debt of the United States shall not be questioned. If we cannot get together, the President will have to take responsibility. I hope we can and show the world that we can still work together.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The gentlelady from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I follow my friend from California, and I agree wholeheartedly with her that the United States of America cannot default on its debts and obligations. I would like to think that all 100 of us in this body would concur and agree that we must, using every tool that we have at our disposal, using all of our relationships and what we have built as Members in this body and in the House of Representatives, that we use our best efforts to ensure we do not default as a nation but that we go further, that we go further and we offer the people of this country a solution to the problems that have led us to the point that we are today.

We have heard a great deal over the course of these past few days about the Boehner plan and whether it is good, bad, or indifferent, and now the Reid plan and whether it is good, bad, or indifferent. We assumably know what the Republicans want and what the Democrats want.

What about what the people of this country want right now? I don't know what all of the people of America want, but I can give you some ideas about what I am hearing from the people of Alaska and what they are concerned about and what they want from the Senate, from the U.S. House of Representatives, and from the President of this country. They want us to fix it. Odd that it should be so easy. Just fix it. They expect us to do just that. They expect us to fix this problem. That is why they have entrusted us with their confidence by allowing us the privilege to come and represent them in this body to help resolve these issues.

They don't expect that I, as a Republican, am going to resolve it with just

the Republicans. They expect that we, as Members of the Senate, will resolve this—Republicans and Democrats alike. They believe we will achieve a compromise built on the good ideas that come from the Republicans and the good ideas that come from the Democrats; that we will come together to solve the problems that affect the people in the great State of Maryland and the people in the great State of Alaska, and all the places in between.

In our effort to fix this, they expect us to compromise. Compromise should not be a negative or a nasty term. It should be what we all work to achieve jointly.

I would suggest that the other thing the people are looking for is honesty. They are listening to this debate. We have received phone calls in my office all day. We have been receiving them all week. I think so many of us have picked up the phones ourselves to hear what people are saying when they are calling. They are saying: Wait a minute. You guys are throwing numbers around. First of all, Speaker BOEHNER puts out a plan, and, well, it doesn't achieve the 1-to-1 ratio that he thought, so he pulls it back and so we have another set. Now Senator REID has his proposal on the floor, but people are talking about this \$1 trillion that is going for the war effort in Afghanistan and Iraq that we know is not really real and these are phantom numbers.

They are saying: Who are we to believe? Why are you not honest with us about the proposals that are out there? Does it cut? Would you expect that it will cut if, in fact, we are going to be focused on entitlements, Social Security? If we are going to be talking about tax revenues and how we might deal with tax reform? Can you not be honest with us, the American people, your constituents, the people you represent? They want a level of honesty in this discourse. We owe that to them.

People are also looking for certainty. There were some of my colleagues who spoke earlier in the day, and they were speaking from the perspective of small businesses and how—as a small businessman or large businessperson for that matter—it is imperative that in order for a person to make those business judgment decisions in terms of whether they are going to expand, whether they are going to bring on additional employees, they need to have a level of certainty in terms of what is going to go on.

What is going to happen with tax policy? What is the future of the economy going to be? What is the jobs picture like? It is not like we all have a crystal shiny ball out there that we can predict with great precision. We don't. What we ought not be doing is injecting greater uncertainty, and that is what is happening right now.

All throughout this summer we have kind of strung people along. We all

knew that August 2 was coming. We all knew the revenue was coming in and the outlays going out were not going to be measuring up, and we were going to be dealing with the potential for a default; we were going to be dealing with the potential for a downgrade in our credit rating. This is no surprise to anybody. That is where our crystal ball actually was pretty transparent. Yet we are not able to pull it together.

We managed to take a recess last week even though we were all promised we were going to be here working around the clock because we had important business to do. I was here with a colleague on Friday morning after the vote, looked around and realized I was perhaps the last Senator left here in Washington, DC. I got on a plane at 2:30 that afternoon to go to Alaska for crying out loud. We should have been here last weekend doing this instead of mere hours before we are up against our default deadline.

What does this do to the certainty or uncertainty in the economic climate, to the investment climate? I hesitate to be one that would suggest that we need to be making market decisions because we can't figure out what is going on here. I can tell you because I am hearing it in the halls. People are saying: I don't know about you, but I am looking at my investment fund or my retirement fund, and I am moving things. That is the kind of confidence they have in our ability to figure it out.

We are seeing it translate in the numbers. We saw that at the end of the week with the markets. We know tomorrow evening when the Asian markets open, everybody in the world from the financial community—this is not just the people in Washington, DC—will be looking to see whether we, as a Congress, have figured it out and if we have fixed it. If we don't, that continued uncertainty just continues this spiral.

We can do a lot in the Senate. We can do a lot in the Congress. We can pass bills and the President can sign them into law. One of the things we cannot legislate is we cannot tell the markets to shape up. We cannot tell the markets to pull it back in, everything is going to be OK. They are picking up on signals, and the signals right now are a level of uncertainty that is rattling.

The other thing that I think the people of this country are hoping for, are asking for, is a level of civility and respect within this body to our President, to those in the other body. We all come from different persuasions. Alaska is different from Maryland. My politics are different from your politics, Madam President, but I have great respect for you. We can argue and we can disagree, but we don't need to poke fingers in one another's eyes to get our point across.

I think what the people have seen, as we have engaged in this debate, is

something that does not do justice to the integrity of this institution. We need to get back to that point where we can engage in good debate and disagree heartily and make our arguments without being disrespectful of one another and the perspectives we, as individuals representing our constituencies and our States, bring to the table.

The hour is late. We will have a vote at 1 o'clock in the morning. How dignified. What body comes together at the darkest hour to cast a vote?

Last evening, my brother and sister-in-law were in town. They were passing through very quickly. They were actually able to be here and watch for about an hour and a half while we were engaged in the vote on the floor. My brother and sister-in-law are pretty educated people. They follow the news. They follow the politicians. They were fascinated by what was going on in this body and trying to understand what it was that was going on. I was trying to convey it to them, and I realized, if it is this difficult for me as a Member of this body to explain to somebody who is pretty plugged into what is going on, what is happening here, imagine the confusion of the person who just occasionally tunes in to C-SPAN, who reads the news or watches the evening news but isn't following the day-to-day. What we have managed to do is, on a bipartisan basis, confuse the American public, anger them, frustrate them, and cause them to be fearful about the future of our country. That is not leadership.

We have an opportunity in these next very short days ahead to regain some of this. We have some ideas that are out there. As the Senator from California has mentioned, and many others have mentioned, there are a great number of talks that are going on. There are talks at the leadership level. There are talks going on with those of us who are not part of leadership. That is important. But we need to recognize it is absolutely critical for the future of our country—not the future of our political well-being but the future of our country—that we be coming together to resolve the issues, not necessarily just to broker a deal but to find a solution that puts the interests of our country above our own political interests. That is where we need to be.

I am an optimist. I am a person who has the glass always half full. I remain committed to working with all Members of good will who will stand together to work through these difficult details. It is not easy, but they never promised us it was going to be.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas. Before she begins, I would advise her, her side has 16 minutes 50 seconds.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Thank you, Madam President.

I rise to speak about the August 2 debt ceiling deadline and the proposal that will be before us very soon, developed by Majority Leader REID.

Here we are again debating legislation that demonstrates our fundamental differences in how we should run our government. I wish to quote from a recent article by Charles Krauthammer that appeared in the *National Review*. I think it says something I have been saying several times in the last week, which is that this is more than a debt ceiling debate; it is a debate about our views of government that are so different between the parties in our country. Here is what Charles Krauthammer said:

We're in the midst of a great four-year national debate on the size and reach of government, the future of the welfare state, indeed, the nature of the social contract between citizen and state. The distinctive visions of the two parties—social-Democratic versus limited-government—have underlain every debate on every issue since Barack Obama's inauguration: the stimulus, the auto bailouts, health-care reform, financial regulation, deficit spending. Everything. The debt ceiling is but the latest focus of this fundamental divide.

The sausage-making may be unsightly—

No argument there—

but the problem is not that Washington is broken—

As he describes it—

that ridiculous, ubiquitous cliché. The problem is that these two visions are in competition, and the definitive popular verdict has not yet been rendered.

He goes on to say:

We're only at the midpoint. Obama won a great victory in 2008 that he took as a mandate to transform America toward European-style social democracy. The subsequent counterrevolution delivered to that project a staggering rebuke in November of 2010.

I think that puts a perspective on the debates we have been having during the last 2 years and the debate we are seeing now in the last few weeks.

I do know that none of us wants our country to go into default. Both sides can agree on that. All of us are troubled with the delay in resolving this issue. Uncertainty is not good for our economy, but a bad agreement is worse because it will have lasting impacts. It is my opinion it will also affect our debtors with a message that we are not serious about a \$14 trillion debt and we are not going to do anything that would try to bring it down or bring down the deficits or change the entitlement programs that are a major part—more than half—of our budget.

I support Speaker BOEHNER's bill, and I support the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act. Both of these plans, in my opinion, contain the right approach to our budget challenges. I believe the Reid plan is the wrong approach. The Reid plan contains what they say is a \$2.4 trillion debt limit increase which, if enacted, would result in the single largest increase in the debt ceiling in the history of America.

In addition to this unprecedented increase, the Reid plan fails to address our current fiscal imbalance. It doesn't do anything to address the fundamental problems. It lacks any adequate enforcement, and it doesn't ensure that long-term spending cuts are carried out. There is no guarantee at all. So we raise the debt limit and we don't have anything but a promise, and that is not good enough. It is not good enough for the elected leaders of our country, and it is certainly not good enough for the American public.

The debt ceiling increase in the Reid plan is not paid for. Many of the cuts outlined in his plan are illusory or hopeful. Hope is not a strategy. We can hope to do away with waste, fraud, and abuse, but we can't promise right now because we don't have it before us. If we had a bill that cuts certain amounts from certain agencies because of waste, fraud, and abuse, that would be a commitment we could uphold. But what we have is a promise that we will look at it. How many times have we looked at waste, fraud, and abuse in our government programs? Yes, we ought to do it, but we should not make it the basis of lifting a debt ceiling that is crushing the economy in our country.

To label \$1 trillion of cuts as savings from leaving Afghanistan and Iraq, which Senator REID's proposal does, is not credible. For one thing, we don't know what the future obstacles in Afghanistan and Iraq are. We have to retain a certain level of stability on the ground in Afghanistan. I have met with Afghan leaders and women just in the last couple weeks, and they also agree that if America leaves precipitously without knowing what the stability on the ground is—and we certainly haven't seen stability lately with the assassinations of mayors and leaders, including the half brother of the leader of Afghanistan—that is not stability. It doesn't say they are ready yet. So having \$1 trillion of cuts could undermine our national security. I hope we can leave with the right circumstances on the ground, but that is the only criteria we should use and not cutting a budget that we know is a promise and not a commitment we are assured we can keep.

Most disturbing of all in the Reid plan: The only possible justification for a \$2.4 trillion increase in borrowing authority is to avoid doing this again before the 2012 election. That is not a reason to make public policy. Yes, none of us would want to go through this again in the next year. It has been painful—painful for all sides—but just saying: We are going to do it with promises and hope for the future is certainly not a way to address a major policy issue, and it is not going to have the credibility with the American people.

I believe it would be irresponsible to give the President this unprecedented

additional borrowing authority without requiring the enactment of significant spending reductions and reforms. To do so would send a worse signal to the markets across the world that are shaky right now, looking at this debate. But they are also looking at what the result is going to be and who is going to win the battle about how we run our government. Can we imagine a \$16 trillion debt ceiling with no commitment to actually make the cuts that would start getting us on the right path? That is not enough. That is why we are here at a quarter of 9 on Saturday night debating this issue, because we are not going to give up on our principles of making sure the fiscal responsibility of our country will be worthy of a AAA rating, will be worthy of the assuredness that if you buy a bond or a Treasury note or invest in the United States of America, that it is a golden commitment, that you can count on it, that you can take it to the bank. That is what we are fighting for right now.

I hope so much we can come to an agreement because we all agree that defaulting on our debt would not be a good signal to the markets, but raising the debt ceiling without the assured cuts, without caps on future years' spending is unconscionable.

I hope going forward we would have a balanced budget amendment that would go to the States because most States have a balanced budget amendment in their constitutions and they have mostly sound fiscal policies. If we had to live with those same constraints, I believe we would not get into this kind of a situation again. Eventually, I hope we will have a balanced budget amendment that we could get a two-thirds vote for and send to the States and see if that isn't a worthy amendment to our great Constitution. But in the meantime, cut and cap is what we can do, and I hope we will.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I feel compelled to come to the floor this evening to refute some of the arguments that have been made by some of my colleagues, points that are important for the American people to understand, points that, if not clarified, could lead to a misunderstanding, lead to resentment which is misplaced.

One of the points I have heard made this evening by one of my colleagues is that the debt limit issue has never been held hostage quite like it has now. I am not quite sure what was meant by this, but I do want to clarify this point.

If someone had held this hostage before on any of the dozens and dozens of times the debt limit has been raised over the course of many years, maybe it would have been a good thing. Maybe it would be a good thing for us not to be dealing with right now a national

debt that has almost reached \$15 trillion.

Maybe we should consider the fact that those who are being held hostage are those who will one day have to repay this debt, considering that some of those people are not yet here because they have yet to be born, and in some instances, their parents have yet to meet. We have to ask the question whether they are being held hostage themselves—held hostage to a government that always demands more money so it can exercise more power over us. And as it acquires more power, exercises more of that over us—thus restricting our liberty—it demands more money. As it acquires more money, it exercises more power, and the process perpetuates itself. This is how we get to the point where we are almost \$15 trillion in debt. This is how we get to the point where the American people are being held hostage. So if this process has not been held up in the past, then shame on those who could have held it up but did not.

It is incumbent upon us who serve here and now to represent those who are sometimes underrepresented to represent those most vulnerable members of society who are not yet old enough to vote or not yet born. This is a multigenerational problem. It is a multigenerational obligation we are taking upon our entire country in connection with this debate.

So if my colleague who made this point just about half an hour ago meant that we should never have vigorous, aggressive debate and discussion over whether it is a good idea to take on \$2.5 trillion in new debt in one fell swoop, perhaps we should revisit that assumption; perhaps we ought to second-guess ourselves just a little bit more than we have in recent decades lest we hold hostage an entire generation.

Another point that was made by that same colleague is that Republicans have put forward plans to challenge, to undermine, to bring about immediate cuts to Social Security and Medicare. This simply is not true. Quite to the contrary. The Cut, Cap, and Balance Act—of which I was the lead sponsor in the Senate before it was introduced in the House by my friend JASON CHAFFETZ, where it was later passed—Cut, Cap, and Balance Act actually protected Social Security and Medicare. It bolstered, it strengthened those programs. So it is utterly false and, I believe, disingenuous for anyone to argue that proposal—or any other that I am aware of, for that matter—would bring about cuts to Social Security and Medicare. This is not the point of this legislation. Quite to the contrary. The point of this legislation is to protect what we need to do through the U.S. Government.

Whether you are someone who would describe himself as a conservative and

perhaps most concerned about national defense or whether you are perhaps more liberal and you are most concerned about protecting our entitlement programs, you ought to agree with the principles underlying the cut, cap, and balance approach, with the fact that we need a balanced budget amendment, because if we do not put these measures in place now, if we do not agree now that we need to restrict our borrowing authority, every one of those programs will be jeopardized as we reach the mathematical, the economic borrowing capacity of the U.S. Government.

The more we borrow, the more we run into the risk that those who lend us money, those who buy our U.S. Treasuries, will one day be unwilling to lend us more money, at least not without additional interest payments. We could very quickly go from spending about \$250 billion a year in interest, as we now are, to spending something much closer to \$1 trillion a year in interest based on just a few interest rate points. As that goes up, our ability to fund everything goes down.

In closing, it is important to point out that what is being requested here is the largest debt limit increase in American history—about \$2.5 trillion. Unprecedented. The idea here is to give the U.S. Congress enough borrowing power to take us almost 2 years down the road. Two years, by the way, is roughly the amount of time that has elapsed since the Democrats in the Senate even introduced a budget.

One has to ask, why extend the debt limit for such a long period of time? The President gave us the answer the other day. He wants to insulate himself from the political process. He wants to make it not a political issue. Political issues are themselves things the voters are concerned about—as well they should be—because voters pay taxes, voters are affected by decisions we make. We need to have voters connected, not disconnected from this process.

We need to act now, but we need to act responsibly. The only way to do that is to raise the debt limit only after we pass the balanced budget amendment.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the alternating blocks of time continue until 9:50 p.m., with the majority controlling the time until 9:20 p.m., the Republican side controlling the time until 9:50 p.m., and then the majority leader or designee be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, I rise tonight, as I have for many weeks now, to call for a bipartisan solution to our deficits and debt,

for us to bridge—to use a term we utilize in Colorado—the mountainous divide in order to avoid defaulting on our obligations.

Bipartisanship is a familiar theme in my home State of Colorado, and I know Coloradans agree with me that is the only way forward. My constituents have been flooding my office with calls of frustration urging me to keep fighting for a solution to this impending debt limit crisis we face. They know the stakes are high, and they know we have to compromise to get something done.

As I have traveled my State over these summer months, I have not found one single person in Colorado who has demanded more partisanship and more dysfunction. But here we are, seemingly, on a Saturday night with just that. My constituents—Coloradans—are searching for answers and solutions. Yet all we seem to have here are more questions.

For the life of me, I just do not understand why, when our economy is still fragile, we are so close, it seems, to sentencing it to additional turmoil.

Those who know me know I am not quick to anger or to express frustration, but I just cannot help but join Coloradans in looking at the situation we are in with disbelief. We have hard-working and well-intentioned Members from both parties who are willing to do the right thing for our country, but partisan bickering is seemingly continuing to artificially push our economy closer and closer, literally, to the brink.

It is easy to chalk this up to a broken Washington, to say Congress simply is unable to agree, but that ignores the truth. That truth is that a small minority of folks is bent on throwing sand in the gears of our legislative machinery. We extend a hand in the hopes of reaching an agreement, and then over and over this group rejects the idea of governing together and instead reaches for another handful of sand. The majority of us here do not agree with that. The majority of us in both parties do not want to default on our debt obligations.

It seems to me our country's economic situation is like a patient who is just literally coming off life support: We are nursing our economy back to health, and the last thing we need is a self-induced heart attack. But that will happen in 3 days. In 3 days, our Nation is set to default on its debt. That is like an American family who would decide not to pay their bills or to quit making mortgage payments. I know it is a natural inclination, perhaps, to not want to pay those bills, but Americans know there are consequences to default and that it is irresponsible to turn a blind eye on bills that come due.

It is important to note that these are bills we already have incurred, that previous Congresses—in fact, this Con-

gress, you could argue, has already voted for and therefore has incurred.

We have been here before. President Reagan raised the debt limit 18 times in order to enable the Treasury to pay our debts as they came due. They were routine. They were often voice votes, and when they were recorded votes, they were overwhelmingly in support of raising the debt limit so we could meet previous obligations. President George W. Bush raised it seven times. There were no conditions put on the raising of our debt ceiling.

Let me take a second and be clear. Raising the debt ceiling is not something I want to do and I am sure anybody in the Senate is not all that keen to do it, but we do have those obligations.

A year ago—a year and a half ago, I should say, more accurately—I agreed with Republicans and fellow Democrats that we should take advantage of a discussion we had at the end of 2009 about raising the debt ceiling, and we should take advantage of that by putting in place real measures to reduce our debt. I held out my vote at that time to raise the debt limit as a way to compel the White House to create a fiscal commission to address our long-term deficits and debt.

I was really pleased when President Obama created such a commission. He nominated two great Americans—Al Simpson, who was a Senator in this very body, and former White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles—to head up the effort. I think, as we knew at the time—and we know even more now—these two men are patriots. They brought people together from both parties, and they came up with a \$4 trillion plan—it was commonsensical—to bring in and rein in our debt problems. We applauded their efforts. Coloradans did; Americans all over the country did. They brought a commonsense approach, just as we would in our own personal finances.

So when we approached our current debt limit this year and faced the possibility of defaulting on our debt, I joined Members of both parties in urging us here in the Congress to do two things: first, to address our debt limit problem to prevent a first-ever and completely avoidable default so America could and would pay its bills and secondly, enact a comprehensive and bipartisan \$4 trillion plan based on the Simpson-Bowles deficit reduction recommendations so we would get our fiscal house in order. I should say for generations of Americans to come but for those of us here today as well.

Now, if you look back on this, this in some ways was unpopular. Folks on the far right and the far left began to sow seeds of division in order to prevent compromise. People in our party objected to spending cuts and entitlement reforms, while Republican purists, such as Grover Norquist, complained about increased revenues.

That brings us to the events of the last several weeks. Those of us who support a commonsense middle ground and who believe our country's biggest national security threat is our growing national debt know that both sides need to compromise and that we need a long-term, comprehensive bipartisan—bipartisan—plan to truly heal the fiscal illnesses that have beset us.

This is obvious just looking at the numbers, but it became even clearer when our creditors and U.S. rating agencies began to question whether America was a creditworthy nation. Can you imagine that? They began to ask: Will America pay its bills? Will we be able to pay our bills or will we go the way of an Ireland or a Greece and other financially destabilized nations?

To me, the answer is clear: A broke nation is a weak nation. If America is not only going to lead the global economic race but win that race, as we know we can, as we have done throughout history, we need to implement the Bowles-Simpson recommendations.

With that knowledge, a smart group of people from both parties began working out a way to do so. But there was one huge impediment: Hundreds, literally hundreds of Members of Congress signed a pledge promising not to touch the Tax Code, putting tax purity ahead of fiscal responsibility and deficit reduction. Even though the United States brought in a record-low amount of revenue last year, what they insist we do would—whether intentionally or unintentionally—balance the budget on the backs of the middle class, the elderly, and the disenfranchised alone.

Even though the Bowles-Simpson commission recommended a blending of 75-percent spending cuts and 25-percent revenue increases, they seemingly, this small minority here in the Capitol, cannot embrace any plan that includes additional revenue. Even though our Tax Code is littered with literally thousands of special interest tax breaks and corporate giveaways that do nothing to create jobs, they cannot embrace, it seems, tax reform. Even though a bipartisan plan would send a message to the markets that America is ready to lead, and that Congress is capable of independent thinking and problem solving, they have rejected a bipartisan way forward, a way in which we govern together. So that plan sits idly. It sits to the side. All sides have tried other efforts, but they faced the same problems. Speaker BOEHNER and President Obama sought to strike an alternative grand bargain as a way to address our structural deficits and debt to avoid default. That looked pretty promising. But it appears to me that when the going got tough, the Speaker did not stay at the table. And when it became apparent that the corporations and the wealthy would have to bear the responsibility for balancing the books, the House

Speaker walked away. Another chapter unfolded.

Things looked promising when the Vice President and the House majority leader tried to reach an agreement on a deficit reduction plan. But then, when it became clear again that revenues had to be a part of the picture if we truly wanted to do something big and good for our country, they walked away from the table. Tax purity was more important than deficit reduction. Knowing that economists, market analysts, business leaders, credit rating agencies, world leaders, and the American people were imploring us, imploring us, to find an agreement to avoid default on our debt obligations, Democrats relented.

We are now debating what the Republicans said they wanted, a spending-cut-only plan. I cannot tell you the depth of my disappointment that we could not pursue a truly comprehensive approach to reducing our deficits and debt, one that would set the stage to continue growing our economy and creating jobs. But in the name of compromise, I agreed that something versus nothing is better than default and further economic turmoil. But now it appears, on a Saturday night, a few hours from midnight, that even that is not enough. After putting together a plan that includes 100 percent of the Republican-endorsed spending cuts to avoid default, we are at an impasse again. We have got a plan here on the floor of the Senate that cuts \$2.47 trillion from the Federal budget, without any revenue, not a single tax loophole is closed, and yet we still cannot get our House colleagues to help us prevent a first-ever default of the Federal Government.

I have learned to not question the motivations of my colleagues. But I have to ask myself what is it they want now in the House of Representatives? And they want exactly, it seems to me, what the Bank of America, Standard & Poors, JPMorgan Chase, Moody's, and other economic experts have warned us we can least afford: that is, constant turmoil and dysfunction. They literally—whether they understand this or not—want us to walk our economy, America's economy, the biggest economy in the world, right up to the cliff edge of default over and over again. The markets and business leaders have told us they want to increase investment, they want to create more jobs, they want to get our economy back on track, but what they need is certainty. But it seems as though there are those in the Capitol, in our Congress, who have decided it is in their interest—political interest—to create uncertainty, exactly the opposite of what our markets and our business communities are telling us—the same Members of Congress, the same individuals who ironically complained that our President has not done enough

to create jobs or spur economic growth. Yet we are perilously close, and they are perilously close, to cutting off the economic growth we need to create jobs. In the interests of being direct, if we default, this would be an economic catastrophe of our own making. It is not something beyond our control such as a hurricane, an earthquake, a tornado, a drought. We can avoid the impending chaos and the job loss and the downgrading of our retirement savings that is coming our way. If we do not, it will be because some Members of Congress were unwilling to take yes for an answer. Some Members of Congress right now are unwilling to take yes for an answer.

But let me begin to close my remarks on a little more optimistic note. I want to be very clear. There are Members in both parties who are willing to be responsible. I was pleased to hear that Senator ALEXANDER, the third ranking Republican in the Senate, say what would be best, instead of having a Republican plan competing with a Democratic plan, would be to have Speaker BOEHNER, Senator REID, and Senator MCCONNELL recommend to us a single plan.

Senator THUNE said yesterday: I think if you look at the basic framework, it wouldn't be that hard to figure out something we could perhaps agree upon.

I listened to Senator ISAKSON and Senator MURKOWSKI express similar thoughts earlier today. So I think there is a real kernel here of optimism and a way forward. But for the life of me, I cannot understand why we cannot keep our focus on job creation and the global economic race. The rest of the world is not waiting for us. They are on the march.

I am an old mountain climber, in more ways than one, and I can tell you, I have learned that there are some similarities between attempting some of the world's highest peaks and working here in Washington, DC. But the difference, I found, is that when the going gets tough here on Capitol Hill, it always seems as though not only do we face the challenges the mountain presents, but there is a team of saboteurs who are trying to push and pull you off the mountain.

I have to say that I believe if all of us would turn away and frankly ignore the partisan campaign machines that are out there always churning, we could get something meaningful done here. The people of Colorado, from whom I take my instructions, and to whom I listen, have let it be known to me these last few days—and I think the rest of the Nation—they do not care who wins politically. Frankly, I do not care who wins politically either. What I care about is passing legislation—meaningful legislation, long-term legislation—that will stave off a government default and a downgrade in our

Nation's credit rating. Neither of those outcomes is not acceptable. At this point, the only plan, the only comprehensive plan, the only long-term plan that gets that done is the Reid plan. So let's focus on the Reid plan. I urge my colleagues to support the vote we are going to have—the historic vote we will have later this evening. Let's get it done. Let's get our country back on track. Let's win the global economic race.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I would first like to commend and thank Senator REID for his tireless and relentless hard work, and my Democratic colleagues, but also some of my Republican colleagues—Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON, for example—who have demonstrated their determination to work together to reach an agreement.

You know I am new to Washington. I haven't been here for long, but I understand more than ever why Americans are so frustrated and often appalled about what goes on here.

This situation is outrageous. We have an impending crisis—self-created—and devastating possible wounds—self-inflicted—and Washington is deadlocked. Washington is gridlocked and straightjacketed by self-imposed dysfunction, unable to take action to protect its citizens from a financial catastrophe.

Our Nation is at a crossroads, and we need to rein in spending, cut the debt and the deficit, and make the tough choices necessary to get our fiscal house in order. And we need to do it now.

The latest economic news provides all the more reason for the tough choices and solutions we need now. It shows our economic recovery is anemic and fragile.

Uncertainty is the enemy. It is the enemy for businesses that are deciding whether to hire; for banks wanting to loan money to those businesses; for larger corporations sitting on mountains of cash waiting to invest and create jobs.

Jobs and our economy are the main reasons to make tough choices now.

We cannot keep kicking cans down the road; the time has come to act.

Families in Connecticut and across the country make tough choices every day—and they rightfully expect nothing less from us. Tough choices are necessary to help us get our debt and deficit under control.

I have heard from hundreds of Connecticut residents in the last few days who are frustrated—appalled—at what is going on in Washington, DC.

Like Bernice from Tolland, CT. She can't believe that we don't have an agreement yet because she is worried that she won't receive her Social Security check next month.

And Jane from West Hartford. She is wondering why we are protecting sweetheart deals instead of ensuring

Social Security is protected and strengthened.

And Rod from New Milford. He just wants us to compromise and to get something done and end this nightmare.

I agree with them—and hundreds more—and I thank them for calling or writing.

I agree that the immediate solution is not only to raise the debt ceiling but also to cut spending dollar for dollar to match that increase, without tax increases, and without any cuts—none—to Social Security and Medicare.

The markets need a real solution—not a short-term fix—to demonstrate that we are committed to achieving real results in cutting spending.

Anne from Hamden, CT makes this point powerfully. She just called today to say a short-term plan would not provide the certainty the markets are desperately seeking. I agree. It risks a credit-rating downgrade and ensures that we would be right back here in another 6 months.

Credit ratings and downgrades seem abstract, intangible, but they are hugely consequential.

A downgrade in our credit rating would likely cause an automatic tax increase in the form of higher interests for every American with a mortgage, car loan, student loan or credit card. The American people deserve better.

Coming together to compromise is essential now. Majority Leader REID has proposed a solution that meets all of the criteria that House Republicans have demanded for weeks: It does not raise taxes or other revenues. It includes enough spending cuts to meet the amount of debt-ceiling increase, dollar for dollar.

These spending cuts are the same as our Republican colleagues have previously voted for and supported.

Most importantly, Senator REID's plan makes tough spending cuts, but doesn't balance our budget on the backs of seniors—it protects vital programs and does not make cuts in benefits to Medicare or Social Security.

Time and time again, Democrats have shown that we are willing to compromise to avert a catastrophic default. Unfortunately, at every turn, Republicans in the House—and now in the Senate—have blocked any chance for progress, and continue to put us on an increasingly dangerous path as the deadline for raising the debt limit approaches.

And now, Senate Republicans are willing to filibuster our Nation into default.

Today's filibuster of our efforts to prevent a default is unprecedented.

Since March 1962, Congress has raised the debt limit 74 times—18 times under President Reagan alone.

During George W. Bush's administration, Congress passed five stand-alone debt limit increases, without filibuster or delay.

Until today, debt limit increases were routine, usually passed by a simple 51-vote majority, without the procedural hurdles my Republican colleagues are using today.

They need to come to the table and work with us to find a compromise that works—for the good of the country and for the good of our economic recovery.

So I hope that my Republican colleagues will join us in ensuring stability for our markets and for our fragile economic recovery in order to avoid harm for millions of Connecticut families—and keep our economy moving in the right direction.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. REED.) The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, there are no easy answers to our current dilemma. The majority leader's proposal is the best option we have to overcome the bipartisan impasse. Failure to increase the debt limit is not an option. Working families cannot afford the increased costs associated with default, and seniors cannot afford not to have their Social Security payments.

In my time as a mayor, as a State legislator, as a Member of the House of Representatives, and now as a Senator, I have learned there are times when one needs to stand and fight, and there are other times when one needs to reach a compromise. I am not excited about the decisions we are being forced to make, but I think the majority leader has crafted a proposal that can bring the two parties together and avoid economic disaster without destroying Medicare, Social Security, and other priorities of working families.

If you compare that to Speaker BOEHNER's proposal, that is just more of the partisan gamesmanship, and the path we have to take becomes clear. So I rise today in favor of the majority leader's plan in the hope that reason will prevail on the other side, and that our Republican colleagues will finally agree to help govern and not make irrational demands that drive us down the road to default.

Having said that, these debt negotiations have left America longing for a better time and a better government, a time when public service was, as Robert Kennedy said, a noble profession, when public servants served the public's interests, when they came together and found common ground and respected the opinions of those on the other side.

My generation has always viewed public service as a noble profession and

the fight for what we believe is right as a noble cause. But none of us should expect to win every battle. None of us should dismiss the valid beliefs of those whose politics we oppose but who have been duly elected and sworn in to represent their State or their district.

The tea party Republicans in the House seem to have forgotten that we live in a democracy, and in a democracy people hold different views, contrary but equally valid opinions. They approach problems differently, from a different perspective, a different background, a different political view, and have differing views on the best solution.

The art of governing is bridging those differences. Governing is finding common ground. Governing is what Ronald Reagan talked about in his autobiography, "An American Life," when he spoke about the importance of political compromise. He understood that in a representative democracy each of us has a right to our opinion but not a right to our own way.

President Reagan said:

When I began entering into the give and take of the legislative bargaining—

This is in Sacramento. This is when he was Governor—

a lot of the most radical conservatives who had supported me during the election did not like it.

Compromise was a dirty word to them, and they wouldn't face the fact that we couldn't get all of what we wanted today. They wanted all or nothing, and they wanted it all at once. If you don't get it all, some said don't take anything.

Sound familiar? It should. It is the view of today's radical tea party—the same view Ronald Reagan confronted.

Reagan went on to say:

I learned while negotiating union contracts that you seldom get everything you asked for. And I agreed with FDR, who said, in 1933, "I have no expectations of making a hit every time I come to bat. What I seek is the highest possible batting average."

If you got seventy-five or eighty percent of what you were asking for, I say, you take it and fight for the rest later, and that's what I told these radical conservatives who never got used to it.

Ronald Reagan in his own words—a lesson from a conservative hero for those modern-day radical conservatives who have watched us walk 90 yards down the field, but would rather move the goal posts than meet us at the 10-yard line. Ronald Reagan would tell them to grow up, step up and govern. But they have reiterated the mantra of the radical conservatives Reagan faced: "If you don't get it all, don't take anything."

Edmund Burke, another conservative icon, once said something today's House Republicans today would label as "weakness" or "too liberal." He said:

Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little.

House Republicans have chosen to do nothing. Edmund Burke understood the art of governing and the art of compromise. Ronald Reagan knew how radical conservatives think, how they negotiate, and now we are seeing how they stand in the way of governance and governing to maintain the purity of their ideology.

Clearly, Democrats have offered much. We have offered the other side an opportunity to govern, and they have rejected it on ideological grounds. We have lived up to our duty to govern. They have lived up to Ronald Reagan's own view of radical conservative tactics and philosophy.

I say to my friends, it is time to compromise and time to govern.

I was shocked to witness the audacity of the House Republicans who stepped to the microphone this week, one by one, each claiming that, if this Nation defaults on its obligations, it will be the President's fault. It will be the Democrats who caused us to default.

Democrats have come a long way and the Republicans know it—they just won't accept it, and they can't sell it to the American people because the American people know the truth.

Everyone knows the House tea party Republicans have rejected every proposal. They have even rejected the Republican Speaker's original proposal. They claim to love democracy and freedom of speech only when it is their speech, only when it expresses their ideas and their beliefs.

They claim to love our system of government, but clearly are at war with the idea of governing, and with all those on this side who—I would respectfully remind them—have also been elected to serve, just as they have.

They claim to embrace constitutional notions of tolerance and majority rule, but clearly see such notions as an inconvenient obstacle to getting their own way. They have the audacity to blame us for offering them what they want, and then to claim we haven't offered enough—that we are the problem.

The fact is, with the plan the majority leader has put forth, Democrats are now offering exactly what the Republicans have asked for, and yet they still will not take yes for an answer.

They even claim that they are willing to compromise as long as it is within their framework—the framework of their original demands—that they will compromise on the kind of a balanced budget amendment we pass. They will only compromise on how deep the cuts to entitlements are, but they will not compromise on subsidies to big oil companies or billionaire tax cuts that wealthy Americans have, themselves, told us they don't need.

In effect their only compromise is getting their own way and calling it

compromise. Well there is a difference between compromise and total capitulation. There must be a common ground that simply doesn't call for surrender. There's an Old Scottish proverb that says: "Better bend than break."

I say to my colleagues: We have done all the bending. Now it is time to govern.

I say to my colleagues: "Better bend than break," because in this case it is our economic integrity that stands to break.

It is time for the truth.

It is time we look at the real impact on real people's lives if Republicans continue to stand firm—unwilling to bend, unwilling to compromise, unwilling to govern—but clearly willing to take America down the road to default.

According to Secretary Geithner, the consequences for the Nation—and for millions in my State of New Jersey—would be deep and far-reaching.

Failure to raise the debt limit—failure to allow Treasury to meet the obligations of the United States that we have already incurred—would be the ultimate tax increase on every American.

As such, surely it would violate the radical right's pledge to Grover Norquist. And, make no mistake, it would be a tax increase.

The no-compromise-Republican tax-increase would come in the form of increased interest rates—driving up the costs for every American family: the cost of mortgage payments would increase over \$1,000 annually; equity prices and home values would decline which, in turn, would reduce retirement savings and affect the long-term and short-term economic security of every American.

There would be reductions in spending and investments, jobs would be lost, businesses would fail, credit card interest would increase by about \$250 annually, families would be paying \$100 more for gas, \$182 for utilities, and \$318 more for groceries.

Based on J.P. Morgan's financial analysis during the debt ceiling and government shutdown debate in 1995 and the crisis in 2008, interest rates on Treasury bonds could conceivably rise 75 or even 100 basis points.

Between mortgages and credit cards alone, an increase of 75 basis points would translate into an additional \$10 billion in consumer borrowing costs every year at a time when middle class families can ill afford any increase at all in expenditures.

From an international perspective, default would have prolonged and disastrous negative consequences on the safe-haven status of Treasuries and the dollar's dominant role in the international financial system.

It would reduce the willingness of investors here and abroad to invest in the United States.

In my State of New Jersey, the impact of default would be immediate and

all too real. Payments on a broad range of benefits—on other obligations—would be either postponed, limited, or discontinued.

That includes military salaries and retirement benefits for 1,219 troops currently deployed from New Jersey, both active and reservists and almost 500,000 veterans; benefits for almost 1.5 million Social Security beneficiaries and 1.3 million Medicare enrollees would be interrupted; student loan payments; Medicaid payments to States for seniors and the disabled in nursing homes, and payments needed to keep government facilities operating and providing the services people need. The total for all these expenditures for New Jersey alone is \$80 billion.

That averages out to be about \$26,000 per household in my State, putting a significant portion of the Federal Government's investment in New Jersey and its people at risk.

And yet the Republicans in the House and many in this Chamber will not bend, will not compromise, refuse to step up and govern. Their ideology demands that they protect entitlements for the most entitled Americans—big oil, corporate jet owners, and those who hold a majority of the wealth in this Nation.

In my view, in my life, in my work, I have come to understand how wrong they are.

When the 400 richest Americans at the top hold more wealth than the 150 million Americans at the bottom, we cannot simply put the burden on those who can afford it the least and need our help the most.

Let's be clear. The Republican protection of the entitled class has nothing to do with balancing the budget or reducing the deficit, nothing to do with values, nothing to do with faith or cultural conservatism, nothing to do with community responsibility, and everything to do with an extreme antigovernment political agenda that is, in fact, anticommunity.

I believe we can do better for families, better for every American if we live and govern by the values we preach.

During this process, those of us on this side of the aisle have held to what the sociologist Max Weber once called the "ethic of responsibility."

House Republicans are pursuing what he called the "ethic of ultimate ends."

George Packer in a recent New Yorker article said:

These ethics are tragically opposed, but the true calling of politics requires a union of the two.

We, on this side, believe in ethical responsibility, in doing what is right for the Nation.

Republicans have shown that they believe in one thing and one thing only—achieving their ultimate political end and, in this case, achieving that end means standing in the way of

any compromise—even if it threatens to paralyze this Nation's economy, even if it means rejecting the wisdom of their own hero who understood the importance of compromise in the art of governance.

I repeat what Reagan said:

Compromise was a dirty word to them, and they wouldn't face the fact that we couldn't get all of what we wanted today. They wanted all or nothing and they wanted it all at once. If you don't get it all, some said don't take anything.

Well, it is time to realize that governing is not about getting it all, it's about getting it right for the American people.

Let America understand that Reagan himself stood against those radical conservatives whose rigid adherence to ideology at the expense of reason is now taking us down the road to default.

It is on them, and it is up to them to grow up, step up, and compromise.

As the American people have said in every poll, they want a balanced approach. That means a combination of significant spending cuts but also revenues. If they accepted that, we could govern.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask to be yielded 10 minutes. I understand there is no objection on the Republican side.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, whatever one's position is on the best way to cut the deficit, we all should be able to agree on this: We must raise the debt ceiling. We must pay our bills. Failing to do so is to invite economic catastrophe. The American people have had their fill of catastrophe and near-catastrophe.

Recently in Afghanistan, Admiral Mullen, Chairman of our Joint Chiefs, was asked by troops if they will be paid next month. His answer was:

I honestly can't answer that question.

He added:

I'd like to give you a better answer than that right now; I just honestly don't know.

It is inconceivable to me that we will leave our troops in limbo by driving our country over the cliff of default. Our Nation's economic life is in peril. I don't remember ever in the 32 years I have been here when the Nation has been more in need of deliberation, statesmanship, and compromise.

New York Times columnist David Brooks, who is a conservative columnist, recently wrote that too many Republicans seem to have joined a "movement"—his word—in which "the members do not accept the logic of compromise, no matter what the terms." I hope that some of our Republican colleagues will prove Mr. Brooks wrong on this matter because of its huge significance.

The time for ignoring hard truths is over. Blind resistance to compromise may play well with some, but it is no way to solve hard problems or to govern. Drawing lines in the sand and issuing ultimatums may make for ringing sound bites, but no press release ever sent a child to college or gave a working family hope for a good job.

If our Republican colleagues cannot bring themselves to support the majority leader's proposal or at least to propose modifications to it, they can vote "no." But it is unthinkable to filibuster against allowing the Senate an opportunity to vote on the Reid measure itself, as this clock approaches midnight. It is one thing to vote against the Reid measure, it is quite another to deny the Senate by filibustering the opportunity to vote on the Reid measure when the issue is of such enormous importance.

Last evening, and again today, the Republican leader said they would insist on 60 votes to pass the Reid amendment. That is the definition of a filibuster threat. It is the very definition. You must have 60 votes. That is based on a threat to filibuster. Hopefully, some of our Republican colleagues will support Senator REID's proposal. It has no new revenue. Its spending cuts match the size of the debt limit increase. Its cuts have been approved by leaders of both parties. But if our Republican colleagues don't seek to modify the Reid plan and won't vote for the plan, they at least should allow the Senate to vote on it and not filibuster. Whether Senators vote for or against the Reid legislation, the American people will not forgive a filibuster that prevents us from even voting on vital legislation as we rapidly approach a cliff. In the critically important matter now before us, there is going to be a very strong public reaction against those who, with economic calamity looming before us, deny the Senate, through a threat of a filibuster and the filibuster itself, an opportunity to vote on the Reid motion to concur.

Compromise does not come easy with an issue such as this, but the people of this country did not elect us to do easy things. They elected us to seek practical solutions. They elected us to lead. The test of leadership in the Senate on the matter before us is allowing us to vote not just on cloture, which is what the Republican leader suggests is a vote on the Reid motion—it is not—but on the Reid motion itself. The test of leadership in this Senate is not to filibuster the Senate so we can't vote on the important Reid motion but to allow us to proceed when that cloture motion is voted on.

So I call on Senate Republicans to offer changes to the Reid proposal or vote against it, if they will, but not thwart the Senate majority from voting to adopt it, should they choose. When the cloture motion is voted on, if

cloture is not invoked, and the Senate is prevented from voting up or down on the Reid proposal, under our rules, debate on the Reid proposal will continue.

I want to read from the petition we are going to vote on so everybody understands what we are voting on. We are not voting on the Reid motion to concur. We are voting on whether—and these are the words of the motion—we will bring to a close the debate on that motion; will we bring to a close the debate so we can vote on the Reid motion to concur in the House amendment.

So voting against bringing debate to a close, thereby denying the majority the opportunity to act, does not defeat the majority leader's motion. It stalls it. It stymies the Senate from acting. If an end is not brought to debate when this cloture motion is voted on, the Reid motion is still the pending matter.

If the Republicans, then, are determined to filibuster against it and not allow us to vote on it, they, I believe, will see the wrath of this country brought down upon them.

Mrs. BOXER. Would the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. LEVIN. I would be happy to.

Mrs. BOXER. I want to make sure the people listening to the Senator—because he is such an expert on what goes on around here—understand this and make sure I understand it too.

The Senator is saying that when 1 a.m. this morning comes, we will have a vote to determine whether we can stop debating the Reid amendment and actually vote on it. But if we don't get the 60 votes to do that, what will have happened is they will have stalled us, but the Reid amendment is still pending. We can't get a vote on that if the Republicans filibuster it and keep talking and talking and don't let us get to a vote; is that correct?

Mr. LEVIN. The Senator from California is exactly correct.

Mrs. BOXER. I thank my colleague because I think it is important for the people to understand. I would hope Senator REID will keep his amendment on the floor. It is the last vehicle standing to avert a default, and I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. LEVIN. I thank the Senator from California for reinforcing that point.

I heard one of our colleagues tonight say the Republicans are willing to give us a vote on this bill. No, they are not. The Republicans are willing to have a cloture vote brought up earlier. They then will vote against cloture. But that will do nothing in terms of bringing us closer to a vote on the Reid amendment because if they will not end debate by voting yes for cloture, if they are going to filibuster—which, apparently, they are going to do because they are determined to filibuster this bill—all that happens, if we don't get the 60 votes the first time that cloture

is voted on, is it will be voted on again and again because they are filibustering. The Republicans would then be filibustering against our being able to vote on this bill.

Everyone should be very clear. I hope the public will understand what is happening. The Republicans are not willing to give us a vote on the Reid motion. They are not willing to do that. We would be happy to have a vote on the Reid motion immediately, but they insist that we get a supermajority to vote. They want to succeed in a filibuster without even filibustering. That is something which is not only not in the Senate rules, it is also inconsistent with making progress on resolving this problem.

The American people want us to compromise, and the refusal to compromise by a few Members of this body and by a number of Members of the other body is what is stymying this resolution. We cannot tolerate that. I think what we must do is continue to offer to compromise.

The majority leader is in his office, as he has been all day, waiting to hear from the Republican leader with any suggestions he wishes to make and amendments to the majority leader's motion. It has been a long wait. It has been a fruitless wait—waiting for the Republican leader to suggest modifications.

It is not enough that the Reid motion already accepts the Republican arguments of no revenue and that cuts have to equal the amount of the increase in the debt limit. Those are key demands of the Republicans.

I have a great deal of trouble not including revenues. I think it is an outrage there is not shared sacrifice in this bill; that the wealthiest among us are still paying the reduced tax rate, for instance, that President Bush proposed; that we have loopholes in the law which give incentives to businesses to move jobs overseas; that we have hedge fund managers actually paying a lower tax rate on their very large incomes than their own employees pay on lesser incomes because of a loophole in the law.

The American people want us to close these loopholes. So I have great trouble there is no shared sacrifice in the proposal before us, but that is the way it is. It only has spending cuts. So the Republicans have gotten that—only spending cuts. They have gotten their argument also that the amount of any increase in the debt limit be matched by spending cuts. It is now time to say yes or to propose an alternative.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I think it has become very clear that our Democratic colleagues want to raise taxes. They use the phrase revenues—

revenues—and we need a shared sacrifice. That means people need to pay more taxes, as if that doesn't have an impact on the economy.

We have had a recent study by one of the international groups which found the United States has the most progressive tax system in the world—among the developed nations. This is all the European nations. The wealthy pay more in the United States than in those countries, according to an independent, international study. We have heard the numbers. A substantial percentage of the income taxes are paid by the top 10 percent in America. How much more do you do this?

I thought we had an agreement last December with the President in which we agreed that raising taxes at a time of economic danger is not the right thing to do. Not doing something to fix this debt limit now is not a good thing. We need to raise the debt limit. I don't know what would happen if we don't. I don't think it would be good. I think we run a risk. But the real danger we have is not the debt limit; the real danger we have is the extraordinary surging debt this Nation has, which is unlike anything we have ever had before.

It is systemic. It is part of the structure of the American economy right now that we are spending 42 percent more than we take in. We cannot keep doing that. The projections for the future are not better. So it is a very dangerous trend, and we have to get off of it.

We had a talk about that in the last election. The American people were engaged in that. They weren't happy with their Congress. They didn't think Congress was managing their affairs very well. They believed they weren't listening to them when they were asking questions such as: How can you keep doing this? You are putting our grandchildren in the poorhouse. You are risking the economy of the United States. All you want to do is spend money, buy votes, and say you are spreading the wealth around and that is going to make things better.

So we had an election, and it was a shellacking for the big spenders. Wasn't that what it was all about? Was there a single candidate I know of who won last time—at least a new candidate who was elected for the first time—who didn't talk about the need to constrain spending in Washington? That was the theme throughout the election. That was the meaning of the election.

So now my colleagues are saying: Oh, we can't. Oh, you want to cut spending? Oh, they say, they have these extremists in the House. Oh, they do not want to play ball. They haven't served in the Congress long enough. They do not know better. They think we can actually cut spending. Of course, we can't cut spending. Oh, that is not the way you do it. No, you just reduce growth a

little bit and spending and say you are cutting spending, even though it is still going up. That is what has been going on here. That is why we are increasing the debt at the most extraordinary rate and over a systemic period of time to the degree that every economist who has appeared before the Budget Committee—and I am the ranking Republican on that committee—has testified that we have to stop; that this is unsustainable—unsustainable. They have said: You cannot keep doing this.

Do you know, colleagues, that in the last 2 years, when the Democratic majority in this Senate had 60 votes, that spending for nondefense discretionary spending, not counting the stimulus, just the basic budgetary spending on all our accounts—nonwar, nondefense, nonSocial Security—went up 24 percent? This at a time when we are running the biggest deficits in history; 24 percent increases? We can't cut spending?

There was an article in the Washington Times yesterday or the day before where my colleague, Senator SHELBY from Alabama, asked the Secretary of Education how he could explain that the Secretary of Education and the President were proposing the Department of Education get a 13½-percent increase for the next fiscal year, beginning October 1—13½ percent. But he defended that. He said it was justified; that it was an investment.

But when you don't have money, you have to change business. You can't continue to be in denial and pretend this is normal; that we can just continue to increase the Education Department by 13.5 percent.

By the way, the Department of Energy, the President, and their Secretary of Defense proposes a 9.5-percent increase for the Department of Energy, which does more to restrict the production of energy than produce the source of energy in America; the Department of State, 10.5 percent. I am talking about their proposal for next year, beginning October 1 of this year, the fiscal year. Sixty percent they propose for transportation, and they propose a tax for that but will not say what it is. When I asked, they will not say it is a gas tax because that is not popular.

So I asked Secretary LaHood. So it is a not-gas-tax tax. Is that right, Mr. Secretary? Well, we will talk with Congress about what that tax is. But I can just tell you, Mr. LaHood, Congress is not going to pass a big fat tax so you can increase spending on your budget 60 percent because we don't have that kind of money. We don't need to be hammering this fragile economy with another big tax increase. Besides, what we need to do first and foremost is rein in this surging spending spree we have been on. That is what we need to do. That is just a fact. That is what the American people understand.

I am offended, frankly, by the suggestion that the people in the House, who swept out a lot of the buddies of the big spenders in the Senate—a lot of the big spenders in the House are back home figuratively pushing up daisies because they were held to account, finally, many of them, after many years in the Congress. They were voted out of office. So the people who beat them are extremists, you see. That is what they like to say: They will not negotiate. They will not deal. They are irresponsible. They actually think they can come up here and change the trajectory of debt in this country.

So they passed a budget in the House of Representatives. A brilliant, fine, young Congressman, PAUL RYAN, chairman of the Budget Committee in the House, the Republican majority in the House passed a budget that cut spending \$5 trillion, and it would change the debt trajectory of America. It didn't quite pass, even at 10 years that I would like to have seen, but we are in such a hole it is hard to get out, and it would have made a big change in the way we are going and put us on the right path.

Senator REID called it up, mocked it, had his members all vote against it.

So we said: What about your budget, Mr. REID?

Well, we don't have one.

Well, what about your budget? You have the majority in the Senate. You can pass a budget with just 50 votes. Why don't you pass a budget?

It is foolish to pass a budget, he said. Foolish to pass a budget.

At a time when this country has never, ever, ever been in a more serious financial condition than we are today, we are borrowing 42 cents out of every dollar we spend. That is a deep hole, and it is not the war. We spent \$150 billion-plus on the war this year. Next year it will be \$118 billion. The deficit this year will be \$1,500 billion. It is about 10 percent.

If we put every bit of the war costs as part of our debt, it is only 10 percent. It is other spending that is putting us in this hole.

We do have long-term problems with our entitlement programs. Shouldn't we talk about them or should we do as the President did: bring Congressman RYAN over to the White House for a speech, sit him right down there in front of him and then launch into an attack on what he and his Members of the House have tried to do to make America a better place.

So they say: Those new guys and women over there who were elected, they are not reasonable enough. They will not work with us. Well, let me tell you. They proposed a \$6 trillion reduction. Even that didn't balance it in 10 years, but it sure was a big step forward.

Do you know what they have done now. The House passed a bill at the in-

sistence of the Senate and the President to try to pass a bill—and they passed it—that would raise the debt ceiling and cut spending only \$1 trillion. Is that an extremist thing to do? They sent it over here, much of it very similar to what Senator REID has proposed, and they called it up within minutes and tabled it—without debate, without discussion.

Then they continued to say, as if nothing happened: These are extremists over there. They won't listen to reason. These tea party people are not good for America.

Well, I am going to tell you one thing. The tea party people understand an important fact. This Congress is spending too much money. They are exactly correct in that regard.

No Member of the United States Congress can, with a clear conscience, look their constituents in the eye and say we have managed their money wisely. We are in such a shape we can't even see when we will balance the budget because we have mismanaged their economy so badly. The only idea that anybody seems to have around here is, spend more money and stimulate the economy. If we spend more money, where does it come from? It is borrowed. We are already in debt, and every new dime we spend is borrowed.

There is only one way to move out of this; that is, to reduce spending. It just is. The American people understand that.

I recently had the honor to be in Estonia near Russia, one of the Baltic nations that is so proud to be free and independent. When the recession hit, they suffered more than we. They had a 15-percent reduction in their economy. Do you know what they did. The Cabinet members took a 40-percent pay cut. Every employee in Estonia took a 10- to 20-percent pay cut.

One of the members told me: I will tell you who is really mad is my wife. She is a doctor, and the medical system got cut.

Do you know what. They had 5 percent growth the first quarter, and their debt-to-GDP is 7 percent. Our debt-to-GDP is 95 percent. They are going to come out of this, and they are not going to have a debt so heavy that it pulls down the economy.

Mr. President, I don't know what the agreement timewise is at this point. Can the Chair advise me?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican time has expired.

Mr. SESSIONS. I see my colleague from California, and I will yield. I would just note that the idea that the Republicans don't want to vote is not correct. We are prepared to vote. We are prepared to vote on the standard procedural manner in the Senate of 60 votes that is done on every significant matter around here, and that is perfectly normal. I am rather amazed, surprised, and almost amused that my col-

leagues would feign such great pain and anguish that this would occur. They would do exactly the same. That is the way the Senate operates. That is the way they have operated when they were in the minority, and that is the way we operate today. On matters of significance it takes 60 votes.

Mr. President, I thank the Chair for the opportunity to speak and raise some political points. We have been jousting politically, some of which is good and some of which is not. I do say we need to reach an agreement soon and pass legislation that will raise the debt limit and will reduce our spending trajectory so we can get this country on a sound path.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, my friend, Senator SESSIONS, has said Republicans are prepared to vote on the Reid proposal. Actually, they are not. They want to vote on whether to allow a vote on the Reid proposal. That is what a cloture vote is, and they don't want to vote on the Reid proposal.

We have offered that and said that a majority should rule. Just as the Boehner proposal passed in the House with a simple majority, we want a chance to pass the Reid proposal with a simple majority.

My friend says that is laughable. Why is it laughable? We went back and looked at the RECORD, and every vote we could find on increasing the debt was always done by a simple majority—always.

So if we want to follow tradition, cut out the filibuster. Let's vote, and we will pass the Reid proposal tonight and we can find a way to resolve these problems.

My colleague also said Democrats want to raise taxes. Let me just say something. Democrats want to reduce taxes on the middle class. But we do believe multinational corporations, people who earn over \$1 billion a year and \$1 million a year should pay their fair share. We do believe that.

Senator SANDERS researched and found out that the richest 400 families in America make more than one-half of America. Can you imagine? The richest 400 families make more than half of America. So those at the top are doing just fine.

So let's be clear. We want an up-or-down vote on the Reid amendment. We think it is fair. We think it is just. We march toward the Republicans. We didn't want to give up on revenues, but we did. We wanted a clean debt ceiling, not holding it hostage to any machinations. We gave that up. We are willing to talk. We are willing to work. Senator REID's office—I was just in there. The door is wide open waiting for Republicans to come in and work with us.

So we hoped at this point we would have an agreement and we could climb

down off this manmade crisis. There is no crisis. Eighty-nine times we have raised the debt; no crisis whatsoever. I think it is important that we recognize this is no crisis. We have a challenge to reduce deficits and debt. We did it with Bill Clinton, we balanced the budget, we created surpluses. We know how to do it. We will work with you and do it. But we don't need a manmade crisis to pull this entire economy down, to lower the full faith and credit of the United States.

Imagine holding the full faith and credit of the United States hostage until you get every single thing you want. That is not compromise. That is absolutely irresponsible.

Mr. President, I want to thank you for your leadership in pointing out what is happening on the Senate floor; that there is a filibuster to stop us from voting on the Reid amendment and that we are not going to give up. If, in fact, they decide they want to continue to debate the Reid amendment and they don't give us 60 votes to go to a vote on the Reid amendment, we are going to keep going because the Reid amendment is a fair amendment. It was pulled from both sides of the aisle. It will get us out of this mess that we are in and get us concentrating on the long-term challenges we face: job creation, deficits, and debt reduction.

I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LEVIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, first of all, I appreciate everyone's patience. It is one of the most difficult times we find in the history of our country. There are negotiations going on at the White House now on a solution that will avert the catastrophic default on the Nation's debt. There are many elements to be finalized, and there is still a distance to go before any arrangement can be completed, but I believe we should give everyone as much room as possible to do their work. I have spoken to the White House quite a few times this evening, and they have asked me to give everyone as much time as possible to reach an agreement if one can be reached. For that reason, we will hold over the vote until tomorrow to give them more time to talk. In fact, we will come in at noon and have the vote at 1 o'clock.

I am glad to see this move toward cooperation and compromise. I hope it bears fruit. I am confident that a final agreement that will adopt the Senate's long-term approach, rather than the short-term bandaid proposed by the

House of Representatives, will move forward. There can be no short-term agreement, and I am optimistic there will be no short-term arrangement whatsoever.

I am also confident that reasonable people from both parties should be able to reach an agreement, and I believe we should give them time to do so.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote on the Reid motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 627, with amendment No. 589, occur tomorrow, Sunday, July 31, at 1 p.m.; further, that the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THANKING SENATOR LEVIN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, first of all—it will just take a moment, I say to the Presiding Officer—it is not often that we see the distinguished chairman of the Armed Services Committee presiding. I am glad to see you here. You still know how to do it. I would also say just in passing that the State of Michigan is so fortunate to have you, and, frankly, your brother, serving in Congress.

I know there are lots of things people want to talk about tonight, but I think it is worth saying—my friend has heard me say it before—I was making a decision whether I would run for the Senate. I visited the Senator from Michigan in his office. I said: "You know, I came to Washington and served with your brother, SANDER LEVIN." And you said—I will never forget, I have reminded you of it a few times—"Yes, he's my brother but also my best friend." Mr. President, I appreciate who you are and all you have done for our country.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:24 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1843. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 489 Army Drive in Barrigada, Guam, as the "John Pangelinan Gerber Post Office Building".

H.R. 1975. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 281 East Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena,

California, as the "First Lieutenant Oliver Goodall Post Office Building".

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1843. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 489 Army Drive in Barrigada, Guam, as the "John Pangelinan Gerber Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1975. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 281 East Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena, California, as the "First Lieutenant Oliver Goodall Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2765. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Model F.28 Mark 0070 and 0100 Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2010-0220)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2766. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; B/E Aerospace, Continuous Flow Passenger Oxygen Mask Assembly, Part Numbers 174006-O, 174080-O, 174085-O, 174095-O, 174097-O, and 174098-O" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0139)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2767. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Model CL-600-2A12 (CL-601) and CL-600-2B16 (CL-601-3A, CL-601-3R, and CL-604 Variants) Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2010-1307)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2768. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; MD Helicopters, Inc. Model MD900 Helicopters" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0695)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2769. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company GE90-76B; GE90-

77B; GE90-85B; GE90-90B; and GE90-94B Turbofan Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2010-1024)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2770. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300 B4-600, B4-600R, and F4-600R Series Airplanes, and Model A300 C4-605R Variant F Airplanes (Collectively Called A300-600 Series Airplanes); and Model A310 Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0309)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2771. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; 328 Support Services GmbH (Type Certificate Previously Held by AvCraft Aerospace GmbH; Fairchild Dornier GmbH; Dornier Luftfahrt GmbH) Model 328-100 and -300 Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0308)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2772. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A330-342 Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0653)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2773. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Model 747-400 and -400D Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2010-1159)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2774. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Lockheed Martin Corporation/Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company Model 382, 382B, 382E, 382F, and 382G Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2010-1305)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2775. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Saab AB, Saab Aerosystems Model SAAB 2000 Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0307)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2776. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Model 747 Airplanes"

((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2010-1158)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2777. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Hawker Beechcraft Corporation Models B300 and B300C (C-12W) Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0436)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2778. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc (RR) RB211-524 Series Turbofan Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0624)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2779. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Various Aircraft Equipped with Rotax Aircraft Engines 912 A Series Engine" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0714)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2780. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca S.A. ARRIEL 2B and 2B1 Turbo-shaft Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0115)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2781. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Lycoming Engines (Type certificate previously held by Textron Lycoming) and Teledyne Continental Motors (TCM) Turbocharged Reciprocating Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0126)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2782. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc RB211-Trent 500 Series Turbofan Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0445)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2783. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Model DC-9-81 (MD-81), DC-9-82 (MD-82), DC-9-83 (MD-83), DC-9-87 (MD-87), and MD-88 Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-0217)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2784. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Government Property" ((RIN0750-AG38) (DFARS Case 2009-D008)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 29, 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2785. A communication from the Secretary, Division of Trading and Markets, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to Rule Filing Requirements for Dually-Registered Clearing Agencies" (RIN3235-AL18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 29, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2786. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Debit Card Interchange Fees and Routing—Interim Final Rule" (Docket No. R-1424) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 29, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2787. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Debit Card Interchange Fees and Routing" (RIN7100-AD63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 29, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2788. A communication from the Attorney, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disclosure of Records and Information" (RIN3170-AA01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 29, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2789. A communication from the Attorney, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "State Official Notification Rules" (RIN3170-AA02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 29, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2790. A communication from the Attorney, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules Relating to Investigations" (RIN3170-AA03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 29, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2791. A communication from the Attorney, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules of Practice for Adjudication Proceedings" (RIN3170-AA05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 29, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2792. A communication from the Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to the Bank Secrecy Act Regulations—Definitions and Other Regulations Relating to Money Services Businesses" (RIN1506-AA97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2793. A communication from the Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Financial Crimes Enforcement Network; Repeal of the Final Rule and Withdrawal of the Finding of Primary Money Laundering Concern Against VEF Banka" (RIN1506-AA82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2794. A communication from the Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bank Secrecy Act Regulations—Definitions and Other Regulations Relating to Prepaid Access" (RIN1506-AB07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 28, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2795. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Canada; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2796. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Canada; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2797. A communication from the Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Year in Trade 2010"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2798. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Engagement in Additional Work Activities and Expenditures for Other Benefits and Services, March 2011: A Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2799. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Election of Reduced Credit Under Section 280C(c)(3)" (RIN1545-BI09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 29, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2800. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Methods of Accounting Used by Corporations That Acquire the Assets of Other Corporations" (RIN1545-BD81) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 29, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. Res. 246. A resolution recognizing and commending the 2011 National Veterans Wheelchair Games, to be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania August 1 through August 6, 2011; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1382

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1382, a bill to complete construction of the 13-State Appalachian development highway system, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 246—RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE 2011 NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES, TO BE HELD IN PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA AUGUST 1 THROUGH AUGUST 6, 2011

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 246

Whereas the National Veterans Wheelchair Games are a multi-event sports and rehabilitation program for veterans who use wheelchairs for sports competition due to spinal cord injuries, amputations, or neurological problems;

Whereas the National Veterans Wheelchair Games is the largest annual wheelchair sporting event in the world, attracting roughly 600 athletes annually;

Whereas in 2011, the National Veterans Wheelchair Games will be held August 1 through August 6, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;

Whereas competitive events at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games include table tennis, archery, swimming, quad rugby, weightlifting, air guns, nine-ball, basketball, softball, bowling, handcycling, power soccer, trapshooting, Super "6" slalom, a motorized wheelchair rally, and track and field events;

Whereas the National Veterans Wheelchair Games provide veterans with disabilities the opportunity to enhance their quality of life and promote better health through sports competition; and

Whereas past National Veterans Wheelchair Games have produced national and world-class champions and given newly disabled veterans, including veterans who have served in Operation Enduring Freedom and

Operation Iraqi Freedom, a chance to participate in events with other wheelchair athletes and to continue to use their athletic skills in competition: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the significant contribution that the National Veterans Wheelchair Games make to the lives of disabled veterans who have selflessly served the United States; and

(2) commends the organizers and volunteers of and the participants in the 2011 National Veterans Wheelchair Games for their efforts in service of the United States.

ORDERS FOR SUNDAY, JULY 31, 2011

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 12 p.m. on Sunday, July 31; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to concur in the House message accompanying S. 627, the legislative vehicle for the debt limit increase, with the time until 1 p.m. equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. The rollcall vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to concur in the House message to accompany S. 627 with the Reid amendment will occur at approximately 1 p.m. tomorrow.

I note, Mr. President, if cloture is not invoked, the debate will continue on the Reid amendment.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL NOON TOMORROW

Mr. REID. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 10:14 p.m., adjourned until Sunday, July 31, 2011, at 12 noon.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, July 30, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, July 27, 2011, I inadvertently did not record a vote during a series of recorded votes on amendments. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 653 (on agreeing to the Tonko amendment to H.R. 2584).

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLES IDOL AND THE NEED FOR IMPROVED PARATRANSIT POLICIES

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, July 30, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, many of our constituents come to Washington, D.C. to meet with their elected officials, to gather for conferences and to attend events. It's not always easy to do—they have to find the funds, take time off from work and often arrange alternative care-giving arrangements for family members. For people with disabilities, there is another obstacle—a transportation system that is often inaccessible because of inadequate infrastructure, poor design or breakdowns.

Today, I want to describe to my colleagues the experience of some Chicagoans who worked hard to surmount those barriers and to recognize Mr. Charles Idol, manager of Clyde's restaurant in Chinatown, who came to their rescue.

This spring, six Chicago residents traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend the National Paratransit Memorial Rally. It wasn't easy for

them to get from Chicago to Washington but they were determined to be here to speak out for improved paratransit policies. Of the six persons, one is a volunteer from IMPRUE (the Independent Movement of Paratransit Riders for Unity, Vehicles, Equality) and five are disabled. IMPRUE is a national organization based in Chicago committed to meeting the transportation needs of people with disabilities. Dr. Ayo Maat, my constituent and President of IMPRUE, organized the trip and arranged meetings with members of the Illinois delegation, including my office, to discuss paratransit solutions.

Once in Washington, those six Chicagoans were confronted by a situation that underscores the need for improved paratransit policies. The group decided to have dinner in Chinatown and wound up stranded after their meal because there was no accessible transportation back to their hotel. For over two and a half hours, the group tried to find accessible transportation. They called taxi services, Metro Access, the police department and 911 and no one could help them. Despite the fact that the three in wheelchairs could not ride in a regular taxi, their situation was not considered an emergency. One person needed insulin, another needed her epilepsy medicine, yet they were unable to get back to their hotel room because there was no available accessible transportation in our Nation's Capital.

Fortunately, they found Mr. Idol. Dr. Maat wrote to tell me of his generosity, "Angels do exist and they walk among us as ordinary people with extremely big hearts and compassion and love." Mr. Idol worked to find a solution for these six stranded strangers in Chinatown, keeping his restaurant open to them while trying to find accessible transportation. When that attempt failed, he paid for a nearby hotel room for the three persons in wheelchairs who could not ride a regular taxi and sent those who could back to their original hotel so that they could retrieve needed

wheelchair batteries and medicine. Meeting Mr. Idol helped avert a possible catastrophe.

But it is unacceptable that people with disabilities have to rely on the kindness of strangers instead of being able to depend on a safe, available and accessible transportation system. The D.C. metropolitan area has experienced paratransit ridership growth of more than 10 percent per year from 2006 through 2009, a trend that is expected to continue. Here in our Nation's Capital and throughout the country, we still have a long way to go to make sure that growing needs are met. We have to make improvements in the infrastructure and availability of paratransit so that people with disabilities are able to travel freely—to go to work and school, visit their friends, and come to Congress to make their voices heard.

Again, I want to thank Mr. Idol and I want to thank Dr. Maat and IMPRUE for their leadership and commitment to paratransit.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICK BERG

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, July 30, 2011

Mr. BERG. Mr. Speaker, on July 25th, 2011, I was unable to be in attendance for rollcall votes #630–636 due to the funeral of my longtime friend, North Dakota Senate Majority Leader Bob Stenehjem. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows.

RCV #630—Yes
RCV #631—Yes
RCV #632—No
RCV #633—Yes
RCV #634—No
RCV #635—No
RCV #636—No

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—*Sunday, July 31, 2011*

The House met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:
Dear God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

On this quiet day, in the midst of great debate and hard work, we ask again that You give all Members peace and patience, with wisdom and courage to do what is best for our Nation.

May they and may we all be concerned, not only with our personal interests, but with the needs of those who live each day without power, relying on the goodness and generosity of we who have been given so much.

As always, may all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the

House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 1 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.

HOURLY MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.), under its previous order and consistent with the fourth clause in section 5 of article I of the Constitution, and notwithstanding section 132 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Monday, August 1, 2011, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2674. A letter from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the

Treasury, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Identification of Enforceable Rules and Orders [Docket No.: CFPB-HQ-2011-1] received July 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2675. A letter from the Director, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the Bank Secrecy Act Regulations — Definitions and Other Regulations Relating to Money Services Businesses (RIN: 1506-AA97) received July 18, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2676. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, LRAD, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Retail Foreign Exchange Transactions [Docket ID: OCC-2011-0010] (RIN: 1557-AD42) received July 18, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2677. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Retail Foreign Exchange Transactions (RIN: 3235-AL19) received July 18, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2678. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Deep-Water Species Fishery by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 101126522-0640-02] (RIN: 0648-XA394) received July 11, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS— ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge petition:

Petition 1 by Mr. CRITZ on House Resolution 310: James A. Himes, Karen Bass, Jim Cooper, Larry Kissell.

SENATE—Sunday, July 31, 2011

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Save us, O God, for the waters are coming in upon us. We are weary from the struggle, tempted to throw in the towel. But quitting is not an option. Today, fill our lawmakers with the spirit of Your wisdom, guiding their footsteps to a desired destination. Draw near to them and deliver them from evil, for the kingdom, the power, and the glory belong to You. You are our strength and shield and our hearts can faithfully trust in You. Save Your people and bless their inheritance.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 31, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will re-

sume consideration of the motion to concur in the House message to accompany S. 627, which is the legislative vehicle for the debt limit increase, with the time until 1 p.m. equally divided. At about 1 p.m., the Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the House message with the Reid amendment.

No matter the outcome of this vote, the message will still be before this body. If there is an agreement that can be met, this is the vehicle that will be used to send it back to the House.

THE DEBT CEILING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as the clock ticks down to August 2, I want to remind everyone within the sound of my voice what is at stake. At this very moment, millions of seniors across this great country worry that their next Social Security check might not come to them on Wednesday. Middle-class families wonder whether their retirement accounts will be wiped out by an economic collapse brought about by default on this Nation's debt. Active military personnel, including many who are risking their lives for our great Nation, worry whether they will receive their paychecks.

The Associated Press reported that ADM Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, visited with troops serving in Afghanistan yesterday. The soldiers Admiral Mullen talked with were not asking about military strategy or how our troop drawdown in Afghanistan would affect them. No, they asked whether they would be paid if Republicans forced the U.S. Government to stop paying its bills. In a region that has been rocked by violence and plagued by suicide bombers this month, they wondered how they would take care of their families if their checks stopped coming next month.

Let me read a little bit of that United Press story that came out yesterday:

A half a world away from Capitol Hill deadlock, the economy and debt crisis are weighing heavily on U.S. troops in Afghanistan. And the top question on their minds Saturday even as bombing rocked the city around them, was one the top U.S. military officer couldn't answer. Will we get paid?

Admiral Mullen went on to say: I don't know the answer to that question.

But either way to those soldiers he said: All of you must continue to work every day.

This is unacceptable. A country as rich and powerful as ours, men and

women with bombs going off around them should not worry whether this country will leave them high and dry. This afternoon I ask those who have said they will never compromise on any terms to think about who their stubbornness will hurt: seniors, soldiers, and others.

I have spoken to the Vice President this morning—in fact, a couple of times. He is hopeful—of course, we have to be hopeful—that we are close to an agreement with Republican leaders. The framework of this agreement is based on new ideas and some old ideas. After speaking to Republican Leader MITCH MCCONNELL this morning, we are cautiously optimistic.

There are a number of issues yet to be resolved, and we must understand that. There is no agreement that has been made. We are optimistic that one can be reached, but we are not there yet. Optimism in the days past has been stomped on at various times. These major issues still to be resolved in these ongoing discussions is something we have to resolve in the next few hours if they are going to be resolved. Each of them must be resolved before we have a final agreement. And as we know, one problem can stop the whole agreement from going forward. But we want to get something done as quickly as possible. I believe all sides are aware of this urgency. It is unfortunate that the House of Representatives wasted all last week on legislation they knew would never pass the Senate and, in fact, barely passed the House. It passed the House with only Republican votes, not a single Democratic vote.

Democrats have said all along that we would never agree to a short-term arrangement that would put our economy at risk and force Congress into another debt ceiling showdown in a few weeks. We have to move on. The House measure put off the debt ceiling for 5 months—August, September, October, November, and December—5 months. We would be back in this same debate in a matter of weeks. We cannot allow that to happen. So any agreement has to have a long-term approach. The long-term approach we have forged here in the Senate is absolutely necessary. We must give the financial markets the confidence this country will not shirk its obligations now or in the future.

I know the compromise being discussed at the White House adopts the Senate's long-term approach, which will give the economy the certainty it needs, take us past January 2013. That has to be done. That will be done if an

agreement is reached. It is also crucial that the agreement being crafted set us on the path to fiscal restraint. There are still elements to be resolved. We are watching them very closely.

The settlement must include thoughtful constraints on spending, we know that. The 12-member commission I conceived to recommend additional deficit reduction measures this year will be a key to that effort. I say to my friend the Republican leader, I appreciate his wrapping his arms around this and being such a cheerleader for this idea. It is a good idea. It is an idea that Congress itself will solve the problem. It would be a joint committee that would move forward. There would be a trigger that if they did not resolve this, then something else would happen. Based on past experiences, I think there would be tremendous incentive not to let that certain thing happen when the trigger kicked in. So Senator MCCONNELL and I agreed the commission owns the responsibility to set this country on the path to fiscal accountability. The joint committee—there are no constraints—can look at any program we have in government—any program. It has the ability to look at everything. That is what needs to be done. The commission will assure we undertake that responsibility.

When I thought of this idea about the commission, I knew it was important that it achieve real results. It will be essential to choose Members with open minds willing to consider every option, even when the options are tough pills to swallow for both parties. So cooperation is the only way forward. Compromise is the only way forward. This is what Andrew Carnegie said about the virtue of compromise:

I shall argue that strong men . . . —

And since the Senate has changed so dramatically—and strong women—that is me. I stuck that in.

I shall argue that strong men . . . know when to compromise and that all principles can be compromised to serve a greater principle.

Andrew Carnegie. But perhaps President Abraham Lincoln said it best when he said this: “Determine that the thing can and shall be done, and that we shall find the way.”

That is where we are today. We must determine that the thing can and shall be done, and then we need to find that way. That is President Abraham Lincoln.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

ESTABLISHING THE COMMISSION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT PROCESSING DELAYS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the

Senate will resume consideration of the House message to accompany S. 627, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 627, an act to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays, with an amendment.

Pending:

Reid motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to the bill, with Reid amendment No. 589, to cut spending, maintain existing commitments, and for other purposes.

Reid amendment No. 590 (to amendment No. 589), to change the enactment date.

Reid motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on the Budget, with instructions, Reid amendment No. 591, to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 592 (to the instructions (amendment No. 591) on the motion to refer), of a perfecting nature.

Reid amendment No. 593 (to amendment No. 592), of a perfecting nature.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 1 p.m. shall be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, let me first compliment the majority leader. I think he said it accurately; that is, we need to find a compromise between where we are, so we can move forward with increasing the debt limit, and a credible plan to reduce the deficit. I have heard many of my colleagues talk about that. But I want to point out that Leader REID's proposal that we will be voting cloture on in a few moments is a compromise.

It includes two major provisions that the Republicans have been asking about that, quite frankly, many Democrats disagree with. First, there will be a dollar for dollar reduction in spending for the increase in the debt ceiling.

Let me tell you, there is no relationship between the debt ceiling and spending. The debt ceiling represents funds that have already been committed that we have an obligation to pay. We all understand what would happen if we violated the debt ceiling. It would affect the credit of America, its standing internationally, the dollar's global significance, it would affect our creditworthiness in America, increase the cost of government borrowing, increase the spending for all taxpayers in this country.

It would have effects in my own State of Maryland. We have been told that the Maryland bond rating is very much tied to the Federal bond rating, and it could very well cause a downgrade for Maryland taxpayers, increase costs for mortgages, for credit cards. Every family would be affected.

So the Reid bill yields to what the Republicans have asked. And although there is no relationship to the debt ceiling and the spending, because these are bills that have already been in-

curred, there is dollar for dollar reduction in spending for every dollar increase in the debt.

The second major concession the Democrats have already made in the Reid proposal is that there is no revenue in this. We have been talking for a long time. If we are going to have a credible plan to reduce the deficit, we have to include all of the elements of Federal spending. We have a lot of what are called tax expenditures: monies that are spent in our Tax Code.

Some of these dollars are spent on shelters and loopholes that we should close. I have taken the floor several times to talk about several of these loopholes, the ethanol credit that we should not give for ethanol subsidies, the funds that go to gas and oil companies.

There are a lot of loopholes in our Tax Code that we could close. The Reid proposal has made an accommodation to the Republicans to say: Okay, you said that is a deal killer. That is not in the Reid proposal.

So the Reid proposal is the largest amount of deficit reduction—\$2.4 trillion of deficit reduction or \$2.4 trillion of debt ceiling increase so we can get through March of next year, March of 2013, the year after. That gives us the stability we need. And we know what we have gone through already as far as the debt ceiling debate. It has already hurt our country. We don't want to go through this again. That is what I think is critically important by moving forward to get this done.

We are going to have a vote in about 45 minutes. That vote is on cloture. I want to explain that. Senator LEVIN talked about it yesterday. What the Republicans are doing is they are filibustering the debt limit bill. It is a filibuster. They are requiring us now to have 60 votes rather than a simple majority. The Speaker of the House passed his proposal in the House with a majority of those voting. That is what democracy should be about. We are talking about the debt limit increase and whether it is a type of issue that should be filibustered by the Republicans. They are doing that—filibustering it—and their vote in a little while will determine whether we should be able to move forward without a 60-vote threshold.

The majority leader pointed out that on previous occasions we have taken up the debt ceiling and we have not required a 60-vote threshold. I had my staff pull the information about the debt ceiling votes we had when George W. Bush was President. The Senate passed the debt ceiling increase by a 68-29 vote on June 11, 2002—with no requirement for a 60-vote threshold. We had another vote on May 23, 2003, that passed the Senate by a 53-to-44 vote, and there was no filibuster of that by the Democrats. We had a vote on November 17, 2004, with a debt ceiling increase of \$800 billion. The vote was 52

to 44 in the Senate. Again, there was no effort made to require a 60-vote threshold, and there was no effort made to filibuster that issue. Then again on September 27, 2007, the debt ceiling was increased by \$850 billion by a vote of 53 to 42. On a fourth occasion—March 16, 2006—there was a 52-48 vote for a debt ceiling increase. Once again, there was no effort made to filibuster that issue.

Webster's Dictionary defines "filibuster" as "the use of extreme dilatory tactics to delay or prevent action by the majority in a legislative or deliberative assembly." That is exactly what the Republicans are doing if they vote against the cloture motion in a few moments. They are using extreme dilatory tactics to deny the majority the opportunity to take up an issue.

I know we are close to working out an agreement. I certainly hope we work out an agreement. I have been saying on the floor of the Senate for a long time that Democrats and Republicans need to put the Nation's interests first.

We have two goals: to increase the debt ceiling and have a credible plan to deal with the deficit. The Reid proposal offers solutions to both of those goals. I hope we have a bipartisan agreement before the day is out. We can move forward.

I think it is critically important that the Members of the Senate express whether they believe we should be filibustering a debt limit increase. I believe that is not the right precedent for this body to set. We should always allow the debt ceiling to be increased by a majority vote. That is what they did in the House; that is what we should be doing in the Senate.

I urge my colleagues to vote for the cloture motion, but let's continue this discussion because in order to get a bill to the President's desk, we know we are going to have to reach further compromises. We understand that. We have had, I think, some discussions among our colleagues here, and I am hopeful we will be able to reach that type of a compromise.

We have a chance, in a few minutes, to move forward so that we can express ourselves that we should be doing this in the Senate by majority vote. I urge my colleagues to support cloture and support the Reid proposal.

I ask unanimous consent that during the quorum call, the time be equally divided between the Democrats and the Republicans.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARDIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I wish to join others of my colleagues in thanking and commending the majority leader, Senator REID, for his tireless and relentless work in extraordinarily difficult circumstances. He has been a model for me as a new Member of the Senate in leading this body, along with many of my other Democratic colleagues in the leadership and some of our Republican colleagues as well.

Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON, of Georgia, who spoke to this Chamber yesterday morning, demonstrated his determination, as others on the other side of the aisle have done, to work together in reaching an agreement. As the majority leader said moments ago, the words of the day must be "cooperation" and "compromise." Those are the words we are hearing from countless Americans, including my fellow citizens of Connecticut, day after day: We want you to get the job done, put aside the partisan differences. America is speaking with one voice, and Washington must listen.

I am new to Washington. I haven't been here for long. I have just marked my first 6 months in the Senate. But I understand more and more why my fellow Connecticut citizens and other Americans are so frustrated and often appalled by what goes on here. This situation is outrageous. We have an impending crisis—self-created—and devastating possible wounds—self-inflicted—and Washington has been deadlocked.

There is a glimmer of hope, a reason to be cautiously optimistic. The solution is in sight, but still work needs to be done. Washington needs to end the gridlock, the straitjacket that has been self-imposed, and take action to protect citizens from financial catastrophe. Our Nation is really at a crossroads. We need to rein in spending, cut the debt and deficits, make the tough choices necessary to get our fiscal house in order, and we need to do it now.

The fiscal news in the last few days—the anemic and fragile measures of recovery—shows more than ever why we need certainty now, certainty that ending this deadlock will produce. Uncertainty is the enemy—enemy for businesses that are deciding whether to hire, for banks wanting to loan money to those businesses, and for larger corporations sitting on mountains of cash waiting to invest and create jobs.

Jobs and our economy are the main reasons to make these tough choices literally today, to make these tough choices now. We have a historic moment, and we must seize it. We cannot keep kicking these decisions down the road. Families in Connecticut and across the country make these tough

choices every day. They rightfully expect nothing less from us. Tough choices are necessary to help get our debt and our deficit under control.

I have heard as late as this morning, Sunday morning, from hundreds of Connecticut residents who are frustrated and appalled at what is going on here, what they see in Washington, DC.

Bernice, from Tolland, CT, cannot believe we don't have an agreement. She is worried she won't receive her Social Security check next month.

Jane, from West Hartford, is wondering why we are protecting sweetheart deals instead of ensuring Social Security is protected and strengthened.

Rod, from New Milford, just wants us to compromise and to get something done and end this nightmare.

I agree with them and hundreds of others from Connecticut and around the country who want to make sure that the troops in Afghanistan are paid, that their families are taken care of. I thank the citizens from Connecticut for calling or writing to me.

I agree that the immediate solution is not only to raise the debt ceiling but also to cut spending, as the Reid proposal makes clear, dollar for dollar to match that increase in that debt ceiling, without tax increases—none—without any cuts in Medicare or Medicaid—none. Those basic principles in the Reid proposal are what should be embodied in what the outcome is of this debate.

The markets need a real solution, not a short-term fix, to demonstrate that we are dedicated to achieving real results in cutting spending.

Anne, from Hamden, CT, makes this point. She just called yesterday to say that a short-term plan would not provide the certainty the markets are desperately seeking. I agree that no short-term plan can provide that kind of certainty. It risks a credit rating downgrade and ensures we will be back here in another 6 months.

As much as we may criticize the rating agencies—and I have been one to criticize them most vehemently as an attorney general of Connecticut and now as a Member of this body—we must deal with that reality at this moment and take action down the road to address the need for reform. Credit ratings agencies' downgrades seem abstract and intangible, but they are hugely consequential. A downgrade in our credit rating would likely cause, in effect, an automatic tax increase in the form of higher interest rates for every American who has a mortgage, a car loan, student debt, or a credit card.

The American people deserve better. Coming together in a compromise is essential now. Majority Leader REID has proposed a solution to meet all of the criteria House Republicans have demanded for weeks. It doesn't raise taxes or revenues, and it includes enough spending to meet the debt ceiling increase dollar for dollar, and it includes spending cuts that are the very

same as our Republican colleagues, our friends across the aisle, have previously voted for and supported over these past weeks.

Most important, Senator REID's plan makes tough spending cuts, but it doesn't balance the budget on the backs of our seniors and our most vulnerable. It protects vital programs and doesn't make cuts to benefits, to Medicare and Social Security. Again, as I have said repeatedly, I will oppose cuts in Medicare or Social Security.

Time and again, Democrats have shown we are willing to compromise to avert catastrophe and default. Unfortunately, at every turn Republicans in the House have blocked any chance for progress and continue to put us on a very dangerous path.

I am hopeful that the deadline will produce a compromise, that the talks will be productive. But today's filibuster of our efforts to prevent a default is indeed unprecedented. As my colleague, the distinguished Senator from Maryland, pointed out a few moments ago on the floor, since March of 1962, Congress has raised the debt limit 74 times—18 times under President Reagan. During George Bush's administration, Congress passed five stand-alone debt limit increases without a filibuster or delay. And until this point, debt limit increases were routine, usually passed by a simple 51-vote majority without the procedural hurdles my Republican colleagues are using today.

Hopefully, they will come to the table to work with us to find a compromise for the good of the country and for our economic recovery. I hope my Republican colleagues will join us in achieving that result for the sake of millions of Connecticut families, who are watching and listening, as are hundreds of millions of other Americans, and for the sake of our economy moving in the right direction. It is about jobs, jobs, jobs, the certainty our economy needs at this point in history, affordable interest rates, and moving our economy forward.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois, the assistant majority leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Connecticut for his comments and for his focus on jobs. If we ask the American people what the most important thing we face is, it is jobs, creating good-paying jobs right here in the United States so families can succeed and so our economy can grow.

I noted this morning that the President's economic adviser Gene Sperling said in the first 3 months after President Obama was sworn into office we lost 2.3 million jobs. That is what he faced walking in the door, and we have been trying to dig out of that hole ever since. I would say that, symbolically,

this agreement we are working on is moving us to the point where we are having the final interment of John Maynard Keynes. He nominally died in 1946, but it appears now we are going to put him to his final rest with this agreement.

Keynes was a British economist who turned the world upside down when he started arguing that just the force of the markets is not enough to resolve problems when we face recession and depression. We need to play a more active role, a more assertive role in increasing aggregate demands by programs. One of the great disciples of that point of view was Franklin Roosevelt, who, when he came to the Presidency in the midst of the Great Depression, believed we needed to create jobs and work, infrastructure work across America to put more money into our economy. That was a positive force that helped to bring us out of the depression.

Some argue it was only a halting effort until World War II started, but the fact is, that was accepted economic theory in America for many decades. But now, take a look at where we are today. We have an obvious problem with unemployment being too high, a lack of consumer demand and confidence, and a reluctance by many Americans to make purchases of goods and services that would create a demand for more work, more jobs, and more economic growth.

The President came to office and said: Well, the first thing we need to do is to move this economy forward, and he passed a stimulus package, which I supported. I believe 40 percent of that stimulus package went into tax cuts for families so they would have more spending power, particularly lower- and middle-income families. He also put money in infrastructure, trying to make sure we move forward building in America for our future, and money to help State and local governments that were clearly struggling with a cutback in revenue. That was the President's stimulus package. It was helpful, but it clearly did not turn the economy around as we had hoped. We are moving in the right direction.

The next thing the President did, last December, was reach a bipartisan agreement—a controversial one—to extend tax cuts in this country. The obvious belief was if we continue to put spending power in the hands of working families who have a lower propensity to save with every marginal dollar, they will spend it and help the economy get back on its feet. So that was the second phase of the stimulus.

What we are talking about now, in terms of our future—the next 10 years, and what we will do specifically for the next year and a half—is to do the opposite. It is to take money out of the economy by reducing government spending. That is a way to reduce the

deficit—at least it appears to be—but yet it flies in the face of this notion that we can increase aggregate demand, increase demand for goods and services, and create jobs.

I was a member of the deficit commission—the Bowles-Simpson Commission—and that commission was very careful not to put in place the spending cuts for at least a year, until we were back on our feet and the economy was moving forward. Their fear—and the fear I share—is that if we make spending cuts at this point, it will not help economic recovery. In fact, many would agree. I think Paul Krugman regularly reports that point of view in the *New York Times*, and I think he is right.

So here we are, on the horns of a dilemma. In order to avoid the disaster that would occur August 2 if the United States defaulted on its debt for the first time in its history, we are being told we have to cut back on government spending. By cutting back on spending, we may also have a negative impact on our economy. I am afraid this dilemma is not going to serve our purposes very well. I am not sure this is clear thinking. I think, in many respects, it is ideological thinking.

The Republican point of view has always been to reduce the size of government at any cost to the economy. They believe in their heart of hearts in the pre-Keynesian view of the world: the market will work this all out if we just get out of the way. Well, that may be possible, but it is going to be a very costly experience and a costly experiment as people find themselves struggling through this recession without a helping hand.

For example, will we extend unemployment benefits as part of this conversation about what we will do with the economy for the next year and a half? I, for one, would argue we should. My understanding is they expire at the end of this year, and if that is the case, the extension of unemployment benefits will cut off direct payments to people we know are the first dollars spent. Families on unemployment spend it all because that is what they live on. So that stimulus to the economy may be cut off.

Mrs. BOXER. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. DURBIN. Let me complete one thought. Then I will be happy to yield.

Secondly, the President has put in a payroll tax cut. What that means is, working families will get about 2 percent more each pay period. The belief of the President—and I share it—is that kind of helping hand ends up with dollars in the hands of many families spent into the economy. I hope we extend the payroll tax cut as part of this agreement. It doesn't serve specifically the need for deficit reduction, but it certainly serves the need for us to stimulate the economy and have people buy more.

Right now we have a crisis of consumer confidence, and I think it is brought on by the bad news out of Washington—we have to share some of this blame—and it is brought on by the fact that many people overborrowed before the recession set in, many times going deeply into debt. For example, in the 1990s, the average indebtedness of a family was 84 percent of their annual income. By the year 2007, it had reached about 125 percent, a 15-percent increase in indebtedness. Now families facing that indebtedness are retrenching, holding back, not making commitments, and it is coming down to 112 percent and slowly back to where it should be.

What we are trying to do is to give people some spending power to create more consumer and aggregate demand for goods and services for business growth in this country.

So I hope as we look at this deficit-reduction package, as important as it is, we understand we are doing it in an economically dangerous time, when this recession still threatens us, and when many people are still holding back because of their reluctance to spend. If we do not provide a helping hand in this situation, I am afraid the economic recovery may be even slower.

The political realities tell us we are faced with this dilemma: either default on the debt ceiling or cut back in spending, either one of which would be harmful to the economy. I hope we can find a way through this that is sensible, not just from an economical point of view but a political point of view.

I yield to my colleague for a question.

Mrs. BOXER. I have a few questions because what my colleague is doing right now is stepping back and looking at the bigger economic view of where we are. Having come out of the 2010 election, where, frankly, the only issue I faced day after day was job creation, I think my friend is right to talk about that. But here we are in a crisis that is made up.

We have raised the debt ceiling 89 times, and I know my friend has looked at all of this. But isn't it true that never before have we been in a circumstance where one political party has held the full faith and credit of the United States hostage to some agenda they want to bring to the country? Is that my friend's understanding?

Mr. DURBIN. I would answer my colleague that there has never been an instance, since 1939, in the 89 times we have extended the debt ceiling—except for one technical period in 1979 for a few days—when we have used the debt ceiling as a political bargaining chip, and there has never been a time when we were this close to defaulting on the debt causing a true concern across the country and the world that the United States would not keep its promise to

pay its bills, which, as the Senator knows, could result in a loss of confidence in our economy and an increase in interest rates not just for the government but for businesses and families everywhere at exactly the wrong time.

Mrs. BOXER. OK. So what we have now established is that at a time of economic uncertainty, what the Republicans have done, as a party, is hold this whole economy hostage. We have established that. It has never been done before. It is a made-up crisis. They know under Ronald Reagan the debt ceiling was raised 18 times, under George Bush it was 7, 8 or 9 times, and they never said a word. But now, in the midst of this economic crisis we have had going on, this recession, they add this horrific crisis which they have made up.

I have one more question I would like to ask my friend for his comment. I was thinking the other day how things are stalling—the economic growth and our recovery. I have looked back on this and have asked: Why has this happened.

One of the great reasons, I believe, as someone who did study economics a long time ago, is uncertainty and this whole nightmare we are going through, this unnecessary nightmare.

Here we are on a Sunday—we know talks are going on—but this is unnecessary that we are in this mess. The Republicans want us to be in this mess again in 3, 4, or 5 months. I hope we have finally gotten rid of that notion. We are not going to agree to a short-term extension. But here is what I see as the bigger picture.

As soon as the Republicans took over, they stopped working on this economy. Not only did they stop working on the FAA conference—the Federal Aviation Administration—but they now have shut down the FAA. They refuse to allow an extension, and there are job losses all over my State—I assume all over my colleague's State.

At this time they have stopped completely any work on patent reform, which Chairman LEAHY says is hundreds of thousands of jobs. They have put forward a highway bill and a budget that cuts highways by one-third, which is 600,000 jobs that will be lost. They voted down, with a filibuster, MARY LANDRIEU's small business bill and my economic development bill—hundreds of thousands of jobs between those two. Now we have this made-up crisis. How long have they been in? Let's see: January, February, March, April, May, June, July—7 months, and we are in a mess.

So I say to my friend, as he puts forward this notion that we have to be concerned, it is not only that we have this made-up crisis, it is also that they have put the brakes on anything the Senate and the House can do to stimulate jobs. Does my friend agree that it is a very discouraging time?

Mr. DURBIN. Well, of course, it is. I think what is most discouraging is the average person is asking themselves: Why do we inflict this pain on ourselves in the midst of a recession? Why do we have the fear of defaulting on America's debt for the first time in our history? Why would we lose our credit rating, the best in the world—AAA—because of a manufactured political debate in Washington?

We will pay for this for a long time to come. For every 1 percent interest rates go up, our national debt goes up \$130 billion a year—\$1.3 trillion over 10 years. So as we talk about all the spending cuts we want, the fact is, we end up in a position where we can't keep up with increases in the interest rate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority time has expired.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, how much time is remaining?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority has 14 minutes remaining.

Mr. MCCAIN. Well, I will tell you what. I will be glad to engage in a short colloquy with the Senator from Illinois, if he would like.

Does the Senator from Illinois believe we are close to an agreement?

Mr. DURBIN. I hope so.

Mr. MCCAIN. Does the Senator from Illinois agree that, most likely, that agreement will not have an increase in taxes associated with it, at least in the short term?

Mr. DURBIN. I hope not.

Mr. MCCAIN. You hope so?

Mr. DURBIN. I hope there is revenue included in any agreement.

Mr. MCCAIN. Well, everything I have heard is that the agreement does not have tax increases in it. Has the Senator heard differently, being in the leadership?

Mr. DURBIN. I honestly am not party to this. But I can tell the Senator, as the Gang of 6 and fiscal commission, we believe everything should be under consideration to reduce our national debt.

Mr. MCCAIN. So I assume that would also mean the Senator from Illinois would advocate another stimulus package?

Mr. DURBIN. I wish to make sure we have some stimulus to the economy to create jobs and help those out of work find work with training and education.

Mr. MCCAIN. So one would have to assume that the Senator from Illinois believes the last stimulus package was successful, which was, counting interest, over \$1 trillion. The Senator from Illinois and others who advocated the stimulus package and the administration said: If we pass this, unemployment will be a maximum of 8 percent. This will stimulate our economy and create jobs.

Do you know what the Senator from Illinois and others are saying now? It was not enough, that it was not enough, that we didn't spend enough, that we didn't make the deficit larger. Because certainly nothing in the stimulus package was paid for. So I hope the Senator from Illinois understands—the American people understand—that just spending more money has failed and failed miserably.

When we look at the latest news, on the front page of the Wall Street Journal and the Washington Post and the New York Times, that our economy is staggering back into a situation of stagnation, and the response—I will be glad to let the Senator respond. The answer on the other side is: Well, let's have some more spending and let's raise taxes. Let's take some more money out of the taxpayers' pockets in the form of spending more money—their money. It is not the administration's money. It is not the money of the Senator from Illinois. It is the people's money. Take some more money of theirs—and this is the Nobel Prize—well, I will not—anyway. Take more money and taxes and more out of the taxpayers' pockets, and that will be the answer to our problems.

I will be glad to hear the response of the Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. First, I wish to thank my colleague from Arizona. For those who are witnessing this, this is almost a debate in the Senate. It rarely happens. I thank the Senator for coming to the floor.

Mr. MCCAIN. May I say that rather than having the Senator use all our time, I thought I would engage in a colloquy.

Mr. DURBIN. Well, I enjoy doing this and I thank the Senator.

Mr. MCCAIN. Go ahead, please.

Mr. DURBIN. First, during the course of the Senator's Presidential campaign, Mark Zandi, his economist, helped him formulate some positions. His opinion of President Obama's stimulus is, it stopped a precipitous decline in our economy. Did it achieve all we had hoped for? No.

Mr. MCCAIN. If I could interrupt on that particular point, Mr. Zandi was one of many advisers to my campaign. The key adviser was Douglas Holtz-Akin, who is, as you know, former head of the CBO—the Senator knows him well—who had no brief whatsoever for that proposal.

Please go ahead.

Mr. DURBIN. The second point I would like to ask the Senator from Arizona, I think one of the real bedrock beliefs among Republicans is that if we cut taxes, particularly on the wealthiest people in America, the economy will prosper. We hear that over and over.

Didn't we try that experiment under President George W. Bush? Didn't the debt of the United States double under the President and he left a shambles behind him, 2.3 million jobs lost in the first 3 months of President Obama's administration because of this failed economic policy which the Senator continues to espouse; that if we cut taxes on the rich, America is going to get wealthier. Haven't we tried it? Where are the jobs?

Mr. MCCAIN. If I could take a little trip down memory lane with my friend from Illinois, whom I had the great privilege many years ago—I don't know if I should mention the 1982 election. He and I came to the House of Representatives together, and he might recall that one of his own, then a Democratic Congressman from Texas, got together with President Reagan and guess what we did. We cut taxes. Guess what. We had one of the strongest recoveries in recent history of this country because we didn't start spending and add spending without paying for them.

I would say to the Senator from Illinois, he is correct; the spending that went on in the previous administration was not acceptable and led to the deficit. But I would also say, speaking for myself, I voted against the Medicare Part D because it was not paid for. I voted against the earmark and porkbarrel spendings which were abundant as every appropriations bill came to the floor and dramatically increased spending in the worst way, wasteful and corrupt way, I will say. I am proud that at least some of us said: If we don't stop this spending and get it under control, then we are going to face a serious problem.

But I would also mention, and the Senator has seen the chart, it has gotten a lot worse—a lot worse—since the last election. You can't keep up B-I-O-B. You can't keep up Blame It On Bush.

Go ahead.

Mr. DURBIN. I would like to respond to my colleague from Arizona, through the Chair.

Does he recall what happened with the Reagan tax cuts? Because what happened was we tripled the national debt during that period of time, and President Reagan came to Congress 18 times to extend the debt ceiling. He holds the record.

So to argue the Reagan tax cuts led to great long-term prosperity is seriously in doubt, if we are going to use the deficit as a measure.

Mr. MCCAIN. If I could say we believed and Reagan believed that cut-

ting tax cuts would restore our economy, which was in the tank, thanks to the practice of the previous administration before him. Reagan presided over probably one of the greatest job-creation periods in the history of this country. Those are numbers that I would be glad to insert into the RECORD.

Compare that with what has happened since this administration took office, with the promise that if we passed ObamaCare, if we passed TARP, if we passed all these others, the economy would then be restored and grow.

Again, it is hard for my dear friend from Illinois to refute the fact that it was categorically stated that if we passed the stimulus package, unemployment would be at a maximum of 8 percent.

Unemployment today is 9.2 percent, and if we look at any indicator, whether it be housing starts, whether it be the deficit, whether it be unemployed, whatever it is, it has gotten worse since the stimulus package was passed rather than better.

Mr. DURBIN. If the Senator would yield for a question.

Mr. MCCAIN. I would be glad to just hear the Senator's comment.

Mr. DURBIN. I am going to give the Senator a chance to speak again.

Does the Senator believe that defaulting on our national debt for the first time in our history, which has been the threat looming over us from the House Republicans and others for a long period, is good for America's economy?

One of his colleagues on the floor from the State of Pennsylvania has come in and said: Listen, defaulting on the debt is not that big a deal. It can be, in his words, "easily managed." Does the Senator from Arizona agree with that thinking?

Mr. MCCAIN. As the Senator may know, I came to the floor a couple days ago and made the comment that the Senator from Illinois and I are in agreement.

Point No. 1, we can prioritize—and every economist that I know literally would agree. We can prioritize for a while where we want what remaining money that is left. But the message we send to the world—not just our markets but to the world—that the United States of America is going to default on its debts is a totally unacceptable scenario and beneath a great nation. We are in agreement, No. 1.

Mr. DURBIN. Amen.

Mr. MCCAIN. No. 2 is that to insist that any agreement is based on the passage through the Senate of a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States, as I said before, is not fair to the American people because the terrible obstructionists on the Senator's side of the aisle, the terrible people, their flawed philosophical views about the future of

America is not going to allow us to get 20 additional votes from the Senator's side, assuming you get all 47, since it required 67 votes to pass a balanced budget amendment because of the Constitution.

I think it was not only a wrong assessment; I think it is not fair to the American people to say we can pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution through the Senate at this time. Maybe after the Senator is defeated in the next election and we get rid of a lot of—maybe that will happen. But certainly let's not tell the American people that is a possibility because I think it raises their expectations in a way that is not fair to them and, frankly, detracts from what I think is being done as we speak between the leaders, the President, Democratic leaders and Republican leaders, which is in a very short time-frame.

Go ahead.

Mr. DURBIN. I would just say it pains me to say I agree with the Senator from Arizona, but I do.

We both feel threatening the debt ceiling is not in the best interests of the United States and both of us feel that holding out the threat that if we don't pass a constitutional amendment, we can't let the economy continue is not a good-faith bargain. I wish Senator Byrd were here to respond to that particular suggestion.

As for my prospects in the next election, I thank the Senator from Arizona for campaigning against me last time. When he did, I almost got 60 percent of the vote in Illinois. So I welcome the Senator back to the land of Lincoln anytime he would like to come.

Mr. MCCAIN. I would love to come out. As I saw, I did so well in the Presidential campaign in the land of Lincoln, I am not surprised I had such a dramatic impact on the election of the Senator from Illinois as well.

Could I just say, I think this kind of discussion is important, No. 1.

No. 2 is, we should have this national debate on other forums besides just the Sunday show, and perhaps the floor of the Senate is the best place to do that. I wish to continue to engage with the Senator from Illinois, but I hope this agreement will assure the American people that we will meet our obligations, that we will meet our obligations not only physically but fiscally but also meet our obligations to them to govern—to govern—because they did send to us here to govern. I think the Senator from Illinois would agree with me.

The last approval rating of Congress I saw, both sides of the aisle, was about 16 percent; and I have yet to encounter anyone in that 16-percent category in my travels back to my State.

By the way, I would like to note the presence of the Budget Committee chairman, Senator CONRAD, who I

think has made enormous good-faith efforts to reach an agreement on some of these issues, and I thank him for his work. I wish to assure him his reward will be in heaven, not here on Earth.

Mr. DURBIN. I would also like to thank the Senator from Arizona for the few minutes we shared on the floor. I hope more Members would do this rather than just taking turns giving speeches. These exchanges, even when we disagree, are valuable.

But I agree completely with the Senator from Arizona. At the end of the day, we cannot allow our economy to lapse into this default. It would be devastating to a lot of innocent families and businesses across America and will cost us dearly in terms of our national debt. So let us hope we can find this bipartisan agreement that people are working on, even at this moment, and I hope we can do that soon.

Incidentally, I wanted to say for the RECORD former Senator Alan Simpson, whom I came to know even better on the Bowles-Simpson commission, said:

Ronald Reagan raised taxes 11 times in his administration. I was here. I was here. I knew him better than anybody in the room. He was a dear friend and a total realist as to politics.

Mr. MCCAIN. Could I remind the Senator from Illinois that, in retrospect, the one thing President Reagan said he regretted—and he regretted it—was the agreement that was made with the Democratic leadership that we would cut spending by \$3 and increase taxes by \$1 for every cut in spending. That was the ironclad agreement. Guess what happened. We increased taxes. The fact is, we raised taxes and did not cut spending, and that was in direct violation of the commitment he got from the Democratic leadership.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WHITEHOUSE). Pursuant to rule XXII, the clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the Reid motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 627, with amendment No. 589.

Harry Reid, Max Baucus, Barbara Boxer, Carl Levin, Tom Harkin, Benjamin L. Cardin, Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Patrick J. Leahy, Mark R. Warner, Patty Murray, Christopher A. Coons, Richard Blumenthal, Sherrod Brown, Kent Conrad, Mark Begich, John F. Kerry, Debbie Stabenow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 627 with amendment No. 589, offered by the Senator from Nevada, Mr. REID, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 122 Leg.]

YEAS—50

Akaka	Franken	Mikulski
Baucus	Gillibrand	Murray
Begich	Hagan	Nelson (FL)
Bennet	Harkin	Pryor
Bingaman	Inouye	Reed
Blumenthal	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Boxer	Kerry	Schumer
Brown (MA)	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Brown (OH)	Kohl	Stabenow
Cantwell	Landrieu	Tester
Cardin	Lautenberg	Udall (CO)
Carper	Leahy	Udall (NM)
Casey	Levin	Warner
Conrad	Lieberman	Webb
Coons	McCaskey	Whitehouse
Durbin	Menendez	Wyden
Feinstein	Merkley	

NAYS—49

Alexander	Grassley	Nelson (NE)
Ayotte	Hatch	Paul
Barrasso	Heller	Portman
Blunt	Hoeven	Reid
Boozman	Hutchison	Risch
Burr	Isakson	Roberts
Chambliss	Johanns	Rubio
Coats	Johnson (WI)	Sanders
Coburn	Kirk	Sessions
Cochran	Kyl	Shelby
Collins	Lee	Snowe
Corker	Lugar	Thune
Cornyn	Manchin	Toomey
Crapo	McCain	Vitter
DeMint	McConnell	Wicker
Enzi	Moran	
Graham	Murkowski	

NOT VOTING—1

Inhofe

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50 and the nays are 49. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is not agreed to.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. I enter a motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion to reconsider is entered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time until 4 p.m. be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each during that period of time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the matter now before the Senate is still the pending matter we have been working on for several days. It is extremely important that everyone understands we have a message from the House, and if we are going to work something out, which we are hopeful we can do, that

we have a piece of legislation by which we can do that and not require a bunch of cloture votes. So that is where we are now. We are seeing if something can be worked out.

I have had, for the information of Senators, a number of conversations in the last hour with people downtown, and the arrangement that is being worked on with the Republican leader and the administration and others is not there yet. We are hopeful and confident it can be done. As soon as it is done, I will let my caucus know.

I have had conversations with the Republican leader and other Senators. Senators should be aware that further rollcall votes are possible today. We will do everything we can to give Members adequate notice before additional rollcall votes are scheduled.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, would the majority leader yield on that point?

Mr. REID. I would be happy to yield.

Mr. MCCONNELL. If we were to vote, I assume we would have significant notice for our Members because many Members would like to leave the Capitol if we are not going to be voting.

Mr. REID. I would say to my friend that is an appropriate thing to do. I would not suggest a ball game, though; maybe closer than that.

We will give everyone adequate notice. As I indicated, we will do everything we can to give Members plenty of notice. As I indicated, we will have, on this side of the aisle, a caucus later today, whenever we are able to do that.

I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 1:39 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 8:31 p.m., when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. SHAHEEN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

BUDGET COMPROMISE

Mr. REID. Madam President, for the last few weeks Congress has been locked in partisan gridlock. Today, I am relieved to say leaders from both parties have come together for the sake of our economy to reach a his-

toric, bipartisan compromise that ends this dangerous standoff.

The compromise we have agreed to is remarkable for a number of reasons, not only because of what it does but because of what it prevents: a first ever default on the full faith and credit of the United States.

Sometimes it seems our two sides disagree on almost everything, but in the end reasonable people were able to agree: the United States could not take the chance of defaulting on our debt, risking a United States financial collapse and a worldwide depression.

America and the world have been watching our democracy expectantly. My message to the world tonight is that this Nation and this Congress are moving forward, and we are moving forward together.

Reaching a long-term accord that would give our economy the certainty it needs was not easy. But our work is not done. Leaders from both parties and in both Chambers will present this agreement to our caucuses tomorrow. Senate Democrats will meet at 11 a.m.

To pass this settlement, we will need the support of Democrats and Republicans in both the House and the Senate. There is no way either party—either Chamber—can do this alone.

As President Lyndon Johnson said:

There are no problems we cannot solve together, and very few that we can solve by ourselves.

Democrats and Republicans have rarely needed to come together more than today. I know this agreement will not make every Republican happy. It certainly will not make every Democrat happy either. But both parties gave more ground than they wanted to, and neither side got as much as it had hoped. But that is the essence of compromise, of consensus building. And the American people demanded compromise this week, and they got it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this is an important moment for our country. I appreciate the majority leader's comments and want to say a few words to our colleagues who have been so patient over the past several days and whose ideas and encouragement have been so helpful in getting us to this point.

First of all, let me reiterate that before any agreement is reached, Republicans will meet to discuss the framework that the White House and congressional leaders in both parties think would meet our stated efforts to cut spending more than the President's requested debt ceiling increase, prevent a national default, and protect the economy from tax increases.

To that end, I would like to say to my Republican colleagues that we will be holding a conference meeting in the

morning to discuss the framework and to give everyone a chance to weigh in. But at this point I think I can say with a high degree of confidence that there is now a framework to review that will ensure significant cuts in Washington spending. And we can assure the American people tonight that the United States of America will not for the first time in our history default on its obligations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1448

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1448, a bill to exempt off-highway vehicles from the ban on lead in children's products, and for other purposes.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2011

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10:30 a.m. tomorrow, Monday, August 1; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to concur in the House message to accompany S. 627, the legislative vehicle for the debt limit increase; that the Senate recess from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.; further, that at 12:30 p.m., the Senate resume consideration of the motion to concur with respect to the House message to S. 627, with the time until 2 o'clock p.m. equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Madam President, there will be a Democrat caucus at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:36 p.m., adjourned until Monday, August 1, 2011, at 10:30 a.m.

SENATE—Monday, August 1, 2011

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable HERB KOHL, a Senator from the State of Wisconsin.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, how majestic is Your name in all the Earth. Long before the birth of the mountains, You have always been God, sustaining the universe with Your commands. Although life's challenges sometimes prompt us to feel that we are rearranging furniture in a burning building, we take comfort in the knowledge that You hear and answer prayer.

We thank You that our lawmakers are striving to find common ground. While work remains to be done, empower them to discover opportunities in this current crisis to build permanent bridges of cooperation as they remember that with many counselors there is safety.

Bless the members of their staffs, who have labored diligently so that we can see the beginnings of a rainbow after the storm. May the sometime unsung heroes and heroines know that You will reward their faithfulness.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable HERB KOHL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, August 1, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable HERB KOHL, a Senator from the State of Wisconsin, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. KOHL thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to concur in the House message to accompany S. 627, which is the legislative vehicle for the debt limit increase.

The Senate will recess from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. When the Senate reconvenes at 12:30, the time until 2 p.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senate expects to vote on the compromise we have reached, hopefully, during today's session. When the vote is scheduled, Senators will be notified.

HISTORICAL REVIEW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want to spend a few minutes with the Senate and the American people to talk to them about this great body in which we serve. I know there are all kinds of pundits and commentators who talk about how the "system is broken." They point to what has been going on in Washington in the last few months and say it shows that we need a complete change in the way we enact laws; that it just doesn't work anymore, and what is going on is terrible, awful.

I want to take a few minutes and historically review what our country is all about.

In the summer of 1787, the Founding Fathers were meeting in Philadelphia, and they were having a very difficult time. They had tried a number of ways in the past to keep the country together. They had the Articles of Confederation. They knew it wasn't appropriate; it wasn't working.

In June of 1787, a delegate from Connecticut came to a conclusion, and he had an idea that he would suggest to other members in the delegation—the Founding Fathers—about how they could come up with a constitution. That is why they were there.

His suggestion was full of merit because they had not been able to solve the problem of the great State of New York, a huge area with millions of people, and the little State of Connecticut, a very small area and a few people—how could those two States be together in the same Union? They had already

decided they were going to have three separate branches of government. But the problems they had in Philadelphia those many years ago was how to handle the legislative branch.

The delegate from Connecticut came up with what was called the Great Compromise. His suggestion became part of our Constitution and allowed the Constitution to become real. His suggestion was that we would have one body of the legislature, the House of Representatives, that would be elected every 2 years. If someone died, there would have to be an election. No one in the history of our country has gotten to be a Member of the House without having been elected by their constituents.

The Senate, however, would not be representative of how many people were in the State. Each State would get the same number. That was the breakthrough. It was an experiment—a noble experiment. It has worked so well over these many years, where we have the legislative branch consisting of two separate bodies. It is bicameral in nature.

There has been conflict. The Founding Fathers built conflict into the legislative government because they believed that would be enough to offset the power of the judicial and executive branches of government. Over the years, things have been much worse than they have been in Washington in the last 3 months. Our country has been so successful as a result of the Constitution's guidance.

I repeat, the Constitution has been so successful because of the Great Compromise of the legislative branch of government.

In the early days of our country, there was conflict that went on all the time. They were, from the very beginning, thinking: Can this great country survive? Then we had the conflict developing prior to the Civil War. One Congressman and Senator, Henry Clay from Kentucky, was known as the Great Compromiser. He worked for generations to see what he could do to stop the dissolution of the Republic. He was successful in a very difficult time.

One Member of the House was enraged because Charles Sumner was antislavery. He was a fine, extemporaneous speaker. He was so able to express himself, Congressman Brooks came to the Senate floor with his cane and beat Senator Sumner with it. Senator Sumner never really recovered. He was off work for a couple of years, and he had a permanent disability as a result of that beating he took on the Senate floor.

Historic battles have taken place in our country which were much more difficult than what we have just gone through. What we have just gone through has been extremely difficult, but there was never any consideration that the Republic would fall.

In more recent years, we had the civil rights disputes. Mr. President, years before that, the Congress reacted to slavery, and we had the dissolution of slavery. Many years later came the civil rights movement. The debate that took place on the Senate floor was very heated. Filibusters took place that lasted for weeks, not days. There was tremendous acrimony as a result of that issue dealing with civil rights. But we worked through that. It was hard, and people at that time thought Congress was broken.

Congress is not broken. Congress works the way it should. Does that mean it is always a very pleasant, happy place? No. Do I wish it weren't as difficult as it has been in the last few months? I wish it was much better than that. That is where we are.

Through all the years and conflicts we have had, we have been able to come together and reach reasonable conclusions. The great experiment that started in 1787 has been very successful. A number of people have identified our system of government, but I guess the best way to talk about it came from Winston Churchill who said about democracy:

It has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except for all others that have been tried.

I am not proud of the conflict we have had these last many months, but I am satisfied we have been able to come together to find a solution. It is not over until both Houses of Congress pass the legislation dealing with the debt crisis. It is not over until the President signs the bill.

After weeks of facing off against each other, and this partisan divide we have in the Senate, we were finally able to break through with an agreement, which is typical for agreements that are difficult. No one got everything they wanted. Everyone had to give up something. People on the right are upset, people on the left are upset, and people in the middle are upset. It is a compromise. It is not always easy for two sides to reach a consensus, but that is what we did. We did it on a bipartisan basis.

So I believe reasonable Republicans and Democrats alike understood in this case that without compromise our country faced a very difficult situation. But we did send a message to the world and to the American people that our great democracy is working; as difficult and as hard as it is, it works.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the next 2 days on both sides of the aisle to pass this remarkable agreement that will protect the

long-term health of our economy and avert default on our Nation's debt. We still have a lot of problems dealing with the debt. Today, Congress has a unique opportunity and responsibility to show the world what we can achieve, not in spite of our divided government but because of it.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leader time is reserved.

ESTABLISHING THE COMMISSION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT PROCESSING DELAYS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message to accompany S. 627, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 627, "An Act to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays," with an amendment.

Pending:

Reid motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to the bill, with Reid amendment No. 589, to cut spending, maintain existing commitments, and for other purposes.

Reid amendment No. 590 (to amendment No. 589), to change the enactment date.

Reid motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on the Budget, with instructions, Reid amendment No. 591, to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 592 (to the instructions (amendment No. 591) on the motion to refer), of a perfecting nature.

Reid amendment No. 593 (to amendment No. 592), of a perfecting nature.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, let me say a word about the leadership in the Senate. I have the good fortune of working with Senator HARRY REID, our majority leader. In my role as whip, or assistant leader, I have been close at hand when most of the major decisions have been made. I have come to take the measure of this man from Searchlight, NV, and I have found him to be an extraordinary leader.

At first blush, most people would not choose him for his ringing oratory or a commanding presence. But I will tell you that he has created a leadership style in the Senate that is exceptional. I have watched him during the span of the last 2½ years, particularly as he has faced a myriad of challenges: a new President of his own party; passing the stimulus bill, when we didn't have 60 votes on the Democratic side and had to rely on a cross-over vote from three Republican Senators; dealing with the TARP crisis; the recession and what needed to be done to save financial institutions from dissolution; his efforts,

as well, on the Health Care Reform Act, which might have been the mightiest political battle I have ever been engaged in; the Financial Reform Act—the list goes on and on.

Then comes this year with the new Congress—divided, with a Republican leadership in the House. He has had to face passage of appropriations bills, continuing resolutions, and now the most recent crisis over the extension of the debt ceiling. He is an exceptional leader.

I think the majority leader is such an exception because of his humility. He is not the first to the camera nor the loudest in speech. He is a person whose word is trusted and who works night and day until we reach our goal. I admire him so much as a friend, and I am proud to be part of his leadership team and Democratic caucus.

I would like to say a word, as well, about Senator MCCONNELL, the Republican leader. He stepped forward several weeks ago with an exceptional show of political courage when he made a suggestion about how we could find our way through this crisis. It was not a welcome idea on his side of the aisle, and many of his critics took him to task for suggesting how we could get through the debt ceiling crisis. I admired the fact he stood up and understood his responsibility—our responsibility—to the Nation beyond any partisan consideration. Senator MCCONNELL played a critical role in working out the agreement which will come before us and is now pending before the Senate—or will be pending before the Senate shortly. I thank him. I thanked him last night personally, and I thank him publicly for joining in this bipartisan effort on behalf of the Senate with Senator REID and working directly with the President and Vice President.

I am also happy the leaders in the House—Speaker BOEHNER and the minority leader, Congresswoman PELOSI—were able to work together to come up with this agreement.

There are harsh critics of this idea because, as Senator REID stated earlier, what we have come up with as an agreement is not what I would have written and certainly not what any Senator would have written. There are parts of it that I don't care for at all and other parts I think are very wise. That is the nature of compromise. I do not believe I have compromised my principles as a person or as an elected official in coming to this agreement.

At some point, you have to sit at the table and look the other side in the eye and realize they feel just as strongly as you do, and the only common ground to be found between you is not when you give up or when the other side gives up.

Let me tell you what I think are the pluses and minuses of what we are about to consider during the course of

this day. First, we have averted an economic crisis—if both House and Senate should approve this measure. The notion we would default on our national debt for the first time in our history—as of midnight tomorrow night—would be devastating to a weakened economy with more than 9 million Americans out of work. It would have raised America's interest rate on its own debts, adding to our national debt.

As I have said on the Senate floor many times, a 1-percent increase in the interest rate paid by America costs us \$130 billion more on our deficit. So the idea of interest rates going up would add to our debt, not solve our debt crisis.

In addition, it would force interest rates up all over America. Individuals, businesses, and families would feel it in their credit card bills, student loan debts, automobile loans, and home loans. Businesses trying to engage in borrowing to expand the size of their business for the developments they are undertaking would feel it. That is exactly the wrong thing to do, as the Federal Reserve strives to keep interest rates low to promote growth, for us on Capitol Hill to do something which would have the opposite impact. So averting this crisis was the No. 1 achievement of any agreement we reached among our leadership.

The fact we don't have to revisit this crisis on a weekly or monthly basis is also a positive step forward. There was a feeling on both sides of the aisle—though not as clearly spoken on one side—that to come back and do this over and over could not help but weaken the role and reputation of the United States and the global economy. So we now have an agreement which will take us to February 2013, beyond the next Presidential election, giving whoever is elected or reelected an opportunity to govern and to manage the economy in a responsible way. I think those are the major achievements.

Secondly, we make a downpayment on the deficit. I think that cuts both ways. We need to address our deficit. This Nation cannot be great, cannot continue to grow while borrowing 40 cents for every dollar the government spends. That is an unacceptable approach, and we need to reduce that dependency on borrowing and reduce the debts we are creating. Reducing spending is the starting point.

I would question whether this is the right moment to do that. I happen to believe, as others do, when we are in a recession and trying to create economic growth, pulling back on spending on such things as training and education and the building of infrastructure makes the situation worse, not better. I didn't prevail in that point of view, and this does not reflect it. But the fact that we will be putting some money down toward reducing our deficit is a positive.

I am also glad that included in this agreement, when it comes to spending cuts, is protection for the most vulnerable people in America. I can't get over how many times Members of the House and Senate get up and make glowing speeches about cutting spending when those projects and programs they are cutting are safety nets for the most vulnerable people in America. We are talking about those who are unemployed and looking for work. We are talking about those who are elderly and poor. We are talking about those who are suffering from physical and mental disabilities. We are a great and caring nation. We have created a safety net of programs so we don't see the homeless on our streets any more than necessary because of the inadequacy of our programs, and we don't turn a blind eye when it comes to the suffering many families are going through.

I am sorry we are making some cuts, but we are protecting most of the safety net programs, such as Medicaid, the health insurance program for the lower income people in America. Who counts on Medicaid? One-third of the children in America have their health insurance through Medicaid. Almost 50 percent of the live births in America are paid for by Medicaid. In addition, many elderly people, even those on Social Security and Medicare, have to turn to Medicaid to sustain them in their nursing home and convalescent home settings. So protecting Medicaid as part of this package is very important as far as I am concerned.

I would also add, the approach we are using is more balanced than some. I want America to be strong and safe. Everyone does. It is part of our Constitution that we swear to uphold. But there is money being wasted in the Department of Defense. There are contracts that are overrun, money overspent, and there is a lack of oversight. We can save money in the Department of Defense to reduce our deficit and not compromise by one penny the safety and security of the United States.

This agreement before us says both the Department of Defense and all other departments of the government have to look for savings and reduction in spending to move us toward our deficit-reduction goal. I think that is good.

What is missing in this package? What is missing is obvious. At its best, this package will reduce our deficit by \$2.1 trillion, maybe a little more, when it comes to future spending. Most of us believe unless we can reduce our deficit by \$4 trillion, which is almost twice as much, over a period of 10 years, we will not make the positive impact we need to make to spur economic growth and more confidence in the American economy. But Senator REID suggested, as part of this program, we create a joint committee to try to find a way to in-

crease the savings and reduction in deficit in the years to come.

Some skeptics this morning have said that is a typical Washington cop-out; that we are going to create another joint committee. Haven't we had enough? One could make that argument, but I think it overlooks the obvious. We are committed to reducing our deficit. We are committed to creating a joint committee that comes up with specific programs that work. If we fail, there is a penalty. If the joint committee fails to produce a product enacted by the House and Senate, there is a penalty.

Under our legislative language—it is known as a trigger—it says: If you should fail to reduce the spending and reduce the deficit through the joint committee, there will be a price paid—even deeper cuts in spending on both the defense and nondefense sides.

I don't want to see it move in that direction. I hope we can find a more balanced approach and do it through the joint committee, working on a bipartisan basis with appreciation and respect for one another across the table, and we can reach that goal.

Ersine Bowles, former Chief of Staff to President Clinton; Alan Simpson, former Senator, cochaired the commission on which I served. They sat down and created a template for us to reach meaningful deficit and debt reduction over 10 years of over \$4 trillion. I took those ideas and with others—Senator MARK WARNER of Virginia, Senator CHAMBLISS of Georgia, Senator CRAPO of Idaho, Senator COBURN of Oklahoma, and Senator CONRAD of North Dakota—sat down with the Gang of 6, and we turned those ideas into what we thought was a legislative approach that would work.

I still think that has merit, and I still think it should be actively considered when we talk about the long-term reduction of debt. It is bipartisan, it is honest, it achieves real debt reduction, and it does it in the fairest possible way. It puts everything on the table—everything. There are no sacred cows. Everything is on the table. It means it goes beyond spending cuts to the entitlement programs, which makes those of us on the Democratic side particularly nervous. But it also goes to revenue—new revenue—to reduce the deficit, which makes those on the other side of the aisle nervous. But what we should be nervous about is a continuing deficit and a weakening economy and a debt left to our children.

I believe this proposal that is before us now—this agreement of the leaders—should be adopted in a timely fashion. I hope we can move to it today. We are working out with the Republicans a schedule when these matters will be considered. There will be those on the right and the left who will be critical, and I can understand their thinking. It doesn't serve either side

particularly well. But it is a compromise and a consensus.

I think of all the people who contacted my office from Illinois and beyond during the last several weeks, begging us to do something, to not let this economy fail, to work together and compromise and find a way to resolve our differences. I think this is a reasonable attempt to do that. I will support it, with some misgivings. But I believe it gives us the way to get through this crisis and to move to a better place where we deal with this deficit and debt in a responsible, bipartisan manner, asking for shared sacrifice from all those across America who can make a sacrifice. That is the nature of our Nation. It is the nature of our history, where time and again we have rallied as a nation to face even more daunting challenges in the past.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 12:30 p.m.

Thereupon, at 11:01 a.m., the Senate recessed until 12:30 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. WHITEHOUSE).

ESTABLISHING THE COMMISSION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT PROCESSING DELAYS—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 2 o'clock shall be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Who yields time? If no one yields time, the time will be charged equally between the parties.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum and ask that the time under the quorum call be equally divided between both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BEGICH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HAGAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BEGICH. Madam President, I have come to the floor and talked many times of my constituents back home in Alaska and the importance of ensuring we have a balanced approach in how we deal with this incredible debt crisis we are in and how we manage to create some certainty not only for today but in the years to come. We want to make sure we not only create certainty but we also do what we can to protect working families, honor our commitment to seniors and veterans, and let our small businesses know that we stand behind them, we want them to be successful, and we want to create some certainty out there so they can expand their operations and opportunity.

I am sitting here in Washington, DC, and it is whatever temperature it is outside right now—maybe 100 degrees, with 80 or 90 percent humidity—and sometimes I think we could have gotten this done quicker if we had just turned off the air-conditioning. We probably could have gotten things done quicker, with better results. But we are where we are. We are in the last 24 hours or so before we have to make a decision as to what to do with the proposals, the solutions that have been presented.

I am here, but I wish I were home, to be frank with you. This last weekend, my son was celebrating his ninth birthday, and as a parent every birthday is huge and makes a difference. I know the Presiding Officer knows that very well. So while I am here, they were enjoying life, and it made me think about a lot of things.

I wanted to put this poster up because I think it is a great poster. I got this text during a committee meeting. This is my son, who just turned 9, with a real fish. For those who can't see it, it is the same height as he is. He caught this fish with his mother a few days ago. It is a 40-pounder king salmon. It is what we call a real fish. We consider this small in comparison to some others we catch.

But when I got this text—and that is what is so great about technology: He sends me little notes and comments during meetings and wants to make sure I am connected to what he is doing back home. But this debate we are having—this moment in time—to figure out where we are going is about the Jacobs and the other children of his age and those not yet born. It is about what we are going to do for them. The Presiding Officer and I have already experienced and enjoyed many years of our life, and hopefully we will enjoy many more, but really it is about Jacob and the other children.

When I go back home, I get a chance to talk with the kids. I am sure the Presiding Officer has done the same, where you go into an elementary school—I know the Presiding Officer was a teacher in Sunday preschool—

you go in and have conversations with the kids, and in their own way, which is sometimes very brutally honest, they tell you all about what they think is going on. And I will give a quote here in a second of what my son said to me. He doesn't understand everything we are doing, but he understands it is an intense time here because I am not home. I am not with him. So he knows it is important, what we are doing here, as we debate this solution and what will be the next step.

Is what we have come up with a perfect solution? No. Are there some issues about which I am still concerned? Yes. But does it move us down a path to start dealing with the spending, the deficit, and the debt, creating certainty and protecting those who need protection, such as our seniors and our veterans? Yes.

This proposal produces about a \$1 trillion downpayment on our deficit and debt. It lays out a process by which we can achieve another \$1.5 trillion in debt reduction if this joint committee can come back with a proposal.

In the process of all this, we will create certainty in the marketplace. We will create certainty for that small businessperson who has been thinking about expanding their business. They can do that because the markets will respond positively.

We will create certainty for the individual who was thinking about buying a house or a car because now there will be stable rates.

For those who are putting money aside for the education of their young family, as I have been putting aside for Jacob for his college, we will know now that the markets are better and safer, the bonds we invest in are safer, and our children's future is a little more secure if we do the right thing over the next 24 hours, still knowing it is not the perfect deal.

The proposal evenly splits cutting between half in discretionary and half in Pentagon waste, ensuring we still are a secure nation and protecting our defenses but cutting what I would consider opportunities within the Pentagon to reduce.

As we sit here today, I think about Jacob's future and the futures of all the kids I see back home. There is an enormous amount of opportunity for the pages sitting here in this room, for the kids here during the summer running around Washington, DC, and seeing these great monuments. That is what we are doing here—guaranteeing those opportunities for this generation and future generations. That is our task, making decisions based on that, not on what our next election cycle will bring should we get elected or not get elected or will this look good or not look good on a brochure. Those who have that kind of thinking are not about this country and are not supporting what this country is all about.

I think about all the issues in front of us, and there has been no more critical issue during my almost 3 years in the Senate that I have had to deal with.

Is there a component missing in this solution? Yes. We are not dealing with the tax cuts the millionaires and billionaires received and benefited from when they really didn't need them. We are not dealing with the loopholes, the scams and shams people have taken advantage of with our tax structure. We haven't resolved the question of fairness in our tax structure so that the middle class doesn't continue to carry the burden. We have not created a tax reform strategy that creates an opportunity for us to be more competitive in this world economy. We know that is still a big piece of this.

I am hopeful that the joint committee, made up of Democrats and Republicans, will present to us a plan before Thanksgiving and we can then sit down and look at that plan and realize it is an addition to what we are doing—hopefully in the next 24 hours—in creating more fairness.

I know the amazing thing about here—and I know, Madam President, you know—this place is an unbelievable place for media. We breathe, they report it. We sneeze, they report it. There will be two opinions on how we sneeze—maybe three, maybe four—because that is how it works here. They feed on every word we say, everything we do, and I know some are out there bragging that this is a great deal because it just does cuts, and it doesn't deal with revenues. Then there are others who say it doesn't deal with revenues or it hurts Social Security. We can tell when that occurs, that is probably not a bad plan because there is so much that people don't like of each element or there are elements we don't like. But we do need to deal with revenues at some point.

We will need to deal with a tax reform policy that brings balance and fairness where the middle class does not continue to keep holding the bag for everything.

There is a proposal Senator WYDEN, Senator COATS, and myself have proposed. It is bipartisan. It is tax reform. It creates simplification, creates more corporate competitive rates, reduces the rates down for individuals but gets rid of a pile of these loopholes, these scams and shams that people have taken advantage of so they don't have to pay their fair share for the services and the benefits we all receive in this great country: the roads we drive on, the schools our kids go to, the defense of this country, the border protection of this country, the safest food in the world—you name it, we have it. That is why we are the envy of every country in the world as a place to be and raise your family.

But as I look at this picture—and, yes, I am doing a little marketing of

Alaska salmon. I would be remiss if I didn't do that. I think about Jacob's future and what he has and what his potential is. But I also think about his dream—because as he celebrated his birthday, my father-in-law passed the same day. When he was a young man working in Connecticut, he bought a house in New Haven as he went off to Vietnam and served his country. He was a colonel as he retired in the Army, and then he sold that home to buy what is in the background here, his cabin for his grandson to enjoy the fruits of his life and what he enjoyed of his American dream. That is what this is about.

It is about making sure this generation and future generations can also have that American dream; that they have choices and options not restricted by politics or the financial condition of the country but have huge opportunities.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has used 10 minutes.

Mr. BEGICH. I ask for an additional 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BEGICH. I think about where we are today.

My son has been watching this because I am not home. He has a phrase he likes to use, even though it is not the perfect deal, but it does create balance. He will say at times: "Suck it up, buttercup." I don't know what show he saw that on, but all I know is that is his phrase. That is what we are going to have to do here. It is not perfect, but we are going to have to do what is right for the next generation and future generations.

Madam President, we have huge opportunities and challenges ahead of us. We have an economy that needs additional work to ensure we are creating every opportunity to create jobs in this country for everybody, no matter who they are, where they live, what age they are. We need to make sure we continue to be the respected country my father-in-law fought for in Vietnam, my son hopes for, we hope for, and future generations hope for.

So today I come down because I think we are close to resolving the issue that has stretched us almost to the brink. Hopefully, as we get beyond this issue we will have the ability as Democrats and as Republicans to look, first, as Americans, as Alaskans, as North Carolinians—wherever we are from—and focus on what is good for this country.

We will hear more over the next 24 hours about the details and more of the deal. I have heard a lot of it already, but the public will learn. There will be pieces we don't like. There will be pieces about which I will get phone calls in my office that people don't like it. We will get calls. But at the end of the day, we are going to do it because

it is the right way to move forward. It is going to be tough, and we will get criticism for what we could have done, but we are where we are and we need to move forward.

As my son would say, we have to "suck it up, buttercup."

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the time until 6 p.m. be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, and that Senators during that period of time be permitted to speak up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, for the information of all Senators, after the House votes later today—they have a 1-hour rule, so whenever they take it up they will debate it for 1 hour—it is my intention to try to lock in a unanimous consent to set a vote to complete action on the debt limit increase. This vote could happen either tonight or tomorrow. So I want Senators to be aware of that. Of course, with a consent agreement we could move anytime we wish to this bill, but it would take consent.

When we finish this we have some nominations we have to deal with, and we have to get the FAA issue resolved. But I think this will probably be the last vote we have that I am aware of.

It has been a pretty hard work period we have had, the last two weekends and working late, and I think the Senate deserves to be able to go home as soon as we can. If there were ever a time when we needed to work with our constituents, it is now.

For me, personally, I have been here for a long time. I have a home in Nevada that I haven't seen in months. My pomegranate trees are, I am told, blossoming and have some pomegranates on them. I have some fig trees and roses and stuff that I just haven't seen. I have constituents I am anxious to see, friends I need to visit, relatives I need to visit. So as soon as we can complete our work, I would like to move as quickly as I can to the summer recess period.

So what I would ask is that as the House moves to this bill this afternoon, Senators should use this time to come and talk about the bill, whether they like it or dislike it or are neutral. It would be a time that they could get their remarks on the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I am happy to be the first to take the distinguished majority leader up on his offer and be here on the Senate floor to talk about this very important matter.

I plan on voting no on this proposal. It is a very important matter. It is in many ways the greatest challenge we face as a nation. So I don't come to this decision lightly, but I do come to it firmly for three primary reasons.

First of all, this bill, this so-called solution, doesn't fundamentally change our spending and debt picture. It just plays around the margins. It doesn't make any big change whatsoever.

To put it differently, I don't want to default under any circumstances, but I don't want a downgrade of our credit rating either. From everything the markets and the credit rating agencies—Moody's and Standard & Poor's—have said for months, this would result in a downgrade. This would result in higher interest rates—first for the government and then for all of us—on our home mortgages, on our car payments, and everything else. Why? Because, again, it doesn't fundamentally change our spending and debt picture. It only cuts \$7 billion in the first year and \$3 billion in the second year, a total in the first 2 years of \$10 billion. That is basically a minuscule rounding error in terms of the size of the Federal budget.

Over the next 10 years, we continue to mount up \$7 trillion worth of new debt. So we are at \$14 trillion now; we are going to add on another \$7 trillion of new debt under this plan, and we do nothing to stabilize our debt-to-GDP ratio, which is perhaps the most important metric that economists and others point to.

We need to do better. We need to have some plan to balance the budget. This plan never balances. This plan has mountains of new debt still building. This plan never stabilizes our debt-to-GDP ratio.

Again, I don't want to default. I will vote to avoid a default. But I do not want a downgrade either that costs every American in a meaningful way.

Second, I have looked very hard at the enforcement provisions of this bill, and I am convinced that even the meager numbers in this bill, in terms of cuts, are going to be blown, are going to be waived, because there is no meaningful enforcement. The only thing it will take to bust the numbers in this bill is a new bill that passes by a simple majority in the House and by 60 votes in the Senate. We are constantly looking at those sorts of vehicles, particularly when we are probably going to have disaster appropriations and disaster bills coming to the Congress. There are no real teeth in this bill. There is not adequate enforcement.

To their credit, several Members of this body and several Members of the House have spent months talking about how good, meaningful enforce-

ment mechanisms could work. The Gang of 6 had real enforcement mechanisms that they spent a lot of time on. Senators here, such as BOB CORKER, had meaningful enforcement mechanisms built into their proposed legislation. None of those are in this bill. Those could easily have been adopted. Those could easily have been put in the bill; they were not.

Third, and finally, I am very concerned that the triggers in this bill that are supposed to be there to ensure a second round of savings and deficit reduction are not going to work. I do not see how they are going to incent, particularly the Democrats, particularly the left, to move to a new package of savings and deficit reduction. I think, rather, the triggers will be triggered, and we will have unsustainable defense cuts and also unsustainable cuts to doctors and hospitals in Medicare. That is perhaps another reason, going back to point No. 2, that even the numbers in this bill are not going to hold. They are going to be waived; they are going to be busted.

I have to say I hope I am wrong on all three counts if this bill, in fact, passes. But I have looked at it carefully, soberly, and that is the clear conclusion to which I have come. I hope we can do better. I hope we do better because we must for the American people, because we need to start turning around our completely unsustainable spending and debt situation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I didn't come to the floor to comment on what Senator VITTER just said, and I can sure appreciate his view that a decision that ends up with a \$7 trillion addition to the national debt over the next 10 years is not getting us very far down the road compared to what the people of the United States, who have to live within their income, believe this Congress should accomplish. But a \$7 trillion addition to the debt over that period of time, compared to what the President suggested we spend over the next 10 years when he issued his budget to Congress, on February 14, we could end up with \$13 trillion added to the national debt—so somewhere along the line, between February 14 and last night, when the President announced his support for this compromise, he has come to the conclusion that we could spend \$6 trillion less over the next 10 years.

Even though a lot of people see this as not making progress, the President admitted he has found ways of changing his mind about \$6 trillion in the course of just a few months. I suppose it also might lead our constituents to think in terms of, there has to be something wrong with the thinking in Washington if, on February 14, they think we have to spend X number of

dollars that will add \$13 trillion to the national debt and here it is just 3 or 4 months since then and the President goes on television and says this is a good compromise and we can be at \$6 trillion less in spending. It probably leads people to believe there has to be a lot of money wasted in Washington, DC, if, in fact, between February 14 and last night, the President can find consensus in spending \$6 trillion less over the next 10 years. That is a comment on what Senator VITTER just said and not disagreeing with Senator VITTER's comments in any way.

When we are in the Senate of the United States talking about what to do about the deficit situation and how much deficit spending we are having, it probably gets lost in the minds of people that what we are spending today and adding to the national debt is creating a great legacy of debt to leave to our children and grandchildren. This debate around this issue brings me to this question: Is it fair to tax our children and grandchildren just because they cannot vote? Our children and grandchildren, for the most part, do not have any voice in this, except what is given by our generation and people representing the older generations, other than our children, making these decisions. That is because we, in fact, are doing just that; taxing our children and grandchildren by adding to the national debt. That is what we are doing with our irresponsible budget deficits.

We have a choice between a brighter future for our descendants or more social spending now; more social spending or, as President Obama might put it, investments. Any way we look at it, money we spend today and we do not pay for, we are putting this bill on future generations—our children and grandchildren. This is a choice we should be thinking about as we arrive at a decision of whether to vote for or against this grand compromise that has come out of these negotiations.

It gets down to basic choices of what do we do to encourage private sector employment. It gets down to choices of what we do about the size of government. There is a real choice in this debate as we talk about how big government should be. The choice is, do we grow government or do we grow the private sector?

What are the philosophical differences as well as the economic differences between growing government versus allowing business and entrepreneurship to flourish in America? We have had these dramatic increases in expenditures over just the last 2 years; 22-percent increases in appropriations in the last 2 years, when the economy only grows about 2 percent. Everybody knows that is not sustainable. On top of that, we had a \$814 billion stimulus package that did not do what it was supposed to do to keep unemployment under 8 percent. At this time, we have

gone from the national debt being 35 percent of the gross national product to today being about 65 percent and before the end of this year it is going to be 72 percent. And it is on a path to go to 90 percent. So we have seen government grow during the last few years out of proportion to the 20 percent of the gross national product that the public sector, represented by the Federal Government, took, compared to that growth from 20 to now 25.

Those 5 percentage points of growth in the government may not seem like a lot but just look at the difference between incentives for growth of the private sector for creating wealth as opposed to the Government consuming wealth. That is a fact. Government consumes wealth; it doesn't create wealth. People who are using their labor and their minds and investing are the ones who create wealth in our country. Those 5 percentage points make a difference because it is a very dramatic growth in government. As government consumes more—and I said it does not create wealth—it takes money out of the private sector, where it can grow more and create jobs and, consequently, then limits the opportunity for expanding the economic pie. That is what the private sector does through investment and labor, expands the economic pie. We can have economic growth so we can have more for more people.

But when government gets bigger, we restrict the opportunities for economic growth in the private sector and we have less pie for more people.

So a 5 percentage point growth in the government for the last 5 years compared to a 50-year average lessens the chance for a brighter future for our children and grandchildren, and that has to be a part of this debate as we decide the size of government versus the size of the private sector—the wealth-producing private sector.

If we keep government at 20 percent, then that is going to leave more in the private sector that is going to create wealth. It is going to be a more productive use of our resources.

The promise of our free market system can only be realized if we choose less social spending, if we choose less intrusive regulation and more efficient use of our resources in the private sector as opposed to the public sector.

We should be doing those things not only in this budget agreement, this deficit reduction agreement, but in all the decisions we make in the Congress. We should be doing more to encourage productive uses of our resources in the private sector, rather than consumption of those resources in the public sector.

President Obama has launched a campaign over the 30 months he has been in office to defend the welfare state and of course the woefully inefficient government-run health care system that is an example of that welfare

state. I think we can learn some lessons from the rest of the world as well in looking at what is right for America. We should learn from history and not repeat the mistakes that have been made in other countries.

Since the 1950s, we have seen a lot of countries around the world use transfers of wealth from one generation to another or the transfer of wealth from one group of people to another. We have seen grants. We have seen a redistributive philosophy in a lot of countries. What did that do? It did very little to raise the living standards of those in Asia, Latin America, Africa. More open economies have proven otherwise. More open economies as we have had in Japan since the 1950s have lifted more people out of poverty in 10 years than welfare state programs have done in 50 years.

Japan—just using it as an example—forced its producers 50, 60 years ago to compete. Private sector resources are more productive than those of the public sector making the decisions on how to use those resources, or a command economy, as you might call it. After Japan, we had Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore. More recently, in the last 20 years, China and India have been encouraging more competition and more productive uses of resources with less of it promoted by the government. There are more decisions being made by the private sector in Brazil, and even parts of Africa are learning that is the route to go. We should learn from that. We should not turn backwards and rely more on government than we have in the past. By doing that, we retire opportunity in America. We retire opportunity by growing government at the expense of individual initiative. I hope we don't go that route. I think this budget debate has something to do with whether we are going to turn this around from the direction that it has taken over the last few years. Those last few years have not just been the 30 months of this Presidency but a little bit going back into the previous Presidency as well.

In regard to President Obama's programs, we have had few results from the government becoming more involved in the economy. We have dealt with near zero interest rates for a long period of time. I have already mentioned the \$814 billion stimulus. There are other things that have been done in recent months to turn this economy around. We still have unemployment above 9 percent. The recovery that was supposed to come from all of these programs that have had greater government involvement in our economy have made a recovery very elusive.

In fact, there are even questions in the media recently of whether we could be going into another recession. President Obama tried mightily and wastefully—and in the end, very ineffectually—to turn this economy around

through a massive number of government programs, but it has not worked. Progress would have been greater if we had tried programs by President Reagan or even President Kennedy's policies. In both of those instances they cut marginal tax rates. They eliminated burdensome regulations. Instead, what do we have out there right now even today coming from the White House? Promises yet of higher taxes; almost a demand that Congress pass higher taxes right now, and more regulations.

I just recently read about a businessperson saying there are 29 onerous regulations coming out of EPA that will be detrimental to job creation because they are so costly. Another way of putting it is it might cause businesspeople to worry about the uncertainty of what government is going to do. When we have that uncertainty—and right now there is a heightened uncertainty—it retards growth. It retards growth because people will not invest. When there is not increased investment and hiring, there is less productivity. What these issues are all about is creating jobs, and we are not creating jobs right now. That is what people are going to see as a test as to whether we are out of a recession—regardless of the leading economists who made the decision that we have been out of a recession now for 2 months.

For people who are unemployed, it is not a recession; it is a depression. They are going to measure coming out of a recession or coming out of a depression by whether they have a job. Jobs are not being created.

President Obama promises what he wants is something that is fair and balanced. When I hear him talking about "fair and balanced," I wonder if he is trying to steal those words from Fox News. Why is it fair to distribute more welfare to the present generation and today's voters by growing government at the expense of the wealth-creating private sector? That harms our children and our grandchildren who are going to end up paying for it with less productive uses of the resources of this country.

We should not be thinking, as Europe has thought, about growing government, having government consume more of the resources of the economy, leaving less to individuals to make decisions whether to save or spend and what to save and what to spend on. That is the way it is done in Europe. We should not go that way.

I always use a statistic that may seem so small to be insignificant, but I use a statistic of 1 percent. If we compare the United States with Europe over the last 25 years, our growth has averaged about 1 percent more in the United States than in Europe. Now that 1 percent may not sound like very much, right? However, over a generation, just 1 percent difference in

growth—between the economy of Europe and the economy of the United States—adds up to 25 percent differential in per capita income.

It seems to me the issues of this debt reduction debate—or if you want to call it increasing the deficit ceiling, the borrowing capacity of the Federal Government—too often tend to be about what is the situation right now, but it is really a debate about what is fair for our children and grandchildren because those are the decisions on borrowing that we are making today.

I have to go back to where I started with a question of whether it is fair for us to tax future generations for the borrowing that we are doing today, and simply say it is not fair to tax future generations just because they cannot vote.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I want to say a few words to my fellow Vermonters and anyone who might be interested as to why I will be voting against this deficit-reduction package when it comes to the floor. The reason is pretty simple. This deficit-reduction package is grotesquely unfair, and it is also bad economic policy. It should not be passed.

The wealthiest people in this country and the largest corporations are doing phenomenally well. In a recent 25-year period, 80 percent of all new income created in America went to the top 1 percent who now earn more income than the bottom 50 percent. In terms of wealth, the United States has the most unequal distribution of wealth of any major country on Earth with the top 400 people owning more wealth than the bottom 150 million Americans.

When we talk about this deficit-reduction package with the richest people becoming richer, huge corporations making billions of dollars in profits and in some cases paying nothing in taxes, how much are those people—the wealthy and the powerful—asked to contribute toward deficit reduction and shared sacrifice? How much are the rich and the powerful going to contribute into this deficit-reduction package? The answer is zero. Not one cent.

Meanwhile, as everybody in America knows, we are in the midst of a horrendous recession. Real unemployment is over 16 percent. People have lost their homes, their life's savings. We have the highest rate of childhood poverty in

the industrialized world. Yet this deficit-reduction package comes down on those people—the working families, the low-income people, the sick, the elderly, the children. The rich pay nothing. Large corporations pay nothing. Yet working families and the most vulnerable people in this country are going to be shouldering the burden of deficit reduction on their shoulders. That is immoral, that is wrong, that is bad economic policy.

Mr. President, as you well know, this is a complicated package, and nobody can predict with any certainty exactly what programs will be cut and how much they will be cut because the process will kick in to the appropriations committees all over, the House and the Senate, and they will go to a supercommittee that will make very significant decisions. Nobody with certainty can tell exactly what programs will be cut.

What we can say is we are looking at up to \$1.4 trillion in cuts, and virtually every program that working families depend upon, that our children depend upon, that the sick depend upon, is on the line.

In my State, for example, it gets cold. We have a beautiful State. We love our winters, but it gets cold. It gets 10 below zero, 20 below zero. Many people in my State, including senior citizens, desperately need a program called LIHEAP, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which provides help to many people, including a lot of seniors, to help keep them warm when it gets 20 below zero. I fear very much there will be major cuts in that program.

In our State we have done very well in expanding community health centers. We have over 110,000 people now accessing new community health centers, finally being able to get a doctor and dentist when they need it. I am going to do everything I can to prevent those cuts. I fear that those programs can be cut.

In Vermont, in Connecticut, all over this country, we have a major crisis in childcare. Families want to get into the Head Start Program. They want affordable childcare. Those programs will be cut.

In my State, we have a program that helps struggling dairy farmers, a program called the milk program. It helps them stay in business. I fear very much—and I am going to fight against this—I fear that program will be cut.

We have young people today from working-class families hoping upon hope that maybe they will be able to afford to go to college. Well, we can expect major cuts in Pell grants and other programs that make college affordable for our young people.

In this country, we have people who are going hungry. We did a study recently. There is more hunger among seniors. Some of those programs will be

cut. Affordable housing programs will be cut.

So let's not kid ourselves. In the midst of a terrible recession, when so many people are hurting, so many people are struggling just to keep their heads above water economically, this deficit-reduction package is going to slap them at the side of the head and make life much more difficult for them.

Now, Mr. President, as you well know, this is a two-part program. The first part calls for approximately \$900 billion in cuts, and the second part calls for about \$1.2 trillion to \$1.5 trillion in cuts. Here is where it gets a little bit complicated because a supercommittee, made up of six Democrats and six Republicans, will have the opportunity to look at everything.

As the majority leader said, everything is on the table. Now, what does that mean? If everything is on the table, Social Security is on the table. What we have heard from our Republican friends, what we have heard from some Democratic friends, what we have heard from the President of the United States is that maybe we should adopt a so-called chained CPI, which will result in very significant cuts in Social Security benefits. If you are 65 now and that program is implemented, when you are 75, you are going to lose \$560 a year, and 20 years from now, when you are 85, you are going to lose \$1,000 a year. Am I saying that definitely will happen? No, I am not.

Social Security will be on the table. Medicare will be on the table. Medicaid will be on the table. Everything will be on the table.

If that committee ends up not coming to a decision, if they end up being deadlocked, say, six to six, then we go to a sequestration program and more cuts will be made.

So I would say, when poll after poll after poll suggests strongly that the American people want shared sacrifice—a poll just came out last week from the Washington Post where 72 percent of the people polled said they believe folks making more than \$250,000 a year should pay more in taxes in order to help us with deficit reduction. Poll after poll says it is absurd that large corporations get incredible loopholes that enable them to make billions of profits and not pay one nickel in taxes.

So this is a bad proposal. This is an unfair proposal. We can do better, and we must do better. I do not intend to vote for a deficit-reduction package where the sacrifices are being made by people in the middle class and working class who are already hurting. It is time for the big-money interests to start remembering they are also Americans and they should contribute to deficit reduction.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF MATTHEW OLSEN

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, later on this afternoon the Senate Intelligence Committee is going to vote out the nomination of Matthew Olsen to be the next Director of the National Counterterrorism Center. I rise today in support of the nomination of Matthew Olsen to be the next Director of NCTC.

Following the September 11 terrorist attacks, we did a lot of self-examination as a government and, putting it simply, realized that pieces of intelligence that should have been connected had not been or, in other words, the dots had not been connected. Congress understood we could not afford another lapse like 9/11, so it created the National Counterterrorism Center to analyze and integrate counterterrorism information across the government.

While we have not suffered another 9/11, our record is not perfect. From the Christmas Day bombing attempt, to Fort Hood, Times Square, and the New York subway plot, the threats to our homeland are very real. At the same time, changing political landscapes and challenges from adverse nations require constant attention. In this environment, it is essential for NCTC to perform its mission beyond reproach.

After the Christmas Day near-bombing aboard flight 253, the Senate Intelligence Committee conducted a review to determine where the intelligence community could have done a better job of anticipating this attempted attack. Unfortunately, the committee's review showed that NCTC had not lived up to its statutory responsibilities. The then-Director, Mike Leiter, to his credit, took criticism in a very positive way and made the right kinds of changes at NCTC to move us in the right direction.

While I am encouraged by the progress NCTC has made since then to repair those shortcomings, there is much work that still needs to be done. I believe Matt Olsen has the right background to take the helm of this important intelligence center at this very critical point in our history. He is no stranger either to the Senate Intelligence Committee or to the serious threats that face our Nation. Members and staff have worked with him on several high-profile issues over the last few years.

As a Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the National Security Division,

he was responsible for ensuring that our intelligence professionals had all the legal authority they needed from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court in order to continue this country's safety. Let me just say this was no easy task and the stakes were high, especially given the political wrangling over FISA and the USA PATRIOT Act in recent years. Matt spent countless hours briefing our staff and other committees on many highly sensitive FISA issues. In large part because of his willingness to stick to the facts and not play political games, he has earned the respect of Members on both sides of the political aisle.

For the last year, Matt has served in a very professional way as the General Counsel for the National Security Agency, a position that has also put him in close contact, again, with the Intelligence Committees.

GEN Keith Alexander, who heads up NSA, provided a letter of support for Matt's nomination. I have also spoken personally with General Alexander about Matt. I have a great deal of respect for the general, and it speaks volumes to me that he has such high, unequivocal praise for Matt, both as a leader and as a person.

Matt's other job—not an enviable one—which brought him in close contact with the committee was his service as the Executive Director of the Guantanamo Review Task Force. I have had numerous conversations with Matt about some of the recommendations made by the task force on transferring what I believe continue to be potentially dangerous detainees.

I appreciate that the task force was following a deadline set by Executive order to close Guantanamo Bay. But I believe we have accepted too great a risk to our national security by transferring many of these detainees to other host countries. The recidivism rate continues to climb. It is today somewhere in the range of 26 percent. We have no reason to expect it will stop climbing anytime soon. Our first obligation must always be to ensure the safety of the American people, not to transfer dangerous detainees to meet an arbitrary political deadline.

Of particular concern to me are the transfers of a number of Yemeni detainees during 2009, when the intelligence community was already warning about the dangerous security situation in Yemen. Of course, we all know that al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula makes its home in Yemen and that several former GITMO detainees now hold high positions in AQAP. AQAP was directly responsible for the Christmas Day bombing attempt, and their efforts will continue to inflict harm on our Nation.

Matt acknowledges the difficulties presented by the Yemeni transfers, and he has acknowledged that the task force did not get every recommenda-

tion right, just as the previous administration did not get every recommendation right. He also shares my personal view that Guantanamo should remain open so that we are not transferring any more detainees as the recidivism rate continues to grow.

I appreciate the many conversations and briefings he has had with my staff on those transfer issues. I appreciate his willingness to continue to discuss these issues and the need for a long-term detention policy even after taking on his new position as NCTC Director.

Ironically, in his new position, he will be responsible for tracking former detainees, including detainees whose transfer the task force may have recommended who slipped into their old ways, before they can strike us again. It was in this capacity that Matt had an issue with a colleague, and I have vetted this with Matt and with most of those who were in the room on the occasion the issue arose. While better judgment could have been used, the issue is now behind us. I have impressed upon Matt that if he is confirmed as the Director of NCTC, his credibility must be unquestionable. He has confirmed to me that he will always communicate with Members of Congress fully and openly without political censorship. He also is committed to being totally open and will have an ongoing dialog with members of the respective House and Senate Intelligence Committees.

My good friend Senator KENT CONRAD, who is actually the home Senator for Matt since he is originally from North Dakota, spoke extensively about Matt's reputation and commitment to public service during his confirmation hearing. Many intelligence professionals on both sides of the political lines wrote letters of recommendation on Matt's behalf.

I believe Matt when he tells me he is committed to working closely with Congress and the Intelligence Committees to do the job needed to keep this country safe. I will be supporting his nomination when it comes to the floor, and I look forward to working with him.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, the Senate Intelligence Committee just approved the nomination of Mr. Matthew Olsen to be the Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, known as NCTC, by a unanimous voice vote.

The distinguished vice chairman of the Intelligence Committee spoke on the floor earlier in support of this nomination. I would like to add to his comments and offer my support so that the Senate can take up this nomination quickly and hopefully confirm Mr. Olsen before the Senate goes on its August recess.

I have tried to move quickly on this nomination because the period leading up to the tenth anniversary of 9/11 is a

period of heightened threat, and one in which all parts of the national security agencies of the government need to be operating at full capacity.

Mr. Olsen is currently the general counsel of the National Security Agency and has held a number of senior positions in the Department of Justice, including at the National Security Division and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Let me take just a moment to discuss the current terrorist threat and the role of the National Counterterrorism Center, or NCTC, which Mr. Olsen will be leading, if confirmed.

The NCTC is the central agency within the U.S. government dealing with the identification, prevention, disruption, and analysis of terrorist threats. While it is best known for its role in consolidating and analyzing terrorism-related intelligence, the NCTC also plays an important role in conducting strategic planning for counterterrorism actions across the U.S. Government.

As I mentioned before, I believe that the period leading up to the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks is a period of heightened threat. Despite counterterrorism pressure against al-Qaida in Pakistan—including the successful strike against Usama bin Laden in Abbottabad—the group remains dangerous and vengeful.

At the same time, the threat from al-Qaida's affiliates and adherents around the world has increased and presents particular challenges. I am especially concerned about the threat to the U.S. homeland from al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, AQAP, as well as threats emanating from terrorist safehavens in Somalia and elsewhere.

This means, to me, that this is a crucial time for our counterterrorism establishment to be at full strength. And the NCTC is a linchpin of that establishment.

So I am pleased that the President moved quickly to nominate Mr. Olsen—an individual serving in a senior intelligence community position today—to take the helm of the National Counterterrorism Center.

As I mentioned previously, Mr. Olsen is currently the general counsel of the National Security Agency. In that capacity, he has the challenging job of ensuring that the NSA's highly technical and highly capable signals intelligence system is operating fully within the law, and using all legal authorities available to it.

Before his current position at the NSA, Mr. Olsen served in the Department of Justice in several capacities for 18 years, including 12 years as a Federal prosecutor.

Among Mr. Olsen's positions at the Department of Justice, which has been the subject of some recent attention, was that of executive director of the Guantanamo Review Task Force cre-

ated by Executive Order 13492. The role of the task force was to conduct a detailed review of all of the information available on each of the roughly 240 detainees being held at Guantanamo as of January 2009.

It was Mr. Olsen's job to lead the large, interagency effort of more than 100 national security professionals to compile and analyze all intelligence relevant to the detainees, the feasibility of prosecuting them, the ability of a potential country receiving a detainee to mitigate the threat the detainee posed, and whether some detainees should be held in long-term Law of War detention.

I will say this to my colleagues. Being the director of a large task force making recommendations on Guantanamo detainees is about as thankless, as difficult, and as controversial a position that I can imagine. Every decision would be reviewed and criticized. But the new Attorney General asked Mr. Olsen to take on this job, and he agreed to do it. That is what we admire about career professionals in government service. And we should respect and reward that dedication and willingness to take on the difficult and unpopular jobs.

I note as well that Mr. Olsen has been recommended by his current and past colleagues in the current and the past administration. The Intelligence Committee received letters of recommendation from General Alexander, former Attorney General Mukasey, former DNI McConnell, all three former assistant attorneys general for National Security, former NCTC Director Mike Leiter, and many others. They have all spoken to his capability and to his character.

I believe that Mr. Olsen is well qualified for the position, that he will be forthcoming with Congress, and that he will do a good job in leading the NCTC.

Prior to serving on the Guantanamo Review Task Force, Mr. Olsen had been the Acting Assistant Attorney General for National Security at the Department of Justice as well as the deputy assistant attorney general with responsibility for intelligence matters.

He led the Department's effort to update the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, a process that eventually led to the passage of the FISA Amendments Act of 2008. In that position he worked closely with both sides of the aisle, and was an invaluable resource as we found a compromise to update important surveillance authorities and strengthen civil liberty protections.

Mr. Olsen was also previously a federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, chief of the office's National Security Section, and a special counsel to FBI Director Robert Mueller.

The Intelligence Committee has thoroughly reviewed Mr. Olsen's back-

ground, he has answered all of our questions, and we held a hearing on July 26 on his nomination. In sum, our due diligence is complete.

Now it is up to the Senate to confirm Mr. Olsen so that we do not leave the NCTC without a permanent director as we approach the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise to discuss the agreement that has been reached between the leaders in the Senate, the House Republicans and Democrats, and the President of the United States with respect to an extension of the debt limit and certain deficit reduction steps to be taken in conjunction with that action.

I wish to remind my colleagues that if we fail to act, most economists believe we will face an interest rate spike. For every 1 percentage point increase in interest rates, we would add \$1.3 trillion to deficits and debt over 10 years. If there was only a 200-basis point increase, that would wipe out all the deficit reduction that is in this package.

Colleagues need to keep in mind the consequences of our actions and how critically important it is to prevent that interest rate spike.

In addition, David Beers at Standard & Poor's, global head of Sovereign Ratings, made a statement in an interview on CNBC on July 26. The chart is headlined, "To avoid a U.S. credit rating downgrade, S&P wants to see a bipartisan debt reduction effort."

He said this, specifically:

We will measure this matter on a number of parameters. One is, is it credible? And credibility, among other things, means to us that there has to be some buy-in across the political divide, across both parties, because politics can and will change going forward. And if there's ownership by both sides of the program, then that would give us more confidence. . . . It is not just about the number. It is about the all-in intent.

However imperfect this agreement is—and it is imperfect because, after all, it is a work of the hands of men. We are all imperfect. But it is critically important. It is important to demonstrate that we can work together to achieve a result.

This package contains these elements: First, it prevents a default. It saves the Nation from immediate economic crisis. It creates a process to allow a debt ceiling increase to 2013, so we don't have to reenact this entire episode in just a matter of months. It provides a \$900 billion downpayment on

deficit reduction that is enforced with 10 years of spending caps. It creates a joint select committee of Congress on deficit reduction, tasked with finding an additional \$1.5 trillion in savings and to bring us a report before Thanksgiving. This select committee has a goal of \$1.5 trillion in savings as a floor; it is not a ceiling. This committee could come back to us with an even more ambitious, more bold proposal to get our fiscal affairs in order. Let us hope that it is so.

The overall package that is before us—or about to be before us—requires a vote on a balanced budget amendment. The debt ceiling increase is not contingent on its passage, but there is a requirement to give colleagues in both Chambers an opportunity to vote. It also protects Pell grants from deep near-term cuts. I think most of us understand how important Pell grants are to providing opportunities to young, talented people all across America to improve themselves through higher education.

I was raised by my grandparents. My grandmother was a schoolteacher. We called her “little chief,” because she was only 5 feet tall. But she commanded respect. She commanded respect because she had character, and she told people in our family there are three priorities in this household: No. 1 is education. No. 2 is education. No. 3 is education.

We got the message. I can remember, fondly, her telling us over and over: What you put in your head no one can take away. They can take your property, they can take your wealth, but one thing nobody can take from you is what you have done to improve your mind. That ought to be something that is taught in every household in our country because it is central to America continuing to be a world leader.

The proposal that will be before us also creates a joint select committee on deficit reduction. As I have indicated, they have a goal of finding an additional \$1½ trillion in savings, but they are not limited to that level of savings. They could do more. It is bipartisan and bicameral, 12 Members—6 Democrats, 6 Republicans. Congress is to have a report by Thanksgiving on their work. No amendments are allowed and a simple majority vote to pass in the Senate and the House.

This closely follows the recommendation of Senator Gregg and myself from 5 years ago to create a commission empowered to bring to a vote in the Senate and the House a plan to get our debt under control and to do it so we wouldn't have the endless process our current situation requires. The idea was to create a BRAC-like system, so a proposal could come before the Senate and the House to get our debt down. It is modeled, in many ways, after the reconciliation process that was designed for deficit reduction and only requires a simple majority vote.

There is a fail-safe if this committee fails to produce a result. The fail-safe is across-the-board cuts in defense and nondefense spending, with exemptions for Social Security, veterans and low-income people and it limits the Medicare reductions to 2 percent. I would prefer the Medicare reduction not be there because there is no revenue that is assured in this plan. But we do have to have a fail-safe. We do have to have some assurance that savings are actually realized, and this mechanism does that.

I think all of us know our current status finds us borrowing 40 cents of every \$1 we spend. In fact, we are in a condition in which the United States is borrowing more than we have ever borrowed before as a share of our national income. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has told us the long-term outlook is even more sober; that we have a debt held by the public that is about 70 percent now. Right here—the debt held by the public is at about 70 percent. Our gross debt is actually approaching 100 percent, but our publicly held debt—that is debt held by the public, not counting what we owe to trust funds such as Social Security—is about 70 percent.

But look where we are headed if we stay on our current course. The Congressional Budget Office tells us by 2037 our publicly held debt will be 200 percent of our gross domestic product if we fail to act.

How did we get into this circumstance? This says it very clearly and very well. The red line is the spending line of the United States and the green line is the revenue line going back 60 years. What we can see is the red line—the spending line—is the highest it has ever been. Twenty-four percent of gross domestic product is Federal spending. The revenue line is the lowest it has ever been in that period—the lowest it has been in 60 years. Some of our friends on the other side say we just have a spending problem. They have it half right. We do have a spending problem. Spending is almost the highest it has been in 60 years. But we also have a revenue problem because revenue is the lowest it has been in 60 years as a share of our national income. That is a fact. So we have to work both sides of this equation.

If we go back and reconstruct how we got into this ditch, a story on May 1, 2011, in the Washington Post, is instructive. This is what they found:

The biggest culprit, by far, has been an erosion of tax revenue triggered largely by two recessions and multiple rounds of tax cuts. Together, the economy and the tax bills enacted under former President George W. Bush, and to a lesser extent by President Obama, wiped out \$6.3 trillion in anticipated revenue. That's nearly half of the \$12.7 trillion swing from projected surpluses to real debt. Federal tax collections now stand at their lowest level as a percentage of the economy in 60 years.

This buttresses and confirms the point I just made. In addition, if one examines our history going back to 1969 and looks at the five times we have balanced the budget, in each of those times, revenue was almost 20 percent of GDP. Right now—remember what I just said—revenue is 14.8 percent of GDP. The five times since 1969 we have balanced the budget, revenue was 19.7 percent of GDP in 1969; in 1998, it was 19.9 percent; in 1999, it was 19.8 percent; in 2000, it was 20.6 percent; and in 2001, it was 19.5 percent. By the way, all these budgets—these last four—were the responsibility of Bill Clinton. Bill Clinton not only balanced the budget, he stopped using Social Security funds to finance other government operations, and he did it with the longest period of uninterrupted growth in our Nation's history and created 23 million jobs. The Clinton administration record on deficits, on debt, on economic growth, and job creation is the best, by far, of all modern Presidents.

Facts are stubborn things. We have a Tax Code that is riddled with tax expenditures. It is riddled with tax expenditures. We are losing to the Treasury \$1.1 trillion a year to tax expenditures—tax preferences, tax loopholes, tax deductions, tax exclusions. Guess who gets most of the benefit. Twenty-six percent of the benefit goes to the top 1 percent of those tax expenditures—those tax loopholes, those tax preferences.

Here is a quote from one of the most conservative economists in America—Martin Feldstein, professor of economics at Harvard, Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers under President Reagan. This is what he said about tax expenditures on July 20 of last year.

Cutting tax expenditures is really the best way to reduce government spending. Eliminating tax expenditures does not increase marginal tax rates or reduce the reward for saving, investment or risk taking. It would also increase overall economic efficiency by removing incentives that distort private spending decisions. And eliminating or consolidating the large number of overlapping tax-based subsidies would also greatly simplify tax filing. In short, cutting tax expenditures is not at all like other ways of raising revenue.

That is precisely why the fiscal commission and the Group of 6—both groups I was proud to participate in—chose the reduction of tax expenditures as one way of reforming the tax system, improving the competitive position of the United States, and raising revenue to help reduce this debt threat.

Anybody who wonders what is happening with respect to loopholes—exclusions, deductions, preferences in the Tax Code—doesn't have to go any further than this picture I have shown many times. This little five-story building—Ugland House, down in the Cayman Islands—claims to be the home of 18,857 companies. What an

amazing building that is. This little building, the home to 18,000 companies. They all say they are doing business out of this building. Anybody believe that? They are not doing business out of that building. They are doing monkey business, and the monkey business they are doing is to avoid paying the taxes all the rest of us pay because the Cayman Islands is a tax haven. They do not impose taxes on these companies.

Guess what these companies do. They file returns that show—miraculously—the profits from all their operations across the United States don't show up in the United States. They show up in this little five-story building down in the Cayman Islands. They say that is where the profits are being realized. What a blessing that is because the Cayman Islands do not impose any taxes on the profits that show up in the subsidiaries of the companies that are doing business all over the world.

Anybody who wonders if this is costing all the rest of us huge amounts of money, here is what our Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations found in a report in 2007.

Experts have estimated the total loss to the Treasury from offshore tax evasion alone approaches \$100 billion per year.

Let me repeat that—\$100 billion a year. If there is any doubt about this, go home and Google tax havens. See what you find. I think you will be quite startled by what you see. Continuing the quote from the report:

Those losses include \$40 to \$70 billion from individuals, and another \$30 billion from corporations engaging in offshore tax evasion. Abusive tax shelters add tens of billions of dollars more.

My family and I, we pay what we owe. The vast majority of people in this country pay what they owe. We have a few people—unfortunately, it is a growing number and they tend to be people with much greater resources—who are not paying what they owe. We shouldn't permit it. That should come to a screeching halt.

The bipartisan groups proposing comprehensive and balanced plans with spending cuts and new revenue include the fiscal commission, the Bipartisan Policy Center, and the Group of 6. These are the only bipartisan plans that have come from anywhere, and all of them recommended a balance between spending cuts and revenue. Almost all of them focused on reducing tax expenditures—the loopholes, the exclusions, the preferences, the tax havens—in order to raise revenue, to reduce rates, and make America more competitive but also to raise additional revenue to dump this debt.

The other day there was a spirited debate on the floor between the senior Senator from Arizona and the senior Senator from Illinois. I arrived at the end of that debate and didn't have a chance to participate. There were a number of assertions made there by my

friend, Senator MCCAIN, and I wish to set the record straight. If we look at the records of Reagan, Bush 41, Bush 43, and Clinton, with respect to deficits, the record is very clear.

Here it is: During the Reagan administration, deficits exploded, and we can see on the graph the deficits that averaged about \$200 billion a year. During the first Bush administration, the deficits actually got worse and ended up still in the range of \$200 billion a year. President Clinton inherited deficits of \$200 billion a year, but we can see by the last 4 years of his administration, he was in the black. The budgets were balanced, and for 2 or 3 of those years, he actually stopped using Social Security money to fund government operations. Then, of course, we see what happened in the second Bush administration: Deficits absolutely exploded—absolutely exploded.

The second Bush administration was, by far, the worst on record for deficits and debt of any of these administrations; and, by far, the best was the Clinton administration.

But we can look at it a different way. This chart shows, in dollar terms, what happened to the debt. We can see in the Reagan administration the debt more than doubled. The Bush administration took it up much further. The Clinton administration actually started bringing down the debt. President Clinton was actually paying off debt during his administration. Then we saw what happened in the second Bush administration: The debt absolutely skyrocketed, going up well over 2½ times.

Mr. President, when we then look at the record of economic growth under those different Presidents, it is very interesting. Reagan, who more than doubled the debt, had a pretty good record of economic growth—3.5 percent. Bush 1, who ran the debt up even further, had a pretty paltry record—2.1 percent economic growth. Clinton, who actually paid down debt, had the best record of economic growth—3.8 percent on average. Bush 2, who put in place the massive tax cuts that ballooned the deficits into debt, had the worst record of economic growth, averaging 1.6 percent.

Let's connect the dots. There was a big increase in debt during the Reagan administration but pretty good economic growth; he took the No. 2 spot. Bush 1: massive increase in deficits and debt, and economic growth faltered. The Clinton administration has by far the best record on deficits and debt and also the best record of economic growth. Bush 2, who had huge tax cuts never offset by an adjustment, as Reagan did, had the worst record of economic growth.

Finally, on job creation, during the Reagan administration, 16 million jobs were created—quite a strong record of job creation during his 8 years. During the first Bush administration, only 3

million jobs were created. During the Clinton administration—by far the winner on the jobs derby—23 million jobs were created, and he had the best record of deficit and debt reduction and the best record on economic growth. Do you know what. He raised taxes and cut spending. Wow. Our friends on the other side said, when President Clinton raised taxes and cut spending, it would crater the economy. I was here. I heard the majority leader on that side say that proposal would crater the economy. Republicans repeated that line all across America. The Clinton plan to get the deficits and debt down by raising revenue and cutting spending, they all said, would crater the economy. They were wrong. Then it came time for the Bush administration, and he had massive tax cuts, and they all said that would be a huge job creator and fire up the engines of economic growth. They were wrong again.

The record is clear. Look at the difference. There were 16 million jobs created under Reagan, 3 million under Bush 1, 23 million under Clinton, and 3 million under Bush 2. Clinton had the biggest reductions in deficits and debt by far of any of them. He had the best economic growth, and he had the best job creation. And the second Bush administration comes and they say big tax cuts—that is going to fire up economic growth, that is going to fire up job creation. They were wrong.

When Clinton had a proposal to raise revenue and cut spending, they said it would crater the economy. Yet Clinton had the best record on economic growth and the best record on job creation. They were wrong again. During the second Bush administration, at the end—has everybody forgotten?—we were on the brink of financial collapse. I was called to a special meeting in this building with the Bush administration's Secretary of Treasury, and I, along with other leaders of the House and Senate, was told we were days away from a financial collapse. This idea that you can't raise revenue or it will kill jobs, you can't cut spending or it will kill jobs has not proven to be right. In the real world, the Clinton administration raised revenue, cut spending to get our debt under control, and they had the strongest record of job creation, the strongest record of economic growth of any of the four Presidents during that period by far.

I would just say I wish I could have participated in that debate last night. I missed it, but I wanted to set the record straight.

I yield the floor.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I wanted to come to the floor to talk about the deal the Senate will vote on sometime later tonight or tomorrow. Before I do, I want to say to my distinguished colleague from North Dakota,

the chairman of the Budget Committee, as always, what an exceptional job he has done in laying out fact from fiction, the realities of the choices before us. I only hope that the revenue possibilities he clearly expressed exist as part of an equation to a solution could be invoked, but I am concerned based upon what the other side says.

We have a deal before us that is a result of a manufactured crisis. The debt limit has historically been raised as a matter of course by both Republicans and Democrats, both sides, without conditions. Ronald Reagan did it 18 times without conditions. George W. Bush did it 7 times without conditions. But, no, not this time.

For days, for weeks, this Congress has been held hostage by a radical few—a band of tea party tyrants—who believe their opinions, their values, their view of the world, their vision of government must be America's vision. It is not. In their world, there is no room for reasonable compromise, there is no room for fair and balanced budget approaches, the kinds of approaches to budgets I and many on this side have worked for and voted for throughout our careers in Congress.

I have voted for balance going in, and I was looking for balance in the final agreement or the hope of balance that the American people themselves have expressed clearly they wanted to see: spending cuts but also ending those tax loopholes and creating revenue.

I have voted for \$2.4 trillion in cuts in the Reid amendment, with the inclusion of a joint committee process—Senator CONRAD was talking about that—that could include revenues, a balanced approach.

I have supported increasing the debt limit in a responsible way, a balanced, responsible, fair approach that implements significant but responsible deductions.

I voted in 2010 to establish the Bipartisan Task Force for Responsible Fiscal Action—the precursor to the Bowles-Simpson Commission—to review all aspects of the financial conditions of our government, including tax policy and entitlement spending.

I voted to protect Social Security from being used to balance the budget when it hasn't contributed to our debt.

I voted in favor of the Pryor amendment to reduce the budget deficit by at least \$154 billion with a balanced approach to cutting our deficits that included discretionary spending, entitlements, and revenues.

I have supported budget enforcement measures, such as the statutory pay-go, to pay as you go when you come up with a new idea for spending or a tax break, to control both spending and revenues.

I led the effort in this Chamber to cut \$21 billion in unwarranted Big Oil subsidies and supported saving almost \$6 billion this year alone by cutting ethanol subsidies.

I have voted five times in the past to increase the debt limit in a responsible way.

But this eleventh-hour deal, with so many strings attached that it has become a tangled web of conservative social values, is nothing more than a concession to the radical right of one party, and it flies in the face of our values as a nation. It would mean drastic and dramatic cuts to one side of the ledger, overwhelmingly from non-defense spending, and no balance—I repeat, no balance—on the revenue side.

I know their suggestion is that the commission can look at revenue. Yes, it can look at revenue, but that commission which is going to be appointed with an equal number of Republicans and Democrats and appointed by the leadership in both Houses pretty much tells you where it is going to end up.

Speaker BOEHNER has said he won't appoint anyone to the committee who would accept revenue as part of the mix. Senator MCCONNELL has said there will be no new revenue. They get appointments to that commission. That is half of the commission. Even Gene Sperling, the President's economic adviser, said there will be no new revenues for the next 18 months, which is a clear reflection of what Speaker BOEHNER and Minority Leader MCCONNELL have said.

Since they won't accept revenue except maybe in the context of tax reform, which the joint committee has said it can't do by the end of the year, which is when this commission is called upon—by Thanksgiving—to come forth and make a presentation, and we Democrats will have members on the commission who will be responsible and want to strike a deal, we will end up either having to accept the commission's spending cuts without revenue, leaving us with trillions of dollars in nondefense and entitlement cuts, or automatic sequestered cuts that are even more Draconian.

Does anyone in this Chamber really believe that the Bush tax cuts for the top-tier, the richest, the wealthiest people—millionaires and billionaires—which will expire in 2012, will be on the table in an election year, that the President will issue a veto threat for those tax cuts and make them the hallmark of his reelection campaign? I don't think so.

While I know that if we go to the automatic sequestered cuts, nearly \$1 trillion of those automatic cuts will come supposedly from defense, what guarantees are there that we won't use the overseas contingency fund of \$1 trillion to meet the defense side of the cuts—the very fund which Republicans, in the budget passed in the House, put in their budget and which virtually all of my Republican colleagues here in the Senate voted on, and they voted on it as cuts. If that isn't the case, what makes us think that supplemental

emergency appropriations won't be offered on the defense side while warfighters are in the field, leaving us with no real defense cuts but a hard \$1 trillion in cuts on domestic programs such as education, student loans, health care, renewable energy, research and development? And the list goes on.

For those who suggest that this commission and the threat, the sword of those automatic cuts will make people act responsibly, what makes us think that the old paradigm, which I long for, that people will be responsible will take place given what we have seen in which we have a manufactured crisis that has brought us to the verge of an economic crisis that is not only national but international in proportion? If people have been willing to bring us to that point, what makes us think this negotiation as proposed by the legislation will work?

They will continue to look for deeper and deeper cuts to those basic services we as a party and as a nation have fought for. We will spend the next year headed into the national decision-making that will take place next November forced to debate deeper cuts, refight old battles, debate a balanced budget amendment and the Bush tax cuts, instead of talking about creating jobs, which is what Americans want to see again, and helping middle-class families who are struggling to make ends meet.

But don't listen to me on that. Listen to Paul Krugman, a Nobel Prize-winning economist who wrote today that this deal is a disaster—his words—for the economy. He said:

Start with the economics. We currently have a deeply depressed economy. We will almost certainly continue to have a depressed economy all through next year. And we will probably have a depressed economy through 2013 as well, if not beyond.

The worst thing you can do in these circumstances is slash government spending, since that will depress the economy even further. Pay no attention to those who invoke the confidence fairy, claiming that tough action on the budget will reassure businesses and consumers, leading them to spend more. It doesn't work that way, a fact confirmed by many studies of the historical record.

Indeed, slashing spending while the economy is depressed won't even help the budget situation much, and might well make it worse. On one side, interest rates on Federal borrowing are currently very low, so spending cuts now will do little to reduce future interest costs. On the other side, making the economy weaker now will also hurt its long-run prospects, which will in turn reduce future revenue. So those demanding spending cuts now are like medieval doctors who treated the sick by bleeding them and thereby making them even sicker.

And then there are the reported terms of the deal, which amount to an abject surrender on the part of the president. First, there will be big spending cuts, with no increase in revenue.

Then a panel will make recommendations for further deficit reduction—and if these recommendations aren't accepted, there will be more spending cuts.

I described before the possibility of getting revenue in that equation with the appointments being made by the authorities making them, saying they will appoint no one who will consider revenues. There will be, therefore, even more spending cuts. That is a Nobel Prize economist.

No, there is no balance in this agreement, no real compromise. It simply does not force the shared sacrifice the American people have demanded. Oil companies will make \$143 billion in profits this year, the Big Five. They will keep picking the pockets of American taxpayers with a ridiculous hand-out while they earn those billions in profits. Ethanol millionaires will be off the hook with this deal. There is no balance in this deal. There is no fairness. There is nothing but concessions to the radical rightwing of the Republican Party that is holding the American economy hostage, with a gun to its head, threatening to pull the trigger if they don't get their way.

Yet no one on the right seems to be happy. They want more. They believe they have not gotten enough. When is enough, enough? How far do we have to bend before we break? How much do we have to give of our values, our beliefs, our vision of America? How much do we have to give of the promises we have made as a nation to hard-working, middle-class families struggling to make ends meet, struggling to pay the bills, the mortgage, pay for health care, tuition to put their children through college, and give them a chance at a better life?

How about those whose lives would be shattered except for the government's protection? We are their voice. I speak for them when I say this is not a fair deal, but it is the deal before us. What is fair is fair, but this plan is not fair to the American people. I cannot in good conscience support a plan where soldiers, seniors, students, and working families must endure trillions in cuts while oil companies, billionnaires, corporate jet owners are not asked to pay one cent toward shared sacrifice.

The Republicans turned a relatively routine vote to meet America's obligations into a crisis threatening the world's economy. In response, the Reid plan met them 80 percent of the way by proposing \$2.4 trillion in cuts, creating a process where a bipartisan commission could find a balanced approach to deficit reductions that would go beyond that and that would meet the American people's call for shared sacrifice from those who have not only the greatest wealth in the country but also those who seem to have the privilege and the power to fashion the Tax Code in a way that benefits them but doesn't benefit working-class families in our country.

No, that was not enough for the tea party, nor for the party they now con-

trol. No, instead they have insisted on a process where oil companies, billionnaires, offshore tax havens, and the corporate elite are completely protected from making shared sacrifices. That is simply not fair. I cannot support it. The thought that because our soldiers will join seniors, students, and working-class families on the chopping block that Democrats should flock to this plan is wrongheaded. Eliminating troubled DOD weapons systems is one thing, but across-the-board cuts will punish those who are bravely serving our country in a time of war. Adding these cuts just makes what was a painful plan a totally unfair, unbalanced, and unacceptable plan.

I supported the majority leader's plan. I have shown I am serious about deficit reduction. I have supported a fair deal as described by people in New Jersey and across our country, a reasonable deficit-reduction plan that truly represents compromise, a deal that fulfills the commonsense idea of shared sacrifice.

I know shared sacrifice. This is not shared sacrifice. This is capitulation to a radical fringe of the Republican Party that will not bend until they break this economy or get their own way. I have been for deficit reduction. I have voted for fair approaches to deficit reduction. I know fairness, but this deal is not fair, and I will not support it.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the proposed debt crisis agreement. The first thing I would like to do is express my appreciation—I think I would actually say empathy to the President, the Vice President, and the bipartisan leadership of both Houses of Congress who have had to deal with this enormously significant and difficult problem for our Federal Government because the obvious fact is we have worked our way into a very deep hole of debt. When I say “we,” I mean we, all of us—succeeding Presidents of different parties, Members of both parties in both Houses of Congress. There is a tendency, when you have a problem such as this, to want to point and blame everybody else. The truth is, we are all responsible, and we are only going to get out of this hole and get the American government and the American people out of this hole if we work together to solve the problems, just as we have together caused these problems.

I saw some numbers recently—I think I have them right; I know I have them almost right—that express very simply what happened over the last decade. In fiscal year 2001, the last year of the Clinton administration, the Federal Government tax revenues—revenues—were at about 19.6 percent of the gross domestic product. Federal Government spending in that year was about a point lower, 18.5 or 18.6 percent of the gross domestic product. So you are raising about 1 percent more of the GDP than you are spending, and you have a surplus.

What is it now? It is startling how the change has occurred. Spending is up close to 25 percent of the gross domestic product, and revenues are down to about 15 percent. Now you have a gap of about 10 percent of spending, as a percentage of GDP, over revenue, and we have this enormous deficit and debt—\$14 trillion. If you said to me when I came to Congress in 1989 that our government would one day have a debt of over \$14 trillion, I would have said: Impossible. But here we are. And it is growing at \$1 trillion a year and more. That is the problem we have.

When you think about those percentages I cited, speaking very simplistically, the way we are going to get out of the hole we are in is by cutting spending and raising revenues. We would like to do that in a way that also gets us back to economic growth. That is the critical third factor. If we are growing economically, the revenue system we have will raise more money and help us to close this gap.

But doing these two things that are critical to solving the national crisis we have—which is to raise revenue and cut spending—is difficult politically, very hard politically. It is not what a lot of politicians think our constituents want us to do. But I think today the American people are so anxious about the national debt, so anxious about the economy, and so frustrated and angry with Members of Congress that they would like us to do what is counterintuitive, which does not seem like traditional politics, which is to actually do together what will solve the problem—stop the partisan politics, solve the problem. They know we have to cut some spending, we have to raise some revenues, and they want us to do it fairly. That is the difficult dilemma the White House and the bipartisan congressional leadership faced in dealing with this problem, and it results in the agreement.

I thank the leaders and the White House for the agreement because it does do some significant things. No. 1, it avoids the unknown risk of a default for the first time in our history. Some people think it would not be so bad. I do not want to play that game with our economy and our financial future. I think it would have hurt us. So it avoids that. Second, it does begin to

cut some spending and put some caps on. Third—and maybe this is the most hopeful—it creates a special joint committee of Congress to recommend further cuts in this so-called second tranche of cuts.

But it does not do two other things, and as a result, this proposal before us now is unfair. What doesn't it do? It seems to me that in reaching this agreement, each political party yielded to the other party's highest priority political and ideological interest. So this agreement does not deal with entitlement reform at all, including Medicare reform, which is a priority for Democrats, and it does not raise revenues, which is a priority for Republicans. Why do I say it is unfair? It is unfair because it sets before us a solution to the problem that only asks of the discretionary spending lines in our budget.

What I mean to say here is that discretionary spending in fiscal year 2010 represented about 35 percent of all government spending. Mandatory spending, the so-called entitlements, was almost 60 percent. So 35 percent discretionary, 60 percent mandatory. Interest payments were about 5.5 percent. So if you are taking the mandatory spending off the table and you are not going to add any revenues, then you are left with taking all the savings that this agreement proposes to achieve—almost \$3 trillion, maybe at best \$3 trillion—you are taking it all out of discretionary spending. In doing that, you are going to end up having a devastating effect on our security and I believe on our prosperity and also on our future, on the capacity of our government to take care of those who are most vulnerable and on the capacity of our government to help the economy grow.

To better explain this, I just want to say very briefly, what is discretionary spending? Well, there is the defense side, which is the Department of Defense. In some cases in the agreement, it is described as security, and that would include Homeland Security and the Veterans' Administration. The nondefense discretionary includes most of what most people see as our government: education, health, administration of justice, energy, environment, agriculture, commerce, community and regional development, science, space, technology research. All of those will suffer devastating cuts under this proposal because we have not been able to deal with entitlements, particularly Medicare.

Why do I cite Medicare? I believe in Medicare. I think it is a great program. But, look, it is on course to do two things: One, it is going to go bankrupt soon, according to the report of its own trustees, no later than 2024 but as soon as 4 or 5 years from now. The hospital part of Medicare is going to go bankrupt. It is not going to have enough

money. Why? Because though people put money, through their payroll taxes, into hospital insurance, the reality is that the average beneficiary of Medicare takes \$3 or \$4 out for every \$1 put in. You cannot do that and have it be sustained over the long haul. And over the next decade, approximately 20 million more Americans are going on to Medicare because of the baby boomer generation. So it is the single largest, fastest growing element of our Federal budget.

It seems to me—again, I support Medicare. I voted against the Ryan budget. I do not want to privatize it. But you cannot protect Medicare as it is and expect it to stay as it is. You are only going to protect Medicare by changing it, and this budget does not touch that at all. I could say more about that, but that is enough for the moment.

So the end result of all this is that of the approximately \$1 trillion in the so-called first phase or tranche of cuts adopted by this plan, they are pretty much all from discretionary spending, defense and nondefense—Head Start, Pell grants, education, and defense.

The second phase is the part that bothers me and really worries me, I would say. The proposal before us sets up a committee, 12 Members of Congress equal in terms of party allocation. They have the opportunity to deal with the problems that are left out of this and have this be a fairer proposal to get America back in balance; that is, to deal with the entitlements and deal with the revenues—tax reform, entitlement reform, whatever you want to call it. But will they? And if they do not, if the two parties' priority political and ideological interests are reflected in the committee and stop it from dealing with entitlements and revenues or are reflected on the floor, then there is an automatic mechanism for cutting an additional \$1.2 trillion to \$1.5 trillion, and that all comes out of discretionary spending, defense and nondefense.

Some of my other colleagues have come to the floor to describe the impact on nondefense discretionary spending, really most of what we know as government: education, health care, environmental protection, transportation, et cetera, et cetera.

I am on the Armed Services Committee. I am on the Homeland Security Committee, privileged to be chair. My priority in my service in the Senate has been our national security. I will tell you this: If that sequester ever went into effect, it would have a devastating impact on the ability of our men and women in uniform and their leaders to protect our security in what remains a dangerous world.

The initial \$1 trillion of cuts mandated in this proposal includes \$350 billion over the 10 years from defense, as I understand the numbers. President

Obama had earlier directed the Department of Defense to cut \$400 billion from their spending over the next decade.

The Department of Defense is working on that. GEN Martin Dempsey, soon to be Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee, said he was working on that. He thought he could accomplish it, but it was not going to be easy.

He was asked: What would happen if you were demanded to go beyond the \$400 billion in cuts from defense over the next 10 years? He said it would be extraordinarily difficult and involve very high risk to our national security. He is not against cuts in defense. I am not against cuts in defense. But they have to be reasonable because, in the end, the first responsibility of our national government is to protect our security.

If we do not have security, we do not have anything else. We do not have freedom. We do not have prosperity. We do not have anything else. The world is full of people who want to do us damage, who want to kill us, who want to bring down our civilization, who are involved in an ideological—some sense theological—clash with us. I am just saying that if the joint committee, the special committee, cannot reach agreement or reaches agreement and Congress rejects its proposals, there will be an automatic cut in defense of an additional \$500 to \$600 billion over the next decade. Add that to the \$350 billion already in the first phase mandated by this proposal, we have \$1 trillion in cuts. We are not going to be protected, as we have to be.

It is as simple as that. It is unfair—not only unfair, it is irresponsible. Admiral Mullen was in Afghanistan over the weekend. He had a conversation with some of our troops that got a lot of attention from the media. One of the soldiers got up and said: Admiral Mullen, we were following the debt debate in Congress. Can you promise us we will get paid regularly in the coming weeks?

Admiral Mullen quite honestly said: I do not know. Because it was not clear whether we were going to come to an agreement and avoid a default.

I will tell you, if this full package goes forward and the joint committee does not reach a different result and recommendation and \$1 trillion of cuts are imposed on our national security—Defense Department budget over the next 10 years, whoever is Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff when this goes into effect—it will be General Dempsey—he will still be there, fortunately, in January of 2013—when they are asked: Will we get paid, I believe they are still going to say: I do not know. Some of you will. We may have to have a reduction in end strength in the force, the number of people we have protecting our country. If families of

men and women in uniform for the United States ask, if this total package of cuts goes into effect on defense, if their families of the military ask: Are our loved ones in uniform going to be given the equipment to carry out the missions our country is asking of them in a way that maximizes their ability to succeed and protects them, I do not think anybody in the military can say yes. I could not say yes, if that was the case.

So I am disappointed. I will say one other thing because we are all so focused on jobs and the economy. The American military does not just protect our security and advance our ideals, as it does, and live by our ideals, as it does, but it also has a tremendous positive impact on our economy. It is the American military that is the foundation of an international system of stability and security that has undergirded, that has been the precondition of the enormous growth that has happened in America and a lot of other places in the world, where hundreds of millions, probably billions, of people have come out of poverty because they could rely on the safety of the sea lanes, they could rely on order in the world in places such as Asia, Europe, and throughout the world.

If the American military is cut as much, in the worst case as this proposal would cut it, it is the beginning of the end of America as a great international power. It is the beginning of the end of this system of international security that has undergirded our prosperity and so much of the prosperity of the world. Which other nation will assume the responsibility we have? We have benefitted from it greatly. It is a statement that we are prepared to decline as a country.

I come back and say again, that to get us out of the fiscal hole we in the Federal Government have put this country into, everybody is going to have to give. Everybody is going to have to take cuts. That includes defense, and there is a lot that can be cut out of defense. But there is also a lot that has to be changed in entitlement spending.

There are people who are getting away with tax loopholes who ought to be paying more in taxes. Everybody has to contribute to solve this national crisis. Right now, this proposal is unfair because it adds contributions, cuts, sacrifice only from the recipients of discretionary spending, and that means while all of them should be paying—should be accepting cuts, they are being asked to take cuts that are unfair and counterproductive to our security, to our liberty, to our prosperity, to our morality as a country that has always taken care of people who could not take care of themselves.

If these discretionary cuts go into effect, all that will be jeopardized. So I have come to say this to my colleagues

and to say, frankly, that I have not decided how I am going to vote. I understand the proposal does prevent the default, it does begin some process of cuts, and it has this committee which offers the most hope.

But on the other hand, I see in front of me a mechanism set up which I think—if it goes through its conclusion—will have not a net positive effect on our future, if the committee's work is not good and accepted by Congress, but a net negative effect on America's future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the debt ceiling agreement that was reached last night.

Over the past week I have heard from countless Minnesotans who want Congress to come together and reach a compromise on the debt ceiling.

They did not want their interest rates to rise, the value of the dollar to fall, or to see their retirement savings decimated again because some in Washington believe that if they refuse to compromise, the resulting crisis will score them political points.

I would like to share with you some of the comments I received from Minnesotan's throughout the State.

Judy from Rochester writes:

As senior citizens, we understand where our country is compared to where it has been in the last 50 years or so, and we appreciate that sacrifices must be made. It is almost too far back to remember when people all pulled together, including congress, to solve our corporate issues.

... all the American people want is for you to represent us and make the best decisions for us ... using your best judgment. Not prejudice or narrow viewpoint, but the best judgment.

Paul from Rochester writes:

This is not the place for partisan political stubbornness. It is the time for our elected officials to work together for the good of the United States.

Louis from Lakeville writes:

It is time for all you legislators to put your political affiliations aside and act as Americans and do what is right for all Americans not just those who voted for you. We have a tremendous fiscal mess in this country and we cannot waste time blaming each other. It was jointly created and must be jointly resolved.

Bonnie from Osseo writes:

Please put your ideologies aside and work in a collaborative effort to restructure our debt and to give the USA the opportunity to continue to prosper.

Marla from St. Paul writes:

It is so frustrating to see the same game of political budgetary chicken playing out at the national level that happened in the state level in Minnesota.

Tom and Mary from St. Paul write:

If you wanted to wake us up as citizens, you certainly have. We've been told that if you allow a default, that will cost our 401K to lose \$9,000. Our stock portfolio and retirement savings will likely take a 6 percent hit.

If ever a situation called for compromise, this is it. Raise the debt ceiling, and not just for 6 months, (Reagan did it many times) but make real promises to deal with the debt, and then make the real fight where it belongs, over the next budget, not paying for our current obligations. Do you really want the Chinese to call in all our debts now? Have a phased, sane plan for bringing down the debt, not a forced/false crisis. We're just hard working Americans trying to go on with our lives. We never write these kinds of messages. This is scary and we won't forget. Get it done please.

Jake from Minneapolis writes:

In these upcoming days, as you are faced with difficult decisions, I implore you to work with your colleagues on both sides of the aisle to finalize the budgetary issues facing the United States at this time. As a husband who is supporting his wife as she attends a graduate program at the University of Minnesota, I am very concerned about what a default of United States loans would mean in regards to our finances.

I am faithfully paying down student loans and my wife and I will begin to pay down the student loans that she has incurred to pay for her education as she finishes her program in May. Paying off loans is never fun; it means cutting some things out of our budget (things that we like such as going out to eat or to the movies) and compromising on difficult decisions.

I hope that as decisions are made regarding the financial situations facing the United States you will be a person who reaches across the aisle, with a willingness to compromise and to make difficult decisions.

Marilyn from Buffalo writes:

As an independent voter I am asking you to compromise on the budget issue. I am also asking you to use a balanced approach to reduce the budget deficit.

Jay and Bonnie from Moorhead write:

We would like to see a timely resolution to both the debt limit issue and deficit reduction by means of genuine negotiation resulting in a nonpartisan compromise which will keep our country financially solvent.

Kim from Duluth writes:

I am writing to add my voice to the growing number of citizens worried about Washington's inability or perhaps unwillingness to get done the work you were elected to do. In my opinion as a working class American, I believe we ALL are expected to compromise in hopes that we can further the good work of our nation. I firmly believe all of America needs to be accountable to the economic disaster we have known was approaching these many long decades. So please, in the vernacular, "suck it up" and get the job done!

While no one feels the agreement we will soon vote on is the perfect solution, we are in the bottom of the ninth here, the time has come to break through the partisan stalemate and pass something to provide certainty so we can move our country forward.

This is why I plan on voting for this agreement as it will ensure our country does not default on our obligations—something that would have caused real pain for Minnesota families and businesses—while also providing a down payment on deficit reduction.

Unfortunately, this debate has once again shown we need to change the way Congress conducts its own business.

I come from county government and I can tell you local governments do not operate this way.

Minnesota is home to more Fortune 500 companies per capita than any other state. After fielding many calls over the past few weeks from business leaders from the biggest businesses in our State, like General Mills, to the smallest, one, two, three-person operations, they do not run their businesses this way.

And there is no doubt, this is not how families balance their budgets.

The sooner we can come together to agree on the next stage of this package, the better for our economy and the better for our country.

I believe we should look at things such as closing the loopholes for oil subsidies. I believe we should look at things such as tax cuts on the wealthiest expiring at the end of 2012. These are things that should be in the mix as we move forward.

It is time to put our political differences aside to work on an agenda that strengthens our economy, promotes fiscal responsibility, and increases global competitiveness.

If we insist on using the debate as a vehicle for rhetoric only, we will not just be doing ourselves a disservice, we will be cheating our children and grandchildren out of knowing the America in which we grew up.

We already know much of what will need to be done. Our failure to act has not been because we lack solutions but because, too often, Congress has lacked the political will to get behind a consensus proposal.

In the Senate, we have had this work going on. We have had bipartisan groups of Senators, including the Gang of 6, working together to find a solution. We need to now take that work and make sure that gets included in the consideration by this committee.

It is time for us to work together and tell the American people what they need to hear. We need to show them that Washington isn't broken; that, instead, we are willing to put aside our partisan politics to do what we were elected to do—to do what is right for America.

PASSING AN FAA EXTENSION

Mr. President, I will turn to another issue I hope we can resolve before the end of this week, which is to pass an FAA extension.

I rise today to speak about the urgent need to pass a Federal Aviation Administration extension. The Federal Aviation Administration not only keeps our airways safe but it also ensures that our air transportation runs effectively by overseeing grants for critical construction projects at our airports.

As you know, Congress allowed the FAA's most recent extension to expire on July 22. This has resulted in a partial shutdown of the FAA.

While the current partial shutdown of the FAA is not affecting the safety of our airways, it is still having some detrimental effects on our country's air service.

The lack of an extension means the FAA doesn't have the authority to collect the fees and taxes the aviation system needs to fund ongoing construction and improvement projects at our airports. This is approximately \$200 million a week.

The fees and taxes have nothing to do with the current debt issues we have been debating over the past few weeks. These fees and taxes go into a trust fund that is self-funded and separate from the budget that has been in the news.

The trust fund pays for construction projects such as a new terminal at the Duluth Airport in Minnesota. This new terminal is critical to the Duluth area. The terminal will allow more flights in and out of the airport, which is vital as more and more businesses are moving to Duluth.

Unfortunately, the airport at this time is waiting for a \$5.2 million grant that has already been awarded from the FAA. For each day that the airport waits to receive its grant money, the risk is higher that the airport will be forced to delay the terminal project for 1 year. Why is that? Why can't they go through constructing things in December and January in Duluth? It is pretty cold in Duluth then, and it is hard to do the construction, if not impossible. That is why it is so critically important that we get this money in Duluth immediately. Such a delay will not just be inconvenient, it will cause the cost of the project to significantly increase.

Duluth is not the only airport suffering. Construction projects are being halted throughout the country. The Associated General Contractors estimates that 70,000 construction workers in related fields have been affected by this shutdown.

I know there are political issues surrounding Congress's inability to pass an FAA extension. However, these issues have nothing to do with the construction projects such as the Duluth terminal, the 4,000 furloughed FAA employees, or the 70,000 construction workers just trying to make a living.

I appreciate the bipartisan work that has gone on in the Commerce Committee and in this Chamber with Senator ROCKEFELLER from West Virginia and Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON from Texas. I continue to support them in their efforts to get this FAA extension done.

I urge my colleagues to pass the FAA extension. The lack of one is hurting our aviation system and our economy.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, are we in a quorum call?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are not.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the debt ceiling agreement that will soon come before the Senate is a clear and present danger to the fragile—indeed, faltering—economic recovery. To say this is the wrong policy at the wrong time is a gross understatement. One has to ask the question: Is anyone paying attention? We just learned economic growth fell to a 1.3-percent annual rate in the second quarter. The first quarter growth was revised downward sharply to just four-tenths of 1 percent—virtually flat.

The economy created a meager 16,000 jobs in the month of June—again flat, not even keeping up with population growth. Last month, over 25 million Americans could not find full-time employment. Let me repeat that: over 25 million Americans are effectively out of work. This includes those formally looking for work and those so discouraged that they are no longer looking but want to work. State and local governments continue to slash funding for jobs at a stunning pace, destroying an estimated 500,000 jobs in the last 2 years. Let me repeat that: In the last 2 years, State and local governments have destroyed an estimated 500,000 jobs. Those are consumers too. Those are people who shop and buy cars and clothes and houses and go out to eat at restaurants and things such as that.

According to an article in today's Wall Street Journal, in the first half of 2011, all government spending fell at a 3.5-percent annual rate, enough to knock three-quarters of a percentage point off the GDP. On top of this wreckage, this so-called budget deal is proposing to slash funding in investment by \$2.4 trillion over the next 10 years—an unprecedented step that will further destroy demand and directly kill millions of public- and private-sector jobs.

This is what Mohamed El-Erian, chief executive of the bond investment firm of PIMCO, said just yesterday on one of the network shows in regard to this budget deal:

Unemployment will be higher than it would have been otherwise.

Speaking of this budget deal we are talking about, he said unemployment will be higher because of it.

Growth will be lower than it would be otherwise, and inequality will be worse than it would be otherwise.

He added:

We have a very weak economy, so withdrawing more spending at this stage will make it even weaker.

For months now, Washington politicians have been distracted by the phony manufactured crisis about raising the debt ceiling. This city has been obsessed with this. The rest of the country, for a very good reason, is more concerned with a far more urgent deficit than the budget deficit. They

are more concerned about the jobs deficit—25 million people out of work. In a recent CBS News-New York Times poll, 53 percent of the public polled named jobs and the economy as the most important problem, while only 7 percent named the deficit.

So I oppose this misbegotten, misguided deal they have conjured up in return for raising the debt ceiling. I don't oppose raising the debt ceiling. I wish to make that clear. I believe we have a constitutional obligation to pay our debts and to make good on our debts, as we have done since the Revolutionary War. What I am objecting to is the deal that was put together in order to permit us to perform our constitutional obligation.

I oppose it for four reasons: Reason No. 1 is this deal will destroy millions of jobs, as I have said, in both the public and private sector. By shutting off Federal funding in investment—a critical engine sustaining our sputtering economy—it could easily plunge America back into recession.

Please read your history, see what happened in 1937 and 1938. We were coming out of the Depression and all of a sudden Congress decided to tighten down the screws and plunged us right back into higher unemployment.

Secondly, I have always advocated a balanced approach to deficit reduction, including both spending cuts and revenue increases. This deal—the one we are going to have before us this evening, I guess—rejects a balanced approach. It rejects any sense of equity and fairness.

As my friend, the Senator from New Jersey, Mr. MENENDEZ, said earlier on the floor: This is not fair. Are we concerned about fairness or is that just sort of passe? Is that something we should even be concerned about, whether something is fair? I think we ought to be concerned about fairness. This is the message that is coming across loudly and clearly in the phone calls coming into my office and the e-mails I am getting from Iowa and around the country.

This deal offends people's basic sense of fairness—that Congress would slash funding for things such as student loans and cancer research and Head Start programs and Vista and legal services or cut essential funding for seniors—senior volunteer programs, senior centers, and Meals on Wheels—cutting support for people with disabilities, cutting the safety net for a lot of the most vulnerable people in our society, hurting the middle class. We can do that, but we simply can't ask for one more dollar of shared sacrifice from the millionaires and billionaires who have made so much money in the last decade and who have received, thanks to this Congress, huge tax breaks.

This deal is not fair.

Third, I oppose this deal for the simple reason that I oppose paying ransom

to hostage takers. Since the 1930s, Congress has routinely raised the national debt 89 times, including 7 times during the recent Presidency of George Bush, and 18 times under Ronald Reagan. Did Democrats hold the economy hostage? Did we say: Oh, no, we are not going to raise the debt unless you do this, this, this, and this? No. Did we filibuster? No.

Oh, there is always a skirmish on raising the debt ceiling. Ever since I have been here, for the past 35 years that I have been here, 36 years now, there is always a skirmish on it. But do you know how it has always worked? The majority always has to come up with the votes so there is no default. Well, that is not the way it is working this time.

This time congressional Republicans are holding our Nation hostage, threatening to default on our national debt and plunge America into an abyss that we don't even know what would possibly happen; that would affect our bond rating for years in the future, affect the interest rates that everyone pays on their car loans, their student loans, housing, and everything else. They would plunge America into that unless their demands are met.

Let's be clear. This is not a negotiating tactic; this is blackmail. Republicans have basically said: We will inflict grievous harm on the economy if Democrats do not meet our demands. Well, President Obama said it earlier. We are not going to go into default. So with this kind of a lopsided deal, the ransom is paid, the hostage is released. But what a terrible precedent this sets. Make no mistake, Republicans will use these same despicable tactics down the road in the future.

Now, if I sound like I am picking too much on Republicans, let me just say, with this kind of precedent, I can see a Republican President—and there will be another one sometime, but I hope not too soon. But there will be a Republican President and there will be a Democratic Congress, and Democrats will use this as a precedent: We will hold it hostage.

Is this the way we want to start running our country? What a terrible precedent this sets. It reminds me of the precedent that was set starting back in the 1980s with the use of the filibuster in the Senate.

Now, I say to the President that I have for years advocated that we do away with the filibuster over a short period of time; that we allow things to be slowed down but not be stopped because of a filibuster. I didn't just say this now; I said it in 1990s. It was right after Democrats had lost control of the Senate and Republicans had taken over, and I even advocated doing away with the filibuster then because I said it was escalating. It was a tit-for-tat. When the Republicans were in charge, we filibustered; and then when we got

in charge, they filibustered, but they added a few more. Then when we got in charge, we filibustered, but we did it a little bit more than what they did. This went back and forth.

I predicted in 1995 that if we didn't nip that in the bud, it was going to get out of hand. Sure enough, it got out of hand. That is what I mean. That is what happens. You set a precedent like that, and there is no end to it.

So I think the precedent that has been set bodes ill for our country, not just for Republicans but for Democrats too.

President Obama had an alternative, however, to capitulating to the Republicans' hostage taking and their blackmail. In remarks in the Senate on Saturday and many times, I have urged the President to respond to this unprecedented threat by taking the unprecedented action under the 14th amendment to the Constitution of basically eliminating the debt ceiling. I know the occupant of the chair, the distinguished Senator from Delaware, has advocated this for some time also. It is deeply regrettable that President Obama preemptively took this option off the table.

Throughout history, where meaning is unclear, where precedent was non-existent, the American people, through their elected officials and through their President, have acted boldly to protect the interests of the United States and to save our country.

I have heard it said that people around the President at the White House—well, they got attorneys to weigh in on this and the Justice Department. I understand that the Vice President said this morning to the House caucus that the authority was unclear as to whether the President could take such action.

Again, I repeat: Where there is no precedent, where the meaning is unclear, we can't run across the street to the Supreme Court and ask for an advisory opinion. They don't give those advisory opinions. But when the country is in a crisis mode and our future is at stake, I believe the President can act boldly, should act boldly, must act boldly, both to prevent the country from falling into a crisis but also to prevent this kind of hostage taking, this kind of blackmail that we either do it this way or we will not raise the debt ceiling.

I pointed out in my speech Saturday, and I point out again, Thomas Jefferson concluded the treaty with the Louisiana Purchase—and he himself wrote letters, and I have copies of those letters. I have read them, letters to Senator Breckenridge anguishing over whether he had the constitutional right to do this.

In one letter he said: I believe Congress is going to have to pass a constitutional amendment and send it to the States for their ratification before

I can do this. But, finally, Jefferson came to the realization that if he didn't take this action, the whole western part of the United States at that time might never become part of the United States. Think about that. We might have been facing a part of the United States that belonged to France.

So Jefferson acted boldly. In fact, there were critics at that time who said he didn't have the authority to do that, and they had a vote in the House of Representatives, by the way. I think it carried by a couple votes.

Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. There is nothing in the Constitution that gave him the power or the authority to do that, but he did it. He did it to help save the country and to right an egregious wrong.

More recently, Franklin Roosevelt—you can read about it in the history books. In the 1930s, it was clear if we didn't come to the assistance of Great Britain, it was going to fall to Nazi Germany—not that they needed our men but they needed our material. They needed the kind of material that we could supply in a short amount of time so they could defend Great Britain against Nazi Germany.

So Franklin Roosevelt concluded a lend-and-lease program. That is what it was called, the lend-and-lease program. Even President Roosevelt at that time said in his writings he considered this probably unconstitutional. But he had to do it to save our country because it was a crisis, and he acted boldly to do it.

There was no clear authority for him to do that, but, as I point out, there was no prohibition against him doing that either. There was no prohibition explicitly in the Constitution to prohibit Thomas Jefferson from making the Louisiana Purchase. There was no express prohibition against Lincoln signing the Emancipation Proclamation. There was no express prohibition against Franklin Roosevelt signing the lend-and-lease deal.

So, again, I point out, where meaning is unclear—and in the 14th amendment the meaning is kind of unclear. But we do have a court case, *Perry v. U.S.*, 1935. Read what Chief Justice Hughes wrote in his opinion. He said quite clearly that Congress has the power to borrow money. He said that is a good thing. It may be used to save our country sometime. But, he says, Congress does not have the authority to alter or destroy those obligations. We cannot alter or destroy those obligations once we make them.

So as I argued Saturday, and I continue to argue, if Congress either through action or inaction destroys or alters those debt obligations, then I think it is up to the President of the United States to step into the breach.

Is there clear authority for the President to do this? No. I submit there is

no clear prohibition against him, either, to do this. So when I cast my vote later today against this deal, I am not casting a vote to send our country into default. I would not do that. If I thought that my vote was the determining vote to send this country into default, I would not do that. That is not the way I see it, Mr. President. The way I see it is even if we turn this down, the President can use his Presidential power and authority to sign an Executive order getting rid of the debt ceiling so that, constitutionally, we make good on our debt obligations.

Read *Perry v. U.S.* I think you can see it there. So if this deal goes down either in the House or the Senate, the President can act before tomorrow to save this country. He may not want to do it, but he should do it. And he should have put that out there a long time ago.

Each one of the three cases I mentioned, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Roosevelt, three great Presidents, took action to save the country, and they did the right thing.

Mr. President, my fourth reason for opposing this deal is because, in truth, it is not about reducing the deficit. First and foremost, this deal is about preserving hundreds of billions of dollars in tax breaks for corporations and the wealthiest in our society. Bear in mind this is the singular purpose and goal of today's Republican Party: not reducing the deficit but preserving and expanding tax breaks for the wealthy. Here is why I say that.

Back last December when Republicans demanded the deal to preserve the Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthy, that deal added a whopping \$800 billion to deficits in just 2 years: this year 2011, next year 2012. Here we have it. We are being asked to raise the debt ceiling. A big portion of that is to pay for tax breaks to the wealthiest just in 2 years because of that deal last December where the Bush-era tax cuts were extended for 2 years, the wealthy can get billions in tax breaks for 2 years. So now what we are being asked to do is to pay for these 2 years' of tax breaks to the wealthiest by slashing funds to the most vulnerable in our society.

So that is the game here. The game here is to preserve those tax breaks even though we have to slash funding for the most vulnerable.

In December, Republicans' No. 1 priority was preserving tax breaks for the wealthy even if that meant adding hundreds of billions of dollars to the deficit. So last December Republicans said: We have to extend the Bush-era tax breaks for 2 years. That tax bill added \$800 billion to our deficit. I didn't hear a peep out of them, not one peep from the Republicans about the impact on the deficit.

Now, in recent weeks and months Republicans have repeatedly rejected

grand bargains to reduce future deficits by nearly \$4 trillion. Why did they reject the Reid proposal and proposals by the administration and others? Because each one would have required some modest sacrifice from millionaires and billionaires to help pay for those tax breaks they got. Republicans adamantly opposed this.

In his remarks last evening announcing this debt ceiling bad deal, as I call it, President Obama said the result "would be the lowest level of annual domestic spending since Dwight Eisenhower was President." That bears repeating. President Obama said the result "would be the lowest level of annual domestic spending since Dwight Eisenhower was President."

For the record, the American people do not want to take down Federal funding and investment to the level of the Eisenhower years. To do so would be tantamount to repudiating what we have done since then to make our country better and more fair, to make our country more of a middle-class society, more a country where people born into poverty can aspire to be in the middle class to get a good education, good health care, decent housing, a "Head Start."

To return to the spending of Dwight Eisenhower would be tantamount to repudiating the Great Society programs. We always hear from Republican friends how the Great Society was a failure, what a failure the Great Society was. I respectfully disagree. Head Start a failure? It was a Great Society program. Medicaid? Of course Medicaid now is exempted out of this measure. How about the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, title I, where we have agreed to put money out to the States to help low-income students and schools in poor areas? That is a Great Society program. How about the Higher Education Act? Student loans help a lot of kids go to college.

I have here a list of some of the Great Society programs: the Civil Rights Act of 1964; the Voting Rights Act of 1965; the Age Discrimination and Employment Act of 1967; Job Corps—that is another one which is going to get slashed because of this, Job Corps; VISTA; Upward Bound; food stamps, now called the SNAP program, which enables low-income people to have a decent diet during economic downturns; LIHEAP, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program; the community action programs that do so much for the elderly and the poor. I mentioned the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Higher Education Act of 1965, the Bilingual Education Act to help kids—learners of English as a second language. I mentioned Medicare and Medicaid. How about the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Land and Water Conservation Act and on and on. I am not going to read them all. These are all parts of

the Great Society programs. They made our country what it is today. But, they do cost money.

We have cleaner air, cleaner water, better educated kids, better health care, better cancer research—all kinds of research done at the NIH. These programs, along with Social Security, undergird the middle class in our society. They create a ladder of opportunity to allow disadvantaged Americans to work, move upward, and become part of the middle class. These programs define America as decent, compassionate, and, yes, as a great society.

The President is sorely mistaken if he believes the American people want to slash the budget to the level of the Eisenhower years and turn back the clock on half a century of progress.

Mr. President, I hope that is not what you meant. I hope that is not what you meant. To turn spending back to the level of the Eisenhower years is not a bragging point. That is not something positive. To me, that is a big negative.

What we need is to have a better and more fair tax system to pay for all the things that make our society great. We are not having the right debate here. We have not had the right debate for a long time. The debate ought to be about what is happening to our society.

I just read a recent interview with Bill Moyers. Bill Moyers was asked what his greatest fear was. His greatest fear was that we in America would accept greater and greater inequality, wealth inequality, as the norm; that we would accept a greater and greater inequality as normal. Here is maybe what he was talking about. From 2005 to 2009, the median net worth of Hispanic households went down 66 percent. The median net worth of African-American households went down 53 percent. The median net worth of White—Caucasian—households went down 16 percent. The median net worth right now of a White—Caucasian—family in America is 20 times that of an African-American family and 18 times that of a Hispanic family. This is twice the gap since before the recession, and it is the biggest gap since this data was collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 1984.

Do you see what is happening? Our country is pulling apart. There are fewer and fewer people at the top getting more and more wealth and more and more people at the bottom, destroying the middle class.

From 2005 to 2009, the median net worth—I keep stressing “median net worth.” What that means is you take all the things you own—your house, car, TV sets, all the stuff you own—and you subtract that from all your debts and obligations—mortgage, things such as that for the middle household with half having more and half having less. The median net worth from 2005 to 2009 of African-American households went

from \$12,124 to \$5,677. The median net worth of Hispanic households went from \$18,359 to \$6,325. Keep those figures in mind—median net worth of African-American households in 2009, \$5,677; Hispanic households, \$6,325. That is their net worth. That is everything. White households, in 2009—from 2005 to 2009, the net worth went from \$134,992 to \$113,149. So as of just 2 years ago, the median net worth of White households was, indeed, 20 times that of African-American households and 18 times that of Hispanics. Here is Hispanic households: net worth, \$6,325; median for Whites, \$113,149. Again, that wealth, as I say, is the sum of all their assets—their houses, their cars, their bank accounts—minus their debts, including mortgages, loans, and credit card debt.

The share of wealth? In 1988, the top 5 percent of Americans, in terms of wealth, had \$8 trillion in assets. That was 1980. In 2010, that top 5 percent had \$40 trillion in assets. That is more than 60 percent of the national wealth. The other 95 percent of America has the remaining 40 percent.

Jim Wallis, president of Sojourners, Rev. Jim Wallis, said, “A budget is a moral document.”

“We are making choices,” he added, such as whether to cut \$8.5 billion for low-income housing or whether to retain a similar amount in tax deductions for mortgages on vacation homes for the wealthy.

As Senator MENENDEZ said earlier, it is not fair. This is the debate and discussion we should be having in America, in the Senate, and in the House. There is this huge disparity in wealth in this country, and it is getting worse year by year. Yet our Republican friends say: Give more tax breaks to those at the top.

The American people get it. They understand this. They know there are over 25 million of them out of work. They know that wealth disparity is opening up a huge gap. The middle class is being destroyed in our country, and this so-called budget deal is going to make it even harder for anyone to succeed in becoming a middle-class person.

I just want to say that the most important thing we can do right now, the single most important thing we can do—I hate to say this—is not “balance the budget,” which is not what we are going to do now—this is raising the debt ceiling. That is not the most important thing. Slashing government spending is not the most important thing right now. The most important thing is to marshal the forces of the Federal Government to put people back to work, to get jobs going in our society.

There is a lot of work to be done. There are highways to be built and bridges to be built and schools to be re-modeled, new technologies, new power systems, new clean energy, a smart

grid, cleaning up the environment. Anyone who has suffered through the heat wave in the last couple of weeks knows something is going on in this country. Something is going on. We need more clean energy.

We need to make sure those children who are born today whose parents do not have anything, whose net worth is so little they don't have anything, we need to make sure that they have decent health, that they have early education programs and Head Start Programs. We need to make sure that every child has the best school and the best teachers in America, make sure that our streets and our neighborhoods are safe so families can go out and walk in the evening or at night and feel safe. We need to make sure the food we eat is duly inspected so we can have a high assurance we are not going to get sick and make sure the drugs we need are available, that the medicines we need, are affordable.

There are a lot of jobs that need to be done in this country, and we can put a lot of people to work. That should be the role of the Federal Government.

Some people say—I have heard it said many times: Government doesn't create wealth, only the private sector creates wealth. The government consumes wealth, it doesn't create it.

I had a hearing in my committee about a month ago or so, the HELP Committee, and we had the head of the National Institutes of Health down, Dr. Francis Collins. The head of NIH had an interesting story to tell. It had to do with the Human Genome Project, mapping and sequencing the human gene. We did it. It was a tremendous scientific accomplishment. Dr. Collins headed that effort. So we mapped and sequenced the human gene. The Batelle organization in Ohio, a research organization, analyzed it and said we had to put in taxpayers' money, \$3.8 billion worth of tax dollars into this. In the last 10 years, the private sector—because of this research that was done in mapping and sequencing the human gene—has put in over \$790 billion in investment, creating thousands of jobs all over this country, making huge breakthroughs in the genetic causes of so many diseases and finding interventions to help cure diseases and keep people healthy. Private investment never would have been done if we had not put \$3.8 billion into the NIH to map and sequence the human gene.

The Interstate Highway System would never have been completed by any private company. We did, through the power of the Federal Government. You know what. It was not Federal Government workers out there working on that highway. It was young kids like me. When I was a kid, I was working out on the Interstate Highway System making summer money to go to college in the fall. I didn't work for the government; I worked for a private contractor.

There are plenty of jobs that need to be done, and we need to put people to work. That is the single most important thing we can be about. Yet what we are doing, as I quoted earlier, is we are actually going to make it harder. Economists say the deal could complicate the task of putting people to work. There is broad agreement that the United States needs to pay down its debts, but most economists say the government should have waited a year or more for the economy to strengthen. We sure missed a big window of opportunity to reduce our debt in our strong years when the asset prices were booming. This time it is different. Instead we are stuck trying to do it now when the economy is so weak, and we should not be cutting and slashing. We should be investing and putting people to work.

Again, I urge my colleagues to reject this misguided, counterproductive debt ceiling deal. Let's stop this precedent of taking a hostage of the United States until we get what we want. Mark my word, if we do this, it is going to happen again. Then maybe sometime when there is a Republican President and the Democrats are in charge, then the Democrats will turn on the screws and we will hold them hostage for something. It is a terrible way to run a country. It is a terrible way to run a democracy.

I urge my colleagues to reject this misguided, counterproductive debt ceiling deal. Let's join together to pass a truly balanced approach to bring deficits under control, one that first invests in putting people to work. Then as the economy begins to grow and the private sector begins to invest, then we start cutting spending, reducing the deficit. Let's have a balanced approach that will allow us to continue to invest in education, infrastructure, research, and the other things that will create jobs and boost our economy, that will build the middle class. This bill is a job killer. This debt ceiling deal is a job killer. A lot of economists agree with that. We should reject it.

Mr. President, you have the pen, and you have the Executive order and you can get rid of that debt ceiling. Take a bold action to save our country and say: No, we are not going to let any group of Congressmen or Senators of any political party take our nation hostage again.

I ask unanimous consent the time until 8 p.m. be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. SHAHEEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. I yield the floor.

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, you have only been in the chair for a couple of minutes. I was going to ask you what is going on today, but I think I

have a pretty good idea. You and I have spent a fair amount of time discussing and thinking through what we ought to do in light of these big deficits. We had the privilege of serving together as Governors for a number of years. We had a requirement to submit balanced budgets and to balance the outflows and revenues in an ongoing basis. In some cases we had pretty good fiscal controls in place to help us. The rules were in place to help us, whether constitutional or statutory. In some cases not.

Your State and, I think, my State have a reputation for being fiscally sound operations. I was elected State treasurer and became State treasurer. In 1976 to 1977—as the Presiding Officer has heard me say before—we had the worst credit rating in the country, and we managed to climb from there until the time when I finished my last term as Governor to have a AAA credit rating. I am very proud of that.

I am relieved, if you will, that today it looks as though we have in place a course that will enable us to preserve the AAA credit rating for our country and, hopefully, for our States around the United States. One of our members of our caucus said something the other day that really struck a chord with me with respect to deficits and the debt ceiling. He said: We need a solution, not a deal. That is what he said. He said: We need a solution, not a deal.

I could not agree more. I could not agree more. While I am going to vote for what has been represented to us probably tomorrow, I do not regard this as a solution in the true sense. It is closer to a deal. Some may argue whether it is a good deal or a not-so-good deal, but I see it as a deal, not a solution.

What is difficult for me is there is a solution out there. There is a solution that a lot of people worked on very hard, including the guy who helped craft the last bipartisan deficit-reduction plan in the Congress in 1997, Erskine Bowles, then-President Clinton's Chief of Staff. He worked with a lot of folks—a Republican-controlled House, a Republican-controlled Senate. One of the people he worked with was a guy named Alan Simpson, a Republican from Wyoming. He was a pretty good deficit hawk in his day and still is.

The two of them and others came up with the deficit-reduction plan that led to several balanced budgets at the end of the Clinton administration. A lot of people forget we actually balanced our budget a dozen years ago—not just once, not just twice, but several times. We can do this sort of thing.

The deficit-reduction plan they came up with then was not just revenues, it was not just spending. I don't think it was just domestic discretionary spending or defense spending. As I recall, pretty much everything was on the table, and they came up with a deficit-

reduction package—50 percent revenues and 50 percent spending—and as I said earlier managed to balance the budget several times in a row.

I like to say there are four ways to balance the budget. The first of those is to cut spending. The second way is to raise revenues. A third way is to grow the heck out of the economy. The fourth way is to look in every nook and cranny of the Federal Government, including every kind of program—defense programs, domestic programs, entitlement programs—and ask this question: Is there a way to get better results for less money or better results for the same amount of money?

If we pass this agreement and what is being presented to us that is before the House this evening, and we actually pass it in the Senate and the President signs it into law, we are going to see not the promise of the deficit commission's recommendations, which was co-chaired by Erskine Bowles and Alan Simpson. We are not going to see the opportunity to reform or overhaul entitlements, to reform the Tax Code, to raise some revenues—not by raising taxes but by broadening the base, limiting some of those \$15 trillion of tax expenditures. It is what it is.

One of the things we are going to have the opportunity to do and probably a greater need to do is this: We are going to need to redouble our efforts to look at programs—domestic, defense entitlements—and ask that question: How do we get better results for less money?

We have one former Governor, the Presiding Officer, Senator SHAHEEN leaving, replaced by another former Governor, Senator MANCHIN, now the Presiding Officer, who knows what it is like to make these tough decisions. He has had to do them for 8 years.

Just as an aside, I would like to say this: There are two Senators born in West Virginia. That is the two of us, two Senators who were former Governors and former chairs of the National Governors Association. So we share a very special bond.

Madam President, I am talking about what could have been and what I think still should have been; that is, the deficit commission's recommendations, which is broad-based and a real solution and not just a deal. That is not going to happen. Whether we like it or not, it is not going to happen.

The question is, What do we do? The suggestion is that we do at least more of what we are already doing; that is, trying to get better results for less money out of the Federal programs, all kinds of Federal programs, the kind of thing you and I did as Governors of our States, the kind of thing we are trying to do in the Federal Financial Management Subcommittee which I chair, formerly chaired by TOM COBURN. We work across party lines. It is a pretty good example of how we ought to work

on how to get things done. Democrats and Republicans on the subcommittee work together. We work on the OMB, we work with the General Accountability Office, we work with the inspector generals and all of the departments of the Federal Government across the landscape. We also work with non-profits such as Citizens Against Government Waste.

What are we working on? We are working on how to get better results for less money. How do we not just identify fraud, but how do we get rid of it? How do we put a spotlight on agencies and departments and Federal folks who are doing a good job with good results for the money they are spending, and how do we put a spotlight on those who are not and make sure we get more good behavior and less bad behavior.

Almost everything I do I know I can do better. I think the same is true of all of us. The same is true with our Federal programs. We have to go for it. I like to try to find an opportunity in adversity. Albert Einstein used to say in adversity lies opportunity. I have been looking at this deal and trying to see where is the opportunity. The opportunity is to just do a better job in evaluating performance, demanding high performance, and working hard to get that performance and working with the administration and those Democrats and Republicans in the Senate.

One of the reasons I like the deficit commission's proposal is because it addresses some of the uncertainty that currently faces the business communities in our Nation, whether they happen to be large or small. I have heard—and I am sure the Presiding Officer has heard—from all kinds of businesses that one of the things they need from us is some certainty, some predictability. Businesses need certainty and predictability.

I have had any number of CEOs and businesses, large and small, who say to me that the reason we are sitting on a pile of cash and not investing our money is because we don't know what we are going to do with the budget. We don't know if we will have a default. We don't know what will happen with the Tax Code. We don't know if we are going to have an energy policy. We don't know if the Supreme Court or if the Federal courts are going to overturn the health care reform. We don't know if we are going to do something about our infrastructure, transportation or otherwise. Businesses are reluctant to spend money until we address those uncertainties.

One of the things I loved about the deficit commission's recommendation, refined by the Gang of 6, is they would have addressed uncertainty with respect to the spending plan and getting us on the right track for deficit reduction. It would have been bipartisan, and it would have been comprehensive.

It would take a big step toward providing expectations and predictability and certainty with respect to our Tax Code, and we could use both of those.

I was talking today and listening a little bit to the news, and they were talking about who is winning because of this debate and who is losing. I would like to think that Democrats are not big winners or Republicans are big winners. I hope the American people, the people we represent, are at least modest side winners.

One of the things the President didn't want to do was have us go into default. He was willing to bargain long and hard in order to avoid default, and I commend him for that. The President doesn't want to have another debate over the debt ceiling until we get past the next election, and for him that was important. He wants to be able to run the administration.

As a Governor, I remember how hard it was for us in Delaware to work in the Governor's Office on more than two or three big things at a time. It is hard to do. This administration had their hands full on this issue for months and were unable to work on some of the other things they needed to be doing to help run our country and move us forward.

The other thing I think is important to the President is he wanted to get started or continue on the deficit-reduction side and finding more savings in reduction. He didn't want to slam on the brakes right now. If I could use a car analogy of driving down the road, we have been driving down the road for the last couple of years to try to come out of this recession with both feet on the accelerator. What the President didn't want, and what I don't want, is to go from both feet on the accelerator to both feet on the brakes.

One of the values of the plan that is being presented is that we don't make that transition. We do start tapping on the brake and eventually we do put the brakes on, but it is not just like that. So there are some things important to the President.

On the Republican side, they wanted deficit reduction; they wanted it to be real, they did not want it to be illusory—neither do we—and they are unwilling to raise any revenues, even by reducing some of those \$15 trillion worth of tax expenditures—tax breaks, tax loopholes, tax credits, and so forth. So we get, I think for the Republicans who are focused on spending and who didn't want to do any kind of revenues, even revenues that were being provided by dividing the base and lowering the rates, they weren't willing to go there. I think, for them, they can maybe declare victory.

The question is, How about the rest of us? How about the people who don't work here, the people who don't focus that much on partisan politics, how did they make out? For them, it is sort of

a mixed bag. It is a mixed bag. If I were a teacher giving a grade in a class, I think I would assign it incomplete because we have plenty of work to do.

This idea of creating this bipartisan committee, joint committee, of 10 people, 6 Senators, 6 House Members—the total would be 12, 6 Democrats and 6 Republicans, I hope that works. I think—my preference would have been taking the Gang of 6, the people who worked for 1 year on a deficit reduction plan, which I think is a whole lot better, and just make them—if we are going to have a special committee—make them the folks on the committee. That isn't going to happen, unfortunately. They would have been my nominees, my appointees, but it is not my decision to make.

But, anyway, we are going to create this joint committee. Sometimes I think if we can't come to consensus on good public policy, what we are inclined to do around here is just to do more process. I hope and pray this isn't more process. I hope, at the end of the day, the men and women who serve on this joint committee will be open to our input and certainly open to the input of some of the Senators, including the Democrats and Republicans who served on the deficit commission and who went on to be a part of this Gang of 6.

The last thing I think I want to say is this: A lot of times in government—I hope we weren't quite as guilty of this in State government as here—but a lot of times in government we focus on symptoms of problems. We don't focus on the underlying disease or the cause of the problem. I like to use the patient analogy. The patient is exhibiting certain symptoms and sometimes we can look at those symptoms and figure what the cause of the problem is and try to cure the patient. Here the symptom has been all along the debt ceiling, but that is the symptom the patient is exhibiting or is facing. The underlying cause of the disease is the way we spend money and raise money. I think we have been treating the symptom—avoiding the default on the debt ceiling—but I am not entirely pleased that we are curing the patient, taking the steps to cure the patient.

That is sort of where I see us. I will close with these words. I see Senator DEMINT waiting to speak, so I will wrap up. A guy who never served in the Senate, served over in the House, Rahm Emanuel from Illinois, Congressman and later Chief of Staff to President Obama for his first couple years, Rahm Emanuel, now the mayor of Chicago, has a saying, and I think it is his original saying. He likes to say: "Never waste a good crisis." Sometimes it takes a crisis around here to get something done. He likes to say: "Never waste a good crisis." We have wasted this crisis, and we should not have done that. We should have taken the

bull by the horns. I wish the President had embraced his own deficit commission sooner, more robustly. I wish our own leaders, Democratic and Republican, here and over in the House, had said: That is a pretty good idea. Let's give that a shot. Unfortunately, they chose not to do that. It was bipartisan. It was bicameral. It is unfortunate.

But it is what it is. We need to move forward. I just hope colleagues will be given the opportunity to offer a lot of input to this bipartisan joint committee that is being created, and maybe, in their wisdom, reporting back to us at the beginning of December, there will be some of the elements in deficit reduction that were captured by that deficit commission that are missing in this deal that is before us today. If that happens, this will have been a better outcome than I might have otherwise hoped for.

With that, I yield the floor and yield to my friend from South Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. DEMINT. Thank you, Mr. President.

The last 2 years—2½ years—have been remarkable in a lot of ways. We have seen a lot of things around our country that are beginning to change the political landscape in Washington.

After President Obama's election, with a lot of fanfare and hope attached, we saw a lot of changes begin in Washington—a lot of new spending with huge stimulus plans that clearly have not worked. We have seen a takeover of the health care system and the financial system.

But what we saw across America is what encouraged me. We saw millions of Americans, from all spectrums of politics, united, coming together for tea party rallies and townhalls. They were concerned about our country. They were concerned about the spending and the borrowing and the debt. In these groups were liberals and Libertarians and Independents and Republicans and Democrats—people with all political beliefs who knew intuitively, instinctively, in their guts, that, in Washington, we couldn't keep spending more than we were bringing in without bankrupting our country.

I joined a lot of those groups around the country, and these were hardly radical people. They were commonsense Americans from all walks of life who were just concerned about what we were doing in Washington. They wanted us to get control of the spending and debt. We saw a lot of people in Washington ignore what was going on. But across the country, many Republicans, and even some Democrats, were listening to what they were saying and made strong commitments that if they were elected to the House or the Senate, they would come and get control of the spending and the borrowing and the

debt and try to return to some fiscal sanity, some concept of constitutional limited government that we promise people when we take our oath of office and that we would stand by it. So we saw many new Republicans come to the House and to the Senate with a commitment to get control of the spending and debt, to save our country from this obvious bankruptcy we are headed toward.

The tea party was involved with that. It is hard for me to listen to a lot of the criticism of the tea party and their desire to balance the budget. There is no one tea party. What we are talking about are thousands of citizen groups across this country who are being vigilant about their government, which is what our Founders asked them to be. They are not radical people. They are very commonsense people, and they understand what we are doing in Washington is about to destroy the country.

The tea party is being used a lot to suggest it is a small, radical group that is controlling some in the Republican Party. Over 70 percent of Americans agree with them—that we should balance our budget, that we should cut spending and send a balanced budget amendment to the States to ratify. For every person who says they are part of a tea party, there are hundreds of Americans who feel the same way who share those ideals of constitutional limited government and the concern and real fear that what we have been doing in Washington is taking our country literally to the brink.

It is deeply disturbing to hear the Vice President refer to tea parties as terrorists, as he did today, holding a gun to the heads of Republicans and forcing us to make cuts. Clearly, Vice President BIDEN and many here are not listening to what Americans are saying, and they are trying to diminish what Americans are saying by suggesting this is part of one small group.

The President showed right away this year, even after the November election, that he wasn't listening. He sent a budget to Congress that increased the debt another \$10 trillion by his measures but actually another \$15 trillion if we look at it in any kind of objective way. When the Republicans in the House demanded that they keep their commitment to cut \$100 billion the first year, what did the President do? He said he would meet halfway, at \$30 billion. He doesn't think we need to cut anything. He thinks we need to increase spending, and that is what he has been doing.

This is the second crisis we have had this year. The first was that year's budget, where we came right to the edge of closing the government because the President and the Democrats did not want to cut anything—at least in the negotiations we see. If they are going to meet us halfway between 100, they start below zero if they end up at

30. They are not with us, and it is hard to negotiate with people who don't understand that we truly do have a problem.

Washington, as Senator RUBIO said, has a debt problem, but America has a jobs problem. One of the things we need to understand is, if we could stop growing the government, we could start growing the economy. More jobs would mean more tax revenue and less debt. But, unfortunately, this President continues to make things much worse. He wants to continue to spend and borrow, but he will not take responsibility for his spending. He has failed to lead and he loves to blame others. Sure, he inherited some problems—every President does. George W. Bush before him inherited a recession. Reagan inherited double-digit inflation, double-digit interest rates. Yet they moved to solve the problems. The difference is, Obama continues, after 2½ years, to blame others and his policies continue to make things worse.

Let's talk about this debt ceiling for a minute, this debt crisis, and try to set the record straight. Clearly, President Obama has failed to lead in this whole process. We do need to remember, while he is trying to blame others for this debt ceiling problem, that it was a Democratic Congress and the President who signed into law the current debt limit we have. This was not a Republican-created problem that we have. Then, for the last 4½ years, Obama and the Democrats had control of spending, so they set the debt limit, and they have spent the money to take us up to the debt limit.

We have known for the last 6 months that we needed to deal with this problem. Yet the President submitted no plan at all. He just asked Congress to rubberstamp an increase of \$2.4 trillion in our debt, to borrow another \$2.4 trillion, and, he said, with no strings attached. He didn't want to cut anything when this whole debate started—no leadership; 6 months, no plan, just speeches, trying to shift the blame.

He likes to ignore the fact that the House passed a bill that would solve our problem. It was a bill called Cut, Cap, and Balance. It cut spending right now, it controlled spending out over the next 10 years, and it sends a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution to the States to ratify. The response from the Democrats in the Senate and President Obama was truly astounding. The President says he wants a balanced solution, but he does not want a balanced budget. He has actually called us extreme for wanting to balance the budget, and, he said, we can do our job without a constitutional requirement to balance the budget. We can do a job on America, but we are not doing the job we were sent to do, and we certainly have proved we cannot control spending unless it is by law that requires us to do that.

Even though this bill passed the House by a large number, with some Democratic support, and it gave the President a \$2.4 trillion increase in the debt limit but only if we cut spending and controlled it and created some permanent accountability, we sent it to the Senate, and the leader of the Democratic Party would not even allow it on the floor for any debate because he saw the polls. He saw that already, within just a couple days, that 70 percent or nearly 70 percent of Americans supported the approach of cutting and controlling spending and creating some permanent accountability. So it was pushed aside so we could make some more backroom deals, with no transparency, no accountability, no leadership.

I commend Speaker BOEHNER, Leader MCCONNELL, the Republicans who have worked through this process. Dealing with people who will not put a plan on the table is very difficult. The Republicans passed cut, cap, and balance. Then they followed up with another plan that was not so good, but it was a plan, and it did not even get past the front door in the Senate.

For 6 months, no plan from the President, no plan from the Democrats. Now we have gotten a deal with a partner who does not want to cut spending, after a November election where we were sent here, and the country pleaded with us to get control of spending, borrowing, and debt.

We can look at this deal two ways. There are two realities. From any Washington standard, this is a historic sea change in the way we do business. Instead of what we were doing last year, where we were talking about how much more we could spend and how much porkbarrel bacon we could take home, at least this year we are talking about the fact that we need to cut spending. So we can say the deal makes progress in that respect.

But in the real world, a dollars and cents world, we have to realize our country is on a path toward bankruptcy right now. We are projecting adding another \$10 trillion or \$15 trillion to our debt. No one is going to lend us that amount of money. We do not have 10 years. This deal does not change that trajectory at all. We will still borrow \$10 trillion or more in the next 10 years. We will still add \$1 trillion a year to our debt.

We cannot call this a debt reduction bill. We can not even call it a spending reduction bill. For the next couple years, it hardly cuts anything. When we talk about cutting in Washington, we are not cutting spending from where it is today; we are reducing the rate of increase that is planned. So it is important we tell the truth to the American people that while this deal may be the best we can do—with the leadership in the White House, or lack thereof, as well as the leadership, or

lack thereof, in the Senate—it may be the best political solution we can get, but it does not solve America's problem. It certainly does not solve America's job problem, and it does nothing but add another \$10 trillion to our debt if we are able to go that far.

I will be voting against this bill because I do not believe we have 10 years to try to get it right. I think it is very likely, over the next year or two or three, that we are going to reach a very real debt limit when no one will lend us any more money.

Today, in America, we have to borrow \$140 billion a month in order to pay our regular bills. The people who are adding to that debt every month think it is extreme to balance their checkbook. It is time we get our House in order and force this Congress, by the Constitution, to balance its budget. We cannot continue to spend more than we are bringing in and expect to reduce our debt. That is the inside Washington mentality.

This deal is not a good deal for America. It may be the best deal Washington can come up with, with the current leadership, but it puts our country at risk. But in a Washington where there is no leadership in the White House, there is no accountability, and there is someone sitting in the Oval Office who will not take responsibility for anything, this may be a deal we have to accept for now.

I intend to vote against it because it is important we tell America the truth; that this puts our country at risk. It is time we do what is best for America, not what makes the best deal in Washington. I would encourage my colleagues to vote against this deal, even though I know they already have the votes. But I hope when this is passed, we will not think for 1 minute we have solved the problem, we will not try to convince Americans that now we have a few more years to spend and borrow without any repercussions.

We need to immediately get back to the debate that was getting America involved in the last election, which was balancing our budget and getting some fiscal sanity in Washington. While we are in desperate straits in our country right now, and we see our economy getting worse because of the policies of this administration, the good news is this: We can solve this problem with one more good election. That is what I am looking forward to: taking my case to the American people and the case they sent us here to make to this Congress, that we need one more election to finish the job they started in 2010. If they want us to get control of spending and borrowing and debt, we need a few more good people, such as the House freshmen who have stood their ground on this whole debate and those who have come in here in the Senate and have led the way for a balanced budget. It is that day I am looking forward to

because on that day, we will once again, hopefully, listen to America, get our House in order, balance our budget, and do what is best for our country.

I yield back.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING DR. AGNES VARIS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, I know the Presiding Officer cares a lot about Dr. Agnes Varis as well, and as soon as I finish speaking, I will take the chair so the Presiding Officer may say a few words about her.

I would like to say some words about a great American, a wonderful New Yorker, and a dear friend, Dr. Agnes Varis.

Sadly, for all of us, Agnes died last Friday, July 29. She fought a relentless disease for more than 2 years. She did not want a funeral, a memorial service or an obituary, but those of us who knew and admired Agnes could not allow this passing to go unremarked.

Agnes was a miracle worker, and I would like to take a few moments just to share a small fraction of the wonderful things she accomplished in her life of over 80 years.

Dr. Varis was an incredible woman who founded a generic drug company 40 years ago, when a woman CEO was very uncommon. After great success in business, she turned her time and support to people and issues she cared about. From her tireless support for affordable drugs to her generous and unwavering assistance to students, artists, musicians, and animals, Agnes was an angel to so many.

Agnes was a woman who did not take no for an answer. She fought for battered women of Bergen County, NJ, helped out music lovers seeking affordably priced tickets, supported and cheered on women in politics, and generously improved veterinary science and animal shelters.

When one met Agnes, one saw she was a powerful woman and a caring woman. She combined both those features in a beautiful human being.

She came from humble beginnings, and maybe that is why she never stopped making a difference in the lives of those around her. She would see somebody whom she hardly knew and hear about their plight and then move heaven and Earth to help them. She was a generous soul.

She knew education, success, and culture were essential ingredients to a happy life, and she brought all those gifts and opportunities to thousands, if not millions, of people.

Dr. Agnes Varis was born in Massachusetts in 1930 and was raised in

Brooklyn, NY, my hometown. She was the only one of eight children of Greek immigrant parents to attend college. She earned her degree in chemistry and English from Brooklyn College and later in her career attended NYU's Stern School of Business.

Right out of school, she took an entry-level job in a chemical manufacturing company that focused on bulk pharmaceuticals and her smarts made her incredibly successful.

Agnes was a pioneer and a leader in the pharmaceutical industry. As president and founder of Agvar Chemicals and Aegis Pharmaceuticals, Dr. Varis worked tirelessly to increase the accessibility of lifesaving pharmaceuticals for people in the United States and around the world.

She was one of the founders of the modern generic drug industry and a key player in the adoption of the Waxman-Hatch Act of 1984, which created a streamlined approval process for generic pharmaceuticals. It is the reason affordable generics exist.

Today, just about every one of us takes generic drugs. They are low cost, save people money, and, even more importantly, it makes those drugs accessible to people who might not otherwise afford them. In this way alone, Agnes probably saved the lives of hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people.

She was the one who introduced me, along with a few of her friends, to the issue of generic drugs and why they are so important. I have worked very hard on that issue for over a decade—a decade and a half—and it was Agnes always importuning me on.

She was always generous, as well as being a skillful and savvy businesswoman. Nearly 1,000 unemployed service workers who lost their insurance in the aftermath of September 11 got Agvar generic drug plan cards, which were good for 1 year, and they gave free generic drug prescriptions at any Duane Reade pharmacy in New York City.

Isn't that amazing? No one asked her to do this. She heard it somewhere or other that there were people who lost their jobs, and she knew they needed drugs, so she bought them a drug card.

At the height of the AIDS epidemic in Africa, Agnes helped broker an arrangement between the Clinton Foundation and an Indian generic pharmaceutical company to provide affordable AIDS medications to African nations at a very low cost.

This was written up in all the newspapers but not Agnes's name. She did not want her name out there. She just wanted to do good, help people who needed help, save lives.

Agnes and her husband Karl were great music lovers. They loved classical music. Just as she brought affordable drugs to market, Agnes supported the arts and made music and concerts more affordable to all.

She donated the Agnes Varis Performance Stage to Jazz at Lincoln Center and sponsored the Jazz Foundation of America's national educational children's Jazz in Schools Program, which employs elderly jazz musicians. Just like Agnes: She knew there were elderly jazz musicians who were out of work and struggling. She knew bringing jazz to young children would be a great thing for many of them. She combined the two and just did it. That was Agnes.

She was one of the Metropolitan Opera's—in New York City, one of the greatest operas in the world—she was one of its most generous and engaging board members. She was committed to bringing opera, typically, again, to the widest possible audience, including those who could not afford tickets. In 2006, she funded the enormously popular Agnes Varis and Karl Leichtman Rush Tickets program, which offered expensive orchestra seats for \$20, \$25—affordable to one and all.

In 2009, Dr. Varis was appointed by President Obama to the President's Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

She was a great lady, a rare lady, someone who combined so many different attributes and made a powerful impression, even if one only met her for 10 minutes.

Agnes, we will miss you. But all your good works and all the possibilities and opportunities you made for others will allow your spirit to live on.

God bless you, Agnes Varis.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHUMER). The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I only wanted to add my voice to yours about Agnes Varis. I appreciate the junior Senator from West Virginia giving me a moment or two.

I have known Agnes for many years. I worked with her on generic drug issues for the last decade—more than that—when I was in the House of Representatives. She had a commitment and a compassion for the underdog that is rare in this world, especially rare for someone as successful as she was.

I remember years ago hearing her story as a Greek immigrant and with a mother who actually could not read and write and how Agnes was so important to that family after her father died when Agnes was a very young woman—a girl still—and how Agnes went to Brooklyn College and was, I believe, the only woman there at the time.

And something else Agnes did—and I apologize to the Senator from New York, now the Presiding Officer, for not hearing all of his remarks. Agnes really stepped up after Hurricane Katrina and helped by not just giving some of her wealth to these musicians who did not have jobs because of the destruction of New Orleans but stepped

up and actually hired these musicians so they were actually working, not just getting help from her, hired them to go around to the schools and through much of Louisiana and play for students and teach students music and, if nothing else for those students who had the musical talent that most of us have, which is limited, helped those students appreciate music and appreciate jazz. So she was a terrific woman whom I last saw maybe a month and a half ago. I miss her. I miss her already. I miss her laugh and her smile and her service not to just New York and New Jersey, where she lived, but much of this country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

Mr. MANCHIN. Thank you. It is hard to add to the Senator's recognition of Agnes, and also my colleague, the Senator from Ohio. You can tell Agnes touched quite a few of us in so many different ways.

Agnes was a friend of mine and also a friend of my family's. She was a dear mentor to my daughter Heather, who is in the industry. We are all going to mourn her passing. Heather introduced me to Agnes about 10 years ago, and from the first day I met Agnes, she was the type of person I always heard my grandmother would say: People don't know how much you care until they know how much care.

The thing about Agnes was it was not how much you had here, but it was what you had in your heart. Agnes was that type of person who was truly remarkable. She lived an astonishing life, Mr. President, as you referred to. She represented the best in our country, and she truly lived the American dream.

Agnes was a first-generation American and went to college at a time when few women attended college. She started at the very bottom rung of the chemical industry and worked her way up the ladder to the top. She was truly an entrepreneur. She and her husband Karl loved the arts, but they also took a risk. They took their life savings together of about \$50,000 to start Agvar Chemicals.

Agnes was a fortunate American. She used her wealth to support the causes she most believed in, especially the arts, women's issues, and caring for the workers in New York after September 11 and, as we heard from our colleague from Ohio, after Katrina.

Agnes was always telling my daughter Heather that you can see a lot more from the edge than the middle, and it was the few who were willing to be on the edge who created the right middle. That deep and poetic statement is a piece of wisdom many in this country could benefit from hearing. Agnes had such a generous spirit, and over the years, my daughter Heather sought her "agvice," as she called it, many times.

Our entire family and all of my colleagues, I know, who knew Agnes well are definitely going to miss her. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and her family. I am glad we had a chance to honor Agnes on the floor of the Senate. I know she would be so proud. I thank my colleagues for recognizing her also.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST H.R. 2553

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, we are entering the second workweek of a partial shutdown of the Federal Aviation Administration. I know the Congress, the President, and the American people have been focused on the debt and deficit crisis, but behind that, and not in the shadows to those of us who care about aviation, I want people to understand that what has been happening to the FAA is causing enormous pain throughout the country, and the pain will only grow because of an apparent shutdown of the attempts to pass the Federal aviation bill, primarily because of the House.

Because Congress has failed to pass the 21st short-term extension of the FAA—do you understand what that means? It is simply saying: I would like to have a clean bill of extension. That is all. No policy, just a clean bill. Give us another several weeks to work on some of the complicated issues.

So 20 times we have done that over 4 years, and there has been no objection. The 21st time, there is content—suddenly, policy is injected into the request for a clean extension, or the response to the request. In this time, nearly 4,000 hard-working Federal aviation employees have been furloughed. That means they go without pay. If things follow their current course, as I believe they will, they will go at least another month or more without pay. I do not know how many of them continue to stay in their jobs.

It has halted critical airport safety capacity and air traffic control projects. To be quite honest with you, the whole prospect of NextGen, that is, the GPS system of tracking planes and how far they are from each other—once we have that like every other industrialized country, they will be able to land quickly and more efficiently and with fewer delays.

They have suspended payments to hundreds of small businesses dependent upon reimbursement from contracts they have made with the FAA for their work. So that just stops. Things just come to a dead halt. Runways, control towers, whatever—they just stop, and they will stay stopped. They will remain stopped, as things are going now, throughout the month of August and the early part of September.

They have forgone more than \$250 million in aviation tax revenue that is

critical to supporting our aviation system. That is about \$25 million a day that is meant to go into the airport trust fund that does not, and by the time we return, that will be about \$1.2 billion.

Very shortly, I will seek unanimous consent to pass a clean extension of the FAA, and it will be objected to by the Senator from Utah. In some ways, you can say it is a futile gesture, but it is all I have left. It is all I have left in trying to take this incredible process which we have been working on, Senator HUTCHISON and myself, forever—forever.

With so much damage being caused, you might ask why not all of my Republican colleagues but some of them have refused repeated requests to pass a clean extension, some here in the Senate, mostly all in the House, all of the leadership in the House. So I want to outline how we have, in fact, in my judgment, come to this point.

The chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, which is called T and I—that chairman is my counterpart on the Commerce Committee. He has certain jurisdictions, and I have certain jurisdictions. They are not always the same. He is transportation and infrastructure; that doesn't comport exactly with the jurisdiction of the Commerce Committee. But in any event, he seems willing to shut down the FAA, you know, is certainly going to stick it to the FAA employees, and there will be many more of them by the time this has ended.

It is a tragedy that never had to happen. It is a tragedy about ego, about bullying, about an attempt to prove one side would cave. It is sort of the worst kind of political bickering the American people are so sick of, but this time, they are going to pay a terrible price.

They are insisting on antiworker language. It has to do with the National Mediation Board. They know full well this was destined never to happen in the Senate. They knew full well the President of the United States had already said publicly a number of times that he would veto anything which contained this kind of language for the National Mediation Board, basically changing 75 years of labor law.

To be just a little bit explicit about this because it is interesting, what they want to do is have a system wherein if, when—you are voting to join a union or whatever, and let's say I am a worker but my mother is very sick, so I am at home taking care of her, so I do not vote. The fact that I did not vote does not mean I just did not vote; it means I voted no, thus helping the company, thus tilting, in a very odd way, very un-American way, what an election is all about.

We have not had a formal conference. Senator HUTCHISON and I have resolved over—and MARIA CANTWELL, JOHN

THUNE—we have resolved over 250 differences between the House and the Senate, and now there are only about 12 that remain to be resolved, all of which can be resolved. But that is of no consequence.

I also sent over suggested language for a significant program such as the Essential Air Service Program, 6 weeks ago, to the chairman, Chairman MICA, that reforms in a way that saves \$71 million each year for the 4 years of the bill in the Essential Air Service Program.

Six weeks ago, the House passed a clean, short-term extension—the 20th—like every other extension that has gone on around here forever—passed it clean, no policy, nothing in it, just extend it so we have more chances to talk—but then they promptly left on a week tour of European and Middle Eastern airports, which made it a little more difficult to talk.

Since they returned, I have been told that unless and until the Senate accepts House language on their proposed changes to the National Mediation Board, they would negotiate no further, and that message was reaffirmed in the strongest terms this afternoon.

You know, this all started with Delta Air Lines. Delta Air Lines is out of Atlanta, GA. They do not have any unions. That is their business, not mine. They have had four elections. Unions have tried to organize four times.

Four times the unions have lost. So it would appear their chances are not very good in the future. But that doesn't stop Delta. They want to make sure we put in place a structured system that is out of kilter to a fair election, and other purposes with other unions.

What they then did is sent over an Essential Air Service policy rider on the extension—unprecedented—with which we didn't agree. Therefore, when you don't do it in the first place, or if you do it, both sides have to agree before you send it over—and it is easy to say we will extend it and include that policy because both sides agreed to it. But they sent over an Essential Air Service program essentially targeting rural communities in the States of Democratic Senators. If the House was serious about reforming Essential Air Service, they would have stayed at the negotiating table. They would have welcomed the chance to come back.

The House-passed extension is not about policy; it is about politics, and everybody knows that. So here we are on the eve of the August recess, and we have a choice tonight. We can pass a clean extension and put people back to work—all the 4,000 people who are furloughed and have gone through some period of time without paychecks. They would automatically be taken back and life would be as it was before through September 16. So that is another month and a half of wages they

would have to feed their families, and contractors could go back to work, and projects at airports and related facilities could continue. It is very important.

Aviation is 10 percent of the American economy—the GDP. We have inflicted far too much damage on our aviation system for the needs of one airline—one airline.

I urge my colleagues to allow this consent agreement to go forward. It won't. But if you believe in the goal of having an FAA system that is funded, and is well, and which can take on the incredible technological needs that we have to—in particular, the Next Generation system, which is not just ground-based, but avionics have to be placed in every single plane that flies. That is a major undertaking.

What they have done by their decision is to take \$25 million a day outside, away from the airport trust fund. The airport trust fund cannot afford that. What I want the airlines to be thinking about over the next number of weeks, until we can get back at this—unless everything suddenly changes tonight, but I doubt that—is how they are going to divide up between themselves the \$1.2 billion they will owe to the airport trust fund.

I commit to the President of the Senate and my colleagues that I will do everything I can to make sure that not just the \$250 million, which they have already vanquished out of the airport trust fund, which we depend upon for everything, but the billion above that. That will happen at \$25 million a day, because they didn't want to give up anything so they could have their National Mediation Board stacked the way they wanted it, and in a most unfair and most un-American way.

Having said that, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 109, H.R. 2553; that a Rockefeller-Hutchison substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read the third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). Is there objection?

Mr. HATCH. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, for the third time in a week, I must object to another short-term Federal Aviation Administration extension. I want to make it absolutely clear that a long-term FAA reauthorization is a priority for this country, and it is a priority for me. The current lapse in FAA taxes and expenditure authority from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund is a detrimental situation brought on by the Senate majority's refusal to engage in substantive negotiations on a long-

term FAA reauthorization bill, which, by the way, did pass the House. Additionally, it is not clear to me that the legislation just offered would avoid a retroactive tax increase on travelers. I didn't set out to cause FAA taxes to expire, but reinstating them on a retroactive basis is more than I am willing to subject taxpayers to.

As I have already said, I share House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman MICA's frustration, and the frustration of Republican leadership in both the House and Senate, that favors to organized labor have overshadowed the prospects for long-term FAA reauthorization.

Last year, the National Mediation Board changed the rules under which employees of airlines and railroads are able to unionize. For decades, the standard has been that a majority of employees would have to agree in an election to form a union. However, the new NMB—National Mediation Board—rules change that standard so that all it takes to unionize is a majority of employees voting. This means the NMB wants to count an employee who doesn't vote as voting for big labor.

Somehow, organized labor is able to claim that it is democratic to appropriate someone else's vote without that person's input and participation, even though the rule I am talking about has been in place for 75 years. They just changed it in favor of the unions. Unions win—at least the NLRB proceedings. They win 60 percent of the unionizing attempts.

I personally have not had any communication with anyone in the industry. I am here because I think what the NMB did is absolutely wrong, and someone needs to stand up to them.

This issue is much larger than the NMB itself, and the airlines and railroads impacted by the NMB ruling. If NMB succeeds, and the administration is allowed to put their thumb on the scale in favor of big labor in contract law practice, every small businessperson anywhere will be at risk.

The long-term House FAA reauthorization bill does not create a new hurdle to unionization; instead, it restores the longstanding ability of airline employees to make decisions for themselves—and not just a few of them but all of them.

In a few minutes, I will ask unanimous consent for an amendment that includes NMB language from the original House-passed long-term FAA reauthorization, and this whole problem would go away. Again, in a few minutes, I am going to ask unanimous consent for an amendment that includes NMB language from the original House-passed long-term FAA reauthorization.

My critics will point out that both times I have previously asked consent, it has been for legislation that didn't

include the removal of the NMB's heavy new hand. However, I have spoken frequently on this issue, and I bet my position is very well known. I was hopeful my earlier request for consent would stimulate discussion on a long-term reauthorization and the issues preventing a long-term reauthorization from taking place.

My concern is that the White House and their allies in Congress will continue to hide behind a perpetual series of short-term extensions, rather than working toward an actual bill. This is why I have decided to ask unanimous consent for an amendment containing the NMB language, because it is clear this is the only way to move this issue forward—by NMB language getting the law back to where it really has been for 75 years. As my critics will point out, this wasn't my first choice. But as my critics have made clear, this is the only way to actually acknowledge and deal with the issue.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2553, which was received from the House; that the Hatch amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read the third time and passed; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, may I make a further comment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. I made one mistake in my remarks—which is very unusual. The repeal of the National Mediation Board's decision language did in fact pass the House. I said it didn't. It never passed the Senate and has never been debated in the Senate. The committee of jurisdiction has never brought it up, never had a hearing, and it was not raised during any of the floor considerations in the Senate.

I suggest that if we were operating under the rules the Senator from Utah wants to see happen, I don't think any of us would be here. I don't think there would be any mayors, Governors, or Senators, because most people don't vote. They would all be voting no. One way or another, we would not be here. It is ludicrous.

I regret very much that this card is being played. I regret even more the fact the business community and the airline community, in particular, led by Delta, was so quiet during all of this.

I got a message in the middle of this afternoon that the American Transportation Association, which is a legacy of the big airlines association, and Delta

in particular, wanted to pass a clean bill of extension.

Well, that doesn't work, Mr. President. It is so easy to say we would like to have it passed. But it is much too late to do anything about it. There are no phone calls. The whole thing is really a sham. It is very painful, and potentially very threatening, to West Virginia. I therefore object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas is recognized.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I have not wanted to pursue this issue, because the debt ceiling issue has absorbed all of the air in the room and in the United States, as it should; it is a huge priority. But I have to set the record straight a little bit about how this came about.

First, I agree with the House position. I would reverse the NMB decision because I think it is wrong. However, what happened here is that, after 20 extensions of the FAA bill because of disagreements on several issues, the House decided to put this one—well, actually, to be honest, the House didn't even bring up NMB; they put another issue on the extension language, and it is the Essential Air Service language, which we have been trying to negotiate but have not yet come to a full agreement on among all of the parties. It is really the NMB issue that is causing the House to shut down the FAA. So the entire FAA—not the air traffic controllers, thank goodness but 3,492 employees of the FAA have been shut down, and this affects 35 States. They are on furlough without pay, through no fault of their own.

And interestingly, airports that were in the midst of building runways or adding to their infrastructure or repairing their infrastructure also have had work stoppages because of the House action. The Associated General Contractors of America has estimated that 70,000 construction and related jobs are at risk because the House put an Essential Air Service amendment on a clean extension of the FAA.

Mr. President, I want the House position to prevail. But we are getting ready, in the next day or so, to leave probably for the month of August and then come back after Labor Day. We should not shut down the FAA because of a rider put on the extension of the FAA legislation that has not been negotiated.

In fact, Mr. President, the House has not even appointed conferees. The chairman of the House committee has not called a meeting of the chairman of the Senate, plus the two ranking members. There has been no full negotiation with the principals. Yet the House put this extraneous amendment on the bill, and the FAA is shut down and the lives of 70,000 people are at risk.

We got a letter from Boeing because they are trying to get their new Boeing 747-8 certification, but the workers are

not there to do it. So in addition to the work stoppages—and the FAA has now issued a total of 219 stop-work orders across the country—we also are seeing the certification of a great new airplane also on hold. That may start disrupting the capability for the airlines that have purchased these planes to be able to start flying the airplanes and upgrading their services.

This just does not make sense. We are going to lose \$1 billion in the aviation trust fund if we leave this Congress for the month of August and we don't extend the FAA—\$1 billion of revenue paid by passengers in a ticket tax. They are paying it, but it is just not going to the aviation trust fund. It is going to the airlines in the form of a higher ticket price. It should be going to the aviation trust fund because that is what we use to build the runways and to make the repairs and to keep our airports operating. So we are going to lose \$1 billion in revenue.

Here we are, on the brink of cutting spending and raising the debt ceiling and trying to put our fiscal house in order. Yet we are going to let \$1 billion be lost that rightfully should go to the aviation trust fund. The users are going to pay for it anyway, and that money is going to have to be made up. How is it going to be made up? It is going to have to come from general revenue because contracts have already been let. That money is going to have to be spent.

I cannot think of anything more fiscally irresponsible than to tax the users, not put it in the aviation trust fund and have to replace that money at some point.

I am a fiscal conservative, and I am trying to make the cuts that are necessary, trying to do the things that are right. But I have to question those who are saying we are going to not be for essential air service—which has a total budget of about \$200 million—but we are going to waste \$1 billion to not let a bill go through that keeps the aviation trust fund and the FAA going. That just doesn't add up.

If we are going to be sincere about the wise use of our taxpayer dollars, I don't think it is right taking money from people who are traveling on the airlines and who are thinking that money is a ticket tax to pay for airport infrastructure when, in fact, it is going into the airlines' pockets, and then having the taxpayer make up that money because these contracts have already been let. Is that fiscal responsibility?

Here we are on the eve of trying to show fiscal responsibility and do the right thing for our country. I don't think so, Mr. President. It doesn't pass the smell test.

I hope my colleagues, before we leave—and the House of Representatives and the people who are supporting them in the Senate—will relent

and let the FAA keep operating. Let's come back in the month of September and negotiate an FAA bill as we normally do in this Congress. If we can't come to an agreement, then, on the NMB—and I am certainly going to support changing the decision that was made—maybe we can talk harshly and throw down the gauntlet, but not without any notice, adding it to this FAA extension without ever negotiating on it. That is not the way we ought to operate. It is enough to make the people of our country think: You know what. We expect better. We expect better, and I expect better.

I cannot believe my colleagues would let the FAA shut down and jeopardize 70,000 jobs and take money from airline travelers—when on their ticket it says ticket tax for aviation trust fund—and defraud them because that tax is not going to the aviation trust fund. Is that going to make the people of our country believe Congress is doing the right thing? It doesn't pass the smell test.

It is time for the airlines of this country to stand up and say: We need a clean extension of the FAA, and we need for the House and Senate to meet, as we normally do, in a conference and take up the issues. As I said, I am going to support the reversal of the NMB decision, and I am going to support a reform of essential air service in the context of negotiating perimeter rule and other issues that are in contention, which is the honorable way to proceed. But I don't feel very good right now about what the Senate is doing in supporting the House in an irresponsible position that is defrauding the airline passengers of this country right now because they are collecting a ticket tax that is not going to the aviation trust fund.

It is wrong, Mr. President. I hope in the next few hours our colleagues will come to their senses, do the right thing, pass a clean extension, and send it to the House, where I hope they, too, will act so that we can have a conference committee and work out the issues with honor and integrity.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I understand the anguish of my dear friend from Texas, and I don't disagree, except for one thing. The tax is not being charged, and that should be a savings to the customers and consumers who are using the air services. But whether it is or isn't, that takes away from the major issue, and there may be another issue on essential air service, I don't know, because I am not on these committees. I have been asked by our leadership to make these objections.

What is important here—and it is not some itty-bitty little thing—is that we have labor law regulators out of control. When the NMB—the National Mediation Board—which is run by a bunch

of Democrats—comes out and does away with 75 years of labor law with just the stroke of a pen and makes employee votes not important, that is not some little itty-bitty issue. That is a big-time issue.

For 75 years unions have been winning union elections by getting a majority of the employees in a firm, not by getting a majority of those who vote. Those other people, whether they vote or not—and they may be sick, they may be ill, they may not have been able to be there, they may have been out of town—their votes are important as well. The unions have always had to get a majority, and they have done that year after year after year in most situations and in most union elections.

Let me give an example: Let's say you have a company with 1,000 employees and only 100 show up, and 51 of them vote for the union. Is it right to bind all 1,000 employees in the company itself when only 51 out of the 1,000 employees have voted for it? Of course, it is not. This is a very important issue.

All those who propose getting this long-term extension, or even a short-term extension, have to do is correct the National Mediation Board. Get union elections back to where a majority of employees are a requisite in order to have a union, and I don't think there would be any problem in solving this problem. It would be solved in a nanosecond.

Now, maybe this essential air service language is something that might cause problems. Well, I would suggest both sides get together and try to resolve those issues. But this is not some little, small issue. This is a big issue.

It even becomes bigger when you consider the National Labor Relations Board, run 3-to-1 by Democrats, and the President will not appoint the recommended Republican to make it an even 3-to-2, so it is 3-to-1. They are running ramshackle fast over labor laws in this country. This kind of oppressing is something they will do, if they can, in a nanosecond. They have been saying they are going to do it. They have been trying to enact card check for years. In fact, they have been trying to enact labor law reform—which I fought back in 1977 and 1978—for years so they can give the unions a decided advantage that should not be given under any circumstances in union elections.

If this gets through—the NMB—then what would stop the National Labor Relations Board, which handles millions of employees—millions of employees—from doing the same and continuing to do things that are just outrageous, like they are doing? They are usurping the ability of this legislature, the Congress of the United States, to run these issues the way they should be run. They should not be acting as a

superlegislature, enacting laws from a partisan board to do these things.

This is not some little issue. This is a big issue. I wish I wasn't in the middle of it. I just happened to be here one day when I was the last one here, and I had to object. But I knew when I did object it was the right thing to do under the circumstances.

If we allow these boards to usurp our powers of the legislative branch of government and do anything they want to do because they have a supermajority—a superpartisan majority—then this country can't last, and the freedoms we all value will not last.

The freedoms we all value won't last. I don't want to see anybody not paid. I don't want to see anybody not be able to do their job. But, by gosh, I don't want to see a runaway National Mediation Board, either, or a National Labor Relations Board that will use a precedent such as this in ways it really shouldn't be used. So these are not small issues.

I hope we can get together. I hope the two committees will get together and resolve this issue. I am not on either of the committees. I am just someone who around here has had to stand up on some of these labor union issues—not against unions. I am one of the few persons in this whole Congress who actually earned a union card and became a skilled tradesman and worked for 10 years in the building construction trade union, and I am proud of it. But I have to say that I am going to call on both sides to get this problem solved and get rid of allowing the National Mediation Board to usurp the powers of the legislative branch of government and get the law back where it was, where it is more fair and where it makes sense. If we do that, I don't see why this would be held up for 10 seconds.

So I call on both sides to try to resolve this issue. I don't feel good being in the middle of it just because I happened to be on the floor at the wrong time. All I can say is that, having gotten in the middle of it, as much as I love and admire the distinguished Senator from Texas and appreciate and admire and love my friend from West Virginia—and I do—this could be resolved, and there is no reason we shouldn't resolve it. This is an important issue, and all I can say is that I would like to help get it resolved, if I can, and if I can, I will. But both sides have to get together, and that includes both sides of Capitol Hill. I think this problem could be resolved, but these are not little issues.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MERKLEY). The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Utah, and I appreciate his passion for the issue. I agree with him on the issue.

The way for us to get together and resolve it is to have a conference com-

mittee, to have the conferees appointed on the House side. The conferees are appointed on the Senate side already, and we are ready to negotiate this bill. And I am going to be for the same position as the Senator from Utah because I don't think NMB made the right decision. I think it is a terrible overstretch, overreach of that board to change the law or change the regulation about what is a union election. I think they are wrong.

But we cannot solve the issue with the House sending an extension of the FAA with a rider that is completely separate from that issue. NMB is not in the rider, it is not in the rider at all, but that is the issue everybody is negotiating unilaterally here. The House has sent over a bill that has an essential air service amendment that also has not been negotiated, but what they are negotiating on is the National Mediation Board. Well, if that is confusing, there is a reason—because it is confusing.

So why don't we unconfuse and have a conference committee the way we normally do here, and let's hash out these issues. If we would have a chance to actually have a conference, negotiate all the issues, and then if someone is not satisfied, there are procedures that are honorable to blow up a bill that you don't like, but it is not honorable for the House to send an extraneous amendment on an FAA extension and shut down airports that are being repaired and built in our country, jeopardizing an estimated 75,000 jobs, jeopardizing the certification of a major new airplane that wants to get out there and start being used and an aviation trust fund that will lose over \$1 billion because we are not collecting the tax, and the airlines are pocketing the money by having a higher ticket charge, mostly. They may not all be doing that, but most of them are. That is just not right, and we are going to have to make that up because there are contracts pending that are going to have to be paid for.

It is not fiscally responsible, and it is not honorable, and it is time for us to pass a clean extension of the FAA. Let's negotiate until September 30, and then, if we can't agree, we won't sign a conference report and it won't come back. I will stand there and not sign a conference report, but it is kind of hard to do that if you are not doing the right thing by sitting down and talking.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Before the distinguished Senator from Texas leaves the floor, I wish to express my appreciation for her bipartisanship in working through this difficult issue.

Everyone understands that the labor issue is something that is overhanging this very important piece of legislation, but it shouldn't be hanging over

an extension of the bill. Tens of thousands of people are not working because of this. Actual safety of our airports is a concern to me. FAA is doing everything it can to make sure it is safe and sound, but 4,000 people who work for the Department of Transportation are off work, in addition to the tens of thousands of people who have construction jobs. We have a new airport control tower in Las Vegas being constructed. They worked about 2 weeks, and they are now all laid off. It is not fair.

This extension should go forward and be resolved in conference with the other body. It is so unfair. But this is not the last word. There will be more said about this. This is wrong.

We are going to be leaving town leaving up to 80,000 people who are construction workers out of work. We need those jobs. I can't stress enough how much we need those jobs. So it is too bad.

I do thank my friend, the Senator from Texas, for being so forward-leaning on this and not being partisan. I appreciate that very much.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Chair lays before the body the House message to accompany S. 365, I be recognized to move to concur in the House amendments; that the time until noon, Tuesday, August 2, be for debate on the motion to concur, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; that at noon, the Senate proceed to vote on the Reid motion to concur; that the motion to concur be subject to a 60-vote threshold; that no amendments, points of order, or other motions be in order to the message prior to the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. For the information of all Senators, it is my intention to have the Chair lay before the Senate the House message to accompany S. 365 at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow morning, August 2. There will be no rollcall votes tonight. The first one will be tomorrow at noon.

Mr. President, I would suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, we do have a financial crisis in our country. The debt limit we will be considering tomorrow is the thermometer, the canary in the coal mine that tells us we are at a dangerous level. For example, we have reached it faster and at higher levels than we ever have, the result of which is that our debt rise is telling us we have to raise our debt limit. Those things happen periodically, but this one would be the largest debt limit increase in our history. We have never had such a surge.

The deficit for this single fiscal year ending is expected to be \$1.5 trillion. The largest deficit President Bush ever had, and it was large, was \$450 billion. The last 2 years have been \$1.2 trillion, \$1.3 trillion, and this year it is expected to be \$1.5 trillion. Under the President's budget, we will go from interest on our debt this year of \$240 billion to \$940 billion in the tenth year. That is for a single year.

For example, our education and transportation budgets have greatly expanded. Spending \$940 billion on interest will crowd out tremendous portions of the good things we would like to do with taxpayers' money. Instead of being able to improve our infrastructure or do other things we think could be good, we will be sending that money to debtholders abroad to pay them back for the money they have loaned us that we have been spending now. As I speak, 42 cents of every dollar we spend will be borrowed.

This is a very real situation. I have always felt that we have a responsibility to be honest with our constituents, and we are going to need to raise the debt limit. It places too much risk on our economy not to raise it. But I want to share some thoughts about why I am uneasy about the legislation that is before us and why I will not be able to support it.

I have been warning for months now that we are heading to a situation in which we will have a last-minute, eleventh-hour bill; that the Senate will be asked to pass it without adequate time to review it; that other bad items could be included in this debt limit increase. Additionally, it is not the kind of process we need to pursue.

Our Democratic leadership decided they did not want to bring up a budget. They instructed the Budget Committee chairman—of which I am the ranking member—not to bring up a budget. When asked about it, the majority leader said it would be foolish to have a budget.

We have gone now 824 days without a budget under the Democratic majority in the Senate at a time when we have had the largest deficits in American history. At this extremely important time we do not have a budget. They said it would be foolish to have a budget. My question is, Why would it be foolish? Because, if you pass a budget—and one can be passed with a mere 50 votes. It is given an expedited procedure. It cannot be filibustered, it is guaranteed a vote in 50 hours, but you have a right to file amendments. When you file and get a vote on amendments, then people are held accountable for their yea or nay.

We have had a lot of people say we would like to do more. Maybe if we had a budget we would have had a chance to vote on spending.

The problem is a decision was made that it would be too difficult to execute

the normal, regular order in the Senate, to bring forth a budget and actually have amendments filed and Senators do what they are paid to do. I think that is particularly problematic in light of what happened in the last election. The American people are not happy with us. They rightly believe that Congress cannot justify a situation in which 42 cents of every dollar we spend is borrowed. Congress cannot justify a \$1.5 trillion deficit this year. People are not happy about that. I have been to town meetings and people say: You work for me. I am not happy.

You have seen that on television in the last election. It was a shellacking for those who thought that business as usual ought to continue in the United States of America; that money could just be borrowed, borrowed and spent, and when the problems hit we would just raise taxes on the American people and they would have to pay for our spending binge. People are not happy with this.

They were demanding, among other things, accountability. They were demanding that we in Congress be responsible for what we do. We should be transparent and willing to answer at home for what we had done. That is a fair request in a great Republic such as ours. I have been critical of the absence of a budget. We will not vote on one.

We had the Reid proposal and the Boehner proposal and finally this compromise proposal. Our colleagues, the Democratic majority, brought up the House budget so they could vote it down. It was a historic budget. They did it publicly. They voted on the floor. There were amendments. The House plan reduced spending by as much as \$6 trillion. They changed the debt course of America. I would have liked to have seen them go further because even that plan to alter the debt trajectory of America, bringing down our deficits, still did not balance in the 10th year.

People say the House was radical and they did strange things. Not so. Read that budget. It was an honest budget based on good numbers. It changed the debt course of America. But even that, as I said, did not go as far as we really need to go.

The House did its bit and we did nothing in return. Now we get to the point where the debt limit, August 2, is upon us and we are supposed to vote. This morning at 3 a.m., apparently, legislation was finally put together. It was brought forth to the floor of the Senate. We will vote on it tomorrow morning, maybe noon, after a couple of hours of debate tomorrow. I am really uneasy about that. I am uneasy about what is contained in it.

What does it do? The good part is it reduces our spending by about \$2.1 trillion, maybe \$2.4 trillion. A more solid belief is we will reduce spending if Congress adheres to the guidelines. Over a period of years we tend to figure ways

around the limits and constraints that are put on spending, but the plan is to reduce spending by \$2.1 trillion.

It is a step. It is better than more spending like we have been doing. In the last 2 years under President Obama, when the Democratic majority had 60 Senators in the Senate, non-defense discretionary spending went up 24 percent. The budget that the President submitted this year calls for a 13.5 percent increase in education for next year. Beginning October 1, fiscal year 2012, when we are in the worst financial shape ever, a 13.5 percent increase in spending? Is that common sense? Does that make reasonable judgment? Is that a reasonable judgment for America, when we are in a situation such as this?

It proposes a 9.5 percent increase in the Energy Department. It proposes a 10.5 percent increase in the State Department. It proposes a 60-percent increase in the Highway Department. And I'm told there will be a tax. I ask them: Mr. Secretary, what tax?

It will not be a gas tax.

I say: OK, we agree, it is not a gas tax. What is the tax?

We will talk about that.

The Congressional Budget Office said that is no income. You cannot say you have income to offset a big increase in high-speed rail and things like that if you do not have a source of revenue.

That is the situation in which we find ourselves. We have a deep, philosophical disagreement. The majority in this Senate and the President believe in spending. When I said 24 percent increase, that did not include the almost \$1 trillion in the stimulus package. It did not include that, all of which, every penny, was borrowed because we are in debt. When you spend this extra money, you borrow the money. We do not have it to spend.

However, we have a disagreement about where we are heading in our country. We should have had a full, glorious debate in the Senate. The Finance Committee should be looking at how to deal with taxes. The Appropriations Committee should be asking how can we reduce expenditures. Every authorizing committee needs to be looking at what they can do to do the job better with less cost and more efficiently. The Budget Committee should be producing a budget that can be adhered to and passed, and that would bind the Senate to change the spending trajectory we have been on. But none of that has happened.

Instead, we have a bill to raise the debt limit. We are here because we spent so much money. We are up at the limit and if we do not raise the debt limit there will be substantial reductions in spending occurring pretty quickly. That is where we are.

I believe this bill raises serious questions about the Senate and how we do business. As I said, I warned that we

would be at the eleventh hour when it all came forward.

One thing particularly concerning to me as the ranking member of the Budget Committee is that this bill deems certain budget numbers and in a way gets around, again, the budget process. It is going to give my colleagues, the Democratic majority, additional avenues to avoid producing a budget for the third consecutive year. I do not believe that is a healthy process.

Second, I ask my colleagues to think about this, and I will wrap up. I don't need to go into great detail about it. We are being asked to allow our leaders to select up to 12 people, 12 people who will be on a special committee and will have almost complete jurisdiction to work on any issue they choose. After they reach an agreement, if they do, that agreement will be presented to both Houses of Congress. There will be only 30 hours of debate, no opportunity to amend it, and there will be an up-or-down vote. I have to say the chance of an up-or-down vote being successful is very high, because the product that will come out of that committee will be in harmony with what the leaders who appointed the members of the committee desire, because the power to appoint is the power to control.

The committee will come back with this leadership proposal. It will be on the floor and it will be for an up-or-down vote and it is very likely to pass. Hopefully, it will have some good things in it. But it is unlikely that it would go past \$1.5 trillion in reduced spending over 10 years. That is roughly what they have been given. That on top of the \$900 billion that would go into effect immediately with the passage of the legislation would result in about a \$2.4 trillion total.

I believe that is an insufficient number. It is not close to what we have to do given our expected debt. Over 10 years the debt of the United States will increase an additional \$13 trillion. Reducing it \$2 trillion is not enough. We have heard the economists and others testify before the Budget Committee. Republicans and Democrats, say those reductions are not sufficient. Many economists said the absolute minimum was \$4 trillion, and this will be half that.

That legislation will then come before us. We will have an up-or-down vote and presumably it will pass. The great traditions of the Senate, full, free, open debate will not occur to the degree that it ought to occur. The regular order will not be followed. Committees will have only an ability to send over advice if they so desire. As a result, I think we as Members of the Senate need to ask ourselves if we are getting pretty far away from the traditions of this body when you do not have public debate on a budget, you create a committee of limited numbers of people to produce legislation that

cannot be amended and will only be up-or-down and no ability to have a supermajority vote, but a 50-vote, contrary to the normal process of this body.

For those reasons I believe, as a Senator and a ranking member on the Budget Committee who has wrestled with this for some time, I will not be able to support the legislation, although I truly believe it is a step forward, and I respect my colleagues who worked hard to try to bring it forward.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period for mornings business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EAST AFRICA FAMINE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, many of us undoubtedly remember the heart wrenching images of starving Ethiopian and Somali children in the 1980s and 1990s. Those haunting images are hard to forget.

Unfortunately, I am compelled to come to the floor to draw attention to a tragic famine again confronting that part of the world.

On July 21, the United Nations declared "famine level food insecurity" in two regions in southern Somalia.

What does "famine level food insecurity" mean?

It means three tragic conditions are all occurring at the same time. First, malnutrition rates exceed 30 percent. Second, access to food and water is below subsistence levels for extended periods of time. And third, more than 2,000 to 10,000 people are dying of hunger each day.

Or more simply—a severe famine threatens the lives of 11 million people in east Africa today. The area affected by famine is expected to expand in coming weeks—and if not addressed soon—in coming months.

These millions of men, women, and children in Somalia and around the Horn of Africa are literally starving to death. These are children who will never reach their full potential because they do not have simple nutrients to fully develop—nutrients we take for granted.

Josette Sheeran, executive director of the World Food Program, carries around devastating photos showing what malnutrition does to the brain development of children.

She notes that when a child is born, about 60 percent of that baby's brain is formed and, if in the next 3 years in life they don't have adequate nutrition, their brains will not grow to maturity.

Her photos show the brain of a 3-year-old child who was properly nourished and that of a child who was malnourished. The actual volume of the brain of the malnourished child is as much as 40 percent smaller.

These are the innocent victims of hunger in east Africa and sadly, in still too many other corners of the globe.

I am happy to note that the U.S. is the largest bilateral donor of emergency assistance to this growing crisis. We have responded with over \$431 million in food and nonfood emergency assistance this year alone. And Secretary of State Clinton just announced an additional \$28 million in aid for people in Somalia and for Somali refugees in Kenya.

But more needs to be done and the United States cannot solve this crisis alone.

How did this happen again?

The Horn of Africa is rife with challenges, both natural and man-made. The region has had two insufficient rainy seasons culminating in the driest growing season recorded in 60 years.

Neither crops nor livestock are surviving, so food and commodities now sell at prices well beyond the reach of the country's people.

The price of red sorghum, a staple crop in Somalia, has increased more than 200 percent. In Kenya, the price of white corn has increased 58 percent. And in Ethiopia, the price of yellow corn has increased by more than 100 percent.

Millions of people, including in the neighboring countries of Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Uganda are also at risk of starvation.

It's also a man-made crisis. Somalia's central government collapsed over 20 years ago. And al-Shabaab, a terrorist organization, has controlled much of southern Somalia since 2006.

Not surprisingly, the two areas most acutely experiencing famine are in southern Somalia, which is under al-Shabaab-control. Al-Shabaab recently expelled relief organizations, which effectively destroyed food-aid distribution channels—the lifeline for Somalis trapped under their control.

The mounting food crisis is also creating a refugee crisis that recognizes no borders. Already almost 25 percent of the Somali population—2 million out of 7.5 total million people—are displaced.

Kenya, with 3.5 million people who are vulnerable to food insecurity, is also already home to Dadaab, the largest refugee camp in the world.

This camp was built 20 years ago as a temporary shelter for 90,000 people. Today it holds 400,000. And another 1,300 refugees arrive every day from Somalia.

In Ethiopia, a refugee camp called Dollo Ado is holding 120,000 people. But with a population of 3.2 million people affected by the famine, this camp is growing by 2,000 people per day.

Mogadishu, the hollowed out capital of Somalia, has become an oasis in southern Somalia because relief organizations are allowed to operate life-saving programs there. This is the city that thousands of people have fled in the past 20 years due to violence.

Can you imagine Mogadishu being an oasis?

Yet the capital city is seeing a daily influx of 1,000 to 1,500 people.

This network of emergency and humanitarian programs is the only hope for millions of people and deserves continued international support.

Stepping in to provide food, water and basic sustenance where there is none is not only the right thing to do, it is the American thing to do. We have always led and joined efforts to help the most vulnerable around the world and should continue to do so.

The House passed its Agriculture Appropriations for 2012 and chose to reduce the aid available for emergencies like these by 49 percent.

Thankfully, USAID is on the ground in Africa providing expertise, and Administrator Shah personally visited the region last week.

And the Feed the Future Program—which is modeled on the Global Food Security Act I sponsored with Senators LUGAR and CASEY—has been undertaken by the Obama administration. The program works to break the cycle of hunger and food insecurity by getting at the root causes and helping countries develop their own viable agricultural sectors.

As Josette Sheeran points out, “for the first time in most people's memory we're in a post-surplus world. There is no surplus of food in the world and you have one bad drought or one bad flood . . . it will impact the price of food globally.”

In the meantime, the international community needs to step up to the plate in east Africa before it is too late. And the United States must continue to show moral leadership even in a time of stretched budgets.

International donors are meeting this week in Nairobi to try to raise \$1.6 billion to help with this crisis in Africa. I urge our friends and allies around the world to help do their part.

ALLIED INVASION OF SICILY

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of the 68th anniversary of the Allied invasion of Sicily.

On July 10, 1943, under orders from GEN Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Fifteenth Army Group, comprised of GEN George Patton's Seventh Army and British GEN Bernard Montgomery's Eighth Army, began the Allied invasion of the island of Sicily, termed Operation Husky.

Prior to the ground invasion, brave Allied pilots softened the Axis defenses with heavy aerial bombardment. In the

early hours of July 10, Allied ground forces successfully landed on enemy shores with little resistance.

Over the next few days Allied forces continued on with much success. On July 11 and 12 enemy forces attempted numerous counterattacks, all of which were repelled by the skill and determination of the American forces. On July 22, an element of GEN Patton's Seventh Army captured the city of Palermo, the news of which so inspired the Italian people that on July 24 and 25 a palace revolt took place toppling the fascist government of Mussolini.

On July 31 Italian and German forces, faced with certain defeat, began a tactical withdrawal from Sicily.

One of the heroes of the action of July 31 received the Medal of Honor. Near Gagliano, Sicily, SGT Gerry H. Kisters, of Bloomington, IN, and nine other soldiers “. . . were advancing ahead of the leading elements of U.S. troops to fill a large crater in the only available vehicle route through Gagliano,” the award citation reads, and “. . . was taken under fire by 2 enemy machineguns. Sgt. Kisters and the officer, unaided and in the face of intense small arms fire, advanced on the nearest machinegun emplacement and succeeded in capturing the gun and its crew of 4. Although the greater part of the remaining small arms fire was now directed on the captured machinegun position, Sgt. Kisters voluntarily advanced alone toward the second gun emplacement. While creeping forward, he was struck 5 times by enemy bullets, receiving wounds in both legs and his right arm. Despite the wounds, he continued to advance on the enemy, and captured the second machinegun after killing 3 of its crew and forcing the fourth member to flee.”

For his actions under fire Lieutenant Kisters received our Nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor.

Lieutenant Kisters, like so many Hoosiers before and since the Battle of Sicily, demonstrated the stalwart courage and self-sacrifice that is necessary to preserve the freedom and liberty that we all too often take for granted.

Lieutenant Kisters, in addition to receiving the Medal of Honor, also received a Distinguished Service Cross and a Bronze Star during WWII, not to mention his Purple Heart, and continues to be remembered and honored in Indiana, where last year July 31 was named Gerry Kisters Day in Bloomington, and in 1945 Monroe County Airport was dedicated as Kisters Field in honor of the Medal of Honor awardee.

As we recognize these historical events, I call attention to the 99,500 military personnel who today are on the ground in Afghanistan, with another 31,000 deployed to the region aboard ships at sea, on bases, and air stations in the region supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Mr. President, 48,110 personnel are deployed to

Iraq, with another 32,000 deployed to the region aboard ships at sea, on bases, and air stations; 4,469 have been killed in Iraq operations since 2003, and 1,638 have been killed in Afghanistan since 2001. These men and women continue to answer the call to serve a cause greater than themselves as those men did in Operation Husky 68 years ago this month. I ask my colleagues here today to join me in humbly honoring Lieutenant Kisters, and all those who have and continue to serve our Nation in uniform, for their inspirational service, selflessness, and sacrifice.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT NATHAN R. BEYERS

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and heroic service of a young Coloradan, SGT Nathan R. Beyers. Sergeant Beyers died on July 7, 2011, when insurgents attacked his convoy with an improvised explosive device in Baghdad, Iraq. Sergeant Beyers was serving in support of Operation New Dawn. He was 24 years old.

Sergeant Beyers loved the Army and he was proud to be serving our country. Born and raised in Littleton, CO, Sergeant Beyers graduated from ThunderRidge High School. He joined the Idaho National Guard a few years ago, and he was assigned to Bravo Company, 145th Brigade Support Battalion, 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team.

He is remembered by family, friends, and servicemembers as a brave soldier, dedicated husband, and proud father. Sergeant Beyers and his wife, Vanessa Mary Beyers, recently had their first child. Vanessa said that he died "doing something he loved." Hundreds gathered at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver to honor and remember Sergeant Beyers.

Sergeant Beyers' commanding officers immediately recognized his exceptional bravery and talent. He earned, among other decorations, the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Iraq Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star.

Mark Twain once said, "The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time." Sergeant Beyers's service was in keeping with this sentiment: by selflessly putting country first, he lived life to the fullest. He lived with a sense of the highest honorable purpose.

Mr. President, I stand with Colorado and people nationwide in profound gratitude for Sergeant Beyers's tremendous sacrifice. He served proudly and honorably in Iraq when his country needed him most. We are humbled by his service and his sacrifice. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending heartfelt sympathy and condolences to Sergeant Beyers's family.

MARDI GRAS INDIANS HALL OF FAME DAY

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, most of my Senate colleagues are aware of the rich culture and heritage that is on display in Louisiana during the days and weeks before Lent. Parties and parades mark the end of the Mardi Gras season and the beginning of fasting and sacrifice. But few outside of Louisiana are familiar with the unique tradition of the Mardi Gras Indians.

I rise today to celebrate this unique Louisiana tradition and recognize the Mardi Gras Indians Hall of Fame Day to be celebrated at Oretha Castle Haley Elementary School in New Orleans, LA, on August 7, 2011.

The history of the Mardi Gras Indians dates back to the late 1800s, but their origin remains a mystery. Because most of their history and practices have been passed from generation to generation orally, we may never know if the Mardi Gras Indians came about to pay homage to Native Americans for hiding runaway slaves or simply as a expression of the connection between Native Americans and African Americans. What we do know is that their tradition adds an incredible story to the history of New Orleans and Mardi Gras.

Today, the Mardi Gras Indians consist of more than 40 individual tribes. These tribes compete against one another using chants and music along with their elaborately decorated costumes called "suits." The suits are each hand sewn by the tribe members and typically take an entire year to complete. Ornaments on the suits can include feathers, ostrich plumes, beads, velvet, rhinestones, and sequins, all beautifully sewn together to tell the story of the individual tribe member and contribute to the tapestry of whole tribe. Native American, Aztec, Caribbean, and West African cultures have all greatly influenced the work of art that is the Mardi Gras Indian suit.

The traditions of the Mardi Gras Indians also include a hierarchy structure consisting of a "big chief," a "big queen," "chiefs," "spy boys," "flag boys," and "wild men," just to name a few. Every member of the tribe has a specific set of duties culminating in the big chief who represents the tribe against all other tribes.

In addition to being a key part of Mardi Gras, Mardi Gras Indians are strong community leaders in New Orleans and the surrounding areas. The Mardi Gras Indians have worked to preserve, celebrate, and advance the cultural arts and music of their tribes and communities. By doing this, the tribes have also continued to encourage the younger generations to learn and embrace the tribes' histories. One tribe, the Guardians of the Flame, has established a nonprofit called Guardians Institute to educate New Orleans children on the importance of art, music,

and history in order to keep these traditions alive.

Dr. Roslyn Smith, former principal of Oretha Castle Haley Elementary School in New Orleans, summarized the Mardi Gras Indians best by saying, "the Big Chiefs are community leaders, and in many ways they are social warriors, struggling to preserve traditions of beauty in the community while working to make the communities better places." Please join me in honoring and celebrating the Mardi Gras Indians and especially the Mardi Gras Indians Hall of Fame Day on August, 7, 2011.

CAMPBELL COUNTY, WYOMING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the Centennial of Campbell County, WY.

The citizens of Campbell County are blessed to live in this beautiful environment. Located in northeastern Wyoming and nestled in the Powder River Basin, the county is bordered by the Black Hills and the Big Horn Mountains. Its 39,000 residents live in the communities of Gillette, Wright, Weston and Rozet. Land was taken from previously established Weston and Crook counties to create the new district. Officially recognized on May 23, 1911, the county was named after John A. Campbell, Wyoming's first territorial Governor.

Campbell County as we know it today is vastly different from 100 years ago, but it is this shared history between today's residents and those of the past that creates a special bond. It has been host to Native Americans, fur trappers, mountain men, homesteaders, ranchers and oil men. The basin area was first used by members of the Sioux, Crow and Arapaho Native American tribes. They used the wide plains and grasslands as hunting grounds, and evidence of their presence can still be found today. Fur trappers and mountain men also traveled in the county. One such frontiersman, Robert Campbell, was a successful trader and explorer of the Rocky Mountains. He travelled through the county on his way to the Wind River Mountains.

The construction of the railroad had a major impact on the development of Campbell County. As the desire to move west increased, the residents of the county recognized the need to lay tracks of their own. Incorporated as a town in 1891, Gillette was originally developed as a transfer point for the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad. It was named after Edward Gillette, who was in charge of an early survey for the railroad. The addition of the railroad, along with the emigrant trails in the area, was essential to the establishment of the county.

Campbell County has since capitalized on these rich opportunities for growth and development. While ranching and agriculture are important industries, the extraction of coal, oil and

natural gas is widely acknowledged as the principal industry within Campbell County. The residents proudly recognized their county as the Energy Capital of the Nation. The Powder River Basin is the largest supplier of coal in the United States, providing nearly 40 percent of the Nation's coal. Coal mining has had an important role in the development of the county's infrastructure. For instance, Wright was built in close proximity to the Black Thunder coal mine, the second most productive coal mine in the United States. Improved technology in extraction methods has increased the production of coal bed methane gas and oil. These advancements will continue to serve the nation's growing energy needs well into the future.

This year, the Campbell County Centennial Committee has planned several countywide celebrations, including the installation of a Survey Plaque in the Campbell County Courthouse. In addition, the Centennial Ranch Committee plans to honor the members of 33 ranches that have been in operation for 100 years or longer. It is my pleasure to recognize the following ranches and their commitment to preserving Wyoming's ranching way of life: the Brennan Ranch, T-Chair Ranch, Pumpkin Butte Ranch, Christensen Ranch, Clabaugh Ranch, Collins Ranch, Daly Ranch, Fitch Ranch, 2 Heart Ranch, Hall Ranch, Innes Ranch, Kretschman Ranch, Little Buffalo Ranch, T7 Ranch, Maycock Ranch, Mooney Ranch, Morse and Harris Family Ranch, Have Not Ranch, Oedekoven Ranch, Pahasha Ranch, Parks Ranch, Parks Evans Ranch, Paul Rourke Ranch, Sorenson Ranch, Swartz Ranch, Thar Ranch, Underwood Ranch, Wright Ranch, Barlow Ranch, Bridle Bit Ranch, John Hines Ranch, Kuhbacher Ranch and West Cross V Ranch.

In honor of the centennial of Campbell County, I invite my colleagues to see this wonderful place in person. I applaud the residents of the county for their efforts to celebrate such rich history and to present it to visitors from all over the world.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF CENTRAL WYOMING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, on Tuesday, August 9, 2011, I will have the honor of announcing the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming's Youth of the Year at their annual award and recognition breakfast. This event is a wonderful celebration. In addition to the Youth of the Year, the Boys and Girls Clubs will honor two of Wyoming's own: Vice President Dick Cheney and Lynne Vincent Cheney. They are being recognized for their devotion and commitment to the youth in our communities and across the State of Wyoming. While both of these distinguished individuals have received

many honors and accolades, to be recognized by the Boys and Girls Clubs is very special to them.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming is a great organization that continues to have a positive impact in the lives of youth. They serve all children, regardless of economic circumstances. Dedicated staff and volunteers enthusiastically work with the students, creating an environment that fosters their positive growth and development. Young people are provided the tools and opportunities needed to succeed. Hundreds of kids benefit each year from the Boys and Girls Clubs.

The mission of the Boys and Girls Clubs is to create a better future for its members through focusing on positive outcomes: academic success, good character and citizenship as well as healthy lifestyles. At this year's awards and recognition breakfast, three outstanding young people will be honored and one will be chosen as the 2011-2012 Youth of the Year. These young citizens have excelled in all of the positive outcomes, and serve as excellent examples for other youth to follow.

Jessica Treto is a sophomore at Kelly Walsh High School. She loves to play card games with younger club members and admits she hardly ever wins. Jessica wants to be a counselor because she enjoys helping people.

Chrissy Stufft is also a sophomore at Kelly Walsh High School. She is a cheerleader and plays third base on her softball team. Her favorite television show CSI has inspired Chrissy to be a forensic scientist.

Anthony MacMillan is a junior at Natrona County High School. Anthony is an avid swimmer. Due to his love for cooking, he wants to be a pastry chef.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jessica, Chrissy, and Anthony. Knowing of these fine young people gives me the confidence that the future of America is in good hands.

TRIBUTE TO JORDAN BROWN

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Jordan Brown for his hard work as an Indian Affairs Committee intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Jordan is a native of Wyoming and graduated from Sheridan High School. He attends Stonehill College in Massachusetts where he is majoring in political science and minoring in business administration. Throughout his internship, he has demonstrated a strong work ethic which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the time he has been with us.

I thank Jordan for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL DECECCO

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Daniel DeCecco for his hard work as an intern in my Rock Springs office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Daniel is a native of Wyoming and graduated from Green River High School. He attends the University of Wyoming, where he is majoring in business economics and international studies. Throughout his internship, he has demonstrated a strong work ethic which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I thank Daniel for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN LYNCH

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Brian Lynch for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Brian is a native of Wyoming and graduated from Encampment High School. He attends the University of Wyoming, where he is majoring in criminal justice with a concentration in pre-law. Throughout his internship, he has demonstrated a strong work ethic which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I thank Brian for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.

TRIBUTE TO ABIGAIL MULCAHY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Abigail Mulcahy for her hard work as an intern in my Cheyenne office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Abigail is a native of Wyoming and graduated from Central High School. She attends the University of Wyoming, where she is majoring in political science and minoring in music. Throughout her internship, she has demonstrated a strong work ethic which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I thank Abigail for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.

TRIBUTE TO KYLIE NEGICH

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Kylie Negich for her hard work as an intern in my Sheridan office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Kylie is a native of Wyoming and graduated from Laramie High School. She attends the University of Wyoming, where she is majoring in business administration. Throughout her internship, she has demonstrated a strong work ethic which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I thank Kylie for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.

TRIBUTE TO RACHEL SCHMIDT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Rachel Schmidt for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Rachel is a native of Wyoming and graduated from North Atlantic Regional High School. She graduated from the University of Wyoming, where she majored in international studies and Spanish. Throughout her internship, she has demonstrated a strong work ethic which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I thank Rachel for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.

TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE SCHUM

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Katherine Schum for her hard work as an intern in my Cheyenne office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Katherine is a native of Wyoming and graduated from Cheyenne Central High School. She graduated from the University of Wyoming, where she majored in elementary education with a concentration in diversity. Throughout her internship, she has demonstrated a strong work ethic which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I thank Katherine for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.

TRIBUTE TO ALLISON STRUBE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Allison Strube for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Allison is a native of Wyoming and graduated from Laramie High School. She attends the University of Wyoming, where she is majoring in political science and minoring in German. Throughout her internship, she has demonstrated a strong work ethic which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I thank Allison for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.

TRIBUTE TO CLAYTON TANNER

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Clayton Tanner for his hard work as an intern in my Casper office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Clayton is a native of Wyoming and graduated from Lander Valley High School. He attends the University of Wyoming/Casper College where he is majoring in English and journalism. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his

work is reflected in his great efforts over the time he has been with us.

I thank Clayton for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL ZABRISKIE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Daniel Zabriskie for his hard work as an intern in my Casper office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Daniel is a native of Wyoming and graduated from Natrona County High School. He attends the University of Wyoming where he is majoring in criminal justice and minoring in communication. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I thank Daniel for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.

GOSHEN COUNTY, WYOMING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Centennial of Goshen County, WY.

Goshen County is remarkable. Its 13,250 residents are fortunate to live in the unique and diverse communities of Torrington, Lingle, Fort Laramie, LaGrange and Yoder. Nestled in a temperate basin along the North Platte River, the people have always connected with the land and its legacy. Officially recognized on February 24, 1911, the basin area has a rich history, one that gave the county its unique name. Legend has it an unknown traveler roamed the area known as Goshen's Hole. Though his identity was never discovered, he was most likely a trader or a fur trapper. The legend of the name's origins has long been celebrated and contended by the folks in this area.

Goshen County was a gateway to the Wild West, and its organization benefited from those headed westward. The Goshen Hole area, a popular stop for many, saw traffic from Native Americans, mountain men and fur traders. Thousands of emigrants following the California, Mormon and Oregon trails passed through the county by way of Fort Laramie. Established in 1834 along the banks of the Laramie River, the fort served as a trading post, post office, resting point and an important

military base during the Plains Indian Wars. Today, the community of Fort Laramie works to preserve the fort's key role in our State's history.

Between 1876 and 1887, the area hosted part of the Cheyenne-Black Hills Stage Route between Cheyenne and Deadwood, SD. The route provided safe transport of freight, gold and passengers through land inhabited by Sioux Indians. The town of LaGrange began as one of many stage stops created to accommodate these passengers—it is now the oldest incorporated town in Goshen County. The development of the Union Pacific Railroad extension project offered new opportunities and connected the county to an ever-expanding West. Yoder began as a station along the extension line into the valley, and later prospered as an agricultural center. These extended tracks—coupled with the stage routes—were vital to the county's establishment.

Today, the county is home to those looking to tame their own bit of the Wild West. Thanks to its temperate climate, agriculture is Goshen's primary industry. A highly developed irrigation system borrows waters from the North Platte River, the Hawk Springs reservoir and the Pathfinder Dam, which allows profitable crops of sugar beets, beans and wheat to prosper in the North Platte Valley. Small-acreage farms and sustainable growing practices bring the farming tradition into the 21st century. The county is consistently the leading beef producer in the state as over 200,000 head of cattle are raised each year. In addition, Goshen County is working to answer America's growing energy demands. Its proximity to the Niobrara Shale Formation provides the county with opportunities for future oil and natural gas production.

In honor of the 100th anniversary of Goshen County, I urge my colleagues to see this "Valley of Abundance" in person. I congratulate the citizens who have worked so hard to preserve the county's heritage. They should be proud to celebrate this landmark achievement.

CUBA

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I condemn in the strongest possible terms the Cuban regime's unjust incarceration of Alan Gross. As the editorial highlights and as the Castro regime well knows, Mr. Gross is simply a humanitarian who was seeking to help the Jewish community in Cuba access the Internet. Only the most oppressive, totalitarian regime would seek to jail someone for trying to expand access to uncensored information.

As this editorial notes, "The regime in Havana is so brittle and creaky that it blanches at the idea of its subjects communicating too freely with the outside world, lest they undermine a

communist system whose attempts at economic development have delivered scanty results."

I also take this opportunity to once again call on the Obama administration to halt its new Cuba policies that liberalize travel and expand allowable remittances to Cuba. This unilateral gift to the Castro brothers by the Obama administration is totally unwarranted, especially in light of Mr. Gross' case as well as the ongoing repression of the Cuban people.

I ask unanimous consent that a July 29, 2011, editorial by the Washington Post entitled "Cuba Should Free Alan Gross" be printed in the RECORD.

[From the Washington Post, July 29, 2011]

CUBA SHOULD FREE ALAN GROSS

Alan P. Gross, the U.S. Agency for International Development subcontractor who committed what Cuba considers the unconscionable offense of making the Internet available to members of its minuscule Jewish community, has almost exhausted possible judicial appeals of his 15-year prison sentence.

Mr. Gross, 62, a resident of Potomac, was arrested in December 2009 as he prepared to fly home from Havana. Convicted on trumped-up charges in March this year, he appeared a few days ago before Cuba's highest tribunal to appeal his conviction and plead for release. The outcome of his appeal, expected in the coming days, is certain to be dictated one way or another by Cuban leader Raul Castro—and will be a sign of whether Cuba is remotely interested in better relations with Washington.

Cuba, besides its repressive ally Venezuela, is virtually the only place in the Western Hemisphere where distributing laptop computers and satellite phone equipment intended to connect people to the Internet—Mr. Gross's supposed "crime"—could be construed as subversive. The regime in Havana is so brittle and creaky that it blanches at the idea of its subjects communicating too freely with the outside world, lest they undermine a communist system whose attempts at economic development have delivered scanty results.

There are plenty of humanitarian reasons to release Mr. Gross, who has been confined for 19 months. Somewhat overweight when he was arrested, Mr. Gross has lost 100 pounds, according to his wife and other American visitors who have been allowed to meet with him; he also suffers from gout, ulcers and arthritis. His daughter is struggling with cancer, and his mother is reported to be in poor health.

Cuban authorities have portrayed Mr. Gross as a spy involved in an enterprise aimed at undermining the regime. That seems unlikely in the extreme. In fact, Mr. Gross, a veteran development worker who had minimal command of Spanish, was part of a democratization project of the sort the U.S. government runs in countries all over the world.

At the time of his arrest, Mr. Gross was working for Development Alternatives Inc., a Bethesda firm that had won a \$6 million government contract to promote democracy in Cuba. His work consisted mainly of providing computers and satellite phones to Cuban Jews, a community thought to number about 1,500, so they could access the Internet, whose use is restricted in Cuba, and contact Jewish communities beyond Cuba's shores. Not exactly a cloak-and-dagger

project likely to bring the Castro brothers to their knees.

The Obama administration has made it clear that any improvement in relations with Cuba is on hold pending Mr. Gross's release. That's a fitting response to the communist regime's knee-jerk behavior in persecuting an American whose "crime," if any, may have been an excess of naiveté.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING DR. MELVIN SABSHIN

● Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Dr. Melvin Sabshin, a tireless advocate for mental health issues, who passed away on June 4, 2011. I am proud that Dr. Sabshin's family lives in Connecticut and honored to remember a man who spoke out against harmful discrimination, breaking down the stigma of mental health ahead of his time.

As the former director of the American Psychiatric Association, Dr. Sabshin worked diligently to advance the field of psychiatry by strengthening research efforts and advocating for increased mental health funding.

Dr. Sabshin was born on October 28, 1925, in New York City. Graduating high school at age 14 and college at 17, he was a scholar from childhood. After graduating from the University of Florida, he served briefly in the U.S. Army and then enrolled in medical school and completed his residency at Tulane University in Louisiana. Upon graduation from medical school, he practiced medicine at the Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago and eventually became the head of the University of Illinois' Department of Psychiatry.

At the University of Illinois, he became an active member of the American Psychiatric Association. In 1974 he was appointed medical director of the American Psychiatric Association and served as director until 1997. During his time, he oversaw the publication of new editions of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, which sets standard criteria for classifying mental health conditions.

In fighting discrimination, he worked tirelessly to eliminate homosexuality from the list of psychiatric disorders in the manual, and his work helped to change attitudes toward homosexuality. During his tenure as director, Dr. Sabshin was also a leading voice against the ideological manipulation of psychiatry by communist authorities in the Soviet Union.

Upon his retirement from the American Psychiatric Association, Dr. Sabshin was hired as a clinical professor at the University of Maryland's medical school. He also was an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. He is survived by his wife Marion Bennathan of London, his son Dr. James Sabshin of Woodbridge, CT, and four granddaughters.

Dr. Sabshin has been called "central to the evolution of modern American psychiatry." This characterization could not be more accurate. Dr. Sabshin's death is a great loss to the professional community and especially to all those who have benefited from his many years of great public service. I know my colleagues will join me in honoring the great life of Dr. Melvin Sabshin.●

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI DELTA RESEARCH CENTER

● Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 50th anniversary of the University of Missouri's Delta Research Center. The Portageville, MO, facility was officially dedicated on August 8, 1961, and has since become a beacon for the agriculture industry. I am so proud of the Delta Center's many accomplishments.

Over the course of five decades, the success of the Delta Center was made possible by a special team of experts from the University of Missouri, College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, a dedicated field staff, talented scientists, and the wisdom of top-notch agricultural leaders serving on the Delta Research Center's Advisory Board. The University of Missouri's Delta Research Center has advised farmers about boosting harvests and battling pests, while overseeing research with global implications. This includes the development of numerous strands of cotton and most notably 16 new soybean varieties, some with cyst nematode resistance, which has impact far beyond the rich cropland of the Bootheel of Missouri.

On September 2, 2011, the Delta Research Center will host the 50th Annual Field Day which showcases the world class studies they conduct, bringing together all sectors of the agriculture industry from those who plant the seed to those who market the product. It is always a day of learning and gives Missourians the tools needed to stay competitive in a global market. I look forward to joining hundreds of farmers, agri-businesses and others to learn the results of the special research that will be on display.

For our Nation to remain a leader in the production of food and fiber for our citizens and the world, we must continue important agriculture research like that conducted at the University of Missouri's Delta Research Center. Jake Fisher, superintendent and a dedicated employee for 50 years, summed it up best when he said, "Our team effort is not only about the results we bring about today; we must be focused on ten to fifteen years down the road, so we remain on the cutting-edge of agriculture production and technology."

Jake Fisher and his talented team at the University of Missouri's Delta Re-

search Center demonstrate every day that hard work, vision, and public-private partnerships can be successful in advancing our Nation's rich agricultural resources.

I am very proud of the many accomplishments of the University of Missouri's Delta Research Center and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the center on 50 years of service and monumental accomplishments in agriculture research.●

REMEMBERING DON DICKEY

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, Don Dickey, a longtime resident of Juneau, AK, passed away on June 25, 2011, at the age of 89. A native of Stockton, CA, Don moved to Alaska in 1952 to manage the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce. He returned to California in 1955 to work for the California State Chamber but in 1960 decided Alaska would be his home. It was then that he relocated, once again to Alaska, to organize the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce. He served as president for the Alaska State Chamber for 22 years.

In 1981, Don was named director of the Alaska Division of Tourism, working for Governor Hammond and then Governor Sheffield. He was a key player in the growth of Alaska's tourism industry.

Terry Miller, who served as Don's deputy when he directed the Alaska Division of Tourism remembers Don's effort to persuade all of those in the Alaska tourism business to join together in a cooperative marketing effort to sell Alaska as a destination, rather than their individual businesses. "He got the little mom and pop operations, the cruise companies, the airlines, everybody with a stake in it to pool their marketing dollars." Alaska's former Lieutenant Governor John Coghill described Don as, "the one who probably laid the blueprint for what happened later." What happened later was the emergence of Alaska as the premier visitor destination it is today.

Those who knew Don best describe him in these terms: classy, gentle, dynamic, charming, a great promoter of Alaska, and a very funny guy. His admirers refer to him as one "who could totally captivate a room and be very persuasive," and as one "who could inspire and motivate others."

I have known Don since I was a young girl growing up in southeast Alaska. He always had a joke, a story, or funny quip to share. My family and I have fond memories of good times spent together.

On behalf of the U.S. Senate and the people of Alaska, grateful for his leadership, as well as his wit, I extend condolences to Don's wife Gen, his children Dru and Dane, and all of those who mourn the loss of this exemplary Alaskan.●

TRIBUTE TO ERIN DUFFY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Erin Duffy, an intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past couple months.

Erin is a graduate of St. Thomas More High School in Rapid City, SD. Currently, she is attending Stanford University, where she is majoring in international relations and economics. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Erin for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO LAUREN HAAHR

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Lauren Haahr, an intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past couple months.

Lauren is a graduate of Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, she is attending the University of Iowa, where she is majoring in economics and ethics & public policy. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Lauren for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO PHILIP HENZLIK

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Philip Henzlik, an intern in my Rapid City, SD office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past couple months.

Philip is a graduate of Stevens High School in Rapid City and recently of Wyoming State University in Laramie, WY. He will be attending Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, OR, majoring in dentistry. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Philip for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ERIK KEVIN NYBERG

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Erik Kevin Nyberg, an intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past couple months.

Erik is a graduate of Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, he is attending Augustana College, where he is majoring in economics, business administration, and political science. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Erik for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO LAUREN WERTH

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Lauren Werth, an intern in my Washington, DC office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past couple months.

Lauren is a graduate of Aberdeen Central High School in Aberdeen, SD. Currently, she is attending Concordia College, where she is majoring in political science and French. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Lauren for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:50 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2062. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 45 Meetinghouse Lane in Sagamore Beach, Massachusetts, as the "Matthew A. Pucino Post Office".

At 2:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2715. An act to provide the Consumer Product Safety Commission with greater authority and discretion in enforcing the consumer product safety laws, and for other purposes.

At 3:18 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 398. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to toll, during active-duty service abroad in the Armed Forces, the periods of time to file a petition and appear for an interview to remove the conditional basis for permanent resident status, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1933. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the re-

quirements for admission of nonimmigrant nurses in health professional shortage areas.

At 7:36 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 365. An act to make a technical amendment to the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 70. Concurrent resolution correcting the enrollment of S. 365.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 398. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to toll, during active-duty service abroad in the Armed Forces, the periods of time to file a petition and appear for an interview to remove the conditional basis for permanent resident status, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1933. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the requirements for admission of nonimmigrant nurses in health professional shortage areas; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 2062. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 45 Meetinghouse Lane in Sagamore Beach, Massachusetts, as the "Matthew A. Pucino Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2801. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Quarterly Listings; Safety Zones; Security Zones; Special Local Regulations; Regulated Navigation Areas; Drawbridge Operation Regulations" (Docket No. USCG-2011-00732) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 29, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2802. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Quarterly Listings; Safety Zones; Security Zones; Special Local Regulations; Regulated Navigation Areas; Drawbridge Operation Regulations" (Docket No. USCG-2011-0732) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 29, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mrs. MURRAY, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 277. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care to veterans who were stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, while the water was contaminated at Camp Lejeune, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-42).

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN, from the Select Committee on Intelligence, without amendment:

S. 1458. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-43).

By Mrs. MURRAY, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, without amendment:

S. 894. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2011, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-44).

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN for the Select Committee on Intelligence.

*Matthew G. Olsen, of Maryland, to be Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 1455. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to authorize certified States and tribes to use amounts made available from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund for hard rock and coal mining reclamation projects and to extend liability protection to certified States and Indian tribes carrying out approved abandoned mine reclamation programs; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts):

S. 1456. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and expand tax relief for national disasters; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1457. A bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a Made in America Block Grant Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 1458. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; from the Select Committee on Intelligence; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 1459. A bill to prohibit air carriers from charging a fee for the transportation of checked baggage by members of the Armed Forces traveling to or from an overseas contingency operation; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. BURR):

S. 1460. A bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War II; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida:

S. 1461. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the Food and Drug Administration's jurisdiction over certain tobacco products, and to protect jobs and small businesses involved in the sale, manufacturing and distribution of traditional and premium cigars; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 1462. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to encourage and support parent, family, and community involvement in schools, and to provide needed integrated services and comprehensive supports to children for the ultimate goal of assisting students to stay in school, become successful learners, improve their academic achievement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 1463. A bill to amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to protect breastfeeding by new mothers and to provide for reasonable break time for nursing mothers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. BROWN of Ohio):

S. 1464. A bill to enable States to implement integrated statewide education longitudinal data systems; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1465. A bill to authorize a pilot program on enhancements of Department of Defense efforts on mental health in the National Guard and Reserves through community partnerships, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 1466. A bill to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays; considered and passed.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. HAGAN:

S. Res. 247. A resolution recognizing the accomplishments and efforts of John I. Wilson, executive director of the National Education Association, for dedicating his career to education professionals and students, and honoring his retirement; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. Res. 248. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 249. A resolution honoring the achievements of E. Thom Rumberger; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. Con. Res. 27. A concurrent resolution honoring the service of Sergeant First Class Leroy Arthur Petry, a native of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and the second living recipient of the Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War; to the Committee on Armed Services.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 48

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 48, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of pharmacists in National Health Services Corps programs, and for other purposes.

S. 274

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 274, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand access to medication therapy management services under the Medicare prescription drug program.

S. 344

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 344, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 344, *supra*.

S. 425

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 425, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of permanent national surveillance systems for multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, and other neurological diseases and disorders.

S. 438

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from New Jersey

(Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of S. 438, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve women's health by prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases in women.

S. 604

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 604, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 648

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 648, a bill to require the Commissioner of Social Security to revise the medical and evaluation criteria for determining disability in a person diagnosed with Huntington's Disease and to waive the 24-month waiting period for Medicare eligibility for individuals disabled by Huntington's Disease.

S. 668

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 668, a bill to remove unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats from seniors' personal health decisions by repealing the Independent Payment Advisory Board.

S. 697

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 697, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for amounts paid by a spouse of a member of the Armed Services for a new State license or certification required by reason of a permanent change in the duty station of such member to another State.

S. 722

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 722, a bill to strengthen and protect Medicare hospice programs.

S. 735

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 735, a bill to reauthorize the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004.

S. 756

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 756, a bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to provide for the public availability of Medicare claims data.

S. 798

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 798, a bill to provide an amnesty period during which veterans and their family members can register certain firearms in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record, and for other purposes.

S. 834

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 834, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve education and prevention related to campus sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

S. 839

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 839, a bill to ban the sale of certain synthetic drugs.

S. 1018

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1018, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, and the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 to provide for implementation of additional recommendations of the Defense Task Force on Sexual Assault in the Military Services.

S. 1019

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1019, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in order to support secondary school reentry programs.

S. 1048

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1048, a bill to expand sanctions imposed with respect to the Islamic Republic of Iran, North Korea, and Syria, and for other purposes.

S. 1094

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1094, a bill to reauthorize the Combating Autism Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-416).

S. 1107

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1107, a bill to authorize and support psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis data collection, to express the sense of the Congress to encourage and leverage public and private investment in psoriasis research with a particular focus on interdisciplinary collaborative research on the relationship between psoriasis and its comorbid conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 1142

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1142, a bill to promote the mapping and development of the United States geothermal resources by establishing a direct loan program for high risk geothermal exploration wells, to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to improve geothermal energy technology and demonstrate the use of geothermal energy in large scale thermal applications, and for other purposes.

S. 1149

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1149, a bill to expand geothermal production, and for other purposes.

S. 1174

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1174, a bill to provide predictability and certainty in the tax law, create jobs, and encourage investment.

S. 1221

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1221, a bill to provide grants to better understand and reduce gestational diabetes, and for other purposes.

S. 1245

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1245, a bill to provide for the establishment of the Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia.

S. 1273

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1273, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act with regard to certain exemptions under that Act for direct care workers and to improve the systems for the collection and reporting of data relating to the direct care workforce, and for other purposes.

S. 1280

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) were added as cosponsors of S. 1280, a bill to amend the Peace Corps Act to require sexual assault risk-reduction and response training, and the development of sexual assault protocol and guidelines, the establishment of victims advocates, the establishment of a Sexual Assault Advisory Council, and for other purposes.

S. 1281

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr.

DURBIN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1281, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the transportation of horses in interstate transportation in a motor vehicle containing two or more levels stacked on top of one another.

S. 1316

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1316, a bill to prevent a fiscal crisis by enacting legislation to balance the Federal budget through reductions of discretionary and mandatory spending.

S. 1324

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1324, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit the importation, exportation, transportation, and sale, receipt, acquisition, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, of any live animal of any prohibited wildlife species, and for other purposes.

S. 1368

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1368, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to repeal distributions for medicine qualified only if for prescribed drug or insulin.

S. 1369

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1369, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to exempt the conduct of silvicultural activities from national pollutant discharge elimination system permitting requirements.

S. 1374

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1374, a bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to prescribe rules prohibiting deceptive advertising of abortion services.

S. 1376

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1376, a bill to conform income calculations for purposes of eligibility for the refundable credit for coverage under a qualified health plan and for Medicaid to existing Federal low-income assistance programs.

S. 1378

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1378, a bill to ensure that Social Security and Tier 1

Railroad Retirement benefits are properly taken into account for purposes of determining eligibility for Medicaid and for the refundable credit for coverage under a qualified health plan.

S. 1413

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1413, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to temporarily increase the investment tax credit for geothermal energy property.

S. 1431

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1431, a bill to amend section 242 of the National Housing Act to extend the sunset provisions for the exemption for critical access hospitals under the FHA programs of mortgage insurance for hospitals.

S. 1439

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1439, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding ready school needs reviews.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. BURR):

S. 1460. A bill to grant the congressional gold medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War II; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President: When speaking of the Royal Air Force before Parliament, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill said: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Churchill's words would ring true for the First Special Service Force as well. An elite and clandestine military unit during World War II, the Force was trained for the most difficult missions over the most arduous terrain. The Force pioneered many of the tactics used by today's Special Operations Forces. Their courage and audacity helped break through Nazi lines. Surprise night raids. Scaling cliffs. Traversing snowy mountain passes. The Force never faced a mission that was too difficult or too dangerous to accomplish.

It is a great honor to introduce legislation today with my colleagues Senator TESTER and Senator BURR bestowing the First Special Service Force with the Congressional Gold Medal.

The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest honor the United States Congress can present. It is reserved for an individual—or group of individuals—who performs an outstanding act of

service to the United States. I can think of no group of men more deserving of this high honor than the First Special Service Force.

The Force was comprised of volunteers from 49 States, the District of Columbia, and Canada. These men trained at Fort Harrison, in Helena, MT. Later, they were nicknamed the Black Devil's Brigade by a German soldier who complained they attacked in the middle of the night and then disappeared.

The Force's training in Helena, Vermont, and Virginia was unconventional and brutal. Hand-to-hand combat. Demolition. Rock climbing. Ski and mountain warfare. Amphibious landings. Night air drops. Their training far surpassed that of any other unit during World War II. This unique training led to remarkable success in battle.

The Force deployed to Italy in 1943. The first mission was to capture two peaks on the German Winter Line. This line had proven unbreakable and defeated massive Allied attacks. The road to liberate Rome led straight through this line. General Eisenhower needed to find a way to blast through. He chose the First Special Service Force.

The Force attacked the German line using what both Allied and Axis forces thought was an impossible route—the north face. In the dead of winter. In the middle of the night. Needless to say, they surprised the German forces on Monte la Difensa. Over the next 46 days, the Force defeated the fortified German Winter Line. The victory came at a devastating price. The Force lost 1,300 men out of a total of 1,800.

The First Special Service Force then moved to the Anzio-Nettuno beachhead. For 99 days, the Force battled the infamous German Hermann Goering Division. The Force pushed the Germans back, liberating Italian villages as they moved north toward Rome. On June 4, 1944, members of the Force routed German Forces guarding the eight bridges leading into Rome. Their advance cleared the way for other Allied forces to liberate Rome.

The Force then turned to the Îles d'Hyères, islands in southern France. Their amphibious assault surprised the Nazi occupiers and led to the capture of four Nazi forts. The Black Devil Brigade continued to the mainland where they hunted down the retreating German Eighth Army. The Force drove eastward in 15 weeks of battle to the Franco-Italian border, liberating the towns of Grasse, Villeneuve-Loubet, Sospel and Castillon in southern France.

The Force deactivated on December 5, 1944 in southern France. The remainder of the war would be fought by large-scale armies, not covert units like the First Special Service Force.

During the war, the Force suffered 2,314 casualties, equating to an astounding 134 percent of its combat

strength. It captured over 30,000 prisoners, won five U.S. campaign stars and eight Canadian battle honors. It never failed a mission. Today, only 230 of these brave soldiers remain to tell the tales of their remarkable service.

As a testament to the unwavering camaraderie of the Force, the First Special Service Force Association was formed and continues to have reunions every year. They will be honoring the 70th anniversary of the creation of the Force at their reunion next year. With every passing day we lose more of these brave warriors, and it is crucial that we honor them now.

We owe the liberty we enjoy today to the brave men of the Black Devil Brigade. So many of us indebted to so few. Fortunately for our great Nation, the legacy of the First Special Service Force lives on. The Canadian Special Operations Regiment and the Special Forces of the United States trace their lineage back to the First Special Service Force.

It is time to award the First Special Service Force the Congressional Gold Medal. I strongly urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill to honor these American heroes with the recognition and gratitude they have earned.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1465. A bill to authorize a pilot program on enhancements of Department of Defense efforts on mental health in the National Guard and Reserves through community partnerships, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce the Joining Forces for Military Mental Health Act with my colleagues Senators AYOTTE, KERRY, SHAHEEN, SCOTT BROWN, WHITEHOUSE, LEAHY, and BLUMENTHAL.

This legislation seeks to improve the coordination of research, treatment, education and outreach of mental health, substance use disorders, and traumatic brain injury, TBI, among members of the National Guard and Reserve and their families.

These service members often return from a tour of duty and transition into civilian life far from military bases and without easy access to the care they might need, which can make transitioning back into family life and careers more difficult. Those who do seek care in their community may not always receive the most appropriate and effective treatment.

The Joining Forces for Military Mental Health Act would authorize the Secretary of Defense to provide grants to community partners that engage in research, treatment, education, and outreach. This will help ensure that every member of the military receives

innovative and effective treatments and the most updated information about mental illness, substance abuse, and TBI connected with military service.

This type of coordination of research, treatment, education, and outreach, and collaboration with community partners could improve the health outcomes of members of the National Guard and Reserve and their families. This bipartisan legislation has been endorsed by the National Guard Association of the United States, and the Red Sox Foundation and others have already shown this type of coordination to be effective in providing quality care. I urge my colleagues to take a close look at this legislation and join me in supporting this effort to improve the mental health care that members of the National Guard and Reserve and their families receive in the community.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1465

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Joining Forces for Military Mental Health Act".

SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM ON ENHANCEMENTS OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EFFORTS ON MENTAL HEALTH IN THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVES THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense may carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of enhancing the efforts of the Department of Defense in research, treatment, education, and outreach on mental health and substance use disorders and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) in members of the National Guard and Reserves, their family members, and their caregivers through community partners described in subsection (c).

(2) DURATION.—The duration of the pilot program may not exceed three years.

(b) GRANTS.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary may award not more than five grants to community partners described in subsection (c). Any grant so awarded shall be awarded using a competitive and merit-based award process.

(c) COMMUNITY PARTNERS.—A community partner described in this subsection is a private non-profit organization or institution (or multiple organizations and institutions) that—

(1) engages in each of the research, treatment, education, and outreach activities described in subsection (d); and

(2) meets such qualifications for treatment as a community partner as the Secretary shall establish for purposes of the pilot program.

(d) ACTIVITIES.—Amounts awarded under a grant under the pilot program shall be utilized by the community partner awarded the grant for one or more of the following:

(1) To engage in research on the causes, development, and innovative treatment of

mental health and substance use disorders and Traumatic Brain Injury in members of the National Guard and Reserves, their family members, and their caregivers.

(2) To provide treatment to such members and their families for such mental health and substance use disorders and Traumatic Brain Injury.

(3) To identify and disseminate evidence-based treatments of mental health and substance use disorders and Traumatic Brain Injury described in paragraph (1).

(4) To provide outreach and education to such members, their families and caregivers, and the public about mental health and substance use disorders and Traumatic Brain Injury described in paragraph (1).

(e) REQUIREMENT FOR MATCHING FUNDS.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary may award a grant under this section to an organization or institution (or organizations and institutions) only if the awardee agrees to make contributions toward the costs of activities carried out with the grant, from non-Federal sources (whether public or private), an amount equal to not less than \$3 for each \$1 of funds provided under the grant.

(2) NATURE OF NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS.—Contributions from non-Federal sources for purposes of paragraph (1) may be in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated. Amounts provided by the Federal Government, or services assisted or subsidized to any significant extent by the Federal Government, may not be included in determining the amount of contributions from non-Federal sources for such purposes.

(f) APPLICATION.—An organization or institution (or organizations and institutions) seeking a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an application therefore in such a form and containing such information as the Secretary considers appropriate, including the following:

(1) A description how the activities proposed to be carried out with the grant will help improve collaboration and coordination on research initiatives, treatment, and education and outreach on mental health and substance use disorders and Traumatic Brain Injury among the Armed Forces.

(2) A description of existing efforts by the applicant to put the research described in (c)(1) into practice.

(3) If the application comes from multiple organizations and institutions, how the activities proposed to be carried out with the grant would improve coordination and collaboration among such organizations and institutions.

(4) If the applicant proposes to provide services or treatment to members of the Armed Forces or family members using grant amounts, reasonable assurances that such services or treatment will be provided by a qualified provider.

(5) Plans to comply with subsection (g).

(g) EXCHANGE OF MEDICAL AND CLINICAL INFORMATION.—A community partner awarded a grant under the pilot program shall agree to any requirements for the sharing of medical or clinical information obtained pursuant to the grant that the Secretary shall establish for purposes of the pilot program. The exchange of medical or clinical information pursuant to this subsection shall comply with applicable privacy and confidentiality laws.

(h) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall share with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs information on best practices in research, treatment, education, and outreach on mental health and substance use disorders and Traumatic Brain

Injury identified by the Secretary of Defense as a result of the pilot program.

(i) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days before the completion of the pilot program, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and to Congress, a report on the pilot program. The report shall include the following:

(1) A description of the pilot program, including the community partners awarded grants under the pilot program, the amount of grants so awarded, and the activities carried out using such grant amounts.

(2) A description of any research efforts advanced using such grant amounts.

(3) The number of members of the National Guard and Reserves provided treatment or services by community partners using such grant amounts, and a summary of the types of treatment and services so provided.

(4) A description of the education and outreach activities undertaken using such grant amounts.

(5) A description of efforts to exchange clinical information under subsection (g).

(6) A description and assessment of the effectiveness and achievements of the pilot program with respect to research, treatment, education, and outreach on mental health and substance use disorders and Traumatic Brain Injury.

(7) Such recommendations as the Secretary of Defense considers appropriate in light of the pilot program on the utilization of organizations and institutions such as community partners under the pilot program in efforts of the Department described in subsection (a).

(8) A description of the metrics used by the Secretary in making recommendations under paragraph (7).

(j) AVAILABLE FUNDS.—Funds for the pilot program shall be derived from amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for Defense Health Program and otherwise available for obligation and expenditure.

(k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms "family member" and "caregiver", in the case of a member of the National Guard or Reserves, have the meaning given such terms in section 1720G(d) of title 38, United States Code, with respect to a veteran.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 247—RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND EFFORTS OF JOHN I. WILSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, FOR DEDICATING HIS CAREER TO EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS AND STUDENTS, AND HONORING HIS RETIREMENT

Mrs. HAGAN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 247

Whereas John I. Wilson is a native of Burlington, North Carolina;

Whereas John I. Wilson began his career as an activist for the National Education Association while attending Western Carolina University as the president of the National Education Association student chapter;

Whereas John I. Wilson taught special needs students as a middle school teacher;

Whereas John I. Wilson served as the executive director of the North Carolina Association of Educators;

Whereas John I. Wilson developed a new support system for teachers pursuing certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards in North Carolina, and as a result, North Carolina has more National Board-certified teachers and candidates than any other State;

Whereas John I. Wilson led a successful campaign that increased the average salary of teachers in North Carolina, as compared to other States, from 43rd to 23rd in the United States;

Whereas, after serving on numerous boards throughout his career, John I. Wilson became the executive director of the National Education Association, the largest union in the United States, in 2000;

Whereas John I. Wilson is an advocate of a minimum salary of \$40,000 for every teacher and a living wage for education support professionals;

Whereas John I. Wilson launched a National Education Association initiative to engage the best teachers in sharing ideas on staffing high-poverty, underachieving schools with the most accomplished teachers; and

Whereas John I. Wilson was presented with the Educator 500 President's Award in 2006: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends John I. Wilson for his leadership and service to educators across North Carolina and the United States;

(2) recognizes John I. Wilson as a successful leader who has served the United States by improving our education system;

(3) commends John I. Wilson for his numerous accomplishments;

(4) congratulates John I. Wilson on his retirement; and

(5) supports the continued effort of education leaders to aid and improve the education system of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 248—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL BRAIN ANEURYSM AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. KERRY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 248

Whereas a brain aneurysm is an abnormal saccular or fusiform bulging of an artery in the brain;

Whereas an estimated 1 out of every 50 people in the United States will develop a brain aneurysm;

Whereas brain aneurysms are most likely to occur in people between the ages of 35 and 60;

Whereas brain aneurysms are more likely to occur in women than in men by a 3-to-2 ratio;

Whereas brain aneurysms are more likely to occur in African-Americans than in Whites by a 2-to-1 ratio;

Whereas various risk factors can contribute to the formation of a brain aneurysm, including infection, tumors, traumatic head injury, drug use, smoking, hypertension, and a family history of brain aneurysms;

Whereas approximately 6,000,000 people in the United States will develop a brain aneurysm that will not rupture;

Whereas an unruptured brain aneurysm can lead to fatigue, short-term memory problems, speech problems, loss of balance and coordination, and changes in behavior;

Whereas a brain aneurysm is often discovered when it ruptures and causes a subarachnoid hemorrhage;

Whereas a subarachnoid hemorrhage can lead to brain damage, hydrocephalus, stroke, and death;

Whereas annually more than 30,000 people in the United States suffer from ruptured brain aneurysms;

Whereas annually between 3,000 and 4,500 people in the United States with ruptured brain aneurysms die before reaching the hospital;

Whereas a number of advancements have been made in recent years regarding the detection of aneurysms, including the computerized tomography scan, the magnetic resonance imaging test, and the cerebral arteriogram;

Whereas September is an appropriate month to designate as "National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month"; and

Whereas various research studies are currently being conducted in the United States in order to better understand, prevent, and treat brain aneurysms: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month; and

(2) continues to support research to prevent and treat brain aneurysms.

SENATE RESOLUTION 249—HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF E. THOM RUMBERGER

Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 249

Whereas E. Thom Rumberger served in the United States Marine Corps;

Whereas Thom Rumberger earned a bachelor's degree, with honors, and a J.D. from the University of Florida;

Whereas Thom Rumberger is a founding partner of the law firm Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell, which has represented multinational corporations such as American Airlines, Inc., Sears, Roebuck and Co., and Toyota Motor Corporation;

Whereas Thom Rumberger has been listed in Florida Super Lawyers every year from 2007 to 2010;

Whereas Thom Rumberger was appointed Circuit Judge in the 18th Judicial Circuit of Florida in 1969;

Whereas Thom Rumberger has committed himself to numerous acts of public service, including serving on the Federal Judicial Advisory Commission of Florida and the Board of Supervisors of the Spaceport Florida Authority;

Whereas Thom Rumberger has been one of the most steadfast champions of the Everglades in Florida;

Whereas Thom Rumberger has served as lead counsel for the Everglades Foundation since 1999;

Whereas Thom Rumberger was instrumental in the passage of two amendments to the Florida Constitution and of section 601 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-54; 114 Stat. 2680), known as the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan;

Whereas Thom Rumberger was instrumental in obtaining several billion dollars in funding for Everglades restoration; and

Whereas Thom Rumberger served on the Florida Governor's 2001 Select Task Force on

Elections and the 2002 Select Task Force on Election Procedures, Standards and Technology, and was Chairman of the Legislature's Study Committee on Public Records in 2002: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and honors the professional success of E. Thom Rumberger; and

(2) recognizes and honors the lifelong dedication of Thom Rumberger to the protection of the Florida Everglades.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the important contributions of a very special Floridian for his unrelenting determination to protect one of our nation's most unique natural resources—America's Everglades. A prestigious attorney and commanding litigator, Thom Rumberger has dedicated much of his personal and professional life to advancing the restoration and protection of the River of Grass. His brilliance, creativity and fearlessness combined to make Thom one of Florida's most influential Everglades leaders.

A man proud to serve his country and his community, Thom interrupted his college career to volunteer for the Marine Corps and serve in the Korean War. Over the course of his life he has continued his service as a dedicated public servant, a respected judge and prosecutor. Thom is a dedicated father and grandfather who has always found great happiness and comfort in his ever-expanding family. The relentless efforts Thom undertakes to preserve Florida's natural heritage will be a legacy gift to his family, his colleagues, and to the American public.

After serving two years in the United States Marine Corps, Thom earned his bachelor's degree, with honors, and his law degree from the University of Florida, where he was Associate Editor of the University of Florida Law Review in 1960. Before becoming Florida's youngest Circuit Court Judge in 1969, serving in the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit, he was the Brevard County Solicitor and Special Assistant State Attorney in the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit. From 1971 through 1974 he was the County Attorney for Seminole County, Assistant to Florida's Governor Claude Kirk, and served as a member of the Florida Land Sales Board.

Thom has been a long-time friend of George and Mary Barley, both of whom dedicated their lives to restoration of the Everglades. George and Mary established the Everglades Trust and the Everglades Foundation. Upon George's untimely death in 1995, Thom joined with Mary to make sure George's dream of a restored Everglades became a reality. An active leader in the Republican Party, Thom was able to elevate Everglades restoration to a bipartisan issue at both the state and federal level.

Thom's success extends to his career in private practice, as he is one of the founding partners of the Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell law firm. Under his

leadership, his firm's modest beginnings were quickly surpassed as it moved to the forefront of business litigation, representing such multi-national corporations as American Airlines, Sears, Roebuck and Co., General Motors Corporation, Honda Motor Company, Ford Motor Company, and Toyota Motor Corporation. Today, his firm includes 75 trial attorneys in five offices across Florida and Alabama. Thom has been listed in Florida Super Lawyers every year from 2007 to 2010.

Legend has it that Thom once convinced a Federal judge to allow a real automobile in the courtroom as evidence. Yes, Thom convinced the judge to have a window enlarged in a historic courthouse to accommodate a crane that lifted the car right into the courtroom.

Thom has been known throughout his life for his infectious sense of humor as well as the breath of his various careers. Often referred to as a "career chameleon", Thom worked his way through college as a snake handler at the Ross Allen Reptile Institute at Florida's Silver Springs performing shows with lethal snakes to the thousands of visitors who came to watch the dangerous performance. Thom promises that it was there that he learned the skills of public speaking and working with the public which would become such a critical component of his future success. Thom also enjoyed a brief acting career as the stunt man for the Creature of the Black Lagoon before beginning his legal career.

In addition to building an impressive legal career, Thom has generously committed himself to public service. He was appointed to Florida's Federal Judicial Advisory Commission and the Board of Supervisors of the Spaceport Florida Authority. Currently, Thom is Chairman of The Everglades Trust, and has served as Chairman of the Collins Center for Public Policy, and as a member of the Board of Visitors of Florida State College of Law and Board of Trustees for the Law Center Association of the University of Florida.

He has represented environmental organizations including Save the Manatee, The Everglades Trust, and Save Our Everglades. Thom has also served as lead counsel for The Everglades Foundation since 1999.

Notably, Thom was instrumental in the passage of two Everglades related Florida constitutional amendments, the Federal Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, and in obtaining several billion dollars in funding for Everglades restoration. Thom also was primarily responsible for Florida's acquisition of the 75,000-acre Babcock Ranch which provides new and necessary corridors for the endangered Florida panther. And, in the late 1980's, Thom worked to implement some of the first manatee protection laws.

Throughout his four decades in public service, Thom Rumberger has demonstrated the importance of looking out for the common good. Thanks to the selfless commitment of folks like Thom, America's Everglades will be restored for the benefit of future generations. America owes Thom a great debt of gratitude.

Grace joins me in thanking Thom and his lovely wife, Debbie, for their contributions to Florida's treasured landscapes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 27—HONORING THE SERVICE OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS LEROY ARTHUR PETRY, A NATIVE OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO, AND THE SECOND LIVING RECIPIENT OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR SINCE THE VIETNAM WAR

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. BINGAMAN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. CON. RES. 27

Whereas Sergeant First Class Leroy Arthur Petry of the United States Army, a native of Santa Fe, New Mexico, was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Obama on July 12, 2011;

Whereas the Medal of Honor is the highest honor awarded to members of the Armed Forces for valor in combat;

Whereas the official citation awarding the Medal of Honor to Sergeant First Class Petry states that then-Staff Sergeant Petry "distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action with an armed enemy in the vicinity of Paktya Province, Afghanistan, on May 26, 2008";

Whereas Sergeant First Class Petry joins an elite group of Medal of Honor recipients dating back to the Civil War;

Whereas Sergeant First Class Petry has continued a long tradition of military service to the United States by New Mexicans, dating back to the defense of the Western United States during the Civil War, and followed by participation in every major war fought by the United States;

Whereas Sergeant First Class Petry is the second living recipient of the Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War;

Whereas Sergeant First Class Petry fought with bravery and, despite wounds to both of his legs, had the courage and quick thinking needed to save the lives of his fellow soldiers by throwing back an enemy grenade and losing his right hand when the grenade detonated shortly after he released it;

Whereas the actions of Sergeant First Class Petry represent the highest values of the Army, the Rangers, and the United States;

Whereas Sergeant First Class Petry has consistently demonstrated humility and dedication to his fellow soldiers;

Whereas Sergeant First Class Petry, who overcame a troubled youth and found the strength to turn his life around and dedicate himself to serving the United States, is an example to all people who are struggling in the United States; and

Whereas the brave actions of Sergeant First Class Petry, as well as his modesty and

selfless service, stand as the embodiment of the best attributes of the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) honors the service and sacrifice of Sergeant First Class Leroy Arthur Petry of the United States Army and his family; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to recognize the valor, heroism, and dedication to the United States exhibited by Sergeant First Class Petry.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a resolution with Senator JEFF BINGAMAN honoring the bravery and sacrifice of Santa Fe, New Mexico native Sergeant First Class Leroy Arthur Petry, an Army Ranger who in 2008 risked his life to save his fellow soldiers on the battlefields of Afghanistan and who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor by President Obama in July.

I was humbled to be at the White House along with Sergeant First Class Petry's family, friends, and fellow soldiers as President Obama honored him with the Congressional Medal of Honor. It was truly a special day for everyone involved as we honored only the second living, active-duty service member to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for actions in Iraq or Afghanistan.

On July 12, I detailed the actions of Sergeant First Class Petry. Under enemy fire, with bullet wounds in both of his legs, Sergeant First Class Petry still had the courage and valor to render aid to his fellow Rangers and to throw a grenade that landed near his fellow soldiers back towards the enemy.

When the grenade exploded, it took with it Sergeant First Class Petry's hand, but not his spirit. Not even the loss of a hand would stop him from fighting the enemy and supporting his unit. He would tie a tourniquet to his arm and continue the fight.

As I have said before, Sergeant First Class Petry's story is one of courage and sacrifice and immense love of country. It is a story that began years ago in Santa Fe with a young man who struggled in high school but refused to give up, to drop out and instead buckled down, dug deep, and found the hero within. A hero to the men he saved that fateful day in Afghanistan, and a hero to all Americans who owe their freedoms to our brave men and women in uniform.

Today, let us honor him further with this resolution and send the message that Congress honors his service and sacrifice.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and

Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on August 1, 2011.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on August 1, 2011, at 3:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Elle Charles and Ashley Crawford, of my staff, be granted the privilege of the floor for the rest of today's proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the privilege of the floor be granted to the following member of my staff: Robin Dutta.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FASTER FOIA ACT OF 2011

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. 1466.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1466) to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, I joined Senator CORNYN in reintroducing the Faster FOIA Act of 2011, a bipartisan bill to strengthen the Freedom of Information Act, FOIA. Last week, the House Republican leadership stripped these FOIA provisions from legislation that unanimously passed the Senate in May as part of a procedural maneuver to address unrelated issues surrounding the debt limit. I urge the Senate to promptly reaffirm its bipartisan commitment to open government and to once again pass the Leahy-Cornyn Faster FOIA Act of 2011 so that this good government bill can be enacted into law.

The Faster FOIA Act enjoys broad bipartisan support from across the political spectrum. The Senate unanimously passed this bill in May, after the Judiciary Committee favorably reported the bill by voice vote. Recently, more than 35 transparency organizations urged the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to act on this legislation. On July 26, the Washington Post editorialized that the House should promptly enact this bipartisan bill to improve the FOIA process.

Senator CORNYN and I first introduced the Faster FOIA Act in 2005 to address the growing problem of excessive FOIA delays within our Federal agencies. During the intervening years, the problem of excessive FOIA delays has not gone away. We reintroduced this bill in 2010, and the Senate unanimously passed it last year. The current bill is the most recent product of our bipartisan work to help reinvigorate FOIA.

The Faster FOIA Act would establish a bipartisan Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays to examine the root causes of excessive FOIA delays. The Commission would recommend to Congress and the President steps that should be taken to reduce these delays so that the administration of the FOIA is more equitable and efficient.

The Faster FOIA Act will help ensure the dissemination of government information to the American people so that our Democracy remains vibrant and free. This is a laudable goal that we all share. Neither Chamber of Congress should allow partisan politics to obstruct the important goal of this bill.

The ongoing debate in Congress about the national debt has made clear that we must find ways to work together, across party lines and ideologies, to address the many challenges facing our Nation. This bipartisan spirit is at the core of the Faster FOIA Act. I have said many times that open government is neither a Democratic issue nor a Republican issue it is truly an American value and virtue that we all must uphold. I urge the Senate to promptly pass this bill and I hope that the House of Representatives will quickly follow suit and enact this good government measure.

I ask unanimous consent that the Washington Post editorial entitled: "Time to Reinforce FOIA" be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, July 26, 2011]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT NEEDS A PUSH

This year marks the 45th anniversary of the Freedom of Information Act, FOIA, a crucial, if sometimes sluggish, vehicle through which journalists can demand greater government openness and accountability. In May, in a rare moment of bipartisanship, Sens. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) and John Cornyn (R-Tex.) won unanimous Senate passage of the Faster FOIA Act, which would establish an advisory panel to examine the backlog of more than 69,000 FOIA requests. It's time for the House to take it up.

While the panel would be authorized only to provide Congress with recommendations for further action to enhance the filing and receipt of FOIA requests, it would be a small step forward. At best, the panel could develop the means to enforce the 20-day standard for the screening of requests, which, in reality, can take months or years.

As much as FOIA can be a journalist's best friend, it can also be a nightmare. Despite

amendments in 2007 and 2009, the FOIA process remains beset by incompetence and lack of guidance for evaluating requests. "The overarching problem is inadequate implementation and compliance among the agencies," Malcolm Byrne, deputy director at the National Security Archive, told us.

Despite a 2009 executive order that instructed all federal agencies to open more documents to the public—to err on the side of openness when deciding whether to release documents—government offices have classified more documents since President Obama took office, according to the Federation of American Scientists.

The executive order tried to force all federal agencies to implement new regulations to ensure greater transparency in the disclosure process. But this hasn't happened, either. A report by the Information Security Oversight Office in April found that less than half of 41 evaluated agencies had made significant efforts toward this end.

These facts should reinforce the need for progress, however modest, when it comes to improving the FOIA process. While there was no opposition to the Faster FOIA legislation in the Senate, Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, has yet to take a position on the bill, according to a spokesman. We urge him to embrace it in the same bipartisan spirit as the Senate, and to do so immediately.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, there be no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1466) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1466

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. COMMISSION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT PROCESSING DELAYS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Faster FOIA Act of 2011".

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays (in this Act referred to as the "Commission" for the purpose of conducting a study relating to methods to help reduce delays in processing requests submitted to Federal agencies under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the "Freedom of Information Act").

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be composed of 12 members of whom—

(A) 2 shall be appointed by the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(B) 2 shall be appointed by the ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(C) 2 shall be appointed by the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform of the House of Representatives;

(D) 2 shall be appointed by the ranking member of the Committee on Government Reform of the House of Representatives;

(E) 1 shall be appointed by the Attorney General of the United States;

(F) 1 shall be appointed by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget;

(G) 1 shall be appointed by the Archivist of the United States; and

(H) 1 shall be appointed by the Comptroller General of the United States.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS OF CONGRESSIONAL APPOINTEES.—Of the 2 appointees under each of subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) of paragraph (1) at least 1 shall have experience as a FOIA requestor, or in the fields of library science, information management, or public access to Government information.

(3) TIMELINESS OF APPOINTMENTS.—Appointments to the Commission shall be made as expeditiously as possible, but not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) STUDY.—The Commission shall conduct a study to—

(1) identify methods that—

(A) will help reduce delays in the processing of requests submitted to Federal agencies under section 552 of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) ensure the efficient and equitable administration of that section throughout the Federal Government;

(2) examine whether the system for charging fees and granting waivers of fees under section 552 of title 5, United States Code, needs to be reformed in order to reduce delays in processing requests; and

(3) examine and determine—

(A) why the Federal Government's use of the exemptions under section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code, increased during fiscal year 2009;

(B) the reasons for any increase, including whether the increase was warranted and whether the increase contributed to FOIA processing delays;

(C) what efforts were made by Federal agencies to comply with President Obama's January 21, 2009 Presidential Memorandum on Freedom of Information Act Requests and whether those efforts were successful;

(D) any recommendations on how the use of exemptions under section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code, may be limited; and

(E)(i) whether any disparities in processing, processing times, and completeness of responses to FOIA requestors have occurred based upon political considerations, ideological viewpoints, the identity of the requestors, affiliation with the media, or affiliation with advocacy groups;

(ii) if any disparities have occurred, why such disparities have occurred; and

(iii) the extent to which political appointees have been involved in the FOIA process.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit a report to Congress and the President containing the results of the study under this section, which shall include—

(1) a description of the methods identified by the study;

(2) the conclusions and recommendations of the Commission regarding—

(A) each method identified; and

(B) the charging of fees and granting of waivers of fees; and

(3) recommendations for legislative or administrative actions to implement the conclusions of the Commission.

(f) STAFF AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Archivist of the United States shall provide to the Commission such staff and administrative support services, including research assistance at the

request of the Commission, as necessary for the Commission to perform its functions efficiently and in accordance with this section.

(2) PAYMENT OF EXPENSES.—

(A) STAFF SALARIES.—The Archivist of the United States shall pay staff expenses relating to salaries under this subsection from available appropriations in the applicable account for salaries of the National Archives and Records Administration.

(B) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Except as provided under subparagraph (A), the Archivist of the United States shall pay staff and administrative expenses under this subsection from available appropriations in the operating expenses account of the National Archives and Records Administration.

(3) APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS.—Expenses paid under this subsection shall not form the basis for additional appropriations requests from the National Archives and Records Administration in the future.

(g) INFORMATION.—To the extent permitted by law, the heads of executive agencies, the Government Accountability Office, and the Congressional Research Service shall provide to the Commission such information as the Commission may require to carry out its functions.

(h) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation for services performed for the Commission.

(i) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The members of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission.

(2) PAYMENT OF EXPENSES.—The Administrator of General Services shall pay travel expenses under this subsection from available appropriations in the operating expenses account of the General Services Administration.

(3) APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS.—Expenses paid under this subsection shall not form the basis for additional appropriations requests from the National Archives and Records Administration in the future.

(j) TRANSPARENCY.—All meetings of the Commission shall be open to the public, except that a meeting, or any portion of it, may be closed to the public if it concerns matters or information described in chapter 552b(c) of title 5, United States Code. Interested persons shall be permitted to appear at open meetings and present oral or written statements on the subject matter of the meeting. The Commission may administer oaths or affirmations to any person appearing before the Commission.

(k) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate 30 days after the submission of the report under subsection (e).

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 2715.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2715) to provide the Consumer Product Safety Commission with greater authority and discretion in enforcing the consumer product safety laws, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 2715) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDER FOR STAR PRINT—NO. 112-6

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senate report No. 112-6 be star-printed with the changes that are at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore and upon the recommendation of the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 98-183, as amended by Public Law 103-419, appoints the following individual to the United States Commission on Civil Rights: David Kladney of Nevada vice Alice C. "Dina" Titus of Nevada.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2011

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., August 2; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the majority leader—that is me—will lay before the Senate the House message with respect to the debt limit compromise upon convening tomorrow. The rollcall vote on the compromise will be at noon tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:47 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, August 2, 2011, at 9:30 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, August 1, 2011

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

GOVERNMENT'S AUTO PILOT DOWNWARD SPIRAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. For weeks now, we've faced the artificial Republican debt crisis, which was a crisis of Republican choice. And now with an agreement coming forward, we should ask the question: Is this worse than the default scare? Well, it's hardly clear. What about a government on auto pilot, locked into a slow downward spiral?

First, this empowers the most reckless and extreme elements, not just in the House Republicans today but is a blueprint for mischief for either party in the future. Next, we are starting down a path of budget cuts that all experts assure us will weaken the economy at exactly the time we need to strengthen economic growth, not reduce demand. Clearly it is a step backwards from reforming how the country does business.

The fixation on triggers, formulas, and supercommittees will make it easier for Congress to duck the difficult policy work and harder to do it, if Congress wants to try.

Even as it would appear we avoid outright default, this agreement casts a long-term shadow over our Nation's reasonableness and our reliability for the next 2 years and beyond. And remember the drama over the continuing resolution earlier this year? There are still two potential government shutdowns over the next 14 months that will invite more legislative blackmail over an extreme agenda since it's clear that recklessness works.

This is all the more frustrating because the path forward is clear. The

public strongly supports a balanced approach which would include tax reform that would raise money while making the Tax Code more fair and simple.

Everyone knows we must deal with health care costs; and until recently, there was bipartisan agreement as to how to do that. We should accelerate the health care reforms which are already enacted into law but do it faster to improve care and lower costs.

Do we need to require a commission to implement bipartisan suggestions to right-size the military, both its mission and its budget? Absolutely not. There are ideas floating around and support on both sides of the aisle to do that now.

Most important, perhaps, we should revitalize the economy by rebuilding and renewing America, financed by modest increases in user fees. One of the things that is actually the most simple would be to implement bipartisan suggestions to reform agriculture, to save money while helping people who farm and people who eat by reducing massive unnecessary subsidies to large agribusiness.

This agreement delays the important work while it weakens both the economy and the decision-making process. Government on auto pilot in a slow downward spiral is not a victory.

THE REPUBLICAN SOLUTION TO THE DEBT CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REED). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, here we are, after a long weekend of hyperbole and backroom deal cutting at the White House, and here's the product right here.

If you look through it, it's pretty interesting. There's no balance. There are no revenues. God forbid we would ask, as the Republicans call them, "the job creators," the millionaires and billionaires, to pay anything toward further supporting our country, to close some of the tax loopholes that allow hedge fund managers to pay taxes at half the rate of their clerks, you know, things like that. No, that would be a reach too far to ask them to share in the sacrifice.

What we do see here is that there will be cuts, and very few are specified. But strangely enough, there's one that the Republicans always go after because, you know, they hang out at the country club, and at the country club, no-

body's worried about putting their kid through college. But the one specified cut in here is in graduate school financial assistance.

Now, that's kind of peculiar. We have a doctor shortage looming, and medical school is phenomenally expensive. But I guess it's just going to be the rich kids who are going to go to medical school in the future, not the middle-class kids, not the struggling kids. Just the rich kids. So that's the one specified cut, the "one" specified cut. The rest, we don't even know.

Talking about a pig in a poke, this is a pig in a poke. Where's that \$1 trillion of cuts going to come from? First round, second round, another \$1.5 trillion, and not one penny in revenues. And the grand result is about \$2.5 trillion of deficit reduction.

If we just let all the Bush tax cuts expire—all of them—if we went back to the bad old days of the Clinton tax rates that the Republicans claimed would destroy the economy—except actually what happened was, we had 3.8 percent unemployment, and we paid down debt with the Clinton tax rates. But, yes, "the job creators" had to pay a little bit more. Those were really bad times, the Republicans would have us believe. So we don't want to go back there. We want to stay in the current day.

We have been cutting taxes now for 11 years of Bush tax cuts, 3 years with Obama as a coconspirator on the Bush tax cuts. Where are the jobs? Well, let's just keep doing it, and maybe it will create jobs.

It's not going to create jobs. There are no jobs. There are no jobs in this package.

At the least, at the least, they could have extended the Federal Aviation Administration authority. Now, most people think, what does that mean? Well, a week ago last Friday, authority to run the Federal Aviation Administration expired. The air traffic controllers are working under emergency provisions, and they're being paid out of the trust fund, which is being drawn down. But all of the taxes went away. So we're walking away from \$200 million a week—that is in taxes that would come from users of the system. Most of the airlines have raised their ticket prices to capture that money.

Four thousand Federal employees have lost their jobs or are laid off, are collecting unemployment. Republicans don't care about Federal employees; so let's put that aside.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

□ 1010

But 90,000 private sector construction workers and small businesses are also unemployed because we have brought all the safety and security improvements across the entire system to a screeching halt because we are not collecting taxes, which the airlines are now capturing for profits. Could that be in here? That would put 94,000 people back to work. No, that's not in here. That's too much to ask.

There isn't a single job in this package. The biggest problem in America, the greatest deficit we have is in job creation. If we could get back down around 5 percent unemployment, guess what: Those people are working, they are not drawing unemployment benefits, they are not drawing food stamps because they are desperate to put food on the table and the unemployment isn't enough, and a quarter of the deficit would go away with people working.

How about transportation infrastructure? One hundred and fifty thousand bridges are crumbling, need to be replaced or rehabilitated; a \$70 billion backlog in critical investment in our transit systems across the country, all made in America, manufacturing jobs, engineering jobs. No, can't do those sorts of things in this bill.

We can't make investments because the Republicans say everything government does is bad. So we can't even make investments. We can't discriminate between wasteful spending, consumptive spending, and investments that will put people back to work, as they claim government can't put people back to work.

That's funny. I wonder who built our national highway system. I don't think it was the private sector. I don't think it was the financiers on Wall Street. The billionaires and the millionaires are escaping any meaningful taxation at this point, seeing the lowest level of taxation on their incomes since, you know, forever, basically.

We can't ask them to do anything. We can't invest, we can't create jobs, and we are going to cut student financial aid for sure and a few other things.

DEBT CEILING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we will be gathering this morning in a number of conferences and caucuses to assess the work over the weekend that addresses a procedural process that most Americans were never made aware of for the last 100 times since 1917, that we raise the debt ceiling. It is tragic that these two words have become such dastardly words in the American psychic and the American vocabulary, and it has been characterized as reckless spending in

Washington more than what it is, which most Americans do at the end of the month, and that is to pay their bills.

I had the privilege of joining in a balanced budget process in the 1990s, and, frankly, it was a joy. It was good to do good things in a bipartisan manner on behalf of the American people.

Out of that process came something called the Children's Health Insurance Program that helped insure, over these last couple of years, millions and millions of children and, yes, we had a balanced budget. In the course of it, of course, in the rush of doing that budget we skewed the reimbursements for physicians, the doctors that you see in your hamlets and villages and counties and cities and States, the doctors that many of you send to medical school who happen to be your children, the doctors who take an oath to care for the American people.

Yes, we skewed their reimbursement. So, now, every year we have to confront the unfairness of how we reimburse our doctors, the doctors who work in public health institutions, county hospitals, clinics. This is what happens when you rush to do something that should be ordinary.

So today I rise looking towards the meetings that will go on today. In many of them we will huddle together to try and do the right thing. But I asked months ago for us to raise the debt ceiling, as has been done 17 times for the President of the United States, President Reagan and other Presidents who have asked to have that done, and then begin to look long term. As Mark Zandi has indicated, and a number of economists have said, immediate cuts will be damaging to this economy.

But I rise today to speak of the vulnerable persons who really can't speak for themselves. Many people think seniors have lobbyists in one of the major, largest, if you will, lobbying group for seniors, and they do a great job.

But I know seniors who really are huddled in small apartments and old, old homes left to them by their deceased spouse, something they paid for but has deteriorated over the years. Because we are not helping seniors with their rehab anymore, and many of them got reverse mortgages that really took them to the cleaners and left them with nonperforming contractors who did a poor job on their homes, these are the seniors who don't have voices.

Or, maybe, the vulnerable families in Latino and African American communities where the wealth distinction has showed, where our majority Americans, white Americans, have a wealth factor of \$113,000; and, respectively, African Americans have \$5,000; and Hispanics, Latinos at \$6,000. Now that doesn't cover all. There are people in Appalachia and other places around the Nation where that disparity is very, very strong.

But it does mean that there is a population of vulnerable Americans. And the question is whether or not the approach that we are going to take today in doing something as simple as raising the debt ceiling to allow us to pay our bills has a dastardly part to it that causes the laying off of hundreds of thousands of Americans because there is no job creation.

Because when you cause us to stop spending money to encourage the economy to move such as the 3 million jobs that were created with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, then there is no job creation. Our private sector is not moving as fast as we would like.

We hope this will spur them on, but I have heard that before. I have heard, during the TARP and the bailout of banks, just give us a chance. And you ask any small business around America whether they are able to access capital to build their structure and their business, small businesses that I truly believe are the backbone of America. If we did nothing on this floor but every day do something, give a gift to small businesses and health care, give a gift to them in tax relief, give a gift to them in incentive to grow their business, and you would see Americans being hired.

Small businesses are as small as one individual sitting in front of their computer. That is what we should be doing.

Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned about going forward with a complex approach to the debt ceiling while thousands of Americans are out of jobs, where airlines are taking money they should not take, while the FAA is shut down. We have many other problems to take care of while construction jobs are at a standstill.

What about the vulnerable Americans? That's what my concern will be about as we go through these meetings and approach this floor today.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 18 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of the Universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask Your blessing upon those who have worked so hard these past few days to help bring our Nation to a level of security. Not all are completely satisfied, but help us all to proceed graciously, remaining vigilant for those values held most dear while being just.

In the days that come, help each Member to understand well and interpret positively, as they are able, the positions of those with whom they disagree. Grant to each the wisdom of Solomon, and to us all the faith and confidence to know that no matter how difficult things appear to be, You continue to walk with our Nation, as You have done for over two centuries.

May all that is done today in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4 of House Resolution 375, legislative business is not dispensed with on this day.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THE WINNERS TODAY ARE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today the agreement that we will be voting on is another example of the historic pivot here in Washington because never before in history has an increase in our Nation's debt limit been tied to cuts in spending.

No longer will the debate be about how much more is the Federal Government going to spend; the debate now is how much spending is going to be cut.

This legislation will require more than \$2.1 trillion in Federal spending cuts; puts in place firm caps to hold down future spending; both Houses of Congress must have an up-or-down vote on a balanced budget amendment; it does not impose any job-killing tax increases; it avoids a default on Federal obligations that would be disastrous to our economy; and it begins a process to put this Nation on a path to prosperity.

We have so much more that still needs to be done, but this is further progress in turning the Federal Government toward fiscal sanity so we can leave a better America for our children and our grandchildren.

ORDINARY FOLKS EXCLUDED

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, it seems whenever important decisions are made by a few people inside a room inside the Beltway, ordinary folks are not only excluded from the room but seem to be excluded from the minds of the people in the room.

I'm talking about ordinary folks working to keep their heads above water; ordinary folks working to keep their mortgage, keep their homes; retirees living on a fixed income; students hoping to have help in going to college; those who are working to improve people's health and our Nation's energy supply—ordinary folks.

What makes anyone think that a supercommittee of 12 people operating in a room inside the Beltway in November is going to do a better job looking after the interests of ordinary folks.

REMEMBERING JUDGE MATTHEW J. PERRY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, South Carolina lost one of its greatest leaders, United States District Judge Matthew J. Perry. Judge Perry symbolized courage and leadership and was a towering figure during the civil rights movement of the 1950s through the 1970s.

After having served in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1945 as a sergeant in the Quartermaster Corps, Judge Perry graduated from South Carolina State with a B.S. in business. He went on to graduate from South Carolina State Law School in 1951. As a young attorney, Judge Perry established his credibility in South Carolina by defending many of the students protesting segregation during sit-ins.

In 1976, he was nominated by Senator Strom Thurmond to the U.S. Military Court of Appeals in Washington. In 1979, he was the first African American to be appointed as a U.S. District Judge for South Carolina. He has been the recipient of the Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian honor of the State of South Carolina.

Our Nation has truly lost a legend who has made a difference for all of the people of South Carolina.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

DEBT CEILING LEGISLATION

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. This is a little different than the Reid bill we voted on on Saturday. It actually increases military spending \$78 billion over the bill that we voted on on Saturday, and it decreases domestic spending by \$80 billion. And it doesn't end the wars, unlike the Reid bill we voted on on Saturday.

It has one specified cut—student financial aid. That's the only cut specified. What kind of world do you people live in?

And, of course, it doesn't ask a single thing of millionaires, billionaires, corporations that avoid taxes. It doesn't close a single loophole. It doesn't ask one millionaire or billionaire just to go back to Clinton-era taxes. And it does nothing about our most serious deficit in this country, and that is the jobs deficit.

Unless you really believe that tax loopholes, tax cuts, and cutting investment in aviation and surface transportation creates jobs on your planet, this bill creates none here today.

CRISIS OF DEBT

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, we are in the midst of a crisis. It's not a crisis of a debt ceiling. It's a crisis of debt, of Washington spending too much, not taxing or borrowing too little. The problem isn't the debt ceiling; it's the debt. We can no longer continue to commit generational theft by our uncontrolled spending habits to our children and grandchildren.

Luckily, the Congress has made significant progress in the first six budget bills in cutting real spending for this upcoming fiscal year. And House Republicans have fundamentally changed the debate in Washington. We are no longer talking about job-killing tax increases. We're talking about spending cuts and long-term spending reform—our goals from day one.

It's time for President Obama and the Senate Democrats to join us in our efforts to control spending before time runs out. We must solve this crisis to encourage job creation and return America to its greatness. America's great people are ready.

□ 1210

AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. It really is about justice for all. The question becomes as we go into our conferences and caucuses to discuss this new debt ceiling legislation: Who will this help?

Will it help the small businesses, which are the backbone of America? Will it help the students who are now standing at the doors of colleges and seeing them slam shut? Will it help those in nursing homes who now, because of drastic cuts in Medicaid, will see their places of abode lost? Will it help the hospitals, which care for the sick, because there is no Medicare reimbursement or Medicaid?

We are going to be looking at this to see how it helps or hurts the American people; but I tell you who it helps: big businesses. Are they going to now step in and create jobs? Because, when we cut across the board, public sector jobs will be cut all across America.

It has always been the government that stoops and comes in to raise the American people up when there is a need. Are we going to help the returning soldiers, 160,000-plus, who have PTSD? For those who want to come into the workplace, will the corporate sector now stand up and be counted?

Will only the friends of the Republicans be helped and not the poor and working Americans—where is the justice for all. That's where we needed bipartisanship on something that has al-

ready been done a hundred times: the simple raising of the debt ceiling; instead we have put the burden now on the backs of those who cannot speak for themselves.

ENCOURAGING THE IRON WILL OF SUCCESS IN AMERICA; A NATION PLUMMETING INTO MEDIOCRITY

(Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Instead of appealing to America's greatest aspirations, hopes, and dreams, there are those who are appealing to our basest character, using fear and envy and greed to prey upon those we are supposed to lead. We can no longer sow the seeds of this dependency, feed it with despair in hopes of reaping the benefits of power, all the while weakening the iron will of this Nation and plummeting it into mediocrity.

We must encourage inventiveness, entrepreneurship, and the risk that comes with leadership. We must not attack and mock those who work hard. It is not a path to greatness but a road to mediocrity and servitude where people are encouraged not to reach for the stars but to grab what they can get from the government.

Those who prey upon the fears of the weak insult them twice—once in trying to frighten them, another for believing they are too weak to understand they're being fooled. We have had enough of unemployment, of the weakening of our Nation, the drama of hand-wringing, the cowardice of blaming, finger-pointing and deflection, insults to opportunities of job creators, and the ransom we pay to other nations in the form of energy, manufactured goods and massive interest on our massive debt.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for leaders to stop using "success" as a dirty word and as a justification to take more and more from those who create jobs. Whether the worker wears a blue collar or a blue suit, all work is good and noble, and it is time to encourage, not to criticize, the work.

TO HOLD THE PRESIDENT ACCOUNTABLE

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Today, the Senate will begin debate on the debt ceiling agreement. It is being billed as a two-step approach to hold President Obama accountable:

To hold the President accountable or to hamstring his agenda to revive and redirect our economy to domestic manufacturing and clean energy—or to limit investment in infrastructure, education and health care?

To hold our President accountable or to stifle our meager recovery to make it harder to create jobs and lower the unemployment rate?

To hold our President accountable or to use the forced caps to undermine Republicans' main target—the Affordable Care Act? Saying there will be no cuts to Medicare services is a sham because cuts to Medicare providers will reduce beneficiaries' access to needed care.

To reduce domestic discretionary spending to the lowest level since Eisenhower years? We might as well resign ourselves to giving up our place of leadership in the world.

We do need a clean debt ceiling but with no conditions; and, yes, we need to reduce our deficit. I didn't like the suggestion that all of the Bush tax cuts expire when I first heard it, but if we end them now, we could save \$2.5 trillion over the next 10 years.

Not a bad place to start.

A BALANCED BUDGET, NOT A BALANCED APPROACH

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. At the beginning of the debt ceiling debate, House Republicans made it clear that if the President and congressional Democrats wanted us to pay their bills, they were going to have to commit to cutting up the credit cards.

The simple truth is that in just 7 months, House Republicans have already changed the broken political system in Washington to move away from "how much can we spend?" to focus on how we can stop spending money we don't have.

House Republicans have led the fight for controlling spending and saving our children and grandchildren from national bankruptcy, voting to actually shrink a Federal Government that has done nothing but expand for 40 years. The cuts may be small relative to the size of the problem, but the change in direction is historic. For the first time in the history of modern Federal budgeting, House Republicans will cut discretionary Federal spending for 2 straight years.

President Obama wanted a "balanced approach" to solve our debt crisis, which means historic tax increases on job creators. We don't need a "balanced approach." Mr. Speaker. We need a balanced budget.

IN HONOR OF THE CHERISHED LIFE AND CAREER OF A FINE PHYSICIAN, DR. ROBERT MCGUIRE

(Mrs. LUMMIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LUMMIS. I rise today to honor the life and career of one of the finest

physicians and gentlemen I have ever met, Dr. Robert McGuire of Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Dr. McGuire's career brought to his attention and to his care thousands of women in my State, and he made their lives better, including my own. Through his skill, through his patience and attention to the people he was treating, he made the profession of medicine honorable and cherished by the people he served so well.

His career has ended so he might fight his own battles with cancer. I wish him the very best regards in his fight. I thank him for the difference he made in my life and in the lives of thousands of women in my State of Wyoming. I wish him Godspeed.

Take care, Dr. Robert McGuire.

WE MUST MOVE FORWARD, ENACTING COMMONSENSE SOLUTIONS TO REVIVE THE AMERICAN ECONOMY

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Our economy has seen incredibly weak economic growth over the last two quarters. Just today, we found out that manufacturing is at its lowest level in the past 2 years. My district, the 10th District of Illinois, is one of the largest manufacturing districts in our Nation, and there is no doubt that families are struggling.

I am optimistic that Washington is finally coming together and finding common ground on this debt ceiling debate. We must—I emphasize—we must move forward. Hardworking taxpayers have had enough, and I get it. We must have spending discipline here in Washington—no more budget tricks, no more accounting gimmicks, no more empty promises. American families have to tighten their belts, and they should expect that Washington will do the same. Now is the time to move forward and focus on jobs.

If we are serious about paying down the debt and increasing revenue, then we must empower job creators. Small businesses in our Nation are overburdened by economic uncertainty, government regulations and red tape. We need to implement commonsense solutions that create jobs and get our economy moving again.

□ 1220

MOURNING THE LOSS OF ARMY FIRST LIEUTENANT DIMITRI DEL CASTILLO

(Mr. CULBERSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, the duty we perform today to cut and cap

America's spending, to put us on track to a balanced budget, and to pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution are vitally important but pale in comparison to the sacrifices and duties of our Armed Forces, our men and women in uniform.

It is with profound sadness today that I join with the family and friends and the neighbors of United States Army First Lieutenant Dimitri del Castillo in mourning his loss. On June 25, 2011, he was killed while fighting in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

In 2004, it was my privilege to nominate Dimitri for an appointment as a cadet to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Upon his graduation, he was commissioned in the Infantry, where he sought out the Army's toughest challenges immediately. He graduated from the demanding Airborne and Ranger courses and later passed a series of rigorous skill and endurance tests to earn the Army's coveted Expert Infantryman Badge.

Dimitri deployed with his unit to Afghanistan in April of 2011, and while conducting combat operations he was tragically killed when his unit came under fire by enemy forces. For his heroic actions that day, Dimitri was awarded posthumously the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart.

Though we mourn his loss, we are immensely proud of Dimitri's accomplishments and we are immensely proud of the men and women who fight for us every day to make it possible to savour the freedom left to us by our founders. May the Lord bless and keep Dimitri's soul, and may God help his family find comfort in the nobility and valor of his deeds.

COAL-POWERED ENERGY

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, we are in an historic heat wave in this country, and I'm not talking about the debate on the debt limit, I'm actually talking about the temperature outside. And what's noted is that many leaders throughout this country—whether they're local Mayors or Governors—are saying, if you're poor, get to a cooling shelter, stay inside, stay in the air conditioning.

Well, we're fortunate in this country to have low-cost power generated by coal. In rural Illinois, the average salary is \$58,000 a year, the average utility bill is \$121 a month, which means they pay about \$1,500 a year for the utility cost. However, in France, they pay 20 cents per kilowatt hour. Just think what the cost would be here if we had to double our electricity rates.

Talk about a burden on the poor and rural Americans when, instead of \$1,500

a year, they would have to pay \$3,000 a year just to seek relief from these hot summers.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mr. SCALISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, as we are dealing with this debate over the debt limit, I think one thing that's become clear as people have followed over the last few weeks is that Washington has a spending problem. And regardless of the resolution of today's action in the House and Senate, I hope nobody thinks that this is the end of this debate. Frankly, this is just the beginning of the debate to finally cut spending in Washington and put real controls in place.

I think as we look over the next few months, we need to continue to push for a balanced budget amendment to our Constitution because ultimately that's the kind of accountability that we need to ensure that we change the culture of spending in Washington. Clearly, tax cuts will not solve this problem, that will only make matters worse; but if the problem is spending, why would you want to send even more money up to Washington to let them spend even more?

We've got to control spending; we've got to start making cuts today; but we ultimately need that accountability that comes with a balanced budget amendment.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

SUSPENDING IMMIGRATION STATUS PETITION AND INTERVIEW TIME REQUIREMENT FOR MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 398) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to toll, during active-duty service abroad in the Armed Forces, the periods of time to file a petition and appear for an interview to remove the conditional basis for permanent resident status, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 398

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TOLLING PERIODS OF TIME TO FILE PETITION AND HAVE INTERVIEW FOR REMOVAL OF CONDITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 216 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1186a) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

“(g) SERVICE IN ARMED FORCES.—

“(1) FILING PETITION.—The 90-day period described in subsection (d)(2)(A) shall be tolled during any period of time in which the alien spouse or petitioning spouse is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States and serving abroad in an active-duty status in the Armed Forces, except that, at the option of the petitioners, the petition may be filed during such active-duty service at any time after the commencement of such 90-day period.

“(2) PERSONAL INTERVIEW.—The 90-day period described in the first sentence of subsection (d)(3) shall be tolled during any period of time in which the alien spouse or petitioning spouse is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States and serving abroad in an active-duty status in the Armed Forces, except that nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from waiving the requirement for an interview under subsection (c)(1)(B) pursuant to the Secretary's authority under the second sentence of subsection (d)(3).”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 216(a)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1186a(a)(1)) is amended—

(A) by striking “(g)(1)” and inserting “(h)(1)”; and

(B) by striking “(g)(2)” and inserting “(h)(2)”.

(2) REFERENCES.—Section 216 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1186a) is amended—

(A) in subsection (d)(3), by striking “Attorney General's” and inserting “Secretary's”;

(B) by striking “Attorney General” each place such term appears and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security”; and

(C) in subsections (c)(1)(B) and (d)(3), by striking “Service” and inserting “Department of Homeland Security”.

SEC. 2. COMPLIANCE WITH PAYGO.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 398, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, which provides relief to military servicemembers serving overseas who marry foreign spouses.

Our Nation's military should not have to worry about red tape while they are abroad protecting our freedoms. When a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident marries a foreign spouse, that spouse becomes a conditional permanent resident. After 2 years, the couple files a petition with the Department of Homeland Security for the removal of the conditional status. If the petition is successful, the immigrant becomes a permanent resident.

The petition generally must be filed before the second anniversary of the spouse's becoming a conditional permanent resident.

Upon the filing of the petition, DHS interviews the couple to determine whether there was any marriage fraud. The interview must be conducted unless DHS waives the deadline for the interview or the requirement for the interview.

This timetable is reasonable under normal circumstances. However, what happens when the U.S. citizen or permanent resident spouse is serving overseas in active duty status in the Armed Forces?

It would certainly be a disruption to the military to have a member of the Armed Forces deployed overseas travel for a personal interview with DHS. Our military's focus should be on defending freedom, not bureaucracy.

While it is true that DHS can choose to delay this process in appropriate circumstances, this bill's provision should be standard policy while the spouse is serving abroad. Of course, the petition and interview would still take place when the spouse is no longer on active duty.

This bill is good for our military, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As the author of H.R. 398, I support this bill. It's a small measure to help support members of our Armed Forces who are serving overseas and their families here at home.

Our troops, who take up our country's call to service and volunteer to place themselves in harm's way, face uncertainties every day. For countless soldiers, the peace of mind that they get from family back home helps to keep them focused on the important job at hand. For that reason, it is critical that we not add to their burdens and instead seize the opportunity to al-

leviate even a small amount of the anxiety they feel.

As the chairman has indicated, there is a conditionality placed on residents gained through marriage. Couples are given a 90-day period just before the second anniversary of the grant to file to remove the conditions, and then they get only 90 days to appear in person for an interview. Now, only after this is done are the conditions removed. And if the conditional status is not removed in this way, the residence is terminated and the foreign national spouse could be deported. That means that either the spouse of one of our soldiers could be deported or the soldier himself could be deported.

Now, it's pretty hard to appear for the interview if you're serving in Iraq, and we certainly don't want our soldiers or their spouses to be deported. So I support this measure.

In 2008, as chairwoman of the House Immigration Subcommittee, I convened a hearing on the immigration needs of America's fighting men and women. At the hearing, we heard from members of the Armed Forces about countless challenges that they face because of our rigid and unyielding immigration system.

□ 1230

This bill will help to resolve just one of those challenges. It will not excuse military families from the requirements. It will simply allow them to put off those requirements if they choose during overseas deployments.

Of course, there are many problems with our country's immigration laws that this bill does not address, too many to count. And as we know from our 2008 hearing, those problems will continue to unnecessarily tear military families apart, distract from our mission abroad, and betray the fundamental values that we claim to hold dear.

But despite this great need, it is only this small bill, a bill that should help a few dozen servicemembers a year, that is on the floor for action.

I commend my colleagues LAMAR SMITH, ELTON GALLEGLEY, and JOHN CONYERS for joining me in introducing this very modest measure.

Our men and women on the front lines are standing in defense of our country, and their loved ones back home stand in defense of them. As Members of Congress, it's both a responsibility and an honor to provide whatever support we can. And while this bill may be small, it is important for the few dozen soldiers it may help each year. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 398, “To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to toll, during active-duty service abroad in the Armed Forces, the periods of time to file a petition

and appear for an interview to remove the conditional basis for permanent resident status, and for other purposes." As a Senior member of the Judiciary Committee and a member of the Subcommittee on Immigration Policy and Enforcement, I am proud to support this legislation because in many ways the current immigration system is flawed, and in need of reform.

Furthermore, I want to commend my colleague, Rep. ZOE LOFGREN for her leadership on immigration issues, especially in her former role as Chairwoman of the Immigration Subcommittee. The debate surrounding how to mend our broken immigration system continues to be polarized, with many differing opinions about how to best address the issues of unauthorized persons in our country. I would also like to commend Rep. LOFGREN for introducing this bill, H.R. 398, which addresses one of the many loopholes, oversights, and shortcomings in our current immigration system. This bill makes a simple change that helps our immigration process make more sense—it tolls time period to file a petition and appear for an interview to remove the conditional basis for permanent resident status while a petitioner is serving in active duty with the armed forces. It allows those men and women serving our country abroad to focus on protecting America, and not worry about their spouse's immigration status.

Under current law, when either a U.S. citizen or lawful U.S. Permanent Resident sponsors an alien spouse, the alien spouse is granted conditional permanent resident status. After two years, the alien spouse and the U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident spouse must jointly file a petition with the Department of Homeland Security for the removal of the conditional status. If the petition is successful, the alien spouse becomes a full permanent resident. The petition must be filed during the 90-day period before the second anniversary of the spouse's becoming a conditional permanent resident, unless the alien establishes to the satisfaction of DHS good cause and extenuating circumstances for failure to file on time. Upon the filing of the petition, DHS interviews the spouses to ascertain whether there was any possible marriage fraud. The interview is conducted within 90 days of the submission of the petition, unless DHS waives the deadline for the interview or the requirement for the interview.

As you can see, the 90-day joint filing deadline and the interview that follows, which requires the participation of the U.S. citizen or permanent resident spouse who is serving overseas in active duty status with the Armed Forces would, without a doubt, place undue hardship on the active duty petitioner. It would clearly be a disruption to the U.S. military to have to facilitate a member of the Armed Forces deployed overseas filing a petition and traveling for a personal interview with DHS. While DHS can choose to delay this process in appropriate circumstances, a blanket tolling of the time periods while a spouse is serving abroad in the U.S. Armed Forces is appropriate.

H.R. 398 tolls the time periods of time to file the petition and have an interview for removal of condition during any period of time in which a spouse is a member of the Armed Forces of

the United States and serving abroad in active-duty status. The spouses do retain the right to be able to file a petition within the normal time period and DHS retains the right to waive the interview requirement in appropriate circumstances.

Let's help our military service member by giving them the peace of mind. The tolling of dates would lift the burden on the petitioning military spouse serving abroad from (i) having to establish to the satisfaction of DHS, good cause and extenuating circumstances for failure to file on time and (ii) obtaining a waiver of the deadline for the interview. Lifting the burden on the petitioning military spouse will allow those men and women serving our country abroad to focus on protecting America, and not worry about their spouse's immigration status.

I urge all members to join me in supporting passage of this landmark legislation.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 398.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

NON-IMMIGRANT NURSES VISA REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1933) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the requirements for admission of non-immigrant nurses in health professional shortage areas, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1933

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION OF NONIMMIGRANT NURSES IN HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS.

(a) *EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF AUTHORIZED ADMISSION.*—Section 212(m)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(m)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) The initial period of authorized admission as a nonimmigrant under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c) shall be 3 years, and may be extended once for an additional 3-year period.”.

(b) *NUMBER OF VISAS.*—Section 212(m)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(m)(4)) is amended by striking “500.” and inserting “300.”.

(c) *PORTABILITY.*—Section 214(n) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(n)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3)(A) A nonimmigrant alien described in subparagraph (B) who was previously issued a

visa or otherwise provided nonimmigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c) is authorized to accept new employment performing services as a registered nurse for a facility described in section 212(m)(6) upon the filing by the prospective employer of a new petition on behalf of such nonimmigrant as provided under subsection (c). Employment authorization shall continue for such alien until the new petition is adjudicated. If the new petition is denied, such authorization shall cease.

“(B) A nonimmigrant alien described in this paragraph is a nonimmigrant alien—

“(i) who has been lawfully admitted into the United States;

“(ii) on whose behalf an employer has filed a nonfrivolous petition for new employment before the date of expiration of the period of stay authorized by the Secretary of Homeland Security, except that, if a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(c) is terminated or laid off by the nonimmigrant's employer, or otherwise ceases employment with the employer, such petition for new employment shall be filed during the 45-day period beginning on the date of such termination, lay off, or cessation; and

“(iii) who, subsequent to such lawful admission, has not been employed without authorization in the United States before the filing of such petition.”.

(d) *APPLICABILITY.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—During the 3-year period beginning on the commencement date described in paragraph (2), the amendments made by section 2 of the Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-95), and the amendments made by this section, shall apply to classification petitions filed for nonimmigrant status. This period shall be in addition to the period described in section 2(e) of the Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Act of 1999.

(2) *COMMENCEMENT DATE.*—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall determine whether regulations are necessary to implement the amendments made by this section. If the Secretary determines that no such regulations are necessary, the commencement date described in this paragraph shall be the date of such determination. If the Secretary determines that regulations are necessary to implement any amendment made by this section, the commencement date described in this paragraph shall be the date on which such regulations (in final form) take effect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1933, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I offer this legislation on behalf of myself and Representatives CUELLAR, HINOJOSA, ROSKAM, and RUSH.

A number of American hospitals have great difficulty attracting nurses.

These include hospitals that serve mostly poor patients in inner-city neighborhoods and some hospitals in rural areas. For example, St. Bernard Hospital in Chicago is the only remaining hospital in an area of over 100,000 people and almost all of its patients live in poverty. St. Bernard almost closed its doors in 1992 primarily because of its inability to attract registered nurses.

Congress passed the Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Act in 1999 to help hospitals like St. Bernard. It created a new H-1C temporary registered nurse visa program with 500 visas available each year that allowed nurses to stay for 3 years.

To be able to petition for a foreign nurse, an employer had to meet four conditions. First, the employer had to be located in a health professional shortage area; second, the employer had to have at least 190 acute care beds; third, a certain percentage of the employer's patients had to be Medicare patients; and fourth, a certain percentage of patients had to be Medicaid patients.

The H-1C program adopted the protections for American nurses contained in the expired H-1A nursing visa program. For instance, a hospital had to agree to take timely and significant steps to recruit American nurses. Also, hospitals had to pay the prevailing wage.

The H-1C program contained new protections such as requirements that foreign nurses could not comprise more than one-third of a hospital's registered nurses. The H-1C program was extended in 2006 but expired in December of 2009, though many nurses still remain on 3-year visas issued before that date.

Sister Elizabeth Van Straten, president of St. Bernard Hospital, wrote to me last December that "because of the sunset, in combination with the extended approval period for green cards, nurses are now forced to leave our institution, and the rate of loss continues to increase. This loss cannot be sustained. As the only hospital serving one of the most difficult sections of Chicago, and perhaps the entire country, we need the extension of the visa program to survive."

I introduced H.R. 1933 to help St. Bernard and other, similar hospitals. The bill reauthorizes the H-1C program for another 3 years. The number of visas that may be issued in each fiscal year cannot exceed 300. An alien may be admitted for 3 years, and this stay may be extended once for an additional 3 years.

The H-1C program ensures continued care for patients in inner-city and rural communities. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I will not repeat the information provided by Chairman SMITH. I will simply state that the H-1C program was first created in 1999 to address shortages in both rural and inner-city hospitals. The 500 visas per year actually only go to 14 hospitals in the United States spread out across America. And of course the program has now expired.

As Chairman SMITH has indicated, this bill would reauthorize but reduce the number from 500 to 300, create certain other protections as mentioned by the chairman, and allow the maximum stay to go to 6 years. Because the bill would double the duration of H-1C status, I offered an amendment in committee, which was accepted by all, to make the H-1C visas portable among the 14 hospitals authorized to employ H-1C nurses. Right now, the nurses are entirely dependent on their employers to provide them their immigration status, and visa portability would level the playing field and allow a nurse to switch employers if something was wrong.

I appreciate the Chairman's willingness to accept that, and I thank the chairman for introducing this bill and working with me to ensure that H-1C nurses are better protected against exploitive situations.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1933—To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the requirements for admission of nonimmigrant nurses in health professional shortage areas.

A number of hospitals with unique circumstances experience a great difficulty in attracting American nurses. Hospitals serving mostly poor patients have special difficulties. Some hospitals in rural areas do also. For example: St. Bernard Hospital and Health Care Center is located on the South side of Chicago in the Englewood Community. It is the only remaining hospital in an area with a census in excess of 100,000 and the patient base is almost entirely poverty care or charity care. St. Bernard almost closed its doors in 1992, primarily because of its inability to attract health care professionals, most importantly registered nurses.

H.R. 1933 reauthorizes the program for an additional three years. The number of visas that may be issued in each fiscal year cannot exceed 300. An alien may be admitted for three years and this stay may be extended once for an additional three years (the possibility of an extension is new with H.R. 1933). Furthermore, H.R. 1933 allows an H-1C nurse to be able to switch employment between any of the 14 H-1C-eligible hospitals. This prevents those nurses here through this program to have some flexibility in their employment options in the event they run into any hardship at the hospital where they are employed.

The Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Act, signed into law in 1999 created a new H-1C temporary visa program for registered nurses. The program was modeled after the expired H-1A temporary nursing visa program

but limited the number of visas that could be issued to 500 a year and only allowed in-need hospitals who met certain criteria to petition for alien nurses. To be able to petition for an alien, an employer had to meet four basic conditions. First, the employer must have been located in a health professional shortage area as designated by the Department of Health and Human Services. Second, the employer must have had at least 190 acute care beds. Third, a certain percentage (35 percent) of the employer's patients must have been Medicare patients. Fourth, a certain percentage (28 percent) of patients must have been Medicaid patients.

Employers had to make certain attestations pertaining to payment of a wage which will not adversely affect wages and working conditions of similarly employed registered nurses; payment of wages to aliens at rates paid to other registered nurses similarly employed by the facility; taking timely and significant steps designed to recruit and retain U.S. nurses in order to reduce dependence on nonimmigrant nurses; absence of a strike/lockout or lay off of nurses; notice to workers of its intent to petition for H-1C nurses; percentages of H-1C nurses to be employed at the facility; and placement of H-1C nurses within the facility.

This is a common sense employment-based immigration program that fills a desperate need in some of our nation's neediest hospitals. This program is very limited in who is admitted to work in this country, but fulfills a gap in our healthcare system.

The Department of Labor has determined that the following hospitals are eligible for the program, some of which are located in Texas: Beaumont Regional Medical Center, Beaumont, TX; Beverly Hospital, Montebello, CA; Doctors Medical Center, Modesto, CA; Elizabeth General Medical Center, Elizabeth, NJ; Fairview Park Hospital, Dublin, GA; Lutheran Medical Center, St. Louis, MO; McAllen Medical Center, McAllen, TX; Mercy Medical Center, Baltimore, MD; Mercy Regional Medical Center, Laredo, TX; Peninsula Hospital Center, Far Rockaway, NY; Southeastern Regional Medical Center, Lumberton, NC; Southwest General Hospital, San Antonio, TX; St. Bernard Hospital, Chicago, IL; and Valley Baptist Medical Center, Harlingen, TX.

The Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Act of 1999 was enacted as a four-year program (beginning on the effective date of implementing regulations) on November 12, 1999. The program expired in 2005 and was reauthorized in 2006 for an additional three years. The program expired in December of 2009 (but some H-1C nurses remain who received approval for three-year stays before this date). The Department of Labor reports that 499 nurses received visas under the program in fiscal year 2007 as did 110 in fiscal year 2008.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting passage of this landmark legislation.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1933, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2011

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2480) to amend title 5, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Administrative Conference of the United States for fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2014, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2480

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Administrative Conference of the United States Reauthorization Act of 2011”.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 596 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§596. Authorization of appropriations

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subchapter not more than \$2,900,000 for fiscal year 2012, \$2,900,000 for fiscal year 2013, and \$2,900,000 for fiscal year 2014. Of any amounts appropriated under this section, not more than \$2,500 may be made available in each fiscal year for official representation and entertainment expenses for foreign dignitaries.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 2480, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

□ 1240

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I offer this bill on behalf of myself, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE), and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

Lately, the need to reform Federal administrative law has become urgent. Every day the long promised economic

recovery seems more like a mirage. Our top priority should be to create jobs. Protecting job creators from over-regulation will help create jobs. According to the Small Business Administration, regulations impose a \$1.75 trillion burden annually on the American economy. Reducing this burden will hasten our economic recovery.

The Administrative Conference of the United States is a small but important institution. It is a narrowly focused, nonpartisan body that offers an outstanding forum to reform Federal administrative law. Regulatory agencies must be efficient, effective, and accountable. This is the heart of the Conference's historical mission. Over the years, its recommendations have saved taxpayers tens of millions of dollars. For example, the Social Security Administration saved \$85 million by adopting a recommendation to eliminate an unnecessary step in its appeals process. The Conference's budget was \$1.8 million at the time. And the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation saved more than \$9 million in the first 18 months of a pilot program implementing an ACUS recommendation to make greater use of alternative dispute resolution. ACUS currently is urging agencies to expand their use of video hearings. The Social Security Administration already has saved \$59 million by doing more hearings by video conference. This ACUS recommendation has the potential to save millions more across the Federal Government.

Due to a lack of funding, the Conference went dormant in 1996. It was revived in the 111th Congress, and I am glad that once again it is able to contribute to administrative law reform. The Conference is uniquely positioned to generate much savings for very little cost. Recommendations from the Conference save taxpayer dollars by helping agencies work more effectively. The Conference also helps agencies adopt better and less burdensome regulations to reduce that \$1.75 trillion regulatory burden on the economy. Additionally, the Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law's December 2006 interim report on regulatory reform contains numerous suggested reforms that ACUS could examine and help agencies implement.

During these difficult economic times, everyone has to tighten their belts, including Federal agencies. If American families have to make tough economic choices, so should Congress. The amount authorized by this bill, \$2.9 million annually for the next three fiscal years, was a bipartisan compromise. It reduces the Conference's authorization level by almost 10 percent while enabling the Conference to perform its most critical work. The Conference's past successes raise the prospect for a high return on the taxpayers' investment. It is a reasonable authorization level in light of the cur-

rent need to reduce Federal spending, and I recommend it to my colleagues.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It's been a pleasure working with Chairman SMITH, who yields the time, never as much as I may consume, but yields the time, which I'm always appreciative of, and we've worked in a bipartisan manner on this, and I appreciate his working with me on that.

The Federal administrative law and rulemaking processes are among the most important ways by which our Nation implements public policy. Each year, agencies issue regulations to ensure that the food we eat, the air we breathe, and the cars we drive are safe. Although regulations play a critical role in virtually every aspect of our daily lives, there is only one independent, nonpartisan Federal entity that Congress can rely on to ensure that these regulations work as intended. The Administrative Conference of the United States, known as ACUS, is that critical entity.

First established by President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the Conference is a nonpartisan, public-private resource that provides invaluable guidance to Congress about how to improve the administrative and regulatory processes. ACUS is charged with making recommendations for the improvement of administrative agencies and their procedures, particularly with respect to efficiency and fairness. Over the years, the Conference has helped agencies implement many cost-saving procedures and made numerous recommendations to eliminate excessive litigation costs and long delays.

Just one agency alone, the Social Security Administration, estimates that the Conference's recommendations to change that agency's appeals process yielded approximately \$85 million in savings. Another recommendation by the Conference, namely, that agencies use alternative dispute resolution methods to avoid costly and time-consuming litigation, resulted in more than \$100 million in savings government-wide. Several other ACUS recommendations have greatly increased the efficiency of other administrative procedures by eliminating duplicative hearings and streamlining appeals from agency action, thereby also resulting in cost savings in the millions of dollars.

In what is truly a rare and historic example of agreement, Supreme Court Justices Stephen Breyer and Antonin Scalia have jointly testified before our committee in strong support of the Conference, not once but on two occasions, and I must say I enjoyed both of their comments and their friendship. Justice Breyer extolled the “huge” savings to the public resulting from the Conference's recommendations, while Justice Scalia likewise agreed

that ACUS is “an enormous bargain.” Perhaps most importantly, ACUS can play a major role in helping agencies become even more efficient and effective, especially given the present budgetary constraints.

As reported by the Judiciary Committee, H.R. 2480, the Administrative Conference of the United States Reauthorization Act of 2011, authorizes \$2.9 million to be appropriated to the Conference for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2014. With this modest reauthorization, we will ensure that the Conference will continue to return to American taxpayers many multiples of that investment in the form of recommendations that will make Federal agencies more effective.

H.R. 2480 reflects a long history of bipartisan support for ACUS. Once again, I thank the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, LAMAR SMITH, a gentleman and a scholar, and the Courts, Commercial and Administrative Law Subcommittee Chairman HOWARD COBLE, a gentleman and a scholar as well, for working with me on this legislation, and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to secure final passage of H.R. 2480 by the other body. Accordingly, I urge all of my colleagues to support the legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2480, “The Administrative Conference of the United States Reauthorization Act of 2011,” which authorizes \$2.75 million in appropriations to the Administrative Conference of the United States for each of the fiscal years from 2012 through 2014. The Administrative Conference of the United States (ACUS) is considered both an independent agency and a federal advisory committee, and is charged with providing guidance to Congress on matters of administrative law. The recommendations put forth by the ACUS have resulted in significant savings and increases the efficiency of federal agencies.

As a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, I have the privilege of having worked closely with the Administrative Conference of the United States (ACUS) over the years and become familiarized with many of their initiatives. ACUS is a federal agency charged with making recommendations for the improvement of administrative agencies and their procedures, particularly with respect to efficiency and fairness.

The ACUS was established 50 years ago by President John F. Kennedy and became a permanent independent agency in less than 4 years. The purpose of the ACUS is to develop recommendations for improving procedures by which federal agencies administer regulatory, benefit, and other government programs; the ACUS has served as a private-public think tank that conducts basic research on how to improve the regulatory and legal process. It has broad jurisdiction over administrative procedure to study the efficiency, adequacy, and fairness of the administrative procedure used by administrative agencies in carrying out administrative programs, and make rec-

ommendations to administrative agencies, collectively or individually, and to the President, Congress, or the Judicial Conference of the United States.

Further, the ACUS facilitates the interchange among administrative agencies of information potentially useful in improving administrative procedure, collects information and statistics from administrative agencies and has published extensive reports evaluating and improving administrative procedure.

The members of the ACUS represent both the public and private sectors. Individuals from private sector members are generally attorneys and scholars selected to ensure broad representation of the views of private citizens and utilize diverse experience. Over the years its membership spans the ideological spectrum. For example, Justice Antonin Scalia, before his appointment to the bench, served as the chair of ACUS from 1972 to 1974. Justice Breyer was a member of ACUS and actively participated in its activities from 1981 to 1994. In the past, both Justices Breyer and Scalia testified in strong support of ACUS. According to Justice Breyer, “The Administrative Conference is unique in that it develops its recommendations by bringing together at least four important groups of people: top-level agency administrators; professional agency staff; private (including “public interest”) practitioners; and academicians. ACUS will typically commission a study by an academician . . . who often has the time to conduct the study. . . . The professor will spend time with agency staff. . . . The professor’s draft will be reviewed . . . by private practitioners, who bring to it a critically important practical perspective. The upshot is likely to be a work-product that draws upon many different points of view, that is practically helpful and that commands general acceptance.” (Letter from Justice Stephen Breyer to Sen. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, Chair, Subcomm. on Administrative Oversight and the Courts of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary (Aug. 21, 1995).

The ACUS has made many government wide recommendations; among its most influential recommendations have been ACUS’s proposals facilitating judicial review of agency decisions and eliminating various technical impediments to such review. They recommended a model administrative civil penalty statute that has served as the basis for dozens of pieces of legislation. The ACUS has developed and promoted procedures implementing the Negotiated Rulemaking Act, which encourages consensual resolution in a process that takes into account the needs of various affected interests. In addition, ACUS is credited with playing a prominent role in improving the nation’s legal system by issuing recommendations designed “to eliminate excessive litigation costs and long delays.” For example, Congress, in response to an ACUS recommendation, passed the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act in 1990, which established a framework for agencies to resolve administrative litigation through alternative dispute resolution. It has been noted that half of the budget of ACUS is devoted to trying to find ways to reduce, or eliminate government litigation within and by the Government. The ACUS saves tax payers dollars and in a time of economic crisis every penny counts.

The ACUS serves to focus attention on the need for the federal government to be made more efficient, less big, and more accountable. It was viewed as one of the leading federal proponents of practical ways to reduce administrative litigation. In this regard, ACUS actively promoted information-technology initiatives, such as developing methods by which the public could participate electronically in agency rulemaking proceedings to increase public access to government information and foster greater openness in government operations.

We have witnessed a number of successes under the ACUS. The ACUS is a vital tool in improving upon a process. There has been a lot of talk on the Hill of late about efficiency, streamlining process, and reducing costs. The fundamental purpose of the ACUS is to find out how to ensure that our government is operating in the most effective manner possible. The more efficiently we are able to operate the lower our cost. It has been estimated that ACUS saved the federal government and the private sector many multiples of its expenditure over the years it was in operation. Just one agency alone—the Social Security Administration—estimated that ACUS’s recommendation to change that agency’s appeals process would result in approximately \$85 million in savings. ACUS helped federal agencies to implement the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act of 1990, which resulted in savings estimated to be many millions of dollars. The President of the American Arbitration Association asserted that ACUS’s encouragement of ADR saved “millions of dollars that would otherwise be frittered away in litigation costs.”

Accordingly, the elimination of ACUS in 1995 was described by several observers as being “penny-wise, pound foolish.” Even after its demise in 1995, Congress continued to assign ACUS various responsibilities apparently unaware of the Conference’s termination. Finally, after a 15-year hiatus, ACUS was reauthorized and appropriated funding.

Currently, President Obama nominated Paul R. Verkuil to serve as chair of ACUS in November 2009 and he was confirmed by the Senate in March 2010. The ACUS formally resumed operations in April 2010.

Then since its recent Reauthorization the ACUS has started to do what it does best figuring out ways to decrease expenses and increase efficiency. Current cost-saving projects underway at ACUS include the following:

A study on the use of video hearings in administrative agencies and how they can generate “significant savings;” a study on rulemaking that focuses on the legal and logistical issues presented by transitioning from a paper-based system to an electronic system for handling rulemaking comments, an examination into how international regulatory cooperation could be improved and lead to trade harmonization.

Over the course of its existence, ACUS has promulgated approximately 200 recommendations to improve the administrative process, many of which were implemented, which, in turn, helped save taxpayers many millions of dollars. ACUS is an invaluable instrument established by us that has resulted in significant improvements to federal administrative law.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2480, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PROVIDING GREATER AUTHORITY AND DISCRETION TO CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Mrs. BONO MACK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2715) to provide the Consumer Product Safety Commission with greater authority and discretion in enforcing the consumer product safety laws, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2715

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LIMITATION ON LEAD IN CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS.

(a) PROSPECTIVE APPLICATION OF LEAD LIMIT FOR CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS.—Section 101(a) of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (15 U.S.C. 1278a(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) APPLICATION.—Each limit set forth in paragraph (2) (except for the limit set forth in subparagraphs (A) and (B)) shall apply only to a children's product (as defined in section 3(a) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2052(a))) that is manufactured after the effective date of such respective limit.”.

(b) ALTERNATIVE LIMITS AND EXCEPTIONS.—Section 101(b) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 1278a(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) FUNCTIONAL PURPOSE EXCEPTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission, on its own initiative or upon petition by an interested party, shall grant an exception to the limit in subsection (a) for a specific product, class of product, material, or component part if the Commission, after notice and a hearing, determines that—

“(i) the product, class of product, material, or component part requires the inclusion of lead because it is not practicable or not technologically feasible to manufacture such product, class of product, material, or component part, as the case may be, in accordance with subsection (a) by removing the excessive lead or by making the lead inaccessible;

“(ii) the product, class of product, material, or component part is not likely to be placed in the mouth or ingested, taking into account normal and reasonably foreseeable use and abuse of such product, class of prod-

uct, material, or component part by a child; and

“(iii) an exception for the product, class of product, material, or component part will have no measurable adverse effect on public health or safety, taking into account normal and reasonably foreseeable use and abuse.

“(B) MEASUREMENT.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(iii), there is no measurable adverse effect on public health or safety if the exception described in subparagraph (A) will result in no measurable increase in blood lead levels of a child. The Commission may adopt an alternative method of measurement other than blood lead levels if it determines, after notice and a hearing, that such alternative method is a better scientific method for measuring adverse effect on public health and safety.

“(C) PROCEDURES FOR GRANTING EXCEPTION.—

“(i) BURDEN OF PROOF.—A party seeking an exception under subparagraph (A) has the burden of demonstrating that it meets the requirements of such subparagraph.

“(ii) GROUNDS FOR DECISION.—In the case where a party has petitioned for an exception, in determining whether to grant the exception, the Commission may base its decision solely on the materials presented by the party seeking the exception and any materials received through notice and a hearing.

“(iii) ADMISSIBLE EVIDENCE.—In demonstrating that it meets the requirements of subparagraph (A), a party seeking an exception under such subparagraph may rely on any nonproprietary information submitted by any other party seeking such an exception and such information shall be considered part of the record presented by the party that relies on that information.

“(iv) SCOPE OF EXCEPTION.—If an exception is sought for an entire product, the burden is on the petitioning party to demonstrate that the criteria in subparagraph (A) are met with respect to every accessible component or accessible material of the product.

“(D) LIMITATION ON EXCEPTION.—If the Commission grants an exception for a product, class of product, material, or component part under subparagraph (A), the Commission may, as necessary to protect public health or safety—

“(i) establish a lead limit that such product, class of product, material, or component part may not exceed; or

“(ii) place a manufacturing expiration date on such exception or establish a schedule after which the manufacturer of such product, class of product, material, or component part shall be in full compliance with the limit established under clause (i) or the limit set forth in subsection (a).

“(E) APPLICATION OF EXCEPTION.—An exception under subparagraph (A) for a product, class of product, material, or component part shall apply regardless of the date of manufacture unless the Commission expressly provides otherwise.

“(F) PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED PETITIONS.—A party seeking an exception under this paragraph may rely on materials previously submitted in connection with a petition for exclusion under this section. In such cases, petitioners must notify the Commission of their intent to rely on materials previously submitted. Such reliance does not affect petitioners' obligation to demonstrate that they meet all requirements of this paragraph as required by subparagraph (C)(i).”;

(2) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “include to,” and inserting “include”; and

(3) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (8) and inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

“(5) EXCEPTION FOR OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to an off-highway vehicle.

“(B) OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘off-highway vehicle’—

“(i) means any motorized vehicle—

“(I) that is manufactured primarily for use off public streets, roads, and highways;

“(II) designed to travel on 2, 3, or 4 wheels; and

“(III) that has either—

“(aa) a seat designed to be straddled by the operator and handlebars for steering control; or

“(bb) a nonstraddle seat, steering wheel, seat belts, and roll-over protective structure; and

“(i) includes a snowmobile.

“(6) BICYCLES AND RELATED PRODUCTS.—In lieu of the lead limits established in subsection (a)(2), the limits set forth for each respective material in the notice of the Commission entitled ‘Notice of Stay of Enforcement Pertaining to Bicycles and Related Products’, published June 30, 2009 (74 Fed. Reg. 31254), shall apply to any metal component part of the products to which the stay of enforcement described in such notice applies, except that after December 31, 2011, the limits set forth in such notice shall not be more than 300 parts per million total lead content by weight for any metal component part of the products to which such stay pertains.

“(7) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN USED CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS.—

“(A) GENERAL EXCLUSION.—The lead limits established under subsection (a) shall not apply to a used children's product.

“(B) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term ‘used children's product’ means a children's product (as defined in section 3(a) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2052(a))) that was obtained by the seller for use and not for the purpose of resale or was obtained by the seller, either directly or indirectly, from a person who obtained such children's product for use and not for the purpose of resale. Such term also includes a children's product that was donated to the seller for charitable distribution or resale to support charitable purposes. Such term shall not include—

“(i) children's metal jewelry;

“(ii) any children's product for which the donating party or the seller has actual knowledge that the product is in violation of the lead limits in this section; or

“(iii) any other children's product or product category that the Commission determines, after notice and a hearing.

For purposes of this definition, the term ‘seller’ includes a person who lends or donates a used children's product.”.

SEC. 2. APPLICATION OF THIRD PARTY TESTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 14(d) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2063(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(B)(ii), by striking “random” and inserting “representative”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) REDUCING THIRD PARTY TESTING BURDENS.—

“(A) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Commission shall seek public comment on opportunities to reduce the cost of third party testing requirements consistent with assuring compliance with any applicable consumer product safety rule, ban, standard, or regulation. The request for public comment shall include the following:

“(i) The extent to which the use of materials subject to regulations of another government agency that requires third party testing of those materials may provide sufficient assurance of conformity with an applicable consumer product safety rule, ban, standard, or regulation without further third party testing.

“(ii) The extent to which modification of the certification requirements may have the effect of reducing redundant third party testing by or on behalf of 2 or more importers of a product that is substantially similar or identical in all material respects.

“(iii) The extent to which products with a substantial number of different components subject to third party testing may be evaluated to show compliance with an applicable rule, ban, standard, or regulation by third party testing of a subset of such components selected by a third party conformity assessment body.

“(iv) The extent to which manufacturers with a substantial number of substantially similar products subject to third party testing may reasonably make use of sampling procedures that reduce the overall test burden without compromising the benefits of third party testing.

“(v) The extent to which evidence of conformity with other national or international governmental standards may provide assurance of conformity to consumer product safety rules, bans, standards, or regulations applicable under this Act.

“(vi) The extent to which technology, other than the technology already approved by the Commission, exists for third party conformity assessment bodies to test or to screen for testing consumer products subject to a third party testing requirement.

“(vii) Other techniques for lowering the cost of third party testing consistent with assuring compliance with the applicable consumer product safety rules, bans, standards, and regulations.

“(B) REGULATIONS.—Following the public comment period described in subparagraph (A), but not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Commission shall review the public comments and may prescribe new or revised third party testing regulations if it determines that such regulations will reduce third party testing costs consistent with assuring compliance with the applicable consumer product safety rules, bans, standards, and regulations.

“(C) REPORT.—If the Commission determines that it lacks authority to implement an opportunity for reducing the costs of third-party testing consistent with assuring compliance with the applicable consumer product safety rules, bans, standards, and regulations, it shall transmit a report to Congress reviewing those opportunities, along with any recommendations for any legislation to permit such implementation.

“(4) SPECIAL RULES FOR SMALL BATCH MANUFACTURERS.—

“(A) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION; EXEMPTION.—

“(i) CONSIDERATION; ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS.—Subject to subparagraph (C), in implementing third party testing requirements under this section, the Commission shall take into consideration any economic, administrative, or other limits on the ability of small batch manufacturers to comply with such requirements and shall, after notice and a hearing, provide alternative testing requirements for covered products manufactured by small batch manufacturers in lieu of those required under subsection (a) or (b). Any such alternative requirements shall provide for reasonable methods to assure com-

pliance with any applicable consumer product safety rule, ban, standard, or regulation. The Commission may allow such alternative testing requirements for small batch manufacturers with respect to a specific product or product class or with respect to a specific safety rule, ban, standard, or regulation, or portion thereof.

“(ii) EXEMPTION.—If the Commission determines that no alternative testing requirement is available or economically practicable, it shall exempt small batch manufacturers from third party testing requirements under subsections (a) and (b).

“(iii) CERTIFICATION.—In lieu of or as part of any alternative testing requirements provided under clause (i), the Commission may allow certification of a product to an applicable consumer product safety rule, ban, standard, or regulation, or portion thereof, based on documentation that the product complies with another national or international governmental standard or safety requirement that the Commission determines is the same or more stringent than the consumer product safety rule, ban, standard, or regulation, or portion thereof. Any such certification shall only be allowed to the extent of the equivalency with a consumer product safety rule, ban, standard, or regulation and not to any other part of the consumer product safety rule, ban, standard, or regulation.

“(iv) RESTRICTION.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), and except where the Commission determines that the manufacturer does not meet the definition of a small batch manufacturer, for any small batch manufacturer registered pursuant to subparagraph (B), the Commission may not require third party testing of a covered product by a third party conformity assessment body until the Commission has provided either an alternative testing requirement or an exemption in accordance with clause (i) or (ii), respectively.

“(B) REGISTRATION.—Any small batch manufacturer that utilizes alternative requirements or an exemption under this paragraph shall register with the Commission prior to using such alternative requirements or exemptions pursuant to any guidelines issued by the Commission to carry out this requirement.

“(C) LIMITATION.—The Commission shall not provide or permit to continue in effect any alternative requirements or exemption from third party testing requirements under this paragraph where it determines, based on notice and a hearing, that full compliance with subsection (a) or (b) is reasonably necessary to protect public health or safety. The Commission shall not provide any alternative requirements or exemption for—

“(i) any of the third party testing requirements described in clauses (i) through (v) of subsection (a)(3)(B); or

“(ii) durable infant or toddler products, as defined in section 104(f) of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (15 U.S.C. 2056a(f)).

“(D) SUBSEQUENT MANUFACTURER.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to affect third party testing or any other requirements with respect to a subsequent manufacturer or other entity that uses components provided by one or more small batch manufacturers.

“(E) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this paragraph—

“(i) the term ‘covered product’ means a consumer product manufactured by a small batch manufacturer where no more than 7,500 units of the same product were manufactured in the previous calendar year; and

“(ii) the term ‘small batch manufacturer’ means a manufacturer that had no more than \$1,000,000 in total gross revenue from sales of all consumer products in the previous calendar year. The dollar amount contained in this paragraph shall be adjusted annually by the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by the Department of Labor.

For purposes of determining the total gross revenue for all sales of all consumer products of a manufacturer under this subparagraph, such total gross revenue shall be considered to include all gross revenue from all sales of all consumer products of each entity that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with such manufacturer. The Commission shall take steps to ensure that all relevant business affiliations are considered in determining whether or not a manufacturer meets this definition.

“(5) EXCLUSION FROM THIRD PARTY TESTING.—

“(A) CERTAIN PRINTED MATERIALS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The third party testing requirements established under subsection (a) shall not apply to ordinary books or ordinary paper-based printed materials.

“(ii) DEFINITIONS.—

“(I) ORDINARY BOOK.—The term ‘ordinary book’ means a book printed on paper or cardboard, printed with inks or toners, and bound and finished using a conventional method, and that is intended to be read or has educational value. Such term does not include books with inherent play value, books designed or intended for a child 3 years of age or younger, and does not include any toy or other article that is not a book that is sold or packaged with an ordinary book.

“(II) ORDINARY PAPER-BASED PRINTED MATERIALS.—The term ‘ordinary paper-based printed materials’ means materials printed on paper or cardboard, such as magazines, posters, greeting cards, and similar products, that are printed with inks or toners and bound and finished using a conventional method.

“(III) EXCLUSIONS.—Such terms do not include books or printed materials that contain components that are printed on material other than paper or cardboard or contain nonpaper-based components such as metal or plastic parts or accessories that are not part of the binding and finishing materials used in a conventional method.

“(B) METAL COMPONENT PARTS OF BICYCLES.—The third party testing requirements established under subsection (a) shall not apply to metal component parts of bicycles with respect to compliance with the lead content limits in place pursuant to section 101(b)(6) of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008.”.

(b) PROHIBITED ACT.—Section 19(a)(14) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2068(a)(14)) is amended by striking the period and inserting “, or to subdivide the production of any children’s product into small quantities that have the effect of evading any third party testing requirements under section 14(a)(2);”.

SEC. 3. APPLICATION OF AND PROCESS FOR UPDATING DURABLE NURSERY PRODUCTS STANDARDS.

(a) UPDATING STANDARD.—Section 104(b) of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (15 U.S.C. 2056a(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) PROCESS FOR CONSIDERING SUBSEQUENT REVISIONS TO VOLUNTARY STANDARD.—

“(A) NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF VOLUNTARY STANDARD.—When the Commission promulgates a consumer product safety standard

under this subsection that is based, in whole or in part, on a voluntary standard, the Commission shall notify the organization that issued the voluntary standard of the Commission's action and shall provide a copy of the consumer product safety standard to the organization.

“(B) COMMISSION ACTION ON REVISED VOLUNTARY STANDARD.—If an organization revises a standard that has been adopted, in whole or in part, as a consumer product safety standard under this subsection, it shall notify the Commission. The revised voluntary standard shall be considered to be a consumer product safety standard issued by the Commission under section 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2058), effective 180 days after the date on which the organization notifies the Commission (or such later date specified by the Commission in the Federal Register) unless, within 90 days after receiving that notice, the Commission notifies the organization that it has determined that the proposed revision does not improve the safety of the consumer product covered by the standard and that the Commission is retaining the existing consumer product safety standard.”.

(b) APPLICATION OF STANDARD.—Section 104(c) of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (15 U.S.C. 2056a(c)) is amended by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4) and inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) APPLICATION OF ANY REVISION.—With respect to any revision of the standard promulgated under subsection (b)(1)(B) subsequent to the initial promulgation of a standard under such subsection, paragraph (1) shall apply only to a person that manufactures or imports cribs, unless the Commission determines that application to any other person described in paragraph (2) is necessary to protect against an unreasonable risk to health or safety. If the Commission determines that application to a person described in paragraph (2) is necessary, it shall provide not less than 12 months for such person to come into compliance.”.

SEC. 4. APPLICATION OF SECTION 106 TO FDA-REGULATED PRODUCTS.

Section 106(a) of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (15 U.S.C. 2056b(a)) is amended by inserting “or any provision that restates or incorporates a regulation promulgated by the Food and Drug Administration or any statute administered by the Food and Drug Administration” after “or by statute”.

SEC. 5. APPLICATION OF PHTHALATES LIMIT.

(a) ACCESSIBLE, PLASTICIZED COMPONENT PARTS.—Section 108 of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (15 U.S.C. 2057c) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c) through (e) as subsections (e) through (g), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) APPLICATION.—Effective on the date of enactment of this Act, subsections (a) and (b)(1) and any rule promulgated under subsection (b)(3) shall apply to any plasticized component part of a children's toy or child care article or any other component part of a children's toy or child care article that is made of other materials that may contain phthalates.

“(d) EXCLUSION FOR INACCESSIBLE COMPONENT PARTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The prohibitions established under subsections (a) and (b) shall not apply to any component part of a children's toy or child care article that is not acces-

sible to a child through normal and reasonably foreseeable use and abuse of such product, as determined by the Commission. A component part is not accessible under this paragraph if such component part is not physically exposed by reason of a sealed covering or casing and does not become physically exposed through reasonably foreseeable use and abuse of the product. Reasonably foreseeable use and abuse shall include swallowing, mouthing, breaking, or other children's activities, and the aging of the product.

“(2) LIMITATION.—The Commission may revoke an exclusion or all exclusions granted under paragraph (1) at any time and require that any or all component parts manufactured after such exclusion is revoked comply with the prohibitions established under subsections (a) and (b) if the Commission finds, based on scientific evidence, that such compliance is necessary to protect the public health or safety.

“(3) INACCESSIBILITY PROCEEDING.—Within 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Commission shall—

“(A) promulgate a rule providing guidance with respect to what product components, or classes of components, will be considered to be inaccessible for purposes of paragraph (1); or

“(B) adopt the same guidance with respect to inaccessibility that was adopted by the Commission with regards to accessibility of lead under section 101(b)(2)(B), with additional consideration, as appropriate, of whether such component can be placed in a child's mouth.

“(4) APPLICATION PENDING COMMISSION GUIDANCE.—Until the Commission promulgates a rule pursuant to paragraph (3), the determination of whether a product component is inaccessible to a child shall be made in accordance with the requirements laid out in paragraph (1) for considering a component to be inaccessible to a child.”.

SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO MODIFY TRACKING LABELS REQUIREMENT.

Section 14(a)(5) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2063(a)(5)) is amended—

(1) by striking “Effective 1 year” and inserting “(A) Effective 1 year”;

(2) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) The Commission may, by regulation, exclude a specific product or class of products from the requirements in subparagraph (A) if the Commission determines that it is not practicable for such product or class of products to bear the marks required by such subparagraph. The Commission may establish alternative requirements for any product or class of products excluded under the preceding sentence consistent with the purposes described in clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A).”.

SEC. 7. IMPROVED PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION FOR PUBLIC DATABASE.

Section 6A(c) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2055a(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)(A), by inserting “or paragraph (5)” after “paragraph (4)(A)”;

(2) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking “determines that the information in such report or comment is materially inaccurate, the Commission shall—” and inserting “receives notice that the information in such report or comment is materially inaccurate, the Commission shall stay the publication of the report on the database as required under paragraph (3) for a period of no more than 5 additional days. If the Commission determines that the information in such report or com-

ment is materially inaccurate, the Commission shall—”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) OBTAINING CERTAIN PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Commission receives a report described in subsection (b)(1)(A) that does not include the model or serial number of the consumer product concerned, the Commission shall seek from the individual or entity submitting the report such model or serial number or, if such model or serial number is not available, a photograph of the product. If the Commission obtains information relating to the serial or model number of the product or a photograph of the product, it shall immediately forward such information to the manufacturer of the product. The Commission shall make the report available in the database on the 15th business day after the date on which the Commission transmits the report under paragraph (1) and shall include in the database any additional information about the product obtained under this paragraph.

“(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to—

“(i) permit the Commission to delay transmission of the report under paragraph (1) until the Commission has obtained the model or serial number or a photograph of the consumer product concerned; or

“(ii) make inclusion in the database of a report described in subsection (b)(1)(A) contingent on the availability of the model or serial number or a photograph of the consumer product concerned.”.

SEC. 8. SUBPOENA AUTHORITY.

Section 27(b) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2076(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by inserting “and physical” after “documentary”;

(2) in paragraph (8), by striking “and”;

(3) by redesignating paragraph (9) as paragraph (10) and inserting after paragraph (8) the following:

“(9) to delegate to the general counsel of the Commission the authority to issue subpoenas solely to Federal, State, or local government agencies for evidence described in paragraph (3); and”;

(4) in paragraph (10) (as so redesignated), by inserting “(except as provided in paragraph (9))” after “paragraph (3)”.

SEC. 9. DEADLINE FOR RULE BY CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION ON STANDARDS FOR ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES.

The Commission shall issue the final rule described in section 42(d) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2089(d)) not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 10. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) CPSA.—Section 14 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2063) is further amended by redesignating the second subsection (d) as subsection (i).

(b) CPSIA.—Section 101(a)(1) of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (15 U.S.C. 1278a(a)(1)) is amended by striking “(as defined in section 3(a)(16) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2052(a)(16)))” and inserting “(as defined in section 3(a) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2052(a)))”.

SEC. 11. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except as provided otherwise, the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from

California (Mrs. BONO MACK) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BONO MACK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

□ 1250

Mrs. BONO MACK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 2715, a bill that modifies the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008, also called CPSIA, and provides relief to address a number of unintended consequences that arose after CPSIA became law.

This bill is a win-win. It is good for American consumers and American businesses as well. It is also a bipartisan bill. And I want to thank Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman UPTON, as well as Ranking Member WAXMAN and my counterpart, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, for all of their hard work in getting this important bill to the floor today.

We passed CPSIA almost unanimously in 2008, and many of its features have advanced the cause of children's safety. But there also have been unintended consequences for many businesses, small and large alike. For 3 years now, we have heard the pleas of these businesses, asking for relief from the CPSIA mandates. We have also heard from the CPSC that it lacks the authority and flexibility to grant relief where needed.

On August 14, the last deadline looms, the final drop-down to the 0.01 percent lead content limit. Without swift action, we face empty store shelves that have been cleared of perfectly safe products because of what I believe was simply a drafting oversight. The bill makes the August 14 limit prospective in nature, permitting retailers to sell their existing inventory so long as it was made prior to August 14 and is compliant with the current lead limit of 0.03 percent, which was specifically approved by Congress for the last 2 years.

In a true spirit of bipartisanship, Ranking Members WAXMAN and BUTTERFIELD agreed to act swiftly to address this situation. While we don't necessarily agree on the best way to address all of the unintended consequences of CPSIA, we move the bill in response to the enormous threat facing stakeholders in the children's product industry in just less than 2 weeks.

In addition to addressing the immediate deadline, this bill goes a little farther to address the pain so many of our constituents are facing. ATVs, bikes, books, things that were never intended to be covered by the law but were ensnared by its wide reach nonetheless, will no longer face an uncertain future and are exempted from testing requirements.

Used children's products were also banned for sale as a result of the 2008 law. Thrift stores and charity retail outlets such as Goodwill Industries and even the local church bazaars were forced to toss anything made for a child under the age of 12 because it is impossible to tell whether an item was made in compliance with the law without its original packing or a dated sales receipt. As a result, the law essentially made all used children's products contraband. This wasteful result removed perfectly safe products from the reach of individuals who rely on the value and savings such stores provide in order to provide decent clothing for their children.

Manufacturers of other products will also see some relief from the most costly mandate of the CPSIA—third-party testing and the continuing compliance testing. This bill directs CPSC to seek comments within 60 days on how the current third-party testing regime can be altered to reduce costs.

Small batch manufacturers, who were among the hardest hit by CPSIA, will also find some relief in this bill. These manufacturers are generally stay-at-home moms with an entrepreneurial spirit or mom-and-pop retail outlets that handpick unique toys and other items for sale in their community. Almost universally, these small businesses got into business because they wanted to ensure their own children had safe toys. Almost universally, these small businesses have either closed shop or are on the verge of closing shop because of the onerous requirements of the CPSIA and the costs imposed.

The bill directs the Consumer Product Safety Commission to address the special situation of these businesses by finding alternative, more affordable testing methods or by exempting these businesses from testing altogether if no such alternative exists.

The bill creates a functional purpose exception process that we hope will give the CPSC more flexibility to exempt products from lead limits where there is no health risk. The exception process created in the original CPSIA has failed to permit a single exception for any children's product from the statutory lead limits established in the CPSIA, even in cases where the CPSC determined that such products pose no risk to children.

We have a narrow window of opportunity to address those mandates that threaten the survival of scores of busi-

nesses and the livelihoods of the individuals and families those businesses support. And I would like to thank the ranking member of the subcommittee, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, as well as the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. WAXMAN, as well as their staffs for working throughout the weekend to find a compromise that we both can support.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of this very important bill. Almost 3 years ago, President Bush signed H.R. 4040, the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, into law. While that bill passed this House by a vote of 424 to 1, it soon became evident to all of us that providing some of the extraordinary protections for children in that bill would be a challenge for some businesses, especially our smallest manufacturers. Many of them testified before our subcommittee, and we heard their concerns.

So I have worked very closely with Chairman BONO MACK in crafting this compromise to provide targeted and sensible relief for businesses from some of CPSIA's requirements without sacrificing the health and safety of our children. I am pleased that we are able to present it to the House today for immediate consideration. The bill is a marked change from where we started with H.R. 1939, and I am pleased with the bipartisan changes reflected in today's bill.

Businesses are provided with relief through prospective application of the 100 parts per million lead content limits. That means, Mr. Speaker, businesses won't have to pull products from store shelves that meet the current legal limit of 300 parts per million on the effective date of the 100 parts per million limit. We also include an exemption for off-road vehicles, like ATVs, snowmobiles, and dirt bikes, from meeting the lead content limit. The safety of our young people is paramount when designing and building off-road vehicles, and constructing strong, rigid parts for these vehicles often requires more lead than CPSIA would otherwise allow.

Further, the bill codifies a stay of enforcement by the CPSC with respect to the lead content limit of bicycles until December 31, 2011, and relaxes the ultimate lead content of bicycles to 300 parts per million.

This bill, Mr. Speaker, provides significant relief for small batch manufacturers. I have a tremendous amount of respect for America's small businesses and believe we must do all we can to protect them from overly burdensome regulations. At the same time, though,

we have an obligation to protect America's children from potentially dangerous products. The only way to know if those products are safe is to test them.

Taking the unique circumstances of small batch manufacturers, the bill requires CPSC, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, to consider potential economic and administrative burdens to small batch manufacturers when developing third-party testing requirements. It further permits the CPSC to provide alternative testing requirements. After notice and a hearing, if the commission determines there is no economically practicable alternative, they can exempt the product from third-party testing altogether.

I am pleased that this bill provides specific relief from testing for ordinary books and magazines. Our colleague, Mr. EDOLPHUS TOWNS from New York, has been concerned about ordinary books becoming an unintended consequence of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act. Manufacturers of ordinary books and magazines should not be subject to third-party testing. Still subject to testing will be books that have plastic parts, like pop-up books, those with nonpaper-based accessories, or anything else that has inherent play value.

I strongly support the consumer product safety information database created by H.R. 4040, and that has been somewhat controversial. But I support the database creation. It went live earlier this year and has been extremely successful in helping to educate the public about potentially unsafe products. This bill takes some sensible steps to make the database even more effective.

The bill requires the commission, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, to seek out more information about the products reported by consumers to the database, like a product's serial number, a model number, or a photograph of the product in question. I think the more information that is provided, the better and more effective the database will be for consumers and businesses alike.

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, I support this bill. I believe it provides a strong compromise that will reduce burdens on businesses and continue to protect American consumers.

□ 1300

Again, I want to thank our distinguished chairman of the subcommittee, Chairwoman BONO MACK, for working with me in a bipartisan fashion to find solutions, commonsense, practical solutions for the American people.

I thank the chairman of the subcommittee, the chairman of the full committee, the ranking member of the full committee, all of the stakeholders who had a part in crafting this compromise.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BONO MACK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. REHBERG).

Mr. REHBERG. First of all, Madam Chairman, thank you for the fine work on this piece of legislation, something that's truly overdue.

Mr. Speaker, the difficulty we had was a number of years ago, a piece of legislation went through this Congress with all the right things attached. We wanted to address lead in children's toys. True to Washington, D.C., form, the bureaucrats carried it to the extent that no longer made any kind of a common sense.

When it came to time for the regulations to be crafted, I started receiving phone calls from my motorized vehicle dealers around the State of Montana, those that sold youth motorcycles, snowmobiles and ATVs, and they were being told that they had to take those units out of their showroom, eat the inventory, and could no longer sell their parts for repairs. Why? Because there was lead in some of the repair parts or on the units themselves.

Now, I don't know if there is anybody in America that allows their children to chew on battery cables and valve stems, but they were determined to be toys, and it doesn't make sense. I come from a ranching family, and on my place we allow our children the opportunity to be trained on the smaller units to herd our livestock for the specific purpose that we don't want them on the larger vehicles. Try as we might to get the administration to change their regulations, they were not willing to do that.

Today we are dealing with H.R. 2715, and it addresses a very important issue, kids just want to ride. They want the opportunity to ride the motorized vehicles, whether it is a snowmobile, a 4-wheeler or an ATV, for the specific purpose not just of recreation, but in a work setting as well.

Because we could not make this change, we had to do it legislatively. We were successful in putting on riders on the appropriations bill year after year that said no money could be spent on the enforcement of this particular piece of legislation and the rules and regulations that were crafted thereafter. We will no longer have to do that with the passage of this bill.

So it's with a great deal of appreciation that I say to Mrs. BONO MACK, thank you for bringing this piece of legislation forward; for the minority, thank you for your kind support as well in helping to move this forward and ultimately we can make the right commonsense decision, and that is to remove this aspect of this onerous regulation so once again, a kid, children, can ride the right vehicles so they won't be on the larger 4-wheel units, the larger snowmobiles and the larger motorcycles.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. I want to thank the gentleman from Montana for working with us in crafting this compromise, and I hope he is satisfied with the ATV component. He has worked very hard and his staff has worked very hard to bring it to our attention.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished ranking member of our full committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN).

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bipartisan bill to amend the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008.

The 2008 act was a historic piece of legislation, both because of the landmark health and safety protections in that bill for young children and because of the near unanimous support for that legislation from Democrats and Republicans. And it has been a success.

Because of the Consumer Product Safety Act, we now have in place basic safety standards for keeping toxic lead and phthalates out of children's products. The CPSC has made long overdue revisions to safety standards for cribs. Manufacturers and retailers have begun the process of testing to make sure children's products are proven safe before they have been put on the store shelves and into the hands of children.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission, after years of atrophy due to budget cuts and neglect, has been reinvigorated and become proactive, rather than reactive. As a result, we have seen a decline in the number of children's products that have to be pulled from homes and store shelves. The agency is intercepting more dangerous products at the border.

And, finally, the American public has since March had access to consumer product safety information in a database that they can review about injuries from consumer products. Consumers now have free and open access to information that for too long remained hidden inside the CPSC.

But like any law, the 2008 act had some rough edges that needed to be smoothed out.

For example, there are some products that require a small amount of lead to maintain their strength and durability and don't pose a serious threat to public health or safety. ATVs and bicycles are examples of these.

Some businesses expressed concern that they could find themselves with inventory that meets the current legal limit of 300 parts per million that can no longer be sold when the limit drops to 100 parts per million on August 14, just 2 weeks away.

The smallest of small businesses are worried that they can't bear the cost of complying with these requirements in the way that larger businesses can.

This bill addresses these concerns without jeopardizing our children's

safety. It is a compromise bill in the best sense.

Some Members on the other side wanted bigger changes to the 2008 act and some Members on our side do not believe every provision in the bill is needed. But thanks to the hard work of my colleagues, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. BARTON and Mr. DINGELL, and the leadership of Chairman UPTON, we have arrived at a bill that I can support and urge my colleagues to join in supporting as well.

I think we have struck the right balance. We have fixed valid problems and keep in place valuable health and safety protections for children. That has been my primary goal throughout this process.

It was a long road to get to this place and after many hours and many months of tough negotiating, what we have here is a compromise that epitomizes bipartisanship. Neither side got everything it wanted, but both sides gave up enough that we were able to come up with something that was sensible and reasonable and that we can move quickly through this body. I hope the Senate sees it that way and can move quickly on this bill.

We all share the belief that American businesses should be able to grow and flourish. I also think we all share the belief that consumers, especially children, deserve safe products.

Again, I commend Chairwoman BONO MACK and Chairman UPTON for their willingness to hear us out and to work with us. I thank Mr. BUTTERFIELD for fighting for a balanced approach that keeps large and small businesses competitive and continues to keep our children safe from potentially dangerous products.

I also want to thank the other members of the Energy and Commerce Committee that have been active and helped us to get to today, including Mr. DINGELL, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. DEGETTE, and Ms. ESHOO.

Mrs. BONO MACK. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, it doesn't appear that I have any other speakers on this side. I think their attention might be directed in another direction today; so I am prepared to close.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of the individuals, all of the Members, all of the staff who have played a part in crafting this compromise. It's a good bipartisan compromise that we can all live with. I look forward to the President signing it into law after the Senate passes it, hopefully very soon, and hopefully our small businesses will be able to continue to be profitable.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BONO MACK. Mr. Speaker, I also just want to echo the sentiments of both my colleagues who just spoke about the importance of this bill and

thank them for their cooperation and the hard work that they put into this over the weekend. Again, I would like to thank the staffs of both the minority and the majority side.

I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise as an original co-sponsor and in strong support of H.R. 2715, a bill that will fix many of the unintended consequences of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) of 2008. I, along with my colleagues, Messrs. RUSH, BARTON, WHITFIELD, and WAXMAN, helped write CPSIA in response to the massive influx of dangerous and tainted Chinese imports during what some have termed "the summer of recalls" in 2007. The House's bill was negotiated in a bipartisan manner. It was reported favorably by the Committee on Energy and Commerce through a unanimous vote and then passed by the full House, 407–1. Then our dear friends in the Senate got hold of the bill, and we have been trying to fix the mess ever since.

Although this process has taken over two-and-a-half years, I am pleased that H.R. 2715 will solve in great measure the problems CPSIA has caused. This bill will ensure that CPSIA's lead limits are prospective. It will put in place a waiver process to exempt from CPSIA's lead limits products that do not pose a danger to children's health and safety. H.R. 2715 will make the common-sense clarification that CPSIA's lead limits do not apply to bicycles, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), and books. Finally, the bill will allow the Commission discretion to prescribe alternative third-party testing requirements with a view toward helping smaller businesses with more finite resources comply with the law. It bears mentioning that all of these changes will not undo the strict protections built into CPSIA to keep kids safe from dangerous products.

H.R. 2715's significant improvements to CPSIA come as a result of bipartisan negotiation and cooperation. Despite the turmoil and rancor in Congress over the past few months, this bill shows that the House of Representatives can still legislate and do so in a manner befitting our Founding Fathers' vision of representative government. I would like to thank my friends and colleagues, Messrs. UPTON, WAXMAN, and BUTTERFIELD for their fine work on H.R. 2715. Mrs. BONO MACK, in particular, deserves praise and congratulations for her success on this bill, her first as Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade. Although often overlooked, the work of staff on H.R. 2715 demands deserved recognition, especially that of Gib Mullan and Michelle Ash, Republican and Democratic counsels, respectively. Their steadfast determination and hard work have made this bill a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 2715 and in so doing help put CPSIA's long and storied legislative sage to rest. We should all support this bill with the knowledge that it—in a manner pleasing to Hippocrates—will do no harm. I pray our colleagues in the other body will adhere to this principle in their expeditious consideration of H.R. 2715.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this bi-partisan legislation that will help protect consumers against dangerous products that may do them harm. This legislation affects a broad spectrum of our economy, from the manufacturers of toys to the children that play with them. I am truly delighted that Democrats and Republicans were able to come together to support a plan to increase the safety of all children's products manufactured in this country. I am also pleased that this bipartisan agreement addresses some of the unintended consequences of the original legislation without sacrificing the safety requirements that I believe are necessary to protect our children.

Our committee has had several months of consultation with industry officials to alleviate the burden placed on them by the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act's (CPSIA) new standards and regulations. These common sense reforms such as allowing flexibility for the CPSC to exempt specific products and exclude certain used children's products were supported by many of the stakeholders that will be affected by the legislation we are considering today.

I again want to commend Chairman BONO MACK and Ranking Member BUTTERFIELD for coming together and bringing this improved legislation to the floor. I encourage my colleagues to vote yes on this legislation, I also urge my colleagues to continue to work together in the spirit of bi-partisanship to protect the standards of safety that our constituents demand of us.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2715, a bill which places profits ahead of public health; especially the health of children. Though some flexibility in the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act's implementation is warranted, this bill goes too far.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, and the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, there is no safe level of exposure to lead. Even the most minute exposures, including so-called "trace" amounts, have enduring health effects. Lead has many of the same chemical properties as calcium, which is why the body takes it up and deposits in the brain and in bone. However, once lead enters the brain, it doesn't leave. Commonly seen health effects of lead exposure include delays in neurological and physical development, learning disabilities, hyperactivity, lower IQ, hearing loss, reduced attention span, and extremely aggressive behavior. A growing body of research links criminal activity to exposure to lead, which stands to reason given this list of effects.

This bill provides industry with several exemptions from the law and enhances its ability to self-regulate, an approach that has already proven to fail to protect public health. First, the bill exempts all products from the lead standards contained in the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act except children's products. Though children are disproportionately susceptible to lead exposure, it is a disproven myth that adults are not susceptible. Adults suffer many of the same effects which are harder to detect because there are no programs to test blood lead levels, BLL, in adults.

This bill sets forth a series of harmless-sounding criteria to be used to grant specific

exemptions that facilitate exposure to lead. If a company decides it wants to manufacture a product that can only be made with dangerous amounts of lead, that is now perfectly acceptable. In exchange, that company would need to show that the product is unlikely to be eaten, even though most lead exposure actually occurs through habitual hand-to-mouth activity after hands come into unwitting contact with the vast array of consumer products that contain lead. That company would also need to show that blood lead levels—of children only—would not be affected. That is not a difficult hurdle since blood only remains in the body for about two weeks before it is expelled or taken up into the brain or bone, where it is nearly impossible to detect.

This bill also gives manufacturers the ability to initiate a petition to exempt their products, without any way to prevent the well-worn tactic of applying for so many exemptions, and submitting so much information, much of which is meaningless, that the agency is effectively paralyzed with work. Worse, the bill allows the CPSC to make decisions about exemptions based solely on information submitted by the manufacturer. It is an inherent conflict of interest to turn over the burden of proof of harm to the company that stands to profit handsomely if no harm is proven. Citizens, advocates, and the CPSC do not have the resources to be able to generate enough information arguing against exemptions to match the volume of applications and information the manufacturers will put out. Chemical companies have been using this tactic for decades to push toxic chemicals through the approval process.

The bill also contains blanket exemptions for narrow interests like off-road vehicles, bicycles, books, and magazines, even though the products are meant for children and most Americans would be surprised to learn that they contain lead at all.

There is a balance to be struck between unnecessarily burdensome regulations and protection of public health. This bill fails to strike that balance.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud House passage of H.R. 2715, the Enhancing CPSC Authority and Discretion Act of 2011, ECADA.

I voted in favor of this long-awaited bill, because it addresses the needed reforms of the 2008 Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, CPSIA, without undoing its core protections of consumers from unsafe toys and other products.

This landmark legislation came in the wake of one of the biggest wave of consumer product recalls in American history. In excess of 10 million toys were estimated to have been recalled due to lead paint and other product safety standards, standards that have been on the books for decades. This was and is unacceptable, and Congress responded accordingly.

Specifically, Mr. Speaker, this bill adequately addresses what I believe is the key provision of CPSIA—that consumer products, especially children's products—should be tested as being in compliance with mandatory safety standards.

And testing is the key. We live in a global supply chain environment, where any given

product has a dozen or more part suppliers from a dozen or more countries, where safety standards may be weaker than our own.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I am proud and pleased that the final ECADA bill passed by the House today maintains the requirement that products be tested to CPSC lead and other standards. But I am equally pleased that the final bill reflects the need to make such testing affordable.

Additionally, H.R. 2715 directs the CPSC to look for "other techniques for lowering the cost of third party testing consistent with assuring compliance with the applicable consumer product safety rules, bans, standards and regulations."

Mr. Speaker, this last language is critical because it will protect consumers and create jobs here in America. I know this because in my Congressional District a company, XOS, Inc. has developed state of the art instruments for detecting lead, mercury, cadmium and other heavy metals in children's toys and other products.

This new technology is the only CPSC approved method for the detection of lead paint without using wet chemistry. This method was also adopted by one of the most widely respected voluntary standards development organizations in the country (ASTM).

Finally, I would suggest that, as this bill is on the precipice of becoming law, we consider that, if a small company in upstate New York can find a solution to "how much lead is in this product," we can find more home-grown solutions to many of the other pending issues facing our country. We need to focus all our efforts on investing in our people and in creating jobs and this bill does just that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. BONO MACK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2715.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mrs. BONO MACK. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1402

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM) at 2 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 2715, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 398, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1933, by the yeas and nays.

The first two electronic votes will be conducted as 15-minute votes. The remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

PROVIDING GREATER AUTHORITY AND DISCRETION TO CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2715) to provide the Consumer Product Safety Commission with greater authority and discretion in enforcing the consumer product safety laws, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. BONO MACK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 421, nays 2, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 683]

YEAS—421

Ackerman	Bucshon	Crenshaw
Adams	Buerkle	Critz
Aderholt	Burgess	Crowley
Akin	Burton (IN)	Cuellar
Alexander	Butterfield	Culberson
Altmire	Calvert	Cummings
Amash	Camp	Davis (CA)
Andrews	Campbell	Davis (IL)
Austria	Canseco	Davis (KY)
Bachus	Cantor	DeFazio
Baldwin	Capito	DeGette
Barletta	Capps	DeLauro
Barrow	Capuano	Denham
Bartlett	Cardoza	Dent
Barton (TX)	Carnahan	DesJarlais
Bass (CA)	Carney	Deutch
Bass (NH)	Carson (IN)	Diaz-Balart
Becerra	Carter	Dicks
Benishek	Cassidy	Dingell
Berg	Castor (FL)	Doggett
Berkley	Chabot	Dold
Berman	Chaffetz	Donnelly (IN)
Biggart	Chandler	Doyle
Bilbray	Chu	Dreier
Bilirakis	Cicilline	Duffy
Bishop (GA)	Clarke (MI)	Duncan (SC)
Bishop (NY)	Clarke (NY)	Duncan (TN)
Bishop (UT)	Clay	Edwards
Black	Cleaver	Ellison
Blackburn	Clyburn	Ellmers
Blumenauer	Coble	Emerson
Bonner	Coffman (CO)	Engel
Bono Mack	Cohen	Eshoo
Boren	Cole	Farenthold
Boswell	Conaway	Farr
Boustany	Connolly (VA)	Fattah
Brady (PA)	Conyers	Filner
Brady (TX)	Cooper	Fincher
Briley (IA)	Costa	Fitzpatrick
Brooks	Costello	Flake
Broun (GA)	Courtney	Fleischmann
Brown (FL)	Cravaack	Fleming
Buchanan	Crawford	Flores

Forbes	Lewis (CA)	Richmond	Womack	Wu	Young (AK)	DeGette	Jackson (IL)	Nunnelee
Fortenberry	Lewis (GA)	Rigell	Woodall	Yarmuth	Young (FL)	DeLauro	Jackson Lee	Olson
Fox	Lipinski	Rivera	Woolsey	Yoder	Young (IN)	Denham	(TX)	Owens
Frank (MA)	LoBiondo	Roby				Dent	Jenkins	Palazzo
Franks (AZ)	Loeb	Roe (TN)				DesJarlais	Johnson (GA)	Pallone
Frelinghuysen	Lofgren, Zoe	Rogers (AL)	Kucinich	Rush		Deutch	Johnson (IL)	Pascarelli
Fudge	Long	Rogers (KY)				Diaz-Balart	Johnson (OH)	Pastor (AZ)
Gallegly	Lowey	Rogers (MI)				Dicks	Johnson, E. B.	Paul
Garamendi	Lucas	Rohrabacher	Baca	Gohmert	Landry	Dingell	Johnson, Sam	Paulsen
Gardner	Luetkemeyer	Rokita	Bachmann	Green, Gene	Moore	Doggett	Jones	Payne
Garrett	Lujan	Rooney	Giffords	Hinchey	Oliver	Dold	Jordan	Pearce
Gerlach	Lummis	Ros-Lehtinen				Donnelly (IN)	Kaptur	Pelosi
Gibbs	Lungren, Daniel	Roskam				Doyle	Keating	Pence
Gibson	E.	Ross (AR)				Dreier	Kelly	Perlmutter
Gingrey (GA)	Lynch	Ross (FL)				Duffy	Kildee	Peters
Gonzalez	Mack	Rothman (NJ)				Duncan (SC)	Kind	Peterson
Goodlatte	Maloney	Roybal-Allard				Duncan (TN)	King (IA)	Petri
Gosar	Manzullo	Royce				Edwards	King (NY)	Pingree (ME)
Gowdy	Marchant	Runyan				Ellison	Kingston	Pitts
Granger	Marino	Ruppersberger				Ellmers	Kinzing (IL)	Platts
Graves (GA)	Markey	Ryan (OH)				Emerson	Kissell	Poe (TX)
Graves (MO)	Matheson	Ryan (WI)				Engel	Kline	Polis
Green, Al	Matsui	Sanchez, Linda				Eshoo	Kucinich	Pompeo
Griffin (AR)	McCarthy (CA)	T.				Farenthold	Labrador	Posey
Griffith (VA)	McCarthy (NY)	Sanchez, Loretta				Farr	Lamborn	Price (GA)
Grijalva	McCaul	Sarbanes				Fattah	Lance	Price (NC)
Grimm	McClintock	Scalise				Filner	Landry	Quayle
Guinta	McCollum	Schakowsky				Fincher	Langevin	Quigley
Guthrie	McCotter	Schiff				Fitzpatrick	Lankford	Rahall
Gutierrez	McDermott	Schilling				Flake	Larsen (WA)	Rangel
Hahn	McGovern	Schmidt				Fleischmann	Larson (CT)	Reed
Hall	McHenry	Schock				Fleming	Latham	Rehberg
Hanabusa	McIntyre	Schrader				Flores	LaTourette	Reichert
Hanna	McKeon	Schwartz				Forbes	Latta	Renacci
Harper	McKinley	Schweikert				Fortenberry	Lee (CA)	Reyes
Harris	McMorris	Scott (SC)				Fox	Levin	Ribble
Hartzler	Rodgers	Scott (VA)				Frank (MA)	Lewis (CA)	Richardson
Hastings (FL)	McNerney	Scott, Austin				Franks (AZ)	Lewis (GA)	Richmond
Hastings (WA)	Meehan	Scott, David				Frelinghuysen	Lipinski	Rigell
Hayworth	Meeks	Sensenbrenner				Fudge	LoBiondo	Rivera
Heck	Mica	Serrano				Gallegly	Loeb	Roby
Heinrich	Michaud	Sessions				Garamendi	Lofgren, Zoe	Roe (TN)
Hensarling	Miller (FL)	Sewell				Gardner	Long	Rogers (AL)
Herger	Miller (MI)	Sherman				Garrett	Lowey	Rogers (KY)
Herrera Beutler	Miller (NC)	Shimkus				Gerlach	Lucas	Rogers (MI)
Higgins	Miller, Gary	Shuler				Gibbs	Luetkemeyer	Rohrabacher
Himes	Miller, George	Shuster				Gibson	Lujan	Rokita
Hinojosa	Moran	Simpson				Gingrey (GA)	Lummis	Rooney
Hirono	Mulvaney	Sires				Gohmert	Lungren, Daniel	Ros-Lehtinen
Hochul	Murphy (CT)	Slaughter				Gonzalez	E.	Roskam
Holden	Murphy (PA)	Smith (NE)				Goodlatte	Lynch	Ross (AR)
Holt	Myrick	Smith (NJ)				Gosar	Mack	Ross (FL)
Honda	Nadler	Smith (TX)				Gowdy	Maloney	Rothman (NJ)
Hoyer	Napolitano	Smith (WA)				Granger	Manzullo	Roybal-Allard
Huelskamp	Neal	Southerland				Graves (GA)	Marchant	Royce
Huizenga (MI)	Neugebauer	Speier				Graves (MO)	Marino	Runyan
Hultgren	Noem	Stark				Green, Al	Markey	Ruppersberger
Hunter	Nugent	Stearns				Griffin (AR)	Matheson	Rush
Hurt	Nunes	Stivers				Griffith (VA)	Matsui	Ryan (OH)
Inslee	Nunnelee	Stutzman				Grijalva	McCarthy (CA)	Ryan (WI)
Israel	Olson	Sullivan				Grimm	McCarthy (NY)	Sanchez, Linda
Issa	Owens	Sutton				Guinta	McCaul	T.
Jackson (IL)	Palazzo	Terry				Guthrie	McClintock	Sanchez, Loretta
Jackson Lee	Pallone	Thompson (CA)				Gutierrez	McCollum	Sarbanes
(TX)	Pascarelli	Thompson (MS)				Hahn	McCotter	Scalise
Jenkins	Pastor (AZ)	Thompson (PA)				Hall	McDermott	Schakowsky
Johnson (GA)	Paul	Thornberry				Hanabusa	McGovern	Schiff
Johnson (IL)	Paulsen	Tiberi				Hanna	McHenry	Schilling
Johnson (OH)	Payne	Tierney				Harper	McIntyre	Schmidt
Johnson, E. B.	Pearce	Tipton				Harris	McKeon	Schock
Johnson, Sam	Pelosi	Tonko				Hartzler	McKinley	Schrader
Jones	Pence	Towns				Hastings (FL)	McMorris	Schwartz
Jordan	Perlmutter	Tsongas				Hastings (WA)	Rodgers	Schweikert
Kaptur	Peters	Turner				Hayworth	McNerney	Scott (SC)
Keating	Peterson	Upton				Heck	Meehan	Scott (VA)
Kelly	Petri	Van Hollen				Heinrich	Meeks	Scott, Austin
Kildee	Pingree (ME)	Velazquez				Hensarling	Mica	Scott, David
Kind	Pitts	Visclosky				Herger	Michaud	Sensenbrenner
King (IA)	Platts	Walberg				Herrera Beutler	Miller (FL)	Serrano
King (NY)	Poe (TX)	Walden				Higgins	Miller (MI)	Sessions
Kingston	Polis	Walsh (IL)				Himes	Miller (NC)	Sewell
Kinzing (IL)	Pompeo	Walz (MN)				Hinojosa	Miller, Gary	Sherman
Kissell	Posey	Wasserman				Hirono	Miller, George	Shimkus
Kline	Price (GA)	Berg				Hochul	Moore	Shuler
Labrador	Price (NC)	Waters				Holden	Moran	Shuster
Lamborn	Quayle	Watt				Holt	Mulvaney	Simpson
Lance	Quigley	Waxman				Honda	Murphy (CT)	Sires
Langevin	Rahall	Webster				Hoyer	Murphy (PA)	Slaughter
Lankford	Rangel	Welch				Huelskamp	Myrick	Smith (NE)
Larsen (WA)	Reed	West				Huizenga (MI)	Nadler	Smith (NJ)
Larson (CT)	Rehberg	Westmoreland				Hultgren	Napolitano	Smith (TX)
Latham	Reichert	Whitfield				Hunter	Neal	Smith (WA)
LaTourette	Renacci	Wilson (FL)				Hurt	Neugebauer	Southerland
Latta	Reyes	Wilson (SC)				Inslee	Noem	Speier
Lee (CA)	Ribble	Wittman				Israel	Nugent	Stark
Levin	Richardson	Wolf				Issa	Nunes	Stearns

NAYS—2

NOT VOTING—9

□ 1428

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUSPENDING IMMIGRATION STATUS PETITION AND INTERVIEW TIME REQUIREMENT FOR MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 398) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to toll, during active-duty service abroad in the Armed Forces, the periods of time to file a petition and appear for an interview to remove the conditional basis for permanent resident status, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 426, nays 0, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 684]

YEAS—426

Ackerman	Bono Mack	Chaffetz
Adams	Boren	Chandler
Aderholt	Boswell	Chu
Akin	Boustany	Cicilline
Alexander	Brady (PA)	Clarke (MI)
Altman	Brady (TX)	Clarke (NY)
Amash	Braley (IA)	Clay
Andrews	Brooks	Cleaver
Austria	Brown (GA)	Clyburn
Bachus	Brown (FL)	Coble
Baldwin	Buchanan	Coffman (CO)
Barletta	Buchson	Cohen
Barrow	Buerkle	Cole
Bartlett	Burgess	Conaway
Barton (TX)	Burton (IN)	Connolly (VA)
Bass (CA)	Butterfield	Conyers
Bass (NH)	Calvert	Cooper
Becerra	Camp	Costa
Benishke	Campbell	Costello
Berg	Canseco	Courtney
Berkley	Cantor	Cravack
Berman	Capito	Crawford
Biggart	Capps	Crenshaw
Bilbray	Capuano	Critz
Bilirakis	Cardoza	Crowley
Bishop (GA)	Carnahan	Cuellar
Bishop (NY)	Carney	Culberson
Bishop (UT)	Carson (IN)	Cummings
Black	Carter	Davis (CA)
Blackburn	Cassidy	Davis (IL)
Blumenauer	Castor (FL)	Davis (KY)
Bonner	Chabot	DeFazio

Stivers	Upton	Westmoreland
Stutzman	Van Hollen	Whitfield
Sullivan	Velázquez	Wilson (FL)
Sutton	Visclosky	Wilson (SC)
Terry	Walberg	Wittman
Thompson (CA)	Walden	Wolf
Thompson (MS)	Walsh (IL)	Womack
Thompson (PA)	Walz (MN)	Woodall
Thornberry	Wasserman	Woolsey
Tiberi	Schultz	Wu
Tierney	Waters	Yarmuth
Tipton	Watt	Yoder
Tonko	Waxman	Young (AK)
Towns	Webster	Young (FL)
Tsongas	Welch	Young (IN)
Turner	West	

NOT VOTING—6

Baca	Giffords	Hinchey
Bachmann	Green, Gene	Olver

□ 1446

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NON-IMMIGRANT NURSES VISA REAUTHORIZATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1933) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the requirements for admission of non-immigrant nurses in health professional shortage areas, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 407, nays 17, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 685]

YEAS—407

Ackerman	Boren	Chandler
Adams	Boswell	Chu
Aderholt	Boustany	Cicilline
Akin	Brady (PA)	Clarke (MI)
Alexander	Brady (TX)	Clarke (NY)
Altmire	Braley (IA)	Clay
Andrews	Brooks	Cleaver
Austria	Brown (FL)	Clyburn
Bachus	Buchanan	Coble
Baldwin	Bucshon	Coffman (CO)
Barletta	Buerkle	Cohen
Barrow	Burgess	Cole
Bartlett	Burton (IN)	Conaway
Barton (TX)	Butterfield	Connolly (VA)
Bass (CA)	Calvert	Conyers
Bass (NH)	Camp	Cooper
Becerra	Campbell	Costa
Benishkek	Canseco	Costello
Berg	Cantor	Courtney
Berkley	Capito	Cravaack
Berman	Capps	Crawford
Biggart	Capuano	Crenshaw
Bilbray	Cardoza	Critz
Bilirakis	Carnahan	Crowley
Bishop (GA)	Carney	Cuellar
Bishop (NY)	Carson (IN)	Culberson
Bishop (UT)	Carter	Cummings
Black	Cassidy	Davis (CA)
Blumenauer	Castor (FL)	Davis (IL)
Bonner	Chabot	Davis (KY)
Bono Mack	Chaffetz	DeGette

DeLauro	Johnson, E. B.	Pearce
Denham	Johnson, Sam	Pelosi
Dent	Jones	Pence
Deutch	Jordan	Perlmutter
Diaz-Balart	Kaptur	Peters
Dicks	Keating	Peterson
Dingell	Kelly	Petri
Doggett	Kildee	Pingree (ME)
Dold	Kind	Pitts
Donnelly (IN)	King (NY)	Platts
Doyle	Kinzinger (IL)	Poe (TX)
Dreier	Kissell	Polis
Duncan (SC)	Kline	Price (NC)
Edwards	Kucinich	Quayle
Ellison	Labrador	Quigley
Ellmers	Lamborn	Rahall
Emerson	Lance	Rangel
Engel	Landry	Reed
Eshoo	Langevin	Rehberg
Farenthold	Lankford	Reichert
Farr	Larsen (WA)	Renacci
Fattah	Larson (CT)	Reyes
Filner	Latham	Ribble
Fincher	LaTourette	Richardson
Fitzpatrick	Latta	Richmond
Flake	Lee (CA)	Rigell
Fleischmann	Levin	Rivera
Fleming	Lewis (CA)	Roby
Flores	Lewis (GA)	Roe (TN)
Forbes	Lipinski	Rogers (AL)
Fortenberry	LoBiondo	Rogers (KY)
Fox	Loeb	Rogers (MI)
Frank (MA)	Lofgren, Zoe	Rokita
Franks (AZ)	Long	Rooney
Frelinghuysen	Lowey	Ros-Lehtinen
Fudge	Lucas	Roskam
Galleghy	Luetkemeyer	Ross (AR)
Garamendi	Luján	Ross (FL)
Gardner	Lummis	Rothman (NJ)
Garrett	Lungren, Daniel E.	Roybal-Allard
Gerlach	Lynch	Royce
Gibbs	Mack	Runyan
Gingrey (GA)	Maloney	Ruppersberger
Gonzalez	Manzullo	Rush
Goodlatte	Marchant	Ryan (OH)
Gowdy	Marino	Ryan (WI)
Granger	Markey	Sánchez, Linda T.
Graves (MO)	Matheson	Sanchez, Loretta
Green, Al	Matsui	Sarbanes
Griffin (AR)	McCarthy (CA)	Scalise
Griffith (VA)	McCarthy (NY)	Schakowsky
Grijalva	McCauley	Schiff
Grimm	McClintock	Schilling
Guinta	McCollum	Schmidt
Guthrie	McCotter	Schock
Gutierrez	McDermott	Schrader
Hahn	McGovern	Schwartz
Hall	McHenry	Schweikert
Hanabusa	McIntyre	Scott (SC)
Hanna	McKeon	Scott (VA)
Harper	McKinley	Scott, Austin
Harris	McMorris	Scott, David
Hartzer	Rodgers	Sensenbrenner
Hastings (FL)	McNerney	Serrano
Hastings (WA)	Meehan	Sessions
Hayworth	Meeks	Sewell
Heck	Mica	Sherman
Heinrich	Michaud	Shimkus
Hensarling	Miller (FL)	Shuler
Herger	Miller (MI)	Shuster
Herrera Beutler	Miller (NC)	Simpson
Higgins	Miller, Gary	Sires
Himes	Miller, George	Slaughter
Hinojosa	Moran	Smith (NE)
Hirono	Mulvaney	Smith (NJ)
Hochul	Murphy (CT)	Smith (TX)
Holden	Murphy (PA)	Smith (WA)
Holt	Myrick	Southerland
Honda	Nadler	Speier
Hoyer	Napolitano	Stark
Huelskamp	Neal	Stearns
Huizenga (MI)	Neugebauer	Stivers
Hultgren	Noem	Stutzman
Hunter	Nunes	Sullivan
Hurt	Unnelee	Sutton
Inlee	Olson	Terry
Israel	Olver	Thompson (CA)
Issa	Owens	Thompson (MS)
Jackson (IL)	Palazzo	Thompson (PA)
Jackson Lee	Pallone	Thornberry
(TX)	Pascrell	Tiberi
Jenkins	Pastor (AZ)	Tierney
Johnson (GA)	Paul	Tipton
Johnson (IL)	Paulsen	Tonko
Johnson (OH)	Payne	Towns

Tsongas	Waters	Womack
Turner	Watt	Woodall
Upton	Waxman	Woolsey
Van Hollen	Webster	Wu
Velázquez	Welch	Yarmuth
Visclosky	West	Yoder
Walberg	Whitfield	Young (AK)
Walden	Wilson (FL)	Young (FL)
Walz (MN)	Wilson (SC)	Young (IN)
Wasserman	Wittman	
Schultz	Wolf	

NAYS—17

Amash	Gohmert	Pompeo
Blackburn	Gosar	Price (GA)
Broun (GA)	Graves (GA)	Rohrabacher
DeFazio	King (IA)	Walsh (IL)
DesJarlais	Kingston	Westmoreland
Duncan (TN)	Nugent	

NOT VOTING—8

Baca	Giffords	Moore
Bachmann	Green, Gene	Posey
Duffy	Hinchey	

□ 1454

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 365, BUDGET CONTROL ACT OF 2011

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-190) on the resolution (H. Res. 384) providing for consideration of the bill (S. 365) to make a technical amendment to the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 384 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 384

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (S. 365) to make a technical amendment to the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate, with 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules, 15 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means, and 15 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). The gentleman from California is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my very good friend, the gentlewoman from Rochester, New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), the ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DREIER. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, after months and months of debate, we have arrived at the ultimate goal to which we are all committed: a bipartisan agreement to avert the debt ceiling crisis looming right before us. Even more importantly, we have crafted a plan that addresses the real underlying challenge of our ballooning national debt.

The bipartisan agreement before us today is an historic achievement. Mr. Speaker, this is the 76th time that we have raised the debt ceiling since 1962. Seventy-five times it has been raised. This is the 76th time. Yet, Mr. Speaker, it is the very first time that we have done so while making corresponding cuts in spending that exceed the ceiling increase. To most of us, this is just good common sense. It's the only responsible thing to do. Yet 75 times before, no connection was made between the debt ceiling and efforts to tackle our debt.

With today's underlying legislation, we are fundamentally changing the way business is done here in Washington. We are setting a new precedent for fiscal discipline and accountability. This is a tremendous achievement that will have a profound and lasting impact on our budget and our economy in both the short, medium and long term. This is an especially critical point to focus on.

□ 1500

Today's legislation has dramatic implications for both the budget and our economy. Mr. Speaker, as you know very well, the two are inextricably linked. This is why our fiscal situation is so important. We don't need a balanced budget for the sake of a balanced budget, we need to balance our budget because job creation and economic growth depend on it.

There is a reason why the major credit agencies have said that our AAA credit rating is in jeopardy if we don't

dramatically cut spending. Multitribillion-dollar deficits and a national debt that approaches 100 percent of GDP are not sustainable. Democrats and Republicans alike recognize that. If we want to inspire confidence in the U.S. economy, create jobs, and restore our position as the world's most vital and dynamic economy, we absolutely must chart a new fiscal course.

The bipartisan agreement that we will consider today does just that. It makes meaningful, immediate spending cuts. It sets up a process that guarantees votes in both Chambers by Thanksgiving on an even bigger package. This will give us the time necessary to go beyond cuts to significant new reforms. That includes reforming entitlement programs to keep them solvent and ensure that they don't force us back onto a path of spiraling deficits and debt.

Mr. Speaker, by setting up this process, we can responsibly make the hard but essential choices that will restore our economy and unleash its power to create new opportunities for Americans. The underlying legislation will also impose additional automatic cuts, should Congress fail to continue on a path to real reform.

Mr. Speaker, we are all in this together, Democrat and Republican alike. We all stand to suffer tremendously if we fail to either raise the debt ceiling or take this opportunity to fundamentally change course. We will all suffer if we fail to continue the process of meaningful reform. But by coming together and enacting real reform, by remaining committed to this joint effort into the future, we can all share in the benefits of a surging economy and job market. We can't approach a challenge of this magnitude as Republicans and Democrats first, but as fellow Americans who share a commitment to our prosperity as a Nation now and into the future.

Mr. Speaker, today we have the opportunity. I urge my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I thank the gentleman from California, my good friend, Mr. DREIER, for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, after a tense standoff over a self-inflicted crisis, I'm extremely disappointed with the solution that is being proposed today.

It's important that we raise the debt ceiling; in fact, it is the duty of every Member of Congress to ensure we pay our bills. Unfortunately, we have reached this point because some on the other side see paying our bills as optional and have asked a king's ransom for doing so. In the process, the majority has shown the world that our democracy is currently dysfunctional. Even if we avoid default, the process

that got us to this point has already shown the world that the greatest nation on Earth can barely keep the lights on.

Recently, IMF Chief Christine Lagarde told CNN in not so many words that we are destroying the world's faith in our ability to be the most powerful economy on Earth and our ability to pay our bills. This dysfunction is only highlighted further by the proposed creation of a so-called "Super Committee," a closed-door committee that will determine how to cut another \$1 trillion in government spending while 523 elected Representatives are told to sit on the sidelines and vote up and down when all is said and done. I repeat what I said last week, my constituents did not send me to Congress to sit on sidelines while the most important issues of our time are being decided.

The crumbling faith in our democracy is already having an effect on our economy. Just last week, Roll Call reported that the prolonged debate over raising the debt ceiling resulted in an increase in Federal borrowing costs—a fancy way to say that interest rates for car loans and home mortgages are higher now than they should have or would have been.

Furthermore, today's agreement does nothing to create jobs for the 25 million Americans who failed to find full-time jobs last month. On Friday, we will receive a jobs report that will provide even more evidence that while Congress has shrugged aside the urgent need to create jobs, millions of Americans continue to suffer. This bill does nothing to serve them.

The majority has steadfastly refused to consider a balanced approach to reducing our deficit, rejecting attempts to close tax loopholes for the rich and extend unemployment benefits for those unable to find work. Instead, they have decided to only consider the draconian cuts that threaten to reverse whatever fragile economic recovery is underway.

On Sunday, Mohamed El-Erian, the CEO of a major financial firm, spoke of the damage that proposed cuts will inflict on our economy. While speaking on ABC, he said, "Unemployment will be higher than it would have been otherwise, growth will be lower than it would have been otherwise, and inequality will be worse than it would have been otherwise." He added, "We have a very weak economy. Withdrawing more spending at this stage is going to make it even weaker."

Today's agreement will endanger the potential for new jobs while asking absolutely nothing of those in our country who are the most well off.

Democrats will continue to vigorously fight for Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare to ensure that not a penny is cut from the checks of seniors and working people who rely on these programs every day. It is a contract.

We believe that ultimately we must take a balanced approach to reducing our deficit. Tax loopholes must be closed, and those who have benefited the most in this country must be asked to pay their fair share. And regardless of the outcome of today's bill, these are the priorities for which I will continue to fight.

Especially as the debt debate continues, I urge my colleagues to look towards a balanced approach and return this country to its rightful place as a shining example of democracy and equality for which we should once again aspire.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to say that this is a very unique moment for us. We have the ability to come together at a time when we are faced with a deadline. That deadline, as we all know, is midnight tomorrow.

The commitment that has been made to Social Security, Medicare, our veterans, and other programs is one which we, as Republicans, clearly stand by. And I've got to say that we know that since those programs have been put into place, when it comes to Social Security and Medicare, every working American has been forced to pay into the Medicare and Social Security funds through their FICA tax. By virtue of that contract that we have, we stand here strongly committed—contrary to what many people may say—to ensuring the solvency and the strength of Social Security for today's retirees and future generations as well. And I believe that this package that we have here today, that will enjoy bipartisan support, reaffirms that exact commitment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. RANGEL. My colleagues, I'm voting against the rule because, in the later years in this Congress, I've seen a whole lot of things, but it's never been this polarized, it's never been in terms of attacking a President, and it's never been risking the whole fiscal credibility of the great United States of America in order to make political gains.

Clearly, when everyone talks about everyone must make a sacrifice, I assume that we're talking about a sacrifice in cutting the budget, not receiving the benefits; the protections of some programs and not others. And then on the other side, I have to pause because I don't see any sacrifice. It's assumed by the general public that the sacrifice means that maybe if you became wealthy under the great support that you received from this country, that you'll make some small sacrifice; or maybe that sacrifice could be interpreted as that when you received pref-

erential treatment in the Tax Code for all of these years, that you're willing to say I don't need it now, you were there when I needed you.

□ 1510

But I think it's safe to say that the American people will be making sacrifices, and they're making it for a crisis that they're so far away from.

The people that enjoyed the crisis in terms of financial gain are not asked even to say "I'm sorry." And the people that really love, respect, and hope, and dream, that lost their homes and their jobs, their self-esteem, these are the ones that will make further sacrifices. Only this time it won't be the executive branch. It certainly won't be the courts. It would be our own colleagues, from the Senate and from the House. A group of "super members" will go into a room to decide for us what the next trillions of dollars is going to be cut from a budget.

And if they can't succeed, then there would be an automatic cut right across the board regardless of whether or not some programs should survive and others should be abolished.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DREIER. May I yield my friend an additional 30 seconds, Mr. Speaker, and I ask him to yield to me.

Mr. RANGEL. I yield to the distinguished chairman of this great committee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the patriotism that you have shown not only to the committee and the Republican Party but to this great country over the years.

I'm just so sorry on this great occasion that you would take your chairmanship to produce a rule like this that Americans cannot see their way clear to say this has been fair and this has been equal.

I yield back the balance of my time. Thank you so much.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I will say to my friend, and I would like to have a discussion with him, if I might. I would yield an additional 30 seconds and ask him to yield to me, especially if he wants to continue.

Mr. RANGEL. I'm so sorry.

Mr. DREIER. I yielded time to my friend and then asked him to yield to me.

Mr. RANGEL. Oh, yes, I didn't understand you had made that request.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from New York has again expired.

Mr. DREIER. I will yield an additional 30 seconds, and I would hope that he would continue what he was saying in the first half of his presentation about me rather than the last half.

Let me just say, Mr. Speaker, that it is very clear that what we have before us is in fact a bipartisan agreement to

do exactly what my friend at the end of his statement was saying. We want very much to ensure that people are able to keep their homes. We want to ensure that people are able to see their businesses thrive. We want job opportunities to be created for every American.

I know my friend agrees that getting our fiscal house in order, it is going to be critically important to do that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from New York has again expired.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

I would say to my friend that frankly we're in a position where 75 times since 1962 we've increased the debt ceiling without focusing on the challenge of the debt itself.

Mr. RANGEL. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DREIER. I am happy to yield to my friend from New York.

Mr. RANGEL. Thank you.

The answer to this problem is three things: jobs, jobs, and more jobs.

Mr. DREIER. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I totally associate myself with the remarks of my very good friend from New York and say that jobs, jobs, jobs continue to be our top priority. And I believe that this legislation before us is going to go a long way towards doing just that.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I think that my friend from California, the chairman, my friend from New York, the chairman emeritus, have it exactly right. The issue is jobs. And that's really what this bill on the floor today is about.

One of the reasons, but for sure not the only reason, that our companies aren't hiring and our economy is not growing is uncertainty about interest rates. If you're thinking about adding on a new store or hiring more people to do more R&D and you think the interest rates are going to rise, you don't do it. If you're not sure what they're going to do, you don't do it. And we've been living under a period of uncertainty for two reasons with respect to interest rates.

The first is are we going to default on our national obligations? The House today will and should emphatically say no, we will not. And then the second question is will Uncle Sam continue to eat up too much of the entrepreneurial capital in this country to finance ever-growing Federal deficits?

The House today will and should, in my view, approve the bill before us that will begin to make a reduction in that deficit. This bill will reduce our projected deficit by anywhere from 25 to 35 percent. And it's important to understand what history tells us about

sincere and legitimate deficit reduction.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton's plan was supposed to reduce the deficit by 28 percent. It did not. It reduced the deficit entirely. That bill was supposed to generate \$500 billion in deficit reduction. In fact, it generated \$1.6 trillion in deficit reduction. That's the elixir that the American economy needs now.

And I do not, my colleagues, believe that this is the only step that we need to accomplish in order to reduce unemployment. But it is an essential step. And for that reason, I am pleased to join with both Republicans and Democrats in voting "yes" for this bill.

Mr. DREIER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ANDREWS. I would be happy to yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. I would like to thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate my friend for his very thoughtful statement.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

I would say to my friend, Mr. Speaker, that if we look back on the juxtaposition of that projected \$500 billion in deficit reduction and the \$1.6 trillion that we attained, we know why it is that that came about. It was gross domestic product growth. And my friend and I have been working together for many years focused on how it is that we can get our economy growing.

In so doing, I believe as we continue to focus on that, that we will be able to see benefits beyond those anticipated today when it comes to deficit reduction if we're able to generate—unfortunately, we have had 1.3 percent GDP growth reported from the last quarter. If we can get to 3, 4, 5 percent GDP growth, my friend knows very well that we're going to be in a position where we will be able to see an even greater reduction of the deficits in years to come.

Mr. ANDREWS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DREIER. I am happy to yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. ANDREWS. I agree with him, and I think that we owe it to the country to find common ground on economic growth.

The best deficit reduction plan is full employment. And the best full employment plan will be one that we could come together on. I think today is an important first step. It came too late, it was ugly getting here, but I'm glad we got here.

Mr. DREIER. I thank my friend for his very thoughtful remarks.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. I thank the gentlelady, my good friend from New York.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair notes a disturbance in the gallery in contravention of the rules of the House. The Sergeant of Arms is to remove those persons responsible for the disturbance and restore order to the gallery.

The Sergeant of Arms will restore order to the gallery.

The Sergeant at Arms will remove the disturbance from the gallery.

□ 1520

The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 2 minutes.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had no idea that my pending remarks would lead to such a wellspring of apparent support.

I would point out, Mr. Speaker, that in the last rejoinder between the gentleman from New Jersey and the gentleman from California, spending cuts at this level are not going to create any jobs. The idea that spending cuts and deficit reduction will lead to unprecedented economic prosperity is absolutely a false economic premise. Getting control of our fiscal house to make sure that we make productive investments and create jobs will create jobs.

With respect to the proposal underlying this rule, Mr. Speaker, there's plenty for members of both parties to find objectionable, and they might be right, but the choice before us is not that between this proposal and some platonic ideal. It is between this proposal and catastrophic default tomorrow.

Unlike the cynical bill this Chamber passed on a party-line vote last week, this bill commits America to meeting its obligations for the longer term, it leaves all options on the table, including revenue for the bipartisan committee this fall to further reduce the deficit, and having triggers, painful for both parties, adds real accountability and strict enforcement.

The American people understand we need a balance to restore fiscal responsibility and grow our economy. Recent GDP and manufacturing numbers are painful reminders, Mr. Speaker, of the fragility of our economy and its recovery, and the actions of House Republicans, sadly, have only exacerbated that by pulling back on key investments in infrastructure and innovation.

It's time to end the reckless game of chicken being waged here in this House. I commend President Obama and other leadership for leading the adult conversation to bring about this compromise. It is now time for us to do the responsible thing and bring to heel the wolf at the door.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds to say that it is very interesting that as we have come together in a bipartisan way to address

the crisis of increasing our debt ceiling, tackling the challenge of reducing the \$14.3 trillion national debt that we have, we had this disruption in the gallery.

Now I turned around, Mr. Speaker, and looked up there, and I will tell you—I don't know if you saw the placard that they were carrying—it had in great big letters across it, Create Jobs. Create Jobs is the message that they had. And, Mr. Speaker, that's exactly what we are doing, again working very diligently in a bipartisan way to ensure that we do just that.

With that, I would like to yield 1½ minutes to a hardworking member of the Committee on Rules, my good friend from Grandfather Community, North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

Ms. FOXX. I thank my colleague from California, the distinguished chairman of the Rules Committee, for yielding.

I just did an interview with the TV station in my district. One of the questions that the interviewer asked is, "What does this mean to the average person in your district? People are paying attention to what's going on in D.C."

And I said, "That's probably the best thing that's happened out of this whole debate, that people are paying attention. Had they been paying attention the last 40 years, we wouldn't be in the situation that we're in."

I then pointed out to her that in today's dollars, Federal spending per U.S. household went from \$11,431 in 1965 to \$29,401 in 2010. That tells us all that we need to know. The Federal Government is addicted to spending. We need to cut spending, not raise taxes, and this compromise bill does that.

Mr. Speaker, as the distinguished gentleman from California said, we want to create jobs, and the best way to do that is to stop taking money out of the private sector, stop overtaxing the people in this country, leave that money in the private sector and allow it to be used to create jobs.

This is not a perfect bill. We all say it's not a perfect bill, both sides of the aisle. That generally means that it's a good bill because it's not perfect, and when people want compromise and they hear that, then they know that's right.

But the change in direction is historic. We're going from seeing how much money we can spend to how much can we cut. I am intrigued at a lot of my colleagues across the aisle, they've obviously been on the road to Damascus, because their whole language has changed in response to this bill, but I am glad they have finally seen the light and I hope in the future they're going to join us in more efforts like this.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS).

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Tea Party for extorting a deal made in their image and their image alone. The cuts will be deep, they will be lasting, and they will weaken an already depressed economy. What's clear is that the Tea Party is so ideologically driven to kill government that they're willing to kill the private sector, kill jobs, and kill growth in the process.

What's more, these cuts will be loaded onto the backs of seniors and the American middle class, all while asking the wealthiest among us to sacrifice nothing. Once again, the rich will feel no pain and the vulnerable will pay for their spoils.

Mr. Speaker, the process in which we got here has undermined our democratic system. While Democrats and the President negotiated in good faith, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle demonstrated a craven willingness to risk financial collapse for their extreme demands. As Democrats conceded time after time and provision after provision on this deal, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle just continued to issue new demands, all the while compromising nothing. Moreover, I am very concerned with the precedent set by this "super committee" whose establishment threatens our democratic process with its unconstitutional structure.

Mr. Speaker, I can honestly say if this bill passes, it may be the single worst piece of public policy to ever come out of this institution. I cannot support this rule, and I urge my Democratic colleagues not to be complicit in a Republican plan to eventually cut Medicare, Social Security, Medicaid and investment in our future, all while asking the rich to sacrifice nothing.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 10 seconds to say to my fellow Angeleno that, while I've associated myself with the remarks of most of my other colleagues, I'm hard-pressed to associate myself with her remarks.

With that, I am happy to yield 1½ minutes to another hardworking member of the Committee on Rules, the gentleman from Lawrenceville, Georgia (Mr. WOODALL).

Mr. WOODALL. I thank the chairman for yielding.

I was excited to come down here today, because when I ran for Congress, there was just a short list of things that I wanted to do when I got here. I'm one of the new guys, one of this crowd of 96 new freshmen.

Two things among those: Number one, folks back home said we're spending too much. \$1.091 trillion is how much we spent in discretionary spending in 2010. This bill that the Rules Committee brings to the floor today brings it down to \$1.043 trillion, a \$50 billion cut from 2 years ago, not decreasing the rate of growth but actually changing the trajectory of spend-

ing in this country. That's what folks back home said they wanted me to do.

Number two, I hold in my hand the United States Constitution. I turn to the back; conveniently enough in my edition, there's a little blank space after Amendment 27. There is space for Amendment 28, and for the first time in 15 years, this bill guarantees us a vote on a balanced budget amendment. If you don't trust your Members of Congress, trust your United States Constitution, and trust that this bill gives the American people a vote that they have not had in far too long.

□ 1530

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Collinsville, Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS).

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I am not coming down here to blame one side or the other for the financial position that we are in because we all have a part to play in the story, but this is a great day. I was also asked earlier about how I felt about today, and I told them I felt relieved.

I was afraid of the credit markets. I was afraid of rising interest rates. Whatever recovery we are having, I was afraid that it could stem that tide. So I do feel a great relief. This is one of the few times, in the 103 times that we have actually cut spending, when we tried in attempting to raise the debt limit. We can no longer continue to spend and borrow 42 cents of every dollar that we spend. It's ridiculous, and this is starting to change that process.

We are going to have discretionary cuts. We are going to have entitlement reforms.

I do like the supercommittee: bicameral, bipartisan, equally divided. When have we had a committee where we have equally divided the decision-making not upon majority and minority side, but equally divided, three Republicans, three Democrats in the House; three Republicans, three Democrats in the Senate? If this committee can't start addressing our entitlement reforms, then I am afraid we are never going to do it.

So I have great faith in my colleagues who will be put on this committee. We really have to make the great choices.

I appreciate the Rules Committee for bringing this to the floor, and my good friend, DAVID DREIER. And I hope that we will continue to move forward, pass the rule, and pass the bill.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield myself 30 seconds to comment on the supercommittee.

When was the last time we had a bipartisan group like that? Simpson-Bowles, which got absolutely nowhere; the Gang of Six in the Senate, again which got absolutely nowhere. And six

and six, I can imagine what it is going to be like to get somebody to be the seventh vote on the other side.

Mr. DREIER. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, let me say that there is a great big difference between the commissions that have been established in the past and the fact that this is a congressional committee, for the first time made up of our colleagues from the House and the Senate.

The gentlewoman is absolutely right. These outside commissions that have been there have made recommendations and they have gone virtually nowhere.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. If I may respond to the gentleman, I don't think the Gang of Six was any outside committee.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

Mr. ENGEL. I thank my friend from New York for yielding to me.

I rise today in opposition to the Budget Control Act amendment. Over the past months, I have been urging for a clean vote to raise the debt ceiling, a vote that has taken place 75 times since FDR was President, 18 times under Reagan, eight times under Bush. And I think that's what we should have done, and then put our heads together.

You see, I disagree with my friends on the other side of the aisle. It isn't just entitlement reform that we need; although, we do need entitlement reform. It isn't just for government to spend less that we need; although, we do need government to spend less.

But what happened to fairness? Why are we asking this bill to balance our budget on the backs of the middle class and poor people? Why do we not have anything in this bill that makes millionaires and billionaires, who can afford to pay a little bit more, pay a little bit more? Why don't we close tax loopholes so that Big Oil and gas and other corporations pay their fair share? Why don't we do any of that whatsoever?

So this bill is unbalanced to begin with. Now we are talking about some supercommittee, even amounts of Democrats and Republicans, even amounts from the Senate and the House. To me, that's a recipe for gridlock. And I guarantee you, my colleagues, we're going to be here at that point after Thanksgiving when nothing is going to happen, and we are going to wind up with entitlement cuts that are going to hurt my seniors and your seniors with Medicare and graduate medical education in New York, which is so important. Hurt that, hurt the providers.

Who are we kidding? We're going to cut from the providers, the hospitals

and think it's not going to impact on patient quality and patient care? What about the doc fix, when our doctors say, We're not taking Medicare patients anymore?

This bill, to me, is a pig in a poke, and I'm not willing to buy a pig in a poke.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I first yield myself 30 seconds.

I was engaging in a colloquy with my good friend from Rochester, the distinguished ranking minority member, and I would be happy to yield to her in just a moment, Mr. Speaker. But back to this issue of this joint select committee that is going to be charged with coming up with \$1.5 trillion in proposed cuts, and their recommendations will be sent to both Houses of Congress for an up or down vote.

Mr. Speaker, this is unprecedented, because unlike the commissions that have been put together, the Bowles-Simpson Commission, unlike this little caucus of Senators that my friend just mentioned, this Gang of Six, there is no legislative authority or power.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DREIER. I yield myself an additional 15 seconds.

There is no legislative authority or power. This time this demonstrates that Members of the House and Senate will, in fact, come together and work in a bipartisan way to ensure that we bring about meaningful spending cuts to the tune of \$1.5 trillion. That's the difference that exists with this proposal that is before us.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield 2 minutes to my very good friend from Moore, Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

Mr. COLE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, there is no question this isn't a perfect bill. There's a lot of things that I would have liked and I know that other Members on my side of the aisle would have liked. We would have liked deeper spending cuts. We would have certainly liked some entitlement reform in this. We would have preferred to mandate that this House and the other body take up a balanced budget amendment and give the people in the States an opportunity to render a decision on that. Those things aren't in this bill.

I know there's things that some of my friends on the other side wanted: higher taxes, no changes in entitlements. They didn't get everything they wanted either.

But this bill does adhere to the principles our Speaker laid out at the very beginning of the negotiations.

First, most importantly, and both sides agree on this, it avoids default. It avoids the United States not paying its obligations for the first time in 235 years. I am glad both sides cooperated and got that done.

Secondly, it actually cuts spending and links those spending cuts to the

raising of the debt ceiling. There's more spending cuts than there is increased borrowing going forward. That's a good thing.

Third, no new taxes, something that would be a killer on the new economy.

And, finally, while we don't get a guarantee of a balanced budget amendment, we do get a guaranteed vote.

This is exactly what the American people have asked us to do: come together, compromise, work together on their behalf, and let them get about their business without creating additional problems for them.

With this bill, we put the American people first. We're going to continue to work on their problems. So I urge that we pass the rule and the underlying legislation.

I thank my friend for giving me the time to speak.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT), a member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this is a challenging day. It's a difficult day, but it's a day that we're making a decision, a big decision, an important decision that the United States of America will not default on its obligations. This sends stability to the financial markets all around the world, and it really embellishes our stature as the gold standard. And that is very important.

It also gives us until 2013 for us to be able to revisit this again, as the President of the United States asked. And I think another important thing that it does is it helps us to hurry up and get this all-consuming issue of the debt and the deficit and the raising of the debt ceiling off the front burner so we can immediately put jobs back on the front burner.

So, ladies and gentlemen, we must focus our attention now on jobs. That's what the American people want us to do. On this Friday, we're going to have a jobs report. And I want us to carefully look at that jobs report, and especially look at that side of the jobs report that shows the number of jobs we're losing in the public sector.

□ 1540

So as we are here engaging, and some of my friends are celebrating, the whole issue of us cutting \$2.5 trillion out of our budget over the 10-year period, it is important to know that there is a cost for this, my friends, and that cost is a loss of public jobs.

So as we set this new commission up, this new committee, we have got to make sure that as these cuts go forward that we understand the sensitivity of trying to make these cuts away from putting more of our people on the jobless rolls. Right now, the greatest contribution that the Federal Government is making to jobs is putting more people out of jobs.

So I ask that we take time now, now that we are going to put this issue behind us, to focus like a laser beam on jobs.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to one of our diligent new members of the freshman class, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD).

Mr. DOLD. I want to thank the distinguished chairman from San Dimas, California.

Let me just say, Mr. Speaker, our getting our fiscal house in order is one of the most important things that we can do in this body to jump-start our economy.

Just recently our economy has seen weak economic growth, especially over the last two quarters. Just today we find out that manufacturing is at its lowest level in the last 2 years. In my district, the 10th District of Illinois, we have one of the largest manufacturing districts in the country, and there is no doubt that families—not only in the 10th District, but across the land—are struggling.

Today I am optimistic that Washington is finally coming together in a bipartisan way to find some common ground on this debt ceiling debate. We must, we must move forward. Hard-working taxpayers have had enough, and I get it. We have spending discipline here in Washington, no more budget gimmicks, no more accounting tricks, no more empty promises. American families have had to tighten their belts all across the land. American businesses had to do the same. They should expect the Federal Government should follow suit. Now is the time to move forward and focus on jobs.

If we were serious about paying down our debt and increasing revenue, then we must empower job creators. Small businesses in our Nation are overburdened by economic uncertainty, government regulations, and red tape. We need to implement commonsense solutions and create jobs to get our economy moving again.

As a small business owner, Mr. Speaker, I employ just under 100 families, and for me that's an enormous responsibility. We have to move forward. We have to empower job creators. We have to talk about getting 9.2 percent unemployment down so that we can get our economy going and bring additional revenues into the Federal coffers by putting more people back to work.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), a member of the Budget and Ways and Means Committees.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate the gentlewoman's courtesy.

Well, we are facing an artificial Republican debt crisis that was a crisis of choice, of their choice. Remember, we have repeatedly increased the debt ceiling for Republican and Democratic administrations and congresses year in and year out.

This proposal moving forward is very troubling on several levels. First, it empowers the most reckless and extreme elements, not just in the House Republican Caucus today, but it is a blueprint for mischief for either party in the future.

Next we are starting down a path of more budget cuts at a time when all the experts assure us this will weaken the economy, when, instead, we should be strengthening, dealing with economic growth, not reducing demand. It's all the more frustrating because there is a path going forward that is clear.

The public strongly supports a balanced approach, which should include tax reform that would raise money while make the Tax Code more fair and simple. Do we need a commission to implement suggestions, to right-size the military, both its mission and its budget? Absolutely not.

There are lots of ideas and support on both sides of the aisle that could be enacted to achieve this goal. But the magnitude of the trigger actually invites mischief. Again, when we have seen the Republican "take no prisoners" attitude, what leads anybody to believe they won't do it in this case?

Most important, we should be revitalizing the economy by rebuilding and renewing America, financed by modest increases in user fees. This has support all across the business community, labor, environment, local government, even some of my Republican friends, but they take this off the table.

And, last but not least, one of the most simple things we could do would be to implement agricultural reform to save money and help people who farm and people who eat, rather than lavish subsidies for large agribusiness. These are things that we should be doing. These are things that actually could have bipartisan support.

Unfortunately, this agreement, if it goes forward, will delay that important work of reform and fiscal responsibility while it weakens both the economy and the decisionmaking process for years to come. Government on autopilot in a slow, downward spiral is not a victory in anybody's book.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds.

I would say to my very good friend that I agree with some of the remarks that he made on doing things like eliminating agricultural subsidies. I would say to my friend from Oregon, who is still in the Chamber here and now walking off the floor, I would say to my friend that I agree with his remarks about the need for us to focus on agriculture subsidies and bringing about a reduction there.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DREIER. I yield myself an additional 15 seconds.

I would say that we are trying to work this out with a spirit of biparti-

sanship. My friend began his statement by saying that this was a crisis developed by Republican policies.

Since we are working in a bipartisan way, I think the notion that recognizing that an 82 percent increase in non-defense discretionary spending over the past 4 years clearly played a role in getting us exactly where we are.

I yield 1½ minutes to another one of our hardworking new Members of Congress, the gentleman from Little Rock, Arkansas (Mr. GRIFFIN).

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. I thank the chairman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, when I announced and wanted to run for Congress, my focus primarily was on the debt, on the issue of the debt and the impact that the debt was going to have on my daughter and my little boy. My daughter, Mary Katherine, is sitting with me right here today for this historic day. It's critically important to me. And a lot of the folks back home that I hear from, when they contact me, they contact me about the debt and about spending.

Now I came up here to do something about it, and I have been watching this debate closely, and I have been a supporter of the Speaker both on the plan last week, and I am a supporter of the agreement that is going to come before us today. Is it perfect? Absolutely not. Is it great? Absolutely not. It is good? It's a good first step.

I would say this: If a President and a Senate that I agreed with put this type of plan forward, I would reject it out of hand.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DREIER. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. If a deal, an agreement like this, came from a President with which I generally agree, and a Senate with which I generally agreed, I would reject it out of hand. But that's not what we have. We have divided government. We have this Chamber controlled by a different vision for America.

So I believe this is about as good as we are going to get, and I am supporting it because it is consistent with my principles. There are no tax increases. It controls spending now, controls spending in the future, and allows us to vote on a balanced budget amendment.

These are all things that I can support. These are the principles that we have been fighting for over the last few months. And I would say this: If this were the only step ever in dealing with the debt, I would vote "no," but it's not.

□ 1550

It's only the beginning. We didn't get in this mess with one bill or one piece of legislation. It took a long time and a lot of votes, and it's going to take a long time and a lot of battles to get out of it. And this is a good first step.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from references to guests on the floor of the House.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. At this point I'm very happy to yield 1 minute to the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, my good friend from St. Joseph, Michigan (Mr. UPTON).

Mr. UPTON. I appreciate the minute.

My constituents are saying get the job done. Vote for the rule and vote for the bill. The President said about a year ago, I want to say it was the State of the Union Address, the debt today is unsustainable. He's right. And for the first time, we are coupling an increase in the debt ceiling with real reductions in spending. No, this is not reducing the rate of growth in spending. This is actually reducing spending. In fact, at the end of the day, when we look at fiscal year 2012 versus fiscal year 2011, we are going to be spending less money in 2012 than we did in the 2011.

Nobody—nobody—is coming to our offices and saying cut our spending. But, in fact, the American public is saying, Federal Government, cut your spending. That's what this bill will do. It's going to reduce spending. Yes, it's going to increase the ceiling on the debt, but it's coupled with real reforms that I think the American public want, and that's why it's going to have some bipartisan support when we deal with this issue a little bit later on this afternoon.

So I commend the leadership on both sides of the aisle. Let's get the job done. Let's get it over with so we can get to the business of running the rest of the government and the country.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield 2 minutes to another one of our thoughtful new Members, the gentleman from Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN).

Mr. MEEHAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for the opportunity to address the Chamber this morning.

I am pleased to speak on behalf of this bill, a bill that will address the terrible uncertainty that has been taking place over the course of these last few weeks—the seniors, the taxpayers, the small business people who have been speaking to me as I have been making the phone calls and talked with them about the concerns that they have in this era of uncertainty.

I've heard commentary that this is identified as a crisis caused by Republicans when, in fact, the crisis has been the business as usual which has been taking place in Washington, D.C. This is finally a time in which we looked at the issues that are before us and made the tough decisions to address the long-term unsustainability of this

debt; \$14.2 trillion in debt is going to be facing the next generation. I note that there are arguments that somehow it was policies of Big Oil and health care, the things that have been Republican policies when, in fact, if you look just at the beginnings of this administration, there was the commitment to Medicare, there were the subsidies to Big Oil, we were in with the subsidies, not just to Big Oil, but also involved in two wars and the debt was \$162 billion. Now it's 1.2 trillion.

We must take these kinds of steps and work together. This is a solution that will allow a genuine bipartisan opportunity to address this for the future generations, create predictability, and allow us to get back to creating jobs. I urge Members from both sides of the aisle to support this bill.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from New York, the ranking member of the Small Business Committee, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the era of debts and deficits must come to an end. However, in addressing this problem, we must look at what got us here. It wasn't overspending on low-income housing, job training or education—which all stand at historically low levels. It was two unfunded wars and the Bush tax cuts which keep on giving to America's wealthiest.

Unfortunately, the legislation before us today keeps every tax break for the wealthy and means billions more in resources will be used to fund these two wars.

We keep hearing how critical this bill is to getting our economy back on track. It is hard to imagine how this legislation will do so. I cannot support any proposal with such big cuts in education, economic development and job training that will hamper our recovery. In the weeks leading up to today there was a lot of rhetoric for shared sacrifice. Unfortunately, what we are considering today places the burden of the fiscal mess squarely on our Nation's working families, and that is something I cannot support.

I ask my colleagues to vote "no" on the rule and vote "no" on this ill-conceived legislation.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, let me say that your superb presiding over this House is only exceeded by the gentlewoman from Hinsdale, Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT), and I would like to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman.

Mrs. BIGGERT. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it's been a long road and one with more uncertainty than the American people should have to put up with. Fortunately, the ugly part of the process is behind us, and it's time to come together behind a real-

istic deal that will restore strength to the economy and deliver peace of mind to the American public.

I believe that this is that deal. It's not perfect, but with a majority in just one Chamber, House Republicans negotiated a compromise that will be part of the debt solution, not part of the debt problem. It will stop a job-killing default, but cut spending even more. And it will hold Congress and the President accountable with automatic spending cuts and a guaranteed vote on the balanced budget amendment. Most importantly, it doesn't raise taxes—something that would damage our recovery.

We have changed the conversation. The President is no longer asking for a blank check; he is negotiating with us to cut spending. This is how we'll end this spiral of debt that is draining our economy of capital, competence and jobs.

I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have contributed to this discussion, and I urge them to support this bipartisan deal. Let's get the job done.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, at this time I'm very happy to yield 1½ minutes to my good friend from Clinton Township, New Jersey (Mr. LANCE).

Mr. LANCE. Thank you, Chairman DREIER, for your leadership on this extremely important issue.

I rise in support of the rule, and I rise in support the underlying legislation which is, by its nature, bipartisan, bicameral and a compromise that avoids default, adds certainty to our economic recovery, and puts our Nation on a sustainable path towards fiscal responsibility. What we need in America is jobs, jobs, jobs, and this will help that effort forward.

This support is consistent with my longstanding efforts to bring fiscal sanity to New Jersey and to be among those attempting to bring it here to Washington. The main portions of the compromise have been outlined, but for the first time the narrative on Capitol Hill is no longer how much can government spend, but how we can best reduce spending. This new awakening to fiscal prudence is in the best interests of the Nation and, indeed, I believe is the critical issue of our generation.

I commend Speaker BOEHNER for his superb leadership on this issue, and I shall vote for the rule and the underlying legislation in the belief that it will help move our Nation forward.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield myself the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has 9 minutes remaining.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, we should never have found ourselves where we are today, facing a self-inflicted crisis and being asked to vote for a bill that has so many flaws. The

prolonged debate that led us here has caused the world to question our Nation's credibility and already inflicted harm on the U.S. economy.

□ 1600

The irony of our situation is the other side claims to be bringing certainty to the market, but the reality is they have undermined faith in the United States Government's ability to lead the global economy. Throughout this debate, Congress has gotten lost in the crisis created instead of the true crisis of unemployment that faces our constituents. Nobody, even Members of Congress, especially Members of Congress, should have the ability to bring the faith in the American Government to its knees.

It's high time we address the crisis of jobs in our country and resolve the self-inflicted crisis we are facing today.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, 224 years ago this summer, the framers of our Constitution were in Philadelphia at Constitution Hall, and they were working very hard to put together what ended up being this inspired document authored by James Madison.

On July 16, 1787, they actually completed a compromise. It was known as the Connecticut Compromise. The Connecticut Compromise is what established a bicameral legislature—two Houses of Congress. That Connecticut Compromise was also called the Great Compromise.

I know that the word "compromise" is seen as a pejorative in the eyes of many, but what we have before us is a compromise. It hasn't been easy getting here. When James Madison was asked often about the first branch of government, putting together the process of lawmaking, he said that the process of lawmaking is an ugly, messy, difficult process. Over the last several months, we've seen, as we have been pursuing this day, we've seen an ugly, messy, difficult process.

I am reminded that a couple of summers ago, I was talking with this amazing woman, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. She is the first woman to ever be President of any country on the continent of Africa. She is the President of Liberia. And we were talking about the development of the parliament in Liberia through this great commission called the House Democracy Partnership that Mr. PRICE and I are privileged to lead. When we talked about the ugly, messy, difficult process of lawmaking, the President looked to me and she said: Ah, DAVID, you've forgotten one thing. Yes, it is an ugly, messy, difficult process, but it works.

So while we have so much time and energy and effort expended on partisan bickering, at the end of the day, this for me is a much, much more enjoyable

time, when we are able to come together, tackling the serious problems that we as a Nation face and for the first time ever taking this issue of increasing the debt ceiling and actually dealing with the root cause of it.

I like to say that we don't have a debt ceiling problem; we have a debt problem. We have a \$14.3 trillion national debt. We all know that, fingers pointed from both sides of the aisle at the other on a regular basis.

Yet today, today is a time for us to recognize that we have come together to deal with it. And, for the first time in that 75 times since 1962 that the debt ceiling has increased, we're actually going to, with the establishment of this joint select committee, see our colleagues, in a bipartisan way, from the House and Senate come together and recommend \$1.5 trillion in proposed cuts. And there are mechanisms put into place, sequestration, which will actually force across-the-board cuts if they don't come up with recommendations.

So we are looking at a very, very good proposal that will help us do that. We are increasing the debt ceiling to pay our past obligations. I don't like the fact that we went through an 82 percent increase in non-defense discretionary spending over the past 4 years. Even though I voted against almost all of it, I have to say, those bills have to be paid. And that's why it is we're increasing our debt ceiling.

I want to join in extending congratulations to all those who have been involved in this process in a bipartisan way.

So I will say again, it has, over the past several months, been an ugly, messy, difficult process. But with the vote that we are about to have on this rule—and I look forward to working on the underlying legislation itself, and I'm convinced we will have a strong bipartisan vote for it—we will prove, as President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf reminded me, even though it is an ugly, messy, difficult process, it works.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-vote on ordering the previous question will be followed by a 15-minute vote on adoption of House Resolution 384, if ordered; and a 5-minute vote on approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 242, nays 184, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 686]

YEAS—242

Adams	Goodlatte	Olson
Aderholt	Gosar	Palazzo
Akin	Growdy	Paul
Alexander	Granger	Paulsen
Amash	Graves (GA)	Pearce
Austria	Graves (MO)	Pence
Bachmann	Griffin (AR)	Petri
Bachus	Griffith (VA)	Pitts
Barletta	Grimm	Platts
Bartlett	Guinta	Poe (TX)
Barton (TX)	Guthrie	Pompeo
Bass (NH)	Hall	Posey
Benishek	Hanna	Price (GA)
Berg	Harper	Quayle
Biggert	Harris	Quigley
Bilbray	Hartzler	Reed
Bilirakis	Hastings (WA)	Rehberg
Bishop (UT)	Hayworth	Reichert
Black	Heck	Renacci
Blackburn	Hensarling	Ribble
Bonner	Herger	Rigell
Bono Mack	Herrera Beutler	Rivera
Boustany	Huelskamp	Roby
Brady (TX)	Huizenga (MI)	Roe (TN)
Brooks	Hultgren	Rogers (AL)
Broun (GA)	Hunter	Rogers (KY)
Buchanan	Hurt	Rogers (MI)
Bucshon	Issa	Rohrabacher
Buerkle	Jenkins	Rokita
Burgess	Johnson (IL)	Rooney
Burton (IN)	Johnson (OH)	Ros-Lehtinen
Calvert	Johnson, Sam	Roskam
Camp	Jones	Ross (FL)
Campbell	Jordan	Royce
Canseco	Kelly	Runyan
Capito	King (IA)	Ryan (WI)
Carney	King (NY)	Scalise
Carter	Kingston	Schilling
Cassidy	Kinzinger (IL)	Schmidt
Chabot	Kline	Schock
Chaffetz	Labrador	Schweikert
Coble	Lamborn	Scott (SC)
Coffman (CO)	Lance	Scott, Austin
Cole	Landry	Sensenbrenner
Conaway	Lankford	Sessions
Cravaack	Latham	Shimkus
Crawford	LaTourette	Latta
Crenshaw	Lewis (CA)	Shuler
Culberson	LoBiondo	Shuster
Davis (KY)	Long	Simpson
Denham	Lucas	Smith (NE)
Dent	Luetkemeyer	Smith (NJ)
DesJarlais	Lummis	Smith (TX)
Diaz-Balart	Lungren, Daniel	Southerland
Dold	E.	Stearns
Dreier	Mack	Stivers
Duffy	Manzullo	Stutzman
Duncan (SC)	Marchant	Sullivan
Duncan (TN)	Marino	Terry
Ellmers	McCarthy (CA)	Thompson (PA)
Emerson	McCaul	Thornberry
Eshoo	McClintock	Tiberi
Farenthold	McCotter	Tipton
Fincher	McHenry	Turner
Fitzpatrick	McKeon	Upton
Flake	McKinley	Walberg
Fleischmann	McMorris	Walden
Fleming	Rodgers	Walsh (IL)
Flores	Meehan	Webster
Forbes	Mica	West
Fortenberry	Miller (FL)	Westmoreland
Fox	Miller (MI)	Whitfield
Franks (AZ)	Miller, Gary	Wilson (SC)
Frelinghuysen	Mulvaney	Wittman
Gallely	Murphy (PA)	Wolf
Gardner	Myrick	Womack
Garrett	Neugebauer	Woodall
Gerlach	Noem	Yoder
Gibbs	Nugent	Young (AK)
Gibson	Nunes	Young (FL)
Gingrey (GA)	Nunnelee	Young (IN)
Gohmert		

NAYS—184

Ackerman	Bishop (GA)	Butterfield
Altmire	Bishop (NY)	Capps
Baldwin	Blumenauer	Capuano
Barrow	Boren	Cardoza
Bass (CA)	Boswell	Carnahan
Becerra	Brady (PA)	Carson (IN)
Berkley	Braley (IA)	Castor (FL)
Berman	Brown (FL)	Chandler

Chu	Inslee	Pingree (ME)
Cicilline	Israel	Polis
Clarke (MI)	Jackson (IL)	Price (NC)
Clarke (NY)	Jackson Lee	Rahall
Clay	(TX)	Rangel
Cleaver	Johnson (GA)	Reyes
Clyburn	Johnson, E. B.	Richardson
Cohen	Kaptur	Richmond
Connolly (VA)	Keating	Ross (AR)
Conyers	Kildee	Rothman (NJ)
Cooper	Kind	Roybal-Allard
Costa	Kissell	Ruppersberger
Costello	Kucinich	Rush
Courtney	Langevin	Ryan (OH)
Critz	Larsen (WA)	Sánchez, Linda
Crowley	Larson (CT)	T.
Cuellar	Lee (CA)	Sanchez, Loretta
Cummings	Levin	Sarbanes
Davis (CA)	Lewis (GA)	Schakowsky
Davis (IL)	Lipinski	Schiff
DeFazio	Loeback	Schrader
DeGette	Lofgren, Zoe	Schwartz
DeLauro	Lowey	Scott (VA)
Deutch	Lujan	Scott, David
Dicks	Lynch	Serrano
Dingell	Maloney	Sewell
Doggett	Markey	Sherman
Donnelly (IN)	Matheson	Sires
Doyle	Matsui	Slaughter
Edwards	McCarthy (NY)	Smith (WA)
Ellison	McCollum	Speier
Engel	McDermott	Stark
Farr	McGovern	Sutton
Fattah	McIntyre	Thompson (CA)
Filner	McNerney	Thompson (MS)
Frank (MA)	Meeks	Tierney
Fudge	Michaud	Tonko
Garamendi	Miller (NC)	Towns
Gonzalez	Miller, George	Tsongas
Green, Al	Moore	Van Hollen
Grijalva	Moran	Velázquez
Gutierrez	Murphy (CT)	Visclosky
Hahn	Nadler	Walz (MN)
Hanabusa	Napolitano	Wasserman
Hastings (FL)	Neal	Schultz
Heinrich	Olver	Waters
Higgins	Owens	Watt
Hinojosa	Pallone	Waxman
Hirono	Pascarell	Welch
Hochul	Pastor (AZ)	Wilson (FL)
Holden	Payne	Woolsey
Holt	Pelosi	Wu
Honda	Perlmutter	Yarmuth
Hoyer	Peters	
	Peterson	

NOT VOTING—6

Andrews	Cantor	Green, Gene
Baca	Giffords	Hinchey

□ 1632

Ms. EDWARDS and Mrs. MALONEY changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. FORTENBERRY and KINGSTON changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 249, nays 178, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 687]

YEAS—249

Adams	Andrews	Bartlett
Aderholt	Austria	Barton (TX)
Akin	Bachmann	Bass (NH)
Alexander	Bachus	Benishek
Amash	Barletta	Berg

Biggert	Grimm	Palazzo	DeFazio	Lee (CA)	Richmond	Berman	Guthrie	Paul
Billbray	Guinta	Paul	DeGette	Levin	Ross (AR)	Biggert	Hahn	Paulsen
Bilirakis	Guthrie	Paulsen	DeLauro	Lewis (GA)	Rothman (NJ)	Billbray	Hall	Payne
Bishop (UT)	Hall	Pearce	Deutch	Lipinski	Roybal-Allard	Bilirakis	Hanabusa	Pelosi
Black	Hanna	Pence	Dicks	Loeb	Ruppersberger	Bishop (GA)	Harper	Pence
Blackburn	Harper	Petri	Dingell	Lofgren, Zoe	Rush	Bishop (UT)	Hartzler	Perlmutter
Bonner	Harris	Pitts	Doggett	Lowey	Ryan (OH)	Black	Hastings (WA)	Petri
Bono Mack	Hartzler	Platts	Doyle	Lujan	Sánchez, Linda	Blackburn	Hayworth	Pingree (ME)
Boustany	Hastings (WA)	Poe (TX)	Edwards	Lynch	T.	Blumenauer	Heinrich	Platts
Brady (TX)	Hayworth	Pompeo	Ellison	Maloney	Sanchez, Loretta	Bonner	Hensarling	Polis
Brooks	Heck	Posey	Engel	Markey	Sarbanes	Bono Mack	Herger	Pompeo
Broun (GA)	Hensarling	Price (GA)	Farr	Matheson	Schakowsky	Boren	Higgins	Posey
Buchanan	Herger	Quayle	Fattah	Matsui	Schiff	Boustany	Hinojosa	Price (GA)
Bucshon	Herrera Beutler	Quigley	Filner	McCarthy (NY)	Schrader	Brady (TX)	Hirono	Quayle
Buerkle	Huelskamp	Reed	Frank (MA)	McCollum	Schwartz	Braley (IA)	Hochul	Quigley
Burgess	Huizenga (MI)	Rehberg	Fudge	McDermott	Scott (VA)	Brooks	Holden	Rangel
Burton (IN)	Hultgren	Reichert	Garamendi	McGovern	Scott, David	Broun (GA)	Holt	Reed
Calvert	Hunter	Renacci	Gonzalez	McIntyre	Serrano	Brown (FL)	Huelskamp	Rehberg
Camp	Hurt	Ribble	Green, Al	McNerney	Sewell	Buchanan	Huizenga (MI)	Reichert
Campbell	Issa	Rigell	Grijalva	Meeks	Sherman	Bucshon	Hultgren	Reyes
Canseco	Jackson Lee	Rivera	Gutierrez	Michaud	Sires	Buerkle	Hunter	Ribble
Cantor	(TX)	Roby	Hahn	Miller (NC)	Slaughter	Burton (IN)	Hurt	Richardson
Capito	Jenkins	Roe (TN)	Hanabusa	Miller, George	Smith (WA)	Butterfield	Inslee	Richmond
Carter	Johnson (GA)	Rogers (AL)	Hastings (FL)	Moore	Speier	Calvert	Israel	Rigell
Cassidy	Johnson (IL)	Rogers (KY)	Heinrich	Moran	Stark	Camp	Issa	Rivera
Chabot	Johnson (OH)	Rogers (MI)	Higgins	Murphy (CT)	Sutton	Campbell	Jenkins	Roby
Chaffetz	Johnson, Sam	Rohrabacher	Himes	Nadler	Thompson (CA)	Canseco	Johnson (GA)	Roe (TN)
Coble	Jones	Rokita	Hinojosa	Napolitano	Thompson (MS)	Cantor	Johnson (IL)	Rogers (AL)
Coffman (CO)	Jordan	Rooney	Hirono	Neal	Tierney	Capito	Johnson, E. B.	Rogers (KY)
Cole	Kelly	Ros-Lehtinen	Hochul	Olver	Tonko	Capps	Johnson, Sam	Rogers (MI)
Conaway	King (IA)	Roskam	Holden	Owens	Towns	Carnahan	Jordan	Rohrabacher
Connolly (VA)	King (NY)	Ross (FL)	Holt	Pallone	Tsongas	Carney	Kaptur	Rokita
Cravaack	Kingston	Royce	Honda	Pascrell	Van Hollen	Carter	Keating	Rooney
Crawford	Kinzinger (IL)	Runyan	Hoyer	Pastor (AZ)	Velázquez	Cassidy	Kelly	Ros-Lehtinen
Crenshaw	Kissell	Ryan (WI)	Inslee	Payne	Visclosky	Castor (FL)	Kildee	Roskam
Cuellar	Kline	Scalise	Israel	Pelosi	Walz (MN)	Chabot	King (IA)	Ross (AR)
Culberson	Labrador	Schilling	Jackson (IL)	Perlmutter	Wasserman	Chaffetz	King (NY)	Ross (FL)
Davis (KY)	Lamborn	Schmidt	Johnson, E. B.	Peters	Schultz	Cicilline	Kingston	Rothman (NJ)
Denham	Lance	Schock	Kaptur	Peterson	Waters	Clarke (MI)	Kissell	Roybal-Allard
Dent	Landry	Schweikert	Keating	Pingree (ME)	Watt	Clay	Kline	Runyan
DesJarlais	Lankford	Scott (SC)	Kildee	Polis	Waxman	Cleaver	Labrador	Ruppersberger
Diaz-Balart	Latham	Scott, Austin	Kind	Price (NC)	Welch	Clyburn	Lamborn	Rush
Dold	LaTourette	Sensenbrenner	Kucinich	Rahall	Wilson (FL)	Coble	Landry	Ryan (WI)
Donnelly (IN)	Latta	Sessions	Langevin	Rangel	Woolsey	Coffman (CO)	Langevin	Scalise
Dreier	Lewis (CA)	Shimkus	Larsen (WA)	Reyes	Wu	Cole	LaTourette	Schiff
Duffy	LoBiondo	Shuler	Larson (CT)	Richardson	Yarmuth	Connolly (VA)	Latta	Schmidt
Duncan (SC)	Long	Shuster				Cooper	Levin	Schrader
Duncan (TN)	Lucas	Simpson	Baca	Giffords	Hinchey	Crawford	Lewis (CA)	Smith (NE)
Ellmers	Luetkemeyer	Smith (NE)	Boren	Green, Gene		Crenshaw	Lipinski	Smith (NJ)
Emerson	Lummis	Smith (NJ)				Critz	Loeb	Smith (TX)
Eshoo	Lungren, Daniel	Smith (TX)				Crowley	Lofgren, Zoe	Southerland
Farenthold	E.	Southerland				Cuellar	Long	Stark
Fincher	Mack	Stearns				Culberson	Lucas	Stearns
Fitzpatrick	Manzullo	Stivers				Cummings	Luetkemeyer	Stutzman
Flake	Marchant	Stutzman				Davis (CA)	Lujan	Sullivan
Fleischmann	Marino	Sullivan				DeGette	Lummis	Thompson (PA)
Fleming	McCarthy (CA)	Terry				DeLauro	Lungren, Daniel	Thornberry
Flores	McCaul	Thompson (PA)				Denham	E.	Tonko
Forbes	McClintock	Thornberry				DesJarlais	Mack	Tsongas
Fortenberry	McCotter	Tiberi				Deutch	Manzullo	Upton
Fox	McHenry	Tipton				Diaz-Balart	Marchant	Van Hollen
Franks (AZ)	McKeon	Turner				Dicks	Marino	Walberg
Frelinghuysen	McKinley	Upton				Dingell	McCarthy (CA)	Walsh (IL)
Gallegly	McMorris	Walberg				Doggett	McCarthy (NY)	Walz (MN)
Gardner	Rodgers	Walden				Doyle	McCaul	Wasserman
Garrett	Meehan	Walsh (IL)				Dreier	McClintock	Schultz
Gerlach	Mica	Webster				Duncan (SC)	McCollum	Waxman
Gibbs	Miller (FL)	West				Duncan (TN)	McCotter	Webster
Gibson	Miller (MI)	Westmoreland				Ellison	McHenry	Welch
Gingrey (GA)	Miller, Gary	Whitfield				Ellmers	McIntyre	West
Gohmert	Mulvaney	Wilson (SC)				Emerson	McKeon	Westmoreland
Goodlatte	Murphy (PA)	Wittman				Engel	McMorris	Whitfield
Gosar	Myrick	Wolf				Farr	Rodgers	Wilson (FL)
Gowdy	Neugebauer	Womack				Fattah	McNerney	Wilson (SC)
Granger	Noem	Woodall				Fincher	Meehan	Wittman
Graves (GA)	Nugent	Yoder				Flake	Meeks	Wolf
Graves (MO)	Nunes	Young (AK)				Fleischmann	Michaud	Womack
Griffin (AR)	Nunnelee	Young (FL)				Fleming	Miller (MI)	
Griffith (VA)	Olson	Young (IN)				Flores	Miller (NC)	
						Forbes	Miller, Gary	
						Fortenberry	Moran	
						Franks (AZ)	Mulvaney	
						Frelinghuysen	Murphy (CT)	
						Galegely	Murphy (PA)	
						Gibbs	Myrick	
						Gingrey (GA)	Nadler	
						Gonzalez	Neugebauer	
						Goodlatte	Noem	
						Gosar	Nugent	
						Gowdy	Nunes	
						Granger	Nunnelee	
						Graves (GA)	Olson	
						Green, Al	Owens	
						Griffin (AR)	Palazzo	
						Griffith (VA)		
						Guinta		

NAYS—178

Ackerman	Brown (FL)	Clay
Altmire	Butterfield	Cleaver
Baldwin	Capps	Clyburn
Barrow	Capuano	Cohen
Bass (CA)	Cardoza	Conyers
Becerra	Carnahan	Cooper
Berkley	Carney	Costa
Berman	Carson (IN)	Costello
Bishop (GA)	Castor (FL)	Courtney
Bishop (NY)	Chandler	Critz
Blumenauer	Chu	Crowley
Boswell	Cicilline	Cummings
Brady (PA)	Clarke (MI)	Davis (CA)
Braley (IA)	Clarke (NY)	Davis (IL)

So the resolution was agreed to.
The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.
A motion to reconsider was laid on
the table.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 304, nays 115, answered “present” 1, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 688]

YEAS—304

Ackerman	Bachus	Bass (NH)
Aderholt	Barletta	Becerra
Akin	Benish	Berkley
Alexander	Bartlett	
Austria	Barton (TX)	

Berman	Bucshon	Burgess
Bishop (GA)	Bucshon	Burgess
Bishop (NY)	Bucshon	Burgess
Blumenauer	Bucshon	Burgess
Boswell	Bucshon	Burgess
Brady (PA)	Bucshon	Burgess
Braley (IA)	Bucshon	Burgess

Woolsey
Yarmuth

Yoder
Young (AK)

Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—115

Adams
Altmire
Andrews
Baldwin
Bishop (NY)
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Burgess
Capuano
Cardoza
Carson (IN)
Chandler
Chu
Clarke (NY)
Conaway
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cravaack
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
DeFazio
Dent
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Duffy
Edwards
Eshoo
Farenthold
Filner
Fitzpatrick
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibson

Graves (MO)
Grimm
Gutierrez
Hanna
Harris
Hastings (FL)
Heck
Herrera Beutler
Himes
Honda
Hoyer
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
(TX)
Johnson (OH)
Jones
Kind
Kucinich
Lance
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lee (CA)
Lewis (GA)
LoBiondo
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McGovern
McKinley
Miller (FL)
Miller, George
Moore
Napolitano
Neal
Oliver

Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor (AZ)
Pearce
Peters
Peterson
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Price (NC)
Rahall
Renacci
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schilling
Schock
Serrano
Sires
Slaughter
Stivers
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Towns
Turner
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Waters
Watt
Woodall
Wu

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Amash

NOT VOTING—12

Baca
Bachmann
Bass (CA)
Cohen

Conyers
Giffords
Gohmert
Green, Gene

Grijalva
Hinchey
Kinzinger (IL)
McDermott

□ 1700

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

BUDGET CONTROL ACT OF 2011

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 384, I call up the bill (S. 365) to make a technical amendment to the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Pursuant to House Resolution 384, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in House Report 112-190 is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

S. 365

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Budget Control Act of 2011”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Severability.

TITLE I—TEN-YEAR DISCRETIONARY CAPS WITH SEQUESTER

Sec. 101. Enforcing discretionary spending limits.

Sec. 102. Definitions.

Sec. 103. Reports and orders.

Sec. 104. Expiration.

Sec. 105. Amendments to the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974.

Sec. 106. Senate budget enforcement.

TITLE II—VOTE ON THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

Sec. 201. Vote on the balanced budget amendment.

Sec. 202. Consideration by the other House.

TITLE III—DEBT CEILING DISAPPROVAL PROCESS

Sec. 301. Debt ceiling disapproval process.

Sec. 302. Enforcement of budget goal.

TITLE IV—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON DEFICIT REDUCTION

Sec. 401. Establishment of Joint Select Committee.

Sec. 402. Expedited consideration of joint committee recommendations.

Sec. 403. Funding.

Sec. 404. Rulemaking.

TITLE V—PELL GRANT AND STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM CHANGES

Sec. 501. Federal Pell grants.

Sec. 502. Termination of authority to make interest subsidized loans to graduate and professional students.

Sec. 503. Termination of direct loan repayment incentives.

Sec. 504. Inapplicability of title IV negotiated rulemaking and master calendar exception.

SEC. 2. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act, or any application of such provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act and the application of this Act to any other person or circumstance shall not be affected.

TITLE I—TEN-YEAR DISCRETIONARY CAPS WITH SEQUESTER

SEC. 101. ENFORCING DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS.

Section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 251. ENFORCING DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS.

“(a) **ENFORCEMENT.**—

“(1) **SEQUESTRATION.**—Within 15 calendar days after Congress adjourns to end a session there shall be a sequestration to eliminate a budget-year breach, if any, within any category.

“(2) **ELIMINATING A BREACH.**—Each non-exempt account within a category shall be reduced by a dollar amount calculated by multiplying the enacted level of sequestrable budgetary resources in that account at that time by the uniform percentage necessary to eliminate a breach within that category.

“(3) **MILITARY PERSONNEL.**—If the President uses the authority to exempt any personnel account from sequestration under section 255(f), each account within subfunctional category 051 (other than those military personnel accounts for which the authority provided under section 255(f) has been exercised) shall be further reduced by a dollar amount calculated by multiplying the enacted level of non-exempt budgetary resources in that account at that time by the uniform percentage necessary to offset the total dollar amount by which outlays are not reduced in military personnel accounts by reason of the use of such authority.

“(4) **PART-YEAR APPROPRIATIONS.**—If, on the date specified in paragraph (1), there is in effect an Act making or continuing appropriations for part of a fiscal year for any budget account, then the dollar sequestration calculated for that account under paragraphs (2) and (3) shall be subtracted from—

“(A) the annualized amount otherwise available by law in that account under that or a subsequent part-year appropriation; and

“(B) when a full-year appropriation for that account is enacted, from the amount otherwise provided by the full-year appropriation for that account.

“(5) **LOOK-BACK.**—If, after June 30, an appropriation for the fiscal year in progress is enacted that causes a breach within a category for that year (after taking into account any sequestration of amounts within that category), the discretionary spending limits for that category for the next fiscal year shall be reduced by the amount or amounts of that breach.

“(6) **WITHIN-SESSION SEQUESTRATION.**—If an appropriation for a fiscal year in progress is enacted (after Congress adjourns to end the session for that budget year and before July 1 of that fiscal year) that causes a breach within a category for that year (after taking into account any prior sequestration of amounts within that category), 15 days later there shall be a sequestration to eliminate that breach within that category following the procedures set forth in paragraphs (2) through (4).

“(7) **ESTIMATES.**—

“(A) **CBO ESTIMATES.**—As soon as practicable after Congress completes action on any discretionary appropriation, CBO, after consultation with the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall provide OMB with an estimate of the amount of discretionary new budget authority and outlays for the current year, if any, and the budget year provided by that legislation.

“(B) **OMB ESTIMATES AND EXPLANATION OF DIFFERENCES.**—Not later than 7 calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) after the date of enactment of any discretionary appropriation, OMB shall transmit a report to the House of Representatives and to the Senate containing the CBO estimate of that legislation, an OMB estimate of the amount of discretionary new budget authority and outlays for the current year, if any, and the budget year provided by that legislation, and an explanation of any difference between the 2 estimates. If during the preparation of the report OMB determines that there is a significant difference between OMB and CBO, OMB shall consult with the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate regarding that difference and that consultation shall include, to the extent practicable, written communication to those committees that affords such committees the opportunity to comment before the issuance of the report.

“(C) **ASSUMPTIONS AND GUIDELINES.**—OMB estimates under this paragraph shall be made using current economic and technical assumptions. OMB shall use the OMB estimates transmitted to the Congress under this paragraph. OMB and CBO shall prepare estimates under this paragraph in conformance with scorekeeping guidelines determined after consultation among the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate, CBO, and OMB.

“(D) **ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS.**—For purposes of this paragraph, amounts provided by annual appropriations shall include any discretionary appropriations for the current year, if any, and the budget year in accounts for which funding is provided in that legislation that result from previously enacted legislation.

“(b) **ADJUSTMENTS TO DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS.**—

“(1) **CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS.**—When the President submits the budget under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, OMB shall calculate and the budget shall include adjustments to discretionary spending limits (and those limits as cumulatively adjusted) for the budget year and each outyear to reflect changes in concepts and definitions. Such changes shall equal the baseline levels of new budget authority and outlays using up-to-date concepts and definitions, minus those levels using the concepts and definitions in effect before such changes. Such changes may only be made after consultation with the Committees on Appropriations and the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and that consultation shall include written communication to such committees that affords such committees the opportunity to comment before official action is taken with respect to such changes.

“(2) **SEQUESTRATION REPORTS.**—When OMB submits a sequestration report under section 254(e), (f), or (g) for a fiscal year, OMB shall calculate, and the sequestration report and subsequent budgets submitted by the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, shall include adjustments to discretionary spending limits (and those limits as adjusted) for the fiscal year and each succeeding year, as follows:

“(A) **EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS; OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS/GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM.**—If, for any fiscal year, appropriations for discretionary accounts are enacted that—

“(i) the Congress designates as emergency requirements in statute on an account by account basis and the President subsequently so designates, or

“(ii) the Congress designates for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism in statute on an account by account basis and the President subsequently so designates,

the adjustment shall be the total of such appropriations in discretionary accounts designated as emergency requirements or for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism, as applicable.

“(B) **CONTINUING DISABILITY REVIEWS AND REDETERMINATIONS.**—(i) If a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a fiscal year is enacted that specifies an amount for continuing disability reviews under titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act and for the cost associated with conducting redeterminations of eligibility under title XVI of the Social Security Act, then the adjustments for that fiscal year shall be the additional new budget authority provided in that Act for such expenses for that fiscal year, but shall not exceed—

“(I) for fiscal year 2012, \$623,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(II) for fiscal year 2013, \$751,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(III) for fiscal year 2014, \$924,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(IV) for fiscal year 2015, \$1,123,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(V) for fiscal year 2016, \$1,166,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(VI) for fiscal year 2017, \$1,309,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(VII) for fiscal year 2018, \$1,309,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(VIII) for fiscal year 2019, \$1,309,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(IX) for fiscal year 2020, \$1,309,000,000 in additional new budget authority; and

“(X) for fiscal year 2021, \$1,309,000,000 in additional new budget authority.

“(ii) As used in this subparagraph—

“(I) the term ‘continuing disability reviews’ means continuing disability reviews under sections 221(i) and 1614(a)(4) of the Social Security Act;

“(II) the term ‘redetermination’ means redetermination of eligibility under sections 1611(c)(1) and 1614(a)(3)(H) of the Social Security Act; and

“(III) the term ‘additional new budget authority’ means the amount provided for a fiscal year, in excess of \$273,000,000, in an appropriation Act and specified to pay for the costs of continuing disability reviews and redeterminations under the heading ‘Limitation on Administrative Expenses’ for the Social Security Administration.

“(C) **HEALTH CARE FRAUD AND ABUSE CONTROL.**—(i) If a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a fiscal year is enacted that specifies an amount for the health care fraud abuse control program at the Department of Health and Human Services (75–8393–0–7–571), then the adjustments for that fiscal year shall be the amount of additional new budget authority provided in that Act for such program for that fiscal year, but shall not exceed—

“(I) for fiscal year 2012, \$270,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(II) for fiscal year 2013, \$299,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(III) for fiscal year 2014, \$329,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(IV) for fiscal year 2015, \$361,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(V) for fiscal year 2016, \$395,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(VI) for fiscal year 2017, \$414,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(VII) for fiscal year 2018, \$434,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(VIII) for fiscal year 2019, \$454,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

“(IX) for fiscal year 2020, \$475,000,000 in additional new budget authority; and

“(X) for fiscal year 2021, \$496,000,000 in additional new budget authority.

“(ii) As used in this subparagraph, the term ‘additional new budget authority’ means the amount provided for a fiscal year, in excess of \$311,000,000, in an appropriation Act and specified to pay for the costs of the health care fraud and abuse control program.

“(D) **DISASTER FUNDING.**—

“(i) If, for fiscal years 2012 through 2021, appropriations for discretionary accounts are enacted that Congress designates as being for disaster relief in statute, the adjustment for a fiscal year shall be the total of such appropriations for the fiscal year in discretionary accounts designated as being for disaster relief, but not to exceed the total of—

“(I) the average funding provided for disaster relief over the previous 10 years, excluding the highest and lowest years; and

“(II) the amount, for years when the enacted new discretionary budget authority designated as being for disaster relief for the preceding fiscal year was less than the average as calculated in subclause (I) for that fiscal year, that is the difference between the enacted amount and the allowable adjustment as calculated in such subclause for that fiscal year.

“(ii) OMB shall report to the Committees on Appropriations and Budget in each House the average calculated pursuant to clause (i)(II), not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of the Budget Control Act of 2011.

“(iii) For the purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘disaster relief’ means activities carried out pursuant to a determination under section 102(2) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122(2)).

“(iv) Appropriations considered disaster relief under this subparagraph in a fiscal year shall not be eligible for adjustments under subparagraph (A) for the fiscal year.

“(C) **DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMIT.**—As used in this part, the term ‘discretionary spending limit’ means—

“(1) with respect to fiscal year 2012—

“(A) for the security category, \$684,000,000,000 in new budget authority; and

“(B) for the nonsecurity category, \$359,000,000,000 in new budget authority;

“(2) with respect to fiscal year 2013—

“(A) for the security category, \$686,000,000,000 in new budget authority; and

“(B) for the nonsecurity category, \$361,000,000,000 in new budget authority;

“(3) with respect to fiscal year 2014, for the discretionary category, \$1,066,000,000,000 in new budget authority;

“(4) with respect to fiscal year 2015, for the discretionary category, \$1,086,000,000,000 in new budget authority;

“(5) with respect to fiscal year 2016, for the discretionary category, \$1,107,000,000,000 in new budget authority;

“(6) with respect to fiscal year 2017, for the discretionary category, \$1,131,000,000,000 in new budget authority;

“(7) with respect to fiscal year 2018, for the discretionary category, \$1,156,000,000,000 in new budget authority;

“(8) with respect to fiscal year 2019, for the discretionary category, \$1,182,000,000,000 in new budget authority;

“(9) with respect to fiscal year 2020, for the discretionary category, \$1,208,000,000,000 in new budget authority; and

“(10) with respect to fiscal year 2021, for the discretionary category, \$1,234,000,000,000 in new budget authority;

as adjusted in strict conformance with subsection (b).”.

SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.

Section 250(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended as follows:

(1) Strike paragraph (4) and insert the following new paragraph:

“(4)(A) The term ‘nonsecurity category’ means all discretionary appropriations not included in the security category defined in subparagraph (B).

“(B) The term ‘security category’ includes discretionary appropriations associated with agency budgets for the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the National Nuclear Security Administration, the intelligence community management account (95–0401–0–1–054), and all budget accounts in budget function 150 (international affairs).

“(C) The term ‘discretionary category’ includes all discretionary appropriations.”.

(2) In paragraph (8)(C), strike “the food stamp program” and insert “the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program”.

(3) Strike paragraph (14) and insert the following new paragraph:

“(14) The term ‘outyear’ means a fiscal year one or more years after the budget year.”.

(4) At the end, add the following new paragraphs:

“(20) The term ‘emergency’ means a situation that—

“(A) requires new budget authority and outlays (or new budget authority and the outlays flowing therefrom) for the prevention or mitigation of, or response to, loss of life or property, or a threat to national security; and

“(B) is unanticipated.

“(21) The term ‘unanticipated’ means that the underlying situation is—

“(A) sudden, which means quickly coming into being or not building up over time;

“(B) urgent, which means a pressing and compelling need requiring immediate action;

“(C) unforeseen, which means not predicted or anticipated as an emerging need; and

“(D) temporary, which means not of a permanent duration.”.

SEC. 103. REPORTS AND ORDERS.

Section 254 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended as follows:

(1) In subsection (c)(2), strike “2002” and insert “2021”.

(2) At the end of subsection (e), insert “This report shall also contain a preview estimate of the adjustment for disaster funding for the upcoming fiscal year.”.

(3) In subsection (f)(2)(A), strike “2002” and insert “2021”; before the concluding period insert “, including a final estimate of the adjustment for disaster funding”.

SEC. 104. EXPIRATION.

(a) **REPEALER.**—Section 275 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is repealed.

(b) **CONFORMING CHANGE.**—Sections 252(d)(1), 254(c), 254(f)(3), and 254(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall not apply to the Congressional Budget Office.

SEC. 105. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET AND IMPOUNDMENT CONTROL ACT OF 1974.

(a) **ADJUSTMENTS.**—Section 314 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended as follows:

(1) Strike subsection (a) and insert the following:

“(a) **ADJUSTMENTS.**—After the reporting of a bill or joint resolution or the offering of an amendment thereto or the submission of a conference report thereon, the chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives or the Senate may make appropriate budgetary adjustments of new budget authority and the outlays flowing therefrom in the same amount as required by section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.”.

(2) Strike subsections (b) and (e) and redesignate subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (b) and (c), respectively.

(3) At the end, add the following new subsections:

“(d) **EMERGENCIES IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**—(1) In the House of Representatives, if a reported bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, contains a provision providing new budget authority and outlays or reducing revenue, and a designation of such provision as an emergency requirement pursuant to 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the chair of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives shall not count the budgetary effects of such provision for purposes of title III and title IV of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and the Rules of the House of Representatives.

“(2)(A) In the House of Representatives, if a reported bill or joint resolution, or amendment thereto or conference report thereon, contains a provision providing new budget authority and outlays or reducing revenue, and a designation of such provision as an emergency pursuant to paragraph (1), the chair of the Committee on the Budget shall not count the budgetary effects of such provision for purposes of this title and title IV and the Rules of the House of Representatives.

“(B) In the House of Representatives, a proposal to strike a designation under subparagraph (A) shall be excluded from an evaluation of budgetary effects for purposes of this title and title IV and the Rules of the House of Representatives.

“(C) An amendment offered under subparagraph (B) that also proposes to reduce each amount appropriated or otherwise made available by the pending measure that is not required to be appropriated or otherwise made available shall be in order at any point in the reading of the pending measure.

“(e) **ENFORCEMENT OF DISCRETIONARY SPENDING CAPS.**—It shall not be in order in the House of Representatives or the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, or conference report that would cause the discretionary spending limits as set forth in section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act to be exceeded.”.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—Section 3 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(11) The terms ‘emergency’ and ‘unanticipated’ have the meanings given to such terms in section 250(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.”.

(c) **APPEALS FOR DISCRETIONARY CAPS.**—Section 904(c)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended by striking “and 312(c)” and inserting “312(c), and 314(e)”.

SEC. 106. SENATE BUDGET ENFORCEMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) For the purpose of enforcing the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 through April 15, 2012, including section 300 of that Act, and enforcing budgetary points of order in prior concurrent resolutions on the budget, the allocations, aggregates, and levels set in subsection (b)(1) shall apply in the Senate in the same manner as for a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2012 with appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2011 and 2013 through 2021.

(2) For the purpose of enforcing the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 after April 15, 2012, including section 300 of that Act, and enforcing budgetary points of order in prior concurrent resolutions on the budget, the allocations, aggregates, and levels set in subsection (b)(2) shall apply in the Senate in the same manner as for a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2013 with appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2012 and 2014 through 2022.

(b) **COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS, AGGREGATES, AND LEVELS.**—

(1) As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this section, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget shall file—

(A) for the Committee on Appropriations, committee allocations for fiscal years 2011 and 2012 consistent with the discretionary spending limits set forth in this Act for the purpose of enforcing section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974;

(B) for all committees other than the Committee on Appropriations, committee allocations for fiscal years 2011, 2012, 2012 through 2016, and 2012 through 2021 consistent with the Congressional Budget Office’s March 2011 baseline adjusted to account for the budgetary effects of this Act and legislation enacted prior to this Act but not included in the Congressional Budget Office’s March 2011 baseline, for the purpose of enforcing section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974;

(C) aggregate spending levels for fiscal years 2011 and 2012 and aggregate revenue levels for fiscal years 2011, 2012, 2012 through 2016, 2012 through 2021 consistent with the Congressional Budget Office’s March 2011 baseline adjusted to account for the budgetary effects of this Act and legislation enacted prior to this Act but not included in the Congressional Budget Office’s March 2011 baseline, and the discretionary spending limits set forth in this Act for the purpose of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; and

(D) levels of Social Security revenues and outlays for fiscal years 2011, 2012, 2012 through 2016, and 2012 through 2021 consistent with the Congressional Budget Office’s March 2011 baseline adjusted to account for the budgetary effects of this Act and legislation enacted prior to this Act but not included in the Congressional Budget Office’s March 2011 baseline, for the

purpose of enforcing sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(2) Not later than April 15, 2012, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget shall file—

(A) for the Committee on Appropriations, committee allocations for fiscal years 2012 and 2013 consistent with the discretionary spending limits set forth in this Act for the purpose of enforcing section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974;

(B) for all committees other than the Committee on Appropriations, committee allocations for fiscal years 2012, 2013, 2013 through 2017, and 2013 through 2022 consistent with the Congressional Budget Office’s March 2012 baseline for the purpose of enforcing section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974;

(C) aggregate spending levels for fiscal years 2012 and 2013 and aggregate revenue levels for fiscal years 2012, 2013, 2013–2017, and 2013–2022 consistent with the Congressional Budget Office’s March 2012 baseline and the discretionary spending limits set forth in this Act for the purpose of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; and

(D) levels of Social Security revenues and outlays for fiscal years 2012 and 2013, 2013–2017, and 2013–2022 consistent with the Congressional Budget Office’s March 2012 baseline budget for the purpose of enforcing sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(c) **SENATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD.**—

(1) Effective on the date of enactment of this section, for the purpose of enforcing section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress), the Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget shall reduce any balances of direct spending and revenues for any fiscal year to 0 (zero).

(2) Not later than April 15, 2012, for the purpose of enforcing section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress), the Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget shall reduce any balances of direct spending and revenues for any fiscal year to 0 (zero).

(3) Upon resetting the Senate paygo scorecard pursuant to paragraph (2), the Chairman shall publish a notification of such action in the Congressional Record.

(d) **FURTHER ADJUSTMENTS.**—

(1) The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise any allocations, aggregates, or levels set pursuant to this section to account for any subsequent adjustments to discretionary spending limits made pursuant to this Act.

(2) With respect to any allocations, aggregates, or levels set or adjustments made pursuant to this section, sections 412 through 414 of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress) shall remain in effect.

(e) **EXPIRATION.**—

(1) Subsections (a)(1), (b)(1), and (c)(1) shall expire if a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2012 is agreed to by the Senate and House of Representatives pursuant to section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(2) Subsections (a)(2), (b)(2), and (c)(2) shall expire if a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2013 is agreed to by the Senate and House of Representatives pursuant to section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

TITLE II—VOTE ON THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT**SEC. 201. VOTE ON THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT.**

After September 30, 2011, and not later than December 31, 2011, the House of Representatives and Senate, respectively, shall vote on passage of a joint resolution, the title of which is as follows: “Joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.”.

SEC. 202. CONSIDERATION BY THE OTHER HOUSE.

(a) **HOUSE CONSIDERATION.**—

(1) **REFERRAL.**—If the House receives a joint resolution described in section 201 from the Senate, such joint resolution shall be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. If the committee fails to report the joint resolution within five legislative days, it shall be in order to move that the House discharge the committee from further consideration of the joint resolution. Such a motion shall not be in order after the House has disposed of a motion to discharge the joint resolution. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion except twenty minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. If such a motion is adopted, the House shall proceed immediately to consider the joint resolution in accordance with paragraph (3). A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

(2) **PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.**—After the joint resolution has been referred to the appropriate calendar or the committee has been discharged (other than by motion) from its consideration, it shall be in order to move to proceed to consider the joint resolution in the House. Such a motion shall not be in order after the House has disposed of a motion to proceed with respect to the joint resolution. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

(3) **CONSIDERATION.**—The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against the joint resolution and against its consideration are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to its passage without intervening motion except two hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent and one motion to limit debate on the joint resolution. A motion to reconsider the vote on passage of the joint resolution shall not be in order.

(b) **SENATE CONSIDERATION.**—(1) If the Senate receives a joint resolution described in section 201 from the House of Representatives, such joint resolution shall be referred to the appropriate committee of the Senate. If such committee has not reported the joint resolution at the close of the fifth session day after its receipt by the Senate, such committee shall be automatically discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution and it shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

(2) Consideration of the joint resolution and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 20 hours, which shall be divided equally between the majority and minority leaders or their designees. A motion further to limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint resolution is not in order. Any debatable motion or appeal is debatable for not to exceed 1 hour, to be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the motion or appeal. All time used for consideration of the joint resolution, including time used for quorum calls and voting, shall be counted against the total 20 hours of consideration.

(3) If the Senate has voted to proceed to a joint resolution, the vote on passage of the joint resolution shall be taken on or before the close of the seventh session day after such joint resolution has been reported or discharged or immediately following the conclusion of consideration of the joint resolution, and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate.

TITLE III—DEBT CEILING DISAPPROVAL PROCESS

SEC. 301. DEBT CEILING DISAPPROVAL PROCESS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subchapter I of chapter 31 of subtitle III of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 3101(b), by striking “or otherwise” and inserting “or as provided by section 3101A or otherwise”; and

(2) by inserting after section 3101 the following:

“§3101A. Presidential modification of the debt ceiling

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

“(1) \$900 BILLION.—

“(A) **CERTIFICATION.**—If, not later than December 31, 2011, the President submits a written certification to Congress that the President has determined that the debt subject to limit is within \$100,000,000,000 of the limit in section 3101(b) and that further borrowing is required to meet existing commitments, the Secretary of the Treasury may exercise authority to borrow an additional \$900,000,000,000, subject to the enactment of a joint resolution of disapproval enacted pursuant to this section. Upon submission of such certification, the limit on debt provided in section 3101(b) (referred to in this section as the ‘debt limit’) is increased by \$400,000,000,000.

“(B) **RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.**—Congress may consider a joint resolution of disapproval of the authority under subparagraph (A) as provided in subsections (b) through (f). The joint resolution of disapproval considered under this section shall contain only the language provided in subsection (b)(2). If the time for disapproval has lapsed without enactment of a joint resolution of disapproval under this section, the debt limit is increased by an additional \$500,000,000,000.

“(2) **ADDITIONAL AMOUNT.**—

“(A) **CERTIFICATION.**—If, after the debt limit is increased by \$900,000,000,000 under paragraph (1), the President submits a written certification to Congress that the President has determined that the debt subject to limit is within \$100,000,000,000 of the limit in section 3101(b) and that further borrowing is required to meet existing commitments, the Secretary of the Treasury may, subject to the enactment of a joint resolution of disapproval enacted pursuant to this section, exercise authority to borrow an additional amount equal to—

“(i) \$1,200,000,000,000, unless clause (ii) or (iii) applies;

“(ii) \$1,500,000,000,000 if the Archivist of the United States has submitted to the States for their ratification a proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States pursuant to a joint resolution entitled ‘Joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States’; or

“(iii) if a joint committee bill to achieve an amount greater than \$1,200,000,000,000 in deficit reduction as provided in section 401(b)(3)(B)(i)(II) of the Budget Control Act of 2011 is enacted, an amount equal to the amount of that deficit reduction, but not greater than \$1,500,000,000,000, unless clause (ii) applies.

“(B) **RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.**—Congress may consider a joint resolution of disapproval of the authority under subparagraph (A) as provided in subsections (b) through (f). The joint resolution of disapproval considered under this section shall contain only the language provided in subsection (b)(2). If the time for disapproval has lapsed without enactment of a joint resolution of disapproval under this section, the debt limit is increased by the amount authorized under subparagraph (A).

“(b) **JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except for the \$400,000,000,000 increase in the debt limit provided by subsection (a)(1)(A), the debt limit may

not be raised under this section if, within 50 calendar days after the date on which Congress receives a certification described in subsection (a)(1) or within 15 calendar days after Congress receives the certification described in subsection (a)(2) (regardless of whether Congress is in session), there is enacted into law a joint resolution disapproving the President’s exercise of authority with respect to such additional amount.

“(2) **CONTENTS OF JOINT RESOLUTION.**—For the purpose of this section, the term ‘joint resolution’ means only a joint resolution—

“(A)(i) for the certification described in subsection (a)(1), that is introduced on September 6, 7, 8, or 9, 2011 (or, if the Senate was not in session, the next calendar day on which the Senate is in session); and

“(ii) for the certification described in subsection (a)(2), that is introduced between the date the certification is received and 3 calendar days after that date;

“(B) which does not have a preamble;

“(C) the title of which is only as follows: ‘Joint resolution relating to the disapproval of the President’s exercise of authority to increase the debt limit, as submitted under section 3101A of title 31, United States Code, on _____’ (with the blank containing the date of such submission); and

“(D) the matter after the resolving clause of which is only as follows: ‘That Congress disapproves of the President’s exercise of authority to increase the debt limit, as exercised pursuant to the certification under section 3101A(a) of title 31, United States Code.’

“(c) **EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**—

“(1) **RECONVENING.**—Upon receipt of a certification described in subsection (a)(2), the Speaker, if the House would otherwise be adjourned, shall notify the Members of the House that, pursuant to this section, the House shall convene not later than the second calendar day after receipt of such certification.

“(2) **REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.**—Any committee of the House of Representatives to which a joint resolution is referred shall report it to the House without amendment not later than 5 calendar days after the date of introduction of a joint resolution described in subsection (a). If a committee fails to report the joint resolution within that period, the committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution and the joint resolution shall be referred to the appropriate calendar.

“(3) **PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.**—After each committee authorized to consider a joint resolution reports it to the House or has been discharged from its consideration, it shall be in order, not later than the sixth day after introduction of a joint resolution under subsection (a), to move to proceed to consider the joint resolution in the House. All points of order against the motion are waived. Such a motion shall not be in order after the House has disposed of a motion to proceed on a joint resolution addressing a particular submission. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion. The motion shall not be debatable. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

“(4) **CONSIDERATION.**—The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against the joint resolution and against its consideration are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to its passage without intervening motion except two hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. A motion to reconsider the vote on passage of the joint resolution shall not be in order.

“(d) **EXPEDITED PROCEDURE IN SENATE.**—

“(1) **RECONVENING.**—Upon receipt of a certification under subsection (a)(2), if the Senate has

adjourned or recessed for more than 2 days, the majority leader of the Senate, after consultation with the minority leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the Senate that, pursuant to this section, the Senate shall convene not later than the second calendar day after receipt of such message.

“(2) **PLACEMENT ON CALENDAR.**—Upon introduction in the Senate, the joint resolution shall be immediately placed on the calendar.

“(3) **FLOOR CONSIDERATION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is in order at any time during the period beginning on the day after the date on which Congress receives a certification under subsection (a) and, for the certification described in subsection (a)(1), ending on September 14, 2011, and for the certification described in subsection (a)(2), on the 6th day after the date on which Congress receives a certification under subsection (a) (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) to move to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion to proceed is not debatable. The motion is not subject to a motion to postpone. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the resolution is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business until disposed of.

“(B) **CONSIDERATION.**—Consideration of the joint resolution, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between the majority and minority leaders or their designees. A motion further to limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint resolution is not in order.

“(C) **VOTE ON PASSAGE.**—If the Senate has voted to proceed to a joint resolution, the vote on passage of the joint resolution shall occur immediately following the conclusion of consideration of the joint resolution, and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate.

“(D) **RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCEDURE.**—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate, as the case may be, to the procedure relating to a joint resolution shall be decided without debate.

“(e) **AMENDMENT NOT IN ORDER.**—A joint resolution of disapproval considered pursuant to this section shall not be subject to amendment in either the House of Representatives or the Senate.

“(f) **COORDINATION WITH ACTION BY OTHER HOUSE.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If, before passing the joint resolution, one House receives from the other a joint resolution—

“(A) the joint resolution of the other House shall not be referred to a committee; and

“(B) the procedure in the receiving House shall be the same as if no joint resolution had been received from the other House until the vote on passage, when the joint resolution received from the other House shall supplant the joint resolution of the receiving House.

“(2) **TREATMENT OF JOINT RESOLUTION OF OTHER HOUSE.**—If the Senate fails to introduce or consider a joint resolution under this section, the joint resolution of the House shall be entitled to expedited floor procedures under this section.

“(3) **TREATMENT OF COMPANION MEASURES.**—If, following passage of the joint resolution in

the Senate, the Senate then receives the companion measure from the House of Representatives, the companion measure shall not be debatable.

“(4) **CONSIDERATION AFTER PASSAGE.**—(A) If Congress passes a joint resolution, the period beginning on the date the President is presented with the joint resolution and ending on the date the President signs, allows to become law without his signature, or vetoes and returns the joint resolution (but excluding days when either House is not in session) shall be disregarded in computing the appropriate calendar day period described in subsection (b)(1).

“(B) Debate on a veto message in the Senate under this section shall be 1 hour equally divided between the majority and minority leaders or their designees.

“(5) **VETO OVERRIDE.**—If within the appropriate calendar day period described in subsection (b)(1), Congress overrides a veto of the joint resolution with respect to authority exercised pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a), the limit on debt provided in section 3101(b) shall not be raised, except for the \$400,000,000,000 increase in the limit provided by subsection (a)(1)(A).

“(6) **SEQUESTRATION.**—(A) If within the 50-calendar day period described in subsection (b)(1), the President signs the joint resolution, the President allows the joint resolution to become law without his signature, or Congress overrides a veto of the joint resolution with respect to authority exercised pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection (a), there shall be a sequestration to reduce spending by \$400,000,000,000. OMB shall implement the sequestration forthwith.

“(B) OMB shall implement each half of such sequestration in accordance with section 255, section 256, and subsections (c), (d), (e), and (f) of section 253 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, and for the purpose of such implementation the term ‘excess deficit’ means the amount specified in subparagraph (A).

“(g) **RULES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE.**—This subsection and subsections (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f) (other than paragraph (6)) are enacted by Congress—

“(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, and as such it is deemed a part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in that House in the case of a joint resolution, and it supersedes other rules only to the extent that it is inconsistent with such rules; and

“(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as relating to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.”

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections for chapter 31 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3101 the following new item:

“3101A. Presidential modification of the debt ceiling.”

SEC. 302. ENFORCEMENT OF BUDGET GOAL.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended by inserting after section 251 the following new section:

“SEC. 251A. ENFORCEMENT OF BUDGET GOAL.

“Unless a joint committee bill achieving an amount greater than \$1,200,000,000,000 in deficit reduction as provided in section 401(b)(3)(B)(i)(II) of the Budget Control Act of 2011 is enacted by January 15, 2012, the discretionary spending limits listed in section 251(c) shall be revised, and discretionary appropriations and direct spending shall be reduced, as follows:

“(1) **REVISED SECURITY CATEGORY; REVISED NONSECURITY CATEGORY.**—(A) The term ‘revised security category’ means discretionary appropriations in budget function 050.

“(B) The term ‘revised nonsecurity category’ means discretionary appropriations other than in budget function 050.

“(2) **REVISED DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS.**—The discretionary spending limits for fiscal years 2013 through 2021 under section 251(c) shall be replaced with the following:

“(A) For fiscal year 2013—

“(i) for the security category, \$546,000,000,000 in budget authority; and

“(ii) for the nonsecurity category, \$501,000,000,000 in budget authority.

“(B) For fiscal year 2014—

“(i) for the security category, \$556,000,000,000 in budget authority; and

“(ii) for the nonsecurity category, \$510,000,000,000 in budget authority.

“(C) For fiscal year 2015—

“(i) for the security category, \$566,000,000,000 in budget authority; and

“(ii) for the nonsecurity category, \$520,000,000,000 in budget authority.

“(D) For fiscal year 2016—

“(i) for the security category, \$577,000,000,000 in budget authority; and

“(ii) for the nonsecurity category, \$530,000,000,000 in budget authority.

“(E) For fiscal year 2017—

“(i) for the security category, \$590,000,000,000 in budget authority; and

“(ii) for the nonsecurity category, \$541,000,000,000 in budget authority.

“(F) For fiscal year 2018—

“(i) for the security category, \$603,000,000,000 in budget authority; and

“(ii) for the nonsecurity category, \$553,000,000,000 in budget authority.

“(G) For fiscal year 2019—

“(i) for the security category, \$616,000,000,000 in budget authority; and

“(ii) for the nonsecurity category, \$566,000,000,000 in budget authority.

“(H) For fiscal year 2020—

“(i) for the security category, \$630,000,000,000 in budget authority; and

“(ii) for the nonsecurity category, \$578,000,000,000 in budget authority.

“(I) For fiscal year 2021—

“(i) for the security category, \$644,000,000,000 in budget authority; and

“(ii) for the nonsecurity category, \$590,000,000,000 in budget authority.

“(3) **CALCULATION OF TOTAL DEFICIT REDUCTION.**—OMB shall calculate the amount of the deficit reduction required by this section for each of fiscal years 2013 through 2021 by—

“(A) starting with \$1,200,000,000,000;

“(B) subtracting the amount of deficit reduction achieved by the enactment of a joint committee bill, as provided in section 401(b)(3)(B)(i)(II) of the Budget Control Act of 2011;

“(C) reducing the difference by 18 percent to account for debt service; and

“(D) dividing the result by 9.

“(4) **ALLOCATION TO FUNCTIONS.**—On January 2, 2013, for fiscal year 2013, and in its sequestration preview report for fiscal years 2014 through 2021 pursuant to section 254(c), OMB shall allocate half of the total reduction calculated pursuant to paragraph (3) for that year to discretionary appropriations and direct spending accounts within function 050 (defense function) and half to accounts in all other functions (nondefense functions).

“(5) **DEFENSE FUNCTION REDUCTION.**—OMB shall calculate the reductions to discretionary appropriations and direct spending for each of fiscal years 2013 through 2021 for defense function spending as follows:

“(A) DISCRETIONARY.—OMB shall calculate the reduction to discretionary appropriations by—

“(i) taking the total reduction for the defense function allocated for that year under paragraph (4);

“(ii) multiplying by the discretionary spending limit for the revised security category for that year; and

“(iii) dividing by the sum of the discretionary spending limit for the security category and OMB’s baseline estimate of nonexempt outlays for direct spending programs within the defense function for that year.

“(B) DIRECT SPENDING.—OMB shall calculate the reduction to direct spending by taking the total reduction for the defense function required for that year under paragraph (4) and subtracting the discretionary reduction calculated pursuant to subparagraph (A).

“(6) NONDEFENSE FUNCTION REDUCTION.—OMB shall calculate the reduction to discretionary appropriations and to direct spending for each of fiscal years 2013 through 2021 for programs in nondefense functions as follows:

“(A) DISCRETIONARY.—OMB shall calculate the reduction to discretionary appropriations by—

“(i) taking the total reduction for nondefense functions allocated for that year under paragraph (4);

“(ii) multiplying by the discretionary spending limit for the revised nonsecurity category for that year; and

“(iii) dividing by the sum of the discretionary spending limit for the revised nonsecurity category and OMB’s baseline estimate of nonexempt outlays for direct spending programs in nondefense functions for that year.

“(B) DIRECT SPENDING.—OMB shall calculate the reduction to direct spending programs by taking the total reduction for nondefense functions required for that year under paragraph (4) and subtracting the discretionary reduction calculated pursuant to subparagraph (A).

“(7) IMPLEMENTING DISCRETIONARY REDUCTIONS.—

“(A) FISCAL YEAR 2013.—On January 2, 2013, for fiscal year 2013, OMB shall calculate and the President shall order a sequestration, effective upon issuance and under the procedures set forth in section 253(f), to reduce each account within the security category or nonsecurity category by a dollar amount calculated by multiplying the baseline level of budgetary resources in that account at that time by a uniform percentage necessary to achieve—

“(i) for the revised security category, an amount equal to the defense function discretionary reduction calculated pursuant to paragraph (5); and

“(ii) for the revised nonsecurity category, an amount equal to the nondefense function discretionary reduction calculated pursuant to paragraph (6).

“(B) FISCAL YEARS 2014-2021.—On the date of the submission of its sequestration preview report for fiscal years 2014 through 2021 pursuant to section 254(c) for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2021, OMB shall reduce the discretionary spending limit—

“(i) for the revised security category by the amount of the defense function discretionary reduction calculated pursuant to paragraph (5); and

“(ii) for the revised nonsecurity category by the amount of the nondefense function discretionary reduction calculated pursuant to paragraph (6).

“(8) IMPLEMENTING DIRECT SPENDING REDUCTIONS.—On the date specified in paragraph (4) during each applicable year, OMB shall prepare and the President shall order a sequestration, effective upon issuance, of nonexempt direct

spending to achieve the direct spending reduction calculated pursuant to paragraphs (5) and (6). When implementing the sequestration of direct spending pursuant to this paragraph, OMB shall follow the procedures specified in section 6 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, the exemptions specified in section 255, and the special rules specified in section 256, except that the percentage reduction for the Medicare programs specified in section 256(d) shall not be more than 2 percent for a fiscal year.

“(9) ADJUSTMENT FOR MEDICARE.—If the percentage reduction for the Medicare programs would exceed 2 percent for a fiscal year in the absence of paragraph (8), OMB shall increase the reduction for all other discretionary appropriations and direct spending under paragraph (6) by a uniform percentage to a level sufficient to achieve the reduction required by paragraph (6) in the non-defense function.

“(10) IMPLEMENTATION OF REDUCTIONS.—Any reductions imposed under this section shall be implemented in accordance with section 256(k).

“(11) REPORT.—On the dates specified in paragraph (4), OMB shall submit a report to Congress containing information about the calculations required under this section, the adjusted discretionary spending limits, a listing of the reductions required for each nonexempt direct spending account, and any other data and explanations that enhance public understanding of this title and actions taken under it.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents set forth in section 250(a) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 251 the following:

“Sec. 251A. Enforcement of budget goal.”

TITLE IV—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON DEFICIT REDUCTION

SEC. 401. ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this title:

(1) JOINT COMMITTEE.—The term “joint committee” means the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction established under subsection (b)(1).

(2) JOINT COMMITTEE BILL.—The term “joint committee bill” means a bill consisting of the proposed legislative language of the joint committee recommended under subsection (b)(3)(B) and introduced under section 402(a).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a joint select committee of Congress to be known as the “Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction”.

(2) GOAL.—The goal of the joint committee shall be to reduce the deficit by at least \$1,500,000,000 over the period of fiscal years 2012 to 2021.

(3) DUTIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—

(i) IMPROVING THE SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM FISCAL IMBALANCE.—The joint committee shall provide recommendations and legislative language that will significantly improve the short-term and long-term fiscal imbalance of the Federal Government.

(ii) RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES.—Not later than October 14, 2011, each committee of the House of Representatives and the Senate may transmit to the joint committee its recommendations for changes in law to reduce the deficit consistent with the goal described in paragraph (2) for the joint committee’s consideration.

(B) REPORT, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than November 23, 2011, the joint committee shall vote on—

(1) a report that contains a detailed statement of the findings, conclusions, and recommenda-

tions of the joint committee and the estimate of the Congressional Budget Office required by paragraph (5)(D)(ii); and

(II) proposed legislative language to carry out such recommendations as described in subclause (I), which shall include a statement of the deficit reduction achieved by the legislation over the period of fiscal years 2012 to 2021.

Any change to the Rules of the House of Representatives or the Standing Rules of the Senate included in the report or legislative language shall be considered to be merely advisory.

(ii) APPROVAL OF REPORT AND LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE.—The report of the joint committee and the proposed legislative language described in clause (i) shall require the approval of a majority of the members of the joint committee.

(iii) ADDITIONAL VIEWS.—A member of the joint committee who gives notice of an intention to file supplemental, minority, or additional views at the time of final joint committee vote on the approval of the report and legislative language under clause (ii) shall be entitled to 3 calendar days in which to file such views in writing with the staff director of the joint committee. Such views shall then be included in the joint committee report and printed in the same volume, or part thereof, and their inclusion shall be noted on the cover of the report. In the absence of timely notice, the joint committee report may be printed and transmitted immediately without such views.

(iv) TRANSMISSION OF REPORT AND LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE.—If the report and legislative language are approved by the joint committee pursuant to clause (ii), then not later than December 2, 2011, the joint committee shall submit the joint committee report and legislative language described in clause (i) to the President, the Vice President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the majority and minority Leaders of each House of Congress.

(v) REPORT AND LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE TO BE MADE PUBLIC.—Upon the approval or disapproval of the joint committee report and legislative language pursuant to clause (ii), the joint committee shall promptly make the full report and legislative language, and a record of the vote, available to the public.

(4) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The joint committee shall be composed of 12 members appointed pursuant to subparagraph (B).

(B) APPOINTMENT.—Members of the joint committee shall be appointed as follows:

(i) The majority leader of the Senate shall appoint 3 members from among Members of the Senate.

(ii) The minority leader of the Senate shall appoint 3 members from among Members of the Senate.

(iii) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint 3 members from among Members of the House of Representatives.

(iv) The minority leader of the House of Representatives shall appoint 3 members from among Members of the House of Representatives.

(C) CO-CHAIRS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—There shall be 2 Co-Chairs of the joint committee. The majority leader of the Senate shall appoint one Co-Chair from among the members of the joint committee. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint the second Co-Chair from among the members of the joint committee. The Co-Chairs shall be appointed not later than 14 calendar days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(ii) STAFF DIRECTOR.—The Co-Chairs, acting jointly, shall hire the staff director of the joint committee.

(D) DATE.—Members of the joint committee shall be appointed not later than 14 calendar days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(E) **PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.**—Members shall be appointed for the life of the joint committee. Any vacancy in the joint committee shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled not later than 14 calendar days after the date on which the vacancy occurs, in the same manner as the original designation was made. If a member of the joint committee ceases to be a Member of the House of Representatives or the Senate, as the case may be, the member is no longer a member of the joint committee and a vacancy shall exist.

(5) **ADMINISTRATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—To enable the joint committee to exercise its powers, functions, and duties, there are authorized to be disbursed by the Senate the actual and necessary expenses of the joint committee approved by the co-chairs, subject to the rules and regulations of the Senate.

(B) **EXPENSES.**—In carrying out its functions, the joint committee is authorized to incur expenses in the same manner and under the same conditions as the Joint Economic Committee is authorized by section 11 of Public Law 79-09304 (15 U.S.C. 1024 (d)).

(C) **QUORUM.**—Seven members of the joint committee shall constitute a quorum for purposes of voting, meeting, and holding hearings.

(D) **VOTING.**—

(i) **PROXY VOTING.**—No proxy voting shall be allowed on behalf of the members of the joint committee.

(ii) **CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATES.**—The Congressional Budget Office shall provide estimates of the legislation (as described in paragraph (3)(B)) in accordance with sections 308(a) and 201(f) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 639(a) and 601(f)) (including estimates of the effect of interest payment on the debt). In addition, the Congressional Budget Office shall provide information on the budgetary effect of the legislation beyond the year 2021. The joint committee may not vote on any version of the report, recommendations, or legislative language unless such estimates are available for consideration by all members of the joint committee at least 48 hours prior to the vote as certified by the Co-Chairs.

(E) **MEETINGS.**—

(i) **INITIAL MEETING.**—Not later than 45 calendar days after the date of enactment of this Act, the joint committee shall hold its first meeting.

(ii) **AGENDA.**—The Co-Chairs of the joint committee shall provide an agenda to the joint committee members not less than 48 hours in advance of any meeting.

(F) **HEARINGS.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The joint committee may, for the purpose of carrying out this section, hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, require attendance of witnesses and production of books, papers, and documents, take such testimony, receive such evidence, and administer such oaths as the joint committee considers advisable.

(ii) **HEARING PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CO-CHAIRS.**—

(I) **ANNOUNCEMENT.**—The Co-Chairs of the joint committee shall make a public announcement of the date, place, time, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted, not less than 7 days in advance of such hearing, unless the Co-Chairs determine that there is good cause to begin such hearing at an earlier date.

(II) **WRITTEN STATEMENT.**—A witness appearing before the joint committee shall file a written statement of proposed testimony at least 2 calendar days before the appearance of the witness, unless the requirement is waived by the Co-Chairs, following their determination that there is good cause for failure to comply with such requirement.

(G) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—Upon written request of the Co-Chairs, a Federal agency shall

provide technical assistance to the joint committee in order for the joint committee to carry out its duties.

(c) **STAFF OF JOINT COMMITTEE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Co-Chairs of the joint committee may jointly appoint and fix the compensation of staff as they deem necessary, within the guidelines for employees of the Senate and following all applicable rules and employment requirements of the Senate.

(2) **ETHICAL STANDARDS.**—Members on the joint committee who serve in the House of Representatives shall be governed by the ethics rules and requirements of the House. Members of the Senate who serve on the joint committee and staff of the joint committee shall comply with the ethics rules of the Senate.

(d) **TERMINATION.**—The joint committee shall terminate on January 31, 2012.

SEC. 402. EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION OF JOINT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

(a) **INTRODUCTION.**—If approved by the majority required by section 401(b)(3)(B)(ii), the proposed legislative language submitted pursuant to section 401(b)(3)(B)(iv) shall be introduced in the Senate (by request) on the next day on which the Senate is in session by the majority leader of the Senate or by a Member of the Senate designated by the majority leader of the Senate and shall be introduced in the House of Representatives (by request) on the next legislative day by the majority leader of the House or by a Member of the House designated by the majority leader of the House.

(b) **CONSIDERATION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**—

(1) **REFERRAL AND REPORTING.**—Any committee of the House of Representatives to which the joint committee bill is referred shall report it to the House without amendment not later than December 9, 2011. If a committee fails to report the joint committee bill within that period, it shall be in order to move that the House discharge the committee from further consideration of the bill. Such a motion shall not be in order after the last committee authorized to consider the bill reports it to the House or after the House has disposed of a motion to discharge the bill. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion except 20 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. If such a motion is adopted, the House shall proceed immediately to consider the joint committee bill in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3). A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

(2) **PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.**—After the last committee authorized to consider a joint committee bill reports it to the House or has been discharged (other than by motion) from its consideration, it shall be in order to move to proceed to consider the joint committee bill in the House. Such a motion shall not be in order after the House has disposed of a motion to proceed with respect to the joint committee bill. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

(3) **CONSIDERATION.**—The joint committee bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against the joint committee bill and against its consideration are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint committee bill to its passage without intervening motion except 2 hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent and one motion to limit debate on the joint committee bill. A motion to reconsider the vote on passage of the joint committee bill shall not be in order.

(4) **VOTE ON PASSAGE.**—The vote on passage of the joint committee bill shall occur not later than December 23, 2011.

(c) **EXPEDITED PROCEDURE IN THE SENATE.**—

(1) **COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION.**—A joint committee bill introduced in the Senate under subsection (a) shall be jointly referred to the committee or committees of jurisdiction, which committees shall report the bill without any revision and with a favorable recommendation, an unfavorable recommendation, or without recommendation, not later than December 9, 2011. If any committee fails to report the bill within that period, that committee shall be automatically discharged from consideration of the bill, and the bill shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

(2) **MOTION TO PROCEED.**—Notwithstanding Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is in order, not later than 2 days of session after the date on which a joint committee bill is reported or discharged from all committees to which it was referred, for the majority leader of the Senate or the majority leader's designee to move to proceed to the consideration of the joint committee bill. It shall also be in order for any Member of the Senate to move to proceed to the consideration of the joint committee bill at any time after the conclusion of such 2-day period. A motion to proceed is in order even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to. All points of order against the motion to proceed to the joint committee bill are waived. The motion to proceed is not debatable. The motion is not subject to a motion to postpone. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint committee bill is agreed to, the joint committee bill shall remain the unfinished business until disposed of.

(3) **CONSIDERATION.**—All points of order against the joint committee bill and against consideration of the joint committee bill are waived. Consideration of the joint committee bill and of all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith shall not exceed a total of 30 hours which shall be divided equally between the Majority and Minority Leaders or their designees. A motion further to limit debate on the joint committee bill is in order, shall require an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members duly chosen and sworn, and is not debatable. Any debatable motion or appeal is debatable for not to exceed 1 hour, to be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the motion or appeal. All time used for consideration of the joint committee bill, including time used for quorum calls and voting, shall be counted against the total 30 hours of consideration.

(4) **NO AMENDMENTS.**—An amendment to the joint committee bill, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint committee bill, is not in order.

(5) **VOTE ON PASSAGE.**—If the Senate has voted to proceed to the joint committee bill, the vote on passage of the joint committee bill shall occur immediately following the conclusion of the debate on a joint committee bill, and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested. The vote on passage of the joint committee bill shall occur not later than December 23, 2011.

(6) **RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCEDURE.**—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate, as the case may be, to the procedure relating to a joint committee bill shall be decided without debate.

(d) **AMENDMENT.**—The joint committee bill shall not be subject to amendment in either the House of Representatives or the Senate.

(e) **CONSIDERATION BY THE OTHER HOUSE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If, before passing the joint committee bill, one House receives from the other a joint committee bill—

(A) the joint committee bill of the other House shall not be referred to a committee; and

(B) the procedure in the receiving House shall be the same as if no joint committee bill had been received from the other House until the vote on passage, when the joint committee bill received from the other House shall supplant the joint committee bill of the receiving House.

(2) **REVENUE MEASURE.**—This subsection shall not apply to the House of Representatives if the joint committee bill received from the Senate is a revenue measure.

(f) **RULES TO COORDINATE ACTION WITH OTHER HOUSE.**—

(1) **TREATMENT OF JOINT COMMITTEE BILL OF OTHER HOUSE.**—If the Senate fails to introduce or consider a joint committee bill under this section, the joint committee bill of the House shall be entitled to expedited floor procedures under this section.

(2) **TREATMENT OF COMPANION MEASURES IN THE SENATE.**—If following passage of the joint committee bill in the Senate, the Senate then receives the joint committee bill from the House of Representatives, the House-passed joint committee bill shall not be debatable. The vote on passage of the joint committee bill in the Senate shall be considered to be the vote on passage of the joint committee bill received from the House of Representatives.

(3) **VETOES.**—If the President vetoes the joint committee bill, debate on a veto message in the Senate under this section shall be 1 hour equally divided between the majority and minority leaders or their designees.

(g) **LOSS OF PRIVILEGE.**—The provisions of this section shall cease to apply to the joint committee bill if—

(1) the joint committee fails to vote on the report or proposed legislative language required under section 401(b)(3)(B)(i) not later than November 23, 2011; or

(2) the joint committee bill does not pass both Houses not later than December 23, 2011.

SEC. 403. FUNDING.

Funding for the joint committee shall be derived in equal portions from—

(1) the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the contingent fund of the Senate from the appropriations account "Miscellaneous Items", subject to the rules and regulations of the Senate.

SEC. 404. RULEMAKING.

The provisions of this title are enacted by Congress—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the House of Representatives and the Senate, respectively, and as such they shall be considered as part of the rules of each House, respectively, or of that House to which they specifically apply, and such rules shall supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent therewith; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change such rules (so far as relating to such House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of such House.

TITLE V—PELL GRANT AND STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM CHANGES

SEC. 501. FEDERAL PELL GRANTS.

Section 401(b)(7)(A)(iv) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a(b)(7)(A)(iv)) is amended—

(1) in subclause (II), by striking "\$3,183,000,000" and inserting "\$13,183,000,000"; and

(2) in subclause (III), by striking "\$0" and inserting "\$7,000,000,000".

SEC. 502. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY TO MAKE INTEREST SUBSIDIZED LOANS TO GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS.

Section 455(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY TO MAKE INTEREST SUBSIDIZED LOANS TO GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS.**—

"(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraph (B) and notwithstanding any provision of this part or part B, for any period of instruction beginning on or after July 1, 2012—

"(i) a graduate or professional student shall not be eligible to receive a Federal Direct Stafford loan under this part; and

"(ii) the maximum annual amount of Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford loans such a student may borrow in any academic year (as defined in section 481(a)(2)) or its equivalent shall be the maximum annual amount for such student determined under section 428H, plus an amount equal to the amount of Federal Direct Stafford loans the student would have received in the absence of this subparagraph.

"(B) **EXCEPTION.**—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to an individual enrolled in course work specified in paragraph (3)(B) or (4)(B) of section 484(b)."

SEC. 503. TERMINATION OF DIRECT LOAN REPAYMENT INCENTIVES.

Section 455(b)(8) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(b)(8)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by amending the header to read as follows: "(A) **INCENTIVES FOR LOANS DISBURSED BEFORE JULY 1, 2012.**—"; and

(B) by inserting "with respect to loans for which the first disbursement of principal is made before July 1, 2012," after "of this part";

(2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting "with respect to loans for which the first disbursement of principal is made before July 1, 2012" after "repayment incentives"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(C) **NO REPAYMENT INCENTIVES FOR NEW LOANS DISBURSED ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2012.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of this part, the Secretary is prohibited from authorizing or providing any repayment incentive not otherwise authorized under this part to encourage on-time repayment of a loan under this part for which the first disbursement of principal is made on or after July 1, 2012, including any reduction in the interest or origination fee rate paid by a borrower of such a loan, except that the Secretary may provide for an interest rate reduction for a borrower who agrees to have payments on such a loan automatically electronically debited from a bank account."

SEC. 504. INAPPLICABILITY OF TITLE IV NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING AND MASTER CALENDAR EXCEPTION.

Sections 482(c) and 492 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1089(c), 1098a) shall not apply to the amendments made by this title, or to any regulations promulgated under those amendments.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, with 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules, 15 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means, and 15 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the measure before us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, at this moment we are beginning debate on a measure which I believe will finally send a signal to job creators in this country and in the global marketplace that we are finally, finally getting serious about getting our fiscal house in order.

We know that we are dealing with a very sad 9.2 percent unemployment rate in this country. We know that there are people hurting.

We all have constituents who have lost their homes, people who have lost their jobs, people who have lost their businesses, people are hurting.

It is absolutely imperative that we do everything that we can to get our economy back on track. We have just gotten the report, this downward report of the GDP growth rate down to 1.3 percent. We need to get back to robust, dynamic, strong, gross domestic product growth. We need to get to 4, 5, 6 percent GDP growth.

And, Mr. Speaker, one of the main reasons that we have not done that is we have seen this dramatic increase in spending. And over the past half century, on 75 different occasions, 75 different occasions, we have seen our debt ceiling increased without any effort whatsoever to get at the root cause of why it is that we have had to increase the debt ceiling.

I argue, Mr. Speaker, that we don't have a debt ceiling problem; we have a debt problem.

That's why we're here today, and that's why I believe that after months and months and months of partisan bickering, finger-pointing, we have at this moment begun a debate that will allow us in a bipartisan way to increase the debt ceiling, which we all know needs to be done. It simply is meeting the obligation of paying for past spending. Many of us have been opponents of much of that spending, but we recognize that the bill has to be paid.

Speaker BOEHNER, when just days after we took the oath of office in the 112th Congress, received the request from the President of the United States, through his Treasury Secretary, Mr. Geithner, that we increase the debt ceiling. The Speaker said then that he would agree that it's essential for us to increase the debt ceiling but we were not going to proceed with business as usual. We are not going to continue increasing the debt without getting to the root cause of the problem.

Mr. Speaker, I have got to tell you that through all of the debate that's taken place, we have gotten to the point where we have a measure. It's a bipartisan compromise. It's a bipartisan agreement that I believe will, as I have said, send a signal to those who are seeking to create jobs for our fellow Americans that we now are going to have the kind of fiscal restraint and responsibility from Washington, D.C., the likes of which we haven't seen in a long, long period of time.

Mr. Speaker, I will tell you that I strongly support this measure. As everyone has said, it's far from perfect, but I strongly support it, and I urge my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans alike, to join together in support of it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, after a month-long standoff over raising the debt ceiling, Congress is now forced to take action on a bill that by all accounts is deeply flawed. I think everybody today has agreed with that.

Why are we doing a flawed bill? Because we waited until the last minute. Instead of reducing the Nation's debt by closing tax loopholes for oil companies and private jet owners, today's bill instead creates a supercommittee that will decide how to take over a trillion dollars in cuts. And this supercommittee will serve as a mock Congress, leaving 523 Members of Congress sitting on the sidelines while a group of 12 decides the shape of the country for a decade to come.

Paying our debt should be a no brainer. Indeed the debt ceiling itself is an antiquated solution to a problem we no longer face and should be eliminated. It was originally created to pay for World War I, to provide our country with economic stability while at war. Today we are again in the midst of war, but instead of protecting the stability of our economy, some in Congress have decided to question the necessity of paying our bills. As we all know by now, they have taken our economy hostage and demanded draconian cuts in exchange for not leading our Nation into default.

The actions have caused real and significant damage. Roll Call reports that because of the prolonged debt ceiling crisis, the interest rate the United States Government must pay has already increased, which means the interest rates for car loans and home mortgages are also increasing.

The stock market has responded as expected. According to DealBook, as of July 29, big banks and companies withdrew \$37.5 billion from money market funds that are described as a key artery for our economy. The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost nearly 5 percent of its value last week, which meant 401(k)s, pension plans, retirement plans of all Americans were put at risk and much of it lost. Baby boomers across the United States

watched nervously as all those things were happening.

As I mentioned earlier, this type of crisis has become the new normal in this Congress. Under the Republican rule, the House of Representatives has repeatedly led our country to the brink of unthinkable situations.

First, the majority led the country to the brink of a government shut-down, threatening the jobs of hundreds of thousands of workers and endangering vital government services relied on by Americans every day. As we speak, the Federal Aviation Administration is shuttered, costing the United States Government hundreds of millions of dollars in lost revenue because the majority refuses to pass a clean legislation that does not include measures that threaten rural communities and the future of airline unions.

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Now the majority has brought us to the edge of a cliff in order to see how much they can get for not throwing the country into default. In January, Speaker BOEHNER promised the American people the debt ceiling debate would be an example of an "adult moment" in Washington. Is this what he had in mind?

Just this morning, my colleague on the Rules Committee, Mr. DREIER, went on National Public Radio saying his party has "not threatened to torpedo the economy by defaulting." This statement defies reality. We've been brought to this point precisely because the leadership in his party has walked out of negotiations and demanded that they get ideologically driven cuts before they will vote to protect the stability of our economy.

Last, but certainly not least, the crisis of the last few months has come at the expense of addressing the true crisis in our country—the jobs crisis that is facing millions of our fellow citizens. Last month, over 25 million Americans failed to find full-time work. Many have been out of work for so long that their unemployment benefits have expired as their skills erode and they are living on savings or charity from loved ones and friends. In response, we have not introduced a single bill in this House designed to invest significant government resources into creating jobs.

Instead, we have repeatedly proposed cutting funding to investments in green technology and transportation infrastructure, destroying the promise of putting thousands of Americans back to work in the jobs that can't be outsourced overseas. They have refused to extend unemployment benefits for those who can't find jobs and are moving nowhere fast to extend a payroll tax break that has helped create the small number of jobs that we added in recent months.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that serious responsibilities are taken here, the re-

sponsibilities of leadership, and in doing so, put an end to this self-inflicted crisis and focus on getting Americans back to work.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation to my colleague for her great spirit of bipartisanship.

With that, I would like to yield 1½ minutes to my good friend from Staten Island, New York (Mr. GRIMM).

Mr. GRIMM. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I rise today to ensure that the voices of those that I represent in Staten Island and Brooklyn are heard, and what they have to say is actually quite simple. They expect of us to use common sense to bring solutions to the problems that this Nation faces. And the problem that we face is not a debt ceiling problem; it's a debt problem. And the people in Staten Island and Brooklyn, every day, they go home and they have to figure out how to manage their households. They go to work and they have to figure out how to manage their small businesses, and to do that with common sense. That's what they ask of us.

You cannot spend money you don't have. You cannot continue to rack up debt with no plan to pay it off. Today, this debate is about moving America forward, together, in a bipartisan way, because this is not a Democratic debt or a Republican debt. It's an American debt, which means that Americans must come together to solve the problems.

Today is about solving problems. So I proudly stand here and say that I will support this bill, I will support Speaker BOEHNER, and I will bring solutions to the problem, not just bickering.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Massachusetts will control the time of the gentlewoman from New York.

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, we have never cut our way out of an economic recession. We have always grown our way out. But we have never grown our way out by investing less than 15 percent of our GDP in our people's potential. In fact, the last time we cut back in the way we are about to do today was in 1937, and that sent us right back into an economic depression. But this time, we're not going to have World War II to rescue our economy.

It's interesting to note that the Federal investment in homeownership and higher education for our returning GIs and the subsequent infrastructure investments and interstate highway system and the like created a permanent middle class after the war that lasted for two generations. But the middle class has never been more threatened

than it is today, and this will condemn those struggling to make it into the middle class to years of struggle without the help that we could, and should be providing them.

And it's not because we're a poor country. Our largest corporations are experiencing record profits. The top 25 hedge fund managers are making more than a billion a year. Our corporations are sitting on more than \$2 trillion of cash.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield the gentleman 20 additional seconds.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, the point is I understand that this train is leaving the station, but it's going in the wrong direction. We need to be investing in this country, not taking away the resources that will enable it to grow, it is through education, training, research and development and infrastructure investment that has made our country great but this agreement will make us smaller, weaker and far less able to tap our most valuable resource, the potential of all the American people.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield 1 minute to my very good friend from Ashland, Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY).

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I have had a chance to watch this floor debate over the last week or so, and to say the least, I think we can say tempers have flared and there's been a lot of rhetoric on both sides. And as we come together today with a proposal that has been negotiated with both sides—with Speaker BOEHNER, the President, and HARRY REID—it's a deal that not everyone is pleased with. It's a deal that doesn't have in everything that I want, and I'm sure that it doesn't have everything in the deal that my friends across the aisle would want. And that's why I think so many of us are hearing from our constituents, a lot on the far right and a lot on the far left, saying, We don't like it.

But the bottom line is I think this is one of the greatest moments of the House where two sides come together and figure out how they are going to find a solution that doesn't work for their parties; it's a solution that works for the American people.

And at this point in our history we owe \$14.5 trillion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. DUFFY. It's about time this Congress comes together and figures out a way to live within our means. This bill is going to start that process, though it doesn't go far enough.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH).

Mr. FATTAH. I rise in support of this proposal, but as with many of our

greatest capers in history, this is an inside job.

I want to offer just in evidence that we had in the words of the Treasury Secretary for Reagan and for Bush an admittance that they were running up deficits, and that that was one of the ways to starve the government. And then we had the Republican Party at the height of its power, the Presidency, the House, the Senate, saying, no, we weren't going to have any tax increases. Even though we were running up these high deficits, we are going to cut taxes. We're going to hemorrhage trillions of dollars in revenue, and we're going to go into two wars. We're going to put a \$7 trillion prescription drug plan on the financial pile of our debt.

Alan Greenspan testified before the Congress in the first weeks of the Bush administration. He said Bush can leave office with our country being entirely debt-free. What happened then was the reverse. He doubled the debt and walked out with 8 million Americans losing their jobs. But as Solomon, in his wisdom, said to those who wanted to cut the baby in half, we choose not to default but to agree to this proposal.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to yield 2 minutes to, as I've said, the next Governor of Indiana, my good friend from Columbus, Indiana (Mr. PENCE).

Mr. PENCE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this is a challenging time in the life of our country. Our economy is struggling; millions are out of work; and now, with a more than \$14 trillion national debt, America is on the verge of having its debts exceed our statutory borrowing limit.

Now, I recognize that if you owe debts, pay debts. Congress has an obligation to defend the full faith and credit of the United States. But this Congress also has an obligation to keep faith with this and future generations of Americans by restoring fiscal responsibility and discipline to our National Treasury.

The bipartisan Budget Control Act that we will consider today will make it possible for the Nation's bills to be paid with no new taxes, dollar-for-dollar cuts in spending for every increase in the debt ceiling, and it will give the American people a fighting chance to consider a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

Now, let me be clear. The Budget Control Act is not so much a good deal as it is a good start. I really believe this bipartisan compromise is a modest but meaningful step in the direction of fiscal discipline and reform, and I welcome it.

□ 1720

Now, while this bill doesn't go nearly far enough, it does move us in the right direction. You know, leadership means

knowing when to say yes and knowing when to say no. I believe the time has come to get something done so this Congress can move our national government back in the direction of fiscal responsibility and reform, and begin to advance policies that will put Americans back to work.

Last thought. There is a lot of credit taking on a day like today, a lot of bipartisanship, back patting, as we say. But let me say from my heart, this day, where we see the ship of state turning ever so slightly toward that lode star of fiscal responsibility, this day does not belong so much to any one political leader, to any one political party, or to any one branch of government. This day belongs to the American people who have stood, who have clamored, who have come to town halls and who have demanded this government live within its means and said: Enough is enough. This is your day.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Ladies and gentlemen of the House of Representatives, this, of course, is a very important day, a momentous decision, a difficult decision for all of us. I am going to vote for this in the best interest of our country and putting us in the stature where we need to be.

But I do want to point out one area of weakness that we're going to have to look at carefully as we go forward, and that is in the application of this 12-member committee, and especially as it relates to the areas of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

My understanding is, and I think this is understanding that we certainly need to make clear, that Social Security and Medicaid, veterans, Pell Grants, are all protected fully under this bill. But when it comes to Medicare, my understanding is that there will be an opportunity in here where they will look at Medicare on the provider side. The question becomes how can you basically separate benefits of Medicare patients when you have the patient, the doctors, and the hospital, and you can't adequately separate that. So I say, we must be very mindful of the Medicare apparatus here.

Mr. DREIER. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2½ minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I did not come to Washington to dismantle the New Deal or the Great Society, and I did not come to Washington to force more people into poverty. I agree that we need to avoid default and confront our long-term fiscal challenges. That is why on Saturday I voted in support of the Reid proposal which would have reduced our debt by hundreds of billions of dollars.

But the bill before us today is unfair in so many ways. It disproportionately places the burden of dealing with our

debt issue on the backs of those who can least afford it, while it spares the wealthiest from contributing anything.

There is something fundamentally wrong when a billionaire hedge fund manager pays a lower tax rate than his secretary; when Big Oil can make tens of billions in profits every quarter, but still get sweetheart deals from the taxpayer; and when we are slashing funding for roads and bridges, but allowing tax breaks for corporate jet owners to continue.

There are no new revenues in the bill before us today, only massive cuts in what is called domestic discretionary spending. But what does that actually mean? It means less investment in our transportation and infrastructure. It means less investment in medical research and education and food security.

To put it simply, it means less jobs and higher unemployment at a time when millions of Americans are struggling to find work. And despite the rhetoric of its supporters, the bill puts Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid on the chopping block.

We all know how we got into this mess: two huge tax cuts, mostly for the wealthy, that weren't paid for; two wars that weren't paid for; and a massive prescription drug bill that wasn't paid for. Now, there are certainly places to cut.

Right now we are borrowing \$10 billion every single month—\$10 billion every single month—for military operations in Afghanistan to prop up a corrupt and incompetent Karzai regime. But according to the Congressional Budget Office, the spending caps contained in this legislation do not apply to ending that misguided war. That makes no sense to me.

The truth is that the best way to deal with our long-term fiscal situation is to grow our economy. That means creating jobs and putting people back to work. This bill goes exactly in the wrong direction.

I have two children who I love more than anything, and I don't want them to grow up in a country where the gap between the very rich and poor grows wider and wider each year. We can do better, Mr. Speaker. We must do better, and we can do so in a way that does not abandon the principles of economic justice and fairness that have made our Nation so great. I will vote "no" on this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute to say to my good friend and Rules Committee colleague, time and time again he criticizes the tax cuts that have been put into place. They really are the Bush-Obama tax cuts because, as we all know, last December, President Obama signed an extension of those. But I think it is important for us to look at the 2003 revenue flow and look at what happened just a few short years later in 2007.

In 2003, Mr. Speaker, we had \$1.782 trillion in revenues to the Federal Treasury. In 2007, after those tax cuts went into place, we had \$2.567 trillion in revenues. That was a \$785 billion increase, a 44 percent increase in the take that the Federal Government had because of the implementation of those cuts.

It is important to recognize that if we can grow the economy, we can generate an increase in the flow of revenues to the Federal Treasury.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to my good friend, the gentleman from Bainbridge Township, Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, this moment in time on the floor reminds me exactly of a period during the 1990s. You know, there is a lot of publicity given to the new freshman class, and we from the revolutionary class of 1994 are feeling a little neglected these days, but welfare reform was the discussion. We endured overheated rhetoric on this floor about how our proposals were mean to pregnant women and children and old people and young people and poor people until one day the President of the United States, President Clinton, decided that he wasn't going to be the protector of overheated rhetoric, he was going to be the President of the United States, and he signed the welfare reform bill.

I happened to walk on the floor, and you would have thought that my friends who were here on the other side of the aisle at that time that their dogs had all died because they looked so depressed. But the fact of the matter is that President Clinton decided to lead.

Now, I don't know what's going on in all of the other offices, but we've taken a lot of phone calls over the last 4 or 5 weeks. Some people call in and tell me to hold the line; some people call in and tell me I'm an idiot. But the overwhelming sentiment of the calls is: You guys have got to work this out.

So to the President of the United States' credit, President Obama, he had the Speaker, Mr. BOEHNER; the minority leader, Ms. PELOSI; the Vice President; Senator REID; Senator MCCONNELL down to the White House, and they worked this out.

I don't think I'm going to stand here and listen to this continued harangue about how we are being mean to people because I don't think anybody on that side of the aisle believes that President Barack Obama would do the horrible things that the people are indicating he would do. I just don't believe it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 10 seconds.

I hear a lot about the Bush tax cuts, but if they are so great, where are the jobs? I think it is simply wrong to have the middle class in this country bear the burden of balancing the budget when the Donald Trumps of the world get their tax cuts protected. There is

something inherently wrong about that.

I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very tough place to put America. Not Members of Congress; we are paid to come here and do our job. But it is a very tough place to put America.

So I have a simple state of facts to present today and listen to my other colleagues, which I will, because it is a tough decision to in actuality support legislation that seems to be driven by thoughts that the only way to get something done is to hold a whole country hostage and to hold Congress hostage.

□ 1730

That is simply what we have.

On the brink of August 2, we are now throwing something on the floor that is arguably supposed to be helpful. I am concerned that there are nuances in this legislation that will hurt people we all care about, but it's a tough decision not to say "yes" to having America pay her bills. I hope, for once, that once we get past today that we will not in any way yield again to the voices of 87 Members who care nothing about America but who simply care about their way or the highway.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I am upset, and we should not do this anymore.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my views on "The Budget Control Act of 2011," which is a final hour compromise on raising our debt-ceiling. This plan differs from the previous debt-ceiling bills introduced by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Those measures attempted to resolve our budget ceiling crisis on the backs of seniors, children, and the working poor. Those measures demanded sharp cuts to domestic programs that ask average Americans to make life-altering sacrifices while not asking America's wealthiest individuals and most profitable corporations to contribute their fair share. Today's compromise has arrived just in time to prevent our country from risking the financial collapse of our great nation. Yet, this bill is not perfect.

In less than 24 hours our nation's clock would have run out to raise our debt limit. This final hour compromise will allow our nation to continue to operate and prevent our country from failing to meet our financial obligations. I have steadfastly stood before this body demanding a raise to our debt limit. I have spoken on the behalf of the average American by making it clear that we should not wait until the last minute.

As a country, we have been held hostage by a small fringe group of people, who were narrowly elected. In many ways this plan feels like we have been given a ransom note and now at the last minute we have limited choices, none of which are appetizing. I believe this election was not a mandate to overthrow the American government. It was a

mandate to find real solutions and not temporary fixes. Waiting to the final hour, waiting to the last minute, has placed our country in a terrible dilemma. We have not been given the adequate amount of time to review this plan. I will do what is right for my constituents. So that we may live to fight another day and let there be no mistake, we will fight another day.

I believe that it is time that we all have come together to find a compromise; however, this bill does not have a perfect solution and there are areas in which I have strong reservation. This is a two phased plan. The first part of the plan includes approximately \$1.2 trillion of deficit reduction through the establishment of ten-year discretionary caps. In the first two years, there would be a firewall separating security and non-security spending. Total discretionary spending in Fiscal Year 2012 and 2013 will be limited to \$1.043 trillion and \$1.047 trillion, respectively, about \$7 billion and \$3 billion below Fiscal Year 2011. The security savings would represent roughly \$5 billion of the total \$10 billion in reductions over this two year period.

The plan provides for debt ceiling increases in two stages. The President may request a \$900 billion increase now, of which \$400 billion is immediately available. This \$900 billion is subject to a resolution of disapproval in both the House and Senate. The disapproval measure would be subject to Presidential Veto. Once the debt comes within \$100 billion of the debt ceiling, the President may ask for at least an additional \$1.2 trillion, which could rise to \$1.5 trillion if a Balanced Budget Amendment is sent to the states or the Joint Committee process described below enacts more than \$1.5 trillion in savings. This increase is also subject to a resolution of disapproval.

I must emphasize that I particularly have strong concerns about the formation of a Joint Committee. As I believe we should not hand over the power of these decisions of this magnitude to a handful of Members of Congress. A Joint Committee that will be given the duty of finding ways to achieve \$1.5 trillion in deficit reduction. I hope there will be structure and reason when these decisions are made, but again this is just a hope.

We should have been able as a body to come to this decision, and because we are at the last minute, this measure is a stop gap way to find further consensus. This Committee will be a joint, bipartisan committee, made up of 12 members, with 6 from each Chamber of Congress, equally divided between Democrats and Republicans.

This Committee has been charged with finding major cuts in a short time frame with little oversight. There is the challenge where will they find \$1.5 trillion in future deficit before we cut our turkeys on Thanksgiving.

I will continue to sound the alarm if programs that impact the lives and welfare of the poorest among us are cut by drastic amounts. If the Committee is successful and achieves cuts of at least \$1.5 trillion, then the debt ceiling will be raised by \$1.5 trillion. If the committee's bill is enacted and produces between \$1.2 trillion and \$1.5 trillion, the debt ceiling limit will be raised dollar for dollar. This plan at the very least attempting to do something that I have been calling for from the very be-

ginning, for now, protects Social Security and Medicaid, but leaves Medicare and other programs that serve the most in need amongst us.

Another portion of the agreement will provide additional time for Congress to conduct its due diligence prior to considering an amendment to the Constitution. As unlike other bills that have come before this body this plan is not contingent upon the passage of the balanced budget amendment. The amendment can now be properly considered and a vote on the measure will occur by the end of the year, which will allot about four months of additional review.

In the end, it appears that cooler heads have appeared and instead of political rhetoric we have come together to protect our nation. We must continue to work together to save the American people and do what's right for our nation. Instead of injecting ideological spending cuts into the traditionally non-political business of raising the debt ceiling, we must work quickly to pass a bill that makes good on our debt obligations and restores confidence in American credit.

Before us is an example of acting in unison to resolve our conflicts. This is the reason the American people placed us in these positions to ensure that we act in their best interest. They have been calling for a resolution and what is before us today represents a long and at times lively debate on how best to serve the citizens of this fine country. Today, we are working under one flag and one nation; we are working in unison to ensure that every American can benefit from this debt-limit increase.

There are times in which we are 50 states, and times when we exist as a single, united, Nation. One single state did not defend the Nation after the attacks on Pearl Harbor. One state, on its own, did not end segregation and establish Civil Rights. There are times when the stakes are too high, when we simply must unite as states and act as one. We must continue to work under one flag and one Nation to protect our economy and to our people.

We should not have waited until the final hour to come to this conclusion. I along with many colleagues demanded that we protect the interest of our Nation. Namely, reading the President to utilize his rights under the Constitution to raise the debt limit through executive order if Congress remained grid locked.

We need to change the tone here in Congress. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said it best when he stated before the House Committee on Financial Services. "We really don't want to just cut, cut, cut," Chairman Bernanke further stated "You need to be a little bit cautious about sharp cuts in the very near term because of the potential impact on the recovery. That doesn't at all preclude—in fact, I believe it's entirely consistent with—a longer-term program that will bring our budget into a sustainable position." The plan before the House today offers the compromise that the American people want, demand and need.

I will continue to fight to for Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and other programs that protect the interests of the American people. In my lifetime, I have never seen such a concerted effort to ransom the American economy in order to extort the American public. Finally,

we arrive at a conclusion that will not result in the poorest among us bearing the majority of the costs.

I support this bill and future efforts to increase the debt limit and to resolve our differences over budgetary revenue and spending issues. I will only support bills that increase jobs for average Americans. We must work together to ensure their economic security and ability to provide for their families while constraining the ability of Congress to deal effectively with America's economic, fiscal, and job creation troubles.

My home state of Texas ranks 43rd in education, and last (50th) in the Nation in people over 25 who only have a high school education. This bill will protect the hopes and dreams of people who are striving to improve those numbers. I have fought wholeheartedly to safeguard Pell grants and I will continue this fight. Some groups have estimated there will be a shortfall of more than \$1 billion in fiscal year 2012, but again with the last minute nature of this bill, this remains unclear. There is yet another attack on students by eliminating Direct Loan Repayment incentives on all loans disbursed on or after July 1, 2012. The elimination of both of these provisions will increase the cost of loan repayment and thus the cost of college attendance. The in-school interest exemption for neither graduate nor professional students and the prohibition of financial incentives to students who repay their loans on a timely basis. We should not increase the cost of education for students.

The founders of our Nation understood the importance of advancing our Nation. For decades, we have provided free education to all minor residence of the United States from kindergarten through high school. After, having provided free education to all students until the 12th grade I recognize that financial disparities prevent many aspiring students from attaining a higher education.

I believe that the plan is a temporary solution to a long term problem. It removes, for the moment, the entire burden of resolving our debt crisis off the backs of seniors, the middle class and our Nation's most vulnerable citizens. The bill will not immediately result in dramatic reductions in safety net programs for vulnerable Americans, such as food stamps and unemployment and disability insurance. Any major cuts to these programs would be and should be unacceptable, and each is avoidable if corporations and the wealthy are required to shoulder their fair share of this burden.

There has been a theme this Congress of focusing on cutting both programs that benefit the public good and programs that provide assistance to those who are most in need, while ignoring the need to focus on job creation and economic recovery. This bill places us between a rock and a hard place as we fight to get back on the right track. We should be focused on paying our Nation's bills and resolving our differences.

I represent the 18th Congressional District in Houston, Texas. In my District, more than 190,000 people live below the poverty line. We cannot make draconian cuts to vital social services at a time when the Census Bureau places the number of Americans living in poverty at the highest rate in over 50 years.

Finally, we must come to a place where as a body we recognize that cuts to social programs do not reflect that we are still in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. There continues to be persistent unemployment. When any measure comes before this body, the first questions that must be asked is who will it help and who will it hurt.

A raise in the debt-ceiling must include assistance to small businesses which are the true job creators in our country. It must include Pell Grants that will aid students who will join the workforce of the future, by receiving an advanced education today. Just 6 months ago there were members of the Republican Party who would not sit down with us to discuss these matters and now here we are in the final hour. I have worked diligently to ensure that something was done to protect our Nation.

I ask my colleagues to look at the facts and consider what will happen to the hard-working Americans who rely on these benefits. Think of programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Access Program, SNAP, that fed 3.9 million residents of Texas in April 2011, or the Women, Infants, and Children, WIC, Program that provides nutritious food to more than 990,000 mothers and children in my home state.

These programs are needed across our nation. According to the 2010 Federal poverty threshold, determined by the U.S. Census, a family of four is considered impoverished if they are living on less than \$22,314 per year. In 2009, there were 43.6 million Americans living in poverty nationwide. Children represent a disproportionate amount of the United States' poor population. In 2008, there were 15.45 million impoverished children in the Nation, 20.7 percent of America's youth. Further, the Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that there are currently 5.6 million Texans living in poverty, 2.2 million of them children, and that 17.4 percent of households in the state struggle with food insecurity.

Childhood hunger continues to be a real and persistent problem in the Houston/Harris County area. The number of people participating in the Food Stamp Program in Texas has increased by 82 percent since 2000. However, only 60 percent of those eligible for food stamps in Texas participate in the program.

In Harris County, only 75 percent of children approved to receive free lunch participated, and only 39 percent of children approved to receive free breakfast took advantage of the benefit. Participation numbers are similarly low for those students approved to receive reduced-price lunch and breakfast. During summer months, participation in these federal nutrition programs drops significantly. In Texas the summer participation rate was only 8.1 percent of low income children.

In 2008, when the recession first hit, 22.9 percent of Texas children were living in poverty, the fifth worst rate in the Nation. As a result of the economic downturn that began in late 2008 in Texas, and parents losing their jobs, the child poverty rate increased to 24.4 percent in 2009. That is 163,000 more children falling into poverty, or 1.6 million Texas children overall.

Many people assume that Texas was not hit as hard by the recession as other states because our unemployment rate is still below the

national average. While our unemployment rate is low compared to the U.S. (8.2 versus 9.8 percent, respectively, in November 2010), it is still nearly double where it stood in November 2007 (4.4 percent). In fact, Texas' unemployment rate has been around 8 percent for the last 16 months, which is extremely high given Texas' recent history.

Nearly one in three Texas children has no parent with a full-time, year-round job, making them particularly vulnerable.

When a household falls into poverty, children are exposed to increased parental distress, inadequate childcare arrangements, and poor nutrition. In past recessions, it took many years for employment and incomes to rebound, and low-income families rebound more slowly than others.

Public benefits such as health care or nutrition assistance help families bridge the gaps in difficult economic times and are critical in reducing the effects of a recession. Cutting these supports will hurt child and family well-being and damage the Texas economy by taking money out of the private economy for critical local businesses such as grocery stores and medical providers.

Programs like Women, Infants and Children, WIC, are targeted to help low-income pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and young children to eat well and stay healthy. These programs ensure that poverty will not be a reason that a baby does not receive adequate nutrition. WIC provides nutrition education, nutritious foods, referrals to health and human services, breastfeeding support, and immunizations (at some clinics).

More than 802,000 Texas children ages 0–4 (40 percent) received support through WIC. When you look at infants alone, 67 percent received WIC supplements, compared to only 35 percent of children aged 1–4.

The program has grown by more than 176,000 kids between 2000 and 2009, with an increase of 66,000 children from 2007 to 2009 alone.

The dramatic rise in applications for SNAP initially overwhelmed the already beleaguered state workers who enroll families in these federal benefits. In November of 2009, 43 percent of SNAP applications were not being processed within the federally mandated 30-day time period, leaving hundreds of thousands of families each month waiting for food assistance.

More than 2.8 million Texas children participate in the school lunch program, and close to half of them also receive breakfast. More than \$1.3 billion of federal funding is used to support these programs during the school year. Many counties in Texas also run summer nutrition programs so that kids who depend on school lunches have access to good nutrition when school is closed for the summer.

During the recession, more families needed greater assistance with basic expenses. SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) provided benefits to over 3 million Texans, more than half of which are children (ages 0–17).

In January 2011, more than 2 million Texas children received assistance from SNAP, an increase of nearly 700,000 kids since January 2008. Furthermore, because of added funds from the ARRA, monthly benefits rose 13.6 percent, giving added assistance to families at a time when they needed it most.

Perhaps my friends on the other side of the aisle are content to conclude that life simply is not fair, equality is not accessible to everyone, and the less advantaged among us are condemned to remain as they are, but I do not accept that. That kind of complacency is not fitting for America.

Texas has the unfortunate distinction of leading the Nation as the highest percentage of residents uninsured. More than 5.8 million Texans—including 1.5 million children—lack health insurance. Texas' uninsured rates, 1.5 to 2 times the national average, create significant problems in the financing and delivery of health care to all Texans. One in every four Texans lacks health insurance coverage, and that number is one in every three in large cities like Houston and Dallas. According to the Gallup poll, an average of 26.8 percent of Texas residents was uninsured.

Currently, one in four residents within the state of Texas is uninsured and would be in financial stress in case of a major medical emergency. The percentage of uninsured is extremely high and has become one of the greatest challenges faced by the Texas Department of Insurance and Department of Health.

Here's an idea that wouldn't cost Texas a dime but would save millions of dollars every year: Remove all barriers restraining nurses from practicing to the full extent of their education and training. No state needs primary care providers more than Texas, which has a severe shortage. Texas ranks last in access to health care and in the percentage of residents without health insurance. Of Texas' 254 counties, 188 are designated by the Federal Government as having acute shortages of primary care physicians. Of that number, 16 counties have one and 23 have zero. If every nurse practitioner and family doctor were deployed, we still couldn't meet the need. Texans are desperate for health care.

I have worked tirelessly with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to gain bipartisan support for successful passage of an amendment to the landmark healthcare reform bill that made sure no hospital is forced to shut its doors or turn away Medicare or Medicaid patients. Existing physician-owned hospitals employ approximately 51,700 individuals, have over 27,000 physicians on staff, pay approximately \$2,421,579,312 in payroll taxes and \$512,889,516 in other federal taxes, and have approximately \$1.9 billion in trade payables. With approximately 50 physician-owned hospitals, Texas leads the Nation in the number of physician-owned hospitals. The Texas economy could lose more than \$2.3 billion and more than 22,000 jobs without these important hospitals.

American families spend almost twice as much on health care—through premiums, paycheck deductions and out-of-pocket expenses—as families in any other country. In exchange, we receive quality specialty care in many areas. Yet on the whole, Americans do not get much better care than countries that spend far less. Americans do not live as long as people in Canada, Japan, and most of Western Europe. This should clearly indicate that health care reform was needed. The landmark bill signed by President Obama will provide coverage to millions of people who currently lack it.

Protecting Medicare represents the basic values of fairness and respect for our seniors, including the 2.9 million Texans who received Medicare in 2010.

Any cuts to Medicaid would be just as damaging. Harris County has one of the highest Medicaid enrollment records in Texas. Limits and cuts to Medicaid funds would significantly hurt the citizens of Texas's 18th District. Harris County averages between 500,000 and 600,000 Medicaid recipients monthly, thousands of people who may not have access to healthcare should Congress sacrifice Medicaid to cut spending.

Yes, we must take steps to balance the budget and reduce the national debt, but not at the expense of vital social programs. It is unconscionable that in our nation of vast resources, my Republican colleagues would ever consider fighting to pass a budget that cuts funding for essential social programs. Poverty impacts far too many Americans and social safety nets provide these individuals with vital assistance.

As we continue to discuss the long term necessity of increasing our debt ceiling, I have heard the concerns of many of my constituents and the American people regarding the size of our national debt and the care with which taxpayer money is spent. I, too, am concerned about these issues; for to burden future generations of Americans with tremendous amounts of debt should not be a way to avoid our fiscal responsibilities to the American people. However, the task of resolving our debt ceiling crisis must take precedence over other concerns, including political ideology. The game is up, and the American people understand that increasing the debt ceiling has nothing to do with any new spending and everything to do with paying off the obligations that we have already agreed to and promised to pay.

Prior to the existence of the debt ceiling, Congress had to approve borrowing each time the Federal Government wished to borrow money in order to carry out its functions. With the onset of World War I, more flexibility was needed to expand the government's capability to borrow money expeditiously in order to meet the rapidly changing requirements of funding a major war in the modern era.

To address this need, the first debt ceiling was established in 1917, allowing the Federal Government to borrow money to meet its obligations without prior Congressional approval, so long as in the aggregate, the amount borrowed did not eclipse a specified limit.

Since the debt limit was first put in place, Congress has increased it over 100 times; in fact, it was raised 10 times within the past decade. Congress last came together and raised the debt ceiling in February 2010. Today, the debt ceiling currently stands at \$14.3 trillion dollars. In reality, that limit has already been eclipsed, but due to accounting procedures by Treasury Secretary Geithner, the debt limit can be artificially avoided until August 2.

We must be clear on what this issue means for our country. America has earned a reputation as the world's most trusted borrower. United States Treasury bonds have traditionally been one of the safest investments another country or investor could make. For in-

vestors around the world, purchasing a U.S. Treasury bond meant that they held something virtually as safe as cash, backed by the full faith and credit of the United States government.

If we allow the United States to default on its debt obligations, the financial crisis that began in 2008 would pale in comparison, according to economic experts. The ensuing economic catastrophe would not only place the U.S. economy in a tailspin, but the world economy as well.

The fact that Congress, a body that typically has its fair share of political battles, has never played political chicken when it came to raising the debt ceiling should give us all pause, and is a testament to the seriousness with which we must approach this issue. However, this time around, my Republican colleagues have created an impasse based upon an ideological commitment to spending cuts. While I understand and share the concern of my Republican colleagues with respect to deficit spending, and will continue to work with them in order to find reductions, now is not the time to put ideology over pragmatism. The reality is that, on August 3, the United States will begin to default on its debt obligations if the debt ceiling is not raised.

This unnecessarily places the American public and the economy between a rock and a hard place. Either Congress sides completely with the radical agenda of the Tea Party, which in the irresponsibly pulls the chair out from under the average American while polishing the throne of the wealthiest.

This detour into a spending debate is as unnecessary as it is perilous, as increasing the debt ceiling does not obligate the undertaking of any new spending by the Federal Government. Rather, raising the debt limit simply allows the government to pay existing legal obligations promised to debt holders that were already agreed to by Presidents and Congresses, both past and present.

If the United States defaults on its obligations on August 3, the stock market will react violently to the news that for the first time in history, America is unable to keep its promises to pay. Not once in American history has the country's full faith and credit been called into question.

Once America defaults, investors who purchase U.S. bonds and finance our government will be less likely to lend to America in the future. Just as a person who defaults on a loan will find it harder to convince banks to lend them money in the future, a country that defaults on its debt obligations will find it harder to convince investors to lend money to a government that did not pay.

Showing the world that the United States does not pay its debts makes the purchasing of that debt less desirable because it requires the assumption of more risk on the part of the investors. The opponents of this bill are putting the country at serious risk of losing its status as the world's economic superpower. Our allies will lose faith in our ability to manage global economic affairs. Our status in the world will be diminished, which will undermine our leverage on the world stage that allows us to command the respect and compliance of other nations when it comes to decision-making. This bill will allow America to compete with a surging China.

Furthermore, any investors that do continue to purchase U.S. Treasury bonds will demand much higher interest rates in order to cover the increased risk. Once a default occurs, investors figure that the chance of the United States defaulting again is much greater, and will require the government to pay higher rates of interest in order to make the loan worth the risk for investors to take on.

Imagine the impact on our stock market if we do not pay our debts. As we have seen throughout the recent financial crisis, a bad stock market hurts not only big businesses and large investors on Wall Street, but small businesses and small investors as well. Families with investments tied to the stock market, such as 401(k)s, pension plans, and savings, will once again see the value of their investments drop. The American people are tired of the uncertainty of the value of their retirement accounts. We must not allow another wild fluctuation to occur due to default and add to the uncertainty still lingering in the minds of citizens.

Increasing the debt ceiling is the responsible thing to do. Congress has already debated and approved the debt that an increased ceiling makes room for. However, my Republican colleagues have chose to use this as an opportunity to hold the American people hostage to their extreme agenda.

They live in a world that is not the world that the American people live in. In their world, they believe that taxes are always too high, even on people making over a billion a year in a struggling economy; that any increase in revenue is fundamentally wrong, even if it comes from large corporations who use tax loopholes at the expense of our job-creating small businesses; that investing anything in our economic future above tax revenues is impermissible, even in the midst of an economic downturn; and that tax cuts for the wealthy are always the nation's top priority, even at the expense of people that depend on Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and Veterans benefits to survive.

These beliefs place them on the fringe of American society, and yet due to the nature of our political process, they have held up the entire government and placed our economy on the precipice of a turbulent second recession.

If Congress cannot find a resolution then Congress will open the possibility that the President may invoke the Fourteenth Amendment to United States Constitution, Section Four, which states "the validity of the public debt of the United States . . . shall not be questioned." The argument must be made that if Congress will not resolve our nation's pending default then the President to protect the interests of our nation must act. We should act, however, so the vulnerable are protected.

The President would have to consider his powers under the Fourteenth Amendment which may grant him the authority to raise the debt ceiling, through executive order if Congress fails to act by the August 2, 2011 deadline. If the President has to use his presidential authority, he should to avoid a collapse—but Republicans should cease the hostage-taking—and adults have to stand up for America and vote to pay America's bills.

For those reasons, I urge my colleagues to consider the constituents in their home districts who need the protection of an America

that pays the bills. I urge my Republican colleagues to return to the world in which the vast majority of Americans live in; a world in which our shared destiny is determined by reasonable minds and good faith efforts to compromise. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke warned that defaulting could “throw the financial system into chaos”, and “destroy the trust and confidence that global investors have in Treasury securities as being the safest liquid assets in the world”.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will advise all Members to respect the gavel.

The gentleman from Texas was out of order.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield 1½ minutes to my good friend from Hopkinsville, Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD).

Mr. WHITFIELD. I rise in support of this legislation, and I think that President Obama and the leaders in the House and the Senate should be given a warm congratulations on being able to come to some agreement to prevent America from defaulting on its debt.

We all know that this is not a perfect piece of legislation, but one of the real positives of this legislation is the joint commission that's going to be established by six Members from the House and six Members from the Senate who will come up with recommendations to reduce Federal spending. We do know that exempt from that is Social Security, veterans' benefits as well as Medicaid, for those who really need health care the most.

Yet I've heard a lot of discussion today about “this is not about jobs”; so I would just point out that getting our financial house in order is very important. If you've read any newspaper recently, you will find out that, in this administration, the excess of regulations coming out, particularly from the EPA, have been a real hindrance to job creation in America as well as the uncertainty of the health care bill that was adopted last year.

So this is an important first step in getting our financial house in order. Next, we need to start working on removing uncertainty on the regulatory side of the government. So I would urge everyone to support this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 3 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from California has 2¾ minutes remaining.

Mr. MCGOVERN. At this time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the Democratic whip.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

We have missed, in my opinion, a wonderful opportunity, an opportunity to make a grand bargain, as the Speaker wanted to do, as Leader PELOSI wanted to do, as Leader REID wanted to

do, as the President wanted to do, and as the Vice President wanted to do.

For months now, the world has looked to America and has asked whether we are still a Nation that pays its bills or whether, thanks to the ideological intransigents of a few, we would do the unthinkable and default on our obligations. We are a more responsible and honorable Nation than that. We are only at this point because the far right wing, for the first time in American history, has chosen to hold our economy hostage in order to enact a radical ideological agenda far out of step for the majority of Americans. If nothing else, these months have shown the American people who puts our country's welfare first and who would rather have ideological purity at all costs.

I am voting for this bill, not because I like this bill, although it does do some things that I think need to be done, but because we need to bring down the deficit; we need to address the debt; we need to return to fiscal responsibility. Default for the United States of America is not an option. This would affect all of the people I represent and all of the people of this country if we defaulted.

At the very least, this bill averts this outcome by paying our bills through 2013, which will bring certainty to a struggling economy that badly needs it. This bill cuts spending by \$1.2 trillion, and also establishes a process to arrive at additional spending cuts.

The second set of deficit reductions will be entrusted to a bipartisan committee. Hopefully, that committee will accurately reflect the priorities of this Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. HOYER. We are here because we missed, as I said, a great opportunity, a chance to pass now a truly balanced agreement that relies on both spending cuts and revenue. We're not there, but I have said many times during the course of this debate that to govern is to compromise, not to sell out. Some people think on this floor that voting for a compromise is somehow a sellout. We cannot run America on that theory, and that is not what democracy is all about.

I urge my colleagues to ensure that America, in fact, pays its bills.

Mr. DREIER. Will the gentleman yield? I will yield my friend additional time if he would like.

Mr. HOYER. I would be glad to yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. I thank my friend for yielding.

I would just like to compliment him on pointing to compromise. I don't know if he heard, but I closed the rule debate in my closing remarks by talking about the Connecticut compromise,

which established a bicameral legislature on July 16, 1787. It was called the Great Compromise. My friend is absolutely right. We're at that point today in dealing with an issue, not of that magnitude, but clearly of a very important one.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Massachusetts has expired.

Mr. DREIER. I am happy to yield an additional 45 seconds to my friend from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Ladies and gentlemen, I have said numerous times during the course of this debate about whether America was going to pay its bills and that we need to vote, not as Republicans or Democrats, but as Americans: Americans concerned about the fiscal posture of their country, concerned about the confidence that people around the world have in the American dollar, which is, after all, the standard of the world. That is what I think this vote is about.

It should not be about partisan politics, and very frankly, it should not be about ideological extremes. It ought to be about responsibility. It ought to be about understanding that our oath of office is to preserve and protect the United States of America.

This bill does that. Vote “yes.”

Mr. DREIER. I yield myself the balance of my time.

I feel very honored to follow my good friend and classmate, the distinguished Democratic whip, as we talk about this compromise and where we are.

Now, Mr. Speaker, saving Social Security and Medicare is a priority that I believe both political parties share. Contrary to much of what has been put out there, this is something that is addressed in this measure. We are going to be able to save Social Security and Medicare—again, working together in a bipartisan way.

Creating jobs, Democrats and Republicans alike talk about that. How is it that we're going to be able to do that? Getting our fiscal house in order is a very, very important step in our quest to ensure that the people who are hurting and looking for jobs will have an opportunity to get them.

We are sending a positive signal to the global market that we are the world's economic, military and geopolitical leader. By increasing the debt ceiling, we are sending a positive signal that we are going to continue meeting our obligations and our responsibility but, at the same time, dramatically reducing spending.

The problem that has gotten us to this point is what we're doing for the first time ever. After 75 times of increasing the debt ceiling, we are finally getting to the root cause. The problem, as has been said over and over again, is our debt, and we're going to turn the corner on that in a thoughtful and balanced way.

I want to compliment the President of the United States. I want to compliment the two leaders of the United States Senate, HARRY REID and MITCH MCCONNELL. I want to congratulate Speaker JOHN BOEHNER, who has done an absolutely phenomenal job in ensuring that we wouldn't continue business as usual. I also want to congratulate Minority Leader PELOSI for her effort that she has put in to getting us to the point where we are today.

So, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair now recognizes Members from the Committee on Ways and Means: the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP), chairman; and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), ranking minority member.

□ 1740

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, if the Congress does not act—and act now—America will default. That would wreak havoc on our economy and make it harder for Americans to find and keep a job in an already weak economy. Default cannot be an option, and I am pleased that the bill before us ensures that will not occur.

Just as a default would threaten the economic health of this country, so would increasing taxes. Raising taxes on families and job creators would hinder investment, increase the cost of doing business, and result in even less hiring and fewer jobs. That is the wrong direction when we are struggling with an unemployment rate of 9.2 percent and 14 million Americans looking for work. The good news is that the legislation before us recognizes these basic facts. It avoids a default, it makes sure the government pays our bills, and it does not increase taxes.

And though some have argued that the new Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction could pave the way for tax increases, that is not going to happen. The committee's structure, the baseline it will work off of, and the fact that Republicans are in the majority in the House virtually guarantees that tax rates will not go up.

Furthermore, this legislation finally forces Washington to make serious changes to the way it spends taxpayer dollars. There are real budget reforms, there is a path to a balanced budget amendment, and there are automatic spending cuts if Congress does not rein in spending on its own.

I applaud the efforts of all of those who helped craft this agreement, especially Speaker BOEHNER and Leader CANTOR.

I urge my colleagues to recognize this opportunity to fix what is broken in Washington and use this occasion to significantly cut runaway spending.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my friend, a most distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee for a long time, Mr. CHARLES RANGEL of New York.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, while I stand on this floor as an American and a person that loves this Congress so much, I'm embarrassed also as a Member that a President of the United States would have his domestic and foreign policy actually held hostage, because with him and only him and no other President have we decided that we would almost put in jeopardy the faith and the fiscal responsibility of this country paying its debts.

You know, a lot of people have said that we got to a \$14.4 trillion debt because we got drunk and spent money like a drunken sailor. If that is so, the people having the hangover certainly aren't the wealthy people in this country. And this decision was decided without any consideration of the people that are longing for jobs in our great country. If the Republicans had to hold the President hostage, I wish that they would have held him hostage on the questions that my constituents wake up in the morning and ask, not whether or not the debt ceiling has risen, but how can I get a job? How can I really get back my dignity? How can I put food on the table? These are issues that you certainly don't resolve by cutting spending, causing people to lose their jobs and to lose their hope.

So, indeed, I'm glad that we are not going to default, but in the days ahead we ought to be spending some time talking about what most Americans want, and that is a fair tax system—while the wealthy have gained so much during this spree that we've had—and not allow a hangover to be with the people that are jobless.

We still have time to close this responsibility that we have, to close the debt that we have, not by laying off people, not by just cutting programs during a recession, but by thinking about how we can train people, how we can research, and how we can get our people back to work.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED).

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, \$14.4 trillion; \$1.6 trillion every year added onto that national debt.

The people in November, 2010, spoke loudly. We are listening. It is time that we in this Chamber accept the fact that D.C. has to and will change because the American people have spoken loudly. They want us to get our fiscal house in order. They want us to bring certainty to the American market so that we can invest in this great country again and put people back to work, not only for this generation, but for generations to come.

I rise in support of this legislation. It is not the cure-all, it is not the one battle that will win this war on our national debt, but it opens us up on a path to where we need to be firmly dedicated and disciplined to carry on this battle and the battles to come.

So I ask all my colleagues, let us govern responsibly, let us avoid default, but continue on this battle—and continue on we will, as a new class, as a freshman Member of this great Chamber.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to another distinguished member of our committee, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND).

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this agreement, but this is a lousy way to run our great country or to rebuild a world-class economy. I support it because the alternative is unacceptable, defaulting on our Nation's obligations for the first time in our Nation's history. Doing so would be the greatest unforced error ever committed in the history of our country. And it's all political.

The performance of this Congress the last couple of months has a lot to be desired. And if King Solomon were alive today, I think his metaphorical solution to all this would be to kill both women and spare the child. But if we are to achieve true fiscal solvency for our country, there are three things I think that need to happen:

We need to invest in our future, grow the economy. You do that by investing in education and job training and scientific research. And the infrastructure upgrade our Nation needs in broadband expansion, that's not happening right now, and it won't, I fear, under this agreement.

We need to also look for smart savings in the budget, starting with changing the way we pay for health care in this country so it's based on the value and no longer the volume of care that's given. By getting rid of outdated weapons programs the Pentagon keeps telling Congress to stop appropriating money for, because they're not asking for it, and they don't need it. It's ending taxpayer subsidies going to large agribusiness with mailing addresses in New York, Chicago, and San Francisco, not even to working families.

And finally, we need tax reform, to simplify a code that has acted like an anchor on economic growth and job creation, but that is fair, asking the most wealthy to contribute their fair share as well.

I support the agreement, and I encourage my colleagues to do so as well.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. I now yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I have voted twice to raise the debt ceiling. In May, I voted with about 90 other people

for a clear debt ceiling raise. I voted this past weekend for Leader REID's program, which had cuts.

But I can't vote for this program because the first series of cuts we know, the second series of cuts we don't know. I fear it's a Trojan horse. And if you look inside that Trojan horse it's Scylla and Charybdis inside, the whirlpools and the shoals. And that's an odyssey and journey that this country should not have to traverse.

This country has been taken to this point by a group of ideologues that don't like government, want to reduce it, are reducing it, want to hurt employment figures to hurt the President of the United States, Mr. Speaker, and I don't want to hurt him.

Justice Louis Brandeis said, "The greatest dangers to liberty lurk in insidious encroachment by men of zeal, well meaning but without understanding." Justice Brandeis is with us today.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY).

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it's important we know, as we try to change this government, that we're actually making changes in the direction it's going.

Without the Budget Control Act, our government will be over 23 percent of the size of our economy by the end of this decade. The Budget Control Act changes that. By the end of the decade, it will be about 21.5 percent of the size of our economy. It is comparable, coming close to the shrinkage of the economy under President Reagan in his 8 years in the White House.

The truth of the matter is this doesn't go far enough for conservatives. You can't cut far enough or soon enough for Members of Congress like myself because we just believe this country is so deep, so dangerously deep in debt.

□ 1750

But with this vote today, tonight we cut out the same amount of spending the President put in this government in that ill-fated failed stimulus bill. And later this year, we get a chance to vote another cut in this government equivalent to the size of ObamaCare. So we start with two strong cuts reversing and shrinking the size of government.

In this bill, we achieve two-thirds of the discretionary cuts included in the Ryan Budget, in the Path to Prosperity that the Republican House Members believe in. Now, a few months ago, if someone said the Senate passed a budget and they've agreed to two-thirds of your cuts in discretionary spending, we would have celebrated. We're not celebrating today because we know there's so much more work to be done.

But we know also that this cuts spending today. It puts controls on fu-

ture Congresses in the way they spend. That's important. And it holds Congress and the White House both accountable for getting the size of this government back in control without increasing taxes on families like you, on our job creators back home along Main Street, and it does so today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CAMP. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I support this bill as a first step, anxious to get to more spending and savings and getting this wasteful, bloated government down to size. And I know, too, any vote, my principle is tax cuts and spending cuts. If I can change the direction of this country with bigger spending cuts, my vote will be a "yes."

Mr. LEVIN. I yield myself the balance of my time.

The Republicans in this House have taken this Nation to a dangerous and unnecessary brink. I definitely do not want our Nation to default on its full faith and credit, but I also don't want our Nation to default on our solemn obligations as a Nation, as a community to all of our citizens. That's why we need a balanced approach to keep us on an even keel as we move ahead. This means savings and revenues.

So as I vote today as the ranking member on the Ways and Means Committee, I will keep in mind how we must not let down our citizens who need programs.

One example is unemployment insurance. It's set to expire at the end of this year as millions desperately look for work. And I just now have received a report that this year's extension and the next year's extension would cost \$45 billion. We need to get those resources. If we're not on a balanced path, we will not be able to address critical needs of our fellow and sister citizens such as unemployment insurance. We need balance to be true to ourselves.

I ask unanimous consent to yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the ranking member of the Budget Committee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility, or Debt Commission, we received testimony from experts in economic policy research; and they said that when debt loads of a country reach above or at 90 percent of their economy or GDP, that results in the reduction in economic growth in that country by about 1 percentage point. And using the administration's economic model, that 1 percentage point increase in our GDP or decrease in our GDP costs about a million jobs. That's

why this debate is so important. It is so important to get us on a path to fiscal responsibility, to begin to bring down our national debt.

The plan before us today does that. It does that with spending reductions. It does it with the sort of structural reforms in terms of spending caps that are there. But it also does it with an automatic reduction in spending if, for some reason, this select committee set up in this bill fails to come to some sort of agreement on how to reduce spending. That automatic reduction, I think, is an important backstop so the select committee will take its work seriously and do everything to come to a bipartisan solution.

Also, there is a path forward on a balanced budget amendment in this legislation that is absolutely critical I think for not just today, because we know it is impossible to bind future Congresses, but to put in place a structure and a mechanism well into the future so that we don't find ourselves continuing to deal with the fundamentals of this problem. We begin to deal with the problem; we make progress on the problem; and that progress will mean job creation, and that's something we're all looking forward to.

I thank the Speaker and urge a "yes" vote on the legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair now recognizes members from the Committee on the Budget: the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN), chairman; and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), ranking minority member.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time is remaining on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Wisconsin has 7½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Maryland has 8½ minutes remaining.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. At this time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 3½ minutes to a member of the Budget Committee, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD).

Mr. LANKFORD. I tell you, I would love for people to be able to come to Oklahoma City anytime they have the opportunity to do that.

But to be able to talk to the great folks in my district, I can tell you the one thing that comes up again and again is they are really frustrated and they are looking for things to really be able to change here in Washington. They see how broken our system is. They see the way that we interact. They are really legitimately frustrated, and I can tell you they have lost trust in what we're doing and how we're doing it.

We, quite frankly, as the Federal Government, are trying to do too many things, and we can't afford all of the things that we're doing.

So in some very simple way, this whole process has united the Nation to

be able to look simply at \$14.3 trillion in debt and to say, as a Nation, we have a problem. That is a good first step.

Now, the conversation that's been happening around Congress over the past several months now is now dealing with how do we resolve the problem and what is the core of the problem. Is the problem the debt ceiling vote? Is the problem tomorrow? Or is the problem \$14 trillion in debt?

And I feel like sometimes we have been trying to either figure out how to get past tomorrow or how to get past solving this issue of \$14.3 trillion in debt. That has created 7 months of debate and 7 months of conversation that I fear has made an unrealistic expectation of how much we can really do in one piece of legislation.

Quite frankly, no piece of legislation can solve \$14.3 trillion in debt all in one moment. No piece of legislation can be a perfect solution. There is no perfect ideal piece of legislation that's going to solve it all. Are there major issues that I think that are in every piece of legislation? I'm sure there are in every one of them. But in this one, I would look at it and say it is not perfect, but it takes us down that first step to start getting out of this.

If there is a perception that we can solve it all in one piece, I think everyone has underestimated the size and the scope of what it really means to deal with this large of a debt and this large of a deficit. It is a single step on a very long journey.

Does it solve all of the problems? No. Does it cure cancer? No. Does it get us out of all of the wars? No. Does it locate Amelia Earhart's body? No. Does it find us the Ark of the Covenant? No.

It doesn't solve everything we would like to do with it, but it does begin to put a framework around the Federal Government for the next 10 years to set spending caps in place to say we're going to stop the growth of government. We've grown very quickly very fast. We've got to first stop that growth of government and put some boundaries around it. That's a good first step on that.

□ 1800

It puts a square focus on the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, which 80 percent of the American people say they want some version of the balanced budget amendment. Quite frankly, this creates a moment for Republicans and Democrats to be able to have an honest conversation about what should that text be for a balanced budget amendment? How can we work together? The Constitution is not owned by one party but is owned by the people of the United States of America, so that is both parties coming together to have a very frank conversation about if we're going to have a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, how do we get that

done? What is the text of that? And how do we do what is best for our Nation?

But the key thing of this piece of legislation today is focused on not just getting us past tomorrow but starting us down a process, that single first step of starting us down a process that in the days ahead our children will not live in the shadow of this kind of debt, of this kind of deficit, and we as a Nation can get back to doing the things we love to do rather than worrying about what creditor we're going to pay and which one we're not.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we should never have gotten to the point where our troops in Afghanistan had to ask whether they were going to be paid. That's a scandal. And it's scandalous that our Republican colleagues would threaten for the first time in American history to torpedo America's creditworthiness and American jobs unless they succeeded in enacting a budget plan to end the Medicare guarantee, slash Medicaid, and slash critical investments in education and our future.

That was the plan. They wanted to do that now, and they wanted to have this whole debate again 6 months from now. Why? Not to reduce the deficit. If the goal was to reduce the deficit, why refuse to end taxpayer subsidies for the oil companies? If reducing the deficit was the purpose, why refuse to end special breaks for corporate jets and the folks at the very high end of the income scale? That wasn't the plan. The plan was to use this moment to threaten the economy, to try and slash the social safety net and those critical investments in education and innovation in our future.

And guess what: They failed. They failed to do that. They failed to end the Medicare guarantee. They failed to slash Medicaid. They failed to slash education. In this measure, we succeeded in protecting Medicare and Social Security beneficiaries. We succeeded in protecting seniors in nursing homes, individuals with disabilities and poor kids who depend on Medicaid for their health care. And we succeeded in providing room for critical investments in education and America's future.

Don't get me wrong, Mr. Speaker, there's much in this plan I don't like. We did not succeed in shutting down special interest tax loopholes that add hundreds of billions of dollars to our deficits. Our Republican colleagues refused to cut those subsidies for big oil companies. They refused to cut the others. And now we're going to have a great debate. We're going to have a great debate about how to grow the economy and reduce our long-term deficit. It will be a debate about our national priorities. I hope we will support the balanced approach that the Presi-

dent has called for, one that refuses to put greater burdens on Medicare beneficiaries in order to provide greater tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans.

In the coming months, our Republican colleagues will be given the following test: Will they choose to protect special interest tax breaks over investments necessary to keep our Nation strong and secure? Will they finally demonstrate a willingness to pay for our national defense rather than put it on the credit card? Mr. Speaker, let's get on with that big national debate, and let's finally focus on jobs and getting the economy going as we reduce our long-term deficit.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from Wisconsin, a member of the Budget Committee, Ms. MOORE.

Ms. MOORE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

So many of my colleagues have said that it was necessary to storm the White House and take the country hostage in the name of their grandchildren, so I wanted to go on record talking about what I want for my grandchildren.

I want Head Start for my grandchildren. I want WIC programs and early childhood education programs for my grandchildren. I want my kids to go to a school where they can participate in the science fair. I want immunizations for them. I want research done for food safety to make sure that the chicken nuggets are safe. I want clean air and clean water for them. I want jobs where they invent things, like new energy sources. And, yes, I want them to be contributing citizens and pay taxes. And I want a safety net for them in case they are disabled, and when they become elderly, and if they get cold in the cold winters of Wisconsin, that they'll have some energy assistance.

I want my grandchildren to have the American Dream.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. I thank the gentleman from Maryland for yielding and also for his very bold and effective leadership.

I rise in strong opposition to this unbalanced debt ceiling bill. This is an unbalanced approach. We all know that. We've heard that. Furthermore, this debt ceiling bill should have never been an option in terms of having to come to this floor to debate this and to do this. Like we have done for Democratic and Republican Presidents in the past, we should have lifted the debt ceiling.

Rightfully so, many of us are concerned about these discretionary cuts.

What are these cuts going to do as it relates to our senior citizens, low income individuals and the poor? This debt ceiling bill does nothing to address the real crises in our country, the lack of jobs and economic growth. At a time when investments are needed to jump-start our economy and put people back to work, this deal and its cuts-only approach, which it is, it's the wrong approach. It's an outrage that as we stand here today that we could not raise the debt ceiling by voting for that.

I intend to vote "no" on the bill.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey, who's been a fighter in this battle, Mr. ANDREWS.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, what brings us together is a need to create jobs for the American people, and I think people would agree there's three things we have to do to create jobs:

The first is not fall off a cliff and have a default on our national obligations. This bill accomplishes that.

The second thing is to make sure we have an interest rate environment so that our businesses and entrepreneurs can create jobs, so they have some predictability. By making a 25 to 30 percent down payment on reducing our deficit in a fair and equitable way, this bill does that.

Finally, I think most of us agree that we need investments in our education, research and development, infrastructure, other activities to create jobs in our private sector for our people. By making sure that at least in the first 2 years of this agreement that the reductions in those areas are either non-existent or moderate, I think that we give ourselves the freedom so our appropriators can put valuable investments forward in that way. This is a well-reasoned bipartisan agreement to create jobs for the American people. I urge a "yes" vote.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland has 2 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Wisconsin has 4 minutes remaining.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, as I said at the outset, we should never have reached this point in our country. We should never have reached the point when our troops wondered whether they were going to get paid or individuals on Social Security wondered whether they were going to see their earned benefits. That should never have happened.

This is the first time in history, the first time in history, that we've seen

Members of this Congress threaten to close down the American economy unless they got their particular budget plan through, one that ends the Medicare guarantee, slashes Medicaid and would deeply cut our investments in education and innovation. We protected those investments in this bill. The plan did not work. It didn't work now, and the plan to do it again 6 months from now didn't work.

□ 1810

So now we will have that great debate over our priorities. We are looking forward to it. Let's get on to talking about jobs and the economy.

With that, I yield 1 minute to the very distinguished Democratic leader, who has been a fighter for America's priorities, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. And every chance I get, I want to salute him for his tremendous leadership as the top Democrat on the Budget Committee, for the work he did with Mr. CLYBURN in the bipartisan talks, as they strove to have what the American people want: a balanced, bipartisan, fair agreement to lift the debt ceiling and take America forward.

Unfortunately, that did not happen. What did happen, and it brings to mind the existential question, why are we here? And I would divide, as we say in legislation, I would divide that question into why are we here, and why are we here today? We are here because all of us in this body care about our country, have decided that public service is a noble pursuit, and that we have come here to make the future better for future generations. That is what our Founding Fathers visualized for America, that every generation would take responsibility to make the future better for the next.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, our Founders, in addition to writing our founding documents, the Declaration, the great Declaration, which embodies fairness in it and equality, then the Constitution, they declared independence, they fought the greatest naval power in the world, they won, they wrote the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, making us the freest, greatest Nation in the world, founded on a principle of respect that all people are created equal. That had never been done in the history of the world.

And when they did that, as I have told you before, because I love it so much, they also created the Great Seal of the United States. And that Great Seal of the United States has on it "Novus Ordo Seclorum," a new order for the centuries, for the ages, forever.

So confident were our Founders in their idea about generational responsibility, one to the next, that they were confident that our country, that what they were putting forth, would exist

for the ages. For the ages. That was the challenge they gave us. That is the responsibility that we have. And for a couple of hundred years or more, that has always been the case.

Every generation has always believed that it would make the future better for the next, for their children and for their grandchildren. We are here today because we believe that, and we believe that the public policy that we put forth, the legislation we put forth, should result in public policy that makes the future better for our children and our grandchildren. That we are committed to their education, the economic security of our families, the dignified retirement of our seniors, including my being a senior, and also safety and security of our neighborhoods and of our country, and that we would do it in a fiscally sound way that did not give our kids any bills, public or personal.

So if we believe all of that, and that's why we are here in Congress, it's hard to believe that we are putting our best foot forward with the legislation that comes before us today. I am not happy with it, but I am proud of some of the accomplishments contained in it. And that's why I am voting for it.

That takes me to the second question: Why are we here today? Why are we here today, within 24 hours of our Nation going into default, after months of conversation about how we would address the debt ceiling? Not to have future spending, but to pay our past obligations. And I won't go into it again, how we got here. But I will say that time is one of the most important commodities any of us have, the most precious, the most finite. And during that period of time, when our country could have been more productive, more optimistic, more confident in the tradition of our Founders, instead, a cloud of doubt was placed on it because of the delay, the delay, the delay in lifting the debt ceiling.

As my distinguished colleague Mr. VAN HOLLEN said, this has never happened before. We have never, never tied the hands of a President of the United States. We never placed any doubt in the public markets as to whether this would happen. We never had people around the boardroom tables all wondering if we even knew the consequences of our inaction. But I am concerned about the boardroom table. I am more concerned also about the kitchen table.

Because this delay and uncertainty has a tremendous impact on America's families as they sit around the table and talk about how they're going to make ends meet, how they're going to pay their bills. Is Social Security going to be intact for them? Will their checks arrive this week or next week, whenever they're due? Is Medicare and Medicaid something that they can count on?

Well, after months and months and months to reach an agreement that could have been reached a long time ago—it is not so great it took so long to achieve; it could have been accomplished months ago, and at least had the merit of instilling confidence earlier, sooner, rather than at the latest possible moment. So we must make sure that we are, as we say why are we here today, that we are not here some other day to go through these motions.

That's another reason why I am supporting this bill, because the President was successful in impressing upon the Congress that we needed the full time, the 18 months so that we can have Americans' kitchen table—people sitting around that table and sitting around the boardroom table would all know that you can rely on the United States of America to meet its obligations. Okay?

Another reason to support this bill, even though there are plenty of reasons not to, is that it stops cuts in Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. This is the most important assignment given to the Democratic leadership going to the table: Make sure there are no cuts in benefits in Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. That was achieved.

Another issue of importance to us is that as we protect and defend our country, we also measure our strength in the health, education, and well-being of the American people. And so we have a 50-50 split between our expenditures for defense and our expenditures for strength defined in other ways for our country.

So these are some reasons. While those who may have the luxury of not wanting to vote for the bill, I feel a responsibility to do so. We cannot, because of certain objections in the bill—and one of the main ones is that there is not one red cent coming from America's wealthiest families, the most successful people, and God bless them for their success, and I know that they are willing to do more, but not one red cent coming to help reduce the deficit while we are willing to cut Title I education for the poorest children in America. And that's too bad for those children. It's terrible for our country.

So, again, you can make a list of things in the bill that we do not like and things that are not in the bill, like revenue, but I urge my colleagues to think about our seniors and to think about the 18 months and what that means in terms of confidence in our society and what it means also to have the 50-50 in terms of defining the strength of America.

We cannot, despite our reluctance to vote for this bill for some of us, allow America's seniors and veterans, who are depending on receiving their check from the government or their security over time—we cannot allow our seniors and veterans to be caught in the collat-

eral damage of the assault on the middle class that is being waged in this Congress.

□ 1820

This is one manifestation of making it harder for the future, for the great middle class which is, and those who aspire to it, which is the backbone of our democracy. So if we are going to honor the vows of our Founders and carry on the great legacy and tradition of their optimism, their determination, their hope for the future that we would last for ages, we would last for ages as a democracy, not an ever broadening disparity of income and equity in our country that undermines that democracy.

So, please, my colleagues, if you are on the fence about this—I certainly am and have been, even though I worked very hard to support the President in preserving what I said about no cuts in Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, about the 18 months and about the 50/50 split—please think of what could happen if we defaulted. Please, please, please come down in favor of, again, preventing the collateral damage from reaching our seniors and our veterans.

I urge you to consider voting "yes," but I completely respect the hesitation that Members have about this.

Again, I want to commend our distinguished colleagues, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CLYBURN, the President of the United States, and, really, those who tried to work in a bipartisan way to try to accomplish something.

Now, I hear that our Republican colleagues have said they got 98 percent of what they want in the bill. I hope that their votes will reflect that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Maryland has expired. The gentleman from Wisconsin has 4 minutes remaining.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the chairman of the House Republican Conference, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING).

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, the American people want more jobs and they want less debt. The American people are telling Washington, you have got to quit spending money you don't have. You have got to quit borrowing 42 cents on the dollar, much of it from the Chinese, and then send the bill to our children and our grandchildren.

Our crisis today is not the debt ceiling, it is our debt, and it is a spending-driven debt. That is why we are here today, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to say that this bill solves our problem. It doesn't. It's a solid first step. Nobody, nobody on our side of the aisle wants to increase this debt ceiling. It's not in our DNA.

But we do believe that ultimately you ought to stay current on your bills, and you have got to quit spending money you don't have. And in this bill,

although the sums are very, very small, when we pass this bill, if the President signs it into law, it will be the first time in my lifetime, the first time in my lifetime that for 2 years in a row we have actually cut discretionary spending in Washington, D.C., and made a very slight directional change in the right direction.

The numbers are small, the directional change is huge, but more importantly, Mr. Speaker, the seeds of the ultimate solution are planted in this bill, and that is the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. The American people aren't looking for a balanced approach; they are looking for a balanced budget. To have it work, it needs to be enshrined in our Constitution.

This bill will assure, for the first time in 15 years, both the House and the Senate vote on a balanced budget. Those are the seeds of the solution to save this country for the next generation.

I urge adoption of this bill.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Let me just start by saying this, Mr. Speaker, from this debate it's very clear that we have a difference of opinions. We have different philosophies on how to address these issues, but we are coming up to a deadline that we all must recognize: default.

So what this has done is it has brought our two parties together. So I would just like to take a second to reflect for a moment that we have a bipartisan compromise here. That doesn't happen all that often around here; so I think that's worth noting. That's a good thing.

First off, as my colleague from Texas has just said, this is a down payment on the problem. It's a good step in the right direction, and it is a huge cultural change to this institution.

Both parties got us in this mess. Both parties are going to have to work together to get us out of this mess, and the real problem, I would add, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that we spend way more money than we take in. We have to address that.

To my friends on the left, I think they would like to take comfort in the fact the way these spending cuts are designed and the way the sequester is designed.

To my friends on the right, we are cutting spending. We have been trying to get discretionary caps in law for years. I have been here 13 years trying for it every year, this is the first time.

When we ran Congress the last time we were in the majority we couldn't even get it with the Republican Congress. Now we are getting discretionary caps. That's a big achievement.

Number two, we used to just rubber stamp these debt limit increases. We used to sneak these debt limit increases in budget resolutions. Now it's out here in plain sight.

And what are we doing? We are actually cutting spending while we do this. That's cultural. That's significant. That's a big step in the right direction. We are getting two-thirds of the cuts we wanted in our budget, and, as far as I am concerned, 66 percent in the right direction is a whole lot better than going in the wrong direction.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, we should never have reached this point. Under Democratic and Republican presidents alike, Congress has always fulfilled its responsibility to pay our nation's bills when they come due. We have disagreed vehemently about matters of fiscal policy, but we have always recognized that the full faith and credit of the United States should remain above the partisan fray.

Until now, that is. Make no mistake, this is a manufactured crisis. For the last several weeks, Republicans have held our nation's economy hostage to their narrow and extreme ideological agenda, demanding a ransom of devastating cuts to critical domestic programs while protecting tax breaks for oil companies and other special interests. No matter that Social Security benefits, military pay, and the credit rating of our country have all been hanging in the balance—apparently, economic calamity is a small price to pay for ideological purity.

I voted months ago for a clean debt ceiling increase. I voted days ago for an alternative, bipartisan Senate plan to increase the debt ceiling and cut spending in carefully targeted ways. That the House and Senate are just now considering legislation to stave off default is a tremendous failure by House Republicans, who could not bring the most extreme elements of their caucus to a more balanced legislative solution.

The result is an agreement which could have been worse but is still not good enough. From the beginning, I have said that any serious approach to deficit reduction must do two things: protect the fragile recovery, because the best cure for a budget deficit is a growing economy, and take a balanced approach to finding savings by putting all types of spending and revenues on the table. This agreement meets neither of these tests.

The President deserves credit for negotiating a package that rejects some of the worst Republican demands. It immediately moves us past this artificially created crisis by extending the debt limit through 2013, and it protects Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid against cuts from Republicans who have signaled a willingness to savage these middle class benefits as a part of deficit reduction. I am also encouraged that defense spending has finally been subjected to the same pressures as the rest of the budget.

However, these positive aspects offer limited consolation. Instead of charting a responsible path to deficit reduction while continuing to invest in economic recovery, the bill imposes severe spending caps that will become even more severe if the deficit commission created by the bill fails to achieve consensus. Instead of taking a balanced approach that includes new sources of revenue, such as an end to special-interest tax breaks, the bill asks

the elderly and working-class Americans to bear the brunt of the sacrifice. Why are we not asking the wealthiest Americans to make the same sacrifices other Americans have already been asked to make?

Finally, I also vote no because I refuse to legitimize the demands of ideologues who have recklessly held the national economy hostage to their extreme agenda. Governance by brinksmanship is not worthy of being called governance. The American people deserve better than a House of Representatives that forces the entire country to lurch from one artificially created crisis to the next. We are United States Congress, not the Tea Party's Congress, and it's time we started acting like it."

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, the Budget Control Act Agreement (S. 365) is a terrible bill that I strongly oppose. This legislation is the product of the most disturbing political process I have witnessed during my time in Congress. For the first time ever, one of America's political parties showed themselves willing to throw the nation into default on our debt obligations for the sake of politics. By holding an increase in the debt ceiling hostage as a negotiating strategy, the Tea Party Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives imperiled millions of jobs, businesses, and the economic well-being of every American. A nonpartisan publication, the *National Journal*, declared that America has "entered a new era of government at gunpoint."

I find myself agreeing with *Wall Street Journal* editors who criticized the House majority's conduct during this process by saying, "Republicans are not looking like adults to whom voters can entrust the government."

The legislation that House Republicans are forcing on the country will slash trillions of dollars of investments at exactly the moment when more investment is needed to prevent our economy from sliding back into recession. Education, infrastructure, health research, public safety, clean energy and every other middle class priority will see cuts as a result of this bill.

An editorial in today's *New York Times* argues this deal will "hinder an economic recovery." At a time when 14 million Americans are unemployed and economic growth has slowed to a crawl, why is Congress passing legislation that will "hinder an economic recovery?" Tying massive cuts to a debt ceiling increase is completely unnecessary, totally counterproductive, and it will make America's job crisis even worse. And, with this bill, the Republicans are tossing the heavy burden of deficit reduction onto America's middle class without asking even one penny from the nation's wealthiest individuals and corporations.

While I cannot support this agreement, President Obama and Democratic leaders deserve tremendous credit for their perseverance and determination in solving this manufactured debt crisis. Their efforts succeeded in protecting the economy from the unthinkable consequences of default and shielded Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid from Republican cuts.

President Obama was forced to negotiate this agreement with radical Republicans who proved all too willing to send the economy into default. He was in a nearly impossible posi-

tion. One would expect irrational, dangerous, and irresponsible negotiating tactics from North Korea's Kim Jong-il, but not from the Republican congressional leaders. President Obama did what the nation required in order to avert economic disaster.

Still, I cannot support this legislation. This is a bad bill on many levels, most of all because it forces a broken bargain that avoids economic collapse at the cost of an even slower and more painful economic recovery. It may even return the nation to recession.

This is bill is bad for America and I strongly oppose it.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

"BIG DEAL" IS FOUNDATION FOR "LONG-TERM AUSTERITY"

WHY I VOTED "NO" ON THE BUDGET DEAL
(Statement by Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.)

As a result of the "Big Deal" that House Speaker John Boehner, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell negotiated—and approved by the House and Senate—welcome to "Austere America." The era of austerity has begun!

Democrats were faced with two draconian choices: (1) vote "against" the package and the result would be a job killing default according to House Speaker Boehner; or (2) vote "for" the package and, from my perspective, the result will be a job killing austerity.

The budget negotiators absolutely concluded a "Big Deal." It's a "game changer." The United States is about to become the austere Japan of the 1990s and the austere Great Britain of 2011. Budget deficits and debt will go up—not down. Unemployment will go up—not down. Suffering by the American people will go up—not down. Economic growth will remain stagnant or slow at best and will not address the need for jobs for the unemployed. In short, I predict the result of this agreement will be the opposite of the current spin.

While all Democrats agree that reducing the deficits and taming the debt is something that must be dealt with in the future, the immediate issue is not "deficit reductions" but "job reductions" (i.e., creating enough jobs for 17 million unemployed Americans). Reducing federal spending in a weak economy is the exact opposite of what is needed now.

Republicans and conservative Democrats preposterously argue "tax and budget cuts will equal more jobs and more tax revenues"—the "Laugher" Curve. The biggest tax cuts in history in 2001 and 2003 resulted in the loss of 600,000 private jobs over eight years. To stimulate the economy, the Congress passed and the President signed a \$757 billion stimulus package that kept us out of another Great Depression, but it was unable to rescue unemployed workers from the current Great Recession. The Republican argument reminds me of the man whose house caught on fire and when he couldn't put it out with a garden hose he concluded, "Water doesn't put out fire." Water does put out fire, but you have to have enough of it to fit the size of the fire, and you have to put it in the right place.

Some argue—because of the possibility of default—the President and Democrats had no alternative. I disagree. First, even the threat of using Section 4 of the 14th Amendment by the President (which he took off the table)

would have strengthened his negotiating hand. Second, he could have fought for an alternative strategy of invest, grow and build which would have put Democrats on our turf and on the offense instead of on the Republicans turf and on the defense—and such a plan would create jobs, reduce deficits and debt.

The most vulnerable Americans will again suffer the most under this agreement. This is a very bad and sad day for America.

TREAT PRESIDENT OBAMA LIKE ALL OTHER PRESIDENTS!

RAISE THE DEBT CEILING WITHOUT CONDITIONS

(Statement by Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. (D-IL-2))

According to the Congressional Research Service, since March of 1962 a “clean” debt ceiling bill has been passed by Congress 74 times—including 18 times under President Ronald Reagan and 7 times under President George W. Bush; and raising the debt ceiling has never been used by a political party to “stickup,” “shake-down” or “hold hostage” the President of the United States, the American people and the world economy for narrow domestic political gain.

President Obama should be treated like all other Presidents! Republicans didn’t like President Bill Clinton either—because of his political ideology—but they never hijacked the economy over passing a clean debt ceiling bill. So don’t change anything just because Barack Obama is the President and Republicans don’t like his ideology! Raise the debt ceiling without conditions! Pass a “clean” debt ceiling bill! Treating President Obama differently than all past Presidents reflects an “institutional bias” against the Southside of Chicago!

Rep. Joe Wilson reflected the same institutional bias when, in an unprecedented manner, he called President Obama a “liar” in the middle of his State of the Union address. Speaker John Boehner reflected a similar institutional bias when he said he and the President had the same responsibility—equating his job as Speaker of the House (a legislative function) with the job of the President of the United States (an executive function). Doubting the birthplace of Barack Obama, doubting his Christian faith and experience, calling him a Muslim and a socialist reflects this same institutional bias. The Republican’s proposed Balanced Budget Amendment (BBA) reflects a similar institutional bias—the only other place where there’s a BBA is in the Constitution of the Confederate States of America. With a BBA, the Southside of Chicago can never be made equal to the Northside of Chicago.

What are the alternatives for President Obama? First, he can either sign or veto whatever bill Congress passes and sends up to him—assuming Congress is able to pass something. Or, second, since no other President has been treated like he is being treated, he may have to use something no other President has had to use—i.e., Section 4 of the 14th Amendment. Section 4 of the 14th Amendment was included because the Union did not want to pay the past war debt of the seceded Confederate states. Therefore it is appropriate that in the year of the sesquicentennial start of the Civil War that he use a tool given to him at the conclusion of the Civil War (1868) to save Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, the U.S. and the world economy.

The previous administration started two wars. We have men and women who are presently fighting on foreign battlefields and we should not abandon them. This government

has an obligation to them and their families to pay them for risking their lives and protecting the country. This President should exercise the 14th Amendment’s extraordinary authority in defense of these men and woman at war.

Use of the 14th Amendment is appropriate and justified when the current advocates of states’ rights are again asserting themselves. As Section 4 of the 14th Amendment was being debated, Sen. Benjamin Wade (R-OH) argued that “it puts the debt incurred in the Civil War on our part under the guardianship of the Constitution of the United States, so that a Congress cannot repudiate it. I believe that to do this will give great confidence to capitalists and will be of incalculable pecuniary benefit to the United States, for I have no doubt that every man who has property in the public funds will feel safer when he sees that the national debt is withdrawn from the power of a Congress to repudiate it and placed under the guardianship of the Constitution than he would feel if it were left at loose ends and subject to the varying majorities which may arise in Congress.” President Obama should not allow the “current majority” in the House and the filibuster prone minority of Republicans in the Senate to hold the economy hostage.

So in the spirit of Senator Benjamin Wade (R-OH), Representative Thaddeus Stevens (R-PA) and Senator Charles Sumner (R-MA), President Barack Obama should use Section 4 of the 14th Amendment to protect the full faith and credit of the United States and avoid an economic catastrophe that will damage the United States and the world economy.

Mr. Speaker, I have given several Special Order speeches about my view of the Constitution, making the argument for why I think it should be amended to include certain basic rights that the American people currently lack. These include the right to a high-quality education, the right to health care, and equal rights for women. This afternoon, my special order time will be used to discuss the Continuing Resolution for FY 2011, the Republican Proposed FY 2012 Budget, and the Balanced Budget Amendment or what I’ve taken to calling the “ImBalanced Budget Amendment”.

Not too long ago, the House passed H.R. 1, a continuing resolution that would have forced middle and working class Americans to carry the heavy burden of spending cuts. My colleagues across the aisle simplified the impacts of this measure by describing it as “tightening our belts”. They seem to be oblivious to the fact that these cuts went deep for those Americans who could least afford them.

H.R. 1 “tightened our belts”, slashing programs like Community Health Centers, specifically designed to provide access to basic health and dental services to underserved communities that may not otherwise be able to get the care they need.

HR. 1 “tightened our belts” through cuts to the National Institutes of Health, setting back development of cancer treatments and cures for other diseases, the impact of which we will feel for years to come, as medical professionals are forced to shut down promising research projects.

HR. 1 “tightened our belts” by hacking away at training for Health Professions, reducing this funding by more than 23%. Cuts to Title VII and VIII programs that help to train primary health professionals for underserved areas,

would limit the access of low income individuals to quality doctors, nurses and physicians assistants in their areas.

H.R. 1 “tightened our belts” by severing Title X family planning programs. In doing so, we stepped back in time, preventing life saving care from being offered to our nation’s women, specifically women who wouldn’t otherwise have access to this kind of care.

The programs I’ve listed so far provide health services to our nation, and especially our most underprivileged populations. H.R. 1 also 2 tightened our belts with cuts to job training programs, Head Start and after-school programs, Pell Grants, Hope VI Housing programs, and high speed rail.

These programs were systematically sent to the guillotine. The people that they serve are not the millionaires, to whom we generously extended tax cuts. They are not the corporations who eagerly navigate tax loopholes, every year, costing our nation billions in revenue. They are the everyday, hard working, middle class, public school educated, check book balancing, minimum wage earning, mothers and fathers and grandparents that elected each of us, hoping we’d find a way to decrease unemployment, and bring America back from the brink.

Mr. Speaker, thankfully, our colleagues across the Capitol thought we went a few notches too tight in our belt with H.R. 1. As the Senate refused to take up these cuts, much of our future long term budget discussions to reduce our deficit and get America back on track remain in limbo.

Recently this discussion had reached a fever pitch.

After multiple short term extensions of the FY 2011 Appropriations legislation, the negotiations between Speaker BOEHNER, Leader REID and the President had broken down many times throughout the week.

We were faced with the threat of the first government shutdown since 1996. Agencies were planning which workers to furlough, National Parks and Museums were prepared to shut their doors for the weekend, and the brave women and men in the active-duty of our Armed forces were prepared to continue to work without pay.

Then, at the eleventh hour, there was a breakthrough. The five and a half month Continuing Resolution, agreed to by the leadership of House and Senate, included a total of \$39 billion worth of cuts.

But these cuts that were agreed to late into Friday, have real consequences. There are significant cuts to programs like WIC, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children, Community Health Centers, the Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program, international disaster assistance and Head Start.

After the President and Congressional leadership agreed to giving \$800 billion in tax cuts to America’s top wage earners last December, we turned around and cut programs that working families and seniors depend on. It just doesn’t make sense, Mr. Speaker.

Again, while I was relieved that the federal government did not shut down, I am deeply disappointed in the process that has brought us to this “compromise”, if you can even call it that.

Like the negotiations that held up tax cuts for the middle class at the end of last year to hold out for tax cuts for the wealthy, our leadership has again demonstrated that they are willing to hold up programs that provide for the most vulnerable Americans. And this Congress is only just beginning.

As for the next fiscal year's budget, there are a variety of solutions that have been presented, some with potential to succeed, others destined to fail. Among the proposals lie Budget Committee Chairman PAUL RYAN's recent offering. Looking at the facts, his proposal will reduce our nation's deficit, but leaves us asking the question, at what cost?

First and foremost, Mr. RYAN intends to place the burden of ending our nation's debt on the citizens least capable of caring for themselves, those most reliant on the help of others: our seniors.

The Budget Committee's proposal would end the Medicare our senior citizens have come to know and rely on, replacing it with what can only be described as a coupon—a voucher that, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, would leave our eldest Americans shouldering 68% of their healthcare costs in the next 20 years.

Who else pays the cost of balancing our budget within the Ryan proposal? The burden falls next to working American families. The Ryan proposal will lower the tax rates for individuals with the highest income as well as corporations, relying on raising taxes for the average American to pay for it.

If it sounds familiar, it's because this is the same standby, trickle down, failure that we have placed our faith in for the past decade.

Despite what Majority Leader CANTOR says, during an economic downturn, decreasing the deficit does not create jobs. Also, cutting taxes does not create jobs. Both Presidents Bush and Obama have cut taxes so much that if ERIC CANTOR's theory were correct, we should have zero unemployment, which we DO NOT HAVE. This is what the Ryan plan aims to do.

For ten years our economy has stagnated. The gap between the median wage and average wage is growing, because the highest earners are the only ones receiving wage increases.

Unfortunately, balancing our nation's budget on the backs of the middle class does NOT end there.

Where else will the burden of balancing the budget fall under the Ryan plan? Education. Cuts to K-12 education are just the starting point in disadvantaging the future of America. The proposal also makes significant cuts to Pell Grants. These cuts will prevent the educated generation of young Americans our country needs to compete in a global economy.

The proposed cuts to Pell Grants would return the maximum award allowable to pre-stimulus levels, impacting millions of young Americans depending on financial assistance to attend college.

This will stretch the time it will take for them to earn their degrees and enter the workforce.

Finally, RYAN's budget continues to provide tax loopholes to big oil companies, and cuts all federal support for clean energy, short sighting our economic investments in the future of energy.

Mr. Speaker, I am not promoting constant federal debt. I am not advocating against hoping or trying for a balanced budget. But when you look through the history of our nation, we see that when Americans were in the most need, during war or recession, during the Great Depression, we focused on solving those problems, not just reducing our debt.

Mr. Speaker, we are currently engaged in two wars and fighting our way out of the worst recession of the modern era. The Ryan budget is a new attempt at an age old ploy to mandate a balanced budget for the Federal Government.

Ending our Nation's deficit and returning our country to prosperity, should of course be the goal. But we must also ask the question, at what cost? Where do our priorities lie?

The Ryan proposal, like the myriad constitutional amendments before it, attempts to balance our budget on the backs of those Americans who can least bear the burden.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in heavy-hearted support of S. 365, an imperfect, bipartisan compromise to raise the debt ceiling and rein in federal spending. House and Senate leaders have been bickering for months over this issue, and we have waited until the 59th minute of the 11th hour to reach an agreement. If we do not raise the debt ceiling by tomorrow, our economy will be deeply shaken, resulting not only in massive losses to Wall Street, but also in increased costs and interest rates for American families. With the severe threat of default upon us, it is time to come together for our Nation's best interests.

This is not the bill I would have written, and I do not know a single Member of Congress who believes this bill is perfect. I agreed with President Obama's sentiments today when he said that "as with any compromise, the outcome is far from satisfying." However, as a Member of Congress, there are times when you must hold your nose and vote for a compromise that, while imperfect, is necessary. I believe this is one of those times. The grave threat of default is far too near and too serious not to vote for this agreement.

I am happy to see that this compromise provides long-term economic certainty, raising the debt ceiling until 2013. This will give our markets, investors, and economic partners abroad confidence in the U.S. economy and our ability to pay our bills. It also takes a bold step toward fiscal responsibility, resulting in over \$2.1 trillion in deficit reduction, as recently scored by the Congressional Budget Office. I believe it is important to seriously address our national debt so as not to burden future generations.

The bill will immediately enact strict ten-year spending caps on both defense and non-defense programs, resulting in \$917 billion in savings. It also creates a bipartisan congressional committee which will identify an additional \$1.5 trillion in deficit reduction by November 23, 2011, including from entitlement and tax reform. Both the House and Senate will hold an up or down vote on the committee's proposal.

I believe this compromise cuts too far into many important government programs and that these spending reductions will not be easy to swallow. Discretionary spending will be brought to its lowest levels since the Eisenhower Administration. I am reassured, how-

ever, that cuts will not be made to Social Security, Medicaid, unemployment insurance, programs for low-income families, Pell Grants for low-income college students, or civilian and military retirement programs.

I am greatly disappointed that this compromise does not immediately include revenue increases for the wealthiest Americans, and I believe it places the brunt of the burden of deficit reduction on low-income and middle-class families. I am optimistic, however, that the future plan set forth by the bipartisan congressional committee on deficit reduction will include such revenue increases. Instead of protecting tax breaks for Big Oil, corporations that ship jobs overseas, and the very richest among us, these groups should share in the sacrifice.

We could each sit here refusing to support a bill that does not mirror our individual priorities, allowing the U.S. to default on its loans and permitting an economic catastrophe. Or we could come together and support a compromise that, while imperfect, gets the job done. We were elected to be mature civic leaders who could put public interests before self interests. I urge my colleagues to serve that purpose by supporting this bill.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, the default debate is, at its heart, a debate between two visions for America. One side envisions rebuilding our country, investing in jobs and education and infrastructure, and rising from the Great Recession as a stronger and more resilient Nation. The other side accepts a pessimistic vision of a weakened America with a shrunken government—a Nation hampered by deep cuts to the safety net and hobbled by a refusal to invest in our future.

I have no doubt that, in a fair debate, a hopeful vision for America would win out. But the default debate has not been held on fair terms. The Tea Party and their enablers have held America hostage. They have insisted that, unless Congress enacted their radical, ideological agenda, they would force an unprecedented default on America's obligations and thus trigger an economic collapse.

From the beginning of this debate, I rejected the notion that America's creditworthiness should be used as a bargaining chip. Yet I was willing to support a balanced, fair deal if that was what was required to prevent a default. Unfortunately, today's deal is not balanced. It is not fair. Most of all, it is not right.

The House has voted for vast cuts in government services that ordinary Americans depend on: student loans, unemployment insurance, food safety inspections, highway safety programs, and more. These cuts will force layoffs among teachers, public safety officers, construction workers, and more. These laid-off workers will, in turn, be forced to pare back their spending at their local grocery stores, drug stores, and small businesses, forcing still more layoffs—a vicious circle that threatens to destabilize our fragile economy. We saw in last week's economic reports that job growth has been choked back by cuts in state and local governments. This deal does not help the situation. It hurts the economy.

The deal lays the groundwork for another \$1.5 trillion in cuts to come, to be negotiated behind closed doors by an unelected supercommittee. Given that the first round of cuts

will have decimated discretionary programs, these later cuts will very likely focus on Social Security and Medicare. The citizens who will be hurt most are those who have the least voice in our democracy. After all, when a handful of politicians gather in the proverbial smoke-filled room, the interests of ordinary Americans are nearly always left out.

Yet although most Americans will sacrifice greatly, the most privileged among us will be immune. Favored corporate interests, millionaires, and billionaires will continue to receive special tax breaks as far as the eye can see. That is not the sort of fair, balanced deal that Americans asked for and expected.

As poor as this deal is on its merits, I am even more troubled by the precedent it sets. The Tea Party and their enablers have, by taking the American economy hostage, transformed a routine budgetary authorization into the most dramatic reshaping of government in decades. Today's deal establishes that government by hostage negotiation is a legitimate, effective way to achieve one's political ends. I am frightened by what this means for the future of our democracy.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bipartisan, bicameral Budget Control Act.

While imperfect, this is an historic agreement. With this compromise, we are taking another step in the long and difficult, yet vital, process of forcing our government to live within its means.

Total government spending at all levels has risen to 37% of gross domestic product today from 27% in 1960—and is set to reach 50% by 2038.

To sustain the operations of the government, we borrow over 42-cents of every federal dollar we spend. As a result, our national debt has now increased to 100% of the size of our economy today, up from just 42% in 1980.

The implications for future generations of Americans of this dangerous spending spree are obvious. Enough is enough!

While far from perfect, this realistic approach finally begins to turn back the tide of federal red ink in several important ways: (1) it cuts spending by \$917 billion and does not raise taxes that would fuel additional spending; (2) it creates a process that keeps our underlying fiscal policy problems front-and-center for the foreseeable future.

The bill we have before us today would extend the debt limit in two phases and avoid a default on the obligations of the United States. The first phase would provide for \$917 billion in discretionary spending cuts and an immediate increase of up to \$900 billion in the debt limit.

The legislation would allow for a subsequent debt limit increase of up to \$1.5 trillion only if a bipartisan, bicameral committee provides, and the full Congress approves by an "up or down" vote, additional spending cuts in excess of the requested debt limit increase, or a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution is passed by Congress and sent to the states for ratification by the end of the year.

Is this bill perfect. Absolutely not.

Granted, some well-meaning Americans have opposed the Budget Control Act because they think it does not cut enough. I would re-

mind my Colleagues that the Committee on Appropriations has already started making tough decisions on spending. In this year's appropriations bills, we have sheared billions of dollars and imposed strict spending reductions and will complete our work and pass responsible, sustainable, and timely funding legislation.

I completely agree that the Budget Control Act is far from sufficient to solve our underlying budget problems. In that respect, it is a step in the right direction, nothing more.

I, too, wanted deeper spending cuts and greater deficit and debt reduction. However, given the stubborn insistence of the President and his Congressional allies on new taxes and still more spending, I cannot see how we achieve greater savings at this time.

I also fear that we may come to regret proposed cuts to our national security infrastructure. Our Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines are already stressed and strained by ten years of multiple deployments. Future reductions in end strength and operations and maintenance will undoubtedly lead to the "hollow force" that our experienced military leaders have warned us to avoid.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to put progress before partisanship and support this measure.

My constituents in New Jersey want our government to live within its means. But they also continue to ask "where are the jobs?" So, they want Congress to make economic growth and private-sector job creation its top priority.

This is about our country, our way of life and restoring confidence in the American Dream. Let's get on with it.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this so-called debt limit compromise, S. 365. A compromise is when the two sides each make concessions. This bill fails to meet that definition because all concessions come from Democrats. This debt ceiling legislation protects special interests at the expense of America's working families, children, senior citizens, people who've lost their jobs, and people with disabilities.

It punts the difficult decisions to a "super committee" of twelve Members of Congress who will be tasked with finding another \$1.5 trillion in savings. Those twelve people will have the power to cut Social Security benefits, turn Medicare into a voucher, and gut the Medicaid program into oblivion. The rest of Congress will have only the right to vote yes or no on the entire proposal. Unlike the vast majority of legislation, no amendments will be allowed.

If the super committee fails, there will be automatic cuts to Medicare and additional draconian cuts on top of the draconian cuts that will be made when this bill is signed into law.

Default is a dangerous proposition. But there is only one reason that our country has been pushed to the brink of default: the Republican Tea Party fringe. We are in the midst of a completely manufactured crisis that was orchestrated by this extreme faction of the Republican Party. They are a minority in Congress and in our nation, yet they are holding our nation's economy hostage because Republican leadership continues to pander to them at the detriment of our country and its future.

Democrats and Republicans alike have lifted the debt ceiling some 75 times in our history. Paying our bills is a necessary part of responsible governing.

This year, I've voted twice to raise the debt limit ceiling. I first did so on May 31, 2011 when Republicans brought a clean debt ceiling bill to the floor. Because of uniform Republican opposition, that vote failed.

I next voted this past Saturday to raise the debt ceiling in conjunction with significant spending cuts when the House considered Senator REID's compromise package. It was far from perfect, but it was much more balanced than the package before us today.

Today, the radical wing of the Republican Party has forced a no-win situation. Vote yes on today's "debt-limit compromise," and we limit our ability to grow our economy, create jobs, and protect the most vulnerable members of our society. Vote no and we risk an unprecedented default that would further deteriorate our sputtering economy.

We should never have gotten to this point and it is up to those who got us into this mess to get the votes to end this crisis. However I will not allow my vehement opposition to this deal to put our country into default. If my vote is needed to prevent default, I will hold my nose and change my vote to yes. I will do that because governing requires tough choices. If Tea Party Republicans refuse to govern, it is up to the rest of us to do so for them.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, although I have voted seven times in the past under President Bush to raise the debt ceiling, all of those votes in the past were clean debt ceiling bills, unlike the bill before the House today, which imposes \$1 trillion in spending cuts on the working people and the poor, and decimates our social safety net.

In this round of debt ceiling discussions, the Tea Party Republicans have tied the President's hands to couple a raise in the debt ceiling with billions of billions of dollars in cuts to our nation's safety net programs, bringing cuts across the board to WIC (Women, Infant and Children), programs to protect our nation's senior citizens, Pell Grants, education programs, community health care, and numerous other federal programs that assist middle and working class Americans. It is also important to take note of what isn't in this agreement: funding directed towards job creation. Indisputably, job production is essential to lifting our nation out of the economic downturn since consumer spending is the key driver of our economy.

Just last December, the Republicans forced a vote on extending the Bush Tax Cuts for millionaires and billionaires, adding \$70 billion to our nation's deficit. And this suicidal economic plan came right after eight years of horribly reckless spending and excessive tax cuts for the rich under President Bush and the Republican Congress, who left America trillions of dollars in debt. What was particularly troubling about this situation is that President Clinton had left the White House not only with a balanced budget but with a surplus!

Yet the Republican Party has remained steadfast in implementing Reverse Robin Hood economic policies: cutting programs and services for the working and middle class, while maintaining tax cuts for the millionaires,

billionaires and the Big Oil companies like EXXON Mobil, who just reported last week that their second quarter profits rose 41%!

Indeed, the Republican Party has shown they will stop at nothing to pursue deficit reduction exclusively through deep spending cuts to critical social services, while taking our nation to the brink of economic default. And again, while cutting this safety net, they have successfully fought to preserve tax breaks for Big Oil (even though the big five oil companies earned nearly \$1 trillion in profits during the last decade), corporations that ship American jobs overseas, and tax breaks for the wealthiest .5% of Americans, while leaving what's left over in available resources to be divided among the rest of us.

Beyond a doubt, job production is essential to lifting our nation out of the dire economic situation we're in, and one way to create jobs is through transportation and infrastructure investment: in fact, for every \$1 billion in transportation funding, approximately 34,000 jobs are created. Yet the Republican leadership remains inflexible, unwilling to compromise on even reauthorizing the FAA. And what has this led to?

Four thousand Americans throughout the nation who are paid out of the FAA trust fund that will not be paid, and nearly 90,000 others are affected by the cancellation of airport construction projects: and for my state of Florida, this includes over 3,000 airport construction jobs lost, and 27 FAA employee jobs, 19 of them at Orlando International Airport, 3 in Miami, 4 in Melbourne and 1 in Hilliard.

Just like the Republican Party's lack of leadership over the debt ceiling debate, they absolutely refuse to compromise to extend funding for the FAA. So yes, this is yet another example of the Republican Party being entirely ill prepared and completely irresponsible in their attempt to act as House leaders.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, this vote is a close call.

Like the vast majority of our colleagues, I do not want to see the federal government fail to meet its obligations. And if the government cannot borrow, the fact that President Obama would decide which bills to pay with the money that is available is not reassuring. He could well refuse to pay Social Security benefits in order to build the maximum amount of political pressure for his agenda.

But I am equally disturbed by the prospect of continuing to spend and borrow as usual. The United States simply cannot continue down this path of fiscal irresponsibility and meet our duty to our children and to future generations. We must cut some spending now, and we must change the system that allows or even encourages such fiscal recklessness.

This bill cuts some spending, although not nearly as much as I would like. The spending it cuts directly is discretionary spending, which is the easiest to cut because it is subject to the annual appropriations process. The bill does not touch mandatory spending, which is well over half of the budget. That is a lost opportunity.

The special congressional committee could recommend changes in mandatory spending and hopefully an overhaul of our tax code, which is a drag on our economy and a burden

to all taxpayers. The recommendations of that committee will receive a vote in the House and Senate before the end of the year. That is a potential opportunity.

Significantly, the bill does cut a dollar of spending for every dollar of additional borrowing authority. No more money can be added to the debt without an equivalent or greater cut in spending. That is an important first for our country and an important precedent to set.

The bill also requires a vote on a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution. It will be the first such vote in the Senate in 15 years. There is, of course, no guarantee that it will pass, but there is a real opportunity for the American people to let their Senators and Representatives know how they feel. If the polls are correct that over 70% of the people support a Balanced Budget Amendment and if they let Congress know of their support, it should pass.

I am concerned about the way this measure treats defense. The Department of Defense, like any large organization, can be more efficient. Our national security would be devastated, however, if the sequestration cuts were allowed to occur. Every member of the House and Senate, as well as the President, must ensure that they do not.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, there is always the question that must be asked when making a difficult decision on how to vote on a bill: If this bill does not pass, what happens then? There is much about this bill with which I am not satisfied, but I have absolutely no doubt that if this bill is rejected, the next one will be worse. The next bill may come after Social Security checks are not received or after the markets plummet, but there would be another bill, and it will not have the cuts or reforms that are in this one. And it would most likely make even greater cuts to defense.

The bottom line is that this bill is one step in the right direction. I would rather take two, or three, or five steps, but I cannot reject a bill that cuts spending as much as it increases borrowing and that provides the opportunity for greater cuts as well as for real reforms in budgeting and spending. There is much more work ahead, and I will keep pushing for more steps in the direction of fiscal responsibility in the weeks and months to come.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, the House passed unprecedented legislation tonight.

We passed a bill that put unprecedented limits on our President to act to protect our nation, to invest in our futures and to safeguard our poor and our vulnerable.

I opposed this bill because it fails to take a balanced approach to how we set our nation's priorities.

This bill totally fails to address the urgent and most pressing crisis in the country: the lack of jobs and economic growth. At a time when investments are needed to jump start our economy and put people back to work, I believe this deal and its cuts-only approach is the wrong approach.

Should we, as Members of Congress, closely guard our nation's tax dollars and work hard to cut waste and to make sure that every program that we fund is necessary and helps the most Americans possible?

Of course we should and I believe that we all work hard to do so.

But, let me be clear, what we have is a revenue problem.

We would not have needed to raise the debt ceiling if Republican's did not ram the Bush tax cuts down the throats of the American People.

Let me be very clear.

Tax cuts do not pay for themselves and they do not create jobs.

The Bush tax cuts created the deficits that my Republican colleagues decry and there were no new private industry jobs created during the entire Bush Administration.

Let me be crystal clear.

The Democratic Clinton Administration had higher tax rates and created millions more jobs than the Bush Republicans and we had a robust and growing economy. The Democratic Clinton Administration left George Bush a revenue surplus, which he promptly squandered and drove the economy into a ditch, twice.

We have a revenue problem.

When we do not ask the super rich and the corporations who make billions of dollars in profits off of the engine of the American economy, we will not have the funds to keep that engine running.

We must have the revenue to invest in our schools and high tech industries; we must have the funds to rebuild our nation's manufacturing base that Republicans shipped overseas, we must have the revenues to take care of our seniors and provide world class healthcare for every American, we must have the critical revenue to keep the United States the strongest, smartest and most democratic nation on earth.

We have a money problem, but it is not about how this body budgets for our nation.

The money problem is the one that plagues our politics. There is too much influence of the rich on our politics.

Despite the catastrophic failures of Republican financial policies, we are still the strongest and wealthiest nation in the world and our Treasury's debt is still the world's safest investment and continues to sell at historically low rates.

But this bill that tied our budget to the passing of debt ceiling is a huge step in the wrong direction for our nation.

Is it critical for us to prevent an unprecedented default? Of course it is.

Is it just as critical to make sure that we can meet our nation's obligations to our seniors, our children and our poor? Of course it is.

But this back room deal-making on preventing a national default is not a way forward for our nation.

We must not be making critical decisions about who and what we are as a nation while we are held hostage to the debt ceiling and the extortionist threats of the extreme Tea Party wing of the Republican party.

This should not be the process by which we decide how we budget and set our nation's priorities into the future.

The debt ceiling plan is deeply flawed. The only thing it succeeds in doing is enacting a short-term reprieve from a catastrophic default on our debts.

It fails in almost every other way.

It fails because it is not a balanced approach that insures that we have the resources necessary to protect our most vulnerable seniors, children, the disabled and the poor.

It fails because it opens the door to deep cuts to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

If fails because it does not make sure that we actually reduce the deficit.

Making cuts in federal spending during the middle of the worst economic downturn in a generation will only make the economy worse and will reduce future revenue and end up increasing long-term deficits.

This is not a sound way to reduce our deficits or our debt. The only way to reduce our deficits long-term is to invest in a strong and growing economy that creates millions of new jobs just like we did during the Clinton Administration.

The only sound long-term deficit plan is a strong jobs plan that puts Americans back to work in jobs that pay a livable wages and provide American benefits.

Finally, it fails because it undermines that proper functioning of the American democracy and restricts our ability to react to future crises and economic downturns.

Tying the hands of future Congresses is not the way to strengthen the United States. This bill will severely limit what we can do as a nation.

The Tea Party Republican's vision of America is one with a powerless government that cannot stand up to the big banks, big oil and multinational corporations that want to keep shipping U.S. jobs overseas. The Republican's vision of America is one where you are completely on your own, without access to health care, Social Security, or unemployment protections. The Republican's vision of America is one without any safeguards for clean air, clean water or access to safe and clean food and drugs.

I don't believe that this is a vision that the American people believe in.

I believe in a strong America with a functioning democracy that is able invest in the future of our nation and create jobs to grow our economy.

That is why I join my colleagues here today—because the Congressional Black Caucus is focused on helping the American people get jobs by hitting the streets during August. Across the country, from Cleveland, Miami, Atlanta, Detroit and L.A., the Congressional Black Caucus is doing both town halls and job fairs.

The Congressional Black Caucus knows that people need jobs and so the CBC is bringing employers that have jobs together with people that need jobs.

Also, the CBC is bringing in experts to run job training sessions including how to write a resume, how to interview, and how to network to improve your chances on getting a job.

We will be working hard in Washington to create jobs for the people, but we must do more which is why we have put together these events.

The town hall will give Members of the CBC a chance to interact directly with those people struggling to get a job, so that we can bring their words, their frustrations, and their worries

to Washington to share with our colleagues and be the voice of our nation's most vulnerable population here in the halls of Congress.

Our nation's average unemployment rate is 9.2 percent, but for African Americans it is 16.2 percent and for Latinos it is 11.6 percent.

Worse than this drastic gap between the national average and the unemployment rate between people of color, a recent Pew Research Center study shows the drastic impact that the economic downturn has had on minority communities, pushing the wealth gap to record high numbers.

Unfortunately, the daunting statistics speak for themselves—the median wealth of white households is 20 times that of Black households and 18 times that of Hispanic households.

When I was a Member of the Financial Services Committee, my colleagues and I warned about the dangers that deregulating financial services would pose on minority communities.

I am sad to say that our fears were well founded. Unscrupulous banks and completely unregulated mortgage brokers targeted vulnerable minority communities with predatory loans and often engaged in outright fraud.

We must commit to strengthening the safeguards in place that protect consumers from unfair and predatory practices that strip our communities of what little wealth they have.

It is clear that this 'recession' has been nothing short of a depression for communities of color with disproportionate loss of wealth, housing, increased unemployment and poverty rates that are on the rise.

It is time we begin to allow our economy to grow and invest in the needs of our nation's most vulnerable communities. We do this by creating jobs for the people.

The House Republicans have been in charge for well over 200 days now and have yet to bring a single jobs bill to the Floor for a vote.

I have urged Speaker BOEHNER for months to bring H.R. 589 The Emergency Unemployment Compensation Expansion Act to the Floor for a vote.

This bill is important because those people who have been unemployed for over 99 weeks can no longer receive unemployment benefits—how are they surviving?

H.R. 589 would give 14 more weeks of benefits to those who have reached the end of their rope and are still struggling to find work.

This will stimulate our economy—they will immediately spend this money to buy the necessities of life that you and I take for granted, like food, water, shelter, and maybe some form of medical attention.

But these 99ers are not the only people facing hardship across the country. Americans want to work and Americans need to work, and Congress needs to create jobs, and since Congress is moving slow, the Congressional Black Caucus is hitting the streets in cities across the nation, bringing employers that have jobs together with people who need jobs.

I am pleased to be a part of the Congressional Black Caucus For the People Jobs Initiative, and I applaud the hard work of the CBC Members and staff, including staff across the country, who are making these events happen.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to S. 365, the Budget Control Act of 2011. It defers decisions we should make today until tomorrow. It is abjectly inadequate. It eliminates dollars from our economic infrastructure at a time when our economy is again faltering. It provides continued funding for two wars leaving the defense industrial complex untouched. It is unjust to the next generation by not taking action now to ensure the long term continued solvency of Social Security and Medicare.

When President Bill Clinton left office in January 2001, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projected that we would pay off our national debt by Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 and that by 2011, the Federal Government would have a \$2.3 trillion surplus. Today, we have a projected FY 2011 deficit of nearly \$1.5 trillion and a massive \$14.3 trillion national debt. Something happened and our nation has not faced a national debt of this magnitude since 1950.

Unmistakably, the economic recession played a role in leading us to our current predicament but I want to emphasize that this unprecedented and vast expansion in our debt has largely been the result of a series of decisions made by this body. A study conducted by the Pew Charitable Trusts, an independent, non-profit organization, concluded that new legislation enacted since January 2001 has been responsible for over two-thirds of the growth in our debt. The majority of the contributing legislation was enacted by President Bush, including his tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 and the war in Iraq, measures which I vehemently opposed.

As many are well aware, our debt has now grown so large that we must raise the current \$14.3 trillion debt limit by tomorrow, in order to avoid defaulting on our loans. Failure to do so would be irresponsible, calling into question the full faith and credit of the United States government unduly harming every American. Should the limit not be raised, the government would have to stop, limit, or delay payments on a broad range of legal obligations, including Social Security and Medicare benefits, military salaries, interest on the national debt, and many other commitments. Further, financial firms estimate that default could cause interest rates on Treasury bonds to rise .006-.01% causing the cost of owning a home, filling a gas tank, sending children to college and buying a car to become even more expensive, squeezing already tight family budgets.

The need to address this crisis also brings with it an opportunity to make serious, long-lasting policy changes, providing a comprehensive solution that will put our country on the road to a strong, fiscally-sustainable economic future. However, there is no simple or painless solution to our current predicament. For example, if we eliminated the entire federal government this fiscal year—no federal courts or prisons, no border security, no care for veterans, no White House, no Congress, nothing—and only kept the Department of Defense, entitlement programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and interest on the national debt, and did not touch taxes, our deficit for FY 2011 would still be \$817 billion.

We must make substantive and balanced decisions taking our cue from recent history.

When our budget was balanced in 1969 and for four years from 1998 to 2001, tax revenues and federal spending represented around 20 percent of our gross domestic product (GDP), the overall size of the economy. Today, revenues are around 14.8 percent and spending is nearly 24.7 of GDP. These two extremes cannot continue if we are to balance the budget and provide for a sound economy for future generations.

That is why any serious proposal to reduce the deficit must be comprehensive, and address all spending programs, including domestic discretionary spending, defense spending, as well as entitlement spending, such as Social Security and Medicare, and the other half of the equation, taxes and the inequalities in the tax code.

We have already begun to take steps to reduce domestic discretionary spending. For example, as Ranking Member of the Energy and Water Subcommittee, I worked long and hard with my Chairman, RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN, to reduce spending in the FY 2012 Energy and Water Appropriations Act by \$2.826 billion below the FY 2010 funding level. Our subcommittee looked at each program and made a myriad of decisions, some to increase spending and some to reduce it, given the purpose and value of each program. Previously, I supported the Department of Defense and Full Year Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011, which reduced spending by \$38 billion below the previous year's budget.

Our fiscal crisis, however, cannot be solved by only addressing the discretionary spending. We must also make thoughtful decisions about our entitlement programs, such as Social Security and Medicare, not only to rein in their growth but also to preserve their solvency for future generations.

There are many options that would extend the long term solvency of the Social Security program past 2036, its current estimated solvency date. For example, raising the so-called "tax cap" on employees would extend the solvency of the program past 2057. For 2011, Social Security taxable earnings are limited to \$106,800. I do not believe that the Social Security tax rate should be raised. However, as a wage tax, I believe the Social Security tax should be paid on all wages. This would create a more equitable system without changing any benefits. If the tax is good enough for every dollar earned by someone waiting tables at a local diner or working in the mill then it is good enough for every dollar earned by someone working on Wall Street.

Similar changes can be made to Medicare to ensure its long-term solvency and its existence for future generations. For example, the Secretary of Health and Human Services is prohibited by law from negotiating drug prices on behalf of Medicare Part D beneficiaries. I believe that this law should be repealed, as it would save the federal government an estimated \$156 billion over ten years and lower drug costs for seniors.

Which brings me to the most contentious side of the equation, taxes. Let me first remind my colleagues that currently, tax revenues are around 14.8 percent of GDP, the lowest it has been since 1950. But what makes our current tax code so abhorrent is not the fact that it is unsustainable, but the fact that it is disparately

unequal. For example, from 2008 to 2010, 12 corporations, including Wells Fargo and General Electric, made a combined \$171 billion in profits, but paid no federal corporate tax as a result of a convoluted tax code, while my constituents were paying their income taxes. Further, last year the top 25 hedge fund managers alone had combined incomes of \$22 billion yet they paid a lower tax rate than a fire fighter from Crown Point, Indiana. Where is the outrage that over a tax code that allows Wall Street to pay a lower tax rate than a person risking his or her life for our safety?

At a time when our country faces its biggest financial crisis in decades, it is reprehensible that our tax code allows companies, including some of the most profitable in the nation, are able to exploit loopholes and credits in the tax code to eliminate their tax liabilities. Currently, the U.S. tax code contains over 200 tax loopholes or credits amounting to approximately \$1.2 trillion in forgone revenue each year. These loopholes have the same effect on the federal budget as spending programs without being subject to the same public debate and annual evaluation as part of the appropriations process. If we are to address our growing national debt, this spending through the tax code must be reined in. All Americans and American companies should make a contribution to our shared society.

We owe it to the next generation to solve this crisis, and swiftly. As our nation remains consumed by the ongoing deficit discussion, this body continues to avoid taking action on its most basic duties. For example, funding for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) expired in 2007. Since then, this body has temporarily extended the Administration's authorization 20 times. Earlier this year, both the House and the Senate finally passed separate FAA reauthorization legislation. Over 100 days have passed and we have yet to take action to resolve differences between the two versions and last week, funding for the FAA expired, causing 4,000 employees to be sent home without pay, 219 construction projects to be halted and \$200 million to be lost in tax revenue. I fear that this measure, which even if enacted today will mandate votes down the road and prolong our single-minded focus on the debt ceiling. I urge my colleagues to work together to compromise budget options so that we can continue the work we were sent here to do.

The key to confronting our fiscal challenge must be balancing cuts in spending and raising revenue while making the necessary investments in our nation's infrastructure and future. The road to fiscal solvency will be difficult, and tough decisions will need to be made. These decisions are not made in this bill and I am opposed to it.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, S. 365, the Budget Control Act of 2011, is a landmark in American history, but for the wrong reasons. It is a fake solution to a phony crisis. It provides for a radical transformation of the structure of government. It is an attack on the principle of government of the people. All this in the name of fiscal accountability.

The choice we have today, default or dismantling of the social compact through draconian spending cuts, is a false choice. The President could have simply told Congress-

sional leaders back in December of last year that the debt ceiling was not negotiable, and invoked the 14th Amendment as a backstop.

The "debt crisis" was spurred on by credit rating agencies of dubious integrity threatening a downgrade of the nation's credit unless the government cut spending. Most of the cuts are guaranteed to hurt those who live at society's margins, while S. 365 protects the investor class whose interests are served by the rating agencies.

Unelected credit ratings agencies like Standard and Poor's, the self-declared arbiter of U.S. Government creditworthiness, must themselves be subjected to a new level of scrutiny absent in the run-up to the Wall Street crisis. The credit raters helped to create that crisis too by procuring business through selling rating marks. The very idea that the sovereign United States must genuflect to dishonest rating agencies is antiquated and counterproductive to America's economic recovery.

This bill fails on its own terms, which are allegedly about fiscal accountability. The debt has three main drivers:

The first is the recession. If we want to reduce the debt, we have to stimulate the economy, which is hobbled by a jobless recovery. America has 14 million people out of work. We have over \$3 trillion of infrastructure which must be replaced or rebuilt. We should be investing in America, rebuilding America, stimulating the American economy, priming the pump of our economy instead of capping our economic water well. Our GDP is lagging. This bill cuts nearly \$3 trillion in government spending, which is one of our main tools for fighting the recession. So much for the recovery. So much for putting America back to work.

The second reason for the size of the debt is the Bush tax cuts. This bill fails to end the Bush tax cuts for the rich, which added a trillion dollars to the deficit. Not only are the wealthy not paying a fair share of the taxes but their privileged position is locked in, to the detriment to the rest of the society. This single action makes clear that this bill is a vehicle for the rich to get richer and the poor to get poorer.

That working Americans are being offered a tax holiday is one of the cruel ironies of this bill in that the tax holiday adds more to the deficit on one hand, while requiring cuts to pay for it on the other. Those very cuts will undermine the social and economic position of those whom the tax holiday is alleged to help.

The third reason for the size of the debt is the wars. This bill fails to realize savings from ending the wars. Instead it continues the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan at current funding levels for at least another 10 years. According to the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, "The caps would not apply to spending for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and for similar activities (sometimes referred to as overseas contingency operations) . . ." If this bill required a slow drawdown of troops as the Reid bill did, it would save at least \$1.2 trillion.

It is inexplicable that we are creating more space for war and less space for jobs, housing, education, caring for our elderly, home heating assistance and a wide range of activities of any government which truly cares for its people.

A policy of no limits for war and hard limits on domestic spending, coupled with hundreds of billions of dollars in tax cuts for the rich, disproportionately affects the poor and middle class. Wall Street has swelled with bailouts, multiple editions of largesse through quantitative easing, skyrocketing executive pay and bonuses, and freedom to gamble the public's money through hedge funds. Main Street has suffered a massive loss of retirement savings, housing security, access to affordable health care, real wages and benefits, full employment and massive loss of small businesses. The wealth of America is being accelerated to the top and this bill pushes that acceleration.

This bill is a direct assault on representative government. The House of Representatives and the Senate consist of 435 and 100 Members, respectively. With the creation of a super-committee, the Congress has been reduced to a czardom where 7 of 12 members are given the power to determine the course of the American economy, with hordes of K Street lobbyists already poised to swoop in to protect their narrow interests against \$1 trillion in deficit reduction measures.

The Congressional committee and sub-committee process, with its membership composed of individuals with expertise in specific areas, is designed to encourage thorough consideration of measures which affect the lives of hundreds of millions of Americans. This process is now abandoned. Abandoned with it is the intent of the founding Fathers when they established the House of Representatives specifically to avoid such a dangerous concentration of power. The super-committee is poised to cut Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security while limiting accountability.

We could have avoided this hostage-taking if the President chose to apply his expertise in Constitutional law to invoke the 14th Amendment of the Constitution to raise the debt ceiling. Instead, we are taking America from the New Deal of 1932 to the Raw Deal of 2011. We should be focusing on strengthening Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid and creating jobs. The Democratic Party is running away from its traditional role of protecting the poor, the elderly, and the working class. To whom do these groups now turn?

Mr. Speaker, I have had and continue to have serious concerns about Senator Reid's revised bill. The cuts to discretionary spending will be adverse to the beneficiaries of programs designed to provide essential services the private sector will never—and in some cases, should never—perform. The cuts to defense funding, the single biggest source of government waste, are a good start but are small compared to those cuts to non-defense spending. I will work to ensure that we achieve defense cuts greater than the minimum required by this bill.

We are now three days away from reaching the effective debt ceiling, a landmark that would drastically accelerate the \$400 billion of damage to our economy already caused by the mere threat of reaching the ceiling.

This bill raises the debt ceiling while not prescribing cuts to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. It prevents further instances of the debt ceiling (which has been raised 74 times since 1962 and 10 times since 2001) from being held hostage. It cuts funding from

the account that fuels the wars that dramatically increased our debt.

In the past, I voted against three of the main drivers of our debt: the war in Iraq, the Bush tax cuts and Medicare Part D. I believe in fiscal responsibility. I do not believe America should go into default over a manufactured crisis. It is time to prevent fake crises, and get on with rebuilding the U.S. economy.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am opposed to the debt ceiling and deficit reduction legislation and will vote against the bill.

Raising the debt ceiling should be a legislative act that allows us to meet the obligations our country has already incurred. But this legal formality has been taken hostage by the Republican Party and tied to dangerous and extraordinary demands regarding spending and taxes that affect everyone in our country.

As a result, we have a crisis that has been wholly manufactured. Our national debate has been paralyzed. Millions of Americans have been frightened about whether Social Security checks and salaries for our armed forces will be paid, financial markets have been rattled, and America's fiscal responsibility has been tarnished in the eyes of the world.

As a matter of economic policy, the spending cuts in this legislation will do harm to the economy and will curb our ability to stimulate job growth. Our economy is weak. The recovery is stalled. Our workers and households need action from Congress that helps promote growth and investment. With unemployment over 9 percent and growth at barely 1 percent, the last thing we need is for Washington to take the wind out of the sails of future growth. Cutting spending by over \$2 trillion hurts the economy's ability to move forward.

As a matter of equity, this package is not balanced. It is all spending cuts, cuts that are deeper because we are blocked by the Republicans' refusal to consider revenues to be gained from asking the wealthy and fortunate to play their fair share. There is nothing to end egregious tax expenditures benefiting corporations or to ask our most profitable companies today, such as the oil industry to pay a little more; or to have the burden of deficit reduction shared, even a little bit, by the wealthiest among us. This is not fair. It is willfully one-sided. And given the magnitude of the task before us to deal responsibly with our long term debt, it is not right.

As a matter of protecting and strengthening Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, this legislation is also gravely deficient. There may be buffers for these programs in the sequester, but the pressure to cut these programs as a part of the new joint congressional committee that is established to secure an additional \$1.5 trillion in spending cuts will be extreme. There will be tremendous pressure to restructure these programs in order to forestall additional defense cuts and additional cuts to discretionary spending. Such changes will undermine our country's promise to the elderly, the poor, the vulnerable. Raising the eligibility age for Medicare or Social Security, or cutting benefit levels, will be subject to an up-or-down vote by this new joint committee. No amendments can be offered or voted on. This process weakens Congress as an institution, and it is a dangerous abdication of our responsibility for these bedrock programs.

We have worked over the years to make careful changes to Medicare when necessary to restore its solvency. In the Affordable Care Act, we enacted careful reforms that will improve the efficiency and soundness of Medicare. Arbitrary cuts to the program through sequestration, or rushed cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, are no way to guarantee the future of those vital programs. We run the risk of substantial changes that will drive providers out of the system, leaving patients without access to doctors or to nursing homes and long term care services.

This legislation does not represent the values to which I have been committed since first being elected to Washington.

That is why I have concluded that this package does not deserve my support today.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the Budget Control Act of 2011, S. 365.

First, with all the conflict and frustration surrounding this vote, I'm reverting to basic principles. One of which is, "don't negotiate with thugs." It's been long obvious that we have no partner with whom to negotiate; only a party that started as our comrades in government, then our colleagues, who evolved into our opponents, declared themselves our enemies and now demand that we be their enablers. I refuse to play.

Thugs are in the game to destroy, not build. They would destroy the government, and especially this presidency. They take hostages, and there is much work at stake that would be their next targets. It will be endless. The president has given into all of their demands, and they remain insatiable. It's time we starved the beast. Then . . .

They came to Washington they say committed not to do business as usual. Then they demanded that we protect every loophole, every billionaire and every greedy element in our society except those who need some help.

They set-up something that is their fail safe. I call it the "Kevorkian Commission" that will deliver the poison if in November, we don't volunteer to do it ourselves.

We Democrats in the House were not at the table, and we wind up on the menu.

There are arguments that are valid and good for voting "aye." But I didn't come to this place to forget the homeless, the hapless and the hungry.

The most vulnerable in our society don't watch their 401K plan, the Dow Jones Industrial Average or the futures market. Their future is getting through till tomorrow. They are more concerned about having a roof than they are the national debt ceiling. They need jobs, nutrition, education and encouragement. The time we've spent on this debate would indicate that we've bought into the trickledown theory.

Here's what I know: the people I came here to help need real help. Their lives and future are really endangered. What happens to us people with portfolios, and Wall Street watchers is scary, but conjecture.

Sounds hokey, but I'm voting for what I came here to do.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, if this had been a clean vote to raise the debt ceiling, I would have supported it—as I have in the past, and as our nation has done 78 times since 1960.

But this was far from a clean vote. The cuts were too large, there were no revenues, no plan for job creation, and thus it was an unbalanced approach to the deficit problem.

Although cuts to Medicare and Medicaid were averted in the first round of cuts, the 'sequestration trigger' included cuts to Medicare providers which would hurt my district, and ultimately Medicare recipients as well.

What's more, making such large budget cuts now, in the midst of a struggling recovery would lead to a further loss of jobs—at a time when there are already five Americans out of work for every one job opening. This deal makes things worse; it would slow economic growth.

The process by which this deal was reached was no less ugly. This issue was taken hostage by the most extreme parts of the Republican Party, who put forward non-negotiable demands, which is not how democracy works.

By refusing to even consider closing tax loopholes and ending special-interest subsidies, the Republicans made clear who should pay for their extreme agenda: those who can least afford it.

I will not be a party to a plan which is likely to hurt the interests of my district, my city and my country as it struggles to emerge from the worst economic crisis since the Depression.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 384, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, and was read the third time.

CALL OF THE HOUSE

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I move a call of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The previous question being ordered, the Chair notes the absence of a quorum in accord with clause 7(c) of rule XX and chooses to entertain the motion for a call of the House pursuant to clause 7(b) of rule XX.

A call of the House was ordered.

The call was taken by electronic device, and the following Members responded to their names:

[Roll No. 689]

Ackerman	Bilirakis	Calvert
Adams	Bishop (GA)	Camp
Aderholt	Bishop (NY)	Campbell
Akin	Bishop (UT)	Canseco
Alexander	Black	Cantor
Altmire	Blackburn	Capito
Amash	Blumenauer	Capps
Andrews	Bonner	Capuano
Austria	Bono Mack	Carnahan
Bachmann	Boren	Carney
Bachus	Boswell	Carson (IN)
Baldwin	Boustany	Carter
Barletta	Brady (PA)	Cassidy
Barrow	Brady (TX)	Castor (FL)
Bartlett	Brady (IA)	Chabot
Barton (TX)	Brooks	Chaffetz
Bass (CA)	Broun (GA)	Chandler
Bass (NH)	Brown (FL)	Chu
Becerra	Buchanan	Cicilline
Benishek	Bucshon	Clarke (MI)
Berg	Buerkle	Clarke (NY)
Berkley	Burgess	Clay
Biggart	Burton (IN)	Cleaver
Bilbray	Butterfield	Clyburn

Coble	Heck	Mica
Coffman (CO)	Heinrich	Michaud
Cohen	Hensarling	Miller (FL)
Cole	Herger	Miller (MI)
Conaway	Herrera Beutler	Miller (NC)
Connolly (VA)	Higgins	Miller, Gary
Conyers	Himes	Miller, George
Cooper	Hinojosa	Moore
Costa	Hirono	Moran
Costello	Hochul	Mulvaney
Courtney	Holden	Murphy (CT)
Cravaack	Holt	Murphy (PA)
Crawford	Honda	Myrick
Crenshaw	Hoyer	Nadler
Critz	Huelskamp	Napolitano
Crowley	Huizenga (MI)	Neal
Cuellar	Hultgren	Neugebauer
Culberson	Hunter	Noem
Cummings	Hurt	Nugent
Davis (CA)	Inslee	Nunes
Davis (IL)	Israel	Nunnelee
Davis (KY)	Issa	Olson
DeFazio	Jackson (IL)	Owens
DeGette	Jackson Lee	Palazzo
DeLauro	(TX)	Pallone
Denham	Jenkins	Pascarella
Dent	Johnson (GA)	Pastor (AZ)
DesJarlais	Johnson (IL)	Paul
Deutch	Johnson (OH)	Paulsen
Diaz-Balart	Johnson, E. B.	Payne
Dicks	Johnson, Sam	Pearce
Dingell	Jones	Pelosi
Doggett	Jordan	Pence
Dold	Kaptur	Perlmutter
Donnelly (IN)	Keating	Peters
Doyle	Kelly	Peterson
Dreier	Kildee	Petri
Duffy	Kind	Pingree (ME)
Duncan (SC)	King (IA)	Pitts
Duncan (TN)	King (NY)	Platts
Edwards	Kingston	Poe (TX)
Ellison	Kinzing (IL)	Polis
Ellmers	Kline	Pompeo
Emerson	Kucinich	Posey
Engel	Labrador	Price (GA)
Eshoo	Lamborn	Price (NC)
Farenthold	Lance	Quayle
Farr	Landry	Quigley
Fattah	Langevin	Rahall
Filner	Lankford	Rangel
Fincher	Larsen (WA)	Reed
Fitzpatrick	Larson (CT)	Rehberg
Flake	Latham	Reichert
Fleischmann	LaTourette	Renacci
Fleming	Latta	Reyes
Flores	Lee (CA)	Ribble
Forbes	Levin	Richardson
Fortenberry	Lewis (CA)	Richmond
Fox	Lewis (GA)	Rigell
Franks (AZ)	Lipinski	Rivera
Frelinghuysen	LoBiondo	Roby
Fudge	Loeb	Roe (TN)
Gallegly	Loftgren, Zoe	Rogers (AL)
Garamendi	Long	Rogers (KY)
Gardner	Lowe	Rogers (MI)
Garrett	Lucas	Rohrabacher
Gerlach	Luetkemeyer	Rokita
Gibbs	Lujan	Rooney
Gibson	Lummis	Ros-Lehtinen
Gingrey (GA)	Lungren, Daniel	Roskam
Gohmert	E.	Ross (AR)
Gonzalez	Lynch	Ross (FL)
Goodlatte	Mack	Rothman (NJ)
Gosar	Maloney	Roybal-Allard
Gowdy	Manzullo	Royce
Granger	Marchant	Runyan
Graves (GA)	Marino	Ruppersberger
Graves (MO)	Markey	Rush
Green, Al	Matheson	Ryan (OH)
Green, Gene	Matsui	Ryan (WI)
Griffin (AR)	McCarthy (CA)	Sanchez, Linda
Griffith (VA)	McCarthy (NY)	T.
Grimm	McCaul	Sanchez, Loretta
Guinta	McClintock	Sarbantes
Guthrie	McCollum	Scalise
Gutierrez	McCotter	Schakowsky
Hahn	McGovern	Schiff
Hall	McHenry	Schilling
Hanabusa	McIntyre	Schmidt
Hanna	McKeon	Schock
Harper	McKinley	Schrader
Harris	McMorris	Schwartz
Hartzer	Rodgers	Schweikert
Hastings (FL)	McNerney	Scott (VA)
Hastings (WA)	Meehan	Scott, Austin
Hayworth	Meeks	Scott, David

Sensenbrenner	Terry	Waters
Serrano	Thompson (CA)	Watt
Sessions	Thompson (MS)	Waxman
Sewell	Thompson (PA)	Webster
Sherman	Thornberry	Welch
Shimkus	Tiberi	West
Shuler	Tierney	Westmoreland
Shuster	Tipton	Whitfield
Simpson	Tonko	Wilson (FL)
Sires	Towns	Wilson (SC)
Slaughter	Tsongas	Wittman
Smith (NE)	Turner	Wolf
Smith (NJ)	Upton	Womack
Smith (TX)	Van Hollen	Woodall
Smith (WA)	Velázquez	Woolsey
Southerland	Visclosky	Wu
Speier	Walberg	Yoder
Stearns	Walden	Young (AK)
Stivers	Walsh (IL)	Young (FL)
Stutzman	Walz (MN)	Young (IN)
Sullivan	Wasserman	
Sutton	Schultz	

□ 1851

The SPEAKER pro tempore. On this rollcall, 419 Members have recorded their presence.

A quorum is present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 269, noes 161, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 690]

AYES—269

Adams	Chandler	Gibbs
Aderholt	Cicilline	Gibson
Alexander	Clay	Giffords
Altmire	Clyburn	Goodlatte
Andrews	Coble	Gosar
Austria	Coffman (CO)	Granger
Bachus	Cole	Graves (MO)
Barletta	Conaway	Green, Gene
Barrow	Connolly (VA)	Griffin (AR)
Bartlett	Cooper	Grimm
Barton (TX)	Costa	Guinta
Bass (CA)	Costello	Guthrie
Bass (NH)	Courtney	Gutierrez
Benishek	Crawford	Hanabusa
Berg	Crenshaw	Hanna
Berkley	Critz	Harper
Berman	Cuellar	Hastings (WA)
Biggart	Culberson	Hayworth
Bilbray	Davis (CA)	Heck
Billrakis	Davis (IL)	Heinrich
Bishop (GA)	Denham	Hensarling
Bishop (NY)	Dent	Herger
Black	Deutch	Herrera Beutler
Blackburn	Diaz-Balart	Higgins
Boehner	Dicks	Himes
Bonner	Dingell	Hinojosa
Bono Mack	Doggett	Hirono
Boren	Dold	Hochul
Boustany	Donnelly (IN)	Holden
Brady (PA)	Dreier	Hoyer
Brady (TX)	Duffy	Huizenga (MI)
Buchanan	Duncan (TN)	Hurt
Bucshon	Ellmers	Inslee
Burgess	Emerson	Israel
Calvert	Eshoo	Issa
Camp	Farenthold	Jackson Lee
Campbell	Fattah	(TX)
Canseco	Fincher	Jenkins
Cantor	Fitzpatrick	Johnson (GA)
Capito	Flores	Johnson (OH)
Capps	Fortenberry	Johnson, E. B.
Carnahan	Fox	Johnson, Sam
Carney	Frelinghuysen	Keating
Carter	Gallegly	Kelly
Cassidy	Garamendi	Kildee
Castor (FL)	Gardner	Kind
Chabot	Gerlach	King (NY)

Kinzing (IL) Nunnelee
 Kline Olson
 Lance Owens
 Langevin Palazzo
 Lankford Pascarell
 Larsen (WA) Paulsen
 LaTourette Pelosi
 Latta Pence
 Levin Perlmutter
 Lewis (CA) Peterson
 Lipinski Petri
 LoBiondo Pitts
 Long Platts
 Lowey Pollis
 Lucas Pompeo
 Luetkemeyer Price (GA)
 Lummis Quigley
 Lungren, Daniel E. Rahall
 Lynch Reed
 Manzullo Reichert
 Marchant Renacci
 Marino Ribble
 Matheson Richmond
 McCarthy (CA) Rigell
 McCarthy (NY) Rivera
 McCaul Roe (TN)
 McCotter Rogers (AL)
 McHenry Rogers (KY)
 McKeon Rogers (MI)
 McKinley Rohrabacher
 McMorris Rooney
 Rodgers Ros-Lehtinen
 Meehan Roskam
 Meeks Ross (AR)
 Mica Rothman (NJ)
 Michaud Royce
 Miller (FL) Runyan
 Miller (MI) Ruppersberger
 Miller, Gary Rush
 Murphy (PA) Ryan (WI)
 Myrick Sanchez, Loretta
 Noem Schiff
 Nugent Schilling
 Schmidt

NOES—161

Ackerman Gingrey (GA)
 Akin Gohmert
 Amash Gonzalez
 Bachmann Gowdy
 Baldwin Graves (GA)
 Becerra Green, Al
 Bishop (UT) Griffith (VA)
 Blumenauer Grijalva
 Boswell Hahn
 Braley (IA) Hall
 Brooks Harris
 Broun (GA) Hartzler
 Brown (FL) Hastings (FL)
 Buerkle Holt
 Burton (IN) Honda
 Butterfield Huelskamp
 Capuano Hultgren
 Cardoza Hunter
 Carson (IN) Jackson (IL)
 Chaffetz Johnson (IL)
 Chu Jones
 Clarke (MI) Jordan
 Clarke (NY) Kaptur
 Cleaver King (IA)
 Cohen Kingston
 Conyers Kissell
 Cravaack Kucinich
 Crowley Labrador
 Cummings Lamborn
 Davis (KY) Landry
 DeFazio Larson (CT)
 DeGette Latham
 DeLauro Lee (CA)
 DesJarlais Lewis (GA)
 Doyle Loebsock
 Duncan (SC) Lofgren, Zoe
 Edwards Lujan
 Ellison Mack
 Engel Maloney
 Farr Markey
 Filner Matsui
 Flake McClintock
 Fleischmann McCollum
 Fleming McDermott
 Forbes McGovern
 Frank (MA) McIntyre
 Franks (AZ) McNerney
 Fudge Miller (NC)
 Garrett Miller, George

Schock
 Schrader
 Schwartz
 Scott, David
 Sensenbrenner
 Sessions
 Sewell
 Sherman
 Shimkus
 Shuler
 Shuster
 Simpson
 Sires
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX)
 Speier
 Stivers
 Sullivan
 Terry
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry
 Tiberi
 Tsongas
 Upton
 Van Hollen
 Walberg
 Walden
 Walz (MN)
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Webster
 West
 Whitfield
 Wilson (FL)
 Wittman
 Wolf
 Womack
 Woodall
 Wu
 Young (AK)
 Young (FL)
 Young (IN)

Tonko
 Towns
 Turner
 Velázquez
 Visclosky
 Walsh (IL)
 Waters
 Watt
 Waxman
 Welch
 Westmoreland
 Wilson (SC)
 Woolsey
 Yarmuth
 Yoder

NOT VOTING—3

Baca Hinchey Moore

□ 1909

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 690, had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall 690 due to the fact that I had reconstructive ankle surgery this morning. I needed to be put under general anesthesia for the procedure. Had I been able to attend today's floor proceedings, I would have voted “yes” on S. 365, the Budget Control Act of 2011.

FAREWELL TO PAGES

(Mr. BISHOP of Utah asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, we don't very often get these opportunities. The kids who are at the back that you can't see because you're standing in front of them, this is the first time that we have ever had pages here not in two small groups but one summer group. These pages are going home this week, and they have had a chance to be here to see history in the making on several different fronts.

The Page Board consists of Representative FOXX of North Carolina, Representative DEGETTE, and Representative KILDEE, and me.

I yield to the gentlelady from Colorado.

Ms. DEGETTE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I want to thank all of the wonderful pages who are in the back of the room. You have really seen history the last 6 weeks in this Congress, and we are so honored and proud to have all of you here with us.

And this may not be my place, but we all want to welcome back our wonderful colleague Congresswoman GIFFORDS here.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal gratitude to all the pages for what they have done here in the 112th Congress.

To become a page, Mr. Speaker, these young people have proven themselves to be academically qualified.

As we all know, the job of a congressional page is not an easy one. Along with being away from home, the pages

must possess the maturity to balance competing demands for their time and their energy.

You pages have witnessed the House debate issues of war and peace, hunger and poverty, justice and civil rights. You have lived through history.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the members of the House Page Board who provided such fantastic service to this institution. The chairman, Congressman ROB BISHOP; the vice chairman, Congresswoman DIANA DEGETTE; Congresswoman VIRGINIA FOXX; Clerk of the House, Karen Haas; Sergeant at Arms; Bill Livingood; and Ms. Lynn Silversmith Klein.

I want to thank them for the service on the House Page Board, and I thank the departing pages. And you've seen a wonderful bit of history take place today.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert in the official RECORD the page summer class.

I ask this body to please recognize the pages for the services they have rendered.

2011 SUMMER PAGE CLASS

Alexa Abbott, MI, Garrett Adair, CA, Eric Applegate, IN, Sara Ballou, NY, Caitlin Belcher, WV, Eyvana Bengochea, FL, Michael Berkowitz, FL, Cameron Bias, VA, Elizabeth Birkman, TX, Grant Bradley, MI, Sophia Bucci, MA, Jasmine Sky Burnett, GA, Clark Cali, CA, Thomas Cirone, NJ, Briyana Coleman, VA, David Crane, NJ, Christina Cuellar, TX, Collin Czilli, IN, Leesa Danzek, CA, Mary DeStefano, OH, Hannah Eaton, KY, Sydney Everett, MO, Zachariah Frederic Ewen, VA, Christina Fischer, VA, Jordan Fox, IL, BreAnna Fraser, NV, Joseph Geiger III, PA, Taylor Gillespie, NY, Meredith Godfrey, VA, Jessica Going, CA, Kevin Goshorn, NY, Austin Heckemeyer, MO, Peyton Hilford, FL, Savana Hodge, TN, Elijah Jatovsky, CA, Reid Jeffries, OH, Heber “Nathan” Johnson, UT, Mary Gray Johnson, VA, Charlotte Kanyuh, WI, Caleb Markward, OH, Erik Martin, MD, Jake Mattox, OK, Claiborne McCrery, LA, Brian McKeon, OR, Grant McKown, GA, Grace Mehta, CA, Adam Mittman, NY, Thomas Moakley, MA, James Park, FL, Elisabeth Parker, SC, Jenna Pickering, AL, Caroline Schube, OH, Arthur Sellers, AL, Paarth Shah, NY, Abigail Shriver, MD, Nicholas Pritzker, CA, Michael-Joseph Richardson, OH, Amelia Santiago, TX, Michelle Sauer, TX, Samantha Smith, MI, Stetson Spencer, AR, Michael Stocker, PA, Benjamin Strawbridge, MA, Samantha Swartz, IL, Genevieve Gray Taylor, NV, Ashley Tomasello, MI, Matthew Ullman, NY, Andrea Walton, IN, Grayson Westmoreland, TN, Sarai Whittington, NC, and Victoria Wilbur, IL.

WELCOMING BACK REPRESENTATIVE GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. I too want to join our colleagues in recognizing the contribution of the pages to the conduct of the House of Representatives. I thank

them, and they have, as Mr. KILDEE said and others have mentioned, borne witness to many important historical occasions here.

But I can't think of any that is more special and means so much to our country than to witness the return of our colleague who is the personification of courage, of sincerity, of admiration throughout the country. Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS brings us here.

Her presence today will make sure that we honor the obligations of our great country; it is important and symbolic. Her presence here in the Chamber as well as her service throughout her entire service in Congress brings honor to this Chamber.

We are all privileged to call her "colleague"; some of us are very privileged to call her "friend." Throughout America, there isn't a name that stirs more love, more admiration, more respect, more wishing for our daughters to be like her than the name of Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS.

Thank you, GABBY.

CORRECTING THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 365

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a concurrent resolution and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 70

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That in the enrollment of S. 365, the Secretary of the Senate shall amend the title so as to read: "An Act to provide for budget control."

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES REAUTHOR- IZATION ACT OF 2011

The SPEAKER. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2480) to amend title 5, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Administrative Conference of the United States for fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2014, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 382, nays 23, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 691]

YEAS—382

Ackerman	DesJarlais	Kind
Adams	Deutch	King (IA)
Aderholt	Dicks	King (NY)
Akin	Dingell	Kinzinger (IL)
Alexander	Doggett	Kissell
Altmire	Dold	Kline
Andrews	Donnelly (IN)	Kucinich
Austria	Doyle	Labrador
Bachmann	Dreier	Lamborn
Bachus	Duffy	Lance
Baldwin	Duncan (SC)	Landry
Barletta	Duncan (TN)	Langevin
Barrow	Edwards	Lankford
Bartlett	Ellison	Larsen (WA)
Barton (TX)	Ellmers	Larson (CT)
Bass (CA)	Emerson	LaTourette
Bass (NH)	Engel	Latta
Becerra	Eshoo	Lee (CA)
Benishek	Farenthold	Levin
Berg	Farr	Lewis (CA)
Berkley	Fattah	Lewis (GA)
Berman	Filner	Lipinski
Biggart	Fincher	LoBiondo
Bilbray	Fitzpatrick	Loeback
Bilirakis	Fleischmann	Lofgren, Zoe
Bishop (GA)	Fleming	Lowe
Bishop (NY)	Flores	Lucas
Bishop (UT)	Forbes	Luetkemeyer
Black	Fortenberry	Lujan
Blackburn	Fox	Lungren, Daniel
Blumenauer	Frank (MA)	E.
Bonner	Franks (AZ)	Lynch
Bono Mack	Frelinghuysen	Mack
Boren	Fudge	Maloney
Boswell	Garamendi	Manzullo
Brady (PA)	Gardner	Marino
Brady (TX)	Gerlach	Markey
Braley (IA)	Gibbs	Matheson
Brooks	Gibson	Matsui
Brown (FL)	Gingrey (GA)	McCarthy (CA)
Buchanan	Gonzalez	McCarthy (NY)
Buchson	Goodlatte	McCauley
Buerkle	Gosar	McClintock
Burgess	Gowdy	McCollum
Burton (IN)	Granger	McDermott
Butterfield	Green, Gene	McGovern
Camp	Griffin (AR)	McHenry
Campbell	Grijalva	McIntyre
Canseco	Grimm	McKeon
Cantor	Guinta	McKinley
Capito	Guthrie	McMorris
Capps	Gutierrez	Rodgers
Capuano	Hahn	McNerney
Cardoza	Hall	Meehan
Carnahan	Hanabusa	Mica
Carney	Hanna	Michaud
Carson (IN)	Harper	Miller (FL)
Cassidy	Hastings (FL)	Miller (MI)
Castor (FL)	Hastings (WA)	Miller (NC)
Chabot	Heck	Miller, Gary
Chandler	Heinrich	Miller, George
Chu	Hensarling	Moore
Cicilline	Herger	Mulvaney
Clarke (MI)	Herrera Beutler	Murphy (CT)
Clarke (NY)	Higgins	Murphy (PA)
Clay	Himes	Myrick
Cleaver	Hinojosa	Nadler
Clyburn	Hirono	Napolitano
Coble	Hochul	Neal
Coffman (CO)	Holden	Neugebauer
Cole	Holt	Noem
Conaway	Honda	Nugent
Connolly (VA)	Hoyer	Nunes
Conyers	Huizenga (MI)	Nunnelee
Cooper	Hultgren	Olson
Costa	Hunter	Olver
Costello	Inslee	Owens
Courtney	Israel	Palazzo
Cravaack	Issa	Pallone
Crawford	Jackson (IL)	Pascarella
Crenshaw	Jackson Lee	Pastor (AZ)
Critz	(TX)	Paulsen
Crowley	Jenkins	Payne
Cuellar	Johnson (GA)	Pelosi
Culberson	Johnson (IL)	Pence
Cummings	Johnson (OH)	Perlmutter
Davis (IL)	Johnson, E. B.	Peters
Davis (KY)	Johnson, Sam	Peterson
DeFazio	Jones	Petri
DeGette	Jordan	Pitts
DeLauro	Kaptur	Platts
Denham	Kelly	Poe (TX)
Dent	Kildee	Polis

Pompeo	Sanchez, Loretta	Thornberry
Posey	Sarbanes	Tiberi
Price (GA)	Scalise	Tierney
Price (NC)	Schakowsky	Tonko
Quayle	Schiff	Towns
Quigley	Schmidt	Tsongas
Rahall	Schock	Turner
Rangel	Schrader	Upton
Reed	Schwartz	Van Hollen
Rehberg	Scott (SC)	Velázquez
Reichert	Scott (VA)	Visclosky
Renacci	Scott, Austin	Walden
Reyes	Scott, David	Walz (MN)
Ribble	Sensenbrenner	Wasserman
Richardson	Serrano	Schultz
Richmond	Sessions	Watt
Rigell	Sewell	Waxman
Rivera	Sherman	Webster
Roby	Shinkus	Welch
Roe (TN)	Shuler	West
Rogers (AL)	Shuster	Westmoreland
Rogers (KY)	Simpson	Whitfield
Rogers (MI)	Sires	Wilson (FL)
Rohrabacher	Slaughter	Wilson (SC)
Rokita	Smith (NE)	Wittman
Rooney	Smith (NJ)	Wolf
Ross (AR)	Smith (TX)	Womack
Ross (FL)	Smith (WA)	Woodall
Rothman (NJ)	Southerland	Woolsey
Roybal-Allard	Speier	Wu
Royce	Stark	Yarmuth
Runyan	Stearns	Yoder
Ruppersberger	Stivers	Young (FL)
Ryan (OH)	Sutton	Young (IN)
Ryan (WI)	Thompson (CA)	
Sánchez, Linda	Thompson (MS)	
T.	Thompson (PA)	

NAYS—23

Amash	Harris	Pearce
Boustany	Hartzler	Schilling
Brown (GA)	Huelskamp	Stutzman
Chaffetz	Hurt	Tipton
Flake	Kingston	Walberg
Garrett	Lummis	Walsh (IL)
Graves (GA)	McCotter	Young (AK)
Griffith (VA)	Paul	

NOT VOTING—27

Baca	Graves (MO)	Moran
Calvert	Green, Al	Pingree (ME)
Carter	Hayworth	Ros-Lehtinen
Cohen	Hinchey	Roskam
Davis (CA)	Keating	Rush
Diaz-Balart	Latham	Schweikert
Gallegly	Long	Sullivan
Giffords	Marchant	Terry
Gohmert	Meeks	Waters

□ 1933

Mr. POE of Texas changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was absent earlier today due to a prior commitment scheduled before we knew the House would be in session. On the votes I missed, on H.R. 2715, to provide greater authority and discretion to the CPSC in enforcement of product safety laws, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

On H.R. 398, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to toll during national and active duty service abroad in the Armed Forces, I would have voted "yes."

On H.R. 1933, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify requirements, I would have voted "yes."

While I do recognize the shortage of nurses in our country, I would hope that we should focus on providing more incentives to students here to become nurses.

On the motion on ordering the previous question on the rule for S. 365, I would have voted "no."

On H. Res. 384, the rule providing for consideration of S. 365, I would have voted "no."

On the Journal vote, I would have voted "yes."

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BROOKS). Pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6913, and the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China:

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Chairman.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

GABBY'S BACK

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this was a good day. And one of the reasons it's a good day is because GABBY GIFFORDS is back.

Mr. Speaker, she is one of the best things in this Congress. To me, she came back tonight, cast her vote, the first vote since she was attacked. And she is a perfect example of bipartisanship. I have had the privilege to work with her on the issue of border security. And while she was in the hospital recovering in my hometown of Houston, Texas, her staff in Arizona hosted me so I could go down to the border and see firsthand the problems of border security in Arizona.

I think she is a model for the attitude that we should all have. She is tenacious and she is relentless in her love for America and her desire to do what's right and represent the people in Arizona that elected her here.

So welcome back, GABBY GIFFORDS. You were missed, and we're glad you're back.

And that's just the way it is.

URGING CLEMENCY FOR JONATHAN POLLARD

(Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year a group of Members sent a letter to President Obama urging him to grant clemency at this point and commute the sentence for Jonathan Pollard.

Jonathan Pollard spied on the United States on behalf of Israel. He should not have done that, and he was punished. But the punishment for that espionage has gone on longer than anything comparable.

I believe that there is a personal argument for the clemency, and there is also the fact that American-Israeli relations are always important, and are particularly important now. We are asking the Israelis to take some steps towards a negotiated peace that may or may not be possible for them to take. Knowing that America recognizes the strength of that friendship is a very important factor in our persuading them of that.

And I believe that in addition to the arguments based on the excessive length of the sentence, I think, the fact that Mr. Pollard has served for so long, clearly the deterrent effect is there, we are not asking that he be pardoned, we are not condoning his crime, we are saying that in addition to the personal argument, it would be a sign of U.S.-Israeli relations that I think would help strengthen the climate for peace. I will be submitting a copy of the letter at a later time that we sent to the President for inclusion.

RECOGNIZING PAST AND PRESENT JUDICIARY OF COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

(Mr. SABLAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the many individuals who founded, developed and stewarded the judicial system in the Northern Mariana Islands, where American jurisprudence was rooted in the liberation of our islands in 1944.

The World War II-era naval military government established a three-tiered organization of Exceptional Military Courts. The later-established Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands judiciary was also a three-tiered court system.

When the Commonwealth was formed in 1978, a Commonwealth Trial Court, later renamed the Commonwealth Superior Court, was established. During the trial court's infancy, the Federal district court for the Northern Mariana Islands retained limited original and

appellate jurisdiction over local matters.

In 1989, a Commonwealth Supreme Court with local appellate jurisdiction was created. Finally, in 2004, Ninth Circuit appellate jurisdiction over Commonwealth Supreme Court decisions ended, and those decisions are now appealable only to the United States Supreme Court.

The history of our court system is colorful and is as unique as our islands and our people. Please join me in paying tribute to the many judges and justices who have served our islands with distinction.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the many individuals who founded, developed, and stewarded the judicial system in the Northern Mariana Islands. American jurisprudence in the Northern Marianas is rooted in the American invasion and liberation of the islands in 1944.

The earliest American laws in this World War II period were proclamations from the Naval Military Government, which exercised control over the islands for three years following the initial invasion. A three-tiered organization of Exceptional Military Courts was established by Admiral Chester Nimitz. Under this system, Summary Provost Courts, with one military officer sitting as judge, were established as courts of limited jurisdiction to hear cases for which the punishment was less than one year in prison or a fine of less than two thousand dollars. Superior Provost Courts—comprised of one or more military officers—were convened on an ad hoc basis to consider cases in which the potential punishment ranged to ten years in prison. The Military Commission was the highest court of the land, and could hear cases of any nature. This tribunal was convened by the Military Governor and the three military officers who comprised the Commission could mete out any punishment up to, and including, a death sentence—although any execution could not be carried out without the confirmation of the Secretary of the Navy. The Naval Military Government did not establish any military courts with jurisdiction over civil matters—during this period, local disputes that were not informally resolved among the native islanders were resolved with the assistance of a military officer acting as a "higher authority," but not sitting as a court. Records indicate that a Village Magistrate Court may have been established in 1947, shortly before the advent of the United Nations' Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in July of that year.

The judiciary established in the Trust Territory, as in Naval Military Government days, was a three-tiered system of community courts, district courts, and a High Court. Community court judges, appointed by the district administrator, could hear civil matters in which the amount in dispute did not exceed one hundred dollars and criminal matters in which the punishment did not exceed six months in jail, a one hundred dollar fine, or both. District courts had jurisdiction over civil matters in which the amount in dispute did not exceed one thousand dollars and criminal matters in which the punishment did not exceed two years in jail, a two thousand dollar fine, or

both. District courts were staffed by a presiding judge and one or more associate judges, appointed by the High Commissioner, and also had appellate jurisdiction over community court actions. The High Court, which consisted of a chief justice and a number of associate justices and temporary judges, had appellate review over district court decisions and also had general jurisdiction over all civil and criminal cases in the Trust Territory.

Upon the formation of the Commonwealth in 1978, a Commonwealth Trial Court was established by our local legislature pursuant to the Commonwealth Constitution. The first judge of the court was confirmed in February 1979, and was joined by additional judges over the following few years. During the trial court's infancy, the federal district court for the Northern Marianas retained jurisdiction over civil cases involving amounts in controversy over five thousand dollars, criminal cases in which the potential penalty exceeded five years' imprisonment, and all jury trials. The district court also maintained appellate jurisdiction over Commonwealth Trial Court decisions.

In 1989, a public law renamed the Commonwealth Trial Court as the Commonwealth Superior Court, and established a Commonwealth Supreme Court with local appellate jurisdiction.

Perhaps the most significant event in the history of the Commonwealth judiciary occurred in 1997, when voters in the Commonwealth approved a House Legislative Initiative which established the Commonwealth Supreme and Superior Courts as constitutional entities under a unified judiciary system.

In May 2004, the Commonwealth court system achieved status akin to that of all other state judiciaries, when Ninth Circuit appellate jurisdiction over Commonwealth Supreme Court decisions ended. Now, Commonwealth Supreme Court decisions are final unless the United States Supreme Court grants certiorari review.

Recently, our community celebrated the culmination of a multiyear project with the publication of *The Northern Mariana Islands Judiciary: A Historical Overview*, authored by past and present members of our judiciary, law clerks, and others, and which provides a comprehensive view of the evolution of law and legal systems in the Commonwealth from 1521 to the present. The book was published by the Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society, and was funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities grant administered by the NMI Council for the Humanities.

The Commonwealth judiciary has evolved from its original roots in military necessity to a full-fledged branch of government, coequal with the local executive and legislative branches. Today, there are three Supreme Court justices and five Superior Court judges, the majority of whom were born and raised in our community. And, in addition, there is a United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands to which the President has nominated and the U.S. Senate has confirmed a native of the Northern Mariana Islands. The history of our court system is colorful and as unique as our islands and our people.

I ask you to join me in paying tribute to the many judges and justices who have served our islands with distinction over the course of nearly 70 years since the Battle of Saipan.

Current Commonwealth Supreme Court justices: Miguel S. Demapan, Chief Justice; Alexandro C. Castro, Associate Justice; and John A. Manglona, Associate Justice.

Current Commonwealth Superior Court judges: Robert C. Naraja, Presiding Judge; David A. Wiseman, Associate Judge; Ramona V. Manglona, Associate Judge; Kenneth L. Govendo, Associate Judge; and Perry B. Inos, Associate Judge.

Former Commonwealth Supreme Court justices: Jose S. Dela Cruz, Chief Justice; Marty W.K. Taylor, Chief Justice; Pedro M. Atalig, Associate Justice; Jesus C. Borja, Associate Justice; and Ramon G. Villagomez, Associate Justice.

Former Commonwealth Superior Court judges: Edward Manibusan, Presiding Judge; Timothy H. Bellas, Associate Judge; Virginia S. Sablan-Onerheim, Associate Judge; and Juan T. Lizama, Associate Judge.

Former Commonwealth Trial Court judges: Robert E. Moore, Associate Judge; Robert A. Hefner, Presiding Judge; and Herbert D. Soll, Associate Judge.

Current and former pro tem justices: Arthur R. Barcinas, Associate Judge, Guam Superior Court; Timothy H. Bellas, former Associate Judge, CNMI Superior Court; Richard H. Benson, former Associate Justice, Federated States of Micronesia Supreme Court; Michael J. Bordallo, Associate Judge, Guam Superior Court; Jesus C. Borja, former Associate Justice, CNMI Supreme Court; F. Philip Carbullido, Chief Justice, Guam Supreme Court; Benjamin J.F. Cruz, former Chief Justice, Guam Supreme Court; Alberto C. Lamorena III, Presiding Judge, Guam Superior Court; Edward Manibusan, former Presiding Judge, CNMI Superior Court; Joaquin V.E. Manibusan, Jr., former Associate Judge, Guam Superior Court; Katherine A. Maraman, Associate Justice, Guam Supreme Court; Virginia S. Sablan-Onerheim, former Associate Judge, CNMI Superior Court; Vernon P. Perez, Associate Judge, Guam Superior Court; Kathleen M. Salii, Associate Justice, Republic of Palau Supreme Court; Peter C. Siguenza, Jr., former Chief Justice, Guam Supreme Court; Herbert D. Soil, former Associate Judge, CNMI Trial Court; Anita A. Sukola, Associate Judge, Guam Superior Court; Robert J. Torres, Jr., Associate Justice, Guam Supreme Court; Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood, former Associate Justice, Guam Supreme Court; and Steven S. Unpingco, Associate Judge, Guam Superior Court.

Former special judges: Pedro M. Atalig, Timothy H. Bellas, Benjamin J.F. Cruz, Larry L. Hillblom, Edward C. King, Rexford C. Kosack, Alberto C. Lamorena III, Juan T. Lizama, Jane E. Mack, Vicente T. Salas, Michael A. White, and David A. Wiseman.

Former Mariana Islands District Court and Community Courts justices and judges: in Saipan, Juan M. Ada, Ignacio V. Benavente, Olympio T. Borja, Francisco R. Cruz, Vicente E.D. Deleon Guerrero, Elias P. Sablan, Felipe A. Salas, and Jose A. Sonoda; in Rota, Andres C. Atalig, Jose A. Calvo, Fortunato T. Manglona, Santiago M. Manglona, Thomas C. Mendiola, and Melchor S. Mendiola; and in Tinian, Joaquin C. Aldan, Freddy V. Hofschneider, Sr., and Henry V. Hofschneider.

Former Trust Territory High Court judges and justices: Edward P. Furber, Chief Justice

and Temporary Judge; Robert K. Shoecraft, Chief Justice; Harold W. Burnett, Chief Justice and Associate Judge; Alex R. Munson, Chief Justice; James R. Nichols, Associate Judge; Pleaz William Mobley, Associate Judge; Philip R. Toomin, Associate Judge; Arthur J. McCormick, Associate Judge; Paul F. Kinnare, Associate Judge; Joseph W. Goss, Associate Judge and Temporary Judge; D. Kelley Turner, Associate Judge; Arvin H. Brown, Jr., Associate Judge; Robert A. Hefner, Associate Judge; Donald C. Williams, Associate Judge; Mamoru Nakamura, Associate Judge; Ernest F. Gianotti, Associate Judge; and Richard I. Miyamoto, Associate Judge.

Former Trust Territory High Court temporary judges: Richard H. Benson, Robert Clifton, E. Avery Crary, P. Drucker, Christobal C. Duenas, Eugene R. Gilmartin, Anthony M. Kennedy, Alex Kozinski, Alfred Laureta, Jose C. Manibusan, Carl A. Muecke, Joaquin C. Perez, Paul D. Shriver, J.M. Spivey, and Dickran M. Tevzian.

Current and former U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands judges: Ramona Villagomez Manglona, Chief Judge; Alex R. Munson, former Chief Judge; Alfred Laureta, former Chief Judge.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize for special-order speeches without prejudice to the possibility of further legislative business.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this moment to just thank God that GABBY GIFFORDS has returned to this floor. You know, it so happens that just a few feet from here was the last time I had seen GABBY, when she left the floor prior to this tragic attack on her.

It just occurs to me that once in a while in this life we find an example where tragedy is transcended by the human spirit and triumph and the grace of God, and this is one of those days. I just congratulate her with everything in me that she has come back. She has the prayers of the entire delegation, and I know the entire Congress, as she goes forward to complete recovery.

We are all very, very grateful today. This is a wonderful celebration for every Member of this Congress. It is a celebration for just the cause of this Republic, because we believe that everyone has the right to have the freedom of speech and to peaceably assemble, and this is what she was doing when she was attacked. For her to come back this way as she has is a triumph of the first magnitude, and we

are all so very, very proud of her, and welcome her back with all of our hearts.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have another subject tonight that I want to talk about, and that is the recent challenges that we have faced over the debt limit raising and the effort on the part of many of us to place a balanced budget into the bill that went across to the Senate that would have required a balanced budget to be in our Constitution, because, Mr. Speaker, some of us believe that it is the only way that we are going to finally, in this country, deal with the challenges of deficit spending and with the burgeoning debt that threatens to crush this country in a way that no military power has ever been able to do.

□ 1940

Mr. Speaker, some of us have talked about this difficult problem for a very long time, and it seems that over and over again history repeats itself, and we never really deal with it like we should.

But this time, Mr. Speaker, we have placed something before the American people that I think they are going to hang on to, and I believe that there is great hope in the coming months that we will continue to strive for this balanced budget amendment, and I hope that the people of America are paying attention because we cannot repeal the laws of mathematics. This challenge will damage this country in the most profound way if we don't deal with it while we can.

Mr. Speaker, let me just say this: That all financial budgets will eventually balance, that's a fact. No individual, no family, no business, and no government can indefinitely continue to spend more money than they take in without someone having to make up the difference, Mr. Speaker, and that includes the budget of the United States Government.

Neither Mr. Obama nor congressional Democrats can repeal this law of mathematics. The Federal budget of the United States Government will eventually balance, as all of them do, whether it's a person or a government or a business, when they continue to spend money that they don't have, someone, sooner or later, has to make up the difference. The question with our Federal budget is whether the White House and those of us in this body will balance this budget ourselves by wise policy or national bankruptcy and financial ruin will do it for us.

From the day Barack Obama has walked into the White House he has, with breathtaking arrogance, Mr. Speaker, absolutely ignored economic and financial reality. It took America the first 216 years of its existence to accumulate the debt that Barack Obama has accumulated in the short 2½-year span of his presidency.

During this short time in office he has increased our Federal debt by nearly \$4 trillion, Mr. Speaker. And just to put that nearly \$4 trillion in new debt in perspective, let me just put it this way. If all of a sudden a wave of responsibility swept through this Chamber and we stopped all deficit spending and began to pay installments of \$1 million per day to pay down the nearly \$4 trillion debt that Barack Obama has created in just 2½ years, it would take us more than 10,000 years to pay off just Mr. Obama's accumulated debt in 2½ years. It would take us more than 10,000 years, Mr. Speaker, to do that if we paid it off in a million dollars a day, and that's if we don't have to pay one dime in interest in the process.

But you see, Mr. Speaker, we are not paying Mr. Obama's debt down at \$1 million per day; we are going deeper into debt, more than 4,000 times that much every day, and that's under Mr. Obama's own projected deficit and deficit projections. And then when speaking of the effort to reduce the deficit, the President has the hubris to tell conservative Republicans to take a balanced approach and to eat our peas.

Well, Mr. Speaker, if there's anything more catastrophically out of balance in our Federal budget it is the arrogance to competency ratio of this White House. We have watched as President Obama ran up a trillion-dollar deficit for the first time in history and then broke that record the very next year, and then say that we would have, according to his own projections, a trillion dollar-plus deficit for "years to come."

We have watched as the Obama administration promised that if we would just allow them to spend \$800 million on their stimulus package, the economy would rebound and unemployment would never reach 8 percent. Well, of course, that didn't happen, and then we watched this administration bring us ObamaCare, or the health care takeover by government.

And, Mr. Speaker, let me just suggest to you that at the time of that debate there was a lot of discussion over what private employers would do to their own insurance plans in the face of this government takeover of health care. Some people thought well, 5 percent, maybe 10 percent of the health care plans in the private sector would be dropped by corporations, would be dropped by employers.

But, Mr. Speaker, that projection is a little bit further off than we thought. The polled people that have answered the question of whether or not they would drop their health care plans, being employers, they have said that as many as half of them would do that now. Mr. Speaker, the reason I mention that is because if that's true, the cost of doing that, the cost of absorbing that to the Federal Government will be another \$2 trillion on top of the trillion

dollars that was already in the bill. So ObamaCare itself could cost us \$3 trillion and, Mr. Speaker, that's just in the next 10 years.

So I would just say to you, Mr. Speaker, this administration has really done for deficits and debt what Stonehenge did for rocks. There is no one that has pressed this deficit spending more than the Obama administration. Mr. Speaker, the people have awakened, and they are tired of Mr. Obama telling them that 2 plus 2 equals 13.

So as we now find ourselves raising this debt ceiling yet again, in the process, some of us as conservative Republicans wanted so badly to give the American people and the States of this Nation the historic opportunity to adopt a balanced budget amendment to our Constitution to put this country back on the track of fiscal sanity once again.

So we placed a balanced budget amendment requirement in two separate pieces of legislation and passed them through this body and sent them over to the Senate only to have Mr. Obama and Senate Democrats refuse to even allow them to come up for a vote, either one of them. They simply refused to vote on it.

In both instances, Mr. Speaker, President Obama's contributions to the process were threats to veto both plans sight unseen.

Mr. Speaker, I wish I could just get this one question answered, if nothing else that they would answer, I just wish the administration would answer this one question: What is it, what is it that the President and Democrats find so radical about a balanced budget amendment?

This is something that 49 States have and every family in America has to have sooner or later, a simple balanced budget amendment that says we cannot go into debt in an infinite way that threatens not only our children's future—you know, we used to talk about how this threatened our children's future, Mr. Speaker, and I will tell you, being the father of two little twins that are going to have their third birthday before long, that has great pull in my soul, that I don't want to see this crushing debt placed on their shoulders.

But I would say to you, Mr. Speaker, that now we are starting to face a challenge that is going to come in this generation and this time, and it may not be so far off. Greece has set an example for the world as to what can happen when people simply don't pay attention to their fiscal challenges.

But the failure of both, and the failure of cooperation and the failure of leadership from Democrats on this issue, has been baffling to me, Mr. Speaker. Unbelievably, it has been 822 days since Senate Democrats proposed, not passed, but merely even proposed a budget. An individual practicing such

irresponsibility, living without a budget while paying for everything with borrowed money, would meet certain financial ruin. Why do we believe our Nation will fare any better under the same preposterous policy?

Now Mr. Obama and the Democrats have falsely said that the balanced budget amendment is a Republican plan to destroy Social Security and Medicare. What a false, terrible, despicable thing to say. The truth is the balanced budget amendment is the only honest chance of reforming and saving those programs and our country from bankruptcy and economic failure in the future, Mr. Speaker.

And throughout this process, Mr. Obama and the liberal media have sought to force tax increases upon the people and the job creators of this Nation by suggesting that Republicans were not willing to address the revenue side of this equation. That isn't true either, Mr. Speaker.

□ 1950

Just because Republicans are not willing to increase job-killing tax rates in this country doesn't mean we don't understand the revenue side of this equation. We just know that increasing the rate of taxes will decrease the productivity of this Nation and we will ultimately decrease the revenue that comes into this government.

It is the economic equivalent of putting dirt in ice cream. It is a disastrous recipe to embrace in the name of balance. But I hear it over and over again—balance, balance. There is nothing more balanced, Mr. Speaker, than a balanced budget amendment to our Constitution.

History and experience has demonstrated time and again that the best way to increase the amount of revenue coming in to this government is to get out of the way and let the people and the private sector increase the number of quality jobs for the American people. This has always resulted in the increased productivity and the broadening of the tax base in this amazing Nation.

Mr. Speaker, we don't need higher taxes, we need more jobs and more taxpayers. Mr. Obama and the Democrats have constantly said that we need to take, again, this "balanced" approach, which is a code for increased taxes. But, Mr. Speaker, again, the truly balanced approach to this problem is a balanced budget to the Constitution, and by passing a balanced budget amendment we can restore hope and confidence in capital markets inside the United States and all over the world because they will see that in the long run America is going to make it.

It may take the States 6 or 7 years to fully ratify this Constitutional amendment to balance the budget. But we owe it to the States and to the people to give them this chance to save their

Nation. In the meantime, we can work here to expand the economy and balance this budget so when the amendment finally is ratified, we will all be ready to go forward as a nation to embrace greater days than we have ever seen. And we have a rare opportunity, Mr. Speaker, that may never come again of doing something truly historic that will save this Nation and its people from economic ruin.

This battle is not over. The American people are beginning to realize that they are already paying a very high price for electing Barack Obama to the presidency. If they make the profound error of reelecting him in the next election, our families and all Americans will face an economic, a constitutional and a national security crisis that will dwarf the challenges that we face in these moments. If Democrats and the President are not willing to give the people this chance by helping Republicans pass a balanced budget amendment in the Congress, the resulting consequences will be theirs alone, Mr. Speaker, and I believe the people will hold them accountable for whatever financial disaster may follow.

Now long ago, Mr. Speaker, Thomas Jefferson said, "I wish it were possible to obtain a single amendment to our Constitution. I would be willing to depend on that alone for the reduction of the administration of our government; I mean an additional article taking from the Federal Government the power of borrowing."

He said that right after the Constitution itself had been finished. He just wanted one more amendment. And, unfortunately, as you know, he turned out to be right. But his contemporaries failed to listen to him about the balanced budget amendment.

I will just say to you, Mr. Speaker, it is not too late for those of us in these moments to listen to his words. I believe the American people are listening today, and I believe that they call upon their leaders now to do something truly historic and pass a balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution in the days ahead. And God help us to do it, Mr. Speaker.

Let me just say, Mr. Speaker, that I know that this has been a challenging week, and I believe our leadership on the Republican side of this House has done everything possible to try to work with the President and to work with the majority leader of the U.S. Senate. And they have had an extremely significant challenge. We sent twice to the other body bills that would have raised the debt limit but in the process also have required a balanced budget amendment to be inserted into the Constitution, or at least sent to the people so that they could decide. But this is the one thing that they took from us in the process. And, Mr. Speaker, I truly believe that we had a golden opportunity to truly change the way

that America goes forward, and we failed that opportunity. But I would also say that I think there is still hope to do it in the next few months. Part of the equation that we have under this legislation is to require a balanced budget amendment vote in both this Chamber, in the House of Representatives, and in the U.S. Senate. And I hope so much that we do that while we can and that the people of this country will let their Representatives and Senators know that they are tired of this deficit spending and tired of this fiscal irresponsibility and saying, in our lifetime, we will have a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, and we will make sure that our children can walk in the light of freedom and economic hope as we have. I hope that happens, Mr. Speaker.

With that, I would yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I thank my good friend for yielding and for taking time on this truly historic day, an opportunity for this Nation to begin—just begin—to move things in the right direction from a fiscal standpoint here in our great country.

The debate over the last, oh, 3 to 4 months has been very loud, sometimes it has been acrimonious. There are many people across this great country who just are confounded by the laborious nature with which it takes to make any changes here in Washington at all, and I share that frustration and share that anger and share that concern because we've been moving in the wrong direction for a long, long time as it relates to spending at the Federal level.

And so, as the gentleman from Arizona so appropriately said, what we need to do is decrease spending in the short term, we need to put some controls on spending in the mid term, but in the long term, as we have discovered and as the American people know so well, it's going to take structural, fundamental change of the way that Washington does business in order to get our fiscal house in order and get us on that path to a balanced budget and pay off our debt.

And the best way that I believe that that can occur is through a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States. And I don't say that lightly, understanding that there have been really very few times in which the Constitution has been amended. But I believe now in my fourth term that having recognized early on in my Congressional career that all of the inertia here in Washington is to spend money, everything, it all points towards spending money. The budget process that we go through, the folks through the Congressional Budget Office that try their best to do the work but the rules under which they determine whether or not something costs the Federal Government

and this Nation something or whether it saves are so distorted that you can't get to the right answer. One cannot get to the right answer without structural change. And that's where the balanced budget amendment comes in.

Today, what we did in the Budget Control Act is not all that any of us would have liked. In fact, the numbers are relatively paltry when you look at them compared to how much money this government spends. But what is true about this act is that it will allow us in this House of Representatives and in the Senate right down the hallway to say to the American people, we hear you, we want this government to be held accountable, and the best way to do that is by passing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

And so my friend from Arizona comes down this evening to highlight that wonderful change that we have the prospect for making in this Congress. This isn't 4 years down the road, 5 years down the road, this is in this Congress right now. And I know that if he could, he would urge the folks listening to this and Members of Congress to encourage all of their constituents and all the people across this land who so firmly believe, as I do, and as I know Mr. FRANKS does, that we need to put some controls, significant controls on how Washington spends money and that the balanced budget amendment is the best way to do that.

I know that what you would do, what he would do, is to urge all Members to communicate to their constituents and to every single American to call their Representatives, to call their United States Senators and say, some time, because of the bill that we just passed, some time between October 1 of this year and December 31 of this year, every single American will have the opportunity to communicate to their Representative and their United States State Senator the urging that they would to encourage them to support a balanced budget amendment.

□ 2000

That's when this vote is going to occur. It's not going to occur tomorrow or in the month of August or September. But what the bill provides is for the wonderful enthusiasm and the heartfelt patriotism and concern that the American people feel about this great country.

Now is the time to communicate to their Representatives, to support a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States. If we are able to get this to happen, if we are able to make this become an amendment to the Constitution, frankly, the problem itself will begin to take care of itself because the rules will begin to say we cannot spend more than we take in. Just like every family in this country does and every business in this

country must do, and that is to say we cannot spend more than we take in.

I just had to come down and commend my good friend from Arizona, in a time when there is a lot of calamity around this town, to take the time to say this must be highlighted on this day because this is the beginning of the next 61 days that the American people must act to let their Representatives know, support a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I thank the gentleman so much. Mr. PRICE is the chairman of our Policy Committee, and no one has written more cogently and with more commitment on the balanced budget amendment than this man. I am so grateful that he is here and has been such a voice on this.

I ask the gentleman, do you think the American people know that we passed two pieces of legislation over to the Senate with requirements for a balanced budget amendment, and the first thing they did, the Democrat leader there, just took those out or simply refused to vote on them? Do you think they know that?

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I don't believe so, because I think if the American people knew that, they would be loudly protesting the lack of leadership and responsibility that the Senate has taken its job. That's the importance of this vote today, because the majority leader in the United States Senate cannot turn this vote away. This vote will happen. It will happen sometime between October 1 and December 31 of this year. Not next year or 2013 or 2014—this year.

We have the opportunity to be able to send to the States a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution in this calendar year, and I'm so proud of the work that the gentleman from Arizona has done, and our colleagues have done, to highlight this issue and ensure that it was included in this piece of legislation. And I look forward to a very positive vote come October, November, or December of this year. But it won't happen without the engagement of the American people.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I thank the gentleman so much.

Let me yield to the gentleman from South Carolina. I am glad that you came to the floor, sir.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I want to thank my colleague from Arizona for taking on this very important issue. What a great evening to talk about America living within its means. We are \$14.3 trillion in debt, and we're spending \$1.5 trillion more than we are bringing in as a Nation. The piece of legislation that we passed this evening and is now residing over in the Senate includes what I think is the most important language within that legislation, and that is a vote on a balanced budget amendment.

I was a small business owner for 16 years. When I did my budget every

year, I had to think about what my revenues were for the past year and what my revenues were going to be for the coming year, and I had to set a budget based on that. I couldn't just hope that there was a money tree out in the backyard and continue spending money that I didn't have.

Americans have been engaged in this process of the debt ceiling debate, and we are urging them to get involved in this process of a balanced budget amendment. Once that requirement and that amendment does pass both the House of Representatives and the United States Senate, it will be sent to the States to be ratified. At that point in time, Americans from all across the land will be able to rally their State legislatures, their general assemblies, to take up and ratify this important amendment to the United States Constitution.

Many of my constituents—the gentleman from Arizona doesn't know this. Many of my constituents know that I carry a United States Constitution with me in my pocket. In fact, I read from that very podium in the well. On the second day as a Member of this 112th Congress, I read from the United States Constitution, something I don't take lightly. But in order for this government to survive, and survive fiscally, is to get our fiscal house in order. And the secret to doing that is really to pass a balanced budget amendment, to require Washington to live within its means the way families and small businesses and large businesses have to do all across this great land.

You know, when I was a small business owner, occasionally I had to go borrow money. But I had to put a plan together for that banker on how I was going to pay that back. Hopefully, we have begun to do that through this week of debate. But a balanced budget amendment, a requirement for the United States Government to balance its checkbook. The most, I guess, simplest thing that American families and small businesses do is sit down with that checkbook register and make sure that they haven't spent too much money, to make sure that they live within their means.

So we have got that opportunity. I am proud that this was included. I am proud that I stand with 87 members of our freshman class that really helped, I think, leadership see that this was a vital component to this piece of legislation. I commend the House leadership for including it. I commend the House leadership for making sure that its inclusion in this bill that we sent over to the Senate this evening was there.

So I want to urge the American people to get behind this, to contact your Senators, contact your House Members. As we heard recently from the gentleman from the Atlanta area of Georgia say, this vote will take place

sometime between October and the end of the year. So during that process and leading up to that process, contact your Senators and contact your House Members and say: Government should have to live the way I operate my household, the way my wife and I have to sit down at our kitchen table and balance our budget. Balance Washington's budget. Let's get our spending under control. The time is now.

I brought my little boy, Parker Duncan, who is 10 years old. He is sitting on the House floor with me today because I teach them, my children, the value of not spending more than you bring in. And they say: Dad, can we have that baseball? Can we have that item? I say: Son, we don't have the money in our budget this week or this month to purchase that. But let me make plans so that we can purchase that in the future.

We live within our means. Am I perfect? No. I have debt, but we have a plan to pay back that debt.

The future of our children and our grandchildren is at stake. America knows. America got engaged in this, they got engaged in the last election cycle, and they know that Washington cannot keep spending more than it has.

So I commend my colleague from Arizona for taking on this very, very important issue to make Washington live within its means, to live within its means, not to spend money that it doesn't have. Let's rein in our fiscal house. Let's get our house in order, and let's create a way to start paying back that enormous debt. We can do that with a balanced budget amendment.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and to not refer to guests on the floor of the House.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I thank the Speaker, and I understand that the gentleman from Illinois would like me to yield to him for a question.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me for a question, but first, I just want to indicate to Mr. DUNCAN's son that we're going to do everything we can to get him a baseball even if his dad is a little slow this month.

My question is about the balanced budget amendment, if the gentleman from Arizona would share with us how that would work. I have heard a number of Members come down and talk about the idea that we are going to vote on it, that it needs to happen. But at least as I understand it, the interpreter of the Constitution, obviously, would be the Federal courts in that if Congress were unable to achieve a balanced budget in any fiscal year, a lawsuit could be brought under the balanced budget amendment that would throw the process into the Federal judiciary, allowing Federal judges then to determine what constitutes balance or imbalance.

If the gentleman would take some time to share with us how, from his perspective, that would work.

□ 2010

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I thank the gentleman, and I'll take a shot at that.

First of all, as the gentleman knows, there are many different kinds of balanced budget amendments that have been proposed. One of the commonalities of most of those is that they require that our projected spending meet our projected revenues, what we believe is going to be our receipts for the coming year. Now, it is true, as in all areas of the Constitution, that the Federal courts have exhibited great arrogance in coming into the area of legislation and trying to legislate from the bench by dealing with these issues under the pretense of considering the constitutionality of these issues. The good news with a balanced budget amendment is that there would be obvious language there that the courts would have before them that simply says that the Congress is required by the Constitution to balance our budget so that we don't deficit-spend.

It is true that we are required in this body to have equal protection, for instance. We can't say that this one group deserves one protection and that this one group doesn't. Every once in a while, the Supreme Court injects themselves into that debate like they did in *Roe vs. Wade*, let's say. They simply said, when it comes to protecting the unborn, that they weren't persons under the Constitution and that we not only didn't have to protect them but that we couldn't protect them. That was arrogance beyond words. This is every time across the history of humanity. When the German High Tribunal injected itself even into the tragedy of the German system, they said that the German was "untermenschen," subhuman, and they took away their personhood; and the tragedy that followed is still one of the darkest stains that I know of on the human soul.

So, yes, it is possible that the courts could try to intervene in this process and try to distort it, but ultimately, the "balanced budget amendment" concept is very simple. It would say, like Thomas Jefferson said, that the Federal Government simply would take from them the power of borrowing.

Now, there was a balanced budget amendment that came before this floor about 15 years ago, and it received over 300 votes on the floor, many of them Democrat votes. I don't know how the gentleman from Illinois voted on that. That's not a question. I don't know. Yet that particular balanced budget amendment simply said that you could not deficit-spend without a super majority of votes that declared that there was either an emergency in dealing with our national security or that

there was an act of war on the table to where we were having to do things to make sure that we protected the national security of this country, which is priority one.

I'll let the gentleman ask me one more question, and then I'm going to yield to these other folks. I would just say this: Oftentimes, my friends on the Democrat side of the aisle say that a balanced budget amendment will require us to cut Medicare and cut Social Security and all of these things, and that presupposes that a balanced budget amendment will bring in less revenue to this government because of its constraints. First of all, when we deficit-spend, we're really just throwing the log up the trail. We're really not doing anyone any good in the long run because these programs become unsustainable over time.

Here's the thing that I wish I could express and wish that my Democrat friends would do their own research on and ascertain whether they think it's true empirically in history, which is: When we have a balanced budget amendment, when people believe that they can project forward and know that this government is going to be secure, when they believe that we're not going to deficit-spend and take a lot of the capital out of the private markets and that we're not going to put burdens on the interest rates, one thing happens very clearly—it drags more people off the sidelines; it drags more entrepreneurs into the system; it causes more people to put their capital at risk; it causes more people to put their lives and endeavors into an enterprise that results in productivity.

The fundamentals of all economy is productivity, productivity, productivity, productivity. When we produce as a Nation, we raise the number of taxpayers, not the rate of taxes. We raise the number of taxpayers, and money from all corners comes into the coffers. That has happened many times. Even when we decrease taxes, that happens.

So I am convinced that a balanced budget amendment is the surest way, not only to have the additional moneys necessary to make sure that we have all of the constitutional mandated and allowed activities of this Federal Government to do, including that it gives us more money for things like Medicare and that it gives us more money for things like Social Security, but to also put us on a fiscal path to security so that those programs won't eventually come into question and even bankruptcy.

With that, I'd let the gentleman ask one more question.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for allowing me to ask him one final question.

Is there any concern that a balanced budget amendment would be legalizing the legislative process and politicizing the judiciary?

What I mean by that is all Federal judges are, obviously, appointed by the President of the United States, and they go through a process in the Senate. Is there any concern that those Federal judges could be queried over what programs they support and what programs they don't support, and therefore, it would stand as a basis for their own, if you will, politicizing of the judicial process, which presently is not involved in the political process? Then, if you don't mind sharing with us, what are the ramifications?

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I thank the gentleman.

There are always these times when Democrats and Republicans can find common ground, and I think this is one of those moments when I take the gentleman's point and believe that he has a very good point.

The truth is, as of late, in the last several decades, the courts have politicized, and they have brought into sort of the legalization process a lot of the activities that belong in this Chamber. I am convinced that, yes, there is every possibility that they may try to do that with a balanced budget amendment of the Constitution or with any other element of the Constitution because that's where things are headed.

The answer to that is not to say, well then, we're just going to give up the Constitution to the judges. The answer is for us to fight back and say that they are not going to politicize our Constitution, that they are there to apply the Constitution as written, not to have a Constitutional Convention every time they sit down to a case where they rewrite the Constitution like they did with *Roe vs. Wade*, like they did with the *Kelo* case. The judges simply should interpret the law as written and not try to do our job as legislators.

It is a serious problem, I would say to the gentleman, that concerns me greatly, but I will say this: We are seeing judges do these things anyway in States. Apart from a balanced budget amendment, they're saying, You're not equally applying your appropriations in a particular area, and we hereby order you to appropriate funds to this or that particular issue or cause or department. So I say to the gentleman that there is nothing that frightens me more than turning this entire Constitution, this entire Republic, over to an unelected judicial oligarchy. It's the most dangerous thing that we face because it abrogates the Constitution. I would say this President has put people in the courts who have no fealty or no respect for the Constitution whatsoever.

I just had a case that I've been fighting for 14 years, and it went before the courts. It should have been a 9-0 case, but it was 5-4 because these four justices were willing to say that every dollar in your pocket before you filled

out a tax return was public money. Now, there was nothing constitutionally accurate about that, but they were willing to do it.

So the gentleman is correct in being afraid of judicial activism and of the judiciary injecting itself into the Constitution, but they've done that with all amendments. At least with a constitutionally balanced budget amendment, we'll have the words clearly that we have at least the ability to fight back and to say to the judges that they have no right to abrogate these words.

I hope that that makes a difference.

With that, I thank the gentleman for his questions, and I would yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma such time as he may consume.

Mr. LANKFORD. Thank you. I'm honored to get a chance to join in this conversation, which is really a conversation about a topic that's a very big deal to a lot of people.

I was 18 years old, and I remember sitting down with my mom, working through how to be able to fill out the register on a checkbook and how to be able to balance it because I'm getting ready to leave for college, and it becomes an essential characteristic of people to be able to handle their finances when they walk away to school. I can remember well sitting there and walking through money in/money out, all of that process.

It's such a simple process for us, so simple that, when I talk to people back home in my district in Oklahoma—Republicans or Democrats—and I say, "What is your opinion on a balanced budget amendment?" it's that this is not at partisan issue. Just flat out, when we get away from programs, when we get away from all the ideas and say, "Should we balance our budget every year? Should we live in balance?" I run into people who say, "Yes, we need to balance our budget." When we get into conversations about the language, about exclusions, about all those things, those are legitimate conversations that I think we should have with the American people; but in reality, they come back to the same thing, that we should balance our budget.

Now, I've seen statistics. As high as 80 percent of the American people are interested in having a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, and I think there are multiple reasons for that. Some of them are fiscal. If I went to the American people and I said, "I could provide to the American people in our budget for social programs, for tasks, for agencies, for all of our entitlement programs \$220 billion more a year immediately into our Federal budget," everyone would say, "Great. How do we do that?"

□ 2020

I would say, we catch up on our budget and stop paying interest. Currently,

we're paying \$220 billion a year just in interest payments. Can you imagine what we could do with \$220 billion more in our budget if we didn't have such a large debt that we're having to maintain with so much interest?

The other side of that is, this debt is not forever. I interact with people all the time, and they will say words like sustainable, the debt is not sustainable, the debt is not sustainable. When I ask people, what does that mean to you to say the debt is not sustainable, very often they will just hesitate, and they will say, I think it just means we can't do this forever. And I would smile and say, I completely agree, we can't just keep borrowing this forever.

But let me tell you what it means to me in this. At any given time in the world, there is only so much money at that exact moment—now, we know that wealth shrinks and grows over time as investment happens, but at any one instant in the world there is only so much money. And of that money that's there, there is only so much that is actually invested, whether that be in business or in bonds or in whatever it may be. You take that investment pie worldwide, and you've got a portion of it that's going to growing businesses, starting new businesses, investing in markets, and then you've got another group of sovereign debt that is actually paying for countries and their debt. There is only so much money that can be invested in a moment. And at some point we start, as a country, taking on more and more money, which we're pulling out of the markets, and we're actually slowing down our economy by requiring more and more money to come to us to pay for our debt. So at some point we've got to stand up as a Nation and say, if we continue taking on this debt, we are purposefully killing the worldwide economy because we're taking money out of circulation, investment and pulling it into us. Forty-nine States have some sort of structure for a balanced budget. We should do that as a Federal Government. It is a commonsense thing.

Now, again, we can come back and talk about what the language is. I'm a firm believer that no party owns the United States Constitution; that is by the American people. So it should be Republicans and Democrats together, sitting down in a commonsense way, both the House and the Senate, and saying we agree, we need to get around this, this is out of hand. So let's start working on the language on it together.

So that becomes a key issue, but it sets up a couple of things that I think are really important. Number one is, it actually sets up deadlines. I have noticed as a freshman in this town that there are very few deadlines that ever occur here. Even when there is a budget requirement that the House and the Senate both have to do a budget each

year, we just reject that and don't do it, and we'll do continuing resolutions and things. We don't like doing deadlines because it requires difficult decisions. A balanced budget amendment to the Constitution creates a moment that we have to actually focus in on the fiscal house and force us into those tough decisions.

It also creates a parameter that protects future generations. I am a firm believer that the reason we still have the freedom of religion in the United States is because it is in the United States Constitution. The reason we still have freedom of speech is because it is in the United States Constitution. And we all know that so many people in politics do not like what's written about them in the press, and many times in politics they push back on the press and try to limit the press. But we still have a free press because that is guaranteed in the United States Constitution. If we added in a balanced budget requirement for the Federal Government, it would give to our posterity, for centuries to come, the gift of a parent in the legislative room to say we are going to have a balanced budget, we are going to honor this. And that \$220 billion a year that we've been throwing around and wasting on our interest would actually come back to reinvest into our economy. It's the right thing for us to do. It will require difficult decisions, I'm very aware, but it is absolutely the right thing to do.

I am so grateful for the gentleman from Arizona for leading a conversation on the House floor on this very important topic, because in the months to come we're encouraging all of America, around kitchen tables, around the workplace, playing around and watching football—which I'm very grateful is coming in the next couple of weeks to finally start football season again—around these gatherings of people to start having the conversation, do you think our Nation should have a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution? Let's initiate a conversation—I think I know where the American people already are, but let's give it a shot and find out for sure where their legislators are and so we can get that back out to the States and say, where are you, and where are we as a Nation?

And so I appreciate so much the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. And I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I would just say, in listening to the gentleman from Oklahoma's comments, that he is one great encouragement to many of us because he is living proof that the cavalry has arrived, and he is an example of why this debate has changed. I am very grateful for his presence in the United States Congress, and I hope he is here a very long time.

With that, I would seek to yield to the gentleman from Iowa for such time

as he might consume, and I might ask the Speaker what the time remaining is at this point.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 13 minutes remaining.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. So I'm hoping I can yield to the gentleman 8 minutes, or something along those lines.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Arizona for leading on this Special Order, and all my colleagues that have come to the floor to raise the issue of the balanced budget amendment.

I wanted to just point a few things out as to where this sits. Now, the chairman of the Constitution Committee standing before me, Mr. FRANKS, has presided over the shaping of a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget. And I certainly favor the one that was authored by BOB GOODLATTE and marked up in our full Judiciary Committee. It took three full days, and those days spanned over a couple weeks' period of time trying to find the time to get this to work out.

And I want to express, Mr. Speaker, that a balanced budget amendment that is written by someone who doesn't believe in a balanced budget amendment probably isn't going to yield the result that we all want from that amendment. And the worst case scenario would be the drafting and the passage of a balanced budget amendment that would be the constitutional equivalent of PAYGO. You could draft a balanced budget amendment that would say, Thou shalt balance the budget, and not put provisions in there, such as a cap on GDP, or a supermajority required to raise taxes, or a supermajority required to raise the debt limit, or of course the cap, as I said. And if it were just the barest of bones, the bare minimum of a definition of a balanced budget amendment, then that could be a balanced budget amendment that would allow a majority vote of the House of Representatives and a majority vote of the Senate to waive the balanced budget amendment. That would be the amendment equivalent of PAYGO, pay-as-you-go, waive it or raise taxes in order to calculate that you balanced it. So I would caution that we need to do a prudent job of promoting a balanced budget amendment, continually defining that balanced budget amendment to be something that gives us fiscal responsibility.

I will go more deeply into this perhaps in a half hour or so, but I wanted to also add that this legislation that has passed through the House of Representatives today—and I'm as joyous and delighted that GABBY GIFFORDS was able to cast a vote on this bill today, as perhaps almost anybody in this place, save the folks that are closer friends and relations of hers, but what a day, what a day for this Con-

gress to feel that emotion of her coming in this room and putting that vote up on the board and to hear that cheer go up when that light turned green. We are on opposite sides of the issue, but as I said, it is a deep feeling of just great pleasure and gratitude and thanks that she can come into this place and do that.

But here's the point I wanted to make, Mr. Speaker, and that is that, if we do nothing, if we had not addressed this debt ceiling and dialed this spending curve down, in 10 years from now—this is what the lack of a balanced budget amendment will do: In 10 years from now, our national debt, our debt that we addressed today that's about \$14.3 trillion, would be \$28 trillion in 10 years if we just go along business as usual and the projections of the March baseline are projected out for a decade as we do; \$28 trillion in debt. If we accept the—I'll call it the Boehner proposal that passed the House here today, because the numbers in it actually reflect the first Boehner bill of last Friday. Then this bill that passed the House today, our national debt is still, if this bill effectively turns this spending increase down in the way it's supposed to, and the deficit down, we're going to be looking at \$26 trillion in our debt anyway in 10 years by 2021, \$26 trillion.

So we've gone from, when we got up this morning, projections of \$28 trillion in debt in 2021, in 10 years from now, dialed it down to \$26 trillion. If we just held the line on the Ryan budget, we would have dialed it down to \$23 trillion, and I'm not satisfied with that. When I see a budget that came out that balances in 26 years—now we've backed up some on that—I think we need to be stronger, not weaker. I think we need to step up and advocate and take these next few months and do all we can to sell America on the idea, selling the people that don't believe we should ever live under a balanced budget that we must do so.

And as I sat for those 3 days in the Judiciary Committee while we debated and marked up this balanced budget amendment that does these things that I said—a three-fifths supermajority to waive the balance, or three-fifths to raise the debt ceiling, or two-thirds to exceed the 18 percent GDP cap, or two-thirds to increase taxes, all of those things—and it requires the President also to offer a balanced budget and allows a balanced budget requirement to be waived if we declare war or a national emergency that is significant—those things, if we don't do those things, then we end up with perpetual debt.

□ 2030

And the people on the other side of the aisle that debated against a balanced budget amendment completely convinced me that they never want to

live under a balanced budget amendment unless it is a confiscation of all of the wealth of this land and put it back through the money machine here in Washington. It would suppress the economy, it would starve and eventually kill the goose that lays the golden egg.

So \$28 trillion is projected. That's the projected national debt in 10 years. The bill that passed today takes it down to \$26 trillion. Ryan took it to 23, so we lost a little bit of leverage here today.

But the people on the other side, and the President has convinced me also, he never wants to live under a balanced budget and certainly doesn't want to have a Constitution that would order that that be so.

So what do the American people have to say about people who are committed to deficit spending in perpetuity, what do they think happens, where do they think America goes if we take our hands off of the "whoa back" on the reins and the spending goes on and we borrow the money to fill all of the wants of the American people for now. And what happens to our children and grandchildren when they have to service that debt or when the roof caves in when no one will loan us money anymore and we became mega Greece?

This has been an intense debate here all around this country. It came to a certain head today. It is a long ways from over. This is a start. It's not the end. It is just a start.

I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Iowa. He happens to be one of my most beloved friends in this institution, and he is a true statesman. Mr. Speaker, sometimes I think it's important for us to examine that word "statesman." It's often said that a politician looks to the next election whereas a statesman looks to the next generation. I so believe that that's important in this place.

We need to realize that, as the older men around here, as it were, that we need to plant shade trees under whose shade we will never sit ourselves. We need to do those things for the next generations that will really make the difference.

I want to, if I could, relate the timeless words of one of our Founding Fathers Samuel Adams. He said, "Let us contemplate our forefathers and our posterity, and resolve to maintain the rights bequeathed to us from the former for the sake of the latter. The necessity of these times, more than ever, calls for our utmost circumspection, deliberation, fortitude and perseverance."

I think so much that those words are true, Mr. Speaker, because I truly believe that right now we are about planting trees under whose shade we will never sit ourselves.

But I truly believe that if we work hard in these next few months to pass this balanced budget amendment, that we will do great things for this country and for its people because oftentimes I find people see the balanced budget amendment as a way to constrain our ability to meet the needs of government.

Well, the fact is, Mr. Speaker, a balanced budget amendment will do several things. First of all, it will not only help government meet certain needs, it will help a lot of people no longer need government because it will expand this economy, it will help people gain jobs, it will help people become taxpayers, and as I said in my earlier comments, we don't need more tax increases, we need more taxpayers, and nothing will help this government in terms of the revenue it needs more than that.

But ultimately, a balanced budget amendment will also cause a debate in this country as to what is government's role and what is the private sector's role because oftentimes the difference between this country and many other countries is that our Constitution changed down government, and our Constitution tries to magnify the individual. And, Mr. Speaker, I just think sometimes we forget what it's all about.

I know there is a lot of sincere people on both sides of the issue. But I would just say tonight that we have a chance to move forward from this debate and realize that our eyes are open now, that we see the problem. And sometimes there is a moment in the life of every problem, Mr. Speaker, when it is big enough to be seen and still small enough to be solved. And I'm afraid that that window is closing upon all of us right now and that we have an opportunity to sow the seeds of ultimate success by putting a balanced budget amendment in our Constitution by putting it out to the States.

We can't pass a balanced budget amendment ourselves. What we can do is we can put it out to the States and say you decide. Let the people of this country decide whether we need a balanced budget amendment or not. If we will do our part, they will do theirs.

You know Fred Bastiat said many, many years ago, government is that great fiction through which everyone endeavors to live at the expense of everyone else. And it sounds real good, you know, this idea of deficit spending, this idea of socialized government sounds real good. But the truth is that while maybe free enterprise and market-driven freedom is sometimes the unequal distribution of wealth, socialism has proven time and time again across the centuries to be the equal distribution of poverty.

Nothing has dragged more poor people out of poverty for longer periods of time than freedom and free enterprise, and the balanced budget amendment

will reinvigorate that in this country, and it's time that we had it, and by the grace of God I hope that we proceed.

I join with my friends on both sides of the aisle to say it's time to put this country back on track to the greatness that the Founding Fathers dreamed of so long ago and to understand on our parts that if we do what we can, that America's best days are still ahead.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

I HAVE A DREAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, tonight or in the very near future, I want everyone within the sound of my voice to read or reread Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, "I Have a Dream" speech, a speech that I usually refer to as his "insufficient funds or bounced check" speech.

I've often thought: I wonder what Dr. King's speech would sound like if he were here today to give it. Well, I'm not presumptuous enough to pretend that I know exactly what Dr. King would say. I really don't. But I thought it would be challenging and interesting to go through his speech, change it as little as possible, but insert today's circumstances and my own thoughts on how I think Dr. King's speech might have sounded if it were given today. So that's what I propose to do tonight. After all, on August 27, we will dedicate the King Memorial here in Washington, D.C., the day before his historic anniversary of the "I Have a Dream" speech on August 28.

As my colleagues have now departed this institution for the August recess to return to their homes far and near, I thought it would be especially appropriate that the final speech delivered after this very tumultuous debate would give reference and reverence to the extraordinary insight of Martin Luther King, Jr.

I also thought in light of the budget cutting deal and the bounced check and insufficient funds deal that was passed today in the Congress that it would also be appropriate.

So tonight I want to try and give what some might call an updated version of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech and what it might have sounded like today.

Again, I make no pretense that my paraphrased version of Dr. King's speech does his original version any justice. But the following is my paraphrased version of that speech after reflecting upon today's budget deal.

Paraphrasing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, and for those of you who are in your offices listening to the sound of my

voice, you might want to Google or go on the Internet and actually find the true text of Dr. King's speech and actually compare it to my exercise.

Especially in light of today's budget deficits, cumulative debt, the need to raise the debt limit, and in the context of the need to also fight for jobs, education, health care, housing, equal rights for women, renewable energy, fair taxation and for the fundamental right to vote, Dr. King might have delivered this speech:

I would have been happy today to join with those willing to take a balanced approach to budget cuts and revenue enhancements to bring about the greatest deficit reduction and debt reduction along with the most massive full employment plan in the history of our Nation. But that is not what the President and congressional leaders negotiated.

Eleven score and four years ago on September 17, 1787, 39 great Americans signed the U.S. Constitution as witnesses. This momentous decree came as a beacon light of hope to millions of Americans who had been seared in the flames of British injustice.

□ 2040

It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of taxation without representation.

But 224 years later, the American people are not free of deficits and debt. Two hundred twenty-four years later, the life of many Americans is still sadly crippled by the manacles of foreclosed homes and the chains of unemployment. Two hundred twenty-four years later, many Americans live on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. Two hundred twenty-four years later, many Americans still languish in the corners of American society and find themselves as exiles in their own land. And so we were elected as President and as Congresspersons to end this shameful condition.

In a sense, the American people are looking to our Nation's capital, the President and the Congress, to be able to cash a check. When the architects of our Republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all Americans would be guaranteed the "unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as many of her citizens are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, Congress has given many Americans a bad check, a check which has come back marked "insufficient funds." But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insuffi-

cient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this Nation. And so, many Americans are still waiting to cash this check, a check that will give them upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of a job and justice.

They are also looking to this President and this hallowed Congress to remind America of the fierce urgency of Now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of unemployment to the sunlit path of full employment. Now is the time to lift our Nation from the quicksands of inequality of income and wealth to the solid rock of economic justice. Now is the time to make full employment and social and economic justice a reality for all of God's children.

It would be fatal for the Nation to overlook the urgency of this moment. This sweltering summer of Americans' legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of jobs and equality. 2011 is not an end but a beginning, and those who hope that those who are currently blowing off steam and will soon be content will have a rude awakening if the Nation returns to business as usual, and there will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until Americans are granted their full citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our Nation until the bright day of full employment and economic justice emerges.

But there is something that must be said to those who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of jobs and justice. In the process of gaining our rightful place, we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for jobs by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred. We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protests to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting oppressive economic forces with the spiritual force of unrelenting, but disciplined, determination.

This marvelous new militancy which has engulfed many Americans must not lead us into a distrust of all politics and all politicians, for some politicians and politicians are committed to full employment, social and economic justice, and some politicians also realize that their destiny is tied up with this larger destiny. Some politicians have come to realize that their jobs as Congresspersons are inextricably bound to Americans also having jobs.

We cannot walk alone, and as we walk we must make a pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back. There are those who are asking the devotees of social and eco-

nomie justice, "When will you be satisfied?" We can never be satisfied as long as the American people are the victim of the unspeakable horrors of home foreclosures. We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain a job at a livable wage. We cannot be satisfied as long as the education of America's children leaves them uncompetitive in a new world market. We can never be satisfied as long as our health care system is ranked 37th in the world. We cannot be satisfied as long as one person in America cannot vote or one American believes they have nothing for which to vote. No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until "jobs and justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream."

I am not unmindful that many Americans are experiencing great trials and tribulations. Some Americans are fresh from job rejections, and some Americans have been refused an adjustment to their mortgage which has left their family battered by the storms of home foreclosures and staggered by the winds of homelessness. You have become the veterans of unearned suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive. Go forward in Mississippi, go forward in Vermont, go forward in Michigan, go forward in Hawaii, go forward in Oregon, go forward in Florida, go forward in the ghettos and barrios of our cities and in rural Appalachia knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed.

Let us not wallow in the valley of despair, I say to you today, my friends.

And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American Dream. I have a dream that one day this Nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together around a table of brotherhood where full employment, high quality health care for all Americans, excellence in education for every child, and safe, sanitary and affordable housing for every family is their natural experience.

I have a dream that one day, absent the false excuse of sweltering deficits and debt and the heat of economic injustice, America will be transformed into an oasis of full employment, freedom and economic justice.

I have a dream that my two little children will one day live in a Nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character, and that voting will be as natural as breathing, and no trickery or legal obstacles will be thrown in their path.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day over Michigan, over Ohio, Illinois and Indiana, with its wicked unemployment and suffering families, that one day right there in Michigan, Ohio, Illinois and Indiana, all of these families will be able to enjoy full employment, social and economic justice, and all will be able to join hands as brothers and sisters.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain and the crooked places will be made straight “and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together.”

This is my hope, and this is the faith that I go forward with every day.

With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of deficits and debt a stone of economic hope and justice for all Americans. With this faith, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of unemployment and home foreclosures into a beautiful symphony of full employment and affordable housing. With this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free and fully employed one day.

And this will be the day. This will be the day when all of God’s children will be able to sing with new meaning:

My country ’tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing.

Land where my fathers died, land of the Pilgrim’s pride,

From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

And if America is to be a great Nation, this must become true.

□ 2050

And so let freedom, full employment, and the right of private and public workers to organize into unions to protect their interests ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom and public education of equal high quality for all of America’s children ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring and health care of equal high quality for all Americans ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania. Let freedom and a clean, safe, and sustainable environment ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado. Let freedom ring with safe and sanitary and affordable housing from the curvaceous slopes of California.

But not only that, let freedom and equal rights for women, for gays and lesbians ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia. Let freedom, fair and progressive taxation ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee. Let freedom and the right and the ability to vote ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi.

From every mountainside, let freedom, social and economic justice ring throughout America.

And when this happens, when, my friends, we allow freedom, full employment, social and economic justice to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every State and every city, we will be able to speed up the day when all of God’s children, black men, white men, women, Jews, Gentiles, and Muslims, Protestants and Catholics, gays and straights, those who are whole and those who are handicapped, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: Free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty, we are free at last.

I want to remind everyone that I just finished giving my paraphrased version of what I thought Dr. King might have said had he been alive today and witnessed this debate, especially in light of the budget cutting, the insufficient funds, the bounced check deal that Congress passed on this day. I tried to remain as faithful as possible to the original speech, simply filling in my own thoughts and ideas in the current context, but I make no pretense to have done justice to the original version.

Again, I urge my friends and my colleagues and all those who can hear my voice to read or reread Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech at your earliest convenience.

Mr. Speaker, it is in this speech that Dr. King delivered the economic substance of his expectations of Democrats and Republicans in the Congress. America has issued all of us a bad check. It has come back marked “insufficient funds.” But we refuse to believe that the great vaults of opportunity of this Nation are bankrupt. If we can spend billions of dollars to put a man on the Moon, if we can spend billions of dollars on a war in Afghanistan, spend billions of dollars on a war in Iraq, spend tens of millions of dollars per week on a war in Libya, then, Mr. Speaker, this Congress can find enough money to put a man on his own two feet right here in America.

I have not given up on America, and I hope we don’t give up on America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

THE NEED FOR SPENDING CONTROLS

(Mr. DENHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon we took a vote here on this floor, a vote to protect the economy while demonstrating a commitment to reducing our debt—no more budget tricks, no more accounting gimmicks, no more empty promises.

You have the right to know the truth about America’s budget. We have the

responsibility to deliver it. This debate was done in plain sight. No more automatic deficit or debt balance increases. This was an opportunity for the American people to not only engage, but to cut the size of government. We need spending controls in place.

We were able to accomplish that here today because we believe that Washington isn’t the solution; Washington is the problem. Which is why we need not only spending controls, but economic freedom through a balanced budget amendment.

You have heard a lot over the last several weeks about a balanced approach. To people in my district, they understand that a balanced approach increases taxes on those very job creators. I would just say, in conclusion, the economic security that we are looking for is a balanced budget amendment.

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it’s my privilege to be addressing you here on the floor of the House of Representatives. It’s always interesting for me to sit here and listen to the other Members deliver their impression of what goes on and how they envision the future, and I enjoyed the gentleman from Illinois’s presentation, and the gentleman from California, and particularly the gentleman from Arizona, who came here to talk about the balanced budget amendment. And so I take that issue up as we get ready to close out the evening, and I would like to add some of the points that I have to this.

That is, when I was first elected to office, it was in the State senate in 1996, and I believed that if I just simply made a cogent argument on principle that it would sway my colleagues over to my side. I didn’t think it was all that complicated. It wouldn’t be hard to talk about balancing the budget, keeping the spending within our times. Because, after all, each year government always provides more and more of what people were providing for themselves the years before. So this encroachment of government that is the growth in the nanny state and the decrease in personal responsibility had been going along for years back then. It’s been accelerated in the last few years.

But the question I’d ask at this point is: What should government not do? What is it that is too much for government to do? Where should we draw the line? And as now I am halfway into the ninth year in this United States Congress, Mr. Speaker, I have been engaged in so many debates and pushed

so many bills and supported and opposed so much legislation that I see the pattern. I see a pattern.

It's over here on this side, they believe the government should do everything and that anybody that is investing their capital and returning an income off of that and making some money is somehow an evil capitalist, victimizing the proletariats and the workers. I get a little disappointed even with my own colleagues that constantly repeat this message that rings off the walls of the White House and rang off of the walls of the Speaker's office when NANCY PELOSI was the Speaker: Where are the jobs?

Well, okay, it's a legitimate question. But underneath that question is: Where are the profits? Where are the profits? Why would an individual invest their capital and their brainpower and their back power, their sweat equity, if they didn't have an opportunity to take that little pile of capital and build it up a little bit bigger, if they didn't have an opportunity to get a better return on their investment, if they just simply stuck it in U.S. Treasury bills?

People who invest money have to expect to have a profit. And then out of the profit, they pay the wages. And if they're making money off of the people they hire, they hire more people if they can see a model that will do that. That's how this worm turns. But it isn't evil capitalists.

I think Mr. FRANKS said it pretty well, but I will say this, that free enterprise capitalism has done more good for the world than any other system that's out there. It has gotten people out of bed in the morning. It's kept them up late at night. It's caused them to find another way to be more efficient. Competition makes us more efficient. And the desire to do well, sometimes just for the pure sake of the challenge of it all, that desire to do well drives many of us.

So the people that are out there creating jobs are doing so because there is a prospect for profit. That's where the jobs are. If the prospect for profit isn't there, if the degree of risk is not proportional to the potential for profit, they're not going to take the risk. It's that simple, Mr. Speaker.

And over on this side, I hear sometimes this lack of resolve that, yes, we ought to have a balanced budget and we need to get there, but it's just too soon to rush there, the resistance to the idea that we should take a look at this spending now and cut this spending now, get it under control now.

□ 2100

When I first came into this Congress and swore in here on this floor in January of 2003, shortly after that I went over to the chairman of the Budget Committee and said where is the balanced budget, 2003. And he said to me,

we can't balance the budget. Why not? It's too hard. Why is it too hard? Because we have too many expenses, too many burdens.

Don't you know, don't you know, green freshman Congressman in 2003, that we have been hit by the enemy on September 11, 2001? Don't you know we had to create an entire TSA and put this huge security system up and merge together the Department of Homeland Security? Don't you know that we had to organize and deploy the military over to places like Afghanistan? Didn't I know that we were mobilizing to go into Iraq at that very time, that our expenses were too high, we couldn't balance the budget, couldn't provide a balanced budget because it was too hard. It was too hard to balance the budget because our financial system had taken a hard hit on September 11, 2001, and because we had a war to fight—actually two wars to fight, and because we had to create all of this billions of dollars worth of security so we could keep ourselves safe.

And didn't I know that that was right on the tail end of the first thing of the dot-com bubble that was a false economy, that bubble that actually was a huge component in getting the budget balanced during those late Clinton years—that dot-com bubble had to burst because it wasn't built on the ability to produce a good or a service and deliver it more efficiently, but it was built on the speculation that we could store information and transfer it more efficiently than ever before, and we could. But that didn't necessarily translate into the efficiencies that come that create the profit. So the dot-com bubble burst, September 11 came, TSA was created, Homeland Security was created, two wars were fought, and through all of that we lost that sight of austerity.

And I wish that President Bush had said to us, tighten your belt, we are going to pay for this conflict, and we are going to pay for this tragedy that happened to the United States of America by all of us sharing the sacrifice by tightening our belt, not by raising taxes on people that are producing jobs. But it didn't happen that way, and I made my arguments, and I made them every year. And I went through a lot to try to produce a balanced budget throughout those years. We never got a balanced budget that we could bring to the floor, not that balanced in a single year.

But I will say, Mr. Speaker, during the height of the Iraq war, when things looked as bad as they could have looked, and about the time that George Bush was preparing to order the surge, about that period of time, we had a budget that came within \$160 billion of balancing, \$160 billion, Mr. Speaker.

Now that \$160 billion, boy, how do I wish we would have found a way to tighten it down so we didn't have that

deficit, that we could have balanced that budget in that year. We came very, very close—\$160 billion didn't sound close. It's close, it's really close compared to what we have today.

And so the President offers a budget that nobody will pick up and vote for and support, but it's a \$1.65 trillion deficit spending budget, \$1.65 trillion. And I listen to people that will say to me, Republicans overspent. Yes, we did. I make that confession. But the overspending of \$160 billion compared to the overspending of \$1.65 trillion is 10–1 Obama administration versus the Bush administration, 10–1.

And here we are now with a number that is greater than \$3 trillion, maybe less than \$5 trillion, and a deficit that has been created by the Obama administration with no end in sight. And the President insisted that this Congress grant to him \$2.4 trillion in unfettered debt ceiling increase, a clean debt ceiling increase bill, no strings attached, \$2.4 trillion.

Now, that was irresponsible, and when you find yourself with a divided government like we have, this government would have gone in that direction in a heartbeat if NANCY PELOSI had still been the Speaker. I can tell you if she would have been in charge, if Democrats would have had the majority here in the House of Representatives and HARRY REID would be running the show down that hallway through there in the Senate, and the President asked for \$2.4 trillion there would hardly have been a debate, Mr. Speaker, hardly a debate at all.

They would have brought a bill under a closed rule down here to the floor with a limited amount of debate. And if they thought there was going to be negative publicity, it would have happened at the time of the night that the press was not going to be able to report it so that the American people would pay attention.

And, yes, it would have leaked out, there wouldn't have been a lid on the secret. But neither would it have been with a great deal of fanfare. It would have been \$2.4 trillion, rubberstamped by this Congress, House, and Senate and sent to the President for his signature, business as usual, and off we would have gone. And we would have seen ourselves then with a national debt of, oh, let's say, \$16.7 trillion, no questions asked, no strings attached. That's what would have happened.

But the American people rose up over the last couple of years, and they formed organizations around this country spontaneously, Project 912 organizations, Tea Party organizations, not by the dozens or the scores—by the hundreds, by the thousands, Mr. Speaker. Organizations by the thousands across this country, some organized, some not, loosely organized, affiliated on each other's email list, paying attention, having meetings, energizing

themselves, identifying candidates, running some of their own candidates, becoming candidates themselves, supporting people that will come to this Congress and to the State legislatures all across this land and put our fiscal house in order. That's what's been going on over the last couple of years in this country.

And another thing that mobilized the people in this country was ObamaCare. When the ruling troika at the time, I called it, that would be the Obama-Pelosi-Reid ruling troika, decided that they were going to force-feed ObamaCare down the throat of this country, we saw tens of thousands mobilized to come to this Capitol, to surround this Capitol, to jam the Capitol to, heck, keep it so packed that people couldn't get in or out, so that they couldn't do business; demand, do not take American liberty, do not nationalize the second-most-sovereign thing we have, which is our health, our skin and everything inside it, but they did.

By legislative shenanigans and unprecedented maneuvering they did force ObamaCare care on us, and we are now hanging in the balance of whether we are able to repeal ObamaCare or whether it becomes the institutionalized roots down deep, permanent and perpetual law of the land.

I thought a wise statement was made a week ago Wednesday morning at a breakfast that I host when the guest speaker said that he believes if Barack Obama is reelected President that ObamaCare gets institutionalized in perpetuity as the law of the land. And if Barack Obama is not reelected, then we will repeal ObamaCare and pull it out by the roots.

That's one of the big things that are at stake, and I have staked a lot of my efforts over the last 23 or so months in working to first defeat and then to repeal ObamaCare. And when we passed the repeal here in the House of Representatives and the language that I drafted went over to the Senate, shortly after that, some weeks after that we took up the defunding of ObamaCare and we passed that legislation with the CR over to the Senate, where it was peeled off and voted down.

But every Republican in the House of Representatives and every Republican in the United States Senate has voted to repeal ObamaCare and has voted to shut off all funding to implement or enforce ObamaCare, every one, and it's been a bipartisan effort also to get those things done.

That's a piece of this large deficit spending that we have, and people said, what does it take for you to vote for this debt ceiling increase that passed the House tonight? And my answer immediately is, just put the repeal of ObamaCare and attach it to the debt ceiling increase, and I will salivate to vote for that.

The first full 10 years and outlays for ObamaCare are \$2.6 trillion, according

to the chairman of the Budget Committee, \$2.6 trillion. So, in comparison, it stays consistent with Speaker BOEHNER's standard for, are we going to have more dollars in cuts than we have in debt ceiling increase; a 2.4 or actually down around a 2.2 debt ceiling increase, compared to a \$2.6 trillion repeal of ObamaCare, I think is an okay bargain because we get back our liberty. We get back the chance to manage our health care and purchase a health insurance policy of our choice, one that's created by the market that's produced by the demand of the American people and not one that's managed and defined by the bureaucrats in Washington.

□ 2110

Mr. Speaker, I will just give you an example of what goes on and the oppressive nature of ObamaCare, a socialized medicine proposal that decides what kind of policy we can have and what kind of policy we can't have. Now, that's a constraint that I just can't abide in a free country.

If I want to buy a health insurance policy that has a \$10,000 deductible, I want to do that. That's my business. If I want to buy a policy that has a 50 percent copayment for the first million dollars and I want to do that, that's my business. I don't need nanny state telling me what I can and can't buy, but they do.

And now they have concluded, as of a notice that came out today, that every health insurance policy in America that is approved by the Federal Government—that will be every one that you can buy under ObamaCare—shall cover contraceptives—no copayment, no charge, except it gets averaged across everybody else's premium. Contraceptives will become, by edict of the Federal Government, a component of everybody's health insurance policy under ObamaCare.

Now, think about that. We have people that are single, we have people that are past reproductive age, and we have priests that are celibate, all of them paying insurance premiums that cover contraceptives so that somebody else doesn't have to pay the full fare of that? And they have called it preventative medicine—preventative medicine. Well, if you apply that preventative medicine universally, what you end up with is you have prevented a generation.

Preventing babies from being born is not medicine. That's not constructive to our culture and our civilization. If we let our birth rate down below the replacement rate, we are a dying civilization. And right now we are at about 2.1 babies per woman. That is just the replacement rate, that's all it is. And Teddy Roosevelt wrote about that. It isn't committed verbatim to my memory, but he said that any race that doesn't care enough about itself to re-

produce itself will essentially become extinct. And he said, I, for one, will not lament their loss, and I shall welcome the advent of a new generation, a new group of people who will care enough to have their own babies.

And now we have a Federal Government that has not just subsidized contraceptives but has written an edict that every health insurance policy will include contraceptives because they consider it to be preventative health care. Now, none of us would have health to worry about if they prevented us, would we, Mr. Speaker?

Now, that is bizarre. It is Orwellian. It is not even counterintuitive. But that's an example of what's going on in this country today, one of the reasons why we have to reverse the political power that is in the White House and in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, the \$2.6 trillion in the first full 10 years of outlays of the Obama administration is a piece of this irresponsible spending that we have been involved in. And now the administration is driving that 3 to maybe as much as \$5 trillion in unnecessary and irresponsible spending and projecting this national debt that goes from \$14 trillion on up to \$16.7 trillion.

Here are some examples of what we need to do to solve this problem. One, as I said, repeal ObamaCare. Rip it out by the roots, lock, stock and barrel. Pull out all the vestiges of ObamaCare without any particle of DNA left behind so that it can't reproduce and grow back on us. We cannot let that happen. It's an unconstitutional taking of American liberty. It has got to go. It diminishes our vitality, it diminishes our future, and it diminishes our American potential. Pulling ObamaCare out by the roots is one big piece of the solution.

Another big piece of the solution, Mr. Speaker, is to pass the FairTax, the national sales tax, to end the IRS as we know it, and stop punishing people who are producing. We need people in the private sector that are out there creating a profit by their own nature of industriousness, intuitiveness, and entrepreneurialism. And we need to grow the private sector. We need to reward people for doing that. And instead, we punish them.

Uncle Sam has the first lien on all productivity in the country, every bit of it: if you have earnings, savings or investment, if you punch a time clock, if you have a passbook savings, if you have dividends or interest payments that are coming your way or an estate that is coming your way, or if you have capital gains that are coming your way. How about the rent check for an apartment complex that you might have invested in? How about the per acre rent on a farm? How about anything you might sell that you have produced, whether you've got a lemonade stand or whether you are the Donald,

Uncle Sam is going to tax your productivity.

He stands there by that time clock day after day. And when you go to work on Monday morning at 8 o'clock and you punch the time clock, you hear that thunk and his hand comes out of his pocket and he holds it out and you go to work. And each dollar you earn goes into his hand until Uncle Sam has enough to satisfy his appetite for the fruits of your labor. When that moment comes in that day—you punch the time card at 8 o'clock—it might be 11 o'clock, it might be 11:30, it might be noon, it might be after lunch that you've finally earned enough that Uncle Sam will put all those dollars you have earned in his pocket and walk away for the day. Then you can go to work for the Governor. It's not as much. He puts that in his pocket. Now you're down to maybe you're doing it for the wife and kids, or the husband and the kids as the case may be. Not a lot is left for us. But the next morning, that wolf is at the door again. And you punch the time clock again, and there stands Uncle Sam, and out comes his hand, and in goes each dollar you earn until he is satisfied and he puts it in his pocket and he walks away. You do it every single day.

And so why do people go to work when we have over 72 means-tested Federal welfare programs that reward people for not working? Over 72 of them. It can be a heat subsidy, a rent subsidy, SNAP—that's the food stamp program. Now, they had to rename it because "food stamps" had a bad image—and the TANF program, and the list goes on and on and on. No one can name all of them from the top of their head, which means no one can analyze how they interrelate or how they motivate people to go to work or not to go to work.

And I will tell you, people will do what you pay them to do. If you pay them to stay home, they'll stay home. If you pay them to have babies, they'll have babies. If you pay them to go to work, they'll go to work. If you give them an unemployment check and you say that you're not going to get this check if you go to work, they're not going to work anymore. Some will out of conscience, yes. We have good, decent people in this country. But by and large, if you pay people not to work, they're not going to show up to work.

So what we need to do is take all that tax off of productivity, put it over on the consumption side, let everybody go to work and earn all they want to earn, save all they want to save, and invest all they want to invest. They get 56 percent more in their paycheck under the FairTax, 56 percent more.

The goods and services that we buy go down in price an average of 22 percent, because in the price of what we're buying is the income tax and the payroll tax of the wages of the people that

produced it. Employers have to, companies have to build that price in because they don't pay the tax. Last stop, consumers pay the tax—not corporations, not companies, not producers. They are the collectors. But they are not the payers. They are the tax collectors.

So if we go down that line and cut off and shut off the IRS and repeal and abolish the IRS Tax Code and let people earn all they want to earn and invest all they want to invest and save all they want to save, there will be an incentive there also for savings and investment, and our economy grows dynamically again. And the goods and services that are being produced in foreign countries start to come back here to be produced again.

We, Mr. Speaker, have gotten ourselves in a bad fix. We have exported, because of our tax structure and the bureaucratic burden and the regulatory burden, we have exported a lot of American industry to places like China. And now we buy Chinese goods and we borrow the money from the Chinese to buy the product of the industry that they've created that we've shipped there. And it has been a colossal mistake to turn us in the opposite direction from the industrialized, productive America into the America that sends IOUs to China and brings goods in from China that we used to make while we pay people not to work—\$212 billion. Most of it went for unemployment benefits last December.

We pay people not to work. Not just the unemployment benefits; we pay people not to work by the 70-some means-tested welfare programs. And some of those that will work are nudged out of the job because we have a number of 12 million or more illegals in this country, of which about 8 million are statistically working in this economy, every one of them taking a job that an American or a legal immigrant can do.

□ 2120

It is bizarre for us, Mr. Speaker, to pay millions not to work through 70-plus means-tested welfare programs, pay others not to work on unemployment, and accept the idea that illegals come into America and take jobs from Americans, all the while while we shift our industry over to places like China and borrow money from the Chinese and the Saudis to buy things from the Chinese and the Saudis, let alone develop our own energy here domestically where we can, drill in ANWR, the Outer Continental Shelf, more drilling in the Gulf. And yes, I'd trade with Canada and bring that pipeline down here. Let's do business with our best trading partners.

While all of that is going on, and that's a list of some of the things that I lament, Mr. Speaker, but I'd add to that list, we are spending ourselves so deeply into debt that we aren't very

many years from not being able to figure out a way to come out. And a constitutional balanced budget amendment is the only solution that I can see that can crack the intransigence of the people over here that believe that we can live in deficit spending in perpetuity, that we can run the debt up in perpetuity, and that we're never going to be held accountable, that we can always borrow and always spend, and we can borrow enough money to buy all of the wants that they have politically so they can pacify their constituents. And yes, it happens over on this side, some, too.

But I want to see a balanced budget amendment come through, and the stage is now set for us to spend the next couple of months marketing the idea of a balanced budget amendment. I want to see the balanced budget amendment that we marked up in the Judiciary Committee. It took 3 days to do so. BOB GOODLATTE drafted and introduced a balanced budget amendment that requires that this Federal Government live under a balanced budget, and it requires that there be a three-fifths majority in both Houses in order to waive that balance.

So if the body here and there decides we have to break that pledge to balance, we have to vote to do so, three-fifths; 60 percent supermajority. If we're going to raise the debt limit, it takes a supermajority of three-fifths to do so under the balanced budget amendment of BOB GOODLATTE. It requires that we spend below the cap of 18 percent of GDP, and we must not exceed an 18 percent gross domestic product cap. That's all the Federal Government can consume. We are up now to 23-something percent. We have to dial it down to a historic average of 18 percent. That is a two-thirds majority to spend above the 18 percent cap of GDP, and it requires a two-thirds majority to increase taxes.

Those are all standards that we need to hold to in this Congress, and it's going to take a two-thirds majority in this Congress to send that balanced budget over to the Senate and on to the States. I will be working to see to it that that happens.

Meanwhile, I just want to speak into the record that I voted no on this bill today that raised the debt ceiling, and I did so for a number of reasons. One of them is the standards that I have just put into the record for a balanced budget amendment are not written into the bill. So a balanced budget amendment might take any form. It might be a form that can simply be waived by a majority of the House and the Senate. That seems a little ridiculous, but I take you to that point because the definition doesn't hold us to any standard. I want to hold to the standard that I have just stated.

Another thing is this bill today does cuts as a condition to increase the debt

ceiling; but those cuts are only \$17 billion out of discretionary spending for the 1 year that we control, that is 2012 fiscal year. The Ryan budget produced \$31 billion in cuts out of the 2012 fiscal year and discretionary; \$24 billion less cuts already. It shows we don't have the resolve to do the early cutting, only the promise to do the late cutting. So if you have the late cutting instead of the early cutting, that means we may not be held accountable down the line. Politicians want to push that off on to future Congresses. They don't want to go home and face their constituents in this time.

So I urge that we pass a balanced budget here out of this Congress. We realize that we have taken a small step today. We have to take big steps if we are going to get this country where it belongs. And I look forward to the day I can say to my grandchildren: We did clear a path for you. We did do it right. We did get to a balanced budget, now it's up to you to take this country to the next level of its destiny.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your attention, and I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, August 2, 2011, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2679. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Grapes Grown in a Designated Area of Southeastern California; Section 610 Review [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-06-0185; FV06-925-610 Review] received July 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2680. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Conditions of Guarantee (RIN: 0570-AA81) received July 18, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2681. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Emergency Homeowners' Loan Program [Docket No.: FR-5470-I-01] (RIN: 2502-AI97) received July 19, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2682. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's "Major" final rule — Large Trader Reporting (RIN: 3235-AK55) received July 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2683. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Depart-

ment of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Required Warnings for Cigarette Packages and Advertisements [Docket No.: FDA-2010-N-0568] (RIN: 0910-AG41) received July 21, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2684. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Labeling and Effectiveness Testing; Sunscreen Drug Products for Over-the-Counter Human Use [Docket No.: FDA-1978-N-0018] (Formerly Docket No.: 1978N-0038) (RIN: 0910-AF43) received July 21, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2685. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 11-046, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2686. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 11-051, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2687. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 11-047, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2688. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 11-030, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2689. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 11-045, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2690. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 11-043, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2691. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 11-057, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2692. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 11-034, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2693. A letter from the Auditor, District of Columbia, transmitting a report entitled, "Sufficiency Certification for the Washington Convention and Sports Authority's (Trading As Events DC) Projected Revenues and Excess Reserve to Meet Projected Operating and Debt Service Expenditures and Reserve Requirements for Fiscal Year 2010"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2694. A letter from the Auditor, District of Columbia, transmitting a report entitled, "Fiscal Year 2010 Annual Report On Advisory Neighborhood Commissions"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2695. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Model SA-365C, SA-365C1, SA-365C2, SA-365N, SA-365N1, AS-365N2, AS-365N3, and SA-366G1 Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0551; Directorate Identifier 2009-SW-013-AD; Amendment 39-16714; AD 2011-12-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 12, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2696. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Robinson Helicopter Company Model (Robinson) R22, R22 Alpha, R22 Beta, R22 Mariner, R44, and R44 II Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0588; Directorate Identifier 2010-SW-074-AD; Amendment 39-16717; AD 2011-12-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 12, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2697. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Model 727, 727C, 727-100, 727-100C, 727-200, and 727-200F Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2010-1272; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-226-AD; Amendment 39-16712; AD 2011-12-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 12, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2698. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Model 737-100, -200, -200C, -300, -400, and -500 Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0028; Directorate Identifier 2009-NM-228-AD; Amendment 39-16716; AD 2011-12-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 12, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. DREIER: Committee on Rules, House Resolution 384. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (S. 365) to make a technical amendment to the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (Rept. 112-190). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. BACHUS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1751. A bill to amend the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 to require that weather radios be installed in all manufactured homes manufactured or sold in the United States (Rept. 112-191). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mrs. BONO MACK (for herself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. UPTON, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. REHBERG, and Mr. TOWNS):

H.R. 2715. A bill to provide the Consumer Product Safety Commission with greater authority and discretion in enforcing the consumer product safety laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce; considered and passed.

By Mr. KISSELL (for himself, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. SMITH of Washington):

H.R. 2716. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, impose penalties for failing to report, within a reasonable amount of time, the disappearance or death of a child, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCINTYRE:

H.R. 2717. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to designate one city in the United States each year as an "American World War II City", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. KIND (for himself, Mr. NEAL, Mr. BACHUS, and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 2718. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and expand tax relief for national disasters; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Washington:

H.R. 2719. A bill to ensure public access to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain in the Hanford Reach National Monument for educational, recreational, historical, scientific, cultural, and other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CULBERSON:

H.R. 2720. A bill to clarify the role of the Department of Veterans Affairs in providing a benefit or service related to the interment or funeral of a veteran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. LATOURETTE, and Mr. PAYNE):

H.R. 2721. A bill to provide for evidence-based and promising practices related to juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity prevention and intervention to help build individual, family, and community strength and resiliency to ensure that youth lead productive, safe, healthy, gang-free, and law-abiding lives; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LIPINSKI (for himself and Mr. ADERHOLT):

H.R. 2722. A bill to amend chapter 83 of title 41, United States Code, to increase the requirement for American-made content, to strengthen the waiver provisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 2723. A bill to amend title IV of the Budget Control Act of 2011 to protect the Social Security and SSI programs from budget cuts under such Act; to the Committee on Rules.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 2724. A bill to amend title IV of the Budget Control Act of 2011 to protect the Medicaid program from budget cuts under such Act; to the Committee on Rules.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 2725. A bill to amend the Budget Control Act of 2011 to protect the Medicare program from budget cuts under such Act; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 2726. A bill to amend the Budget Control Act of 2011 to protect education programs from budget cuts under such Act; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 2727. A bill to amend title IV of the Budget Control Act of 2011 to protect the Social Security, SSI, Medicare, Medicaid, and education programs from budget cuts under such Act; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ACKERMAN (for himself, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. CAPUANO, and Ms. SLAUGHTER):

H.R. 2728. A bill to amend the securities laws to require that registration statements, quarterly and annual reports, and proxy solicitations of public companies include a disclosure to shareholders of any expenditure made by that company in support of or in opposition to any candidate for Federal, State, or local public office; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. BASS of California (for herself and Mr. TERRY):

H.R. 2729. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to extend to physician assistants eligibility for Medicaid incentive payments for the adoption and use of certified electronic health records, whether or not such physician assistants practice at a rural health center or Federally qualified health center; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BASS of California (for herself, Mr. MARINO, Mr. PAYNE, and Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas):

H.R. 2730. A bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to better enable State child welfare agencies to prevent human trafficking of children and serve the needs of children who are victims of human trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BERG:

H.R. 2731. A bill to amend title III of the Social Security Act to provide for demonstration projects designed to expedite the reemployment of unemployed workers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BISHOP of New York:

H.R. 2732. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for temporary student loan debt conversion authority; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. BORDALLO (for herself and Mr. LOEBSACK):

H.R. 2733. A bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to ensure that the basic allowance for housing in effect for a member of the National Guard is not reduced when the member transitions between active duty and full-time National Guard duty without a break in active service; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. BORDALLO (for herself, Mr. SABLON, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA):

H.R. 2734. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to provide for the participation of the territories in Federal-aid highway discretionary programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BOUSTANY (for himself and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 2735. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the look-through treatment of payments between related controlled foreign corporations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BURTON of Indiana (for himself and Mr. DEFAZIO):

H.R. 2736. A bill to permit an individual to be treated by a health care practitioner with any method of medical treatment such individual requests, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BURTON of Indiana:

H.R. 2737. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to make stillborn children eligible for optional life insurance coverage; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. CAPPS (for herself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. CARNAHAN, Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Ms. LEE of California):

H.R. 2738. A bill to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a program of awarding grants to owners or operators of water systems to increase resiliency or adaptability of the systems to any ongoing or forecasted changes to the hydrologic conditions of a region of the United States; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia:

H.R. 2739. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend for one year the increased deduction for start-up expenditures; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COSTA (for himself, Mr. DENHAM, and Mr. CARDOZA):

H.R. 2740. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain population census tracts for which information is not available as low-income communities for purposes of the new markets tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself and Mr. WHITFIELD):

H.R. 2741. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reduce the occurrence of diabetes in Medicare beneficiaries by extending coverage under Medicare for medical nutrition therapy services to such beneficiaries with pre-diabetes or with risk factors for developing type 2 diabetes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 2742. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives to employers for providing training programs for jobs specific to the needs of the employers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia:

H.R. 2743. A bill to provide for the conveyance of a small parcel of National Forest System land in Pound, Virginia; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. MORAN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. TOWNS, Mr.

LEWIS of Georgia, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

H.R. 2744. A bill to pay personnel compensation and benefits for employees of the Federal Aviation Administration; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HECK:

H.R. 2745. A bill to amend the Mesquite Lands Act of 1986 to facilitate implementation of a multispecies habitat conservation plan for the Virgin River in Clark County, Nevada; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HIGGINS:

H.R. 2746. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans to provide for coverage of oral anticancer drugs on terms no less favorable than the coverage provided for intravenously administered anticancer medications; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HIGGINS:

H.R. 2747. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a cancer center construction loan program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 2748. A bill to assess the potential of smart electronics to reduce home and office electricity demand, to incorporate smart electronics into the Energy Star Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 2749. A bill to ensure the development and responsible stewardship of nanotechnology; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. INSLEE (for himself, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. TONKO, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Ms. SUTTON):

H.R. 2750. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the investment tax credit for combined heat and power system property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 2751. A bill to authorize a pilot program on enhancements of Department of Defense efforts on mental health in the National Guard and Reserves through community partnerships, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio (for himself, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. THORNBERRY):

H.R. 2752. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct onshore oil and gas lease sales through Internet-based live lease sales, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. JONES:

H.R. 2753. A bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide Internet access to Regional Fishery Management Council meetings and meeting records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. KISSELL (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. FOXX, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, and Mr. COBLE):

H.R. 2754. A bill to provide the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the Department of the Treasury with authority to more aggressively enforce trade laws relating to textile and apparel articles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KISSELL:

H.R. 2755. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a nonrefundable personal credit to individuals who donate certain life-saving organs; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 2756. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to waive the 10 percent penalty on distributions from qualified retirement plans for mortgage payments on qualified residences and in respect of unemployment and to increase the age at which distributions from qualified retirement plans are required to begin from 70 1/2 to 75; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. HONDA, Ms. WATERS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. JONES):

H.R. 2757. A bill to prohibit the use of funds to maintain United States Armed Forces and military contractors in Iraq after December 31, 2011, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MALONEY (for herself, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. SERRANO):

H.R. 2758. A bill to amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to protect breastfeeding by new mothers and to provide for reasonable break time for nursing mothers; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. MALONEY (for herself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 2759. A bill to require companies to include in their annual reports to the Securities and Exchange Commission a disclosure describing any measures the company has taken during the year to identify and address conditions of forced labor, slavery, human trafficking, and the worst forms of child labor within the company's supply

chains; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. MALONEY:

H.R. 2760. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to improve the minting and issuing of coins, to reduce the current excess stockpile of \$1 coins, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MANZULLO:

H.R. 2761. A bill to amend section 520 of the Housing Act of 1949 to provide flexibility to the definition of rural areas; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MANZULLO:

H.R. 2762. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to reauthorize the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MCDERMOTT (for himself and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN):

H.R. 2763. A bill to amend section 402(a)(2)(M) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 to extend by two years the special rule relating to eligibility for benefits under the supplemental security income program for certain aliens and victims of trafficking; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MEEHAN (for himself, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. MARINO, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama):

H.R. 2764. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish weapons of mass destruction intelligence and information sharing functions of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security and to require dissemination of information analyzed by the Department to entities with responsibilities relating to homeland security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (for himself, Mr. ROHRBACHER, and Mr. CALVERT):

H.R. 2765. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify the requirement that permit applications for the discharge of pollutants be approved by disinterested board members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (for himself and Mr. HUNTER):

H.R. 2766. A bill to amend titles 23 and 49, United States Code, to accelerate the delivery process for highway and public transportation construction projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. OLIVER (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. NEAL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. KEATING):

H.R. 2767. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8 West Silver Street in Westfield, Massachusetts, as the "William T. Trant Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. PAUL:

H.R. 2768. A bill to cancel public debt held by the Federal Reserve System and to lower the public debt limit by an equal amount; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

H.R. 2769. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds for any universal or mandatory mental health screening program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in

addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PAULSEN (for himself and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 2770. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend for 3 years reasonable cost contracts under Medicare; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RIVERA:

H.R. 2771. A bill to amend Public Law 89-732 to increase to 5 years the period during which a Cuban national must be physically present in the United States in order to qualify for adjustment of status to that of a permanent resident, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUNYAN (for himself, Mr. JONES, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN):

H.R. 2772. A bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to permit eligible fishermen to approve certain limited access privilege programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SABLAN (for himself, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. JONES, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 2773. A bill to amend titles 10, 32, and 37 of the United States Code to authorize the establishment of units of the National Guard in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 2774. A bill to repeal the Legal Services Corporation Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SHERMAN (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. STARK, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. SUTTON, and Ms. KAPTUR):

H.R. 2775. A bill to repeal a limitation in the Labor-Management Relations Act regarding requirements for labor organization membership as a condition of employment; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SIMPSON (for himself, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. DEFazio):

H.R. 2776. A bill to expand geothermal production, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SIRES:

H.R. 2777. A bill to authorize and request the President to award the Medal of Honor posthumously to Private First Class William P. Fesken of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam War; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H.R. 2778. A bill to prevent the overproduction of \$1 presidential coins by the United States Mint in order to efficiently meet collector demand while reducing the surplus of already produced \$1 coins in Federal Reserve System vaults, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. STIVERS (for himself and Ms. FUDGE):

H.R. 2779. A bill to exempt inter-affiliate swaps from certain regulatory requirements

put in place by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TIBERI (for himself and Mr. NEAL):

H.R. 2780. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the domestic production activities deduction rules relating to allowance of deduction by United States contract manufacturers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 2781. A bill to establish a research, development, and technology demonstration program to improve the efficiency of gas turbines used in combined cycle and simple cycle power generation systems; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 2782. A bill to provide for a program of wind energy research, development, and demonstration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. TONKO (for himself and Mr. STARK):

H.R. 2783. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate the 190-day lifetime limit on inpatient psychiatric hospital services under the Medicare Program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TONKO (for himself, Ms. BERKLEY, and Mr. INSLEE):

H.R. 2784. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage the deployment of highly efficient combined heat and power property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TOWNS:

H.R. 2785. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide improved access to physical medicine and rehabilitation services under part B of the Medicare Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN):

H.R. 2786. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to provide social service agencies with the resources to provide services to meet the unique needs of Holocaust survivors to age in place with dignity, comfort, security, and quality of life; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. WHITFIELD (for himself and Ms. DEGETTE):

H.R. 2787. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to diabetes self-management training by authorizing certified diabetes educators to provide diabetes self-management training services, including as part of telehealth services, under part B of the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WOODALL (for himself and Mr. BARTLETT):

H.R. 2788. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit a candidate for election to the office of Senator or

Member of the House of Representatives from making campaign expenditures for the election from amounts that were not raised during the election cycle for that office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. YODER:

H.R. 2789. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to suspend the issuance of \$1 coins for a 15-year period, or until excess stockpiles are exhausted, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois):

H. Con. Res. 69. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the President should ensure that the United States does not default on its debt by making every effort to negotiate passage of an increase in the statutory debt ceiling or, all such efforts failing, should use his authority under section 3 of Article II of the United States Constitution to uphold section 4 of the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution to pay all debts of the United States as they come due; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H. Con. Res. 70. Concurrent resolution correcting the enrollment of S. 365; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania:

H. Con. Res. 71. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States Postal Service should issue a commemorative postage stamp honoring Wilt Chamberlain and that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee should recommend to the Postmaster General that such a stamp be issued; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. RICHARDSON, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN):

H. Con. Res. 72. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that any legislative language approved by the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction should not reduce benefits for Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid recipients; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. PEARCE):

H. Con. Res. 73. Concurrent resolution honoring the service of Sergeant First Class Leroy Arthur Petry, a native of Santa Fe, New Mexico and the second living recipient of the Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. POLIS (for himself, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. MCINTYRE):

H. Res. 385. A resolution expressing support for designation of the week of September 12, 2011, as National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MILLER of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. PRICE

of North Carolina, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. SHULER, and Mr. WATT):

H. Res. 386. A resolution recognizing the accomplishments and efforts of John I. Wilson, executive director of the National Education Association, for dedicating his career to education professionals and students, and honoring his retirement; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H. Res. 387. A resolution recognizing that the religious freedom and human rights violations of Kashmiri Pandits has been ongoing since 1989; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mrs. BONO MACK:

H.R. 2715.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution the United States Congress shall have power "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes".

By Mr. KISSELL:

H.R. 2716.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power * * * To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. MCINTYRE:

H.R. 2717.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution."

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 2718.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Washington:

H.R. 2719.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2—The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in the Constitution shall be construed to as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Mr. CULBERSON:

H.R. 2720.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 14 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 2721.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 5.

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 2722.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to promote the general welfare, as enumerated in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 2723.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 2724.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 2725.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 2726.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 2727.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. ACKERMAN:

H.R. 2728.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section VIII

By Ms. BASS of California:

H.R. 2729.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. BASS of California:

H.R. 2730.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I.

Section 1.

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. BERG:

H.R. 2731.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. BISHOP of New York:

H.R. 2732.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 1, 3, and 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Ms. BORDALLO:

H.R. 2733.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to raise and support Armies pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 12 as well as the power of Congress to organize militias (National Guard) pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 16

By Ms. BORDALLO:

H.R. 2734.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is Article I, Section 8, Clauses 3, 7 and 18, which grant Congress the authority to regulate commerce among the several states; to establish Post Offices and post roads; and to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing Powers.

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 2735.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 7: All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

Amendment XVI (16th Amendment): The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

By Mr. BURTON of Indiana:

H.R. 2736.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 3 and 18

By Mr. BURTON of Indiana:

H.R. 2737.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 3, 14 and 18

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 2738.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia:

H.R. 2739.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 2740.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.

By Ms. DeGETTE:

H.R. 2741.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clauses 3 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 2742.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia:

H.R. 2743.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to the power of Congress to provide for the

general welfare of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress)

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida:

H.R. 2744.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1, Section 8, Article 1 of the Constitution, as well as Clause 3, Section 8, Article 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. HECK:

H.R. 2745.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HIGGINS:

H.R. 2746.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitution authority of this legislation lies in the power of congress to regulate commercial activity as described in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. HIGGINS:

H.R. 2747.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitution authority of this legislation lies in the power of congress to regulate commercial activity as described in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 2748.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 2749.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. INSLEE:

H.R. 2750.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 2751.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio:

H.R. 2752.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. JONES:

H.R. 2753.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3 of the U.S. Constitution, which gives Congress the power "to make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States."

By Mr. KISSELL:

H.R. 2754.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power *** To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. KISSELL:

H.R. 2755.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 2756.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Taxation: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Ms. LEE of California:

H.R. 2757.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mrs. MALONEY:

H.R. 2758.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Fourteenth Amendment, Section 5, which reads: The Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article; and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, which reads: The Congress shall have Power *** To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mrs. MALONEY:

H.R. 2759.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Amendment 13—Slavery Abolished.

By Mrs. MALONEY:

H.R. 2760.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 5

By Mr. MANZULLO:

H.R. 2761.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (relating to the general welfare of the United States); and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate commerce)

By Mr. MANZULLO:

H.R. 2762.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (relating to the general welfare of the United States); and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate commerce).

By Mr. McDERMOTT:

H.R. 2763.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution that grants Congress the authority, "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and

proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. MEEHAN:

H.R. 2764.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California:

H.R. 2765.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California:

H.R. 2766.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. OLVER:

H.R. 2767.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution, which empowers Congress "To establish Post Offices and post Roads".

By Mr. PAUL:

H.R. 2768.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation is authorized by Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution:

By Mr. PAUL:

H.R. 2769.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Parental Consent Act is justified by Article 1, Section 9, which forbids the executive branch from spending money unless it has been appropriated by Congress and Article I, Section I which vest all legislative power in the Congress. These two sections clearly give Congress power to forbid federal funds from being used to support mental health screening programs conducted in public schools without parental consent.

By Mr. PAULSEN:

H.R. 2770.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. RIVERA:

H.R. 2771.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 (immigration clause) and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (travel regulation)

By Mr. RUNYAN:

H.R. 2772.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Commerce Clause, Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution

By Mr. SABLON:

H.R. 2773.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution (clauses 12, 13, 14, and 16), which grants Congress the power to raise and support an

Army; to provide and maintain a Navy; to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces; and to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia.

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 2774.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18. To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof.

By Mr. SHERMAN:

H.R. 2775.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 2776.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 2 of section 3 of article IV of the Constitution ("The Congress shall have the Power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States. . .").

By Mr. SIRE:

H.R. 2777.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution (clauses 12, 13, 14, 16, and 18), which grants Congress the power to raise and support an Army; to provide and maintain a Navy; to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces; to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia; and to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the foregoing powers.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H.R. 2778.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clauses 3 and 5 relating to Congress' authority to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations and among several States, and with the Indian tribes and to coin Money, and regulate the Value thereof

By Mr. STIVERS:

H.R. 2779.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. TIBERI:

H.R. 2780.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill makes changes to existing law relating to Article 1, Section 7 which provides that "All bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives."

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 2781.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1.

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 2782.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1,

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 2783.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1,

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 2784.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. TOWNS:

H.R. 2785.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This Bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, known as the "General Welfare Clause." This provision grants Congress the broad power "to pay the Debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States."

¹Please note, pursuant to Article I, section 8, Congress has the power "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:

H.R. 2786.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. WHITFIELD:

H.R. 2787.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clauses 3 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WOODALL:

H.R. 2788.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section. 4.

"The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators."

By Mr. YODER:

H.R. 2789.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8—Powers of Congress

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States; To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 49: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H.R. 58: Mr. NEUGEBAUER and Mr. RIGELL.

H.R. 104: Mrs. BIGGERT.

H.R. 181: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. WALDEN.

H.R. 187: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 190: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. SIRE.

H.R. 198: Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 284: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. WU, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. CLAY, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 287: Ms. PINGREE of Maine and Ms. CHU.

H.R. 303: Mr. WALDEN.

H.R. 361: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 371: Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. REHBERG, and Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 402: Ms. WOOLSEY.

H.R. 420: Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. DENHAM, and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.

H.R. 436: Mr. REED, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. CANSECO, and Mr. WOMACK.

H.R. 452: Mr. BISHOP of New York and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 458: Mr. BOSWELL.

H.R. 459: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 469: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 488: Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 507: Ms. HIRONO.

H.R. 512: Ms. BORDALLO.

H.R. 531: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 589: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

H.R. 615: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS and Mr. DENHAM.

H.R. 642: Mrs. BIGGERT.

H.R. 645: Mr. PENCE.

H.R. 687: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, and Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 704: Mr. HARRIS and Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California.

H.R. 719: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 724: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 733: Mrs. CAPPS and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 740: Mr. HULTGREN.

H.R. 820: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 835: Ms. CASTOR of Florida and Ms. HANABUSA.

H.R. 874: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 883: Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 885: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 938: Mr. YODER and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H.R. 959: Mr. GUTIERREZ.

H.R. 997: Mr. ROYCE.

H.R. 1041: Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 1057: Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 1086: Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois.

H.R. 1093: Mr. RIGELL and Mr. WALSH of Illinois.

H.R. 1113: Mr. VISCLOSKEY.

H.R. 1154: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 1161: Mr. LUJÁN and Mr. POMPEO.

H.R. 1164: Mr. ROYCE.

H.R. 1173: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 1179: Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. JONES, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.R. 1204: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 1269: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 1327: Mr. SHUSTER and Mr. AUSTRIA.

H.R. 1338: Mr. DICKS.

H.R. 1340: Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Mrs. LUMMIS.

H.R. 1342: Mrs. BIGGERT.

H.R. 1370: Mr. PETRI.
 H.R. 1386: Mr. KILDEE.
 H.R. 1394: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. SABLAN, and Ms. MOORE.
 H.R. 1418: Mr. ISSA.
 H.R. 1426: Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BARROW, and Mr. McCAUL.
 H.R. 1464: Mr. FILNER and Mr. WOLF.
 H.R. 1474: Mr. YODER.
 H.R. 1515: Mr. DEFazio.
 H.R. 1533: Ms. SUTTON.
 H.R. 1546: Ms. CASTOR of Florida and Mrs. CAPPS.
 H.R. 1558: Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Mr. MARINO.
 H.R. 1568: Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. CAPPS, and Ms. LEE of California.
 H.R. 1574: Mr. INSLEE.
 H.R. 1591: Mr. YODER.
 H.R. 1612: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
 H.R. 1620: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H.R. 1623: Ms. RICHARDSON.
 H.R. 1625: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
 H.R. 1636: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
 H.R. 1639: Mr. COBLE and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
 H.R. 1655: Mr. HULTGREN.
 H.R. 1687: Mr. McDERMOTT.
 H.R. 1697: Mr. QUIGLEY.
 H.R. 1703: Mr. CRITZ.
 H.R. 1704: Mr. LOEBSACK.
 H.R. 1714: Mr. HULTGREN.
 H.R. 1715: Mr. ROYCE.
 H.R. 1723: Mr. NUNNELEE.
 H.R. 1742: Ms. BALDWIN and Mr. MICHAUD.
 H.R. 1747: Mr. HOLDEN and Mr. BOSWELL.
 H.R. 1754: Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey.
 H.R. 1755: Mr. SCHOCK.
 H.R. 1781: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HIMES, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 1802: Mr. CRITZ.
 H.R. 1815: Mr. LIPINSKI.
 H.R. 1848: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. THORNBERRY, and Mr. ROKITA.
 H.R. 1852: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. GONZALEZ.
 H.R. 1905: Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CARTER, Mr. CHANDLER, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. FLORES, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. HOYER, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LONG, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. WALSH of Illinois, and Mr. WITTMAN.
 H.R. 1936: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
 H.R. 1947: Ms. HIRONO.
 H.R. 1953: Mr. HEINRICH.
 H.R. 1955: Ms. SUTTON.
 H.R. 1987: Mr. BISHOP of New York.
 H.R. 1995: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
 H.R. 1996: Mr. QUAYLE.
 H.R. 1997: Mr. BOSWELL.
 H.R. 2005: Mrs. LOWEY and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.

H.R. 2016: Mr. STARK.
 H.R. 2086: Mr. TOWNS, Mr. RAHALL, and Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 2091: Mr. KILDEE.
 H.R. 2104: Mr. LOEBSACK.
 H.R. 2105: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina.
 H.R. 2107: Mr. DEFazio.
 H.R. 2140: Mr. LANGEVIN and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H.R. 2180: Ms. WOOLSEY and Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 2198: Mr. LOEBSACK.
 H.R. 2215: Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. GALLEGLY.
 H.R. 2224: Mr. TONKO.
 H.R. 2229: Mr. TONKO.
 H.R. 2233: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
 H.R. 2250: Mr. FORBES and Mrs. LUMMIS.
 H.R. 2257: Mr. LANKFORD.
 H.R. 2267: Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. MCINTYRE, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
 H.R. 2269: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. LEE of California, and Ms. RICHARDSON.
 H.R. 2272: Mr. LOEBSACK.
 H.R. 2295: Mr. SCHOCK.
 H.R. 2299: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
 H.R. 2304: Mr. DIAZ-BALART and Mr. BOSWELL.
 H.R. 2305: Mr. GOSAR.
 H.R. 2315: Mr. KILDEE.
 H.R. 2324: Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey.
 H.R. 2337: Mr. RIVERA.
 H.R. 2346: Mr. FARR and Mr. KILDEE.
 H.R. 2353: Mr. MICHAUD.
 H.R. 2355: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
 H.R. 2377: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. DOGGETT.
 H.R. 2412: Mr. INSLEE and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
 H.R. 2426: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. RIBBLE, and Mr. STEARNS.
 H.R. 2433: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
 H.R. 2444: Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 2447: Mr. KISSELL and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
 H.R. 2457: Mr. SOUTHERLAND.
 H.R. 2471: Ms. CHU.
 H.R. 2492: Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. BASS of New Hampshire, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H.R. 2497: Mr. BROOKS.
 H.R. 2499: Mr. LANCE and Mrs. MALONEY.
 H.R. 2510: Ms. MOORE.
 H.R. 2513: Mr. STARK.
 H.R. 2514: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
 H.R. 2529: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
 H.R. 2541: Mrs. MYRICK and Mr. ROSS of Arkansas.
 H.R. 2543: Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey.
 H.R. 2575: Mr. RANGEL.
 H.R. 2576: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
 H.R. 2597: Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey.
 H.R. 2599: Mr. WEST and Mrs. DAVIS of California.
 H.R. 2617: Ms. MOORE.
 H.R. 2643: Ms. WOOLSEY.
 H.R. 2644: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. HONDA, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 2653: Mr. WITTMAN.
 H.R. 2669: Ms. FUDGE, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. DEUTCH.
 H.R. 2671: Mr. DREIER, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. KUCINICH.
 H.R. 2674: Mr. HARPER.
 H.R. 2677: Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. WAXMAN.
 H.R. 2679: Ms. SPEIER.
 H.R. 2681: Mr. RAHALL.
 H.R. 2698: Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.
 H.R. 2701: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. CAPUANO.
 H.J. Res. 2: Mr. MULVANEY and Mr. CRAVAACK.
 H.J. Res. 73: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona and Mr. STUTZMAN.
 H. Res. 25: Mr. BURGESS.
 H. Res. 60: Ms. WATERS, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mr. GOSAR.
 H. Res. 95: Mr. DEFazio.
 H. Res. 134: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. MARINO, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. McDERMOTT, and Mr. ELLISON.
 H. Res. 179: Mr. SHERMAN.
 H. Res. 216: Ms. WOOLSEY.
 H. Res. 253: Mr. GARRETT.
 H. Res. 271: Mr. HULTGREN.
 H. Res. 295: Mr. BURGESS.
 H. Res. 296: Mr. HULTGREN.
 H. Res. 367: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut.
 H. Res. 379: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
 H. Res. 380: Mr. BACHUS, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. KLINE.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Education and the Workforce in S. 365 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 2584

OFFERED BY: Mr. HOLT

AMENDMENT No. 92: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:
 SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to conduct seismic surveying, oil or natural gas preleasing, or oil or gas leasing activities in the North Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, or South Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf Planning Area identified in the Department of the Interior 2012-2017 5-year oil and gas leasing program.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RICHARD (RICK) PARSLEY

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the late Richard Parsley. Rick passed away peacefully on July 25, 2011.

Rick was born in Atwater, California on November 30, 1949. He graduated from Atwater High School. He joined the Navy at the age of 17 and served his country with a tour of duty in Vietnam where he was awarded a bronze star.

Rick began a career as a local merchant but learned that business was not where his passion lied and he was a person who refused to live life without passion. In his late 30's, he set out to become an educator, where he found his calling. Rick spent many years as a dedicated teacher, principal and administrator.

Many people have said how Rick profoundly influenced their lives and they considered him to be their mentor. His pure passion for life inspired others to live the same way. Rick always encouraged others to strive for a better life. He lived a life of passion for the things he loved including spending time on the water in his boat with his friends and family.

Though Rick's life ended much too soon, it was a life complete in so many ways. He is survived by the love of his life, Mae Pierini; his daughter Lori and Lori's husband Jason; his son Jeff and Jeff's wife Jen; stepsons Santi and Michael; Michael's wife Azeb; stepdaughter Shelli and Shelli's husband Jason; his seven grandchildren: Maren, Madison, Santi, Gianni, Hanna, Maya, Lucca; and so many who called him a friend.

Mr. Speaker, the recognition that I am offering today before the House of Representatives for Richard Parsley is small compared to the contributions and impact he had on the lives of so many. He was truly an invaluable member of our community and an outstanding human being.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FOUNDING OF THE BALDIC
AMERICAN FREEDOM LEAGUE

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the Baltic American Freedom League, an important national Baltic American organization. The Baltic American Freedom League (BAFL) was founded in February 1981 by Baltic American political activists in southern California to

raise American consciousness about Baltic issues and to carry out specific and concrete goals and projects toward helping achieve freedom for the Soviet occupied Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

In 1982, BAFL initiated a Congressional resolution asking President W. Reagan to designate June 14, 1982 as Baltic Freedom Day—reiterating U.S. non-recognition of the forcible and illegal incorporation of the Baltic Republics into the U.S.S.R. This Proclamation continued each year until the Baltic countries regained their independence in 1991.

Due to the combined efforts of BAFL, other Baltic organizations, and the Senate and House Baltic Caucuses, the Senate passed SCR 35 on May 19, 2005, and the House of Representatives unanimously adopted H.R. 128 on July 22, 2005; historic resolutions stating that “. . . it is the sense of Congress that the Government of the Russian Federation should issue a clear and unambiguous statement of admission and condemnation of the illegal occupation and annexation by the Soviet Union from 1940 to 1991 of the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, the consequences of which will be significant increase in good will among the affected people”.

In February 1997, at the request of BAFL, a Baltic Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives was organized by me and my colleague, Congressman KUCINICH of Ohio. The Caucus currently has 55 House Members and has played and continues to play an important role in supporting Baltic issues.

Since November 17, 2008, the citizens of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania have been able to travel to the U.S. without obtaining visas, thanks to BAFL and other Baltic organizations, and all those in Congress whose dedication and persistent work overcame strong opposition, and persuaded the U.S. to expand its Visa Waiver Program to include the Baltic countries.

I want to congratulate the Baltic American Freedom League and all its members, past and present, on this 30th anniversary celebration, and to join with other Members of this House in wishing them continued success for another 30 years and beyond.

H.R. 2671 CORRECTION OF
ORIGINAL COSPONSORS

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, due to a clerical error, Representatives DAVID DREIER, MICHAEL BURGESS, and DENNIS KUCINICH were omitted from being Original Cosponsors of H.R. 2671, the CAL Undiagnosed Diseases Research and Collaboration Network Act of 2011, which was introduced on July 27, 2011. I would like to

apologize for this clerical error and thank my colleagues for their support on this important piece of legislation. Additionally, I would like to extend Representative DREIER a special thank you for his support and role in developing this legislation.

CAPTAIN THOMAS HARPER HONORED WITH FRENCH CROSS OF MILITARY VALOR

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ocala's own Army National Guard Captain Thomas Harper of the 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

Captain Harper and the 2nd Battalion, 20th Special Forces unit successfully provided security assistance for the French Foreign Legion in the Uzbeen Valley of Afghanistan.

He was among those soldiers separated from their unit by a mortar blast causing shrapnel to injure four of the five American soldiers and exposed to enemy fire.

Despite their injuries, Captain Harper and his comrades moved the severely injured to safety and repelled the attack for more than an hour until air support and medic helicopters arrived.

Captain Harper was among five National Guards and one active duty Special Forces soldiers honored with the French Croix de la Valeur Militaire (French Cross of Military Valor), an honor rarely bestowed on any soldier, especially those who are not French.

I join his family, Dr. Wayne Harper, Debbie Harper and sisters Chrissy and Lauren in sharing great pride in the accomplishments of this great American. For their bravery, I rise today Mr. Speaker to honor Captain Thomas Harper and his comrades for their service, and for the unwavering dedication shown to their country.

RICK CABLES TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rick Cables for both his established career with the United States Forest Service, and for being named director of the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife.

Mr. Cables is a native Coloradan, and he grew up in Pueblo. In the early 1970s, Mr. Cables left Pueblo to attend Northern Arizona University, and in 1976 he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in forestry, leading him to

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

his first job in Arizona's Kaibab National Forest as a forestry technician.

Mr. Cables' work ethic led him throughout Arizona and New Mexico before he was promoted to be district ranger of Arizona's Apache-Sitgraves National Forest. As the district ranger, he oversaw the management of the campgrounds and trails, protected the local vegetation and wildlife, and served as the first point of contact for the forest service. Fourteen years later, Mr. Cables moved to Juneau, Alaska, to be the regional forester for the Alaskan region, overseeing the two largest national forest systems in the U.S.

In 2000, Mr. Cables moved back to Colorado to serve as the regional forester for the Rocky Mountain region. Throughout the past 11 years, Mr. Cables served the Rocky Mountain region, working with both local and federal officials to enhance the productivity of the Rocky Mountains. In June of 2011, Mr. Cables was named to be the director of the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, a position he called a "dream job."

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Rick Cables and his outstanding career in conservation and forestry. I look forward to witnessing him continue to bring the same success he has brought to the communities he served throughout the U.S. to the state of Colorado.

HONORING STANLEY WELCH ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Stanley Welch, a member of my staff who has been with me from the beginning, as he retires after almost twenty-eight years of federal service. Stanley has dedicated a lifetime to public service and has served the New Haven community in a variety of capacities—all of which have enriched the City and improved the quality of life for its residents.

Stanley has been a member of my staff for more than twenty years, though I have known him for much longer. We first met during Frank Logue's first campaign for Mayor where he was involved in coordinating the roving canvass—a get out the vote initiative that is used by candidates throughout New Haven still today. When I was first elected to Congress, I asked Stan to join my team and he was an invaluable resource as we started up the District Office, hired staff, and began our work in constituent services. Stanley understood the importance of constituent services in the District and, over the years, he has been a mentor to many new staff members—offering them guidance and support as they began their own careers in federal service. As Deputy District Director and casework supervisor he has played an integral role in ensuring that the District Office has run smoothly and that our constituents have had access to federal resources and assistance in resolving issues with federal agencies. Stanley himself worked

on issues concerning veterans and over the course of his career he developed an expertise in this area. His presence in my office will certainly be missed.

Born in upstate New York and raised in the greater Boston area, Stanley came to New Haven in 1962. In the nearly five decades since he came to our community, Stanley's work has touched the lives of thousands. He was a teacher in the New Haven public school system, a case manager with the City of New Haven's Department of Human Services, vocational counselor with the Greater New Haven Opportunities Industrial Center as well as the Director of a Connecticut State sheltered workshop for mentally challenged adults, Director and Education Coordinator of the Vanguard Teen Center in Newhallville, and served as the first Director of the Community Action Agency of New Haven. Stanley began his career in federal service with my predecessor, Congressman Bruce Morrison, and has spent nearly thirty years assisting the people of Connecticut's 3rd Congressional District with difficulties they have had with federal agencies. In each of these endeavors, Stanley was looking to make a difference in the lives of some of our most vulnerable citizens.

In addition to his professional contributions to the community, Stanley has also dedicated innumerable hours to local civic and service organizations. For more than twenty years he has served on the Board of Directors of Columbus House, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the homeless and those at risk of homelessness, as well as the Hill Development Corporation, a local non-profit organization dedicated to the revitalization of New Haven's Hill neighborhood. He has also been involved with the United Way Campaign cabinet and was the first Chairman of the Combined Federal Campaign of Western Central Connecticut. Stanley has been recognized by a myriad of organizations for his efforts on their behalf including MaKeLa Incorporated, the Marine Cadets of America, Youth Business Enterprises, the Greater New Haven Youth Continuum, the Hamden Black Democratic Club, and Casa Otonal.

It is not often that you find an individual who dedicates so much of themselves to serving others. Throughout his professional career and in his personal time, Stanley has sought every opportunity to do just that. On a more personal note, Stanley is not just a member of my staff—he is family. I cannot thank him enough for all that he has done over the years. Today, as he celebrates his retirement, I am proud to extend my very best wishes to Stanley, his companion of more than twenty years, Linda Thorpe; his five sons Stanley, Jr., Jordon, Julian, Kwad, and Jamal; as well as his fifteen grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. I wish them all the best for many more years of health and happiness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 323 I was unable to cast my vote on the

House floor because I was ill. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE COMMUNITY SERVICE ETHIC OF RALPH NILLES

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American, Ralph Nilles. Ralph is a friend of North Carolina and the High Country whose tireless volunteerism is an inspirational testament to his concern for others and his community.

Ever since he retired in North Carolina's High Country, he has dedicated his retirement years to volunteering for almost every local organization that was doing good things for the community. One of the characteristics people admire most about Ralph is how he never shies away from hard work—he knows the value of a hard day's work, especially when it is given to help others in need.

Although his health has declined recently and taken him from the volunteer work he loved so much, his legacy is strong. He is known as Mr. Volunteer, as the man who will do what it takes to get the job done. From his work with the Foscoe Grandfather Mountain Community Center to his unflagging support for so many good causes, Ralph is the kind of person that every American community loves to call their own.

That's why I'm so proud to honor him today for his many years of selfless service and his countless hours of work on behalf of so many deserving organizations. Ralph is a one-of-a-kind man who has made an indelible mark on his community and I'm confident he has inspired many to follow in his footsteps of volunteerism.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, July 7, 2011, I mistakenly voted "no" on Rollcall No. 522—Cole of Oklahoma Amendment No. 4, an amendment to H.R. 2219, Department of Defense Appropriations Act. The amendment stated that none of the funds made available by the underlying bill may be used to implement any rule, regulation, or Executive Order regarding the disclosure of political contributions that takes effect on or after the date of enactment of the underlying bill. I intended to vote "yes" on Rollcall No. 522.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMART ELECTRONICS ACT

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Smart Electronics Act.

The Smart Electronics Act is an effort to reduce the amount of energy consumed by consumer electronic devices. Electronic gadgets already account for about 15 percent of household electricity consumption, and as these gadgets proliferate, their energy use continues to grow.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates that by 2030, new electronic gadgets will triple their energy consumption to 1,700 terawatt hours, the equivalent of the home electricity consumption of the U.S. and Japan combined. According to the IEA, the international community will have to build over 15,000 wind turbines (or 200 nuclear power plants) to power all the TVs, iPods, PCs and other home electronics expected to be plugged in by 2030. The electric bill to power all household electronics will top \$200 billion a year, compared with last year's bill of \$80 billion. Most of this increase in consumer electronics will occur in developing countries, where economic growth is outpacing developed nations and ownership rates of gadgets are lowest.

If the devices are not made more energy efficient, their proliferation will undermine efforts to increase energy security and reduce the emission of greenhouse gases responsible for global warming. The answer to this problem will not be found in stemming the tide of electronic gadget envy, because there is no way we will be able to do that. Instead, we must encourage the development of better devices that are built more efficiently and run on less energy.

Programs like Energy Star have already started improving our electronically dependent world. Last year as a result of Energy Star, Americans saved \$6,000,000,000 while also saving enough energy to power over 10,000,000 homes. However, the Energy Star program as it is currently structured cannot solve the problem due to the limited number of devices it covers.

To address this, I am reintroducing the Smart Electronics Act. The bill would require the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to report to Congress within a year on several key areas to ensure we achieve the clarity needed for industry to thrive. First, the DOE and EPA must assess the potential for energy efficient electronics to receive an Energy Star designation, and the potential savings accrued (e.g. cost, energy) through a specific program focused on smart electronics. Second, they must assess the global growth of electronics usage and utilization and the associated energy consumption. Lastly, the bill calls for the DOE and EPA to standardize a process for defining, categorizing, and ranking technologies as "smart." If it is deemed appropriate, a smart electronics emphasis and a Smart Electronics Registry would be incorporated into the Energy Star program.

The bill defines smart electronics as devices that cooperate with the electrical grid to cut down on energy consumption. This minimization can be achieved through power-factor correction, utilizing stand-by modes, communication and monitoring with the smart grid, taking advantage of off-peak charging and operation, on-demand and variable processing speed semiconductors, or switching to a lower power mode.

Importantly, this legislation will help us green the electronics industry by providing the private sector with reliable standards and incentives and by educating and empowering consumers to make smarter and more efficient choices—all of which help cool the planet.

I look forward to working with Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman UPTON and Ranking Member WAXMAN on moving this bill through their committee and the House.

RECOGNIZING VENANCIA R. COLET ON BEING NAMED A 2011 OUTSTANDING SENIOR VOLUNTEER BY THE NATIONAL SENIOR MEDICAL CARE PATROL

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Venancia R. Colet, for her exemplary volunteer work with the Guam Senior Medicare Patrol Project (Guam SMP), an outreach program which educates Medicare recipients about the complexities of the Medicare program. Mrs. Colet was recently named one of ten SMP volunteers, nationwide, to receive the Outstanding Senior Volunteer Award. This national award from the U.S. Administration on Aging recognizes the commitment of volunteers to fight against health care fraud and abuse.

Mrs. Colet worked as a counselor with the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (DMHSA) from 1976 to 1997. After her retirement, she continued to serve the community of Guam by training and supervising DMHSA counselors in responding to crises, and she has worked with local programs that address the needs of emotionally disturbed children and youth in Guam.

In 2008, Mrs. Colet began volunteering for the Guam SMP program, and since then she has conducted numerous counseling sessions with homebound Medicare recipients. She was the first and is currently the only SMP volunteer with proficiency in both the Tagalog and Ilocano languages of the Philippines, a skill that has helped the program reach many Medicare beneficiaries on Guam.

Mrs. Colet was born in the province of Vigan, Ilocos, in the Philippines and moved to Guam in 1974. She currently resides in the northern village of Dededo, Guam. She has been married to Rodolfo Colet for the past 35 years, and they have two children. In addition to her contributions to Guam SMP, Mrs. Colet is an active volunteer for the American Red Cross and has provided voluntary services following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on our Nation.

I congratulate Mrs. Colet on being named an Outstanding Senior Volunteer for the Senior Medical Patrol Project. On behalf of the people of Guam, I extend to her a sincere *undangkulo nab si Yu 'os Ma'ase* for dedication and commitment to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF CAPTAIN JEFF BOWEN OF THE ASHEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Captain Jeff Bowen for his distinguished service in the Asheville City Fire Department.

A husband and father of three, Captain Bowen passed away July 29th, 2011, at the age of 37, while serving the people of Asheville, North Carolina. Captain Bowen first joined the Asheville Fire Department 13 years ago and dedicated himself fully to protecting the city until his life was claimed during a fire at a Biltmore Avenue medical office building.

Firefighters serve as an integral part of our community. It is remarkable that men such as Captain Bowen commit themselves to a profession that engenders such risk and sacrifice. These stakes often fashion strong friendships and bonds that go beyond the walls of any fire department. Today, we all stand with the 240 firefighters in the Asheville Fire Department who lost a colleague, a friend, and a brother. We also pray for Captain Bowen's wife, Stacy, and his three children as they grieve for the loss of a remarkable husband and father.

Captain Bowen was often described as a "firefighter's firefighter," a selfless man who truly enjoyed coming to work every shift. He was respected by his fellow firefighters and appreciated by his officers. Through his commendable service, Captain Bowen has made Western North Carolina proud. It is my honor to commemorate him, and I urge my colleagues to join me today in honoring Captain Jeff Bowen for the sacrifice he has made for the city of Asheville, the citizens of North Carolina, and the people of the United States.

JOHN P. ERCUL TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to rise in recognition of Deputy Chief John P. Ercul, for his 42 years of service in the Pueblo Police Department, and for his service in the United States Army.

Mr. Ercul graduated from the Southern Colorado State College with a degree in English and Mass Communications, later attending many specialized law enforcement schools as he built his distinguished career of service to the people of Pueblo. Mr. Ercul's passionate dedication to his work over four decades has

left an indelible mark on the community and on the legacy of the Pueblo Police Department.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the duration of his service in the Pueblo Police Department, Mr. Ercul has been devoted to his community. His years of service and commitment to the people of Pueblo deserve great recognition and admiration.

THE SERVICE OF ROD WEIGAND,
GRAND LODGE REPRESENTATIVE, IAM

HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a notable labor advocate in New Mexico's First Congressional District, Mr. Rod Weigand. Mr. Weigand has served for the past 7 years as Grand Lodge Representative for New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming as part of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, or "IAM."

In his role, Mr. Weigand has conducted numerous campaigns in the Aerospace, Service Contract and Automotive sectors of industry. He was also instrumental in securing collective bargaining agreements in the Service Contract arena which included White Sands Missile Range and Kirtland Air Force Base. His 31 years of membership, dedication, and service to the Machinists Union have centered upon core values of organized labor: fair pay for an honest day's work, dignified treatment in the workplace, and equal opportunity for all. In recent years, those kinds of organized labor struggles have come under increasing attack. Yet the strength of the labor movement is visible in leaders like Mr. Weigand.

Mr. Weigand's dedication to the well-being of working New Mexican machinists and aerospace workers resulted in many sacrifices in his own life. Yet his work has been instrumental in mentoring numerous union activists in hopes of maintaining a middle class America, while allowing for those less fortunate to realize their American dream. This great nation should continue to be the land of equal opportunity as it was intended by our forefathers.

In New Mexico, when many other sectors recently struggled or lost jobs, our innovative industries grew in revenue and contributed to our national defense, energy independence, and economic vitality. Those sectors are helping our nation's ability to rise to the challenges of the 21st century and they're also providing high-skill high-wage jobs. I appreciate Mr. Weigand's leadership in those New Mexican sectors, including high technology manufacturing and aerospace.

I am proud to honor Mr. Rod Weigand for his continued leadership in strengthening the manufacturing and aerospace industry in New Mexico and for promoting the well-being of its workers. The impact of leaders like Mr. Weigand and the Machinists and Aerospace Workers is critical to New Mexico's future. As a result, today's workers enjoy benefits far beyond what they had before and in the words

of IAM, "it doesn't cost to be a union member—it pays." I wish Mr. Weigand and his family our best in all of their future endeavors.

THE GRAND OPENING OF THE
HEART MOUNTAIN WYOMING
INTERPRETATIVE LEARNING CENTER

HON. CYNTHIA M. LUMMIS

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Grand Opening of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation's Interpretative Learning Center in my home State of Wyoming. While the Heart Mountain Relocation Center symbolizes a sad time in our nation's history, the opening of the Interpretative Learning Center begins a new era. It will be a first class educational facility that preserves and teaches the lessons embodied in the wartime experience of people of Japanese ancestry confined during World War II.

The Heart Mountain Relocation Center was located on then public lands in Park County, Wyoming. It was named after the Heart Mountain Butte visible in the distance. It was, and is, in a very rural area of Wyoming. It held nearly 14,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II on 740 acres. At the time it was the third largest community in Wyoming.

Heart Mountain was one of ten internment camps in the American West established by the War Relocation Authority and authorized by President Roosevelt under Executive Order shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Under the justification of national security, the U.S. military was authorized to create military zones on the West Coast from which residents of Japanese ancestry were excluded.

The Heart Mountain Relocation Center was surrounded by guard towers and barbed wire fences and consisted of 650 barrack-style buildings, including a hospital, other support facilities and 468 residential units. Nearly two-thirds of those imprisoned at Heart Mountain were American citizens born in the United States and living in California, Oregon and Washington States. Internees were able to take few possessions with them and were forced to leave their homes, farms, and businesses.

Yet, despite their unjust imprisonment, the Japanese Americans at Heart Mountain never forgot that they were Americans. While residing at the Relocation Center, internees set up systems for democratic governance, health care, education, farming, and community services. More than 800 internees served in the U.S. armed forces during World War II, 11 of whom were killed and 52 wounded in battle.

This dark spot on the history of America and Wyoming nevertheless created lasting friendships and an indelible imprint on Northwest Wyoming. While he was a young Boy Scout living in Cody, Wyoming, former Wyoming Senator Alan Simpson met former Representative and Secretary of Commerce and Transportation Norman Mineta when the Minetas were interned at Heart Mountain. They remain

dear friends today. Senator Simpson, Secretary Mineta, and the people of Northwest Wyoming have wholeheartedly embraced the efforts of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation to share this history with future generations.

The Heart Mountain Interpretative Learning Center is the culmination of a 15-year grass-roots undertaking to preserve the historic site and interpret what occurred there for current and future generations of Americans. The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation has raised nearly \$5 million through private donations, including significant contributions by former Heart Mountain internees. This funding has been used to acquire 50 acres at the original site and construct the Interpretative Learning Center. This effort has been supported by the Park County Commissioners, the Cody Country Chamber of Commerce, the Powell Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Park County Travel Council and the Northwest Region of the Wyoming Business Council.

The Center will house a number of permanent exhibits and artifacts in a barracks-like structure that will capture a sense of everyday life at the Relocation Center. Visitors will learn about the lives the internees left behind and the upheaval caused by the forced evacuation from their homes. There are a number of interactive displays and exhibits to help recreate the experience. There also will be an opportunity for visitors to gain insight into the post-war challenges for internees and the tragic legacy of civil rights abuses.

The world class facility will serve as a national center for education, policy and research in collaboration with universities and historic preservation organizations. Most significantly, it will be a visible reminder of the need to balance national security with respect for the civil rights of citizens.

The Heart Mountain Interpretative Learning Center, located between Cody and Powell, Wyoming, is located only 50 miles from Yellowstone National Park and Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area. Over 1,000 internees, descendants, and supporters from across the nation will attend the Grand Opening of the Heart Mountain Interpretative Learning Center later this month. It is my hope that my colleagues and their constituents will take time to visit the Heart Mountain Interpretative Learning Center when they visit Wyoming.

I congratulate the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, and applaud the opening of a learning center designed to help us never to forget the importance of the liberties granted to all of us by our Constitution.

HONORING THE INTERNATIONAL
UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS,
LOCAL 478 AS THEY CELEBRATE
THEIR CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to join the many who have gathered to celebrate "A Century of Building Connecticut"—the 100th Anniversary of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local

478. Over the last century, the members of Local 478 have been an integral part of Connecticut's construction industry, involved in some of the most important and influential projects in our state. The proud members of Local 478 work tirelessly to make the Union the premier supplier of heavy equipment operators, mechanics, and support personnel in Connecticut.

Local 478 began as most trade unions did—with a group of workers banding together to negotiate safer working conditions and better pay. The 18 original members of Local 478 were granted a charter by the International Union of Steam Engineers in September of 1911. Over the course of its history, Local 478 was also granted several other charters, including the Hoisting and Portable Charter, the Journeyman and Apprentice Charter, as well as the 478B, 478C, 478D and 478E charters—all of which represent the various skills and crafts of today's membership.

One hundred years later, Local 478 continues to serve the interests of their membership. From its humble beginnings, Local 478 has grown to represent more than four thousand members and it has ensured that each of its members and their families have access to state-of-the-art training, fair wages and benefits, and a secure retirement. These are protections that these hard-working men and women rightly deserve. Their work to provide and maintain our state's infrastructure strengthens our communities and improves the quality of life for all Connecticut residents. From the inception of the Merritt Parkway, through the damming of the Naugatuck Valley, to the building of Connecticut's tallest structure and one of the world's largest casinos, the men and women of Local 478 have proudly worked day in and day out to quite literally build Connecticut.

As they celebrate this remarkable milestone in their history, I am proud to stand and extend my sincere congratulations to the leadership and membership of International Union Operating Local 478—past and present—for their many invaluable contributions to our community. I have and continue to be proud to work with them in their endeavors to enrich our state as well as the lives of their membership. Happy 100th Anniversary!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 324, I was unable to cast my vote on the House floor because I was ill, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

CONGRATULATING SPIRIT AEROSYSTEMS ON THE OCCASION OF THE EXPANSION OF ITS MANUFACTURING FACILITY IN KINSTON, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Spirit AeroSystems, Inc. on the expansion of its recently opened manufacturing operations at the North Carolina Global TransPark in Kinston, North Carolina.

Based in Wichita, Kansas, Spirit AeroSystems is one of the world's largest suppliers of commercial airplane components. Spirit, which has domestic facilities in Tulsa and McAlester, Oklahoma as well as international facilities in Prestwick, Scotland; Preston, England; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; and Saint-Nazaire, France, added Kinston, North Carolina to its roster of state-of-the-art aviation operations in July 2010.

Spirit AeroSystems' Kinston facility will begin a new production program responsible for constructing the wing for the Gulfstream G250 and will add approximately 150 to 200 North Carolina jobs over the next five years. This expansion will add to the Global TransPark operation that already produces composite fuselage and leading edge wing spars for the Airbus A350 commercial aircraft.

Mr. Speaker, I represent one of the poorest Congressional districts in the country, and the recession has been especially difficult on the citizens of the First District of North Carolina. However, through these tough times the people of eastern North Carolina have demonstrated their resiliency and competitiveness. As a result of these qualities, I believe other companies will follow Spirit AeroSystems' lead and build successful and reciprocally beneficial relationships in eastern North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me in congratulating Spirit AeroSystems on the expansion of its manufacturing facility in Kinston, North Carolina. I thank Spirit AeroSystems for their demonstrated confidence in the workers of eastern North Carolina. I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

THE PASSING OF FORMER WASHINGTON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, CHIEF CLERK, VITO CHIECHI

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Vito Chiechi—a friend, father, public servant and a political fixture in Washington State.

Anyone who worked in Olympia during Vito's tenure there remembers him as a diligent man, with a kind heart, fun-loving nature, smart nature, and a wealth of ideas. Vito, a first generation Italian-American, was born in

Seattle, Washington in 1925 and grew up in Rainier Valley. His public service began in the U.S. Navy during World War II, where he served in the Pacific Theater aboard the destroyers *McKee* and *Plunkett*.

After the war, he returned to his native Washington, graduated from Seattle University with a Bachelor of Finance and married his sweetheart, Dolores. They were happily married for 52 years, had 9 children, 24 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Vito had a vibrant and distinguished career that matched his larger than life personality. He worked for The Boeing Company for 20 years, served as the Regional Administrator for the General Services Administration and Chief Clerk for the Washington State House of Representatives. Always the entrepreneur, Vito founded his own public affairs and government relations company.

During these tough economic times, we could learn a great deal from Vito. A dear friend of his and mine, Alan Hayworth, recounted the time Vito served as Chief Clerk and the state was in the midst of a tough economic crisis. Vito instituted his own 10 percent across the board cuts. When vendors submitted invoices, Vito would only pay 90 percent of the bill and write back a nice note, "thanking them for participating in the House budget reduction program."

We all learned valuable political lessons from him as well, lessons that can be applied today. Vito was a true patriot, placing his love for America above partisan politics. Because of Vito's warmth and personality he was able to transcend party lines, and had a unique ability to bring people together on common ground issues. Remarkably, Vito held prominent positions for Democratic and Republican officials alike. He hosted the state famous bipartisan pasta dinners for state legislators and local elected officials. His daughter, also named Dolores, remarked that he was fond of saying, "I don't care what you are, just be something!"

Despite suffering a stroke in 1997, Vito refused to retire, or even slow down. Although he was confined to a wheelchair, he continued to frequent the Capitol and throw his famous pasta dinners until his passing on Tuesday July 26, 2011.

Vito's joy for living was never compromised and just three days before his death he celebrated his 86th birthday. Vito's ability to bring people together will undoubtedly be part of his legacy, as Members of both parties express their sorrow at his passing.

Mr. Speaker, Vito Chiechi's life of joy and service is worthy of tribute. As we remember Vito's life, we recognize that the sadness we feel is only for ourselves, at the loss of our friend. While the world has lost one of its bright lights, our dear friend has finally taken a well-earned retirement, and has been reunited with Dolores Audrey, his first love, and wife of 52 years.

INTRODUCING THE FEDERAL
AVIATION EMPLOYEES PROTECTION
ACT OF 2011

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Federal Aviation Employees Protection Act of 2011, which would allow the nearly 4,000 Federal Aviation Administration, FAA, employees left in limbo by a partial FAA shutdown to get back to work. While House Republicans continue to ignore their Congressional duties by opposing a short-term FAA extension, as well as an open and transparent process for a long-term FAA reauthorization, Democrats in the House and Senate have been working to address these furloughs. This legislation is a companion bill to S. 1433, introduced by Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER of West Virginia, Senator MARK WARNER of Virginia, and 14 other senators on July 27, 2011.

On July 23, 2011, the FAA went into partial shutdown on the watch of House Republicans who, earlier that week, voted to restrict Essential Air Service, EAS, for small and rural communities instead of passing a clean, short-term FAA extension. As a result, the FAA was forced to furlough 3,594 employees, including engineering and electronics technicians, computer and logistics specialists, and support staff, among other workers. In addition, the FAA has halted hundreds of airport construction projects, suspended research on next-generation air traffic control systems (NextGen), and lost upwards of \$30 million in tax revenue with each passing day. Without steady funding or workers, the FAA is unable to move forward with the long-term programs and projects that are vital to the future of our aviation system, including lifesaving airport safety improvements and the transition to NextGen.

As House Republicans continue playing the blame game with the Senate, American businesses and workers are losing out on much-needed economic opportunities. The ongoing partial shutdown and consequent furlough of FAA employees have had a devastating impact on families and communities in 35 states across the country. In particular, my home state of Florida has lost 27 FAA employees, 3,061 airport construction jobs, and \$88 million in airport construction funding. Furthermore, media reports indicate that certain airlines have raised consumer prices in order to capitalize on the FAA's inability to collect aviation excise taxes.

Failure to address this dire issue threatens jobs, raises construction costs, and harms consumers at a time when the economic security and stability of our nation's economy is called into question by political gridlock. Fortunately, there is a solution. Much of the FAA is self-funded through user fees that go into the Airport and Airway Trust Fund. The Federal Aviation Employees Protection Act uses this revenue to allow furloughed FAA employees to continue working with pay and benefits, and to provide retroactive pay for the period of their furlough, as Congress seeks a compromise on long-term FAA reauthorization.

Mr. Speaker, the FAA is now in its 10th consecutive day of partial shutdown, which means that furloughed FAA employees have been out of work and without pay for 10 days. This is unconscionable and unacceptable. I urge my colleagues to join me in standing up for these hard-working federal employees and help ensure the continued safety and improvement of our nation's aviation system by supporting the Federal Aviation Employees Protection Act. Enough is enough. If House Republicans were serious about bringing an end to the partial shutdown and furlough of FAA employees, they would support a clean, short-term FAA extension so that Congress could finalize and pass a long-term FAA reauthorization as soon as possible. It is clear that they are not.

THANK YOU MELISSA HITE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Melissa Hite, a dedicated staff member in the office of the Second Congressional District of South Carolina. After spending almost two years in the Washington office, Melissa will be leaving on August 19th to return home to Irmo, South Carolina.

Melissa has played an instrumental role in the Second Congressional District's Washington Intern Program. Serving as Intern Coordinator, Melissa was in charge of training and overseeing all interns in our Washington office. As a Legislative Correspondent, she was responsible for answering constituent mail while serving as the primary contact for constituent tours and flag requests.

Melissa is the second child of Carey and Paula Hite of Irmo and is a 2009 graduate of Wake Forest University.

Melissa's hard work and patience have been a valuable asset to the office. It is with sincere gratitude that I would like to thank Melissa for her enthusiasm and dedication to our office and the people of the Second Congressional District of South Carolina.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS N. CLARK

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas N. Clark, former General Manager of the Kern County Water Agency and respected water expert in our community, who passed away on July 23, 2011, after battling cancer.

While Tom rose to the height of California water politics as General Manager of the Kern County Water Agency, KCWA, he was proud of his Oildale beginnings and never let anyone forget that. After graduating from North High School in 1963, he served for two years in the United States Army and married his sweetheart, Karen. Tom and Karen moved back to

Bakersfield in 1970, and he quickly earned degrees from Bakersfield College and California State University, Bakersfield. Tom then received a full scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh, where he received a Master's Degree in water supply and pollution.

Back in Bakersfield, Tom began his career with KCWA in 1974. During this time, he honed his understanding and knowledge of California water contract law, as well as the ins and outs of Kern County and California water policy. He left KCWA in 1978 and went to work for the late local farmer and entrepreneur George Nickel, where he learned a great deal about Kern River water rights. He later returned to KCWA and became General Manager in 1990, serving in this capacity for 14 years.

As General Manager, Tom was at the center of California water politics, fighting tirelessly for Kern County residents and farmers to ensure our local communities received the water they needed and were entitled to. Recognized as a skilled and shrewd negotiator, Tom could wade through complex water problems to achieve collaborative, win-win solutions, all the while improving water supply reliability for Kern County.

One of Tom's greatest achievements and lasting legacies was the Monterey Agreement, which he helped negotiate with the California Department of Water Resources and other State Water Project contractors. This averted an agricultural disaster in Kern County by preventing tens of thousands of acres of farmland from being fallowed because of lack of water. He also was at the table and worked on the historic 1994 Bay Delta Accord, which provided an agreement among water agencies and environmentalists, leading to the CalFed Record of Decision by the United States Department of the Interior.

To provide more water reliability and supply stability, Tom was the driving force behind the Pioneer Project, a 2,253-acre groundwater recharge and water banking project located in Kern County, which KCWA operates to this day. This project was deservedly renamed the "Thomas N. Clark Recharge and Banking Project" in 2010. His leadership over the years helped KCWA navigate through "wet" and "dry" years, and the benefits of that leadership are still seen throughout the community and at all levels of government.

Tom is survived by his wife, Karen, his children, Krista and Jeff, and his grandchild, Henry. I will miss Tom's great sense of humor and barbecuing, but I know he will be fondly remembered as a strong leader who was a passionate advocate for Kern County water and respected by many.

HONORING COLONEL ADELE E.
HODGES, USMC ON THE OCCA-
SION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the United States Marine Corps and the Marine Cadets of

America in extending my sincere congratulations to Col. Adele E. Hodges as she retires after 33 years of dedicated service to the Marines. A Connecticut native, Colonel Hodges has demonstrated a unique dedication to the service of our nation and I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize her outstanding military career.

Following her graduation from Southern Connecticut State College, Colonel Hodges enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in June of 1978 and less than a year later was accepted into the Enlisted Commissioning Program. Beginning her career in a time when few women were entering the military, Colonel Hodges worked diligently to rise through the ranks and has built a reputation and record of service that is enviable by any standard. Her assignments have taken her to Japan, Hawaii, Louisiana, California, and Virginia. She has served at the U.S. Naval War College in Rhode Island, the NATO Joint Headquarters North East and the NATO Joint Warfare Centre in Stavanger, Norway. She concluded her career assigned to Headquarters United States Marine Corps Office of the Inspector General as the Director of Readiness Assessments.

Throughout her military career, Colonel Hodges has been recognized with the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with 3 Stars, and a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. To say that Colonel Hodges has broken through barriers would be an understatement and her home state of Connecticut could not be more proud of the extraordinary officer she has become.

An organization in my home town of New Haven, Connecticut, the Marine Cadets of America, owes a debt of gratitude to Colonel Hodges. The Marine Cadets is a program that provides at-risk youth with training and activities designed to promote awareness of the dangers of drug/substance abuse and promote pride both in one's self and in one's community. It was through the assistance and support of Colonel Hodges that the Marine Cadets of America was formally recognized by the Corps—a designation that the organization had been seeking for several years. For the many marines that volunteer for the program as well as the cadets whose lives are changed by their participation, this recognition was extremely meaningful. I am honored to have this opportunity to thank Colonel Hodges for the personal commitment she gave to this effort.

For both her exemplary service to our nation in the United States Marine Corps as well as her personal contributions to our community, I am proud to stand today to pay tribute to Col. Adele E. Hodges. Hers is a legacy that will continue to inspire others for generations to come and I extend my very best wishes to her for many more years of health and happiness as she embarks on this new chapter of her life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 325 I was unable to cast my vote on the House floor because I was ill. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

INTRODUCTION ON THE TERRITORIES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2011

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced the "Territories Economic Development Opportunity Act," a bill which would amend Title 23 of United States Code, to provide for the participation of the territories in Federal-aid highway discretionary programs. The bill provides a statutory fix to redress an inequity in transportation funding options for Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

I thank my colleagues, Congresswoman DONNA CHRISTENSEN of the U.S. Virgin Islands; Congressman ENI FALEOMAVAEGA of American Samoa; and Congressman GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for their cosponsorship of this important legislation. The "Territories Economic Development Opportunity Act" ensures that our jurisdictions are able to compete for discretionary programs administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Currently, the jurisdictions of Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are not eligible to compete for funding under the National Bridge Program or the Ferry Boats and Ferry Terminal Facilities program. This legislation would make the territories eligible to compete under these discretionary funding accounts.

Economic development and facilitation of commerce in each of these jurisdictions is important. On Guam, a safe and comprehensive road network is important to facilitating improvements in our tourism industry. It is also important for the transport of military equipment and personnel from Andersen Air Force Base to Navy Base Guam. Without a well developed and maintained road network, these industries on Guam would be difficult to sustain. Therefore, a stronger infrastructure network is important to maintaining and expanding these economic lynchpins of Guam's economy.

However, in an era of declining budgets and given the current planned reductions in discretionary spending (according to the current deficit that will be voted on today by the House of Representatives), it is prudent and responsible to ensure that the territories have the same opportunity as any other jurisdiction to compete for discretionary funding to improve

their infrastructure systems. Each of our territories has a unique economic situation but we all recognize the importance of having a robust infrastructure system to facilitate commerce and economic opportunities in each of our jurisdictions. For example, on Guam, as the realignment of military forces begins implementation, it may be necessary to develop a ferry system so that civilians and military alike can go between Guam and ports within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. In any of the 50 states, the development of a ferry system could be aided, in part, by federal funding through the Ferry Boats and Ferry Terminal Facilities Program. However, this would not be possible on Guam or any of the other smaller territories.

Further, major bridge projects on Guam like the Ylig Bridge Replacement or the Route 4 Bridge repairs are not eligible for competitive funding under the National Bridge Program. Instead, such projects must solely be funded through the Territorial Highway Program. Given the scope and cost of many of these projects, other road projects are deferred or go unfunded. Thus, it is important to give the small territories the same opportunity to compete for this critical funding as any one of the 50 states.

Mr. Speaker, this bill allows us to begin a discussion about the treatment of the territories in any forthcoming development of a surface transportation reauthorization bill. In an era of tight budgets, it is only fair and right to allow Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to compete for critical infrastructure funding that will help to develop economic opportunities and facilitate commerce in each of our respective jurisdictions.

RECOGNIZING THE SUCCESS OF THE PARADA SAN JUAN BAUTISTA IN CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Puerto Rican community of Camden on the occasion of the Parada San Juan Bautista. The parade celebrates St. John the Baptist, the patron saint of Puerto Rico and the namesake of its capital, San Juan. This year's festivities occurred on Sunday, June 26th and marked the 54th anniversary of the annual parade.

In 1957, parishioners from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church decided to organize a parade. Their goal was to promote a positive image of Puerto Rican heritage and to share their culture with the city of Camden. This first parade has since expanded into a month-long celebration. The current organizers' dual objectives are to strengthen ties within the Puerto Rican community and with the larger Camden community.

The Parada San Juan Bautista holds special significance to the Puerto Rican community in Camden. It is an opportunity for them to share

their culture with friends and enables them to pass on their traditions to younger generations. This year's parade travelled a mile-long route through the city and featured fire fighters from Camden and Philadelphia on their trucks. In addition to the parade, the day included traditional singing, dancing, and foods, all culminating in a concert on the beautiful Camden Waterfront. I thank the Puerto Rican community for all they do to enrich and support South Jersey, and I pay special recognition to this year's Parada San Juan Bautista.

IN TRIBUTE TO HENRY "HANK"
LACAYO ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Henry "Hank" Lacayo, who will celebrate his 80th birthday next month.

Despite the fact that Hank and I disagree on just about every political issue, we have become friends over the many decades we have known each other. Hank is a man of great integrity and intelligence. What we do have in common is a great love of our country and a desire to do whatever is in our power to make America a better place for all Americans.

As Hank knows, I greatly respect his right to be wrong on how to get there, as I'm sure he says the same about me.

To say Hank Lacayo is a union man is to say that Hershey makes chocolate.

I haven't time to list all of Hank's accomplishments, but let me touch on some of the highlights:

Hank began his labor career in 1953, and was soon elected to serve as President of UAW Local 887, representing over 32,000 workers at North American Aviation/Rockwell International in Los Angeles. In 1974, he accepted a position with the union's national headquarters in Detroit, Michigan, as an Executive Assistant to then President Leonard Woodcock.

He was appointed National Director of UAW's political and legislative department. Under Democratic administrations, beginning with John F. Kennedy, he served as advisor to both current and past presidents of the United States. He has also been involved with the electoral process of U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives, State Governors and legislators, and national advocacy organizations throughout America.

Hank is listed in Who's Who in Labor, First Edition. He currently serves as a Commissioner of the California Commission on Aging, is a past member of the CCoA Executive Committee and chair of the policy/advocacy committee. He is the State President of the Congress of California Seniors and a member of the board of directors of: the Ventura County Community Foundation; El Concilio Family Services; St. Barnabas Senior Services in L.A.; Health Access; Jewish Labor Committee; California Foundation on Aging; and CSU-CI Foundation; and Board Chair for La Hermandad. He is also a member of the Cal State University Channel Island President's Circle.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in wishing Hank a Happy 80th Birthday and wishing him many more with his wife, Leah, his family, and his many friends.

TRIBUTE TO BRAD HUDSON

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California, are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Brad Hudson is one of these individuals. On August 9, 2011, Brad will be honored at a Riverside City Hall reception as he ends his tenure as the City of Riverside's City Manager.

Brad Hudson came to the City of Riverside after serving as the Assistant County Executive Officer of the Economic Development Agency where he was responsible for broad activities and operations throughout the county.

Earlier, Brad spent more than 14 years with the County of Riverside, where he began as Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Eastern Riverside County. Additionally, Hudson proudly served his country in the United States Air Force. He received his B.S. degree from California State University, Fresno, and an MPA from the University of San Francisco.

Appointed as City Manager by the City Council, Brad has acted as the Chief Administrative Officer of the City. He enforces the laws and carries out the policies of the Council through the control and direction of City Departments. In addition, during his time as City Manager, Brad made numerous recommendations to the Council on legislation, fiscal matters, capital improvements and other City policies, and he oversaw the responsibilities of the Communications Officer and the Intergovernmental Relations Office. Riverside City Council members have extensively praised Hudson for accomplishing so much during his six year tenure, particularly a long list of public works projects known as the Riverside Renaissance. After Brad leaves Riverside, he will take the helm as the City of Sacramento's Chief Executive. As such, he will provide leadership to ensure the smooth operation and management of all City Departments.

In light of all Brad Hudson has done for the community of Riverside, we wish him the best as he moves on to his next professional endeavor. Brad's tireless passion for the community has contributed immensely to the betterment of Riverside, California. I am proud to call Brad a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he ends his time as City Manager for the City of Riverside.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the millions of Americans employed through our nation's vibrant arts sector. I stand in opposition to the unreasonable cuts proposed in Mr. Walberg's amendment to H.R. 2584, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2012. Both the amendment and the underlying bill propose irresponsible cuts to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

To understand the rich history of federal funding for the arts, one need look no further than my home state of Florida. From our State Library's extensive archives of folksongs documenting the history of Florida's multicultural fishing communities, the exquisite Depression-era murals that tell the history of Florida along the walls of our Federal Courthouse in Tallahassee, to Key West's intricate Hurricane Memorial down south, evidence of the positive impact of federally supported art projects abound throughout Florida.

Federal funding for the arts began during a time of great economic hardship in our country, under President Roosevelt's New Deal. During the Great Depression, artists were among the tens of millions of Americans out of work. They were able to get back to work through vital federal arts programs of the day. A significant portion of the materials documenting Florida's New Deal arts projects are housed in my home district, in the Broward County Library's Bienes Museum of the Modern Book. This collection contains hundreds of vintage Florida tourism posters and postcards created by artists employed by the Federal Arts Program (FAP), and visual aids produced for use in schools across the country.

The words of President Roosevelt's director of the FAP, Harry Hopkins, ring just as true today as they did in 1939 when he said of artists struggling during the Depression, "Hell, they have to eat too." The arts are not just a nice thing to have on display or something to do if there's free time, or if one can afford it. Arts jobs are real jobs, and today, more than ever, the arts are an economic engine in our communities.

My Congressional district is home to at least 2,800 arts-related businesses that employ 10,000 people. In this time of economic hardship, we know that the arts community has been affected deeply—forced to shed jobs and lose critical donations from the private sector.

I hear my colleagues across the aisle say that the arts can and should be supported by the private sector and philanthropy alone. However, federal support for the arts plays a critical role in leveraging private funding. On average, each NEA grant leverages at least seven dollars from other state, local, and private sources. Private support cannot match the leveraging role of government cultural funding. In our current economic climate when private donations are far harder to come by, this public seed money is more important than ever.

The NEA facilitates essential public-private partnerships through its grants and initiatives. Thanks to NEA support, previously underserved rural and inner city communities across the country are seeing a resurgence of cultural opportunities, which in turn increases tourism and attracts business. The arts have been shown to be a successful and sustainable strategy for revitalizing rural areas, inner cities and populations struggling with poverty. Arts organizations purchase goods and services that help local merchants thrive. Last year alone, arts tourism contributed more than \$192 billion to the U.S. economy. Arts audiences spend money—more than \$100 billion a year—on admissions, transportation, food, lodging and souvenirs that boost local economies.

Across the country, we see the positive impact of the arts on our students and families; yet, this bill proposes cuts to the NEA that will negatively affect thousands of children, young adults, and seniors engaged in lifelong learning.

As a legislator of more than 18 years and as a mother of three, I have seen time and again the tremendous impact art has on the developmental growth of children. It helps level the learning playing field without regard to socioeconomic boundaries. Students engaged in the arts perform better academically across the board and the NEA plays a crucial role in enhancing arts education across the country.

Children exposed to the arts are also more likely to do better in math, reading, and foreign languages. I will always support funding for arts in education because I know it is critical to America winning the future. An innovative country depends on ensuring that everyone has access to the arts and to cultural opportunity. We must guarantee that all children who believe in their talent are able to see a way to create a future for themselves in the arts community, be it as a hobby or as a profession.

Ever since our nation's founding, the inspired works of our artists and artisans have reflected the ingenuity, creativity, independence and beauty of our country. Federal support for the arts has helped preserve our cultural legacies for generations and we must protect its ability to do so in the years to come. The art our culture produces defines who we are as a people and provides an essential account of our history for future generations of Americans.

I urge my colleagues to stand against these irresponsible cuts to the NEA, which provides essential support for arts education and the arts community. Federal support for the arts keeps people employed and puts more Americans back to work. Now is certainly not the time to falter on our commitment to our nation's dynamic arts sector.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "BUSINESS TRANSPARENCY ON TRAFFICKING AND SLAVERY ACT"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce bipartisan legislation along with my colleagues on the Human Trafficking Caucus, Reps. CHRIS SMITH and JACKIE SPEIER.

Most Americans are unaware that many of the goods they use each and every day have passed through the hands of a slave at some point. In 2010, the U.S. Department of Labor identified 128 goods from 70 countries that were made by forced and child labor. We write to invite you to join us in becoming an original cosponsor of the Business Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act, which will increase transparency in supply chains in order to remove slavery from business operations and products.

The Business Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act doesn't tell businesses what to do, but rather to tell consumers what they are doing to end human slavery.

This bill will help raise awareness for consumers who want to know where and how their goods are being made. While there are good actors, there are businesses operating in parts of the world that rely on enslaved humans to produce their products. We believe American consumers have a right to know who these companies are.

This legislation creates a market-based solution rather than relying on prescriptive action by the federal government. Companies simply have to report to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) what they are doing to rid their supply chains of human slavery and post this information on their company Web sites. Consumers will be able to research a company and determine their purchasing decisions based on the information provided. Very simply, this bill creates competition to improve practices to end slavery by providing the public with information about what companies are doing to address slavery.

Human trafficking is the slavery of the 21st century. It is estimated that nearly 12.3 million people are working in some form of forced labor worldwide. The International Labor Organization estimates that for every person trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation, nine people are forced primarily into labor exploitation. We must use every tool available to help these men, women, and children around the world who are enslaved.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

HONORING THE FAIR HAVEN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to extend my sin-

cere congratulations to the administrators and staff of Fair Haven Community Health Center as they celebrate their 40th Anniversary. Over the last four decades, the Fair Haven Community Health Center has provided quality, affordable health care to some of our community's most vulnerable families. In doing so, they have become an invaluable resource to hundreds, earning a well-deserved reputation for ensuring that health care is available regardless of ability to pay. This is an outstanding organization and I am proud to join community leaders and residents alike in commemorating this remarkable milestone.

In 1971 a small group of dedicated nurses, doctors, students, and neighborhood volunteers, under the leadership of a community advocacy agency called the Alliance for Latin American Progress, opened the Fair Haven Clinic in a local elementary school. Two nights a week, the Clinic served adults and children on a walk-in basis for minor ailments, immunizations, and family planning services. With a budget of only five thousand dollars, made available through a grant from the Greater New Haven Community Foundation, they were able to accommodate over five hundred visits in their first year. It was clear that families were not only in need of these basic services, but of expanded health care as well. Over the next decade the Clinic worked to expand the services that they were able to provide to more comprehensive primary health care. Today, the Fair Haven Community Health Center has grown into one of our community's most respected non-profit primary health care organizations, providing comprehensive health care—from prenatal and pediatric to adolescent, adult and geriatric care—to hundreds of residents every year.

The administrators and staff at Fair Haven Community Health Center continue to seek every opportunity that will allow them to provide quality health care to those families who are either uninsured or underinsured. With the growing number of those families who find themselves uninsured or underinsured, the Center has seen demands in the community rise exponentially. I have had many opportunities to visit the Center and am always impressed with the amount of good work that they are able to do with the limited funding that they receive. The Center not only provides health care services, but they have developed and implemented extraordinary outreach and education programs which benefit community residents. Perhaps most importantly, the Center provides the community with the security of knowing that their families will have access to the quality health care they need without the fear of the financial burden of excessive medical bills.

I would be remiss if I did not extend a special note of thanks and congratulations to the Center's Executive Director, Katrina Clark. Katrina has been at the helm of this organization for all but its first two years. It has been under her leadership and because of her vision that the Center has grown so successfully over the last four decades. I have had the privilege to know Katrina for many years. Her commitment to the people of the Fair Haven community is only equaled by her determination to ensure that they have access to quality, affordable health care. She is an extraordinary

woman and I consider myself fortunate to benefit from her counsel and friendship.

Over the course of their history, the Fair Haven Community Health Center has developed strong partnerships that have helped them to continue to expand their services to meet the ever-changing needs of the community. I am proud of the work that we have been able to do together and am honored to have this opportunity to extend my warmest congratulations on their 40th Anniversary as well as my very best wishes for many more years of successful work in our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 326 I was unable to cast my vote on the House floor because I was ill. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

THE LONE STAR BATTALION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when called upon by their country to go into service, Texans have always been up to the challenge. And, in fact, today, serving somewhere in the world, one out of 10 people wearing the American uniform is from the state of Texas.

Texans are always on the front lines in the defense of freedom. It goes all the way back to 1836 when the first Texas veteran found himself at a beat-up old Spanish church in Central Texas that we now call the Alamo. The Alamo was more than 100 years old at the time that he and 186 other brave Texans defended freedom. The defenders of the Alamo were determined to seek liberty for the Republic of Texas. These veterans just like all of those who have followed risked their lives in the name of freedom.

To be a member of the United States military is a gift, a sacrifice and it is an honor. Every day our warriors risk their lives, and today I would like to commend a special infantry battalion close to the heart of many Texans.

The 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, or 1/23, also known as "The Lone Star Battalion," is a home-grown group of soldiers headquartered in Houston, containing approximately 800 Marines and Navy/Corpsmen. The Lone Star Battalion has played a most significant and important part of history. I am proud to recognize and honor the service of the men and women of the 1/23 Marines.

The history of this unit is one of many great successes. Activated in 1942 in North Carolina, they were sent to the Pacific to aid in the United States' "island-hopping" campaign against Japan during World War II. They participated in many battles during this time including Roi-Namur, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima.

Post-World War II, the battalion was activated once again, this time out of Houston on July 1, 1962. After the 9/11 attacks, it was mobilized for the first time since World War II in support of Operation Desert Storm.

Because of the ongoing conflicts in Iraq, the battalion continued to support the global war on terrorism by participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom. It is currently deployed in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Ronald Reagan said this about the United States Marines: "Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world, but the Marines, they don't have that problem."

Recently, the Lone Star Battalion worked with coalition and the Afghan National Army troops to build a school in the small village of Abad, Afghanistan. Not only is this the first school the village has ever seen, the civilian enrollment is projected to be around 50 students come the start of the school year.

This is a critical development considering the literacy rate of the total population in Afghanistan is 28.1 percent.

Acknowledging that it was imperative for the ANA to establish trust and accountability for the civilians they defend, the Marines were eager to let the ANA take the lead role in the construction process of the school. It seems as though not only are these exceptional Marines training the ANA and performing their respective duties, but they are also aiding in forging a bond between a young, willing military and a civilian people in need of a sense of security.

The sons of liberty and daughters of democracy throughout America, and especially Texas, continue to join the military. They understand that our nation is at war, yet they choose to charge headlong into battle. There are not many of us who would be willing to volunteer to leap into the lion's den of Afghanistan where the cowardly enemy hides in caves.

There have been two warriors killed from the Lone Star Battalion this year in Afghanistan: SSgt. Jeremy Smith and Navy Corpsman Benjamin Rast. We shall always remember Smith and Rast and the lives they gave for our freedom.

It has been said that wars may be fought by weapons, but they are won by warriors. It is America's warriors who pay the price for our freedom.

With the recent demise of the most wanted terrorist, Osama bin Laden, the Lone Star Battalion has rejoiced knowing that the Al Qaeda leader is dead but remains humble knowing the fight for freedom is not yet won. I am truly honored to represent many of these fine Marines in Congress and proud to know that there are so many Texans abroad aiding in the security, development and protection of the Afghan and American interests.

I sincerely thank each person who has served our country yesterday, today and tomorrow. Without your service we would not be the greatest country the world has ever known.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA, NAMED "BEST FOR FOOD" IN THE UNITED STATES BY RAND McNALLY

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the many contributors who hosted the Rand McNally Best of the Road competition's judges in Lafayette, Louisiana. Their combined efforts led to Lafayette being named the first "Best for Food" city in the United States. This recognition confirms what many of us already know—there is no place like Lafayette, Louisiana.

The Best of the Road competition began this year in search of the best city in the country in five categories: "Most Beautiful," "Most Patriotic," "Friendliest," "Most Fun," and "Best for Food." Over 600 towns applied for the awards, and thirty finalists were chosen. After visiting the finalists, the judges (consisting of 10 amateur travelers) selected the final 5 winners.

Judges Bonnie and James Parr visited Lafayette to experience the culture and cuisine. The Lafayette Convention and Visitors Commission, LCVC, created an itinerary showcasing not only Lafayette's unique culinary landscape, but also her rich Cajun history. Chef Patrick Mould served as the culinary host, guiding them through their entire experience. The Parrs dined at the following restaurants: Dwyer's, Blue Dog Cafe, Jolie's Bistro, Johnson's Boucaniere, Don's Seafood Hut, French Press, Pamplona Tapas Bar and Restaurant, Charley G's, Randol's, Accidental Chef Cooking, and Hub City Diner. They had lunch with City President Joey Durel, toured the Jean Lafitte Center and Vermilionville, volunteered at St. Joseph's Diner, and visited St. John's Cathedral.

According to Rand McNally's website, the judges "learned the true taste of Cajun food to be 'flavorful, not hot or spicy' and after a meal, the best dessert is 'Cajun dancing.'"

Because Lafayette was chosen as a winning city, it was featured in USA Today on Friday, July 22, 2011. Lafayette's "Best for Food" title will be displayed in the 2013 Rand McNally Atlas.

I am thrilled Lafayette, my hometown, has been honored in such a unique and fitting manner. The award is excellent publicity for our city and region. Once again, I congratulate City Parish President Joey Durel, all members of the LCVC who worked on this project, and the restaurants and chefs who provided such excellent food for the judges.

TO AMEND SECTION 402(a)(2)(M) OF THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996 TO EXTEND BY TWO YEARS THE SPECIAL RULE RELATING TO ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS UNDER THE SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN ALIENS AND VICTIMS OF TRAF- FICKING

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would extend by two years the three-year effective period of extended Supplemental Security Income, SSI, eligibility for time-limited humanitarian immigrants. This is a commonsense bill that simply extends the current policy, which is set to expire on October 1, 2011. The population that would be assisted by this legislation is elderly and disabled refugees and other humanitarian immigrants who have very low income, and who face barriers to passing the naturalization exams within the time limits.

In 2007 during the 110th Congress I introduced H.R. 2608 with bipartisan support, which was signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2008 (P.L. 110-328). This legislation would extend that policy again so that approximately 3,000 refugees do not lose SSI benefits on October 1. Failure to enact this legislation would cause serious hardship for this population.

Mr. Speaker, July 28, 2011 marks the 60th anniversary of the Geneva Refugee Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, an international treaty signed by 142 nations, including the United States. This treaty remains the cornerstone of refugee protection and represents the struggle of millions of displaced people who are uprooted by conflict and persecution. The treaty explicitly commits nations to ensure that lawful refugees be eligible for basic public assistance. This legislation is a small step toward meeting our commitment. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

ON THE OCCASION OF DAVID PAYNE'S RETIREMENT AS SUPERVISOR OF BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate David Payne on a successful career—40 years in service to the residents of Bloomfield Township, as he retires from his position as Township Supervisor.

Mr. Payne began his career in the Road Department in 1970 while finishing his college studies. Just five years later Dave was promoted to Director of the Road Department, the youngest director in the Township's history.

Dave's foray into elected politics began in 1995 when he was appointed Township

Treasurer and was subsequently elected to that position in the following year. Thanks to his strong record as Treasurer, Dave was selected to replace his predecessor in the Supervisor's office in 1999 and the residents of Bloomfield Township have subsequently elected to that position three times, in 2000, 2004 and 2008.

Dave's stewardship of Bloomfield Township has resulted not only in continued prosperity of its businesses and residents, but also transformed the Township's professional environment.

When Dave took the reins of the Township he implemented new policies to change how the Township interacts with the media, its residents and intra-operationally. Upon entering office Dave worked to ensure good communication between the Township and the media—always making himself available to answer questions. He also sought to make it easier for residents and citizen groups to integrate their input into Township business and for concerned citizens to be able to communicate directly with elected officials.

During Dave's tenure as Supervisor, Bloomfield Township has weathered an economic storm that has affected so many other communities across Michigan and the Nation. As a result of Bloomfield Township's sure financial footing under Dave's leadership, Standard and Poor's raised the Township's credit rating to AAA, the highest rating possible for municipalities and as such, Bloomfield Township is one of only five municipalities in Michigan to hold this rating.

Dave's approach to leadership in Bloomfield Township has resulted in continued success for the Township's businesses and residents. I know his hands-on-approach to leadership and his ability to produce consensus will be greatly missed by his colleagues and residents who he served. I wish Dave many more years of success and know that as a resident of Bloomfield Township, the community will continue to benefit from his activism and service.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF MR. JACK G. STONE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Jack G. Stone of Hanford, California who recently passed away at 93 years of age. Over the course of his life, Mr. Stone proved to be tirelessly devoted to confronting the challenges and issues affecting the agriculture and water community in the Central Valley. His contributions to the community and to California agriculture will be remembered.

Jack was born to L.M. "Stoney" and Elaine Stone on November 11, 1917 in Corcoran, California. During his youth, the Stones moved from Corcoran to Hanford, California, where Jack first became aware of the precarious balance between land, water and farming in Western Kings County and Tulare Lake. He continued to learn about the challenges facing the area while attending Hanford High School

and subsequently went on to study engineering at the University of California, Davis.

Upon his graduation from UC Davis, Jack enlisted in the United States Army to serve the country during the second World War. He became a captain and went on to successfully command an Army Engineer Corps in the European Theater. When the war ended, Jack returned home and married his elementary school sweetheart, Hilda Orchard. The pair settled on a farm in Five Points, California where Jack founded J.G. Stone Land Co., and started a family soon thereafter.

Over the years, Jack became well known as a reckoning force in the agricultural community and gained the deep respect of his peers. In the early 1970s, Jack was elected to the Westlands Water District Board of Directors, where he served for an astounding 21 years. The Board of Directors confronted many challenges, and Jack was there to stand against the federal acreage limits for irrigation in the early 1980s, to help increase the land limits from 160 acres per farm to 960 acres, and to help guide the district through the turbulent time of the Kesterson Refuge. Through all those years, Jack remained steadfast in his desire to better the agricultural community.

It goes without saying that Mr. Stone was a one-of-a-kind man. Agriculture was a true passion for Jack and he was an enthusiastic supporter of its preservation throughout Fresno and Kings County. In addition to his work in the community, over the years Jack amassed more than 10,000 acres of land, which he continued to farm until as recently as this spring. His son, Bill Stone, carries on his father's mission at J.G. Stone Land Co., ensuring that Jack's legacy will not be soon forgotten. Mr. Speaker, it is with honor and respect that I ask my colleagues to rise with me in paying tribute to Mr. Jack G. Stone: a true gentleman and visionary for the agrarian way of life.

CONGRATULATING GENOMATICA ON WINNING EPA'S PRESIDENTIAL GREEN CHEMISTRY CHALLENGE AWARD

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate Genomatica for being selected as one of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2011 Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award winners. As America and the world faces the difficult challenges of addressing problems with our environment, it is reassuring that there are companies such as Genomatica taking the initiative and working towards a cleaner environment.

Green chemistry is a philosophy of chemical research and engineering that encourages the design of products and processes that minimize the use and generation of hazardous substances. This technology includes improvements to the environment such as cleaner processes by using safer raw materials. Green chemistry technologies also reduce cost and in most cases are less expensive when compared to conventional chemical products.

For the past 16 years, the EPA has commemorated innovative, clean technologies by presenting its Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Awards. Together, the program's 82 award winners annually:

Eliminate on average 199 million pounds of hazardous chemicals and solvents—enough to fill a freight train nearly 11 miles long;

Save over 21 billion gallons of water—enough to meet the annual needs of over 820,000 people;

Eliminate more than 57 million pounds of carbon dioxide—equal to taking 6,000 automobiles off the road.

Collectively, the winners, as well as the nominated technologies, annually reduce the use or generation of more than 1 billion pounds of hazardous materials.

Genomatica received the Greener Synthetic Pathways Award for its production of High-Volume Chemicals from Renewable Feedstock's at Lower Cost. The company's 1,4-Butanediol (BDO) is one of those green chemicals. BDO is a high-volume chemical building block that is used to make many common polymers, such as spandex. Genomatica has developed a microbe that makes BDO by fermenting sugars. When this is produced at a commercial scale, Genomatica's Bio-BDO will be less expensive, require around 60 percent less energy, and produce less than 70 percent less carbon dioxide emissions than BDO made from natural gas. Genomatica is now partnering with major companies to bring Bio-BDO to the market.

Let history show that this year will be the year Congress makes progress on Green Chemistry and cleaning up the environment. All Americans want to come together to keep the environment safer and cleaner for both the present and the future. With influential companies like Genomatica leading the way, our nation is on its way to a greener tomorrow.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on July 30, I attended the service and funeral of a family member and missed rollcall vote 682. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 682, a bill to cut spending and maintain existing commitments.

HUMBLE OIL FOUNDER WAS 'STERLING' CITIZEN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we often speak of great Americans like Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson. In Texas, there are State heroes like Sam Houston, Stephen F. Austin and William Barrett Travis. Similar to these great men, I would like to recognize one of Houston's

most influential leaders and citizens, Ross Sterling.

On a farm in Anahuac located in southeast Texas, Ross Sterling was born on February 11, 1875. After completing a fourth grade level education, he began working as a clerk at age 12. The experience led him at the age of 21 to launch his own merchandising business. Just seven years later, Sterling opened a feed store in Sour Lake, Texas. Despite his fourth grade education, Sterling could have taught a course about the hardworking man-Work Ethic 101. In 1910, Sterling's big break came when he purchased two oil wells; leading to the charter of The Humble Oil and Refining Company, which later became Exxon.

Now the rest is as they say—Texas history. Sterling went on to open many banks, one of which was the Humble State Bank. He also was a newspaper publisher after buying the Houston Post, and owned KPRC radio station. In addition to these many endeavors, he owned several properties in the Houston area and was involved with the Houston Port Commission.

Sterling entered Texas politics in the late 1920's when then-Governor Dan Moody appointed him as Chairman of the Texas State Highway Commission. Under his leadership, the State of Texas developed its first paved highway system. Sterling became known as "the man who brought Texas out of the mud" as a result of the project.

In 1930, Sterling defeated primary opponent Ma Ferguson, former governor of Texas, in a runoff and became the Democratic gubernatorial candidate. He easily defeated Republican William Talbot to become Governor of Texas.

The story could end there, but Texas politics is about as rough and tumble as the state we live in, and just about as diverse. Controversy plagued his first year in office, mostly concerning cotton prices and oil restrictions in East Texas counties. The East Texas oil fields were booming which led to a depression in the oil industry. To decrease production, Governor Sterling declared a drilling moratorium in four East Texas counties, ordering the National Guard to enforce it. As a result, Governor Sterling was defeated for the Democratic Party nomination in 1932 by former opponent Ma Ferguson.

Out of work and in need of a job, Sterling returned to Houston bankrupt. All he had was a \$100 Liberty Bond and sure determination to build another empire. Sterling decided to return to his first love—oil. Using the Liberty Bond he again founded his own oil company, this time naming it Sterling Oil and Refining Company. By the end of World War II, Sterling had managed to rebuild his fortune. He served as President of Sterling Oil for 13 years until his retirement at the age of 71. Ross Sterling passed away in 1949 at the age of 74.

In all of his endeavors, Sterling found a way to give back to his beloved Houston; leaving a legacy continuing long after his death. Two schools in my district bear his moniker, Ross S. Sterling High School in Baytown and Ross Sterling Middle School in Humble. A library, in Baytown, is also named for him, Sterling Municipal Library. However, one of his most notable contributions in my district was donating his home in La Porte to the Houston Optimist

Club. In 1947, The Houston Optimist Club donated Sterling's former mansion to the Boys and Girls Harbor, a home that cares for children in crisis. Sterling also served on the board of trustees for the Hermann Hospital Estate for over 30 years.

The backbone of our Nation is formed from hard-working citizens like Ross Sterling who pull themselves up by their bootstraps when times get tough, and still find ways to give back to their community. Ross Sterling is an example not only to Houstonians, but to all citizens of our great Nation. That is what makes America what it is: the land of the free and the home of the brave.

And that's just the way it is.

ATHLETIC TRAINERS EQUAL ACCESS TO MEDICARE ACT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the important and essential role that athletic trainers play in providing quality health care across our nation. Our nation's health care system is complex and every day people with many different health needs are served by legions of caring, qualified, and professional athletic trainers.

Athletic trainers are health care professionals who hold at least a bachelor's degree in athletic training. Almost 70 percent of athletic trainers have a master's degree or PhD. Athletic trainers are licensed health care professionals who provide injury prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation to patients of all ages.

Athletic trainers work under the direction of physicians to provide care to patients. Historically, they worked with athletes in secondary schools, colleges, universities and professional sports. Today, about 50 percent work outside of these athletic settings. Many athletic trainers are employed by clinics, hospitals, physician offices, commercial workplaces, the United States Armed Forces, and performing arts companies. The focus of athletic trainers' care is to prevent injuries and support patients and clients in their rehabilitation efforts to regain function as quickly and safely as possible.

Athletic trainers pass a national certifying exam. In most of the 46 states where they are licensed or otherwise regulated, the national certification is required for licensure. Athletic trainers maintain this certification with required continuing education. They work under a medical scope of practice, and adhere to a national code of ethics.

Unfortunately, in 2005, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) implemented a policy to prevent physicians from employing anyone other than a physical or occupational therapist and speech language pathologist to provide physical medicine and rehabilitation services in a physician's office.

Due to all of these facts, I have proudly introduced the Athletic Trainers Equal Access to Medicare Act of 2011. This bill would make the following improvements:

Ensure coverage of and improve patient access to physical medicine and rehabilitation services under Medicare Part B;

Allow physicians to choose from a wider range of highly qualified health professionals to serve patients' needs; and

Restore the ability of athletic trainers to provide physical medicine and rehabilitation services incident to a physician's services.

I strongly support the vital role athletic trainers play in our health care system. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this important group of health professionals and co-sponsor the Athletic Trainers Equal Access to Medicare Act.

INAUGURATION OF LOBSANG SANGAY, NEW TIBETAN PRIME MINISTER

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on August 8, 2011, in Dharamsala, India, the home of the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan government in exile, Tibetans from around the world will gather for a historic occasion, the inauguration of their democratically elected Prime Minister (Kalon Tripa).

On March 20, 2011, tens of thousands of Tibetans living in countries around the world went to the polling booths to elect their next prime minister and parliament of the Central Tibetan Administration. Thousands of Tibetan-Americans across the United States also participated in these historic elections, including from my home state of Massachusetts.

In April, Dr. Lobsang Sangay was declared the winner. He has Bay State roots. Raised as a stateless Tibetan refugee in India, his parents saved to get him an education. Through the U.S.-funded Tibetan Scholarship Program, he entered studies at Harvard University. He got a law degree there and stayed on as a research fellow for many years.

The 43-year-old Lobsang Sangay takes over as chief executive of the Central Tibet Administration at a critical point, as much of the political responsibilities for the Tibetan community in exile now reside on his shoulders. In March 2011, the Dalai Lama announced his decision to devolve his political authority to the elected leadership. These changes were ratified by the Tibetan parliament in May.

At a time when autocrats around the world are clinging to power, the Dalai Lama's voluntary effort to give up power is remarkable. It is the culmination of a decades-long process of nurturing the development of democratic institutions in the Tibetan exile community. This stands in stark contrast to the reality that neither Tibetans in Tibet, nor anyone in China, are allowed fundamental democratic freedoms or free elections. What the Tibetans have accomplished is worthy of our attention and respect.

I had the chance to meet Lobsang Sangay when he came to Capitol Hill in July 2011, during the Dalai Lama's visit to Washington. I look forward to his return to discuss ways the United States can help Tibetans in their endeavor to find a solution for the Tibet issue.

On the occasion of the inauguration of the next Kalon Tripa, Dr. Lobsang Sangay, I send my warm wishes to the Tibetan people and congratulate them on their democratic achievements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, on July 13, 2011, I missed rollcall votes No. 564–573 due to a medical injury. I would have voted “no” on rollcall votes No. 564, 566, and 573. I would have voted “yes” on rollcall votes No. 565, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, and 572.

Mr. Speaker, on July 14, 2011, I missed rollcall votes No. 574–582 due to a medical injury. I would have voted “yes” on rollcall votes No. 574, 575, 576, 579 and 581. I would have voted “no” on rollcall votes on No. 577, 578, 580 and 582.

Mr. Speaker, on July 15, 2011, I missed rollcall votes No. 583–600 due to a medical injury. I would have voted “yes” on rollcall votes No. 584, 586, 590, and 599. I would have voted “no” on rollcall votes on No. 583, 585, 587, 588, 589, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598 and 600.

Mr. Speaker, on July 18, 2011, I missed rollcall votes No. 601–602 for district business. I would have voted “yes” on rollcall votes No. 601–602.

Mr. Speaker, on July 19, 2011, I missed rollcall votes No. 603–607 due to a medical injury. I would have voted “no” on rollcall votes No. 603, 604, 606, and 607. I would have voted “yes” on rollcall vote No. 605.

Mr. Speaker, on July 20, 2011, I missed rollcall votes No. 608–611 due to a medical injury. I would have voted “no” on rollcall votes No. 608, 609 and 611. I would have voted “yes” on rollcall No. 610.

Mr. Speaker, on July 21, 2011, I missed rollcall votes No. 612–621 due to a medical injury. I would have voted “no” on rollcall votes No. 612, 613, 614, 619 and 621. I would have voted “yes” on rollcall votes No. 615, 616, 617, 618, and 620.

Mr. Speaker, on July 22, 2011, I missed rollcall votes No. 622–629 due to a medical injury. I would have voted “no” on rollcall votes No. 622, 623, 624, 625, 626 and 629. I would have voted “yes” on rollcall votes No. 627 and 628.

Mr. Speaker, on July 25, 2011, I missed rollcall votes No. 630–631 and I would have voted “no” on both votes.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of one of our

nation's most pristine national parks and a favorite attraction in Massachusetts—the Cape Cod National Seashore.

On August 7, 1961, one of the most famous residents of Cape Cod, President John F. Kennedy, signed into law the bill designating the Atlantic shorelines of Chatham, Eastham, Wellfleet, Truro, and Provincetown a protected national treasure. The Cape Cod National Seashore was the second coastline to be adopted into the National Park Service, and remains one of only ten coastal areas to receive the same honor.

Since then, the Seashore has attracted millions of visitors from all corners of the world—boosting our local economy and helping to define Massachusetts as a top destination for both domestic and foreign tourism. In today's volatile job climate, the Cape Cod National Seashore serves as a stable employer to 100 year-round employees and nearly 200 additional seasonal employees.

Under the protection of the National Park Service and the care of the towns lining the outer Cape, the images most recognizable of the Cape Cod National Seashore have remained intact—lighthouses atop rocky jetties, rolling dunes of white sand and shells, the vivid scent of wild cranberry bogs. Today, as it was in 1961, local residents and visitors still find leisure and exploration in the forty miles of peaceful seaside trails and beaches.

As President Kennedy eloquently said some fifty years ago, “. . . this Act makes it possible for the people of the United States through their government to acquire and preserve the natural and historic values of a portion of Cape Cod for the inspiration and enjoyment of people all over the United States.” A foreshadowing of years to come, President Kennedy's message of the critical importance of environmental conservation has never been more pertinent than today.

And so, it is with pride that I recognize the Cape Cod National Seashore for fifty years of ecological and historic preservation, and with sincerity that I look forward to another fifty.

HONORING EUGENE “SALT” SMITH ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Salt Smith as he retires from the Municipal Water Authority of Aliquippa. I congratulate him on his outstanding career and extraordinary service to his community.

Over the course of his education and career, Salt has worked tirelessly to better his hometown of Aliquippa, PA. A graduate from Aliquippa High School in 1956, Salt went on to attend Geneva College, Duquesne University, and Robert Morris College.

A licensed barber, a licensed insurance agent, and a licensed real estate agent, Salt is a man of many talents. He put his degrees to good use working for LTV Steel Corporation, Prudential Insurance Company, and, finally, as the General Manager for the Municipal Water Authority of Aliquippa.

In addition to his career, Salt is an entrepreneur. Thirty years ago, he began what has proved to be a successful real estate company, E & J Smith Real Estate, in Aliquippa. His company has sponsored a little league baseball team for the past 30 years and has won the championship five times.

As a member of the Aliquippa School Board for 32 years, Salt dedicated his time to improving the local school system. Additionally, Salt was the first African-American ever to be elected as a trustee of the Community College of Beaver County.

As an active member of the community, Salt is the Chairman of the Aliquippa Democratic Party and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Beaver County Hospital Authority.

Salt and his wife, Jackie, have been married for 51 years and still call Aliquippa their home. They have three children and six grandchildren.

I commend Salt for the work that he does, making him an invaluable member of the Aliquippa community. It is with great joy that I pay tribute to him on his well-deserved retirement.

**BEN PARMENTIER: A TRUE
ADVOCATE FOR VICTIMS**

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exemplary staffer, Ben Parmentier, Congressman JIM COSTA's Victims' Rights Caucus Coordinator.

As co-founder and co-chair of the Victims' Rights Caucus with Congressman COSTA, I have appreciated Ben's consistent hard work and enthusiasm on behalf of victims.

He always made the Victims' Rights Caucus a priority, ensuring that projects were completed in a timely manner and events ran smoothly.

As Ben heads off to graduate school, we will miss his commitment to the Victims' Rights Caucus and passion for victims' rights.

The Victims' Rights Caucus was fortunate to have a dedicated staffer like Ben.

I wish him success in all his future endeavors and know he will excel as he did in his work on Capitol Hill.

And that's just the way it is.

**REINTRODUCTION OF THE
BREASTFEEDING PROMOTION ACT**

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing an important piece of legislation, the Breastfeeding Promotion Act with my colleagues Mr. MEEKS, Ms. LEE, and Mr. SERRANO.

The benefits of breastfeeding, to both mother and child, are significant. Scientific studies show babies who are breastfed the first six

months of life have a greatly reduced risk for acute and chronic disease, yet only 10 percent of all infants in the U.S. are breastfed.

A 2001 USDA study found that if just half of the babies in the U.S. were exclusively breastfed for six months (as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics), our Nation would realize a savings of \$3.6 billion in health care costs for the three leading childhood illnesses alone. According to the United States Breastfeeding Committee, if we replicate that study based on current breastfeeding statistics, the savings could reach nearly \$14 billion in health care costs for all childhood illnesses in a single year.

I was so proud to partner with Senator JEFF MERKLEY (D-OR) to pass into law a provision of our bill, the Breastfeeding Promotion Act (H.R. 2819, S. 1744), in comprehensive health care reform legislation signed by President Obama on March 23, 2010. The provision requires that employers provide breastfeeding employees, who are hourly workers, with "reasonable break time" and a private, non-bathroom place to express breast milk during the workday, up until the child's first birthday.

Our bill will build on our past successes and encourage and promote breastfeeding by removing common obstacles to breastfeeding and expressing milk in the workplace that many women face by: (1) amending the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to protect breastfeeding in the workplace, and (2) expanding the requirement under current law for employers to provide break time to express breast milk, as well as make reasonable efforts to provide a private place for them to do so, to salaried workers in traditional work or office environments.

Public opinion and awareness of the benefits of breastfeeding continue to grow, and the momentum we've recently gained presents the perfect opportunity to build on that progress in achieving our goals.

We urge all of our colleagues to support this important legislation.

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE NEW-
MAN AFRICAN METHODIST EPIS-
COPAL CHURCH'S SESQUI-
CENTENNIAL**

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the leadership and congregants of the Newman African Methodist Episcopal Church in the City of Pontiac and to celebrate with them as the Church commemorates its sesquicentennial.

As the first African American church founded in Oakland County, Newman A.M.E.'s celebration of 150 years in the community is a testament to the vision and determination of its founders, the Reverends Augustus Green and George Newman, and other determined congregants. Established during a time of great strife and adversity, the founders sought to create a congregation where the negative social and theological tenants of the day would be left behind as members came together in fellowship to worship and perform

great deeds in their community. After many years of uncertainty, with services moving from house to house in Pontiac, the congregation acquired its first home on Auburn Avenue in 1872 and received its first full time pastor, the Reverend Benjamin Roberts, in 1882.

Throughout its history, the leadership and congregants of Newman A.M.E. have always heard and answered the call to serve their community, in spite of whatever adversity lay before them. In 1920, facing the challenges of a world where equality was still scarcely more than a dream, the Men's Club of Newman A.M.E. founded the Oakland County Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to fight for greater equality. In the 1960s, even as the Church was displaced from its home, its leaders came together to establish the Newman Non-Profit Housing Corporation, devoted to making affordable housing available to area residents. Just five years after the Church was forced to relocate, the congregation was able to construct and pay off the mortgage on its new and current home.

Under the Church's current leader, the Reverend Lila Rose Martin, the congregation has continued its commitment to the principles of service and egalitarianism on which it was founded. Among its outreach programs, Newman A.M.E. has added a cancer survivor's ministry to help those who have been victims of this terrible disease, and re-instituted a summer program to provide area youth with the tools necessary to develop into productive members of the community.

Newman A.M.E.'s rich history is a true testament to the enduring success that can be achieved when strong bonds of fellowship are tested in the face of trial and tribulation. Even in moments of great challenge and sacrifice, the congregation of Newman A.M.E. has remained dedicated to serving Pontiac and the greater Southeast Michigan Community. The sesquicentennial of Newman A.M.E. is a truly momentous occasion and I wish its leadership and congregation many more years of success in spiritual fellowship and service to our community.

**INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO
AMEND TITLE 37, UNITED
STATES CODE, TO ENSURE THAT
THE BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR
HOUSING IN EFFECT FOR A
MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL
GUARD IS NOT REDUCED WHEN
THE MEMBER TRANSITIONS BE-
TWEEN ACTIVE DUTY AND FULL
TIME NATIONAL GUARD DUTY
WITHOUT A BREAK IN ACTIVE
SERVICE**

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced a bill to amend Title 37, United States Code, to ensure that Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) or Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) in effect for a member of the National Guard is not reduced when the member transitions between Active Duty and Full

Time National Guard duty without a break in active service. I thank my good friend and colleague, Congressman DAVE LOESACK of Iowa for working with me on this measure and for his continued commitment to our country's National Guard.

The bill would close an apparent loophole in the application of BAH and OHA pay to certain members of the National Guard. Specifically, this legislation ensures that a member of the National Guard, who is coming home from a deployment and into a Full Time National Guard duty assignment, would not lose BAH or OHA payments to which they are entitled. This fix is needed now because of a recent Per Diem Travel and Transportation Advisory Committee (PDTTAC) legal interpretation that states a member of the National Guard who is on Active Duty on Title 10 orders who then moves into a Full Time National Guard duty position under Title 32 orders must be paid the BAH or OHA based on their home of record and not their permanent duty assignment station. This decision could drastically reduce the amount of BAH or OHA that a servicemember is entitled to when transitioning assignments.

The rationale, or legal basis for this interpretation from the PDTTAC, is unclear; however, this legislation would rectify the situation. Our men and women of the National Guard have deployed in great numbers in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, now Operation New Dawn; Operation Enduring Freedom and other contingencies. The National Guard, despite these unprecedented deployments abroad, were still able to meet mission requirements at home whether responding to tornado outbreaks, floods, ice storms, and even Hurricane Katrina. Yet, this recent decision by the PDTTAC seeks to treat our men and women in the National Guard without any parity. The PDTTAC effectively assumes that all National Guard duty is part-time whereas Full Time National Guard duty remains in support of the federal mission of the National Guard.

I ask my colleagues to support this measure and clarify, in statute, fair and equitable treatment for members of the National Guard who are on Full Time duty status under Title 32. Again, I thank my colleague Mr. LOESACK for his support and leadership with this matter.

TRIBUTE TO WARREN CARTER

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Warren Carter, who passed away on July 21, 2011. Warren was a family man and a respected community leader.

Warren grew up in McFarland and earned his bachelor's degree in 1958 from La Verne College (now the University of La Verne). He worked briefly as a teacher and later in the insurance industry. However, his true passion was farming.

In the 1960s, Warren planted almonds on 200 acres in McFarland, becoming one of the first to grow a crop that turned out to be one

of Kern County's largest agricultural commodities. He was also active in almond production research.

His commitment to the agriculture industry extended beyond just farming. Warren served on the Almond Board of California from 1979 to 1992, including for two years as chairman and four years as vice chairman. Additionally, he served as president of the Kern County Farm Bureau, and shared his love of agriculture as chairman of the parent advisory committee for McFarland High School Future Farmers of America.

Warren also was involved in many community activities. For instance, he enjoyed working with the local youth, and was a past director and chairman of Kern County Youth for Christ. Additionally, he was a co-founder and past director of Kern County Student Leadership, a high school leadership program that is now on 20 campuses throughout the county.

Warren brought his leadership, charisma, and work ethic to the real estate industry when he purchased Watson Realty in 1980, eventually growing it from 20 agents to 100. His son, Ken Carter, is now president and owner.

Warren is survived by his son Doug and, daughter-in-law Dena, son Ken and daughter-in-law Renee, daughter Karen and son-in-law Joey, 10 grandchildren, and his brother Wayne and sister Opal. His wife, Lenore passed away in 2009. Warren will truly be missed, but he will be remembered as a strong leader and a man dedicated to improving his community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NANOTECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES ACT

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Nanotechnology Advancement and New Opportunities (NANO) Act.

The NANO Act is a comprehensive bill to promote the development and responsible stewardship of nanotechnology in the United States. The legislation draws upon the work of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Nanotechnology that I convened. The Blue Ribbon Task Force included nanotechnology experts with backgrounds in established industry, startup companies, consulting groups, non-profits, academia, government, medical research, and venture capital from around my home State of California, which is a leader in the field of nanotechnology.

Nanotechnology has the potential to create entirely new industries and radically transform the basis of competition in other fields, and I am proud of my work with former Science Committee Chairman Sherry Boehlert on the Nanotechnology Research and Development Act of 2003 to foster research in this area.

But one of the things I have heard from experts in the field is that while the United States is a leader in nanotechnology research, our foreign competitors are focusing more resources and effort on the commercialization of those research results than we are.

In its report Thinking Big About Thinking Small, which can be found on my website, the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Nanotechnology made a series of recommendations for ways that the Nation can promote the development and commercialization of nanotechnology. The NANO Act includes a number of these recommendations.

In addition, the bill addresses concerns that have been raised about whether the Federal Government is doing enough to address potential health and safety risks associated with nanotechnology. The NANO Act requires the development of a nanotechnology research strategy that establishes research priorities for the Federal Government and industry that will ensure the development and responsible stewardship of nanotechnology. This strategy will help to resolve the uncertainty that is one of the major obstacles to the commercialization of nanotechnology—uncertainty about what the risks might be and uncertainty about how the Federal Government might regulate nanotechnology in the future.

The NANO Act also includes a number of provisions to create partnerships, raise awareness, and implement strategic policies to resolve obstacles and promote nanotechnology. It will: create a public-private investment partnership to address the nanotechnology commercialization gap; establish a tax credit for investment in nanotechnology firms; authorize a grant program to support the establishment and development of nanotechnology incubators; establish a Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center for "nano-CAD" tools; establish grant programs for nanotechnology research to address specific challenges in the areas of energy, environment, homeland security, and health; establish a tax credit for nanotechnology education and training program expenses; establish a grant program to support the development of curriculum materials for interdisciplinary nanotechnology courses at higher education institutions; direct NSF to establish a program to encourage manufacturing companies to enter into partnerships with occupational training centers for the development of training to support nanotechnology manufacturing; and call for the development of a strategy for increasing interaction on nanotechnology interests between DOE national labs and the informal science education community.

I look forward to working with Science, Space and Technology Committee Chairman HALL and Ranking Member JOHNSON on this bill and their committee's other efforts to reauthorize the Nation's nanotechnology research and development program.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 327 I was unable to cast my vote on the House floor because I was ill.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

THANK YOU BRAD LEAKE

HON. JOE WILSONOF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Monday, August 1, 2011*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Brad Leake for his hard work and service to the people of the Second Congressional District of South Carolina. After working in the Midlands District office in West Columbia for over two and half years, Brad will be leaving on August 16th to work for the South Carolina Department of Social Services.

Brad began interning in the Washington office before becoming a caseworker in the Midlands District office. As a caseworker, Brad served as an important voice and liaison between constituents and federal agencies. Frequently, he would inquire to federal agencies on behalf of constituents on important issues such as receiving Social Security benefits and veterans' affairs information.

Finally, I would like to thank Brad for his role in successfully serving as Deputy Campaign Manager for my campaign during the 2008 cycle.

It is with sincere appreciation that I would like to thank Brad and his wife, Emily, all the best as you enter this next phase of your life.

IN HONOR OF LANCE CORPORAL
ERIK GALVAN, AN AMERICAN
HERO**HON. PETE SESSIONS**OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Monday, August 1, 2011*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of an American hero, Lance Corporal Erik Galvan, USMC of the 1/5 Bravo Company.

While out on patrol in Sangin, Afghanistan on June 15, 2011, Lance Corporal Galvan was struck by an IED explosion and lost his right hand and both his legs. Thanks to quick response and attentiveness of his fellow soldier, Sergeant Joshua Yarbrough, his life was saved. Sergeant Yarbrough immediately placed tourniquets on all of the lost limbs and then proceeded to assist another injured Marine who also lost both legs after stepping on an IED. Lance Corporal Galvan's family has a history of public service. His older brother, Lance Corporal Edward Galvan, is also with the United States Marine Corps. With the love and support of his family and friends, Lance Corporal Galvan exhibits great strength and perseverance and now hopes to become a Crime Scene Investigator upon his full recovery.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in recognizing Lance Corporal Galvan. No words can fully express our gratitude for the sacrifice of our brave and dedicated service men and women. May our thoughts and prayers be with Lance Corporal Galvan as he recovers from his injuries.

SUCH LIGHT

(By Albert Caswell)

Such . . .

Such Light . . .
All in that fight . . .
But, comes such heroes . . . who but bring
their light!
Shining all there in the darkness of war, so
bright!
Oh . . . Oh . . . Such Light!
As you Erik, have but brought to this our
world . . . this night
All in your most sacred sacrifice, all in this
light!
Which burns so bright, burns so bright!
All in your most magnificent Shades of
Green . . .
As there as seen, all in honor's light!
To win that battle, to win that fight!
As when such hearts of valor do so ignite!
As you so walked into the darkness of war's
dark light!
All for God and Country and what is right
. . . is right!
Such Light!
And then as you lay dying!
Somehow your heart of brilliance, so kept on
trying!
To win that fight!
To live on into this world, but to bright your
light . . .
Because you are a
United States Marine, who can win any
fight!
All for yourself and family, and lost Brothers
In Arms,
like Nic O'Brien who died in that fight!
All in their most gallant . . . most gallant
light!
And though you have lost your two strong
legs . . .
And hand, you won't moan or beg!
Because all inside of you our Lord so gave!
So gave such light!
To So Teach Us . . .
To So Beseech Us . . .
To So Reach Us . . .
All in Such Light!
And if ever I
have a
son . . .
I pray his life has shown . . .
Has shown . . .
Such Light!

HISTORY OF A BALANCED BUDGET
AMENDMENT**HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.**OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Monday, August 1, 2011*

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the current budget situation is most poignant when looking at the origins of the Balanced Budget Amendment and its history.

Mr. Speaker, after listening to my colleague's across the aisle present the Republican Study Committee's budget this morning, I'm apt to wonder what it is they're studying over there. Hopefully I'll be able to set the record straight.

As a reaction to FDR's New Deal, Republican Congressman Harold Knutson of Minnesota introduced the first version of the amendment in 1936. Like many Constitutional Amendments, this resolution did not receive a hearing or a vote. During President Dwight D. Eisenhower's first term, the Judiciary Committee of a barely Democratic Senate held its first hearing on this amendment. It again did not receive a vote.

After these partial defeats, BBA supporters shifted their focus to the states. From 1975 to 1980, 30 state legislatures passed resolutions calling for a constitutional convention to propose this Amendment directly to the states.

The election of President Reagan and a Republican Senate in 1980, renewed hopes for the Balanced Budget Amendment and passage by Congress. While the Senate did adopt the amendment in 1982, it failed to garner the necessary three-fifths majority in the House. This failure energized conservative groups such as the National Taxpayers Union and the National Tax Limitation Committee to refocus on state action.

In 1982 and 1983, the Alaska and Missouri legislatures passed resolutions supporting the BBA, bringing the total number of these resolutions to 32, two short of the 34 needed for a convention. However, a growing concern about the scope of a constitutional convention led some states to withdraw their resolutions, re-shifting focus to Congressional action.

From 1990 to 1994, Congress would make three additional attempts to codify this amendment. All failed to garner the necessary three-fifths majority.

However, the BBA made a comeback when it was included in Newt Gingrich's Contract with America. Twenty-six days after taking office, the newly empowered Republican majority adopted the BBA, giving conservatives their first Congressional win in a decade. Disappointment awaited in the Senate, where two separate votes fell just short of adoption. This failure, along with the balanced budget and the Budget surplus at the decade's end, sapped any remaining Congressional support for the BBA.

There was renewed Republican support for the amendment in 2000 as it was included in party's platform. The Bush Tax Cuts, wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the massive deficit spending created by them eventually led Republicans to sweep the Balanced Budget Amendment black under the rug. By 2004, the Republican Party left any mention of a balanced budget out of their platform.

Again in recent years, with the advent of the Tea Party and the return of extreme fiscal conservatism in the Republican party, there are currently twelve Balanced Budget Amendments in the House and three in the Senate.

I had my staff double check that for me. 12 Balanced Budget Amendments in the House. They are all basically the same. Some have even been offered by members of my own party.

I understand these Members' frustration, Mr. Speaker.—I've been trying pass my nine Amendments to the Constitution for 10 years now and my Amendments are based on FDR's "2nd Bill of Rights" which he proposed back in 1944. Today, 67 years later, here we are.

Mr. Speaker, I fundamentally believe that conservatives in congress are pushing for this amendment, not to force a vote in congress, but to rally states to act.

Mr. Speaker, we have a troubling national debt and deficit. But the Balanced Budget Amendment is not the solution.

The argument proponents of Balanced Budget Amendment make is as follows: like families, businesses, and states, the federal

government should balance its budget. But since it does not, we need a constitutional amendment to guarantee that it will do so.

Nearly every state in this Union has some form of a balanced budget requirement. But those states are not out of debt. Their amendments have restricted their ability to care for their citizens in times of austerity or emergency.

According to a Forbes analysis of the global debt crises in January of 2010, every single state in the country is carrying some form of debt. These debts range from as little as \$17 per capita in Nebraska to \$4,490 in Connecticut.

How can this be, Mr. Speaker? It's because the infrastructure of these states allows them to hide debt in Capital Funds. The federal government cannot, and I would argue the federal government should not follow this path.

Congress should never seek to hide the fiscal realities from the public that bear the burden of the cost. Nor should we sell the public magic beans that a Balanced Budget Amendment will make the national debt and other problems go away. Debt will exist just as new problems will arise.

In the fiscal year 2012, approximately 44 states will face revenue shortfalls. Many are desperately looking for ways to declare their state bankrupt. Bankrupt, I say it again, Mr. Speaker, because this proposed amendment would place the federal government in a similar predicament. The effect in many states is calamitous.

For instance in Rhode Island, judges and court workers have cut pay and left 53 positions unfilled. This is still not enough to balance their budget. As a desperate last resort, the Chief Justice has begun to dispose of cases on backlog. Literally, just tossing them out. Florida is in the same predicament.

Mr. Speaker, a Balanced Budget Amendment would force the federal government to deny Americans the right to seek redress and justice in federal courts, for the sake of balancing the budget.

In my home state of Illinois, mental-health services have been cut by \$91 million. Human Service directors are fearful that these cuts will cause a real public-health and public safety crisis.

Iowa, Idaho, Alabama and Ohio are considering drastic cuts to education.

My colleagues across the aisle are so concerned about handing our children and grandchildren any amount of national debt, that they have failed to realize we are setting future generations up for failure.

States are already cutting too many services that make the American workforce strong and competitive. Should the federal government do the same, our legacy will be an America that is uneducated and ill-equipped to compete on a global level.

Mr. Speaker, as exemplified by its effects on the states, this amendment may sound good on its face, but it falls flat when examined more critically.

Like an optical illusion whose image changes as you draw closer, the Balanced Budget Amendment masquerades as the savior of our budget, yet in reality threatens to permanently destroy it.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Citizens for Tax Justice, and oth-

ers, a federal Balanced Budget Amendment would: Damage our economy by making recessions deeper and more frequent; Heighten the risk of default and jeopardize the full faith and credit of the U.S. government; Lead to reductions in needed investments for the future; favor wealthy Americans over middle- and low-income Americans by making it far more difficult to raise revenues and easier to cut programs; And weaken the principle of majority rule.

Therefore, passing a Balanced Budget Amendment is not a prudent path for the nation to follow.

FIVE FAULTS OF A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT OUTLINED BY CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES AND CITIZENS FOR TAX JUSTICE

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the First Fault: a Balanced Budget Amendment would damage the economy and make recessions deeper and more frequent.

Under a Balanced Budget Amendment, Congress would be forced to adopt a rigid fiscal policy, requiring the budget to be balanced or in surplus every year, regardless of the current economic situation, or threat to the nation's security.

A sluggish economy with less revenue and more outgoing expenditures creates a deficit. As we've seen from recent events, a deficit necessitates economic stimulation to reverse negative growth.

That is why in the last session of Congress, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act invested in roads, bridges, mass transit, and other infrastructure, provided 95% of working Americans with an immediate tax cut and extended unemployment insurance and COBRA for Americans hurt by the economic downturn through no fault of their own.

If Congress were forced to function under a Balanced Budget Amendment, deficit reduction would be mandated, even more so during periods of slow or stalled economic growth, which is the opposite of what is needed in such a situation.

This consistently proposed constitutional amendment risks making recessions more common and more catastrophic for middle class families, seniors, veterans and the poor. Under such an amendment, Congress is stripped of any power to adequately respond.

The Second Fault: A BBA would risk default and jeopardize the full faith and credit of the U.S. government while simultaneously challenging the Separation of Powers.

A BBA would bar the government from borrowing funds unless a three-fifths vote in both houses of Congress permitted a raise in the debt limit. Under such a scenario, a budget crisis in which a default becomes a threat is more likely, and because of the limits placed on the fluidity of the debt ceiling, that default becomes more likely to occur.

After a default of only a few days, long term impacts would quickly appear. Confidence in

ability of the U.S. to meet binding financial obligations would erode almost immediately. The government pays relatively low interest rates on its loans because it pays its debts back in full and on time. A default would mimic an earthquake, shaking confidence in the U.S. on a global scale, resulting in exploding interest rates and aftershocks felt in our national economy.

The international economy would also succumb to the rumbling of this potential disaster, and our deep connection to it would cause even further chaos here at home.

Other BBA proponents argue that since states have to balance their budgets, so should the federal government. Indeed, many states are required to balance their operating budgets, but not their total budgets. No such distinction is made by a BBA.

"Rainy-day" or reserve funds, which states can draw on to balance their budgets, are prohibited by a BBA. Many states operating under a BBA require the governor to submit a balanced budget, but do not require actual achievement of it. Some states allow governors to act unilaterally to cut spending in the middle of a fiscal year. This condition of the BBA would violate the federal Constitution's separation of powers.

The Founding Fathers were deliberate in their construction of government, and the separation of powers serves as a cornerstone in our democracy. Each branch has certain powers and limitations. Congress, the Courts, and the President work together, but in distinct ways, to move America forward. The threat of judicial involvement in matters of the budget, is real and present under the BBA.

The BBA would threaten the balance of power. It diminishes the authority of Congress, as the elected Representatives of the people, to have the final say on taxes and spending. Mr. Speaker, what purpose does this body serve if this amendment passes? Should we broaden the scope of Judicial Review granted to our federal courts?

By subverting the balance of power between the branches, this body steps on to a slippery slope of reassigning authority and moving away from the values inherent in our constitution.

The Third Fault: A BBA would lead to reductions in needed investments for the future.

Since the 1930's our nation has consistently made public investments that improve long-term productivity growth: in education, infrastructure, research and development. These efforts encourage increased private sector investment, leading to budget surplus, and a thriving economy. A Balanced Budget Amendment, which requires a balanced budget each and every year, would limit the government's ability to make public investments thereby hindering future growth.

For years, conservatives have abused the debt and the deficit as a springboard from which to argue for smaller government and cuts to programs that serve as social safety nets to American families. Although we must consider the debt and deficit, the larger and more significant issue is the nature of the debt—what created it.

If you invest fifty thousand dollars in a business, a house, or an education, you can expect future returns on your investment. If you

"invest" the same fifty thousand dollars in a gun collection and ammunition, what are the future investment returns? Both investments result in a fifty-thousand-dollar debt, but only one results in returns that can transform that debt into a long term gain.

Social investments provide the potential for greater returns in the long run, in the same fashion as personal investments. Even small expenditures on social programs lay a foundation for great wealth in the long term.

If the nation chose to invest over a five-year period, \$1.5 trillion in the building of roads, bridges, airports, railroads, mass transit, schools, housing, and health care, we would create a debt.

But the increased ability of companies to interact and ship their goods over well paved and planned roads, the new businesses that would sprout around a freshly built or newly expanded airport, the higher wages of a student who was well educated and a le to attend college resulting in more tax revenue, the improved productivity of employees at their healthiest, would eventually result in greater returns for our country.

The extension of Bush era tax cuts for corporations and the rich, brought about some short-term stimulus of consumer spending. But, similar to Reagan's tax cuts which resulted in record government deficits and debt, the long term damage outweighs the immediate effects.

Reagan's tax cuts for the rich came at the expense of investing in our nation's need for long-term balanced economic growth. The Reagan administration neglected and cut back on our nation's investment in infrastructure, education, health care, housing, job training, transportation, energy conservation, and much more.

The inclination of most conservatives in both parties, is to cut the debt by cutting programs for the most vulnerable among us—our poor, our children, our elderly, and minorities. This approach, however, has been proven false too many times. A Balanced Budget Amendment would take us back to this archaic and ineffective system, permanently.

The Fourth Fault: A Balanced Budget Amendment favors wealthy Americans over middle- and low-income Americans by making it harder to raise revenues and easier to cut programs.

Again, a BBA ultimately favors wealthy Americans over middle- and lower-income Americans. Under current law, legislation can pass by a majority of those present and voting by a recorded vote. The BBA however requires that legislation raising taxes be approved on a roll call vote by a majority of the full membership of both houses.

Thus, the BBA would make it harder to cut the deficit by curbing the special interest tax breaks of the oil and gas industries and make it easier to reduce programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, veterans benefits, education, environmental programs, and assistance for poor children.

Wealthy individuals and corporations receive most of their government benefits in the form of tax entitlements while low income, and middle income Americans receive most of their government benefits through programs.

As evidenced by the cuts that both parties agreed upon recently, its far easier to cut so-

cial welfare programs than to cut spending on our military, or to increase taxes. As long as spending is a political issue, cuts to those programs that assist those with the smallest voice in government, will always happen first.

Raising taxes, the only option to address a budget deficit aside from cutting programs, is already a burdensome political issue. The additional requirements of a BBA further complicate the process of raising taxes. This means that the richest Americans will likely keep the benefits they receive from our government via tax cuts.

Meanwhile, the poor lose the programs that provide them with housing, food, job training, health care, and the means to survive. This will further reinforce the growing gap between the rich, and the rest of our society: middle class, working poor, and destitute alike.

Aside from this already distressing point, when the baby boom generation retires, the ratio of workers to retirees will fall to low levels. This poses difficulties for Social Security, since Social Security has been a pure "pay-as-you-go" system, with the payroll taxes of current workers paying for the benefits of current retirees.

This was acceptable as long as today's workers could pay for today's retirees. But, in the future, when there are fewer workers to pay for more retirees, the system will be out of balance. So in 1977 and 1983, the Social Security Administration took important and prudent steps toward addressing this issue. It allowed the accumulation of reserves to be used later when needed. These changes were akin to what families do by saving for retirement during their working years, and then drawing down on their savings after they reach retirement.

The BBA insists that the total government expenditures in any year, including those for Social Security benefits, not exceed total revenues collected in that same year, including revenues from Social Security payroll taxes. Thus, the benefits of the baby boomers would have to be financed in full by the taxes of those working and paying into the system then. This undercuts the central reforms of 1983.

Drawing down on any part of accumulated reserves, required under present law, under a BBA would mean the trust funds were spending more in benefits in those years than they were receiving in taxes. Under a BBA, that would be impermissible deficit spending.

The Fifth Fault: A BBA weakens the principle of majority rule and makes balancing the budget more difficult.

Most Balanced Budget Amendments require that unless three-fifths of the members of Congress agree to raise the debt ceiling, the budget must be balanced at all times. They also require that legislation raising taxes must be approved on a roll call vote by a majority of the full membership of both houses, not just those present and voting.

Clearly this provision weakens the current principle of majority rule. A three-fifths requirement empowers a minority (40 percent, plus one). It creates a small group, willing to threaten economic turmoil and disruption unless they get their way, with the ability to extort concessions or exercise unprecedented leverage over our national economic and fiscal policy.

Mr. Speaker, haven't the last few weeks demonstrated how difficult it already is to reach consensus on a budget? This provision will make it simply impossible.

Ezra Klein Argument: There is a final fault, which is not on my list, but is significant enough to mention: Ezra Klein, of the Washington Post, cleverly points out in a recent article titled, "The Worst Idea in Washington" that under a BBA, not a single budget of the Bush or Reagan Administrations would qualify as Constitutional. In fact, the only recent Administration which would not violate the requirements of the Balanced Budget Amendment would be President Clinton for only two of his budgets.

Mr. Speaker, if President Reagan's budget wouldn't qualify, is this really something we should even be considering?

Conclusion: I've listed a few, and certainly not an exhaustive list, of arguments against the Balanced Budget Amendment. The truth is the federal budget is quite unlike the fiscal practices of businesses, families, and states. Contrary to popular myth, except in times of war and recessions, the country has a conservative record of keeping deficits in line.

Our government needs the flexibility to respond in times of economic downturn or war, in a way that businesses, families and states never have to consider.

I've been in the House long enough to know, that when my colleagues on the other side of the aisle came into the majority with large deficits and debt, I knew their first response would be to cut social spending, weaken government regulation, and underfund protection of workers' rights, civil rights, environmental protections, you name it.

I wish I could say I didn't see this coming. But, conservative politicians want to get the government "off the backs" of business, finance and industry. They are willing and ready to use the current economic situation to do it and they intend to place the burden on the backs of middle class families, seniors, children, veterans and the poor.

The Republican budget we voted on today does just that. The Balanced Budget Amendment aims to make it a permanent fixture.

Mr. Speaker, I know we can do better. We cannot balance the budget on the backs of middle class Americans. We need to achieve the America of everyone's dreams. The burden of that dream must rest squarely on the shoulders of every American that can carry it.

I find it offensive that some of the most profitable corporations in this country pay no taxes and some even get a refund. I find it offensive that the richest 400 people in the country who have more wealth than half of all Americans combined have an effective tax rate of only 16.6%.

In the words of William Jennings Bryan, "When I find a man who is not willing to bear his share of the burdens of the government which protects him, I find a man who is unworthy to enjoy the blessings of a government like ours." With those wise words, I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING ALVIN AURELIANO
DAVIS

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Alvin Aureliano Davis, who was recently named the 2012 Macy's Florida Department of Education State Teacher of the Year. With this honor, Mr. Davis will serve as the Christa McAuliffe Ambassador for education, touring Florida as an education advocate. Mr. Davis is the band teacher at Miramar High School and has been a music educator for the past 11 years. By actively encouraging his students and keeping them engaged on obtainable goals, his students find success both in and out of the classroom. For the past three years, every student who was a regular participating member of the Miramar High band program has gone on to college under his guidance and leadership.

Alvin Davis graduated from Florida A&M University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education. He began his professional career as the band instructor at Crystal Lake Middle School, teaching the fundamentals of band to 6th thru 8th graders. As the director of the Miramar High School band, Mr. Davis, has continuously constructed his music program and performances with the philosophy of developing an award winning, academic-focused music program on the cutting edge of creativity and band pageantry.

Mr. Davis has a genuine and vested interest in his students. Passing on the legacy of music appreciation is only part of his greater mission of instilling academics and discipline. He requires his students to receive one-on-one counseling with a member of the band staff, and he personally reviews students' report cards and interim reports. Every school band rehearsal includes a one-hour study hall where students are tutored. He has implemented guidelines that high school seniors can perform only if they have registered to take the ACT or SAT college entrance exams, and must prove they have applied for admission to a college or university.

Over the years he has developed a reputation as an educator with a heart as big as the moon as he is wholeheartedly dedicated to the entire educational welfare of students.

Alvin Davis is the husband of Tiffani Davis and the proud father of 16-month-old Caitlyn. I proudly acknowledge his achievement as the 2012 Macy's Florida Department of Education State Teacher of the Year and appreciate his commitment to the many students whose lives he has positively impacted.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL DOLLAR COIN EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2011

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Presidential Dollar Coin Effi-

ciency Act of 2011." This bill makes some changes to a law I was proud to cosponsor back in 2005, the "Presidential Dollar Coin Act of 2005." At the time, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that the bill would reduce the deficit by \$280 million over the life of the program. However, since the law has been in place, it is clear that demand for the dollar coins has not been as high as predicted. The Federal Reserve is now spending its resources to house excess coin stock that comes back to the reserve banks after they have been in circulation.

The bill I am introducing today will address the problems of a lack of coordination between the Fed and Treasury and will remove some of the statutory restrictions in the law that keep the two agencies from running the program efficiently in an environment of lower demand. But the bill will maintain the program which numismatists, citizens, and businesses have invested in and which should continue.

The bill seeks to make changes to the program that will allow it to function more efficiently with the goal of reducing the number of coins that have to be stored at the Fed. It will also require the Fed and Treasury to coordinate administration of the Presidential Dollar Coin program by: requiring the two agencies to come up with a plan to reduce excess reserves; eliminating the introductory period for unmixed coins; capping the number of coins that the Mint can produce based on numismatic demand from the year before; removing the requirement that the Mint spend money on marketing the coin; and moving up the reporting requirement under a law passed last year that gives the Mint the authority to research and develop new metals for coins.

By removing some of the statutory constraints that were placed on the Fed and Treasury in the original law, I believe that this worthy program can continue in a more limited manner which will reduce excess coin stock being housed at the Fed. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

INTRODUCING THE PARENTAL
CONSENT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Parental Consent Act. This bill forbids federal funds from being used for any universal or mandatory mental-health screening of students without the express, written, voluntary, informed consent of their parents or legal guardians. This bill protects the fundamental right of parents to direct and control the upbringing and education of their children.

The New Freedom Commission on Mental Health has recommended that the federal and state governments work toward the implementation of a comprehensive system of mental-health screening for all Americans. The commission recommends that universal or mandatory mental-health screening first be implemented in public schools as a prelude to expanding it to the general public. However, neither the commission's report nor any related

mental-health screening proposal requires parental consent before a child is subjected to mental-health screening. Federally-funded universal or mandatory mental-health screening in schools without parental consent could lead to labeling more children as "ADD" or "hyperactive" and thus force more children to take psychotropic drugs, such as Ritalin, against their parents' wishes.

Already, too many children are suffering from being prescribed psychotropic drugs for nothing more than children's typical rambunctious behavior. According to the article "Better but Not Best: Recent Trends in the Well-Behaving of The Mentally Ill" (Health Affairs, May/June 2009) in 2006 more than one in 20 children were prescribed medications for mental-health conditions!

Many children have suffered harmful side effects from using psychotropic drugs. Some of the possible side effects include mania, violence, dependence, and weight gain. Yet, parents are already being threatened with child abuse charges if they resist efforts to drug their children. Imagine how much easier it will be to drug children against their parents' wishes if a federally-funded mental-health screener makes the recommendation.

Universal or mandatory mental-health screening could also provide a justification for stigmatizing children from families that support traditional values. Even the authors of mental-health diagnosis manuals admit that mental-health diagnoses are subjective and based on social constructions. Therefore, it is all too easy for a psychiatrist to label a person's disagreement with the psychiatrist's political beliefs a mental disorder. For example, a federally-funded school violence prevention program lists "intolerance" as a mental problem that may lead to school violence. Because "intolerance" is often a code word for believing in traditional values, children who share their parents' values could be labeled as having mental problems and a risk of causing violence. If the mandatory mental-health screening program applies to adults, everyone who believes in traditional values could have his or her beliefs stigmatized as a sign of a mental disorder. Taxpayer dollars should not support programs that may label those who adhere to traditional values as having a "mental disorder."

Mr. Speaker, universal or mandatory mental-health screening threatens to undermine parents' right to raise their children as the parents see fit. Forced mental-health screening could also endanger the health of children by leading to more children being improperly placed on psychotropic drugs, such as Ritalin, or stigmatized as "mentally ill" or a risk of causing violence because they adhere to traditional values. Congress has a responsibility to the nation's parents and children to stop this from happening. I, therefore, urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Parental Consent Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. BILL
MCKEON

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bill McKeon, a member of the All-American Amateur Baseball Association (AAABA) Hall of Fame's Class of 2011. Mr. McKeon has been an extraordinary player as well as a motivating coach with several minor and major league baseball organizations. On August 6, 2011 Mr. McKeon will be inducted into the AAABA Hall of Fame and I applaud his distinguished and outstanding career.

Bill McKeon played to the highest standards and held those around him to similar expectations. Mr. McKeon made his minor league debut in 1952 with the Welch Miners and continued to produce impressive offensive statistics for three consecutive years. He later signed with the Boston Braves and was voted the All-Star Catcher of the Appalachian League in 1952. He continued his professional baseball career as a member of the Northern League of Wisconsin and Sooner State League of Oklahoma. In 1955, U.S. Army Private Bill McKeon was appointed coach of the 516th Divisional Baseball team. He guided his team to a win in the European Baseball Championship game. Mr. McKeon also participated in the 516th Division's basketball and football teams, demonstrating his athletic versatility. A devastating rotator cuff injury in 1956 ended Mr. McKeon's ability to perform on the field.

Mr. McKeon's baseball career also included roles as a scout for the Philadelphia Phillies, the Los Angeles Angels, the Los Angeles Dodgers, the Kansas City A's, the Oakland A's, as well as Eastern Scouting Director for the Kansas City Royals, and a Major League Special Assignment Scout with the San Diego Padres. Mr. McKeon looks back on his time with the San Diego Padres fondly as he enjoyed watching the team win the 1984 National League Championship as a member of their ball club. Mr. McKeon was also the coach for the Kansas City Royal's minor league affiliate in Corning, New York and also coached in Elmira, New York as a member of the Eastern League. In 2006, Mr. McKeon coached the Evansville Otters Baseball Club to a Frontier League Championship, having been the league runners-up in the previous year. His collegiate coaching experience includes head coach at Ashland University as well as an assistant coaching position for the University of Evansville.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in leading this body in acknowledging Mr. Bill McKeon's lifetime commitment to the game of baseball. His commitment to the sport is unparalleled and serves as an example of an influential, dedicated player and leader.

IN HONOR OF CORPORAL BRIAN
AFT

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize United States Marine Corporal Brian Aft.

On April 18, 2011, Corporal Aft was heavily injured by an IED explosion while patrolling on duty in Afghanistan. Corporal Aft sustained life threatening injuries, losing his lower extremities. Like many of our brave and dedicated men and women in the United States armed forces, Corporal Aft demonstrates great courage in the midst of his rehabilitation and as he moves forward toward the next phase of his life.

Indeed, the families and loved ones of injured soldiers like Corporal Aft play a vital role in their journey to recovery. Their unwavering love and support provide these injured warriors great strength. These family members place their own lives on hold while focusing primarily on the injured warrior. Stories such as Corporal Aft's and his family remind us why we are proud to be Americans. May God bless them all in the midst of this difficult time. I ask that the following poem "Forever . . . Aft . . . Er" inspired from Corporal Aft's story be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

FOREVER . . . AFT . . . ER

(By Albert Caswell)

FOR,
FOR EVER . . .
FOREVER . . . AFT . . . ER!
All in the days of our lives . . .
All in the moments that we're alive . . .
That which so make the Angel's cry!
All in what we have so left behind?
All in our lifetimes, so to find . . . , that
which so does shine . . .
That which so lives on, long Aft . . . er we
are gone!
To march off to war, all for your Country Tis
of Thee . . . to her freedom to so in-
sure!
All in your most magnificent shades
of green . . .
To wear that mantel, and hold that high
honor of being The Best . . . A United
States Marine!
As on each new day you so faced death, all
but for this our Nation to so bless!
As out on point Brian, somehow you so bold-
ly went . . . all out into such death!
As you Corporal Aft, so selflessness, so
bravely moved forth in all they asked!
All with your Brothers In Arms, with that
blood that binds you so yes!
Is that but not what heaven is for?
For such things as these Brian, live forever
on!
Long Aft . . . er, we are gone!
And then on battlefields of honor bright,
As you so courageously lost your two strong
fine legs . . . this dreadful sight!
As the tears came rolling down, lying there
. . . halfway to heaven, as you had to
so decide!
When, from somewhere so very deep down in-
side . . . , you chose life, and began to
try . . .
For such things Brian live on, Ever . . . Aft
. . . er . . . Ever . . . Aft . . . er we are
gone!

You see my son, some people like you are
put upon this earth!
All by our Lord To So Teach Us, To So
Reach, and So Beseech Us in all their
worth!

Reminding us all in life, what so surely so
comes first!

For you Brian will walk, and you will run
. . . as your fine heart shines like the
mid-day sun!

For you are a United States Marine, one of
the greatest things our Nation has so
seen!

And if ever I have a son, I but wish he could
so walk as courageously all in those
shades of green!

Ooo . . . Rah! Ooo . . . Rah, Jar Head . . . ,
all for our country you have bled!

Arms and legs we all need, but we can live
without . . . but without a heart we
can so breath!

As you Star of Texas, shine so brilliantly!
Because, in Heaven with our Lord you need
not arms or legs!

And that's where your going Brian
one day . . .

Forever . . . Aft . . . er!

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF GULF BREEZE, FLOR-
IDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Gulf Breeze, Florida upon the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

Located in Santa Rosa County, the City of Gulf Breeze shares a rich history and culture with the Florida Panhandle. Gulf Breeze forms part of the gateway to Pensacola Bay, where Don Tristan de Luna arrived in 1559 to build American's First Settlement.

Gulf Breeze first received its charter from the Florida Legislature in 1961. Today, the City has developed into a place where one can find peace and relaxation on its calm shores and whose natural beauty continues to withstand the test of time. Over 6,000 people call Gulf Breeze home, and countless thousands visit the City every year to see its world-class zoo and walk along the Naval Live Oaks portion of the Gulf Islands National Seashore.

Recently, Gulf Breeze has become a focal point of the Florida business community, known for high-tech companies who share a commitment to the heritage of the City. Gulf Breeze is truly a gem of the Gulf Coast, and I am honored to represent its citizens.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I congratulate the City of Gulf Breeze on its many accomplishments over the past 50 years. My wife Vicki joins me in offering our best wishes to the Mayor, Council, public servants, and citizens of Gulf Breeze for their continued prosperity.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF SAM
McCULLOUGH

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise on behalf of the following colleagues, ROBERT ADERHOLT, TODD AKIN, SPENCER BACHUS, KEVIN BRADY, DAN BURTON, JOHN CARTER, JOHN CULBERSON, ELTON GALLEGLEY, SCOTT GARRETT, LOUIE GOHMERT, JEB HENSARLING, RUBÉN HINOJOSA, SAM JOHNSON, TIMOTHY JOHNSON, JIM JORDAN, STEVE KING, JACK KINGSTON, DOUG LAMBORN, DANIEL LUNGREN, MIKE MCINTYRE, CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, RANDY NEUGEBAUER, MIKE PENCE, JOSEPH PITTS, BILL POSEY, PETER ROSKAM, ADAM SMITH, CLIFF STEARNS, GLENN THOMPSON, TIM WALBERG, ED WHITFIELD, JOE WILSON, FRANK WOLF, and DON YOUNG, to pay tribute to the extraordinary life and service of Sam McCullough. Sam served this body faithfully for over three decades as a spiritual mentor and good friend to hundreds of Members, Congressional staff, Presidential appointees, and other government officials. Sam entered the presence of the Lord on July 2, 2011, after a brave, year-long battle with cancer.

Sam began his earthly journey in New Jersey where his missionary parents were in ministry at the Hydewood Park Baptist Church. At the age of four Sam accepted Christ as his personal Lord and Savior at a Child Evangelism Good News Club led by his mother. From that point on Sam always had a keen interest in spiritual things. At the age of ten, Sam, his parents and his sister, Ann, returned to the mission field in Bolivia. His faith grew even more as a student at a small missionary children's boarding school.

Sam returned to the States to join his sister at the Ben Lippen School boarding school in Asheville, NC. Under the influence of godly teachers, he rededicated his life to the Lord. Upon graduation he attended Columbia International University for two years of intensive Bible training. He then transferred to Houghton College in New York graduating with a degree in Business Administration and minors in Spanish and music. Campus Crusade for Christ staff visited the Houghton campus during Sam's senior year. Sam and his future wife Nan were impressed with the young people and their passion to share Christ.

Upon graduation in 1967 Sam worked for Art DeMoss' National Liberty Insurance Company. He also attended the Reformed Episcopal Seminary in Philadelphia. Art DeMoss, a personal friend of Campus Crusade founder Dr. Bill Bright, challenged Sam to join Campus Crusade to "help change the world" by reaching the future leaders on university campuses.

Sam and Nan were married after Nan's graduation from Houghton and joined the Campus Crusade ministry as staff. They had planned on a two year term to learn how to effectively share their faith, then to return to the business world. But as God used them in the lives of college students, they found themselves compelled to stay in full time ministry.

The McCulloughs were assigned to ministry on the campuses of the University of Mary-

land, University of Rochester, Monroe Community College, and Rochester Institute of Technology, after which they moved to the University of Buffalo where they ministered for four years. Over 20 of their University of Buffalo students went into some form of Christian ministry.

In 1973, Sam was appointed as Area Director for all of Pennsylvania and Delaware. He carried this responsibility for six years. He worked on all the campuses in those states where Campus Crusade had a presence.

In 1979 Sam felt the Lord leading him to leave his work with future leaders and to start reaching out to the present leaders in Washington. Sam and Nan joined the Christian Embassy (CE), a Washington, DC ministry of Campus Crusade and have faithfully served national and international leaders in Washington for 31 years. In addition to numerous administrative responsibilities at the CE, Sam led Bible studies and other men's groups. He was responsible for planning many of the CE retreats and fund raising events. Towards the end of his ministry on this Earth, Sam defied the cancer to continue modeling the Christian life and teaching the Word of God to presidential appointees, Members of Congress and their Chiefs of Staff.

Sam is survived by his precious wife, Nan, his three children and their spouses: Kristi & Darrin Kruff, Kevin & Sarah McCullough, Scotty & Kelly McCullough, and three grandchildren: Lily Kruff age 9, Jazlyn McCullough age 5, & Damien Atkins age 13.

Sam had an amazing ministry of presence to us on Capitol Hill. Whether it was praying with Members or Ambassadors distraught over national tragedies, helping defeated Members transition out of public service, or following up on the health episodes of family members, Sam was always there. In a town known for asking, "What have you done for me lately?" Sam was one of the few who would stop by simply to say, "Hi, do you have any needs?" He spent his lifetime pouring himself into the lives of others, driven only by the call of following the will of the Lord.

Sam was a truly special man who humbly touched the lives of all who encountered him. We will miss his presence with all our hearts and are so grateful that he chose to share the love of Christ with us. We also extend our appreciation to Nan and the children for sharing Sam with us. We have no doubt that when Sam entered the presence of the King, he was welcomed with "Well done, thou good and faithful servant!"

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY
OF ROY ROGERS AND THE ROY
ROGERS FESTIVAL

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 28th annual Roy Rogers Festival in Portsmouth, Ohio, and the 100th birthday of Roy Rogers himself. Leonard Slye—better known as Roy Rogers—was born on November 5th, 1911 in Cincinnati, Ohio. A

few months after Roy was born, he and his family decided to travel up the Ohio River on their houseboat to Portsmouth, Ohio. It was near this area, in Southern Ohio, that Roy and his family called home.

Roy Rogers grew up on a farm in Duck Run, just outside of Portsmouth. Roy, who often rode his horse to school, once said, "We lived so far out in the country, they had to pipe sunlight to us." As a result, Roy and his family had to entertain themselves. It was while he was growing up that Roy learned to play the mandolin, call square dances, and sing. Little did his family know that one day, Roy would be known as the "King of the Cowboys."

Roy went on to star in numerous western movies, record multiple chart topping albums, and along with his trusty sidekicks Trigger and Bullet, star in a hit television show.

Regardless of how popular Roy Rogers became, he always spoke fondly of his home in Southern Ohio. In 1982, the Roy Rogers-Dale Evans Collectors Association was founded and immediately began planning an annual event to commemorate Roy Rogers and his wife Dale Evans. In 1983, the first Roy Rogers Festival was held.

This annual event attracts families from around the country to not only commemorate the life of Roy Rogers, but to turn Portsmouth into the Ol' West for a few days.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in not only honoring the Roy Rogers Festival, but also the 100th birthday of a great American—Roy Rogers.

TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE
CODE OF 1986 TO MODIFY
THE INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT
FOR COMBINED HEAT AND
POWER SYSTEM PROPERTY

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduced a bipartisan bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the investment tax credit for combined heat and power system property. There are economic opportunities for American industries that adopt combined heat and power (CHP) systems, which have the potential to greatly increase energy efficiency and the U.S. competitiveness of large industrial plants. The U.S. Combined Heat and Power Association has reported that CHP can save building and industry owners over \$5 billion per year in energy costs. Further, the manufacture and installation of CHP projects have the potential to put our Nation back to work while producing cleaner energy and reducing emissions impacts of electricity generation costs.

CHP technologies capture some or all of the by-product heat for heating or cooling purposes and produce electricity and heat from the same fuel source, at or near the site of use. By-product heat at moderate temperatures can also be used in absorption chillers for cooling. Because they produce multiple forms of energy from the same source, CHP systems are two to three times more efficient

than systems that produce one or the other alone.

In addition to CHP systems, newer, related technologies are available that can use low-grade heat to generate clean electrical power or simply make use of the heat as a thermal source. In traditional plants, this low-grade heat is wasted by venting it directly to the atmosphere. These new technologies, referred to as waste heat to electricity (WHE) and waste heat to thermal (WHT), have components that are manufactured in the U.S., and have the potential to become important exportable technologies. These systems are similar to traditional renewable technologies in that they do not require the direct combustion of fuels to generate power or heat, thus no emissions are generated.

If these technologies are widely adopted it would help move our country towards energy independence along with creating high quality, stable American jobs. According to the Department of Energy, if the U.S. was to increase its use of CHP to generate 20 percent of its electricity by 2030, it would spur \$234 billion in private investment and create almost 1 million jobs.

Although the savings from CHP, WHE, and WHT can be substantial, significant up-front capital costs are a barrier to deploying these systems. This legislation will help deploy this energy-efficient technology by defraying a portion of these costs through an investment tax credit. My bipartisan bill raises the size of the system eligible for the current investment tax credit, allowing the credit to apply to the first 25 megawatts or 34,000 horsepower of an installed system. The bill also removes the cap on the eligible system size for the credit and also allows WHE and WHT systems to qualify for this credit.

With our Nation's economic competitiveness and energy independence in mind, I urge my colleagues to support my bill to modify and improve the investment tax credit for combined heat and power and waste heat system properties.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DELMER
"PHIL" PHILLIPPI

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the passing of my friend and an American hero, Delmer "Phil" Phillippi of Ridgeland, South Carolina. Phil was a Marine's Marine. His first tour of duty with the United States Marine Corps was from January 1944 to March 1946 and he landed at Normandy on D-day. His second tour with the Marines was from March 1948 to October 1967. He was a hero of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, serving as a rifleman and received a Combat Infantry Badge and four campaign stars. He also served twelve years as a butcher for the commissary at the Parris Island Marine Corps Depot.

In addition to Phil's military service, he was a man of strong Christian faith and love of his family. Phil was a member of the

Coosawhatchie Baptist Church. He loved his farm and his farm animals. He leaves behind his loving wife of almost thirty-nine years Karen, his daughter Allison, his son Keith and his grandchildren Tyler, Monica, Olivia, Christian, Keelie, and Chandler.

I would like to express my condolences to his family. My thoughts and prayers are with his family at this difficult time. Semper Fi.

CONGRESSIONAL COMMENDATION
FOR THE LIFE OF GERTRUDE
HOFFMAN PEELE

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the Third Congressional District of Florida, and myself, we are deeply and profoundly saddened by the loss of our friend, Gertrude Hoffman Peele. Her motto was "All we need to do is go for it" and she always did.

Gertrude grew up in Jacksonville when it was extremely segregated. As the only black family in her neighborhood, her parents never let her play outside and when some black families moved into the neighborhood, the Hoffman's playroom became the place where the black kids could gather safely. She recently told the story of how she had to run through certain neighborhoods just to get to school or attend a football game. She did not let these experiences break her spirit, however. She was inspired by her grandmother's words, 'Brighten the corner where you are. If it's not bright enough for you, you make it bright. Take the light to the corner.'

During the civil rights movement, she was raising her daughters and didn't have time to march. Instead, she spent her time making friends with people who could understand what the movement meant. Relationships meant so much to her that she said her greatest accomplishment was changing the way women in Jacksonville work together.

In fact her accomplishments were many. The very essence of Gertrude Peele was service to, and for others. From her position as wife, mother, grandmother, to business and community leader, to officer of the National Council of Negro Women, to countless positions in national, state and community leadership positions and her tireless work on behalf of at-risk girls, Gertrude Peele meant service, dedication, leadership, and caring. Most recently, she was dedicated to The Reed Educational Campus, which provides a home-style environment for at-risk, tween girls to foster self-esteem, healthy lifestyle and academic success.

All our lives and those of generations to come have been made the better by the love and commitment of our dear sister, Gertrude Hoffman Peele. May she find perpetual peace and glory now in the loving embrace of her Heavenly Father, and forever abide in a special place in our hearts.

HONORING SISTER MARY ALICE
MURPHY

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Mary Alice Murphy for her dedication in Ft. Collins, Colorado to serving the homeless and the poor.

For the last 26 years since Sister Mary Alice moved to Ft. Collins she has worked tirelessly to help the vulnerable populations of the state.

She opened the first soup kitchen in Ft. Collins and with the help of St. Joseph's Parish, an overnight homeless shelter was eventually attached to the soup kitchen.

When this homeless shelter opened, Sister Mary Alice ensured that the facility had a separate area for women and families who were seeking shelter.

In 1992, Sister Mary Alice founded CARE Housing, a non-profit organization, whose mission was to provide affordable rental housing and supportive services to working families. Over 85 percent of the residents were single women with children.

Just last year, the Sister Mary Alice Murphy Center for Hope opened. The mission at the Center for Hope is to help families and individuals achieve stability and long-term self-sufficiency. The Center is of tremendous value for the less fortunate families in Colorado.

A plaque on the Center for Hope reads the following "For her relentless effort to quest better the lives of those less fortunate. Because of her earnest, fearless, and untiring interest in those who are vulnerable, weary or forgotten. In appreciation for her unwavering commitment to people who have no voice. This building stands as a dedication to Sister Mary Alice Murphy, a great friend to many, and the embodiment of service to others."

It is my honor to recognize Sister Mary Alice on the House floor.

HONORING LANA HUGHES AND JP
PRITCHARD FOR 3 DECADES OF
SERVICE TO SOUTHEAST TEXAS

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a pair of southeast Texans who have honored us every weekday morning for more than a quarter century. Up until July 1st of this year, part of starting your morning in the Houston area was tuning into News Radio 740 KTRH for the news from JP Pritchard and Lana Hughes.

Whether it was announcing breaking news from Texas, Washington, DC or across the globe, Houston's anchors—and Houston depended on them. Through devastating Hurricanes like Alicia, Rita and Ike and the most destructive Tropical Storm in U.S. history, Tropical Storm Allison, these dedicated anchors were the calming, assuring voices that kept Texans informed through good economic

times and bad. Along the way, these Texas Radio Hall of Fame members became the most honored radio news team anyone can remember with dozens of national, state and local awards.

Native Texan Lana Hughes is a graduate of Conroe High School in the 8th Congressional District and Baylor University. She joined KTRH from the Conroe Courier and KIKR Radio. She is a walking encyclopedia of modern southeast Texas history, especially the accomplishments of the men and women of NASA. Many animals in Houston also have Auntie Lana thank for their loving homes.

A graduate of Drake University, JP Pritchard wasn't born in Texas, but he got there as fast as he could. He and his wife Esther, raised three sons in Texas and are now enjoying being grandparents. From reporter/anchor and news director of KULF Radio to KTRH, JP has a lot to be proud of including his award-winning documentary on the History of Houston.

I have had the pleasure of getting to know these consummate professionals and just how hard they worked to keep Houston informed every day. It is hard not to be in awe of all they accomplished while making it look so effortless. Synonymous with Houston for more than a quarter century, JP and Lana were inducted together into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame together. As they move on to new adventures, Houston owes them a debt of gratitude for being an amazing resource for so many for so long. I just wanted to say "Thank you" to Houston's anchors.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. FEDERAL DISTRICT JUDGE MATTHEW J. PERRY, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a legendary American who has passed from this life into immortality. The Honorable Matthew J. Perry, Jr. was one of our great legal minds and a stalwart of the Civil Rights Movement. He was also my mentor and dear friend, and he leaves a void that cannot be filled.

On Friday, July 29, 2011, Judge Matthew Perry went to work as he did every weekday in the Columbia, South Carolina courthouse that bears his name. That evening he slipped quietly away at home, which was so in keeping with how he lived his life. August 3, 2011 would have been his 90th birthday.

Matthew Perry was the eldest child of Matthew and Jennie Lyles Perry, a tailor and seamstress in the segregated Waverly community of Columbia, South Carolina. Following his father's death when Matthew was just 12, he moved in with his grandfather, William Lyles, a brakeman on the Southern Railroad. Matthew was expected to contribute financially to the family, and he did odd jobs like painting, digging ditches and delivering newspapers to do his part. That led young Matthew to aspire to a better life.

He attended Booker T. Washington High School in Columbia and went on to South

Carolina State College (now University) in Orangeburg from 1939 to 1941, until World War II broke out. Matthew was drafted and served as an Army Sergeant in an all-black Quartermaster Corps in England, France, Belgium and Germany.

When Matthew returned home on a furlough from the war, where he enjoyed more freedoms in Europe than he did in the Jim Crow South, he stopped to eat at a restaurant where he was forced to order through a window while he saw Italian prisoners of war eating inside with the white customers. This inequity stirred a passion in Matthew Perry that shaped his entire life.

He returned to South Carolina State College in 1946 and finished his degree in Business Administration, but he remained passionate about civil rights. He watched Thurgood Marshall argue a case in Columbia that led to the establishment of a law school at S.C. State to avoid the integration of the University of South Carolina's School of Law. That experience had a profound influence on Matthew's future. He determined he wanted to follow in the footsteps of future Supreme Court Justice Marshall and enrolled in the second class of S.C. State's law school in 1948. He was one of just five men to graduate in 1951.

Following graduation, Attorney Perry moved to Spartanburg, South Carolina where he was the only black lawyer. He made a name for himself representing the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), although he couldn't win a case. During that period, my mother took me—a teenager at the time—to see him represent the Sumter NAACP, so, in her words, I could see what I could be. He electrified everyone in the courtroom, and I was mesmerized.

A few years later, as fate would have it, I was arrested along with 387 other students in March 1960 during the first civil rights protest march and sit-in in Orangeburg. I was a student at South Carolina State College at the time. Attorney Perry chose me as his star witness because my parents, a minister and beautician, were immune from economic retribution from the white establishment since they didn't serve any white clients. That case launched what would be a lifelong friendship.

In 1961, Attorney Perry moved home to Columbia to join his childhood friend, Lincoln Jenkins, in opening a law firm. He was the attorney on three cases that have left a significant mark on South Carolina—the cases that resulted in the integration of Clemson University and the University of South Carolina and the 1972 lawsuit that created single-member districts for State House elections, which resulted in quadrupling the number of African Americans in the South Carolina Legislature.

Matthew Perry was a beloved figure and was even drafted in 1974 to run for Congress. However, the climate wasn't yet right for an African American to be elected from South Carolina.

In 1976, Senator Strom Thurmond nominated him to serve on the U.S. Military Court of Appeals. He was unanimously confirmed and became the second black to serve on that judicial panel. Just three years later, Senator Ernest Hollings tapped him as a U.S. District Judge for the state of South Carolina, which brought him back to Columbia. He was the

first African American to serve in that capacity. He moved into senior status on the federal bench in 1995 and remained active until the end of his life.

In 2004, I had the honor of being with Judge Perry for the dedication of the Matthew J. Perry, Jr. Federal Courthouse in Columbia. I sponsored the legislation that named the building in his honor, and it was among my proudest moments in public life. It took ten years from the passage of the law until the edifice was complete, but it was well worth the wait, and I am so pleased that Judge Perry had the opportunity to work in the courthouse for a number of years. On a personal note, he swore in my daughter, Mignon Clyburn, as a member of the Federal Communications Commission in the Perry Courthouse, and it reminded me of when he presided over my ceremonial swearing-in when I became the first African American elected to Congress from South Carolina since the 19th century.

Because of his tremendous stature in the legal community, Judge Perry earned a number of honors and awards. Among them was South Carolina's highest civilian honor, the Order of the Palmetto, in 1986, and he was inducted into the South Carolina Hall of Fame in 2007. He earned the distinguished alumnus award from South Carolina State University in 1972 and 1980, and he was selected the South Carolinian of the Year in 1977. He received the William R. Ming Advocacy Award, which recognizes outstanding success as a lawyer representing causes important to the NAACP. He also held honorary doctorates from Princeton University, South Carolina State College, the University of South Carolina, Voorhees College, Francis Marion University and Lander College.

He was a lifelong member of Zion Baptist Church in Columbia and was married to the former Hallie Bacote of Timmonsville for 63 years. They had one son, Michael.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to rise today to honor the contributions of this national treasure. Matthew J. Perry, Jr. was a humble man who would never seek out recognition for his extraordinary contributions to civil rights and the legal profession; he just saw it as his life's work. He has left an indelible mark on this country, and his legacy lives on in so many, including myself, who have benefited from his passion and his persuasion. Judge Perry was a gentle giant, whose likes we will never see again.

HONORING VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize General James E. Cartwright for his forty years of accomplished military service. His unparalleled dedication to our troops and his visionary leadership in defense of our national security have left an indelible mark.

We have been extremely grateful over the past five years to have benefited from his

thoughtful and candid advice and recommendations, and are grateful for his testimony at many Congressional hearings on our nation's security and the future of our Armed Forces.

General Cartwright hails from Rockford, Illinois. He graduated from the University of Iowa in 1971 and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps shortly thereafter. The General served as a Naval Flight Officer in the F-4 and as a pilot in the F-4, OA-4 and the F-18. His flying career also included command of the First Marine Aircraft Wing in Okinawa, Japan.

After an assignment as the Director for Force Structure, Resources and Assessment (J-8) on the Joint Staff, then Lieutenant General Cartwright was promoted to General and became the first Marine Corps officer to lead United States Strategic Command.

During his dedicated tenure as head of STRATCOM, General Cartwright led the development of strategies to counter a changed security environmental and rapidly emerging new threats, particularly in the critical areas of nuclear proliferation, cyber, space, and missile defense. His vision and leadership were essential to ensure that we are able to successfully and reliably meet the new challenges of a post-Cold War era.

We are grateful for his service during the last four years as the eighth Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The General's leadership also contributed directly to the integration of technologies that enabled, as an example, the destruction of a failing satellite by a missile for the first time, and the successful and historic raid against Osama Bin Laden.

He reduced the loss of American lives in combat by facilitating the rapid delivery of much-needed new capabilities to the battlefield. Specifically, I would like to recognize his contribution to leading the MRAP program which resulted in a remarkable fifty percent decrease in deaths attributed to Improvised Explosive Device attacks. General Cartwright has been a bulwark in honoring the dedication and sacrifice of the 2.4 million active, guard and reserve members of the Armed Forces and their families, has steadfastly advocated for our wounded warriors, and kept the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice on our battlefields in our hearts and minds.

General Cartwright's vision, dedication and invaluable leadership will prove a lasting legacy for the Armed Forces and for our country.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 2644, THE
AVIATION JOBS AND SAFETY
ACT OF 2011

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the 4,000 workers of the Federal Aviation Administration who were furloughed on July 22nd. For this reason, I urge the immediate passage of H.R. 2644, the Aviation Jobs and Safety Act of 2011, which will provide a clean extension and end this nonsense.

Republicans claim to focus on jobs, but time and time again, we see them cut, delay, and

disable every program that comes their way. The partial shutdown of the Federal Aviation Administration has become the primary tactic of the Republican Party, which would rather send people home than send them to work.

The failure to pass a clean FAA extension is the latest example of this tactic. Since 2007, Congress has passed 20 short term extensions without controversial provisions. Breaking that precedent, House Republican leadership decided to attach policy riders to weaken unions and kill jobs, knowing full well it would never be approved by the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, the 4,000 furloughed FAA employees are non-partisan career civil servants who in many cases have spent more than two decades working to provide the public with safe, modern and efficient air travel in this country.

The Republican-led FAA shutdown has caused the FAA to issue 217 stop-work orders on \$11 billion worth of air traffic control and safety-related contracts, and that number will continue to grow.

Because of this, nearly 86,000 construction jobs are now in jeopardy around the country. That's 90,000 people waiting to work, needing to pay their mortgages and feed their families.

Contracts are waiting to be honored and work is waiting to be done, but the Republicans are held up on issues such as subsidies to rural airports, which cost about \$200 million a year.

Mr. Speaker, in just 10 days, the FAA shutdown has already cost the American taxpayer \$300 million. Every day the Republican leadership holds out costs this country \$30 million in lost airport fees.

Also troubling is how the airlines have reacted to the FAA shutdown. Instead of passing cost savings on to air travelers, almost every one of the airlines raised their ticket prices and pocketed the money. The situation was there and they took advantage of it.

My Republican colleagues are fond of saying that cutting taxes and dismantling government bureaucracies will streamline business and result in greater value to the consumer, but I fail to see the airlines acting on that principle.

On July 26th I joined my Democratic colleagues in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in introducing H.R. 2644, which will end this job-killing standoff immediately. I call on my Republican colleagues to pass a clean extension so we can return to the business of negotiating a long-term authorization bill.

Mr. Speaker, it is incredibly unfair to hold thousands of American jobs hostage while we battle over promises we have already made and signed into law. This is exactly the same tactic that we saw Republicans employ with their threatened shutdown of the federal government in March and their senseless debate over the debt-ceiling which threatened the entire economy.

I remain committed to passing an authorization bill that adequately funds critical components of our transportation infrastructure, such as the implementation of the Next Generation Air Traffic Control system, and I am concerned that reckless cuts necessitate the firing of many safety personnel and put the flying public at risk. Right now the workers who should

be moving these projects forward are sitting at home worried about the money they are not able to earn.

Mr. Speaker, we must pass H.R. 2644 immediately. Every day we wait costs our country money. This pointless shutdown erodes confidence of the hundreds of small businesses who contract for the federal government, and puts nearly 90,000 jobs in needless jeopardy.

I urge my colleagues to for a clean funding extension of the FAA before we leave Washington for the district work period. Thousands of jobs and livelihoods hang in the balance.

THE GREATEST LOVE IN HONOR OF AN AMERICAN HERO CORPORAL TODD S. LOVE 1ST RECON MARINE, THE UNITED STATES MARINES

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a strong son of the south, Corporal Todd Love of Acworth, Georgia of the United States Marines. On October 25, 2010, while on foot patrol in Sangin Afghanistan, Corporal Love stepped on an IED, gravely wounding himself. Losing both his legs and part of his hand and lower arm. His will to win and his recovery are the stuff that movies are made of. Incredible, is his will to live, and his smile and can do attitude teaches all about the meaning of the words faith and courage. He makes every United States Marine whoever wore the uniform proud. And with the help of his family he is miles ahead of his recovery. I ask that this poem penned in honor of valor by Albert Caswell be placed in the RECORD.

The . . .
The Greatest Love . . .
Your Greatest Gift, as like from our Lord up
above . . .
So selfless Todd, this!
The Greatest Love . . .
To march off to war . . .
All for God and Country Todd, as was your
burden bore!
To walk into The Valley of Death . . .
All for our Nation, to so bless!
But, ready to die for your Brothers In Arms
. . . so yes!
Is The Greatest Love!
Armed, with only but your fine courage so
left!
All in your Most Magnificent Shades of
Green . . .
As moving ever forth, as out into the face of
evil you were so seen!
To give up your two fine legs and arm . . .
And not to worry about what may come to
you . . . such harm!
The . . .
The Greatest Love!
To come back home . . .
As all of this pain and heartache, you now so
own!
As that most magnificent face of courage, to
you now so belongs!
As you rebuild, but with only your iron will!
The Greatest Love!
As you so Teach Us Todd, as you so would!
As You So Beseech Us Todd, as you so could!

As Out To All of Our Hearts, You So Reach
 Us Todd, create such good!
 As The Title of Hero Todd, you now so own!
 As our Lord God Walks with you, Todd your
 not alone!
 The Greatest Love!
 As you make me weep!
 With all of that splendid courage, all in your
 heart so very deep!
 For Heaven So Holds A Place!
 All For Such Magnificent Men as you, of
 such Grace!
 Who somehow will not so lose their faith!
 No matter what the darkest of all days!
 As you but bring tears to our face . . .
 As to Heaven one day Todd, you will come
 home . . . and fine your place!
 As an Angel in The Army of Our Lord . . .
 his blessed son for all you've faced!
 All because of you, and your Greatest Love!
 Amen!

REINTRODUCTION OF THE GEOTHERMAL PRODUCTION EXPANSION ACT

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, today, Representative Mike SIMPSON and I reintroduced the bipartisan Geothermal Production Expansion Act, a companion to S.1149, introduced by Senators WYDEN, CRAPO, RISCH and MERKLEY. Our bill will ensure that geothermal resources that are near federal lands are developed, creating American jobs in rural areas. I thank my colleagues for their leadership and working together on this important bill.

As we work to develop American energy resources and become more energy independent, it is extremely important that we remove barriers to the production of domestic, clean, renewable resources that have been discovered and can be financed in the private market. This legislation will help remove a significant barrier to deploying geothermal energy and creating the accompanying jobs.

Currently, proven geothermal developers are not producing clean, reliable geothermal electricity, despite specific valid geothermal discoveries in the west that adjoin federal lands. The Geothermal Production Expansion Act would ensure that if a developer has made the upfront investments to discover and validate a geothermal resource that is adjacent to federal lands, there will be reasonable certainty that they will be able to secure a lease for a small parcel of the adjoining land necessary to develop and produce geothermal energy. Taxpayers would be compensated for the fair market value of the lease, and would receive increased royalties for the increased geothermal production.

Already under EPACT 2005 amendments, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is allowed to issue three different non-competitive leases for geothermal resources. Our legislation simply creates a fourth category whereby the BLM may issue a non-competitive geothermal lease for only those qualified companies who hold legal rights to develop geothermal leases on certain adjoining lands.

This legislation would spur immediate economic development in rural areas and ensure

that developers who have invested substantial capital and made high risk investments can secure and develop geothermal discoveries. It will also add renewable, domestically produced energy resources to the American electricity supply. In the 111th Congress, the House Natural Resources committee held a hearing on the Geothermal Production Expansion Act, and I offered and passed this legislation as an amendment to the Consolidated Land, Energy, and Aquatic Resources Act of 2010 (H.R. 3534), but unfortunately did not reach the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. I urge Congress to pass this bill into law this year.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JACK MCKEON

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jack McKeon, a native of South Amboy, New Jersey and a member of the All-American Amateur Baseball Association (AAABA) Hall of Fame's Class of 2011. The AAABA established the Hall of Fame in 1994 and continues to induct a new class of prestigious individuals every August. This year they induct Mr. McKeon, an outstanding individual who has dedicated his life to the game of baseball. His performance on and off the field are worthy of this body's recognition.

Jack McKeon, nicknamed "Trader Jack", began his baseball career in 1948 as a participant in the AAABA Tournament and later signed with the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1949. Mr. McKeon nobly served in the United States Air Force from 1950 to 1951 but quickly returned to his baseball career in 1952 as a minor league player. He maintained a starting position with various minor league teams for three more years. By the age of twenty-four, Mr. McKeon began as a player's manager from 1956 through 1959 and continued managing in the minor leagues for the next seventeen years. As a result of his outstanding efforts, he was the recipient of four 'Manager of the Year' Awards for his performance in the Minor Leagues.

Jack McKeon made his Major League Baseball debut in 1973 as Manager with the Kansas City Royals and remained a member of this club for three consecutive seasons. He has also been recognized as Manager with the Oakland Athletics, Manager and General Manager of the San Diego Padres, and Major League Scout and Manager for the Cincinnati Reds. Mr. McKeon is most notably known for leading the San Diego Padres to a National League pennant win in 1984. He also led the 2003 Florida Marlins to the World Series, winning the Championship later that year. Consequently, he was named '2003 Manager of the Year'. Jack McKeon is the only manager in history to win 1,000 games in both the minor and major leagues. In 2005, Jack McKeon retired as Manager of the Florida Marlins and currently holds a position as special advisor to the owner.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Mr. Jack McKeon for his nu-

merous accolades and congratulate him for his acceptance as a member of the All-American Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame's Class of 2011.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, August 2, 2011 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

AUGUST 3

9:30 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Securities, Insurance and Investment Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the housing finance system, focusing on the to-be-announced market.

SD-538

10 a.m.

Finance

To hold hearings to examine dually-eligible beneficiaries, focusing on improving care while lowering costs.

SD-215

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Wendy Ruth Sherman, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary for Political Affairs, and Robert Stephen Ford, of Vermont, to be Ambassador to the Syrian Arab Republic, both of the Department of State.

SD-419

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 1268, to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Government by providing for greater interagency experience among national security and homeland security personnel through the development of a national security and homeland security human capital strategy and interagency rotational service by employees, S. 1409, to intensify efforts to identify, prevent, and recover payment error, waste, fraud, and abuse within Federal spending, S. 743, to amend chapter 23 of title 5, United States Code, to clarify the disclosures of information protected from prohibited personnel practices, require a statement in nondisclosure policies, forms, and agreements that such policies, forms, and agreements conform

with certain disclosure protections, provide certain authority for the Special Counsel, S. 1379, to amend title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, to revise certain administrative authorities of the District of Columbia courts, and to authorize the District of Columbia Public Defender Service to provide professional liability insurance for officers and employees of the Service for claims relating to services furnished within the scope of employment with the Service, S. 1444, to provide for the presentation of a United States flag on behalf of Federal civilian employees who are killed while performing official duties or because of their status as Federal employees, S. 384, to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research, and the nominations of Mark D. Acton, of Kentucky, and Robert G. Taub, of New York, both to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission.

SD-342

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine cybercrime, focusing on updating the "Computer Fraud and Abuse Act" to protect cyberspace and combat emerging threats.

SD-226

2 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine debt financing in the domestic financial sector.

SD-538

2:30 p.m.

Environment and Public Works
Children's Health and Environmental Responsibility Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Federal actions to clean up contamination from uranium mining and milling operations.

SD-406

Energy and Natural Resources
Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 1024, to designate the Organ Mountains and other public land as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System and the National Landscape Conservation System in the State of New Mexico, S. 1090, to designate as wilderness certain public land in the Cherokee National Forest in the State of Tennessee, S. 1144, to amend the Soda Ash Royalty Reduction Act of 2006 to extend the reduced royalty rate for soda ash, S. 1149, to expand geothermal production, and S. 1344, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to take immediate action to recover ecologically and economically from a catastrophic wildfire in the State of Arizona.

SD-366

AUGUST 4

10 a.m.

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 657, to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States in order to disseminate information when a law enforcement officer is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty, and the nominations of Morgan Christen, of Alaska, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Scott Wesley Skavdahl, to be United States District Judge for the District of Wyoming, Sharon L. Gleason, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska, Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, and Richard G. Andrews, to be United States District Judge for the District of Delaware.

SD-226

2 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Richard Cordray, of Ohio, to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

SD-538

2:15 p.m.

Foreign Relations

African Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine responding to drought and famine in the horn of Africa.

SD-419

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine "The American Indian Probate Reform Act", focusing on empowering Indian land owners.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Federal leased property, focusing on if Federal agencies are getting a bad deal.

SD-342

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

SEPTEMBER 7

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 958, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program of payments to children's hospitals that operate graduate medical education programs, S. 1094, to reauthorize the Combating Autism Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-416), and any pending nominations.

SD-106

SEPTEMBER 21

2 p.m.

Judiciary

Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Google, focusing on consumers and competition.

SD-226

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, August 2, 2011

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOLF).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
August 2, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable FRANK R. WOLF to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Dear Lord, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

In the wake of a long and difficult day, we ask Your blessing on the Members of this people's House as they return to their homes for a much needed rest. Their burden has been heavy. Give them rest and recovery that they might return with renewed energy and purpose to take on the responsibility of leading our great Nation.

We pray as well for their constituencies. May the American people be grateful and hopeful that together we might move toward a brighter future. Whatever emerges, increase our faith in the constitutional processes that have carried our Nation to the greatness it has experienced and which, we hope, continues to be a lantern shining on a hill.

May all that is done today be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5 of House Resolution 375, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 2, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on August 2, 2011 at 9:35 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2715.

That the Senate passed S. 1466.

Appointments:

United States Commission on Civil Rights.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4 of House Resolution 375, no legislative business will be conducted on this day. Pursuant to section 3 of that resolution, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. on Friday, August 5, 2011.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 3 minutes a.m.), the House adjourned until Friday, August 5, 2011, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2699. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Movement of Hass Avocados From Areas Where Mediterranean Fruit Fly or South American Fruit Fly Exist [Docket No.: APHIS-2010-0127] (RIN: 0579-AD34) received July 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2700. A letter from the Manager, BioPreferred Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Designation of Biobased Items for Federal Procurement (RIN: 0503-AA36) received July 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2701. A letter from the Staff Director, Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting notification that the Commission recently appointed members to the New Hampshire Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2702. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmit-

ting the Annual Report to Congress on the implementation, enforcement, and prosecution of registration requirements under Section 635 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Pub.L. 109-248) (AWA); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2703. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting to Congress proposals to address the epidemic of domestic violence against Native women; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky (for himself and Mr. DOGGETT):

H.R. 2790. A bill to amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to extend the child and family services program through fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 2791. A bill to make clear that an agency outside of the Department of Health and Human Services may not designate, appoint, or employ special consultants, fellows, or other employees under subsection (f) or (g) of section 207 of the Public Health Service Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. BASS of California, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. RUSH, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. FATTAH):

H.R. 2792. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance to expand, improve, support, and promote higher education in the countries of sub-Saharan Africa, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky:

H.R. 2790.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, to "provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States."

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 2791.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7, "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in

Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.”

By Mr. PAYNE:

H.R. 2792.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 538: Mr. MCCAUL and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 1025: Ms. HIRONO.

H.R. 1735: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 1855: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H.R. 2077: Mr. KINGSTON.

H.R. 2447: Mr. PLATTS.

H.R. 2757: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 2762: Mr. MEEKS.

H. Con. Res. 21: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

SENATE—Tuesday, August 2, 2011

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Give ear to our prayers, Eternal God, and guide us like a shepherd leads a flock. Turn us toward You, as You cause Your face to shine so that we shall be saved. Feed our lawmakers with the bread of wisdom so that they will accomplish Your purposes. Delivering them from the tyranny of the trivial, may they trust You to guide their steps. As they remember the high price and preciousness of freedom, inspire them with the relentless and sacrificial vigilance required to preserve it.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE.)

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Tuesday, August 2, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. SHAHEEN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following any leader remarks, I will make

a motion to concur in the House message to accompany S. 365, the legislative vehicle for the debt limit compromise.

The time until noon will be equally divided and controlled for debate on the legislation.

At noon, the Senate will conduct a rollcall vote on the motion to concur in the House message, with a 60-vote threshold.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

AMENDING THE EDUCATION SCIENCES REFORM ACT OF 2002

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate the House message to accompany S. 365.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair lays before the Senate a message from the House, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Resolved that the bill from the Senate (S. 365) entitled "An Act to make a technical amendment to the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002" do pass, with an amendment.

Mr. REID. Madam President, as provided under the previous order, I now move to concur in the House amendment to S. 365.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The motion is pending.

Mr. REID. Madam President, Senator MCCONNELL and I have completed our statements.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I ask unanimous consent to speak for 10 minutes under the time allocated to the Republican side.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, finally, Washington is taking some responsibility for spending money that we don't have. At a time when the Federal Government is borrowing 40 cents of every dollar it spends, this is a welcome change in behavior. I gladly support it. Make no mistake, this is a change in behavior—from spend, spend, spend, to cut, cut, cut. Let me give you one example.

On Christmas Eve 2010 Congress raised the debt ceiling and attached to it \$1 trillion in new spending over 10 years in the new health care law. This

time, for every dollar we are raising the debt ceiling, we are reducing spending by a dollar, not adding to it. This reduction in spending over 10 years is about \$2.4 trillion.

Here is another example: According to Senator PORTMAN, who used to be the Nation's budget director, the CBO would say if Congress did this kind of dollar-for-dollar reduction for spending every time a President asked us to raise the debt ceiling, we would balance the budget in 10 years.

Here is another: The Wall Street Journal reported yesterday that because of these spending cuts, the discretionary part of the budget, which is about 39 percent of the entire Federal budget, will grow over the next 10 years at a little less than the rate of inflation. If we could control the rest of the budget so that it would grow to anything close to the rate of inflation, we would balance the budget in no time.

Balancing the budget is exactly what our goal ought to be. I did it every year as Governor of Tennessee. Families in America do it every day. It is time to balance the government's books and live within our means.

These spending reductions are an important step, but they are just one step, and no one should underestimate how difficult the next steps will be. These spending cuts do almost nothing to restructure Medicare and Social Security so that seniors can count on them and taxpayers can afford them.

The President's budget projections still double and triple the Federal debt. Under the President's budget, according to the CBO, in 10 years we will be spending more in interest on the debt than we now spend on national defense.

In January 2013, the very first thing the next President will have to do is to ask the Congress to increase the debt ceiling. This problem wasn't created overnight, and it will not be solved overnight. If I were sitting at Union Station trying to catch a train to New York and someone offered me a ticket to Philadelphia or Baltimore, I would take it, and I would find a way to get to New York from there.

Today's vote is an opportunity to take an important step in the right direction, toward stopping Washington from spending money it doesn't have. We should take it and then get ready to find ways to take the next steps.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, this is a historic vote. It is one that has involved a lot of emotion and soul

searching and a lot of hard work. The leaders are on the Senate floor—the Democratic and Republican leaders of the Senate, Senators REID and MCCONNELL. I salute both of them for working so hard to bring us to this moment where we have an opportunity to vote.

The House has passed this legislation, the so-called Budget Control Act. The Senate will take it up shortly. It is my belief it will also pass in the Senate. But my vote for this legislation does not come without some pain.

We are told in life to follow our conscience. On this matter, my conscience is conflicted. If this bill should fail, we will default on our Nation's debt. That will be the first time that has ever happened. If we should default at midnight tonight on our Nation's debt, terrible consequences will ensue. We will find America's credit rating in the world diminished, the interest rates we pay as a nation increased, and the cost of money for businesses and families across the United States will increase—at exactly the wrong time, in the midst of recession.

If we fail to pass this legislation, tomorrow the Secretary of the Treasury will sit down with the President and decide in the month of August which Americans who were expecting a check will actually receive one. Will we pay Social Security recipients? Will we pay the members of our military? Will we pay the Central Intelligence Agency? It is an impossible choice that the President would face if we fail.

But there is another side to the story. If this bill passes, we will reduce spending on critical programs. We have to be honest about it. Fewer children from poor families will be enrolled in early childhood education. Working families and their children will face even more debt to pay for a college education. Medical research will likely be cut. And the list goes on. So from where I stand, it is not the clearest moral choice.

I spoke to our Chaplain before we started the session about a line in Shakespeare I have always struggled to understand. It is from Hamlet, and it is the line in his famous soliloquy, when he said: "Conscience makes cowards of us all."

This morning, I still cannot clearly articulate what it means, but I feel it—struggling with this conscience question of defaulting on our debt, with all of the consequences on innocent people across America, and passing this bill with all of the consequences on innocent people in America. I have spent the last year and a half focused on this debt situation as I have never been focused before. I understand it a little better today than I did when I started.

I have come to the conclusion that if we are going to be honest about our debt and about reducing it, we have to be honest about how it will happen. Sure, we must cut spending; that is

where we have to start. But we also have to understand it goes beyond that.

We have to be prepared to raise revenue. In the Bowles-Simpson Commission and the Gang of 6, I thought we came up with an honest answer to that question. It was a balanced approach and put everything on the table. Well, this bill makes a serious and significant downpayment in spending cuts. Now a joint committee is created to take the next step.

I will say this: If the next step is to be fair, if the next step is to be serious, it has to go beyond spending cuts. It has to look at serious questions about how we can save money in entitlement programs without compromising our commitment, and how we can ask those who have profited so well in America, who live so comfortably, to join us in this effort by paying more in taxes. That is the stark reality.

If we continue to move toward more and more spending cuts, we will literally disadvantage the poor and working families of America to the advantage of those who are well off. That is not fair, and it is not right. Many people have criticized this, saying we don't even read these bills we vote on.

Yesterday, I sat down to read this bill—it is not that long. I have to say, the front end of the bill is almost unintelligible. A person needs someone from the Budget Committee sitting next to them to explain each paragraph. I basically understand that portion of it. I also understand the portion that Senator MCCONNELL proposed on how we will sequence requests for increases in the national debt. I certainly understand, and am puzzled in some ways, by the joint committee's basic charge to find in 10 weeks anywhere from \$1.2 trillion to \$1.5 trillion in savings over the next 10 years—in 10 weeks, these 12 members of the House and Senate are to reach an agreement. It is a daunting task.

There is one provision I want to call to the attention of the Senate. It troubles me greatly. It is a provision that requires that the Senate and House of Representatives, before December 31 of this year vote on a constitutional amendment to balance the budget. I searched this bill long and hard to find the language of that constitutional amendment because I thought, if we are going to have to face the prospect of amending the Constitution, I want to know what the language is. This is an awesome responsibility.

One can read this bill from top to bottom, and there is not one word of substance about that amendment. All it says is, the House and Senate shall consider a bill that is a "joint resolution to amend the Constitution of the United States to balance the budget." End of sentence, end of reference in this bill.

It gets better. Not only do they require us to take a balanced budget

amendment and fail to include the language of that amendment—listen closely—this bill says there shall be no amendments to the proposed resolution in committee in the House or on the floor of the House, in the committees of the Senate nor on the floor of the Senate—take it or leave it.

As I say these words, I can imagine Robert C. Byrd descending from heaven, standing at that desk and waving this Constitution and reminding Members of the Senate that one of the few times in our lives when we have taken a solemn oath, Members of the Senate swore to uphold and defend this document, this writing. He would find it nothing short of outrageous that we are mandating a vote on a constitutional amendment that is not even written, that we are prohibiting the House and the Senate from even considering the change of one word in that proposed constitutional amendment.

Madam President, I think the language of this bill entirely discredits this effort toward a constitutional amendment. We cannot take it seriously if we take our oath seriously to uphold and defend this document.

At the end of the day, I will vote for this measure, obviously with a heavy heart. There are parts of it I will struggle to explain and defend, but I can't let this American economy descend into chaos if we fail to extend the debt ceiling. The job ahead will be hard, but let's hope we will, in reducing this deficit further, do it in a balanced and fair way, with everything on the table.

At the end of the day, Members of Congress and people in higher income categories should feel they too are called to sacrifice. If we ask that of the poorest in America and of working families, we can ask no less of Members of Congress and those who are well off in this great Nation.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The other Senator from Illinois.

Mr. KIRK. Madam President, although this bill reflects a balanced approach, Americans also expect a balanced budget. We need to apply the common sense of the heartland to spend within our means, as each family does with their monthly budget.

The battle over this legislation was hard fought. We have finally started to change a 40-year culture of overspending and overborrowing in just 40 days. We hear the American people, and we respect their judgment. They tell us they are not undertaxed. They tell us Washington overspends.

We have a government that claims to support a strong economy but urges tax increases that will weaken it. We hear speeches from some who want to expand employment but then attack employers. They argue for more access to credit but then assail the banks that would provide it. They call for more American energy but decry the very

explorers who would find it. We need more straight talk and accountability.

Small businesses provide the most jobs, and we should reward them. Inventors create new economies, and we should encourage them. Many government programs fail in their objectives, sometimes for decades, and we should cancel them. We face mounting government debt. The way to pay this debt is to generate more jobs, creating more taxpayers who will provide additional revenue, not new Federal job-killing taxes.

Given the views of our President and the economically liberal Members of this Senate, the legislation before us is the best deal we can get. This legislation caps regular appropriations of the Congress. It eliminates procedural impediments so that we will vote on how to cut automatic spending programs. We even installed automatic spending programs regardless of congressional gridlock as a backstop to ensure fiscal responsibility. This bill prevents a crisis from breaking out this week. It also begins to control automatic spending programs, many of which have run without much accountability since the 1960s. All of this is a downpayment on further ways to bring commonsense accountability and control to the spending of our government.

These basic values are the foundation of America's 200-year experiment in self-government. If we fail, we deliver a free people into the hands of a financial bondage. If we succeed, we honor the promise of limited government that offers greater and greater liberties to each generation of Americans so that they can reach their own potential.

I will vote for this legislation because it begins to make the hard choices to keep us free. But it is only a first step, and a crucial one, to increase the transparency, the performance, and results we should demand from America's government.

This bill sets an important precedent to reform automatic spending. If we use that precedent again, then I can imagine an America that once again becomes the best place on Earth for inventors and families to start and expand businesses that will provide for their children and, in a few cases, will span the globe with American exports to each market of the planet.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam President, over the past 2 years, our country has been struggling to recover from one of the worst economic recessions in our history. Democrats have worked to pass legislation that would create jobs. It has been our top priority. But at every turn, we faced resistance from ideologues who care more about winning political points and protecting the wealthy than doing what is right for hard-working American families.

That is exactly what happened during this debt-ceiling debate. Instead of passing a clean extension and getting to work on our economy, we have been forced to vote on a last-minute deal to prevent the economic catastrophe that would result in default.

I spent the last few weeks and months highlighting the real-life consequences of default for New Mexico families. At a time when families are already dealing with extremely tight budgets, a default would mean increased costs for just about everything, from food, to gas, to housing, to sending the kids to college. It would also jeopardize critical Federal benefits that veterans, seniors, and others depend on to pay the bills and stay healthy. It would mean more than 360,000 New Mexicans would be in danger of losing their Social Security benefits. It would mean another 300,000 who rely on Medicare seeing their health care disrupted. It would mean 174,000 New Mexico veterans may not receive their benefits, and more than 1,400 Active-Duty military personnel may not receive paychecks for their services.

But it wouldn't stop there. Even if you don't depend on a check from the Federal Government every month for health care or retirement or other benefits, you would still feel the financial pain of default. That is because mortgage payments would increase by more than \$1,000 for the average family and credit card interest would go up by \$250. Why is that, you ask. Because the interest you pay on just about every loan you have, whether it is a house or a car or college tuition, is based on the interest rates the Treasury pays, and if that interest rate rises, as it would in a default, so does the interest rate on just about everything else. New Mexicans can't afford that. America can't afford that. And it is to prevent New Mexico families from these repercussions that I will vote for this legislation. But that is the only reason because, to be frank, almost everything else about this deal stinks, and it stinks to high heaven.

As my friend the good Senator from Vermont said yesterday, this package is grotesquely unfair and bad economic policy. While I firmly believe we must take steps to rein in our deficit, this package is far from the ideal way to do so.

I hear every day from New Mexicans about the need to rebuild our economy. We should be investing in innovation and infrastructure and creating new jobs, but we don't do that with this deal. Instead of cutting excess and investing wisely in programs that create jobs, this package will mean fewer dollars for job training, education programs, and housing, hampering our ability to create a long-term recovery.

Poll after poll shows a majority of Americans support shared sacrifice in

this recovery. Unfortunately, this package also falls woefully short on that count. While we did manage to protect important programs such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and nutrition assistance programs, there are still many important programs that will be on the chopping block, initiatives such as housing assistance, help for small businesses, and rural economic development programs, just to name a few—this all the while the tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans and large corporations remain untouched.

This package is what happens when ideologues bent on nationalizing their extreme agendas get their way. The fracture we have seen among Republicans in the House over the last few months has much broader effect than just in that Chamber. Their staunch refusal to compromise at the expense of struggling families has pushed this debate and our Nation to the brink.

Instead of having a frank conversation about how we can repair our economy and reach a simple compromise, we have been forced to vote today to avoid default. With this plan, we get nowhere near the heart of our economic problems. Instead, we kick the can down the road a couple of years, all the while the problem continues to grow, impeding our recovery and crippling our economic competitiveness.

Once this vote is taken and the immediate crisis is passed, it will be all too easy to stick our heads back in the sand and pretend everything is OK. I rise today to say this: Everything is not OK, and it won't be OK until we have the courage and leadership to institute tax reform—not just trimming around the edges or rearranging the numbers to create the illusion of savings when, in fact, nothing has changed; I am talking about substantive tax reform that is the result of a national conversation about our priorities as a society. We have the opportunity to do just that with the commission being created by this plan, but it will take guts and leadership and hard choices.

Our national deficit is a burden that drags us down competitively and requires serious negotiations, not just concessions to those who see this as a political opportunity to push their personal agendas. We must all come to the table and do what is best for our Nation.

I see the Senator from Florida is here. I know he is a wise gentleman who has much to say to us.

So with that, Madam President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Madam President, again I say to my colleague from New Mexico what a fine Senator he is, as is the Senator presiding. What a privilege it is to serve with the likes

of the both of you. Indeed, the Members of this body are extraordinary individuals, and we have all anguished with what we have been through as the clock was constantly ticking down to midnight tonight and knowing the consequences.

This Senator always had the feeling that it was going to work out, that we were going to reach agreement. Interestingly, the financial markets had that same feeling as well because the financial markets never did go off a cliff. Even the Asian financial markets felt the same thing as we were coming out of the weekend. Even though we, in this capital city of our Nation, have gone back and forth over ways to cut this public debt, here we are, we have an agreement. Members of this body, as well as the other body down at the other end of the Capitol, clearly are sincere in their differences. But I think what we saw in the overwhelming vote yesterday in the House of Representatives was most of the Members agree that gridlock doesn't do anything to help the country, and especially the economy. So we have this compromise plan in front of us, and later today one of two things will be true: Either we will have done what is in the best interests of the American people or we will have failed. I think, overwhelmingly, what we will see when we vote at noon today is that there may be as many as 75 Members of this 100-Member Senate who will vote in favor of this package.

I think not only is it obvious this package is the way to avoid default, but it starts us on the path of getting serious about what we have to do. The plan contains more than \$2 trillion to bring down the deficit over the course of the next 10 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office, and it is going to cut about half of that now. It leaves the rest of it up to a supercommittee of 12 Members—half from the House of Representatives, half from the Senate—with each half appointed by its respective leaders of the Chambers.

It is possible this supercommittee will deadlock, but I think with the concern about the financial precipice we have been teetering on, that supercommittee is going to come up with a plan for significant deficit reduction. They have a target of an additional \$1½ trillion over the next 10 years, but they are not limited to that, and everything is on the table. What they could do—and this is a moment, if we can seize it, that would be tremendous—is set us on the path to do major tax reform. No one is happy with the existing Tax Code. We talk about all these tax loopholes—the technical term is tax expenditures—and they are simply special interest tax preferences for individual special interests. It blows my mind to realize they will cost \$14 trillion over the next 10 years. Why should this one special interest have a tax

preference and this one have a tax preference, and yet we find it difficult, as we go through this harangue here in our debate, as to what is the level of the tax bracket for taxation on ordinary people?

What we could do—and the supercommittee can do this—is take a lot of those tax preferences—that \$14 trillion worth of them—and by taking only 15 or 20 percent of those away and utilizing that revenue, we could simplify the Tax Code into three tax brackets for individuals and lower everybody's tax in that income bracket, and we could lower the corporate income tax. That is a real possibility for this supercommittee. They could give the instructions back to the Ways and Means Committee in the House and the Finance Committee in the Senate and then start to do reform, as well as bringing down the national annual deficit. The backup, if this supercommittee fails to agree, is a series of spending cuts that automatically happen.

This agreement also calls for a vote on a balanced budget amendment. I have voted for balanced budget constitutional amendments in the past, and we are going to have another opportunity to vote for one. I assume we are going to have a vote for two different versions. The version that is being offered by Senator UDALL is the one I intend to vote for.

So here we are with a plan that is not a perfect plan, although it clearly avoids default. But all of us agree on what it must do: Government spending must be cut, the public debt must be reduced; otherwise, our economy will not recover and America will no longer be in good standing around the world. That is the bottom line.

I often quote from the Book of Isaiah, in which the Lord is speaking to the people and he says:

Come now, let us reason together.

Isn't that so true here? And was it not avoided for so long, where reasonable people of good will—and every one of these Senators is a person of good will—could not get out of our ideological rigidity and out of our momentary excessive partisanship so that we could, as the Good Book says, "Come now, let us reason together?" But I think now that is what we have done.

So when we pass this legislation—and it will be an overwhelming vote—in about 2 hours, and the President then signs it into law, we can turn our attention back to the economy and creating jobs, which we so desperately need to bring us out of this recession that has been lingering far too long.

Madam President, I thank the Chair for this opportunity, and I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I understand we are alternating?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. That is correct.

Mr. LEVIN. I would request, after the Senator from Kentucky, who is here to speak—

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. I am sorry, the Parliamentarian has corrected me. There is no agreement to alternate.

Mr. LEVIN. In that case, I believe I was here on the floor before the Senator from Kentucky, so I will proceed.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, to say the legislation before us is not ideal is truly an understatement. The notion that our deficit problem can be solved solely by cutting spending flies in the face of our experience, when in fact unwise tax cuts for the wealthy and egregious tax loopholes are significant culprits in our fiscal crisis. I believe too many Republicans are influenced by an ideology so extreme that it promised to wreak economic havoc if they did not get their way. "No additional revenues" became the battle cry—an approach that prevents the balanced deficit reduction the American people rightly support. The result is that this legislation incorporates some policies that are profoundly unfair to middle-income Americans.

Seen in isolation, Madam President, this is not a good bill. But no public policy exists in a vacuum. Despite its many flaws, this legislation must pass. Let me explain why.

While there will be a number of negative consequences as a result of this bill's passage, there will be more dire consequences if it fails to pass. The choice here is between a faulty piece of legislation on the one hand and severe damage to our economy and even greater joblessness on the other. The choice we face with this vote today is whether to accept a flawed bill or to watch the United States—the globe's preeminent economic power—default on its obligations to senior citizens, students, and veterans, as well as to those who have invested in our country by the purchase of our bonds and our Treasury notes. We have taken many steps in the past 3 years to try to restart job creation in this country. Those efforts would come undone in the crisis that would follow our failure to pass this bill.

One of the things that is right about this legislation is that it avoids a misguided demand that we have another round of crisis and negotiation over this issue in a few short months. A short-term increase in the debt limit, as House Republicans demanded, would surely have led to a damaging downgrade of the government's credit rating. It would have frozen financing for businesses and consumers. We simply cannot put the American people and the American economy through that again.

Despite this bill's imbalance in focusing solely on spending cuts, it does contain a mechanism that can force acceptance of what our Republican colleagues have refused to accept—the reality that revenue must be a part of real deficit reduction and that fair and effective deficit reduction efforts require shared sacrifice. The year 2011 is the year of unbalanced spending cuts, and 2012 must be a year of shared sacrifice, one in which the President uses the bully pulpit to lead the Nation to accept the notion that everyone—including, surely, the wealthy—must play a role in reducing deficits.

Democrats have repeatedly emphasized this point. It is a simple fact that among the largest factors contributing to our deficits is the Bush tax cuts—tax cuts that greatly increased the growth of the gap between the wealthiest among us and working families. Today, median household income—the income of the typical American household—is lower than it was in the mid-1990s, and yet the wealthiest Americans not only do extremely well, they are doing better and better all the time. A few decades ago, the wealthiest 1 percent of all Americans took in 10 percent of all income. Today it is 24 percent.

These numbers are not aberrations or actions of a free market. They reflect policy choices. Too often the choice has been to pay lip service to the middle class while driving income inequality to levels not seen in 80 years in this country. The failure to ask all Americans to join in the sacrifices required to reduce our deficit flies in the face of logic and fairness and threatens to increase the growing gap between upper income and middle-income families.

Democrats have proposed commonsense steps to address the failure to include more revenue and to promote shared sacrifice. We have proposed restoration of the 39.6-percent tax bracket for the wealthiest Americans who make nearly \$400,000 a year or more. Most Democrats support the end of tax breaks for the massively profitable oil companies. We seek to close loopholes that now allow tax dodgers to hide income and assets in overseas tax havens to avoid the taxes they rightly owe and to end tax breaks that let highly-paid hedge fund managers enjoy a lower income tax rate than the rate their employees pay.

So far, too many have denied the need for these changes. But there is a chance at least that this legislation may finally force consideration of added revenues, added fairness in the Tax Code, and the shared sacrifice that is so missing from the cuts in the legislation before us.

Why is that? Under this legislation, we will face a stark choice. We must agree before the end of this year to deficit reduction of at least \$1.2 trillion over 10 years, or stand by as an auto-

matic budget cut kicks in to accomplish that goal. A bipartisan joint committee of 12 Members of Congress will meet and develop a deficit reduction plan that avoids those automatic cuts. That joint committee will have broad powers to review and propose changes to spending and to the Tax Code, and to add revenue. Revenues will finally be back on the table where they have always belonged.

Meeting that \$1.2 trillion goal will not be easy, but it will be achievable—achievable, that is, if those who so far have been unwilling to compromise will recognize that revenue must be part of the equation. Nobody should be eager for the automatic cuts that would otherwise take effect. Many of those cuts would be unacceptably painful and damaging. But the very idea of those automatic cuts is that they are so unacceptable that few of us will want to see them enacted and most of us will be willing to compromise in order to avoid them.

Congress used this approach once before. In 1985 we passed Gramm-Rudman-Hollings, which set forth specific deficit targets and required cuts if those targets were not met. The framework for today's legislation is based on that model. As one of the authors of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings act, Senator Gramm put it:

It was never the objective of Gramm-Rudman to trigger the sequester; the objective of Gramm-Rudman was to have the threat of the sequester force compromise and action.

And it did. For example, in 1990, when facing the possibility of unacceptable cuts in defense and other important programs, President Bush and bipartisan leaders in Congress adopted a balanced deficit reduction plan that included significant new revenues. The Damocles sword of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit reduction act was the reason for that outcome. I believe that any plan from the bipartisan committee that fails the test of balance will have no chance of passage in the Senate. That means members of the committee must truly be willing to lead, to put aside partisanship and rigid ideology, if we are to avoid triggering unacceptable cuts. Success also is going to require Presidential leadership and stronger use of his bully pulpit.

Democrats have demonstrated that we are willing to put forward serious deficit reduction proposals, plans that include painful cuts to important priorities. With a vote to approve this bill, which we must, it is my hope that we have reached the high tide of an ideological movement that has sought to hold tax cuts for the wealthy sacred while imposing increasingly Draconian cuts on programs for American families and threatened economic calamity if that movement did not get its way. The era of slashing programs that help middle-class Americans, with no shared

sacrifice by the wealthiest among us, must end and give way to an era in which fairness and balance guide our efforts. Passing this legislation today hopefully will drive us to make that transition.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. HATCH. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. PAUL. I will.

Mr. HATCH. I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to give my remarks immediately following the Senator.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, America will not default on her debt today. In fact, there was never any doubt that America would pay her bills. But mark my words, America will default. America will default, not by not paying its bills, not by not raising the debt ceiling, but we will default in a more insidious way. America will default by increasingly paying our bills with money that is worth less and less each year.

A nation pays for its debt in three ways. We can either tax people, we can borrow the money, or we can simply print the money. They all have repercussions.

We are approaching our borrowing limit as a nation. We now owe China over \$1 trillion. We owe Japan nearly \$1 trillion. We even owe Mexico. As we reach our borrowing limit, interest rates will rise and the prices in the stores will rise. You are already seeing this in your grocery stores. You are already seeing this in your gas prices. They are not rising *de novo*, out of nothing. Your prices are rising because the value of your dollar is falling. The value of your dollar is falling because they are printing up money to pay for this exorbitant debt.

In 2008 we went through a banking crisis and we doubled the monetary supply in 4 months. We bought things. The Federal Reserve bought toxic assets. They bought bad car loans and bad home loans. Where once upon a time your dollar was backed by gold, your dollar is now backed by toxic assets—not a very comforting thought.

Many pundits are arguing that the tea party has won this battle. They misunderstand the debate. This battle is not about winners and losers, it is about the future of our country. It is about saving ourselves from ourselves. We are headed toward ruin if we continue on this path of spending money we do not have.

For decades, America has lived beyond her means. A nation that lives beyond her means will eventually live beneath her means. That day is coming. A day of reckoning looms. That day was never August 2. That day is when the dollar teeters and falls from its perch. That day is when prices soar.

That day is when unemployment and a declining standard of living foment discontent and unrest in the street.

As Erskine Bowles put it, there has been no more predictable crisis in our history. We have been given all the warning signs. It comes, and this deal will not escape the facts that are looming for us. The President thinks that we need a balanced approach. America thinks we need a balanced budget and that we should not spend money we do not have; that since American families have to balance their budgets, why in the world would we not require our Government to balance its budget? What America needs is a balanced budget in an economy that grows and thrives and creates jobs.

Yes, a malaise hangs in the air. America is a ship without a captain. Instead of the President chastising job creators and preaching class envy, we need a President who will show us leadership. The President needs to accept responsibility for an economy that has worsened under his failed leadership. Unemployment is up, gas prices have doubled, and this President will add more debt than all 43 Presidents combined.

America got a deal on August 2 but not a solution. What America wants is a solution, not a deal. I hope in the next 6 months the President will find it within himself to lead the Nation, the courage to lead and embrace reform, the reform that is necessary to get this great country going again.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I compliment the senior Senator from Kentucky for his good remarks on the floor and for allowing me that unanimous consent request.

We are coming down to the wire here. We will soon be voting on a proposal that would couple some deficit reduction with an increase in the statutory debt limit. There are some positive features in this legislation, and the Senate's minority leader, the Speaker of the House, and conservatives throughout the country should be commended for insisting on them.

First, the President asked for a clean debt limit increase, and conservatives refused. They held the line and made clear that any increase in the debt limit required matching deficit reduction.

Second, having lost the fight over a clean debt limit increase, the President insisted on a balanced approach to deficit reduction, by which he meant reducing the deficit by raising taxes. But conservatives again fought this back. They knew that the primary driver of our debt is spending. Regardless of the President's talking points, nondefense discretionary spending is at historic levels. We are set for our third straight trillion dollar deficit. We have a na-

tional debt of \$14.5 trillion, and the President's budget would give us \$13 trillion more in debt. The answer to this is not giving the government more money to spend.

And third, conservatives resisted the effort by the President's allies to push most of the deficit reduction in this package down the road.

So there are some achievements in this proposal that conservatives can hang their hat on.

But I regret to say that I will not be able to support it, because it does not sufficiently provide us with the solution to the debt crisis that the markets are demanding. Last week, Moody's made clear that the real threat to America's Triple A rating is not default, which even the administration now acknowledges was never going to happen. The real threat of a downgrade comes from a failure of will. It comes from a failure of presidential leadership in getting federal spending under control.

There is a solution to this spending crisis. It is cut, cap, balance, which I was an early supporter of. In addition to providing short term relief by cutting and capping spending, it provides for a long-term solution through passage of a strong balanced budget amendment.

This proposal falls well short of cut, cap, balance, and I cannot support it.

I would like to address a technical point about this package that raises concerns for me—whether the President is looking to the deficit reduction committee as an opportunity to raise taxes. He says that he is, as have some of my colleagues in the Senate.

I do believe that it will be very difficult, given the committee's charge to reduce the deficit, to raise marginal tax rates. However, I worry that some Democrats will be looking at tax expenditures in order to hit the committee's required deficit reduction targets.

This would be a mistake for a number of reasons. The President has referred to tax expenditures as "spending through the Tax Code." But rhetoric aside, tax expenditures are an opportunity for individuals and businesses to keep more of the money that they earn. And getting rid of tax expenditures, without corresponding reductions in tax rates, will result in a net tax increase on the American people.

The President would have you believe that getting rid of tax expenditures is acceptable, because they only impact the rich. That is why he talks about bonus depreciation for jets and yachts used as second homes. Yet in a series of speeches, I have attempted to show that this rhetoric of class warfare might work politically, but as a description of tax reality it is lacking. The fact is, the largest tax expenditures, those that the President and Democrats would have to look to in order to raise revenue for deficit reduc-

tion, benefit middle class itemizers the most.

Consider the example of the home mortgage interest deduction. Since adoption of the 16th amendment to the Constitution in 1913—98 years ago—the United States has had an individual income tax. And for that entire time home mortgage interest has been deductible in calculating taxable income.

Most of our fellow Americans, when buying a home, do not pay cash for the entire purchase price. Rather, they typically pay a certain percentage in cash and borrow the rest. It is common that the money borrowed is repaid in monthly increments over the course of 15 or 30 years. Those payments from the homeowner to the lender to compensate for the borrowing of money are interest payments. If you itemize your deductions, you get to subtract home mortgage interest from adjusted gross income—or AGI—in arriving at taxable income.

The most significant of the itemized deductions available to taxpayers is the home mortgage interest deduction. The mortgage interest deduction is the second largest tax expenditure identified by the Joint Committee on Taxation, and it is not primarily a benefit for the wealthy. Thirty percent of the benefit of the mortgage interest tax expenditure goes to taxpayers over \$200,000. Taxpayers with income below \$200,000 receive 70 percent of the benefit of the mortgage interest deduction. By a ratio of almost 2 to 1, taxpayers under \$200,000 benefit from the mortgage interest deduction. Since \$200,000 basically fits the definition of rich used by my friends on the other side of the aisle, we can see that the nonrich or middle income group disproportionately benefit from the mortgage interest deduction.

There have been proposals over the decades to eliminate the home mortgage interest deduction, but none of them have succeeded. In 1986, during the last major tax reform effort, there were active proposals to get rid of the home mortgage interest deduction.

President Clinton attacked some of the tax benefits associated with home ownership back in the 1990s. Specifically, President Clinton proposed taxing the imputed income associated with home ownership. A homeowner by living in his home enjoys a certain benefit—the ability to live in his home. That is, he could have rented the home out for a certain amount of money, but he instead decided to live in the home. It is as if he received the rental money for the home, and then spent it on rent so that the owner himself could live in the home.

As policy this is somewhat convoluted. Generally, Congress has been reluctant to tax people when they have received no cash. In addition, those on a fixed income would have found it difficult in many cases to get the cash to

pay the tax. Finally, there would be significant administrative concerns—just what would the rental value of a home be? How would that be determined? It would be quite difficult. Thus, in a bipartisan fashion, Congress rejected the President's proposal to tax imputed income arising from owner-occupied housing.

Now President Obama is taking another crack at it because he wants to raise money to reduce the deficit. President Obama has proposed, re-proposed, re-proposed again, and re-proposed yet again to reduce the benefit of the home mortgage interest deduction. I am speaking of President Obama's proposed 28 percent limitation on itemized deductions. President Obama has proposed to limit the tax rate at which high-income taxpayers can take itemized deductions to 28 percent. This is meant to lessen the benefit to higher income taxpayers of itemized deductions—the home mortgage interest deduction being the most significant of the itemized deductions. The Joint Committee on Taxation says that this provision would mean the Federal Government would collect an additional \$293 billion in taxes over 10 years.

To understand this provision, allow me to tell you about two taxpayers: William and Spencer. Let's assume that William is in the 15 percent tax bracket, and that Spencer is in the 35 percent tax bracket. Under current law, an additional itemized deduction of \$100 is worth \$15 to William, and \$35 to Spencer. That is, an additional itemized deduction of \$100 will reduce William's tax bill by \$15, but Spencer's tax bill would go down by \$35. If the President's 28 percent limitation proposal were to go forward, however, although the itemized deduction would still be worth \$15 to William, it would now be worth only \$28 to Spencer.

Of course, one may think—well why should high-income Spencer get a more valuable tax benefit from an itemized deduction than low-income William? But that mischaracterizes things. First of all, high-income Spencer, even under current law, still pays significantly more tax than low-income William. That is not only true in absolute dollar terms, but also in terms as a percentage of their respective incomes. Furthermore, the 35 percent bracket was set by Congress with an understanding and realization that itemized deductions would allow a significant tax benefit. That is, had Congress known that higher income taxpayers would be disallowed some of their itemized deductions, as the President now proposes, undoubtedly Congress would have created a lower maximum tax rate bracket than the current 35 percent tax bracket. So, to take away some of the benefit of itemized deductions to higher-income taxpayers but leave the high-income tax rates at their current high levels is to upset the balance

struck by prior Congresses. Obviously, Congress is allowed to do that. But let's not pretend that current law is somehow an oversight, or unintended consequence, from prior legislation.

Some of the President's advisers defend the proposed 28 percent limitation on the grounds that 28 percent was the tax benefit one would get during the later Reagan years. Yes, that is true. But it is only true because 28 percent was the highest tax bracket after the Reagan tax reform!

The larger point is this, however. To the extent that the home mortgage interest deduction, or any tax expenditure for that matter, should be addressed by Congress, it should be addressed through the context of a comprehensive, revenue neutral tax reform that lowers rates. These tax-expenditures should not be cherry-picked by the President and his liberal allies to pay for the checks that his administration has written.

I have made this point many times, but today, it is important to make it again. To the extent that any tax expenditures are taken away, tax rates should come down, so that the net effect to government revenues on a static-score basis is neutral. That's what tax reform is all about—getting rid of tax expenditures so as to reduce tax rates. By reducing tax rates, we will unleash the free-market. By unleashing the free market, we will grow the economy. By growing the economy, tax receipts will increase, even though on a static-scoring basis, tax reform would be revenue neutral. If we get rid of tax expenditures without an offsetting tax-rate reduction, then we have simply made the task of tax reform that much harder. We have squandered an important opportunity.

I would like to make a last procedural point about where we go from here. Even if Congress passes, and the President signs, this deficit reduction package, we are going to be back at this again before the year is out. The President will be asking Congress to raise the debt ceiling again. Given that, I would like once again to address the failure by the Treasury Department to respond to repeated requests I have made over the past week about Treasury's short-term cash position, and the failure by almost every member of the so-called Financial Stability Oversight Council—or, F-SOCK—to provide Congress with information about their contingency plans in the event there is a ratings downgrade on U.S. debt in the future.

Does Treasury still think it will run out of cash by midnight tonight? I have been given only limited information. Treasury continues to say we will run out of cash today and will not be able to pay our bills, the same date they estimated way back in May. But, Treasury won't show me how they are arriving at that estimate. I have not been

informed, Congress has not been informed, and Americans counting on timely Social Security payments have not been informed. Almost every member of the F-SOCK, including Treasury and the Federal Reserve, has refused to provide me with any information about their contingency plans for ratings downgrades. Even if the debt limit is raised, there is no assurance that we won't face a downgrade. We need to know the government's plans.

As I have said repeatedly, this is unacceptable. I want to be clear about two things. First, Congress will have to look into this matter very carefully, and investigate whether Treasury and most of our major financial regulators have been deliberately withholding information from Congress, and if so for what purposes.

Second, assuming that down the road Treasury will present Congress with another default date, I want to put them on notice that this fall I will be demanding timely substantiation of Treasury's assessment and the government's cash position. Absent this cooperation, I will stand in the way of any debt limit increase demanded by an unsubstantiated Treasury-determined deadline.

In closing I want to be clear. I cannot support the outcome of these negotiations. But my opposition is not owing to the failure of conservatives or the Republican leadership in the House and Senate. It is owing to what is clearly amounting to the failed presidency of President Obama. He and his allies are ideologically committed to more spending. Fortunately, the American people will have the final verdict on this economic philosophy in 2012.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BINGAMAN). The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I rise to address the Obama-Boehner debt deal. I must say it is an issue on which I have been immersed in wrestling to understand the impact on unemployment, the impact on investments that will strengthen our Nation down the road; certainly an impact on programs that strengthen our families. It is in that context we try to understand how do we build the strongest possible Nation for working families. How do we do that? Is the Obama-Boehner debt deal the right path? I must conclude that it is not the right path. I conclude that for four reasons.

The first is the impact on jobs. We are facing a gathering storm on the job front. We have 5 to 8 million additional foreclosures that are suppressing the success of our construction market, driving down the value of houses and having a devastating impact on the attempts at a recovery.

Second, the unemployment benefits. The extended unemployment benefits expire this year, and the rough estimate is that that will result in a reduction of around 500,000 jobs. That is a

tremendous blow in 2012. Then we have the termination of a payroll tax holiday and the estimate is that may well produce losses of jobs of more than 900,000 across America. Add them and you are talking about nearly 1.5 million lost jobs that we will face in 2012. So on top of this gathering storm comes the Obama-Boehner debt deal that is estimated to produce another job loss—and by varying estimates—from 100,000 to 300,000. Doesn't this deal take us in the wrong direction? Shouldn't we be on this floor working to create jobs, not to destroy jobs? The success of our families depends on it.

My second major reservation about the Obama-Boehner debt deal is its impact on working families through the concentration of cuts on the 18 percent of the budget that is the nondefense discretionary portion. This is the portion of the budget that involves Head Start and Pell grants—in other words, an opportunity for our children, our smallest children, success for university education for our college-bound students. It is the area of the budget that involves investments in clean energy. It involves our small business programs that support the success of our small businesses. It involves job training that helps families adjust to a changing dynamic in the economy, and so much more.

In this 18 percent of the budget is where the cuts will hit. What with the phase I required cuts, or title 1 cuts, in combination with the cuts under title 3, you have essentially 15 percent cuts from the 2011 March CBO baseline. Understand that baseline for 2011 is a very low baseline, much lower than 2010, much lower than 2009. It takes us back many years earlier. We have a very low baseline and we are going to cut 15 percent more out of the core programs supporting the success of our working families, supporting the success of our smallest children, supporting the success of our college-bound children. This is not the path that builds a stronger America.

The third factor is that while our children in Head Start and our children headed for college and our citizens seeking job training are going to take these blows, the wealthy and well-connected do not contribute one slim dime. As some of my colleagues have argued: Well, you know what, there are some of those programs embedded in the Tax Code that actually help the middle class. My colleague from Utah was just making that argument. Then the argument is extended: So don't touch any of those programs. Well, if we take that same attitude toward our spending programs, we would say some benefit the middle class, so don't touch any spending programs. Obviously, it is an absurd argument. Why is it made on the revenue side, to those programs there, but not in the programs that are on the appropriations bill? Why is the

tax bill protected from not only that argument but the spending bills are not? One simple answer: The programs for the wealthy and well-connected are in the tax bill. So this false argument is used to defend the accumulation of wealth, the expansion of prosperity for the few—for the powerful few—at the expense of families across this Nation.

My fourth concern about the Obama-Boehner debt deal is that simply it was forged out of a process of extortion. If you look through the editorials, you see words such as “hostage taking” and “extortion” and “lunacy.” We only have to turn back to Ronald Reagan to remember what he had to say on this. He said: This brinksmanship threatens the holders of government bonds and those who rely on Social Security and veterans' benefits. Interest markets would skyrocket, instability would occur in the financial markets, and the Federal deficit would soar. The United States has a special responsibility to itself and to the world to meet its obligations.

Those who have threatened, for the first time in U.S. history, for the United States not to meet its obligations, which would result in a devastating impact for families across this Nation, those who carried out that threat did so in the wrong spirit—not the spirit of America pulling together, but in the spirit of creating a situation of hostage taking and extortion designed to protect the most powerful and wealthy at the expense of families across this Nation.

Because this deal does damage to jobs and contributes to a gathering storm in 2012 that threatens to take us back to a double-dip recession, because the cuts are concentrated on the programs such as education and Head Start and Pell grants that support the success of our children and the success for our future economy, because it doesn't take one slim dime of contribution from those who are most able to contribute in our society, and because it was forged out of a fundamentally inappropriate use of extortion against the American family—for those four reasons I will oppose this deal.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I rise in support of the bill. I would say for the second time in about a week I have come to the floor to speak after one of my friends on the other side who is talking about what we ought to be talking about, and both times they were right. They said we should be talking about private sector job creation. I say where are the bills to do that?

We have been here the week of the Fourth of July. We were here and we had two votes that week. One was to compel the Senators who didn't show

up to show up. The other one was on some motion to proceed to cloture on something that had nothing to do with job creation or any of the other issues we should be talking about. We could talk about what we ought to be talking about, and that would be one thing. Of course, what we are talking about today is the moment we have arrived at, the date that was set by the administration. Apparently they were right in speculating when we need to look at the borrowing limit again, and that is today.

I rise in support of the bill. I said for months the only thing worse than not raising the debt limit would be raising the debt limit and not changing behavior. In fact, I think that is what all the rating agencies that everybody is talking about now, whether they are going to and how they are going to rate our bond rating in the future—they have all said—and they said long before they talked about the debt limit—that we are spending more money than we can afford to spend as a Federal Government or as a society. We are spending \$1 out of \$4 that the society can produce, and that is about 25 percent more than we spent in 2008. It is 25 percent more than we spent on the average from the 40 years from 2008 going backward four decades, and that is important. I think this bill does begin the process of changing behavior. The way we approached the debt limit this time was everything but business as usual.

This is a totally different discussion than we have had before about the debt limit, and the country has almost always had debt. I think there have been only a couple of times in our history where Andrew Jackson paid off the debt and there was one other time we paid off the debt—only a couple of times in our history when we didn't have some kind of debt. In the tradition of that debt, we have always said: Okay, let's borrow more money because we need more money. This time, for the first time, we said: Why do we need more money? Why is it that we are increasing debt? Why is it we are increasing debt so rapidly? We had a \$10 trillion debt in January of 2009, and 30 months later we have a \$15 trillion debt. Obviously that trajectory cannot continue and the framework for the decision that is made in this bill says it won't continue.

Do we continue to add debt over the next decade? We wouldn't have to. There is a study out that says every time the debt ceiling comes up over the next 10 years, we make the same kind of determination that for every dollar we increase the debt ceiling, we are going to find a dollar in savings over the next decade. That study would indicate that in 10 years we balance the budget. Of course, that is what we should be doing, balancing the budget. This body, before I served here, before I served in the House, before I was in

the Congress at all, in 1995 came within one vote of the balanced budget amendment, one vote of passing the amendment that had passed the House. In 1996 it came within two votes of passing that same amendment that had passed the House again. If that one vote would have changed in 1995 or the two votes would have changed in 1996, we would not be having this discussion today because we would have a balanced budget today and would be moving in the way that every State but one has to function and every family in America eventually has to come to grips with the fact that they cannot spend more than they have.

The truth is, this agreement, while it is a 10-year agreement, is only enforceable for a couple of years. I believe we will do what this agreement says this year and next year. I am hopeful and optimistic the select committee will do its job and come back with another \$1½ trillion or more of cuts to spending, and that is going to happen—that select committee is going to report this year. The budget cap is set for this year and next year.

But elections matter, and who is elected in 2012 to the House and the Senate and the Presidency will finally and ultimately make a decision about whether this track we are on now gets better than it is now or, frankly, heads back in the other direction. I think the campaign pledges are important. While I support the bill, I am also fully appreciative of everyone who feels as though they can't.

Frankly, if some campaign pledges hadn't been made in 2010, we probably wouldn't be at this moment. And if that is somehow extraordinary—that people run for office and say that is what they are going to do and then they come here and do that—that is what the process is all about and how it is supposed to work.

Is this my sense of what would have been the best way to deal with these spending cuts? We would have more spending cuts if I were writing this bill. But the fact is, in Washington today no one party controls anything. My party, the Republican Party, controls one-third of what it takes to get a bill to become law, and the other party controls two-thirds. At the end of the day, by definition, nobody is going to be totally happy with this bill.

But as Senator PAT ROBERTS said yesterday in a meeting I was in, using an old legislative saying: This is not the best possible bill, but it is the best bill possible. It is the best we can do right now.

I think we take this victory and use it as a way to move forward to the future.

Mr. President, I rise, again, in support of this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, I come to the floor to express my support for the measure before us, as my colleague from Missouri who has just spoken, and as everyone else I have heard express their support for this proposal. No one seems perfectly satisfied with it, but that is inevitable. I think we have come to one of those classic moments of a very big challenge our Nation faces—this enormous debt—and whether in this agreement we see this glass half full or the glass half empty and whether what encourages us in the agreement outweighs what disappoints us.

For me, the positive outweighs the negative. I am going to vote for my hopes about what this agreement means as opposed to my fears that we are not doing enough in this agreement.

What makes me most happy about it is this is a bipartisan compromise that turns the corner, turns the ship of America's state away from greater and greater deficits and a greater national debt and in the direction of balancing our budget once more. It turns us in the direction of reestablishing classic American values of discipline and thrift and concern about our future and investment in our future, which we have lost in our Federal Government through the work of both parties in the executive and legislative branches of our government.

It is a bipartisan agreement at a time when this Chamber and this city have become reflexively and destructively partisan, and that is encouraging to me, that it is bipartisan. It is a compromise at a time when this city has become ideologically rigid, and it is clear, if we look at our history, that we only make progress when we compromise. That is because we are such a big, diverse country with so many different opinions and points of view. So this is a bipartisan compromise. It is the beginning of a long, hard march back to fiscal responsibility in our country—back to a balanced budget.

So what troubles me about it? What troubles me about it is that the bipartisan compromise also represents a kind of bipartisan agreement by each party to yield to the other party's most politically and ideologically sensitive priority. In the case of Democrats, it is to protect entitlement spending, and in the case of Republicans it is to not raise taxes. The reality is that we have to do some of both if we are going to get our country back into balance.

Because this agreement doesn't really touch the entitlement programs—particularly Medicare, which is growing faster, bigger than any other government program—it puts all the burden of getting back toward balance in our budget on the so-called discretionary spending part of the budget. That is about one-third of Federal spending. About 60 percent is the entitlement or mandatory programs. So we

have the beginning of a system that forces cuts in the discretionary third of the budget—defense and nondefense—which they have to do, they have to cut—but it doesn't ask much of anything of the 60 percent that is growing so rapidly, which is entitlement spending.

As a result, if the special committee created in this agreement—which is the great hope of the agreement, I think—doesn't work its will and involve itself in entitlement reform and tax reform, and Congress doesn't accept it, then the trigger, the automatic spending cuts are also all from discretionary spending, asking that one-third of the budget to pay the way, even though it is a small part of the responsibility for the increase in government spending. That would have a devastating effect on our national security because it would dramatically undercut our defense, as well as some of the programs that are the great investment programs of our future: education, energy, et cetera, et cetera. So I hope the special committee will redeem our hopes and Congress will too by dealing with entitlement reform.

I wish to say here that Senator TOM COBURN of Oklahoma and I, in June, introduced a proposal that would take steps to save Medicare for the almost 70 million people who will be on Medicare in a decade and reduce the enormous costs it places on our taxpayers. I think a lot of people in our country think the payroll deductions and the premiums they pay, pay the total benefits of Medicare. Unfortunately, that is not so. The average Medicare beneficiary in their lifetime takes \$3 or \$4 out of the system for every \$1 they put in, and we just can't run a program long term like that. Who picks up the rest? The taxpayers, the budget. That is a big part of why we are heading into deficit. So we can't save Medicare by leaving it as it is. We can only save Medicare—and I want to save Medicare because I believe in the program—if we change it.

Senator COBURN and I put forward this plan that will save over \$600 billion in Medicare costs over the next decade. It will extend the solvency of Medicare by at least 30 years and reduce Medicare's 75-year unfunded liabilities by \$10 trillion.

Now, I know our plan contains some strong medicine, but that is what it will take to keep Medicare alive, and we believe our plan administers this medicine in a fair way. Senator COBURN and I are going to forward our proposal, which is in legislative form, to the joint select committee for their consideration, and we hope they will include parts of it in their recommended legislation.

I also believe it is essential for the joint committee to act to bolster the solvency of Social Security. Many think Social Security is not contributing to the deficit because it has a

positive balance in the Social Security trust fund. But what is in that trust fund? It is notes that the United States Government has given to the Social Security trust fund every time we have borrowed from it. Of course, we are bound to pay that money back.

The fact is, today Social Security is running a deficit on a cashflow basis. In other words, the payments into the system are not as great as the payments out, and they will continue to do that in increasing numbers for the foreseeable future.

What does that mean? It means the Social Security trust fund has to come to the Federal Government to redeem the bonds the government gave Social Security when it borrowed the money. How does our government pay back the Social Security trust fund? By borrowing over the next two decades \$2.6 trillion, currently held in IOUs, plus interest. If we don't do something to save Social Security, when we hit the year of 2036, Social Security will only be able to pay benefits to the extent that they are covered by incoming receipts, and that will mean a sudden, shocking, painful 23-percent cut in benefits for senior citizens.

We have to begin to enact reforms now to slowly save Social Security, and we can do it. I wish to indicate today to my colleagues that Senator COBURN and I are working again on a bipartisan proposal to secure Social Security for America's seniors for the long term, and we hope to have that done in time to also forward to the special committee for their consideration.

So the bottom line: We can't protect these entitlements as well as have the national defense we need to protect us in a dangerous world while we are at war against Islamic extremists who attacked us on 9/11, and will be for a long time to come. We can't not touch the entitlements or raise taxes and create a tax reform proposal and expect to protect all the programs of investment in our future that mean so much to America's families: education particularly, alternative energy, investments in our transportation system.

To be able to do all that in the right way, we need this special committee and Congress to take the next steps. But this is a significant beginning, as imperfect as it is.

If I may, finally, for all of us—and particularly for the President, the Speaker, the majority leader, the Republican leader in the House, and the Democratic leader in the Senate, and everybody who worked so hard, coming close to the kind of grand bargain I think we needed, that the Simpson-Bowles Commission adopted, that the Gang of 6, our 6 colleagues, recommended to us, which I support, and that the President and the Speaker, President Obama and Speaker BOEHNER, were close to but unfortunately fell apart—there is disappointment

that a lot of us feel. But perhaps to put it in a broader context, I wish to quote from an op-ed piece in the Wall Street Journal today written by David Rivkin and Lee Casey, who are two lawyers whose work I have long admired. Here is what they say to take us back and perhaps remind us that we fill these seats for a short period of time. We act within the system created by our Framers, and we do our best. They wrote:

The debt-ceiling crisis has prompted predictable media laments about how partisan and dysfunctional our political system has become. But if the process leading to the current deal was a "spectacle" and a "three-ring circus,"

As someone put it—the show's impresarios are none other than James Madison and Alexander Hamilton. Our messy political system is working exactly the way our Founders intended it to.

Then I go toward the end of their op-ed piece:

The key point has been made—

Excuse me. Let me start a paragraph ahead:

Rarely in our system do the participants—

Whether in the White House, Senate, or House—

achieve all or even most of their goals in a single political battle. . . . The key point has been made. Few now suggest that we can continue on our current spending binge. That is the beginning of a consensus, and a good start towards genuine change.

The Framers would be pleased at the spectacle.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this is not a solution I would have preferred, but the compromise finally reached by the White House and congressional leaders has the potential to end this manufactured crisis. It is a solution that puts common sense and the national interest above partisanship and ideology.

The country has been pushed to the brink of catastrophe. The choice at hand is not this bill or something better. The choice is between the only bipartisan practical solution to the debt ceiling crisis, or a devastating default on the Nation's debts for the first time in our history. A default would send shock waves throughout our fragile economy. It would slap a credit rate tax on every household and every business in Vermont and across the country.

The solution before us includes \$3 trillion in spending reductions reached through bipartisan negotiations that will yield the greatest overall budget savings ever. Just as Vermont families are having to make difficult financial decisions, we need to make long-term budget reforms, and the country should be spared the ordeal of having to go through this same kind of torment again just a few months from now.

The special congressional committee chartered by this legislation to rec-

ommend future deficit reduction can consider revenue measures, and I will continue to push for an end to outdated tax loopholes for giant oil firms and companies that ship American jobs overseas. I also continue to believe that the wealthiest Americans should pay their fair share in these solutions.

If the special congressional committee fails to make bipartisan recommendations, then the agreement calls for cuts in defense spending and protections for Social Security, Medicare benefits, Medicaid, veterans benefits and child nutrition. I strongly support these protections.

All along the American people have wanted this debt-limit crisis resolved promptly and fairly through the give-and-take of our representative government. It is extremely unfortunate that many who manufactured this crisis in the first place then stood in the way of a solution for weeks on end, threatening the first default on United States obligations in our history.

Many in this body recall, as I do, the period just two short decades ago when Congress and a Democratic President were able to balance the Federal budget and create budget surpluses that were on their way to paying off the national debt altogether. I remember also the key Senate vote to put us on that path, which had to be achieved without any support from the other side of the aisle. Those balanced budgets and surpluses also were achieved without any constitutional amendment requiring them. And those surpluses grew, until subsequent decisions were made by a new administration, and ratified by a new Congress, that squandered the surpluses and piled the debt up once again.

What the American people want, need, and deserve right now is a return to wise and disciplined leadership. We need the return of a willingness to cooperate and to forge solutions across partisan lines to solve the most pressing issues facing the country. The economic health of the Nation and the jobs of thousands of hardworking Americans should not be mired in politics.

The Senate throughout history has shown its remarkable ability to rise up in times of crisis to reflect the conscience of the Nation. Now is such a time, for the good of the country, for Democrats and Republicans in both chambers to rise to the occasion and put an end to this contrived crisis that has put our entire economy at risk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia is recognized.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I commend the Senator from Connecticut on his remarks and, particularly, his closing. I associate myself with what he said. I will support this bill when it comes to the floor at 12 o'clock today.

On Saturday, I came to the floor at 2 o'clock out of frustration and made a speech critical of the negotiators as we

were letting the clock run and had no deal. I was critical because we had pretty much had an agreement we were going to cut. We pretty much had an agreement we were going to establish a select committee to do the cutting. But we had not agreed to a balanced budget amendment. We had not agreed to an enforcement mechanism on the committee to make sure they did the cutting. Probably most importantly of all, we had not agreed to triggers on the debt ceiling increase for accountability.

I come to the floor today not frustrated but feeling somewhat rewarded because on the three solutions negotiated to those three component parts of this particular piece of legislation, the genie is out of the bottle, and history is about to be made.

No. 1, on the debt ceiling increase, when the trigger was finally established, it means from now on whenever this debt ceiling increase is asked for by a Republican or Democratic President, it will be demanded that there be spending cuts commensurate with any increase. That is historic. That is the first step in the right direction of sanity, accountability, and fiscal responsibility.

Secondly, they finally came together and agreed there would be a balanced budget amendment vote in the House and the Senate before this year end, with incentives for us to vote for that balanced budget amendment. For the first time since 1995—the first time in 16 years—the Congress of the United States will be debating, forcing itself to do what every American family has to do. There is not a family within the sound of my voice who has not had to sit down in the last 3 years in this country—because of our recession and our economy and because of spending—and reprioritize how they spend their money to balance their budget, to live within their means. It is about time the Congress of the United States asked of itself what it imposes on every family in America.

As far as the select committee, there was a fear among many that it would only be a paper tiger; that it would not have the claws or the teeth to actually do what it needs to do on the cuts. While I would have done a different type of sequestration, I commend those who negotiated this sequestration on putting one in that has enough teeth and enough fear to force this select committee to do what it needs to do.

Today, when I vote in favor of this agreement, I will be voting for us to cut spending where we need to—not as much as I would have liked but a lot more than we have ever seen before—but, most importantly, voting for the assurance that never again will a debt ceiling go up without a debate for commensurate cuts in spending. That is important. I will be voting for this because we will have a balanced budget

amendment on the floor of the Senate and on the floor of the House of Representatives that we have long needed since the last one failed 16 years ago. And we finally have a sequestration mechanism or an enforcement mechanism to enforce the select committee to do what it is charged to do in this particular legislation.

My frustration I expressed on Saturday is gone. My pride in the Senate is restored, and I look forward to casting my vote in favor of this agreement at 12 o'clock today.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas is recognized.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, thank you for recognizing me.

I am honored to be, once again, on the Senate floor. I have spoken many times about the issue that is now before us for a vote in just a few minutes.

This is a significant point in our country's financial history—a time in which politics has played its course and decisions have to be made. I come here at this moment with no real joy. I think we have put the American people through a lot—certainly, over the last several months—as we asked them to follow along as we discussed this idea of raising the debt ceiling.

There was some thought by many of us that we could use this moment of raising the debt ceiling to make some significant changes in the way we do business in Washington, DC. In fact, on March 22 of this year, I wrote President Obama a letter indicating I could not vote to raise the debt ceiling unless I saw substantial reductions in spending and structural changes in the way we do business in the Congress and Washington, DC.

Why I say there is no joy for me to be here today, in my view, we have failed to do either one. There are no substantial reductions in spending, and there are no significant changes in the way Washington, DC, does business.

This country needs certainty, and I have said all along we need to raise the debt ceiling. There needs to be that certainty. I have said it would be irresponsible for us not to raise the debt ceiling, but I have said all along it would be equally as irresponsible if we raised the debt ceiling without meeting the criteria I have outlined.

While we will have a discussion among all of us that continues today—and we will probably play quarterback and Friday morning quarterback after this is over to figure out what we have accomplished—but, in my view, it is important to know there are no cuts in this bill. There is only a reduction in the growth of spending, and that reduction is so small—\$21 billion reduced in the first year in the growth in spending.

In Kansas, when we hear the word “billion,” we think that is a lot of money, and it is. So I think Kansans

will hear the words “\$21 billion” and think: Oh, my, they are finally doing something significant. But the truth is, we spend \$4 billion more each day than we take in, and that \$21 billion, if realized, in the slowing of the growth of spending, will be gone in less than a week. This legislation does not cut spending.

While we promote a balanced budget amendment, which I think is so critical to our success in changing the structure of how we do things, there is no balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution in this agreement or one that will necessarily be sent to the States for ratification. Our national debt will continue to grow and, in fact, at the end of 10 years, if everything in this legislation is accomplished—and I think we have to be skeptical about that—our national debt will grow and reach \$22 trillion. We are at \$14.3 trillion or \$14.4 trillion now. Ten years from now, with this legislation in place, \$22 trillion. Over the next three decades, our debt will become three times the size of our entire economy.

We have talked about changing the way we look at things in Washington, DC. For the first time—and I agree with this—we are talking about reducing the growth of spending by the amount we are raising the debt ceiling. But can you imagine a family back in Kansas congratulating themselves for changing the topic without ever changing their spending patterns? Kansas families, when they are in trouble for spending too much money, cut the budget today. We are not doing that. They do not just slow the growth, and they do not wait for 10 years to see it realized.

The problem is today, and I think this is a significant problem. People will say we need to raise the debt ceiling today or our credit worthiness will be judged by the rating agencies and we will be downgraded. I worry that even with the passage of this bill, its effects are so minimal in spending that the downgrade will occur regardless.

So this is a time for us to make the tough choices as compared to kicking the can down the road one more time.

It is an honor to serve in the Senate. Nothing in my life, my background, would ever suggest I would have this opportunity. I am honored to serve Kansans, and I will do my best to make the right decisions on their behalf. But as I have listened to Kansans for the last 2 years on the topic of what is important to them, the economy matters, and the first thing we have to do is get our fiscal house in order so the economy can grow and people can find jobs and get better jobs.

While my assumption, based upon the news reports, is the legislation I oppose will pass today, I pledge myself to my Kansas constituents that I will work hard to see that every dime that is possible to be saved occurs, and I will redouble my efforts to see we grow the

economy and put Americans back to work because the revenues we need to balance our books are not increases in taxes.

The revenue we need to balance our books is a strong and growing economy so every American can put food on their family's table, save for their children's education, and prepare for their own retirement, and that we are blessed with the opportunity in this country to see every American child be able to pursue the American dream.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire is recognized.

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, for weeks, Americans have watched the debate about raising our Nation's debt ceiling. I know it is has been difficult and often frustrating to watch what is happening, but the discussion could not have been more important for the future of America. We have been talking, again, about whether we would increase America's borrowing limit.

In doing so, we have rightly focused on how to prevent a default on America's credit, but also, just as important, rather than just reflexively continuing to borrow money we do not have from Chinese bankers, how we are going to confront the fundamental behavior in Congress that has led us to this culture of borrowing and overspending.

I have said from the beginning of this debate that we owe it to the American people, and I owe it to my constituents in New Hampshire, to confront both issues—to avoid default and, finally, to confront our debt once and for all, and to change the direction in which we are headed as a country.

To address only default and to continue to kick the can down the road on making the tough decisions to fundamentally change the path we are on will surely lead to a downgrade of our credit rating. It will sap our economic strength and will lead to the insolvency of the greatest country on Earth.

While I appreciate the difficult work done by the Speaker of the House and our Senate leadership in coming up with an agreement that avoids default, I am unable to support a bill that delivers the largest debt ceiling increase in the history of our Nation but does very little to confront the underlying problems that have brought us here—problems that have led us to over a \$14 trillion debt and which will increase in the next 2 years to over \$16 trillion in debt.

I have not come to this decision lightly. I have had countless meetings over the last months and weeks with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to talk about this issue and how we can confront this crisis now. I have said from the beginning we need fundamental changes in the way we do busi-

ness in Washington, including budget reforms, enacting a responsible budget.

I am a member of the Senate Budget Committee—the newest member of that committee—and it has been terribly disappointing to me that the Senate hasn't allowed the Budget Committee to do its work and come up with a budget for the United States of America.

So we do need fundamental budget reforms. I have said we need major spending reductions, and we need to reform our entitlement programs. I cannot in good conscience agree to a deal that continues to perpetuate the culture of overspending and borrowing in Washington.

In coming to this decision, I have asked myself several questions: The first question I have asked is, Does this agreement significantly reduce spending? Unfortunately, the answer is no. While it claims to reduce the deficit by \$917 billion over the next 10 years, only in Washington would this be called a spending reduction. Because of baseline budgeting, a reduction of \$917 billion in the deficit, as it is claimed, is no reduction at all. Over the next 10 years, under this agreement, we will spend over \$830 billion more in discretionary spending.

So there is no reduction in spending. If you just look at the reduction from what we will spend in fiscal year 2012, it is really only a \$7 billion reduction in spending between what we will spend in 2011 and 2012. We borrow \$4 billion a day to sustain our government. So the spending reductions between what we spend in 2011 to 2012 is not even 2 days of borrowing for the United States of America.

Many of the cuts are in the outyears. And you know what happens in Washington when the cuts are in the outyears. Unfortunately, our history has been that they do not get done. That is why I am concerned about even the \$917 billion claim in reductions, which is not a reduction in spending.

I have also asked myself, Does this agreement in any way reduce the size of government? We know this government has continued to grow even as State governments and families have made the tough decisions to downsize, to reduce, to live within their means. This deal does not cut or end one government program.

In March, the GAO came out with a report that identified hundreds of duplicative programs that happen here in Washington where we could save billions of dollars. My colleague from Oklahoma, Dr. Tom COBURN, has done the hard work of identifying hundreds and hundreds of duplicative programs where we could save billions of dollars. Yet this agreement does not reduce the size of government at all or end one of those programs.

Does it avoid a downgrading of our credit? Unfortunately, I think this

agreement will also lead us to a downgrade. And why does that matter? Because it will hurt the economic strength of America and our economic growth, our borrowing costs. It will hurt our job creators when now more than ever we need to create jobs in this country and put people to work. Yet our failure to get our fiscal house in order here in Washington is hurting the hard-working people in New Hampshire and America.

The credit rating agencies and even the President's own fiscal commission have said that the minimum amount of debt reduction that we need over the next decade is \$4 trillion just to stabilize our debt and to ensure our AAA credit rating is not downgraded. But with this agreement, even if everything happens and this congressional committee does all of its work, we will only see a maximum reduction of \$2.4 trillion. And that is assuming everything in those outyears gets done, which we do not always have a good history of here in Washington.

Finally, does it change the trajectory of where we are going with our debt to preserve our country? No. Under this agreement, we will continue to about \$1 trillion a year to our debt—a debt that is already \$14 trillion.

It does nothing to strengthen our entitlement programs. We know from the trustees of Medicare that program is going bankrupt in 2024. We know from Social Security that program is going to be bankrupt in 2036. Yet we have not taken on that fundamental problem in this agreement. How do we reform those programs to preserve them for Americans that are relying on them and to sustain them for future beneficiaries?

While I appreciate that we are beginning to change the discussion here in Washington, I cannot support this agreement. I appreciate that it is very important that we avoid default, but I know we are better than this. I know we can do more to make sure we preserve the greatest country on Earth. We need to take on the fundamental problems, the chronic overspending in Washington. We cannot continue to say that a reduction is a reduction when it is not, when we are continuing to spend more money, because at home people look at that and say: Give me a break. That is not how I do my family budget.

We have to tell the truth to the American people and make the hard decisions. I know we can come together and get something done that will fundamentally change the direction in which we are headed. That is why I am disappointed about this agreement, because it does not do that.

We must do more than avoid default. We must save our country for the sake of our children. I have often come to this floor and talked about the fact that I am the mother of two children.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has used 10 minutes.

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 1 additional minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. AYOTTE. I am the mother of a 6-year-old and a 3-year-old. This discussion goes beyond those of us who are serving right here; it is about what kind of country are we going to leave for the next generation. And I know I will not look my children in the eye and have them say: Mom, what did you do about it?

We have to solve this crisis now. I know we can. I look forward to working with my colleagues on behalf of the people of New Hampshire, to really rolling up our sleeves, finally cutting spending, and saving the greatest country on Earth.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, during the past few weeks and months, Congress and the President have been involved in discussions to raise the debt ceiling, and reduce spending, deficits and debt. This discussion is a result of the elections last year. The voters sent a strong message that it was time for Washington to stop the spending spree. And it is because of that message that we are even having this debate. Even the President now agrees that to address our fiscal situation we need to reduce spending.

That has not always been the case, though. Just last year President Obama refused to endorse or advance the findings of his own National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. On February 14, President Obama submitted his budget proposal to Congress that refused to address our looming deficits and debt. Over the next 10 years, his budget would have added another \$13 trillion to our national debt. President Obama's budget was so out of touch that it was rejected in the Senate by a vote of 97-0. Then he delivered a speech in April that magically found \$4 trillion in spending cuts. In just a matter of weeks, President Obama found \$4 trillion in spending that no longer needed to be spent.

The American people have to wonder how Washington can be serious about budgets and spending if the President, in a matter of weeks, can find \$4 trillion of spending that was of national importance on February 14, but is no longer necessary on April 13. It is this type of behavior that leads people to be cynical of Washington and the Federal Government. It is little wonder that lofty commitments from Washington are received in Middle America as just more empty promises and political rhetoric.

Up until a few months ago, President Obama and members of his administration were calling for a clean debt limit increase with no spending cuts. He simply wanted Congress to provide him a blank check.

The debate has shifted. We are no longer discussing spending increases.

The entire debate today is about cutting spending, how much and from where. The fact that we are here today in agreement on the need to cut spending is an enormously important development. I commend all of those who worked and insisted that spending cuts be included in this agreement, and I thank those who were involved in working out this hard fought agreement.

Unfortunately, this bill does too little to address our overspending, deficits and debt. Virtually none of these cuts in this bill come in the next few years. It is all back loaded with no guarantee that Congress won't reverse course, and undo these spending reductions. And, there is no guarantee that entitlement programs that are driving the long-term fiscal problems will be reformed. These programs need reform so they remain viable, affordable and available for generations to come. But this bill has too little to ensure those reforms take place.

The American people sent us to Washington to confront these problems. They want us to stop overspending. They want us to chart a path to fiscal responsibility, where Washington spends only what we take in, like the American people themselves must do. And, while this bill is a small step in the right direction, I believe the American people expect and deserve a giant leap in the right direction.

In addition to its timidity on spending reductions, I fear that this bill will set up a process to increase taxes on the American people in the belief that more tax revenue would lower deficits. This bill creates a bicameral, bipartisan committee that will be tasked with producing the second tranche of deficit savings. Despite the fact that our government has a spending problem and not a revenue problem, President Obama continues to insist that higher taxes must be a part of a major deficit reduction plan. It is his desire for bigger government, and higher levels of taxation that will likely prevent any serious follow-on deficit reduction or entitlement reform package.

I want to be clear. I do not wish for the government to be launched toward a threat of default. My vote against this bill is not a signal that I would prefer default. I would not. But, I am compelled to vote against this package because I see this as a missed opportunity. We are providing President Obama with the largest increase in the national debt ceiling in history. But, instead of using this opportunity to address our near term and long term spending and fiscal problems, we are cutting a little now, and kicking the can further down the road.

This bill grants a \$2.4 trillion increase in our Nation's debt limit, the largest increase in our history. The challenge for Congress and President Obama was to sketch a deficit reduc-

tion plan to address deficits and debt in a significant way. The uncertainty about Washington's fiscal management gets in the way of private-sector job creation and economic recovery. But this bill is insufficient in putting us on a path to live within our means.

To me, this is also a moral issue. It's wrong for this generation to over-spend and leave the bills for the next generation to pay. The trajectory of our debt is alarming. It will soon undermine our economy and our economic growth. If we do nothing, our children and grandchildren will have fewer economic opportunities than we have had. Without a plan to put our fiscal situation on a better path, the next generations will have a lower quality of life than the one we've experienced. We can't let that happen. But, I am afraid this bill will accomplish too little in this regard.

Again, I recognize that this hard fought compromise is a step in the right direction, and I am pleased that Congress and the American people have recognized the terrible fiscal path our nation is on. I only wish that this plan was proportional to the size of the problems we face.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time during any quorum call be equally divided.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I stand today to explain my reasons for voting against the debt limit increase we will be voting on in just about half an hour from now.

This is a crisis that America faces. It is an ongoing crisis that will neither be created nor eliminated with today's vote. It is a crisis that has been building gradually over the course of years—decades, in fact. It is a crisis that we certainly have known about ever since this Congress was sworn in in January of this year.

This is a crisis that threatens potentially every Federal program, from defense to entitlements, because as we continue to borrow more money as a nation, adding to the already almost \$15 trillion we have accumulated in national debt—roughly \$50,000 for every man, woman, and child in America; roughly \$150,000 for every taxpayer in America—as we continue to add to that enormous debt, we get closer and closer

to the unknown but nonetheless existing point at which we will no longer be able to borrow, at least not at interest rates that will make this kind of borrowing sustainable.

If interest rates were to go up even to their historically average levels, within just a few years we could be spending something closer to \$1 trillion every single year. Just to pay the interest on our national debt, we could be paying more than we pay on Social Security in an entire year, more than Medicare and Medicaid combined, and more than national defense in an entire year. What happens when we get to that point? Where does that money come from? The reality is that every Federal program, from defense to entitlements, could see its coffers raided in an unfortunate Draconian display of fiscal irresponsibility if we continue to punt this problem and not to address it.

The legislation at issue today addresses this problem by perpetuating it. I am pleased, of course, that this legislation does certain things and has invigorated a new conversation on the sorts of strategies that need to be in place if we are ever going to address this problem on a long-term basis.

Some 7 or 8 months ago, there were still people in this town of Washington, DC, who were saying things along the lines of “we need another stimulus package” or “we need more Federal spending of one sort or another.” They are no longer saying that. Now the discussion focuses not on whether to cut but how much.

There is, of course, renewed discussion about the need for a balanced budget amendment. But talk is different from outcomes. What we need are outcomes. What we need is a fundamental change to the way we spend money in Washington. What we need is to restrict Congress's authority, granted by clause 2 of article I, section 8, of the Constitution, to incur debt in the name of the United States. That power needs to be restricted. The only way we can restrict that on a permanent basis, one that will bind not only this Congress but future Congresses that come after us, is through an amendment to the Constitution.

This legislation raises the debt limit by about \$2.5 trillion. This is a record-breaking sum. Not too many years ago, when I was in high school, this was roughly equivalent to our entire national debt. Now, through one piece of legislation, we are increasing, expanding our already huge national debt by roughly that same sum, and it does not contain any permanent, binding structural spending reform mechanisms of the sort that would be necessary to make sure we get out of this problem, to make sure we end the problem we have created through Congress's reckless pattern of perpetual deficit spending.

That is why I have insisted since before I was even sworn into office that before we raise the debt limit, we need to pass a balanced budget amendment and submit it to States for ratification. Nearly every State balances its budget each and every year. It is not news when a State does this. I look forward to the time when it will no longer be news when Congress does the same.

There are significant cuts discussed in this legislation and proposed, but I want to be clear on one thing: Although these cuts are large on a long-term basis, on a short-term basis they are less so. On a short-term basis, within the next year, this proposes to cut about \$7 billion out of the fiscal year 2012 discretionary spending budget. Some dispute this number and suggest, as some of my colleague have already, that, in fact, the fiscal year 2012 budget will spend \$23 billion more. Others concede the point and say: OK, let's assume for purposes of this discussion that it does, in fact, cut \$7 billion from what otherwise would be new deficit spending. Now, \$7 billion is roughly equivalent to the amount of debt we have added to our total debt portfolio just in the last 30 hours or so, roughly the period of time that has elapsed since this legislation was announced late Sunday night until this very moment, because we are borrowing about \$4 billion of new debt every single day. Stated differently, this amounts to less than two-tenths of 1 percent of a cut.

I do believe we have made progress. I commend our leadership for working so hard to focus the discussion on the need for cuts.

We have, unfortunately, had Democratic leadership in this body that has been bent on delaying the announcement of any deal as long as possible and preventing legislation such as the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act from coming to the floor, where it could have been subjected to an open debate, discussion, and amendment process, as well it should be. I regret the fact that it didn't come to that, the fact that that legislation, which could have solved this problem and would have put us on a path toward fiscal responsibility, toward ending this problem once and for all, was not even allowed its day in the Senate to be debated and discussed on the merits.

At the end of the day, we have to come to terms with the fact that the course we are on, from a fiscal standpoint, is utterly unsustainable, and adding more debt to our now-bursting portfolio of debt will only contribute to this problem—unless we adopt a balanced budget amendment. The time to do that is right now.

The American people overwhelmingly support a balanced budget amendment, to the tune of about 75 percent. To my great astonishment, some of my colleagues and even the President have suggested that a bal-

anced budget amendment is somehow a radical idea—so radical as to be absurd and not worth considering—even though three out of four Americans believe we need a balanced budget amendment.

I will close by referring to a quote by a man named William Morris, who said this in the late 1800s:

One man with an idea in his head is in danger of being considered a madman; two men with the same idea in common may be foolish, but can hardly be mad; ten men sharing an idea begin to act, a hundred draw attention as fanatics, a thousand and society begins to tremble, a hundred thousand and there is war abroad, and the cause has victories tangible and real; and why only a hundred thousand? Why not a hundred million and peace upon the earth? You and I who agree together, it is we who have to answer that question.

It is not just one or two of us who have this idea in our head that we need to restrict Congress's borrowing power because it has been so severely abused over such a prolonged period of time; it is three out of four Americans. I urge my colleagues in the Senate and our counterparts in the House of Representatives to join the American people in at least the same proportion in supporting the idea that never again should we raise the debt limit without a balanced budget amendment in place.

This is a permanent, long-term problem. It requires a permanent solution. The only permanent solution is that which involves an amendment to the Constitution.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, through serious negotiation, leaders from both parties and the President have reached a bipartisan solution that will lift our debt ceiling and prevent a downgrade of our credit.

Make no mistake, this agreement is stark and stern but necessary. It includes cuts that I would have never voted for under different circumstances. However, if we fail to take action, the economy will be irrevocably fractured.

While it is far from perfect, the agreement meets my principles for avoiding default and downgrade. It provides a long-term extension of the debt ceiling, a significant downpayment on cuts, and a path forward to reform tax earmarks and entitlements.

The consequences of a default and downgrade would be significant and severe and would alter the course of the United States for a century. Default would have led to sky-high interest rates that would have created a new tax on every single American. It means if you have a variable rate mortgage, it would skyrocket. If you have a student loan, the interest would increase. And if you have a car loan, the payments would be greater.

Under default, the President would also have to prioritize what obligations to pay. First, we would have to pay our troops. Then we would have to meet

our obligations to seniors and veterans. Federal funding for State and local governments would run out. This would affect infrastructure projects, funding for schools and teachers and firehouses and police stations. Contractors who work for the Federal Government would face layoffs without pay, and businesses would reduce hiring. The economy would be further weakened, and it would be a self-inflicted wound. I could not allow this to happen.

I took an oath to protect and defend the Constitution. The 14th amendment says that the validity of America's debt must not be questioned. While the lawyers made the interpretation complicated, the framers made it simple. America pays its debt with no exceptions. Failure to reach an agreement would be a violation of the American people and our creditors' trust. And it would have violated my oath to the Constitution.

America must meet its obligations to its creditors. We must also meet our obligations to each other. Throughout this debate, I have insisted on no benefit cuts to soldiers, seniors, and veterans, and I will continue to do so. Obligations made must be obligations kept.

I will also fight to fulfill our obligations to the next generation who will lead us through the 21st century. We can't cut our way to a new economy. We need to invest in it by rebuilding roads, bridges, and increasing access to broadband. This is what will lead to new jobs, new opportunity, and new prosperity.

We also need to invest in education, science, research and technology. These investments will lead to jobs of the future and prepare students and workers to compete in a global economy. This means making sure kids have access to higher or career education. It means supporting scientists who are finding cures for the most devastating diseases. And it means giving businesses the tools they need to develop new products. We can't afford not to make these investments.

After wrenching analysis, I will vote for this bipartisan agreement because it is an achievable and pragmatic solution to the crisis that would be caused by inaction. It will require tough action and strong medicine down the road, but it is necessary to honor our obligations to the greatest generation and the next generation.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I support the legislation before us today to raise the debt ceiling and at the same time curb government spending without raising taxes. The United States cannot default on our obligations, and this bill prevents that from happening. This deal is not perfect. It is not what I would have written, and I have grave concerns about the cuts to our Nation's defense spending that may have to occur as a result of this bill's passage.

What this plan does represent is a fiscally sound path forward, and therefore I support its adoption. I applaud the courageous leadership of Senator MCCONNELL and Speaker BOEHNER. They have guided Republican members on both sides of the Capitol with tremendous skill and integrity and fought hard to ensure that our party's core principles were not negotiated away. I am proud of them, and I thank them. And I would be remiss if I did not also express my gratitude to Majority Leader REID. He has a very difficult job in this body, and he deserves a tremendous amount of credit for helping get us to this point. He fought hard for his caucus and their priorities, and I congratulate him on successfully negotiating a fair compromise on their behalf.

While I will support this bill, I have a great deal of concern about the direction this compromise takes defense spending. I have said many times, defense spending since 9/11—which was preceded by nearly a decade of drastic reductions in military personnel, equipment, and readiness—is not the cause of the economic dilemma in which we find ourselves. Cutting defense so deeply that long-term, catastrophic damage to our national security interests would result will not solve our deficit spending and debt problem.

Since this year began, the President has already asked the Defense Department to cut more than \$178 billion by finding efficiencies and taking top-line reductions in proposed defense spending over the next 5 years. But this compromise deal before us will go much further, with initial defense cuts of about \$350 billion over 10 years as part of the initial agreement to raise the debt limit by just over \$900 billion.

The bigger threat of cuts to national security spending, however, will come not during this first round but through the actions of the joint committee this bill establishes to find another \$1.2 to \$1.5 trillion in cuts as an offset to the next increase in the debt limit that will be required to get us from early 2012 through the balance of the year and into 2013. If the joint committee cannot agree on a package of cuts that can be passed in both the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed into law by the President, then a sequestration process would come into play that would automatically cut both defense and nondefense spending in order to pay for the next \$1.2 trillion in debt ceiling increases. Such an across-the-board sequestration of defense funding levels could add another nearly \$500 billion to the roughly \$350 billion in cuts over the next 10 years.

At his confirmation hearing on July 26, GEN Martin Dempsey, who has been nominated to be the next Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, testified that cuts above the \$400 billion in defense

spending that were already being studied would be "extraordinarily difficult and very high risk." I agree. But what concerns me most about our current debate is not just the enormous size of the potential reductions but that the defense cuts being discussed have little to no strategic or military rationale to support them. They are essentially just numbers on a page. Our national defense planning and spending must be driven by considered strategy, not arbitrary arithmetic.

These defense cuts, initially about \$350 billion over 10 years—but especially those that could result from sequestration that could amount to another \$500 billion—reflect minimal, if any, understanding of how they will be applied or what impact they will have on our defense capabilities or our national security. While Secretary Panetta has made it clear that a comprehensive review will precede any decisions he makes on further defense cuts, the Congress currently has no specific indication of how the current debt compromise proposals would impact the size of our military forces, what changes they would require to our compensation system, what equipment and weapons would have to be cancelled as a result, or what additional risk to the readiness and modernization of our forces and their equipment we would have to accept. If Congress is to make informed decisions about our national defense spending, we need information like this, and it will have a crucial impact on how the joint committee created under this compromise goes about its work. And based on that sort of information, we must do everything we can to avoid an exercise in blind sequestration of defense funds that could come into play if the joint committee cannot find a way to find further cuts of \$1.2 trillion or more that can be enacted into law.

For many months, we have been engaged in a political tug-of-war over whether we should raise the debt limit and allow the President greater borrowing authority. I joined my colleagues on this side of the aisle in our insistence that any increase in our debt ceiling be accompanied by meaningful, real cuts in spending, not just typical Washington-style smoke and mirrors. I believe we achieved our goal with this compromise. The deal before us provides at least one dollar of actual spending cuts, not gimmicks, for each dollar in debt limit increases. It doesn't raise a single dollar in taxes. By including upfront cuts, a joint committee, a balanced budget amendment, BBA, vote, the debt disapproval process and sequesters, it continues the pressure on the President and Congress to continue cutting spending through the next election and beyond.

Some of my colleagues from the other side of the aisle have described the debate on this issue as a "manufactured crisis." They cite the fact that,

in the past, we routinely raised the debt ceiling with little or no debate, having done so at least 10 times in the last ten years. Well, I say to my friends, you are leaving out one very critical detail in your analysis—a detail that makes our current situation anything but “routine”—and that is this: Never before in the history of this great nation has our debt been \$14.6 trillion. Never before in our history have we faced the possibility of having our creditworthiness downgraded due to our inability to control our spiraling debt, which could very well decimate the good faith and credit of the United States, which would have a severe impact on our standing in the world.

This measure represents the beginning, not the end, of what I believe will be a sustained national focus on getting our fiscal house in order. We still have a very long way to go and a great deal of hard work to do. Americans are still hurting. Unemployment remains at unacceptable levels and is estimated to continue to grow. We need to cut spending, spur economic growth, and get people back to work. These goals cannot be achieved by raising taxes on individuals and small businesses, and they cannot be achieved by expanding the size of government and massively increasing federal spending. It is time we learned from the lessons of the past, and the past has taught us that we cannot spend and tax our way to prosperity. America has been driven down that road, and we nearly plunged off of a cliff into economic disaster. I believe that this measure will begin to put us on the right track.

I urge my colleagues to seize this opportunity to put America back on a path to fiscal solvency and vote in favor of this compromise.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to support the budget agreement that has been so painstakingly negotiated over these past several weeks. This is not a perfect bill, but it will start to get our budget deficit under control. Failing to reach an agreement and allowing our nation to default is not an option.

Failing to raise the debt ceiling would mean failing to honor the obligations we have already made. Previous Congresses and administrations have always recognized this duty, raising the debt ceiling over 70 times since 1962. This is not a partisan issue. President George W. Bush signed seven debt ceiling increases and President Clinton signed four. President Reagan raised the debt ceiling 18 times.

We have also agreed to reduce our Nation's debt by over \$2 trillion, which will help to put us on a more sustainable fiscal path. Much of this budget savings will be found by a new joint congressional committee. Their recommendations will likely be similar to the Bowles-Simpson recommendations, the Gang of 6 proposal, and other bipartisan efforts.

I must say that I am disappointed we could not get a broader agreement to reduce our deficit. We know what we need to do. Every bipartisan proposal works by putting everything on the table: domestic spending, defense, entitlements, and revenue. It is not a good sign that this bill would force only spending cuts if Congress fails to pass the joint committee's deficit reduction bill. Refusing to put everything on the table means refusing to truly solve our budget problem.

Our system of government is built on compromise. This deal shows that the Senate is still capable of governing, and now we need to return immediately to the most important job, getting our people back to work and getting the economy back on track.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, these are challenging economic times and Republicans have taken us to the edge of the cliff. In the limited time left to prevent government default for the first time in our Nation's history, I think we can all agree on at least one thing—the consequences of default benefit no one. That is why I made the necessary but difficult decision today to support an agreement to prevent our economy from being driven off the cliff.

Default and a downgrade of our credit have the potential to cause job loss, higher interest rates, and another economic recession or even a depression. Unfortunately, the legislation before us today only staves off potential default, while doing nothing to fuel job creation and spur economic growth. In fact, it could well increase recessionary pressures on the economy.

As the richest country in the world, we should never have reached this crisis point. The United States always pays its bills. And, let's be clear, the bills we are talking about are not new ones; they exist because of prior policy decisions.

Fault for the linking default on our debt and an ideological budget plan rests with my Republican colleagues. The President thought he could negotiate a grand bargain, but it turned out Republicans were not interested in compromise.

Since the onset of the debate surrounding the need to raise the debt ceiling, the American people have made their position clear: They want a fair and balanced approach to reducing the deficit. Like the majority of Americans, I understand the need to get our fiscal house in order, and I took tough votes in the 1990s to create a record budget surplus. On Sunday, I also voted for a plan that would have controlled spending to a greater extent than the bill before us today.

As in the 1990s, and so many other times in the past, reining in the budget deficit has meant spending cuts and revenue from closing loopholes in the Tax Code enjoyed by the wealthiest Americans and biggest corporations.

Despite this precedent and the fact that such changes would not take effect in the short term, Republicans refused to accept a balanced approach.

Indeed, the price for averting the economic disaster of failing to raise the debt ceiling—a failure that some of my Republican colleagues were quite willing to see happen, to have our Nation go off the cliff—was a deal predicated on sacrifice by the middle class and no one else.

And so the agreement forged by the President and congressional leaders is by no measure ideal. It not only makes fundamental concessions, but ignores the No. 1 issue on the minds of Americans—which is how to address job creation and the unemployment situation.

In doing so, it also evades not only common sense but ignores economists who have warned that this trend toward drastic cuts threaten to choke off a faltering recovery. Former Labor Secretary Robert Reich expressed these sentiments in saying that the agreement: “[...] hobbles the capacity of the government to respond to the jobs and growth crisis.”

This agreement doesn't extend unemployment insurance at a time when too many Americans remain out of work. It doesn't stave off automatic tax increases on employers in distressed States with outstanding loans from the UI trust fund. Nor does it include common sense measures to save jobs like work sharing, which has proved so effective in some of our states and abroad, nor infrastructure spending to create jobs.

Instead, the first part of this agreement includes spending cuts that could hurt the middle class and those in need—nearly \$1 trillion—at a time when Americans can literally least afford it. While working men and women are coping with stagnant wages, 14 million other Americans are simply without a job in an economy that is still climbing out of a deep economic recession. In Rhode Island the jobs situation remains especially difficult and double-digit unemployment persists.

Rather than set in place a longer term debt reduction agreement that would bring much-needed certainty to the economy, this agreement brings unnecessary uncertainty by tasking a joint committee to come up with at least \$1.2 trillion in deficit reduction. These recommendations would receive expedited consideration with no amendments before the end of the year. A failure of this committee to come up with the required level of cuts or a rejection by the Congress or a veto by the President of the committee's recommendations would mean sequestration—automatic across the board cuts, half to domestic and half to defense spending.

I support the need to make continued decisions to eliminate wasteful and duplicative spending, and I perhaps this

committee could come to a fair and balanced approach. Yet there remains a real likelihood that Republicans could very well dig in again on the question of ending tax giveaways to very profitable corporations and millionaires and call for drastic changes to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid in order to meet targeted savings. The Joint Committee could also reverse the gains we made to reform health care.

In fact, Speaker BOEHNER, in presenting this legislation to his Republican conference, said that it would be effectively impossible for the joint committee to raise revenue. This means that the joint committee could recommend legislation even more austere and imbalanced than the \$917 billion in cuts we are passing today. Republicans could again choose to balance the budget on the back of middle-class Americans. What should make us think that a few months down the road Washington Republicans will sing another tune and be willing to put revenue on the table?

Cuts are about more than just numbers. They are about priorities, and I worry that the cuts from the joint committee or from sequestration would continue to be based on Republicans' extreme ideological beliefs, and not on common sense priorities like jobs and the well-being of the middle class.

The bill before us has two outcomes as I see it. The unknowns of a joint committee that, depending on who you talk to, will either fail spectacularly or succeed spectacularly in producing a balanced proposal of shared sacrifice. The thought is that the threat of sequestration, which should be considered a meat cleaver approach to priorities, could produce an equitable compromise by the joint committee. Others believe sequestration will somehow be ameliorated or avoided altogether—that Congress will somehow pass legislation in the future to blunt its impact. I hope those positive predictions prevail, but I am dubious.

In this spirit, the agreement marks a turning point for our nation at an extraordinary time. Following the Great Depression, we faced another set of extenuating economic circumstances. And only after years of misguided cuts urged by fiscal conservatives, did the Congress finally listen to those who voiced the need for spending to buttress economic growth.

It is widely known that the best way to ensure economic recovery is to get people working—paying taxes and stimulating demand that has a multiplying effect on our economy.

Of course the irony of the situation lies in how we got here. President Bush was handed the biggest surplus on record, \$236 billion—indeed, we had 3 straight years of budget surplus before he drowned our Nation in red ink as far as the eye can see.

In fact, Republicans at the time were concerned the budget surplus—which

was projected to be \$5.6 trillion over 10 years—was in itself a danger. Federal Reserve Chairmen Greenspan expressed this sentiment: “The emerging key fiscal policy need is to address the implications of maintaining surpluses beyond the point at which publicly held debt is effectively eliminated.”

The resulting Bush policies—led by the \$1.8 trillion tax cuts skewed to the those making over \$250,000—erased this record surplus, and replaced it with a \$6.2 trillion deficit over this time period. This is an extraordinary swing of \$11.8 trillion from fiscal year 2002 to 2011. To give some comparison, our current-dollar-GDP, the market value of the Nation's output of goods and services, is approximately \$15 trillion.

While Americans are hard pressed to make ends meet and find work in an economy that isn't creating enough jobs, the largest corporations are doing extremely well.

We are seeing now corporations rack up huge profits. The nonfinancial members of the S&P 500 index are sitting on about \$1.1 trillion in cash. The Federal Reserve indicated similarly that nonfinancial businesses have about \$1.9 trillion in cash defined as liquid assets. We need policies that get businesses to make investments that put Americans back to work.

So a better approach would involve a serious commitment to deficit reduction that asks more from all Americans in the interest of our Nation's long-term economic wellbeing. It would be bigger than the bill before us, perhaps closer to \$4 trillion in debt reduction, because it would be balanced and would call for shared sacrifice. It would ask the wealthiest Americans and largest corporations to pay their fair share instead of relying solely on spending cuts that will hurt programs that Americans depend on particularly when economic growth remains fragile. This view is in line with numerous economic experts who have voiced concern about how cutting back too soon could undermine our recovery.

A better bill would finally discard the perverse tax loopholes that reward companies that ship jobs overseas and end ethanol subsidy giveaways to profitable corporations. Put simply, a balanced approach wouldn't ask nursing home residents to sacrifice without asking the same of wealthy folks.

In fact, I have voted for plans that took this balanced approach in 1993 and 1997 and helped create a record surplus.

I have also voted against those proposals that have built up this mound of debt—including the unfunded Bush tax cuts skewed to the wealthy; an unpaid for war in Iraq for which we have paid dearly; and the unpaid for, costly, and ill-designed Medicare prescription drug plan.

We are also missing an opportunity to address the broader problems facing middle-class Americans. They are

struggling in large part because we are going down a road of conservative ideology rather than common sense. We need to work on economic growth through education, infrastructure, currency exchange fairness, a trade policy that supports our manufacturers, and yes even tax reform to simplify our system but not as an excuse for more tax giveaways like the Bush tax cuts.

Just as I have taken tough votes in the past to ensure the long-term prosperity of our Nation, today's vote was another difficult choice.

However, this agreement is the only option left to prevent default and evade what would be the greatest artificial crisis in our Nation's history. It hopefully provides a powerful lever to achieve significant and smart deficit reduction in the future.

In the words of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt during his second inaugural address, “Government is competent when all who compose it work as trustees for the whole people.”

Now is one of those pivotal times in our Nation's history, where we face a stark choice that requires us to make sacrifices that put nation ahead of self.

For over 200 years, this country has been known as a hallmark of economic stability. We have always paid our bills regardless of who was President and what party was in charge.

Now that this manufactured crisis that has distracted us for too long is over, we need to get to the business of putting Americans back to work.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I cannot support this plan because it fails to actually solve our debt problem, fails to diminish the risk of a credit rating downgrade and is not a long-term solution to avert a debt crisis. This plan still adds at least \$7 trillion to our debt over 10 years. It fails to immediately start downsizing government, leaving 98 percent of deficit reduction until after the 2012 election. By not addressing the biggest driver of our debt, health care spending, this plan ensures Medicare's looming bankruptcy, while protecting ObamaCare's \$2.6 trillion blank check.

It contains no real structural reforms to spending, such as a constitutional balanced budget amendment. It fails to reduce spending by what credit rating agencies say is at least \$4 trillion to avert a downgrade. Worst of all is that at a time of 9.2 percent unemployment, this plan fails to include pro-growth measures to help get people back to work and create new taxpayers to help us pay down the debt. In fact, I fear that the new “Supercommittee” in this bill could lead to expedited consideration of big tax hikes on our struggling economy. And if Congress rejects new taxes, then up to \$850 billion of devastating automatic defense spending cuts would be triggered at a time when the world is as dangerous as it has ever been.

Americans are looking at Washington with anger, disgust and concern that maybe America's problems are just too big for our leaders to solve. As I outlined in the Wall Street Journal on March 30, 2011, keeping America exceptional will require spending cuts and caps, saving Medicare and Social Security from bankruptcy, a constitutional balanced budget amendment, tax reform and regulatory reform. Above all, it will require courage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I will support this legislation but with very serious reservations.

I start with the premise that this debt limit extension is not the one piece of legislation that will change everything wrong in Washington. It is, at best, a reversal of previous tax-and-spend policies, with some movement down the road to fiscal responsibility.

The bill sets us on a course that, if we adhere to it, will eventually enable us to balance our budget, draw down our debt, put entitlement programs on a sustainable path, and create the conditions for strong economic growth. That it could have been better is absolutely true as a substantive matter, but politically, the White House and the tax-and-spend Democrats in Congress would not agree to more. They control this Chamber and the executive branch of government.

A second premise of Republican leadership was that the U.S. Government must pay its bills, not just to investors in U.S. bonds but to fulfill its commitments to the American people. From Social Security to national defense, we have obligations that Republicans insist must be met. So default was not an option. That meant agreeing to terms for a debt extension that satisfied neither party.

Another premise is to focus on job creation and restoring a healthy economy. That meant not only constraining Washington spending through greater accountability but preventing job-killing tax hikes. In this, we succeeded. Contrary to some public talk, there is nothing in this legislation that would cause future tax increases. If there were, I would not support this legislation.

With this legislation, we have prevented tax increases demanded by the President, cut spending over the next 10 years, and created a mechanism to address additional savings, especially in programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, all of which will eventually default on their commitments without reform, and we averted a credit crisis for the U.S. Government.

Here is why I have such serious reservations about the legislation. In an effort to extract a pound of flesh from Republicans, the White House, frustrated that it could not raise taxes, in-

sisted on massive cuts in defense spending—some \$350 billion, by White House reckoning, over the next 10 years, potentially \$18 billion less than the President's own budget just for next year. Moreover, the White House insisted that defense suffer an additional \$492 billion in cuts over the same period if the select committee set up by this bill fails to produce or Congress refuses to adopt recommendations on how to cut overall government spending to meet the goals of the bill.

Mind you, these cuts in defense were not the result of careful planning and analysis. They were just arbitrary percentages thrown out in negotiations, totally unconnected to actual defense requirements. Worse, the cuts that would be triggered if the select committee recommendations fail were intentionally designed to be so large, so unimaginable, so irresponsible that Congress would be incented to approve the select committee's recommendations. The word "Armageddon" was used to characterize this scheme. Can you imagine anything more irresponsible, for the Commander in Chief of the military to promote—not just promote but insist on the knowing destruction of the U.S. military as a means to threaten Congress?

The theory was that the consequences of inaction by the Congress must be so severe that no responsible Senator or Representative could dare allow the result that we would be forced to accept the select committee recommendations on pain of seeing the U.S. military decimated. This should never have been agreed to by Members of Congress but most of all never promoted by the President. To me, it comes close to violating our oath of office and the President's responsibilities as Commander in Chief. But it is done. My vote will not change it.

The best way for me to avoid this Armageddon is to stay in the fight and, if necessary, urge my colleagues to disregard this provision. Sixty Senators would have to agree. But I cannot imagine Senators, and even the President, when faced with the actual versus the hypothetical choice of knowingly destroying our military capacity to protect the United States, would allow it to happen when we would have the ability to prevent it. As reckless as this President is to even contemplate, much less threaten, to incapacitate our military, I cannot imagine the American people would countenance such action.

As I evaluate the work of the committee, if anyone says to me, remember, the trigger is Armageddon for the U.S. military, my response will be, let's take that debate to the American people and let them decide. The thought that this trigger would force Senators to make unwise concessions underestimates the American people's commitment to their own security.

The White House is miscalculating. It is so Draconian that it will not work. Even this President could not implement it.

So because we cannot default in our commitments, because we have to start somewhere on our new journey toward fiscal sanity—and this is a good start—because we have to focus on job creation, not more taxes that will kill job creation, we should adopt this legislation. But because of its irresponsible and dangerous, even cavalier treatment of national defense, we will need to work very hard to restore spending necessary for our national security and commit to reject the threat of Armageddon inserted into this bill by the White House.

(Mr. DURBIN assumed the Chair.)

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would like to engage in a colloquy with my friend the Republican leader, with whom I worked in drafting the provisions of this bill creating a joint committee to address deficit reduction. We wrote a number of deadlines in the bill to guide the work of the joint committee. I wanted to discuss with my colleague the consequences of missing these deadlines.

Section 402(g) of the amendment before us makes clear that if the joint committee fails to meet the November 23 deadline to vote on the report and proposed language, or if the Congress fails to meet the December 23 deadline to pass the joint committee bill, then the joint committee bill will lose its privilege. It would cease to benefit from expedited procedures under this amendment.

But I also want to make clear that if the joint committee or Congress fails to meet other deadlines in the title creating the joint committee, then that failure would not lead to a loss of privilege. We attached special importance to the deadlines for the committee to vote and the Congress ultimately to act.

And so, I would like to inquire whether the Republican leader agrees with that assessment.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I agree with the majority leader. We did attach special importance to the deadlines for the committee to vote and the Congress ultimately to act. And we did not intend for failure to meet other deadlines in the title to cause the joint committee bill to lose its privilege.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would like to engage in a colloquy with my colleague the chairman of the Budget Committee, Senator CONRAD, who worked with me as we drafted the joint committee language in this bill.

The compromise we are voting on today on the debt limit establishes the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction to build on the more than \$900 billion in up-front deficit reduction in the bill. The joint committee would

work to achieve another \$1.5 trillion in deficit reduction, for a total of \$2.4 trillion. This important joint committee will be bicameral and bipartisan, with three members selected by each of the four congressional leaders, for a total of 12 members, evenly split between Democrats and Republicans. Importantly, their recommendations will be guaranteed an up-or-down vote on the floor of both the Senate and the House.

For this historic process to work, we felt it important that the joint committee be given maximum flexibility, with everything on the table—discretionary spending, entitlements and other mandatory spending, and tax reform. To accomplish this goal, the joint committee should similarly be given maximum flexibility in how it analyzes its work and how it determines that it has met the target of \$1.5 trillion in deficit reduction.

Mr. President, over the past year, we have had three distinguished bipartisan groups provide us with comprehensive deficit reduction packages. We had the President's Fiscal Commission, led by former White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles and former Senator Alan Simpson. We had the Bipartisan Policy Center's Debt Reduction Task Force, led by former Senator Pete Domenici and former CBO and OMB Director Alice Rivlin. And we just had the so-called Group of 6, a bipartisan group of Senators, including Senator CONRAD, and Senators WARNER, CHAMBLISS, DURBIN, CRAPO, and COBURN. All three of these groups decided that given the comprehensive and complex nature of the work that they were doing, they needed to take advantage of the flexibility to measure the effects of their proposals against the most accurate benchmark possible. I believe that it is critical that the joint committee have the same flexibility to decide on and use the most appropriate baseline possible for its work.

I believe that the legislation that we will vote on today accomplishes that, most directly by mandating the joint committee to include a statement of deficit reduction as part of the legislation it must vote on. There are no conditions on that statement. But, obviously, the legislation will need to have bipartisan support to pass the House and Senate.

I wonder if the chairman of the Budget Committee would agree with my conclusion.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I think it is absolutely correct that the flexibility exists for the Joint Committee to determine the benchmark it wishes to use and that such flexibility is entirely appropriate given the circumstances.

The leader mentioned three bipartisan groups that came to a similar conclusion. I was a member of two of those groups, the President's Fiscal Commission and the so-called Group of

6. We devoted considerable time to considering the most appropriate baseline to use in our deliberations given our goals. In both cases, on a bipartisan basis, we decided what made the most sense was not a standard current law baseline, as CBO normally uses for the work we do around here, but a baseline that was adjusted for more realistic policies, such as more realistic war costs, more realistic tax policies, and more realistic health spending given the need to regularly provide the so-called doc fix. I can tell the leader that having that flexibility was critical to both groups reaching completion of its work. The joint committee should have that same flexibility, and I believe the bill provides it.

Mr. REID. I thank the chairman of the Budget Committee, who is the Senate's expert on such matters.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, over the past few weeks, Congress has been engaged in a very important debate. It may have been messy, it might have appeared to some as though their government wasn't working, but in fact the opposite was true. The push and pull Americans saw in Washington these past few weeks was not gridlock, it was the will of the people working itself out in a political system that was never meant to be pretty.

You see, one reason America isn't already facing the kind of crisis we see in Europe is that Presidents and majority parties here can't just bring about change on a dime, as much as they might wish to from time to time. That is what checks and balances is all about, and that is the kind of balance Americans voted for in November. The American people sent a wave of new lawmakers to Congress in last November's election with a very clear mandate: Put our Nation's fiscal house in order. Those of us who had been fighting the big government policies of Democratic majorities in Congress welcomed them into our ranks. Together, we have held the line, and slowly but surely we have started turning things around. That is why those who think that no problem is too big or too small for government to solve are very worried right now. They are afraid the American people may actually win the larger debate we have been having around here about the size and the scope of government and that the spending spree may actually be coming to an end. They can't believe those who stood up for limited government and accountability have actually changed the terms of the debate here in Washington. But today, they have no choice but to admit it.

I know for some of our colleagues reform isn't coming as fast as they would wish, and I certainly understand their frustration. I too wish we could stand here today enacting something much more ambitious. But I am encouraged by the thought these new Senators will

help lead this fight until we finish the job. I want to assure them that today, although they may not see it this way, they have actually won this debate.

In a few minutes, the Senate will vote on legislation that represents a new way of doing business in Washington. First, it creates an entirely new template for raising the Nation's debt limit. One of the most important aspects of this legislation is the fact that never again will any President, from either party, be allowed to raise the debt ceiling without being held accountable for it by the American people, and, in addition, without having to engage in the kind of debate we have just come through. Because, you see, whoever the next President is will be back asking to raise the debt ceiling again, and it will provide another opportunity for us to focus on the subject raised by the request to raise the debt ceiling.

So we will be back at it—probably in the early part of 2013—trying to continue to make progress toward reducing the size and scope of government and reducing our spending. This kind of discussion isn't something to dread, it is something to welcome. While the President may not have particularly enjoyed this debate we have been through, it is the debate Washington very much needed to have.

As for the particulars, this legislation caps spending over the next 10 years with a mechanism that ensures these cuts actually stick. It protects the American people from a government default that would have affected every single one of them in one way or another. It puts in place a powerful joint committee that will recommend further cuts and much-needed reforms. It doesn't include a dime, not a dime, in job-killing tax hikes at a moment when our economy can least afford them. Crucially, it ensures the debate over a balanced budget amendment continues and that it actually gets a vote.

This is no small feat when one considers that last week the President was still demanding tax hikes as part of any debt ceiling increase, and that as recently as May, the President's top economic adviser said it was "insane" for anybody to even consider tying the debt ceiling to spending cuts. It is worth noting that 2½ months later, that adviser is no longer working at the White House and the President is now agreeing, as a condition of raising the debt ceiling, to trillions of dollars in spending cuts.

Let me be clear: The legislation the Senate is about to vote on is just a first step. But it is a crucial step toward fiscal sanity and its potentially remarkable achievement given the lengths to which some in Washington have gone to ensure a status quo that is suffocating growth, crippling the economy, and imperiling entitlements.

We have had to settle for less than we wanted, but what we have achieved is in no way insignificant. We did it because we had something Democrats didn't have: Republicans may only control one-half of one-third of the government in Washington, but the American people agreed with us on the nature of the problem. They know government didn't accumulate \$14.5 trillion in debt because it didn't tax enough. If someone is spending themselves into oblivion, the solution isn't to spend more; it is to spend less.

Neither side got everything it wanted in these negotiations, but I think it was the view of those in my party that we tried to get as much in spending cuts as we could from a government we didn't control. Our view was we would get as much in spending reduction as we could from a government we didn't control. That is what we have done with this bipartisan agreement.

This is not the deficit-reduction package I would have written. The fact that we are on a pace to add another \$7 trillion to the debt over the next 10 years is certainly nothing to celebrate. But getting it there from more than \$9 trillion the President continued to defend until recently is no defeat either. Slowing down the big government freight train from its current trajectory will give us the time we need to work toward a real solution or give the American people the time they need to have their voices heard.

So much work remains. To that end, our first step will be to make sure Republicans who sit on the powerful cost-cutting committee are serious people who put the best interests of the American people and the principles that we have fought for throughout this debate first. But before we move to the next steps, I would like to say a word about some of those who made today's vote possible, and I will start with Speaker BOEHNER.

It should be noted that he helped set the terms of this debate by insisting early on that we would oppose any debt limit that didn't include cuts that were greater than the amount the debt limit would be raised, and he stuck to his guns. The Speaker and I worked shoulder to shoulder over the past few months, and it certainly has been a pleasure. He has been a real partner, and I assure my colleagues we wouldn't be here without him.

So I want to thank the Speaker and the entire Republican leadership in the House for standing on principle, and I want to thank my Republican colleagues in the Senate for their determination, their ideas, and their support. We wouldn't be here without them either.

I thank my friend, the majority leader, for his work in getting this agreement over the finish line. We may disagree a lot, but I hope everyone realizes it is never ever personal. I think

today we can prove that, when it comes down to it, we will get together when the greater good is at stake.

I also thank the President and the Vice President and everyone on their staffs who believed, as we did, that despite our many differences we could all agree that America would not default on its obligations. It is a testament to the goodwill of those on both sides that we were able to reach this agreement in time. Neither side wanted to see the government default, and I am pleased we were able to work together to avoid it.

This bill does not solve the problem, but it at least forces Washington to admit that it has one. The bill doesn't solve the problem, but it forces Washington to admit that it has one. It puts us on a path to recovery. We are nowhere near where we need to be in terms of restoring balance, but there should be absolutely no doubt about this: We have changed the debate, we are headed in the right direction, and people are wondering how it happened. Well, it happened because the American people demanded it.

So in the end, we are back to where we started. The only reason we are talking about passing legislation that reins in the size of Washington instead of growing it is because the American people believed they could have a real impact on the direction of their government. They spoke out and we heard them. It is only through their continued participation in this process, and lawmakers who are willing to listen to them, that we will complete the work we have begun.

As Winston Churchill once said:

Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.

I can't think of a better way to sum up this last year and, in particular, these last few months right here in Washington than that.

The American people want to see accountability and cooperation in Washington, and they want to see that we are working together to get our fiscal house in order. This legislation doesn't get us there, but for the first time in a very long time I think we can say to the American people that we are finally facing in the right direction. For that, we have them to thank.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader, the Senator from Nevada.

MR. REID. Mr. President, the eyes of the American people and the world have been watching Washington very closely this past week. While they witnessed a lot of political wrangling, they also saw Congress make some historically important decisions and avert a default on our debt that has been so concerning to all of us for such a long period of time.

Our country was literally on the verge of a disaster. It was on the brink of a disaster. With 1 day left, we were

able to get together and avert that disaster.

Now, this compromise that we have reached is not perfect.

Mr. President, could we have order, please.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will please come to order.

We welcome all our visitors, and we want to make it clear that any disturbance or manifestation of approval or disapproval is prohibited under the Senate rules.

The majority leader may proceed.

Mr. REID. I appreciate the kind words that my counterpart, Senator MCCONNELL, has stated. I have gotten to know him and Speaker BOEHNER a lot better this past month or two, especially the Speaker. Even though I disagree vehemently with the direction the Speaker's legislation took, with no bipartisan support at all, it is not the product we have here. The product we have here is one of compromise.

Without trying to outline who the winners are, there is principally one winner throughout all this, and that is the American people. We settled for less than we wanted; so did my friend, the leader of the Republicans, settle for less than he wanted. But that is the way legislation works. That is the way compromise works. But I can't let go without responding to my friend, who boasted in his own way about the new Senators and new Members of Congress who came here.

I welcome them all. But a result of the tea party direction of this Congress the last few months has been very disconcerting and very unfair to the American people. It stopped us from arriving at a conclusion much earlier, and we must go forward.

Also, I recognize we have to do more. Of course, we need to do more, and that is why we have the joint committee set up that I will talk about in just a minute. The American people are not impressed with the no new revenue. The vast majority of Democrats, Independents, and Republicans think this arrangement we have just done is unfair because the richest of the rich have contributed nothing. The burden of what has taken place is on the middle class and the poor.

My friend talks about no new taxes. Mr. President, if their theory was right, with these huge taxes that took place during the Bush 8 years, the economy should be thriving. These tax cuts have not helped the economy. The loss of 8 million jobs during the Bush 8 years, two wars started, unfunded, all on borrowed money, these tax cuts all on borrowed money; if the tax cuts were so good, the economy should be thriving.

If we go back to the prior 8 years during President Clinton's administration, 23 million new jobs were created. We had, when President Bush took office, a surplus over 10 years of \$7 trillion.

That has evaporated, and now we are talking about a \$14 trillion debt.

The compromise we reached is imperfect, and we are going to send legislation to the President today that will not only avert the default but make significant desperate reduction. Is it enough? I repeat, no, it is not enough. This legislation will provide our economy with the stability it desperately needs.

To assure Congress that we will continue working—and I said this yesterday, I say it again. I appreciate my friend, the Republican leader, putting his arms around the idea that I came up with to have this joint committee. They have worked in decades past. There is no reason it can't work now. There is no supermajority. Each leader will appoint 3, a committee of 12.

We need to do something because the trigger that kicks in is very difficult. We need to do this, and it has to be one that is fair. The American people demand fairness. It can't be more cuts to programs that have made this country what it is. There must be a sharing of sacrifice. It is unfair for billionaires and multimillionaires not to contribute to the arrangement that we have just made, but they are not.

My friends, the Republicans, held firm on no revenue, which is too bad. We need to have a fair approach to this joint committee, and I am confident we will do that. The one reason we are going to do that is because the trigger mechanism kicks in.

To this committee that is going to be appointed, the Members must have open minds. We have had too much talk the last few days, as early as this morning, Republican leaders in the Senate saying there will be no revenue. That is not going to happen; otherwise, the trigger is going to kick in. The only way we can arrive at a fair arrangement for the American people with this joint committee is to have equal sharing.

It is going to be painful. For each party, if they do the right thing, it is going to be painful because, to be fair, we have to move forward. There has to be equal spending cuts. There has to be some revenue that matches that.

The legislation that is going to be sent to the President today ends the standoff that ground the work of Washington to a halt this summer. So Congress must now return to its most important job: creating jobs.

Mr. President, there are things we can do to create jobs and we know that. We passed out of here quickly the patent bill: 270,000 jobs we are told that legislation will create. So we will move to that; the first time we get back after the summer break, we are going to move to the patent legislation. It is important we do that. There is other work we can do. There is legislation out there that should be bipartisan in nature that we can do. We have a high-way bill that is due.

I have spoken to the chairman of the Finance Committee today, and there are ways we can fund that that should be in keeping with the bipartisan approach.

The important thing we have, Mr. President, with these infrastructure jobs we need so very much, is that for every \$1 billion we spend in infrastructure, we create 47,500 high-paying jobs. A lot of other jobs spin off from that. Now, this isn't where you have \$1 billion and you have all these Federal Government jobs. These are moneys that go to the private sector to build roads and bridges and dams. We need to do that, and we can do that. Clean energy jobs are changing the face of this Nation. We need to do that.

I am optimistic and hopeful that the spirit of compromise that has taken root in Washington the last several days will endure. I hope my Republican colleagues will join forces with Democrats when we get back to work and not be looking for winners in political parties. Let's start looking for winners with the American people.

We have made progress toward our goal of cutting the deficit spending that we have around here. This Nation still faces a jobs deficit as well. There is no issue more important to the American people than job creation. Until every American who chooses to work can find a job, our job is undone. So we are going to continue making jobs our No. 1 priority. We ask the Republicans to join us in this regard.

Adlai Stevenson once called politics "the people's business, the most important business there is." It is time for Congress to get back to doing the people's business, creating jobs. Nothing is more important than that.

Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on my motion to concur.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to concur.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 74, nays 26, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 123 Leg.]

YEAS—74

Akaka	Collins	Klobuchar
Alexander	Conrad	Kohl
Barrasso	Coons	Kyl
Baucus	Corker	Landrieu
Begich	Cornyn	Leahy
Bennet	Crapo	Levin
Bingaman	Durbin	Lieberman
Blumenthal	Enzi	Lugar
Blunt	Feinstein	Manchin
Boozman	Franken	McCain
Boxer	Hagan	McCaskill
Brown (MA)	Hoeven	McConnell
Brown (OH)	Hutchison	Mikulski
Burr	Inouye	Murkowski
Cantwell	Isakson	Murray
Cardin	Johanns	Nelson (FL)
Carper	Johnson (SD)	Portman
Casey	Kerry	Pryor
Cochran	Kirk	Reed

Reid	Snowe	Warner
Risch	Stabenow	Webb
Roberts	Tester	Whitehouse
Rockefeller	Thune	Wicker
Schumer	Udall (CO)	Wyden
Shaheen	Udall (NM)	

NAYS—26

Ayotte	Hatch	Nelson (NE)
Chambliss	Heller	Paul
Coats	Inhofe	Rubio
Coburn	Johnson (WI)	Sanders
DeMint	Lautenberg	Sessions
Gillibrand	Lee	Shelby
Graham	Menendez	Toomey
Grassley	Merkley	Vitter
Harkin	Moran	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this question, the yeas are 74 and the nays are 26. The motion to concur on the House amendment to S. 365 is agreed to.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mrs. BOXER. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, while this agreement to raise the debt ceiling and cut spending is far from perfect, it averts a financial catastrophe that would stifle job creation and stall our fragile economic growth. Default would have increased interest rates for every American with a mortgage, car loan, student debt or credit card. For these reasons, I voted to support this agreement.

Critically, the deal protects Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare and veterans from benefit cuts and leaves open future opportunities to fight tax loopholes, sweetheart deals and giveaways for special interests. I will certainly continue these fights and seek comprehensive tax reform to guarantee that there is a fair balance and truly shared sacrifice.

Now more than ever, we must move to focus on our number one priority—creating jobs and spurring economic growth. Americans are still hurting, seeking to find work, stay in their homes, pay tuition for schools and keep their families together. We must put Connecticut and America back to work and get our country moving in the right direction.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, debate over the fiscal future of our Nation has been at the center of the 112th Congress. With the passage today of the Budget Control Act of 2011, we have avoided a default on our national debt, we have made a significant downpayment on our deficit, and we are establishing a Joint Select Committee that provides a real opportunity to achieve even greater deficit reduction by the end of this year.

As chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, I am privileged to have a staff of dedicated professionals who advise me on the complicated budget issues that have been before this body. My staff also shares its expertise with Members on both sides of the aisle.

They are a credit to the Senate, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work during the session.

Budget Committee staff director Mary Naylor deserves particular credit for putting together a team that regularly provides thorough and accurate analysis, often on incredibly short notice. Deputy staff director John Righter also deserves a special mention. Mr. Righter's mastery of baselines and scoring has been invaluable as we have developed and compared various plans to address our long-term fiscal issues. Deputy staff director Joel Friedman and committee chief counsel Joe Gaeta have also played a critical role in the committee's work this session.

The committee has a dedicated communications staff, including Stu Nagurka, Steve Posner, Adam Hughes, and Koby Noel, that ensures that the committee's analysis is made available to Members and the general public in a clear, concise, and timely manner. In addition, committee analysts Steve Bailey, Jeannie Biniek, Amy Edwards, Jennifer Hanson-Kilbride, Robyn Hiestand, Mike Jones, Sarah Kuehl Egge, Matthew Levy, Jim Miller, Matt Mohning, Michael Obeiter, Miles Patrie, and Brandon Teachout each have expertise in specific policy areas that has proven invaluable to me as the committee has reviewed every aspect of the Federal budget. The committee's support staff and staff assistants, Anne Page, Josh Ryan, Ben Soskin, and Ronald Storhaug have worked late nights and weekends to make sure we all meet the demands placed on us. And finally, I would like to recognize committee's chief clerk Lynne Seymour and administrative staffers George Woodall, Letitia Fletcher, Cathey Dugan, and Kathleen Llewellyn-Butts, who provide support to both sides of the Budget Committee.

We as Senators place incredible demands on our staff, and they deserve to have their service to this institution and our country recognized. As we move to the next chapter of our debate over the federal budget, I offer my most sincere appreciation for their hard work.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, over the last several weeks, we have been debating the increase in the debt ceiling. For the time being, that debate is coming to an end. But I would like to address briefly some revisionist fiscal history that we have heard repeated during that debate.

We have heard this historical account often over the past decade. You hear it from our friends on the other side whenever the Senate discusses spending policy and tax policy. I have noticed that the arguments boil down to two points. My friend and colleague, the former chairman and ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, Senator GRASSLEY, came up

with this thumbnail description of this creative historical account.

First, all of the "good" fiscal history of the 1990s was derived from the partisan tax increase bill of 1993.

And second, all of the "bad" fiscal history taking place within the past 10 years is because of the bipartisan tax relief plans originally enacted during the last administration and continued under the present administration.

You could go one step further and, as a policy premise, refine that thumbnail description to two short sentences. First sentence—lower taxes are bad. Second sentence—higher taxes are good. Not surprisingly, these revisionist historians support higher taxes and higher government spending. And not surprisingly, the revisionists oppose cutting taxes and cutting government spending.

Since time is short today, I direct folks to Senate floor remarks I made on February 14, 2011. They are available on the Senate Finance Committee under the Ranking Members Newsroom tab for that date. But it is important to reiterate the main point of those remarks. Basically the assertion by our friends on the other side that raising taxes is the key to all good fiscal history can be summarily dismissed.

Let's take a quick view of the 1990s data. According to the Clinton administration's Office of Management and Budget—or OMB—the impact of the much-bragged about tax hike bill of 1993 was minimal. The Clinton administration's OMB concluded that the 1993 tax increase accounted for only 13 percent of deficit reduction between 1990 and 2000. Thirteen percent puts the 1993 tax increase behind other factors such as defense cuts, other revenue, and interest savings. The data show that tax increases did not drive deficit reduction.

So as a matter of fact, only 13 percent of the positive fiscal history of the 1990s is due to the partisan 1993 tax increase? That is it. Thirteen percent.

Well, what about the last decade? The period of 2001–2010 saw a lot of deficits. From what you hear from our friends on the other side, those deficits are owing to the tax relief that benefitted virtually every American taxpayer. Yet CBO data tell us a different story.

On May 12, 2011, CBO released a recap of the changes over the past decade. At the start of 2001, as everyone agrees, CBO projected a surplus of \$5.6 trillion. Over the decade, deficits of \$6.2 trillion materialized. That's a swing of \$11.8 trillion. What did CBO say were the causes? My friends on the other side might be surprised to learn.

Higher spending accounts for 44 percent of the change. Let me repeat that. Higher spending was the biggest driver of the deficits of the last decade. Economic and technical changes in the estimates accounted for 28 percent of the

change. So all tax relief, including the tax relief passed by Democratic Congresses and tax relief signed into law by President Obama, accounts for 28 percent. The tax relief legislation, much maligned by our friends on the other side, accounts for less than half of the fiscal change attributable to tax relief. Specifically, the bipartisan tax relief bills of 2001 and 2003, including the AMT patches in those bills, accounted for 13.7 percent of the fiscal change of the last decade. That is not ORRIN HATCH speaking. It's the non-partisan congressional scorekeeper, CBO.

So how much of the bad fiscal history of the last decade is attributable to tax relief? Twenty-eight percent. That is it. And that includes partisan bills like the stimulus. If you isolate the bipartisan bills that are the object of sharp criticism by our friends on the other side, the 2001 and 2003 legislation, you'll find that those bills account for only 13.7 percent of the fiscal change in the last decade.

Abnormally low levels of spending contributed significantly to the surpluses of the 1990s. Abnormally high spending drove the deficits of the past decade. Abnormally high spending is driving our current deficits, and it will drive our future deficits as well.

To my friends on the other side, if we focus instead on hiking taxes way above their historic average, we are misreading and mistreating the problem. The reason for our previous surpluses was low spending. And the reason for our current deficits is high spending. We cannot tax our way to fiscal health.

But that said, for those of my friends on the other side who think that raising taxes is the key to our economic recovery and deficit reduction, I urge them to come to the floor and tell us how high they want to raise rates. What will do the trick? If higher taxes are the cure to our economic woes, do we want to go back to the pre-1986 reform rates of 50 percent? Or how about the Carter era rates of 70 percent? Or maybe even the pre-Kennedy rates of 91 percent? How high should rates go in order to bring down the deficit and spur our economic recovery?

I want to know and America wants to know.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise in support of the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 365, the legislative vehicle for the debt limit increase. Given the \$14.3 trillion national debt, the \$1.6 trillion deficit for the current fiscal year, and the unrestrained and skyrocketing growth of Government programs and services, this vote commences the debate that will lead our Government to reevaluate priorities and examine its spending with a critical eye.

Today's vote was critical to maintaining our country's financial credibility, and it was the first step in what

will be many to rein in the U.S. Government's out-of-control spending. This bill reduces current spending, caps future spending, and controls previously unrestrained Government budgets over the next decade, while also protecting critical Social Security benefits.

Just weeks ago, the United States was warned it would lose its stellar AAA credit rating on two grounds: if Washington did nothing to address its debt and deficit spending, and if Congress failed to raise the debt ceiling, thus triggering a default. This vote addresses both issues by, for the first time in history, requiring spending reductions equal or greater to the amount the debt ceiling is raised. That is indeed a first, positive step toward making our Government accountable to its people.

This action was critically important to every family in America. A default would have resulted in a downgrade in our Nation's credit rating and triggered higher interest rates for borrowing at all levels, from the Federal Government, to states and municipalities, to every American who has a mortgage, a car loan, a student loan, or a credit card. Failure to pass this bill would have put retirement funds at risk at a time when seniors are looking for financial stability and counting on predictability in their retirement income.

While no one can predict how the ratings agencies will react to this legislation, it at least signals that our country is serious about getting its financial situation in order. In addition, it requires Congress to vote on a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, which is a commonsense reform I have championed since I came to Congress. Mandating the Federal Government to do what nearly every State legislature is already required to achieve sends a message to every American and the world that Washington finally gets it, and at last understands the consequences of failing to control spending. Let there be no mistake—we can no longer accept budgets that compromise our economic growth, living standards, or opportunities that have been a hallmark of America's greatness.

Though this agreement is historic, I have grave concerns about the supercommittee established by this legislation. Creating a 12-person Washington commission to do the job of 535 elected representatives is another indication of a broken political system in dire need of repair. I will work tirelessly to bring accountability, reason, and transparency to the decisions this supercommittee makes and presents to Congress for an up-or-down vote.

This legislation initially exempts Social Security, Medicaid, and veterans programs from spending cuts. After the initial cuts are implemented, I am

deeply concerned that the supercommittee could seek savings from Medicare, Medicaid, and defense spending. The committee has to recommend solid recommendations that Congress must act upon in order to avoid automatic cuts designed to incentivize Congress to fulfill this responsibility. Indeed, if the committee's recommendations are not adopted by Congress, automatic cuts to Medicare providers and defense spending could go into effect while Medicaid would be exempt. For these reasons, I will be especially vigilant about the work of the supercommittee to ensure that its recommendations achieve an equitable outcome.

Moreover, this bill should have included a pro-growth strategy for our economy to address our cumbersome Tax Code, overly onerous and inefficient regulatory scheme, and a mountain of new health care costs. I have long advocated for a major overhaul of our Tax Code, regulatory reform, and a pro-jobs agenda. Indeed, throughout this year I have repeatedly called on our President and this Congress to focus with laser-like precision on jobs and the economy. Once again, I call on the President and the Congress to immediately turn to focus on concrete measures that will actually put Americans back to work.

Indisputably, debt and deficits are a dangerous combination at a time when we are experiencing an unprecedented period of long-term unemployment with more than 22 million Americans unemployed or underemployed, and another 2.2 million who want a job, but are so discouraged they stopped looking for work altogether. In the 29 months since President Obama took office, unemployment has dipped below 9 percent for only 5 months, and actually increased to 9.2 percent in June. Manufacturing grew at the slowest pace in 2 years in July. The housing downturn is worsening, with no plausible end to foreclosures in sight. Home prices in March fell to their lowest level since 2002. Consumers, confronted with higher gas and food prices, are spending less on discretionary items.

And yet at a moment when every dollar Government spends should be wisely dedicated to job creation to return us on the path to prosperity, we are forced to commit an astounding \$200 billion per year just to service our debt. The cost of net interest alone will more than double in the next 10 years to reach nearly \$1 trillion per year in 2021. In fact, the CBO's most recent long-term outlook states that by 2035 interest costs on our Nation's debt would reach 9 percent of GDP, more than the U.S. currently spends on Social Security or Medicare. And if interest rates were just 1 percentage point higher per year, over 10 years the deficit would balloon by \$1.3 trillion from increased costs to pay interest on our debt alone.

It is abundantly clear that we can no longer afford to borrow money without a clear plan in place to rein in Federal spending and force the Government to live within its means. Today's legislation is the first step in that direction.

CORRECTING THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 365

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to consideration of H. Con. Res. 70, the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to this measure be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 70) was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we proceed to a period of morning business until 4 p.m. today, with Senators permitted to speak up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. I ask that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Arizona.

RECOGNIZING THE ARMED SERVICES

Mr. MCCAIN. The Senate Armed Services Committee just met and approved the nominations of the Chairman and Joint Chiefs of Staff, Chief of Naval Operations, the Chief of Staff of the Army, and other important nominations. I congratulate all of these nominees and appreciate their service to the Nation. I know that shortly the Senate will approve these positions of great responsibility.

I want to take one moment to mention one of the new Chiefs of Staff of the United States Army, GEN Ray Odierno, one of the finest military officers I have had the opportunity to know. He was responsible, along with David Petraeus, for implementing the surge in Iraq. All of us who have had the opportunity of knowing General Odierno are proud of his new position and know he will carry out his responsibilities with the same outstanding leadership and efficiency he has displayed in the past.

I congratulate all of the nominees. These are going to be very challenging

times. General Dempsey will now be the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. I believe he is highly qualified, as are the nominees for the Vice Chairman as well as the Chief of Naval Operations. I congratulate them all. A special congratulations and word of praise for General Odierno, who is a great and outstanding leader.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS— H.R. 2553

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise because we have a crisis on our hands with the FAA, the Federal Aviation Administration. I know exactly why we have this crisis. It is another made-up crisis by the Republicans. This is a Republican shutdown.

We just got past the most, well, I feel made-up crisis we have ever seen. Eighty-nine times we have passed a debt limit extension, and it took us weeks and months of wrangling to get it done. We finally got it done. I am glad we got it done. Unnecessary, people in my State panicking that they wouldn't get a Social Security check, small businesses saying they couldn't get a decent loan—all that for nothing.

We can do our work. We can take the ideas of the Presiding Officer's Gang of 6, Senator COBURN's ideas. We have the ideas on the table. We can do this. We did it when Bill Clinton was President. We worked together, and we solved the problem. We had a deficit and debt. We balanced the budget and created surpluses. We don't have to have this taking government hostage.

So we just got done with holding the full faith and credit of the United States of America hostage, and now we are seeing an extension of the hostage-taking of the Federal Aviation Administration by the Republicans. We need to end it. How do we end it? We end it simply by saying we have our disagreements. On this bill, there are a couple of broad disagreements. They are important disagreements. I honor both sides of the argument. The Republicans want to overturn a ruling by the National Mediation Board. This is what they said. They said that rather than count votes by an employee who stays home on a union vote as a "no" vote, only the votes that are cast should be counted. Well, I ask rhetorically, doesn't that make sense? If you don't vote in an election, your vote shouldn't count. If the people didn't vote for me

and they didn't vote for my opponent, how can anyone ascertain for whom they would have voted? Only the people who show up should be counted. That is what the mediation board did.

This affects the airlines and the rails. There is such a desire to stop that and overturn it by my Republican friends—and it is going on all over the country, this hostility to working men and women, and now it is coming here. It is like a contagion. We see what is happening in Wisconsin. There are recall elections and everything is in turmoil because they want to go after organized working people. It is sad.

But guess what. It is a legitimate issue for the conference committee to deal with. It is a legitimate issue for the Senate—by the way, the Senate already had a vote on it, and we said: No, we are not going to overturn the mediation board. The vote was well over—I think 56 votes said: No. Leave it alone. It is not our business. Let it go.

But, no, the House wants this. So when they sent over the original extension, it had that attached, this overturning of the mediation board, and we said: That is not right. We want a clean extension. So they sent it back to us, and they took up another controversial issue, which is to shut down essential air service in some of our rural communities in our country—shut down essential air service.

Now, I can tell my colleagues that I know for a fact there is room for negotiation in this area. We can work together and resolve it, but it doesn't belong in an extension of the FAA bill. This is too important. We have thousands of people who have been furloughed who are not getting work. I have a situation in my home county of Riverside where we have a new airport tower being put up, and unexpectedly there was a rainstorm the day before yesterday, and because nobody was working there, they couldn't do anything about it to protect the facility, and we have damage.

We are losing money because of this terrible shutdown. Four thousand FAA employees have been furloughed without their pay. Hundreds of them happen to live and work in my State. I wonder how these colleagues in the House who went home to take their break would feel if they stopped getting their pay. Many of the FAA's engineers, scientists, research analysts, computer specialists, program managers and analysts, environmental protection specialists, and community planners are furloughed because of this take-government-hostage approach by the Republican Party.

I have been here a while. I am a person with many opinions, and I have no problem battling out with my esteemed colleagues who is right, who is wrong, who is hurt, who is not hurt. But I know there is no question that people are getting hurt and jobs are being lost.

Mr. President, \$130 million in investments in California airport construction will be delayed. The Associated General Contractors of America is already hurting and businesses are hurting. There are 70,000 construction workers and workers in related fields who have already been affected by the shutdown. The FAA has issued stop-work orders at 241 airports across the country.

In Oakland, CA, I have 60 construction workers building an air traffic control tower. They were told to stay home. They won't get paid until an agreement is reached. Well, if we ask most Americans, they really do live pretty much paycheck to paycheck. They have some savings.

This is ridiculous. According to the San Francisco Chronicle, the project contractor from Oakland, Devcon Construction, "is eating \$6,000 a day in operating costs" and "should the delay stretch much past the summer, [we are in trouble because] inclement weather would disrupt the installation."

I am telling you, this is another man-made, Republican-made crisis. What are we trying to prove? That we are tough guys? Let's get a clean extension of the FAA. Let's take our battles into the conference committee.

I want to compliment Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON. She is working, and she is on our side. She is a Republican Senator from Texas who is working with Senator ROCKEFELLER, the chairman of our committee. We all know the House sent over not a clean extension but an extension that cuts this essential air service to some of our rural communities. This needs to be worked on, not agreed to in a "gotcha" kind of situation.

In Sacramento, maintenance at the air traffic control facility has come to a halt. Seismic modernizations at air traffic control towers in Livermore, Palo Alto, and Santa Maria have stopped. At LAX, the biggest airport in Los Angeles, and at Carlsbad, power and electrical upgrade projects have stalled.

What is going on? Can't we just get over these differences in the proper forum? It is wrong. I am not going to be personally hurt by this. The Senator from Oklahoma is not going to be personally hit by this. The Presiding Officer, the Senator from Virginia, is not personally hit by this. It is the people we represent or are supposed to represent. It is the American family. It is the construction workers. It is the construction businesses. It is safety. These are safety projects.

At the end of the day, are we saving money? We are losing money because we are not collecting the ticket tax that goes to this construction fund. And some of the airlines are pocketing it, and that is outrageous in and of itself in not reducing the fares.

I want to compliment a couple of the airlines that are, in fact, reducing the

fares. Virgin America is one, and I will put in the RECORD the other one. Good for them. Good for you.

So what I am about to do is ask for a clean extension of the FAA authorization bill. My anticipation is the Senator from Oklahoma will object, and then he will offer his idea of an extension that does, in fact, make the cuts in the rural communities, and we are back to square one.

Why not just clear the decks, extend the FAA? We have never added anything to the extension in all the times we have done it unless there was unanimous consent agreement.

Mr. CARDIN. Will the Senator yield?

Mrs. BOXER. I will be happy to.

Mr. CARDIN. I want to thank Senator BOXER for raising this issue. I cannot tell you how many people I have heard from in Maryland, not just the workers at the FAA who have been furloughed but small business owners who are not getting their contracts who are going to have to lay off workers through no fault of their own. So I think it would be absolutely wrong for us to go home on this recess, for this district work period, and not extend the FAA.

For those who think it will save the government on the budget deficit, let me remind you that if we do not extend the FAA authorization, we do not collect the revenues on the passenger tax, which, by the way, is currently being charged by the airlines in extra ticket prices to the passengers. So the passengers are not even getting the break of lower prices, but we are not getting the revenue. It is \$30 million a day we are adding to the deficit problems because we are not collecting the revenue associated with the FAA reauthorization.

For all those reasons, for the sake of those 4,000 furloughed workers, who are really not at fault here, who are currently on furlough, and that is hurting our economy; for the sake of the contractors, who are depending upon the government funds in order to pay their workers, many of which are small companies; for the sake of the construction work that needs to be done at our airports, including work being done at our own airport, BWI; and for the importance to moving forward with modernization of the FAA itself, I would urge us to find a way to extend the FAA authorization until we come back. I would hope we could get a conference committee together, a reauthorization, but at a minimum we should extend the current provisions during those negotiations.

I say to Senator BOXER, she is absolutely right. I strongly urge the Senate to allow a short-term, clean extension of the FAA. That is the best way to proceed. I hope we can find a way to get this done now so the damage that is being done no longer will take place.

I thank the Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time—

Mrs. BOXER. Well, I take that as a question, and I will just wrap up with my unanimous consent request because I agree with everything that was said.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 109, H.R. 2553, that a Rockefeller-Hutchison substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. I would make note there is nothing we can do now new because the House has adjourned. So even if we were to pass this, nothing would happen with it. I have been assured that from the majority leader's office.

I agree with the Senator from California that any action on the mediation board is probably inappropriate for this bill. I would not disagree with that. But my reservation—and I plan on objecting, and I think the good Senator from California knows that—is both in the House and the Senate, by significant votes, we passed limitations on essential air services by majorities that said we could no longer afford to spend thousands of dollars on individual seats, on subsidies for people who live 110 miles from an airport or 140 miles from an airport. But what we could do is make sure—to major airports—that those under 90, those above 90, we could still do that.

So I understand we have placed people in difficult positions, but it is us as a body, not individual Senators or parties, that has done that because we have failed to do our work.

So I object to this unanimous consent request, and then I offer one of my own, noting that if this unanimous consent request is agreed to, it will go directly to the President, not to the House. So I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2553, which was received from the House, and I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. BOXER. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

There was objection to the original request.

Mr. COBURN. Yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes. Objection was heard.

The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, so there we are. There was objection to a clean extension of the FAA, and as a result of Republican objection, people are hurting all over this country. Safety projects are being delayed. And this is just part of what we have seen since the Republicans took over the House.

Now, my friend said that everything they have put in this has been voted on by the Senate. It is just not true. It is not true. Not everything in this extension was voted on by the Senate, so let's get our facts straight.

My friend also said that the House has gone; too bad; give it up. Not true. I served there for 10 years. If you can hotline it over there and get everyone to agree, they are going to be able to pass it over there. So do not give the American people misinformation on this. It can be done. It just takes a will to be done.

House Members have taken off, gone home. Whatever they are doing, God bless them. But I have to tell you, I hope when they go home they hear from the people who are hurting in their States because of this. I hope they hear from the workers. Construction workers are at the highest unemployment rate we have seen in generations—15 percent—and now this is going to make it worse. Construction businesses are crying for a highway bill, and I am working on that with Senator INHOFE in our committee. We are almost there.

But I want to put this obstructionism, I want to put this hostage-taking into plain view. You just saw everything come to a halt for at least 3, 4 weeks because the full faith and credit of America was taken hostage by the Republicans. And they said to the President—it has never happened before, OK, never. Mr. President, 89 times we have seen an increase in the debt limit. We have never ever seen this hostage-taking. They would not allow the President to raise the debt ceiling for things on which they voted to spend money.

When you raise the debt ceiling, you are paying your past bills. They voted for two wars on the credit card. They voted for tax breaks to the wealthiest among us, the billionaires and the millionaires. They voted for tax breaks for the biggest multinational corporations, including Big Oil. Oh, they were happy. They even voted for a prescription drug benefit without paying for it. Then the bill comes due, and they say to President Obama: Sorry, Mr. President, we are not going to cooperate with you. They walked out on him at least three times.

We finally got a deal because some of us—and I say HARRY REID, strong; Vice President BIDEN, strong; MITCH MCCONNELL, strong; NANCY PELOSI, strong. The President made sure that at the end of the day we did not default. But

what a spectacle in the world. The world cannot even believe this. And I know of the Presiding Officer's hard work to get what we called a big deal, a major deal, a \$4 trillion deficit reduction that was fair, that asked the millionaires and the billionaires and the multinational corporations to do something. But, no, that was not to be. We wasted time—a lot of time. And what happened? We almost brought the country to its knees. Thank God it did not happen is all I can say. And I felt strongly, if we had not gotten an agreement, the President would have had to invoke the 14th amendment in order to save our country from this hostage-taking.

So that was a made-up crisis. It never happened before. Do you know that the most the debt ceiling was raised was under Ronald Reagan? Eighteen times. Under George Bush, 9 times. I never heard anything like this before, and I have been around here since the days of Ronald Reagan, dare I say. I was in the House for 10 years. Ronald Reagan said very clearly—and I am paraphrasing—he was very strong—do not play games with the debt ceiling. It is dangerous. He said that even the thought of it is dangerous. So we just came out of that mess.

Now let's look at what else they have done since they took power—how many months ago? Five months? Is that all it has been? It feels like an eternity, OK, since they took over the House. They stopped the patent bill, which Senator LEAHY says would result in hundreds of thousands of jobs—stopped it cold. Why? Because the Patent Office does not have any money to work on those brilliant ideas that are coming out of our people. They needed more funding. That bill took care of it. The House stopped it cold. Hundreds of thousands of jobs.

The Economic Development Administration—I know about that because I brought the bill here. It is a beautiful program. It has been in place for generations. It gives a little seed money in areas that have had high unemployment, and that seed money attracts private sector money, public sector money, nonprofit money, and jobs are created. They build office parks. We have great examples in California of shopping malls. I am sure my friend, the Presiding Officer, has many examples of the EDA at work. They stopped it. They filibustered it. It never got a vote. That is the small business innovation bill my friend MARY LANDRIEU brought to the floor. The last time we counted, those bills have created 19,000 new businesses. Shut that one down. Then the House passed a budget that cut into the highway fund. I want to give you specifically what that would mean. If we wind up cutting the transportation program at the level they cut it in the House—one-third—and that is

exactly what Chairman MICA's bill does—we know, because CBO has told us, we lose 620,000 jobs, construction jobs.

Then they played with the FAA. They object to a clean reauthorization. Projects are shut down and workers are furloughed and small businesses do not know if they can hang on.

OK. I thought this election in 2010 was about jobs. I tell you, I was up in 2010. I know it was about jobs. I committed to the people I would go back here and fight for jobs, private sector jobs, public sector jobs. Jobs. Jobs. Everything the House has done since the Republicans took over is to stop our progress—screeching halt. You can hear the brakes go onto this economy. It is not just one thing now, it is five things I have told you. This is not rhetoric. They have stopped the FAA—partial shutdown; they stopped the EPA authorization; they stopped the patent bill; they stopped the small innovation bill; they have cut transportation in their budget by one-third. That is just the tip of the iceberg of what I am telling you.

I think it is very sad right now that we had a Republican objection to a bipartisan request to allow FAA to be reauthorized. It is very sad. I want to again thank KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, my friend from Texas, for saying that she stands with Chairman ROCKEFELLER, and she believes we should do a clean reauthorization. With that, I think I have made my points. But I am going to make sure I continue to make them throughout this recess. I would suggest that Senators go home and look at the projects in their States that have been stopped due to this Republican hostage taking. They are against working men and women having decent rights. They are holding this bill hostage. That is what it is all about. It is a very sad day.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASEY.) Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I want to take a moment and add my voice to the voices who spoke earlier—the Senator from Maryland and the Senator from California—about this situation with the FAA.

I would imagine if you are a visitor to our Nation's Capitol and have come to see a little Senate debate, it is a pretty interesting day to be here. It was great news that the country avoided default today. Although it was an imperfect compromise, I was glad to vote for that. We still have obviously a long way to go on debt and deficits.

There is another issue that has not gotten as much attention as the debt ceiling debate, although it is clear that at almost any other time in our history this issue would be on the front page of every newspaper around the country and on every nightly TV newscast. I am talking about the fact that the Federal Aviation Administration—the entity that ensures the safety of our skies, the safety of our airplanes, the maintenance of our airports—has been in partial shutdown mode for over a week.

Close to 4,000 FAA employees, many from the Virginia/DC area, have been furloughed. These folks do not know when they are going to get a paycheck or when they are going to be able to go back to work. And they have not been furloughed as a result of anything they have done. This situation is not the result of complaints about the quality of service or about safety of the FAA. In fact this shutdown is the result of a dispute over a small FAA program that protects rural airports.

Only in Washington would a dispute over service to small rural airports force the shut down of all “non-essential services” in the Federal Aviation Administration. Only in Washington would we would put 4,000 people out of work, and affect the lives of tens of thousands of other folks who are depending upon FAA funding for needed improvement projects at airports around the country.

We have a number of airports in Virginia where construction has basically stopped as a result of this political standoff. With the FAA partially shut down, the airlines, which traditionally charge passengers a small tax to help fund the FAA to build, maintain, and keep airports safe, are no longer required to collect the tax. So, during this shutdown, especially if we go through the next month and do not enact an extension, the U.S. Government would lose \$1.2 billion as a result of political back and forth about a program to support rural airports—a program that, in total, costs \$14 million.

If people are scratching their head with this math, they have a right to scratch their heads. Only in Washington can not collecting over a billion dollars in airport ticket taxes because of a dispute about a program that costs \$14 million make any sense.

The overwhelming majority of Senate Democrats and Republicans alike say we have to go ahead with an extension. We are saying if we have issues to dispute let's work those out. But let's not put nearly 4,000 FAA employees out of work and let's not, as the Senator from California said, halt the projects of tens of thousands of construction workers.

So it is my hope that, once again, cooler heads will prevail. I thank the chairman of the committee, Senator ROCKEFELLER, and the ranking member, Senator HUTCHISON, and both

Democrats and Republicans for working together to try and get this resolved. I know the American people have looked at Congress—understandably—in the last few weeks and have scratched their heads and said, what are these guys doing? Why can't they get their act together and negotiate a compromise, so they don't put our country into default?

We managed to dodge that bullet in a way that is a fixed but not a long-term solution. We will continue that discussion. As everybody heads back to their home States, dodging the debt and deficit bullet, how are we going to look as we leave town with 4,000 workers furloughed, tens of thousands of construction workers without the ability to continue projects that are needed, and the U.S. Government \$1.2 billion deeper in debt—not because of a dispute over too much tax or whether to collect but because we could not reach an agreement over a rural airport program?

I have cosponsored legislation—and I am sure the Presiding Officer supports it—to make sure that when the furloughed workers get back, they have to get paid. How can we leave town for a few weeks and leave this issue hanging out there?

I hope those folks in the House—and the chairman and the ranking member of the committee are working on this issue—will get this done. As the Senator from California said—and this is some of the technical process stuff that people scratch their head about—the House is in pro forma session, so there is a path here to resolve the issue.

We have to make sure we do our job not only for the public to make sure their airlines and airports stay safe, but also for the furloughed workers who need to get back to work. We've got to do our job so that airports all over the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania can implement their much-needed airport improvements. The money has already been appropriated. It is not as though it is new dollars. Anybody who can read a balance sheet knows we shouldn't end up blowing \$1.2 billion over a dispute for a program that costs \$14 million total.

I hope we get this resolved this afternoon in a way that shows this Congress is more up to the task than we have been, unfortunately, over the last few weeks.

A closing comment. I know the Presiding Officer has worked hard on the debt and deficit issue as well. I will close with the statement that my hope is that we did take a step today, with about \$1 trillion in cuts over the next 10 years, and we need to make sure those cuts don't slow down the economic recovery the Nation is still struggling with. But we have to recognize that even with this new supercommittee being created—and the Pre-

siding Officer would be a great member of that committee when it is chosen—but even if that committee meets its goal of \$1.5 trillion in additional cuts, that still doesn't get our country's balance sheet back in order. We didn't create this debt overnight. We will not get out of it overnight. It is not one party's fault. Both parties have unclean hands on this.

Candidly, a lot of our debt and deficit problems are due to the fact that we are all getting older and we are living longer through advanced medicine. The challenge we have before us is that we have to urge the supercommittee to look at something that will get us all out of our comfort zones. We have to recognize how do we make sure our entitlement promises we made to seniors with Social Security and Medicare and the least fortunate in terms of Medicaid—I know two-thirds of the seniors in nursing homes are on Medicaid. How do we preserve those programs? These programs need some reforms, because with an aging population—for example, in Social Security, there used to be 17 workers for 1 retiree. Now there are three. It is nobody's fault, but that is a fact. How do we make sure that promise exists?

We have to deal with entitlement reform, and we also need to deal with tax reform. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out if we are spending 25 percent of GDP in Federal spending, that has to be brought down. If we are collecting revenues at only 15 percent, which is a 70-year low, we are never going to get that 10-percent differential, unless we find some way to generate more revenues and make cuts in spending. Along with entitlement spending, which is the fastest growing part of the budget, we have to do tax reform in a way that will generate more revenue. There are ways we can do that which will lower rates and cut back on some of the tax expenditures. It will take some hard choices.

My hope is that while this step of avoiding default was important—and it is a good day when America doesn't default, but we have much more work to do—the work of all the previous commissions that have been set up—and they have all kind of come out in basically the same scope of the problem—and, frankly, with about the same kinds of recommendations. A lot of that work of the so-called Simpson-Bowles commission, the President's deficit commission, the Gang of 6—or my hope would be the “mob of 60,” at some point in the not too-distant future—that was the framework we worked on, and we put everything on the table.

I say to the Presiding Officer and any other colleagues who may be still around, I urge them to join this effort. We have to make sure this supercommittee actually takes on the big issues and that we don't default back to a se-

ries of cuts come next year that, frankly, are not well thought through, or well planned, across the board, without regard to effectiveness. The only way is, yes, by additional cutting but doing entitlement reform and tax reform.

With that, I yield the floor, and with the hopes that we will see not only the hard work on the debt and deficit, but also the resolution of the FAA issue in the coming hours. I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JOHANNIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT OMAR A. JONES

Mr. JOHANNIS. Mr. President, I rise today to remember a fallen hero, Nebraska Army National Guard Sergeant Omar A. Jones of Maywood, NE.

Sergeant Jones served as an electrician in the 623rd Engineer Company, Nebraska Army National Guard, out of Wahoo, Nebraska. Sergeant Jones died at Forward Operating Base Deh Dadi in Balkh Province, Afghanistan, on July 18, 2011.

Omar grew up in Mississippi and lived in Bogota, Colombia for many years. He graduated from high school in Colorado and chose to enter the Army instead of pursuing a college athletic scholarship. He served two tours in Iraq. One as an infantryman in the active duty Army, and one with the Nebraska Army National Guard. His love of country compelled him to seek an assignment in Afghanistan. He volunteered and even changed units and developed new skills for this opportunity.

In October 2010, he deployed to Afghanistan with the 623rd Engineering Company. It was a tough decision to deploy again because his wife Ava and two children had become the center of his life. But, it was for their freedom he chose to serve again overseas.

His commanders and fellow Soldiers recall Sergeant Jones as kind, friendly, and helpful. They say they counted on Sergeant Jones for a big smile and a willingness to listen. He loved being a soldier. A former commander put it this way:

He had the biggest heart of any soldier I knew.

His decorations and badges earned during a distinguished career over three combat tours speak to his dedication and bravery. He received the Combat Infantry Badge, Combat Action Badge, Marksmanship Qualification Badge (Expert), Driver and Mechanic Badge, Overseas Service Bar (2), Army Commendation Medal (2), Army Good

Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" device (2), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, and the NATO Medal.

I cannot put into words how the death of Sergeant Jones will impact the lives of those closest to him. Nebraska is honored to call him one of our own, and I know Nebraskans in Maywood and Wellfleet will provide his family with care and love during this difficult time.

Today I join the family and friends of Sergeant Jones in mourning the death of their husband, son, father, and friend. I ask that God be with all those serving in uniform, especially the brave men and women on the front lines of battle. May God bless them and their families and bring them home to us safely.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WEBB). The Senator from Utah.

TRIBUTE TO COLLEEN MONSON BANGERTER

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I stand to address this body to honor the life of one of Utah's great citizens.

A good friend of mine is former Utah Governor Norman Bangerter, who announced on Saturday that his beloved wife of 58 years had passed away after a long-time battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Colleen Monson Bangerter, having been born in 1935, was the mother of six children, the mother also of one foster son, and in many respects was a friend to all of Utah's 3 million residents.

She served faithfully in many capacities, including as PTA president and other offices within the PTA. She also served faithfully in a variety of positions as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Just a few years ago, she and her husband, former Governor Bangerter, served as they presided over the mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in South Africa. They worked hand in hand throughout their entire lives—in raising their children, in running Governor Bangerter's campaigns, and in running the State throughout his time as Governor, which wasn't an easy time for our State.

During Governor Bangerter's two terms in office, our State faced significant financial difficulties, faced significant flooding challenges, and the Bangerters weathered these adverse conditions well, serving as standing examples to all the citizens of Utah for what it means to rise to the challenge of adversity.

Colleen Bangerter was someone who had friends in many corners, and she also had many talents, some of which are not known by everyone, including the fact that she was the State hopscotch champion in the State of Utah in 1947. There are not many First Ladies in the United States who can claim that distinction, and she definitely did. She was also pleased to have been the recipient of the highest award that can be granted by the Boy Scouts of America, which she received just a few years ago. But of all the honors, including the honors that went along with being the First Lady of the State of Utah and serving with someone who, in my opinion, was one of the great Governors ever to serve our State, her greatest honor, her greatest prize was that of her family.

She loved being a mother, loved each of her 6 children, their 30 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren. We as Utahns mourn the loss of this great citizen of our State. We mourn the loss of this friend. Our thoughts and our prayers go out to former Governor Bangerter and his family.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

REMEMBERING COLLEEN MONSON BANGERTER

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, thank you for the opportunity to pay tribute today to a remarkable woman, quintessential wife and mother, and superb first lady for the State of Utah—Colleen Monson Bangerter. Sadly she passed away on the evening of Friday, July 29, 2011, from the effects of Alzheimer's disease. She was at home, the place she loved to be with her husband former Utah Governor Norman H. Bangerter.

Colleen was a wonderful human being who was always willing to serve others. She served as Utah's first lady from 1985–1993, while her husband Norman H. Bangerter was the Governor. During her years as first lady she undertook many causes close to her heart, including teenage drug use, and challenges facing women and families. She hosted a yearly drug awareness conference for teens and took First Lady Nancy Reagan's Just Say No Program to every corner of the State. Additionally she hosted an annual conference on strengthening families to address the important challenges affecting the health and well-being of families across our great State.

She stood by her husband's side as he led Utah through a very important time in our State's history. They advocated for economic development and she was a tremendous ambassador for Utah as they met with leaders throughout the Nation and even overseas encouraging new business development.

Colleen not only excelled at the initiatives she undertook for our state,

she also served in many capacities as she raised her children including the PTA, and in many important positions for her church—The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Colleen and Norm presided over the Johannesburg, South Africa Mission from 1996–1999. In this role she was a kind, and loving asset to the many missionaries who joined them in the work in South Africa.

Colleen and Norm raised six children and one foster son. They now have 30 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren. She was the light of her family and could always be found in the middle of the fun. She enjoyed spending time at their cabin in beautiful Utah, as well as their second home in St. George. She always made people feel welcome and embraced many who crossed their paths.

Colleen Bangerter will be very missed by her wonderful husband Norm and their family. There was a special warmth and goodness about this lady and I will never forget her twinkling eyes and bright smile. She was kind to all she met, and was a partner in every sense of the word to her husband. Elaine and I love Norm and Colleen very much, and hope that Norm and his family will find some peace and comfort in the wonderful memories they share with this remarkable woman. Her life's work touched many lives and she will be forever remembered as someone who truly cared about others, and in doing good for her family and community.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

BUDGET CONTROL ACT

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I want to speak just momentarily about the legislation that was just passed.

I, for the last 14 months traveling my State in almost every nook and cranny, have talked about the situation our country is in, talked about possible solutions, and offered legislation—the only bipartisan, bicameral legislation offered until this point—to deal with our country's deficits and debt.

I had hoped that we would figure out a way to deal with \$5 trillion to \$7 trillion worth of spending and/or savings over the next 10 years, and finally decided that \$4 trillion was the magic number. I know the markets had looked at that, the rating agencies looked at that, the people who buy our Treasuries had looked at that number. Over the course of the last few weeks, it became apparent that \$3 trillion was probably the most that was going to be achieved, and then now we have ended up with this bill that passed today, and I supported that hoping to achieve \$2.1 trillion to \$2.4 trillion in savings over the next decade.

Mr. President, obviously, like many of us in this body on both sides of the

aisle who know our country is in dire straits and we have a lot of work to do, I am disappointed at the magnitude of this legislation. But I am hopeful and thankful that we have taken the first step. I think this is going to be a decade of us having to focus on our country's irresponsibility over the past many years. Both parties, no doubt, have been responsible for putting us in this situation. It is going to take both parties to move us away from where we are. But I think everyone in this body fully understands that on the present course our country's best days are behind us. I think all of us want to ensure that this country's greatness continues; that we can continue to display American exceptionalism not only here but around the world.

I look at this solely as the first step. I know we are going to have an appropriations opportunity to look at even more savings at the end of September. I know we are going to have a committee that is going to be looking at this during the months of November and December. I know we are going to have a series of opportunities for us to deal with this. Again, today was just a first step.

I learned through a lifetime of business, starting with doing very, very small projects at the age of 25 when I first went in business, that as a company, you can never go broke taking a profit. What I have learned in the Senate is you should never say no to spending cuts.

So while these spending cuts are not of the magnitude that I would like to have seen, I think this is a very good first step and is something that we can all build upon. I look forward to working with people on both sides of the aisle to ensure that this is just the first step and that our country continues to have the discipline, the fortitude, the courage, and the will to make the tough decisions that all of us know we are going to need to make over the course of the next many years.

That is what we owe these young pages who are getting ready to leave after service to this country over the last month; that is what we owe future generations; that is what we owe Americans; and, candidly, that is what we owe the world as citizens of this world; that is, for us to be disciplined and to know that we have to live within our means and to know the best thing we can possibly do as a country at this moment in time is to show we have that courage and that will.

Mr. President, I thank you for the time to speak on this topic. I know all of us leave here and go home to recess. I know many of us will be talking about the vast amount of work that needs to be done as it relates to making sure we rein in this out-of-control spending that has been taking place for many years. I look forward to that. I look forward to talking to citizens

back in Tennessee, and I look forward to coming back in September and dealing with folks on both sides of the aisle to make sure we put that thought into action.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I want to thank the Senator from Tennessee, Mr. CORKER, for what he just said. I want to affirm the extraordinary amount of effort he has made to not only inform this Senate body of the crisis that we face financially, but also to come forward with some very constructive solutions on how to deal with this crisis.

I know he is disappointed that we were not able to reach a better solution than the one voted on today. I know he struggled to decide what was the best course to follow moving forward. In the end, he decided to support the bill as a first step; but, as he said, this is the first step of what probably will be a decade-long challenge facing all of us to successfully address this deep hole of debt we have dug for ourselves as a nation.

I rise today to speak, sharing all those concerns, certainly believing that our work has just started and there is much more to do. But also as someone who decided to vote against the bill that we just had before us. I have not taken this vote lightly.

For the past 1½ years, as a candidate I traveled the State of Indiana, to just about every town and city in the State, talking to thousands and thousands of Hoosiers on a day-after-day basis hearing what they had to say. If, frankly, I could categorize their thoughts into one statement, it would be a deep concern about the future of our country and a deep desire to have their elected representatives go to Washington and do everything they can to address this situation.

I have spent the last 7 months in the Senate hearing from hundreds, if not thousands, of Hoosiers who have written, called, visited, and talked with me back at home. Nothing has changed except the urgency of these concerns, and the deep worries that they have expressed have simply grown.

We saw, in 2010, Americans across the country express their desire for Congress to get hold of our fiscal situation; that the era of spending, of promising beyond our means, was over, and that we had to take major steps to reverse that. That is why I decided to return to the Senate, to come back to work to help repair our country's economic future. I came back to work on the things that many consider politically toxic: entitlement reform, tax reform, passing a balanced budget amendment to make sure that we would never end up in this situation again; that if there was a legacy that we could pass on to our children, if there was something that we could do for the future of our

country, something that we could do for our children and grandchildren, and everyone's children and grandchildren, it would be to never have them have to go through what we are going through now because we had taken fiscal responsibility, passing a balanced budget amendment that would, as we are sworn in, require each of us to come here and put our left hand on the Bible and our right hand in the air, to repeat the oath to honor the Constitution, and that Constitution would attain a balanced budget amendment as a requirement.

So before taking this vote, I pondered for days and nights about the many Hoosiers who had put their faith and confidence in me and sent me back to the Senate to do everything I could to accomplish this goal. Some of those Hoosiers had tears in their eyes, worried about the future for themselves and for their children. Some had fingers in my chest, saying: Don't let me down. Don't go and settle for too little. Do everything you can. That is what I have tried to do.

After giving it consideration, I decided not to support this bill because I could not come to grips with having to come back and tell Hoosiers that this is the best we could do.

I do wish to recognize the work and leadership, the strategy and the efforts of our minority leader, Senator McCONNELL, and whip, Senator KYL, those in leadership and others—JOHN BOEHNER and ERIC CANTOR in the House and the people who represented Republicans at the White House.

I, like most of us who serve here, appreciate their hard work and understand their frustration at Washington's inability to accomplish a meaningful goal, a grand bargain or at least a big plan that would put us significantly on the way to fiscal reform. I don't hold them liable at all or anybody who voted for this bill. As Senator CORKER just said and as others have said and can say: Look, this is the best we could do. We will keep going.

I applaud that. It is just that I thought we could have done so much more when the crisis we face is so severe, when the consequences are so great and imminent. It is not 2013. It is not even 2012. It is now. I don't know what the rating agencies are going to do because of our debt. Many were saying that this vote would not result in a debt downgrade. I think already we have heard information to the contrary, that that is not the case. That means the full faith and confidence in the United States of America as being that last safe haven of safety is put at risk.

We have taken a step in the right direction. It is a small step. It is a marathon we have to run, and we do need to go much further. I believe the bill we just passed is significantly short of what is needed to address the severity of the crisis.

Senator CORKER said there has been a consensus that a minimum of \$4 trillion of cuts are needed over the next 10 years, with true enforcement mechanisms to lock those cuts in place. We achieved just half of that in the bill we passed.

I have been stating over and over that the reality is if we do not address health care spending and the entitlements that provide benefits through Medicaid and Medicare, the virtual consensus is, no matter what else we do, we will not be able to solve the problem. This is an area that people do not want to talk about. It is supposedly the third rail of politics. It is suicide to bring it up, and there have been a lot of efforts to avoid these tough choices. But that is what we are going to have to do.

It has been avoided in this bill, pushed off to the selection of a special committee of six Senators, six Congressmen; balanced, six and six from each party, to come up with an additional \$1 trillion of savings or perhaps a little more. I have some real reservations about whether this committee should have to do this in the first place because that is the job of Congress, all of us. That is what we were elected to do and we were not able to do it. We have turned it over to 12 Members of Congress. I am not sure how they are going to accomplish what we were not able to. Nevertheless, I hope and pray they are successful, and I hope they will address, in whatever recommendation they make to us later this year, entitlement reform and make a commitment to tax reform: entitlement reform because that spending is bankrupting this country and is denying future seniors benefits they are counting on—who are dependent on Social Security and Medicare—denying them the opportunity to rest easy that their benefits will remain the same or increase with the cost of living.

The situation the trustees have reported regarding the future of the Medicare Part A is that serious cuts will have to be made unless we take measures now to reform the system in a way that preserves those benefits for those currently on it and those within, say, 10 years of retirement. We all know we have to do this. We all know, if we do not do this, we simply will not be able to accomplish what we need to, no matter what else we do.

The real work is ahead. Congress must commit to address the root causes of our problem and our debt. We have to make the difficult choices necessary to restore economic growth and good-paying jobs for the American people. That is where tax reform comes in.

On a bipartisan basis, Senator RON WYDEN of Oregon, a Democrat, and myself have joined together to put together a comprehensive tax reform bill. I give Senator Judd Gregg credit for the 2 years he spent with Senator

WYDEN putting this together. Senator WYDEN and I worked together for the last 7 months, making additional changes and improvements to that product. If we are going to have a growth component to grow our way—through a more prosperous economy—out of the debt problem we have, that has to include not only spending cuts, but it has to include real tax reform.

Those special interests out there that are receiving exemptions and special breaks, credits, subsidies—those are going to have to be closed out on a rational basis. We can retain some of the legitimate deductions, such as mortgage interest and charitable deductions, but most have to be eliminated. Those funds and revenues generated from elimination of those special interests have to be used to reduce rates to make our businesses more competitive, to give them a rate that is competitive with businesses around the world.

We are literally at the highest tax rate of all 36 of our worldwide competitors. That has to be adjusted. In doing so, we can stimulate our economy to grow, and we can bring in revenue on the basis of that growth. More companies will be making more money and therefore paying more taxes and more people will be at work and getting paychecks and therefore contributing what they are not contributing now.

Past tax reform efforts, on a comprehensive basis, have proven the best stimulus we can provide for an economy and the best thing we can do to get an economy thriving and moving again is getting people back to work. So entitlement reform—absolutely necessary to preserve those programs for future retirees and benefits that current retirees are receiving—and tax reform to move our economy forward need to be the core of what this special 12-member committee deals with and recommends.

My litmus test for this next tranche is that there be a commitment to move forward in these two critical areas that will have more impact on our future than anything else we do or have done so far to date.

I know we have committed, through this bill that just passed, to take up, debate, and vote on a balanced budget amendment. Clearly, if we want to ensure and guarantee the future solvency of our country and the future confidence of our citizens, we need to impose upon the Constitution an amendment that balances the budget or we will find ourselves back in this situation as the propensity of Congress to spend and not say no to anyone will continue. It seems to be almost part of who we are. It is so hard to say no to someone. It is easier now, first, because we don't have the money and, second, we have expanded this government beyond its ability to fulfill its responsibilities correctly.

The work is ahead. We have to address the root causes. My sleeves are

rolled up. I will continue to push forward to rein in spending. I will continue to work to reform the Tax Code so businesses can provide more jobs and be more competitive. I will not back away from addressing the need for entitlement reform. We need to restructure those programs to keep them from becoming bankrupt and denying important retirement benefits for our citizens.

Now is the time for us in the Congress, whether we voted for this bill or against this bill—I am not criticizing anyone who voted for it because many of those believed it is the first of many steps. It was not adequate, in my opinion, but at least it was a first step. I do not believe we should be criticizing those who made that decision.

It also addressed the question of default. I did not support default, which is why I suggested a short-term plan. I believed this initial bill being presented to us was woefully inadequate for what we need to do right now to send the right signals that we are on a serious path to reform. I was willing to allow for a debt increase of a limited period of time, 6 to 8 weeks, cancel our recess, work to find a better solution that could achieve more support and gain confidence in the investment industry that we have taken a serious step forward.

That obviously did not go forward. But, nevertheless, when we return from recess, all of us, whether we voted yes or no, must make a commitment to engage, plunge into the problem, to do whatever is necessary—not political necessary, whatever is necessary for the future of our country. That is our challenge, and I hope we will rise to that challenge.

I have not given up on our ability to respond to the will of the people and to respond to the crisis we face. So, yea or nay, let's all agree to come back with a focus on where we need to go, what we need to do, and the courage to make the tough choices for the future.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD LEVINE

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, it is my pleasure but also a sad moment for members of the Foreign Relations Committee to take this time to celebrate the service of and also to salute the retirement of one of the Senate's great staffers: Ed Levine.

Ed is retiring this week after a remarkable 35 years of service to the

Senate—a lot longer than most Senators get to serve and that most staff up here have the courage to hang in there and serve.

In his decades of service, Ed has provided wise and perceptive counsel to two committees, to many Members, and most recently to the Foreign Relations Committee. His deep knowledge of foreign policy and his remarkable sense of this institution are truly going to be missed and I mean missed enormously.

He grew up and he went to school here in Washington, DC, before he headed off to Berkeley and then later to Yale. When he was a young man here in this community, he used to ride the streetcar down to Georgia Avenue, where he would watch the Senators play at Griffith Stadium. For those who are too young to remember, there actually was a baseball team called the Senators once upon a time. He did not watch folks here playing at Griffith Stadium. But when the Washington Senators left for good to become the Texas Rangers, I have to reckon that Ed just decided that the U.S. Senators were the only game left in town, and he has been here ever since.

He first came to the Senate in 1976. He joined the Select Committee on Intelligence back then—literally right after it was established. It was a historic moment. Those who remember their history of the 1970s remember that was a time of great consternation about the covert activities of the CIA. The activities and the oversight of the CIA became a major national issue and concern. So it was a historic moment when the Senate was reasserting its constitutional responsibility to provide oversight.

Ed spent the next 20 years overseeing some of the Nation's most sensitive programs and some of its most closely guarded secrets. He was trusted with some of the most secret information of our country because he never had anything but the interests of our country and the security of the Nation foremost in his mind.

I think that is also borne out in the fact that through the course of his career, he worked for Members of both sides of the aisle while he was on the Intelligence Committee. He served on that committee as the personal representative of Republican Senator Clifford Case and then Republican Senator David Durenberger, and then later for Democratic Senators Howard Metzenbaum and Chuck Robb. His work for the Intelligence Committee exemplified a standard of public service that puts the fulfillment of the Senate's constitutional duties above any other partisan concerns.

For him, there never was a party issue, Republican or Democrat, or an ideological issue, liberal or conservative. It was: What are the best interests of the United States of America

and how do we protect its security? He has applied that very same approach to his work on the Foreign Relations Committee, where I have had the privilege of watching him work over the course of the 26 years I have been here.

He worked mostly previously for now-Vice President BIDEN. A few days ago, we held a business meeting at the Foreign Relations Committee, and it was characteristic of Ed's diligence in representing the interests of country above party that Senator LUGAR, the ranking member of the committee, and who has served with him for a long time, took time to acknowledge his service and to note how constructively he had worked with the Republican counterparts on the committee over these many years.

We saw that in large measure last year when we considered the New START treaty, in which Ed played an integral role. You know, I might mention to colleagues, when Vice President BIDEN was Senator BIDEN and chairman of the committee, he coined a nickname for Ed. He called him "Fast Eddie." And the irony of that for all of us who know him is that Ed does not do "fast." He is one of the most careful and deliberate thinkers on our staff, and that is one of the things people valued in him the most. It was never a hip shot. It was always based on thinking, research, experience, and knowledge.

His knowledge of arms control, I may say, is encyclopedic. During the New START debate, we had a war room set up one floor below this in the Foreign Relations Committee room, with dozens of experts from the various departments of our government, and stacks of briefing books, and instant computer linkage to the State Department, to the Defense Department, Intelligence, and so forth, but often when we had a question, all we had to do was turn to Ed and he would know the answer from right up here in his head, from his experience.

That is not surprising, given how many treaties Ed has helped this body to consider during his career. He worked on the INF Treaty, on the START I treaty, on the START II treaty, on the Chemical Weapons Convention, on the Convention on Conventional Weapons.

I went up to him a moment ago. I saw he was wearing a tie with a sword being beaten into plowshares, and he reminded me that came from the mutual and balanced force reduction treaty, which he said was the only thing they could agree on, but he is proudly wearing it today.

What all of this adds up to is that Ed spent a great chunk of his life doing his best to help the Senate protect our Nation from the most dangerous weapons that ever existed. He did it with such professionalism, even, I might add, when faced with personal loss, as when

his father died last year right during the consideration of the treaty, but it did not stop Ed from doing his duty.

All of his Senate service is a real testament to his character. That he earned the respect from the Members he served and the staff he worked with is a testament to his great skill and knowledge. And that he has done so for so many years is a testament to his sense of public citizenship and his love of country.

So, Ed, we thank you, all the Members of the Senate, for your service. We will miss you in the Senate. I wish you personally the best in all of your future endeavors.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BUDGET CONTROL ACT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, we just passed legislation that would raise the debt ceiling. Part of that was an effort to reverse the debt trajectory we are on, but it can only be called, at best, a first step. We can all agree on that.

Indeed, there is an article in the Financial Times, written by Professors Rogoff and Reinhart, who wrote a book that has gotten a great deal of attention and is widely respected, describing and analyzing sovereign debt and countries that have gone bankrupt around the world. They commented that much of what occurred in our debate occurred in those other nations. The other nations scramble around when the pressure is on with something like a debt ceiling, and they don't really change anything significantly, but they meet the crisis and tell everybody everything is OK.

They say in this article in the Financial Times that everything is not OK. Indeed, the debt will increase over the next 10 years by approximately \$13 trillion, and this package would reduce the increase in our debt by \$2.1 trillion to \$2.4 trillion. That is not much.

In addition to that, Larry Lindsey, a former economic adviser to President Bush, has done some analysis of the Congressional Budget Office score of what the budget would look like over 10 years. He points out that they were predicting nearly 3 percent growth the first and second quarter of this year.

So now we have re-analyzed first quarter growth. Economic growth wasn't 3 percent, it was 2.4 percent. And the second quarter initially was scored at 1.3—not 3 percent or 2.7 but 1.3 percent. Dr. Lindsey said that loss

in GDP alone will mean less economic growth, less tax revenue for the government, and over 10 years it puts the government on a trajectory to lose \$750 billion—it would collect \$750 billion less, which is about one-third of the savings that were to occur in the bill. Dr. Lindsey says the second, third, and fourth quarters of this year will also be well below that. We may be looking at, in this year alone, enough decline in GDP to wipe out half—maybe more—of the savings estimated in the bill we just passed.

I wanted to point out that I believe many in Congress and in the Senate are in denial about how serious the debt threat is and that we are too often, as Rogoff and Reinhart noted, saying the same things other nations said before their economic crises hit. Indeed, the name of their book, “This Time Is Different,” refers to what government leaders said in those countries—those other countries that went into default and into debt crises—up until the last minute. They were saying: We have it under control. It is not so bad. This time, they say, it is different.

Immediately, there was a crisis, which resulted in a loss of confidence, and they had a serious problem—similar to when people lost confidence in the housing market several years ago, which helped put us in this recession.

This is worrisome. We are not facing a little problem; we are facing a problem that will require our steadfast attention for a decade to get this country on the right course.

I note that the President had a press conference today. In a way, it rejected everything we have been talking about in this debate. It really did not talk about the nature of the crisis as Rogoff and Reinhart described. He didn't tell the American people that the real problem is spending that is surging out of control. He didn't say we can't continue, as a nation, borrowing 42 cents of every dollar we spend or that we can't continue spending \$3.7 trillion when we take in \$2.2 trillion. He did not talk to us honestly about that. He did not send a signal; he has not sounded the alarm. Therefore, I think a lot of people—even some in Congress and some outside of Congress—sort of think it must not be so bad. The President hasn't told us it is.

More and more people are expressing concerns. There is a growing unease nationwide, as demonstrated in consumer confidence and business investment, and in some bad manufacturing numbers we received yesterday. So things are not looking good. We have to be honest with ourselves that this is a difficult time.

He did, however, make repeated statements in his press conference about raising taxes. I don't think that is a good thing to do when the economy is in a fix the way it is. He flatly—and

erroneously, I believe—stated that you can't balance the budget with spending cuts. Well, you certainly can. You can argue that you would rather have tax increases and fewer spending cuts, but we can and must balance our budget. It can be done with spending reductions. Quite a number of plans are out there proposing to do just that.

The President continues to talk as if the problem was the debt ceiling, but the debt ceiling is really a signal that we have spent too much, and we borrowed all Congress has allowed the President to borrow, and you can't borrow any more unless Congress agrees to raise the debt ceiling. But that is not the problem. The problem, as Rogoff and Reinhart said, is our debt. That is the real problem. It is not going to be easy to fix. I wish it was. If we work together as a nation, we can do it. This country can rise to meet the challenge. I am totally convinced of that.

The President said:

And since you can't close the deficits with just spending cuts, we'll need a balanced approach.

That means we need to balance a cut with tax increases. That is what that means.

He went on to say:

We can't make it tougher for young people to go to college or ask seniors to pay more for health care.

But at some point, when you don't have the money, we might not be able to be as generous as we were just a few years ago when we were in better financial condition. Isn't that common sense? What do you mean you can't make any changes in how we do business? We are going to have to make changes in how we do business.

He goes on to talk about investments, as he has often done. This is a quote from the press conference:

Yet, it also allows us to keep making key investments in things like education and research. . . .

Continuing to make investments in education? Does that mean we will continue our current level in education and that we will try not to cut it if we have to make reductions in spending? Is that what the President means? No.

Just last week we saw the spectacle of the Secretary of Education appearing before the Senate Appropriations Committee asking for a 13.5-percent increase in education funding. Also last week, the President talked about investments—more, more, more—including 13.5 percent more for education. You know, 90 percent of education is funded by States, cities, and counties anyway. It is not the Federal Government. It is not our primary role and never has been. We only provide approximately 10 percent of the money that gets spent on education in America.

We can't have double-digit increases when we are borrowing 42 cents of

every dollar. Every penny of that increase will be borrowed money—every penny. Doesn't common sense tell us we might not be able to increase spending this year even if we would like to?

I point out that before the Budget Committee, on which I am the ranking Republican, we had the Secretary of Energy testify that he wanted a 9.5-percent increase for the Department of Energy—the Department that does more to block energy than create energy. The State Department was asking for 10.5 percent increase in the President's budget, the President's request to us. The Department of Transportation was to get a 60-percent increase in spending in the President's Budget. Last year, it was about \$40 billion.

I note that this year, interest on our debt will be \$240 billion.

I say to my colleagues that we are not dealing with reality. Americans know—maybe they are lucky enough to have two wage earners in the family when one loses their job, but do they not change the way they do business? Do they just think they can continue to spend twice as much as their income as if they were both still working? People don't do that. All over, Americans are making tough decisions. No wonder they are upset at us for pursuing this idea that we don't have to make any changes in what we do. It is very, very distressing to me.

The President said this about employment:

That's part of the reason that people are so frustrated with what's been going on in this town. In the last few months, the economy has already had to absorb an earthquake in Japan, the economic headwinds coming from Europe, the Arab spring, and the [increases] in oil prices, all of which have been very challenging to the recovery. But these are things we couldn't control.

I don't know that those are the big problems here. Rising oil prices are. Today, oil prices are just about double—a little more—than what they were when President Obama took office. We have shut down new exploration in the gulf, and we are blocking the production of natural gas and shale formations, which has so much promise for us. We are doing a lot of things to drive up the cost of energy.

Then he goes on to say this, which is surprising. He is the one who said the crisis was so large, it was a national problem.

Our economy didn't need Washington to come along with a manufactured crisis to make things worse.

We had a serious debate over what to do about the debt ceiling that we have reached, and Congress—the Republican House—yielded from \$6 trillion in cuts over 10 years, as they proposed in their budget, to taking \$1 trillion in cuts up front as part of this debt deal. The President wanted less cuts than that, apparently, and that is not enough. Of course, it could be \$2.4 trillion, if the

committee functions correctly, and we hope it will.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the order, Senators are limited to 10 minutes.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for an additional 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. What I wanted to point out is in this chart. It gives some indication of how we are operating in the Senate and the Congress, driven in substantial part by the President's desires. It is a chart showing the growth in certain programs that are exempt from the automatic cuts that would occur if a budget agreement is not reached as part of the legislation we just passed.

These are all programs that we like and wish we could continue to allow to grow every year. Unfortunately, we are not going to have the money to do that. We are going to have to deal with these programs and all spending—Defense and non-Defense programs, no doubt about it.

We have first over here the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund. The average annual percentage increase of that fund's cost has been 4.9 percent. The average annual increase in that fund each year—2005 through 2010—was 4.9 percent. The average inflation rate during this time was 2.5 percent. So that is about twice the inflation rate.

The next fund here—a fund all of us value—is the Military Retirement Fund. It has increased at the average annual rate of 5.4 percent. Inflation is 2.5. Medicaid—a program that is administered by States but has recently been as much as 66 percent funded by the Federal Government—has been increasing at 8.5 percent each year.

I think most of us know the rule of seven, where if you have money in the bank and it draws 7 percent interest, that money will double in 10 years. So this means in about 8 or 9 years the entire Medicaid Program will double at that kind of rate of increase. And, remember, inflation is 2.5 percent.

The Children's Health Insurance Program—the CHIP program—has been increasing at 9 percent a year, and the SNAP program—the food stamp program—has been increasing at 16.6 percent a year for the last 5 years. It has been increasing at 16.6 percent.

So I ask, is this sustainable? We are borrowing 42 cents out of every dollar. The economy is not growing as much as we hoped and expected, and it is not going to bail us out of this so we can sustain these kinds of spending levels.

We look at all these programs we value—and we hate to talk about it; we don't want to mention it—and the odd thing about the agreement that was passed earlier today, at the insistence of our Democratic colleagues, is that

these programs would receive no reductions if an agreement to cut spending is not reached by the committee. Under the rule, if the committee can't reach an agreement, there will be automatic across the board cuts, except it is not evenly cut across the board because these programs are untouched. They are untouchable because our Democratic colleagues say we can't deal with them.

Well, it is time for us to look under the hood of the food stamps program, I have to tell you. How could it be increasing at 16.6 percent a year for 5 years? How could that happen? Don't we need to examine it, take a good look at it? We have had no hearings. We have done nothing this year to confront the surging cost. And what about Medicaid and CHIP? Those are also surging. Maybe we could even save a little on some of those programs that are growing faster than inflation.

I would point out that the military is in line, under the bill that passed, if an agreement isn't reached, to take a 10-percent cut. That is from the baseline military budget. It does not include Iraq and Afghanistan, which are coming down and projected to come down dramatically.

Forgive me if I am a little bit taken aback here about our priorities and about the unwillingness of Congress to deal with out-of-control spending. That is a good deal of money we are talking about—the Medicaid Program at \$270 billion a year. Food stamps have more than doubled. It is now \$78 billion a year. By comparison, Alabama's general fund budget is about \$2 billion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the Chair. I ask unanimous consent for 1 additional minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. As I notice no one else is here.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida is here.

Mr. SESSIONS. Oh, I am sorry. I didn't see that. Well, I should long ago have yielded the floor, because he has something worthwhile to say, I am sure.

I close by saying we are not dealing honestly with the crisis we are in. The President is in denial. He is not looking the American people in the eye and telling us what a serious fix we are in, or challenging us all to deal with the reality that we are going to have to change the way we do business. I hate to say it, but I believe that it is true. We have to do better.

I thank the Chair and I would be pleased to yield the floor to one of our more talented, insightful new Members, Senator RUBIO of Florida.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

SPENDING AND DEFICITS

Mr. RUBIO. I thank my colleague from Alabama. He does a phenomenal

job always in outlining the economic realities. I enjoyed listening, and I could have sat here longer. According to some, I may be one of the last speakers today, so I don't want to keep the Senate open any longer than it should be. We have done a lot of work here over the last few days.

I went back and forth over whether I wanted to speak, because I think almost everything that can be said has been said regarding the events of the last few days. But I did ultimately want to share my thoughts for a moment as we head into the August recess, as they call it here in Washington, and many of us here in the Senate will be returning to our home States to explain to the people we represent what we did or did not do in the last few days.

I will start by pointing out that our Republic is an amazing thing. As heated as the rhetoric may have been over the last few days, I think all of us should stop for a moment and understand that all around the world there are countries that solve the problems we solved through debate with civil war and conflict, armed and otherwise. Our Republic is amazing. It isn't always pretty. Quite frankly, more often than not, it is very messy. But it has withstood 230-some-odd years of pressures and choices, and it continues to do so. Even if ultimately what it gives us is not always solutions to our problems, we are blessed to have it.

I would remind many, such as like myself, who were elected in the last election cycle, tightly embracing the principles of our Constitution, that our Constitution is not just a set of words that outline our principles. It gives us a system of government. It gives us this Republic. This Republic is valid, and it matters even when the people who are running it may not be people with whom you agree. We should always remember that. What we have here is special and unique, and we should embrace it and be thankful to our God each night that we have the opportunity and the blessing of living in a nation such as this.

Moving aside from that, however, the facts still remain that this coming month, and every month to come, more or less, this government will spend \$300 billion a month. That is a lot of money. It is more than any government has ever spent in the history of man. And \$180 billion of that \$300 billion is money we collect from the people of our country through taxes and fees and other ways. But we borrow \$120 billion a month to pay our \$300 billion a month bill. That is too much money. That is too much money for Republicans, it is too much money for Democrats. It is too much money. Although we should be happy that tomorrow and in the days to come, we are not facing a default and an inability to meet our bills, the truth is—an undeniable one that I

don't think anyone here would disagree with me when I say it—we can't keep borrowing \$120 billion every month or more, because the point and the day will come when the people who lend us that money will stop lending us that money. If we keep doing this for long, we will one day reach a day in this country where we will face a debt crisis, but it won't be because of the debt limit or because of gridlock in Washington. It will be because folks are no longer willing to buy America's debt because they seriously doubt our ability to pay it back.

That is not hyperbole. It is not an exaggeration. It is a mathematical, indisputable fact that no Member of either party would dispute. There is general agreement on this. And there is general agreement the only way to solve this problem is a combination of two things: No. 1, this government needs to generate more revenue; and No. 2, this government needs to restrict its growth and spending. Because as bad as the \$300 billion a month looks, it only gets worse from here on out, in ways I don't have time to explain in the next 10 minutes. Suffice it to say our economy isn't growing. It is not producing enough revenue moving forward. Meanwhile, all the programs we fund are about to explode in their growth because more people than ever are going to retire, they will live longer than they have ever lived, and the math doesn't add up. These are facts. No one disputes that.

The debate in Washington is not about that fact but about how do we solve it. How do we generate more money and reduce the spending at the same time? I will tell you this is not a debate we will solve in the month of August. In fact, I believe it will characterize the rest of this Congress, the 2012 elections, and the years that lie ahead. The division on how to solve it goes to the root of the dispute we face in America between two very different visions of America's future—by the way, one not more or less patriotic than the other. Patriotic, country-loving Americans can disagree on their future vision of what kind of country we should be. But this division—this difference of opinion—is the reason why even though this bill passed, this debate we have had is going to move forward for some time to come.

On the one hand, there are those who believe the job of government is to deliver us economic justice—which basically means an economy where everyone does well or as well as possibly can be done. There is another group who believes in the concept of economic opportunity—where it is not the government's job to guarantee an outcome but to guarantee the opportunity to fulfill your dreams and hopes. One is not more moral than the other. They are two very different visions of the role of government in America. But it

lies at the heart of the debate we are having as a nation. Washington is divided because America is divided on this point, so we have to decide what every generation of America before us has decided, and that is what kind of government do we want and what role do we want it to have in America's future.

The fault lines emerge from that. The solutions emerge from those two visions. For those who want to see economic justice, their solution is to raise more taxes. They believe there are some in America who make too much money and should pay more in taxes. They believe our government programs can stimulate economic growth. They believe that perhaps America no longer needs to fund or can no longer afford to fund our national defense and our military at certain levels.

Another group believes that, in fact, our revenues should come not from more taxes but from more taxpayers; that what we need is more people being employed, more businesses being created that will pursue tax reform, that will pursue regulatory reform. But, ultimately, we look for more revenue for government from economic growth, not from growth in taxes. We believe the private sector creates these jobs, not government and not politicians; that jobs in America are created when everyday people from all walks of life start a business or expand an existing business.

I believe and we believe in a safety net program, programs that exist to help those who cannot help themselves, and to help those who have tried but failed to stand up and try again but not safety net programs that function as a way of life, and believe that America's national defense and our role in the world with the strongest military that man has ever known is still indispensable.

These are two very different visions of America and two very different types of solutions. Ultimately, we may find that between these two points there may not be a middle ground; that, in fact, as a nation and as a people we must decide what we want the role of government to be in America moving forward.

Let me close by saying this has been a unique week for me in a couple ways. One has been, of course, the debate that has happened. The other is my family has been here for the better part of a week, young children. We had an opportunity today after the vote to walk around a little bit and look at all the statues and the monuments that pay tribute to our heritage as a people. It reminds us that we are not the first Americans who have been asked to choose what kind of country we want or what role of government we want in our country. It is a choice every generation before us has had to make.

Even in this Chamber, as I stand here, you can sit back and absorb the

history of some of the extraordinary debates that took place on this very floor, debates that went to the core and to the heart of what kind of country we wanted to be moving forward. The voices of those ancients call to us even now to remind us that every generation of America has been called to choose clearly what kind of country they want moving forward. And that debate will continue. It will define the service of this Congress and for most of us who are here now. I pray we choose wisely. I look forward to the months that lie ahead that we will choose and make the right choice for our future and for our people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the period for morning business be extended until 6:00 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I appreciate the Senator from Minnesota being willing to stay in the chair for a few more minutes before I have to preside so I can take this time to express my concern about what has happened with the failure to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration.

The authorization for that administration has expired, and it has led to a partial shutdown of that agency and to 4,000 workers being placed on unpaid furlough. A number of those workers are from New Hampshire. While I know all of us here are glad we were able to come together to reach a bipartisan agreement on raising the debt ceiling and avoiding a financial crisis, I am deeply disappointed that bipartisanship has failed us when it comes to reauthorizing the FAA.

I understand the House may head home for recess today and for the rest of August, stranding 4,000 FAA workers and as many as 70,000—that is right, 70,000—airport construction workers around the country who are out of work until we can get an agreement. So let me review for a minute how we got here.

Since the FAA's authorization expired in 2007, Congress has passed 20 short-term extensions of the FAA. All of those bills, every single one of them, were clean bills intended to keep the FAA running while Congress decided how to deal with the complicated policy issues of a long-term reauthorization. Unfortunately, the 21st time around—that is the time that we are

in—the House decided it was no longer important to keep the FAA operating, and 4,000 people are out of work while the House of Representatives may head home for recess.

I appreciate that there are some significant differences between the two long-term FAA authorization bills passed by the House and the Senate, the most controversial of which centered around the ruling by the National Mediation Board on unionization rules. But that is why Chairman ROCKEFELLER and Ranking Member HUTCHISON appointed Members to a conference committee where the House and Senate could work out our policy differences. So far, the House has refused to appoint conferees. Instead, they have decided to stop negotiating and, unfortunately, to play politics with 4,000 FAA workers and their families.

Right now the FAA has been shut down for 11 days and as long as that shutdown continues, the government will continue to lose \$200 million a week, about \$30 million a day, that would pay for airport maintenance and safety and for the replacement of our country's outdated air traffic control system. If the shutdown continues through the August recess, we are going to lose over \$1 billion in revenue that could be used to upgrade our air transportation system. That is waste of the worst kind, and it makes our deficit problems worse at a time when everybody says they are so focused on the deficits.

Every day the shutdown continues has a very real, very painful impact on people all around the country who have been furloughed. I hope the House, in leaving for recess, has left open the opportunity to continue to address this dispute and resolve it in a way that will bring everybody back to work.

The FAA has issued stop-work orders for 241 airport construction projects worth nearly \$11 billion that support 70,000 jobs. Again, these are real people who are being forced to make real sacrifices.

In my State of New Hampshire, a \$16 million project to rebuild the runway of Boire Field in Nashua will be delayed if we don't pass an extension. Boire Field is the busiest general aviation airport in New England, and breaking ground this fall on the runway reconstruction project would have created 50 jobs. Instead, because of this delay, construction likely won't begin until spring and those 50 people are going to have to wait, something that shouldn't have to happen. The tragedy is they won't have jobs, not because they don't have the skills or that the project isn't needed but because the House is playing politics with the FAA. Forty-two employees at the FAA's air traffic control center in Nashua have been furloughed and this shutdown is taking a terrible toll on them. I want

to tell you about one, Steve Finnerty from Bedford.

I talked to Steve earlier today. He is a civil engineer and he has worked for the FAA for the last 15 years. He is the sole breadwinner for his family of five. He has a young daughter and a pair of 1-year-old twins who are struggling with medical issues. He has already lost nearly 2 weeks of pay, and he is not sure that he is going to get that pay back even when he does go back to work. He is concerned, understandably, about how he is going to pay his mortgage and his doctor bills and the grocery bills and all the other needs his family has. Now he is facing the possibility of an entire month without pay.

There are thousands of people all across the country who are stuck in the same circumstance who want to get back to work, who we need to get back to work. We need them to get back to work so they can pay their mortgages and their children's college tuitions and their medical bills. We need them to get back to work so they can continue to build a GPS-based air traffic control system like every other industrialized country has. We need to get this economy moving again. That means we need to be serious about our responsibilities here in Washington. Let's pass a clean extension of the FAA. Let's get these people back to work, and let's go about the business of rebuilding a modern air traffic control system like we should have in the United States.

I yield the floor, and I would suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant parliamentarian proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Madam President, I ask consent to speak as in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING THOM RUMBERGER

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Madam President, I rise to recognize the important contributions of a special Floridian for his unrelenting determination to protect one of our Nation's unique natural resources; that is, the Florida Everglades. He is a prestigious attorney. He is a commanding litigator. This individual, Thom Rumberger, has dedicated much of his personal and professional life to advancing the restoration and protection of the river of grass. His brilliant, incisive mind, his creativity, and his fearlessness combine to make Thom one of

Florida's most influential Everglades leaders.

He has been a man proud to serve his country and his community. It goes back to the time he interrupted his college career to volunteer for the Marines. He served in the Korean war. Over the course of his life, he has continued this service as a dedicated public servant, a respected judge, and a respected prosecutor.

In his family, he is a dedicated father and grandfather who obviously has always found great happiness with that ever-expanding family of his, and the relentless efforts he undertakes to preserve Florida's natural heritage is a legacy gift, certainly to his family and to his colleagues but to all us Floridians—indeed, to us as residents of planet Earth.

He served 2 years in the Marines, earned his degree with honors, a law degree, and was associate editor of the Florida Law Review. He became the youngest circuit judge serving in a district in central Florida. He was the Brevard County solicitor, he was special assistant State attorney, he was county attorney for Seminole County, he was Assistant to the Florida Governor, and he served as a member of the Florida Land Sales Board.

I knew Thom back in those early days in Melbourne and Brevard County as we were experiencing the explosive growth, at the time, of the Nation's attempt to catch up with the Soviet Union since they had surprised us by putting up Sputnik and then later beat us into orbit with Yuri Gagarin before we could get Alan Shepard into suborbit and then John Glenn into orbit.

Those were exciting times. I will never forget I heard Thom, as we were sitting around one day, saying I am impatient having to sleep because I am so excited about getting up in the morning and going out and doing all these things. Of course, I just listed all those important positions of public service.

Along the way, Thom became a good friend of another Brevard County man, George Barley. Actually, I think George was from Orange County. George was married to Mary. Both of them dedicated their lives to restoration of the Everglades. George and Mary established the Everglades Trust and the Everglades Foundation and then, when George died a very tragic death back in 1995, Thom joined with Mary to make sure George Barley's dream of a restored Everglades became a reality.

Thom was an active member of the Republican Party, but I can tell you that in the friendship between us, partisan membership did not mean anything. We had a personal friendship, and one could often see that as he engaged in public service, but that was especially so when it came to the preservation and the restoration of the Everglades. His success extends, other

than his community and country service, to a career in private practice. He was one of the founding partners of Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell, and under Thom's leadership the firm's modest beginnings were quickly surpassed as it moved to all kinds of new legal successes. Today, that firm includes 75 trial attorneys in 5 offices all across several southern States. Of course, he has been listed as one of Florida's superlawyers every year for the last several years.

Legend has it Thom Rumberger once convinced a Federal judge to allow a real automobile in the courtroom as evidence. He convinced the judge to have a window in the courtroom enlarged—in a historic courthouse, nonetheless—to accommodate a crane that lifted the car right into the courtroom. He has been known throughout his life for his infectious sense of humor, often referred to—because he had so many different careers—somewhat derisively as a career chameleon. Thom worked his way all the way through college, all the way up to these present successes.

Let me tell you what he did to support himself and to pay for his college education. A lot of people do not remember Ross Allen's Reptile Institute in Ocala, at Silver Springs. Guess what the main attraction was: the eastern diamondback rattlesnake. Thom's job, at which he earned enough money to put himself through school, was to milk those rattlesnakes.

Clearly, that is a tourist attraction because that is a fascinating thing, to see that snake coiled up, ready to strike, and they stick a stick down there and pin his head and then reach down behind the head and pick him up and they have this 6-foot rattlesnake. But there is a purpose to this other than charming their guests. They squeeze behind that head and the mouth opens and those two fangs come out and they put those fangs down into a glass and they milk that rattlesnake. The poisonous venom that was then collected and stored becomes the basis for the anti-snake bite serum that has saved so many lives. I remember one time he actually went back after he had been judge and prosecutor and all these things. He told me he was invited to come back to the Ross Allen Reptile Institute. He said when he walked into that cage with all those rattlesnakes, the snakes looked so big. He didn't remember the snakes looking that big when he was a college kid earning his way through college. Thom promises that it was right there in that snakepit that he learned the skills of public speaking and working with the public because he had to explain how he was milking the rattlesnake to all of the guests who were there, and obviously he had their attention.

He even enjoyed a brief acting career as a stuntman for the movie "The Creature of the Black Lagoon." Re-

member that one that scared the wits out of all of us when we were children, "The Creature of the Black Lagoon"? He has had quite a few varieties in his life.

He has generously committed himself to public service. Beyond the positions I have already mentioned, he was appointed to Florida's Federal Judicial Advisory Commission and the Board of Supervisors of the Spaceport Florida Authority. Presently, he is chairman of the Everglades Trust. He has served as chairman of the Collins Center for Public Policy, which was named after one of our great Governors of Florida—former Governor, now deceased—Gov. Leroy Collins. He has been a member of the Board of Visitors of Florida State College of Law and Board of Trustees for the Law Center Association of the University of Florida. He has represented about every environmental organization, including Save the Manatee, the Everglades Trust, and Save Our Everglades. He has been the lead counsel for the Everglades Foundation well past two decades.

Notably, Thom was instrumental in the passage of two Everglades-related Florida constitutional amendments, the Federal Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, and in obtaining several billion dollars in funding for Everglades restoration. That has been one of my primary duties as the senior Senator from Florida, and I have worked with him over the years on this Everglades restoration.

He has been primarily responsible for Florida's acquisition of one of our natural resources, the 75,000-acre Babcock Ranch in the southwest part of Florida, which now provides necessary corridors for wildlife, especially the endangered Florida panther. In the late 1980s, Thom worked to implement some of the first manatee protection laws.

Throughout his four decades in public service, he has demonstrated the importance of looking out for the common good.

I just did an interview today in the aftermath of our vote on what started out to be highly contentious on what we were going to resolve in debt reduction and deficit reduction with the pending guillotine hanging over our head, the default that would occur at 12 tonight, which has now been averted. The reporter who was asking me the questions in the interview said: Well, why is it that everything is so contentious and people are all so wrapped up in themselves that they talk past each other and they are only looking out for their own interests and don't respect the other fellow's point of view?

Thom Rumberger represents that kind of person who always respected the other person's point of view. So when it was time to draw up the solution to whatever the problem was, then the parties could come together and

find that consensus. That has been sorely lacking in Washington and around this country. We saw a shining little moment yesterday and today—yesterday in the House of Representatives with an overwhelming vote and today on the floor of the Senate with an overwhelming vote—to start the process of deficit reduction. It is folks such as Thom Rumberger whom we ought to be looking to in how they have demonstrated their community service instead of what we have seen play out over the last several months.

Thanks to the selfless commitment of folks such as Thom, America's Everglades will be restored for the benefit of future generations. It is not just Florida, it is America that owes Thom a great deal of gratitude. My bride of 40 years, Grace, who has known Thom almost as long as I have, joins me in thanking him and his wife Debbie for their many contributions to Florida's treasured landscapes.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASEY.) Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LIUTENANT COMMANDER JANE LANHAM
TAFOYA

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to a young woman from Owensboro, KY, who lost her life while in service to her country. U.S. Navy LCDR Jane Lanham Tafoya was assigned to the Naval Branch Health Clinic in Manama, Bahrain, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. She died from non-combat related causes on September 19, 2006. She was 43 years old.

For her heroic service, Lieutenant Commander Tafoya received many awards, medals and decorations, including the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Gold Star, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, and the Navy Pistol Shot Medal with Sharpshooter Device.

Lieutenant Commander Tafoya had served for 18 years in the Navy. Before her assignment in Bahrain she had served at the Naval Hospital and Naval Reserve Center in Philadelphia, the Bureau of Medicine here in Washington, DC, the Naval Hospital at Camp Lejeune, NC, aboard the U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan*, and at Navy Environmental Preventive Medicine Unit 2 in Norfolk,

VA. In Bahrain she was working as an industrial hygienist.

Born in Daviess County, KY, Jane was a graduate of Owensboro Catholic High School, Murray State University and Temple University. Her mother, Avis Lanham, remembers Jane as a smart student who enjoyed learning, got all As in school, and loved to read. In high school Jane played softball and volleyball, and she was on the Murray State intramural bowling team.

Avis says that Jane loved to travel, and she loved being in the Navy. And Jane "could always see the good in people." Avis says of her daughter. Whenever something negative was said about a person, Jane would just respond with, "Well, nobody's perfect."

We are thinking of Jane's loved ones today, including her husband John Tafoya; her daughters Rachel and Natalie Tafoya; her mother Avis Lanham; her brother and sister-in-law Brad and Kathy; her sister and brother-in-law Phyllis and Kenny; and many other beloved family members and friends. Jane was preceded in death by her father Marvin Bill Lanham.

Today the Senate honors this loving wife, mother, and daughter for her long career of service. And we salute the sacrifice that LCDR Jane Lanham Tafoya made, half a world away from her native Owensboro home, on behalf of a very grateful Nation.

I yield the floor.

H.R. 2715

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise to engage in a colloquy with my colleagues, Senators DURBIN and PRYOR, over the passage of H.R. 2715, a bill that passed on the House suspension calendar by a vote of 421-2 and the Senate by unanimous consent. Due to the fact that this bill bypassed regular order and failed to receive consideration in the Commerce Committee, I believe it is important to explain our intent in passing this bill.

Mr. DURBIN. I am frustrated that the Consumer Product Safety Commission has taken too long to promulgate rules required by the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, CPSIA, including the rules on third-party testing obligations and the component part testing rule. I did not oppose H.R. 2715, because it does not delay or impede the Commission's ability to implement those rules—although it may place some increased costs on the Commission due to actions required as a result of new CPSC mandates and authorities—and I urge the Commission to complete its work expeditiously.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. I share the Senator's concerns about the CPSC's delay in promulgating its regulations in accordance with the mandates of CPSIA. While I sympathize with the CPSC over its resource constraints, the Commission must accelerate its efforts and

complete the important regulations required under CPSIA. The provisions in section 2 of H.R. 2715 were not intended to delay or stop the Commission's current rulemaking under section 102 (d)(2) of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act to implement the critical provision related to the third-party testing of children's products. I fully expect the Commission to go forward with these important rulemakings with no disruption from the passage of this bill.

Given the limited resources of the Commission and recognizing the length of time it has taken to implement the provisions of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, it is intended that most of H.R. 2715's new mandates on the CPSC are not rulemakings. Some of the new authority, such as the functional purpose exemption and the authority to restrict the scope of the used products exemption, are subject to a notice and hearing requirement, but not to a rulemaking. Others, such as the creation of a new public registry for small batch manufacturers, can be implemented without notice and comment or even a hearing. As such, the Commission should act to effectuate the new mandates of this bill in a most expeditious manner.

Mr. PRYOR. I also share the Senator's view that nothing in H.R. 2715 is intended to delay the Commission's rulemaking with respect to third party testing and believe that Commission should conclude its testing rulemakings in the next 2 months. I supported H.R. 2715 because it made minor modifications to an important consumer product safety law and supported implementation of important aspect of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act such as the consumer product database. This bill will require the CPSC to extend the deadline for posting reports on defective products by 5 days if a business asserts that the information in the report is not accurate. However, this change does not alter the fact that the Commission still must post the report in the database after those 5 days even if it is still reviewing the merits of the complaint.

COTE D'IVOIRE

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I spoke about the situation in Cote d'Ivoire just last Friday and pointed out that the person responsible for the chaos and killing—a rebel named Alassane Ouattara—met last Friday with President Obama in our Nation's White House. I said then and say now again that this was an unwise and grossly misguided decision by Obama. It is in fact an outrage that our President would welcome, with open arms, a potential war criminal who is responsible for the death of at least 3,000 people and displacement of half a million refugees in the African country of Cote

d'Ivoire. Ouattara is an illegitimate usurper who has scandalized Cote d'Ivoire's electoral system, and unlawfully ousted the democratically elected incumbent President Laurent Gbagbo.

Now the Associated Press reports just yesterday that the violence in Cote d'Ivoire remains uncontrolled. The title of the AP story says is all. It reads: "Warlords in Ivory Coast continue to reign, national reconciliation difficult 3 months later."

The AP story highlights the just released Amnesty International report that I spoke about last week that pointed out that "Ouattara's rebel Army continues to carry out violence and intimidation against ethnicities perceived as having supported President Gbagbo, and that almost 700,000 people remain in refugee camps for displaced people in the country's remote far west."

The AP highlights the fact that although Ouattara is telling the world that he is seeking reconciliation; in fact Ouattara is allowing "a pervading culture of criminality to continue."

For example, in the financial capital of Abidjan, warlords have taken over parts of the city and death squads roam the streets looking for Gbagbo supporters. In addition, they are committing "armed robberies, kidnapping and killings almost daily" without any sign of ceasing. At the very least rebel leader Ouattara has no control over his rebel troops, which in the recent past committed atrocities and massacres on their march to Abidjan, and at the worst he is tacitly approving their actions by not intervening.

AP also reports that "even the French Embassy sent a security message to its citizens warning that 'incidents of unequal gravity are still being reported.'" And this is 3 months after the French themselves militarily overthrew President Gbagbo and installed Ouattara! The French are indeed now reaping what they have sown.

I point out again that Amnesty International alleges that these forces under Ouattara's command are continuing to engage in "documented crimes under international law and human rights violations and abuses, including extrajudicial executions and other unlawful killings, rape and other sexual violence, torture, other ill-treatment and arbitrary arrest and detention; as well as the consequences of high levels of displacement, pervasive insecurity, and intentional destruction of homes and other buildings not justified by military necessity."

The AP story summarizes the current situation by quoting the conclusion of the Amnesty International report which states that "if [this situation is] not addressed quickly, the very serious consequences of the recent wave of insecurity and displacement will have further repercussions during the coming years and may fuel growing

discontent and unrest, undermining efforts to promote reconciliation in a country torn apart by a decade of ethnic strife and violent conflict.”

This is my ninth time speaking on the Senate floor about the ongoing bloodbath of unspeakable acts of violence that are occurring in the once beautiful and prosperous country of Cote d'Ivoire. I again call for the intervention of the African Union—and not the French—to bring an end to the violence there, and call for new elections that will this time prevent the electoral fraud by Ouattara that allowed him to claim victory. I also call for the release of President Gbagbo and his wife Simone who are being held incommunicado by Ouattara, and either allow President Gbagbo to seek reelection for President or be allowed to go into exile. I have been in communication with a sub-Saharan African country which has agreed to grant asylum to the Gbagbos, and I call upon our State Department to facilitate such a move as it did for former Haitian President Duvalier in 1986.

The killing must stop. My recommendations are a path to stop the killing.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT LEX L. LEWIS

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and heroic service of SSG Lex L. Lewis. Staff Sergeant Lewis died on July 15, 2011, when his dismounted patrol received small arms fire in Farah Province, Afghanistan. Staff Sergeant Lewis was serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was 40 years old.

Staff Sergeant Lewis was assigned to B Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, CO. Friends and family members remember Staff Sergeant Lewis as a soldier who truly loved the Army. His mother Betty said, “He just liked being a soldier . . . this is what he wanted to do.”

After graduating from high school, Staff Sergeant Lewis joined the Navy and was first stationed in Japan. He joined the Army later, in 1999, and bravely served three combat tours—two in Iraq and one in Afghanistan.

Staff Sergeant Lewis's commanders and company-mates alike remember him as a soldier who exemplifies the proudest traditions of the U.S. Army. They often came to him for counsel and advice during difficult times. His decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, two Army Commendation Medals, five Army Achievement Medals, and two Army Good Conduct Medals.

Mark Twain once said, “The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time.” Staff Sergeant Lewis's

service was in keeping with this sentiment—by selflessly putting country first, he lived life to the fullest. He lived with a sense of the highest honorable purpose.

Mr. President, I stand with Colorado and people nationwide in profound gratitude for Staff Sergeant Lewis's tremendous sacrifice. He served proudly and honorably in Iraq and Afghanistan when his country needed him most. We are humbled by his service and his sacrifice. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending heartfelt sympathy and condolences to Staff Sergeant Lewis's family.

OSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to submit for the RECORD a report on the activity of a congressional delegation I led to Belgrade, Serbia, from July 7 to 10, to represent the United States at the 20th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. I did so in my capacity as cochairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission.

I was joined by our colleague from New Hampshire, Senator SHAHEEN, who also traveled to Sarajevo, Bosnia. Senator SHAHEEN is also a member of the Helsinki Commission. Our colleague from Alaska, Senator BEGICH, also participated on the delegation but was in Dubrovnik, Croatia, as part of the official U.S. Delegation to the 6th annual Croatian Summit of regional political leaders and European officials.

As the report details, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, or OSCE PA, has been an excellent opportunity for the U.S. Congress to engage our European friends and allies, and to make clear to less friendly countries that our ties to the continent will not be diminished.

U.S. engagement also provides a means for us to advance U.S. interests by encouraging Europe to focus more on policy issues of concern to us, from democratic shortcomings within Europe such as Belarus to the new challenges and opportunities coming from North Africa and the Middle East and other parts of the world.

The revised Senate schedule made us miss the opening days of the Belgrade meeting, but we made up for that with an intensive schedule from Friday to Sunday. All three U.S. resolutions and most of our delegation's amendments to resolutions were adopted, including a resolution I submitted on political transition in the Mediterranean region and amendments welcoming the arrest of at-large war crimes indictee Ratko Mladic and calling for Turkey to allow the Ecumenical Patriarch to open a theological school in Halki.

Senator SHAHEEN and I also used the opportunity of visiting Belgrade to encourage progress in Serbia's democratic transition. We met with Presi-

dent Tadic as well as the Speaker of the Serbian National Assembly, the chief negotiator in the technical talks on Kosovo-related issues, representatives of civil society, and of Serbia's Romani and Jewish communities.

We came away from our visit impressed with the progress Serbia has made thus far. While there are lingering manifestations of the extreme and violent nationalism from the Milosevic era of the 1990s, I believe there is a genuine commitment to overcome them. We should support those in and out of government in Serbia who turn this commitment into action.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the Report to which I referred.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REPORT OF THE U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION (CODEL CARDIN) TO BELGRADE, SERBIA; SARAJEVO, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA; AND DUBROVNIK, CROATIA JULY 7–10, 2011

Senator Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD), Helsinki Commission Co-Chairman, and fellow Senator and Commissioner Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) traveled to the 20th Annual Session of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA), held in Belgrade, Serbia, from July 6–10, 2011. The senators were able to do this despite a U.S. congressional schedule that precluded House Members from traveling to the meeting and curtailed Senate attendance to only three of the session's five days. Three resolutions and more than one dozen amendments to various resolutions initiated by the United States Delegation were nevertheless considered and passed by the Assembly. Senator Shaheen was also able to make a one-day visit to neighboring Bosnia-Herzegovina, and both Senators were able to link with their colleague, Senator Mark Begich (D-AK), attending the Croatian Summit of regional political leaders held in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

THE OSCE PA

The Parliamentary Assembly was created within the framework of the OSCE as an independent, consultative body consisting of 320 parliamentarians from the 56 participating States, stretching from Central Asia and Russia across Europe and including the United States and Canada. Annual Sessions are the chief venue for debating international issues and voting on a declaration addressing human rights, democratic development, rule-of-law, economic, environmental and security concerns among the participating States and the international community.

The Parliamentary Assembly adopts its declaration by majority voting for resolutions coming from three committees dealing with political/security, economic/environmental and democracy/human rights issues respectively, in addition to other resolutions introduced by delegations to supplement these texts. Following the amendment of these resolutions also by majority voting, this generally allows for considerable verbiage to be accepted each year but also for franker language addressing controversial or new issues to be included than the OSCE itself can achieve on the basis of consensus among the 56 participating States. The heavy focus of OSCE diplomats on issues like

trafficking in persons and combating intolerance in society is rooted in initiatives originally undertaken by the parliamentarians in the Assembly.

Having the largest delegation with 17 members, the United States historically has played a key role in OSCE PA proceedings, and there has been robust congressional participation since the Assembly's inception two decades ago. This engagement is reassuring to friends and allies in Europe while ensuring that issues of interest or concern to U.S. foreign policy are raised and discussed. In addition to representing the United States as delegates, members of the Helsinki Commission have served as OSCE PA special representatives on specific issues of concern, committee officers, vice presidents and the Assembly president.

THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL SESSION

This year's Annual Session was hosted by the National Assembly of Serbia and held in Belgrade's Sava Center, the 1977-78 venue for the first follow-up meeting of the diplomatic process that was initiated by the 1975 signing of the Helsinki Final Act and is the OSCE today. During various interventions at the session, note was made not only of the vast changes in Europe since that time but also in Serbia, which was then a constituent republic of the former Yugoslavia but is today an independent state making progress in democratic development after overcoming more than a decade of authoritarian rule and extreme nationalist sentiment.

A meeting of the Standing Committee—composed of OSCE PA officers plus the heads of all delegations—met prior to the opening of the Annual Session. Chaired by OSCE PA President Petros Efthymiou of Greece, the committee heard numerous reports on the activities of the past year, endorsed a budget that has remained frozen for a fourth consecutive fiscal year, and approved for consideration at the Annual Session 25 of the 26 items introduced by various delegations to supplement the committee resolutions. Only an Italian draft on Asbestos Contamination failed to achieve a 2/3 vote approving its consideration.

With approximately 230 parliamentarians in attendance, the opening plenary of the Annual Session featured a welcome by Serbian Prime Minister Mirko Cvetkovic and National Assembly Speaker Slavica Djukic-Dejanovic and reports by the OSCE Chair-in-Office, Lithuanian Foreign Minister Audronius Azubalis, and the newly appointed OSCE Secretary General, Lamberto Zannier of Italy. Zannier welcomed the OSCE PA's interest in fostering closer cooperation with the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna and committed himself to facilitating greater PA engagement through his leadership of the OSCE Secretariat and coordination with its institutions.

In his own remarks, PA President Efthymiou noted the "spirit of Helsinki" which developed at the Belgrade meeting more than three decades ago and lamented the crisis in which the OSCE finds itself today. He called for significant changes to the operations of the Vienna-based organization to make it more effective and relevant in addressing the political and security issues of today. The theme for the Annual Session—Strengthening the OSCE's Effectiveness and Efficiency, a New Start after the Astana Summit—was chosen to address this matter in light of last December's summit meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan, which had heightened the political attention paid to the OSCE's work.

The following three days were devoted to committee consideration and amendment of

the three resolutions and 21 supplementary items, and plenary consideration of the four additional supplementary items. Two additional resolutions were defeated in the process. The first was another initiative of an Italian delegate focusing on crimes causing serious social alarm, which lacked significant support. The second originated with the Belgian delegation on enlarging the OSCE's Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation to include Lebanon and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). The latter was lost in a close vote after being heavily debated by those who advocate wider engagement in the long-term and those who questioned the timing of taking such an initiative. A number of parliamentarians felt it inappropriate for the OSCE to solicit interest by the Lebanese Government and the PNA while they are both under leadership that does not embrace OSCE principles. Some of the resolutions which did pass examined the deplorable human rights situation in Belarus, the unresolved conflict in Moldova, gender issues in the OSCE and the participating States, national minority concerns including the plight of Roma, cyber security, as well as combating violent extremism, transnational organized crime, and human trafficking for labor and organs.

U.S. INITIATIVES IN BELGRADE

Despite its small size, the U.S. Delegation remained very active in the deliberations, introducing three resolutions of its own, working closely with the delegation of the Netherlands on a fourth, and suggesting over a dozen amendments to various texts. All four of these resolutions were adopted, as were all but two of the U.S. amendments.

Co-Chairman Cardin's major initiative was a resolution on Mediterranean Political Transition, which directs the OSCE and its participating States to make their expertise in building democratic institutions available to Mediterranean Partner States: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. The resolution specifically encouraged the interim governments of Egypt and Tunisia to make a formal request for OSCE support following their consultations with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). It also called for an OSCE civil society forum to be hosted by a Mediterranean Partner State later this year. The Senator collaborated with the head of the Spanish delegation on numerous additional amendments to demonstrate the real priority this should be for the organization, and the initiative received widespread praise among the delegates. "We have all been inspired by the movements for freedom and change sweeping across the Middle East and North Africa," Senator Cardin noted while introducing the resolution, "and we support the citizens of the countries in the region as they demand respect for their basic human rights, economic opportunity, and open and responsive government . . . The OSCE and our Parliamentary Assembly have substantial capacity to assist our Mediterranean Partners . . . We also must condemn in the strongest terms the unbridled violence unleashed by the governments of Libya and Syria against their own citizens."

Though not in attendance, Commission Chairman Christopher H. Smith (R-NJ) introduced two resolutions for the Assembly's consideration that also were adopted. The first dealt with Combating Labor Trafficking in Supply Chains, urging governments to ensure that all goods they procure are free from raw materials and finished products produced by trafficked labor and to press corporations to independently verify that

their supply chains are free of exploitation. The resolution also sought to raise consumer awareness about industries more likely to use trafficked labor. Two strengthening amendments authored by Co-Chairman Cardin were adopted. The amendments welcomed a recent OSCE meeting on the issue and urged diplomats to pass a declaration on the matter during a meeting of OSCE foreign ministers later this year.

The second Smith Resolution focused on International Parental Child Abductions and passed without amendment. Its core focus was to press OSCE States to become parties to the 1983 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and to implement its provisions. The resolution also urged that parental child abduction be considered at the 2011 OSCE Ministerial Council in Vilnius this December.

Ranking House Commissioner Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL), who serves as the Parliamentary Assembly's Special Representative on Mediterranean Affairs, collaborated with OSCE PA Special Representative on Migration Kathleen Ferrier of the Netherlands on countering racism and xenophobia in Europe with measures to foster inclusion of affected communities. Noting that 2011 has been designated the International Year for People of African Descent, the resolution included a focus on racial bias against citizens and migrants of African descent, and called for specific measures to be taken by OSCE institutions to address reported increases of racial and ethnic discrimination in the OSCE region. The resolution also emphasized the importance of integrating ethnic minorities into economic and political life through capacity building partnerships between the public and private sector. The resolution passed with widespread support.

Supported by Senator Shaheen, Co-Chairman Cardin covered several smaller and more detailed issues with amendments, such as one welcoming the arrest in Serbia of at-large war crimes indictee Ratko Mladic, another urging Turkey to allow the reopening of the Ecumenical Orthodox Patriarchate's Theological School of Halki without condition or further delay, and another supporting greater transparency in the energy sector. Working with a German delegate, Senator Cardin also succeeded in removing language from a Serbian resolution which politicized the issue of investigating an organ-trafficking case that originated in neighboring Kosovo during the 1999 conflict. Serbian officials lobbied the PA Assembly directly and through the media to accept the resolution's call for the United Nations to conduct the investigation, contrary to the efforts being undertaken by the U.S. and EU to proceed through an already established EU rule-of-law mission. The U.S.-supported amendment was successful in designating the EU entity and the U.N. Mission in Kosovo as responsible for the investigation. There was insufficient support, however, for a U.S. amendment welcoming EU efforts thus far.

During the course of debate, Co-Chairman Cardin also suggested granting Mediterranean Partner countries a greater ability to participate in OSCE PA sessions through changes to Assembly rules. He also highlighted U.S. policy on cyber security in the vigorous debate of a resolution which in some respects diverged from the U.S. approach. In his capacity as an OSCE Vice President, the Senator, as an urgent matter, also supported consideration of a resolution focused on the lack of transparency in the OSCE during the recent selection of a new Secretary General. Language on this matter was also included in the final declaration.

SELECTING THE OSCE PA LEADERSHIP FOR THE COMING YEAR

In addition to hearing closing comments from Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic and adopting the final declaration, the parliamentarians attending the Annual Session voted for contested seats in the Assembly's leadership. President Efthymiou was unopposed, as was Treasurer Roberto Battelli of Slovenia, and both were re-elected by acclamation. In a race among six candidates for three of the nine Vice President positions, Wolfgang Grossruck of Austria was re-elected, with Walburga Habsburg-Douglas of Sweden and Tonino Picula of Croatia elected for the first time. Senator Cardin has one additional year in his term as Vice President and is not eligible for another re-election.

Committee officers saw more dramatic changes, with only one officer retaining his position as committee chair. Others moved to higher positions within the committees or ran for the three Vice President seats. Unfortunately for the U.S. Delegation, Representative Robert B. Aderholt (R-AL), a Helsinki Commissioner, did not win his second re-election bid as a committee Vice Chair due to his inability to be in Belgrade. He was unsuccessful in fighting off a challenge by a French delegate who entered the race at the last minute.

SIDE EVENTS IN BELGRADE

In addition to the formal proceedings, OSCE PA meetings often offer the possibility for delegations to sponsor side-events on issues needing additional attention. A luncheon focusing on gender issues in the OSCE is held annually, including in Belgrade. Non-governmental organizations may also hold their own events and invite the delegates to participate. In Belgrade, a coalition held a session on continued use of torture in OSCE States, with a focus particularly on the situation in Kyrgyzstan following the ethnic violence in 2009. Delegation-sponsored events in Belgrade included one on human rights abuses in Belarus, one on cases of alleged trafficking in human organs in Kosovo and elsewhere, and one featuring a film on two Jewish sisters in Serbia who escaped the Holocaust during World War II. With Senator Shaheen and U.S. Ambassador to Serbia Mary Burce Warlick in attendance, Senator Cardin participated in the latter event with opening comments on the work of the Vienna-based organization Centropa, which prepared the film. Delegation staff attended most of the other side events as well.

BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH SERBIA AND A SIDE-TRIP TO BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

While the delegation travelled to Belgrade principally to represent the United States at the OSCE PA Annual Session, the Helsinki Commission leadership regularly uses this travel to discuss bilateral issues with the host country and to visit nearby countries of concern. In Serbia, the delegation met with President Boris Tadic, National Assembly Speaker Slavica Djukic-Dejanovic, and chief negotiator for technical talks on Kosovo Boris Stefanovic. Ambassador Warlick briefed the Senators and attended the meetings.

Evident in the bilateral meetings was the progress Serbia was making in its internal political transition and attainment of European integration. Serbian officials made clear they were committed to overcoming the nationalist legacy of the Milosevic era, strengthening Serbia's democratic institutions and encouraging greater respect for the rule of law. While there are clear differences between the United States and Serbia re-

garding Kosovo, the officials asked for an expression of congressional support for agreements being reached in technical talks between Belgrade and Pristina that were of direct benefit to the people and brought an increased sense of regional stability, as well. They also stressed their support for Bosnia-Herzegovina's unity and territorial integrity. The U.S. Delegation welcomed Serbia's approach and encouraged Belgrade to curtail the activity of parallel Serbian institutions in northern Kosovo which are currently the greatest source of instability in the region. The message was amplified throughout the region by a VOA interview conducted with Senator Cardin.

The U.S. Delegation also met with representatives of Serbia's civil society and Romani communities. The Senators expressed support for civil society efforts to promote greater tolerance in society, to monitor the extent to which laws and policies adopted were actually implemented, and to tackle issues—such as corruption—that impede prosperity. They learned that the Romani communities in Serbia, similar to those in other countries, have difficulties in obtaining adequate housing, education for their children and personal documentation necessary to exercise their rights and privileges as citizens. In a meeting with Serbia's Chief Rabbi, which also included the President of the Jewish Federation of Serbia, the discussion focused on religious tolerance in the region, cooperation with the other religious groups in Belgrade, and property restitution legislation pending in the Serbian parliament.

On July 9, Senator Shaheen left the proceedings of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to make a one-day visit to neighboring Bosnia-Herzegovina, where ethnically based political differences continue to hamper government formation and the political and economic reforms necessary for progress on European integration. Visiting two days prior to the 16th anniversary of the genocide at Srebrenica, the Senator met with Kathryn Bomberger of the International Commission on Missing Persons and stood next to Bosniak member of the collective state presidency Bakir Izetbegovic and U.S. Ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina Patrick S. Moon to pay her respects as the procession of 613 victims to be buried during the July 11 Srebrenica memorial service passed by. She expressed U.S. condolences to the families of those mourning in a media interview that received wide and favorable coverage.

Senator Shaheen also met with Social Democratic Party Chairman Zlatko Lagumdžija and several officials at the entity and local levels of government to discuss ways to overcome the country's current political impasse and to find a solution in particular on forming a state-level coalition government. She also met with several women entrepreneurs and leaders of non-governmental organizations to discuss their particular concerns and ability to have a positive impact in an ethnically divided Bosnian society. From the international presence, the Senator met with Head of the OSCE Mission Gary Robbins and the Deputy High Representative Roderick Moore, both from the United States. Senator Shaheen noted the continued commitment of the United States to political stability in Bosnia-Herzegovina and its progress toward increasing integration into European institutions, indicating that that engagement was supported both by the Administration and Congress. In a media interview, she stressed that the political and civil society leaders of

Bosnia-Herzegovina need to work together and across ethnic lines if the country is to accede to the European Union or receive IMF funding.

THE CROATIAN SUMMIT

At the conclusion of the OSCE PA Annual Session and prior to their return to Washington, Senators Cardin and Shaheen joined their colleague, Senator Begich, who was attending the 6th Croatian Summit of regional political leaders and European officials in Dubrovnik, Croatia, as part of the official U.S. Delegation led by Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs William Burns. In his statement to the summit and during meetings with various leaders, particularly with Croatian officials, Senator Begich expressed his appreciation of Croatia's performance as a NATO ally, including its support for NATO operations in Afghanistan, and encouraged Croatia to support neighboring Bosnia's stability and prosperity. He also suggested ways Croatia could enhance its business and investment climate.

CONCLUSION

During the course of three days, the delegation led by Senator Cardin was able to advance U.S. objectives at the multilateral OSCE PA as well as the U.S. bilateral agenda with Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. The curtailed schedule precluded additional travel, including a planned visit to Albania, but the Senators compensated with a level of activity that indicated their commitment as well as that of the U.S. Congress and the United States as a whole, to the countries of the Western Balkans and to European security and cooperation through the OSCE.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly continues to serve not only as a venue for demonstrating the U.S. commitment to Europe, but for advancing new ideas and issues that parliamentarians can press their diplomatic counterparts in the OSCE to incorporate into the organization's work. In the past, Parliamentary Assembly efforts were responsible for the OSCE undertaking action to combat human trafficking and counter anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance that help define the OSCE today. With proper follow-up in capitals and at the OSCE in Vienna, the recommendations adopted in the Belgrade Declaration will hopefully provide the needed impetus to activity that will keep the OSCE effective and relevant.

Meeting in Belgrade gave a greater-than-usual regional dimension to this year's U.S. Delegation to the OSCE PA Annual Session, the immediately preceding Annual Sessions having been held in Oslo, Norway, and Vilnius, Lithuania. Ethnic tensions and suspicions from a decade of wars in the Western Balkans are still strong factors in the bilateral relations of the countries visited by the congressional delegation, and their economic growth has been negatively affected not only by the larger international crisis but by poor economic governance as well. At a time of both promise and uncertainty, the reassurance of continued U.S. engagement was welcomed by government officials, civil society representatives and by the media that extensively covered the delegation's activities.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I would like to briefly address S. 1458, the intelligence authorization bill for fiscal year 2012, which has now been reported by the Select Committee on Intelligence. I know that the chair and vice

chair of the committee, Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator CHAMBLISS, along with their respective staff, have worked hard on this bill, and I support nearly every provision in it. However, I strongly disagree with the decision to include a 3-year extension of the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 in this bill, and it is my intention to object to any request to pass this bill by unanimous consent. Consistent with my own policy and Senate rules, I am announcing my intention to object by placing a notice in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

As most of my colleagues remember, Congress passed the FISA Amendments Act in 2008 in an effort to give the government new authorities to conduct surveillance of foreigners outside the United States. The bill contained an expiration date of December 2012, and the purpose of this expiration date was to force Members of Congress to come back in a few years and examine whether these new authorities had been interpreted and implemented as intended.

I believe that Congress has not yet adequately examined this issue and that there are important questions that need to be answered before the FISA Amendments Act is given a long-term extension.

The central section of the FISA Amendments Act, the part that is now section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act itself, specifically stated that it was intended to address foreigners outside the United States, and it even required the Attorney General to develop procedures designed to make sure that any individuals targeted with this new authority are believed to be outside the United States. So one of the central questions that Congress needs to ask is, Are these procedures working as intended? Are they keeping the communications of law-abiding Americans from being swept up under this authority that was designed to apply to foreigners?

I wanted to know the answer to this question, so Senator UDALL of Colorado and I wrote to the Director of National Intelligence if it was possible to count or estimate the number of people inside the United States whose communications had been reviewed under section 702 of the FISA Amendments Act. The response we got was prompt and candid. The response said "it is not reasonably possible to identify the number of people located in the United States whose communications may have been reviewed under the authority" of the FISA Amendments Act.

I should be clear that I do not plan to accept this response as a final answer. I understand that it may be difficult to come up with an exact count of the number of people in the United States whose communications have been reviewed, but I believe Congress at least needs to obtain an estimate of this number so that people can understand

the actual impact of the FISA Amendments Act on the privacy of law-abiding Americans.

During the markup of the intelligence authorization bill, Senator UDALL of Colorado and I proposed an amendment that would have directed the inspector general of the Department of Justice to review the implementation of the FISA Amendments Act and attempt to estimate how many people inside the United States have had their communications reviewed under this law since it was passed 3 years ago. Our amendment also would have directed the inspector general to examine other important aspects of the FISA Amendments Act, including the problem of recurring compliance violations, and report back to Congress within 1 year.

I regret that the amendment that Senator UDALL of Colorado and I offered was not adopted, but I obviously plan to keep trying to get more information about the effects of this law. I hope that I will find out that no law-abiding Americans, or at least very few, have had their communications reviewed by government agencies as a result of this law, but I believe that I have a responsibility to get concrete facts rather than just hope that this is not the case. And I believe that it would be not be responsible for the Senate to pass a multiyear extension of the FISA Amendments Act until I and others who have concerns have had our questions answered.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to amend this bill, and I am hopeful that they will be willing to modify it to address the concerns I have raised. In the meantime, I should be clear that it is my intention to object to any request to pass the current version of S. 1458 by unanimous consent.

COMBATTING ILLEGAL GUN TRAFFICKING

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I speak today in support of a new Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, ATF, rule requiring federally licensed firearm dealers in four South-west border States to report the sale of multiple semi-automatic assault rifles to the same purchaser. This narrowly tailored reporting requirement, similar to one already in place for multiple handgun sales, will provide ATF with an important tool to combat straw purchases and the illegal trafficking of firearms, including the supply of weapons to drug cartels in Mexico.

Under the rule, federally licensed dealers in California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas must report to ATF the sale of multiple semi-automatic rifles that have a caliber greater than .22 and accept detachable magazines to the same person within 5 consecutive business days. Weapons covered by the rule

include AR-15s and AK-47s, military-style assault rifles favored by Mexican drug gangs. The rule focuses on sales in these four border states because they are the source of 75 percent of the firearms recovered and traced in drug-related crimes in Mexico, according to an analysis of Department of Justice statistics by the organization Mayors Against Illegal Guns. This rule allows ATF to collect information on guns that are frequently trafficked and used in crimes, improving in the Bureau's tracing efforts. Among other things, gun trace information can be used to identify potential trafficking networks and to link a suspect to a firearm in a criminal investigation.

Unfortunately, there are some who want to block ATF's ability to require this information, effectively hindering its efforts to combat gun trafficking and reduce violence along the U.S.-Mexico border. The National Rifle Association and some Members of Congress have claimed that ATF does not have the authority to implement the rule and that the rule would cause an unmanageable burden on law-abiding gun dealers. Both of these claims are false. The Firearm Owners' Protection Act of 1986, Public Law 99-308, 18 U.S.C. §923 (g)(5)(A), explicitly states that each Federal firearm licensee shall, when requested by ATF, submit to the ATF any information required to be kept by that law, like the name and address of a purchaser and a firearm's serial number, or such lesser information as ATF may request. Information on the sale of multiple semi-automatic rifles is part of the record which firearm dealers are required to maintain.

The claim that ATF's new rule will unfairly burden firearm dealers is also unfounded. ATF estimates that completing the form to report multiple rifle sales will take 12 minutes for gun dealers, and substantially less time for those with computerized sales systems. I cannot imagine that the overwhelming majority of Federal firearm licensees who are law-abiding will take offense to 12 minutes of work in the name of combating illegal trafficking and preventing violence.

The mandatory reporting of multiple sales of semi-automatic rifles to the same person is a measured, common sense step to help combat illegal firearm trafficking. The terrible drug cartel-related violence plaguing Mexico and spilling north of the border into the United States continues to be fueled by weapons illegally trafficked from the American Southwest. Again, I support ATF's new rule, and I urge my colleagues in Congress to oppose any legislative efforts to block ATF's ability to carry it out.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL JAMES E. CARTWRIGHT

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to GEN James

E. Cartwright, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who will retire tomorrow after 40 years of distinguished service to his country.

General Cartwright is one of America's most respected four-star generals. His leadership and dedication to the security of this country will be sorely missed and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

On a personal note, I will miss the detailed briefings, insightful discussions, and honest assessments that I have come to expect from General Cartwright.

Simply put, he has had a notable record of achievement throughout his career.

As head of the U.S. Strategic Command, STRATCOM, General Cartwright led the effort to develop new strategies to tackle cyber, nuclear proliferation, space, and missile defense issues.

He transformed Strategic Command from an organization largely dominated by its mission with respect to nuclear weapons and nuclear doctrine to being the true center in the U.S. military for all strategic issues.

Of special note was General Cartwright's interest and action on cybersecurity and the use of cyberspace. He saw this as a major emerging threat and responsibility of the Department, and put STRATCOM on a footing to deal with cyber as a major strategic issue.

He distinguished himself as one of those special leaders who is able to foresee and understand the constantly evolving national security environment rather than getting stuck in the old ways of seeing the world and doing things.

Based on his notable record of service, on June 28, 2007, President Bush nominated General Cartwright to succeed ADM Edmund Giambastiani as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

General Cartwright was confirmed by the full Senate on August 3, 2007 and was sworn in on August 31 as the eighth Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Recognizing his exceptional leadership, General Cartwright was confirmed for a second term on July 31, 2009.

He has, not surprisingly, used his capacity as the second most senior military officer in the Pentagon to make the Armed Forces a more strategic and more nimble military.

As the Vice Chairman, General Cartwright has helped guide the United States through many pivotal moments in our history: notably, the end of the military mission in Iraq, the implementation of a new strategy for the war in Afghanistan, and securing ratification of the New START agreement with Russia which will reduce the number of deployed strategic nuclear warheads by 30 percent.

I spoke with General Cartwright many times over the course of the treaty negotiations, and during the Senate's debate that ultimately led to ratification and signing New START.

He never failed to provide me with his frank and honest assessment and I greatly appreciated his clear and persuasive support for the treaty.

He recognized, as I do, that if we are to convince other nations to forgo acquiring nuclear weapons, it is imperative for the two nations that possess more than 90 percent of these weapons to take meaningful steps to reduce our stockpiles.

General Cartwright knows that lowering the number of nuclear weapons in the world and stopping their spread will enhance our national security, not diminish it. And we will still maintain a robust arsenal for our defense.

As he stated:

I think we have more than enough capacity and capability for any threat that we see today or that might emerge in the foreseeable future.

General Cartwright's commitment to providing his honest and blunt assessments go beyond nuclear forces and extend to all security threats facing our nation, and the best way to prepare and respond to them, even when it was not popular to do so.

In his recent book, "Obama's Wars," Bob Woodward describes General Cartwright as committed to providing the President his candid advice. Woodward quotes General Cartwright as saying "I'm just not in the business of withholding options. I have an oath, and when asked for advice I'm going to provide it."

He certainly has come a long way.

General Cartwright grew up in Rockford, IL, and joined the Marine Corps in 1971.

After numerous operational assignments as both a naval flight officer and naval aviator, the pinnacle of his Marine Corps operational aviation career came as the Commanding General of First Marine Aircraft Wing in Okinawa, Japan, from 2000 to 2002.

After a tour with the Joint Staff, in 2004, General Cartwright became the first Marine Corps general to lead the United States Strategic Command, STRATCOM.

As always, the security and defense of our Nation has been his top priority. That, along with his commitment to the active, guard, and reserve members of the Armed Forces and their families, is probably his greatest attribute and lasting impact.

I wish General Cartwright all the best as he retires from 40 years of service to his country and, on behalf of the people of California and all Americans, I offer him my most sincere and heartfelt thanks and gratitude.

COLD REGIONS RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING LABORATORY

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Research and Development Center's Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, CRREL. For half of a century, the men and women at CRREL have provided outstanding service to our military, our Nation, and our friends and allies around the world by advancing science and engineering and applying these disciplines to complex environments, materials, and processes in all seasons and climates.

CRREL's mission dates back to 1867, when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers first began exploration and development of the newly acquired Alaskan territory. Formally established in 1961 under Army General Order No. 3, CRREL merged the Snow, Ice and Permafrost Research Establishment with the Arctic Construction and Frost Effects Laboratories, and continues to serve as one of seven laboratories under the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers' Engineer Research and Development Center, ERDC.

To complement its dedicated staff, CRREL operates some of the most advanced and unique research facilities in the world. At its headquarters in Hanover, NH, my home State, CRREL operates the 73,000 square foot Ice Engineering Facility, the 27,000 square foot Frost Effects Research Facility, as well as 24 separate low-temperature research cold rooms, capable of reaching temperatures down to -35°C . Other CRREL facilities include the Corps of Engineers' Remote Sensing/Geographic Information Systems Center of Expertise, the Cold Regions Science and Technology Information Analysis Center, as well as a permafrost research tunnel and 133 acre permafrost research center, both located in Alaska.

As part of the ERDC, CRREL's distinguished service record includes being recognized as the Army's top research and development laboratory 5 of the last 8 years and the last 3 consecutive years, a feat unmatched by any other Army laboratory. CRREL's scientists, engineers and staff continue the critical research that ensures that the men and women of our Armed Forces are the most capable and well prepared in the world.

I along with the entire State of New Hampshire would like to congratulate and honor the scientists, engineers and staff of CRREL for their honorable service to the Army, our Nation and our State. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating CRREL's 50 years of success and wishing them well as they work toward another 50 years of innovation and service.

VIOLATIONS DURING THE SRI LANKAN CIVIL WAR

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, this past spring marked the 2-year anniversary of the end of Sri Lanka's civil war. After more than two decades of fighting and estimated losses of far too many innocent people, Sri Lankans now seek to build a peaceful future from their recent violent past. The task will not be easy. Infrastructure must be rebuilt. Good governance must be established. Education, health care, and a thriving economy must be available for millions of citizens. And so, too, must there be accountability and investigation into alleged violations and abuses of international human rights.

From July 1983 until May 2009, Sri Lanka's civil war claimed the lives of innocent civilians including children and women, seniors and students, many of whom may have fallen victim to violations of international human rights and humanitarian laws. The families of these victims deserve to know the truth about their loved ones' deaths. They need to know that those responsible for the atrocities and violations of basic human rights will be held accountable. This is the only way Sri Lanka can come to grips with its past as it moves forward toward its future.

We have seen how accountability can lead to reconciliation for societies emerging from violent civil strife. South Africa and Northern Ireland are just two recent examples.

The Report of the United Nations Secretary-General's Panel of Experts on Accountability in Sri Lanka, released on March 31, 2011, found "credible allegations, which if proven, indicate that a wide range of serious violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law was committed both by the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), some of which would amount to war crimes against humanity."

This report further states that "the conduct of the war represented a grave assault on the entire regime of international law designed to protect individual dignity during both war and peace."

Under international law, parties responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian or human rights law must be held accountable.

In order to ensure that the Sri Lankan people receive the truth, an independent international inquiry must be established to investigate the credible reports of human rights abuses and humanitarian law violations by the LTTE and the Government of Sri Lanka.

This position is shared by Amnesty International, and other international human rights organizations; the European Union; and the panel of experts who authored the U.N.'s Report on Accountability in Sri Lanka.

Ignoring and denying abuse and accountability delays the progress of nation building and the creation of the stable, multiethnic democracy it seeks.

A truly independent international investigation with credible accountability will give Sri Lanka the ability to reconcile its past and build a peaceful future. The people of Sri Lanka deserve to know the truth.

TRIBUTE TO HARRIET HAGEMAN

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, it is fitting that Harriet Hageman will be inducted into the 2011 Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame. Harriet is known across Wyoming and across our Nation as a stalwart promoter and defender of agriculture. With this honor, she is following in the footsteps of her father Jim Hageman, who was previously inducted in the Agriculture Hall of fame in 2002.

Harriet comes from a long history of agricultural producers. Her great grandfather homesteaded in Wyoming in 1879 and her parents bought their first ranch near Fort Laramie in 1961. Harriet grew up on the family's cattle ranches in the Fort Laramie area. Rather than pursuing a career in agriculture, she earned a law degree from the University of Wyoming. Yet she did not stray from the agriculture industry. Much of her legal practice has been focused on protecting agriculture's land, water, and natural resources. She uses her Ag background coupled with her fine mind to effectively argue on behalf of Wyoming's ranchers and farmers in courtrooms at all levels of the judiciary.

A few of her many accomplishments should be noted. Harriet was the lead attorney for the State of Wyoming in protecting its share of the North Platte River. She fought the USDA to protect Wyoming's access to national forest lands. She successfully defended Wyoming's Open Range Law before the Wyoming Supreme Court. Her clients include ranchers, farmers, irrigation districts and grazing permittees. Harriet represents them with a passion that can only come from love of agriculture.

I have had the honor of working with Harriet Hageman and have benefitted from her wisdom. I would ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Harriet on this well-deserved honor.

TRIBUTE TO NIELS HANSEN

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, at Wyoming's State Fair, I will have the honor of inducting Niels Hansen into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Forty-eight percent of Wyoming's 97,100 square miles are managed by the Federal Government. Often, a Wyoming ranch will consist of a checkerboard of public and private lands. Running a profitable ranch, while negoti-

ating various Federal and State regulations, is a challenge. However, Niels Hansen has done just that operating the PH Livestock Company. Niels is known as the public lands ranching leader of Wyoming. He has dedicated himself to building relationships with Federal land managers. He creates partnerships and opens lines of communication with fellow ranchers and government agencies. According to my friend, Wyoming Stock Growers Association vice president Jim Magana, Niels is highly recognized for his relentless efforts to maintain sustainable public land ranching.

Niels' efforts not only benefit his four-generation Wyoming ranch, he is also an asset to agriculturalists across Wyoming. He has worked closely with the Bureau of Land Management's, BLM, field office range staff and has been a State leader on agreements in conjunction with the BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and the Wyoming State Grazing Board. Realizing that energy is the backbone of Wyoming's economy, Neils has brought oil and gas developers to the table.

Anna Helm, Niels' sister and ranch partner, said, "Many ranchers have come to depend upon his insightful wisdom, understanding of the issues and willing leadership to help them through difficult times of their own."

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Niels Hansen, the 2011 inductee into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame. Wyoming lands—both public and private—are better because of his service.

NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Centennial of Niobrara County, WY.

The residents of Niobrara County are fortunate to live in such a timeless and scenic place. Nearly 2,500 residents live in the communities of Lusk, Manville, Lance Creek, and Van Tassel. Its many natural wonders that fill the landscape make Niobrara one of the top places to visit in the State. Part of the county includes land set aside and known as the Thunder Basin National Grasslands. This area provides a valuable habitat for Wyoming's wildlife and numerous recreation opportunities for its residents. Two rivers, the Cheyenne and the Niobrara, run through the county and can be credited for creating rich, fertile soil in the area.

Although Niobrara County is one of the smallest counties in the State, it certainly has one of the most fascinating histories. The county boasts a wide array of prehistoric dinosaur fossils at its premier Spanish Diggings site. Several rare artifacts have been found and are displayed in national exhibits. The region also saw heavy traffic from Native Americans who used

the grasslands as prime hunting and camping areas. Members of the Lakota Sioux, the Cheyenne, and the Kiowa tribes settled in the area many years ago.

With the great westward expansion came the greater urbanization of the West. Niobrara County was not immune from such development—instead, it embraced the changes. The grassland area of the county became a popular area for fur traders, homesteaders, and other emigrants caught in the throes of gold rush excitement. One popular stage stop, Running Water, was located along the banks of the Niobrara River and was used by several travelers as a spot to rest and refuel. The Cheyenne-Deadwood Stage Route, which traveled the length of the county, provided important transport of freight, gold, and passengers. This important route and the additional stage lines which passed through were essential to the development of the county.

Today, the residents of Niobrara County have capitalized on that industrious spirit. Thanks to the temperate climate and the fertile soil in the Powder River Basin, Niobrara County's primary industry is agriculture. The county's farmers consistently produce profitable crops like grain, wheat, and beans, and its ranchers work diligently in livestock production. The county's vast mineral resources played a key role in the county's robust economy. Several minerals and precious metals have been discovered and mined in the grasslands of Niobrara County. Both gold and silver were discovered and mined in the early days of settlement. Later, uranium was discovered near Lusk, a discovery which sparked a statewide boom in uranium drilling. Finally, the discovery of oil in Lance Creek was perhaps the most profitable of all mineral extraction. During World War II, Lance Creek was one of the country's important oil rigs, producing vast amounts of oil needed for the American war effort.

It is an honor to help the residents of Niobrara County celebrate their 100th anniversary. I invite my colleagues to visit this enterprising community in person. The residents of Niobrara County should be proud to present this heritage to visitors from all over the world.

UCON, IDAHO

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate and acknowledge the centennial anniversary of the founding of the city of Ucon, ID. On August 13, 2011, the citizens of Ucon will gather at Simmons Park to commemorate its 100th year and unveil a monument to its founders. This is a very historic and special day for this community.

Once a barren wilderness, the city of Ucon is an example of the Western spir-

it and determination in making the desert bloom. First colonized in 1884 by George Simmons, early settlers were confronted with challenging terrain. Despite the harsh conditions, the settlement quickly grew. Within 13 years, a church, school, amusement hall, and several dozen homes were built. In 1898, the power of steam and iron transformed the town with the introduction of the Oregon Short Line Railroad. In order to take greater advantage of commercial opportunities provided by the railroad, the main town site was moved a mile west. Within a decade several businesses sprang up around the railroad tracks and the community began to take shape. On April 16, 1911, it was officially incorporated as the city of Ucon.

In the ensuing decades, changes in the railroad and the effects of the Great Depression transitioned Ucon from a commercial hub to a residential community. Today, many in southeastern Idaho can trace their roots to the pioneers and patriots who settled Ucon. Congratulations to the people of Ucon for 100 years of success.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JUSTICE DOUGLAS GRAY

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I honor the memory of the late Douglas Gray, a former New Hampshire Superior Court justice and an extraordinary public servant who dedicated his life to serving the Granite State.

Originally from Portsmouth, Justice Gray moved at the age of seven to Rye, where he resided for the remainder of his life. He graduated from Portsmouth High School and served his country in the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1954. After graduating from the University of New Hampshire in 1959, he earned his juris doctor from Boston College Law School, and went on to pursue a successful career practicing law in Portsmouth. During 1973–1983, he served as part-time special justice in the New Hampshire District Court system.

In 1983, he was appointed by Governor John H. Sununu to serve as associate justice of the New Hampshire Superior Court, where he presided until 1998. He was then elected to serve as a senior justice and presided on a part-time basis until his retirement in 2003.

As a judge, Justice Gray possessed exceptional intelligence and a deep respect for upholding the rule of law. And as a prosecutor, I had the privilege of trying cases before him. In fact, I tried my first murder case before Justice Gray. He was tough, but always fair, and I know that I and many of my peers in the New Hampshire bar learned a great deal from him. I deeply admired his integrity and his principled dedication to the law.

With Justice Gray's passing, New Hampshire has lost a devoted public servant and Rye has lost a beloved member of the community. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Cornelia and his entire family. At this sad time, we celebrate his life—grateful to have known a person who exemplified the very best of New Hampshire's tradition of public service.●

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH CONKLIN LANIER, II

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, today, August 2, 2011, I wish to thank Joseph Conklin LaNier, II for his service to the United States of America as a member of the U.S. Navy during World War II, and for choosing to make Colorado his home. His has been a life of service for Colorado and for all Americans.

A native Southerner, Mr. LaNier was among the first African Americans to serve in the Navy with the rating of seaman, before President Truman signed the Executive order that desegregated the Armed Forces. He fought with the 23rd Special CB, "Seabee", unit, a part of the 3rd Marine Division, in some of the most horrific battles of the South Pacific.

I had the honor of meeting Mr. LaNier this past week during his visit to Washington, DC, with The Greatest Generations Foundation, a Colorado nonprofit organization that organizes trips for WWII veterans to return to locations where they have served.

We can all learn from Mr. LaNier. He entered the Armed Forces at the age of 17 in order to help support his family and serve his country. He served bravely from 1944 to 1946, supporting operations in Iwo Jima and Okinawa, and achieved a rank not commonly held by African Americans at the time.

Upon returning home from the war and finding strict laws and practices of segregation still in place throughout the South, Mr. LaNier followed the advice of his father regarding the importance of education as the primary tool for bettering one's future, and finished high school. With the aid of the G.I. bill, he enrolled in the Pharmacy School at Xavier University in New Orleans and took heavy course loads to make sure he completed his degree in 4 years. Despite the challenges of segregation, he studied and succeeded in his career, while keeping a constructive attitude, a trait he attributes to the teachings of his father.

Mr. LaNier is a role model for the many servicemembers who reside in Colorado and the veterans who elect to make Colorado their home after serving in the Armed Forces. His story exemplifies the successful transition that many returning veterans have made from active duty to civilian life.

Although he is a native of the South, and has traveled to a number of locations in the United States, it struck

me as interesting that, out of all the places he traveled while in the Navy, Mr. LaNier chose to make Denver, CO, his home. In his autobiographical essay, "My War on Two Fronts," LaNier recalls that during a period of leave, he had a stopover in Denver, where in a relatively brief period of time, the State showed him its character. A White female clerk at a drugstore seemed to sense his hesitation about sitting down, and invited him to take a seat and enjoy his ice cream. Later, when visiting a local movie theatre, he was surprised and delighted to find that there was no sign directing him to sit in segregated seating in the balcony. Mr. LaNier felt so welcomed by our State that he decided to make Colorado his home after the Navy. Following his graduation from pharmacy school, he moved to Denver and worked in pharmacies and in hospitals, and eventually opened up his own drugstore. Mr. LaNier found that, in Colorado, his voice could be heard on critical issues of the day, including the fight for fair housing measures to end discrimination in housing. Today, Mr. LaNier and his wife of more than 50 years, Eula Inez Long, continue to make Colorado their home.

Mr. President and all other Members here today, please join me in honoring the life and continued work of Joseph Conklin LaNier, II. A man who, despite all the discrimination he faced, is proud to be an American. A man who, despite returning home after the war and being denied his right to vote while wearing his uniform, is proud of his distinguished service in the Navy. A man who recognizes that even in the face of adversity, one can find a way forward and help our country to become a better place, a more perfect union. For his perseverance, hope, service and patriotism, I thank and commend Joseph LaNier, a great citizen of Colorado.●

TRIBUTE TO PAUL SANDOVAL

● Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, on behalf of all Coloradans, I want to recognize the extraordinary character and lifetime achievements of Colorado native Paul Sandoval. His far-reaching accomplishments—from civil rights to community organizing to business and to his passion, education—show an unwavering commitment to making Colorado a better place, and reflect, in noblest form, the enterprising spirit of the West.

I am sad to tell my colleagues that Paul has contracted locally advanced pancreatic cancer, and the Sandoval family is going through a difficult time now. And as he struggles to beat this terrible disease—and we need him to prevail—I cannot help but be reminded of all he has achieved in life, and all the social change he has helped bring about. To honor Paul and his many

contributions, I would like to share a few moments from his life.

Paul and his wife Paula have for decades run a tamale shop in Denver—La Casita—that has served as the city's unofficial epicenter of political activity. According to Wellington Webb, the former Denver mayor whom Sandoval first met while the two worked delivering groceries, Paul could always be found "holding court" at his restaurant with firemen and city officials.

"I'm just a lowly tamale maker," Sandoval has grown accustomed to saying. But his life suggests there is nothing ordinary about this accomplished man. A fixture in his community, Paul would make a name for himself by lifting up those around him. He cultivated enduring relationships in his community that propelled several generations of Colorado public servants. In short, Paul Sandoval has woven himself inextricably into Colorado's political fabric, and all Coloradans are the better for it.

Born in 1944 as 1 of 11 children to Jerry and Camilla Sandoval, Paul came from modest beginnings. Before he could even read newspaper headlines, Paul was selling copies of the Denver Post to help pay for his schooling at Annunciation Grade School in northeast Denver. From an early age, Paul thrived on the energy of those around him. By the time the young Sandoval finished middle school, he had helped his father win the presidency of the local meatpackers union and regularly canvassed for local candidates for office.

Paul graduated from high school in 1962, earning a scholarship to Louisiana State University. His education put him in close proximity to a fierce civil rights debate unfolding in neighboring Mississippi, where James Meredith sought to become the first African American to enroll at Ole Miss. Paul took up the cause and organized his fellow students for a bus trip. He participated firsthand in the demonstrations, receiving blows from the Oxford, MS, riot police.

Upon returning to Denver, Paul applied all he learned about the importance of equal opportunity in education to Colorado public life as well. He cofounded the Chicano Education Project, which focused on implementing bilingual curricula in schools and promoting civic engagement. During one trip to the San Luis Valley in southern Colorado, Paul met a young attorney named Ken Salazar who shared his passion for education. The two would become close allies for life.

Paul assumed his first official public role in 1974 when he successfully ran for a Colorado State Senate seat. He won the seat again in 1978. While serving in office, Paul became a leader in the educational community by personally sponsoring several Chicano doctoral students finishing their degrees.

Rather than seeking a third term in the Senate, Paul pursued and won an at-large seat on the Denver school board in 1983, in which he would serve in a distinguished manner for 5 years.

After nearly 15 years serving in public office, Paul joined his wife and began serving Coloradans in a different equally satisfying way—at their tamale shop. And you can talk to anyone who has eaten there—you haven't lived until you've tried one of Paul and Paula's tamales with green chile. While I am in Washington during the week, one of the many reasons I look forward to getting back home to Denver is so that I can enjoy a meal courtesy of Paul.

A jack-of-all-trades if not master-of-all-trades, Paul has also remained a fixture in Colorado public life as a successful small business owner. He has provided invaluable advice to aspiring public servants. I cannot tell you how often I encounter people in my state who tell me how they have benefited from Paul's counsel and contagious enthusiasm. I can tell you that he helped me find my way as superintendent of Denver Public Schools. I have been truly privileged to know him, and I know I rank among many who are rooting for Paul and who stand by in support of his family.

Colorado is profoundly grateful for Paul Sandoval's public service. His efforts to advance the prospects of young Latino students and students of all backgrounds represent an enormous step forward in creating the next generation of selfless Coloradans who have been affected by Paul's unconquerable spirit. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Paul, his wife Paula, Kendra, Chris, Andrea and Amanda, his children, and his entire family.●

REMEMBERING GEORGE RAMOS

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to remember George Ramos, a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist with the Los Angeles Times who served his beloved hometown for decades and inspired countless others to follow in his extraordinary footsteps.

Born in 1947, George Ramos was a native of East Los Angeles. At a time when only a small number of Latino students enrolled in college, Ramos graduated in 1969 from California Polytechnic University in San Luis Obispo with a bachelor's degree in journalism.

Shortly after completing his studies, Ramos enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in West Germany and South Vietnam before returning to journalism. He worked for several newspapers before arriving at the Los Angeles Times, where he served for more than 25 years.

As an editor and reporter for the Los Angeles Times, Ramos joined with 17 Latino journalists to write the Pulitzer

Prize winning "Latino Project" and also contributed to the Los Angeles Times' Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of the 1992 Los Angeles riots and the 1994 Northridge earthquake. In addition to his award winning work in print media, Ramos also briefly co-hosted the Emmy Award-winning show "Life & Times" and served as a part-time faculty member at the University of Southern California. When he left the Los Angeles Times in 2003, he returned to California Polytechnic University in San Luis Obispo as a member of the journalism faculty.

Ramos lived in the Los Angeles area for most of his life and enjoyed the diversity of its vibrant neighborhoods. He maintained close ties to his childhood community of East Los Angeles and frequently visited local schools to speak about journalism and the importance of higher education. Ramos served as a mentor to many aspiring journalists and also as two-term president of California Chicano New Media Association—a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting diversity in the field of journalism.

I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring the memory of George Ramos for his long and distinguished service to our country.●

TRIBUTE TO SISTER MARY NORBERTA MALINOWSKI

● Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, in 1855 in Warsaw, Poland, Blessed Angela founded the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Felix, an order dedicated to serving the poor, the sick, and the disabled. Today, thousands of Felician Sisters carry on a tradition of compassionate service around the world.

Today I wish to pay tribute to one of their number, a remarkable woman in Bangor, ME, the city where I live. Her name is Sister Mary Norberta Malinowski, but she is known and loved throughout Maine simply as Sister Norberta. She has dedicated her life to serving God by serving those in need.

Sister Norberta became a registered nurse in 1956 and began her career as one of the first pediatric nurse practitioners at Massachusetts General Hospital. After earning advanced degrees in public health and management, she received faculty appointments at Harvard Medical School and the Boston College Graduate School of Nursing.

In 1982, Sister Norberta became president and chief executive officer of St. Joseph Hospital in Bangor. As she prepares to step down after 29 years of service, her accomplishments are being celebrated by the Maine Legislature, the city of Bangor, the Honor Society of Nursing, the Maine chapter of Business and Professional Women, and many others.

There is much to celebrate. Under Sister Norberta's courageous and vi-

sionary leadership, St. Joseph has been transformed into the largest community hospital in Maine. She was instrumental in bringing many firsts to the region and to the State, from digital mammography and laparoscopic surgery to allowing fathers in the delivery room.

The Felician Sisters were founded with a particular focus on serving the Polish countryside. Sister Norberta continues that tradition by leading the effort to ensure primary care services for rural Maine and to organize small community hospitals under the Maine Health Alliance to create a statewide network of care.

Sister Norberta's contributions as a health care executive are only part of her inspiring story. She has given thousands of hours of her personal time to charity and has applied St. Joseph's facilities to such needs as providing laundry and food services to the area's homeless shelters. Countless other quiet acts of kindness testify to her caring heart and deep humility.

The 16th century Capuchin friar canonized as St. Felix was known in his time as "the saint of the streets of Rome" for his daily journeys through the city dispensing food, medicine, and comfort to the poor, the sick, and the troubled. Sister Norberta has lived that legacy through the streets of Bangor and the country roads of Maine, and I join in thanking her for her blessed service.●

REMEMBERING DR. GERARD J. MANGONE

● Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I wish to honor Dr. Gerard J. Mangone's life of service to this country and my home State of Delaware. Dr. Mangone passed away on Wednesday, July 27 at his home in Newark, DE. He was 92.

Born in the Bronx in 1918, Dr. Mangone's career as an international legal scholar spanned close to six decades, including almost 40 years as professor of marine policy at the University of Delaware. Dr. Mangone received his bachelor's degree from the College of the City of New York in 1938. Following 4 years of active military service, he earned his master's degree and doctoral degree in international law from Harvard University in 1947 and 1949 respectively. His dissertation won the Charles Sumner Award for the most distinguished contribution to international peace.

Before joining the University of Delaware, Dr. Mangone held faculty and administrative positions at institutions including Wesleyan University, Swarthmore College, and Syracuse University, where he served as associate and acting dean of the Maxwell Graduate School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, as well as Temple University, where he served as dean for the College of Liberal Arts, vice president for academic affairs, and provost.

Dr. Mangone was appointed soon thereafter as executive director of the President's Commission on the United Nations during the creation of its Convention on the Law of the Sea and was the first senior fellow at the new Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars. Dr. Mangone also served as a consultant to the White House, U.S. Department of State, the United Nations, Japan, the Ford Foundation, and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Dr. Mangone joined the University of Delaware in 1972 as professor of marine studies and political science. In 1973, he created the Center for the Study of Marine Policy—the first research center at an American university to study the legal, political, and economic issues facing the ocean, seabed, and coastal zone—and served as its director for the next 16 years. In 2003, the center was renamed in his honor as the Gerard J. Mangone Center for Marine Policy.

Dr. Mangone initiated the International Straits of the World book series in 1978 with a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. For this series, he contracted with authors from around the globe to provide detailed information on some of the world's most critical navigation passages, much of which is still used today.

Dr. Mangone earned numerous accolades throughout his career. He was a visiting professor at Yale University, Mt. Holyoke College, Trinity College, Princeton University, and Johns Hopkins University as well as a visiting lecturer at the University of Bologna, Peking University, the University of Natal, Capetown University, and the University of Western Australia. At Calcutta University in India, he was honored as the Tagore Law Professor, and at the University of Delaware, he received the most distinguished faculty award as Francis Alison Professor. In 2010, UD awarded Dr. Mangone an honorary doctor of science degree.

The Young Scholars Award, which recognizes promising and accomplished faculty at the University of Delaware, was named in his honor. In celebration of his 90th birthday in 2008, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers established the Gerard J. Mangone Prize to be awarded annually to the author of the best contribution published in the International Journal of Marine and Coastal Law, of which Dr. Mangone was editor-in-chief.

With his remarkable energy and constant dedication to academic excellence, Dr. Mangone was an exemplary mentor, having advised 45 University of Delaware students in achieving graduate degrees. He wrote more than 20 books and edited 25 others, and he authored scores of scholarly papers.

Dr. Mangone's vision, passion, and dedication forever changed the way we view and manage our ocean resources.

His contributions to marine and coastal policy will continue to have a lasting effect on our country and our world for generations. Dr. Mangone made a significant impact in his field and his legacy will live on in his students, his ideas, and his influence on our laws and international agreements.

I hope my colleagues will join me in remembering Dr. Gerard J. Mangone.●

WHITE RIVER, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I recognize the community of White River, SD, on reaching the 100th anniversary of its founding. White River serves as the county seat for Mellette County and is the oldest town in the county. White River will be celebrating its centennial during the month of August 2011.

White River was named by members of the Western Townsite Company of Dallas, SD, and COL C.P. Jordan. White River was referred to as the place "where prairie skies meet western life." Since 1912, White River has been home to the annual Frontier Days festival. Which includes a rodeo, South Dakota's State sport, every year during the celebration.

White River will celebrate its 100th anniversary during the 2011 Frontier Days and plans to hold a White River High School reunion during the celebration along with the annual Frontier Days powwow.

White River is a close-knit community that has small town values. After 100 years, White River still maintains the spirit of independence of which South Dakotans are fiercely proud. I am honored to publicly recognize White River on this memorable occasion, and congratulate the people of White River on their achievements.●

WOOD, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the 100th anniversary of the founding of Wood, SD. This community in Mellette County in western South Dakota, has a rich and proud history of representing our State's frontier spirit.

Wood, named for its founder, Albert Kirk Wood, was organized in 1911 a few miles north of Albert's trading post. In just 2 years it was home to a newspaper, a bank, and daily mail service. Thousands of people came to Wood for its renowned Fourth of July celebrations, as well as the Mellette County Fair. Like many towns in South Dakota, the railroad served as a major lifeline to the town of Wood. This first train from the Chicago Northwestern Railroad rolled into Wood from Winner on October 19, 1929. Wood claims many exceptional residents including James Abourezk, the first Arab American to serve South Dakota in the U.S. Senate.

Today, Wood stands as a testament to the steadfast commitment of the

residents to their small town. Wood still maintains close ties to the rich agricultural heritage of South Dakota. Small communities like Wood are a vital part of the economy of South Dakota and a reminder of the hard struggles endured by our frontier-era forefathers. One hundred years after its founding, Wood remains a strong community and a great asset to the State of South Dakota. I am proud to honor Wood on this historic milestone.●

TRIBUTE TO GEOFFREY B. SHIELDS

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I honor the dean and president of Vermont Law School, Geoffrey B. Shields, as he announces his retirement after four decades as a practicing attorney, educator, and scholar. He will leave a legacy about which he should be very proud.

Dean Shields arrived at Vermont Law School in 2004, following a distinguished career in the public and private sectors. He received a bachelor of arts in economics, magna cum laude, from Harvard University in 1967. He earned his juris doctor from Yale Law School in 1972.

Over the last 8 years, Dean Shields has guided Vermont Law School along a path of steady growth. Through his leadership the school has gained many new and talented faculty members, and has seen substantial growth in its endowment. He has initiated capital improvement projects on the school's campus, expanded the school's international partnerships, and has developed new clinics and institutes to focus on distinct fields of legal study. And he has sustained and built upon Vermont Law School's environmental law program, which has been rated the best program in the Nation for the last three consecutive years, and in the top two for the last 21 years. These continuing successes are reflective of Dean Shields' strong leadership and the dedication of the faculty, staff, and students who sustain a vital community of learning and innovation in the hills of central Vermont.

During his career in public service, Dean Shields served as assistant to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and as counsel to Senator Frank Church. After he earned his law degree, he served as a law clerk for the late Judge James Oakes of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, for whom a class room building at Vermont Law School is named.

In the private sector, he served as a partner at the Chicago and Washington, DC, law firm of Gardner Carton and Douglas, where he was nationally recognized for his expertise in non-profit law, corporate law, health care law and international trade law.

Dean Shields has also made important contributions to education and scholarship beyond Vermont Law School. In Brattleboro, VT, he served as a foreign student advisor and assistant to the president at the Experiment in International Living and as an adjunct professor of economics at Marlboro College in Marlboro, VT. Dean Shields has also been involved in foreign policy issues through editing and writing, and as a member of the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations and the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Dean Shields recently overcame serious illness with grace, humility, and determination. As he moves into the next chapter of his life, Marcelle and I wish him and his wife Genie the best for continued health and happiness.

I thank Dean Shields for his 8 years of dedication to Vermont Law School, and I convey my admiration and respect for the contributions he has made to Vermont. He will leave Vermont's young law school and its faculty, staff and students in a strong position for continued growth and success. I am sure he will be greatly missed by all of those who have worked with him and learned from him. I wish him all the best.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN CROSIER

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor John Crosier for his outstanding service to the State of New Hampshire's residents and business community.

John retired as president of our State's largest business organization, the Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire, in 2004 after 16 years. He has served the residents of my State as a trustee of the University System of New Hampshire, a position which I am proud to have first appointed him to, as a member of the board of governors for the New Hampshire Forum on Higher Education, as a member of the executive committee of the Whittemore School of Business and Economics, and as a member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Committee representing State chambers of commerce. Before he came to New Hampshire, he worked in Massachusetts as the head of the Massachusetts Business Roundtable and as Commissioner of Employment Security for our neighboring State. He was appointed by a Republican Governor and reappointed by a Democratic Governor.

John has been a board leader at numerous nonprofits in my State, lending his energy, intellect and voice to some of New Hampshire's most influential and important organizations: the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, Junior Achievement, Leadership New Hampshire and the American Cancer Society.

Throughout his years as the head of the Business and Industry Association, and through his nonprofit board leadership, John's guiding principle has been what's best for New Hampshire.

When I was Governor of New Hampshire, John Crosier was one of my most trusted advisors. A gentleman always, his courage of conviction and pragmatic optimism for our State's future always trumped ideology. He has been, and continues to be, a role model for civility in public discourse.

John's commitment to New Hampshire was evident in his visionary work on the State's most extensive research project, which resulted in a statewide economic strategy in 1996—An Agenda for Continued Economic Opportunity in New Hampshire. That plan set forth by John has been credited with my State's recent strong economic recovery in relation to neighboring States. Pieces of it are still being used today as a framework for New Hampshire, and it served as the foundation for a similar report by my administration during my second term as Governor. His belief that the health of the business sector is closely tied to issues of education, environment, and the nonprofit sector has contributed to the leadership of our State and will continue to guide our State in the future.

I thank John Crosier for his service to New Hampshire as he prepares for his well-deserved retirement. I am grateful for his friendship, leadership and advice throughout the years.●

RECOGNIZING FALCON PERFORMANCE FOOTWEAR

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, in cities and towns all across America, there are businesses that are synonymous with the communities they serve. Maine has historically been home to a number of these companies, from local paper mills to Bath Iron Works. In the Lewiston-Auburn region, Falcon Performance Footwear has been part of the fabric since 1963, producing high-quality shoes and boots for generations of Mainers and Americans. On Tuesday, August 23, Falcon Performance Footwear will be recognized by the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership, or MEP, with its 2011 Manufacturing Excellence Award. I commend Falcon for its fine work and congratulate the company on its recognition.

Falcon Shoe Manufacturing Company got its start in 1963, when Ted Johanson opened the factory's doors at the Roy Continental Mill in Lewiston. Originally, Falcon produced children's shoes, but over time focused its efforts on manufacturing boots for a number of uses. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, Falcon began implementing a number of forward-thinking and innovative processes, including the first in the shoe industry to utilize computerized stitching equipment, as well as the

first direct-attach polyurethane outer sole for shoes in the country. The company was also the first to make Timberland boots. To provide the company with the ability to expand, Falcon moved from its longtime home in Lewiston to a larger location in the neighboring city of Auburn earlier this year.

Today, Falcon's sole focus is on making reliable, sturdy, comfortable boots, particularly for consumers in labor-intensive jobs. The company produces a number of cutting-edge industrial boots, and in 2006 began working with Globe Firefighter Suits, a New Hampshire small business, to create a state-of-the-art boot for firefighters designed with an athletic shoe platform rather than a more rigid welted sole to provide added flexibility. Falcon added mining boots to its repertoire in 2009, which feature a type of leather that resists many of the salts and minerals frequently encountered by miners.

Over the past decade, Falcon has worked with the Maine MEP to improve its efficiency and productivity, allowing the company to better compete in the global economy. As a result of this collaboration, Falcon has increased its productivity by 60 percent, retained over 50 jobs, increased its sales, and trained all of its employees in a number of advanced manufacturing techniques. I have long been a supporter of, and advocate for, the MEP program, and recognize the immense value of its services to small- and medium-sized manufacturers across the country. Indeed, as a result of their partnership with the Maine MEP over the past 5 years, clients have reported increased and retained sales over \$368 million, \$40.1 million in cost savings, and the creation or retention of over 2,500 jobs—or nearly 5 percent of Maine's manufacturing workforce. I commend Falcon for working with the Maine MEP to become a leaner, more efficient company that is poised for future success, and I am pleased to honor the company and its employees as it receives the Maine MEP's 2011 Manufacturing Excellence Award.

Maine was once home to dozens of shoemakers and tanneries, which provided thousands of jobs and enormous benefits to the State's economy. But over time, foreign competition and rising costs have devastated the shoe industry across America. That is what makes Falcon Performance Footwear's story all the more remarkable. I thank everyone at Falcon for their hard work and endurance, and wish them continued success as they remain an icon in the Lewiston-Auburn communities.●

REMEMBERING LARRY GERLACH

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Larry Gerlach. Larry Gerlach was born October 6, 1946, in Britton, SD. In 1967, he married Susan

O'Connor, and they made their home in Aberdeen. Larry quickly made himself known throughout the community for his love of the area and his resolve to see it grow and prosper.

Larry became a member of the Brown County Fair Board in the 1980s and served on the board for 6 years. He became the president in 1989, and in January 1992, Larry was named the Brown County Fair manager. His ambition and driven attitude helped develop the Brown County Fair into one of the largest fairs in the region. He was able to book some of the biggest names in country music to perform at the grandstand that is being named in his honor. His friends, family, and coworkers all remember him as having an upbeat and positive attitude, and he was regarded by all as a joy to be around.

Larry received many prestigious awards in his life, among them was the 1996 People's Choice ABBY Award from the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce. In addition, he served as the president of the South Dakota Association of Fairs from 1997–2001, and in 2003, Larry was inducted into the South Dakota Fairman's Hall of Fame.

Unfortunately, Larry passed away in February of 2011. Although we are saddened by this loss, Larry's memory will live on through his loved ones and those who were fortunate to work closely with him. Larry's sense of determination, ambition, and positive attitude helped make the Brown County Fair the tremendous success it is today, as well as made him a greatly respected man within the Brown County community and the entire state. He will be greatly missed by all.●

TRIBUTE TO BO BRUINSMA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Bo Bruinsma, an intern in my Sioux Falls, SD, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Bo is a graduate of Elk Point-Jefferson High School in South Dakota. Currently he is attending the University of South Dakota, where he is majoring in political science and mass communications with a Spanish minor. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Bo for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

TRANSMITTING CERTIFICATION
THAT THE DEBT SUBJECT TO
LIMIT IS WITHIN \$100,000,000,000
OF THE LIMIT IN 31 U.S.C. 3101(b)
AND THAT FURTHER BOR-
ROWING IS REQUIRED TO MEET
EXISTING COMMITMENTS—PM 17

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 3101A(a)(1)(A) of title 31, United States Code, I hereby certify that the debt subject to limit is within \$100,000,000,000 of the limit in 31 U.S.C. 3101(b) and that further borrowing is required to meet existing commitments.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, August 2, 2011.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:38 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2480. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Administrative Conference of the United States for fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2014, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6913, and the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Chairman.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 1:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 365. An act to provide for budget control.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2480. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Administrative Conference of the United States for fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2014, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, August 2, 2011, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 365. An act to provide for budget control.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER
COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2803. A communication from the Regulatory Analyst, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Export Inspection and Weighing Waiver for High Quality Specialty Grain Transported in Containers" (RIN0580-AB18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2804. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act that occurred within the within the Operations and Maintenance Army account and was assigned Army case number 10-06; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-2805. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Launch Safety: Lightning Criteria for Expendable Launch Vehicles" ((RIN2120-AJ84) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0181)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 29, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2806. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulated Navigation Area; Chelsea Street Bridge Construction, Chelsea, MA" ((RIN1625-AA11) (Docket No. USCG-2011-0536)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2807. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Harlem River, New York City, NY" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2011-0509)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2808. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Zones; Sector Southeastern New England Captain of the Port Zone" ((RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2010-0803)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate

on August 1, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2809. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Zone; 2011 Seattle Seafair Fleet Week Moving Vessels, Puget Sound, Washington" ((RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2011-0505)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2810. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations for Marine Events, Bogue Sound; Morehead City, NC" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2011-0306)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2811. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations and Safety Zones; Marine Events in Captain of the Port Long Island Sound Zone" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2011-0550)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2812. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations; Port Huron to Mackinac Island Sail Race" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2011-0648)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2813. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Detroit APBA Gold Cup, Detroit River, Detroit, MI" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2011-0614)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2814. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations for Marine Events; Lake Gaston, Enterprise, NC" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2011-0277)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2815. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Extreme Sailing Series Boston; Boston Harbor, Boston, MA" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2011-0103)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2816. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Kathleen Whelan Wedding Fireworks, Lake St. Clair, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2011-0573)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2011; to

the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2817. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones; Swimming Events in Captain of the Port Boston Zone" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2011-0533)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2818. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; BGSU Football Gridiron Classic Golf and Dinner Fireworks, Catawba Island Club, Port Clinton, OH" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2011-0372)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2819. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones; Annual Events Requiring Safety Zones in the Captain of the Port Lake Michigan Zone" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2011-0264)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2820. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Central Astoria Independence Celebration Fireworks Event, Wards Island, NY" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2011-0475)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2821. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Policy Statement of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission on the Protection of Cesium-137 Chloride Sources" (NRC-2010-0209) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2822. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a legislative proposal to amend section 148 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, relative to unclassified Controlled Nuclear Information; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2823. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report for calendar year 2010 relative to statistics mandated by the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2824. A communication from the Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program—Changes to Subsistence Allowance" (RIN2900-AO10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2011; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Report to accompany S. 623, a bill to amend chapter 111 of title 28, United States Code, relating to protective orders, sealing of cases, disclosures of discovery information in civil actions, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-45).

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment:

S. 538. A bill to amend the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to reauthorize the Act (Rept. No. 112-46).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Ms. STABENOW for the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

*Mark P. Wetjen, of Nevada, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring June 19, 2016.

*Brian T. Baenig, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

By Mr. LEVIN for the Committee on Armed Services.

*Madelyn R. Creedon, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

*Alan F. Estevez, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

*Air Force nomination of Gen. William M. Fraser III, to be General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Donald P. Dunbar, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Stephen L. Hoog, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Lt. Gen. Janet C. Wolfenbarger, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Brig. Gen. Verle L. Johnston, Jr., to be Major General.

Air Force nomination of Brig. Gen. Leonard A. Patrick, to be Major General.

Air Force nominations beginning with Brigadier General Trulan A. Eyre and ending with Colonel Jennifer L. Walter, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 25, 2011.

*Army nomination of Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, to be General.

*Army nomination of Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, to be General.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Keith C. Walker, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Charles T. Cleveland, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Robert L. Caslen, Jr., to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. David G. Perkins, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Col. Brian R. Copes, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Bert K. Mizusawa, to be Major General.

Army nomination of Col. Fred W. Allen, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Charles H. Jacoby, Jr., to be General.

Army nominations beginning with Brigadier General Stephen E. Bogle and ending with Colonel David C. Wood, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 25, 2011. (minus 1 nominee: Colonel David O. Smith)

Army nominations beginning with Brigadier General David B. Enyeart and ending

with Colonel David E. Wilmot, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 25, 2011.

Army nomination of Col. Gina D. Seiler, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Col. Michael A. Calhoun, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Col. Kaffia Jones, to be Brigadier General.

*Navy nomination of Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert, to be Admiral.

*Navy nomination of Adm. James A. Winnefeld, Jr., to be Admiral.

Navy nomination of Vice Adm. Scott R. Van Buskirk, to be Vice Admiral.

Navy nomination of Vice Adm. Mark E. Ferguson III, to be Admiral.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. Scott H. Swift, to be Vice Admiral.

Navy nomination of Vice Adm. Harry B. Harris, Jr., to be Vice Admiral.

Navy nomination of Vice Adm. Michael A. LeFever, to be Vice Admiral.

Navy nomination of Capt. Luke M. McColm, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORD on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Air Force nominations beginning with Lauren F. Aase and ending with Debra S. Zinsmeyer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 4, 2011.

Air Force nomination of Mary F. Hart-Gallagher, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Air Force nomination of Raymond S. Collins, to be Major.

Air Force nominations beginning with Wade B. Adair and ending with Eljio J. Venegas, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 20, 2011.

Air Force nominations beginning with Johnathan M. Compton and ending with Benjamin J. Mitchell, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 20, 2011.

Army nomination of Thomas B. Murphree, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Pedro T. Raga and ending with Matthew H. Vinning, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 22, 2011.

Army nominations beginning with Nicholas M. Cruzgarcia and ending with Joseph P. Lynn, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 11, 2011.

Army nomination of Luisa G. Santiago, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Troy W. Ross and ending with Carlos E. Quezada, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 11, 2011.

Army nominations beginning with James L. Adams, Jr. and ending with Robert M. Thelen, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 11, 2011.

Army nominations beginning with Matthew B. Ahn and ending with Gregory S.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

Thogmartin, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 11, 2011.

Army nomination of Cindy B. Katz, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Wiley C. Thompson, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Marshall S. Humes, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Cyruss A. Tsurgeon, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Colleen F. Blailles and ending with Curtis T. Chun, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 20, 2011.

Army nominations beginning with Brad M. Evans and ending with Jay S. Kost, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 20, 2011.

Army nominations beginning with Matthew J. Baker and ending with Russell B. Chambers, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 20, 2011.

Army nominations beginning with Joseph B. Rusinko and ending with Paula S. Oliver, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 20, 2011.

Army nominations beginning with Charlespaul T. Anonuevo and ending with Tracy E. Walters, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 20, 2011.

Army nominations beginning with David H. Burnham and ending with Randall S. Verde, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 20, 2011.

Army nominations beginning with Michael A. Adams and ending with Paula Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 20, 2011.

Army nominations beginning with Geoffrey R. Adams and ending with D005579, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 20, 2011.

Army nominations beginning with Alissa R. Ackley and ending with D003185, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 20, 2011.

Army nominations beginning with Thomas H. Aarsen and ending with D010899, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 20, 2011.

Marine Corps nomination of Carroll J. Connelley, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nomination of Samuel H. Carrasco, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Navy nomination of Troy D. Carr, to be Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Dawn C. Allen and ending with Jennifer L. Tietz, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 22, 2011.

Navy nominations beginning with James S. Brown and ending with Heather J. Walton, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 11, 2011.

Navy nominations beginning with Christopher A. Alfonzo and ending with Sara B. Zimmer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 11, 2011.

Navy nominations beginning with Raul L. Barrientos and ending with Harold S. Zald,

which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 11, 2011.

Navy nominations beginning with David L. Agey and ending with Laura L. V. Wegemann, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 11, 2011.

Navy nominations beginning with Robert P. Anselm and ending with Paul A. Walker, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 11, 2011.

Navy nominations beginning with Randy E. Ashman and ending with Tammy L. Weinzatl, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 11, 2011.

Navy nominations beginning with Deangelo Ashby and ending with Lagena K. G. Yarbrough, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 11, 2011.

Navy nominations beginning with Dennis K. Andrews and ending with Brian K. Waite, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 11, 2011.

Navy nominations beginning with Roberto M. Alvarado and ending with Joseph W. Yates, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 11, 2011.

Navy nomination of Mathew R. Loe, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Michael J. O'Donnell, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Lawrence Brandon, Jr., to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Robert A. Slaughter and ending with Robert Thomas, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 20, 2011.

Navy nominations beginning with Anthony Diaz and ending with Jane E. Mcneely, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 20, 2011.

Navy nominations beginning with Carissa L. Garey and ending with Daniel G. Nicastrì, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 20, 2011.

Navy nominations beginning with Timothy M. Derbyshire and ending with Christina J. Wong, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 20, 2011.

Navy nominations beginning with Jeremiah E. Chaplin and ending with Pamela A. Tellado, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 20, 2011.

Navy nominations beginning with Paige H. Adams and ending with Andrew F. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 20, 2011.

Navy nominations beginning with Robert S. Bair and ending with Patricia R. Wilson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 20, 2011.

Navy nominations beginning with Kirkland M. Anderson and ending with Martha A. Wittosch, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 20, 2011.

Navy nominations beginning with Cheryl E. Aimestillman and ending with Jon E. Zatlokowicz, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 20, 2011.

Navy nominations beginning with Archie L. Barber and ending with Zavean V. Ware, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 20, 2011.

Navy nominations beginning with Mylene R. Arvizo and ending with Ashley S. Wright, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 20, 2011.

Navy nominations beginning with Amelia F. Dudley and ending with Brandon D. Smith, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 20, 2011.

Navy nominations beginning with Richfield F. Agullana and ending with Chieh Yang, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 20, 2011.

Navy nominations beginning with Charity C. Hardison and ending with Stephanie B. Murdock, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 20, 2011.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 1467. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to protect rights of conscience with regard to requirements for coverage of specific items and services; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 1468. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to diabetes self-management training by authorizing certified diabetes educators to provide diabetes self-management training services, including as part of telehealth services, under part B of the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 1469. A bill to require reporting on the capacity of foreign countries to combat cybercrime, to develop action plans to improve the capacity of certain countries to combat cybercrime, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 1470. A bill to promote timely exploration for geothermal resources under existing geothermal leases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. BROWN of Ohio):

S. 1471. A bill to prohibit discrimination in employment on the basis of an individual's status or history of unemployment; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 1472. A bill to impose sanctions on persons making certain investments that directly and significantly contribute to the enhancement of the ability of Syria to develop its petroleum resources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HELLER:

S. 1473. A bill to amend Public Law 99-548 to provide for the implementation of the multispecies habitat conservation plan for the Virgin River, Nevada, and to extend the authority to purchase certain parcels of public land; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HELLER:

S. 1474. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a deduction for travel expenses to medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs in connection with examinations or treatments relating to service-connected disabilities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HELLER:

S. 1475. A bill to convey certain land to Clark County, Nevada, to designate the Nellis Dunes National Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. COBURN):

S. 1476. A bill to reduce the size of the Federal workforce and Federal employee cost relating to pay, bonuses, and travel; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 1477. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to prevent the dissemination to the public of certain information with respect to non-commercial flights of private aircraft owners and operators; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself and Mr. THUNE):

S. 1478. A bill to modify the boundary of the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site in the State of South Dakota, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. 1479. A bill to preserve Medicare beneficiary choice by restoring and expanding Medicare open enrollment and disenrollment opportunities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1480. A bill to provide for the construction, renovation, and improvement of medical school facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1481. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a program of grants to newly accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools for the purpose of increasing the supply of physicians; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 1482. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to evaluate the significance of the Newtown Battlefield located in Chemung County, New York, and the suitability and feasibility of its inclusion in the National Park System,

and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1483. A bill to ensure that persons who form corporations in the United States disclose the beneficial owners of those corporations, in order to prevent wrongdoers from exploiting United States corporations in ways that threaten homeland security, to assist law enforcement in detecting, preventing, and punishing terrorism, money laundering, and other misconduct involving United States corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska:

S. 1484. A bill to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions and to provide for conscience protections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1485. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to include ultralight vehicles under the definition of aircraft for purposes of the aviation smuggling provisions under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. TOOMEY, and Mr. HELLER):

S. 1486. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify and expand on criteria applicable to patient admission to and care furnished in long-term care hospitals participating in the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin):

S. 1487. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to establish a program to issue Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 1488. A bill to prohibit the expenditure of Federal funds for abortion, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 1489. A bill to prohibit the discrimination and retaliation against individuals and health care entities that refuse to recommend, refer for, provide coverage for, pay for, provide, perform, assist, or participate in abortions; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 1490. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to authorize additional funding for the pregnancy assistance fund; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1491. A bill to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to expand the electric rate-setting authority of States; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. HELLER):

S. 1492. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in Clark County, Nevada, for the environmental remediation and reclamation of the Three Kids Mine Project Site, and for other purposes; to

the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 1493. A bill to provide compensation to relatives of Foreign Service members killed in the line of duty and the relatives of United States citizens who were killed as a result of the bombing of the United States Embassy in Kenya on August 7, 1998, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 1494. A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1495. A bill to amend the school dropout prevention program in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 1496. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to prohibit the delegation by the United States of inspection, certification, and related services to a foreign classification society that provides comparable services to Iran, North Korea, North Sudan, or Syria, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. BENNETT, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 1497. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend for 3 years reasonable cost contracts under Medicare; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mr. HELLER):

S. 1498. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for additional reporting with respect to contributions to members of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. THUNE, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 1499. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to promulgate a rule to improve the daytime and nighttime visibility of agricultural equipment that may be operated on a public road; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. ALEXANDER):

S. 1500. A bill to give Americans access to affordable child-only health insurance coverage; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. VITTER, Mr. LEE, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin):

S. 1501. A bill to require the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction to conduct the business of the Committee in a manner that is open to the public; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 1502. A bill to restore public trust in pipeline safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts:

S. 1503. A bill to decrease the deficit by realigning, consolidating, selling, disposing, and improving the efficiency of Federal

buildings and other civilian real property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 1504. A bill to restore Medicaid eligibility for citizens of the Freely Associated States; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 1505. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of particular specialists, determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to be directly related to the health needs stemming from environmental health hazards that have led to its declaration as a Public Health Emergency, to be eligible under the National Health Service Corps in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mrs. HUTCHISON):

S. 1506. A bill to prevent the Secretary of the Treasury from expanding United States bank reporting requirements with respect to interest on deposits paid to nonresident aliens; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 1507. A bill to provide protections from workers with respect to their right to select or refrain from selecting representation by a labor organization; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1508. A bill to extend loan limits for programs of the Federal Housing Administration, the government-sponsored enterprises, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1509. A bill to provide incentives for States to improve the well-being of children in the child welfare system through systemic reforms and innovations, increased collaboration between State agencies, and incorporation of higher standards of accountability; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, and Mr. NELSON of Florida):

S.J. Res. 24. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution relative to requiring a balanced budget; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. KIRK:

S. Res. 250. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the memorial park on Hero Street USA, in Silvis, Illinois, should be recognized as Hero Street Memorial Park and should continue to be supported as a park by the Town of Silvis at no cost to United States taxpayers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BAUCUS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CASEY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. TESTER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. COONS, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. Res. 251. A resolution expressing support for improvement in the collection, processing, and consumption of recyclable materials throughout the United States; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. Res. 252. A resolution celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the United States-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HOEVEN:

S. Res. 253. A resolution designating October 26, 2011, as "Day of the Deployed"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BURR, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. Res. 254. A resolution designating August 16, 2011, as "National Airborne Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. LEVIN):

S. Res. 255. A resolution designating October 8, 2011, as "National Chess Day" to enhance awareness and encourage students and adults to engage in a game known to enhance critical thinking and problem-solving skills; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. INOUE (for himself and Mr. ALEXANDER):

S. Res. 256. A resolution designating the week of October 2 through October 8, 2011, as "National Nurse-Managed Health Clinic Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. INOUE (for himself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. Con. Res. 28. A concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service, United States Army, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 207

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 207, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to enhance the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 260

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 260, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation.

S. 274

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr.

BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 274, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand access to medication therapy management services under the Medicare prescription drug program.

S. 306

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 306, a bill to establish the National Criminal Justice Commission.

S. 344

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 344, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 384

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 384, a bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research.

S. 387

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 387, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to provide flexible spending arrangements for members of uniformed services, and for other purposes.

S. 418

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 418, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol.

S. 509

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 509, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act, to advance the ability of credit unions to promote small business growth and economic development opportunities, and for other purposes.

S. 512

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 512, a bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of Energy to carry out programs to develop and demonstrate 2 small modular nuclear reactor designs, and for other purposes.

S. 578

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 578, a bill to amend title V of the Social Security Act to eliminate the abstinence-only education program.

S. 598

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 598, a bill to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage.

S. 633

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to prevent fraud in small business contracting, and for other purposes.

S. 665

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 665, a bill to promote industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement, and for other purposes.

S. 672

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 672, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 697

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 697, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for amounts paid by a spouse of a member of the Armed Services for a new State license or certification required by reason of a permanent change in the duty station of such member to another State.

S. 710

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 710, a bill to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a hazardous waste electronic manifest system.

S. 722

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 722, a bill to strengthen and protect Medicare hospice programs.

S. 738

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 738, a bill to amend title XVIII

of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of comprehensive Alzheimer's disease and related dementia diagnosis and services in order to improve care and outcomes for Americans living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias by improving detection, diagnosis, and care planning.

S. 755

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 755, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an offset against income tax refunds to pay for restitution and other State judicial debts that are past-due.

S. 806

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 806, a bill to require the Secretary of the Army to conduct levee system evaluations and certifications on receipt of requests from non-Federal interests.

S. 833

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 833, a bill to provide grants to States to ensure that all students in the middle grades are taught an academically rigorous curriculum with effective supports so that students complete the middle grades prepared for success in secondary school and post-secondary endeavors, to improve State and district policies and programs relating to the academic achievement of students in the middle grades, to develop and implement effective middle grades models for struggling students, and for other purposes.

S. 834

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 834, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve education and prevention related to campus sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

S. 838

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 838, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to clarify the jurisdiction of the Environmental Protection Agency with respect to certain sporting good articles, and to exempt those articles from a definition under that Act.

S. 866

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 866, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to modify the per-fiscal year calculation of days of certain active duty or active service used to reduce the minimum age at which a

member of a reserve component of the uniformed services may retire for non-regular service.

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 866, *supra*.

S. 901

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 901, a bill to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to ensure that amounts are made available for projects to provide recreational public access, and for other purposes.

S. 919

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 919, a bill to authorize grant programs to ensure successful, safe, and healthy students.

S. 920

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 920, a bill to create clean energy jobs and set efficiency standards for small-duct high-velocity air conditioning and heat pump systems, and for other purposes.

S. 950

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 950, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to repeal a prohibition on allowing States to use toll revenues as State matching funds for Appalachian Development Highway projects.

S. 951

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of S. 951, a bill to improve the provision of Federal transition, rehabilitation, vocational, and unemployment benefits to members of the Armed Forces and veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 958

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 958, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program of payments to children's hospitals that operate graduate medical education programs.

S. 1002

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 1002, a bill to prohibit theft of medical products, and for other purposes.

S. 1025

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1025, a bill to amend title 10,

United States Code, to enhance the national defense through empowerment of the National Guard, enhancement of the functions of the National Guard Bureau, and improvement of Federal-State military coordination in domestic emergency response, and for other purposes.

S. 1039

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 1039, a bill to impose sanctions on persons responsible for the detention, abuse, or death of Sergei Magnitsky, for the conspiracy to defraud the Russian Federation of taxes on corporate profits through fraudulent transactions and lawsuits against Hermitage, and for other gross violations of human rights in the Russian Federation, and for other purposes.

S. 1048

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) were added as cosponsors of S. 1048, a bill to expand sanctions imposed with respect to the Islamic Republic of Iran, North Korea, and Syria, and for other purposes.

S. 1100

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1100, a bill to amend title 41, United States Code, to prohibit inserting politics into the Federal acquisition process by prohibiting the submission of political contribution information as a condition of receiving a Federal contract.

S. 1108

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1108, a bill to provide local communities with tools to make solar permitting more efficient, and for other purposes.

S. 1111

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1111, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the tax on beer to its pre-1991 level, and for other purposes.

S. 1145

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1145, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify and expand Federal criminal jurisdiction over Federal contractors and employees outside the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1177

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a co-

sponsor of S. 1177, a bill to provide grants to States to improve high schools and raise graduation rates while ensuring rigorous standards, to develop and implement effective school models for struggling students and dropouts, and to improve State policies to raise graduation rates, and for other purposes.

S. 1219

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1219, a bill to require Federal agencies to assess the impact of Federal action on jobs and job opportunities, and for other purposes.

S. 1248

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1248, a bill to prohibit the consideration of any bill by Congress unless the authority provided by the Constitution of the United States for the legislation can be determined and is clearly specified.

S. 1273

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1273, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act with regard to certain exemptions under that Act for direct care workers and to improve the systems for the collection and reporting of data relating to the direct care workforce, and for other purposes.

S. 1280

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1280, a bill to amend the Peace Corps Act to require sexual assault risk-reduction and response training, and the development of sexual assault protocol and guidelines, the establishment of victims advocates, the establishment of a Sexual Assault Advisory Council, and for other purposes.

S. 1297

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1297, a bill to preserve State and institutional authority relating to State authorization and the definition of credit hour.

S. 1314

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1314, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Labor to establish minimum funding levels for States for the support of disabled veterans' outreach program specialists and local veterans' employment representatives, and for other purposes.

S. 1316

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was

added as a cosponsor of S. 1316, a bill to prevent a fiscal crisis by enacting legislation to balance the Federal budget through reductions of discretionary and mandatory spending.

S. 1369

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 1369, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to exempt the conduct of silvicultural activities from national pollutant discharge elimination system permitting requirements.

S. 1381

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1381, a bill to provide for the expansion of Federal efforts concerning the prevention, education, treatment, and research activities related to Lyme and other tick-borne disease, including the establishment of a Tick-Borne Diseases Advisory Committee.

S. 1392

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1392, a bill to provide additional time for the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to issue achievable standards for industrial, commercial, and institutional boilers, process heaters, and incinerators, and for other purposes.

S. 1395

At the request of Mr. THUNE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1395, a bill to ensure that all Americans have access to waivers from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 1420

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1420, a bill to require that the United States Government prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public, Social Security benefits, and military pay in the event that the debt limit is reached, and for other purposes.

S. 1433

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1433, a bill to pay personnel compensation and benefits for employees of the Federal Aviation Administration.

S. 1449

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1449, a bill to authorize the appropriation of funds for highway safety programs and for other purposes.

S. 1450

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota

(Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1450, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to provide for the establishment of a commercial truck safety program, and for other purposes.

S. 1457

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1457, a bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a Made In America Block Grant Program, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 80

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 80, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenant on Human Rights.

S. RES. 132

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 132, a resolution recognizing and honoring the zoos and aquariums of the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 1469. A bill to require reporting on the capacity of foreign countries to combat cybercrime, to develop action plans to improve the capacity of certain countries to combat cybercrime, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to reintroduce the International Cybercrime Reporting and Cooperation Act with Senator KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND, which if enacted, will establish a framework for global cooperation on the fight against cybercrime. As the United States continues to work on combating cybercrime here at home, we must simultaneously direct our attention to the international arena. With bipartisan support and valued input from affected industry, we have worked together on drafting a bill that encompasses reporting measures, action plans, and multilateral efforts in support of government cooperation to dismantle this global threat.

This bill increases the U.S. Government's focus on combating cybercrime internationally by requiring the President, or his designee, to annually report to Congress on the assessment of the cybercrime fighting efforts of the countries chosen by key federal agencies in consultation with private sector stakeholders. The countries to be reviewed are those with a significant role in efforts to combat cybercrime im-

pacting U.S. Government, entities and persons, or disrupting U.S. electronic commerce or intellectual property interests.

Cyberspace remains borderless, with no single proprietor. Accordingly, the United States must take the lead on maintaining the openness of the Internet, while securing accountability. If a country is a haven for cybercrime, or simply has demonstrated a pattern of uncooperative behavior with efforts to combat cybercrime, that nation must be held accountable. The government of each country must conduct criminal investigations and prosecute criminals when there is credible evidence of cybercrime incidents against the U.S. government, our private entities or our people.

With so many U.S. companies doing business overseas, we must do our part to safeguard their employees, their jobs, and their clients from cyber attacks. Our objective is simple: We need international cooperation to increase assistance and prevention efforts of cybercrime from those countries deemed to be of cyber concern. Without international cooperation, our economy, security, and people will continue to be under threat.

Cybercrime is a tangible threat to the security of our global economy, which is why we need to coordinate our fight worldwide. Until countries begin to take the necessary steps to fight criminals within their borders, cybercrime havens will continue to flourish. Countries that knowingly permit cybercriminals to attack within their borders will now know that the United States is watching, the global community is watching, and there will be consequences for not acting.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. COBURN):

S. 1476. A bill to reduce the size of the Federal workforce and Federal employee cost relating to pay, bonuses, and travel; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, after a contentious several months navigating the increase in the debt ceiling, Congress will be returning home in the next few days. I think many of us are anxious to go back to the States, where we will hear from our fellow citizens about their thoughts on what we are doing well and where we are falling short.

Getting out of Washington and returning to our States will be a relief, but I am fully aware that after this brief respite, we will come back to Washington in the fall with many more contentious issues still on our plates.

Our Nation is still on an unsustainable fiscal path, even with today's temporary resolution of the issues surrounding the debt ceiling. In addition, we have a government that

has grown far too large and has taken on far too many obligations.

Today, with all these concerns in mind, I am joined by Senator TOM COBURN in introducing the Federal Workforce Reduction and Reform Act of 2011. If enacted, this bill will go a long way toward reducing the size of the Federal Government and helping to get our Nation's fiscal house in order.

Specifically, our bill would extend the current pay freeze for Federal civilian employees for another 3 years. Bonuses paid Federal employees would also be frozen during that time. Currently, Federal workers receive an automatic cost-of-living adjustment every year and are eligible for relocation, retention, and performance bonuses as well.

While I don't begrudge government employees their compensation, these automatic increases come with significant costs and far outpace those typically offered in the private sector. By simply extending the current pay freeze for another 3 years, we will save the Federal Government roughly \$140 billion over 10 years.

In addition, our bill would require the President, in consultation with the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Personnel Management, to reduce the size of the Federal workforce by 15 percent—roughly 300,000 employees—over the next 10 years. This could easily be accomplished through attrition and would save taxpayers over \$225 billion over that time.

The bill would require a similar reduction in the Federal contract workforce as well. We have nothing against Federal agencies contracting services out to private vendors. However, the significant increase in this practice over the last several years has masked the size of the Federal Government. Indeed, when you include the contract workforce, the Federal Government is even larger than it appears.

Our bill would require that the President work with OMB and OPM to count the number of employees working on Federal contracts and reduce that number by 15 percent over the next 10 years. This would provide an even greater reduction in the size of the Federal Government and save taxpayers another \$230 billion over the next decade.

Finally, this bill would reduce the travel budgets of Federal agencies by 75 percent over time. All told, the Federal Government spends over \$15 billion a year on travel expenses. Most businesses respond to difficult financial times by reducing or eliminating unnecessary expenses. Most private sector leaders would tell you that travel expenses are one of the first things on the chopping block. Furthermore, improvements in teleconferencing technology and web-based communication have made much of the government-sponsored travel that was required in the past unnecessary.

Our bill would cut Federal travel expenses in half for the first 2 years, and then by three quarters thereafter. This will save American taxpayers something in the neighborhood of \$40 billion over 10 years.

Mr. President, our Nation is currently in the midst of a fundamental debate over the constitutional limits on the Federal Government. The President and his allies see no bounds for a living Constitution, while conservatives like myself believe that Federal power has far exceeded the Founders' limits and is a genuine threat to personal liberty.

While this debate will likely not be resolved anytime soon, most of us can agree that we need to take immediate steps to address our Nation's looming fiscal crisis. The deal that was approved today was a step in the right direction, but it was only one step. We must do more, and we can do more, to right our fiscal ship. Some may see things differently, but I don't see any way that we can restore the integrity of the Nation's fiscal position without significantly reducing the size and cost of the Federal Government. The bill we are introducing today would be an important and measurable step toward that goal.

According to the numbers and methodology used by the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, these changes combined will save American taxpayers more than \$600 billion over 10 years. These are significant numbers. They represent more than half of the deficit reduction required in the first part of the deal agreed to today, and they could easily be realized if we enact this small handful of relatively simple reforms.

I want to thank Senator COBURN—who continues to be a leader in the fight to bring us back to fiscal sanity—for his help and support on this bill. His has been a tireless voice against government excess and I am proud to join with him in this fight.

I urge all my colleagues to support the Federal Workforce Reduction and Reform Act of 2011.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1483. A bill to ensure that persons who form corporations in the United States disclose the beneficial owners of those corporations, in order to prevent wrongdoers from exploiting United States corporations in ways that threaten homeland security, to assist law enforcement in detecting, preventing, and punishing terrorism, money laundering, and other misconduct involving United States corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. LEVIN. Today, I along with my colleague, Senator GRASSLEY, am reintroducing the Incorporation Trans-

parency and Law Enforcement Assistance Act, a bill designed to combat terrorism, money laundering, tax evasion, and other wrongdoing facilitated by U.S. corporations with hidden owners. This commonsense bill would end the practice of our States forming over about 2 million new corporations each year for unidentified persons, and instead require the States to ask for the identities of the persons establishing those corporations. With those names on record, U.S. law enforcement faced with corporate misconduct would then have a trail to chase instead of what today is too often a dead end.

Our bill is supported by key law enforcement organizations, including the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys, the National Narcotic Officers' Associations Coalition, the United States Marshals Service Association, the Society of Former Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Association of Former ATF Agents. It is also endorsed by a number of small business and public interest groups, including the Main Street Alliance, Sustainable Business Network of Washington, Global Financial Integrity, Global Witness, Public Interest Research Group, Project on Government Oversight, Jubilee USA, Citizens for Tax Justice, Tax Justice Network USA, and the FACT Coalition.

This is the third time this bill has been introduced. In the 110th Congress, when the bill was introduced for the first time and he was a member of the U.S. Senate, President Obama served as an original cosponsor. It's an issue that has become more urgent with time.

Right now, it takes more information to get a drivers license or open a U.S. bank account than to form a U.S. corporation. Under current law, U.S. corporations can be established anonymously, by hidden owners who don't reveal their identity. Our bill would change that by requiring any State that accepts anti-terrorism funding from DHS to add a new question to their existing incorporation forms asking applicants who want to set up a new U.S. corporation or limited liability company to answer a simple but important question: who are the actual owners?

That is it. One new question on an existing form. It is not a complicated question, yet the answer could play a key role in helping law enforcement do their job. Our bill would not require States to verify the information, but penalties would apply to persons who submit false information. States, or licensed formation agents if a State has delegated the task to them, would supply the ownership information to law enforcement upon receipt of a subpoena or summons.

We have all seen the news reports about U.S. corporations involved in wrongdoing, from facilitating terrorism to money laundering, financial fraud, tax evasion, corruption, and more. Let me give you a few examples.

We now know that some terrorists use U.S. shell corporations to carry out their activities. Viktor Bout, an arms dealer who has been indicted and incarcerated in the United States for conspiracy to kill U.S. nationals, used shell corporations around the world in his work, including a dozen formed in Texas, Delaware, and Florida. Mr. Bout was recently extradited from Thailand to answer for his conduct at which time Attorney General Eric Holder stated: "Long considered one of the world's most prolific arms traffickers, Mr. Bout will now appear in federal court in Manhattan to answer to charges of conspiring to sell millions of dollars worth of weapons to a terrorist organization for use in trying to kill Americans." It is unacceptable that Mr. Bout was able to set up shell corporations in three of our States and use them in illicit activities without ever being asked who owned those corporations.

In another case, a New York company called the Assa Corporation owned a Manhattan skyscraper and, in 2007, wire transferred about \$4.5 million in rental payments to a bank in Iran. U.S. law enforcement tracking the funds had no idea who was behind that shell corporation, until another government disclosed that it was owned by the Alavi Foundation which was known to have ties to the Iranian military. In other words, a New York corporation was being used to ship millions of U.S. dollars to Iran, a notorious supporter of terrorism.

U.S. corporations with hidden owners have also been involved in financial crimes. In 2011, a former Russian military officer, Victor Kaganov, pled guilty to operating an illegal money transmitter business from his home in Oregon, and using Oregon shell corporations to wire more than \$150 million around the world on behalf of Russian clients. U.S. Attorney Dwight Holton of the District of Oregon used stark language when describing the case: "When shell corporations are illegally manipulated in the shadows to hide the flow of tens of millions of dollars overseas, it threatens the integrity of our financial system."

Another recent case involves Florida attorney Scott Rothstein who, in 2010, pled guilty to fraud and money laundering in connection with a \$1.2 billion Ponzi investment scheme, in which he used 85 U.S. limited liability companies to conceal his participation or ownership stake in various real estate and business ventures.

Tax evasion is another type of misconduct which all too often involves the use of U.S. corporations with hidden owners. In 2006, for example, the

Subcommittee showed how Kurt Greaves, a Michigan businessman, worked with Terry Neal, an offshore promoter, to form shell corporations in Nevada, Canada, and offshore secrecy jurisdictions, to hide more than \$400,000 in untaxed business income. In 2004, both Mr. Greaves and Mr. Neal pled guilty to Federal tax evasion. Also in 2006, the Subcommittee showed how two brothers from Texas, Sam and Charles Wyly, created a network of 58 trusts and shell corporations to dodge the payment of U.S. taxes, including using a set of Nevada corporations to move offshore over \$190 million in stock options without paying any taxes on that compensation.

Still another area of abuse involves the misuse of U.S. corporations in handling corruption proceeds. One example involves Teodoro Obiang, who is the son of the President of Equatorial Guinea, holds office in that country, and is currently under investigation by the U.S. Justice Department, along with his father, for corruption and other misconduct. Between 2004 and 2008, Mr. Obiang used U.S. lawyers to form multiple California shell corporations with names like Beautiful Vision, Unlimited Horizon, and Sweet Pink; open bank accounts in the names of those corporations; and move millions of dollars in suspect funds through those and other U.S. banks.

One last example involves 800 U.S. corporations whose hidden owners have stumped U.S. law enforcement which, as a result, has given up investigating their suspect conduct. In October 2004, the Homeland Security Department's division of Immigration and Customs Enforcement or ICE identified a single Utah corporation that had engaged in \$150 million in suspicious transactions. ICE found that the corporation had been formed in Utah and was owned by two Panama entities which, in turn, were owned by a group of Panama holding corporations, all located in the same Panama City office. By 2005, ICE had located 800 additional U.S. corporations in nearly all 50 states associated with the same shadowy group in Panama, but was unable to obtain the name of a single natural person who owned one of the corporations. ICE learned that those corporations were associated with multiple investigations into tax fraud and other wrongdoing, but no one had been able to find the corporate owners. The trail went cold, and ICE closed the case. Yet it may be that many of those U.S. corporations are still operative.

These examples of U.S. corporations with hidden owners involved in or facilitating terrorism, financial crime, tax evasion, corruption, or other misconduct provide ample evidence of the need for legislation to address the problem.

The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association or FLEOA, which rep-

resents more than 26,000 federal law enforcement officers and is a strong supporter of the bill, has stated that "the unfortunate lax attitude demonstrated by certain states has enabled large criminal enterprises to exploit those State's flawed filing systems." FLEOA has stated further: "[W]hile all Americans are inspired by the spirit of free enterprise, our membership does not want to see the United States adopt the financial hideaway image of Switzerland. We regard corporate ownership in the same manner as we do vehicle ownership. Requiring the driver of a vehicle to have a registration and insurance card is not a violation of their privacy. This information does not need to be published in a Yellow Pages, but it should be available to law enforcement officers who make legally authorized requests pursuant to official investigations."

The National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys which represents more than 1,500 federal prosecutors, urges Congress to take legislative action to remedy inadequate state incorporation practices. NAAUSA has written: "[M]indful of the ease with which criminals establish 'front organizations' to assist in money laundering, terrorist financing, tax evasion and other misconduct, it is shocking and unacceptable that many State laws permit the creation of corporations without asking for the identity of the corporation's beneficial owners. Your legislation will guard against that from happening, and no longer permit criminals to exploit the lack of transparency in the registration of corporations."

Just last week, the Administration released a new Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime that focused, in part, on the problem of corporations with hidden owners. It stated that transnational organized criminal networks "rely on industry experts, both witting and unwitting, to facilitate corrupt transactions and to create the necessary infrastructure to pursue their illicit schemes, such as creating shell corporations, opening offshore bank accounts in the shell corporation's name, and creating front businesses for their illegal activity and money laundering." The Strategy established as one of its action plans to "[w]ork with Congress to enact legislation to require disclosure of beneficial ownership information of legal entities at the time of company formation in order to enhance transparency for law enforcement and other purposes."

We need legislation not only to stop the abuses being committed by U.S. corporations with hidden owners, but also to meet our international commitments. In 2006, the leading international anti-money laundering body in the world, the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering, known as FATF, issued a report criti-

cizing the United States for its failure to comply with a FATF standard requiring countries to obtain beneficial ownership information for the corporations formed under their laws. This standard is one of 40 FATF standards that this country has publicly committed itself to implementing as part of its efforts to promote strong anti-money laundering laws around the world.

FATF gave the United States two years, until 2008, to make progress toward coming into compliance with the FATF standard on beneficial ownership information. That deadline passed three years ago, and we have yet to make any real progress. Enacting the bill we are introducing today would bring the United States into compliance with the FATF standard by requiring the States to obtain beneficial ownership information for the corporations formed under their laws. It would ensure that the United States meets its international commitment to comply with FATF anti-money laundering standards.

The bill being introduced today is the product of years of work by the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which I chair. Over ten years ago, in 2000, the Government Accountability Office, at my request, conducted an investigation and released a report entitled, "Suspicious Banking Activities: Possible Money Laundering by U.S. Corporations Formed for Russian Entities." That report revealed that one person was able to set up more than 2,000 Delaware shell corporations and, without disclosing the identity of the beneficial owners, open U.S. bank accounts for those corporations, which then collectively moved about \$1.4 billion through the accounts. It is one of the earliest government reports to give some sense of the law enforcement problems caused by U.S. corporations with hidden owners. The alarm it sounded years ago is still ringing.

In April 2006, in response to a second Subcommittee request, GAO released a report entitled, "Corporation Formations: Minimal Ownership Information Is Collected and Available," which reviewed the corporate formation laws in all 50 States. GAO disclosed that the vast majority of the States do not collect any information at all on the beneficial owners of the corporations and limited liability companies, or LLCs, formed under their laws. The report also found that several States have established automated procedures that allow a person to form a new corporation or LLC in the State within 24 hours of filing an online application without any prior review of that application by State personnel. In exchange for a substantial fee, at least two States will form a corporation or LLC within one hour of a request. After examining these State incorporation practices, the GAO report described the

problems that the lack of beneficial ownership information has caused for a range of law enforcement investigations.

In November 2006, our Subcommittee held a hearing on the problem. At that hearing, representatives of the U.S. Department of Justice, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Department of Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network or FinCEN testified that the failure of States to collect adequate information on the beneficial owners of the legal entities they form had impeded federal efforts to investigate and prosecute criminal acts such as terrorism, money laundering, securities fraud, and tax evasion. At the hearing, the Justice Department testified: "We had allegations of corrupt foreign officials using these [U.S.] shell accounts to launder money, but were unable—due to lack of identifying information in the corporate records—to fully investigate this area." The IRS testified: "Within our own borders, the laws of some states regarding the formation of legal entities have significant transparency gaps which may even rival the secrecy afforded in the most attractive tax havens." As part of its testimony, FinCEN described identifying 768 incidents of suspicious international wire transfer activity involving U.S. shell corporations.

The next year, in 2007, in a "Dirty Dozen" list of tax scams active that year, the IRS highlighted shell corporations with hidden owners as number four on the list. It wrote:

4. Disguised Corporate Ownership: Domestic shell corporations and other entities are being formed and operated in certain states for the purpose of disguising the ownership of the business or financial activity. Once formed, these anonymous entities can be, and are being, used to facilitate under-reporting of income, non-filing of tax returns, listed transactions, money laundering, financial crimes and possibly terrorist financing. The IRS is working with state authorities to identify these entities and to bring their owners into compliance.

It was also in 2007, that we first introduced our bipartisan legislation, which was S. 2956 back then, to stop the formation of U.S. corporations with hidden owners. It was a Levin-Coleman-Obama bill. When asked about the bill in 2008, then DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff wrote: "In countless investigations, where the criminal targets utilize shell corporations, the lack of law enforcement's ability to gain access to true beneficial ownership information slows, confuses or impedes the efforts by investigators to follow criminal proceeds."

In 2009, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee held two hearings which examined not only the problem, but also possible solutions, including our by then revised bill, S. 569. At the first hearing entitled, "Examining State Business Incorporation Practices: A

Discussion of the Incorporation Transparency and Law Enforcement Assistance Act," held in June 2009, DHS testified that "shell corporations established in the United States have been utilized to commit crimes against individuals around the world." The Manhattan District Attorney's office testified: "For those of us in law enforcement, these issues with shell corporations are not some abstract idea. This is what we do and deal with every day. We see these shell corporations being used by criminal organizations, and the record is replete with examples of their use for money laundering, for their use in tax evasion, and for their use in securities fraud."

At the second hearing, "Business Formation and Financial Crime: Finding a Legislative Solution," held in November 2009, the Justice Department again testified about criminals using U.S. shell corporations. It also noted that "each of these examples involves the relatively rare instance in which law enforcement was able to identify the perpetrator misusing U.S. shell corporations. Far too often, we are unable to do so." The Treasury Department testified that "the ability of illicit actors to form corporations in the United States without disclosing their true identity presents a serious vulnerability and there is ample evidence that criminal organizations and others who threaten our national security exploit this vulnerability."

The 2009 hearings also presented evidence of dozens of Internet websites advertising corporate formation services that highlighted the ability of corporations to be formed in the United States without asking for the identity of the beneficial owners. These websites explicitly pointed to anonymous ownership as a reason to incorporate within the United States, and often listed certain States alongside notorious offshore jurisdictions as preferred locations in which to form new corporations, essentially providing an open invitation for wrongdoers to form entities within the United States.

One website, for example, set up by an international incorporation firm, advocated setting up corporations in Delaware by saying: "DELAWARE—An Offshore Tax Haven for Non US Residents." It cited as one of Delaware's advantages that: "Owners' names are not disclosed to the state." Another website, from a U.K. firm called "formacorporation-offshore.com," listed the advantages to incorporating in Nevada. Those advantages included: "Stockholders are not on Public Record allowing complete anonymity."

During the 2009 hearings, I presented evidence of how one Wyoming outfit was selling so-called shell corporations—corporations formed and then left "on the shelf" for later sale to purchasers who could then pretend the corporations had been in operation for

years. More recently, a June 2011 Reuters news article wrote a detailed expose of how that same outfit, called Wyoming Corporate Services, has formed thousands of U.S. corporations all across the country, all with hidden owners. The article quoted the website as follows: "A corporation is a legal person created by state statute that can be used as a fall guy, a servant, a good friend or a decoy. A person you control . . . yet cannot be held accountable for its actions. Imagine the possibilities!"

The article described a small house in Cheyenne, Wyoming, which Wyoming Corporate Services used to provide a U.S. address for more than 2,000 corporations that it had helped to form. The article described "the walls of the main room" as "covered floor to ceiling with numbered mailboxes labeled as corporate suites." The article reported that among the corporations using the address was a shell corporation controlled by a former Ukrainian prime minister, Pavlo Lazarenko, who had been convicted of money laundering and extortion; a corporation indicted for helping online-poker operators evade a U.S. ban on Internet gambling; and two corporations barred from U.S. federal contracting for selling counterfeit truck parts to the Pentagon. The article observed that Wyoming Corporate Services continued to sell shelf corporations that existed solely on paper but could show a history of regulatory and tax filings, despite having had no real U.S. operations. That's what is going on right now, here in our own backyard, with respect to U.S. corporations.

Despite the evidence of U.S. corporations being misused by organized crime, terrorists, tax evaders, and other wrongdoers, and despite years of law enforcement complaints, many of our States are reluctant to admit there is a problem in establishing U.S. corporations and LLCs with hidden owners. Too many of our States are eager to explain how quick and easy it is to set up corporations within their borders, without acknowledging that those same quick and easy procedures enable wrongdoers to utilize U.S. corporations in a variety of crimes and tax dodges both here and abroad.

Beginning in 2006, the Subcommittee worked with the States to encourage them to recognize the homeland security problem they'd created and to come up with their own solution. After the Subcommittee's 2006 hearing on this issue, for example, the National Association of Secretaries of State or NASS convened a 2007 task force to examine state incorporation practices. At the request of NASS and several States, I delayed introducing legislation while they worked on a proposal to require the collection of beneficial ownership information. My Subcommittee staff participated in multiple conferences, telephone calls, and

meetings; suggested key principles; and provided comments to the Task Force.

In July 2007, the NASS task force issued a proposal. Rather than cure the problem, however, the proposal had many deficiencies, leading the Treasury Department to state in a letter that the NASS proposal “falls short” and “does not fully address the problem of legal entities masking the identity of criminals.”

Among other shortcomings, the NASS proposal would not require States to obtain the names of the natural individuals who would be the beneficial owners of a U.S. corporation or LLC. Instead, it would allow States to obtain a list of a corporation’s “owners of record” who can be, and often are, offshore corporations or trusts. The NASS proposal also did not require the States themselves to maintain the beneficial ownership information, or to supply it to law enforcement upon receipt of a subpoena or summons. Instead, law enforcement would have to get the information from the suspect corporation or one of its agents, thereby tipping off the corporation to the investigation. The proposal also failed to require the beneficial ownership information to be updated over time. These and other flaws in the proposal were identified by the Treasury Department, the Department of Justice, and others, but NASS decided to continue on the same course.

NASS enlisted the help of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws or NCCUSL, which produced a proposed model law for States that wanted to adopt the NASS approach. NCCUSL presented its proposal at the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee’s June 2009 hearing, where it was subjected to significant criticism. The Manhattan District Attorney’s office, for example, testified: “I say without hesitation or reservation—that from a law enforcement perspective, the bill proposed by NCCUSL would be worse than no bill at all. And there are two very basic reasons for this. It eliminates the ability of law enforcement to get corporate information without alerting the target of the investigation that the investigation is ongoing. That is the primary reason. It also sets up a system that is time-consuming and complicated.”

The Department of Justice testified: “Senator, I would submit to you that in a criminal organization everyone knows who is in control and this will not be an issue of determining who is in control. What we are concerned about here from the law enforcement perspective are the criminals and the criminal organizations and so what we are asking is that when criminals use shell companies, they provide the name of the beneficial owner. That is the person who is in control, the criminal in control, as opposed to the NCCUSL

proposal where they are suggesting that instead two nominees are provided—two nominees between law enforcement and the criminal in control.”

Despite these criticisms, NCCUSL finalized its model law in July 2009, issuing it under the title, “Uniform Law Enforcement Access to Entity Information Act.” At the November 2009 hearing, law enforcement again criticized the NCCUSL model law. At the hearing, Senator Levin asked: “Now the NCCUSL, in their proposal just requires a records contact and that records contact could simply be an owner of record, which could be a shell corporation, putting us right back into a circle which leads absolutely nowhere in terms of finding the beneficial owners. Would you agree that the approach of NCCUSL in this regard is not acceptable, Ms. Shasky?” The Justice Department representative, Jennifer Shasky, responded: “Yes, Senator. To allow companies to provide anything less than the beneficial owner information merely provides criminals with an opportunity to evade responsibility and put nominees between themselves and the true perpetrator.” With regard to NCCUSL’s proposal, the Treasury representative, David Cohen, testified: “[T]here is not an obligation for that live person to not be a nominee. And what I think is important in the legislation is that we get at the true beneficial owner and not someone who may be a nominee.”

In addition to its flaws, the NCCUSL model law has proven unpopular with the States for whom it was written. Despite the effort and fanfare attached to this uniform law, after two years of sitting on the books, not a single State has adopted it or given any indication of doing so.

It is deeply disappointing that the States, despite the passage of five years since FATF first called upon the United States to meet its commitment to collect beneficial ownership information, have been unable to devise an effective proposal. Part of the difficulty is that the States have a wide range of practices, differ on the extent to which they rely on incorporation fees as a major source of revenue, and differ on the extent to which they attract non-U.S. persons as incorporators. In addition, the States are competing against each other to attract persons who want to set up U.S. corporations, and that competition creates pressure for each individual State to favor procedures that allow quick and easy incorporations, with no questions asked. It’s a classic case of competition causing a race to the bottom, making it difficult for any one State to do the right thing and request the identity of the persons behind the incorporation efforts.

That is why Federal legislation in this area is critical. Federal legislation

is needed to level the playing field among the States, set minimum standards for obtaining beneficial ownership information, put an end to the practice of States forming millions of legal entities each year without knowing who is behind them, and bring the United States into compliance with its international commitments.

The bill’s provisions would require the States to obtain from incorporation applicants a list of the beneficial owners of each corporation or LLC formed under their laws, to maintain this information for a period of years after a corporation is terminated, and to provide the information to law enforcement upon receipt of a subpoena or summons. The bill would also require corporations and LLCs to update their beneficial ownership information on a regular basis. The ownership information would be kept by the State or, if a State maintains a formation agent licensing system and delegates this task, by a State’s licensed formation agents.

The particular information that would have to be provided for each beneficial owner is the owner’s name, address, and unique identifying number from a State drivers license or U.S. passport. The bill would not require States or their licensed formation agents to verify this information, but penalties would apply to persons who submitted false information.

In the case of U.S. corporations formed by individuals who do not possess a drivers license or passport from the United States, the bill would require the incorporation application to include a written certification from a formation agent residing within the State attesting to the fact that the agent had obtained and verified the identity of the non-U.S. beneficial owners of the corporation, by obtaining their names, addresses, and identifying information from a non-expired non-U.S. passport. The formation agent would be required to retain this information in the State for a specified period of time and produce it upon receipt of a subpoena or summons from law enforcement.

To ensure that its provisions are tightly targeted, the bill would exempt a wide range of corporations from the disclosure obligation. It would exempt, for example, virtually all highly regulated corporations, because we already know who owns them. That includes all publicly-traded corporations, banks, broker-dealers, commodity brokers, registered investment funds, registered accounting firms, insurers, utilities, and charities that file returns with the IRS. The bill would also exempt corporations with a substantial U.S. presence, including at least 20 employees physically located in the United States, since those individuals could provide law enforcement with the leads needed to trace a corporation’s true

owners. In addition, the bill would exempt corporations whose beneficial ownership information would not benefit the public interest or assist law enforcement. These exemptions dramatically reduce the number of corporations who would be required to provide beneficial ownership information to ensure that the bill's disclosure obligation is focused on only those whose owners' identities are currently hidden.

The bill does not take a position on the issue of whether the States should make the beneficial ownership information available to the public. Instead, the bill leaves it entirely up to the States to decide whether, under what circumstances, and to what extent to make beneficial ownership information available to the public. The bill explicitly permits the States to place restrictions on providing beneficial ownership information to persons other than government officials. The bill focuses instead on ensuring that law enforcement with a subpoena or summons is given ready access to the beneficial ownership information.

Relative to the costs of compliance, the bill provides States with access to two separate funding sources, neither of which involves appropriated funds. For the first three years after the bill's enactment, the bill directs both the Treasury and Justice Departments to make funds available from their individual forfeiture programs to States seeking to comply with the requirements of the Act. These forfeiture funds are not appropriated taxpayer dollars; instead they are the proceeds of forfeiture actions taken against persons involved in money laundering, drug trafficking, or other wrongdoing. The two forfeiture funds typically contain between \$300 and \$500 million at a time. The bill would direct a total of \$30 million over three years to be provided to the States from the two funds to carry out the Act. These provisions would ensure that States have adequate funds for the modest compliance costs involved with adding a new question to their incorporation forms requesting the names of the covered corporations' beneficial owners.

It is common for bills establishing minimum Federal standards to seek to ensure State action by making some Federal funding dependent upon a State's meeting the specified standards. Our bill, however, states explicitly that nothing in its provisions authorizes DHS to withhold funds from a State for failing to modify its incorporation practices to meet the beneficial ownership information requirements in the Act. Instead, the bill calls for a GAO report in 2015 to identify which States, if any, have failed to strengthen their incorporation practices as required by the Act. After getting this status report, a future Congress can decide what steps to take, including whether to reduce any funding going to noncompliant States.

The bill also contains a provision that would require corporations bidding on Federal contracts to provide the same beneficial ownership information to the Federal Government as provided to the relevant State. The Subcommittee has become aware of instances in which the Federal Government has found itself doing business with U.S. corporations whose owners are hidden. It's important that when the Federal Government contracts to do business with someone, it knows who it is dealing with.

Finally, the bill would require the Treasury Department to issue a rule requiring U.S. formation agents to establish anti-money laundering programs to ensure they are not forming U.S. corporations or LLCs for wrongdoers. The bill requires the programs to be risk based so that formation agents can target their preventative efforts toward persons who pose a high risk of being involved with money laundering. GAO would also be asked to conduct a study of existing State formation procedures for partnerships, trusts, and charitable organizations.

We have worked with the Departments of Homeland Security, Treasury, and Justice to craft a bill that would address, in a fair and reasonable way, the homeland security problems created by States allowing the formation of millions of U.S. corporations and LLCs with hidden owners. What the bill comes down to is a simple requirement that States change their incorporation applications to add a single question requesting identifying information for the true owners of the corporations they form. That is not too much to ask to protect this country and the international community from wrongdoers seeking to misuse U.S. corporations.

For those who say that, if the United States tightens its incorporation rules, new corporations will be formed elsewhere, it is appropriate to ask exactly where they will go. Every country in the European Union is already required to have their formation agents collect beneficial information for the corporations formed by those agents. Most offshore jurisdictions also already require request this information to be collected, including the Bahamas, Cayman Islands, and the Channel Islands. Countries around the world already request beneficial ownership information, in part because of their commitment to FATF's international anti-money laundering standards. Our 50 States should be asking for the same ownership information, but there is no indication that they will any time in the near future, unless required to do so.

I wish Federal legislation weren't necessary. I wish the States could solve this homeland security problem on their own, but ongoing competitive pressures make it unlikely that the States will do the right thing. It is

been more than five years since our 2006 hearing on this issue and more than two years since the States came up with a model law on the subject, with no progress to speak of, despite repeated pleas from law enforcement.

Federal legislation is necessary to reduce the vulnerability of the United States to wrongdoing by U.S. corporations with hidden owners, to protect interstate and international commerce from criminals misusing U.S. corporations, to strengthen the ability of law enforcement to investigate suspect U.S. corporations, to level the playing field among the States, and to bring the United States into compliance with its international anti-money laundering obligations.

There is also an issue of consistency. For years, I have been fighting offshore corporate secrecy laws and practices that enable wrongdoers to secretly control offshore corporations involved in money laundering, tax evasion, and other misconduct. I have pointed out on more than one occasion that corporations were not created to hide ownership, but to protect owners from personal liability for corporate acts. Unfortunately, today, the corporate form has too often been corrupted into serving those who wish to conceal their identities. It is past time to stop this misuse of the corporate form. But if we want to stop inappropriate corporate secrecy offshore, we need to stop it here at home as well.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this legislation and putting an end to incorporation practices that promote corporate secrecy and render the United States and other countries vulnerable to abuse by U.S. corporations with hidden owners.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a bill summary be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SUMMARY OF INCORPORATION TRANSPARENCY
AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ACT
August 2, 2011

To protect the United States from U.S. corporations being misused to support terrorism, money laundering, tax evasion, or other misconduct, the Levin-Grassley Incorporation Transparency and Law Enforcement Assistance Act would:

Beneficial Ownership Information. Require the States directly or through licensed formation agents to obtain the names of beneficial owners of corporations or limited liability companies (LLCs) formed under a State's laws, ensure this information is updated, and provide the information to law enforcement upon receipt of a subpoena or summons.

Identifying Information. Require corporations to provide beneficial owners' names, addresses, and a U.S. drivers license or passport number; or if the owners do not have either a U.S. drivers license nor passport, information from their non-U.S. passports.

Federal Contractors. Require corporations bidding on federal contracts to provide the

same beneficial ownership information to the federal government.

Shelf Corporations. Require formation agents selling “shelf corporations”—companies formed for later sale to a third party—to identify the beneficial owners of those corporations.

Penalties for False Information. Establish penalties for persons who knowingly provide false information, or willfully fail to provide required information, on beneficial ownership.

Exemptions. Exempt from the disclosure obligation regulated corporations, including publicly traded companies, banks, broker-dealers, insurers, registered investment funds, and charities; corporations with a substantial U.S. presence; and corporations whose beneficial ownership information would not benefit the public interest or assist law enforcement.

Funding. Provide \$30 million over three years to States from existing Treasury and Justice Department forfeiture funds to pay for the costs of complying with the Act.

State Compliance Report. Specify that nothing in the Act authorizes funds to be withheld from any State for failure to comply with the Act, but also require a GAO report by 2015 identifying which States are not in compliance so a future Congress can determine what steps to take.

Transition Period. Give the State’s three years, until October 2014, to require beneficial ownership information for corporations and LLCs formed under their laws.

Anti-Money Laundering Safeguards. Require paid formation agents to establish anti-money laundering programs to guard against supplying U.S. corporations or LLCs that facilitate misconduct. Attorneys using paid formation agents would be exempt from this requirement.

GAO Study. Require GAO to complete a study of State beneficial ownership information requirements for partnerships, charities, and trusts.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico

(for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1485. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to include ultralight vehicles under the definition of aircraft for purposes of the aviation smuggling provisions under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, today I rise to introduce the Ultralight Aircraft Smuggling Prevention Act, legislation that will crack down on smugglers who use ultralight aircraft, also known as ULAs, to bring drugs across the U.S.-Mexico border. I am pleased to be working on this in a bipartisan manner with Senator HELLER, who introduced a very similar bill last year in the House with Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS. That bill passed overwhelmingly by a 412-3 vote. I hope we can have a similar bipartisan result here in the Senate.

ULAs are single-pilot aircraft capable of flying low, landing and taking off quickly, and are typically used for sport or for recreation. However, because of increased detection and interdiction of more traditional smuggling conveyances, ULAs have increasingly been employed along the Southwest border by Mexican drug trafficking or-

ganizations to smuggle drugs into the United States.

The use of ULAs by drug smugglers presents a unique challenge for Border Patrol and prosecutors. Every year hundreds of ULAs are flown across the Southwest border and each one can carry hundreds of pounds of narcotics. Under existing law, ULAs are not categorized as aircraft by the Federal Aviation Administration, so they do not fall under the aviation smuggling provisions of the Tariff Act of 1930. This means that a drug smuggler piloting a small airplane is subject to much stronger criminal penalties than a smuggler who pilots a ULA.

Our bill will close this unintended loophole and establish the same penalties if convicted—a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a \$25,000 fine—for smuggling drugs on ULAs as currently exist for smuggling on airplanes or in automobiles. This is a common sense solution that will give our law enforcement agencies and prosecutors additional tools they need to combat drug smuggling.

The bill would also add an attempt and conspiracy provision to the aviation smuggling law to allow prosecutors to charge people other than the pilot who are involved in aviation smuggling. This would give them a new tool to prosecute the ground crews who aid the pilots as well as those who pick up the drug loads that are dropped from ULAs in the U.S. Finally, the bill directs the Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security to collaborate in identifying equipment and technology used by DOD that could be used by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to detect ULAs.

In addition to Senator HELLER, I am pleased to be joined by Senators BINGAMAN and FEINSTEIN in introducing this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support the Ultralight Aircraft Smuggling Prevention Act.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill and an article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1485

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Ultralight Aircraft Smuggling Prevention Act of 2011”.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE AVIATION SMUGGLING PROVISIONS OF THE TARIFF ACT OF 1930.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 590 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1590) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

“(g) DEFINITION OF AIRCRAFT.—As used in this section, the term ‘aircraft’ includes an ultralight vehicle, as defined by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.”.

(b) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—Subsection (d) of section 590 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1590(d)) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “, or attempts or conspires to commit,” after “commits”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section apply with respect to violations of any provision of section 590 of the Tariff Act of 1930 on or after the 30th day after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION.

The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering shall, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security, identify equipment and technology used by the Department of Defense that could also be used by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to detect and track the illicit use of ultralight aircraft near the international border between the United States and Mexico.

[From the Los Angeles Times, May 19, 2011]

ULTRALIGHT AIRCRAFT NOW FERRYING DRUGS ACROSS U.S.-MEXICO BORDER

MEXICAN ORGANIZED CRIME GROUPS ARE USING ULTRALIGHT AIRCRAFT TO DROP MARIJUANA BUNDLES IN AGRICULTURAL FIELDS AND DESERT SCRUB ACROSS THE U.S. BORDER. THE INCURSIONS ARE HARD TO DETECT AND ARE ON THE UPSWING.

(By Richard Marosi)

They fly low and slow over the border, their wings painted black and motors humming faintly under moonlit skies. The pilots, some armed in the open cockpits, steer the horizontal control bar with one hand and pull a latch with the other, releasing 250-pound payloads that land with a thud, leaving only craters as evidence of another successful smuggling run.

Mexican organized crime groups, increasingly stymied by stepped-up enforcement on land, have dug tunnels and captained boats to get drugs across the U.S.-Mexico border. Now they are taking to the skies, using ultralight aircraft that resemble motorized hang gliders to drop marijuana bundles in agricultural fields and desert scrub across the Southwest border.

What began with a few flights in Arizona in 2008 is now common from Texas to California’s Imperial Valley and, mostly recently, San Diego, where at least two ultralights suspected of carrying drugs have been detected flying over Interstate 8, according to U.S. border authorities.

The number of incursions by ultralights reached 228 in the last federal fiscal year ending Sept. 30, almost double from the previous year. Seventy-one have been detected in this fiscal year through April, according to border authorities.

Flying at night with lights out, and zipping back across the border in minutes, ultralight aircraft sightings are rare, but often dramatic. At least two have been chased out of Arizona skies by Black Hawk Customs and Border Protection helicopters and F-16 jet fighters. Last month, a pair of visiting British helicopter pilots almost crashed into an ultralight during training exercises over the Imperial Valley.

The smuggling work is fraught with danger. High winds can flip the light aircraft. Moonlight provides illumination, but some pilots wear night-vision goggles. Others fly over major roads to orient themselves. Drop zones are illuminated by ground crews using strobe lights or glow sticks. There is little room for error.

At least one pilot has been paralyzed; another died in a crash.

In Calexico, Det. Mario Salinas was walking to his car one morning last year when he heard something buzzing over the Police Department on 5th Street. "I hear this weird noise, like a lawn mower. I look up and I see this small plane," said Salinas, who pursued the aircraft before it eluded him as it flew over the desert.

The ultralight activity is seen as strong evidence that smugglers are having an increasingly difficult time getting marijuana over land crossings. Authorities noticed a surge in flights in Imperial County after newly erected fencing along California's southeast corner blocked smugglers from crossing desert dunes in all-terrain vehicles.

U.S. Border Patrol agents, accustomed to scouring for footprints and tracks in the sand, have had to adapt. They are now instructed to turn off their engines and roll down their windows so they can listen for incursions by air.

"We're trained to look down and at the fence. Now we have to look up for tell-tale signs of ultralight traffic," said Roy D. Villarreal, deputy chief patrol agent of the El Centro sector in the Imperial Valley.

Although the new trend poses serious challenges, authorities point out that ultralights are a decidedly inefficient way of getting drugs across the border. Traffickers who once moved thousands of pounds of drugs across the border now appear to be packing their loads by the pound, not the ton, authorities say.

The ultralights—lightweight planes typically used as recreational aircraft—are customized for smuggling purposes. All-terrain wheels are added for bumpy landings. Second seats are ripped out to add fuel capacity. Drugs are loaded onto metal baskets affixed to the bottom of the framing. From 150 to 250 pounds of marijuana are generally carried, depending on the weight of the pilot. Some ultralights are shrouded in black paint, with even the plastic tarp covers for the marijuana blackened for stealth entries.

Radar operators at Riverside County's Air and Marine Operations Center, where general aviation air traffic across the country is monitored, have trouble detecting the aircraft.

Flying as low as 500 feet, their small frames are hard to distinguish from trucks. Many appear, then disappear from radar screens. Others never appear at all, and the ultralight trend has prompted border authorities to develop new radar technologies specifically designed to detect the aircraft.

"There are indications of larger amounts of activity," said Tony Crowder, director of the Air and Marine Operations Center, which is housed at March Air Reserve Base.

The close cooperation among radar operators, helicopter pilots and agents on the ground has resulted in some successes.

Ultralight pilots no longer land on U.S. soil after authorities began responding quickly to offloading sites. The Mexican Army has seized four ultralights around Baja California in recent weeks after being tipped off by U.S. authorities.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. TOOMEY, and Mr. HELLER):

S. 1486. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify and expand on criteria applicable to patient admission to and care furnished in long-term care hospitals participating in the Medicare program, and

for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Long-Term Care Hospital Improvement Act of 2011, with the support of my colleague Mr. NELSON of Florida. This legislation develops new federal standards and certification criteria for Long Term Acute Care Hospitals, LTCHs.

We are also joined by Senators CRAPO, WYDEN, TOOMEY and HELLER, in introducing this bill. We hope to get the support of many more of our colleagues.

This legislation has the support of the major hospital associations, including the American Hospital Association, AHA, the Federation of American Hospitals, FAH, and the Acute Long Term Hospital Association, ALTHA.

As many of you know, Long-Term Acute Care Hospitals, referred to as LTCHs, specialize in treating medically complex patients who need longer than usual hospital stays, on average 25 days. By comparison, the average stay for a patient in a general acute hospital is only 5–6 days.

LTCHs, like rehabilitation hospitals and nursing homes, often care for patients who are discharged from a general hospital. Because of that, LTCHs are sometimes referred to as post-acute care providers. However, LTCHs are fully licensed and certified as acute care hospitals. There are approximately 425 LTCHs in the nation, compared to approximately 12,000 nursing homes and 1,400 rehabilitation hospitals. LTCH patients are very ill, with many suffering from complex respiratory issues, including those who are ventilator dependent, or other complex medical issues. LTCHs account for about of Medicare spending.

The bill that I am introducing today implements a comprehensive set of federal criteria that will supplement existing Medicare classification criteria for LTCHs. These criteria are designed to ensure that LTCHs are treating high acuity patients who need extended hospital stays. Analysis by the Moran Company estimates that these criteria could generate approximately \$374 million over 5 years and \$2.7 billion over 10 years. The bill is expected to result in a net savings of \$500 million over 10 years. I plan to work with CBO to confirm that estimate.

This legislation will generate savings for the Medicare program; promote patients being cared for in the most appropriate setting; and, protect access to LTCH care for medically acute beneficiaries who need extended stays due to their complex condition.

This is not a new concept and the American Hospital Association has been working on this issue for years. In August 2010, the AHA initiated a workgroup representing a cross section of the nation's LTCHs and larger general hospital systems including

Geisinger Medical System, Pennsylvania, and Partners HealthCare System, Inc., Boston. The goals of the AHA workgroup were to develop policy recommendations for uniform LTCH patient and facility criteria; distinguish LTCH hospitals from general acute hospitals and all post-acute settings; assess fiscal impact, with goal of showing overall Medicare savings; develop consensus among AHA's LTCH members; and achieve relief from the LTCH "25 percent Rule."

We believe that we have accomplished these goals with my legislation. Additionally, for a body that just voted on a debt ceiling increase, this bill has the potential to achieve significant savings.

I hope that my colleagues will agree with me and that this legislation is something that they can support. I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring the Long-Term Care Hospital Improvement Act of 2011.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1491. A bill to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to expand the electric rate-setting authority of States; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I rise to introduce the PURPA PLUS Act.

In my home State we have numerous emerging small renewable energy technologies, such as wave energy buoys, hydropower turbines in irrigation canals, biomass burning cogeneration facilities and rooftop solar installations. Like Oregon, many States have sought to advance new electricity technologies by providing these kinds of projects with higher power purchase rates for their power than utility companies normally pay for electricity. These incentive rates allow individuals and small businesses to recover money they invest in solar panels or other electricity generation projects over a reasonable period of time.

The PURPA PLUS Act simply provides States the clear legal authority to set these incentive rates for small renewable energy projects. Currently, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC, has exclusive jurisdiction over wholesale energy prices. Under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act, PURPA, FERC regulates the price that utility companies pay for electricity from small, independent power providers and that rate can be no higher than what it would normally cost a utility company to buy additional power, known as "avoided cost". My bill would transfer the authority for setting power purchase rates for small power projects of less than 2 megawatts from FERC to the States. This transfer is voluntary. If a State chose to exercise this authority to promote small wind energy development, or solar, or cogeneration projects, it

could. If a State chose not to use this authority, FERC would continue to regulate these projects as before. By capping the project size at 2 megawatts, the bill only extends this new authority for small projects that are providing very small amounts of power to the local utility company. It would leave regulation of large wind farms, hydroprojects and other large renewable energy projects that often sell their power to out-of-state customers unchanged. Conversely, it shouldn't be necessary for the Federal Government to get involved in setting rates for solar panels on top of a house or apartment building.

At a time when both State legislatures and the Federal Government are tightening their purse strings on grants, loans and tax incentives for the development of renewable energy projects, this legislation would give State public utility commissions another tool to promote small renewable resources. In Oregon, the State legislature and State utility commission have already established a pilot program to spur residential rooftop solar projects. Oregon's utility commission also has a program that allows net metering of renewable customer-produced energy where customers are charged for the extra energy they buy from the utility company minus the amount of electricity produced themselves. This bill will simply provide these programs stronger legal footing, and allow States to expand these sorts of programs if they wish.

While I acknowledge that the power from these small projects may be more expensive than a large central generation station powered by coal or gas, I believe that States should be able to consider the associated benefits of small renewable power and set higher prices when the benefits outweigh the costs if they choose. Benefits of small renewable energy projects include local job creation, less investment in high-voltage transmission lines, diversity in an area's power generation portfolio, and the environmental benefits of green energy.

The bill has the support of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, which represents the individual State commissions, as well as the Solar Energy Industry Association, the Distributed Wind Energy Association, the Clean Coalition and the Oregon Public Utility Commission. I am very pleased to be introducing this bill with my colleague on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senator COONS. I hope that many of our colleagues will join us in supporting this bill.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. HELLER):

S. 1492. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in Clark County, Nevada, for the environ-

mental remediation and reclamation of the Three Kids Mine Project Site, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Three Kids Mine Reclamation Act of 2011. My legislation transfers approximately 900 acres of federal land to the city of Henderson to facilitate the remediation and redevelopment of a dangerous abandoned mine site near Lake Mead.

The Three Kids mine was originally developed during World War I to provide manganese needed to harden steel used by the U.S. military. The mine and mill continued to support the building of warships and tanks through 1961 after which it was mostly abandoned and used occasionally as a storage site for federal manganese reserves. The Three Kids site was forgotten for decades until the population explosion in southern Nevada put the mine right in people's backyards.

The Three Kids Mine site is littered with hazards that include three large mine pits that are hundreds of feet deep, ruins from the mine facility, and a sludge pool of mine tailings made up of arsenic, lead, and diesel fuel. As a result of how the mine was developed and managed, approximately 75 percent of the area is federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, BLM, and the Bureau of Reclamation, while part of the site is privately owned. Unfortunately, because of the complicated land ownership pattern and the immense cost of clean-up, the Federal Government was never able to initiate the reclamation process.

To turn the Three Kids Mine site into a job-creating opportunity while also cleaning up this public health and safety hazard, my legislation directs the BLM to convey the Federal portions of the site to the Henderson Redevelopment Agency for the fair market value after taking into consideration the cost of cleanup for the whole mine site. The city of Henderson will then be able to take advantage of Nevada redevelopment laws and work with local developers to finance and implement a plan to remediate the abandoned toxic mine site. Local officials and developers will finally be able to turn this wasteland into safe, productive land for the local community. The project will take decades from start to finish, but the city and the developers are committed to the effort and worked hard to put together a viable plan to fix this old problem without costing taxpayers a dime for cleanup.

Keeping our communities safe, healthy, and livable is critical. Removing this physical and environmental hazard from southern Nevada is a high priority for the city of Henderson and our delegation. I appreciate your help and I look forward to working with the Senate Energy Committee to move this legislation forward in the near future.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1492

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Three Kids Mine Remediation and Reclamation Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) FEDERAL LAND.—The term "Federal land" means the approximately 948 acres of Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Land Management land within the Three Kids Mine Project site, as depicted on the map.

(2) HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE; POLLUTANT OR CONTAMINANT; RELEASE; REMEDY; RESPONSE.—The terms "hazardous substance", "pollutant or contaminant", "release", "remedy", and "response" have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601).

(3) HENDERSON REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY.—The term "Henderson Redevelopment Agency" means the redevelopment agency of the City of Henderson, Nevada, established and authorized to transact business and exercise the powers of the agency in accordance with the Nevada Community Redevelopment Law (Nev. Rev. Stat. 279.382 to 279.685).

(4) MAP.—The term "map" means the map entitled "Three Kids Mine Project Area" and dated August 2, 2011.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) STATE.—The term "State" means the State of Nevada.

(7) THREE KIDS MINE PROJECT SITE.—The term "Three Kids Mine Project Site" means the approximately 1,262 acres of land that is—

- (A) comprised of—
 - (i) the Federal land; and
 - (ii) the approximately 314 acres of adjacent non-Federal land; and

(B) depicted as the "Three Kids Mine Project Site" on the map.

SEC. 3. LAND CONVEYANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sections 202 and 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712, 1713) and section 120 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9620), and any other provision of law, as soon as practicable after the conditions described in subsection (b) have been met, and subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall convey to the Henderson Redevelopment Agency all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land.

(b) CONDITIONS.—

(1) APPRAISAL; FAIR MARKET VALUE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As consideration for the conveyance under subsection (a), the Henderson Redevelopment Agency shall pay the fair market value of the Federal land, if any, as determined under subparagraph (B) and as adjusted under subparagraph (E).

(B) APPRAISAL.—The Secretary shall determine the fair market value of the Federal land based on an appraisal—

(i) that is conducted in accordance with nationally recognized appraisal standards, including—

(I) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions; and

(II) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice; and

(ii) that does not take into account any existing contamination associated with historical mining on the Federal land.

(C) REMEDIATION AND RECLAMATION COSTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall prepare a reasonable estimate of the costs to assess, remediate, and reclaim the Three Kids Mine Project Site.

(ii) CONSIDERATIONS.—The estimate prepared under clause (i) shall be—

(I) based on the results of a comprehensive Phase II environmental site assessment of the Three Kids Mine Project Site prepared by the Henderson Redevelopment Agency or a designee that has been approved by the State; and

(II) prepared in accordance with the current version of the ASTM International Standard E-2137-06 entitled “Standard Guide for Estimating Monetary Costs and Liabilities for Environmental Matters.”

(iii) ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS.—The Phase II environmental site assessment prepared under clause (ii)(I) shall, without limiting any additional requirements that may be required by the State, be conducted in accordance with the procedures of—

(I) the most recent version of ASTM International Standard E-1527-05 entitled “Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments: Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Process”; and

(II) ASTM International Standard E-1903-97 entitled “Standard Guide for Environmental Site Assessments: Phase II Environmental Site Assessment Process” (2002).

(iv) REVIEW OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall review and consider cost information proffered by the Henderson Redevelopment Agency and the State in the preparation of the estimate under this subparagraph.

(II) FINAL DETERMINATION.—If there is a disagreement among the Secretary, Henderson Redevelopment Agency, and the State over the reasonable estimate of costs under this subparagraph, the parties shall jointly select 1 or more experts to assist the Secretary in making the final estimate of the costs.

(D) DEADLINE.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall begin the appraisal and cost estimates under subparagraphs (B) and (C), respectively.

(E) ADJUSTMENT.—The Secretary shall administratively adjust the fair market value of the Federal land, as determined under subparagraph (B), based on the estimate of remediation, and reclamation costs, as determined under subparagraph (C).

(2) MINE REMEDIATION AND RECLAMATION AGREEMENT EXECUTED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The conveyance under subsection (a) shall be contingent on the Secretary receiving from the State written notification that a mine remediation and reclamation agreement has been executed in accordance with subparagraph (B).

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The mine remediation and reclamation agreement required under subparagraph (A) shall be an enforceable consent order or agreement administered by the State that—

(i) obligates a party to perform the remediation and reclamation work at the Three Kids Mine Project Site necessary to complete a permanent and appropriately protective remedy to existing environmental contamination and hazardous conditions; and

(ii) contains provisions determined to be necessary by the State, including financial assurance provisions to ensure the completion of the remedy.

(3) NOTIFICATION FROM AGENCY.—As a condition of the conveyance under subsection (a), the Secretary shall receive from the Henderson Redevelopment Agency written notification that the Henderson Redevelopment Agency is prepared to accept conveyance of the Federal land under that subsection.

SEC. 4. WITHDRAWAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, for the 10-year period beginning on the earlier of the date of enactment of this Act or the date of the conveyance required by this Act, the Federal land is withdrawn from all forms of—

(1) entry, appropriation, operation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) disposition under the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and the geothermal leasing laws.

(b) EXISTING RECLAMATION WITHDRAWALS.—Subject to valid existing rights, any withdrawal under the public land laws that includes all or any portion of the Federal land for which the Bureau of Reclamation has determined that the Bureau of Reclamation has no further need under applicable law is relinquished and revoked solely to the extent necessary—

(1) to exclude from the withdrawal the property that is no longer needed; and

(2) to allow for the immediate conveyance of the Federal land as required under this Act.

SEC. 5. ACEC BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.

Notwithstanding section 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1713), the boundary of the River Mountains Area of Critical Environmental Concern (NVN 76884) is adjusted to exclude any portion of the Three Kids Mine Project Site consistent with the map.

SEC. 6. RELEASE OF THE UNITED STATES.

Upon making the conveyance under section 3, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the United States is released from any and all liabilities or claims of any kind or nature arising from the presence, release, or threat of release of any hazardous substance, pollutant, contaminant, petroleum product (or derivative of a petroleum product of any kind), solid waste, mine materials or mining-related features (including tailings, overburden, waste rock, mill remnants, pits, or other hazards resulting from the presence of mining related features) at the Three Kids Mine Project Site in existence on or before the date of the conveyance.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1495. A bill to amend the school dropout prevention program in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce Early Intervention for Graduation Success Authorization Act. This legislation would, if enacted, amend the current School Dropout Prevention provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. It would focus attention on identifying and helping students who are at risk to not graduate from high school as early as pre-kindergarten and through elementary and middle school.

Some may ask, “Why are you concentrating on toddlers and elementary school children when you are trying to solve the high school dropout crisis facing our Nation? Why not focus attention and our Nation’s scarce resources on high school students, or even middle school students?”

The reason is simple. Early on is when children’s troubles in school begin, and an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. High school and middle school students do not just wake up one day and say, “I think I’ll drop out of school today.” Twenty-five years of research tells us that dropping out is a long process of frustration, alienation, and even boredom, it is not a sudden decision. We know that students with disabilities, minority and poor children, and students whose home lives are, in all sorts of ways, difficult have lower graduation rates than their peers. The challenges children face today are all too prevalent, and we know the factors that make it harder for them to succeed in school. We know this.

It only makes sense that we re-work the program that is intended to help schools increase their graduation rates so that it actually helps schools help children when we can make the most difference. We need to act before these children have fought for years just to stay afloat, and before they are too tired, frustrated, alienated, and angry to fight anymore.

Factors that have been shown to present a significant risk factor even in elementary school include: low achievement, grade retention, poor attendance, misbehavior and aggression, and low socioeconomic status. Family background characteristics play a role as well, such as family disruption, not living with parents, and parents’ low educational attainment. Even low birth weight has been shown by numerous studies to be linked with poor educational outcomes.

My “Early Intervention for Graduation Success” bill would focus Federal funds on states that have the lowest graduation rates. State education agencies would be required to develop or update their plans to increase graduation rates. They would also be required to work with health, social services, juvenile justice, and other relevant state agencies to help school districts and early childhood education providers better identify which of their students have research-based risk factors. In turn, schools and early learning providers would be required to develop and update individual learning plans for these students and ensure that the next school of enrollment has the child’s plan.

My bill also gives States and partnerships a menu of research-based activities from which to choose to improve services to students, including professional development, program quality

improvement, curriculum alignment, community integration and support services, and setting high expectations for academic achievement.

In short, my bill helps States and schools to give students the support they need to achieve their dreams, and inspires them to dream big, right from the very start.

We can continue to spend millions of dollars every year on intensive services for teenagers who are far behind in school, who are frustrated beyond all measure, and who gave up on success long ago. We may even have some limited success helping some young people get back on track and graduate from high school. Or, we can start at the beginning, making sure that the children who already have challenges get the help they need to succeed.

I look forward to passage of this bill or incorporating it into the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 1496. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to prohibit the delegation by the United States of inspection, certification, and related services to a foreign classification society that provides comparable services to Iran, North Korea, North Sudan, or Syria, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Ethical Shipping Inspections Act of 2011. This bill would prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security and U.S. Coast Guard from delegating vessel inspection and certification authority to a foreign-based classification society that also provides these services on behalf of the governments of Iran, North Korea, North Sudan, or Syria.

I am joined in the effort to close this critical loophole by my colleagues, Senators LIEBERMAN and BEGICH. With the introduction of the Ethical Shipping Inspections Act of 2011, we seek to end U.S. relationships with foreign-based classification societies that also represent nations like the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Each year, non-governmental classification societies conduct more than 4,500 statutory inspections of U.S. flagged vessels to verify that these vessels meet international maritime conventions and national regulatory requirements. World-wide, more than 100 governments have established relationships with classification societies. In addition, the vast majority of commercial ships are built to and surveyed for compliance with the standards developed by classification societies.

The relationship between classification societies and the U.S. Government was established in statute in the Merchant Marine Act of 1920, when the

Secretary of the Department overseeing the U.S. Coast Guard was granted the authority to delegate certain inspection and certification services to the American Bureau of Shipping, ABS, or another recognized Class Society. In 1996 Congress expanded this program to allow foreign-based classification societies to also serve on behalf of the U.S. Government in this capacity. Today, there are four foreign-based classification societies that have established Memorandums of Understanding with the U.S. Coast Guard to conduct these inspections on the Coast Guard's behalf.

While this act would allow this relationship between the U.S. Government and foreign-based classification societies to continue, it would eliminate a loophole in the law that allows the foreign-based classification societies that represent the United States to also represent the governments of Iran, North Korea, North Sudan, or Syria. Ironically, the current law provides more latitude to foreign-based societies than we allow the American Bureau of Shipping. As a U.S.-based non-profit, non-governmental organization, ABS is restricted from providing such services in Iran under existing Iranian Trans-action Regulations. Yet, the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996, as amended by the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010, does not prevent foreign-based classification societies from representing both the U.S. and Iranian governments.

With this in mind, my colleagues and I have introduced this legislation to prohibit the U.S. from obtaining vessel inspection, certification, and related services from a foreign-based class society that also provides these services on behalf of the Iranian, North Korean, North Sudanese, or Syrian governments. For the United States to maintain such relationships runs directly contrary to the spirit of United States policy.

It is important that we all understand the special nature of the relationship between classification societies and our Government and take action to ensure that our Government is represented by classification societies in a manner befitting of our nation's values and consistent with U.S. foreign policy. For these reasons, my colleagues and I believe it is imperative that we amend the law to prohibit this activity, and we urge our colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1496

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Ethical Shipping Inspections Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON DELEGATION OF INSPECTION, CERTIFICATION, AND RELATED SERVICES.

Section 3316 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(e) The Secretary may not make a delegation, and shall revoke an existing delegation made, to a foreign classification society pursuant to subsection (b) or (d) to provide inspection, certification, or related services if the Secretary of State determines that the foreign classification society provides comparable services—

"(1) in Iran, North Korea, North Sudan, or Syria; or

"(2) for the government of Iran, North Korea, North Sudan, or Syria."

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 1504. A bill to restore Medicaid eligibility for citizens of the Freely Associated States; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Medicaid Restoration for Citizens of Freely Associated States Act of 2011. This bill would reinstate eligibility for critical Federal health benefits for citizens of certain Pacific Island nations who have been invited by the Federal Government to live in the United States, but for whom the costs of services have fallen to individual states, Hawaii in particular. I would like to thank Senators INOUE and BINGAMAN for joining me in introducing this bill.

The Freely Associated States, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau, are island nations that have a unique political relationship with the United States.

At the end of World War II, the United Nations established the "Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands," which was administered by the United States between 1947 and 1986. It included the islands that now make up the FAS nations, as well as other Pacific islands liberated from Japan after World War II.

This U.S. Trusteeship presented the Federal Government with new strategic and military opportunities, allowing the United States to establish military bases and station forces in the Trust Territory and close off areas for security reasons. It also bestowed upon the United States the responsibility to promote economic development and self-reliance for the territory.

In the 1980s, the United States entered into a new phase in its relationship with the FAS through the Compact of Free Association and the Palau Compact of Free Association. The Compacts allow FAS citizens to freely enter, reside, and work in the United States and authorize their participation in certain Federal programs.

As a part of the Compacts, FAS citizens were extended Medicaid eligibility.

Unfortunately, when the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 was enacted, FAS citizens lost many of their public benefits, including Medicaid coverage.

Subsequently, state and territorial governments have been the sole sources of funding for meeting the social service and public health needs of this ever growing population. And FAS migrants to Hawaii often arrive with serious medical needs, requiring costly health care services such as dialysis and chemotherapy.

These costs will continue to rise, even as the State's resources are increasingly constrained.

Restoration of Medicaid eligibility for these individuals is crucial for states where many FAS citizens reside. In the Pacific, this includes Hawaii, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

In the continental U.S., this includes California, Oregon, Washington, and Arkansas. Health care providers that operate in areas with high rates of uninsured are having difficulties meeting the health care needs of their communities. Uninsured FAS citizens who seek health care services contribute to the uncompensated costs that are creating an ever-greater burden on health care providers.

I ask my colleagues for their support of the Medicaid Restoration for Citizens of Freely Associated States Act of 2011. The decision to allow citizens of the Freely Associated States to come to the United States was a federal decision, with national benefits.

That we also accept the cost of that decision is a matter of fairness and responsibility.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1504

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Medicaid Restoration for Citizens of Freely Associated States Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY FOR CITIZENS OF FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 402(b)(2) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1612(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(G) MEDICAID EXCEPTION FOR CITIZENS OF FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.—With respect to eligibility for benefits for the program defined in paragraph (3)(C) (relating to Medicaid), paragraph (1) shall not apply to any individual who lawfully resides in the United States (including territories and possessions of the United States) in accordance with—

"(i) section 141 of the Compact of Free Association between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, approved by

Congress in the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003;

"(ii) section 141 of the Compact of Free Association between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, approved by Congress in the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003; or

"(iii) section 141 of the Compact of Free Association between the Government of the United States and the Government of Palau, approved by Congress in Public Law 99-658 (100 Stat. 3672)."

(b) EXCEPTION TO 5-YEAR LIMITED ELIGIBILITY.—Section 403(d) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1613(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "or" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; or"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) an individual described in section 402(b)(2)(G), but only with respect to the designated Federal program defined in section 402(b)(3)(C)."

(c) DEFINITION OF QUALIFIED ALIEN.—Section 431(b) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1641(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6), by striking "or" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; or"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(8) an individual who lawfully resides in the United States (including territories and possessions of the United States) in accordance with a Compact of Free Association referred to in section 402(b)(2)(G)."

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1108 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1308) is amended—

(1) in subsection (f), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "subsection (g)" and inserting "subsections (g) and (h)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(h) The limitations of subsections (f) and (g) shall not apply with respect to medical assistance provided to an individual described in section 431(b)(8) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996."

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on the date of enactment of this Act and apply to benefits for items and services furnished on or after that date.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. BARR, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 1507. A bill to provide protections from workers with respect to their right to select or refrain from selecting representation by a labor organization; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I have introduced the Employee Rights Act, a comprehensive workers' rights bill that would address many issues plaguing America's workers.

Our Nation's labor laws were designed to preserve the rights of employees to join labor unions and engage in collective bargaining. Contrary to what some may think, I am not anti-union and I do not want to stand in the way of unionization if the decision to unionize is truly the will of the em-

ployees. However, I believe that the right not to join a union is equally important. It is this right that far too often goes overlooked under our current laws, and particularly under policies implemented by unelected bureaucrats at various administrative agencies.

I am under no illusions that this legislation will be noncontroversial. There will most certainly be opposition. Indeed, I fully expect the unions and their supporters to come out against the Employee Rights Act, and characterize it as a radical, anti-union bill.

But, that just isn't the case. There is not a single provision in this bill that will empower employers at the expense of the union. The only parties whose position will be improved by the Employee Rights Act are employees. Anyone whose real concern is preserving the rights of individual workers should support this bill.

Let me take a few minutes to go over the specific provisions.

First, the bill would conform and equalize unfair labor practices by unions with those of employers under the National Labor Relations Act. Currently, under Section 8 of the NLRA, employers face penalties if they "interfere with, restrain, or coerce employees" in the exercise of their rights under the Act. The same section punishes labor organizations only if they "restrain or coerce" employees in the exercise of those same rights.

There is no reasonable or logical justification for this difference, and workers should have the benefit of equal protection against abuse from both sides. That is why, under the Employee Rights Act, both sides will be held to the higher standard.

Next, my bill would ensure that employees are guaranteed a right to a federally supervised, secret ballot vote before a union can be certified. According to the NLRB, 38 percent of all unions certified in 2009 did not have to go through a secret ballot election. Instead, these unions were able to use card checks to unionize employees. True enough, in such cases, employers voluntarily opted to recognize the union without demanding a secret ballot election. But what about the workers who wanted a secret ballot vote?

There is, of course, a long-standing debate over the integrity and appropriateness of card check elections. But even the most committed union supporter must admit that the card check process is unregulated and less reliable than a secret ballot vote. Indeed, that's exactly why the unions prefer it. Anyone who claims otherwise is either lacking in common sense, on a union's payroll, or both.

We have all heard the accounts of unions obtaining signatures through deception and intimidation. And, we've all heard about union organizing campaigns and boycotts that have all but

forced employers to give up their right to demand a secret ballot vote. Well, Mr. President, under the Employee Rights Act, that right will belong to the employees, and it will be guaranteed.

For the record, the American people agree with me on this issue. Earlier this year, the Opinion Research Corporation conducted a poll of 1,000 adults that addressed a number of these issues. All told, 75 percent—three out of every four—were somewhere between strongly supportive and somewhat supportive of a rule requiring that all employees be given the right to a secret ballot election when deciding whether to join a union.

There is no way around it. If you are pro-worker, and not just pro-union, you have to support the right to a secret ballot.

Next, my bill would require every unionized workplace to conduct a secret ballot election every three years to determine whether a majority of employees still want to be represented by the union.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, less than 10 percent of current union members voted for the union at their workplace. Most union members simply took jobs at sites that were already unionized, many of which require union membership as a condition of employment.

Under current law, if any of these employees want to decertify a union, they must go through an arduous process. It is a nearly impossible task. In addition to overcoming the many procedural hurdles provided by laws and regulations, they are required to speak out publicly against the union and subject themselves to public criticism, if not outright intimidation. Not surprisingly, very few even make the effort.

As a result, millions of American workers belong to unions they never voted for and will never get to vote for. No one who claims to support the rights of workers can argue that this is a good thing. Every citizen is guaranteed an opportunity to vote out their representatives in State, local, and Federal Government. Yet, a union, once certified, is in place for perpetuity. This just shouldn't be the case.

Once again, I am not alone in my thinking. In the same survey I cited earlier, 75 percent, again, 3/4 of those polled, supported a change that would require unions to be periodically recertified.

This proposal is not outlandish or punitive. It is simply common sense. It is fair to both employers and unions, and, far more importantly, it is fair to workers.

Another provision of the bill would put a stop to the NLRB's current proposal to shorten the required length of time between the filing of a union certification petition and an election,

commonly referred to as the quickie or snap election proposal.

With this proposed rule, which is set to be finalized later this year, the pro-union NLRB hopes to help unions catch unwitting employers unprepared. Although there is no specific timeline in the proposal, experts have concluded that, if the regulation is finalized, union elections could occur within 7 days of a union filing a petition. Even worse, the proposal would eliminate many of the pre-election opportunities to appeal the petition and to resolve fundamental issues, like the size and scope of the bargaining unit.

There is no need for this new rule. According to the NLRB, the average time between the filing of a petition and an election is 39 days. This gives both the union and the employer an opportunity to communicate their perspective on union membership to employees and ensures that workers are able to make informed decisions.

Though the current rule is eminently reasonable and appears to be working well for everyone, including the unions who already win the majority of elections, the Obama Administration can't risk losing the support of Big Labor. Richard Trumka, President of the AFL-CIO, recently remarked that this and other similar so-called reforms are effectively consolation prizes for the Democrats' loss in the fight to pass the deceptively-named Employee Free Choice Act.

Indeed, the Obama administration, for obvious reasons, has consistently been all too eager to stack the deck in favor of the unions. Since they haven't been able to do it through the legislative process, they're trying to do so via regulation.

Sadly, employees are caught in the middle. The NLRB doesn't care if they have enough time to consider all their options. They simply want to make sure the unions win more elections. To combat this, the Employee Rights Act would preserve substantive and procedural protections in the election process and ensure that workers have an opportunity to make informed decisions.

The bill would also prevent a union from ordering a strike or work stoppage unless it obtains the consent of a majority of the affected workforce through a secret ballot vote.

This is important because the rules governing when and how a union can order a strike are not uniform. They are determined by each union's constitution. There is no federal rule whatsoever requiring that unions obtain majority support before they can force members into unemployment and possible replacement.

Many would be surprised to learn that union strike funds, kept to provide financial assistance for striking union members, rarely pay more than 20 percent of an employee's salary dur-

ing a work stoppage. And, more often than not, a member cannot receive any compensation for lost wages unless they participate on a picket line.

Isn't it only fair to give workers an opportunity to weigh in before a union orders a strike? Most people seem to think so. According to the same poll I mentioned earlier, 74 percent of Americans support this proposal.

Another provision of the Employee Rights Act would prevent an employee's union dues or fees from being used for purposes unrelated to the union's collective bargaining functions—including political contributions and expenditures—without that member's written consent.

Exit polls have shown that America's union members are almost evenly split between Democrats and Republicans, yet more than 90 percent of union political contributions go to Democrats. This is, not to put too fine a point on it, the reason why I expect strong opposition to this bill.

However I would like anyone who would oppose this provision to explain to me why it is fair to force workers to contribute to political campaigns at all, regardless of the party on the receiving end. Once again, the only people who would object to empowering individual workers in this way are those who have a vested interest in the status quo.

When asked about this issue, 78 percent of those polled agreed with this idea.

The Employee Rights Act would do several more things. It would make unions liable for lost wages, unlawfully collected union dues, and even liquidated damages if they coerce, intimidate, or discipline workers for exercising their rights under the NLRA, including the right to file a decertification petition. Any union found to have unlawfully interfered with the filing of a decertification petition would be barred from filing objections to the subsequent decertification vote.

The bill would also strengthen prohibitions on the use or threat of violence to achieve union goals, overturning an egregious Supreme Court decision that all but exempted unions from Federal racketeering statutes.

It would allow all affected workers, union and non-union alike, the same rights as union members to vote to ratify a collective bargaining agreement or to begin a strike.

These are not outlandish proposals. They would simply introduce some long-overdue common sense into our labor laws. Not surprisingly, polls have demonstrated that each of these ideas has broad support among the public.

We have had many fierce debates in this chamber about the role of labor unions in our nation's economy. In fact, I have been on the floor several times in the last week decrying the steps taken by the Obama Administration when it comes to helping out Big Labor.

But truthfully, I'm not interested in stopping unions from organizing or preventing collective bargaining. I simply want to protect the rights of individual workers and ensure that, if they do opt for union representation, that choice is freely made and fairly determined.

For too long, American workers have been treated by union leaders as little more than human ATMs. They claim to be progressives, supportive of equality and democracy and the working man. This bill is consistent with those principles, providing working men and women with a real and meaningful voice in decisions regarding unionization. It is supported by the National Right to Work Committee, and I am proud to have Congressman TIM SCOTT of South Carolina introducing companion legislation in the House.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the Employee Rights Act.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1509. A bill to provide incentives for States to improve the well-being of children in the child welfare system through systemic reforms and innovations, increased collaboration between State agencies, and incorporation of higher standards of accountability; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to introduce the Promoting Accountability and Excellence in Child Welfare Act, a bill that would pave the way for new innovations that improve the lives and well-being of vulnerable children and their families.

The Federal government spends roughly ten times as much money on foster care as it does on preventative services, when foster care is, in nearly every case, the worst possible outcome for a child. The Promoting Accountability and Excellence in Child Welfare Act would establish a 5-year grant program to give States and localities greater flexibility to implement comprehensive reforms to existing child welfare programs provided they can demonstrate success in improving child well-being. This flexibility would allow States to use early-intervention techniques to prevent youth from entering foster care, heightened reunification or adoption practices to decrease a child's time in care, and strengthened support services to ensure that children and youth do not fall behind their peers while they remain in foster care. Importantly, this act establishes strong performance measures that allow successful practices to serve as scalable models.

Children and families that come into contact with the child welfare system are often served through multiple local, State, and Federal agencies including the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Justice, the Department of Education, the Department of Labor and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Too often, these agencies operate in silos, with the effects playing out at the State, local, and even individual level. This act promotes collaboration by requiring an inter-agency working group to identify existing Federal resources and streamline them to reduce duplication and allow grantees to access additional services and funding streams.

States and localities have proven their ability to save money through innovation while also working to promote the best interest of children and families and the Federal government often turns to state best practices to improve national laws. The history of subsidized guardianship serves as one such example. Due to an all-time high in the number of children in State foster care, in 1996 Illinois was granted the authority to allow grandparents, aunts, uncles and other adult relatives to receive Federal foster care payments if they opened their homes permanently to their relative children in foster care. Raising a child is expensive and these modest payments gave relatives the financial means to care for their kin.

Allowing children and youth to remain with relatives is not only a compassionate way to prevent unnecessary disruptions in a child's life and keep families together, it also saves money. The Illinois demonstration proved that children and youth did better living with relative caregivers than they did when they remained in foster care. In addition, offering guardianship assistance to relatives actually increased the odds that they would be adopted. Due to the success of kinship care in Illinois and other States, the Federal government now realizes a cost savings by reimbursing States for a portion of the cost of offering guardianship assistance. The Promoting Accountability and Excellence in Child Welfare Act would further enable such innovations and savings while improving child well-being.

Furthermore, the legislation directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to report to Congress with recommendations on how to update Federal foster care financing. Under current law, eligibility for Federal foster care assistance remains tied to the obsolete AFDC program, meaning each year fewer children in foster care are eligible for Federal funding. As a result, States are required to take on an ever-increasing share of foster care financing. This structure forces States to compensate by drawing funds from other programs such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, TANF, and the Social Security Block Grant, SSBG, to provide for children in care.

As a country, we cannot afford to let children fall through the cracks of the many systems that exist to serve them. By targeting our resources, improving collaboration, spurring innovation,

and, above all, holding ourselves accountable, we can systemically serve the best interest of at-risk children, their families and communities, and the Nation as a whole.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 250—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE MEMORIAL PARK ON HERO STREET USA, IN SILVIS, ILLINOIS, SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED AS HERO STREET MEMORIAL PARK AND SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE SUPPORTED AS A PARK BY THE TOWN OF SILVIS AT NO COST TO UNITED STATES TAXPAYERS

Mr. KIRK submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 250

Whereas in the small town of Silvis, Illinois, there is a street that is only one and a half blocks long;

Whereas formerly known as Second Street, today it is officially known as Hero Street USA;

Whereas from this short street, brave men and women of Hispanic ancestry have served in the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas today, young men and women from Hero Street USA, valiantly join the United States Armed Forces to defend the Nation;

Whereas the memorial on Hero Street USA is located near the intersection of Highway 84 and 2nd Street;

Whereas on the east side of Hero Street USA, the memorial will honor the personal sacrifice of eight young men from Hero Street USA, who were killed in defense of the United States, including six during World War II, PFC Joseph H. Sandoval, PFC Frank H. Sandoval, PFC William L. Sandoval, Sgt. Tony Lopez Pompa, SSG Claro Soliz, and PFC Peter Perez Masias, and two men during the Korean War, PFC John S. Munos and PFC Joseph Gomez;

Whereas the memorial will pay fitting tribute to these gallant eight men who made the ultimate and selfless sacrifice in the defense of liberty, not only for their loved ones and their country, but for people everywhere around the world who hope to breathe free;

Whereas these eight men gave their lives so that those of us that gather here at this memorial park can do so free to speak and think;

Whereas additionally, these men died so that those who follow in their footsteps can be secure in the knowledge that the United States Constitution which they swore to uphold and defend stands firm;

Whereas the Hero Street Memorial Park symbolizes the devotion to duty and personal sacrifice in the cause of liberty and freedom these eight men displayed that was instrumental in the triumph of the United States and its allies during World War II and the Korean War; and

Whereas the citizens of the United States have a continuing obligation to educate future generations about this small street in Silvis, Illinois, whose sons and daughters have given so much in the defense of liberty of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the memorial park on Hero Street USA,

in Silvis, Illinois, should be recognized as Hero Street Memorial Park and should continue to be supported as a park by the Town of Silvis at no cost to United States taxpayers.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of the fallen soldiers from Hero Street USA in Silvis, Illinois and ask that the Senate recognize the memorial park on Hero Street as Hero Street Memorial Park.

In 1967, 2nd Street in Silvis, Illinois was renamed "Hero Street USA" in recognition of the fallen soldiers and their families who grew up on that street. When World War II and the Korean Wars broke out, 78 young Mexican-American men, who lived on Hero Street, bravely went to war to serve our Nation and defend our freedoms in battle. Six soldiers lost their lives during World War II and two others lost their lives during battle in the Korean War.

Located halfway down the block on the east side of Hero Street USA there is a neighborhood park that was redesigned to honor these fallen soldiers in 1971. This memorial park honors the story that brought these families together and brave sacrifices these men made to defend of our freedom and to uphold liberty and the principles of the Constitution of the United States.

Recognizing Hero Street Memorial Park will tell the story of these fallen soldiers for future generations and will honor the bravery and selfless sacrifice of those who gave so much for their country.

SENATE RESOLUTION 251—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE COLLECTION, PROCESSING, AND CONSUMPTION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CARPER (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BAUCUS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CASEY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. TESTER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. COONS, and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 251

Whereas maximizing the recycling economy in the United States will create and sustain additional well-paying jobs in the United States, further stimulate the economy of the United States, save energy, and conserve valuable natural resources;

Whereas recycling is an important action that people in the United States can take to be environmental stewards;

Whereas municipal recycling rates in the United States steadily increased from 6.6 percent in 1970 to 28.6 percent in 2000, but since 2000, the rate of increase has slowed considerably;

Whereas a decline in manufacturing in the United States has reduced both the supply of and demand for recycled materials;

Whereas recycling allows the United States to recover the critical materials nec-

essary to sustain the recycling economy and protect national security interests in the United States;

Whereas recycling plays an integral role in the sustainable management of materials throughout the life-cycle of a product;

Whereas 46 States have laws promoting the recycling of materials that would otherwise be incinerated or sent to a landfill;

Whereas more than 10,000 communities in the United States have residential recycling and drop-off programs that collect a wide variety of recyclable materials, including paper, steel, aluminum, plastic, glass, and electronics;

Whereas, in addition to residential recycling, the scrap recycling industry in the United States manufactures recyclable materials collected from businesses into commodity-grade materials;

Whereas those commodity-grade materials are used as feedstock to produce new basic materials and finished products in the United States and throughout the world;

Whereas recycling stimulates the economy and plays an integral role in sustaining manufacturing in the United States;

Whereas, in 2010, the United States recycling industry collected, processed, and consumed over 130,000,000 metric tons of recyclable material, valued at \$77,000,000,000;

Whereas many manufacturers use recycled commodities to make products, saving energy and reducing the need for raw materials, which are generally higher-priced;

Whereas the recycling industry in the United States helps balance the trade deficit and provides emerging economies with the raw materials needed to build countries and participate in the global economy;

Whereas, in 2010, the scrap recycling industry in the United States sold over 44,000,000 metric tons of commodity-grade materials, valued at almost \$30,000,000,000, to over 154 countries;

Whereas recycling saves energy by decreasing the amount of energy needed to manufacture the products that people build, buy, and use;

Whereas using recycled materials in place of raw materials can result in energy savings of 92 percent for aluminum cans, 87 percent for mixed plastics, 63 percent for steel cans, 45 percent for recycled newspaper, and 34 percent for recycled glass; and

Whereas a bipartisan Senate Recycling Caucus and a bipartisan House Recycling Caucus were established in 2006 to provide a permanent and long-term way for members of Congress to obtain in-depth knowledge about the recycling industry and to help promote the many benefits of recycling: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for improvement in the collection, processing, and consumption of recyclable material throughout the United States in order to create well-paying jobs, foster innovation and investment in the United States recycling infrastructure, and stimulate the economy of the United States;

(2) expresses support for strengthening the manufacturing base in the United States in order to rebuild the domestic economy, which will increase the supply, demand, and consumption of recyclable and recycled materials in the United States;

(3) expresses support for a competitive marketplace for recyclable materials;

(4) expresses support for the trade of recyclable commodities, which is an integral part of the domestic and global economy;

(5) expresses support for policies in the United States that promote recycling of ma-

terials, including paper, which is commonly recycled rather than thermally combusted or sent to a landfill;

(6) expresses support for policies in the United States that recognize and promote recyclable materials as essential economic commodities, rather than wastes;

(7) expresses support for policies in the United States that promote using recyclable materials as feedstock to produce new basic materials and finished products throughout the world;

(8) expresses support for research and development of new technologies to more efficiently and effectively recycle materials such as automobile shredder residue and cathode ray tubes;

(9) expresses support for research and development of new technologies to remove materials that are impediments to recycling, such as radioactive material, polychlorinated biphenyls, mercury-containing devices, and chlorofluorocarbons;

(10) expresses support for Design for Recycling, to improve the design and manufacture of goods to ensure that, at the end of a useful life, a good can, to the maximum extent practicable, be recycled safely and economically;

(11) recognizes that the scrap recycling industry in the United States is a manufacturing industry that is critical to the future of the United States;

(12) expresses support for policies in the United States that establish the equitable treatment of recycled materials; and

(13) expresses support for the participation of households, businesses, and governmental entities in the United States in recycling programs, where available.

SENATE RESOLUTION 252—CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES-PHILIPPINES MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY

Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 252

Whereas Filipinos and Americans fought together in World War II, and an estimated 1,000,000 Filipinos gave their lives to defend freedom;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of the Philippines signed the United States-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty in 1951;

Whereas the Philippines and the United States are longstanding allies, as demonstrated by the Mutual Defense Treaty, cooperation in conflicts since World War II, and the United States' designation of the Philippines as a Major Non-NATO Ally;

Whereas the United States Government seeks to maintain an alliance with the Government of the Philippines that promotes peace and stability in Southeast and East Asia, rule of law and human rights, economic growth, counter-terrorism efforts, and maritime security;

Whereas United States naval ships visit Philippines ports, and the United States and Philippines military forces participate in combined military exercises under the Visiting Forces Agreement established in 1998;

Whereas the United States Government and the Government of the Philippines work closely together in the struggle against terrorism to make local communities safer and

help establish an environment conducive to good governance and development;

Whereas the navy of the Government of the Philippines has received a United States Coast Guard cutter and assistance in establishing a coastal radar system to enhance its monitoring of its waters;

Whereas the United States Government works closely with the Government of the Philippines on humanitarian and disaster relief activities, and in the past has provided prompt assistance to make United States troops, equipment, assets, and disaster relief assistance available;

Whereas the Mutual Defense Board and the Security Engagement Board serve as important platforms for the continuing stability of the long-standing alliance between the Philippines and the United States in a rapidly changing global and regional environment;

Whereas Philippines military forces have supported over the years many United Nations peacekeeping operations worldwide;

Whereas the United States ranks as one of the Philippines' top trading partners, with 11 percent of the Philippines' imports coming from the United States and 15 percent of exports from the Philippines delivered to the United States in 2010;

Whereas total United States foreign direct investment in the Philippines was almost \$6,000,000,000 at the end of 2009;

Whereas the Philippines is one of four countries that has been invited to participate in the new Partnership for Growth Initiative, which promotes broad-based economic growth in emerging markets;

Whereas many Americans and Filipinos have participated in people-to-people programs such as the Peace Corps, the International Visitor Leadership Programs, the Aquino Fellowship, Eisenhower Fellowships, and the Fulbright Scholar Program;

Whereas an estimated 4,000,000 people living in the United States are of Filipino ancestry, over 300,000 United States citizens live in the Philippines, and an estimated 600,000 United States citizens travel to the Philippines each year;

Whereas the alliance between the United States and the Philippines is founded on core values that aim to promote and preserve democracy, freedom, peace, and justice, and is fortified by the two nations' partnerships in defending these values;

Whereas the Government of the Philippines seeks to improve governance, strengthen the rule of law, and further develop accountable, democratic institutions that can better safeguard human rights, secure justice, and promote equitable economic development; and

Whereas Secretary of State Hillary Clinton met with Foreign Secretary of the Philippines, Albert del Rosario, on June 23, 2011, in Washington, D.C., and reaffirmed that the United States and the Philippines are long-standing allies that are committed to honoring mutual obligations, and strengthening the alliance; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) celebrates the 60th Anniversary of the United States–Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty;

(B) confirms the alliance's enduring value as one of the key pillars of peace, stability, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region; and

(C) encourages both countries to mark this important occasion with continued high-level exchanges; and

(2) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) the United States Government should propose to the Government of the Phil-

ippines that a joint commission be established to review the potential for enhancing security ties between the United States Armed Forces and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, including facilities access, expanded joint training opportunities, and humanitarian and disaster relief preparedness activities;

(B) the United States Government should redouble efforts to expand and deepen the economic relationship with the Government of the Philippines toward achieving broad-based economic development in that country, including by working on new bilateral initiatives that support the efforts of the Government of the Philippines to reform its economy and enhance its competitiveness, and through trade-capacity building;

(C) the private sectors of the United States and the Philippines should be urged to establish a United States–Philippines organization with a mission to promote actively and expand closer bilateral ties across key sectors, including security, trade and investment, education, and people-to-people programs;

(D) the Government of the Philippines should continue its efforts to strengthen its democratic institutions to fight corruption, curtail politically-motivated violence and extrajudicial killings, expand economic opportunity, and tackle internal security challenges; and

(E) the United States Government should continue efforts to assist the Government of the Philippines in the areas of maritime security, related communications infrastructure to enable enhanced information-sharing, and overall military professionalization.

SENATE RESOLUTION 253—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 26, 2011, AS “DAY OF THE DEPLOYED”

Mr. HOEVEN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 253

Whereas more than 2,250,000 people serve as members of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas several hundred thousand members of the Armed Forces rotate each year through deployments to 150 countries in every region of the world;

Whereas more than 2,200,000 members of the Armed Forces have deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks;

Whereas the United States is kept strong and free by the loyal people who protect our precious heritage through their positive declaration and actions;

Whereas the deployed members of the Armed Forces serving at home and abroad have courageously answered the call to duty to defend the ideals of the United States and to preserve peace and freedom around the world;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces and veterans personify the virtues of patriotism, service, duty, courage, and sacrifice;

Whereas the families of members of the Armed Forces make important and significant sacrifices for the United States;

Whereas North Dakota began honoring the members of the Armed Forces and their families by designating October 26 as “Day of the Deployed” in 2006; and

Whereas 40 States designated October 26, 2010, as “Day of the Deployed”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the members of the United States Armed Forces who are deployed at home and abroad;

(2) calls on the people of the United States to reflect on the service of those members of the United States Armed Forces, wherever they serve, both now and in the future;

(3) designates October 26, 2011, as “Day of the Deployed”; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe “Day of the Deployed” with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 254—DESIGNATING AUGUST 16, 2011, AS “NATIONAL AIRBORNE DAY”

Mr. REED of Rhode Island (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BURR, and Mr. COCHRAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 254

Whereas the airborne forces of the Armed Forces have a long and honorable history as bold and fierce warriors who, for the national security of the United States and the defense of freedom and peace, project the ground combat power of the United States by air transport to the far reaches of the battle area and to the far corners of the world;

Whereas the United States' experiment with airborne operations began on June 25, 1940, when the Army Parachute Test Platoon was first authorized by the Department of War, and 48 volunteers began training in July 1940;

Whereas August 16 marks the anniversary of the first official Army parachute jump on August 16, 1940, to test the innovative concept of inserting United States ground combat forces behind a battle line by means of a parachute;

Whereas the success of the Army Parachute Test Platoon in the days immediately before the entry of the United States into World War II validated the airborne operational concept and led to the creation of a formidable force of airborne formations, such as the 11th, 13th, 17th, 82nd, and 101st Airborne Divisions;

Whereas included in these divisions, and among other separate formations, were many airborne combat, combat support, and combat service support units that served with distinction and achieved repeated success in armed hostilities that provide the lineage and legacy of many airborne units throughout our Armed Forces;

Whereas the achievements of the airborne forces during World War II prompted the evolution of those forces into a diversified force of parachute and air-assault units that, over the years, have fought in Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf region, and Somalia, and have engaged in peacekeeping operations in Lebanon, the Sinai Peninsula, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Bosnia, and Kosovo;

Whereas since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, United States airborne forces, which include members of the XVIII Airborne Corps, the 82nd Airborne Division, the 101st Airborne Division, the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) of the 25th Infantry

Division, the 75th Ranger Regiment, and special operations forces of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force, together with other units of the Armed Forces, have demonstrated bravery and honor in combat, stability, and training operations in Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas the modern-day airborne force also includes other elite forces composed of airborne trained and qualified special operations warriors, including Army Special Forces, Marine Corps Reconnaissance units, Navy SEALs, and Air Force combat control and para-rescue teams;

Whereas of the members and former members of the United States airborne forces, thousands have achieved the distinction of making combat jumps, dozens have earned the Medal of Honor, and hundreds have earned the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, or other decorations and awards for displays of heroism, gallantry, intrepidity, and valor;

Whereas the members and former members of the United States airborne forces are all members of a proud and honorable tradition that, together with their special skills and achievements, distinguishes such members as intrepid combat parachutists, air assault forces, special operation forces, and, in former days, glider troops;

Whereas the history and achievements of the members and former members of the United States airborne forces warrant special expressions of the gratitude of the people of the United States; and

Whereas since the airborne forces, past and present, celebrate August 16 as the anniversary of the first official jump by the Army Parachute Test Platoon, August 16 is an appropriate day to recognize as National Airborne Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates August 16, 2011, as “National Airborne Day”; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to observe National Airborne Day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 255—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 8, 2011, AS “NATIONAL CHESS DAY” TO ENHANCE AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGE STUDENTS AND ADULTS TO ENGAGE IN A GAME KNOWN TO ENHANCE CRITICAL THINKING AND PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS

Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. LEVIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 255

Whereas there are more than 76,000 members of the United States Chess Federation (referred to in this preamble as the “Federation”), and unknown numbers of additional people in the United States who play the game without joining an official organization;

Whereas approximately ½ of the members of the Federation are scholastic members, and many of the scholastic members join by the age of 10;

Whereas the Federation is very supportive of the scholastic programs and sponsors a Certified Chess Coach program that provides the coaches involved in the scholastic programs training and ensures schools and students can have confidence in the programs;

Whereas many studies have linked chess programs to the improvement of student scores in reading and math, as well as improved self-esteem;

Whereas the Federation offers a school curriculum to educators to help incorporate chess into the school curriculum;

Whereas chess is a powerful cognitive learning tool that can be used to successfully enhance reading and math concepts; and

Whereas chess engages students of all learning styles and strengths and promotes problem-solving and higher-level thinking skills: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 8, 2011, as “National Chess Day”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe “National Chess Day” with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 256—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 2 THROUGH OCTOBER 8, 2011, AS “NATIONAL NURSE-MANAGED HEALTH CLINIC WEEK”

Mr. INOUE (for himself and Mr. ALEXANDER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 256

Whereas nurse-managed health clinics are nonprofit community-based health care sites that offer primary care and wellness services based on the nursing model;

Whereas the nursing model emphasizes the protection, promotion, and optimization of health, the prevention of illness, the alleviation of suffering, and the diagnosis and treatment of illness;

Whereas nurse-managed health clinics are led by advanced practice nurses and staffed by an interdisciplinary team of highly qualified health care professionals;

Whereas nurse-managed health clinics offer a broad scope of services including treatment for acute and chronic illnesses, routine physical exams, immunizations for adults and children, disease screenings, health education, prenatal care, dental care, and drug and alcohol treatment;

Whereas nurse-managed health clinics have a proven track record, as the first federally funded nurse-managed health clinic was created more than 35 years ago;

Whereas, as of June 2011, more than 250 nurse-managed health clinics provided care across the United States and recorded more than 2,000,000 client encounters annually;

Whereas nurse-managed health clinics serve a unique dual role as both health care safety net access points and health workforce development sites, given that the majority of nurse-managed health clinics are affiliated with schools of nursing and serve as clinical education sites for students entering the health profession;

Whereas nurse-managed health clinics strengthen the health care safety net by expanding access to primary care and chronic disease management services for vulnerable and medically underserved populations in diverse rural, urban, and suburban communities;

Whereas research has shown that nurse-managed health clinics experience high patient retention and patient satisfaction rates, and nurse-managed health clinic patients experience higher rates of generic medication fills and lower hospitalization rates when compared to similar safety net providers; and

Whereas the use of nurse-managed health clinics offering both primary care and wellness services will help meet this increased demand in a cost-effective manner: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of October 2 through October 8, 2011, as “National Nurse-Managed Health Clinic Week”; and

(2) supports the ideals and goals of National Nurse-Managed Health Clinic Week; and

(3) encourages the expansion of nurse-managed health clinics so that nurse-managed health clinics may continue to serve as health care workforce development sites for the next generation of primary care providers.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, today Senator ALEXANDER and I rise to recognize over 250 Nurse-Managed Health Clinics in a Resolution designating the week of October 2, 2011, as National Nurse-Managed Health Clinic Week. Nurse-managed health clinics provide primary care and wellness services to a diverse population through all age groups and ethnicities. These clinics provide care to over two million patients in underserved or vulnerable areas across this country. Nurse-managed health clinics offer a full range of accessible and affordable health services, including primary care, health promotion, and disease prevention to low-income, as well as un- and underinsured patients, regardless of their ability to pay. The care is primarily provided by nurse practitioners working in partnership with an interdisciplinary team of health professions including clinical nurse specialists, registered nurses, health educators, community outreach workers, health care students, and collaborating physicians. As recognized by the Institute of Medicine’s “Future of Nursing” report, the nurse managed clinics play a critical role in community-based preventive health care and have done so since their inception three decades ago.

A Senate resolution will help pave the way for this effort. We ask our colleagues to join us in supporting this tribute to Nurse-Managed Health Clinics.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 28—AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR AN EVENT TO AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL, COLLECTIVELY, TO THE 100TH INFANTRY BATTALION, 442ND REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM, AND THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE, UNITED STATES ARMY, IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR DEDICATED SERVICE DURING WORLD WAR II

Mr. INOUE (for himself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. CON. RES. 28

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR EVENT TO AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used for an event on November 2, 2011 to award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service, United States Army, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

(b) **PREPARATIONS.**—Physical preparations for the conduct of the event described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on August 2, 2011.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on August 2, 2011, at 10 a.m. to conduct a committee hearing entitled “Housing Finance Reform: National Mortgage Servicing Standards.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS AND SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works and the Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on August 2, 2011, at 10 a.m. in Dirksen 406 to conduct a joint hearing entitled, “Review of the NRC’s Near-Term Task Force Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21st Century.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on August 2, 2011, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled “Health Reform and Health Insurance Premiums: Empowering States to Serve Consumers” on August 2, 2011, at 10 a.m. in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that an intern in Senator BINGAMAN’s office, Trey Debrine, be granted floor privileges during today’s business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Rachel Travis of my staff be granted privileges of the floor for this pending legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2011

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Jeff Sessions:									
Ukraine	Dollar		628.27						628.27
Georgia	Dollar		280.63						280.63
Lithuania	Dollar		207.71						207.71
Estonia	Dollar		370.77						370.77
Sandra Luff:									
Ukraine	Dollar		765.11						765.11
Georgia	Dollar		309.63						309.63
Lithuania	Dollar		244.11						244.11
Estonia	Dollar		420.34						420.34
Brooke F. Buchanan:									
Italy	Dollar		187.00						187.00
Greece	Dollar		137.00						137.00
Egypt	Dollar		426.00						426.00
Oman	Dollar		189.00						189.00
Qatar	Dollar		164.00						164.00
France	Dollar		188.00						188.00
United Kingdom	Dollar		232.00						232.00
Jason W. Maroney									
United States	Dollar				12,294.46				12,294.46
Japan	Dollar		1,248.16						1,248.16
Senator John McCain:									
Italy	Dollar		135.46						135.46
Greece	Dollar		181.12						181.12
Egypt	Dollar		190.84						190.84
Oman	Dollar		623.50						623.50
France	Dollar		229.35						229.35
United Kingdom	Dollar		213.88						213.88
Senator Carl Levin:									
United States	Dollar				8,446.00				8,446.00
Japan	Dollar		820.00						820.00
Russell L. Shaffer:									
United States	Dollar				12,294.00				12,294.00
Japan	Dollar		810.00						810.00
Senator Jim Webb:									
United States	Dollar				13,703.90				13,703.90
Republic of Korea	Won		340.00						340.00
Vietnam	Dong		716.00						716.00
Hong Kong	Dollar		194.00						194.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2011—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Japan	Dollar		555.00						555.00
Gordon I. Peterson:									
United States	Dollar				13,703.90				13,703.90
Republic of Korea	Won		340.00						340.00
Vietnam	Dong		716.00						716.00
Hong Kong	Dollar		194.00						194.00
Japan	Yen		555.00						555.00
Marta McLellan Ross:									
United States	Dollar				13,329.90				13,329.90
Republic of Korea	Won		340.00						340.00
Vietnam	Dong		716.00						716.00
Hong Kong	Dollar		194.00						194.00
Senator Kelly Ayotte:									
Israel	Dollar		179.74						179.74
Egypt	Dollar		190.62						190.62
Brooke F. Buchanan:									
Thailand	Dollar		244.00						244.00
Burma	Dollar		268.00						268.00
Singapore	Dollar		657.00						657.00
Senator John McCain:									
Thailand	Dollar		584.31						584.31
Burma	Dollar		123.52						123.52
Singapore	Dollar		337.17						337.17
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
United States	Dollar				11,837.10				11,837.10
United States	Dollar				10,337.85				10,337.85
Qatar	Dollar		298.18						298.18
Bahrain	Dollar		47.77						47.77
Sergio Sarkany:									
United States	Dollar				11,837.10				11,837.10
Senator John McCain:									
Montenegro	Dollar		81.59						81.59
Moldova	Dollar		80.41						80.41
Brooke Buchanan:									
Montenegro	Dollar		162.00						162.00
Poland	Dollar		156.00						156.00
Moldova	Dollar		123.00						123.00
Christine D. Brose:									
Italy	Dollar		165.00						165.00
Greece	Dollar		119.00						119.00
Egypt	Dollar		336.00						336.00
Oman	Dollar		125.00						125.00
Qatar	Dollar		114.00						114.00
France	Dollar		131.00						131.00
United Kingdom	Dollar		105.00	70.00					175.00
Thailand	Dollar		219.00						219.00
Burma	Dollar		227.00						227.00
Singapore	Dollar		489.00						489.00
Poland	Dollar		128.00						128.00
Montenegro	Dollar		131.00						131.00
Moldova	Dollar		76.00						76.00
Brooke F. Buchanan:									
United States	Dollar				11,273.55				11,273.55
Egypt	Dollar		97.62						97.62
Senator John McCain:									
United States	Dollar				10,790.35				10,790.35
Egypt	Dollar		125.55						125.55
Italy	Dollar		50.00						50.00
Senator James M. Inhofe:									
France	Euro		241.47						241.47
Joseph M. Bryan:									
United States	Dollar				4,426.00	11.00			4,437.00
Hong Kong	Dollar		1,645.96		10.00				1,655.96
Christian D. Brose:									
United States	Dollar				11,508.35				11,508.35
Egypt	Dollar		241.00						241.00
Italy	Dollar		167.00						167.00
Senator Jeff Sessions:									
United States	Dollar				5,126.80				5,126.80
Croatia	Kuna		260.80						260.80
France	Euro		3,484.44						3,484.44
Sandra E. Luff:									
United States	Dollar				10,376.70				10,376.70
Croatia	Kuna		481.59						481.59
France	Euro		3,746.74						3,746.74
Bryan D. Parker:									
United States	Dollar				5,742.70	120.00			5,862.70
Hong Kong	Dollar		1,531.41						1,531.41
Ilona R. Cohen:									
United States	Dollar		31.28		13,632.70				13,663.98
Hong Kong	Dollar		1,738.38		31.00				1,769.38
Total			33,803.43		180,772.36	131.00			214,706.79

SENATOR CARL LEVIN,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, July 15, 2011.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2011

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Nikole Manatt:									
United States	Dollar				1,666.30				1,666.30

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM Apr. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2011—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Belgium	Euro		532.16						532.16
United Kingdom	Pound		182.00						182.00
Senator Thad Cochran:									
Republic of the Philippines	Peso		711.00						711.00
Vietnam	Dong		860.06						860.06
Senator Daniel Inouye:									
Republic of the Philippines	Peso		711.00						711.00
Vietnam	Dong		860.06						860.06
*Delegation Expenses:									
Republic of the Philippines	Peso					828.64			828.64
Vietnam	Dong					8,846.55			8,846.55
Kay Webber:									
Republic of the Philippines	Peso		711.00						711.00
Vietnam	Dong		860.06						860.06
Mary C. Fitzpatrick:									
Republic of the Philippines	Peso		711.00						711.00
Vietnam	Dong		978.92						978.92
Margaret Cummysky:									
Republic of the Philippines	Peso		567.98						567.98
Vietnam	Dong		552.44						552.44
Stewart Holmes:									
Republic of the Philippines	Peso		711.00						711.00
Vietnam	Dong		975.92						975.92
Senator Daniel Inouye:									
United States	Dollar				12,524.60				12,524.60
Japan	Yen		2,798.82						2,798.82
*Delegation Expenses:									
Japan	Yen					1,440.98			1,440.98
Elizabeth Schmid:									
United States	Dollar				12,524.60				12,524.60
Japan	Yen		1,723.21						1,723.21
Margaret Cummysky:									
United States	Dollar				12,524.60				12,524.60
Japan	Yen		2,042.85						2,042.85
Senator Thad Cochran:									
Belgium	Euro		788.60						788.60
Ireland	Euro		462.96						462.96
Russia	Ruble		2,056.35						2,056.35
Kay Webber:									
Belgium	Euro		788.60						788.60
Ireland	Euro		462.96						462.96
Russia	Ruble		2,056.34						2,056.34
Bruce Evans:									
Belgium	Euro		788.60						788.60
Ireland	Euro		462.96						462.96
Russia	Ruble		2,056.34						2,056.34
Senator Patrick Leahy:									
Belgium	Euro		788.60						788.60
Ireland	Euro		462.96						462.96
Russia	Ruble		2,056.34						2,056.34
*Delegation Expenses:									
Belgium	Euro					6,578.95			6,578.95
*Delegation Expenses:									
Ireland	Euro					2,469.15			2,469.15
*Delegation Expenses:									
Russia	Ruble					14,832.06			14,832.06
Kevin McDonald:									
Belgium	Euro		788.60						788.60
Ireland	Euro		462.96						462.96
Russia	Ruble		2,056.34						2,056.34
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
Israel	Shekel		181.73						181.73
Egypt	Egyptian Pound		171.07						171.07
Belgium	Euro		8.01						8.01
*Delegation Expenses:									
Israel	Shekel					14,616.88			14,616.88
*Delegation Expenses:									
Egypt	Egyptian Pound					10,047.00			10,047.00
*Delegation Expenses:									
Belgium	Euro					7,056.23			7,056.23
Paul Grove:									
Israel	Shekel		286.00						286.00
Egypt	Egyptian Pound		92.00						92.00
Belgium	Euro		168.00						168.00
Andrew King:									
Israel	Shekel		179.73						179.73
Egypt	Egyptian Pound		171.07						171.07
Belgium	Euro		19.55						19.55
United States	Dollar					63.77			63.77
Senator Roy Blunt:									
Israel	Shekel		286.00						286.00
Egypt	Egyptian Pound		92.00						92.00
Belgium	Euro		168.00						168.00
Senator Mark Kirk:									
Bahrain	Dinar		24.00						24.00
Djibouti	Franc		56.00		298.30				354.30
Kenya	Kenyan Schilling		20.00						20.00
United States	Dollar				10,793.70				10,793.70
*Delegation Expenses:									
Bahrain	Dinar					1,332.00			1,332.00
Djibouti	Franc					2,596.00			2,596.00
Kenya	Kenyan Schilling					10,642.11			10,642.11
Dennis Balkham:									
Bahrain	Dinar		24.00						24.00
Djibouti	Franc		56.00						56.00
Kenya	Kenyan Schilling		20.00						20.00
United States	Dollar				10,793.70				10,793.70
Patrick Magnuson:									
Bahrain	Dinar		20.00						20.00
Djibouti	Franc		19.00						19.00
Kenya	Kenyan Schilling		20.00						20.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM Apr. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2011—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Paul Grove:									
Kuwait	Dinar		113.00						113.00
United States	Dollar				7,042.10				7,042.10
Charles Houy:									
Belgium	Euro		445.00						445.00
South Africa	Rand		322.00						322.00
Kenya	Kenyan Schilling		647.00		274.00				921.00
United States	Dollar				10,517.50				10,517.50
Gary Reese:									
Belgium	Euro		474.00						474.00
South Africa	Rand		360.00						360.00
Kenya	Kenyan Schilling		685.00		271.00				956.00
United States	Dollar				10,517.50				10,517.50
Senator Thad Cochran:									
France	Euro		6,442.70						6,442.70
Senator Tom Harkin:									
France	Euro		6,371.11						6,371.11
Senator Frank Lautenberg:									
France	Euro		5,690.00						5,690.00
Senator Richard Shelby:									
France	Euro		6,442.70						6,442.70
Senator Daniel Inouye:									
France	Euro		6,442.70						6,442.70
Anne Caldwell:									
France	Euro		6,442.70						6,442.70
Gary Reese:									
France	Euro		6,442.70						6,442.70
Charles Houy:									
France	Euro		6,180.00						6,180.00
Elizabeth Schmid:									
France	Euro		6,265.60						6,265.60
Brian Potts:									
France	Euro		6,259.77						6,259.77
Stewart Holmes:									
France	Euro		6,442.77						6,442.77
Gary Myrick:									
France	Euro		6,442.77						6,442.77
Dave Schiappa:									
France	Euro		6,442.77						6,442.77
Kay Webber:									
France	Euro		6,442.77						6,442.77
Total			126,908.21		89,747.90		81,350.32		298,006.43

SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, July 22, 2011.

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM APRIL 1 TO JUNE 30, 2011

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Mike Crapo:									
Ukraine	Hryvnia		362.00						362.00
Georgia	Lari		148.00						148.00
Lithuania	Litas		167.00						167.00
Estonia	Euro		220.00						220.00
Senator Richard Shelby:									
Belgium	Euro		500.00						500.00
Russia	Ruble		808.00						808.00
Ireland	Pounds		263.00						263.00
Anne Caldwell:									
Belgium	Euro		500.00						500.00
Russia	Ruble		808.00						808.00
Ireland	Pounds		263.00						263.00
Daniel O'Brien:									
Spain	Euro		615.00						615.00
United States	Dollar				8,010.30				8,010.30
Total			4,654.00		8,010.30				12,664.30

SENATOR TIM JOHNSON,
Chairman, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs,
July 12, 2011.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1, TO JUNE 30, 2011

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Roy Blunt:									
United States	Dollar				13,523.20				13,523.20
Republic of Korea	Won		366.68						366.68
Mongolia	Tugrik		425.19						425.19
China	Yuan		2,724.95						2,724.95
Brian Diffell:									
United States	Dollar				13,523.20				13,523.20

August 2, 2011

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE, Vol. 157, Pt. 9

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CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1, TO JUNE 30, 2011—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Republic of Korea	Won		366.68						366.68
Mongolia	Tugrik		425.19						425.19
China	Yuan		2,724.95						2,724.95
*Delegation Expenses:									
China	Dollar						299.00		299.00
Total			7,033.64		27,046.40		299.00		34,379.04

SENATOR JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV.
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation,
July 22, 2011.

*Delegation Expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2011

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Isaac Edwards:									
United States	Dollar				6,425.09				6,425.09
Micronesia	Dollar		274.00						274.00
Marshall Islands	Dollar		362.25						362.25
Al Stayman:									
United States	Dollar				6,425.09				6,425.09
Micronesia	Dollar		271.54						271.54
Marshall Islands	Dollar		380.95						380.95
Total			1,288.74		12,850.18				14,138.92

SENATOR JEFF BINGAMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, June 24, 2011.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2011

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Dimitrios Karakitsos:									
United States	Dollar				1,795.90				1,795.90
Switzerland	Franc		1,098.00						1,098.00
Total			1,098.00		1,795.90				2,893.90

SENATOR BARBARA BOXER,
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, July 22, 2011.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS—AMENDED— FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2011

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Amber Cottle:									
Brazil	Real		115.16						115.16
Colombia	Peso		1,437.59						1,437.59
United States	Dollar				6,462.50				6,462.50
Total			1,552.75		6,462.50				8,015.25

SENATOR MAX BAUCUS,
Chairman, Committee on Finance, July 28, 2011.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2011

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Amber Cottle:									
Colombia	Peso		2,024.70						2,024.70
United States	Dollar				2,955.60				2,955.60
Chelsea Thomas:									
Colombia	Peso		2,064.38						2,064.38
United States	Dollar				2,955.60				2,955.60
Michael Smart:									
Colombia	Peso		1,980.69						1,980.69

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2011—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
United States	Dollar				2,955.60				2,955.60
Gabriel Adler:									
Colombia	Peso		2,146.34						2,146.34
United States	Dollar				2,955.60				2,955.60
Everett Eisenstat:									
Colombia	Peso		1,936.16						1,936.16
United States	Dollar				2,955.60				2,955.60
David Johanson:									
Colombia	Peso		1,867.19						1,867.19
United States	Dollar				2,955.60				2,955.60
Rebecca Nasca:									
Colombia	Peso		1,883.94						1,883.94
United States	Dollar				2,955.60				2,955.60
James Catella:									
Colombia	Peso		1,815.22						1,815.22
United States	Dollar				2,955.60				2,955.60
Rori Kramer:									
Colombia	Peso		1,914.81						1,914.81
United States	Dollar				2,955.60				2,955.60
Jeffrey Phan:									
Colombia	Peso		1,778.17						1,778.17
United States	Dollar				2,955.60				2,955.60
Andrew Siracuse:									
Colombia	Peso		1,870.43						1,870.43
United States	Dollar				2,955.60				2,955.60
Verna Regier:									
Colombia	Peso		1,923.92						1,923.92
United States	Dollar				2,955.60				2,955.60
Daniel Sepulveda:									
Colombia	Peso		2,010.62						2,010.62
United States	Dollar				2,955.60				2,955.60
Janel George:									
Colombia	Peso		1,902.33						1,902.33
United States	Dollar				2,955.60				2,955.60
Arnoldo Vela:									
Colombia	Peso		1,901.20						1,901.20
United States	Dollar				2,955.60				2,955.60
*Delegation Expenses:									
United States	Dollar					25,237.00			25,237.00
Senator John Thune:									
Israel	Shekel		819.73						819.73
Egypt	Egyptian Pound		309.94						309.94
Belgium	Euro		268.13						268.13
Senator Maria Cantwell:									
Israel	Shekel		802.75						802.75
Egypt	Egyptian Pound		309.94						309.94
Belgium	Euro		256.59						256.59
Chelsea Thomas:									
Zambia	Kwacha		1,310.31						1,310.31
South Africa	Rand		31.94						31.94
United States	Dollar				9,800.90				9,800.90
Total			33,129.43		54,134.90		25,237.00		112,501.33

SENATOR MAX BAUCUS
Chairman, Committee on Finance, July 28, 2011.

*Delegation expenses include: interpretation, transportation, embassy travel and overtime, as well as other official expenses in accordance with the responsibilities of the host country.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2011

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator John Barrasso:									
Israel	Shekel		179.73						179.73
Egypt	Dinar		171.07						171.07
Belgium	Euro		19.55						19.55
Senator Christopher Coons:									
Nigeria	Naira		55.00						55.00
Benin	Franc		67.00						67.00
Ghana	Cedi		17.79						17.79
United States	Dollar				7,591.10				7,591.10
Senator Johnny Isakson:									
Nigeria	Naira		55.00						55.00
Benin	Franc		100.00						100.00
Ghana	Cedi		23.24						23.24
United States	Dollar				8,878.10				8,878.10
Senator John Kerry:									
Pakistan	Rupee		10.00						10.00
United States	Dollar				11,738.50				11,738.50
Senator John Kerry:									
United Kingdom	Pound		177.67						177.67
France	Euro		589.22						589.22
United States	Dollar				9,741.20				9,741.20
Senator John Kerry:									
Italy	Euro		50.00						50.00
United States	Dollar				4,406.00				4,406.00
Senator Robert Menendez:									
Spain	Euro		415.00						415.00
United States	Dollar				7,782.30				7,782.30
Jennifer Berlin:									
Afghanistan	Afghani		13.00						13.00
Pakistan	Rupee		78.00						78.00
United States	Dollar				11,703.50				11,703.50

August 2, 2011

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CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2011—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Jonah Blank:									
United Kingdom	Pound		755.00						755.00
India	Rupee		775.00						775.00
United States	Dollar				14,741.80				14,741.80
Jason Bruder:									
Turkey	Liras		852.00						852.00
United States	Dollar				1,993.10				1,993.10
Perry Cammack:									
Israel	Shekel		513.00						513.00
Lebanon	Pound		444.00						444.00
Egypt	Pound		468.00						468.00
United States	Dollar				3,922.85				3,922.85
Heidi Crebo-Rediker:									
Egypt	Pound		537.62						537.62
United States	Dollar				4,026.70				4,026.70
Steven Feldstein:									
Belgium	Euro		193.00						193.00
United Kingdom	Pound		364.00						364.00
Tunisia	Dinar		1,052.00						1,052.00
United States	Dollar				4,450.80				4,450.80
Douglas Frantz:									
Afghanistan	Afghani		206.00						206.00
Pakistan	Rupee		115.00						115.00
United States	Dollar				11,673.50				11,673.50
Christina Gleason:									
Nigeria	Naira		94.00						94.00
Benin	Franc		108.00						108.00
Ghana	Cedi		18.45						18.45
Christina Gleason:									
United States	Dollar				7,591.10				7,591.10
Jodi Herman:									
Spain	Euro		469.26						469.26
United States	Dollar				8,010.30				8,010.30
Frank Jannuzi:									
China	RMB		2,387.00						2,387.00
United States	Dollar				15,659.90				15,659.90
Garrett Johnson:									
Haiti	Dollar		1,554.00						1,554.00
United States	Dollar				894.20				894.20
Gregory Kausner:									
United Kingdom	Pounds		718.84						718.84
Pakistan	Rupee		101.00						101.00
India	Rupee		911.00						911.00
United States	Dollar				14,741.80				14,741.80
Tamara Klajn:									
Zambia	Kwacha		1,240.00						1,240.00
United States	Dollar				4,553.90				4,553.90
Frank Lowenstein:									
Egypt	Pound		30.00						30.00
Italy	Euro		199.00						199.00
United States	Dollar				8,147.00				8,147.00
Nicholas Ma:									
Tunisia	Dinar		554.88						554.88
United States	Dollar				3,411.40				3,411.40
Carl Meacham:									
Haiti	Dollar		1,036.00						1,036.00
United States	Dollar				897.90				897.90
Sarah Peck:									
Pakistan	Rupee		325.00						325.00
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		160.00						160.00
United States	Dollar				11,219.20				11,219.20
Christopher Sullivan:									
Nigeria	Naira		94.00						94.00
Benin	Franc		66.00						66.00
Ghana	Cedi		29.88						29.88
United States	Dollar				8,878.10				8,878.10
Fatema Sumar:									
Afghanistan	Afghani		185.00						185.00
Pakistan	Rupee		96.00						96.00
United States	Dollar				11,473.50				11,473.50
Atman Trivedi:									
Japan	Yen		522.00						522.00
South Korea	Won		680.00						680.00
United States	Dollar				5,437.10				5,437.10
Total			19,875.20		203,564.85				223,440.05

SENATOR JOHN F. KERRY,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, July 27, 2011.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2011

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Thomas R. Carper:									
United States	Dollar				13,433.70				13,433.70
India	Rupee		1,669.45						1,669.45
Pakistan	Rupee		283.18						283.18
Harlan C. Geer:									
United States	Dollar				13,892.70				13,892.70
India	Rupee		1,711.46						1,711.46
Pakistan	Rupee		283.07						283.07
Vance Serchuk:									
United States	Dollar				1,388.20				1,388.20

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2011—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
England	Pound		942.51						942.51
Vance Serchuk:	United States								
Singapore	Dollar		657.00		20,805.20				20,805.20
Christopher Griffin:	Singapore								657.00
United States	Dollar				20,805.20				20,805.20
Singapore	Dollar		493.00						493.00
Bradford Belzak:	United States				2,831.05				2,831.05
Russia	Ruble		430.00						430.00
Israel	Shekel		1,762.00						1,762.00
Lisa Powell:	United States				2,831.05				2,831.05
Russia	Ruble		447.00						447.00
Israel	Shekel		1,735.00						1,735.00
Eric Tamarkin:	United States				2,831.05				2,831.05
Russia	Ruble		442.27						442.27
Israel	Shekel		1,730.00						1,730.00
Elyse Greenwald:	United States				2,831.05				2,831.05
Russia	Ruble		430.00						430.00
Israel	Shekel		1,715.00						1,715.00
*Delegation Expenses:									
India	Rupee						562.22		562.22
Pakistan	Rupee						2,026.31		2,026.31
Israel	Shekel						1,300.50		1,300.50
Total			14,730.04		81,649.20		3,889.03		100,269.17

SENATOR JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs,
July 26, 2011.

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State and the Department of Defense under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2011

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Jon Kyl:									
Ukraine	Hryvnia		751.83						751.83
Georgia	Lari		210.44						210.44
Lithuania	Litas		214.92						214.92
Latvia	Lat		7.74						7.74
Estonia	Euro		372.12						372.12
Timothy Morrison:									
Ukraine	Hryvnia		846.50						846.50
Georgia	Lari		210.44						210.44
Lithuania	Litas		211.36						211.36
Latvia	Lat		11.41						11.41
Estonia	Euro		373.50						373.50
*Delegation Expenses:									
Ukraine	Hryvnia						2,716.97		2,716.97
Georgia	Lari						265.06		265.06
Lithuania	Litas						307.44		307.44
Latvia	Lat						141.86		141.86
Estonia	Euro						1,311.72		1,311.72
Senator Charles Grassley:									
Belgium	Euro		544.43						544.43
Russia	Ruble		1,858.95						1,858.95
Ireland	Euro		346.81						346.81
Elisabeth Levine:									
Belgium	Euro		631.17						631.17
Russia	Ruble		1,890.17						1,890.17
Ireland	Euro		432.20						432.20
J. Edward Pagano:									
Belgium	Euro		788.60						788.60
Russia	Ruble		2,056.34						2,056.34
Ireland	Euro		462.96						462.96
*Delegation Expenses:									
Belgium	Euro						1,973.68		1,973.68
Russia	Ruble						4,449.61		4,449.61
Ireland	Euro						935.96		935.96
Total			12,221.89				12,102.30		24,324.19

SENATOR PATRICK J. LEAHY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, July 26, 2011.
*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2011

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Joan Kirchner:									
Nigeria	Naira		55.00						55.00

August 2, 2011

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CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2011—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Benin	Franc		58.00						58.00
Ghana	Cedi		11.73						11.73
United States	Dollar				9,206.10				9,206.10
Total			124.73		9,206.10				9,330.83

SENATOR TOM HARKIN,
Chairman, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions,
July 13, 2011.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2011

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Mary L. Landrieu:									
United States	Dollar				1,989.10				1,989.10
Guatemala	Quetzal		1,112.00						1,112.00
*Delegation Expenses:									
Guatemala	Quetzal					5,139.00			5,139.00
Total			1,112.00		1,989.10		5,139.00		8,240.10

SENATOR MARY L. LANDRIEU,
Chairman, Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship,
July 22, 2011.

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–382, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE—ADDENDUM TO 1ST QUARTER REPORT FOR 2011—FOR TRAVEL FROM JAN. 1 TO MAR. 31, 2011

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Saxby Chambliss:	Dollar					119.54			119.54
Total						119.54			119.54

SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
Chairman, Committee on Intelligence, July 12, 2011.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2011

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Andrew Kerr:			1,534.00						1,534.00
James Smythers:	Dollar				9,122.90				9,122.90
	Dollar		1,446.00		9,122.90				1,446.00
Brian Walsh:	Dollar		1,384.78		5,300.27				1,384.78
Brian Miller:	Dollar		893.30		5,335.27				5,300.27
Martha Scott Poindexter:	Dollar		2,563.82		9,997.35				893.30
James Smythers:	Dollar		2,275.00		9,997.35				5,335.27
	Dollar								2,563.82
Total			10,096.90		48,876.04				9,997.35

SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
Chairman, Committee on Intelligence, July 12, 2011.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), CODEL MCCONNELL TRAVEL FROM APR. 15 TO APR. 23, 2011

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Mitch McConnell:									
South Korea	Won		400.00						400.00
India	Rupee		1,531.00						1,531.00
Italy	Euro		501.00						501.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), CODEL MCCONNELL TRAVEL FROM APR. 15 TO APR. 23, 2011—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Mike Johanns:									
South Korea	Won		248.81						248.81
India	Rupee		986.00						986.00
Italy	Euro		251.00						251.00
Senator Jerry Moran:									
South Korea	Won		230.00						230.00
India	Rupee		943.00						943.00
Italy	Euro		282.00						282.00
Senator Rob Portman:									
Senator John Hoeven:									
Tom Hawkins:									
South Korea	Won		400.00						400.00
India	Rupee		820.00						820.00
Italy	Euro		409.00						409.00
Rohit Kumar:									
South Korea	Won		400.00						400.00
India	Rupee		967.00						967.00
Italy	Euro		409.00						409.00
Roy E. Brownell II:									
South Korea	Won		350.00						350.00
India	Rupee		1,069.18						1,069.18
Italy	Euro		309.00						309.00
Stefanie Hagar:									
South Korea	Won		400.00						400.00
India	Rupee		1,160.89						1,160.89
Italy	Euro		409.00						409.00
Sally Walsh:									
South Korea	Won		400.00						400.00
India	Rupee		1,279.00						1,279.00
Italy	Euro		409.00						409.00
*Delegation Expenses:									
South Korea	Won						4,227.12		4,227.12
India	Rupee						6,313.42		6,313.42
Afghanistan	Dollar						57.00		57.00
Italy	Euro						4,953.65		4,953.65
Total			14,563.88				15,551.19		30,115.07

SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL,
Chairman, CodeL McConnell, June 20, 2011.

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State and the Department of Defense under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), REPUBLICAN LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2011

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Thomas Hawkins:									
United States	Dollar				9,997.35				9,997.35
Israel	Shekel		879.00						879.00
Jordan	Dinar		460.98						460.98
Egypt	Pound		481.82						481.82
Total			1,821.80		9,997.35				11,819.15

SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL,
Republican Leader, Senator Mitch McConnell, July 1, 2011.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), CODEL REID FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2011

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Harry Reid:									
Hong Kong	Dollar		1,040.00						1,040.00
China	Yuan		1,507.00						1,507.00
Senator Richard Shelby:									
Hong Kong	Dollar		1,040.00						1,040.00
China	Yuan		1,507.00						1,507.00
Senator Barbara Boxer:									
Hong Kong	Dollar		890.00						890.00
China	Yuan		1,129.47						1,129.47
Senator Richard Durbin:									
Hong Kong	Dollar		945.50						945.50
China	Yuan		1,292.94						1,292.94
Senator Michael Enzi:									
Hong Kong	Dollar		817.00						817.00
China	Yuan		1,270.00						1,270.00
Senator Charles Schumer:									
Hong Kong	Dollar		1,040.00						1,040.00
China	Yuan		1,507.00						1,507.00
Senator Frank Lautenberg:									
Hong Kong	Dollar		1,040.00						1,040.00
China	Yuan		1,507.00						1,507.00
Senator Johnny Isakson:									
Hong Kong	Dollar		816.00						816.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), CODEL REID FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2011—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
China	Yuan		1,284.00						1,284.00
Senator Jeff Merkley:									
Hong Kong	Dollar		817.00						817.00
China	Yuan		1,233.00						1,233.00
Senator Michael Bennet:									
Hong Kong	Dollar		0.00						
China	Yuan		0.00						
Dr. Brian Monahan:									
Hong Kong	Dollar		941.00						941.00
China	Yuan		1,409.00						1,409.00
Michael Castellano:									
Hong Kong	Dollar		1,040.00						1,040.00
China	Yuan		1,507.00						1,507.00
Jon Summers:									
Hong Kong	Dollar		1,040.00						1,040.00
China	Yuan		1,507.00						1,507.00
Stephen Krupin:									
Hong Kong	Dollar		1,040.00						1,040.00
China	Yuan		1,507.00						1,507.00
Terrell Henry:									
Hong Kong	Dollar		1,040.00						1,040.00
China	Yuan		1,507.00						1,507.00
Julia Reed:									
Hong Kong	Dollar		940.00						940.00
China	Yuan		1,438.48						1,438.48
*Delegation Expenses:									
Hong Kong							10,931.08		10,931.08
China							20,070.19		20,070.19
Total			35,599.39				31,001.27		66,600.66

SENATOR HARRY REID,

Majority Leader, July 22, 2011.

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State, and the Department of Defense under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

THANKING SENATE STAFF

Mr. REID. Mr. President, first of all, I appreciate your patience presiding over the Senate at this late hour. I extend my appreciation to this staff, everybody here, for all this work. About the last month has been very difficult. I appreciate very much the professionalism that is shown here in the Senate and the efforts they go to to make all of us look good. Sometimes that takes a lot of effort. But I do appreciate their working so hard together here at the desk. If there is ever anything that is bipartisan, it is right here, Republicans and Democrats, and there is no partisanship on the Senate floor. Step back a little bit and there is when we are away from the professional staff, but I appreciate very much their hard work.

EXTENSION OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have tried for days now to change what the Republicans in the House have tried to do to the American people. In fact, it appears they are going to be able to do it. We have the extension of the Federal Aviation Administration legislation that is being held up. We wanted a temporary extension for the next few weeks. We have already extended it more than 20 times. We thought we should do it again. We have done that. That has been routine until we get some of the big issues worked out. But Republicans wanted to increase the ante a little bit this time with essen-

tial air service. In Pennsylvania, some of the rural areas—the Presiding Officer is from Pennsylvania; of course, Nevada has a lot of rural areas, and other States. Even the heavily populated State of New York has essential air service. Essential air service was set up a long time ago to allow underpopulated areas to be able to be in touch with the rest of the States.

The Republicans have tried to eliminate essential air service. That is the ransom we are asking now for an extension of the FAA bill. I am not going to ask consent today; we have asked it many times. But I want the RECORD to be spread with how unreasonable it is, what the Republicans have done. As a result of their activities, the House Republicans, we have 80,000 people who will not be working now—80,000 people, more than 70,000 construction workers and thousands of people who are employees of the Federal Aviation Administration.

For example, in Nevada we have an air traffic control tower, a new one that needs to be built. It is going to be big, expensive, and necessary. The work has stopped. They worked there for less than a month. The work has stopped. The construction work has stopped.

I talked to the Senator from California, Senator BOXER, today. In Palm Springs they have one that is essential, is badly needed. Work has stopped on that.

Construction projects all over America are held up at our airports. It is so very unreasonable what they have done. I appreciate KAY BAILEY

HUTCHISON, the Republican Senator from Texas, who has worked with the chairman of the committee, JAY ROCKEFELLER, to try to work past this. She agrees with Senator ROCKEFELLER it is unreasonable that they have done this.

What I want to do is read a column out of the New York Times of July 29. The writer introduces his column by saying:

The facts of the crisis over the debt ceiling aren't complicated. Republicans have, in effect, taken America hostage, threatening to undermine the economy and disrupt the essential business of government unless they get policy concessions they would never have been able to enact through legislation.

That is where we are with the FAA problem. He goes on to say:

As I said, it's not complicated. Yet many people in the news media apparently can't bring themselves to acknowledge this simple reality. News reports portray the parties as equally intransigent; pundits fantasize about some kind of "centrist" uprising, as if the problem was too much partisanship on both sides. Some of us have long complained about the cult of "balance," the insistence on portraying both parties as equally wrong and equally at fault on any issue, never mind the facts. I joked long ago that if one party declared that the earth was flat, the headlines would read "Views Differ on Shape of Planet." But would that cult still rule in a situation as stark as the one we now face, in which one party is clearly engaged in blackmail?

He went on to say more and then he said:

The answer, it turns out, is yes. And this is no laughing matter: The cult of balance has played an important role in bringing us to the edge of disaster. For when reporting on

political disputes always implies that both sides are to blame, there is no penalty for extremism. Voters won't punish you for outrageous behavior if all they ever hear is that both sides are at fault.

Mr. President, I wish the press would report this outrageous conduct on the part of the House Republicans, in effect closing down work for 80,000 people in America because of their trying to eliminate essential air service.

The issue is certainly more than that. We know it is a labor issue. We have one airline that is terribly anti-union and they are the ones behind all this. They are using the essential air service as a guise to get what they want.

I am not going to ask consent, but I want the American people to know why essential air service is being attacked and why 80,000 people are basically today not going to be able to go to work tomorrow.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, September 6, 2011, at 5 p.m., the Senate proceed to Executive Session to consider Calendar No. 109; that there be 30 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of that time the Senate proceed to vote with no intervening action or debate on Calendar No. 109, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE LEAHY-SMITH AMERICA INVENTS ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 87, H.R. 1249.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the bill (H.R. 1249) to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to

proceed to Calendar No. 87, H.R. 1249, the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Thomas R. Carper, Joseph I. Lieberman, Richard Blumenthal, Charles E. Schumer, Amy Klobuchar, Robert Menendez, Jeanne Shaheen, John F. Kerry, Mark Udall, Mark R. Warner, Ben Nelson, Jeff Bingaman, Max Baucus, Mark Begich, Robert P. Casey, Jr.

Mr. REID. I now ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, September 6, following the disposition of the nomination of Bernice Bouie Donald and the resumption of the legislative session, the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 87, H.R. 1249; further, that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the following Environment and Public Works bills, en bloc: Calendar No. 72, S. 710; and Calendar No. 117, S. 1302.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. It is my understanding that the Chair has granted consent for the Senate to proceed to the consideration of those two bills; is that right?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the bills be read a third time and passed, en bloc; the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, and any relevant statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HAZARDOUS WASTE ELECTRONIC MANIFEST ESTABLISHMENT ACT

The bill (S. 710) to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a hazardous waste electronic manifest system was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 710

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest Establishment Act".

SEC. 2. HAZARDOUS WASTE ELECTRONIC MANIFEST SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6921 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 3024. HAZARDOUS WASTE ELECTRONIC MANIFEST SYSTEM.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) BOARD.—The term 'Board' means the Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest System Advisory Board established under subsection (f).

"(2) FUND.—The term 'Fund' means the Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest System Fund established by subsection (d).

"(3) PERSON.—The term 'person' includes an individual, corporation (including a Government corporation), company, association, firm, partnership, society, joint stock company, trust, municipality, commission, Federal agency, State, political subdivision of a State, or interstate body.

"(4) SYSTEM.—The term 'system' means the hazardous waste electronic manifest system established under subsection (b).

"(5) USER.—The term 'user' means a hazardous waste generator, a hazardous waste transporter, an owner or operator of a hazardous waste treatment, storage, recycling, or disposal facility, or any other person that—

"(A) is required to use a manifest to comply with any Federal or State requirement to track the shipment, transportation, and receipt of hazardous waste or other material that is shipped from the site of generation to an off-site facility for treatment, storage, disposal, or recycling; and

"(B)(i) elects to use the system to complete and transmit an electronic manifest format; or

"(ii) submits to the system for data processing purposes a paper copy of the manifest (or data from such a paper copy), in accordance with such regulations as the Administrator may promulgate to require such a submission.

"(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall establish a hazardous waste electronic manifest system that may be used by any user.

"(c) USER FEES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may impose on users such reasonable service fees as the Administrator determines to be necessary to pay costs incurred in developing, operating, maintaining, and upgrading the system, including any costs incurred in collecting and processing data from any paper manifest submitted to the system after the date on which the system enters operation.

"(2) COLLECTION OF FEES.—The Administrator shall—

"(A) collect the fees described in paragraph (1) from the users in advance of, or as reimbursement for, the provision by the Administrator of system-related services; and

"(B) deposit the fees in the Fund for use in accordance with this subsection.

"(3) FEE STRUCTURE.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with information technology vendors, shall determine through the contract award process described in subsection (e) the fee structure that is necessary to recover the full cost to the Administrator of providing system-related services, including costs relating to—

"(i) materials and supplies;

"(ii) contracting and consulting;

"(iii) overhead;

"(iv) information technology (including costs of hardware, software, and related services);

"(v) information management;

"(vi) collection of service fees;

"(vii) investment of any unused service fees;

"(viii) reporting and accounting;

"(ix) employment of direct and indirect Government personnel dedicated to establishing and maintaining the system; and

"(x) project management.

"(B) ADJUSTMENTS IN FEE AMOUNT.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Board, shall increase

or decrease amount of a service fee determined under the fee structure described in subparagraph (A) to a level that will—

“(I) result in the collection of an aggregate amount for deposit in the Fund that is sufficient to cover current and projected system-related costs (including any necessary system upgrades); and

“(II) minimize, to the maximum extent practicable, the accumulation of unused amounts in the Fund.

“(ii) EXCEPTION FOR INITIAL PERIOD OF OPERATION.—The requirement described in clause (i)(II) shall not apply to any additional fees that accumulate in the Fund, in an amount that does not exceed \$2,000,000, during the 3-year period beginning on the date on which the system enters operation.

“(iii) TIMING OF ADJUSTMENTS.—Adjustments to service fees described in clause (i) shall be made—

“(I) initially, at the time at which initial development costs of the system have been recovered by the Administrator such that the service fee may be reduced to reflect the elimination of the system development component of the fee; and

“(II) periodically thereafter, upon receipt and acceptance of the findings of any annual accounting or auditing report under subsection (d)(6), if the report discloses a significant disparity for a fiscal year between the funds collected from service fees under this subsection for the fiscal year and expenditures made for the fiscal year to provide system-related services.

“(d) HAZARDOUS WASTE ELECTRONIC MANIFEST SYSTEM FUND.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a revolving fund, to be known as the ‘Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest System Fund’, consisting of—

“(A) such amounts as are appropriated to the Fund under paragraph (2); and

“(B) any interest earned on investment of amounts in the Fund under paragraph (4).

“(2) TRANSFERS TO FUND.—There are appropriated to the Fund amounts equivalent to amounts collected as fees and received by the Administrator under subsection (c).

“(3) EXPENDITURES FROM FUND.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), on request by the Administrator, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer from the Fund to the Administrator such amounts as the Administrator determines to be necessary to pay costs incurred in developing, operating, maintaining, and upgrading the system under subsection (c).

“(B) USE OF FUNDS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Fees collected by the Administrator and deposited in the Fund under this section shall be available to the Administrator for use in accordance with this section without fiscal year limitation and without further appropriation.

“(ii) OVERSIGHT.—The Administrator shall carry out all necessary measures to ensure that amounts in the Fund are used only to carry out the goals of establishing, operating, maintaining, upgrading, managing, supporting, and overseeing the system.

“(4) INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall invest such portion of the Fund as is not, in the judgment of the Secretary of the Treasury and the Administrator, required to meet current withdrawals.

“(B) INTEREST-BEARING OBLIGATIONS.—Investments may be made only in—

“(i) interest-bearing obligations of the United States; or

“(ii) obligations, participations, or other instruments that are lawful investments for fiduciaries, trusts, or public funds, as determined by the Secretary of the Treasury.

“(C) ACQUISITION OF OBLIGATIONS.—For the purpose of investments under paragraph (1), obligations may be acquired—

“(i) on original issue at the issue price; or

“(ii) by purchase of outstanding obligations at the market price.

“(D) SALE OF OBLIGATIONS.—Any obligation acquired by the Fund may be sold by the Secretary of the Treasury at the market price.

“(E) CREDITS TO FUND.—The interest on, and the proceeds from the sale or redemption of, any obligations held in the Fund shall be credited to, and form a part of, the Fund.

“(5) TRANSFERS OF AMOUNTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The amounts required to be transferred to the Fund under this subsection shall be transferred at least monthly from the general fund of the Treasury to the Fund on the basis of estimates made by the Secretary of the Treasury.

“(B) ADJUSTMENTS.—Proper adjustment shall be made in amounts subsequently transferred to the extent prior estimates were in excess of or less than the amounts required to be transferred.

“(6) ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING.—

“(A) ACCOUNTING.—For each 2-fiscal-year period, the Administrator shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

“(i) an accounting of the fees paid to the Administrator under subsection (c) and disbursed from the Fund for the period covered by the report, as reflected by financial statements provided in accordance with—

“(I) the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-576; 104 Stat. 2838) and amendments made by that Act; and

“(II) the Government Management Reform Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-356; 108 Stat. 3410) and amendments made by that Act; and

“(ii) an accounting describing actual expenditures from the Fund for the period covered by the report for costs described in subsection (c)(1).

“(B) AUDITING.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of section 3515(c) of title 31, United States Code, the Fund shall be considered a component of an Executive agency.

“(ii) COMPONENTS OF AUDIT.—The annual audit required in accordance with sections 3515(b) and 3521 of title 31, United States Code, of the financial statements of activities carried out using amounts from the Fund shall include an analysis of—

“(I) the fees collected and disbursed under this section;

“(II) the reasonableness of the fee structure in place as of the date of the audit to meet current and projected costs of the system;

“(III) the level of use of the system by users; and

“(IV) the success to date of the system in operating on a self-sustaining basis and improving the efficiency of tracking waste shipments and transmitting waste shipment data.

“(iii) FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY.—The Inspector General of the Environmental Protection Agency shall—

“(I) conduct the annual audit described in clause (ii); and

“(II) submit to the Administrator a report that describes the findings and recommenda-

tions of the Inspector General resulting from the audit.

“(e) CONTRACTS.—

“(1) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS FUNDED BY SERVICE FEES.—The Administrator may enter into 1 or more information technology contracts with entities determined to be appropriate by the Administrator (referred to in this subsection as ‘contractors’) under which—

“(A) the Administrator agrees to award a contract for the provision of system-related services; and

“(B) the contractor agrees to assume the initial risk of the information technology investment, and to obtain reimbursement for investment costs, operating costs, and other fees, by receiving as payment an agreed-upon share of the amounts collected as fees by the Administrator under subsection (c).

“(2) TERM OF CONTRACT.—A contract awarded under this subsection shall have a term of not more than 10 years.

“(3) ACHIEVEMENT OF GOALS.—The Administrator shall ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that a contract awarded under this subsection—

“(A) is performance-based;

“(B) identifies objective outcomes; and

“(C) contains performance standards that may be used to measure achievement and goals to evaluate the success of a contractor in performing under the contract and the right of the contractor to payment for services under the contract, taking into consideration that a primary measure of successful performance shall be the development of a hazardous waste electronic manifest system that—

“(i) meets the needs of the user community (including States that rely on data contained in manifests);

“(ii) attracts sufficient user participation and service fee revenues to ensure the viability of the system;

“(iii) decreases the administrative burden on the user community; and

“(iv) provides the waste receipt data applicable to the biennial reports required by section 3002(a)(6).

“(4) PAYMENT STRUCTURE.—Each contract awarded under this subsection shall include a provision that specifies—

“(A) the service fee structure of the contractor that will form the basis for payments to the contractor;

“(B) the fixed-share ratio of monthly service fee revenues from which the Administrator shall reimburse the contractor for system-related development, operation, and maintenance costs and provide an additional profit or fee commensurate with the risk undertaken by the contractor in performing in accordance with the contract;

“(C) the amount of additional transactional costs attributed to—

“(i) the ancillary costs of the Administrator in implementing and managing the system, including the costs of integrating the applications of the contractor with the central data exchange architecture of the Environmental Protection Agency;

“(ii) the direct and indirect personnel costs incurred by the Administrator to employ personnel dedicated to the implementation and management of the system; and

“(iii) expenses incurred in procuring any independent contractor services to assist staff of the Administrator in the preparation of financial statements and reports and the conduct of regular user group and governance meetings necessary for the oversight of the system.

“(5) CANCELLATION AND TERMINATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator determines that sufficient funds are not made available for the continuation in a subsequent fiscal year of a contract entered into under this subsection, the Administrator shall cancel or terminate the contract.

“(B) COSTS.—The costs of cancellation or termination under subparagraph (A) may be paid using—

“(i) appropriations available for performance of the contract;

“(ii) unobligated appropriations available for acquisition of the information technology procured under the contract; or

“(iii) funds subsequently appropriated for payment of costs of the cancellation or termination.

“(C) NEGOTIATION OF AMOUNTS.—The amount payable in the event of cancellation or termination of a contract entered into under this subsection shall be negotiated with the contractor at the time at which the contract is awarded.

“(D) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS.—The Administrator may enter into a contract under this subsection for any fiscal year, regardless of whether funds are made specifically available for the full costs of cancellation or termination of the contract, if—

“(i) funds are available at the time at which the contract is awarded to make payments with respect to a contingent liability in an amount equal to at least 100 percent of the estimated costs of a cancellation or termination during the first fiscal year of the contract, as determined by the Administrator; or

“(ii) funds described in clause (i) are not available as described in that clause, but the contractor—

“(I) is informed of the amount of any unfunded contingent liability; and

“(II) agrees to perform the contract despite the unfunded contingent liability.

“(6) NO EFFECT ON OWNERSHIP.—Regardless of whether the Administrator enters into a contract under this subsection, the system shall be owned by the Federal Government.

“(f) HAZARDOUS WASTE ELECTRONIC MANIFEST SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall establish a board to be known as the ‘Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest System Advisory Board’.

“(2) COMPOSITION.—The Board shall be composed of 9 members, of which—

“(A) 1 member shall be the Administrator (or a designee), who shall serve as Chairperson of the Board; and

“(B) 8 members shall be individuals appointed by the Administrator—

“(i) at least 2 of whom shall have expertise in information technology;

“(ii) at least 3 of whom shall have experience in using or represent users of the manifest system to track the transportation of hazardous waste under this subtitle (or an equivalent State program); and

“(iii) at least 3 of whom shall be a State representative responsible for processing those manifests.

“(3) DUTIES.—The Board shall meet annually to discuss, evaluate the effectiveness of, and provide recommendations to the Administrator relating to, the system.

“(g) REGULATIONS.—

“(1) PROMULGATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall promulgate regulations to carry out this section.

“(B) INCLUSIONS.—The regulations promulgated pursuant to subparagraph (A) may include such requirements as the Administrator determines to be necessary to facilitate the transition from the use of paper manifests to the use of electronic manifests, or to accommodate the processing of data from paper manifests in the electronic manifest system, including a requirement that users of paper manifests submit to the system copies of the paper manifests for data processing purposes.

“(C) REQUIREMENTS.—The regulations promulgated pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall ensure that each electronic manifest provides, to the same extent as paper manifests under applicable Federal and State law, for—

“(i) the ability to track and maintain legal accountability of—

“(I) the person that certifies that the information provided in the manifest is accurately described; and

“(II) the person that acknowledges receipt of the manifest;

“(ii) if the manifest is electronically submitted, State authority to access paper printout copies of the manifest from the system; and

“(iii) access to all publicly available information contained in the manifest.

“(2) EFFECTIVE DATE OF REGULATIONS.—Any regulation promulgated by the Administrator under paragraph (1) and in accordance with section 3003 relating to electronic manifesting of hazardous waste shall take effect in each State as of the effective date specified in the regulation.

“(3) ADMINISTRATION.—The Administrator shall carry out regulations promulgated under this subsection in each State unless the State program is fully authorized to carry out those regulations in lieu of the Administrator.

“(h) REQUIREMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN STATES.—In any case in which the State in which waste is generated, or the State in which waste will be transported to a designated facility, requires that the waste be tracked through a hazardous waste manifest, the designated facility that receives the waste shall, regardless of the State in which the facility is located—

“(1) complete the facility portion of the applicable manifest;

“(2) sign and date the facility certification; and

“(3) submit to the system a final copy of the manifest for data processing purposes.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6901) is amended by inserting at the end of the items relating to subtitle C the following:

“Sec. 3024. Hazardous waste electronic manifest system.”.

GENERAL SERVICES PARCEL ACT

The bill (S. 1302) to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Tracy, California, to the City of Tracy was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1302

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF PARCEL, TRACY, CALIFORNIA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of General Services.

(2) CITY.—The term “City” means the city of Tracy, California.

(3) PARCEL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “Parcel” means the approximately 150 acres conveyed to the City for educational or recreational purposes pursuant to section 140 of division C of Public Law 105-277 (112 Stat. 2681-599; 113 Stat. 104; 118 Stat. 335).

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “Parcel” does not include the approximately 50 acres conveyed to the City for economic development, in which the United States retains no reversionary interest, pursuant to section 140 of division C of Public Law 105-277 (112 Stat. 2681-599; 113 Stat. 104; 118 Stat. 335).

(b) CONVEYANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (c) through (f) of section 140 of division C of Public Law 105-277 (112 Stat. 2681-599; 113 Stat. 104; 118 Stat. 335) and subject to subsection (c), the Administrator may offer to enter into a binding agreement with the City, as soon as practicable, but not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, under which the Administrator may convey to the City, through a deed of release or other appropriate instrument, any reversionary interest retained by the United States in the Parcel, and all other terms, conditions, reservations, and restrictions imposed, in connection with the conveyance of the Parcel.

(2) SURVEY.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the exact acreage and legal description of the Parcel shall be determined by a survey that is satisfactory to the Administrator.

(c) CONSIDERATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As consideration for the conveyance under subsection (b), the City shall pay to the Administrator an amount not less than the appraised fair market value of the Parcel, as determined by the Administrator pursuant to an appraisal conducted by a licensed, independent appraiser, based on the highest and best use of the Parcel, as determined by the Administrator.

(2) TREATMENT.—The determination of the Administrator under paragraph (1) regarding the fair market value of the Parcel shall be final.

(d) COST OF CONVEYANCE.—The City shall be responsible for reimbursing the Administrator for the costs associated with implementing this section, including the costs of each applicable appraisal and survey.

(e) PROCEEDS.—

(1) DEPOSIT.—The net proceeds from the conveyance under this section shall be deposited in the Federal Buildings Fund established by section 592(a) of title 40, United States Code.

(2) EXPENDITURE.—The amounts deposited in the Federal Buildings Fund under paragraph (1) shall be available to the Administrator, in amounts specified in appropriations Acts, for expenditure for any lawful purpose consistent with the authority of the Administrator.

(f) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Administrator may establish such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under subsection (b) as the Administrator considers to be appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(g) NO EFFECT ON COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.—Nothing in this Act or any amendment made by this Act affects or limits the application of or obligation to

comply with any environmental law, including section 120(h) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9620(h)).

CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 104.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 104) designating September 2011 as "Campus Fire Safety Month."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to the matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 104) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 104

Whereas, each year, States across the Nation formally designate September as Campus Fire Safety Month;

Whereas, since January 2000, at least 143 people, including students, parents, and children have died in campus-related fires;

Whereas 85 percent of those deaths occurred in off-campus residences;

Whereas a majority of college students in the United States live in off-campus residences;

Whereas a number of fatal fires have occurred in buildings in which the fire safety systems had been compromised or disabled by the occupants;

Whereas automatic fire alarm systems provide the early warning of a fire that is necessary for occupants and the fire department to take appropriate action;

Whereas automatic fire sprinkler systems are a highly effective method of controlling or extinguishing a fire in its early stages, protecting the lives of the building's occupants;

Whereas many college students live in off-campus residences, fraternity and sorority housing, and residence halls that are not adequately protected with automatic fire sprinkler systems and automatic fire alarm systems;

Whereas fire safety education is an effective method of reducing the occurrence of fires and reducing the resulting loss of life and property damage;

Whereas college students do not routinely receive effective fire safety education during their time in college;

Whereas it is vital to educate young people in the United States about the importance of fire safety to help ensure fire-safe behavior by young people during their college years and beyond; and

Whereas, by developing a generation of fire-safe adults, future loss of life from fires

may be significantly reduced: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2011 as "Campus Fire Safety Month"; and

(2) encourages administrators of institutions of higher education and municipalities across the country—

(A) to provide educational programs to all students during September and throughout the school year;

(B) to evaluate the level of fire safety being provided in both on- and off-campus student housing; and

(C) to ensure fire-safe living environments through fire safety education, installation of fire suppression and detection systems, and the development and enforcement of applicable codes relating to fire safety.

NATIONAL AIRBORNE DAY

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 254.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 254) designating August 16, 2011, as "National Airborne Day."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 254) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 254

Whereas the airborne forces of the Armed Forces have a long and honorable history as bold and fierce warriors who, for the national security of the United States and the defense of freedom and peace, project the ground combat power of the United States by air transport to the far reaches of the battle area and to the far corners of the world;

Whereas the United States' experiment with airborne operations began on June 25, 1940, when the Army Parachute Test Platoon was first authorized by the Department of War, and 48 volunteers began training in July 1940;

Whereas August 16 marks the anniversary of the first official Army parachute jump on August 16, 1940, to test the innovative concept of inserting United States ground combat forces behind a battle line by means of a parachute;

Whereas the success of the Army Parachute Test Platoon in the days immediately before the entry of the United States into World War II validated the airborne operational concept and led to the creation of a formidable force of airborne formations, such as the 11th, 13th, 17th, 82nd, and 101st Airborne Divisions;

Whereas included in these divisions, and among other separate formations, were many airborne combat, combat support, and

combat service support units that served with distinction and achieved repeated success in armed hostilities that provide the lineage and legacy of many airborne units throughout our Armed Forces;

Whereas the achievements of the airborne forces during World War II prompted the evolution of those forces into a diversified force of parachute and air-assault units that, over the years, have fought in Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf region, and Somalia, and have engaged in peacekeeping operations in Lebanon, the Sinai Peninsula, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Bosnia, and Kosovo;

Whereas since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, United States airborne forces, which include members of the XVIII Airborne Corps, the 82nd Airborne Division, the 101st Airborne Division, the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) of the 25th Infantry Division, the 75th Ranger Regiment, and special operations forces of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force, together with other units of the Armed Forces, have demonstrated bravery and honor in combat, stability, and training operations in Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas the modern-day airborne force also includes other elite forces composed of airborne trained and qualified special operations warriors, including Army Special Forces, Marine Corps Reconnaissance units, Navy SEALs, and Air Force combat control and para-rescue teams;

Whereas of the members and former members of the United States airborne forces, thousands have achieved the distinction of making combat jumps, dozens have earned the Medal of Honor, and hundreds have earned the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, or other decorations and awards for displays of heroism, gallantry, intrepidity, and valor;

Whereas the members and former members of the United States airborne forces are all members of a proud and honorable tradition that, together with their special skills and achievements, distinguishes such members as intrepid combat parachutists, air assault forces, special operation forces, and, in former days, glider troops;

Whereas the history and achievements of the members and former members of the United States airborne forces warrant special expressions of the gratitude of the people of the United States; and

Whereas since the airborne forces, past and present, celebrate August 16 as the anniversary of the first official jump by the Army Parachute Test Platoon, August 16 is an appropriate day to recognize as National Airborne Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates August 16, 2011, as "National Airborne Day"; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to observe National Airborne Day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

NATIONAL CHESS DAY

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent to proceed to S. Res. 255.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 255) designating October 8, 2011, as "National Chess Day" to enhance awareness and encourage students and

adults to engage in a game known to enhance critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER: Mr. President, I rise today in support of this resolution to designate National Chess Day as October 8, 2011. I greatly appreciate the support of my colleague, Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER of Tennessee.

National Chess Day is designed to enhance awareness and encourage students and adults to engage in a game known to enhance critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

There are 76,000 members of the Chess Federation and half of them are students. Studies indicate that chess programs can help with students improving in math and reading. Engaging students in such activities can make learning fun and help them develop a lifelong pastime to engage their skills.

Engaging students in chess is a wonderful opportunity to promote education, and I hope as school begins in a few weeks, more students will join the Chess Federation and learn this historical game.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 255) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 255

Whereas there are more than 76,000 members of the United States Chess Federation (referred to in this preamble as the "Federation"), and unknown numbers of additional people in the United States who play the game without joining an official organization;

Whereas approximately ½ of the members of the Federation are scholastic members, and many of the scholastic members join by the age of 10;

Whereas the Federation is very supportive of the scholastic programs and sponsors a Certified Chess Coach program that provides the coaches involved in the scholastic programs training and ensures schools and students can have confidence in the programs;

Whereas many studies have linked chess programs to the improvement of student scores in reading and math, as well as improved self-esteem;

Whereas the Federation offers a school curriculum to educators to help incorporate chess into the school curriculum;

Whereas chess is a powerful cognitive learning tool that can be used to successfully enhance reading and math concepts; and

Whereas chess engages students of all learning styles and strengths and promotes problem-solving and higher-level thinking skills: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 8, 2011, as "National Chess Day"; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe "National Chess Day" with appropriate programs and activities.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 95, 230, 232, 254, 255, 256, 257, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 275, 277, 278, 279, 280, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 288, and Calendar Nos. 291 through 323, and nominations placed on the Secretary's Desk in the Air Force, Army, Foreign Service, Marine Corps, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; and that President Obama be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, for the second year in a row, the Senate has failed to take significant steps before the August recess to address the serious crisis of judicial vacancies on courts around the country. Last August, Senate Republicans left 17 judicial nominations pending and consented to confirm only four Federal circuit and district court nominations before the recess. I noted at that time what a serious blow that was to our ability to make progress addressing the judicial vacancies crisis that had already persisted for well over a year. Today, as the Senate recesses with judicial vacancies still near 90 as they were a year ago, the Senate is doing even worse, confirming only 4 judicial nominations of the 24 nominees already considered by the Judiciary Committee and awaiting a Senate vote.

Last week, I urged the Senate to confirm the two dozen judicial nominations already fully considered by the Judiciary Committee and ready for final action by the Senate. Of them, 20 were unanimously reported, without a single negative vote. Many have been pending without final action for months. I am, again, disappointed as Senate Republicans continue to delay these much needed and long awaited confirmations.

Even though Federal judicial vacancies have remained near or above 90 for more than 2 years, the Senate's Republican leadership has refused to consent to vote on these qualified, consensus nominations, leaving 16 of the 20 unanimously reported nominees in limbo. This is not the way to make real progress. The American people should not have to wait more weeks and

months for the Senate to do its constitutional duty and ensure the ability of our Federal courts to provide justice to Americans around the country.

In the past, we were able to confirm consensus nominees more promptly. They were not forced to languish for months. In the second year of the Bush administration, in 2002, before the August recess the Senate moved ahead to confirm a dozen judicial nominees. The next year, with a Republican Senate majority, Senate Democrats consented to seven confirmations before the August recess. With the delays that have been backlogging confirmations for years now, we have 20 unanimously reported judicial nominees who could all have been confirmed before this recess. Regrettably, 16 will not go forward today because Republicans refuse to consent.

At a time when judicial vacancies remain near 90, these needless delays perpetuate the judicial vacancies crisis that Chief Justice Roberts wrote of last December and that the President, the Attorney General, bar associations, and chief judges around the country have urged us to join together to end. The Senate can and should be doing a better job working to ensure the ability of our Federal courts to provide justice to Americans around the country.

Just last week, the Congressional Research Service released a report that confirms what many of us have been saying for some time: This is the longest sustained period of historically high vacancy rates on the Federal judiciary in the last 35 years.

This is hardly surprising. Republican obstruction kept the total confirmations in the first year of the President's term to the lowest total for a first year in more than 50 years, when only 12 judicial nominees were allowed to be considered. Republican obstruction kept the 2-year total of confirmations to the lowest total in 35 years, for the first 2 years of a President's term, with only a total of 60 Federal circuit and district court nominations confirmed during the course of those entire first 2 years of the Obama administration. Accordingly, judicial vacancies have perpetuated needlessly and caused needless delay on consensus nominees.

We are seeing it, again, this week as we approach the August recess in the third year of the Obama administration. In the 17 months I chaired the Judiciary Committee during President Bush's first term, the Senate confirmed 100 of his Federal circuit and district court nominees. It looks like it will take twice as long to reach 100 confirmations of President Obama's Federal circuit and district court nominees. President Obama has been in office for 31 months and only 95 of his Federal circuit and district court nominees have been confirmed. There

are two dozen more that are stalled, awaiting final Senate action. By the August recess in the third year of the Bush administration, the Senate had confirmed 143 Federal circuit and district court judges. This year, the comparable number is only 95.

It is not accurate to pretend that real progress is being made in these circumstances. Vacancies are being kept high, consensus nominees are being delayed and it is the American people and the Federal courts that are being made to suffer. This is another area in which we must come together for the American people. There is no reason Senators cannot join together to finally bring down the excessive number of vacancies that have persisted on Federal courts throughout the Nation for far too long.

I have always taken seriously the responsibility of the Senate to make sure that the Federal judiciary has the resources it needs. Senate Republicans had pocket-filibustered more than 60 of President Clinton's judicial nominations and refused to proceed on them while judicial vacancies skyrocketed to more than 110. Despite that, in the 17 months I chaired the Judiciary Committee during President Bush's first 2 years in office, the Senate proceeded to confirm 100 of his judicial nominees; during the next 24 months, with a Republican majority in the Senate, confirmed 105 more, for a total of 205 confirmed judges during President Bush's first term. We have a long way to go for the Senate to be as productive as we were during President Bush's first term.

We were able to lower vacancies dramatically during President Bush's years in office, cutting them in half during his first term. The Senate has reversed course during the Obama administration, and with Republican objections slowing the pace of confirmations, judicial vacancies have been at crisis levels for over 2 years. Over the 8 years of the Bush administration, from 2001 to 2009, we reduced judicial vacancies from 110 to a low of 34. They now stand at 88 vacancies. The vacancy rate—which we reduced from 10 percent to 6 percent by this date in President Bush's third year, and ultimately to less than 4 percent in 2008—is back above 10 percent.

Time and time again over the last 2½ years, I have urged the Senate to come together and work to address this crisis. At the beginning of this year, I called for a return to regular order in the consideration of nominations. We have seen that approach work on the Judiciary Committee. I have thanked the Judiciary Committee's ranking member, Senator GRASSLEY, many times for his cooperation with me to make sure that the committee continues to make progress in the consideration of nominations. His approach has been the right approach. Regret-

tably, it has not been matched on the floor, where the refusal by Republican leadership to come to regular time agreements to consider nominations has put our progress—our positive action—at risk.

Republican obstruction has led to a backlog of two dozen judicial nominations pending on the Senate's Executive Calendar. More than half of the judicial nominations on the calendar would fill judicial emergency vacancies. Yet, due to Republican objections, we have lost another opportunity to make progress by confirming consensus nominations.

Before the Memorial Day recess, I urged that the Senate to take up and vote on the many consensus judicial nominations then on the calendar and ready for final action. But Republican Senators would not agree to consider a single one. With nearly 20 judicial nominees available to the Senate for final action, only 1 was considered before the July 4 recess. In fact, the Senate has now considered only 11 nominations in the last 10 weeks and has only confirmed a total of 18 judicial nominees who had their hearings this year.

Senate Republicans have departed from the Senate's traditional practice by refusing to confirm even unanimous, consensus nominees. I still await an explanation from the other side of the aisle why these nominations could not be considered and confirmed. Republican leadership should explain to the people and Senators from Tennessee, South Carolina, Florida, Texas, Missouri, Louisiana, Maine, New York, Arkansas, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania why there continue to be vacancies on the Federal courts in their States that could easily be filled if the Senate would do its constitutional duty and vote on the President's nominations. These judicial nominees have the support of Republican home State Senators. In fact, there are multiple nominees still pending from Louisiana and Pennsylvania. Yet those nominees still wait for months on the Senate's calendar without explanation for the damaging delays, leaving the people of those States to bear the brunt of having too few judges.

All 24 of the judicial nominations on the calendar have been favorably reported by the Judiciary after a fair but thorough process. We review extensive background material on each nominee. All Senators on the committee, Democratic and Republican, have the opportunity to ask the nominees questions at a live hearing. Senators also have the opportunity to ask questions in writing following the hearing and to meet with the nominees. All of these nominees have a strong commitment to the rule of law and a demonstrated faithfulness to the Constitution. They should not be delayed for weeks and months needlessly after being so thoroughly and fairly considered by the Judiciary Committee.

Last week, the president of the American Bar Association, Stephen Zack, wrote to the Senate leaders "to urge [them] to redouble [their] efforts to fill existing judicial vacancies promptly so that the federal courts will have the judges they need to uphold the rule of law and deliver timely justice." He wrote:

As lawyers who practice in federal courts across this nation, ABA members know firsthand that long-standing vacancies on courts with staggering caseloads impede access to the courts and create strains that will inevitably reduce the quality of our justice system and erode public confidence in the ability of the courts to vindicate constitutional rights or render fair and timely decisions.

Mr. Zack's concerns echo those of Chief Justice Roberts, the President, the Attorney General, bar associations, and chief judges around the country who have also urged us to join together to end the judicial vacancies crisis. The Senate can and should be doing a better job working to ensure the ability of our Federal courts to provide justice to Americans around the country.

The four nominees the Senate will consider today like so many others left on the calendar have the strong support of their home State Senators—Republicans and Democrats—and all were reported unanimously by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Kathleen Williams was first nominated over a year ago to fill a judicial emergency vacancy in the Southern District of Florida. Her nomination has the support of both of her home State Senators—Senator BILL NELSON, a Democrat, and Senator RUBIO, a Republican—and was reported without objection by the Judiciary Committee on May 12. Ms. Williams has been the Federal public defender for the Southern District of Florida for 15 years, having been appointed five times by the Eleventh Circuit, most recently earlier this year. Ms. Williams was previously a Federal prosecutor in the Southern District of Florida, and she also worked in private civil litigation. Her balance of experience as a prosecutor and as a public defender providing legal services to thousands of defendants who cannot afford their own attorney will serve her well on the Federal bench.

Sara Darrow was nominated over 8 months ago to fill a judicial vacancy in the Central District of Illinois. Ms. Darrow has the bipartisan support of her home State Senators, Senator DURBIN, a Democrat, and Senator KIRK, a Republican. Ms. Darrow has been a prosecutor for over 12 years, working as a State's Attorney for Illinois and later as a Federal prosecutor in Illinois and Iowa. She is currently chief of the violent crimes unit in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of Illinois. Her nomination was reported by the Judiciary Committee without objection on May 12.

Nelva Gonzales Ramos was nominated in January of this year to fill a judicial emergency vacancy in the Southern District of Texas. Her nomination has the strong support of both her Republican home State Senators, Senators CORNYN and HUTCHISON, and was reported by the Judiciary Committee without objection May 12. She has served for over 12 years as a State judge in Texas, where she has presided over more than 1,200 cases. Judge Ramos has been reelected twice by the people of Texas to serve as a State judge. Prior to joining the bench, she also had a successful career as a litigator in private practice.

Richard Brooke Jackson was first nominated over 10 months ago to fill a judicial emergency vacancy in the District of Colorado. He is currently the chief judge for the First Judicial District in Colorado, where he has served for over 13 years, earning recognitions as the "Best State Judge in Colorado" in 2010. Prior to joining the bench, Judge Jackson practiced law for 26 years in Denver, CO, where he was made a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Judge Jackson's nomination has the strong support of both of his home State Senators, Senator UDALL and Senator BENNET, and was reported by the Judiciary Committee without objection on May 12.

The Senate's failure to take action and vote on 20 of the 24 judicial nominees reviewed by the Judiciary Committee and reported favorably to the Senate is yet another in a long line of missed opportunities to come together for the American people. This is not how the Senate has acted in years past with other Presidents' judicial nominees. Vacancies are being kept high, consensus nominees are being delayed, and it is the American people and the Federal courts that are being made to suffer.

I hope that when we return from the August recess, Senators can finally join together to begin to bring down the excessive number of vacancies that have persisted on Federal courts throughout the Nation for far too long. We can and must do better.

I ask unanimous consent that a recent letter from the President of the American Bar Association and a recent column by Professor Carl Tobias be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION,
Chicago, IL, July 28, 2011.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER REID AND MINORITY LEADER MCCONNELL: On behalf of the American Bar Association, I am writing to

urge you to redouble your efforts to fill existing judicial vacancies promptly so that the federal courts will have the judges they need to uphold the rule of law and deliver timely justice.

There is no priority higher to the Association than to assure that we have a fully staffed and fully operating federal bench. That is why I have used my position as ABA president this past year to speak out repeatedly about the urgent need to fill existing vacancies.

We commend the Congress for starting the session by instituting procedural changes and approaching the confirmation process with a fresh sense of urgency, which has helped restore regular order to the process. As a result, the President has made 87 judicial nominations and the Senate has regularly scheduled up-or-down votes and confirmed 31 nominees this session.

However, no significant reduction in the high number of vacancies has been achieved: there are only 4 fewer vacancies on the federal bench today than there were January 1 of this year, and 10 percent of the authorized judgeships remain vacant. During the past two years—since August 2009—the vacancy rate has fluctuated, but it has never dropped below 10 percent.

Thirty-eight of the present vacancies have existed for so long and created such untenable workloads for the remaining judges on the courts that the seats have been declared judicial emergencies by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. As lawyers who practice in federal courts across this nation, ABA members know firsthand that longstanding vacancies on courts with staggering caseloads impede access to the courts and create strains that will inevitably reduce the quality of our justice system and erode public confidence in the ability of the courts to vindicate constitutional rights or render fair and timely decisions. In Arizona, for example, the Speedy Trial Act has been temporarily waived, and criminal defendants wait up to 6 months for a trial, while businesses and individuals wait up to 2 years before their cases are heard.

We realize that the aging of our federal judiciary has contributed to the growing vacancy crisis. In July alone, 10 new vacancies were created through death, retirement and elevation, and we already know that an additional 11 vacancies will arise before the end of this year solely as a result of planned retirements. According to Department of Justice estimates, 60 new vacancies will be created through attrition each year for the next decade. Obviously, progress toward reducing vacancies requires a confirmation rate that outpaces the attrition rate; at present, it is barely keeping abreast of it.

The inescapable conclusion is that despite good intentions and modest progress, the current pace of nominations and confirmations is inadequate to the job. To achieve a significant and lasting reduction in the vacancy rate, both the Administration and the Senate need to engage in a concerted and sustained effort to expedite the process; there is an obvious starting point.

We believe the positions of both Senator Leahy and Senator Grassley with regard to the pending consensus nominees provide useful guidance: Senator Leahy has long urged swift action and up-or-down votes on all consensus nominees, and Senator Grassley, recently attesting to Republican "cooperation and positive action," observed, "We are moving forward on the consensus nominees."

At present there is a backlog of 24 nominees awaiting a floor vote, 20 of whom were

reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on voice vote with no recorded opposition. We urge you as Majority and Minority Leaders to schedule immediate up-or-down votes on these 20 consensus nominees before the Senate adjourns for the upcoming August recess.

Swift confirmation of these nominees would provide immediate relief to some of the most overburdened courts and would lower the vacancy rate to approximately 8 percent. Longterm permanent progress, however, will require more than this one-time fix. To effect lasting change, we also continue to urge the President and members of the Senate to act with common purpose to fill judicial vacancies promptly throughout this Congress so that the federal courts will not be deprived of the judges they need to do their important work.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN N. ZACK.

[From FindLaw, Aug. 1, 2011]

CONFIRMING CIRCUIT JUDGES IN THE 112TH
SENATE

(By Carl Tobias)

When President Barack Obama was inaugurated, the United States Courts of Appeals experienced vacancies in fourteen of the 179 judgeships. Thus, it was critical that the administration promptly fill those openings. The White House has instituted many practices to facilitate appointments. However, numerous seats remain vacant and more have opened, as judges have retired or assumed senior status, so the total is presently nineteen. A trenchant example is the August 2009 Sixth Circuit nomination of Nashville practitioner Jane Branstetter Stranch. Because the empty appellate seats undermine the judiciary's expeditious, economical and fair disposition of appeals and Ms. Stranch had waited thirteen months for a floor vote, the Senate ultimately approved her last September. Now that the 112th Senate has concluded its first seven months and Obama has proffered nominees for ten of the appeals court openings, he must swiftly nominate excellent candidates for the remaining vacancies, while the upper chamber must expeditiously confirm the appellate nominees. Indeed, Senator Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), the Minority Leader, should agree on a floor debate and vote for Sixth Circuit nominee Bernice Donald before the August recess because she is a well qualified, uncontroversial District Judge whom Obama nominated last December 1.

There are a few reasons for the empty judgeships. For instance, President George W. Bush ineffectively attempted to fill Sixth Circuit openings. He rarely consulted with senators from jurisdictions with vacancies or tapped consensus picks. Two Michigan Sixth Circuit posts lacked judges for a decade and were only filled when the parties reached a 2008 compromise.

Obama has invoked several measures to promptly fill all the current openings. He rapidly consulted home-state elected officials before actual nominations. Most officers have cooperated with the White House and promptly suggested candidates who are very smart, ethical, independent and diligent and have balanced temperament. The White House specifically consulted Tennessee Republican Senators Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker, who agreed to support Ms. Stranch. The President nominated the lawyer in August 2009, while the Judiciary Committee afforded her an October hearing at which the Tennessee senators appeared and voiced their support. The committee reported

Stranch on a 15-4 vote in November 2009. The nominee then languished on the Senate floor for ten months.

Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), the Judiciary Committee Chair, worked on securing Ms. Stranch's Senate floor consideration. For instance, Leahy cooperated with Senator Alexander in requesting that Senator McConnell work with Senator Harry Reid (D-Nev.), the Majority Leader, to swiftly arrange the nominee's debate and vote. On July 20, 2010, Senators Leahy and Alexander worked together on the floor. Leahy lauded Ms. Stranch's capabilities, emphasized her protracted wait and sought unanimous consent to consider the nominee. Senator Alexander agreed that "Jane Stranch is a well-qualified nominee [and] is the longest pending circuit court nominee" and asked for a prompt vote. Senator McConnell stated that some Republicans voted against Ms. Stranch in committee and that he would attempt to have the Senate act on her soon. One week later, President Obama asked that McConnell cooperate in filling the "vacancies that continue to plague the judiciary" and seemingly alluded to Ms. Stranch when he observed that nominees have been "waiting up to eight months to be confirmed."

Obama meticulously picked Stranch as his first nominee for the Sixth Circuit, which includes Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Tennessee, because she had assembled a stellar record as a Nashville attorney over three decades. The nominee earned the highest ABA ranking of well qualified from a minority of its committee and a rating of qualified from a substantial majority. Notwithstanding Stranch's excellent background, the chamber failed to hold her floor debate and vote before the Senate recessed last August. However, the chamber agreed to schedule a vote the day that the Senate returned. After brief debate, senators finally approved Stranch 71-21.

Openings in more than ten percent of the federal appellate judgeships show that President Obama must expeditiously proffer nominees for all nineteen vacancies and the Senate ought to swiftly confirm them. Jane Branstetter Stranch's experience demonstrates that there is no reason for delay. Senator McConnell must specifically agree to a floor vote for Judge Donald prior to the August recess because she has been waiting eight months. Quickly filling the empty posts is essential because the courts need all of their judges to deliver justice.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today the Senate will confirm four nominees to be U.S. district judge. Three of these seats, the vacancy for the Southern District of Texas, the vacancy for the Southern District of Florida and the vacancy for the District of Colorado, have been designated as judicial emergencies. With the votes today, we will have confirmed 33 article III judicial nominees. Twenty-one of those confirmed have been for judicial emergencies.

We continue to make great progress in processing President Obama's judicial nominees. As we head into our August recess, the Senate has confirmed 62 percent of President Obama's nominees since the beginning of his Presidency. That is not including the two the Supreme Court Justices nominated by President Obama. As my colleagues are aware, those nominations con-

sumed a considerable amount of time in the committee and on the Senate floor.

During this Congress, the Judiciary Committee has held hearings on more than 75 percent of the President's judicial nominees. During the comparable time period for President Bush, only 70 percent of President Bush's nominees had hearings by this time. We have also reported 61 percent of the judicial nominees, which is comparable to President Bush's nominees.

I support these nominations and congratulate each of them. I would like to say a few words about each one of the nominees.

Sara Lynn Darrow is nominated to be U.S. district judge for the Central District of Illinois. Ms. Darrow graduated from Marquette University in 1992 and received her J.D. degree from St. Louis University School of Law in 1997. From 1997 to 1998, Mrs. Darrow worked in the law offices of Clarence Darrow, a small general practice firm in Rock Island, IL. She became an assistant State's attorney in 1999, where she handled juvenile, misdemeanor, and felony traffic cases. Upon promotion in 2000, she handled felony cases and serious juvenile abuse cases. In 2003, Mrs. Darrow began work as an assistant U.S. attorney, prosecuting Federal crimes including drug conspiracy, gun, racketeering, child exploitation, fraud, and bankruptcy. She has prosecuted approximately 300 defendants and tried 10 cases to verdict before a jury.

The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary has given Ms. Darrow a unanimous "Qualified" rating.

Nelva Gonzales Ramos is nominated to be U.S. district judge for the Southern District of Texas. After graduation from the University of Texas School of Law in 1991, Judge Ramos began her career as an attorney at Meredith & Donnelly in Corpus Christi. She worked primarily in personal injury litigation, employment litigation, and insurance defense. In 1997, she resigned from the firm to enter duty as a municipal court judge. During her campaign for district court judge during 1999 to 2000, she briefly worked as a solo practitioner. During this time, she practiced primarily personal injury but also family and criminal law. While in private practice, she tried approximately 17 cases to judgment or verdict.

Judge Ramos was appointed as a municipal court judge for Corpus Christi in 1997 where she had a criminal docket. She presided over 500 cases that went to verdict or judgment. When she announced her candidacy for district court judge in 1999, she resigned from this position as required by the city charter. In 2001 she was elected as district court judge for the 347th Judicial District. She was reelected in 2004 and in 2008. As district court judge, she has presided over 1,200 cases that went to

verdict or judgment. While serving as a district court judge she helped establish a domestic violence court, and served as the local administrative judge for the Nueces County district courts. In this capacity she presided over meetings of the district court judges, ensured compliance with local rules, appointed committees regarding court management, and handled assorted other administrative tasks regarding the court.

The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary gave her a split rating of "Qualified"—substantial majority—and "Well Qualified"—minority.

Kathleen M. Williams is nominated to be U.S. district judge for the Southern District of Florida. She received her B.A. in 1978 and her J.D. in 1982 from the University of Miami School of Law. Ms. Williams began her legal career in 1982 as an associate attorney at Fowler, White, Burnett, Hurley, Banick & Strickroot. At Fowler White, she participated in insurance defense litigation defending insurance companies, city and county interests, hospital trusts and corporations.

From 1984 to 1988, Ms. Williams served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of Florida. While an assistant U.S. attorney, she prosecuted individuals on charges ranging from simple narcotics and weapons matters to complex money-laundering and RICO Litigation. In 1988, Ms. Williams returned to the private sector as an associate attorney for Morgan, Lewis & Bockius. While at Morgan, Lewis, & Bockius, she represented financial institutions, government contractors, and multinational corporations in labor litigation and white collar criminal defense matters.

In 1990, Ms. Williams joined the Federal Public Defender's office as the chief assistant public defender, where she represented persons accused of violating Federal criminal statutes but who cannot afford to retain an attorney. In 1995, she was appointed to be the public defender for the Southern District of Florida, where she continues to serve. As a Federal public defender she has litigated a wide range of matters including immigration, complex fraud, and national security. She was also appointed to be the acting Federal public defender for the Middle District of Florida from 1999 to 2000.

The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary has given her the rating of majority "Well Qualified" and Minority "Qualified."

Richard Brooke Jackson is nominated to be U.S. district judge for the District of Colorado. Judge Jackson received his A.B., magna cum laude, from Dartmouth College in 1969 and his J.D., cum laude, from Harvard Law School in 1972. Following law school, Judge Jackson joined the firm of Holland & Hart as an associate, where he focused on a combination of commercial litigation and personal injury litigation. In

1978, he became a partner and opened the Washington, DC, office of the firm. Additionally, he served on a number of committees within the firm and was chairperson of the litigation department. His pro bono work focused on personal injury claims and occasional representation in criminal defense and family law matters.

In 1998, he was appointed to serve as district judge for the First Judicial District of Colorado. As a district judge, he handled a mixed docket of criminal, civil, and domestic relations cases. In 2003, he was appointed chief judge.

The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary has given Judge Jackson the rating of unanimous "Well Qualified."

NOMINATION OF SARA DARROW

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of the nomination of Sara Darrow to serve as a district court judge for the Central District of Illinois.

Sara Darrow is a superb nominee, and she will make an excellent addition to the Federal bench.

Her nomination is not controversial. She had her hearing before the Judiciary Committee in April and was reported out of the committee by unanimous voice vote on May 12.

Sara Darrow's name was recommended to me by a bipartisan merit selection committee that I established to consider applicants for judicial vacancies.

I was proud to recommend her name to the President last year, and I was pleased to see the President nominate her to fill the Central District judgeship that was vacated when Judge Joe Billy McDade took senior status last year.

I want to thank Chairman PAT LEAHY of the Judiciary Committee for moving Ms. Darrow's nomination through the committee. I also want to thank Senator MARK KIRK for his support of this nomination.

Once the Senate confirms Sara Darrow, we will finally have a full complement of judges for the Central District of Illinois. Last year there was only one judge in this district—Chief Judge Mike McCuskey—and three judgeships were vacant.

These vacancies left the Central District in a dire situation. Cases were grinding to a halt, and Judge McCuskey had to drive all across the State to try to keep the dockets moving.

Fortunately, earlier this year the Senate confirmed Judge Jim Shadid and Judge Sue Myerscough to serve in the Central District. They are serving on the bench now.

And with Sara Darrow on the bench as well, the Central District will finally be operating at full strength. That is good news for the people who live in the 46 Illinois counties that make up the Central District.

Sara Darrow has a distinguished record, including her service as a prosecutor both at the State and Federal level.

She currently serves as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Illinois Central District, where she has worked since 2003. She works out of the Rock Island branch of the U.S. Attorney's Office.

She has investigated and prosecuted hundreds of defendants for various Federal crimes including gang offenses, drug conspiracies, gun crimes, bank robbery, money laundering, and fraud. She has also written and argued numerous appeals.

Since 2007, Ms. Darrow has served as the violent crimes chief for the U.S. Attorney's Office. She has also served as the office's project safe neighborhoods coordinator.

Before becoming a Federal prosecutor, Ms. Darrow worked in private practice in Rock Island, and she also worked as a prosecutor in the Henry County State's Attorney's Office.

She served as an assistant State's attorney in Henry County from 1999 to 2000, and then as first assistant State's attorney from 2000 to 2003.

While serving at the State's Attorney's Office she prosecuted a wide range of State felony cases. She also was responsible for supervising staff attorneys and managing the office's caseload.

Ms. Darrow enjoys an excellent reputation among the legal community in the Central District. She will serve the people of Illinois well in her new capacity as a Federal judge.

In addition to her impressive professional accomplishments, Sara Darrow is an impressive person with a wonderful family.

She is a graduate of Marquette University and Saint Louis University School of Law.

While a college student at Marquette, she interned in Washington, DC, for Senator CARL LEVIN. It was on Capitol Hill where Sara met and began dating her husband Clarence, who was then working for Congressman Lane Evans.

Sara and Clarence are now blessed to be the proud parents of six children: Connor, age 14; Lilia, 13; Augie, 12; Anna Grace, 10; Ella, 8; and Danny, 5.

And Sara Darrow also has an impressive record of service in the community of Rock Island, IL. She is truly a credit to this community.

In short, Ms. Darrow has the experience, qualifications and temperament to be an excellent Federal judge.

I enthusiastically support her nomination and urge my colleagues to do the same.

NOMINATION OF GARY LOCKE

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, it is my great pleasure to congratulate and pay tribute to Gary Locke, who has been the Secretary of Commerce since March 2009 and was recently confirmed by the Senate to be the U.S.

Ambassador to China. Secretary Locke has been a truly outstanding public servant, and I applaud him as he continues his service to our country in China. His service truly makes our country a better place.

As Secretary of Commerce, Gary Locke has been an aggressive leader at the Department of Commerce, and has earned a reputation as a strong manager and an innovator.

Among his many successes at Commerce, he has helped innovators by pushing the Patent and Trademark Office to streamline the process to get a patent.

Secretary Locke worked with the Economic Development Administration to streamline its approval process. The EDA is a crucial program, which makes business-development grants to distressed communities. Programs such as EDA help ordinary Americans and small businesses and will help move the economy forward. I appreciate Secretary Locke's commitment to programs such as EDA and helping these communities.

In this time of fiscal austerity, he brought the 2010 census in 25 percent under budget, saving taxpayers \$1.9 billion. He led an organization that still got the census information that we need to get a true picture of the makeup of our Nation.

I also appreciate his hard work to meet the Obama administration's goal to double exports within 5 years. Currently, only 1 percent of American companies export, and Secretary Locke understands the crucial need for expanded U.S. exports as part of our economic recovery.

I know we will look back and say that Secretary Locke's time at the Department of Commerce was the beginning of America's return to prominence as an export nation. As he said, "It is almost like [we're] building the foundation of a house or an office tower. All the foundation work takes a long, long time. You don't really see it. It is all happening below the street level. . . . After that, then things really begin to take off."

Thank you, again, Gary, now Ambassador Locke. You are a true public servant, and that is one of the highest compliments I can convey. I wish you luck as you continue to serve this great Nation in your new post.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

David Bruce Shear, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Jennifer A. Di Toro, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Yvonne M. Williams, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

David V. Brewer, of Oregon, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute for a term expiring September 17, 2013.

INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE CULTURE AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT

Barbara Jeanne Ells, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development for a term expiring October 18, 2016.

Deborah Downing Goodman, of Oklahoma, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development for a term expiring October 18, 2014.

Cynthia Chavez Lamar, of New Mexico, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development for a term expiring May 19, 2016.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Dan Arvizu, of Colorado, to be a Member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2016.

Alan I. Leshner, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2016.

William Carl Lineberger, of Colorado, to be a Member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2016.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

Aaron Paul Dworkin, of Michigan, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2014.

UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE

Eric S. Edelman, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the United States Institute of Peace for a term of four years.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Clayton D. Johnson, of Oklahoma, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Oklahoma for the term of four years.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Derek J. Mitchell, of Connecticut, to be Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Burma, with the rank of Ambassador.

Jeffrey DeLaurentis, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador.

Jeffrey DeLaurentis, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during his tenure of service as Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations.

David S. Adams, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs).

Frankie Annette Reed, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of

the Fiji Islands, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, and the Republic of Kiribati.

Paul D. Wohlers, of Washington, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Macedonia.

William H. Moser, of North Carolina, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Moldova.

Earl Anthony Wayne, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Personal Rank of Career Ambassador, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Mexico.

Arnold A. Chacon, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Guatemala.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Matthew G. Olsen, of Maryland, to be Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Madelyn R. Creedon, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Alan F. Estevez, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Gen. William M. Fraser, III

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Donald P. Dunbar

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Stephen L. Hoog

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Janet C. Wolfenbarger

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Verle L. Johnston, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the

grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Leonard A. Patrick

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grades indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brigadier General Trulan A. Eyre
Brigadier General Mark R. Johnson
Brigadier General Bruce W. Prunk
Brigadier General Harold E. Reed
Brigadier General Roy E. Uptegraff, III

To be brigadier general

Colonel Patrick D. Aiello
Colonel Aaron J. Booher
Colonel Kevin W. Bradley
Colonel David T. Buckalew
Colonel Peter J. Byrne
Colonel Paul D. Cummings
Colonel Vyas Deshpande
Colonel Brian T. Dravis
Colonel Brent J. Feick
Colonel Mark K. Foreman
Colonel David R. Fountain
Colonel Timothy L. Frye
Colonel Paul D. Gruver
Colonel Michael A. Hudson
Colonel Salvatore J. Lombardi
Colonel Stephen E. Markovich
Colonel Richard L. Martin
Colonel Brian A. Miller
Colonel William W. Pond
Colonel Jonathan T. Wall
Colonel Jennifer L. Walter

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and appointment to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 152 and 601:

To be general

Gen. Martin E. Dempsey

The following named officer for appointment as the Chief of Staff, United States Army, and appointment to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 3033:

To be general

Gen. Raymond T. Odierno

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Keith C. Walker

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Charles T. Cleveland

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Robert L. Caslen, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. David G. Perkins

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Brian R. Copes

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Bert K. Mizusawa

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Fred W. Allen

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Charles H. Jacoby, Jr.

The following Army National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grades indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203 and 12211:

To be major general

Brigadier General Stephen E. Bogle
Brigadier General Dominic A. Cariello
Brigadier General David J. Elicerio
Brigadier General Sheryl E. Gordon
Brigadier General Ronald W. Huff
Brigadier General Gerald W. Ketchum
Brigadier General William L. Seekins
Brigadier General Richard E. Swan
Brigadier General Joe M. Wells

To be brigadier general

Colonel Matthew P. Beevers
Colonel Joel E. Best
Colonel Michael E. Bobeck
Colonel Joseph M. Bongiovanni
Colonel Brent E. Bracewell
Colonel Allen E. Brewer
Colonel Leon M. Bridges
Colonel Eric C. Bush
Colonel Scott A. Campbell
Colonel William R. Coats
Colonel Albert L. Cox
Colonel Sylvia R. Crockett
Colonel Terry A. Ethridge
Colonel Kevin R. Griese
Colonel John J. Jansen
Colonel Donald O. Lagace, Jr.
Colonel Louis J. Landreth
Colonel William S. Lee
Colonel Jerry H. Martin
Colonel Robert A. Mason
Colonel Craig M. McGalliard
Colonel Christopher J. Morgan
Colonel Todd M. Nehls
Colonel Kevin L. Neumann
Colonel Michael J. Osburn
Colonel Lannie D. Runck
Colonel George M. Schwartz
Colonel Terence P. Sullivan

Colonel Alicia A. Tate-Nadeau
Colonel Thomas P. Wilkinson
Colonel Wilbur E. Wolf, III
Colonel David C. Wood

The following Army National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grades indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be major general

Brigadier General David B. Enyeart

To be brigadier general

Colonel Randy A. Alewel
Colonel Karen D. Gattis
Colonel Catherine F. Jorgensen
Colonel Blake C. Ortner
Colonel Timothy P. Williams
Colonel David E. Wilmot

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Gina D. Seiler

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Michael A. Calhoun

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Kaffia Jones

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment as Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy and appointment to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 5033:

To be admiral

Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert

The following named officer for appointment as the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and appointment to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 514:

To be admiral

Adm. James A. Winnefeld, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment as Chief of Naval Personnel, United States Navy, and appointment to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 5141:

To be vice admiral

Vice Adm. Scott R. Van Buskirk

The following named officer for appointment as Vice Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy and appointment to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 5035:

To be admiral

Vice Adm. Mark E. Ferguson, III

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Scott H. Swift

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Vice Adm. Harry B. Harris, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Vice Adm. Michael A. LeFever

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Luke M. McCollum

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN497 AIR FORCE nominations (79) beginning LAUREN F. AASE, and ending DEBRA S. ZINSMEYER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2011.

PN787 AIR FORCE nomination of Mary F. Hart-Gallagher, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN788 AIR FORCE nomination of Raymond S. Collins, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN790 AIR FORCE nominations (50) beginning WADE B. ADAIR, and ending ELIJIO J. VENEGAS, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN791 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning JOHNATHAN M. COMPTON, and ending BENJAMIN J. MITCHELL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

IN THE ARMY

PN719 ARMY nomination of Thomas B. Murphree, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 22, 2011.

PN720 ARMY nominations (3) beginning PEDRO T. RAGA, and ending MATTHEW H. VINNING, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 22, 2011.

PN765 ARMY nominations (2) beginning Nicholas M. Cruzgarcia, and ending Joseph P. Lynn, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 11, 2011.

PN766 ARMY nomination of Luisa G. Santiago, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 11, 2011.

PN767 ARMY nominations (4) beginning TROY W. ROSS, and ending CARLOS E. QUEZADA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 11, 2011.

PN768 ARMY nominations (6) beginning JAMES L. ADAMS, JR., and ending ROBERT M. THELEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 11, 2011.

PN769 ARMY nominations (36) beginning MATTHEW B. AHN, and ending GREGORY S. THOGMARTIN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 11, 2011.

PN793 ARMY nomination of Cindy B Katz, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN794 ARMY nomination of Wiley C. Thompson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN795 ARMY nomination of Marshall S. Humes, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN796 ARMY nomination of Cyruss A. Tsurgeon, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN797 ARMY nominations (2) beginning COLLEEN F. BLAILES, and ending CURTIS T. CHUN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN798 ARMY nominations (2) beginning BRAD M. EVANS, and ending JAY S. KOST, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN799 ARMY nominations (2) beginning MATTHEW J. BAKER, and ending RUSSELL B. CHAMBERS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN800 ARMY nominations (6) beginning JOSEPH B. RUSINKO, and ending PAULA S. OLIVER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN801 ARMY nominations (55) beginning CHARLESPaul T. ANONUEVO, and ending TRACY E. WALTERS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN802 ARMY nominations (12) beginning DAVID H. BURNHAM, and ending RANDALL S. VERDE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN803 ARMY nominations (326) beginning MICHAEL A. ADAMS, and ending PAULA YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN804 ARMY nominations (582) beginning GEOFFREY R. ADAMS, and ending D005579, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN805 ARMY nominations (347) beginning ALISSA R. ACKLEY, and ending D003185, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN806 ARMY nominations (284) beginning THOMAS H. AARSEN, and ending D010899, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN421 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (275) beginning Ross Ellis Hagan, and ending Willem H. Brakel, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 8, 2011.

PN756 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (160) beginning Timothy C. Cannon, and ending Mark Jeffrey Hipp, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 11, 2011.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN369 MARINE CORPS nomination of Carroll J. Connelley, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 30, 2011.

PN370 MARINE CORPS nomination of Samuel H. Carrasco, which was received by

the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 30, 2011.

IN THE NAVY

PN721 NAVY nomination of Troy D. Carr, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 22, 2011.

PN722 NAVY nominations (32) beginning DAWN C. ALLEN, and ending JENNIFER L. TIETZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of June 22, 2011.

PN770 NAVY nominations (3) beginning JAMES S. BROWN, and ending HEATHER J. WALTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 11, 2011.

PN771 NAVY nominations (98) beginning CHRISTOPHER A. ALFONZO, and ending SARA B. ZIMMER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 11, 2011.

PN772 NAVY nominations (23) beginning RAUL L. BARRIENTOS, and ending HAROLD S. ZALD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 11, 2011.

PN773 NAVY nominations (67) beginning DAVID L. AGEY, and ending LAURA L. V. WEGEMANN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 11, 2011.

PN774 NAVY nominations (12) beginning ROBERT P. ANSELM, and ending PAUL A. WALKER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 11, 2011.

PN775 NAVY nominations (29) beginning RANDY E. ASHMAN, and ending TAMMY L. WEINZATL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 11, 2011.

PN776 NAVY nominations (45) beginning DEANGELO ASHBY, and ending LAGENA K. G. YARBROUGH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 11, 2011.

PN777 NAVY nominations (20) beginning DENNIS K. ANDREWS, and ending BRIAN K. WAITE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 11, 2011.

PN778 NAVY nominations (26) beginning ROBERTO M. ALVARADO, and ending JOSEPH W. YATES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 11, 2011.

PN807 NAVY nomination of Mathew R. Loe, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN808 NAVY nomination of Michael J. O'Donnell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN809 NAVY nomination of Lawrence Brandon, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN810 NAVY nominations (2) beginning Robert A. Slaughter, and ending Robert Thomas, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN811 NAVY nominations (5) beginning ANTHONY DIAZ, and ending JANE E. MCNEELY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN812 NAVY nominations (3) beginning CARISSA L. GAREY, and ending DANIEL G. NICASTRI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN813 NAVY nominations (8) beginning TIMOTHY M. DERBYSHIRE, and ending CHRISTINA J. WONG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN814 NAVY nominations (17) beginning JEREMIAH E. CHAPLIN, and ending PAMELA A. TELLADO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN815 NAVY nominations (21) beginning PAIGE H. ADAMS, and ending ANDREW F. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN816 NAVY nominations (17) beginning ROBERT S. BAIR, and ending PATRICIA R. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN817 NAVY nominations (58) beginning KIRKLAND M. ANDERSON, and ending MARTHA A. WITTOSCH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN818 NAVY nominations (202) beginning CHERYL E. AIMESTILLMAN, and ending JON E. ZATLOKOWICZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN819 NAVY nominations (24) beginning ARCHIE L. BARBER, and ending ZAVEAN V. WARE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN820 NAVY nominations (42) beginning MYLENE R. ARVIZO, and ending ASHLEY S. WRIGHT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN821 NAVY nominations (4) beginning AMELIA F. DUDLEY, and ending BRANDON D. SMITH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN822 NAVY nominations (18) beginning RICHFIELD F. AGULLANA, and ending CHIEH YANG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN823 NAVY nominations (4) beginning CHARITY C. HARDISON, and ending STEPHANIE B. MURDOCK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 114, 115, 116, and 117; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; and that President Obama be immediately notified of the Senate's action. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

THE JUDICIARY

Sara Lynn Darrow, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois.

Richard Brooke Jackson, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado.

Kathleen M. Williams, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Nelva Gonzales Ramos, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

NOMINATION DISCHARGED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce Committee be discharged from further consideration of PN-741, which is Deborah A. P. Hersman of Virginia to be Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board for 2 years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, there be no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to this matter be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Deborah A. P. Hersman, of Virginia, to be Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term of two years.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

REPORTING AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the Senate's recess, committees be authorized to report legislative and executive matters on Tuesday, August 30, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENT AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that from Tuesday, August 2, through Tuesday, September 6, the majority leader and Senator ROCKEFELLER be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 5 THROUGH TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2011

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it recess and convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate recess until the following pro forma session:

Friday, August 5, at 10 a.m.; Tuesday, August 9, at 11 a.m.; Friday, August 12, 12 p.m.; Tuesday, August 16, 11 a.m.; Friday, August 19, at 10 a.m.; Tuesday, August 23, 2:30 p.m.; Friday, August 26, at 11:15 a.m.; Tuesday, August 30, at 10 a.m.; Friday, September 2, at 10 a.m.; and that the Senate adjourn on Friday, September 2, until 2 p.m., Tuesday, September 6; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 5 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; finally, that following morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session, under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the next rollcall vote will be at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 6. The first vote will be on the confirmation of Bernice Bouie Donald to be a U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, and the second vote will be a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to H.R. 1249, the patent reform bill.

RECESS UNTIL 10 A.M. FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 2011

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:43 p.m., recessed until Friday, August 5, 2011, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

ADALBERTO JOSE JORDAN, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT, VICE SUSAN H. BLACK, RETIRED.

MIRANDA DU, OF NEVADA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA, VICE ROGER L. HUNT, RETIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DAVID B. BARLOW, OF UTAH, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH FOR THE TERM

OF FOUR YEARS, VICE BRETT L. TOLMAN, TERM EXPIRED.

THE JUDICIARY

CATHARINE FRIEND EASTERLY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE A. NOEL ANKETELL KRAMER, RETIRED.

COURT SERVICES AND OFFENDER SUPERVISION AGENCY FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

NANCY MARIA WARE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE COURT SERVICES AND OFFENDER SUPERVISION AGENCY FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS, VICE PAUL A. QUANDER, JR., TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

ERNEST MITCHELL, JR., OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION, FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE KELVIN JAMES COCHRAN, RESIGNED.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

IRVIN CHARLES MCCULLOUGH III, OF MARYLAND, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, (NEW POSITION)

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ASHTON B. CARTER, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE WILLIAM J. LYNN III

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

GREGORY HOWARD WOODS, OF NEW YORK, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, VICE SCOTT BLAKE HARRIS, RESIGNED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. ALLYSON R. SOLOMON

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. GARY W. KEEFE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COLONEL FREDERIK G. HARTWIG
COLONEL DONALD L. JOHNSON
COLONEL KENNETH W. WISIAN

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be colonel

LARRY W. DOTSON
MARK G. ELAM
TROY D. GALLOWAY
MARY K. JONES
DEEDRA E. THOMBLESON
DAMIAN K. WADDELL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JACK M. MARKUSFELD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be major

STEPHEN R. TAYLOR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

HAL D. BAIRD

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

JOHN N. DESVERREAUX

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination by unanimous consent and the nomination was held at the desk:

DEBORAH A. P. HERSMAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate August 2, 2011:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DAVID BRUCE SHEAR, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

THE JUDICIARY

SARA LYNN DARRROW, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS.

RICHARD BROOKE JACKSON, OF COLORADO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO.

KATHLEEN M. WILLIAMS, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.

NELVA GONZALES RAMOS, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

JENNIFER A. DI TORO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

YVONNE M. WILLIAMS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

DAVID V. BREWER, OF OREGON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2013.

INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE CULTURE AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT

BARBARA JEANNE ELLS, OF COLORADO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE CULTURE AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2016.

DEBORAH DOWNING GOODMAN, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE CULTURE AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2014.

CYNTHIA CHAVEZ LAMAR, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE CULTURE AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 19, 2016.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

DAN ARVIZU, OF COLORADO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 10, 2016.

ALAN I. LESHNER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 10, 2016.

WILLIAM CARL LINEBERGER, OF COLORADO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 10, 2016.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

AARON PAUL DWORKIN, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2014.

UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE

ERIC S. EDELMAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CLAYTON D. JOHNSON, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEREK J. MITCHELL, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND POLICY COORDINATOR FOR BURMA, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

JEFFREY DELAURENTIS, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

JEFFREY DELAURENTIS, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED NATIONS.

DAVID S. ADAMS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS).

FRANKIE ANNETTE REED, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE FIJI ISLANDS, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF NAURU, THE KINGDOM OF TONGA, TUVALU, AND THE REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI.

PAUL D. WOHLERS, OF WASHINGTON, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA.

WILLIAM H. MOSER, OF NORTH CAROLINA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA.

EARL ANTHONY WAYNE, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, PERSONAL RANK OF CAREER AMBASSADOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO MEXICO.

ARNOLD A. CHACON, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

MATTHEW G. OLSEN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM CENTER, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MADELYN R. CREEDON, OF INDIANA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

ALAN F. ESTEVEZ, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

GEN. WILLIAM M. FRASER III

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. DONALD P. DUNBAR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. STEPHEN L. HOOG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. JANET C. WOLFENBARGER

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. VERLE L. JOHNSTON, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. LEONARD A. PATRICK

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE

OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADES INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIGADIER GENERAL TRULAN A. EYRE
BRIGADIER GENERAL MARK R. JOHNSON
BRIGADIER GENERAL BRUCE W. PRUNK
BRIGADIER GENERAL HAROLD E. REED
BRIGADIER GENERAL ROY E. UPTGRAFF III

To be brigadier general

COLONEL PATRICK D. AIELLO
COLONEL AARON J. BOOHER
COLONEL KEVIN W. BRADLEY
COLONEL DAVID T. BUCKALEW
COLONEL PETER J. BYRNE
COLONEL PAUL D. CUMMINGS
COLONEL VYAS DESHPANDE
COLONEL BRIAN T. DRAVIS
COLONEL BRENT J. FEICK
COLONEL MARK K. FOREMAN
COLONEL DAVID R. FOUNTAIN
COLONEL TIMOTHY L. FRYE
COLONEL PAUL D. GRUVER
COLONEL MICHAEL A. HUDSON
COLONEL SALVATORE J. LOMBARDI
COLONEL STEPHEN E. MARKOVICH
COLONEL RICHARD L. MARTIN
COLONEL BRIAN A. MILLER
COLONEL WILLIAM W. POND
COLONEL JONATHAN T. WALL
COLONEL JENNIFER L. WALTER

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 152 AND 601:

To be general

GEN. MARTIN E. DEMPSEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES ARMY, AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 3033:

To be general

GEN. RAYMOND T. ODIERNO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. KEITH C. WALKER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. CHARLES T. CLEVELAND

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. MICHAEL FERRITER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. ROBERT L. CASLEN, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DAVID G. PERKINS

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. BRIAN R. COPES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. BERT K. MIZUSAWA

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. FRED W. ALLEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. CHARLES H. JACOBY, JR.

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADES INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIGADIER GENERAL STEPHEN E. BOGLE
BRIGADIER GENERAL DOMINIC A. CARIELLO
BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID J. ELICERIO
BRIGADIER GENERAL SHERYL E. GORDON
BRIGADIER GENERAL RONALD W. HUFF
BRIGADIER GENERAL GERALD W. KETCHUM
BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM L. SEEKINS
BRIGADIER GENERAL RICHARD E. SWAN
BRIGADIER GENERAL JOE M. WELLS

To be brigadier general

COLONEL MATTHEW P. BEEVERS
COLONEL JOEL E. BEST
COLONEL MICHAEL E. BOBECK
COLONEL JOSEPH M. BONGIOVANNI
COLONEL BRENT E. BRACEWELL
COLONEL ALLEN E. BREWER
COLONEL LEON M. BRIDGES
COLONEL ERIC C. BUSH
COLONEL SCOTT A. CAMPBELL
COLONEL WILLIAM R. COATS
COLONEL ALBERT L. COX
COLONEL SYLVIA R. CROCKETT
COLONEL TERRY A. ETHRIDGE
COLONEL KEVIN R. GRIESE
COLONEL JOHN J. JANSSEN
COLONEL DONALD O. LAGACE, JR.
COLONEL LOUIS J. LANDRETH
COLONEL WILLIAM S. LEE
COLONEL JERRY H. MARTIN
COLONEL ROBERT A. MASON
COLONEL CRAIG M. MCALLIARD
COLONEL CHRISTOPHER J. MORGAN
COLONEL TODD M. NEHLS
COLONEL KEVIN L. NEUMANN
COLONEL MICHAEL J. OSBURN
COLONEL LANNIE D. RUNK
COLONEL GEORGE M. SCHWARTZ
COLONEL TERENCE P. SULLIVAN
COLONEL ALICIA A. TATE-NADEAU
COLONEL THOMAS P. WILKINSON
COLONEL WILBUR E. WOLF III
COLONEL DAVID C. WOOD

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADES INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID B. ENYEART

To be brigadier general

COLONEL RANDY A. ALEWEL
COLONEL KAREN D. GATTIS
COLONEL CATHERINE F. JORGENSEN
COLONEL BLAKE C. ORTNER
COLONEL TIMOTHY P. WILLIAMS
COLONEL DAVID E. WILMOT

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADES INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. GINA D. SEILER

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. MICHAEL A. CALHOUN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. KAFFIA JONES

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS, UNITED STATES NAVY AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 5033:

To be admiral

ADM. JONATHAN W. GREENERT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 154:

To be admiral

ADM. JAMES A. WINNEFELD, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL, UNITED STATES NAVY, AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 5141:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. SCOTT R. VAN BUSKIRK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS VICE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS, UNITED STATES NAVY AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 5035:

To be admiral

VICE ADM. MARK E. FERGUSON III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. SCOTT H. SWIFT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. HARRY B. HARRIS, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. MICHAEL A. LEFEVER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. LUKE M. MCCOLLUM

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LAUREN F. AASE AND ENDING WITH DEBRA S. ZINSMEYER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 4, 2011.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF MARY F. HART-GALLAGHER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF RAYMOND S. COLLINS, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH WADE B. ADAIR AND ENDING WITH ELIJIO J. VENEGAS, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 20, 2011.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHNATHAN M. COMPTON AND ENDING WITH BENJAMIN J. MITCHELL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 20, 2011.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF THOMAS B. MURPHREE, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PEDRO T. RAGA AND ENDING WITH MATTHEW H. VINNING, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 22, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NICHOLAS M. CRUZGARCIA AND ENDING WITH JOSEPH P. LYNN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 11, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATION OF LUISA G. SANTIAGO, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TROY W. ROSS AND ENDING WITH CARLOS E. QUEZADA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 11, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES L. ADAMS, JR. AND ENDING WITH ROBERT M. THELEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 11, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW B. AHN AND ENDING WITH GREGORY S. THOGMARTIN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 11, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CINDY B. KATZ, TO BE COLONEL.
ARMY NOMINATION OF WILEY C. THOMPSON, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MARSHALL S. HUMES, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CYRUSS A. TSURGEON, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH COLLEEN F. BLAILES AND ENDING WITH CURTIS T. CHUN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 20, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRAD M. EVANS AND ENDING WITH JAY S. KOST, WHICH NOMINATIONS

WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 20, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW J. BAKER AND ENDING WITH RUSSELL B. CHAMBERS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 20, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSEPH B. RUSINKO AND ENDING WITH PAULA S. OLIVER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 20, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHARLESPAUL T. ANONUEVO AND ENDING WITH TRACY E. WALTERS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 20, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID H. BURNHAM AND ENDING WITH RANDALL S. VERDE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 20, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL A. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH PAULA YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 20, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GEOFFREY R. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH D005579, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 20, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALISSA R. ACKLEY AND ENDING WITH D003185, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 20, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH THOMAS H. AARSEN AND ENDING WITH D010899, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 20, 2011.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF CARROLL J. CONNELLEY, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF SAMUEL H. CARRASCO, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF TROY D. CARR, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAWN C. ALLEN AND ENDING WITH JENNIFER L. TIETZ, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 22, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES S. BROWN AND ENDING WITH HEATHER J. WALTON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 11, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER A. ALFONZO AND ENDING WITH SARA B. ZIMMER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 11, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RAUL L. BARRIENTOS AND ENDING WITH HAROLD S. ZALD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 11, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID L. AGEY AND ENDING WITH LAURA L. V. WEGEMANN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 11, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERT P. ANSELM AND ENDING WITH PAUL A. WALKER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 11, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RANDY E. ASHMAN AND ENDING WITH TAMMY L. WEINZATL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 11, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DEANGELO ASHBY AND ENDING WITH LAGENA K. G. YARBROUGH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 11, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DENNIS K. ANDREWS AND ENDING WITH BRIAN K. WAITE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 11, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERTO M. ALVARADO AND ENDING WITH JOSEPH W. YATES, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 11, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATION OF MATHEW R. LOE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL J. O'DONNELL, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF LAWRENCE BRANDON, JR., TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERT A. SLAUGHTER AND ENDING WITH ROBERT THOMAS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 20, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANTHONY DIAZ AND ENDING WITH JANE E. MCNEELY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 20, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CARISSA L. GAREY AND ENDING WITH DANIEL G. NICASTRI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 20, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TIMOTHY M. DERBYSHIRE AND ENDING WITH CHRISTINA J. WONG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 20, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEREMIAH E. CHAPLIN AND ENDING WITH PAMELA A. TELLADO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 20, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PAIGE H. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH ANDREW F. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 20, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERT S. BAIR AND ENDING WITH PATRICIA R. WILSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 20, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KIRKLAND M. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH MARTHA A. WITTOSCH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 20, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHERYL E. AIMESTILLMAN AND ENDING WITH JON E. ZATLOKOWICZ, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE

AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 20, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ARCHIE L. BARBER AND ENDING WITH ZAVEAN V. WARE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 20, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MYLENE R. ARVIZO AND ENDING WITH ASHLEY S. WRIGHT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 20, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH AMELIA F. DUDLEY AND ENDING WITH BRANDON D. SMITH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 20, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RICHFIELD F. AGULLANA AND ENDING WITH CHIEH YANG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 20, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHARITY C. HARDISON AND ENDING WITH STEPHANIE B. MURDOCK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 20, 2011.

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROSS ELLIS HAGAN AND ENDING WITH WILLEM H.

BRAKEL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 8, 2011.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TIMOTHY C. CANNON AND ENDING WITH MARK JEFFREY HIPPI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 11, 2011.

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

DEBORAH A. P. HERSMAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on August 2, 2011 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

LEON RODRIGUEZ, OF MARYLAND, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, VICE PAUL DECAMP, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 5, 2011.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING VICE CHAIRMAN OF
THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
GENERAL JAMES E. CART-
WRIGHT

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to General James E. Cartwright, who is retiring this week after forty years of accomplished and distinguished military service. Throughout his career as a senior officer, General Cartwright has provided invaluable testimony and advice to this body, and in particular to the Armed Services Committee. From U.S. operations in Afghanistan, to missile defenses in Europe, to Department of Defense efficiencies—General Cartwright has provided his expert military advice on a wide range of defense and national security issues. I think I speak for all of my colleagues on the Armed Services Committee when I say that his depth of knowledge, outstanding leadership and professionalism, and deep respect and consideration for all of our men and women in uniform will be greatly missed.

General James "Hoss" Cartwright was born and raised in Rockford, Illinois, where he showed an early affinity for the military as a member of the Junior ROTC. After graduating from the University of Iowa in 1971, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. During his career as a Marine aviator, General Cartwright served as a Flight Officer in the F-4 and as a pilot in the F-4, OA-4 and F-18. In 1983, he was named outstanding Carrier Aviator by the Association of Naval Aviation. His flying career culminated with command of the First Marine Aircraft Wing in Okinawa, Japan from 2000 to 2002.

After a brief assignment as the Director for Force Structure, Resources, and Assessment (J-8) on the Joint Staff, in 2004 then-Lieutenant General Cartwright was selected for promotion to full General and became the first Marine Corps officer to lead United States Strategic Command. As Commander, General Cartwright led STRATCOM through a period of transition as the military adapted and evolved to confront an increasingly dynamic strategic environment. General Cartwright led development and implementation of strategies to integrate the military's approaches to cyber, space, nuclear proliferation, and missile defense and reorganized STRATCOM to increase interagency cooperation.

Over the last four years, General Cartwright has served as the eighth Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Through my roles as Ranking Member and now Chairman of the Armed Services Committee I have had the pleasure of working directly with General Cartwright during this time. He has faithfully exe-

cuted his oath of office and constitutional duties and provided the President and Congress with honest, direct, and sound advice. He is a model Vice Chairman and a model Marine, and will leave a lasting legacy on our Armed Forces.

He is also a tremendous advocate for soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines. General Cartwright's efforts to accelerate procurement and deployment of the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle saved countless lives. He has leveraged his knowledge of technology and Department of Defense resourcing processes to streamline acquisition and deliver a variety of desperately needed new capabilities to the troops in the field. Most important of all, however, General Cartwright is a steadfast champion of our wounded warriors, our troops who have given their lives in service to their country, and their families.

For forty years General Cartwright has performed his job professionally, honestly, and with great dedication. We will miss his leadership and vision, and wish him all the best as he takes off the uniform for the last time.

A TRIBUTE TO ARCHIE WARNER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Archie Warner for his professionalism as a public servant for the United States Postal Service and for his contribution to the Brooklyn community.

Mr. Warner has been promoted throughout the Postal system in a relatively quick manner during his 38 year tenure. Mr. Warner's long and successful career began with an appointment in the United States Postal Service as a Distribution Machine Operator. He was then promoted to Supervisor of Mails, then another later position as a supervisor.

During his time at the USPS, Mr. Warner was promoted several times in the Customer Services sector. He was promoted to Manager of Customer Services EAS 18, followed by another promotion to a higher level Manager, EAS 21, and finally promoted in 2000 to Manager, Customer Services Operations or Area Manager for the North. This area encompasses Cadman Plaza Station, Pratt Station, Metropolitan Station, Williamsburg Station, Brownsville Station, Bushwick Station, Greenpoint Station, Red Hook Station, Shirley Chisholm Station, Wyckoff Heights Station and the Collections Unit.

Throughout his loyal career with the USPS, Mr. Warner is most proud of when he became the manager of Brownsville. For Mr. Warner working as the manager of Brownsville he was able to see firsthand how the station changed for the better, and in turn improved the com-

munity. Mr. Warner has enjoyed working with the United States Postal Service and views his contribution as a direct service to community businesses and citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Archie Warner.

ON THE ACTIONS OF THE KOSOVO GOVERNMENT AND BORDER PA- TROL

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the recent violence in Kosovo and applaud the actions of the Border Patrol of the Kosovar government. As a sovereign, independent state, Kosovo deserves the right to protect its citizens and patrol its border. I strongly support Kosovo for maintaining control over its border with Serbia. Since Kosovo declared her independence in 2008, Serbia has consistently discriminated against Kosovars and prevented the region from accepting her legitimacy.

Recently, Kosovar authorities banned goods coming in from Serbia with the intention of countering their northern neighbor's rejection of Kosovo's statehood and Serbia's boycott of Kosovo's produce. It is vital that the Kosovar government re-establish territorial integrity within its borders. With increased uncertainty on her country's northern border, Kosovar special police units launched an operation to gain complete control over the border crossing with Serbia to prevent the continued flow of illegal goods from Serbia. In order for Kosovo to continue to join the developed world, it is necessary for them to have authority over their own economy. I also rise to express my gratitude for NATO peacekeepers that have arrived to maintain peace along the border.

I am proud to represent a large and vibrant community of Kosovar Americans in southeast Michigan. Many of my constituents have relatives along the Kosovo/Serbia border and I know that they are deeply concerned about the security of their loved ones and the prospect for Kosovo remaining an independent nation. Recognized by nearly 80 nations across the globe, Kosovo deserves to be a player on the world stage and I stand with their freedom-loving people who thirst for true independence.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

ERIN NISSEN TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Erin Nissen, this year's 42nd Annual Ag and Tech Awards 2011 Outstanding Ag Student of the Year. Ms. Nissen was one of 200 students who attended this year's event, but only one of two students honored with the award.

The Outstanding Ag Student of the Year award is considered one of the more prestigious agriculture awards, but it sits only in the shadows of Ms. Nissen's other accomplishments. As a student at Northeastern Junior College (NJC), Ms. Nissen was a member of the honor's association, Phi Theta Kappa. In addition, she served as the president of the Farm Bureau Chapter, president of the Plainsmen Shooters Club, and was a member of the Post-Secondary Agriculture Students at NJC.

In her community, Ms. Nissen volunteered at the Logan County Literacy Coalition, and was also awarded with the Rising Star distinction among community college students in Colorado. Ms. Nissen recently graduated from NJC with an associate's degree in general studies. In the fall, she plans to major in agricultural business at Texas Tech University.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Erin Nissen. She demands excellence in every area of her life, which has helped her to win one of the most prestigious agriculture awards in the nation—an award well deserved.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES
AURORA**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. James Aurora for his exceptional service to his community and the youth.

James Aurora is a third generation of owners of the now famous Sonny's Collision Specialists in Brooklyn, New York. This renowned business has been serving the community for 60 years and has gained a distinct reputation for quality customer service.

Mr. Aurora has built an operation that employs 25 professionals that offer clients guaranteed personal attention. In the years that Mr. Aurora has been operating Sonny's Collision Specialists he has never known any unsatisfied customers. Every customer of Sonny's has only experienced top notch service in the most expeditious manner.

Jimmy Aurora knows the importance of giving. Sonny's is not only a staple in the community for their expertise in auto body collisions, but they are famous for their giving spirit. Mr. Aurora on a yearly basis has sponsored cricket teams, baseball leagues, and boys clubs, along with donating thousands of dollars towards Autism awareness and The American Cancer Society. He has not only

provided a necessary service to his community but he has found the means to give more to those in dire need.

Mr. Aurora lives by the company's motto: "Perfection is not an accident." Jimmy proudly represents his heritage and family legacy by ensuring that Sonny's Collision Specialists continues to be a leader and trendsetter in auto body collision work.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Mr. James Aurora.

ROBERT POLLARD TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to rise in tribute of Dr. Robert Pollard, for being recognized in "Great Stories on Halls in Walls," a program that he founded.

The Great Stories on Halls in Walls project is a great way to appreciate and share the lives and stories of the alumni, faculty, staff and friends of Adams State College. Funds raised from the donations for these dedications are given to the Adams State College Foundation to provide active leadership, direction and expertise in college fund-raising efforts.

The first member in his family to attend college, Pollard attended Adams State and returned to Alamosa after serving in the U.S. Army in the Colorado National Guard Unit. Mr. Pollard later received his doctorate degree from Stanford University.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Robert Pollard is a man who should be recognized for his outstanding and generous character, which is worthy of praise and admiration.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. HARVEY
LAWRENCE**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Harvey Lawrence and his exceptional service to the public health of his community and his ongoing public service career.

Mr. Lawrence began his career by attaining a Master of Science degree in Management Science and Policy Analysis from Harriman College and SUNY Stony Brook. He is also a graduate of the Johnson & Johnson/UCLA Health Care Executive Certificate Program.

Mr. Lawrence has been serving in the capacity of President and CEO of the Brownsville Multi-Service Family Health Center since January 2009. Before his ascent to President, Mr. Lawrence served as the Corporation's Executive Vice President and COO. Working with the Brownsville Family Health Center since 1994, Mr. Lawrence has been responsible for most of the new initiatives and expansions the corporation has taken on.

Using his vast experience in public finance and non-profit development, Mr. Lawrence has been able to accelerate the growth of this corporation and provide more services to the public. Mr. Lawrence began his public service career as Management Trainee at the Port Authority of New York/New Jersey and quickly gained experience in NYC's Office of Economic Development.

Mr. Lawrence is a former non-profit developer for affordable housing and vice president in the investment banking, public finance and real estate divisions of the former Manufacturers Hanover Trust Bank. Using his knowledge, Mr. Lawrence maintains his position as the executive director of the city's industrial commercial incentive board and senior finance/development director at the NYC Public Development Corporation.

Mr. Lawrence is a man of exceptional character and one that has been humbled through his ability to serve those with greater needs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Mr. Harvey Lawrence.

IN HONOR OF THE WOMEN'S CIVIC
IMPROVEMENT CLUB**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Women's Civic Improvement Club, WCIC, as they celebrate their 75th anniversary. It is my pleasure to recognize the Women's Civic Improvement Club's dedication to promoting the professional and personal growth of members of the Sacramento region. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring their leadership.

The Women's Civic Improvement Club began in 1936 as the Negro Women's Civic Improvement Club. The Club was created to provide housing for African American women that had moved to Sacramento to work at the McClellan Air Force Base. At the time, racial segregation and the financial devastation of the Great Depression made finding a safe home next to impossible for many women. In 1945, the Club's Board of Directors signed incorporation papers and the name was changed, making it the WCIC that we know of today. Throughout all of the changes our nation has faced since 1936, the WCIC has remained strong and relevant to those of us in Sacramento.

Over the course of the last 75 years, the WCIC has evolved into an organization that helps people from low-income and disadvantaged families. The Club has expanded to include several new programs, helping individuals of all ages grow through community involvement. Their congregate meal program provides food and recreational activities for senior citizens, allows members of the program to get a healthy meal, and provides opportunities to socialize and be involved in the community. Moreover, the Playmate Head Start Program provides quality childcare to its members and has maintained an excellent focus on healthy child development.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Women's Civic Improvement Club on their 75th anniversary, and to their outstanding commitment to improve our community. I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating them on their 75 years of success.

PROCLAMATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, forty one years ago a virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to serve in the Fulton Atlanta Community Action Authority in Atlanta, Georgia; and

Whereas, Mrs. Sarah Fitten began her career with a heart for the people and today retires as a longtime Assistant Director who has touched the lives of many; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents, giving the citizens of our District a friend to help those in need, a fearless leader and a servant to all who wants to insure that the system works for everyone; and

Whereas, Mrs. Sarah Fitten is a cornerstone in our community that has enhanced the lives of thousands for the betterment of our District and Nation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Sarah Fitten on her retirement from the Fulton Atlanta Community Action Authority and to wish her well in her new endeavors;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim July 30, 2011 as Mrs. Sarah Fitten Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 30th day of July, 2011.

PHIL PEARCE TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to rise in remembrance of Mr. Phil Pearce, for his service in the Air Force, as well as in the National Guard. Mr. Pearce was a true patriot and a man of tremendous character.

Born in Wilson, North Carolina in 1953, Mr. Pearce received his commission as a Second Lieutenant through the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1975, and he later received his Master's degree from UCLA.

During his military career, Mr. Pearce flew B52's at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, and served with the Louisiana National Guard. He also built artillery shells, missiles, jets, and infrared technologies for the U.S. military and our allies. Mr. Pearce was also a great businessman who constructed the largest pharmacy distribution systems in the world.

Mr. Pearce and his wife Christine Pearce have three children, Sean, Shannon, and Brandon.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Phil Pearce is an ideal embodiment of service and passion for his country. He will be fondly remembered.

PROCLAMATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, thirty two years ago a virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to serve at the Department of Agriculture in Atlanta, Georgia; and

Whereas, Ms. Regenia A. Roberts began her career with the Department of Agriculture as a Stenographer in 1979 and today retires as a Lead Investigative Technician; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents, giving the citizens of our District a friend to help those in need, a fearless leader and a servant to all who wants to insure that the system works for everyone; and

Whereas, Ms. Regenia A. Roberts is a cornerstone in our community that has enhanced the lives of thousands for the betterment of our District and Nation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Regenia A. Roberts on her retirement from the Department of Agriculture and to wish her well in her new endeavors;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim August 1, 2011 as Ms. Regenia A. Roberts Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 1st day of August, 2011.

MEMBERS CALL FOR COMMUTATION OF POLLARD SENTENCE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, August 1, I spoke on the floor to renew a request that I made along with 38 of my colleagues that the President commute the long prison sentence of Jonathan Pollard. None of us condone Mr. Pollard's espionage, and we do not ask that he be pardoned for his crime. We do believe that he has already served a much longer sentence than is close to that served for any comparable offense, and we believe that both compassion for an individual and the interests of strengthening American-Israeli ties in a way that can contribute to important decisions being made that can advance the peace process call for his commutation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the text of the letter and the list of signatories be included in today's RECORD.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, November 18, 2010.

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA,

The White House,

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT, We write to urge you to use your constitutional power to extend

clemency to Jonathan Pollard, thereby releasing him from prison after the time he has already served. Mr. Pollard committed serious crimes and he has expressed remorse. Such an exercise of the clemency power would not in any way imply doubt about his guilt, nor cast any aspersions on the process by which he was convicted. Those who have such views are of course entitled to continue to have them, but the clemency grant has nothing to do with that.

We believe that there has been a great disparity from the standpoint of justice between the amount of time Mr. Pollard has served and the time that has been served—or not served at all—by many others who were found guilty of similar activity on behalf of nations that, like Israel, are not adversarial to us. It is indisputable in our view that the nearly twenty-five years that Mr. Pollard has served stands as a sufficient time from the standpoint of either punishment or deterrence.

In summary, we see clemency for Mr. Pollard as an act of compassion justified by the way others have been treated by our justice system. We urge you to use the clemency power in this case.

Sincerely,

Rep. Barney Frank; Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr.; Rep. Edolphus Towns; Rep. Anthony Weiner; Rep. Henry A. Waxman; Rep. Gary L. Ackerman; Rep. Gregory W. Meeks; Rep. Maurice D. Hinchey; Rep. Michael E. McMahon; Rep. Janice D. Schakowsky; Rep. John W. Oliver; Rep. Eliot L. Engel; Rep. Theodore E. Deutch; Rep. Robert A. Brady; Rep. Donald M. Payne; Rep. Shelley Berkley; Rep. Jerrold Nadler; Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney; Rep. Steven R. Rothman; Rep. Ron Klein; Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva; Rep. Steve Kagen; Rep. Carolyn McCarthy; Rep. Chaka Fattah; Rep. John Lewis; Rep. Frank Pallone Jr.; Rep. Charles B. Rangel; Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott; Rep. Laura Richardson; Rep. James A. Himes; Rep. Brad Sherman; Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy; Rep. Bennie G. Thompson; Rep. John J. Hall; Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee; Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton; Rep. Robert E. Andrews; Rep. Danny K. Davis; Rep. Niki Tsongas.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. MARK GLADSTEIN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Mark Gladstein for his ongoing ability to serve his community by providing advanced health care options.

Dr. Mark Gladstein is a founder and a medical director of Brooklyn's leading pain management facility, Pain Institute of New York. He is offering his community an expert team of personnel that have completed over 4,000 procedures per year—retaining the recognition of being the fastest growing, advanced, and most diverse pain management practice in New York. With locations in Brooklyn and Queens, Dr. Gladstein's practice serves over 2,500 patients from all five boroughs as well as outside of New York City and all walks of life, ethnicities and religious backgrounds.

Being in practice for over 8 years, Dr. Gladstein has gained the trust and respect of the community by providing the most advanced care in the field. Their patients receive quality care in an accredited state of the art office and ambulatory surgery facility. To this end, the entire skilled staff follow one simple philosophy: pain is an individual struggle and requires a unique and personal approach to manage. This approach allows Dr. Gladstein and his staff to personalize their attention to patients in a unique way.

Over the past years, Dr. Gladstein's achievements have been recognized by his peers and patients alike. He is a recipient of multiple Patient's Choice Awards, Consumer Research Council of America Awards as well as multiple teaching awards.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the many accomplishments of Dr. Mark Gladstein.

PROCLAMATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, Jim Gullett, Sr., was born in Camden, Alabama between 1850 and 1852 in slavery, his life has blessed us with descendants that have helped to shape our nation; and

Whereas, the Gullett Family has produced many well respected citizens and their matriarchs and patriarchs of the family are pillars of strength not only for their families, but for our nation as well; and

Whereas, in our beloved Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, we are honored to have many members of the Gullett family, including Mrs. Adrienne Clark one of our most beloved citizens in our District who resides in Lithonia, Georgia; and

Whereas, family is one of the most honored and cherished institutions in the world, we take pride in knowing that families such as the Gullett family have set aside this time to fellowship with each other, honor one another and to pass along history to each other by meeting at this year's family reunion in Lithonia, Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Gullett family in our District;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim Friday, July 15, 2011 as Gullett Family Reunion Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 15th day of July, 2011.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR.
RONALD BERNSTEIN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mr. Ronald Bern-

stein, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and former Councilman for Valley View, Ohio.

Mr. Bernstein was born in Cleveland, Ohio before his family relocated to Valley View. He graduated from Cuyahoga Heights High School in 1954 and served in the United States Army soon after.

After completing his service with the Army, Mr. Bernstein sold Oldsmobiles, Fords, and Chryslers for various auto dealers—which led to the introduction to Joanne Kenley, who he would later marry. He and Joanne raised three sons and have eight grandsons and a granddaughter.

At the age of thirty-three, Mr. Bernstein was elected to Valley View's City Council, where he served for twenty-four years. While serving as a Councilman Mr. Bernstein helped develop the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. He also worked hard to reduce polluted runoff from Garfield Heights. Councilman Thomas Perk remembered Mr. Bernstein as "a fighter for the people."

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Mr. Ronald Bernstein, who as Councilman was instrumental in improving the City of Valley View and always stood on the side of those he represented.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. OLEG SMURYGIN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Oleg Smurygin for his continued contribution to the health care initiatives of his community.

Mr. Smurygin was born to a middle class Jewish family to Yuriy and Bella Smurygin on April 7, 1966, in Kiev, Ukraine. He attended school in Kiev from 1973 until 1983, when he was recruited to into the army for 2 years. Mr. Smurygin served as a Sergeant in the army from 1985 until 1987 under Special Forces by the border of China, Khabarovsk City. Once Mr. Smurygin was discharged in 1987, he attended the University of Kiev, where he graduated with a Bachelors Degree in the Arts in 1991.

In 1992, Mr. Smurygin and his family decided to relocate to the United States as refugees. He supported his family working at Victory Memorial Hospital in Brooklyn, New York as a full time regular security guard. With more experience, Mr. Smurygin was promoted to shift supervisor and eventually to Director of Security in 2006. Spending over 10 years at Victory Memorial Hospital, he was awarded Victory Memorial Hospital 10-Year Award of Excellence.

When the Victory Memorial Hospital closed its doors in 2009, Mr. Smurygin headed to the PAIN Institute as a Business Manager.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Mr. Oleg Smurygin.

OPPOSITION TO THE HOUSE INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL AND UNDERLYING CUTS TO NATIONAL ENDOWMENTS FOR THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the underlying bill, and specifically the cuts it makes to the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. These entities provide support, resources and education that inspire, cultivate and foster creativity across the nation. Investing in the arts is an investment in our future, an investment in our cultural heritage as a nation, and an investment in our economy.

In my district of Sacramento, California, there are currently 1,600 arts-related businesses that employ almost 6,000 people. These businesses play an imperative role in sustaining the economic vitality of the Sacramento region.

Similarly, the non-profit arts sector is an important part of our nation's economy and the National Endowment for the Arts is uniquely positioned to fund projects and activities that preserve jobs threatened by the decline in philanthropic support as a result of the financial collapse. The non-profit arts sector generates \$166 billion annually and supports almost six million full-time jobs across the country.

The NEA has a 40 year proven history of investment throughout our nation, an investment that stimulates local economies, creates livable communities, and supports tourism. In fact, cultural tourism alone contributes \$192 billion annually to our country's economy.

Just this past spring, the NEA, the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission and I co-hosted a grants workshop in Sacramento providing local organizations, artists, and galleries with the information they need to apply for and win federal grants. Over 100 people attended.

I have seen firsthand the impact of NEA grants in my district. For example, in May, the NEA generously provided \$20,000 to the Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra for their educational outreach series.

Similarly, for close to 50 years the NEH has been providing grants and opportunities for lifelong learning. In the last four years alone, the National Endowment for the Humanities has invested \$48.5 million in California institutions to preserve our cultural heritage. Yet the bill before us today cuts each of these already underfunded agencies without any regard to the effect that will have on our nation's students, museums, artists, or culture as a whole.

Both the NEA and the NEH support organizations on the local level and allow them to take their programs to the next level. In fact, for every federal dollar invested in the arts, local agencies are able to leverage seven dollars in private donations. The federal government provides the seed money and the artists, curators, and historians make it grow.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of potential amendments to make additional cuts to

these agencies, and I urge my colleagues to oppose those efforts and oppose this legislation.

**DICKS AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2854,
THE FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2012 IN-
TERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RE-
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT**

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the amendment offered by Representatives DICKS, THOMPSON, FITZPATRICK, and HANABUSA to H.R. 2584, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. H.R. 2584 contains language that would prevent the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) from enforcing the most important parts of the Endangered Species Act. The FWS would be unable to list any new species as endangered, unable to designate as protected any habitat that is critical to species' survival, and unable to upgrade any species from threatened to endangered status.

This amendment would reverse this dangerous and short-sighted policy. It would allow the FWS to protect any of the over 260 "candidate species," species that the FWS has already determined warrant additional protection, and to upgrade the status of these species to endangered.

This amendment is not only vital for wildlife, but also for us. Many of these species play keystone roles in highly complex ecological systems on which we depend for clean water, clean air, arable soil, and healthy food. Biodiversity is a resource that can be tapped into; the complexities of organisms, only some of which have even been identified, can help us find cures for cancer and other diseases. A recent study by Dr. Felicia Kessing concluded that losses in biodiversity tend to increase the rate at which diseases are transmitted.

Willingly allowing endangered species to go extinct is irresponsible and imposes limitations on our nation's ability to progress. Species loss is forever. I urge my colleagues to support this important amendment.

**STATEMENT REGARDING THE
ONGOING VIOLENCE IN SYRIA**

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern regarding the loss of life in Syria. In Hama, the site of massive anti-regime protests, dozens of innocent citizens chanting for freedom and democracy have been ruthlessly murdered by Syrian security forces under orders from the Syrian regime led by President Bashar Assad.

This heartless attack came on the eve before the Islamic Holy Month of Ramadan,

which only makes this assault on the Syrian people all the more despicable. Assad has yet again failed to understand that the Syrian people are no longer afraid. Violence will only further convince the Syrian people that Assad is no longer their legitimate president.

Assad has ruled with an iron fist for too long. During this uprising, Assad has made fake reforms designed to give the world a false impression that he is a reformer. Reports of inhumane torture of innocent men, women, and children clearly show that the last thing he is interested in is reform. The Syrian people have spoken: they want the Assad regime to fall. I therefore reiterate my call for Assad to step down, before any more innocents are murdered.

A TRIBUTE TO HOWARD KAGAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Howard Kagan for his support and dedication to serving Brooklyn and its youth through public advocacy and educational programs.

Mr. Kagan was born in Brooklyn, NY, and was the fifth of five children. He graduated from Brooklyn College where he received his Bachelor of Arts Degree and later received his Master of Science Degree from Brooklyn College. For several years Mr. Kagan taught English and Math at the Middle School level as he has certification in General Education and Special Education. Working in the education field, Mr. Kagan has held the responsibility of being a teacher, educator and special education teacher for the New York City Board of Education for 20 years. He was also a Track Four Coordinator for Severely and Profoundly Handicapped children.

Following his tenure at the New York City Board of Education he went to Brooklyn Law School and received his J.D. degree in 1989. He has had a private practice since 1989 specializing in all forms of personal injury cases, including slip and falls, auto accidents, medical malpractice and general negligence. His private practice is an Accredited Business with the Better Business Bureau since 2008 and has an A+ rating. Mr. Kagan has been actively practicing law for 22 years and has hosted an internship program for college and law students. Furthermore, Mr. Kagan advises law students and recent law graduates on how to start their own practices and on the basics of Tort law.

As a lawyer Mr. Kagan was admitted to the New York State Bar in June of 1989, and is admitted to practice in New York State and New Jersey. Besides his love for people and children, Howard loves reading, stained glass, traveling, Jai alai and flying Cessna 150's.

Mr. Kagan has four children of his own; two sons who are attorney's and one who is currently studying at Columbia Dental school. He has also been happily married for 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and success of Mr. Howard Kagan.

PROCLAMATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Reverend Dr. John H. Smith, Sr., has celebrated forty (40) years in pastoral leadership this year and has provided stellar leadership to his church; and

Whereas, Reverend Dr. John H. Smith, Sr., under the guidance of God has pioneered and sustained Welcome Friend Missionary Baptist Church as an instrument in our community that uplifts the spiritual, physical and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God has given hope to the hopeless and is a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, Reverend Dr. Smith is a spiritual warrior, a man of compassion, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all a visionary who has shared not only with his Church, but with our District and the nation his passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Reverend Dr. John H. Smith, Sr., as he celebrates forty years in pastoral leadership;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim July 24, 2011 as Reverend Dr. John H. Smith, Sr. Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 24th day of July, 2011.

**A TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES
AURORA**

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. James Aurora for his exceptional service to his community and the youth.

James Aurora is a third generation of owners of the now famous Sonny's Collision Specialists in Brooklyn, New York. This renowned business has been serving the community for 60 years and has gained a distinct reputation for quality customer service.

Mr. Aurora has built an operation that employs 25 professionals that offer clients guaranteed personal attention. In the years that Mr. Aurora has been operating Sonny's Collision Specialists he has never known any unsatisfied customers. Every customer of Sonny's has only experienced top notch service in the most expeditious manner.

Jimmy Aurora knows the importance of giving. Sonny's is not only a staple in the community for their expertise in auto body collisions, but they are famous for their giving spirit. Mr. Aurora on a yearly basis has sponsored cricket teams, baseball leagues, and boys' clubs, along with donating thousands of dollars towards autism awareness and the American Cancer Society. He has not only provided a necessary service to his community but he has found the means to give more to those in dire need.

Mr. Aurora lives by the company's motto: "Perfection is not an accident." Jimmy proudly represents his heritage and family legacy by ensuring that Sonny's Collision Specialists continues to be a leader and trendsetter in auto body collision work.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Mr. James Aurora.

PROCLAMATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, In 2003, Ms. Kim Schofield founded the Lupus And Community Empowering Support organization better known as "LACES"; and

Whereas, LACES is an organization that continues to serve those who live with or are affected by the chronic autoimmune disorder Lupus, by empowering patients, bringing attention to the disease, and leading the way to find a cure through research; and

Whereas, today LACES sponsors its 3rd Annual Ride 4 Lupus Motorcycle ride to raise awareness and funds to assist individuals living with lupus; and

Whereas, this unique organization has given of themselves tirelessly and unconditionally to advocate for our citizens and their families who battle lupus; and

Whereas, LACES continues to serve our county, state and country by being the sword and shield for those who live with lupus, encouraging better treatments, funding research and educating people about the disease to help heal families and strengthen our resolve to find a cure; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize LACES for their outstanding service to our District;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim July 9, 2011 as "Lupus And Community Empowering Support Day" in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 9th day of July, 2011.

OPENING STATEMENT OF REP. DENNIS J. KUCINICH FOR SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY AFFAIRS, STIMULUS OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT SPENDING HEARING ON: "LIGHTS OUT: HOW EPA REGULATIONS THREATEN AFFORDABLE POWER AND JOB CREATION"

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following. Good afternoon, and thank you to all the witnesses who are here today to testify about a critical issue facing America: protection of the clean air and clean water on which

we depend every single day. Today, we will once again look at the critical role the Environmental Protection Agency plays in supporting these goals.

Air toxics from coal-fired power plants cause or contribute to devastating health problems, ranging from asthma attacks to premature death from cardiovascular disease, stroke and cancer. One air toxic, mercury, damages the developing brains of fetuses, infants and small children, robbing them of the opportunity to fully develop intellectually and physically. Coal burning emissions of sulfur oxides and nitrogen oxides help fuel our nation's asthma problem and can increase heart attacks.

The burning of coal is also a major contributor to the environmental, national security, and economic crisis that is global climate change. The combustion of coal produces a tremendous amount of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that contributes to increased trapping of heat in our atmosphere. In fact, coal accounts for roughly 20% of all greenhouse gas emissions. It would be difficult to underestimate the urgency of shutting down coal power plants immediately for this reason alone.

These health and environmental consequences from toxic pollution are why the Environmental Protection Agency is developing tougher safeguards to protect Americans. One proposed rule on Mercury and Air Toxics alone would be estimated to save as many as 17,000 lives every year by 2015 and prevent up to 120,000 cases of childhood asthma.

One of the witnesses here to testify today represents American Electric Power (AEP), which is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. AEP is also one of our nation's biggest polluters. Another one of Ohio's polluters, FirstEnergy Corporation, which owns Lake Shore Plant in Cleveland in my own district, is identified as the nation's sixth-most harmful plant for low-income communities and communities of color. Thanks in part to AEP and FirstEnergy, the State of Ohio has more coal-fired generating capacity than any other state in the nation. Ohio's electric sector also has the ignominious honor of ranking FIRST in the amount of toxic air pollution it emitted in 2009, emitting more than 44.5 million pounds of harmful chemicals, which accounted for 65% of the state's pollution and 12% of toxic pollution from all U.S. power plants. Ohio also ranked THIRD among all states in mercury air pollution from power plants with about 3,980 pounds emitted in 2009, which accounted for 76% of the state's mercury air pollution and 6% of U.S. electric sector pollution.

AEP has lobbied against the Environmental Protection Agency's current efforts to regulate power plant pollution, and is pushing legislation to weaken and delay these regulations. I look forward to hearing from AEP today about how they can justify the tragic and destructive side effects that coal-fired power plants wreak upon us, as well as what steps they are taking to curb emissions of toxic air pollution in the United States.

While it is consistent with the history of big business to kick and scream about having to minimize the social and environmental harms they cause, we should NOT underestimate the entrepreneurial ability of America's electric

sector to invest, retrofit and construct clean energy generation, while maintaining system reliability. In fact, when they upgrade our nation's electric generation infrastructure to comply with new regulations, their capital investments will help drive economic growth and create jobs. According to a study prepared by the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts, two of the proposed EPA Regulations—the Clean Air Transport Rule, and the new Mercury and Air Toxics Standards—could stimulate the creation of more than 1.4 million jobs over the next five years in the pollution controls, engineering, and construction fields.

Congress passed the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act because the American public demanded it. The American people demanded it because they don't like their children to inhale and drink and die from toxic compounds from which even the most diligent parent can't protect her child. Nothing about this equation has changed, and we must allow the Environmental Protection Agency to continue to fulfill its mandate to protect our water and air. I look forward to hearing from the Environmental Protection Agency today about how it continues to fulfill this promise to America.

A TRIBUTE TO THE BLUE DEVILS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iowa's Class A Baseball State Champions and current holder of the national-record winning streak, the Martensdale-St. Mary's Blue Devils.

Ladies and gentlemen of the House, what this team has accomplished is nothing short of amazing. Last week, the Blue Devils sealed their second consecutive state championship by rallying from behind three separate times throughout the state tournament baseball game. And while the Blue Devils' second state championship in as many years is an incredible feat in and of itself, their most recent win has also placed their consecutive games won at an astonishing 87, giving them the best record in the Nation.

This special team consists of a large roster of players that have each contributed a unique quality to the team's record-breaking success. The Blue Devils consist of seniors Dillon Coates and Ethan Westphal, juniors David Walker, Zeb Noel, Josh Defenbaugh, Robert Walker, J.D. Nielsen, Jake Anctil, T.J. Foster, Jake Swihart, Brad Nauman, Jamie Swihart, and Dakota Wenzel; sophomores Garret Gehringer, Trent Verwers, Chris Darr, and Gage Gavin; and freshmen Eddy Kraber, Luke Anctil, and Travis Seymour. These young players have been expertly coached by Justin Dehmer, Sean Smith and Steve Westphal and have undoubtedly made them very proud.

Mr. Speaker, the pride and excitement that this team has brought to their community and to the state of Iowa cannot be overstated. Their unrelenting commitment to their coaches and teammates speaks volumes of the Iowa work ethic and the rewards of working together. It is truly an honor to represent the

players, coaches and families of this team in the United States Congress. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating these state champions and wish them continued success on and off the field in the future.

PROCLAMATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Bishop Miles and First Lady Helen Fowler are celebrating fifty years (50) in marriage today in Lithonia, Georgia; and

Whereas, on June 18, 1961 because of their union then, our community today has been blessed with a family that has enhanced our district, Bishop Fowler as Pastor of Big Miller Grove Missionary Baptist Church and Mrs. Fowler as First Lady, they both are instruments in our community that uplifts the spiritual, physical, economic and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God and this phenomenal and virtuous Proverbs 31 woman have given hope to the hopeless, fed the hungry and are beacons of light to those in need, they both have been blessed with their family, their church and the DeKalb County community; and

Whereas, Bishop and First Lady Fowler are distinguished citizens of our district, they are spiritual warriors, persons of compassion, fearless leaders and servants to all, but most of all visionaries who have shared not only with their family, but with our District their passion to improve the lives of others; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Bishop Miles and First Lady Fowler as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary, fifty (50) years in marital bliss;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim June 18, 2011 as Bishop Miles and First Lady Helen Fowler Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 18th day of June, 2011.

PROCLAMATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Mr. Hank Stewart, a tenacious and poetic man from Jacksonville, Florida utilizes his gifts, talents and wisdom everyday to ensure that citizens are inspired and lives are touched; and

Whereas, Mr. Stewart is a renowned poet, motivator and community leader in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, he founded the Hank Stewart Foundation based on strengthening the whole child—mind, body and soul; and

Whereas, this model citizen has shared his time and talents for the betterment of his com-

munity and his Nation through his tireless works, words of encouragement and inspiration that continue to be a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Hank Stewart for his outstanding leadership and service to the citizens in the state of Georgia and on the 20th anniversary of becoming a poet and the 10th anniversary of his White Linen Affair;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim July 30, 2011 as Hank Stewart Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, This 30th day of July, 2011.

HONORING LACY AND DOROTHY HARBER

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a wonderful couple from Denison, Texas, and outstanding community leaders—Lacy and Dorothy Harber. I have known Lacy and Dorothy Harber for many years and they are beloved and respected for their outstanding philanthropic work, generous spirit, and many contributions to their community. Knowing people like Lacy and Dorothy—and gratitude for their close friendship—is a great part of the benefits I receive as a Member of Congress.

This year the Harbers were awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, presented by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations. Each year, NECO honors "remarkable Americans who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives, while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage . . . creating a better world for all of us in the future by the work they do today."

The Harbers are in good company, joining past winners of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, including Presidents George H.W. Bush and Gerald Ford, Rosa Parks, and Bob Hope.

The couple's desire to help others springs from Lacy's humble beginnings. His father was a city bus driver and his mother cooked in a school lunch room. With four children in the family, Lacy, at the age of seven, began selling popcorn at baseball games.

From an early age, Lacy also suffered from severe scoliosis which, left untreated, would have likely prevented him from walking as an adult. At the time, the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital in Dallas was developing new treatments for physically challenged children without charging for service. The hospital provided treatment for Lacy for nine years, and when he reached high school he was able to take his back brace off and compete on the track team.

Lacy learned from an early age the value of hard work and the understanding of what it means to do without. Through hard work, Lacy has become one of America's most successful entrepreneurs, and the couple has used their

good fortune to improve the lives of those around them.

Lacy and Dorothy, who have been married over fifty years, wholly own the American Bank of Texas, but take no profits from the business. Rather, the profits go to charities and to those less fortunate. They have been known to pick up restaurant tabs for fellow patrons, hand out \$100 bills, provide fishing and boating trips for children with physical or mental challenges, and give multi-million dollar donations to charities. Among the recipients of their generous gifts are Texoma Medical Center, Wilson N. Jones Medical Center, and Abilene Christian University. Recently, the couple helped buy a wheelchair and seek assistance for a handicapped teacher.

The Harbers routinely deflect attention from themselves with an humble attitude, stating that they merely enjoy helping others, adopting a "live to give" philosophy as they choose to share their good fortune with others. Their selfless giving is an inspiration to live a humble life in service to others. Mr. Speaker, I ask those here today to rise in honor of this most generous couple who represent the best values of philanthropy, Lacy and Dorothy Harber.

ON THE STATUS OF THE EGYPTIAN COPTIC COMMUNITY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the ongoing violence in Egypt being carried out against religious minorities. While the end of the Mubarak regime has brought about the promise for democratic reform, it has also given rise to instability and acts of violence against religious minorities. Coptic Christians have lived peacefully in this part of the world for millennia, but sadly in recent months Coptic churches and protestors have been targeted for violence.

I am grateful to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, for holding a hearing recently on the plight of the Coptic people. I was concerned to learn of reports that young women and under-aged girls fear for their safety because of the threat of violence by Muslim extremists. As a member of the Religious Minorities in the Middle East Caucus, I strongly believe U.S. policymakers need to do more to raise awareness of this issue so that the innocent Christians of Egypt are no longer targeted for violence.

I am proud to represent a vibrant Coptic community in southeast Michigan and am privileged to consider the clergy of St. Mark's Church in Troy, Michigan as my friends. Many of my constituents have relatives in Egypt and I know that they are deeply concerned about the security of their loved ones. I share their concerns—and the concerns of Copts across our nation—about the future of their community and the desire to preserve their right to continue to live peacefully in their ancestral homeland.

While we are hopeful for democratic change in Egypt, it is imperative that we maintain support for religious minority communities such as

the Copts and seek to preserve and allow for the continuity of their community. I ask my colleagues to join me in raising awareness for the plight of the Copts, demanding an end to extremist violence, ensuring that all Egyptian political parties practice the values of pluralism and tolerance, and encouraging a democratic Egypt to fully respect the rights of all its citizens.

HONORABLE DISTINCTION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, our lives have been touched by the life of this one man who has given of himself in order for others to stand; and

Whereas, Mr. Ladeadrick "Bob" Jackson's work is present throughout Meadowcreek High School for all to see, being the Principal of Meadowcreek High School, Lilburn, Gwinnett County, Georgia from 2006 to 2011, he did much to aid in the achievements of the school; and

Whereas, this giant of a man taught academics to young scholars, managed administrators, inspired elected officials, motivated the young and the old, as he accomplished so much during his time on this earth; and

Whereas, this remarkable man gave of himself, his time, his talent and his life; he never asked for fame or fortune; he just wanted to uplift those in need, he just wanted to make a difference by educating others and building up a community; Mr. Jackson inspired others to do the same by witnessing him walk the walk and talk the talk; and

Whereas, Mr. Jackson led by doing behind the scenes and on the front lines for many;

Mr. Jackson was a husband, a father, an educator and a friend; he was our warrior, our patriarch, a man of great integrity who remained true to the uplifting of the community until his end; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to bestow an honorable distinction and recognition on Mr. Ladeadrick "Bob" Jackson for his leadership, friendship and service to all of the citizens of Georgia and throughout the Nation; as a citizen of great worth and so noted distinction;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby attest to the 112th Congress that Mr. Ladeadrick "Bob" Jackson of Georgia is deemed worthy and deserving of this "Congressional Honorable Distinction."

Mr. Ladeadrick "Bob" Jackson—U.S. Citizen of Distinction—in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 29th day of July, 2011.

SENATE—Friday, August 5, 2011

The Senate met at 10 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, August 5, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,

a Senator from the State of Maryland, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CARDIN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Virginia.

AIRPORT AND AIRWAY EXTENSION
ACT OF 2011, PART IV

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of calendar No. 109, H.R. 2553; the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Hearing no objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 2553) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend the airport improvement program, and for other purposes, was considered, ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

RECESS UNTIL TUESDAY, AUGUST
9, 2011, AT 11 A.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until Tuesday, August 9, 2011, at 11 a.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10 and 59 seconds a.m., recessed until Tuesday, August 9, 2011, at 11 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, August 5, 2011

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
August 5, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANDY HARRIS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Deputy Parliamentarian, Thomas J. Wickham, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage, we humbly beseech Thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Thy favor and glad to do Thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4 of House Resolution 375, legislative business is not dispensed with on this day.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following commu-

nication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 2, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, The Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on August 2, 2011, at 2:13 p.m., and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits to the Congress a certification he has made pursuant to section 3101A(a)(1)(A) of title 31, United States Code.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBT SUBJECT TO LIMIT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112-48)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 3101A(a)(1)(A) of title 31, United States Code, I hereby certify that the debt subject to limit is within \$100,000,000,000 of the limit in 31 U.S.C. 3101(b) and that further borrowing is required to meet existing commitments.

BARACK OBAMA,
THE WHITE HOUSE, August 2, 2011.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 3, 2011.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: Thank you for your courtesies to me as Speaker and your fairness as Chairman of the Education Committee.

By this letter, I give notice of my resignation from the United States House of Representatives, effective immediately.

I have included a copy of my letter to the Governor of Oregon.

I shall miss this honorable work and this institution. God bless the United States of America and God bless the House of Representatives.

DAVID WU,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 3, 2011.

DEAR GOVERNOR KITZHABER: Serving as a United States Congressman has been the greatest honor of my life. There is no other job where you get up every day and ask, "How can I try to make the world a better place today."

Of particular significance to me in this effort to improve the world is investing in more and better science and education. Also, I believe my support of people around the world who are struggling for human rights and civil liberties will ultimately bear fruit in a world which is more just and peaceful.

DAVID WU,
Member of Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. Wu), the whole number of the House is 432.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 2, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on August 2, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.:

That the Senate concurred in the House amendment to the bill S. 365.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 70.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by the Speaker on Tuesday, August 2, 2011:

S. 365, to provide for budget control.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 3, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 4(c) of House Resolution 5, One Hundred Twelfth Congress, and section 1(k)(2) of House Resolution 895, One Hundred Tenth Congress, I transmit to you notification that Jay Eagen, Allison Hayward, and Kelly Brewington each have signed an agreement not to be a candidate for the office of Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress for purposes of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 until at least 3 years after he or she is no longer a member of the board or staff of the Office of Congressional Ethics.

Copies of the signed agreements shall be retained by the Office of the Clerk as part of the records of the House.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 3, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on August 3, 2011 at 10:54 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1302.

That the Senate passed S. 710.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, THE HONORABLE HAROLD ROGERS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from LaNette Wright, Executive Assistant, the Honorable HAROLD ROGERS, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 25, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a non-party subpoena, issued by the Circuit Court for Russell County, Kentucky, for documents and testimony in a criminal case.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

LANETTE WRIGHT,
Executive Assistant.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1302. An act to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Tracy, California, to the City of Tracy; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; in addition, to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature on Tuesday, August 2, 2011, to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 365. An act to provide for budget control.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to sections 3 and 4 of House Resolution 375, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, August 9, 2011.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 9 minutes a.m.), the House adjourned until Tuesday, August 9, 2011, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2704. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's "Major" final rule — Debit Card Interchange Fees and Routing [Regulation II; Docket No.: R-1404] (RIN No.: 7100-AD 63) received July 29, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2705. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's "Major" final rule — Debit Card Interchange Fees and Routing [Regulation II; Docket No.: R-1404] (RIN No.: 7100 AD 63) received July 29, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2706. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Tobacco Productions, Exemption From Substantial Equivalence Requirements [Docket No.: FDA-2010-N-0646] (RIN: 0910-AG39) received July 21, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2707. A letter from the Deputy Chief, CGB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities Structure and Practices of the Video Relay Service Program [CG Docket No.: 03-123] [CG Docket No.: 10-51] received July 18, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2708. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-98, "Fiscal year 2012 Budget Support Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2709. A letter from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Department of the Treasury Acquisition Regulation (RIN: 1505-AC04) received July 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2710. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Shore Thing and Independence Day Fireworks Chesapeake Bay, Norfolk, VA [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0303] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2711. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Cape Charles Fireworks, Cape Charles Harbor, Cape Charles, VA [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0304] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2712. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Fourth of July Fireworks Event, Pagan River, Smithfield, VA [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0588] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2713. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, New Port River; Morehead City, NC [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0230] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2714. A letter from the Attorney — Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Barrier Testing Operations, Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, Romeoville, IL [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0453] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2715. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Marine Events requiring safety zones in the Captain of the Port Sault Saint Marie zone [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0542] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2716. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Rochester Harbor Festival, Genesee River, Rochester, NY [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0374] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2717. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; M/V DAVY CROCKETT, Columbia River [Docket No.: USCG-2010-0939] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2718. A letter from the Attorney, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Waterway Closure, Atchafalaya River from Mile Marker 117 (Morgan City Railroad Bridge) to Mile Marker 0 (Simmesport, LA) [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0433] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2719. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Superfund Site, New Bedford Harbor, New Bedford, MA: Anchorage Ground and Regulated Navigation Area [Docket No.: USCG-2011-1119] (RIN: 1625-AA01; 1625-AA11) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2720. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulation for Marine Events; Temporary change of dates for Recurring Marine Events in the Fifth Coast Guard District; Mill Creek, Hampton, Virginia [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0540] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2721. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Medicare Program; Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System for Federal Fiscal Year 2012; Changes in Size and Square Footage of Inpatient Rehabilitation Units and Inpatient Psychiatric Units [CMS-1349-F] (RIN: 0938-AQ28) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

2722. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Medicare Program; Prospective Payment System and Consolidated Billing for Skilled Nursing Facilities for FY 2012 [CMS-1351-F] (RIN: 0938-AQ29) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BONNER: Committee on Ethics. In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Luis V. Gutierrez (Rept. 112-192). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. BONNER: Committee on Ethics. In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Michael Collins (Rept. 112-193). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. BONNER: Committee on Ethics. In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Gregory Hill (Rept. 112-194). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. BONNER: Committee on Ethics. In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Jean Schmidt (Rept. 112-195). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following

titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. FLEMING:

H.R. 2793. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Agriculture from restricting certain hunting activities in the Kisatchie National Forest, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. JONES, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska):

H.R. 2794. A bill to amend titles I and II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to strengthen connections to early childhood education programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. FUDGE (for herself, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. PAYNE):

H.R. 2795. A bill to address childhood obesity, and for other purposes.

By Mr. BUCHANAN:

H.R. 2796. A bill to require the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction to conduct the business of the committee in a manner that is open to the public; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas (for himself, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. LONG, Mr. OLSON, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. McCAUL):

H.R. 2797. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the windfall elimination provision and protect the retirement of public servants; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. RICHARDSON, Ms. FUDGE, and Mr. RUSH):

H.R. 2798. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for training and support services for Alzheimer's patients and their families; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. GONZALEZ):

H.R. 2799. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to provide treatment for diabetes in minority communities; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. RICHARDSON, Ms. FUDGE, and Mr. RUSH):

H.R. 2800. A bill to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BASS of California (for herself, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. MORAN):

H.R. 2801. A bill to establish a task force for the purpose of studying and making recommendations to prevent and combat internet-facilitated human trafficking.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Mr. DEUTCH):

H.R. 2802. A bill to provide for media coverage of Federal court proceedings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA:

H.R. 2803. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, to conduct a technological capability assessment, survey, and economic feasibility study regarding recovery of minerals, other than oil and natural gas, from the shallow and deep seabed of the United States; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 2804. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on stannic oxide; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California:

H.R. 2805. A bill to amend section 220 of the Immigration and Nationality Technical Corrections Act of 1994 to make permanent the amendments made by such section; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MICHAUD (for himself and Ms. RICHARDSON):

H.R. 2806. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief to the unemployed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RICHMOND (for himself and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H.R. 2807. A bill to transfer unobligated and repaid funds from the Small Business Lending Fund Program to the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund to continue the program of making capital investments in eligible community development financial institutions in order to increase the availability of credit for small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RICHMOND (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 2808. A bill to extend the participation term for small business concerns affected by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita in certain programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. RICHMOND:

H.R. 2809. A bill to amend the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 to improve the micro-enterprise technical assistance and capacity building grant program, to establish an Office of Youth Entrepreneurship in the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina:

H.R. 2810. A bill to provide protections for workers with respect to their right to select or refrain from selecting representation by a labor organizations; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 2811. A bill to rescind all unobligated funds made available for capital assistance for high-speed rail corridors under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. TONKO (for himself, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. INSLEE):

H.R. 2812. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for producing electricity from wasted heat; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 2813. A bill to impose tariff-rate quotas on certain casein and milk protein concentrates; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CULBERSON:

H.J. Res. 75. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the

United States relating to the use of foreign law as authority in Federal courts; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CULBERSON:

H.J. Res. 76. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States regarding the effect of treaties, Executive orders, and agreements with other nations or groups of nations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HANABUSA (for herself and Ms. HIRONO):

H. Res. 388. A resolution acknowledging the contributions and sacrifices of the young men who served as colonists on behalf of the United States in the Federal occupation of the islands of Howland, Baker, Jarvis, Canton, and Enderbury from 1935 through 1942, facilitating the United States claim of jurisdiction over such islands.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida:

H. Res. 389. A resolution recognizing persons of African descent in Europe during the International Year for People of African Descent; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Mr. RIVERA, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. WEST, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Ms. BROWN of Florida):

H. Res. 390. A resolution honoring the achievements of E. Thom Rumberger.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. FLEMING:

H.R. 2793.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. HIRONO:

H.R. 2794.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1
The Congress shall have Power To [. . .] provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 2795.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 9, Clause 7 of the U.S. Constitution: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

By Mr. BUCHANAN:

H.R. 2796.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this joint resolution rests is the power of Congress as enumerated in Article I, Section 5 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas:

H.R. 2797.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1: "The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

The Sixteenth Amendment: "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration."

The Supreme Court of the United States affirmed the constitutionality of the Social Security Act in *Steward Machine Company v. Davis*, 301 U.S. 548 (1937) and *Helvering v. Davis*, 301 U.S. 619 (1937).

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 2798.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution and

Article 1, Section 8, clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 2799.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution and

Article 1, Section 8, clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 2800.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution and

Article 1, Section 8, clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. BASS:

H.R. 2801.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 1.

Article. I.

Section 1.

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 2802.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: "To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces"

By Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA:

H.R. 2803.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause—The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 2804.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, the Taxing and Spending Clause: "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for

the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . ."

By Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California:

H.R. 2805.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the Constitution.

By Mr. MICHAUD:

H.R. 2806.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. RICHMOND:

H.R. 2807.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 1), the Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 18).

Further, this statement of constitutional authority is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and shall have no bearing on judicial review of the accompanying bill.

By Mr. RICHMOND:

H.R. 2808.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 1), the Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 18).

Further, this statement of constitutional authority is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and shall have no bearing on judicial review of the accompanying bill.

By Mr. RICHMOND:

H.R. 2809.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 1), the Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 18).

Further, this statement of constitutional authority is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and shall have no bearing on judicial review of the accompanying bill.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina:

H.R. 2810.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the authority enumerated in Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 2811.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the procedural power granted to the House of Representatives pursuant to Article I, Section 7, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution. This bill is enacted pursuant to the appropriations powers enumerated to Congress in Article I, Section 9, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution. This bill is enacted in fidelity to the powers vested in Congress in

Article I, Section 1 of the United States Constitution and to prohibit encroachment of individual rights granted in Amendment IX and state's rights granted in Amendment X of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 2812.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 2813.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18, the power to make laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States.

By Mr. CULBERSON:

H.J. Res. 75.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article V of the Constitution.

By Mr. CULBERSON:

H.J. Res. 76.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article V of the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 87: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
 H.R. 104: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
 H.R. 217: Mr. ROYCE.
 H.R. 333: Mr. TONKO.
 H.R. 361: Mr. ROYCE.
 H.R. 412: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
 H.R. 420: Mr. ROYCE.
 H.R. 436: Mrs. ROBY.
 H.R. 459: Mr. YODER and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
 H.R. 494: Ms. LEE of California.
 H.R. 583: Ms. BROWN of Florida.
 H.R. 605: Mr. YODER.
 H.R. 645: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan and Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.
 H.R. 687: Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. TIBERI, and Mr. YODER.
 H.R. 721: Mr. GOSAR.
 H.R. 881: Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California.
 H.R. 891: Mr. RAHALL and Ms. MOORE.
 H.R. 893: Mr. MICHAUD.
 H.R. 913: Mr. YODER and Mr. BARLETTA.
 H.R. 923: Mr. McDERMOTT.
 H.R. 942: Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. HONDA.
 H.R. 965: Mr. HIMES.
 H.R. 996: Mr. HOLT.
 H.R. 1084: Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 1093: Mr. ROYCE.
 H.R. 1154: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
 H.R. 1173: Mr. KINGSTON.

H.R. 1179: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. HARPER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. PLATTS.

H.R. 1236: Mr. HINCHEY and Mr. BRADY of Texas.

H.R. 1259: Mr. DOLD.
 H.R. 1281: Mr. ROKITA.
 H.R. 1289: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
 H.R. 1293: Ms. LEE of California.
 H.R. 1351: Ms. HAHN and Ms. TSONGAS.
 H.R. 1366: Mr. DOLD.
 H.R. 1370: Mr. WEST.
 H.R. 1371: Mr. FINCHER, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. DINGELL, and Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 1395: Mr. DINGELL.
 H.R. 1418: Mr. STIVERS.
 H.R. 1465: Mr. KUCINICH.
 H.R. 1506: Mr. DOLD.
 H.R. 1509: Mr. PAULSEN and Mr. YODER.
 H.R. 1546: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.
 H.R. 1550: Mr. KING of New York.
 H.R. 1564: Mr. HINCHEY and Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 1633: Mr. YODER.
 H.R. 1639: Mr. ROSS of Arkansas.
 H.R. 1733: Mr. HIMES.
 H.R. 1744: Mr. BILBRAY.
 H.R. 1780: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
 H.R. 1815: Mr. CRENSHAW.
 H.R. 1834: Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.
 H.R. 1842: Mr. STARK and Ms. DEGETTE.
 H.R. 1845: Ms. SCHWARTZ.
 H.R. 1848: Mr. DENHAM.
 H.R. 1872: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
 H.R. 1873: Ms. EDWARDS.
 H.R. 1941: Mr. TURNER and Mr. ROSS of Arkansas.

H.R. 1946: Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.
 H.R. 1957: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
 H.R. 2028: Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey.
 H.R. 2033: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
 H.R. 2086: Mr. POLIS, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Ms. EDWARDS.
 H.R. 2161: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia and Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 2195: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
 H.R. 2245: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
 H.R. 2250: Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. BRADY of Texas.

H.R. 2284: Mr. GONZALEZ and Ms. ESHOO.
 H.R. 2377: Mr. LYNCH.
 H.R. 2407: Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 2447: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. ISSA, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 2488: Mr. KILDEE.
 H.R. 2492: Mr. BERMAN, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, and Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 2494: Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 2497: Mr. CALVERT.
 H.R. 2505: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina and Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 2530: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.

H.R. 2540: Mr. FILNER, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. KUCINICH, and Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 2541: Mr. KISSEL and Mr. HOLDEN.
 H.R. 2543: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 2545: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
 H.R. 2580: Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 2644: Ms. SUTTON, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Ms. BASS of California, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. KIND,

Mr. HOLT, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. ROSS of Arkansas, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. ELLISON, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. KISSELL, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. REYES, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HIMES, Mr. CLARKE of Michigan, Mr. BARROW, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 2659: Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 2674: Mr. FARR.

H.R. 2695: Ms. BUERKLE.

H.R. 2696: Ms. BUERKLE and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 2702: Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 2738: Mr. MORAN and Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 2744: Ms. HIRONO and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.

H.R. 2758: Mr. MCGOVERN and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 2759: Ms. BASS of California.

H.R. 2790: Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mr. CROWLEY.

H.R. 2792: Mr. RANGEL and Ms. NORTON.

H.J. Res. 69: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SIRES, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H. Res. 60: Mr. LAMBORN.

H. Res. 317: Mr. LEVIN.

H. Res. 348: Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. HOYER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. BECERRA, and Mr. COHEN.

H. Res. 361: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H. Res. 364: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. SIRES, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. KEATING, Mr. LANCE, Mr. DINGELL, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PETRI, Mr. PENCE, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. YODER, Mr. AUSTRIA, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. HIMES, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. COSTELLO, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. CLARKE of Michigan, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. FILNER, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. WATERS, Mr. BONNER, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. PETERSON, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. BOREN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. HECK, Mr. WOMACK, Ms. HAHN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. REYES, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. TURNER, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. LUJAN, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. BACA, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. HALL, and Mr. CUELLAR.

H. Res. 379: Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. HIMES, Mr. FILNER, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. MORAN, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. STARK, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. GRIMM.

H. Res. 380: Mr. INSLEE.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF
LANKARAN, AZERBAIJAN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome the city of Lankaran, Azerbaijan as a new sister city to a city in my district, Monterey, California.

Lankaran joins six other cities that have sister-city arrangements with Monterey. The other cities are: Tainan City, Taiwan; Nanao, Japan; Dubrovnik, Croatia; Trapani, Italy; Kusadasi, Turkey; and Lerida, Spain.

Lankaran, located on the southern coast of the Caspian Sea offers great potential for a thriving tourism industry for Azerbaijan. As a tourist mecca of its own Monterey can offer a great example of best practices in tourism of Lankaran.

I hope this new relationship will foster good will and friendship between two wonderful cities and two countries allied in peace.

HONORING MR. GLENN PETTINATO

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituents, Mr. Glenn Pettinato, on the occasion of his induction as President of UNICO National, the largest Italian-American service organization in the United States.

Since its founding in 1922, UNICO National has represented Italian-Americans across the country with pride and selflessness. Its foundations in charitable works, higher education, and patriotic deeds have taken UNICO from a fifteen-member group to nation-wide organization, with over 7,000 members in 140 local chapters across 19 states.

UNICO has continued to fight for the equal treatment of all Americans, including Italian-Americans and has worked tirelessly to promote its ideals of citizenship and civic duty.

As an Italian-American myself, I am honored to have the opportunity to offer my congratulations to a man who will faithfully serve UNICO as a leader who truly embodies its sentiment for unity, neighborliness, integrity, charity, and opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Mr. Glenn Pettinato, and ask my colleagues to join in praising his commitment to community and country.

SOUTHERN KORDOFAN: ETHNIC
CLEANSING AND HUMANITARIAN
CRISIS IN SUDAN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I called an emergency hearing yesterday because of the escalating crisis in the Sudanese state of Southern Kordofan. This crisis first arose in June of this year, shortly after the military forces of the Republic of the Sudan attacked the Abyei region, apparently as a provocation to South Sudan's Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, or SPLM. South Sudan was about to become independent, and these attacks may have been intended to provoke a fight that could derail their independence. At the same time, Sudanese attacks on SPLM-North members in the Sudanese state of Southern Kordofan were increasing.

Because of the fighting and the displacement of Sudanese and foreigners from Southern Kordofan, no one is estimating how many people have been killed in that area. We do know that more than 73,000 people have been displaced. Whatever the numbers involved, we can be sure that the suffering of the people in Southern Kordofan, especially the Nuba people, has been catastrophic.

This latest violence is a tragic resumption of a prior war by the Khartoum government on the Nuba. Beginning in the 1980s, Islamist elements in the North began an eradication campaign against the Nuba—pitting Northern Arabs against Africans to the South. Unfortunately for the Nuba, they are not Southerners, even though many fought with the Southern army during the North-South civil war. But neither are they accepted by the elements ruling the North, even though many of them are Muslims.

This left the Nuba on their own to suffer the onslaught of the Khartoum government. The strategy of cultural cleansing pursued by the government involved harsh attempts to depopulate vast areas, killing potential combatants, as well as many others, and herding survivors into tightly controlled government refugee camps. When jihad was declared by the Government of the Sudan in 1992, even Nuba Muslims were targeted, with the rationale that Muslims in SPLM areas were not true Muslims. Rape of Nuba women has been a central component of the government's strategy, aimed at destroying the social fabric of Nuba society. Almost every woman who has been in one of Khartoum's so-called "peace camps" reportedly was either raped or threatened with rape.

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, between 30,000 and 40,000 people, out of a population of 60,000 in the Southern Kordofan

capital of Kadugli have fled the town. Many of the attacks in Southern Kordofan were indiscriminate, including aerial bombardments and artillery fire by the Sudanese Armed Forces. Bombings have been reported in five villages south of the state capital of Kadugli, as well as in Talodi, Heiban, Kaudo and other towns. The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights told the UN Security Council on July 29th that there were reports, as recently as July 27th, of aerial bombings forcing civilians to flee into the Nuba Mountains.

Some are trying to down play the overwhelming responsibility of the Sudanese government for the devastation taking place in Southern Kordofan by referring to the refusal of the SPLM-North to lay down their arms to negotiate with Khartoum. But there is no moral equivalence between the SPLM-North's actions and those of the government. SPLM-North members are not bombing people indiscriminately, driving Arabs off their lands and out of their homes nor going door-to-door to identify their perceived enemies and execute them. The Government of Sudan's military forces are. We saw photographic evidence of these atrocities at yesterday's hearing.

In addition, the recent attacks on Southern Kordofan have disrupted the planting season and will have a long-term negative impact on the ability of its people to feed themselves. In parts of Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, people suffer from drought made worse by conflict. In Southern Kordofan, the national government is creating a similar humanitarian crisis.

The death and destruction to which Sudanese Africans have been subjected was thought to have ended with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005 to end the North-South civil war. However, the genocide in Darfur diverted the international community's attention away from the unresolved issues between North and South. These lingering points of contention threatened to derail independence for South Sudan just as the independence process was coming to a conclusion. And now the struggle over Abyei threatens to stifle the suffering cries and pleas for help that are arising from the Nuba people as they are dragged into a resumption of the Northern war against them.

We discussed this war during the Subcommittee's June 16th hearing on South Sudan. At that time, the fighting in Southern Kordofan was as horrific as any attacks waged by the Khartoum government. The testimony that was presented yesterday by witnesses who have seen the carnage revealed the horrific extent of this situation.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HYDROCEPHALUS TREATMENT IN UGANDA: LEADING THE WAY TO HELP CHILDREN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights, I held a hearing on August 2nd on the global health issue of hydrocephalus, a serious—and seriously neglected—health condition. The hearing also focused on a relatively inexpensive, technologically-sophisticated advancement for curing it, created, designed, and perfected by one of our distinguished witnesses, Dr. Benjamin Warf.

I had the opportunity to learn more about hydrocephalus when I was traveling in Africa last March. Children who suffer from it characteristically have heads that are far out of proportion to the size of their small bodies. I was horrified to learn that in Africa, where superstitions still are widespread, hydrocephalus is commonly perceived as a curse or caused through witchcraft. A child may be subjected to horrific abuse, and even killed, as a result. It was therefore a real eye-opener for me to see the cultural context of hydrocephalus in Africa, and the extraordinary efforts of a number of courageous, compassionate individuals to address it.

The human brain normally produces cerebrospinal fluid which surrounds and cushions it. The fluid also delivers nutrients to and removes waste away from the brain. This fluid is drained away from the brain and absorbed into blood vessels as new fluid is produced.

Hydrocephalus occurs when this draining process no longer functions properly. The fluid levels inside the skull rise, causing increased pressure that compresses the brain and potentially enlarges the head. Symptoms include headaches, vomiting, blurred vision, cognitive difficulties, imbalance, convulsions, brain damage, and ultimately, death.

Hydrocephalus can occur in adults, but most commonly is present at birth. Our witnesses testified that there are believed to be more than 4,000 new cases of infant hydrocephalus in Uganda, and 100,000 to 375,000 new cases in sub-Saharan Africa, each year. By comparison, in the United States, hydrocephalus occurs in 1 out of every 500 births. Another 6,000 children under the age of 2 develop hydrocephalus annually. The U.S. National Institutes of Health estimates that 700,000 Americans have hydrocephalus, and it is the leading cause of brain surgery for children in this country.

A major difference between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa is the number of neurosurgeons available to treat this condition. The U.S. has 3,500 neurosurgeons, whereas Uganda, for instance, has only four.

Another major difference between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa is the methodology used to treat hydrocephalus. In the Western world, doctors surgically insert a shunt into the brain in order to drain the fluid through the neck and into another part of the body where the fluid can be absorbed. A

shunt is only a temporary solution, and there is always a danger that any one of a number of things may go wrong. For example, the tube may become blocked, an infection may develop, catheters may break or malfunction due to calcification, or the valve may drain too much or too little fluid. In almost half of all cases, shunts fail within the first two years. And when they do, the patient must have immediate access to a medical facility and a doctor who can correct the problem.

This precarious situation must be a constant source of concern and stress for people in the United States who suffer from hydrocephalus and their families. However, in a place like sub-Saharan Africa, a shunt is fundamentally impractical. Trained neurosurgeons, as I noted, are extremely few in Africa, as are properly equipped hospitals. And roads and transportation systems on the African continent make travel arduous and long for the vast majority of people under even the best of circumstances. A hydrocephalic child in a place like Uganda, even if he or she could be treated with a shunt, would have little hope of living for more than a couple of years.

Mr. Speaker, in March of this year, I had the privilege of meeting Dr. John Mugamba, one of the four neurosurgeons in Uganda. With the help of a video such as we viewed during the hearing, Dr. Mugamba explained the fascinating surgical procedure that he is performing several times daily in Uganda to cure small children of hydrocephalus. This treatment being provided at CURE Children's Hospital of Uganda is not only overcoming a medical barrier that children afflicted with the condition face; it is also serving to educate Ugandan communities that the condition is not the result of a curse and is not a reason to kill the child. Parents whose children have been cured are helping other parents to identify the condition early in an infant's life, and to know where to go for treatment.

Dr. Warf was the first to identify neonatal infection as the chief cause of pediatric hydrocephalus in a developing country. He also developed the new surgical technique, a combined endoscopic third ventriculostomy with bilateral choroid plexus cauterization (ETV/CPC), which holds great promise not only for the children of Africa but potentially for children in developed countries as well. As Dr. Warf testified, hydrocephalus has never been a public health priority in developing countries. Most infants in Africa do not receive treatment, and even when treated, they often succumb to a premature death or suffer severe disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that we find the causes in order to develop public health prevention strategies. Our distinguished witnesses explained this innovative procedure, efforts being undertaken to determine the causes of hydrocephalus, and initiatives to end the suffering caused by this life-threatening condition. I plea with all stakeholders who care about the children of Africa, including African Ministries of Health, non-governmental organizations, and our own U.S. Agency for International Development, to urgently provide tangible support to these efforts and initiatives.

SUPPORTING THE APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL WESLEY CLARK AS SPECIAL ENVOY TO CAMP ASHRAF, IRAQ

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my support for the appointment of General Wesley K. Clark, Sr. as the special envoy to resolve the crisis in Camp Ashraf, Iraq. As one of the most highly decorated officers in the history of our nation and an authority in foreign policy as demonstrated by his ability to resolve the crisis in the Balkans while serving as the Supreme Allied Commander Europe of NATO from 1997–2000, I encourage Secretary Clinton to seriously consider General Clark for this position.

Camp Ashraf is home to 3,400 members of the principal Iranian opposition group, the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK). There are 1,000 women among the residents, as well as children. The Iraqi Government has on two occasions attacked the unarmed residents of Camp Ashraf, killing dozens and injuring hundreds of defenseless men and women.

In a press conference on July 30, Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki stated that western countries should not provide refuge to the residents. He has already stated that he intends to expel, and has threatened to arrest Camp Ashraf residents by the end of the year. If Ashraf residents are left at the mercy of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, who has repeatedly acted at the behest of Tehran, the residents could be killed, tortured or even sent to Iran where they would surely be murdered.

We need to play a very active role to ensure that no other resident of Camp Ashraf is subjected to massacre, given that we signed an agreement with every resident of Camp Ashraf in 2004 to protect them until their final disposition and that the United States recognized them as "protected persons."

I strongly endorse the appointment of a special envoy to resolve the looming humanitarian catastrophe in Camp Ashraf, Iraq. The envoy should not only have notable credentials and experience, but should also have the trust of all parties including the residents of Ashraf, European countries and the United Nations.

General Wesley Clark has proven himself to be a diplomat of the highest order as well as an outstanding military commander and strategist. General Clark graduated first in his class from West Point. He completed degrees in philosophy, politics and economics at Oxford University where he earned both his B.A. and M.A. degrees as a Rhodes Scholar.

In 38 years of service in the United States Army, he commanded at the battalion, brigade and division levels. He served in a number of significant staff positions including being appointed as the Director for Strategic Plans and Policy (J-5) of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. General Clark rose to the rank of four-star general as NATO's Supreme Allied Commander of Europe and led forces to victory in Operation Allied Force where 1.5 million Albanians were saved from ethnic cleansing.

His awards include the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Defense Distinguished Service

Medal (five awards), Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, honorary knighthoods from the British and Dutch governments, Commander of the Legion of Honor by the French government and numerous other awards.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to stand with me in urging Secretary Clinton to consider General Wesley Clark to lead a special envoy to resolve the humanitarian crisis in Camp Ashraf, Iraq. It is in the best interest of the residents of Camp Ashraf that this effort be led by someone such as General Clark who has military experience and demonstrated successful conflict resolution.

IN HONOR OF MR. TONY
PETKOVSEK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tony Petkovsek on the 50th anniversary of his Polka music radio show. Deemed "Cleveland's Polka Ambassador," he has worked tirelessly to advance Slovenian culture and Polka music both in Cleveland and around the world.

Starting in August of 1961, Tony began broadcasting a polka music radio show fused with interviews and discussions on the Cleveland community. Tony was also instrumental in establishing the United Slovenian Society and Greater Cleveland and the USS Concert.

In addition to his career, Tony uses polka as a vehicle to perform invaluable community service. Through his Cleveland Slovenian Radio Club's "Radiothons," Tony has helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Slovene Home for the Aged which helps elderly members of Cleveland's Slovenian-American community receive various therapies as well as recreation activities and entertainment. He has also helped form many cultural organizations in Cleveland such as the United Slovenian Society of Greater Cleveland and the Cleveland-Slovenian Radio Club.

Tony has received countless accolades and awards throughout his long and selfless career. He has served on the Ohio Arts Council and in 1991 was inducted into the Broadcasters Hall of Fame in Akron. He has received the Slovenian Man of the Year Award from the Federation of Slovenian homes. This year he is being inducted into the Cleveland International Hall of Fame, Class of 2011.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please rise to honor Mr. Tony Petkovsek on the 50th anniversary of his radio show and his recent induction into the Cleveland International Hall of Fame. He is a staple of Polka culture and is a vital member of the Slovenian-American community.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE GEORGE
RAMOS

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late George Ramos, a longtime Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist in Los Angeles, a Cal Poly professor, and a decorated Vietnam War veteran who devoted much of his life to honoring the Latino community that he knew so well and loved.

Mr. Ramos grew up in the area of East Los Angeles known as Belvedere Garden. As we learned through his own writings, Mr. Ramos escaped the trappings of poverty, drugs and gang life that plagued the area to attend college and embark on a distinguished career in journalism.

Among his many professional highlights, Mr. Ramos is heralded for his contributions to a Los Angeles Times groundbreaking series on Latinos in Southern California that earned the newspaper a 1984 Pulitzer Prize.

As part of this series, Mr. Ramos authored a July 27, 1983 article entitled "Going Home: American Dream Lives in the Barrio," in which Mr. Ramos shares with readers the story of his boyhood life growing up in the "hillside barrio." I would like to honor his memory today by submitting the full text of this article into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

On a more personal note, I was also deeply impressed by another thorough, fact-filled, and beautifully written article about Los Angeles' Latino community that Mr. Ramos authored—my father's October 25, 2005 obituary. In the first sentence, he described my father, the late Congressman Edward Roybal, as a "pioneer in Latino politics in Los Angeles and a godfather and mentor to scores of lawmakers." I find it truly fitting that many of the same words are being used over and over to describe his own life's contributions to journalism.

In addition to his reporting, I have also had the privilege, year after year, of joining Mr. Ramos and other Latino veterans on Memorial Day at Cinco Puntos in Boyle Heights near the Mexican-American All Wars Memorial. A Purple Heart recipient and proud Latino veteran, Mr. Ramos made it a priority to honor our fallen men and women in uniform and often served as the event's Master of Ceremony.

To more fully capture Mr. Ramos' life and accomplishments, I would also like to submit into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following article that appeared in the online publication, CalCoastNews, where Mr. Ramos most recently volunteered as an editor. In the July 26 article, Los Angeles elected officials are quoted universally praising Mr. Ramos' talent for storytelling and his devotion to Los Angeles' Latino community.

Mr. Speaker, as his family, colleagues, fellow veterans, students and many friends prepare to gather for his memorial service August 6 at the Veterans' Memorial Building in Morro Bay, I ask my colleagues to please join me and the entire Los Angeles community in extending our heartfelt condolences to Mr. Ramos' loved ones and all of those whose lives he touched. By all accounts, this self-de-

scribed "kid from East L.A." served Los Angeles well and will be greatly missed.

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNS IN
MEMORY OF GEORGE RAMOS

(July 26, 2011) CALCOASTNEWS—The Los Angeles City Council adjourned today's meeting in memory of George Ramos, a three-time Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter, columnist and editor for the Los Angeles Times, Cal Poly professor, and CalCoastNews editor who was more comfortable referring to himself as "the kid from East L.A."

Ramos, who suffered from increased complications from diabetes, was found dead at his home in Morro Bay Saturday. He was 63. "George was a tenacious reporter and a brilliant story teller who always wrote from the heart," said Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. "A proud son of the Eastside, he intimately captured the Latino experience in Los Angeles and never lost sight of the human dimension in journalism. He will be greatly missed but his legacy and enduring love for our City will live on through the many young journalists he mentored throughout the years."

Ramos was born in Los Angeles on Oct. 1, 1947. He grew up in Belvedere Garden, a neighborhood he described in a 1984 Pulitzer Prize series story as an East L.A. hillside barrio inhabited by "poor but proud people" with "hopes as resilient as tall wheat in a summer breeze." Ramos graduated from Garfield High School and attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where he earned a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1969. He joined the Vietnam War effort, serving in the U.S. Army from March 1970 to September 1971 in West Germany and South Vietnam. He was awarded the Purple Heart after suffering a leg wound.

"I first met George over the phone when I was studying in Oxford more than 15 years ago and recently saw him on Memorial Day at Cinco Puntos. In the intervening years, I came to appreciate his unique perspective on issues facing our great city. His death is a loss for us all," said Council President Eric Garcetti.

First District Councilmember Ed P. Reyes said: "George Ramos was a street reporter, passionate and fiery, who constantly searched for the human side of the news. We will miss his ability to seek truth. It's a perspective that's needed now more than ever and we will miss him."

Ramos joined the L.A. Times in 1978 after working for Copley News Service and the San Diego Union. During his career at the Times, he went on to win three Pulitzer Prizes, an honor only a handful of Latino reporters has accomplished in journalism history.

"As a teacher, journalist and veteran, George Ramos was a friend and mentor to many," said Fourteenth District Councilmember José Huizar. "His influence crossed generations. His keen intellect, sharp sense of humor and deep sense of humanity will be dearly missed. I'm fortunate to have had the opportunity to see all his gifts displayed at our annual Veterans' Memorial commemoration at Cinco Puntos in Boyle Heights, which George participated in numerous times. My thoughts and prayers go out to all mourning the loss of this great man."

Tenth District Councilmember Herb Wesson said: "George Ramos had roots in many communities, and the fact that he cared about those communities was reflected in his writing. He was a fine journalist, and a great role model. The many young journalists he trained, and who maintain his high standards, are the important legacy he leaves us."

"George Ramos had a monumental impact because he was fearless in seeking out the truth and sharing it with the public. I am among the many fans who greatly admired him for his journalistic skills, personal and professional integrity and incredible dedication. Most of all, I appreciate how much he accomplished not just through the printed word but through his own humanity, as he was a wonderful and caring person who mentored countless others, giving them tools and wisdom with which to build a better career, life and world," said Fifth District Councilmember Paul Koretz.

Ramos and former Times editor Frank Sotomayor were co-editors of a groundbreaking series on Latinos in Southern California that won the paper the Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal for Meritorious Public Service in 1984. Seventeen Latino journalists worked on the 27-part series. Ramos also was part of the Times reporting teams that were awarded Pulitzer Prizes for coverage of the 1992 Los Angeles riots and the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

Seventh District Councilmember Richard Alarcón said: "Molded by the mentorship of Rubén Salazar and Frank del Olmo, George Ramos had a very personal connection to his Los Angeles roots and his writing reflected this. By embracing his background, Ramos helped shape the conscience of Los Angeles."

In 2003, Ramos left the Times to return to San Luis Obispo where he served as Cal Poly Journalism Department Chair. Ramos, a mentor to young Latino reporters, also served as president of the California Chicano News Media Association and was inducted into the National Association of Hispanic Journalists Hall of Fame in 2007. Ramos returned to the teaching ranks and continued to serve as the faculty advisor to the Mustang Daily, the student newspaper. He also volunteered as an editor for CalCoastNews, a San Luis Obispo-based website. He admitted, however, that he missed Los Angeles.

Ramos was quoted as saying: "I can't just sit on my laurels. I didn't get into journalism for the rewards. I still consider myself as the kid from East L.A."

George Ramos, the kid from East L.A., served Los Angeles well, the city said in a press release.

[From the Los Angeles Times, July 27, 1983]
GOING HOME: AMERICAN DREAM LIVES IN THE
BARRIO

(By George Ramos)

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[The following story from The Times' archive was part of a series that won the 1984 Pulitzer gold medal for public service for an in-depth examination of Southern California's growing Latino community.]

It is a ritual observed nearly every day. The mail carrier approaches the small cluster of hillside barrio homes in East Los Angeles, armed with spray repellent in case one of his antagonists gets too close.

The neighborhood dogs, sensing the moment, spring to the ready.

Just as he approaches one mailbox a pack of dogs, separated from the mail carrier by a chain-link fence, lets go a chorus of howls that alters all other canines in the area.

The mail carrier quickly deposits his cargo and steps back to his Jeep. No matter, the dogs keep up the yelping. The roosters and chickens in coops on the hills overlooking this noisy scene crow their presence.

MUSIC DROWNED OUT

As the mail carrier wheels his vehicle for a getaway, one dog scales the fence and gives

chase. The howling now seems to drown out the musica Mexicana drifting from the windows of the small homes.

Moments later, the mail carrier is gone. The dog that gave chase nonchalantly returns to his resting place. Mission accomplished; ritual observed.

Welcome to the world of 812 N. Record Ave. After 18 years, I went back to 812 N. Record Ave., to the house where I once lived, at the Belvedere Gardens barrio where I grew up.

My barrio is unique in this megalopolis that is Los Angeles, an obscure corner of an affluent society, a place seldom visited by progress. For example, sidewalks and curbs were installed only recently. English is heard only occasionally.

Downtown Los Angeles is only 4½ miles away, but there is no hint that shiny skyscrapers are just over the horizon. Some neighborhood businesses on Hammel Street, near Record, have deteriorated beyond hope. Dogs, chickens, cars under constant repair, graffiti, homes valued under \$35,000 and neighborhood tortillerias are fixtures in the landscape.

Nestled in a rural-like setting, yet ringed by three urban freeways (San Bernardino, Pomona and Santa Ana) Record is a quiet, out-of-the-way street north of Brooklyn Avenue that trails off in the surrounding hills of another East Los Angeles barrio, City Terrace.

The inhabitants of Record are poor but proud people, comfortable in the knowledge that they own their homes and owe little to an Anglo-dominated society. To them, life on Record is as American as that in Kansas, and hopes are as resilient as tall wheat in the summer breeze.

No one really knows what to expect when he goes back to the old neighborhood.

I remember rampaging on the surrounding hills, building cabins out of abandoned furniture, auto doors and bamboo, and killing imaginary enemies with a crudely constructed gun made of clothespins. In an ongoing scenario, one close friend, David Angulo, was Tarzan and his brother Stephen was Cheetah the chimp. I was a hunter—I can't remember if I ever used the term "Great White Hunter"—always seeking Tarzan's help.

FENCES TAME THE JUNGLE

Now the property owners look after their investments with fences, forcing local jungle warriors to play elsewhere.

There were organized activities for the area's Chicano youngsters. After-hours softball games at Hammel Street School (Panthers vs. Dragonflies) routinely attracted 40 to 50 youngsters, prompting teachers to let them play all at once. Trying to get a ground ball past two shortstops and three third basemen was hard.

As a Dragonfly I remember one game, 6 to 5, on a disputed call at third base. No amount of intervention by the teachers avoided the game's real outcome later—two bloody noses for the Panthers and one scraped knee for us.

But Hammel, where actor Anthony Quinn went to school as a boy, is a far different place today. In my time, the early 1950s, boys and girls were segregated on the playground during recess. Baseball cards, tops and yo-yos were confiscated as unauthorized items.

The school's tough rules extended even to the after-hour softball games. I was once called out simply because I had entered the batter's box before I was told to do so by a teacher.

Youngsters at Hammel were prohibited from speaking Spanish, a common restriction at the time.

Once a classmate whispered something about a movie on television that night. I told him in Spanish that I would see it at a cousin's house. Hearing the chatter, the teacher approached me.

"Not only do I not like talking in class," he said, "but I especially don't like it in Spanish."

I stood in the corner, back turned to the class for an hour. The same offense later earned me a shaking—the teacher shook you until he thought all the knowledge of Spanish had fallen-out-of-your-head.

BILINGUALISM PREVAILS

These days, all office workers at Hammel are bilingual. All the school signs are bilingual.

Charles Lavagnino, Hammel's outgoing principal, was vice principal when I first entered school there. Lavagnino told me that his fondest years as an administrator were in East Los Angeles.

Looking back he conceded that he had supported some of the restrictive measures imposed in the 1950s, mainly to keep a tight rein on unruly students. But improved teaching methods as well as sensitivity to the reality that East Los Angeles is 95% Latino have made Hammel a better school today, Lavagnino told me.

"This is a good school, we try to involve the parents," he said.

I was reminded of other aspects of life on Record as I revisited old haunts;

—La Providencia, the nearby mom-and-pop corner store, still extended credit to its faithful, my 81-year-old grandmother assures me. The owner trudges up Record with Grandma's groceries about twice a month.

—The neighborhood church, Our Lady of Guadalupe, still chimes its invitation every morning.

—The vatos locos (crazy street guys) have changed hardly at all. Dressed in cholo-type "uniforms" (khaki pants, flannel shirts and bandanas around the head) they still cruise neighborhood streets in lowered autos and ask passers-by for money. They are distrustful of outsiders and are quick to confront anyone who challenges their "turf rule" of the area.

—Many of the families I remember have remained in the area. A close friend of my mother provided some insight: "Yes I'd like a nicer home, pero aqui estoy contento. The kind of people who still live here are maybe not the type of people who want to advance, but I am content."

A POSITIVE RESIDENT

In many ways, life on Record has not improved much since my parents bought the small, wood-frame house at 812 for \$3,500 from relatives in 1946. But don't dwell on the negative when you meet my grandmother, the current resident of 812 N. Record.

Living there has given her a freedom she cherishes in old age. No one tells her what to do. She is free to run her life without interference. And there has been no threat to her safety—neighbors look out for one another, and the dogs herald the arrival of any stranger.

The 530-square foot house, built during the Depression, is currently assessed at \$9,873 and may need a lot of work, but Grandma is an optimist. Soon, she said, a shower to replace the old bathtub will be installed. "And look," she promised in Spanish. "I'm having new pipes for the plumbing put in."

Felicitas Ramos, born in the Mexican state of Chihuahua, has a heart that is as loving as it is coy. She is always offering food and is sometimes critical because I am still single,

but there are some subjects best not discussed. For one thing, don't scold her about her oven.

OVEN HEAT PREFERRED

Grandma has this peculiar idea about heating. She'll turn on the oven and lower the oven door.

"It works fine and I'm comfortable," she says.

"But it's dangerous," I remind her. "Something could happen."

"How?"

Concerned grandchildren, fearful that the dreaded would occur, purchased an electric blanket. But during last winter's rains, I noticed that the oven door was still open.

"Oh," she said, "I'm just drying clothes." She then draped clothes over the oven door.

"But there would be a fire," I said.

"How?"

Then she changed the subject: "Want something to eat?"

LITTLE VARIATION

Grandma's daily routine varies little. There is the music from the Spanish-language radio station KWKW, the morning chat outside with the neighbor ("Can I borrow some eggs?") and the puttering in her garden.

At midmorning, she will collect clothes for a wash. In the old days, the washing machine was in the bathroom, making it difficult to use the bathroom for most other purposes. Now the washer is in the bedroom. People on Record don't rely much on dryers. Clotheslines are still in vogue.

Cooking seems to be Grandma's favorite pastime. Flour tortillas are made from scratch and beans and rice are the backbone of any meal—beef, eggs, hamburgers or quesadillas. If you're not ready to eat right away, everything is left warming until you are finally hungry. All meals are accompanied by milk.

By noon it's time for the soaps.

I've never understood how a person with such limited English ability can give a running commentary in Spanish of "Days of Our Lives." But she does.

"Mira, hay 'sta el viejito (describing one of the main thugs). Si, el es papa de Jessica, pero ella no lo quiere. (Why doesn't Jessica like her father, Grandma?) Oh porque el es muy malo con la mama de ella y los pareintes de ella lo saben (And how did Jessica's relatives find out about this cruelty?) El abuelito trabaja en un hospital y la esposa supo todos los problemas que Jessica tenia con su padre."

Maybe working in a hospital does give one insight.

Then she pops her favorite question: "Tienes hambre?"

I decide I'm not hungry yet.

By nightfall, it's time for a movie on Channel 13. Again, Grandma will let me know if I miss anything.

GLIMPSES OF A LIFE

One particular night as the movie unfolded, so did Grandma's life story, an off-limits topic if there had ever been one.

Born in 1902, she said she hardly knew her parents. When she was 17, my father was born. Six years later she moved to the Mexican border town of Ciudad Juarez across from El Paso to find work. There she gave birth to my aunt Hortensia.

She and her two children were on their own when she met a Ft. Bliss soldier, Marcelino Ramos. They were married in a Mexican civil ceremony in 1930, and later repeated their vows in a church in 1933.

In 1936, Marcelino, Grandma and her two offspring came to Los Angeles, settling in an

area near 8th and San Mateo streets on the southern edge of downtown, now an industrial area.

Well, things didn't work out. Marcelino left, the Army was looking for him, he married someone else. (What happened to the divorce, Grandma?) By now her memory seemed to be getting deliberately hazy.

Finally she concluded with the inevitable, "Are you hungry?" I finally decided to eat.

If life at 812 N. Record Ave. is pleasurable for Grandma, then the opposite was true for my parents.

Miguel Antonio Vargas Ramos and Maria Santos Medina were newlyweds when they moved into 812 N. Record Ave. in 1946. The prospect of living there did not excite them at all.

—They saw no future in the house for a young family, given the surroundings and the condition of the dwelling. It didn't come close to the post-World War II housing tracts being built in places like Lakewood.

—There was no possibility of expanding the house. It already had been expanded to add the bedroom, bathroom, porch and garage.

—There was no door-to-door mail delivery. Mail had been delivered down at the corner of Record and Floral Drive, about 300 yards downhill from our house, since the homes on Record were built.

—The same situation existed for trash collection. It had to be hauled down to Record and Floral, no easy task for residents living up the hill where Record trailed off, a distance of about half a mile.

LOOKING ELSEWHERE

My father, who was employed at the now-abandoned Uniroyal tire plant off the Santa Ana Freeway in Commerce, had tried to find other housing—the Aliso Village project on the edge of downtown, the Ramona Gardens project near County-USC Medical Center in Lincoln Heights and a Boyle Heights trailer park that eventually gave way to a Times-Mirror press plant.

He made too much money to qualify for the subsidized housing, but too little to leave Belvedere Gardens.

"I didn't like the area (Record)," he said. "I wanted to leave, but we couldn't do it economically."

"The area was a dumping ground for everything. You'd wake up in the morning and find a car left there . . . no tires, no engine . . . nothing. We had to call the tow truck to haul them away."

And there were the dogs. Mom hated them:

"I always had to clean up after them. And with you guys (my brother and I) around, I had to be careful. Complain about the dogs? Are you kidding? They (the neighbors) would just ignore you."

And the mail.

No one seems to know why the mail was dropped off at Record and Floral. Maybe the dogs were as ferocious in the early 1950s as they are now. Probably no one bothered to ask for door-to-door delivery.

CAUSE FOR CONCERN

But it changed one day when a thief stole a federal income tax refund check from our mailbox. It wasn't a lot—"something like \$120," my mother recalled—but it seemed a lot to us then and its arrival had been anxiously awaited.

With no support from the neighbors, Dad campaigned for door-to-door delivery. It was instituted after a few calls to the right people at the post office.

Mom in the meantime began petitioning for trash collection at each home. She too succeeded, but only after a false start. On

the first day of the scheduled collections (this was in the early 1950s) the neighbors placed their trash in front of their homes. The garbage men never came.

"There I was with egg on my face," my mother recalled.

"So I called again and sure enough the next week they came (to collect the trash). They have been doing that ever since."

Mom even joined the PTA at Hammel Street School, becoming PTA president in 1954. Every time I got into trouble, I was reminded of my mother's good work on the PTA.

Now, when I look back I realize that life was tough on Record. But it didn't seem so at the time.

Yes, my yard was too small to play in, but my ragtag gang of friends considered the streets and hills our playground.

Yes, the house was too small for a growing family, but it seemed adequate to me and I remember how proud my mother was of the new furniture that was bought for the house. (There was no eating allowed in the living room, Mom decreed. Grandma was more lax about such things.)

Dogs? Well, we stayed out of their way. But if someone was challenged to a rock-throwing contest, the dogs turned out to be handy targets. Now, the main objective seems to be to separate neighborhood dogs from other canines and the mail carriers.

A DREAM ACHIEVED

In 1957, my parents finally realized their dream of getting out of East Los Angeles. The found a small tract home for \$12,900 in Downey.

Grandma then moved into our home on Record, but I continued to spend a lot of time there until I went to college because I felt strange in our new environment.

My parents were excited by this new beginning in Downey. It was the end of their rain-bow. I thought I should be excited too, but I wasn't sure. I wondered how I would fit in the neighborhood where there were very few brown faces.

An indication of why I had doubts about life beyond Record was as rude as it was puzzling. A classmate called me a nigger.

The term was unheard of on Record.

George Juarez was one of the neighborhood kids I grew up with. He was a street-wise guy who seemed to know a lot. And showed it. But the years have not been kind to George.

He is a victim of the Eastside's street-gang reality. The facts seem hazy; the neighbors, as well as Grandma occasionally whisper about it.

But it seems that George, now 41, was with some friends who brawled with other Eastside youths in a rather ugly incident back in 1961. George was run over by a car and left for dead. He recovered from some of his injuries after time at County-USA Medical Center and two years of rehabilitation at Rancho Los Amigos Hospital in Downey.

But a brief conversation with George these days betrays his pain. One leg is damaged, and he needs the help of railing to get up the stairs of his home, where he lives with a brother and his mother. His speech is slurred and his memory is hazy—he still asks about my brother Michael who died in 1954.

"Pues ya 'stuvo, Georgie old boy," he says in Eastside street lingo. "I dropped a few pills, drank a lot of hard stuff . . . y pues era muy loco."

"Ahora, I know better, My leg hurts a lot. I drink a little beer, but that's about it."

Several other guys on Record have had run-ins with the law. One neighborhood guy had drug problems after he returned from

military service in Korea. Several of my friends joined the local street gang, Geraghty Loma (named after the hill that Geraghty Avenue winds around), and sheriff's deputies paid occasional visits to unsuspecting parents, who insisted that their sons were good boys in school.

GANG RIVALRIES

Another companion and I were friends with a rival street gang, Los Hazards (named after nearby Hazard Avenue). The conflict occasionally meant defending oneself with more than fists. Two friends from Record who were part of that conflict eventually became part of California's burgeoning penal system.

But for every problem kid, there is a success story.

Two brothers on nearby Herbert Street, for example, have done well by neighborhood standards; one is a career soldier and the other is a Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy, and one resident became a reporter.

Some in the area are alarmed at the street-gang violence and say they won't go out at night. Others bristle at the suggestion that the area is unsafe. Raquel, one of George Juarez's sisters, is eloquent in the street-wise vocabulary that is Record Avenue.

"I tell people I'm from East L.A. And they tell me, 'Wow, man, you must have been chola. Or you're my homegirl.' I'm no chola. I come from a good area. I went to school there."

"I live in Whittier now and I wouldn't have any problems if my kids went to school here."

I have often wondered what will happen to Record Avenue. Will its rural ambiance remain? Will Record still be an obscure corner of society in 20 years?

I don't know all the answers. But of this I am certain.

Spanish will still be the neighborhood language, but the dogs won't always heed it.

Grandmothers like mine will still be there. Life's many chores will be done as they always have been, haphazardly on occasion and other times with meticulous care.

A family's success will not be measured by how much money it earns. It will be evident in the accomplishments of its young.

Record still will nurture dreams of young families for a better life, as well as hold old families to an area where they have grown comfortable.

For those of us who lived there, the world of 812 N. Record Avenue will never be obscure. It will never die.

Until we find a cure for this disease, we need organizations like the CPCC. The men and women working in this organization educate the public, advocate for legislation and funding, and involve communities in the fight against prostate cancer. In my home state of California, prostate cancer is the most common form of cancer among men in almost every ethnic and racial group.

More men are diagnosed with prostate cancer in California than any other state. California also suffers from the highest number of deaths from this disease. I want to thank the CPCC today on behalf of the estimated 25,030 men who will be diagnosed with the disease across the state this year.

Sadly, 1 in 6 men will develop prostate cancer in their lifetime. Prostate cancer is one of the most diagnosed and deadliest types of cancer for men today. Every fifteen minutes an American dies from this disease and over 2.3 million men alive have a history of prostate cancer.

The early stages of prostate cancer usually show no symptoms and there are no self-tests. Early detection is the key to surviving the disease. The exact causes of prostate cancer are still unknown, but awareness allows men to make more informed decisions about their personal health. Organizations like the CPCC help educate men about prostate cancer and guide them through their fight with the disease.

On behalf of my wife, Barbara, and my children, Councilman Joe Baca Jr., Jeremy, Natalie, and Jennifer, we would like to bestow our thoughts and prayers to those men and their families suffering from prostate cancer. As we recognize the important work of California Prostate Cancer Coalition, we stand by all those affected by this disease. I would like to thank the health care professionals, researchers, and advocates who are working tirelessly to cure prostate cancer. I would especially like to recognize Dr. Manouchehr Lalehzarian for his commitment to this cause. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the California Prostate Cancer Coalition. God bless the fathers, sons, and brothers battling this disease, and their families for their patience and love.

SUPPORT H.R. 1154, THE VETERANS EQUAL TREATMENT FOR SERVICE DOGS ACT

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, in 1985, Army Ranger Light Kevin Stone's life changed when the Army vehicle he was in tumbled over a mountain edge and down 144 feet. Stone broke his neck and suffered severe brain trauma to the point of losing every memory prior to the six months before the accident.

A true miracle, Stone now lives an independent life thanks to his service dog, Mambo. But sadly, rules at some Vets Hospitals welcome seeing eye dogs while preventing service dogs like Mambo from coming in.

The working best friends of our wounded vets must be allowed with them at all times in

order to do their jobs—including during VA visits. That's why I'm proud to cosponsor Judge CARTER's effort, H.R. 1154, legislation which will close the working-dog loophole and welcome all dogs into VA care centers.

The VA considers service dogs like Mambo needed prostheses, like legs or arms. And Stone compares Mambo to a crucial tool—a wheelchair.

Current policy allows each VA center to set dog guidelines. That means, Stone is given care at some facilities if Mambo is with him.

We can fix this problem by passing the Veterans for Equal Treatment of Service Dogs Act, or the VETS Dogs Act.

This will ensure working service dogs can accompany their owner to every single VA facility, just like seeing eye dogs are allowed to do. This will be a permanent solution for our wounded veterans.

Kevin Stone credits his service dogs—Mambo, and Mambo's predecessor, Jonah—with allowing him to successfully represent his country around the world. He's no longer in camouflage, but another type of uniform: Kevin Stone used his service dog to compete on the U.S. Paralympic team. He won bronze in Athens and he's set American records in Beijing. With Mambo at his side, Stone continues to represent the U.S. Olympic Committee on the U.S. Paralympic Committee's Military Program as a coach and mentor.

Not all wounded vets compete with their service dogs, but they do everyday things like other Americans: when they get on the bus, get their groceries, get their mail and go to the doctor's office, their service dogs are there.

Colleagues, you may not know a veteran personally injured in Iraq or Afghanistan, but go to a VA in your district, and you'll meet hundreds of our nation's heroes who gave so much, but had so much taken away.

If service dogs allow our wounded vets to lead happy and independent lives, then we have a duty to ensure government regulations help, not hinder, the relationship between dog and owner.

Join us as we work to better the lives of our vets and as our veterans are empowered to overcome challenges. Because retired Army Ranger Light Fighter Kevin Stone isn't playing a game when he tells Mambo to "fetch".

HONORING THOMAS SHERIDAN

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of my life-long friend, Mr. Thomas Sheridan.

Tom Sheridan and I grew up together in our hometown of East Hartford, Connecticut. We attended Saint Rose's School where we were taught by the Sisters of Notre Dame and were teammates playing football for Pappy's Black Knights; I was the quarterback, he was the center.

After graduation Tom went on to serve with distinction during the Vietnam War earning several medals including the Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and a Presidential Unit Citation.

TRIBUTE TO THE OUTSTANDING WORK OF THE CALIFORNIA PROSTATE CANCER COALITION

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask Congress to raise awareness for prostate cancer and recognize the California Prostate Cancer Coalition (CPCC) for its outstanding efforts to fight prostate cancer. The CPCC is a coalition of health professionals, prostate cancer survivors and families, and support groups concerned about this disease across the state of California. I ask my colleagues to join me today to extend our appreciation for CPCC's work on behalf of the men and families affected by prostate cancer.

At the close of his military service Tom came home to Connecticut to be with his beautiful wife, Nancy, and raise their two sons who were the greatest joys of his life, Kevin and Brett,

Tom became a successful attorney and later served the Connecticut General Assembly as the Clerk of the House. It was one of the greatest moments in my career when I had the honor to appoint him Senate Clerk, where he served until his final days with distinction, integrity, and fairness.

Tom will be dearly missed and it is my honor to remember my friend today before this esteemed body.

OFFERING CONDOLENCES TO THE
PEOPLE OF NORWAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my deep condolences to the people of Norway with respect to the recent tragedy which took the lives of innocent citizens, many of them children.

Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg has wisely observed that the people of Norway are "unused to violence in your quiet country of 4.8 million" and that they "must struggle with how to improve security without jeopardizing the freedom and openness of your society." I commend his courage and encourage the people of Norway to embrace his wisdom.

While the horror of what has happened can carve a dark hole in the hearts of the people of Norway, each person has the power and the strength to heal those who have lost their loved ones through their individual commitment to remain open to each other. Each citizen can choose not to let those who would divide their nation sow their seeds of doubt, hate and division.

As we mourn the loss we ask the people of Norway to remember that their country has many admirers. On several occasions during the last decade the nation of Norway has been recognized as the best country in which to live. This compassionate country built a public health care system that cares for all of its citizens. Their nation created an education system that sets their literacy rate at almost 100 percent. Their understanding of the importance of family provides parental benefits and paternity leave for the first full year in the life of a newborn child.

As the citizen's of Norway already demonstrate in their daily interactions with each other and in their willingness to build a society that truly cares for the well being of all of its citizens; openness, compassion and the ability to reach across cultural and ethnic lines is essential to build peace and strengthen nations.

The nation of Norway is a noble one. We know its citizens will stand together through this dark hour. We want them to know that we are standing with them.

SUPPORT OF H.J. RES. 66: APPROVING THE RENEWAL OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS CONTAINED IN THE BURMESE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2003

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.J. Res. 66, approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the "Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003."

I support this resolution because it is consistent with our humanitarian and democratic values against forced labor. As Americans, we must not only sustain these values in our country but we must act globally and deter other countries from tolerating or employing practices that have no place in a civilized society such as forcing innocent men, women, and children to work under harsh and slave-like labor conditions. For this reason, it is critical that we renew the import restrictions contained in the "Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003."

Mr. Speaker, it is helpful to recount briefly why import restrictions were placed by the United States on Burma and why it is important to renew them.

In 1990, Burma's State Peace and Development Council, SPDC, known then as the State Law and Order Restoration Council, held multiparty elections. The overwhelming number of parliamentary seats (82 percent) was won by the National League for Democracy party, led by Nobel Prize for Peace Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. However, the military regime refused to honor the election results, however, and arrested and imprisoned both democracy activists and elected members of parliament, including Aung San Suu Kyi.

Multiparty general elections were next held in Burma on Nov. 7, 2010 as part of the "roadmap to democracy" proposed by the ruling military regime. The National League refused to participate over concerns that the electoral process was fraudulent, concerns that were confirmed by the United Nations and most Western countries, which noted widespread fraud, voter intimidation and cheating throughout the country.

Since then, the Burmese regime has continued its campaign of suppression and persecution against political opponents, dissidents and other minority populations. This shameful conduct has resulted in the internal displacement of more than 600,000 people and forced more than 130,000 persons to live in refugee camps along the Thai-Burma border. Additionally, during this time the SPDC regime has been protecting drug traffickers and forcing residents into slave labor.

In response to these atrocities, Congress enacted the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act in 2003, which it reauthorized in 2009. The law imposed import restrictions; froze any assets held by the regime in the United States; and expressed U.S. opposition for international lending to the SPDC. The law also prohibited the issuance of U.S. entry visas to members of the SPDC and con-

demned the regime's campaign against its people and expressed support for opposition groups.

These restrictions are to remain in place until the State Department certifies that the regime no longer systematically violates the human rights of the Burmese people; no longer uses slave and child labor; and halts the conscription of child soldiers. The law also requires as a precondition to lifting the restrictions that the regime make demonstrable progress in releasing political prisoners, permitting free speech, permitting the peaceful exercise of religion, and holding free and fair elections.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, the regime in Burma has not made the necessary progress to justify lifting the restriction. According to a recent report of Human Rights Watch, the highly respected NGO, tens of thousands of villagers have been displaced and fled to the Thai-Burma and China-Burma borders and there are many credible reports of cases of sexual violence against women and girls by Burma army troops. These reports are in line with extensive documentation of sexual violence perpetrated by Burmese military personnel over many years.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees recently listed Burma as the fifth largest source country of refugees in 2010, with 415,700 refugees.

In view of its atrocious record it would send the wrong signal to the Burmese regime, the international community, and, most important, dissidents working to bring real democratic change to their country.

For these reasons, I strongly support the continued imposition of sanctions on the Burmese regime. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.J. Res. 66.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE COUNCIL ON AMERICAN-ISLAMIC RELATIONS' EIGHTH ANNUAL SHARING RAMADAN INTERFAITH IFTAR DINNER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Eighth Annual Sharing Ramadan Interfaith Iftar Dinner hosted by the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) Ohio's Cleveland Chapter. This event creates good will and understanding among members of the Muslim and interfaith communities while providing a traditional Middle Eastern dinner.

During Ramadan, Muslims fast each day from dawn to sunset. Iftar is the meal eaten after sunset to break the fast. This event allows members of the Muslim and interfaith communities of Cleveland to share in the Ramadan tradition of Iftar together.

By sharing Ramadan with the community, the Cleveland Chapter of CAIR-Ohio believes it can allay stereotypes about Islam, build friendships among members of the Muslim and interfaith communities, and prevent the spread of Islamophobia.

The keynote speaker at this event will be Muneer O. Awad, who is Executive Director of

the Oklahoma Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations. After just two short weeks on the job, Mr. Awad made great strides in the fight for civil rights for Muslims when he filed a federal lawsuit to stop Oklahoma from amending its Constitution to ban consideration of Islamic principles in court. He is also a recipient of the 2011 Tulsa Metropolitan Ministries Russell Bennett recognition, which is awarded to people who demonstrate courage in social justice leadership in Oklahoma.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I invite you to join me in recognition of CAIR's eighth annual Sharing Ramadan Interfaith Iftar Dinner, which brings together people of diverse backgrounds for a night of celebration, friendship, and mutual understanding.

INTRODUCING H.R. 2790, THE CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES EXTENSION AND ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2011

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2790, the Child and Family Services Extension and Enhancement Act of 2011.

Two child welfare programs expire on September 30 this year, namely the Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs. Although only a small part of total federal child welfare funding, these two programs support State efforts to keep families together so children can safely remain with their own parents or be supported by other caring adults when necessary.

The Child and Family Services Extension Act will ensure that these two programs continue to help children remain safely with their own families or be cared for by other loving adults. This bipartisan bill extends these important programs, while adding important transparency and accounting requirements. Additionally, it does so without increasing spending or deficits.

This bill also requires that States establish common data standards to improve the sharing of information, which will improve the efficiency of the programs while allowing States to better coordinate services for children and families.

In introducing this bill, we are continuing the tradition of bipartisan child welfare legislation in Congress. I thank the Ranking Member on the Human Resources Subcommittee, Mr. DOGGETT of Texas, for introducing this legislation with me, and for his efforts to move it forward. I look forward to moving this legislation through the Ways & Means Committee in the coming months.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE
HONORABLE RON SWEGLES

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of The Honorable Ron Swegles, a highly distinguished constituent, former Mayor and Vice Mayor, a dedicated City Councilman, a cherished friend and a beloved member of his community of Sunnyvale, California.

Ron Swegles passed into eternal life on July 20, 2011, at the age of 67. He blessed us all with his presence and his devotion to the people of Sunnyvale. He was a committed family man and is survived by his wife Gail, his five children, nine grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Ron Swegles graduated from Wayne Memorial High School in Wayne, Michigan, and shortly thereafter, he joined the U.S. Navy, serving from 1962 to 1966. After his military service, Ron attended Cleary University. In 1984, he moved his family to the Bay Area and made the Peninsula his new home.

Ron was a friend to everyone. He was well known in the community for always wanting to help others. He was a mentor to many Bay Area residents, which led him to seek local office. He was first elected to the Sunnyvale City Council in 2003 and he served as the City's Vice Mayor from 2004 to 2005, and as its Mayor from 2005 to 2006. Ron was a member of the City's Planning Commission, the Downtown Planning Committee, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Senior Advisory Committee. He was a graduate of both Leadership Sunnyvale and the Sunnyvale Public Safety Community Academy, and he served as a board member for the Sunnyvale Chamber of Commerce.

Ron prized the value of civic service, dedicating his time to every aspect of local government. He was a member of the Military Affairs Council since 2004; the Moffett Restoration Advisory Board from 2004 to 2007; the Santa Clara Valley Water District Water Commission since 2008; the California Housing and Community Development Commission; and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority Policy Advisory Committee. He was also a member of the Onizuka Local Redevelopment Authority and Citizens Advisory Committee for Base Closure, working toward a reuse plan that would convert the closing of Onizuka Air Force Station to an area that would continue to benefit Sunnyvale and the surrounding communities.

Ron was honored for his service on numerous occasions, including being named Sunnyvale Rotarian of the Year in 2003 by the Sunnyvale Rotary Club. One of Ron's greatest joys was when he was serving as a Director of Leisure Ministries at Los Altos United Methodist Church. Apart from his community service, Ron's professional career with Brandenburg Staedler & Moore spanned more than 21 years as their Community Advisor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Ron

Swegles and extend our sympathy to his family and friends whom he loved so much. His decades of contributions to his community and his country stand as lasting legacies of a life lived well. How privileged I am to have known this wonderful man and to have had him as a colleague and a friend. Those of us who knew him will miss him deeply, and his life stands as a testament to what it means to be a community leader and a true patriot.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF SALVATORE
R. CALANDRA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mr. Salvatore R. Calandra, a municipal court judge from Cleveland, Ohio.

The son of Italian immigrants, Mr. Calandra was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. He graduated from Cathedral Latin High School and went on to John Carroll University and Cleveland Marshall Law. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

In 1957, Salvatore married Marie Manfredi. During the same year, he started his career in public service and was appointed as an assistant city law director. He served in this role under three mayors and became a legal adviser to council, a role in which he served for 10 years. He then became the law department's chief counsel and was appointed to be a judge in 1972.

Mr. Calandra was elected as a municipal court judge in 1973 and was re-elected three consecutive times until his retirement in 1997. He was proactive on the bench and made many contributions, such as streamlining the jury system so jurors did not wait as long for trials to start. Additionally, he began a work service program for the impoverished.

In addition to his public service career, Mr. Salvatore was an active member of the Cleveland community. In addition to washing dishes at spaghetti dinners and the annual Labor Day festival at St. Rocco's parish, his family helped to build the Italian Catholic Church on Fulton Road. He was also president of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland; head of the Justinian Forum, lawyers of Italian heritage; and was inducted into the Ohio Italian-American Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mr. Salvatore R. Calandra, a man whose ceaseless dedication and service to the Cleveland community will be sorely missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 603, I was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF PARMA HEIGHTS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the City of Parma Heights, Ohio, as they celebrate the city's centennial. Since 1911, Parma Heights has been an exemplary community within Northeast Ohio.

Conrad Countryman and his family were Parma Heights' first residents when they moved to the corner of Stumph and Pearl Roads in the Western Reserve Township of Brooklyn in 1817. By 1826, Parma Township, now known as Parma Heights, had severed from Brooklyn Township. Parma Heights continued to grow and expand, and in 1907, Wooster Pike, now known as Pearl Road, became the first rural red brick road in the nation. Parma Heights officially became a village in 1911.

By November of 1953, Parma Heights had adopted a Charter of the City of Parma Heights, and, in January 1959, Parma Heights attained city status. Since then, Parma Heights has been known as a "small town oasis in a convenient big city location."

Over the years, Parma Heights has produced such distinguished civil servants as Magistrate Paul W. Cassidy and Mayor Michael P. Byrne. Magistrate Cassidy honorably served the City of Parma Heights for fifty-six years before retiring in 2009. Michael P. Byrne became the fourteenth mayor of the City of Parma Heights in 2010.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honoring the City of Parma Heights, Ohio as its residents celebrate the city's centennial.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF THE CASA DEL DESIERTO (HARVEY HOUSE)

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Casa Del Desierto, a historical Harvey House located in the city of Barstow, CA, on the occasion of its 100th birthday.

One of eighty four Harvey Houses stretching along the Santa Fe Railway from Kansas to California, the Casa Del Desierto was designed by Fred Harvey Company architect Mary Colter and was constructed in 1911 by the Santa Fe Railway. Its distinctive Spanish Renaissance and Classical Revival architecture stands as a lasting legacy of America's westward expansion in the Mojave Desert.

Harvey Houses revolutionized the service delivery to railroad companies, businessmen, and families making the long journey out west. Prior to the development of the Fred Harvey Company establishments, travelers were forced to choose from roadside establishments with limited options for dining and lodging. The

Harvey House model included standardized, quality, sizable meals, and eventually lodging at some of the larger Houses. At the beginning of the twentieth century there was a Harvey House located nearly every 100 miles along the Santa Fe Railway.

In 1975 the Casa Del Desierto was declared a national landmark on the National Register of Historic Places and in the 1990s the City of Barstow undertook a sizable restoration of the building, ensuring that the proud history of the west can be shared with generations to come. The building is now the home to the Barstow Chamber of Commerce, the Route 66 Museum, and the Western American Railroad Museum.

I am proud to join with the City of Barstow to recognize the Casa Del Desierto on their centennial and trust that because of the great efforts of the residents of Barstow to preserve their western heritage, our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy and learn about our storied past.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 461, I was detained off the House floor during this vote series and was unable to cast my vote before the vote was closed. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

COMMEMORATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF SIXTY-SIX VERMONT TOWNS

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 66 Vermont towns that are two hundred and fifty years young this year.

Two and a half centuries ago, Vermont as we know it did not exist. Ownership of the territory that now makes up the state was disputed between the colonies of New Hampshire and New York. Authorities in both colonies granted charters for towns in the territory to speculators. Benning Wentworth, colonial Governor of New Hampshire, granted nearly 130 of these charters in the early 1760s. It is for this reason that so many of Vermont's towns are currently celebrating their Semiquincentennial anniversaries, with several more to follow in the coming years.

It is from this unusual history that Vermont towns and those who inhabited them developed their spirit of independence, self reliance and community. That spirit was passed along to future generations and remains just as vibrant today as it was in the early 1760s. It is a heritage that has defined our state and one we are proud to celebrate.

As Vermont's representative to this House, I rise today to recognize the following towns, whose contributions to Vermont began before

our nation's founding and continue today as they celebrate their two hundred fiftieth anniversaries:

Addison, Andover, Arlington, Barnard, Bennington, Brandon, Bridgewater, Bridport, Brunswick, Castleton, Cavendish, Chester, Clarendon, Cornwall, Danby, Dorset, Fairlee, Ferdinand, Glastenbury, Granby, Guildhall, Guilford, Hartford, Hartland, Killington, Leicester, Ludlow, Maidstone, Manchester, Marlboro, Middlebury, Mount Tabor, New Haven, Norwich, Panton, Pawlet, Peru, Pittsford, Plymouth, Pomfret, Poultney, Reading, Rupert, Rutland, Salisbury, Sandgate, Shaftsbury, Sharon, Shoreham, Shrewsbury, Somerset, Springfield, Stockbridge, Stratford, Stratton, Sunderland, Thetford, Tinmouth, Tunbridge, Wallingford, Weathersfield, Wells, Weybridge, Windsor, Winhall, and Woodstock.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE LIFE OF DAN REYNA

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and the lasting impact that Dan Reyna had on our Nation. As General Manager of the U.S. Section of the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission, he worked to address critical public health issues in the border region, such as diabetes and tuberculosis.

I had the pleasure of working with Dan for the past five years, and I was impressed with his dedication and tireless advocacy for improving health and quality of life on the border. Dan spent over 25 years as an advocate for the U.S.-Mexico border and was a national expert on border health issues, working for the Texas Department of Health and the New Mexico Department of Health before joining the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission.

One example of Dan's positive impact was the Border Health Commission's Healthy Border Initiative 2010. The overarching goals of the campaign were to improve the quality and increase the years of healthy life and eliminate health disparities for border residents. The initiative was a success, decreasing the prevalence of diseases, and giving individuals the tools they need to lead a healthy lifestyle.

Dan also served his country proudly for over 21 years in the U.S. Army. He retired from the U.S. Army Reserve as a colonel, having served in Afghanistan as the Senior Health Action Officer and Coalition Forces Liaison to multiple national ministries including the Ministry of Health in 2003 and 2004. Dan's exemplary military career began early. Even as a cadet he was honored as a Distinguished Military Graduate, an honor only achieved by the Nation's top cadets. Throughout his career he continued to distinguish himself earning awards that included the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Bronze Star Medal and the Legion of Merit.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Dan's wife and family during this difficult time as well as the staff at the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission. One thing that I will always remember about Dan is that no challenge was

ever too difficult or complex to conquer, and, if everyone adopted this approach, the world would be a better place. Dan's work and impact on the border region will always serve as an inspiration for others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 333 I was delayed in leaving a meeting with a constituent group when the vote was called and was unable to reach the House floor to cast my vote before the vote was closed. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING MITCHELL CARY

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District to honor the life and memory of Mr. Mitchell Cary.

Cary, 64, was a retired United States Air Force Colonel and test pilot. He worked as an Air Force Civil Servant at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Regrettably, Cary was piloting the Wright "B" Flyer's Silver Bird look-alike when a mishap occurred that led to his passing on Saturday July 30, 2011. Mitch had a passion for flying, and over the course of his military career and into retirement, he flew more than forty-five types of Air Force, Navy and Army aircraft.

Mitchell Cary grew up near Hamilton, Indiana on a farm, graduating from Purdue University, the Air Force Institute of Technology and the University of Dayton. At the time of his passing, Mitch was a board member, volunteer and former president of Wright "B" Flyer Inc. of Dayton. This is an organization that flies and displays look-alikes of the Wright Brothers' first production airplane. Mitch had a passion for preserving and promoting the heritage of the Wright Brothers and the Birth of Aviation. He took their story of innovation around the world.

Thus, today I ask my colleagues to join me and the constituents of the Ohio's Seventh Congressional District in honoring the life, legacy, and memory of Mr. Mitchell Cary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 413 I was delayed in leaving a meeting with a constituent group when the vote was called and was unable to reach the House

floor to cast my vote before the vote was closed. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

HONORING DON RAY GUM

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District to honor the life and memory of Mr. Don Ray Gum.

Gum, 73, was a Professional Engineer and was employed at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Regrettably, Gum was piloting the Wright "B" Flyer's Silver Bird look-alike when a mishap occurred, resulting in his passing on Saturday, July 30, 2011.

Gum received his degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Cincinnati and his Master in Science from The Ohio State University. Gum served as Branch Chief in the Simulation Techniques Branch of the Air Force Human Resources Laboratory, in the then-Flight Dynamics Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. He also served his community as a member of the City of Beavercreek Planning Commission.

After retiring, Gum spent time doing what he loved most, building and flying planes and spending time with his family. He worked hard at promoting the legacy of the Wright Brothers through volunteering his time as a pilot and as an aircraft builder with the Wright "B" Flyer Inc. Don was a pilots' pilot and took the story of the Wright Brothers and the Birth of Aviation around the world.

Thus, today I ask my colleagues to join me and the constituents of the Ohio's Seventh Congressional District in honoring the life, legacy and memory of Mr. Don Ray Gum.

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF EDUCATING LAWYERS WHO LEAD AT SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the centennial celebration of Santa Clara University School of Law. The law school was founded in 1911 and has always been dedicated to educating lawyers to become leaders in our community.

Santa Clara University, founded in 1851 as "Santa Clara College," is California's oldest operating institution of higher learning. It was established on the site of Mission Santa Clara de Asís, one of the original California missions. The Institute of Law was formed in 1911 as a small night program and, in 1914, degrees were conferred upon the first graduating class of the law school—a class consisting of just 14 young men. Women were first admitted to the law school in 1956 and in, 1963, Associate Dean Mary Emery was

among a group of 3 women who were the first to graduate. Dean Emery went on to become the Director of the Heafey Law Library, a post she continues to hold today.

Santa Clara Law has a long history of dedication to underrepresented groups. In the early 1970s, law students formed organizations for Asian, Black, Latino, and female law students, and a law clinic was formed to assist low-income clients in 1971. In the early 1980s, groups were founded to support Jewish, Middle Eastern, and gay law students as well.

In the last decade, Santa Clara Law has fought injustice with the Northern California Innocence Project, The Katharine and George Alexander Law Center, and the 9th Circuit Immigration Law Clinic. The law school has stayed on the cutting edge of local and international issues through the Law Review, High Tech Law Journal, and International Law Journal.

For the last 100 years, Santa Clara Law has educated thousands of lawyers while emphasizing the University's ideals of competence, conscience and compassion. Our Santa Clara County community as well as the legal profession have benefited from the efforts of Santa Clara to produce lawyers who lead.

I am proud to be an alumna of Santa Clara University School of Law, I would like to commend them for a hundred years of exceptional work, and I wish them the best in years to come.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN CLARENCE ELLSWORTH MILLER

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District to honor the life and memory of Congressman Clarence Ellsworth Miller.

Congressman Miller began his extensive and prolific public service career in 1963 when he was elected mayor of Lancaster, Ohio. During that time, he was also very active in the National League of Cities and the Ohio Municipal League. Congressman Miller was also a member of the executive committee of the Mayors Association of Ohio.

In 1967, Congressman Miller was elected to represent Ohio's Tenth Congressional District where he served for 26 years. Congressman Miller always represented his constituents with pride and integrity. He understood his southeastern Ohio district and fought vigorously to ensure that his constituents' needs were constantly being met.

Congressman Miller was well known for being a staunch fiscal conservative. While in Congress, Congressman Miller gained respect for introducing bills that were aimed at reducing spending but still meeting the obligations of our Nation. He was awarded a Treasury watchdog award every year he was in Congress because of his great concerns with regard to the national debt and overspending at the federal level.

Throughout his time in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Miller served

on several House committees including Appropriations, Agriculture, and Public Works and Transportation. Additionally, he served as vice chairman of the Office of Technical Assessment and served on a special committee who forced other countries to reimburse the United States for costs associated with the 1991 Gulf War.

Congressman Miller dedicated much of his time in Congress to the Armed Forces. The Congressman worked tirelessly to ensure that all branches of the military had the resources they needed to protect this great nation. He respected all men and women in uniform and admired their dedication and bravery.

Following his service in Congress, Representative Miller further impacted Lancaster and Fairfield County by serving on the Board of Directors for the YMCA and Red Cross, and devoting time and support to public officials and the area.

In honor of Congressman Miller's influential and selfless efforts to the community, the Lancaster Post Office was renamed after him as well as the county health department building.

Congressman Clarence Ellsworth Miller truly was a fine example of what all members of Congress and those in public service should strive to become.

After a long life of dedicated public service, Clarence Ellsworth Miller, 93, passed away on August 2, 2011. Congressman Miller was preceded in death by his wife, Helen, and left behind a son, Ron, daughter, Jackie, five grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and two stepgrandchildren.

**RECOGNIZING FLORIDA TEACHER
OF THE YEAR RECIPIENT ALVIN
DAVIS FOR HIS EXEMPLARY
SERVICE AND DEDICATION**

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Alvin A. Davis, who as a teacher has shown outstanding merit and dedication to his profession and who has been a source of inspiration and courage for hundreds of students in my hometown of Miramar, Florida. For his accomplishments as the head band and music teacher for Miramar High School, Mr. Davis has recently been awarded the 2012 Florida Department of Education's prestigious Teacher of the Year Award. Additionally, Mr. Davis has previously been recognized as the 2011 Broward County Teacher of the Year and the African-American Community Unsung Hero Award in 2010 for his dedication to his students and the community.

While Mr. Davis teaches music, many see him as more than just a 'music teacher.' For the past ten years he has taken the initiative to go above and beyond his duties as a teacher and makes the focus of his class on three things: academics, discipline, and music. He requires his students to receive one-on-one counseling with a member of the band staff and he personally reviews students' report cards and interim reports, even though it may

not be part of his job description. Every school band rehearsal includes a one-hour study hall where students are tutored, even though his school may not have the budget for it.

But what is most outstanding is how Mr. Davis has made it his personal mission to ensure that his students make it on to college and move on to a brighter future, one that some students could never dream of. The Broward County school district confirms that for the past three years, every student who was a regular participating member of the Miramar High band program has gone on to college. Mr. Davis personally counsels his students on their future decisions and requires that seniors be only able to perform if they have registered for the ACT or SAT and if they can prove that they have applied to a college or university. Through his vision and steadfast dedication, Mr. Davis has single-handedly transformed the lives and futures of hundreds of students and their families.

Education is the back-bone of our country. It is what has made America prosperous, what has made the quality of life in this country the envy of the world, and what has safeguarded our democracy. Yet today we live in a time where the American education system, once ranked as top in the world, has slipped and tumbled to the point of not even making top twenty in some categories. Unfortunately, there are some voices who now decry the public education system as hopeless and worthy of scrapping. To those who have lost faith, I say that they should hear of the vision and successes of Mr. Alvin Davis who is dedicated, selfless, and capable, and works tirelessly every single day to transform the future of Florida's education system.

Mr. Speaker, as we recognize and honor Mr. Alvin A. Davis today for his accomplishments and his dedication, may we also recognize the hope and light educators like Mr. Davis bring to the future of this country.

**HONORING JOHN PATRICK CARR,
JR.**

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of John Patrick Carr, Jr. of York, Maine.

John Carr, Jr. was a truly dedicated family man, a strong community advocate and a friend. John began his career working with the New England Telephone Company and moved on to become the International Representative for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. He remained a longtime member of the IBEW Local 2222.

Following his retirement, John and his wife, Joan, relocated to York, Maine in order to live closer to family and enjoy time with their children and many grandchildren, of which they now have 12. Never one to stay on the sidelines, John became very active as an advocate for senior citizens throughout the State of Maine.

He served as the President of the Maine Council of Senior Citizens for upwards of 10

years, during which time he made a tremendous impact on his community and his state. He fought hard for affordable healthcare for senior citizens and to educate lawmakers on the full impact of numerous pieces of legislation on his community. He also served as a dedicated and active member of the York County Democratic Committee.

I always enjoyed my opportunities to work with John; he had a passion for his work and for the people on whose behalf he advocated. John will be missed by many, but I know that his contributions to the state of Maine are a lasting legacy.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring John Patrick Carr, Jr. for his life of dedication and service to his community, his family and to the State of Maine.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK
OF THOM RUMBERGER**

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thom Rumberger, who dedicated much of his life to preserving and restoring the unique, national treasure that is the Everglades. Thom's dedication and perseverance, in fact, earned him the nickname "Defender of the Everglades."

The importance of the Everglades to both Florida and our country cannot be understated, and so neither can the accomplishments of a man who spent a significant amount of his career working to protect this one-of-a-kind national treasure. As an instrumental part in the passage of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and the securing of several billion dollars in funding to execute this overarching plan to restore the Everglades, we owe him a great debt of gratitude both as Americans and as Everglades supporters.

Thom's noteworthy accomplishments are not just limited to the Everglades, he was also involved in the implementation of two constitutional amendments as well as some of the first manatee protection laws.

Thom's success extends to his career in private practice, as a founding partner of the Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell law firm. Under his leadership, the firm's modest beginnings quickly expanded to the forefront of global business litigation, representing such multinational corporations as American Airlines, Inc., Sears, Roebuck and Co., and Toyota Motor Corporation. Today, his firm includes 75 trial attorneys in five offices across Florida and Alabama. Thom has also been listed in Florida Super Lawyers every year from 2007 to 2010.

In addition to spending his career as a public servant, judge and prosecutor, Thom is a dedicated father and grandfather.

Throughout his four decades in public service, Thom Rumberger embodied the importance of looking out for the common good. Thanks to the selfless commitment of folks like Thom, the restoration of America's Everglades is well underway.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan resolution recognizing and honoring the life and work of Thom Rumberger.

HONORING STEVE LEVESQUE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the accomplishments of Steve Levesque of Maine.

The National Association of Defense Communities has honored Mr. Levesque with its 2011 Base Redevelopment Leadership Award for his hard work on behalf of Brunswick, Maine and the surrounding communities. This award recognizes Mr. Levesque as the country's best base redevelopment official for his work in leading the conversion of Brunswick Naval Air Station for civilian reuse by the Mid-coast Regional Redevelopment Authority.

Steve serves as the executive director of the Mid-coast Regional Redevelopment Authority and has been charged with overseeing reuse of the 3,200-acre former air station, which closed as a military installation on May 31.

Recipients of the Base Redevelopment Leadership Award exhibit leadership abilities that not only enhance the success of their project, but provide management, direction and vision to building an effective and thriving community redevelopment program. The recipient must have proven success in achieving the ongoing goals of the redevelopment plan and creating a successful economic development plan. Steve has met and surpassed these qualifications with his work on the Brunswick Naval Air Station transition.

I am confident that Steve will carry on his track record of excellence in his continued role with the Mid-Coast Region Redevelopment Authority working on the reuse of the Brunswick Naval Air Station. Steve has left a lasting mark on this region and the state of Maine. On behalf of the people of Maine, it is with pride that I congratulate Steve for his excellent work.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Steven Levesque on the receipt of this award, and in thanking him for his dedication to the state of Maine.

RECOGNIZING EUROPE'S BLACK POPULATION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution recognizing Europe's Black population and expressing solidarity with their struggle as we mark 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent.

Some years ago, on April 29, 2008, I chaired a U.S. Helsinki Commission hearing entitled, "The State of (In)visible Black Europe: Race, Rights, and Politics" which focused on the more than seven million people who make up Europe's Black or Afro-descendant population.

Since that hearing, I have been calling for the recognition of Black Europeans, who, de-

spite their numerous contributions to European society, like African-Americans, face the daily challenges of racism and discrimination. This includes being the targets of violent hate crimes and racial profiling, in addition to continuing inequalities in education, housing, employment, and in other sectors. Few Black Europeans are in leadership positions, and political participation is also limited for many, providing obstacles for addressing these problems.

This resolution supports the 2011 International Year for People of African Descent goal to recognize and support the economic, political, cultural, and social inclusion of Black Europeans, including by urging European governments to develop and implement anti-discrimination legislation and other plans of action in cooperation with Black European communities.

Given the lessons learned from our own civil rights struggle and continuing anti-discrimination and diversity efforts in Europe, the resolution also supports an increase in transatlantic cooperative efforts between U.S. and European governments, civil society, and the private sector to provide useful partnerships and assistance in combating racism and discrimination abroad and at home. Specifically, U.S. government support is requested to aid such efforts in line with U.S. support for human rights.

I believe that cooperation is key to addressing the global problems of racism and discrimination. It is for this reason that, since 2009, I have worked in cooperation with minority and other European legislators to hold annual events in Brussels, Belgium at the European Parliament focused on addressing the situation of Blacks and other minorities, with a focus on increasing political participation. These events include the 2009 Black European Summit: Transatlantic Dialogue on Political Inclusion and the 2010 and 2011 Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conferences, where solutions, such as a U.S.-EU Joint Action Plan on Racial and Ethnic Equality and Inclusion have been discussed.

As I continue to work on these initiatives, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this Resolution Recognizing Black Europeans during the International Year or People of African Descent. Additionally, I would like to submit the following background materials on Black Europeans for the official record.

HONORING GRETCHEN KIMBALL AND ANNETTE CALDWELL

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gretchen Kimball and Annette Caldwell for receiving the 2011 "Maine Agriculture in the Classroom" Teacher of the Year award and for receiving one of the five "Excellence in Teaching about Agriculture" awards from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and the National Agriculture in the Classroom Consortium.

Gretchen and Annette created the Buckfield Garden Project at Buckfield Junior/Senior High

School in Buckfield, ME. The project is a 1.2-acre garden and farm stand run by the teachers' middle school students. The students research and plan which plants to include in the garden, and every step of the process, from soil cultivation to managing the budget, involves student participation. The project teaches the students agricultural, business and problem solving skills.

The Buckfield Garden Project has become a point of pride for the entire community, not just the students. In the project's first harvest, the students earned \$3,500. The students elected to donate this money to a local family struggling with severe medical hardship. Through Gretchen and Annette's unique and innovative approach to education, these students are learning practical skills as well as making valuable connections with their community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating Gretchen Kimball and Annette Caldwell's achievement in receiving these awards.

RECOGNIZING MS. CAROL J. ROSELLE FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PALM BEACH COMMUNITY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a lady who has made a lifelong commitment to transforming her talents and hobbies into thousands of acts of kindness and giving. Ms. Carol J. Roselle, a resident of West Palm Beach, FL, has been knitting and crocheting since she was a young girl during World War II. Her Aunt Emma would take her to Red Cross meetings, where Ms. Roselle observed women knitting cuffs to keep soldiers warm. Throughout the intervening years she has knit an array of gifts for friends and family members, but when she began volunteering for the Lantana Health Center in 2002, the scope of her giving expanded dramatically.

Ms. Roselle and her knitting group, the 3 B's, have spent the last 9 years lovingly knitting booties, blankets, and beanies for newborns, as well as lap blankets for veterans in wheelchairs at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Riviera Beach, FL. Over the years, the ladies have knitted thousands of items, and they have donated each one out of the kindness of their hearts. Ms. Roselle and her knitting group are a shining example of how each and every American can make a difference while having fun in the process.

Mr. Speaker, by identifying their unique strengths and passions and then using those strengths and passions to contribute to their community in a substantive, meaningful way, these ladies have created a win-win situation for everyone involved. Ms. Roselle has been awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award from the Palm Beach County Health Department for her selfless efforts, and it is my great honor to underscore the merits of her work. I offer my heartfelt thanks and admiration for her creative and proactive willingness to give back, and I urge every American to follow in her footsteps

by using their own unique gifts to give back to society and make the world a better place for all of us.

HONORING SISTER MARY
NORBERTA

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 5, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Mary Norberta, who will retire this year after 29 years of leadership at St. Joseph Healthcare in Bangor. Since 1982, Sister Norberta has guided St. Joseph Hospital and St. Joseph Healthcare as a dynamic President and Chief Executive Officer.

As President and C.E.O. of St. Joseph Hospital, Sister Norberta has been instrumental in

transforming a once small community hospital into the largest facility in the state of Maine. Not only has she introduced modern ideas to the hospital such as digital mammography, laparoscopic surgery, lithotripter service and the allowance of fathers in the delivery room, but she has also expanded primary care services in rural areas, helped to organize small community hospitals in Maine and completed thousands of hours of community service.

Sister Norberta is the recent recipient of the Woman of the Year Award for the state of Maine, bestowed upon her by the Business and Professional Women's organization. The Woman of the Year Award is given to a woman who exemplifies a character of drive, innovation and compassion in the workforce. Sister Norberta more than meets these standards.

Earlier this year, she was also recognized with the lifetime achievement award from the

Honor Society of Nursing due to her longtime work in nursing leadership and education at the local, state, and federal levels. In tribute to Sister Norberta's upcoming retirement, the chapter has established an annual scholarship in her name.

After a career devoted to strengthening health care institutions, providing the highest level quality of care for patients and supporting the most vulnerable in the state of Maine, Sister Norberta is, without doubt, deserving of her recent awards and honors. Upon her retirement from St. Joseph's, she will truly be missed for her leadership skills and kindness.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in thanking Sister Mary Norberta for her tremendous contributions and service to her community and to the people of Maine.

SENATE—Tuesday, August 9, 2011

(Legislative day of Tuesday, August 2, 2011)

The Senate met at 11 and 3 seconds a.m., and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, August 9, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WEBB thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

**RECESS UNTIL FRIDAY, AUGUST
12, 2011, AT 12 NOON**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until Friday, August 12, 2011, at 12 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 11 and 33 seconds a.m., recessed until Friday, August 12, at 12 noon.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, August 9, 2011

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
August 9, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JEFF DUNCAN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:
Dear Lord, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We come to You as a Nation, indeed as a world, in the midst of great uncertainty and worry. As people look for causes and solutions, the temptation is great to seek ideological position.

We ask that You might send Your spirit of peace and reconciliation that, instead of ascendancy over opponents, the Members of this people's House, and all elected to represent our Nation, might work together, humbly, recognizing the best in each other's hopes, to bring stability and direction toward a strong future.

We pray also on this day in gratitude for the generations of young people who have served this assembly as congressional pages. Like so many in our Nation, their dedicated work for many years is giving way to improved technology and economic forces. May their contributions over the years never be forgotten and always appreciated, and may all pages find in their life pursuit the fulfillment of their giftedness and desire in continued service to others.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5 of House Resolution 375, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4 of House Resolution 375, no legislative business will be conducted on this day.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 5, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on August 5, 2011 at 10:13 a.m.:

That the Senate passed H.R. 2553.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

ROBERT F. REEVES,
Deputy Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by Speaker pro tempore HARRIS on Friday, August 5, 2011:

H.R. 2553, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend the airport improvement program, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. HARRIS, on Friday, August 5, 2011:

H.R. 2553. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend the airport improvement program, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to sections 3 and 4 of House Resolution 375, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. on Friday, August 12, 2011.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.), the House adjourned until Friday, August 12, 2011, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2723. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Vermont; Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard [EPA-R01-OAR-2008-0905; A-1-FRL-9439-5] received July 14, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2724. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan [EPA-R03-OAR-2011-0289; FRL-9440-1] received July 14, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2725. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Prevention of Significant Deterioration; Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule Revisions [EPA-R06-OAR-2011-0031; FRL-9440-7] received July 14, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2726. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plan; Alabama; Disapproval of Interstate Transport Submission for the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} Standards [EPA-R04-OAR-2010-1013-201128; FRL-9438-1] received July 14, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2727. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plan; Kentucky; Disapproval of Interstate Transport Submission for the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} Standards [EPA-R04-OAR-2010-1014-201127; FRL-9437-9] received July 14, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2728. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation

of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Section 110(a)(2) Infrastructure Requirements for 1997 8-Hour Ozone and Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards; New Mexico Ambient Air Quality Standards; Approval of New Mexico's PSD Program; Codification Technical Corrections [EPA-R06-OAR-2009-0647; FRL-9438-7] received July 14, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2730. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Plans: State of Missouri [EPA-R04-OAR-2011-0451; FRL-9440-9] received July 14, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2730. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New York; Revised Format of 40 CFR Part 52 for Materials Being Incorporated by Reference [EPA-R02-OAR-2011-NY1, FRL-9430-3] received July 14, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2731. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval, Disapproval, and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Utah; Revisions to New Source Review Rules [EPA-R08-OAR-2007-0927; FRL-9428-9] received July 14, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2732. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Control of Nitrogen Oxides Emissions from Portland Cement Kilns [EPA-R03-OAR-2011-0287; FRL-9439-8] received July 14, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2733. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plan; North Carolina; Disapproval of Interstate Transport Submission for the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} Standards [EPA-R04-OAR-2010-1015-201129; FRL-9438-3] received July 14, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2734. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations Consistency Update of Virginia [EPA-R03-OAR-2011-0140; FRL-9434-5] received July 14, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2735. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2011-0460; FRL-9438-6] received July 14, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2736. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Notice of Data Availability

Concerning Transport Rule Allowance Allocations to Existing Units [FRL-9435-6] received July 14, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2737. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants From Petroleum Refineries [EPA-HQ-OAR-2003-0146; FRL-9439-2] (RIN: 2060-AO55) received July 14, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2738. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List: Deletion of the Hipps Road Landfill Superfund Site [EPA-R04-SFUND-2011-0574; FRL-9438-4] received July 14, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2739. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan National Priorities List [EPA-HQ-SFUND-1983-0002; FRL-9440-4] received July 14, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2740. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, South Coast Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2011-0537; FRL-9431-9] received July 14, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2741. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Georgia; Disapproval of Interstate Transport Submission for the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} Standards [EPA-R04-OAR-2010-1012-201130; FRL-9438-2] received July 14, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2742. A letter from the Chief, Pricing Policy Division, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Electronic Tariff Filing System (ETFS) [WS Docket No.: 10-141] received July 18, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2743. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 11-28, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2744. A letter from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Federal Homeland Bank of Pittsburgh, transmitting the 2010 Statements on System of Internal Controls of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2745. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Quarterly Listings: Safety Zones; Security Zones; Special Local Regulations; Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Regulated Navigation Area [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0732] received July 31, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2746. A letter from the Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of Gen-

eral Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program — Changes to Subsistence Allowance (RIN: 2900-AO10) received August 2, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

2747. A letter from the Acting Chair, Social Security Advisory Board, transmitting the Board's annual report for 2010, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 904; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2748. A letter from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Medicare Program; Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems for Acute Care Hospitals and the Long-Term Care Hospital Prospective Payment System and Fiscal Year 2012 Rates; Revisions to the Reductions and Increases to Hospitals' FTE Resident Caps for Graduate Medical Education Payment Purposes [CMS-1518-F; CMS-1430-F] (RIN: 0938-AQ24; RIN: 0938-AQ92) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

2749. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on Certain Iraqis Affiliated with the United States; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services, Foreign Affairs, and the Judiciary.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. LOBIONDO (for himself, Mr. MICA, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. RUNYAN, and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia):

H.R. 2814. A bill to provide authority to compensate Federal employees for the 14-day period in which authority to make expenditures from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund lapsed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TIPTON (for himself, Mr. STARK, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. UPTON, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. REYES, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HONDA, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mrs. BACHMANN, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. POLIS, Mr. HANNA, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. WEST, and Ms. BORDALLO):

H.R. 2815. A bill to revise the Federal charter for the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., to reflect a change in eligibility requirements for membership; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

100. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent

Resolution No. 142 memorializing the Congress to take such actions as are necessary to dedicate a portion of marine and fishery product import tariff to a national seafood marketing fund for the promotion of Louisiana seafood; to the Committee on Agriculture.

101. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, relative to House Resolution No. 62 memorializing the Congress to make significant reforms to the National Flood Insurance Program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

102. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Tennessee, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 111 urging the Congress to continue to support career and technical education programs; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

103. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Ohio, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution Number 4 urging the President and the Secretary of Energy to award USEC, at the earliest opportunity, the federal loan guarantee for which it applied; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

104. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Tennessee, relative to House Resolution No. 60 opposing any reduction of funding for the National Fish Hatchery Operations that would result in the closing of Erwin National Fish Hatchery; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

105. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Tennessee, relative to House Joint Resolution No. 304 urging the Congress to appropriate adequate funds for local governments to implement the new minimum retroreflectivity standards for traffic signs mandated by the FHWA; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

106. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Louisiana, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 57 urging the Con-

gress to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefits reductions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. LoBIONDO:

H.R. 2814.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. TIPTON:

H.R. 2815.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to the power of Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States), clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate interstate commerce), and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress)."

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 361: Mr. HULTGREN.

H.R. 420: Mr. FLAKE.

H.R. 452: Mr. WALDEN and Mr. FORTENBERRY.

H.R. 733: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 860: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 894: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 972: Mr. BRADY of Texas and Mr. YODER.

H.R. 1035: Mr. SABLON.

H.R. 1054: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 1084: Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 1179: Mr. SCHILLING, Mr. PALAZZO, and Mr. BURTON of Indiana.

H.R. 1466: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1537: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1538: Mr. YODER.

H.R. 1550: Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 1580: Mr. ISSA.

H.R. 1754: Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 1842: Ms. NORTON and Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 1856: Mr. COSTA, Mr. KELLY, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. RIVERA, and Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 2047: Mr. SHULER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 2167: Mr. POLIS and Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 2214: Mrs. SCHMIDT.

H.R. 2258: Mr. YOUNG of Florida.

H.R. 2281: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 2393: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 2402: Mr. KING of Iowa.

H.R. 2412: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H.R. 2447: Mr. RIGELL and Mr. REYES.

H.R. 2499: Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 2541: Mr. BARROW.

H.R. 2543: Mrs. DAVIS of California and Mr. BERMAN.

H.R. 2636: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 2676: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 2705: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. MOORE, Mr. OLVER, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 2716: Ms. RICHARDSON.

H. Res. 25: Mr. LATHAM.

H. Res. 385: Mr. BOSWELL.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO MR. OLEG
SMURYGIN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Oleg Smurygin for his continued contribution to the health care initiatives of his community.

Mr. Smurygin was born to a middle class Jewish family to Yuriy and Bella Smurygin on April 7, 1966, in Kiev, Ukraine. He attended school in Kiev from 1973 until 1983, when he was recruited into the army for two years. Mr. Smurygin served as a Sergeant in the army from 1985 until 1987 under Special Forces by the border of China, Khabarovsk City. Once Mr. Smurygin was discharged in 1987, he attended the University of Kiev, where he graduated with a Bachelors Degree in the Arts in 1991.

In 1992, Mr. Smurygin and his family decided to relocate to the United States as refugees. He supported his family working at Victory Memorial Hospital in Brooklyn, New York as a full time regular security guard. With more experience, Mr. Smurygin was promoted to shift supervisor and eventually to Director of Security in 2006. Spending over 10 years at Victory Memorial Hospital, he was awarded Victory Memorial Hospital 10 Year Award of Excellence.

When the Victory Memorial Hospital closed its doors in 2009, Mr. Smurygin headed to the PAIN Institute as a Business Manager.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Mr. Oleg Smurygin.

A TRIBUTE TO KDLS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50-year anniversary of local radio station KDLS 1310 AM in Perry, Iowa.

The result of a joint venture between local newspaper publishers G.E. Whitehead and Willard Archie, KDLS was first launched on May 10, 1961. Since then, the radio station has become the voice of Perry while covering birthdays, anniversaries, local news and sports, weather, obituaries, interviews with the local community members and many other topics.

To many, the local radio station provides a sense of pride and identity that many rural communities around Iowa and the United States seem to be losing at an increasing rate. If you talk to any of the staff at KDLS, they will

attribute their success to keeping everything as local as they can. In an era of media conglomerates and corporations, it is important to remember that local content is responsible for the 50-year success of KDLS.

KDLS has demonstrated that locally owned radio stations can really bring out the personality of the community and can be the driving force behind helping businesses and other organizations reconnect with their local citizens. KDLS is characteristic of what Iowa is all about—local citizens motivated and dedicated to improving their communities and maintaining what they see as an important part of their daily lives.

I consider it an honor to represent this radio station and all members of the Perry community in the United States Congress. I know my colleagues in the House of Representatives will join me in congratulating KDLS for its 50 years of success and wish them continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL URBINO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Michael Urbino for his service to and excellence throughout his community as a model citizen.

Mr. Michael Urbino is a well-rounded, results-oriented, innovative, and persevering man, who fervently upholds the belief that there is no finish line, but a constant struggle that keeps one challenged.

A native of the Philippines, Mr. Urbino was a pioneer of a business conglomerate in New Jersey and New York. Since a young age, Mr. Urbino professed an interest in business and as such, he went about to complete a Bachelor of Science in Commerce with a major in Business Administration at the University of Santo Tomas, followed by a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Maryland.

From 1985 to 2001 he accumulated substantial experience in sales and marketing of pharmaceutical products while working for multinational companies like Mead Johnson-Bristol Myers, American Home Products, Abbot Laboratories and Novartis. As an executive at ABN-AMRO and at Philippine Savings Bank, prominent banks in the Netherlands and in the Philippines, respectively, Mr. Urbino became exposed to financial services.

After much experience, Mr. Urbino founded his first of three corporations, Axis Point Alternative Solutions, Inc. in 2006. Axis Point operated as an employee leasing and certification company to healthcare professionals with the State of New York and the State of New Jersey. Shortly after, in 2007, Mr. Urbino reg-

istered American Healthcare Facility Management Group (AHFMG). A three-division entity, AHFMG offers licensing, administrative, and managerial services to health professionals.

Mr. Urbino also values the importance of educating and training health providers from grass roots. This longing gave birth to Adriland Institute, which offers vocational medical courses covering various medical specialties.

Mr. Urbino has had a long professional career purposed to provide people the tools necessary to carry on an optimal future for themselves as well as society.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the work of Mr. Michael Urbino.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
PRIVATE DONALD D. OWENS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Private Donald D. Owens, a loyal son and true patriot of the United States of America. Private Owens lost his life on October 9, 1944 during World War II when his M-10 tank was attacked outside of Luneville, France. His life reflected an unwavering devotion to his country and his sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Pvt. Donald Owens was raised in Navarre, Ohio where he attended elementary school. He later relocated to Cleveland, Ohio with his father prior to starting high school. He attended James Ford Rhodes high school, where a yearbook and numerous school events have been named in his honor. Before receiving his diploma, Pvt. Owens opted to enlist in the army.

He fought with the 773rd Tank Battalion in France, and tragically lost his life during the final battle for Parroy Forest. For sixty-six years following Owens' death his remains were unable to be located. Pvt. Owens' name can be found among the 443 others on the Tablets of the Missing in the Lorraine American Cemetery.

Sixty-six years after Pvt. Owens lost his life, a French farmer, Gerard Louis, discovered a set of dog tags in the countryside. After contacting Sue Bennis, a Westlake, Ohio librarian, efforts to reconnect with Owens's family began immediately. His closest living relative is his sister-in-law, Lori Owens, who lives in Mobile, Alabama, the widow of Donald's late brother Gerald Owens. On May 16, 2011 Lori was greeted by two Army officers with a folded American flag and a bronze urn containing Donald's remains. A funeral ceremony will be held on August 23, 2011 at Arlington Cemetery to remember Donald's efforts during World War II.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mr. Donald D. Owens, a true hero that embodies the American spirit. I offer my deepest condolences to his family and friends. He will always be remembered by those who knew and loved him.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL
GOLDBERG

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Michael Goldberg for his continued activism in the community.

Mr. Goldberg was born and raised on Manhattan's lower east side as the youngest of three in a blue collar family. He grew up working part time for his family's store, while also attending school in Brooklyn. Mr. Goldberg's interest in journalism and passion for local politics encouraged him to stay in Brooklyn to attend Brooklyn College. Pursuing a political science degree and working for local newspapers, Mr. Goldberg was exposed to many in the legal profession which served as a springboard for his career.

After attending Brooklyn Law School, Mr. Goldberg held a position with a landlord-tenant law firm in Central Brooklyn. His success propelled him to form Goldberg & Lustig with Harvey Lustig who has been his law partner for the past 26 years. This became one of the premier landlord-tenant firms in Brooklyn, establishing a loyal roster of clients over the years.

Mr. Goldberg's success in the area has given life to the local community's businesses and has been critical in its economic vitality. Protecting many local small business owners and tenants from losing their locations, Mr. Goldberg has gained a positive relationship with his community.

Mr. Goldberg is happily married to his loving wife Jeryl, and together they have raised two bright children: Lee and Lyssa. In his hometown of Long Island's South Shore, Mr. Goldberg remains heavily involved in the local synagogue as the Men's Club President for the past five years.

Mr. Goldberg strongly believes that lawyers hold a special responsibility for improving our society and furthering our democratic way of life.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and success of Mr. Michael Goldberg.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN
CLARENCE ELLSWORTH MILLER

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District to honor the life and memory of Congressman Clarence Ellsworth Miller.

Congressman Miller began his extensive and prolific public service career in 1963 when he was elected mayor of Lancaster, Ohio. During that time, he was also very active in the National League of Cities and the Ohio Municipal League. Congressman Miller was also a member of the executive committee of the Mayors Association of Ohio.

In 1967, Congressman Miller was elected to represent Ohio's Tenth Congressional District where he served for 26 years. Congressman Miller always represented his constituents with pride and integrity. He understood his southeastern Ohio district and fought vigorously to ensure that his constituents' needs were constantly being met.

Congressman Miller was well known for being a staunch fiscal conservative. While in Congress, Congressman Miller gained respect for introducing bills that were aimed at reducing spending but still meeting the obligations of our Nation. He was awarded a Treasury watchdog award every year he was in Congress because of his great concern with regard to the national debt and overspending at the federal level.

Throughout his time in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Miller served on several House committees including Appropriations, Agriculture, and Public Works and Transportation. Additionally, he served as vice chairman of the Office of Technical Assessment and served on a special committee which forced other countries to reimburse the United States for costs associated with the 1991 Gulf War.

Congressman Miller dedicated much of his time in Congress to the Armed Forces. The Congressman worked tirelessly to ensure that all branches of the military had the resources they needed to protect this great Nation. He respected all men and women in uniform and admired their dedication and bravery.

Representative Miller further impacted Lancaster and Fairfield County by serving on the Board of Directors for the YMCA and Red Cross, and devoting time and support to public officials in the area.

In honor of Congressman Miller's influential and selfless efforts to the community, the Lancaster Post Office was renamed after him as well as the county health department building.

Congressman Clarence Ellsworth Miller truly was a fine example of what all members of Congress and those in public service should strive to become.

After a long life of dedicated public service, Clarence Ellsworth Miller, 93, passed away on August 2, 2011. Congressman Miller was preceded in death by his wife, Helen, and left behind a son, Ron, daughter, Jackie, five grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and two stepgrandchildren.

A TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN
FAULKNER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Carolyn Faulkner for her activ-

ism in her community among the youth and with her Church.

Ms. Faulkner has been the loving wife of Melvin Faulkner for the past 48 years and have three beautiful children: Lenora, Tasheba (Nikki) and Leonard. They also have had the joy of raising eight grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Ms. Faulkner attended school in Brooklyn, New York, at P.S. 83, P.S. 54, and Bushwick High School. She always had a passion for business and was poised to have a career within the business community. With her husband, Ms. Faulkner began catering and coordinating weddings in her church, Pilgrim Church. She and her husband were successful at their craft and decided to open One Stop Wedding Corporation, which handled everything from invitations, to designing bridal wear, and honeymoon traveling.

Together they have been in business for over 38 years, but have now focused their attention to planning wedding travel. Ms. Faulkner, however, has continued to be an instrumental voice in her community and has been a part of many organizations. Currently Ms. Faulkner is a member on the Executive Board for Community Board 5, and is an active member of the following groups: Rosetta Gaston United Democratic Club; Rehoboth Cathedral under Bishop Gerald Seabrooks; Brooklyn Clergy/N.Y.P.D. Task Force; and a former member of Churches United For Worldwide Action, Inc.

Among all else, Ms. Faulkner's greatest passion is working with youth. In February 2004, she started workshops in schools which enlightened children and parents on gang awareness. If necessary, Ms. Faulkner would attend Family Court and the Supreme Court with the youth to recommend these teens to enter into a preventative program.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Ms. Carolyn Faulkner.

IN MEMORY OF REVEREND DR.
HOWARD W. CREECY, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great man and child of God, the Reverend Dr. Howard W. Creecy, Jr. His passing is a great loss to his family, his congregation, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the Christian community.

Dr. Creecy was a paragon of what a devout servant of God should be. He was a third generation gospel preacher, teacher and community leader. His family's legacy of leadership has exceeded over 100 years of continuous commitment to the Christian ministry. Rev. Dr. Creecy was born in Mobile, Alabama, to Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Howard W. Creecy, Sr. The family later moved to Dothan, Alabama, before settling in Atlanta, Georgia, where he pursued his education.

In celebrating and acknowledging the outstanding achievements of Dr. Creecy, I am

also paying homage to a family friend and someone who I considered to be one of my leading role models. The bond that my family enjoys with the Creecy family transcends different generations and is long-standing.

Like me, he was a proud Morehouse Man. He began his ministry at Morehouse College and completed his graduate work at the Morehouse School of Religion of the Interdenominational Theological Seminary. He also holds a Doctor of Divinity from Abotra Bible Institute and Seminary.

For 26 years, Dr. Creecy served as senior pastor of Saint Peter Missionary Baptist Church in Atlanta. There, under his leadership, the church experienced tremendous growth, including a staff of ministers, administrators, musicians and a pastoral clinical psychologist. Central to the growth and development of Saint Peter Church was his comprehensive and balanced vision of 21st century ministry.

Starting in 2002, Dr. Creecy pastored with his father, Rev. Dr. Howard W. Creecy, Sr., at The Olivet Church in Fayetteville, Georgia, where he brought his 21st century ministry innovations, while still standing upon traditional Christian values. While working with his father until his passing, Olivet's membership, ministries, and resources grew exponentially under his leadership as senior pastor.

Dr. Creecy was highly respected in the Christian community, and he was a frequent guest preacher nationwide and internationally. His strong faith and tremendous presence were felt by all around him.

He was involved in numerous civic, social and political activities, serving as chairman of the Atlanta Task Force of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; former chairman of the Board of Directors, Project Re-direction, Atlanta University Criminal Justice Institute; and Founding National Board Member of the Organization of New Equality (ONE), Boston, Massachusetts.

For his numerous endeavours, Dr. Creecy was honored and inducted by Morehouse College into the Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel Board of Ministers and was a proud member of the NAACP. He was the first African-American to serve as Director of the Office of Chaplain Services for Atlanta Fulton County Government.

Dr. Creecy leaves behind a devoted family: his loving wife, Yolanda Grier Creecy, their two beautiful daughters, Teresa and Kennedy. On behalf of my wife, Vivian and myself, I want to extend our heartfelt sympathies to the Creecy family.

Dr. Creecy's devotion to God and his church were unsurpassed, and he has left us with a shining example of what a true Christian is. Romans 6:8 says, "If we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him." I know that today, Dr. Creecy lives with Christ.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. HARVEY
LAWRENCE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Harvey Lawrence and his ex-

ceptional service to the public health of his community and his ongoing public service career.

Mr. Lawrence began his career by attaining a Master of Science degree in Management Science and Policy Analysis from Harriman college and SUNY Stony Brook. He is also a graduate of the Johnson & Johnson/UCLA Health Care Executive Certificate Program.

Mr. Lawrence has been serving in the capacity of President and CEO of the Brownsville Multi-Service Family Health Center since January 2009. Before his ascent to President, Mr. Lawrence served as the Corporation's Executive Vice President and COO. Since working with the Brownsville Family Health Center on 1994, Mr. Lawrence has been responsible for most of the new initiatives and expansions the corporation has taken on.

Using his vast experience in public finance and non-profit development, Mr. Lawrence has been able to accelerate the growth of this corporation and provide more services to the public. Mr. Lawrence began his public service career as Management Trainee at the Port Authority of New York/New Jersey and quickly gained experience in NYC's Office of Economic Development.

Mr. Lawrence is a former non-profit developer for affordable housing and vice president in the investment banking, public finance and real estate divisions of the former Manufacturers Hanover Trust Bank. Using his knowledge, Mr. Lawrence maintains his position as the executive Director of the City's Industrial commercial Incentive Board and Senior Finance/Development Director at the NYC Public Development Corporation.

Mr. Lawrence is a man of exceptional character and one that has been humbled through his ability serve those with greater needs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Mr. Harvey Lawrence.

INTRODUCING THE CONTINUUM OF LEARNING ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Continuum of Learning Act. Learning does not start in kindergarten or first grade: learning begins at birth. Decades of research have shown that quality early learning is foundational to success in school and in life.

Economists, educators, business leaders, law enforcement officers, and military generals agree on the importance of quality early learning. By the time they enter kindergarten, children from low-income families have developed only half the vocabulary of their well-advantaged peers. By investing early, we can close achievement gaps early and prevent future costs for special education, dropouts, crime, incarceration, and dependence on social services later in life.

A continuum of learning from birth through the early elementary grades can strengthen students' success in the K-12 system and beyond. The Continuum of Learning Act updates

the Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA) to strengthen connections between existing early learning programs and the elementary grades.

I have conducted numerous teacher listening sessions and heard from hundreds of educators throughout Hawaii about their needs. Educators want more support in doing their jobs.

This bill, developed with Senator BOB CASEY of Pennsylvania, and my original cosponsors WALTER JONES of North Carolina, JARED POLIS of Colorado, and DON YOUNG of Alaska, helps educators from Head Start, other early childhood education programs, and elementary schools work together so young children have a successful transition into the elementary grades and beyond.

The Continuum of Learning Act of 2011 does not contain any new spending or create any new programs. It is a research-driven approach that integrates early learning considerations within states' and school districts' existing K-12 plans. This will strengthen the early education efforts for our nation's 21.2 million children under age 5, some 86,000 of whom are in Hawaii.

Without spending any additional taxpayer dollars, this bipartisan legislation helps our keiki (children) in Hawaii enter school ready to learn and increases their success in the early years. That early success puts our students on the path to graduate and compete for the best jobs. It is part of our shared legacy for our keiki, to give them a brighter future.

The Continuum of Learning Act makes a set of changes that I hope will eventually be included in a bipartisan reauthorization of ESEA. Specifically, the bill calls for: States reviewing and revising their early learning guidelines for children ages 0-5 and additional standards for grades K-3, including core academic areas and social and emotional development like appropriate classroom behavior. Hawaii's Good Beginnings Alliance already developed strong early learning guidelines for preschool children in 2004; creating or revising state teacher certification or licensure in the early elementary grades and younger to reflect the specialized knowledge and skills to teach children in the birth-to-8 age span; providing training—including joint professional development—to early education and elementary school teachers in child development and best teaching practices. The plan also calls for elementary school principals and administrators to participate in professional development geared toward better developing elementary school curricula for young learners. Many states currently are under-utilizing the use of education funds for this purpose; promoting coordination between early childhood and Head Start programs and elementary school teachers so children have a supportive transition from preschool to elementary school. For example, a child who receives help on language skills or visits by a social worker in preschool can continue receiving that help, if needed, when he or she gets to kindergarten; assisting elementary schools in being "ready schools" so all children have the quality teaching, supportive services, and family engagement needed for their success. I thank Senators SHERROD BROWN (D-Ohio) and KAY HAGAN (D-North Carolina) for introducing the Ready Schools

Act, which is included as part of this legislation; encouraging schools in need of improvement to use early childhood education as a strategy for improving student achievement.

The Continuum of Learning Act was developed with input from numerous national and Hawaii organizations, including: the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest organization of people working with children from birth through age 8. Twenty thousand people participate in Hawaii AEYC activities each year; the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), representing the principals of 33 million children in preschool through grade 8. More than 200 of Hawaii's public schools serve elementary-age children; the National Head Start Association (NHSA), supporting Head Start providers nationwide. In Hawaii, 3,300 children are enrolled in Head Start; Pre-K Now; First Five Years Fund (FFYF); the National Women's Law Center; Zero to Three; First Focus Campaign for Children; Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP); Early Care and Education (ECE) Consortium; High Scope Educational Research Foundation.

Additional organizations supporting the legislation include: Mission: Readiness, a bipartisan group of retired generals advocating education for military preparedness; Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a bipartisan organization of criminal justice leaders who understand the importance of early education in preventing delinquency and crime later; and Mental Health America of Hawai'i because the bill calls for identifying and responding to emerging behavioral challenges of all young students.

Gary Kai of the Hawaii Business Roundtable, whose members believe very strongly in the importance of early childhood education, has pointed out that research shows that the highest rate of return for investments in human capital occurs in a child's earliest years. That's why he says "this education initiative will help to prepare children to succeed when they get to kindergarten and to be successful throughout their entire school career. Our businesses need the best educated workforce possible and they realize that our children must be able to compete internationally."

I encourage my colleagues to support the Continuum of Learning Act.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. MARK
GLADSTEIN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Mark Gladstein for his ongoing ability to serve his community by providing advanced health care options.

Dr. Mark Gladstein is a founder and a medical director of Brooklyn's leading pain management facility, Pain Institute of New York. He is offering his community an expert team of personnel that have completed over 4000 procedures per year—retaining the recognition of being the fastest growing, advanced, and

most diverse pain management practice in New York. With locations in Brooklyn and Queens, Dr. Gladstein's practice serves over 2,500 patients from all five boroughs as well as outside of New York City and all walks of life, ethnicities and religious backgrounds.

Being in practice for over 8 years, Dr. Gladstein has gained the trust and respect of the community by providing the most advanced care in the field. Their patients receive quality care in an accredited state-of-the-art office and ambulatory surgery facility. To this end, the entire skilled staff follow one simple philosophy: pain is an individual struggle and requires a unique and personal approach to manage. This approach allows Dr. Gladstein and his staff to personalize their attention to patients in a unique way.

Over the past years, Dr. Gladstein's achievements have been recognized by his peers and patients alike. He is a recipient of multiple Patient's Choice Awards, Consumer Research Council of America Awards as well as multiple teaching awards.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the many accomplishments of Dr. Mark Gladstein.

HONORING THE HUDSON RIVER
SCHOOL OF PAINTERS

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, in 1996, President Clinton signed into law a bill that I authored establishing the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. One of the key priorities of the National Heritage Area is to preserve and appreciate the rich heritage and scenic beauty of the Hudson Valley and to highlight its contribution to both New York and the nation through the contributions of the Hudson River School of Painters, America's first school of art.

Now, thanks to the Architect of the Capitol, anyone who visits the U.S. Capitol and Capitol Visitor Center can enjoy two famous paintings by Albert Bierstadt, one of the major 19th century Hudson River School painters, entitled "Discovery of the Hudson" and "Entrance into Monterey." These large paintings were originally purchased by the U.S. Congress after the Civil War and were displayed prominently in the Capitol until recently taken down to facilitate renovations. The re-hanging of these paintings is a major event for a rebirth in the study and appreciation of the Hudson River School of Painters. I encourage all members in the House and Senate to view these magnificent American landscapes and recommend to their visiting constituents that they do the same.

The Hudson River School of Painters captured the beauty and clarity of American landscapes, and not only painted throughout the Hudson Valley and in my state of New York, but created idyllic scenes never before viewed. The school's roots are based in the works of Thomas Cole and his contemporaries Asher Durand and Frederic Edwin Church, as well as Jasper F. Cropsey, who became

world-renowned for his depiction of American splendor in his painting "Autumn on the Hudson" (1860), and for his visit with Queen Victoria on one of his many trips to Europe. George Inness, who was born in my district, documented the expansion of the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroad and Albert Bierstadt was celebrated for his portrayal of many Western mountain ranges, so much so that Mt. Bierstadt in Colorado was named in his honor. Thomas Moran's famous works were used to support the creation of Yellowstone National Park, and these paintings helped inspire the eventual creation of the National Park Service. Many of the painters in the Hudson River School, including Church, Bierstadt, John Kensett, and Sanford Gifford served in advisory roles in the founding of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York in 1870.

Mr. Speaker, it is also with great pleasure that I join with my colleague from New York, Representative ELIOT ENGEL, in supporting the placement of a series of historic bronze markers along the Hudson River honoring the sites at which the Hudson River School of Painters created their works of art. These bronze sculptural markers were created by Greg Wyatt, Director, Academy of Art, Newington-Cropsey Foundation, and will be placed at Hastings-on-Hudson, Hook Mountain State Park, and in my district in the City of Newburgh. The bronze text of each marker reads: "This monument is dedicated to the memory of the Hudson River School, a fraternity of landscape painters who worked in New York City in the 1800s and celebrated American as well as foreign scenery in their works. Among these painters of the Hudson River School were Thomas Cole, Asher B. Durand, Frederic E. Church, John F. Kensett, Sanford R. Gifford, and Jasper F. Cropsey." Today, their major works are seen in museums great and small, where they glorify the nation's original resource and its enduring responsibility: the land.

Mr. Speaker, there will be a series of speeches and statements by my colleagues highlighting the contributions of each of the Hudson River School of Painters and the impact they had on their districts, and to America. The beauty of these paintings depicted a growing interest in American landscape and an effort to conserve and protect what I consider the first environmental movement in America in the 19th century. Please join with me in recognizing and appreciating the Hudson River School of Painters.

A TRIBUTE TO CELAL SECILMIS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Celal Secilmis for his ongoing ability to serve his community through public service and education.

Mr. Secilmis was born in Sarikamis, Turkey in 1953 and was raised in Mersin, Turkey until his early adult life. After graduating from Istanbul Academy of Economic and Commercial Sciences in 1974, he went on to complete

a Graduate Certificate Program at Istanbul University, Institute of Business Economics.

Mr. Secilmis has had a life in academia—deciding to move to America in 1975 after winning the Turkish Government Scholarship to do doctoral studies in the United States. Under this scholarship, Mr. Secilmis attended Georgetown University for a Masters Degree in Management, and then received an MBA degree from LIU.

Mr. Secilmis continued his dedicated studies at City University of New York's Graduate Center in Financial Economics with emphasis on "Agency Theory: Bonding and Monitoring Costs." Upon completion of his graduate studies, he worked as a professor of finance at Baruch College, CUNY, until 1995. Mr. Secilmis had started his own business, but shortly returned to the academic arena to fill the role of adjunct professor, which is his current profession.

In addition to being an adjunct professor, Mr. Secilmis also serves as the CEO and President of CEL Group of companies: Seckin Management, CEL Management, Sameraica Trading, Inc., ATA Marketing Co, Inc., and ATA Construction USA, Inc. Mr. Secilmis is also the current President of Turkish American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as his term expires in 2012.

Mr. Secilmis is happily married to Olcay Soyman and together they have two sons Seckin and Ata and a daughter, Deniz who is married to Adam Beaulieu.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and success of Mr. Celal Secilmis.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MS. BARBARA JENSEN'S 27 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Barbara Jensen for her extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the United States of America. Ms. Jensen will retire after 27 years of distinguished service to the Nation, both as an Army officer and as an Army Civilian.

Ms. Jensen began her service as a Medical Service Corps officer. She served honorably for 21 years, commanding troops and serving as a Logistician, Commodity Manager of the Army's critical medical supplies and equipment at Fort Carson, Colorado, Fort Lewis, Washington, Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii, and overseas in Germany.

Ms. Jensen was assigned to ever higher levels of responsibility because her experience and reputation as a skilled leader, manager,

and advisor grew. As the Director of Logistics for the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, she played a key role in enabling the Institute to provide world-class, life-saving diagnostic consultations. Her leadership also supported the innovative scientific research conducted at the Institute, while providing an opportunity to educate military and civilian pathologists, physicians, and various medical and scientific professionals.

Ms. Jensen became a liaison to Members of Congress and advised Army leadership on Congressional interest items and legislation. With the Army Staff in the Pentagon, she provided legislative analysis on Congressional actions affecting Army programs. She led numerous Congressional staff visits and ensured that Members of Congress and their staff were supplied with critical, time sensitive information to afford deep understanding of the Army's medical research programs. She became the advisor to the Army's Surgeon General and his staff on legislation affecting military health care, thereby helping to ensure continued Congressional support for medical innovation and the finest medical care for our Service Members.

Ms. Jensen retired from the United States Army in 2004, receiving the Legion of Merit award for her superb service. Afterwards, Ms. Jensen became a civil servant with the Department of the Army in 2005, returning to use her vast talents and expertise to serve her country once again.

As an Army Congressional Legislative Liaison, the Army entrusted Ms. Jensen to provide accurate assessments to Capitol Hill and to effectively communicate the Army's priorities. She earned the trust and confidence of the Members of the House and Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittees, Congressional Staffers, the Office of the Secretary of Defense; Director, Army Staff and other service legislative activity directors.

Ms. Jensen most recently served as the Deputy Chief of Congressional Operations Division, Army Legislative Liaison. Ms. Jensen was an instrumental member of the legislative team, collecting information Congress needed to enact authorizations and oversee the Department of the Army. Her advice was heeded by Army leaders to include the Secretary of the Army, the Chief of Staff, the Under Secretary of the Army, the Vice Chief of Staff, and the Sergeant Major of the Army.

Ms. Jensen has continued to remain passionate about Soldiers, their Families, and ensuring quality of life for Service Members matches the quality of their service. She has made a real and lasting impact through her numerous contributions toward gaining Congressional trust, confidence, and advocacy for the Army.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in saying thank you to Ms. Barbara Jensen for her extraordinary dedication to duty and service to this country

throughout her distinguished career in the United States Army, both in uniform and as a Civilian. We wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES AURORA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. James Aurora for his exceptional service to his community and the youth.

James Aurora is a third generation of owners of the now famous Sonny's Collision Specialists in Queens, New York. This renowned business has been serving the Brooklyn community for 60 years and has gained a distinct reputation for quality customer service.

Mr. Aurora has built an operation that employs 25 professionals that offer clients guaranteed personal attention. In the years that Mr. Aurora has been operating Sonny's Collision Specialists he has never known any unsatisfied customers. Every customer of Sonny's has only experienced top notch service in the most expeditious manner.

Jimmy Aurora knows the importance of giving. Sonny's is not only a staple in the community for their expertise in auto body collisions, but they are famous for their giving spirit. Mr. Aurora on a yearly basis has sponsored cricket teams, baseball leagues, and boys' clubs, along with donating thousands of dollars towards autism awareness and the American Cancer Society. He has not only provided a necessary service to his community but he has found the means to give more to those in dire need.

Mr. Aurora lives by the company's motto: "Perfection is not an accident." Jimmy proudly represents his heritage and family legacy by ensuring that Sonny's Collision Specialists continues to be a leader and trendsetter in auto body collision work.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Mr. James Aurora.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, August 1, I missed a rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on No. 691.

SENATE—*Friday, August 12, 2011**(Legislative day of Tuesday, August 2, 2011)*

The Senate met at 12 and 8 seconds p.m., and was called to order by the Honorable JACK REED, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

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APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, August 12, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JACK REED, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. REED thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

—————

RECESS UNTIL TUESDAY, AUGUST
16, 2011, AT 11 A.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until Tuesday, August 16, 2011, at 11 a.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12 and 32 seconds p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, August 16, 2011, at 11 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, August 12, 2011

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LANDRY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
August 12, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JEFF LANDRY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Monsignor Stephen Rossetti, Associate Professor, The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we are living in uncertain days. Sometimes they fill us with fear. We cannot see the future; it is clouded. We are uncertain of the way.

In the midst of these days, we turn to You. You are the only certainty; You are the Rock that anchors us. Your steadfast love and abiding presence are with us.

With You as our Rock and Your love inside us, our fears are quieted; our hearts become calm.

Thank You for being our sure anchor. Thank You for Your eternal love. Thank You for guiding our steps. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5 of House Resolution 375, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4 of House Resolution

375, legislative business is not dispensed with on this day.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON DEFICIT REDUCTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces that, pursuant to section 401(b)(4)(B)(iii) of the Budget Control Act of 2011 (P.L. 112-25) and the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Speaker has appointed the following Members to serve on the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction:

Mr. HENSARLING, Texas, co-chair;
Mr. UPTON, Michigan; and
Mr. CAMP, Michigan.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON DEFICIT REDUCTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces that, pursuant to section 401(b)(4)(B)(iv) of the Budget Control Act of 2011 (P.L. 112-25) and the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the minority leader has appointed the following Members to serve on the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction:

Mr. CLYBURN, South Carolina;
Mr. BECERRA, California; and
Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Maryland.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House reports that on July 28, 2011 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 1383. To temporarily preserve higher rates for tuition and fees for programs of education at non-public institutions of higher learning pursued by individuals enrolled on the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs before the enactment of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010, and for other purposes.

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House reports that on August 5, 2011 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 2553. To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend the airport improvement program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2715. To provide the Consumer Product Safety Commission with greater author-

ity and discretion in enforcing the consumer product safety laws, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to sections 3 and 4 of House Resolution 375, the House stands adjourned until 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 16, 2011.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.), the House adjourned until Tuesday, August 16, 2011, at 11:30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2750. A letter from the Director, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Financial Crimes Enforcement Network; Repeal of the Final Rule and Withdrawal of the Finding of Primary Money Laundering Concern against VEF Banka (RIN: 1506-AA82) received July 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2751. A letter from the Deputy to the Chairman for External Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Retail Foreign Exchange Transactions (RIN: 3064-AD81) received July 26, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2752. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for General Law, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hazardous Materials; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: PHMSA-2009-0151 (HM-218F)] (RIN: 2137-AE46) received July 26, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2753. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revisions and Additions to Motor Vehicle Fuel Economy Label [EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0865; FRL-9315-1; NHTSA-2010-0087] (RIN: 2060-AQ09; RIN: 2127-AK73) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2754. A letter from the Assistant Secretary For Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Addition of Certain Persons on the Entity List: Addition of Persons Acting Contrary to the National Security or Foreign Policy Interests of the United States [Docket No.: 110502273-1368-01] (RIN: 0694-AF21) received July 26, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2755. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Premerger Notification; Reporting and Waiting Period Requirements (RIN: 3084-AA91) received July 26, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

2756. A letter from the Attorney, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Mile Marker 98.5 West of Harvey Lock Gulf Intracoastal Waterway to Mile Marker 108.5 West of Harvey Lock Gulf Intracoastal Waterway [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0434] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2757. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Update of August 2001 Overflight Fees [Docket No.: FAA-2010-0326; Amendment No. 187-35] (RIN: 2120-AJ68) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2758. A letter from the Regulations Officer, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Electronic Substitutions for Form SSA-538 [Docket No.: SSA-2009-0027] (RIN: 0690-AH02) received July 26, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2759. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Revisions to Direct Fee Payment Rules [Docket No.: SSA-2010-0025] (RIN: 0960-AH21) received July 26, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BACHUS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 1539. A bill to repeal section 939G of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and to restore Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 436(g) repealed by such section (Rept. 112-196). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 2816. A bill to support and encourage the health and well-being of elementary school and secondary school students by enhancing school physical education and health education.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 2817. A bill to amend the Community Services Block Grant Act to authorize appropriations for national or regional instructional programs for low-income youth.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 2818. A bill to provide temporary housing during schools breaks to students who are homeless or in foster care.

By Ms. JENKINS:

H.R. 2819. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Defense, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and any other officer or employee of the Federal Government from providing information about the mission to kill Osama bin Laden to any person outside the Federal Government until the Inspectors General of the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency carry out an

investigation and provide a briefing to Congress on the matter, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MICHAUD:

H.R. 2820. A bill to provide for the establishment and operation of Advanced Composites Development Centers.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

107. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Texas, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 129 notifying the Department of Education that the career schools or colleges that are established and authorized to operate by name as an educational institution by the State of Texas are legally authorized by the State of Texas to operate education programs beyond secondary education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

108. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Texas, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 90 urging the Congress to expedite a solution and enact laws that will provide public alert and warning in situations of war, terrorist attack, natural disaster, or other hazards to public safety; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

109. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Texas, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 18 urging the Congress to propose and submit to the states for ratification an amendment to the Constitution providing that except during a war declared by the Congress the total of all federal appropriations for a fiscal year may not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenue for that fiscal year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

110. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Texas, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2 urging the Congress to reauthorize the Water Resources Development Act of 2007; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

111. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the Territory of Virgin Islands, relative to Resolution No. 1757 petitioning the Congress and the President to allocate a portion of the Federal Gasoline Excise Tax to be returned to the Territory to establish an energy grid system with the island of Puerto Rico; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

112. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the Territory of Virgin Islands, relative to Resolution No. 1759 urging the Congress to provide perpetual transfer of a portion of revenues derived from excise taxes and duties imposed on petroleum products shipped from the Virgin Islands to the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

113. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Michigan, relative to Senate Resolution No. 39 memorializing the Congress to remove gray wolves in Michigan from the federal endangered species list; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

114. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, relative to House Resolution No. 53 memorializing the Congress and the Drug Enforcement Agency to make it illegal to possess, use, or sell the drugs MDPV and mephedrone; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and the Judiciary.

115. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Michigan, relative to Senate Resolution No. 27 urging the President to impose a moratorium on any new regulations and

for the Congress to pass the regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Rules.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 2816.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, §8, clause 3, the Commerce Clause, as the basis for constitutional authority.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 2817.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, §8, clause 3, the Commerce Clause, as the basis for constitutional authority.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 2818.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, §8, clause 3, the Commerce Clause, as the basis for constitutional authority.

By Ms. JENKINS:

H.R. 2819.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7

By Mr. MICHAUD:

H.R. 2820.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 890: Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. AUSTRIA.

H.R. 973: Mr. PLATTS.

H.R. 1418: Ms. SPEIER and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 1681: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 1738: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.

H.R. 1755: Mr. REYES.

H.R. 1803: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 1978: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 2366: Mr. BERMAN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. HIMES, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. GERLACH.

H.R. 2404: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 2524: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

H.R. 2636: Mr. WATT.

H.R. 2643: Ms. LEE of California and Ms. HIRONO.

H.R. 2664: Mr. BACA.

H.R. 2763: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 2784: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 2796: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. WEST, Mr. POSEY, Mr. POE of Texas, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. LANDRY, Mr. BRADY of Texas, and Mr. CONYERS.

H. Res. 134: Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H. Res. 304: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin.

H. Res. 306: Mr. FORBES.

H. Res. 348: Mr. SERRANO.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

18. The SPEAKER presented a petition of The Wayne County Commission, Michigan, relative to Resolution No. 2011-268 memorializing the Congress to recognize the impor-

tance of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter to Wayne County; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DR. JAMES CRAIK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STATE MESA CHAMPIONS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2011

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate a remarkable group of talented young students from Maryland's Fifth Congressional District.

On May 9th, a team from Dr. James Craik Elementary School in Charles County won first place in Maryland's statewide Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) competition held at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel. To participate in the competition, the students first had to prevail in the regional semi-finals against 21 other Charles County elementary schools.

Led by coaches Nick Gardiner and Susan Steinmet, the team took on a series of challenges that tested their ingenuity, creativity, and determination. Although they faced stiff competition, the team impressed the judges and emerged victorious by incorporating green design elements like solar panels and making the most efficient designs. It is the second time Craik has won the competition in just 3 years.

The team's win represents not only a victory for Craik, but for our State and Nation. With the proper education and support, these students have proven that the next generation of American leaders are poised to push the boundaries of science and technology and achieve great things. I urge my colleagues to join me in applauding this great accomplishment.

IN HONOR OF DR. TIM GILMOUR

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor and acknowledge Dr. Joseph E. (Tim) Gilmour for his role as the fifth president of Wilkes University. His unprecedented dedication to education has provided outstanding opportunities for our community as well as all the students of Wilkes University. When Dr. Gilmour leaves Wilkes in the spring of 2012, he will certainly be leaving behind a great legacy.

In June of 2001, Dr. Gilmour accepted the position of president. Dr. Gilmour's accomplishments are too numerous to fully acknowledge. He successfully reached Wilkes University's enrollment goals six years ahead of schedule, increasing the student body by over

26 percent. He led the creation of an urban planning research-based think tank, the Joint Urban Studies Center. He spearheaded the Institute of Energy and Environmental Research to study the effects of the Marcellus shale drilling. Also, he helped establish the university's partnership with its neighbor King's College to help revitalize downtown Wilkes-Barre with the opening of their joint Barnes and Noble Bookstore.

Prior to his serving as president of Wilkes University, Dr. Gilmour was an assistant professor of higher education, associate member of the graduate faculty and a senior research fellow at the University of Maryland College Park; associate director of academic affairs for the Council of State College and University Presidents for Washington State; university planning specialist in the Office of Budget and Planning at the Pennsylvania State University; vice president for strategic planning at Georgia Institute of Technology, and provost and chief academic officer at Northwest Missouri State University from 1995 to 2000.

In addition to his lengthy service in education, Dr. Gilmour serves on the board of the Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry, the Diamond City Partnership, United Way, Earth Conservancy and the Center for Advancing Partnerships in Education. His history of service to Northeastern Pennsylvania spans well beyond his impressive record of service to the university.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Dr. Tim Gilmour for his dedicated service to our community in Northeastern Pennsylvania, specifically his outstanding promotion of Wilkes University's educational goals.

IN MEMORY OF RUTH BRINKER

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2011

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness I rise to pay tribute to a beloved San Franciscan, Ruth Brinker, who died Monday, August 8th in San Francisco.

Ruth was a visionary hero who brought healing to San Francisco at a time of horrific tragedy in our city's history. In 1985, the AIDS epidemic was ravaging San Francisco. A retired widow and grandmother who loved to cook, and volunteered for Meals on Wheels, Ruth noticed that malnutrition was killing many who were terminally ill with AIDS before the disease took its toll, but there were no social service agencies providing meals to those too weak from AIDS or too impoverished to feed themselves.

First in her kitchen, and then in a church basement, Ruth prepared delicious meals to deliver to seven San Franciscans wasting away from AIDS. She solicited volunteers and

within a few years, one woman's attempt to nurture and care for a handful of people living with AIDS grew into an organization serving 500 meals a day.

As the epidemic spread, Project Open Hand expanded its nutritional services for those with disabling HIV, and, years later, broadened its mission to include "meals with love" for homebound and critically ill clients, seniors and the disabled. They also extended their reach beyond San Francisco to Alameda County.

Long before the advent of powerful medications to control HIV/AIDS, Project Open Hand's home-cooked meals and groceries were a lifeline to the ill and isolated individuals battling this devastating disease. Project Open Hand has been using "food as medicine" with great compassion and care for 26 years, bringing dignity and independence to those it serves. Now in its 26th year, Project Open Hand delivers 3,500 meals every day and serves as a model to more than a hundred organizations in the United States, and increasingly around the world.

In 2005, Ruth received the prestigious Jefferson Award for public service. In 2007, I was proud to nominate Project Open Hand for the national Victory Against Hunger Award from Congress. Last year, Project Open Hand honored her with its Visionary Award which will now be named in her honor.

As our nation marks 30 years since the first AIDS diagnosis, we are inspired by the commitment and compassion of Ruth Brinker in the earliest days of the epidemic.

I hope it is a comfort to her daughters Lisa and Sarah, her grandson Max and great-granddaughter Bailey that so many people loved Ruth and will never forget her. Her wonderful spirit and her legacy will live on in the hundreds of meal-delivery organizations worldwide that she inspired and the millions who have received food and love because of Ruth's courage and compassion.

IN HONOR OF FATHER GHEZZI

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the service that Father Richard G. Ghezzi has provided to the Catholic Church throughout his 25 years in the Roman Catholic priesthood.

Father Ghezzi has dedicated his life to the mission of the Catholic Church and, through the execution of those ideals, has benefitted Northeastern Pennsylvania in numerous ways.

After graduating from Pennsylvania State University and working for his family business, Richard Ghezzi received his calling to join the priesthood. In 1978, he began preparations and earned his Masters in Divinity from Mary

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Immaculate Seminary. He was ordained on August 30, 1986 and began his work in the Catholic Church in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Throughout his service, Father Ghezzi has supported the parishioners of Our Lady of Grace Church in Hazleton, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Peckville, St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Archbald, St. Ann Church in Bentley Creek, and St. Ann Church in Tobyhanna. Currently, Father Ghezzi is serving as chaplain of the Little Flower Manor Nursing Home and St. Therese Residence in Wilkes-Barre.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the vital role this true leader has taken on shaping the religious landscape of so many communities. Father Ghezzi has humbly served for twenty-five years, throughout which he has certainly touched many lives and left a lasting impact on the parish's he has helped to build.

OBTAINING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2011

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Christopher Steven Hostettler for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country and charity. By applying these concepts to daily life, Christopher has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

IN HONOR OF RAYMOND S. ANGELI

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to acknowledge Raymond S. Angeli, president of Lackawanna College, for his outstanding service to both his community as well as the students he has tirelessly represented since 1994. President Angeli's departure from Lackawanna College will surely be a loss for not only the College, but for all who matriculate there.

President Angeli is no stranger to serving both his community and his country. Prior to his position at Lackawanna College, he was a lieutenant colonel in the United States Army. He has also served as a representative to the Southwest Asia Working Group in the Pentagon, deputy director of U.S. Army Personnel in Sattip, Thailand; a Department of Defense inspector general, and secretary of the Department of Community Affairs of Pennsylvania under Governor Robert Casey.

Lackawanna College has seen unprecedented growth under the helm of President Angeli. The college moved to their current

Scranton location in 1996. This move made the college more accessible to students as well as providing the space for a plethora of academic opportunities. To this campus, President Angeli has also seen the addition of a theater, a student center and dormitories. Lackawanna College did not stop expanding; President Angeli's legacy includes the New Milford location as well as the expansion of the Lake Region campus.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize Lackawanna College President Raymond S. Angeli for his promotion of educational priorities in Northeastern Pennsylvania. He has truly played an integral role in ensuring that this community's youth has the tools to have successful futures.

OBTAINING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2011

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Logan Isaac Edmondson for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country and charity. By applying these concepts to daily life, Logan has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

IN HONOR OF FATHER O'HARA

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor and acknowledge Father Thomas O'Hara for his twelve years of service as President of King's College, a liberal arts Catholic college located in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

Father O'Hara fostered a strong sense of community throughout King's College. As a native of my own hometown of Hazleton, PA, he is the first alumnus president of King's College. Ordained in 1978 by the Congregation of Holy Cross, Father O'Hara first taught political science at King's College from 1988 to 1994. He now leaves the Presidency to return to the classroom as a political science professor.

Under Father O'Hara's administration, King's College has achieved national accolades for its academic programs and service to the community. King's was recently recognized among the nation's best in a ranking that stresses service to the community and social mobility of the student body. He has seen the college through tremendous physical growth as well, with the Scandlon Gymnasium expansion and the addition of the Alumni Hall, Gateway Corners and Barnes and Noble downtown bookstore, King's has greatly in-

creased the opportunities available to its students.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize today a true Northeastern Pennsylvania inspiration who has dedicated his life to the service of others. Father O'Hara has admirably accomplished King's mission of preparing students for meaningful and purpose driven lives. I commend his important service to his community and his country.

IN HONOR OF BERNADINE P. HEALY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. Bernadine P. Healy, one of the seminal figures in the health community.

Dr. Healy was born on August 2, 1944 in New York City, the daughter of Michael and Violet Healy. She graduated from Hunter High School in 1962 and proceeded to graduate from Vassar College in 3 years. She then went on to Harvard Medical School, from which she graduated in 1970. Following postdoctoral work, she became a full-time professor in 1982 at Johns Hopkins University, where she was the cardiac director from 1976 to 1984.

In 1984 she was the deputy science adviser to President Ronald Reagan. From 1985 to 1991 she directed research and practiced cardiology at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, which was directed by her husband, Dr. Floyd D. Loop. She also served as president of the American Heart Association from 1988 to 1989.

Bernadine was the first woman to run the National Institutes of Health, a role which she held from 1991 to 1993. She became well-known for her intensity and capacity to innovate. She challenged conventional wisdom regarding women's health, especially the belief that coronary conditions were largely concerns for men. In response, she began the Women's Health Initiative, a study that focused on the causes, treatment, and prevention of cardiovascular diseases in women. Even though her role ended, the study continues to produce findings that affect the way the world views what is considered to be "healthy."

Dr. Healy was also the first physician to lead the American Red Cross, dean of the Ohio State University medical school from 1995 to 1999, and an adviser to President George W. Bush on bioterrorism.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Dr. Bernadine P. Healy, a vital figure in the health community and a woman whose contributions to women's health benefited millions of Americans.

HONORING THE PLYMOUTH FIFE AND DRUM CORPS

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2011

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps based in Plymouth, Michigan as they celebrate 40 years of service to our community and our country.

Formed in November 1971 by Mark and Carol Petty, the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps is not only the first fife and drum corps in Michigan, but the first fife and drum corps in the entire Midwest. Corps members aged 12–18 are dedicated to the preservation of the arts of color guard, fifing, and drumming through performances at parades, historical and patriotic celebrations, and other civic events.

Each year the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps embarks on an eight to ten day tour to visit and perform at historical sites. The group prides itself on a celebrated history, having performed at sites of historical importance in the personal life and military career of George Washington during its silver anniversary year of 1996. The crowning moment of the tour was receiving a standing ovation after a performance for the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, the official ceremonial unit of the Army, and escort to the President. The Old Guard has long served as a model for the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps.

Mr. Speaker, for 40 years the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps has maintained a prominent presence in the Metropolitan Detroit area and traveled extensively throughout the United States and Canada to preserve our nation's musical heritage. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the storied members and alumni of the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps, and in recognizing their four decades of patriotic inspiration and loyal service to our community and our country.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DEBBIE SUTTON

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of California's Thirty-Seventh Congressional District to honor the courage and service of Ms. Debbie Sutton.

Ms. Sutton, a retired nurse from Long Beach, California was the sole volunteer from Long Beach's Chapter of the American Red Cross to be assigned to help in relief efforts after a devastating tornado ripped through Joplin, Missouri in May of 2011. The tornado that passed through the town of Joplin was so extensive, that it damaged the local hospital, destroyed four local schools and left surrounding areas in tatters. Ms. Sutton, one of the lead members of a volunteer team assigned to help residents of Joplin, played an integral role in securing replacements for lost

medical equipment, medicine and other goods essential to public health.

Before Ms. Sutton was called to aid in the post-tornado recovery efforts in Joplin, she had been working to set up health services in preparation for floods in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Ms. Sutton's role in assisting those in need in Joplin represents her fifth assignment as a volunteer in post-disaster recovery. Ms. Sutton also assisted in recovery efforts after hurricanes Rita and Katrina devastated Louisiana.

Ms. Sutton retired from the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services in 2004, and is a truly an outstanding member of our community. In her retirement, Ms. Sutton has dedicated herself to volunteering. Her enthusiastic, adventurous, and altruistic personality serves as a model for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring Ms. Debbie Sutton for her commitment to public health and public service.

IN HONOR OF ROCCO J. COLONNA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Rocco J. Colonna on the occasion of his passing.

Rocco "Rocky" Colonna was an Ohio state legislator. He served from 1975 to 1998 in the Ohio General Assembly in the House of Representatives. During that tenure, he served as the chairman of the House Economic Development and Small Business Committee. In 1998, he was appointed by former Governor George Voinovich to serve on the Liquor Board for the State of Ohio as Commissioner. Additionally, he was a councilman for the City of Brook Park.

In all that he did, Mr. Colonna made sure that he treated everyone around him with dignity and respect. He is remembered by colleagues for always having a joke ready and was universally liked in the House, an accomplishment.

Aside from his political career, Rocco was a veteran of the Korean War, having served in the United States Navy. Additionally, he was married for 54 years to Shirley (nee Meyer). Surviving Rocky are his brother Vito; his children, Tina Montagino and Lavaine Cates; his son Danny, who followed his father into politics and is currently a city councilman in Brook Park; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mr. Rocco J. Colonna, a man whose unending duty to the State of Ohio and to this great nation is something to which we should all aspire.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EDNA ALIEWINE

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, it is my sad duty to rise today to inform the House of the death of Ms. Edna Aliewine. Founder of the Watts/Willowbrook Christmas Parade and co-creator of the Watts Walk of Fame, Edna, a longtime Watts resident, devoted her life to instilling civic pride into residents of her community. Edna Aliewine passed away at her home on Tuesday at the age of 90 due to complications from lymphoma.

Ms. Aliewine was born in Los Angeles on January 1, 1921 and later went on to attend Los Angeles City College and Cal State LA. Upon graduation, Edna worked as a real estate agent and later as a private nurse, but many knew that Edna's real passion lay in community service and local politics. Ms. Aliewine was well known throughout the community for her many accomplishments and was held in high regard by those closest to her.

Among her proudest achievements, Ms. Aliewine founded the Watts/Willowbrook Christmas Parade. Inspired by the glitz and glamour of the Hollywood Christmas Parade, Ms. Aliewine sought to bring her own version to the community of Watts. In 1964, Ms. Aliewine started the Watts/Willowbrook Christmas Parade by scraping together as much money and as many volunteers as she could. The parade has since turned into an annual event, which has spanned over 46 years and included many celebrities, such as Sammy Davis Jr. and the Jackson 5.

In 1988, along with Dr. James Mays, Ms. Aliewine decided to create the Watts Walk of Fame, a monument to community heroes. The Promenade of Prominence, as it is called, was placed along the edge of what is now Ted Watkins Memorial Park at 103rd and Success streets. Edna also served as President of the Los Angeles County Commission for Women, founded the Watts-Willowbrook Chamber of Commerce, and the Watts Community Beautiful Corp.

Edna's community involvement and selfless attitude were a powerful example for her three children: Paula Aliewine, Marsha Feaster and Wilnora Ewell. She will always be remembered by Watts-Willowbrook residents for her wonderful spirit and dedication to community improvement. I ask all Members to join me in a moment of silence to honor the memory of the late Edna Aliewine.

RECOGNIZING PURPLE HEART DAY

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2011

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Purple Heart Day.

On August 7, 1782, General George Washington issued an order establishing the Honorary Badge of Distinction, otherwise known

as the Badge of Military Merit or the Decoration of the Purple Heart.

The Purple Heart bears the profile of George Washington, the man who led our country through the Revolutionary War and eventually became the nation's first President.

The Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to members of the armed forces who are wounded in conflict with an enemy force, or while being held by an enemy force as a prisoner of war, and may also be awarded to the next of kin of members of the Armed Forces who are killed in conflict with an enemy force, or who die of a wound received in conflict with an enemy force.

The Order of the Purple Heart for Military Merit is our oldest military decoration.

Purple has always been a symbol of royalty and it is fitting that we award the Purple Heart to our wounded heroes, those American military members who have bravely served their country and risked their lives to secure our freedom. I want to thank all veterans for their bravery on behalf of the United States of America. I am personally inspired by the selfless service and devotion of the veterans who have fought for our nation.

The United States of America honors the service men and women who on distant fields of death gave their life blood for their country, not forgetting warriors of yesteryear or those still in Iraq or Afghanistan, today.

As the Representative for Nevada's First Congressional District, it gives me immense pride to recognize August 7 as the anniversary of the Purple Heart award, and as Purple Heart Day. Today is a day to reflect and take

great pride in being Americans. We must never forget the sacrifices all veterans have made in the name of freedom.

HONORING SANDY COVALL-ALVES
OF SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 12, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, together with my colleague, Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, to recognize Sandy Covall-Alves, who is retiring after three decades in the emergency management field. Throughout her 30 years of service, including 16 as Emergency Manager for Sonoma County's Fire and Emergency Services Department and the Sonoma County Operational Area, she dedicated herself to making sure that people in her charge were safe and received the resources they needed in the wake of natural disasters.

During her tenure in Sonoma County, Ms. Covall-Alves coordinated the response, recovery and mitigation efforts for the 1995–1999 and 2006 winter storms and floods, the 1996 Cavedale fire and the 1998 Rio Nido debris flow. In total, she oversaw the implementation of 14 local emergency proclamations, 12 Emergency Operations Center activations, 8 gubernatorial proclamations and 6 events that were designated by the President to be national disasters.

Ms. Covall-Alves was also the guiding force in establishing, implementing and coordinating emergency programs for the country, its cities and special districts. Her commitment to improving emergency management did not stop at the county line. She is a founding member and current Chair of the California Operational Area Coalition (COAC), a forum for information exchange and advocacy on emergency management issues. The coalition's mission is to enhance closer cooperation and collaboration with its members and with the State Emergency Management Agency.

Ms. Covall-Alves began her career in emergency management as a 9–1–1 dispatcher for the Tuolumne County Sheriffs Department. After developing disaster recovery plans for private businesses, she returned to public service with the San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services and from there was deployed to the 1994 Northridge earthquake in Southern California as part of the state's mutual aid program. She joined the Sonoma County Office of Emergency Services in 1995 and quickly became an integral part of the county's response and recovery team. Our offices appreciated working with her, knowing that she was the consummate professional who could use all of her connections to develop a coordinated response.

Mr. Speaker, Sandy Covall-Alves has had a long and distinguished career in serving and protecting the people of the State of California. We wish her well in her retirement as she enjoys time with her husband, Ron Alves, and their three special pets, Beesley, Mowse and Wilson.

SENATE—Tuesday, August 16, 2011*(Legislative day of Tuesday, August 2, 2011)*

The Senate met at 11 and 53 seconds a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, August 16, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECESS UNTIL 10 A.M., FRIDAY,
AUGUST 19, 2011

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 10 a.m., Friday, August 19, 2011.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 11:01 and 39 seconds a.m., recessed until Friday, August 19, 2011, at 10 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, August 16, 2011

The House met at 11:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JORDAN).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
August 16, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM JORDAN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Susan Kirlin-Hackett, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Lake Stevens, Washington, offered the following prayer:

Good and gracious God, You hear the cry that rises up from people of all nations calling for leaders whose decisions are tempered by compassion and mercy. We pray on this day for the men and women of the House of Representatives, that they might exercise their power and authority with kindness and with regard for the poor within our own country and beyond our borders.

Holy God, You know the limits of human wisdom, our frailties, and selfishness. We pray that the women and men of this place would seek justice and enjoy friendships that provide sound counsel and encouragement.

Grant to all who serve in this House rest when weary, competence in their task, and a deep appreciation of the trust that has been given to them by citizens of this Nation. May Your wisdom prevail and Your steadfast love be known. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5 of House Resolution 375, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4 of House Resolution 375, legislative business is not dispensed with on this day.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 12, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on August 12, 2011, at 11:20 a.m., and said to contain a message from the President whereby he notifies the Congress that he has extended the national emergency with respect to the lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

ROBERT F. REEVES,
Deputy Clerk.

CONTINUATION OF EMERGENCY EXPORT CONTROL REGULATIONS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112-49)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency caused by the lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended, is to continue in effect for 1 year beyond August 17, 2011.

BARACK OBAMA,
THE WHITE HOUSE, August 12, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to sections 3 and 4 of House Resolution 375, the House stands adjourned until 1 p.m. on Friday, August 19, 2011.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 34 minutes a.m.), the House adjourned until Friday, August 19, 2011, at 1 p.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Speaker-Authorized Official Travel during the first, second, and third quarters of 2011 pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DAVID STEWART, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 18 AND APR. 20, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
David Stewart	4/18	4/20	Colombia		554.00		(³)				554.00
Committee total											554.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

DAVID STEWART, July 29, 2011.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO POLAND, HUNGARY, CZECH REPUBLIC, AND UNITED KINGDOM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JUNE 26 AND JULY 5, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Kevin McCarthy	6/27	6/28	Poland		325.00		(³)				325.00
Hon. Karen Bass	6/27	6/28	Poland		325.00		(³)				325.00
Hon. Elton Gallegly	6/27	6/28	Poland		325.00		(³)				325.00
Hon. Mac Thornberry	6/27	6/28	Poland		325.00		(³)				325.00
Hon. Greg Walden	6/27	6/28	Poland		325.00		(³)				325.00
Hon. Shelley Moore Capito	6/27	6/28	Poland		325.00		(³)				325.00
Hon. Lynn Westmoreland	6/27	6/28	Poland		325.00		(³)				325.00
Hon. Steve Scalise	6/27	6/28	Poland		325.00		(³)				325.00
Hon. Aaron Schock	6/27	6/28	Poland		325.00		(³)				325.00
Natalie Buchanan	6/27	6/28	Poland		325.00		(³)				325.00
Janice Robinson	6/27	6/28	Poland		325.00		(³)				325.00
Emily Murry	6/27	6/28	Poland		325.00		(³)				325.00
Riley Moore	6/27	6/28	Poland		325.00		(³)				325.00
John Stipicevic	6/27	6/28	Poland		325.00		(³)				325.00
Kristin Thomson	6/27	6/28	Poland		325.00		(³)				325.00
Hon. Kevin McCarthy	6/28	6/30	Hungary		468.00		(³)				468.00
Hon. Karen Bass	6/28	6/30	Hungary		468.00		(³)				468.00
Hon. Elton Gallegly	6/28	6/30	Hungary		468.00		(³)				468.00
Hon. Mac Thornberry	6/28	6/30	Hungary		468.00		(³)				468.00
Hon. Greg Walden	6/28	6/30	Hungary		468.00		(³)				468.00
Hon. Shelley Moore Capito	6/28	6/30	Hungary		468.00		(³)				468.00
Hon. Lynn Westmoreland	6/28	6/30	Hungary		468.00		(³)				468.00
Hon. Steve Scalise	6/28	6/30	Hungary		468.00		(³)				468.00
Hon. Aaron Schock	6/28	6/30	Hungary		468.00		(³)				468.00
Natalie Buchanan	6/28	6/30	Hungary		468.00		(³)				468.00
Janice Robinson	6/28	6/30	Hungary		468.00		(³)				468.00
Emily Murry	6/28	6/30	Hungary		468.00		(³)				468.00
Riley Moore	6/28	6/30	Hungary		468.00		(³)				468.00
John Stipicevic	6/28	6/30	Hungary		468.00		(³)				468.00
Kristin Thomson	6/28	6/30	Hungary		468.00		(³)				468.00
Hon. Kevin McCarthy	6/30	7/02	Czech Republic		812.00		(³)				812.00
Hon. Karen Bass	6/30	7/02	Czech Republic		812.00		(³)				812.00
Hon. Elton Gallegly	6/30	7/02	Czech Republic		812.00		(³)				812.00
Hon. Mac Thornberry	6/30	7/02	Czech Republic		812.00		(³)				812.00
Hon. Greg Walden	6/30	7/02	Czech Republic		812.00		(³)				812.00
Hon. Shelley Moore Capito	6/30	7/02	Czech Republic		812.00		(³)				812.00
Hon. Lynn Westmoreland	6/30	7/02	Czech Republic		812.00		(³)				812.00
Hon. Steve Scalise	6/30	7/02	Czech Republic		812.00		(³)				812.00
Hon. Aaron Schock	6/30	7/02	Czech Republic		812.00		(³)				812.00
Natalie Buchanan	6/30	7/02	Czech Republic		812.00		(³)				812.00
Janice Robinson	6/30	7/02	Czech Republic		812.00		(³)				812.00
Emily Murry	6/30	7/02	Czech Republic		812.00		(³)				812.00
Riley Moore	6/30	7/02	Czech Republic		812.00		(³)				812.00
John Stipicevic	6/30	7/02	Czech Republic		812.00		(³)				812.00
Kristin Thomson	6/30	7/02	Czech Republic		812.00		(³)				812.00
Hon. Kevin McCarthy	7/02	7/05	United Kingdom		1,986.00		(³)				1,986.00
Hon. Karen Bass	7/02	7/05	United Kingdom		1,986.00		(³)				1,986.00
Hon. Elton Gallegly	7/02	7/05	United Kingdom		1,986.00		(³)				1,986.00
Hon. Mac Thornberry	7/02	7/05	United Kingdom		1,986.00		(³)				1,986.00
Hon. Greg Walden	7/02	7/05	United Kingdom		1,986.00		(³)				1,986.00
Hon. Shelley Moore Capito	7/02	7/05	United Kingdom		1,986.00		(³)				1,986.00
Hon. Lynn Westmoreland	7/02	7/05	United Kingdom		1,986.00		(³)				1,986.00
Hon. Steve Scalise	7/02	7/05	United Kingdom		1,986.00		(³)				1,986.00
Hon. Aaron Schock	7/02	7/05	United Kingdom		1,986.00		(³)				1,986.00
Natalie Buchanan	7/02	7/05	United Kingdom		561.00		(³)				561.00
Janice Robinson	7/02	7/05	United Kingdom		1,986.00		(³)				1,986.00
Emily Murry	7/02	7/05	United Kingdom		1,986.00		(³)				1,986.00
Riley Moore	7/02	7/05	United Kingdom		1,986.00		(³)				1,986.00
John Stipicevic	7/02	7/05	United Kingdom		1,986.00		(³)				1,986.00
Kristin Thomson	7/02	7/05	United Kingdom		1,986.00		(³)				1,986.00
Committee total											52,440.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY, Aug. 4, 2011.

August 16, 2011

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE, Vol. 157, Pt. 9

12929

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☐

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS, Chairman, July 27, 2011.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO BULGARIA AND GERMANY FOR THE SPRING SESSION OF THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAY 27 AND MAY 31, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Michael Turner	5/27	5/30	Bulgaria		301.29		(³)				301.29
	5/30	5/31	Germany		193.25		(³)				193.25
Hon. Mike Ross	5/27	5/30	Bulgaria		329.49		(³)				329.49
	5/30	5/31	Germany		106.91		(³)				106.91
Hon. Jeff Miller	5/27	5/30	Bulgaria		346.29		(³)				346.29
	5/30	5/31	Germany		140.00		(³)				140.00
Hon. Jo Ann Emerson	5/27	5/30	Bulgaria		406.29		(³)				406.29
	5/30	5/31	Germany		193.25		(³)				193.25
Hon. Joe Wilson	5/27	5/30	Bulgaria		339.10		(³)				339.10
	5/30	5/31	Germany		100.63		(³)				100.63
Riley Moore	5/27	5/30	Bulgaria		366.29		(³)				366.29
	5/30	5/31	Germany		93.25		(³)				93.25
Greg McCarthy	5/27	5/30	Bulgaria		400.27		(³)				400.27
	5/30	5/31	Germany		185.26		(³)				185.26
Committee total					3,501.57						3,501.57

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER, Chairman, July 28, 2011.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Steven LaTourette	4/21	4/23	China		632.00		(³)				632.00
	4/23	4/25	Hong Kong		878.00		(³)				878.00
	4/25	4/25	South Korea		700.00		(³)				700.00
Hon. Kay Granger	4/26	4/27	Israel		466.00		(³)				466.00
	4/27	4/28	Egypt		267.00		(³)				267.00
	4/29	4/30	Belgium		381.00		(³)				381.00
Anne Marie Chotvacs	4/26	4/27	Israel		466.00		(³)				466.00
	4/27	4/28	Egypt		267.00		(³)				267.00
	4/29	4/30	Belgium		381.00		(³)				381.00
Hon. Mario Diaz-Balart	4/27	4/30	Brazil		680.29						680.29
Commercial air transportation							1,528.10				1,528.10
Ground transportation							842.37				842.37
Craig Higgins	4/25	4/25	Cambodia		922.00						922.00
	5/1	5/6	Iraq								
Commercial air transportation							24,447.70				24,447.70
Erin Kolodjeski	5/2	5/5	South Africa		1,176.00						1,176.00
Commercial air transportation							8,324.60				8,324.60
Hon. C.W. Bill Young	6/5	6/6	France		1,079.76		(³)				1,079.76
	6/6	6/9	Italy		2,402.73		(³)				2,402.73
Travel day	6/10				23.00						23.00
Misc. Embassy Costs								1,567.62			1,567.62
Hon. Jack Kingston	6/5	6/6	France		1,079.76		(³)				1,079.76
	6/6	6/9	Italy		2,402.73		(³)				2,402.73
Travel day	6/10				23.00						23.00
Misc. Embassy Costs								1,567.62			1,567.62
Hon. Norm Dicks	6/5	6/6	France		1,079.76		(³)				1,079.76
	6/6	6/9	Italy		2,402.73		(³)				2,402.73
Travel day	6/10				23.00						23.00
Misc. Embassy Costs								1,567.62			1,567.62
Hon. Kay Granger	6/6	6/9	Italy		1,813.72		(³)				1,813.72
Travel day	6/10				23.00						23.00
Misc. Embassy Costs								1,567.62			1,567.62
Part commercial air transportation							374.30				374.30
Hon. Tom Cole	6/5	6/6	France		1,079.76		(³)				1,079.76
	6/6	6/9	Italy		2,402.73		(³)				2,402.73
Travel day	6/10				23.00						23.00
Misc. Embassy Costs								1,567.62			1,567.62
Hon. Marcy Kaptur	6/5	6/6	France		1,079.76		(³)				1,079.76
	6/6	6/9	Italy		2,402.73		(³)				2,402.73
Travel day	6/10				23.00						23.00
Misc. Embassy Costs								1,567.62			1,567.62
Hon. Sanford Bishop	6/5	6/6	France		1,079.76		(³)				1,079.76
	6/6	6/9	Italy		2,402.73		(³)				2,402.73
Travel day	6/10				23.00						23.00
Misc. Embassy Costs								1,567.62			1,567.62
Hon. John Carter	6/5	6/6	France		1,079.76		(³)				1,079.76
	6/6	6/9	Italy		2,402.73		(³)				2,402.73
Travel day	6/10				23.00						23.00
Misc. Embassy Costs								1,567.62			1,567.62
Hon. Ander Crenshaw	6/5	6/6	France		1,424.76		(³)				1,424.76

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN
APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2011—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Part military air transportation	6/7	6/8	France				(³)				
Misc. transportation costs							75.00				75.00
BG Wright	6/5	6/6	France		1,079.76		(³)				1,079.76
Travel day	6/6	6/9	Italy		2,402.73		(³)				2,402.73
Misc. Embassy Costs	6/10				23.00						23.00
Paul Juola	6/5	6/6	France		1,079.76		(³)		1,567.62		1,567.62
Travel day	6/6	6/9	Italy		2,402.73		(³)				1,079.76
Misc. Embassy Costs	6/10				23.00						2,402.73
Paul Terry	6/5	6/6	France		1,079.76		(³)		1,567.62		1,567.62
Travel day	6/6	6/9	Italy		2,402.73		(³)				1,079.76
Misc. Embassy Costs	6/10				23.00						2,402.73
Hon. Frank Wolf	6/25	6/29	Egypt		⁶ 979.01		(³)		1,567.62		1,567.62
Commercial air transportation							7,626.10				979.01
Committee total					46,511.68		43,218.17		17,243.82		106,973.67

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

⁴ Minus \$119.98 in unused M and IE returned to U.S. Treasury.

⁵ Minus \$111.88 in unused M and IE returned to U.S. Treasury.

⁶ Minus \$88.99 in unused per diem returned to U.S. Treasury.

HON. HAROLD ROGERS, Chairman.

(AMENDED) REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN
JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Visit to United Saudi Arabia, January 7–12, 2011: William Spencer Johnson	1/8	1/12	Saudi Arabia		97.45						97.45
Visit to Algeria, Senegal, Liberia, Uganda, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Israel, Turkey, Burkina Faso, Germany, February 20–28, 2011 With CODEL Inhofe: Hon. J. Randy Forbes	2/22	2/23	Burkina Faso		74.36						74.36
	2/24	2/24	Uganda								
	2/24	2/25	Ethiopia		155.35						155.35
	2/26	2/26	Djibouti								
	2/26	2/27	Israel		31.52						31.52
	2/27	2/27	Turkey								
	2/27	2/28	Germany		48.24						48.24
Committee total					406.92				– 267.12		139.80

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Returned.

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON, Chairman, July 31, 2011.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN
APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Visit to Cuba, April 12, 2011: Hon. Mike Coffman	4/12	4/12	Cuba								
Hon. Adam Smith	4/12	4/12	Cuba								
Hon. Joe Heck	4/12	4/12	Cuba								
Hon. Steven Palazzo	4/12	4/12	Cuba								
Michele Pearce	4/12	4/12	Cuba								
Paul Lewis	4/12	4/12	Cuba								
Visit to Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Czech Republic, Georgia, Germany, April 25–May 2, 2011: Hon. Bill Shuster	4/26	4/27	Czech Republic		422.50						422.50
	4/27	4/29	Azerbaijan		530.81						530.81
	4/29	5/1	Afghanistan		28.00						28.00
	5/1	5/2	Georgia		168.00						168.00
	5/2	5/3	Germany								
Hon. Jon Runyan	4/26	4/27	Czech Republic		422.50						422.50
	4/27	4/29	Azerbaijan		530.81						530.81
	4/29	5/1	Afghanistan		28.00						28.00
	5/1	5/2	Georgia		168.00						168.00
	5/2	5/3	Germany								
Michele Pearce	4/26	4/27	Czech Republic		422.50						422.50
	4/27	4/29	Azerbaijan		530.81						530.81
	4/29	5/1	Afghanistan		28.00						28.00
	5/1	5/2	Georgia		168.00						168.00
	5/2	5/3	Germany								
Timothy McClees	4/26	4/27	Czech Republic		422.50						422.50
	4/27	4/29	Azerbaijan		530.81						530.81
	4/29	5/1	Afghanistan		28.00						28.00
	5/1	5/2	Georgia		168.00						168.00

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REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN
APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2011—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Visit to Germany, Afghanistan, Italy, May 6–9, 2011:	5/2	5/3	Germany								
Hon. Vicky Hartzler	5/6	5/6	Germany		100.13						100.13
	5/7	5/8	Afghanistan		23.00						23.00
	5/9	5/9	Italy		83.65						83.65
Hon. Martha Roby	5/6	5/6	Germany		244.50						244.50
	5/7	5/8	Afghanistan		28.00						28.00
	5/9	5/9	Italy		144.00						144.00
Hon. Niki Tsongas	5/6	5/6	Germany		80.13						80.13
	5/7	5/8	Afghanistan		23.00						23.00
	5/9	5/9	Italy		60.00						60.00
Hon. Susan Davis	5/6	5/6	Germany		244.50						244.50
	5/7	5/8	Afghanistan		28.00						28.00
	5/9	5/9	Italy		144.00						144.00
Jaime Cheshire	5/6	5/6	Germany		244.50						244.50
	5/7	5/8	Afghanistan		28.00						28.00
	5/9	5/9	Italy		144.00						144.00
Debra Wada	5/6	5/6	Germany		244.50						244.50
	5/7	5/8	Afghanistan		28.00						28.00
	5/9	5/9	Italy		144.00						144.00
Visit to Israel, Afghanistan, Germany, May 14–18, 2011:											
Hon. J. Randy Forbes	5/14	5/15	Israel		146.00						146.00
	5/15	5/17	Afghanistan		56.00						56.00
	5/17	5/18	Germany		153.00						153.00
Hon. Madeleine Bordallo	5/14	5/15	Israel		146.00						146.00
	5/15	5/17	Afghanistan		56.00						56.00
	5/17	5/18	Germany		153.00						153.00
Hon. Mark Critz	5/14	5/15	Israel		146.00						146.00
	5/15	5/17	Afghanistan		56.00						56.00
	5/17	5/18	Germany		153.00						153.00
Jamie Lynch	5/14	5/15	Israel		146.00						146.00
	5/15	5/17	Afghanistan		56.00						56.00
	5/17	5/18	Germany		153.00						153.00
Vickie Plunkett	5/14	5/15	Israel		146.00						146.00
	5/15	5/17	Afghanistan		5.00						5.00
	5/17	5/18	Germany		44.00						44.00
Visit to Germany, Poland, Romania, Georgia, Greece, United Kingdom, Italy, May 16–23, 2011:											
Hon. Michael R. Turner	5/16	5/18	Poland		271.00						271.00
	5/18	5/19	Greece		342.99						342.99
	5/19	5/20	Romania		305.56						305.56
	5/20	5/21	Georgia		298.00						298.00
	5/21	5/22	Germany		188.25						188.25
	5/22	5/22	Italy		144.00						144.00
Hon. Loretta Sanchez	5/16	5/18	Poland		271.00						271.00
	5/18	5/19	Greece		342.99						342.99
	5/19	5/20	Romania		305.56						305.56
	5/20	5/21	Georgia		298.00						298.00
	5/21	5/22	Germany		188.25						188.25
	5/22	5/22	Italy		144.00						144.00
Hon. Doug Lamborn	5/16	5/18	Poland		271.00						271.00
	5/18	5/19	Greece		342.99						342.99
	5/19	5/20	Romania		305.56						305.56
	5/20	5/21	Georgia		298.00						298.00
	5/21	5/22	Germany		188.25						188.25
	5/22	5/22	Italy		144.00						144.00
Hon. Kari Bingen Tytler	5/16	5/18	Poland		271.00						271.00
	5/18	5/19	Greece		342.99						342.99
	5/19	5/20	Romania		305.56						305.56
	5/20	5/21	Georgia		298.00						298.00
	5/21	5/22	Germany		188.25						188.25
	5/22	5/22	Italy		144.00						144.00
Leonor Tomero	5/16	5/18	Poland		271.00						271.00
	5/18	5/19	Greece		342.99						342.99
	5/19	5/20	Romania		305.56						305.56
	5/20	5/21	Georgia		298.00						298.00
	5/21	5/22	Germany		188.25						188.25
	5/22	5/22	Italy		144.00						144.00
Visit to Belgium, Afghanistan, Estonia, May 26–30, 2011:											
Hon. Mac Thornberry	5/27	5/28	Belgium		103.00						103.00
	5/28	5/30	Afghanistan		28.00						28.00
	5/30	5/31	Estonia		240.06						240.06
Hon. John Garamendi	5/27	5/28	Belgium		73.00						73.00
	5/28	5/30	Afghanistan								
	5/30	5/31	Estonia		166.06						166.06
Hon. Jim Cooper	5/27	5/28	Belgium		103.00						103.00
	5/28	5/30	Afghanistan								
	5/30	5/31	Estonia		240.06						240.06
Hon. Steven Palazzo	5/27	5/28	Belgium		103.00						103.00
	5/28	5/30	Afghanistan		28.00						28.00
	5/30	5/31	Estonia		240.06						240.06
Hon. Tim Griffin	5/27	5/28	Belgium		103.00						103.00
	5/28	5/30	Afghanistan		28.00						28.00
	5/30	5/31	Estonia		240.06						240.06
Peter Villano	5/27	5/28	Belgium		103.00						103.00
	5/28	5/30	Afghanistan		28.00						28.00
	5/30	5/31	Estonia		240.06						240.06
Michael Casey	5/27	5/28	Belgium		103.00						103.00
	5/28	5/30	Afghanistan		28.00						28.00
	5/30	5/31	Estonia		240.06						240.06
Delegation Expenses	5/30	5/31	Estonia					1,768.56			1,768.56
Visit to United Kingdom, June 3–8, 2011:											
Catherine McElroy	6/3	6/8	United Kingdom		576.35						576.35
William Spencer Johnson	6/3	6/8	United Kingdom		444.00						444.00
Paul Lewis	6/3	6/8	United Kingdom		576.35						576.35
Elizabeth Nathan	6/3	6/8	United Kingdom		519.13						519.13
Christopher Bright	6/3	6/8	United Kingdom		584.52						584.52

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN
APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2011—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Delegation Expenses	6/3	6/8	United Kingdom						13,397.74		13,397.74
Visit to Canada, June 6–8, 2011:											
Douglas Bush	6/6	6/8	Canada		577.28						577.28
Visit to Kuwait, Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Germany, June 3–10, 2011:											
Hon. Doug Lamborn	6/4	6/5	Kuwait		432.05						432.05
	6/5	6/6	Iraq								
	6/6	6/7	Pakistan		81.00						81.00
	6/7	6/9	Afghanistan		28.00						28.00
	6/9	6/10	Germany		123.00						123.00
Hon. Austin Scott	6/4	6/5	Kuwait		432.05						432.05
	6/5	6/6	Iraq								
	6/6	6/7	Pakistan		81.00						81.00
	6/7	6/9	Afghanistan		28.00						28.00
	6/9	6/10	Germany		123.00						123.00
Drew Walter	6/4	6/5	Kuwait		432.05						432.05
	6/5	6/6	Iraq								
	6/6	6/7	Pakistan		81.00						81.00
	6/7	6/9	Afghanistan		28.00						28.00
	6/9	6/10	Germany		123.00						123.00
Craig Greene	6/4	6/5	Kuwait		432.05						432.05
	6/5	6/6	Iraq								
	6/6	6/7	Pakistan		81.00						81.00
	6/7	6/9	Afghanistan		28.00						28.00
	6/9	6/10	Germany		123.00						123.00
Visit to Mexico, June 24, 2011 With CODEL Issa:											
Hon. Silvestre Reyes	6/24	6/25	Mexico		300.00						300.00
Visit to Qatar, Afghanistan, June 26–27, 2011:											
Hon. Duncan Hunter	6/25	6/26	Qatar		340.62						340.62
	6/26	6/27	Afghanistan		28.00						28.00
	6/27	6/28	Qatar		226.62						226.62
Commercial transportation							10,782.90				10,782.90
Hon. Allen West	6/25	6/26	Qatar		340.62						340.62
	6/26	6/27	Afghanistan		28.00						28.00
	6/27	6/28	Qatar		226.62						226.62
Commercial transportation							10,782.90				10,782.90
Heath Bope	6/25	6/26	Qatar		340.62						340.62
	6/26	6/27	Afghanistan		28.00						28.00
	6/27	6/28	Qatar		226.62						226.62
Commercial transportation							10,817.90				10,817.90
John Phillip MacNaughton	6/25	6/26	Qatar		340.62						340.62
	6/26	6/27	Afghanistan		28.00						28.00
	6/27	6/28	Qatar		226.62						226.62
Commercial transportation							10,817.90				10,817.90
Committee total					27,049.36		43,201.60		15,166.30		85,417.26

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON, Chairman July 31, 2011.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN
APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Virginia Fox	5/16	5/18	Colombia		677.77		(3)				677.77
	5/18	5/20	Panama		326.50		(3)				326.50
	5/20	5/20	Mexico				1,230.72				1,230.72
Committee total											2,234.99

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

HON. JOHN KLINE, Chairman, Aug. 1, 2011.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN
APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Mary Neumayr	6/5	6/7	France		270.00		(3)				270.00
	6/7	6/9	Sweden		342.00		(3)				342.00
Hon. Tim Murphy	6/5	6/7	France		270.00		(3)				270.00
	6/7	6/9	Sweden		342.00		(3)				342.00
Hon. Gene Green	6/5	6/7	France		270.00		(3)				270.00
	6/7	6/9	Sweden		342.00		(3)				342.00
Hon. Diana DeGette	6/5	6/7	France		270.00		(3)				270.00
	6/7	6/9	Sweden		342.00		(3)				342.00
Hon. David McKinley	6/5	6/7	France		270.00		(3)				270.00
	6/7	6/9	Sweden		342.00		(3)				342.00
Hon. Phil Gingrey	6/5	6/7	France		270.00		(3)				270.00
	6/7	6/9	Sweden		342.00		(3)				342.00
Alicia Caitlin Haberman	6/5	6/7	France		248.27		(3)				248.27
	6/7	6/9	Sweden		310.80		(3)				310.80
Heidi King	6/5	6/7	France		270.00		(3)				270.00
	6/7	6/9	Sweden		342.00		(3)				342.00

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REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2011—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Adam Kinzinger	4/25	4/27	Czech Republic		549.47		(³)				549.47
	4/27	4/29	Azerbaijan		826.38		(³)				826.38
	4/29	4/30	Afghanistan		28.00		(³)				28.00
	4/30	5/2	Rep. of Georgia		503.35		(³)				503.35
Hon. Mary Bono Mack	5/16	5/18	Colombia		214.00		(³)				214.00
	5/18	5/20	Panama		95.00		(³)				95.00
	5/20	5/21	Mexico		95.00		(³)				95.00
Paul Cancienne	5/16	5/18	Colombia		214.00		(³)				214.00
	5/18	5/20	Panama		95.00		(³)				95.00
	5/20	5/21	Mexico		95.00		(³)				95.00
Committee total					7,560.27						7,560.27

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.⁴ Returned.

HON. FRED UPTON, Chairman, Aug. 1, 2011.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ETHICS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.☒											

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JO BONNER, Chairman.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Keith Ellison	4/21	4/23	Turkey		345.00						345.00
	4/23	4/28	Saudi Arabia		1,298.87		13,673.10				14,971.97
Hon. Edwin Perlmutter	4/27	4/29	South Korea		545.94						545.94
	4/29	4/30	Vietnam		157.00						157.00
	4/30	5/1	Hong Kong		286.00						286.00
	5/1	5/2	Philippines		198.00		7,617.54				7,815.54
Hon. Sean Duffy	4/26	4/27	Czech Republic		423.00		(³)				423.00
	4/27	4/29	Azerbaijan		778.60		(³)				778.60
	4/29	4/30	Afghanistan		28.00		(³)				28.00
	4/30	5/2	Georgia		442.00		(³)				442.00
Hon. Bill Huizenga	5/18	5/19	Kuwait		356.00						356.00
	5/19	5/20	Iraq				(³)				
	5/20	5/21	Kuwait		356.00						356.00
	5/21	5/22	Saudi Arabia		494.00		3,935.10				4,429.10
Hon. Francisco Canseco	5/19	5/20	Panama		179.50		709.80				889.30
	5/20	5/21	Mexico		237.12		(³)				237.12
	5/21	5/22	United States		78.00		(³)				78.00
Hon. David Schweikert	5/20	5/20	Cuba				(³)				
Hon. Michael Fitzpatrick	5/20	5/20	Cuba				(³)				
Committee total					6,203.03		25,935.54				32,138.57

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

HON. SPENCER BACHUS, Chairman, Aug. 1, 2011.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Gregory Meeks	4/18	4/20	Colombia		764.00		(³)				764.00
Hon. Chris Murphy	4/26	4/27	Czech Republic		371.50		(³)				371.50
	4/27	4/29	Azerbaijan		380.25		(³)				380.25
	4/29	4/30	Afghanistan				(³)				
	4/30	5/2	Georgia		364.00		(³)				364.00
Hon. Steve Chabot	4/27	4/29	Israel		1,152.00				\$ 6,805.36		7,957.36
	4/29	4/30	Jordan		269.40				\$ 911.00		1,180.40
	4/30	5/1	Egypt		217.00				\$ 1,712.00		1,929.00
	5/1	5/2	Netherlands		431.00						431.00
							\$ 2,443.62				2,443.62
Kevin Fitzpatrick	4/27	4/29	Israel		1,114.00						1,114.00
	4/29	4/30	Jordan		263.00						263.00
	4/30	5/1	Egypt		228.00						228.00
	5/1	5/2	Netherlands		471.00						471.00
							\$ 2,443.62				2,443.62

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Edward Stein	4/27	4/29	Israel		1,197.00						1,197.00
	4/29	4/30	Jordan		274.00						274.40
	4/30	5/1	Egypt		257.00						257.00
	5/1	5/2	Netherlands		446.00						446.00
Kristin Jackson	4/25	4/27	Mexico		535.96						535.96
											2,443.62
Hubbell Knapp	4/25	4/27	Mexico		535.96						535.96
											2,256.51
Jacqueline Quinones	4/25	4/27	Mexico		535.96						535.96
											1,954.47
Joan Condon	5/1	5/5	South Africa		1,694.00						1,694.00
											2,122.51
Pearl Alice Marsh	5/1	5/5	South Africa		1,667.00						1,667.00
											7,979.70
Sheri Rickert	5/2	5/5	South Africa		897.00						897.00
											7,979.70
Hon. Dan Burton	5/15	5/17	Ireland		915.30						915.30
	5/17	5/19	Austria		903.16						903.16
	5/19	5/21	Czech Republic		630.60						630.60
Hon. Frederica Wilson	5/15	5/17	Ireland		915.30						915.30
	5/17	5/19	Austria		903.16						903.16
	5/19	5/21	Czech Republic		680.60						680.60
Mark Walker	5/15	5/17	Ireland		915.30						915.30
	5/17	5/19	Austria		903.16						903.16
	5/19	5/21	Czech Republic		580.60						580.60
Brian Wanko	5/15	5/17	Ireland		915.30						915.30
	5/17	5/19	Austria		903.16						903.16
	5/19	5/21	Czech Republic		680.60						680.60
Brent Woolfork	5/15	5/17	Ireland		783.30						783.30
	5/17	5/19	Austria		794.16						794.16
	5/19	5/21	Czech Republic		767.60						767.60
Hon. Connie Mack	5/16	5/18	Colombia		754.78						754.78
	5/18	5/20	Panama		306.00						306.00
	5/20	5/21	Mexico		240.46						240.46
Hon. Michael McCaul	5/18	5/20	Colombia		690.78						690.78
	5/20	5/21	Panama		340.00						340.00
	5/21	5/22	Mexico		270.42						270.42
Hon. David Rivera	5/16	5/18	Colombia		634.04						634.04
	5/18	5/20	Panama		311.22						311.22
											6,812.80
Edward Acevedo	5/16	5/18	Colombia		772.82						772.82
	5/18	5/20	Panama		348.00						348.00
	5/20	5/21	Mexico		271.16						271.16
Kristin Jackson	5/16	5/18	Colombia		746.82						746.82
	5/18	5/20	Panama		306.00						306.00
	5/20	5/21	Mexico		244.20						244.20
Janice Kaguyutan	5/16	5/18	Colombia		716.82						716.82
	5/18	5/20	Panama		366.00						366.00
	5/20	5/21	Mexico		299.17						299.17

August 16, 2011

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REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN
APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2011—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Ted Poe	6/6	6/9	Philippines		490.00		(³)				490.00
	6/9	6/10	Qatar		310.00		(³)				310.00
	6/10	6/11	Kuwait/Iraq				(³)				
	6/11	6/13	Turkey		683.41		(³)				683.41
Paul Berkowitz	6/6	6/9	Philippines		711.00		(³)				711.00
	6/9	6/10	Qatar		341.00		(³)				341.00
	6/10	6/11	Kuwait/Iraq		113.00		(³)				113.00
	6/11	6/13	Turkey		825.41		(³)				825.41
William Hawkins	6/6	6/9	Philippines		711.00		(³)				711.00
	6/9	6/10	Qatar		341.00		(³)				341.00
	6/10	6/11	Kuwait/Iraq		113.00		(³)				113.00
	6/11	6/13	Turkey		825.41		(³)				825.41
Alan Makovsky	6/6	6/9	Philippines		583.00		(³)				583.00
	6/9	6/10	Qatar		211.00		(³)				211.00
	6/10	6/11	Kuwait/Iraq		98.00		(³)				98.00
	6/11	6/13	Turkey		785.41		(³)				785.41
Hon. Dan Burton	6/25	6/27	Italy		1,593.17		(³)		\$ 63.36		1,656.53
	6/27	6/29	Georgia		448.80		(³)		\$ 14,255.48		14,704.28
	6/29	6/30	Lithuania		319.45		(³)		\$ 5,425.90		5,745.35
	6/30	7/2	Russia		390.88		(³)				390.88
	7/2	7/3	Portugal		287.40		(³)				287.40
Hon. Theodore Deutch	6/25	6/27	Italy		1,593.17		(³)				1,593.17
	6/27	6/29	Georgia		448.80		(³)				448.80
	6/29	6/30	Lithuania		303.60		(³)				303.60
	6/30	7/2	Russia		413.40		(³)				413.40
	7/2	7/3	Portugal		47.40		(³)				47.40
Hon. Tom Marino	6/25	6/27	Italy		1,593.17		(³)				1,593.17
	6/27	6/29	Georgia		448.00		(³)				448.00
	6/29	6/30	Lithuania		303.60		(³)				303.60
	6/30	7/2	Russia		413.40		(³)				413.40
	7/2	7/3	Portugal		287.40		(³)				287.40
Jesper Pedersen	6/25	6/27	Italy		1,593.17		(³)				1,593.17
	6/27	6/29	Georgia		448.00		(³)				448.00
	6/29	6/30	Lithuania		263.71		(³)				263.71
	6/30	7/2	Russia		390.88		(³)				390.88
	7/2	7/3	Portugal		287.40		(³)				287.40
Mark Walker	6/25	6/27	Italy		1,593.17		(³)				1,593.17
	6/27	6/29	Georgia		448.00		(³)				448.00
	6/29	6/30	Lithuania		319.45		(³)				319.45
	6/30	7/2	Russia		390.88		(³)				390.88
	7/2	7/3	Portugal		287.40		(³)				287.40
Brian Wanko	6/25	6/27	Italy		1,593.17		(³)				1,593.17
	6/27	6/29	Georgia		448.00		(³)				448.00
	6/29	6/30	Lithuania		263.71		(³)				263.71
	6/30	7/2	Russia		413.40		(³)				413.40
	7/2	7/3	Portugal		287.40		(³)				287.40
Robert Lawrence	6/25	6/26	Jordan		588.80						588.80
	6/26	6/30	Iraq				(⁷)				
	6/30	7/1	Jordan								
John Lis	6/25	6/26	Jordan		588.80		⁴ 11,271.20		⁵ 232.41		11,271.20
	6/26	6/30	Iraq				(⁷)				821.21
	6/30	7/1	Jordan								
Hon. Gary Ackerman	6/26	7/1	Israel		2,330.00		⁴ 11,271.20		⁵ 12,174.35		11,271.20
							⁴ 7,370.95				14,504.35
Howard Diamond	6/26	7/1	Israel		2,330.00		⁴ 7,222.95				7,370.95
											2,330.00
Kristin Jackson	6/28	6/30	Haiti		541.00		⁴ 1,092.20				7,222.95
											541.00
Christina Jenckes	6/28	6/30	Haiti		546.00		⁴ 1,190.90				1,092.20
											546.00
Peter Quilter	6/28	6/30	Haiti		606.00		⁴ 1,092.20				1,190.90
											606.00
Robyn Wapner	6/26	6/30	Haiti		541.00		⁴ 1,092.20				1,092.20
											541.00
							⁴ 1,092.20				1,092.20
Committee total					86,203.40		135,996.15		94,129.08		316,328.63

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.⁴ Roundtrip airfare.⁵ Indicates delegation costs.⁶ One-way ticket.⁷ Embassy air transportation.

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, Chairman, Aug. 1, 2011.

(AMENDED) REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN
JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. G.K. Sablan	2/21	2/23	New Zealand		461.33		(³)				461.33
	2/23	2/25	Australia		888.83		(³)				888.83
David Whaley	2/27	3/05	Canada		2,731.76		722.23				3,453.99
Hon. John Sarbanes	3/20	3/21	Kuwait		429.00		1,638.59				2,067.59
	3/21	3/22	Iraq				(³)				
	3/22	3/22	United Arab Emirates		502.00		(³)				502.00
	3/23	3/24	Afghanistan		28.00		(³)				28.00
	3/25	3/25	United Arab Emirates				1,055.91				1,055.91
Committee total					5,040.92		3,416.73				8,457.65

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

HON. DOC HASTINGS, Chairman.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Bonnie Bruce	5/14	5/17	Japan		930.24		10,200.61				11,130.85
Brian Modeste	5/14	5/17	Japan		934.38		10,200.61				11,134.99
Hon. James Costa	6/6	6/9	Philippines		581.00		(³)				581.00
	6/9	6/10	Qatar		322.00		(³)				322.00
	6/10	6/11	Kuwait		329.00		(³)				329.00
	6/11	6/13	Turkey		669.00		(³)				669.00
Committee total					3,765.62		20,401.22				24,166.84

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

HON. DOC HASTINGS, Chairman.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Darrell Issa	4/3	4/4	Egypt		410.50		4,862.70				5,273.20
James Lewis	4/3	4/4	Egypt		410.50		4,862.70				5,273.20
Delegate expenses			Egypt						1,395.00		1,395.00
Hon. Todd Platts	4/27	4/29	S. Korea		516.23						516.23
	4/29	4/30	Vietnam		183.50						183.50
	4/30	5/1	Hong Kong		285.00						285.00
	5/1	5/2	Philippines		210.00		9,124.98				9,334.98
Hon. Steve Lynch	4/27	4/29	S. Korea		699.80						699.80
	4/29	4/30	Vietnam		238.00						238.00
	4/30	5/1	Hong Kong		429.00						429.00
	5/1	5/2	Philippines		248.00		7,932.77				8,180.77
Hon. Mike Kelly	4/27	4/29	S. Korea		699.80						699.80
	4/29	4/30	Vietnam		238.00						238.00
	4/30	5/1	Hong Kong		429.00						429.00
	5/1	5/2	Philippines		248.00		9,071.91				9,319.91
Tegan Millspaw	4/27	4/29	S. Korea		529.00						529.00
	4/29	4/30	Vietnam		157.00						157.00
	4/30	5/1	Hong Kong		285.00						285.00
	5/1	5/2	Philippines		233.00		8,267.20				8,500.20
Brien Beattie	4/27	4/29	S. Korea		524.80						524.80
	4/29	4/30	Vietnam		168.00						168.00
	4/30	5/1	Hong Kong		285.00						285.00
	5/1	5/2	Philippines		188.00		8,267.20				8,455.20
Bruce Fernandez	4/27	4/29	S. Korea		699.80						699.80
	4/29	4/30	Vietnam		238.00						238.00
	4/30	5/1	Hong Kong		429.00						429.00
	5/1	5/2	Philippines		248.00		8,896.50				9,144.50
Delegate expenses			Vietnam						765.00		765.00
Hon. Darrell Issa	6/24	6/25	Mexico		205.00		728.98				933.98
Hon. Trey Gowdy	6/24	6/25	Mexico		229.68						229.68
Hon. Jason Chaffetz	6/24	6/25	Mexico		300.00		420.16				720.16
Hon. Blake Farenthold	6/24	6/25	Mexico		300.00		712.38				1,012.38
Hon. Tim Walberg	6/24	6/25	Mexico		300.00						300.00
Hon. Elijah Cummings	6/24	6/25	Mexico		300.00						300.00
Hon. Scott Desjarlais	6/24	6/25	Mexico		300.00						300.00
Adam Fromm	6/24	6/25	Mexico		300.00						300.00
Carlton Davis	6/24	6/25	Mexico		300.00						300.00
Steve Castor	6/24	6/25	Mexico		300.00						300.00
Henry Kerner	6/24	6/25	Mexico		300.00						300.00
Scott Lindsay	6/24	6/25	Mexico		300.00						300.00
Committee total											77,972.09

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA, Chairman, July 28, 2011.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Rachael Leman	6/25	6/26	Jordan		303.11		11,236.00				11,539.31
	6/26	6/30	Iraq								
	6/30	7/1	Jordan		303.11						303.11
Bradley Smith	6/25	6/26	Jordan		303.11		11,236.20				11,539.31
	6/26	6/30	Iraq								
	6/30	7/1	Jordan		303.11						303.11
Committee total					1,212.44		22,472.40				23,684.84

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. DAVID DREIER, Chairman, July 29, 2011.

August 16, 2011

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REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Donna Edwards	5/06	5/07	Germany		244.50		(?)				244.50
	5/07	5/08	Afghanistan		28.00		(?)				28.00
	5/08	5/09	Italy		144.00		(?)				144.00
Hon. Randy Hultgren	5/14	5/15	Israel		69.00		(?)				69.00
	5/15	5/17	Afghanistan		40.00		(?)				40.00
	5/17	5/18	Germany		153.00		(?)				153.00
Hon. Lynn Woolsey	5/15	5/17	Ireland		778.00		(?)				778.00
	5/17	5/19	Austria		568.00		(?)				568.00
	5/19	5/21	Czech Republic		826.00		(?)				826.00
Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson	5/15	5/17	Ireland		778.00		(?)				778.00
	5/17	5/19	Austria		568.00		(?)				568.00
	5/19	5/21	Czech Republic		826.00		(?)				826.00
Committee total					5,022.50						5,022.50

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

HON. RALPH M. HALL, Chairman, Aug. 1, 2011.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Steve King	5/17	5/18	Poland		188.25						188.25
	5/18	5/19	Greece		149.39						149.39
	5/20	5/21	Georgia		100.00						100.00
	5/19	5/20	Romania		88.63						88.63
	5/22	5/23	Italy		144.00						144.00
Committee total					670.27						670.27

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. SAM GRAVES, Chairman, Aug. 4, 2011.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Dave Camp	4/18	4/20	Colombia		554.22				11,950		12,504.22
Hon. Kevin Brady	4/18	4/20	Colombia		764.00						764.00
Hon. Adrian Smith	4/18	4/20	Colombia		664.00						664.00
Hon. Aaron Schock	4/18	4/20	Colombia		764.00						764.00
Angela Ellard	4/18	4/20	Colombia		579.00						579.00
Welby Leaman	4/18	4/20	Colombia		748.00						748.00
Hon. Vern Buchanan	4/21	4/25	China		1,510.00						1,510.00
	4/25	4/27	South Korea		700.00						700.00
	4/1	4/4	Egypt		410.50		6,925.90				7,336.40
Committee total					6,693.72		6,925.90		11,950		25,569.62

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. DAVE CAMP, Chairman.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Mike Thompson	4/17	4/19	S.E. Asia		475.70						
	4/19	4/20	S.E. Asia		424.00						
	4/21	4/23	S.E. Asia		437.61						
Commercial aircraft							13,467.20				14,804.51
Abbas Ravjani	4/17	4/19	S.E. Asia		475.70						
	4/19	4/20	S.E. Asia		424.00						
	4/21	4/23	S.E. Asia		437.61						
Commercial aircraft							14,090.40				15,427.71
Hon. Mike Rogers	4/19	4/21	Africa		158.00						
Commercial aircraft							7,080.70				7,238.70
Hon. Frank LoBiondo	4/19	4/21	Africa		158.00						
Commercial aircraft							7,880.70				8,038.70
Hon. Dutch Ruppersberger	4/19	4/21	Africa		158.00						
Commercial aircraft							7,880.70				8,038.70
Michael Allen	4/19	4/21	Africa		158.00						
Commercial aircraft							7,940.50				8,098.50
Hon. Devin Nunes	4/24	4/29	Africa		1,750.00						
Commercial aircraft							7,880.70				9,630.70
George Pappas	4/24	4/29	Asia		1,750.00						
Commercial aircraft							9,739.70				11,489.70
Carly Scott	4/24	4/29	Asia		1,750.00						

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN
APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2011—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Commercial aircraft							9,657.80				11,407.80
Hon. Frank LoBiondo	5/16	5/19	Middle East		959.13						
	5/19	5/21	Middle East		168.00						
Commercial aircraft							16,051.60				17,178.73
George Pappas	5/16	5/19	Middle East		959.13						
	5/19	5/21	Middle East		168.00						
Commercial aircraft							12,713.00				13,840.13
Linda Cohen	4/16	4/19	Middle East		959.13						
	4/19	4/21	Middle East		168.00						
Commercial aircraft							12,713.00				13,840.13
Michael Allen	6/04	6/06	Middle East		936.00						
	6/06	6/07	Middle East		383.00						
	6/07	6/08	Middle East		413.00						
	6/09	6/11	Middle East		592.65						
Commercial aircraft							10,189.30				12,513.95
Christopher Donesa	6/04	6/06	Middle East		936.00						
	6/06	6/07	Middle East		383.00						
	6/07	6/08	Middle East		413.00						
	6/09	6/11	Middle East		592.65						
Commercial aircraft							10,189.30				12,513.95
Chelsey Campbell	6/04	6/06	Middle East		936.00						
	6/06	6/07	Middle East		383.00						
	6/07	6/08	Middle East		413.00						
	6/09	6/11	Middle East		592.65						
Commercial aircraft							10,189.30				12,513.95
Katie Wheelbarger	6/04	6/06	Middle East		936.00						
	6/06	6/07	Middle East		383.00						
	6/07	6/08	Middle East		413.00						
	6/09	6/11	Middle East		592.65						
Commercial aircraft							10,189.30				12,513.95
Heather Molino	6/04	6/06	Middle East		936.00						
	6/06	6/07	Middle East		383.00						
	6/07	6/08	Middle East		413.00						
	6/09	6/11	Middle East		592.65						
Commercial aircraft							10,189.30				12,513.95
Hon. Mike Rogers	6/07	6/09	Middle East		180.00						
Commercial aircraft							13,414.90				13,594.90
Hon. Dutch Ruppersberger	6/07	6/09	Middle East		180.00						
Commercial aircraft							12,165.40				12,345.40
George Pappas	6/07	6/09	Middle East		180.00						
Commercial aircraft							12,629.40				12,809.40
Bob Minehart	6/07	6/09	Middle East		180.00						
Commercial aircraft							12,629.40				12,809.40
Hon. Jeff Miller	6/17	6/20	Europe		2,392.00						
Commercial aircraft							3,471.20				5,863.20
Hon. Devin Nunes	6/17	6/20	Europe		2,392.00						
Commercial aircraft							1,146.60				3,538.60
George Pappas	6/17	6/20	Europe		2,392.00						
Commercial aircraft							1,149.20				3,541.20
Carly Scott	6/17	6/20	Europe		2,392.00						
Commercial aircraft							1,149.20				3,541.20
Hon. Mike Thompson	6/25	6/27	Europe		476.25						
	6/27	6/29	Europe		642.00						
	6/29	7/01	Europe		462.00						
Commercial aircraft							9,483.34				11,063.59
Nate Hauser	6/25	6/27	Europe		476.25						
	6/27	6/29	Europe		642.00						
	6/29	7/01	Europe		462.00						
Commercial aircraft							7,742.44			-62.00	9,260.70
Linda Cohen	6/25	6/27	Europe		476.25						
	6/27	6/29	Europe		642.00						
	6/29	7/01	Europe		462.00						
Commercial aircraft							7,742.44				9,322.70
Hon. Devin Nunes	6/25	6/26	Europe		210.00						
	6/26	6/28	Europe		596.00						
	6/28	6/29	Europe		453.00						
	6/29	7/01	N. Africa		576.00						
Commercial aircraft							10,905.90				12,740.90
George Pappas	6/25	6/26	Europe		210.00						
	6/26	6/28	Europe		596.00						
	6/28	6/29	Europe		453.00						
	6/29	7/01	N. Africa		576.00						
Commercial aircraft							10,320.40				12,155.40
Carly Scott	6/25	6/26	Europe		210.00						
	6/26	6/28	Europe		596.00						
	6/28	6/29	Europe		453.00						
	6/29	7/01	N. Africa		576.00						
Commercial aircraft							9,541.40				11,376.40
Darren Dick	6/25	6/26	Middle East		339.83						
	6/27	6/29	Middle East		1,076.65						
	6/29	7/01	Middle East		766.58						
Commercial aircraft							8,933.00				11,116.06
Ashley Lowry	6/25	6/26	Middle East		339.83						
	6/27	6/29	Middle East		1,076.65						
	6/29	7/01	Middle East		766.58						
Commercial aircraft							8,933.00				11,116.06
Tom Corcoran	6/28	6/29	Middle East		396.55						
	6/29	7/01	Middle East		766.58						
Commercial aircraft							11,883.70				13,046.83
"In accordance with title 22, United States Code, Section 1754(b)(2), information as would identify the foreign countries in which Committee Members and staff have traveled is omitted."											
Committee total					49,624.26		321,283.42				370,907.68

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Christopher H. Smith	5/17	5/19	Italy		964.38		2,633.70				3,598.08
Hon. Robert B. Aderholt	4/10	4/12	Denmark		894.00		3,913.90				4,807.90
Mark Milosch	5/17	5/19	Italy		1,096.81		1,782.70				2,879.51
Janice Helwig	3/27	3/31	Kyrgyzstan		1,132.88		3,249.72				4,382.60
	3/31	4/08	Kazakhstan		2,619.61		8,640.35				11,259.96
Shelly Han	3/30	4/05	Kazakhstan		1,860.27		10,265.44				12,125.71
	5/22	5/27	Mongolia		766.00		15,117.40				15,883.40
Erika Schlager	4/27	4/30	Slovakia		899.36		5,667.10				6,566.46
Cynthia Efrid	4/03	4/06	Lithuania		481.56		2,471.20				2,952.76
Alex Johnson	5/04	6/30	Austria		20,789.98		3,462.90				24,252.88
Committee total					31,504.85		57,204.41				88,709.26

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

MARK S. MILOSCH, July 29, 2011.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2760. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, Air Force Case Number 10-05, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; to the Committee on Appropriations.

2761. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, Army Case Number 08-07, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; to the Committee on Appropriations.

2762. A letter from the Assistant to the President and Special Advisor to the Secretary of the Treasury, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; to the Committee on Financial Services.

2763. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, Department of Energy, transmitting a letter regarding regulations issued by the Department; to the Committee on Financial Services.

2764. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting third quarterly report on Progress Toward Promulgating Final Regulations for the Menu and Vending Machine Labeling Provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2765. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process that was declared in Executive Order 12947 of January 23, 1995, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2766. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a continuation of the national emergency regarding export control regulations, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); (H. Doc. No. 112-49); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

2767. A letter from the Speaker of the House of Representatives and President of the Senate, Parliament of Australia, transmitting a letter from the Parliament of Aus-

tralia regarding a review of arrangements for filming, photography and media in the Parliament of Australia; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2768. A letter from the Attorney, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Missouri River from the border between Montana and North Dakota [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0511] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2769. A letter from the Attorney, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Independence Day Fireworks Celebration for the City of Martinez, Martinez, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0400] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2770. A letter from the Attorney, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Bullhead City Regatta, Bullhead City, AZ [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0410] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2771. A letter from the Attorney, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Big Sioux River from the Military Road Bridge North Sioux City to the confluence of the Missouri River, SD [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0528] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2772. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Truman-Hobbs alteration of the Elgin Joliet & Eastern Railroad Drawbridge; Illinois River, Morris [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0199] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2773. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A330-200 and -300 Series Airplanes, and Model A340-200 and -300 Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2010-1277; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-218-AD; Amendment 39-16722; AD 2009-18-19 R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2774. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; BRP-Power Train GmbH & Co. KG Rotax 912 F3, 912 S2, 912 S3, 912 S4, 914 F2, 914 F3, and 914 F4 Reciprocating Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0456; Directorate Identifier 2011-NE-15-AD; Amendment 39-16711; AD 2011-12-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2775. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; L'Hotelier Portable Halon 1211 Fire Extinguishers [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0506; Directorate Identifier 2010-SW-020-AD; Amendment 39-16703; AD 2011-11-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2776. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Anti-drug and Alcohol Misuse Prevention Programs for Personnel Engaged in Specified Aviation Activities Final Regulatory Flexibility Determination [Docket No.: FAA-2002-11301; Amendment No. 121-315] (RIN: 2120-AH14) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2777. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Mosby, MO [Docket No.: FAA-2010-0608; Airspace Docket No. 10-ACE-6] received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. PALAZZO (for himself and Mr. MILLER of Florida):

H.R. 2821. A bill to allow damage payments from BP in connection with the blowout and explosion on the offshore drilling unit Deepwater Horizon to be included in gross income ratably over 3 years.

By Mr. SABLON (for himself, Mr. HINCHY, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 2822. A bill to require that the United States Attorney, and the United States Marshal, appointed for the Northern Mariana Islands reside in the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

116. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of Texas, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 42 expressing support for the current FBI effort to reevaluate existing policies, standards, and protocols for forensic DNA testing laboratories; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

117. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii, relative to House Resolution No. 38 urging the Congress to provide additional federal aid to the State of Hawaii of the provision of various state services to migrants from the Compact of Free Association Nations; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Foreign Affairs.

118. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of California, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 6 urging the ORR to direct torture treatment funding through the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. PALAZZO:

H.R. 2821.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to enact this legislation to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. SABLAN:

H.R. 2822.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 18 and Article IV, section 3, clause 2 of the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 374: Mr. PITTS and Mrs. ADAMS.

H.R. 494: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 831: Ms. SUTTON.

H.R. 886: Mrs. LUMMIS and Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 920: Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 999: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia and Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 1173: Mr. STEARNS.

H.R. 1179: Mr. GOODLATTE and Mr. HULTGREN.

H.R. 1334: Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 1418: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

H.R. 1744: Mr. GERLACH.

H.R. 1810: Mr. KISSELL.

H.R. 1905: Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. HARPER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. HOCHUL, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Ms. HAYWORTH, Ms. HAHN, and Mr. CULBERSON.

H.R. 2106: Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. COBLE, Mr. DOLD, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. TOWNS.

H.R. 2121: Mr. SMITH of Texas.

H.R. 2250: Mr. FARENTHOLD and Mr. HASTINGS of Washington.

H.R. 2395: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

H.R. 2397: Mr. CHAFFETZ.

H.R. 2447: Mr. BUTTERFIELD and Ms. RICHARDSON.

H.R. 2524: Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 2570: Mr. MANZULLO.

H.R. 2757: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. FARR, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. RICHARDSON, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. COSTELLO, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. PAUL, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CLAY, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 2814: Mr. MORAN and Mr. LATOURETTE.

H. Res. 35: Mr. LYNCH.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING CASEY BRIAN OTTEN FOR THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 16, 2011

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Casey Brian Otten for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country, and charity. For his Eagle Scout project, Casey led a construction team and created a habitat for birds in South Daytona, Florida. By applying these concepts to daily life, Casey has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MS. MARGIE MEARES

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 16, 2011

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ms. Margie Meares who dedicated her professional career to conserving our environment and improving energy efficiency. Few individuals have had as dramatic an impact on protecting our environment as Ms. Meares.

After graduating from Duke University, Ms. Meares took a job with the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources working to improve and protect the quality of our water. As a founding member of the Clean Air Community Trust, she worked tirelessly to improve the quality of our air. Her efforts helped lead to the passing of the state's Clean Smokestacks Act. Enacted in 2002, this Act requires North Carolina power companies to reduce their smog and haze-forming emissions by approximately three-fourths by 2012.

Her service to our state was mirrored in her work on behalf of her local community, where she helped to found Evergreen Charter School and served on its Board of Directors. As an elected member of the Woodfin Water Board, she helped to protect the quality of local water resources. She was a founding member of the Community Energy Advisory Council in Asheville, where she worked to engage the community in shaping the programs and policies of its electric utilities.

Ms. Meares focused on improving the energy efficiency of homes and buildings, both at home in North Carolina and across the coun-

try. She worked tirelessly to help develop North Carolina's new Energy Conservation Code, improving the minimum efficiency of buildings. She developed educational materials for building officials and spent three years conducting classes helping them to better understand and enforce the energy efficiency rules governing buildings.

Nationally, Ms. Meares worked with building officials across the country to reduce the energy consumption of our buildings by at least 30 percent. She also developed one of the nation's first programs to educate realtors about the value of energy efficient and environmentally friendly real estate.

The quality of our nation's air and water has been improved due to the robust efforts of Ms. Meares. Her work to conserve and protect our environment and resources will have a long lasting impact. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the exceptional life of Ms. Margie Meares, whose work and service will not soon be forgotten.

FY 2012 DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 16, 2011

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the FY 2012 Department of Interior Appropriations bill, H.R. 2584. An appropriate short title for this legislation would be the "Let's Leave our Air and Water Dirtier Act of 2011."

This bill leaves no stone unturned in the majority's relentless attack on our environment. National parks are slashed. Even in the midst of the economic downturn, Americans have continued to visit our national parks and we need to continue to ensure that their experience is a safe and reflective one.

Wildlife refuge funding is cut. The bill also targets the only program (the State and Tribal Wildlife Grant program) that helps us help conserve wildlife and their habitat before they become endangered or threatened. This represents a whopping 64 percent cut for this state-based conservation program.

The bill reduces funding for land acquisition funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund—which does not use taxpayer dollars but oil revenues—to \$66 million, a 78 percent reduction from FY11, the lowest level of funding in the history of the program.

The bill also targets grants that help keep pollution out of our Nation's waters, including the Great Lakes. Keeping that body of water clean is absolutely critical to my region's economy. Businesses don't set up shop next to polluted bodies of water. Tourists don't go to visit or fish in polluted bodies of water. We know what happens when we ignore the state

of our natural resources. Do we really need to have our lakes catch fire for some on the other side to understand the importance of this funding?

According to the Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition, the region's twelve states account for 33 percent of the Nation's population, 32 percent of its GDP, 30 percent of its merchandise exports, and 28 percent of its patents.

Local governments in the region on both sides of the border contribute an estimated \$10 billion in annual investments in wastewater systems to keep pollution out of the Great Lakes. Is it too much to ask the Federal Government to adequately support this effort as well? I think not.

Yet, H.R. 2584 slashes the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) by \$50 million compared to current levels and by \$100 million compared to the President's request. If this level is approved, the funding levels for this initiative will have been slashed in half in the two appropriations bills that the new House majority has brought to the floor this year.

The GLRI is critical to the Great Lakes which contains some 20 percent of the world's freshwater and 84 percent of the surface water supply in North America. Because this body of water is so vast, there is a perception that these waters are inexhaustible. In reality, this water resource—that millions of Americans and businesses rely on every day—is finite, intensely used, and ecologically fragile. The initiative is guided by sound science and an action plan with performance measures and accountability standards. Over 300 restoration projects are already underway and demand for funding continues to outpace supply. Just approaching halfway in this 5-year initiative, now is not the time to start pulling back.

The Great Lakes Metro Chambers of Commerce Coalition estimates that every \$1 in federal investments generates some \$6 in other funds for restoration efforts.

This cut endangers efforts to remove contaminated sediments like PCB's from the Great Lakes. I don't know how allowing these poisons to linger in the Great Lakes somehow advances our national interests.

GLRI provides funds that are also a vital and active part of current efforts to keep the Asian Carp out of the Great Lakes. The Asian Carp have the potential to devastate the Great Lakes. Asian Carp could kill a billion dollar industry, cost jobs, and cost taxpayer money at all levels of government to "manage" this invasive species if it were to somehow get into the Great Lakes. The Administration's Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework directs \$26 million in FY 2011 GLRI funds to fighting the Carp. These ongoing efforts will require continued support.

Restoration of the Great Lakes can be one of the great environmental success stories of

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

our time. We still have a way to go and unwise cuts now will harm the region's environment and economic outlook.

My colleagues from the region—both Republican and Democratic—recognize the shortsightedness of the funding cuts for the GLRI in this bill and have offered amendments to restore funding levels for the GLRI. I am pleased to support those amendments, including the LaTourette amendment which restored funding to the FY 2011 levels, which was approved by the House recently. However, I am concerned that this amendment reduced funding for climate change programs to restore GLRI funding even as climate change will have an enormous impact on the Great Lakes, and the citizens and industries that live, work, and recreate in the region. We must continue to work together to keep these waters "Great."

I also note the provisions in the bill that would undermine the work done since passage of the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts to get and keep pollution out of our air and water, and as a result, out of our bodies.

The bill also included a provision that would cease listings of species for protection under the Endangered Species, a radical proposal that would do much harm. The majority is declaring "open season" on endangered species across our country. I was glad to vote to remove that harmful provision.

We have a responsibility to help get our Nation's finances in order. But we also have a responsibility to maintain our Nation's irreplaceable resources. What we don't keep clean today will cost us much more to clean up tomorrow. That's what the brownfields and Superfund sites we still are cleaning up today tell me.

We don't want to leave our children and grandchildren a legacy of debt or deficits. Good. But let's also not leave those same children and grandchildren a legacy of closed beach and no swimming signs, of "code red" poor air quality days, and of increasing sewage overflows into local bodies of water. I oppose this bill and will vote no on it.

HONORING SAM LESANTE, SR.

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 16, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Sam Lesante, Sr., the CEO of Sam-Son

Productions, for his continued dedication to charitable causes throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania. A philanthropist, Lesante has been a pivotal part of securing funding for charities such as the United Way, Hazleton Blind Association, URS, and many others.

Sam Lesante has been shining the television spotlight on these worthy causes for more than 30 years. Having chaired many telethons for research related organizations including the Muscular Dystrophy Foundation and the Children's Miracle Network, he developed a sense for how to best portray the true needs of these groups. Sixteen years ago Lesante began his own production company, Sam-Son Productions. Through "The Sam Lesante Show" and other programs, he has continued to bring much-needed attention to lesser-known—and therefore lesser-funded—local charities, in addition to the larger foundations.

Today, Sam Lesante is furthering his efforts once again by partnering with the Hazleton Standard-Speaker to host Media Night in Hazleton. The focus of Media Night is to bring awareness to local organizations that are working to make the Hazleton Area and its surroundings a better place to call home. It is because of the tireless efforts of people like Sam Lesante that charities are able to thrive in an otherwise struggling economy. He has a special way of bringing out the best of an organization and making people excited about it.

CONGRATULATING STEPHEN MICHAEL SCHELLING JR. FOR THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 16, 2011

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Stephen Michael Schelling Jr. for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country, and charity. By applying these concepts to daily life, Stephen has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

COMMENDING THE SERVICE OF GARY JOHNSON TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 16, 2011

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Gary Johnson who recently retired from the National Park Service with 36 years of outstanding service to our mountain community.

After four years of service to our country in the U.S. Air Force, Mr. Johnson took a summer job in 1975 with the National Park Service with the Blue Ridge Parkway in Asheville, North Carolina. One year later, he graduated from the landscape architecture program at Virginia Tech with a BLA degree and was required by the Parkway. In addition to working with the Blue Ridge Parkway, Mr. Johnson has worked on planning and construction projects in other parks such as Natchez Trace Parkway, Big Bend National Park and Guilford Courthouse. Mr. Johnson has also written and lectured on the subjects of scenery conservation, cultural landscape management, historical parkway preservation, goal-driven and strategic planning and tourism planning.

Mr. Johnson brought unmatched passion and expertise during his many years as a skilled planner with the Blue Ridge Parkway. Mr. Johnson authored the Guidebook for the Blue Ridge Parkway Scenery Conservation System that outlined his plan to preserve the Parkway. He also developed the Blue Ridge Parkway's project management and computerized tracking system. The system proved to be so effective that it was adopted by the National Park Service. On March 17, 2011, Mr. Johnson was awarded one of the four Appleman-Judd-Lewis Awards for Excellence in Cultural Resource Management from the National Park Service Director.

Mr. Johnson has shown extraordinary dedication to our community and has had an indelible impact on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The service that Mr. Johnson has contributed to Western North Carolina and the National Park System is truly inspiring and I am proud to represent him. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the exceptional career and service of Mr. Gary Johnson.

SENATE—*Friday, August 19, 2011*

(Legislative day of Tuesday, August 2, 2011)

The Senate met at 9:56 and 52 seconds a.m., and was called to order by the Honorable JACK REED, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

**APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, August 19, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JACK REED, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. REED thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

**RECESS UNTIL 2:30 P.M. TUESDAY,
AUGUST 23, 2011**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 23, 2011.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10 and 2 seconds a.m., recessed until Tuesday, August 23, 2011, at 2:30 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, August 19, 2011

The House met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MULVANEY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker.

WASHINGTON, DC,
August 19, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICK MULVANEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Bill Kirlin-Hackett, Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness, Bellevue, Washington, offered the following prayer:

Holy and gracious God, before You we humbly serve. We seek what is best and what makes for compassionate and reasoned leadership.

We are blessed with the gift of differences that together, and that in unity, make us whole. Enable us to reconcile differences when at times such gifts separate us. Guide us toward the reconciliation that produces effective decisions, that builds engaged citizens, and that makes of us good neighbors to others less fortunate.

These times call for our listening to each other with our minds and hearts, as one neighbor seeks what is best for another. You have shown us, O God, what is good; that is, to love justice, to seek kindness, and to walk humbly with Your strength made manifest among, between, and within us.

May God thus be seen, may we thus be led, may we thus be known.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5 of House Resolution 375, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4 of House Resolution 375, legislative business is not dispensed with on this day.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE DUNCAN HUNTER, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable DUNCAN HUNTER, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 18, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a subpoena for production of business records, issued by the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is inconsistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

DUNCAN D. HUNTER,
Member of Congress.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 18, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, The Capitol, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in clause 2(h) of rule II of the rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on August 18, 2011, at 10:46 a.m., and said to contain a message from the President whereby he notifies the Congress that he has issued an Executive Order that takes additional steps with respect to the national emergency with the Government of Syria first declared in EO 13338 of May 11, 2004, as expanded in scope in EO 13572 of April 29, 2011.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

BLOCKING PROPERTY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA AND PROHIBITING CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO SYRIA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112-50)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (IEEPA) and in light of the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-175) (SAA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the "order") that takes additional steps with respect to the Government of Syria's continuing escalation of violence against the people of Syria and with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004, as modified in scope and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13399 of April 25, 2006, Executive Order 13460 of February 13, 2008, Executive Order 13572 of April 29, 2011, and Executive Order 13573 of May 18, 2011.

In Executive Order 13338, the President found that the actions of the Government of Syria constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States and declared a national emergency to deal with that threat. To address that threat and to implement the SA, the President in Executive Order 13338 blocked the property of certain persons and imposed additional prohibitions on certain transactions with respect to Syria. In Executive Order 13572, I expanded the scope of that national emergency and imposed additional sanctions.

The order blocks the property and interests in property of the Government of Syria. The order also provides criteria for designations of persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State:

To have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order; or

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

To be owned or controlled by, or to have acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order.

The order also prohibits the following:

New investment in Syria by a United States person, wherever located;

The exportation, reexportation, sale, or supply, directly or indirectly, from the United States, or by a United States person, wherever located, of any services to Syria;

The importation into the United States of petroleum or petroleum products of Syrian origin;

Any transaction or dealing by a United States person, wherever located, including purchasing, selling, transporting, swapping, brokering, approving, financing, facilitating, or guaranteeing, in or related to petroleum or petroleum products of Syrian origin; and

Any approval, financing, facilitation, or guarantee by a United States person, wherever located, of a transaction by a foreign person where the transaction by that foreign person would be prohibited by section 2 of the order if performed by a United States person or within the United States.

I have delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury the authority, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA, as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the order.

All agencies of the United States Government are directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of the order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

BARACK OBAMA,
THE WHITE HOUSE, August 17, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to sections 3 and 4 of House Resolution 375, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, August 23, 2011.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until Tuesday, August 23, 2011, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2778. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — U.S. Honey Producer Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Order; Termination of Ref-

erendum Procedures [Document Number: AMS-FV-07-0091; FV-07-706-FR] (RIN: 0581-AC78) received July 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2779. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a biennial strategic plan for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency for 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2780. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Derwood C. Curtis, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2781. A letter from the Assistant to the President and Special Advisor to the Secretary of the Treasury on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting annual report on the recruitment and retention, training and workforce development, and workforce flexibilities; to the Committee on Financial Services.

2782. A letter from the Assistant to the President and Special Advisor to the Secretary of the Treasury on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report on credit scores; to the Committee on Financial Services.

2783. A letter from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report involving U.S. exports to Canada, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3)(i); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2784. A letter from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report involving U.S. exports to Canada, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3)(i); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2785. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Non-Binding Determination: Superfund Deficient PRP Deliverables Memo received July 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2786. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 11-32, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2787. A letter from the Director, Office of Exporter Services, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Wassenaar Arrangement 2010 Plenary Agreements Implementation: Commerce Control List, Definitions, Reports; Correction [Docket No.: 110124056-1301-02] (RIN: 0694-AF11) received July 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2788. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2789. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's report providing an estimate of the dollar amount of claims (together with related fees and expenses of witnesses) that, by reason of the acts or omissions of free clinic health professionals will

be paid for in 2012, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 233(o); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2790. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulation; Monongahela River, Morgantown, WV [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0235] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2791. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW), Elizabeth River, Southern Branch, Chesapeake, VA [USCG-2010-0879] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2792. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zones; Marine Events in Captain of the Port Long Island Sound Zone [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0470] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2793. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zones; Multiple Firework Displays in Captain of the Port, Puget Sound Area of Responsibility [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0450] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2794. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zones; Fireworks Displays in the Sector Columbia River Area of Responsibility [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0448] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2795. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Isle of Wight (Sinepuxent) Bay, Ocean City, MD [Docket No.: USCG-2010-0612] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2796. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Brandon Road Lock and Dam to Lake Michigan including Des Plaines River, Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, Chicago River, and Calumet-Saganashkee Channel, Chicago, IL [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0228] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2797. A letter from the Associate Administrator for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting a letter regarding the retirement of the Space Shuttle fleet and their placement at the end of the program; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

2798. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Chapter 4 Implementation Notice [Notice 2011-53] received July 26, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. COHEN, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. WATT, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida):

H.R. 2823. A bill to preserve knowledge and promote education about jazz in the United States and abroad.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself and Mr. PASCRELL):

H.R. 2824. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit physical therapy services to be furnished under the Medicare Program to individuals under the care of a dentist; referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H.R. 2825. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to Miami-Dade County certain federally owned land in Florida, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 2823.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 2824.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, section 3, clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States)."

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H.R. 2825.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV: States' Powers and Limits

Section 3: New States and Federal Property

Clause 2: Federal Property and the Territorial Clause

The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 176: Mr. KEATING, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. RICHMOND.

H.R. 420: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 674: Mr. SCHILLING.

H.R. 711: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 763: Mr. SMITH of Texas.

H.R. 780: Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 870: Ms. RICHARDSON.

H.R. 913: Mr. NUNNELEE.

H.R. 1086: Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 1093: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 1269: Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado.

H.R. 1574: Mr. FARR, Mr. WATT, and Ms. HIRONO.

H.R. 1692: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1700: Mr. STEARNS.

H.R. 1738: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 1739: Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 1774: Mr. MEEKS, Ms. BASS of California, Ms. RICHARDSON, Ms. JACKSON LEE of

Texas, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. McDERMOTT, and Mr. TOWNS.

H.R. 1842: Mr. LUJÁN.

H.R. 1946: Mr. PLATTS.

H.R. 1968: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 1983: Mr. NADLER and Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 2016: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 2032: Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 2162: Mr. CHAFFETZ.

H.R. 2190: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H.R. 2250: Mr. COSTELLO.

H.R. 2306: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 2324: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 2359: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 2492: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H.R. 2530: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Mr. SIMPSON.

H.R. 2543: Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 2554: Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 2659: Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. HAHN, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2668: Mr. GOSAR and Mr. CARTER.

H.R. 2754: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 2757: Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 2758: Ms. MOORE and Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 2760: Mr. WATT.

H.R. 2796: Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. FORBES, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H. Con. Res. 72: Mr. HONDA, Ms. WATERS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. FILNER, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. BASS of California, Mr. STARK, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. CLARKE of Michigan, and Mr. CLEAVER.

H. Res. 134: Mrs. SCHMIDT and Mrs. MYRICK.

H. Res. 137: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H. Res. 364: Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. CRITZ, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. WELCH.

H. Res. 365: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. BASS of California, Mr. OLVER, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. ELLISON, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

OPPOSING EFFORTS TO CUT THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES AND THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, although we must fix the economic problems America now faces, we cannot afford to obliterate important programs that educate and expose our citizens young and old to American culture. Our minimal investments in the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts yield large community benefits and must be protected. For this reason, I oppose the severe cuts proposed to these key programs via the FY12 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies bill.

The programs supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, or NEH, benefit millions of Americans each year. Last year, NEH made over 1,200 grants totaling \$143 million that benefited communities throughout our Nation—communities big and small, urban and rural. For example, over 4,300 college, community college, and school teachers benefited from education programs supported by NEH. Almost 22,000 citizens from museums, libraries, archives, and historical organizations obtained training in appropriate preservation and ways to expand public access to humanities collections. Approximately 35 million people benefited from 24 television and radio projects funded by NEH that produced 88 broadcast hours of programming related to arts and humanities.

My State of Illinois and my Congressional District have received vital support from NEH funds as well. These funds allowed cultural institutions to leverage their dollars to educate the public more broadly than would have been possible without these funds. From getting a grant to help expand the Hull-House Museum to the Illinois Meaning of Service program that works with thousands of young people to help them understand the nature and rewards of volunteerism. An NEH grant is contributing to the digitization of the papers of Abraham Lincoln so that these important historical documents are available to the Nation, not just to those in driving distance of Springfield. My constituents rely on these programs for education and cultural awareness. Especially during hard economic times when travel and vacations are not possible, the programming supported by the NEH provides significant educational resources for Americans.

Cutting funds to NEH will negatively affect our citizens, not help them. It is a unique source of funding for a wide range of local non-profit institutions and organizations across the country. NEH has already experienced

dramatic funding cuts; slashing this program more will directly curtail programs and projects in millions of communities for minimal deficit reduction, which means jobs will be lost, services will be gone, and local communities will lose educational opportunities. So I urge my colleagues to oppose provisions that would cut the National Endowment for the Humanities or the National Endowment for the Arts any further.

HONORING MR. MARK BUNGER, OF NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of retiring California Highway Patrol Officer Mark Bunger, for his outstanding service in Napa County, California.

Mr. Bunger was born on Travis Air Force Base in 1959. He attended Napa Valley College and Cavalry Chapel Bible School, and later obtained his Federal Aviation Administration Pilot's Certificate and graduated from the California Highway Patrol Academy.

Mr. Bunger has been a dedicated member of the California Highway Patrol for 29 years, 24 of which he served in Napa County. He has also been honored with the position of CHP Flight Officer Golden Gate Division Air Operations Unit with the Napa County Airport and served as the Public Affairs Officer for the highway patrol from 1995 to 2001.

Having grown up in Napa, Mr. Bunger has a deep sense of community and has chosen to get involved in projects which would improve the lives of Napa citizens. One of these projects was a program called "Every 15 Minutes," which simulates alcohol-related driving accidents and their aftermath at high schools throughout the state. His other projects include "Lights for Life," a sobriety challenge, "CHiP's for Kids," a Christmas toy drive, a high school driving program at Sears Point Raceway, and a Child SafetySeat Program.

Mr. Bunger is well known in the Napa Valley community for his wit and sharp sense of humor. He is fortunate enough to be surrounded by his loving family and life-long friends. He and his wife of 26 years, Laura, currently reside in Napa. Their two children Rebekah, age 20, and Joel, age 18, are both currently attending college.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge Mark Bunger for his decades of devoted service to the Napa Valley community on this day.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 64TH ONE WORLD DAY CELEBRATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 64th One World Day Celebration held at the Cleveland Cultural Gardens at the Ukrainian Garden on August 28, 2011. This day of celebration also happens to fall after the 20th anniversary of Ukrainian independence which is August 24, 1992. The main component feature was the celebration of the presentation of the newly restored statue of Lesya Ukrainka.

Lesya Ukrainka was one of Ukraine's best poets and writers as well as a leading woman writer in Ukrainian literature. She was, in her short life, a significant political and civil activist for the freedom of Ukraine. This year happens to be the 104th anniversary of her birth in 1871 and the 50th anniversary of her statue's installation at the Ukrainian Garden.

Along with myself, several other dignitaries will attend and participate in the 64th One World Day Celebration such as President Paul Burik of The Cleveland Cultural Gardens federation, President Ihor Diaczun of United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio, Most Reverend John Bura DD of Eparch of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral, Lesya Ukrainka Poem "Rondo" recitation by Christina Skabyk, President Marianna Zajac of Ukrainian National Women's League of America, and Professor of History Mary Hovanec at Cuyahoga Community College.

The restoration of the monument and the rejuvenation program of the Ukrainian Garden along with the program for this event was organized by the President Dozia Krislaty of Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 8, Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the 64th One World Day Celebration and the efforts of the people who made the time to collaborate and organize an event which commemorates the country of Ukraine and the efforts of its prominent political figure, Lesya Ukrainka.

TINO ADAME RECOGNITION

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest respect and admiration that I rise today to honor Faustino Adame, Jr. who is a dedicated community member and a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps.

Born January 27, 1947 in French Camp, California to Faustino Adame and Lupe Gutierrez, Tino is the eldest of four brothers and one

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

adopted sister. Tino is the proud member of a family of veterans. His Father and his brother Joe are Marine Corps Veterans, his brother Frank is an Air Force Veteran, and his brother Henry an Army Veteran.

As a young man Tino attended Jefferson, Roosevelt and Fremont Junior Highs before graduating from Franklin High School in 1965. He went on to attend San Joaquin Delta College before joining the Marine Corps at the age of 19 on January 18, 1966.

Tino served as a Small Arms Proof Technician during the Vietnam War where he was wounded while participating in operation "Prairie" in Dong Ha Vietnam. Tino was discharged from the Marine Corps on October 31, 1967 and was awarded the Purple Heart Medal, a Rifle Marksman Badge, the Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal.

Upon completing his military service, Tino began working for Tracy Defense Depot and married his wife, Mary Hope Lopez in June, 1970. Tino and Mary have been married for 45 years and though they do not have any children of their own—they have many nieces and nephews and more than 20 god-children.

Tino is an active and proud veteran, who served as the first Latino Commander of the Karl Ross Post 16 in Stockton, California. He also served as Chairman of the 4th of July parade, Memorial Day Ceremony and Veterans Day Ceremony and assisted in coordinating and carrying out many other events at the post.

Mr. Speaker, Tino Adame, is truly an outstanding individual who served his country, his family and his community with the utmost honor, compassion and dignity. I respectfully ask my colleagues to rise and join me in recognizing his service and dedication.

RECOGNITION OF HENRY L.
"HANK" LACAYO'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, Henry L. "Hank" Lacayo, an exceptional individual who has dedicated his life to public service, community leadership and social activism. On August 20, 2011, the Henry L. "Hank" Lacayo Tribute Committee will be celebrating Hank's 80th birthday, and honoring him for his endless contributions to the county of Ventura, the State of California and our Nation.

Hank is currently serving a fifth term as State President of the Congress of California Seniors, a statewide senior advocacy organization. But Hank has been an active and engaged community leader for more than half a century. He first began his labor career in 1953, and was soon elected to become the President of UAW Local 887, representing over 32,000 workers at North America Aviation/Rockwell International in Los Angeles.

During his presidency Hank served as an instrumental figure in several events that forever changed our nation. Hank's activism during

the civil rights movement was one of them. In August of 1963, Hank led a delegation from the L.A. area to join Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the Washington DC. civil rights march. Hank also showed his support of Cesar Chavez by serving as a key individual in encouraging the UAW to financially aid farm workers.

Although Hank's trajectory has been focused within the work of labor unions, he has also been heavily involved within the Latino Community. Raised in Chihuahua, Mexico, Hank has stayed close to his roots and culture. He joined the late Willie Velazquez and Dr. Juan Andrade to help found the U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute, and he served as its first President and Chairman of the Board. Hank also currently serves as the Chair of the Vision Committee and co-founder of Destino: The Hispanic Legacy Fund of the Ventura County Community Foundation.

Hank has been recognized on numerous occasions and has received various prestigious honors and recognitions. These include the Tri-Counties Labor Leader of the Year, The Pat Brown Institute Life-Time Public Service Award, California Lutheran University Exemplar Medallion and, among many others, the U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute National Hispanic Hero Award.

Hank has been able to expand his life legacy to many broad aspects of community leadership and public service. It is my distinct pleasure to ask my colleagues to join with me in wishing Henry L. "Hank" Lacayo a happy 80th birthday and in saluting him for his years of public service and community leadership.

HONORING THE SONOMA COUNTY
INDIAN HEALTH PROJECT OF
SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleague, LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor the Sonoma County Indian Health Project on its 40th anniversary, celebrated August 19, 2011.

Sonoma County Indian Health Project was founded in 1971 to provide health care to the Native American population residing in Sonoma County. Since its establishment, the Indian Health Project has grown considerably, serving evident unmet needs in our community and leading to its move into the large, modern health care facility it occupies today.

Through its relationship with the California Area Indian Health Service, the Sonoma County Indian Health Project assists in serving not only a large Native American population, but also a non-Indian population lacking sufficient access to care. Hundreds of families and individuals from communities across our region seek care at the facility each year, from traditional medical or dental treatment to nutritional consultation or transportation services for those in isolated areas.

Supported by the Cloverdale, Dry Creek, Lytton, Graton, Manchester-Point Area, and Stewarts Point Rancherias, the Indian Health Project also puts an emphasis on providing its

services in a manner that respects and contributes to Indian culture. It is a symbol of the strength and determination of our Native American community and a proud part of what makes our region unique.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join us in thanking the Sonoma County Indian Health Project for its longstanding contributions to the health and welfare of Sonoma County, and in wishing the organization many more years of success.

THE IJAW DIASPORA CONVENTION
AND EDUCATION TRUST FUND

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Ms. BASS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the launching of the Ijaw Diaspora Convention and Education Trust Fund and the presentation of the Ijaw History Project by the Ijaw Community in the Diaspora.

From August 19 to August 20, 2011, the Ijaw Community in the Diaspora is assembling in New Jersey along with the nine governors of the Niger Delta States and scores of dignitaries and officials in Nigeria and the United States with Distinguished Prof. E. A. Alagoa of the University of Port Harcourt to present the "Ijaw History Project"—A Five Year Landmark Research Project on the Izon people and to launch the Ijaw Diaspora Convention and Education Trust Fund.

The Ijaw History Project and the Ijaw Diaspora Convention and Education Trust Fund are being launched with the support and endorsement of the Special Guest of Honor for this prestigious event, His Excellency Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Nigeria Governors Forum.

Mr. Speaker, this historic event will focus on "Transforming Niger Delta Ijaw Communities through Investment in Education and Capacity Development"; and promote the core beliefs of the Ijaw Community in the Diaspora. The organization stands for the power of literacy to end poverty, injustice, discrimination and violence; strengthen peace, democracy and prosperity; transform lives, families, communities and societies; reduce high infant mortality and preventable infectious diseases, and adapt to the challenges of globalization and technology.

The Ijaw Diaspora Education Trust Fund will be used to support the Federal University at Otuoke Bayelsa State's current efforts to develop a library, provide University Scholarships and develop special projects such as research, education and training in Biotechnology to further the efforts of the U.S. based Corporate Council on Niger Delta Affairs in the development of a Biotechnology Industrial Park.

The Federal University at Otuoke Bayelsa State is in the heartland of the Ijaw community of the Niger Delta and is a major contributor to meeting the goals of the US-Nigeria Binational Commission on meaningful development of the Niger Delta Region in the areas of food security, regional and economic security, environmental mitigation and energy.

Mr. Speaker, the Ijaw Education Trust Fund has the potential to have a lasting beneficial influence of on countless families, individuals, and institutions in the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Ijaw Community in the Diaspora and Bayelsa State Nigeria.

I express my gratitude for the influence and contributions the Ijaw History Project and the Ijaw Diaspora Convention and Education Trust Fund will bestow to meeting the goals of the US-Nigeria Binational Commission on meaningful development of the Niger Delta Region.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to the supporters and donors of the Ijaw Diaspora Convention & Education Trust Fund on being presented with the "International Leadership Award on the Advancement of Education and Capacity Development in Niger Delta Ijaw Communities."

IN REMEMBRANCE OF PAUL DUNCAN, DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH FOR THE LONG BEACH COMMUNITY BUSINESS NETWORK

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, it is my sad duty to rise to pay tribute to the late Paul Duncan, the Director of Outreach for the Long Beach Community Business Network, LBCBN, and one of the leading and influential figures in the LGBT community of Long Beach, California.

Paul Duncan died on August 6, from an aneurysm in Las Vegas where he was representing the LBCBN at the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce's weeklong conference in Las Vegas. He was 72 years old.

Paul Duncan was born November 18, 1937, in Pueblo, Colo. A short time later, he and his family relocated to Los Angeles. He began his professional life in banking and later opened his own insurance and property management company and published equine magazines. He later lived in Australia, where he managed a horse ranch and deer farm for many years, before returning to the United States and settling in Long Beach.

Those who knew and worked with Paul describe him as a figure larger than life, and not just because of his imposing 6-foot-3-inch frame and fondness for cowboy hats and boots, but because of the bigger impact he had on people. Wherever he went, whomever he met, Paul made you feel that you were his "mate."

According to Stacey O'Byrne, president of the LBCBN, "Paul created a vision that crossed cultural, political and generational boundaries. He was full of cheer and endless dedication to helping new and existing gay and gay-friendly businesses create lifelong bonds with other members of the community."

Paul Duncan spent the last ten years of his life working tirelessly to connect LBCBN, known informally as the Long Beach Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce to business organizations from Hawaii to Washington, DC. Mr. Speaker, the untimely death of Paul Dun-

can is a great loss to his family and to countless persons who counted him as a friend. He leaves giant shoes to fill but I am confident that the work he began and advanced will be continued by all of us who have been inspired by his example.

I would like to request a moment of silence in his honor and memory.

HONORING J VINEYARDS AND WINERY OF HEALDSBURG, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, LYNN WOOLSEY, to recognize and honor J Vineyards and Winery of Healdsburg, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

J was conceived and developed by Judy Jordan, an exuberant, fiercely independent 25-year-old who saw an opening in Sonoma County's wine landscape for a high quality, all-American sparkling wine brand. It was a lofty goal for a product that was first made in an old, ramshackle prune processing barn that routinely flooded when the nearby Russian River overflowed.

From those humble beginnings, J sparkling wines have become some of the finest in the world. The winery's J Vintage Brut is a fixture on high profile wine lists and top hotels around the world. Queen Elizabeth sipped J at the White House. Mikhail Gorbachev spoke of world peace with a glass of J in his hand, and J sparkling wines were the official celebratory bubbles of the Academy Awards Governors Ball for 4 consecutive years.

To produce this remarkable wine, Ms. Jordan and her team rely on ten distinctive vineyard estate properties located throughout the Russian River Valley Appellation. These vineyards have at least 20 different soil profiles, with each vineyard displaying a different soil type and distinctive microclimate. This diversity allows J winemakers to coax the best flavor characteristics from each vineyard.

Ms. Jordan also came to the realization that her vineyards would also be ideal for producing site-specific, cool-climate Russian River Valley varietal wines such as Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Pinot Gris in addition to her sparkling wines. These wines were added to the portfolio and have become immensely popular products.

J's ten estate wines will be "Certified Sustainable" in 2012 by the California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance. After a number of energy savings initiatives were implemented throughout the winery, J was named a "Green Winery" in 2010.

One of the first wineries to offer food and wine pairings to visitors in the "Bubble Room," J was also named "Best Winery Tasting Room" by Sunset Magazine in 2009.

Mr. Speaker, from its humble beginnings, J Vineyards and Winery has become an international success story and one of the linchpins of the Sonoma County wine industry. It is therefore appropriate that we honor them today on their Silver Anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE WEALTH GAP AMONG RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, although our economy is gradually improving, we cannot ignore the fact that the economic crisis remains a daily reality for millions of Americans, nor can we ignore the fact that the crisis unevenly affects certain groups of citizens, such as racial and ethnic minority groups.

A study by the Pew Research Center released last month demonstrates starkly the wealth gap among racial and ethnic minorities in this Nation. Although all racial and ethnic groups experienced loss of wealth during this economic crisis, the wealth of African American and Latino households dropped dramatically. For example, the median net worth of a white family now stands at 20 times that of a black family and 18 times that of a Hispanic family, roughly twice the gap that existed before the economic crisis. Even more startling, this is the largest wealth gap since data started being collected in 1984. Other findings of note that reflect the uneven economic difficulties among groups of citizens include the fact that approximately 35 percent of Black households and 31 percent of Latino households had zero or negative net worth in 2009, compared to only 15 percent of white households. The Pew findings echo those of a recent study by the Economic Policy Institute (EPI) that found that the Great Recession has decimated the black middle class. This study found that the median wealth of black households dropped 84 percent from 2004 to 2009, essentially wiping out the economic gains that black Americans made since the early 90s.

There are multiple factors that contribute to the wealth gap—disproportionate investment patterns, experience of unemployment, and education debt are a few. The Pew study highlighted the fact that white families are typically able to diversify their investments in housing as well as stocks and bonds, whereas minorities usually invest heavily in housing. The housing crisis then contributed to wealth disparities because minority families lost everything and had few (if any) other investments on which to fall back.

African Americans and Latino Americans disproportionately experience both unemployment and long-term unemployment, which further contributes to the wealth gap. African Americans stand at the highest unemployment levels since 1984. Most recently, the black unemployment rate averaged 16.1 percent in April, May, and June 2011, compared to an average of 7.9 percent for whites during the same periods. The unemployment rates for recent high school graduates who were white were 9.5 percent and 21.4 percent in 2007 and 2010, respectively. In contrast, the unemployment rates for recent high school graduates who were black were 20.3 percent and 31.3 percent, respectively. Thus, the unemployment rate of 21.4 percent in the middle of the recession for white high school graduates was about the same level of unemployment

for black high school graduates at the beginning of the recession. Similarly, recent black college graduates have the highest unemployment rate among college graduates. With regard to long-term unemployment, researchers at the Institute for Research on Labor and Employment at the University of California at Berkeley recently found that African Americans represent only 11 percent of the labor force, but 22 percent of the long-term unemployed. Thus, African Americans are twice as likely to experience long-term unemployment compared to their representation in the labor force. Similarly, Latino Americans represent 15 percent of the labor force but 17 percent of the long-term unemployed. In contrast, white Americans experience unemployment and long-term unemployment at lower rates than their representation in the labor force. These discrepancies are problems that we cannot sweep under the rug.

The costs of higher education exacerbate the problems of differential investment and unemployment that contribute to the wealth gap. Recent analyses by Mark Kantrowitz, the publisher of FinAid.org found that student loan debt in 2010 surpassed credit card debt for the first time. The report—Trends in Higher Education Series 2010—found that black graduates with bachelor's degrees exceeded other racial and ethnic groups for highest debt. For 2007 to 2008, 27 percent of black graduates with bachelor's degrees had over \$30,500 in debt, compared to only 16 percent of white graduates, 14 percent of Latino graduates and 9 percent of Asian American graduates. The high-cost of college creates a two-fold obstacle for black households to become middle class. Some youth may choose not to attend higher education given the costs, dramatically reducing their income and ability to enter the middle class. Other youth face overwhelming debt that combines with poor job opportunities that make a middle-class lifestyle difficult to obtain.

These studies demonstrate that black families will face serious obstacles to becoming middle class, furthering the wealth gap. High rates of unemployment and college debt will make it difficult for recent graduates to enter the middle class. These difficulties with obtaining well-paying jobs are expected to grow given the discussion of continued cuts in public sector jobs and capital investment in the name of deficit reduction.

So my fellow colleagues, I urge us to address the wealth gap head on. It affects our economy and the well-being of our citizens. Right now, we need to do everything we can to rebuild our economy. We need to fix our economy, and we need to help our citizens who have borne the brunt of the economic crisis recover. Government intervention and investment are needed to make our Nation's economy and households strong again.

CONGRATULATING THE FIRST MONTANA TEAM TO QUALIFY FOR THE LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES.

HON. DENNY REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, history records important events and the people involved, which, on a grand scale, are significant to us all. But history is also recorded at the local level, and to mark a historic occasion in sports for a team from the great state of Montana, I recognize the Billings Big Sky Little League All-Stars who became the first team from Montana to earn the right to compete with the world's best in the Little League Baseball World Series.

In the Northwest Regional Championship game, the Billings Big Sky All-Stars defeated Bend South Little League, from Bend, Oregon, 7-1. The victory gave Big Sky Little League the regional title and a place in the 16-team field of national and international Regional Champions competing for the 65th Little League World Series Title.

Championships at any level are never given away, they are earned, and not just from one day of competition. Titles are won beginning with a love and respect for the game, a dedication to being the best you can be, and an appreciation for all those who help you reach for your goals.

The Little League logo carries the words, "Character, Courage, Loyalty," helping to promote strong values in our youth and our communities. Congratulations to the players and coaches of the Billings Big Sky Little League All-Stars for coming together in championship form, and for upholding the Little League values in sportsmanship and excellence. Your family, friends, fans and fellow Montanans are proud of your accomplishment.

Billings Big Sky Little League All-Stars: (number, name, positions) 33—Ben Askelson P/C, 45—Sean Jones P/3B, 13—Pearce Kurth P/1B, 22—Brock MacDonald P/OF, 19—Patrick Zimmer P/SS, 2—Jet Campbell 2B, 1—Connor Kieckbusch 2B/OF, 25—Ian Leatherberry IF/P, 24—Dawson Smith 1B/OF, 10—Andy Maehl OF/C, 27—Cole McKenzie OF/IF, 11—Gabe Sulser OF, Gene Carlson—Manager, Mark Kieckbusch—Assistant Coach, Tom Zimmer—Assistant Coach.

HONORING THE WILBUR FAMILY

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituents, the descendants of Samuel Rathbone and Mary "Polly" Halstead Wilbur who are celebrating their 125th consecutive annual family reunion in Nicholson, Pennsylvania.

Samuel Rathbone Wilbur was born on December 20, 1782, in Plainfield, Connecticut, and settled in Nicholson, Pennsylvania, in

1805. He was the son of Elizabeth Benjamin and Oliver Wilbur, a Revolutionary War soldier. Mary "Polly" Halstead Wilbur, the daughter of Samuel and Hannah Harding Halstead, was born January 14, 1791, in a log cabin in Nicholson. Polly's father, Samuel, was one of the signers of the 1794 petition asking for the creation of the township of Wilkes-Barre. Polly's grandfather, Isaiah Halstead, was the scrivener of the petition that formed Nicholson Township in 1795.

Samuel married Polly in 1814. They established a large family in Nicholson, having 10 children. Samuel passed away at the age of 52. Polly, now a single mother, raised all 10 of their children, and lived until the age of 93.

A large percentage of the Nicholson population and the surrounding area is directly attributable to the 10 Wilbur children, their 47 grandchildren, and 84 great-grandchildren. At one time there were so many descendants living in the area that each year for the family reunion the passenger trains of Lackawanna would make a special stop in Nicholson for the masses of people attending the family reunion.

As one of the early pioneer families to settle in Pennsylvania, a considerable number of the Wilbur family descendants have lived in Nicholson and the surrounding area for over the past 200 years. The Wilbur reunions are not just a typical gathering to renew acquaintances, but rather a tribute to the preservation of the historic richness of our forefathers.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor this great Pennsylvania family tradition and ask my colleagues to join me in praising the Wilbur's commitment to family, their community, and our nation.

RECOGNIZING CARLIE ERDMAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise to recognize Mr. Carlie Erdman on the occasion of his 100th birthday celebration. Mr. Erdman was born on August 11, 1911 in a sod house near Benkelman, Nebraska. He arrived in Missouri as soon as he could, though, moving here when he was just two months old. In 1936 he married his late wife, Arlene Thompson, on June 20th.

Mr. Erdman has been a lifelong farmer in Northwest Missouri and a lifelong member of the Lutheran Church. Carlie was my neighbor for as long as I can remember. In fact, he taught my brother Todd and I to water-ski at Big Lake. He spent many gorgeous summer afternoons boating at Big Lake and enjoying the water.

It is amazing, Mr. Speaker, when you stop and look at all the historical events that Carlie has seen firsthand. He saw the Great Depression, Pearl Harbor, the First Man on the Moon, the invention of the computer, the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster, September 11th, and so on.

However, the greatest tribute to Carlie is not his longevity. You see, everyone in Atchison County knows Carlie. He is the first one there if you ever need help, and he is the first one

there if you have something to celebrate. It's a tribute to the kind of person Carlie is that if you ask people who know him, they all say the same thing: Carlie is a good man, a good neighbor, and a good friend.

Mr. Speaker, this Sunday Carlie's friends and family will gather to mark this extraordinary occasion. I hope that the whole House will join me in celebrating Carlie's 100th birthday and wishing him good health.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FARM
AID 2011 BENEFIT CONCERT HELD
IN SUPPORT OF AGRICULTURAL
WORKERS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Farm Aid's 2011 benefit concert. Each year, Farm Aid organizes a concert to bring together a wide variety of musicians, farmers and fans for one mission: "keeping family farmers on their land."

Farm Aid board members Willie Nelson, Neil Young, and John Mellencamp established the first Farm Aid concert in 1985 to educate farm owners about the loss of family farms and to raise funds to keep farm families on their land. Dave Matthews joined the Farm Aid Board of Directors in 2001. The Farm Aid concert is the longest running benefit series concert in America. The organization raised more than \$39 million to endorse a resilient family farm system of agriculture by "promoting food from family farms, growing the Good Food Movement, helping farmers thrive, and taking action to change the system."

Farm Aid 2011 was held at the Livestrong Sporting Park in Kansas City, Kansas, on August 13th. The event showcased homegrown

concessions featuring local, organic, or family farm sourced ingredients. The board members, along with other acclaimed artists, helped in promoting the organization and its mission of protecting family owned farms. The board members Willie Nelson, Neil Young, and John Mellencamp, David Matthews along with other artists such as Jason Mraz, Jamey Johnson, Jakob Dylan, Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real, Will Dailey & the Rivals, Billy Joe Shaver, Robert Francis, Ray Price, Rebecca Pidgeon, Heart of Darkness, John Trudell, and the Blackwood Quartet gave their time and talent to help family farmers who are under extreme economic pressure.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Farm Aid 2011 for helping family farmers thrive all over the country while inspiring millions of people to learn about the importance of maintaining family owned farms.

IN OPPOSITION OF BALANCED
BUDGET AMENDMENTS TO THE
CONSTITUTION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 19, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution represents bad economics—pure and simple. To require a balanced budget every year without regard to the state of the economy would threaten to make recessions more frequent, more protracted, and deeper. It would require greater cuts to spending at the time when the Federal Government would be needed most to use countercyclical policies to aid its citizens and states in weathering economic crises. It would jeopardize our nation's credit by making default a more regular likelihood.

A balanced budget amendment is a good sound bite, but it is not good policy. The ability

to borrow in a time of crisis to help our states and citizens is a critical tool to aid our nation during economic crisis. A balanced budget requirement risks substantial harm to our economy, to Social Security, to military and civil service retirement systems, to critical government activities, and to our most vulnerable citizens. During economic hardship, federal revenues decline and safety net programs become even more vital lifelines, causing deficits to rise. Rather than allowing the Federal Government the flexibility to institute a variety of economic stabilizers, a balanced budget amendment would force the Federal Government to cut benefits or raise taxes exactly when such responses are least effective and more likely to further weaken the economy and result in higher deficits. As Robert Reischauer explained in 1992, a balanced budget amendment "would undermine the stabilizing role of the Federal Government."

I cannot fathom how policymakers would risk default and serious economic damage to our nation in order to make the elderly pay more for medicine, poor children go hungry, and low income students skip college in order to give that money to corporate jet owners, hedge fund agents, wealthy citizens who own multiple homes, and oil companies that already earn tens of billions of dollars in profits.

During times of challenge, I resolutely believe that the mantle of responsibility for caring for the poor and struggling falls squarely on the shoulders of government, not primarily on the charity of individual citizens. In such times of hardship and strife, government leaders should extend help to the needy, not advance the wealth of the most secure. With so many of our children and youth bearing the brunt of our nation's economic hardship, I am committed to protecting all of America, not just the privileged. For these reasons, I resolutely and steadfastly oppose a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

SENATE—Tuesday, August 23, 2011*(Legislative day of Tuesday, August 2, 2011)*

The Senate met at 3:30 p.m. and 9 seconds and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, August 23, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COONS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECESS UNTIL AUGUST 26, 2011 AT
11:15 A.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 11:15 a.m. on Friday.

Whereupon, the Senate, at 3:30 and 37 seconds, recessed until Friday, August 26, 2011, at 11:15 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, August 23, 2011

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
August 23, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JEFF DENHAM to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Mark Farr, Faith & Politics Institute, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

God of the nations, to this House is given leadership of a journey upon which the people of this land have embarked: A quest for a more perfect union, and from many to make one.

To this House has been entrusted the hearts of a traveling, passionate, pilgrim people.

O God, therefore, we pray Thee, be with those who pilot our course. Visit with those who keep watch in this place. To those who steer the ship of our Nation, endow a clear mind and a gentle tongue. Bestow a generosity of spirit to reason together, even while acknowledging great differences, that as we journey, we may not become strangers to each other but see in every life a valued fellow pilgrim, and may the Captain of our souls guide us into safe harbor at the last.

In His name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5 of House Resolution 375, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4 of House Resolution 375, no legislative business will be conducted on this day.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to sections 3 and 4 of House Resolution 375, the House stands adjourned until 10:30 a.m. on Friday, August 26, 2011.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 4 minutes a.m.), the House adjourned until Friday, August 26, 2011, at 10:30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of Rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2799. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Chlorantraniliprole; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2010-0888; FRL-8875-5] received July 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2800. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Identification of Critical Safety Items (DFARS Case 2010-D022) (RIN: 0750-AG92) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

2801. A letter from the Director, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Bank Secrecy Act Regulations — Definitions and Other Regulations Relating to Prepaid Access (RIN: 1506-AB07) received July 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2802. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medical Devices; Exception from General Requirements for Informed Consent [Docket No. FDA-2003-N-0212; (formerly Docket No.: 2003N-0355)] received July 19, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2803. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medical Devices; Neurological Devices; Clarification of Classification for Human Dura Mater; Technical Amendment [Docket No.: FDA-1997-N-0040] (formerly Docket No.: 1997N-0484P) received July 19, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2804. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Interim Final Determination to Defer Sanctions, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District, California [EPA-R09-OAR-2011-0571; FRL-9444-7] received July 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2805. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Determinations of Attainment of the 1997 Fine Particle Standard for the Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle, Johnstown, Lancaster, York, and Reading Nonattainment Areas [EPA-R03-OAR-2011-0419; FRL-9445-1] received July 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2806. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Placer County Air Pollution Control District and Feather River Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2011-0461; FRL-9439-1] received July 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2807. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, and South Coast Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2011-0042; FRL-9279-3] received July 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2808. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Electronic Payment of Registration Fees (RIN: 1400-AC74) received July 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2809. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Western Pacific Pelagic Fisheries; Prohibiting Longline Fishing Within 30 nm of the Northern Mariana Islands [Docket No.: 0808051054-1319-02] (RIN: 0648-AW67) received July 19, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2810. A letter from the Attorney — Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zones; July 4th Fireworks Displays within the Captain of the Port Miami Zone, FL [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0439] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

2811. A letter from the Attorney — Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; New York Water Taxi 10th Anniversary Fireworks, Upper New York Bay, Red Hook, NY [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0222] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2812. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Nicole Cerrito Birthday Fireworks, Detroit River, Detroit, MI [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0416] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2813. A letter from the Attorney, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; The Pacific Grove Feast of Lanterns, Fireworks Display, Pacific Grove, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0159] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2814. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety

Zone; Michigan Bankers Association Fireworks, Lake Huron, Mackinac Island, MI [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0265] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2815. A letter from the Attorney — Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Augusta Southern Nationals Drag Boat Race, Savannah River, Augusta, GA [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0438] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2816. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Standards; Rotor Overspeed Requirements [Docket No.: FAA-2010-0398; Amendment No. 33-31] (RIN: 2120-AJ62) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2817. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Applicable Federal Rates — August 2011 (Rev. Rul. 2011-16) received July 20, 2011, pur-

suant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 613: Mr. DEFazio and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 674: Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. AMASH, and Mr. BONNER.

H.R. 1179: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MYRICK, and Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.

H.R. 1342: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 1747: Ms. SEWELL.

H.R. 1754: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 1848: Mrs. MYRICK.

H.R. 1905: Mr. WOODALL.

H.R. 1946: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 2106: Mrs. MALONEY, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 2250: Mr. BROOKS.

H.R. 2286: Mr. PLATTS.

H.R. 2492: Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 2499: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 2541: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF U.S. MARINE CORPS SERGEANT CHAD D. FROKJER

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 23, 2011

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and courage of U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Chad D. Frokjer of Maplewood, Minnesota.

Sergeant Frokjer was a member of a dismounted patrol conducting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan when an improvised explosive device detonated, killing him on June 30, 2011. The convoy commander of a mobile assault team for the Battalion's Alpha Company, he was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force based in Camp Pendleton, California.

A graduate of North High School in North Saint Paul, Minnesota, Sergeant Frokjer, 27, joined the Marine Corps in 2003. He served two tours in Iraq before being deployed most recently to Afghanistan on March 27, and was scheduled to leave the military in October, 2012.

Sergeant Frokjer's father, Brian, recalls that his son enlisted in the Marines after the tragedy of September 11, 2001. His love for the United States is what inspired him to "make sure nothing like that ever happened again." Every wall in his childhood bedroom is covered with photos and documents highlighting his eight years as a Marine, from the photo of him with his friend and fellow Marine sergeant, Eric Oden, to his top citation for excellence in navigation curriculum which he received during his time at Camp Pendleton. The photos depict just a handful of the many that knew and loved him. He is remembered for his passionate commitment to working with his fellow servicemen to serve the citizens of the United States, as represented by the trophy he won for his outstanding performance during an infantry squad leader course.

Sergeant Frokjer married Leslie, the love of his life, last fall. In January of this year, the couple was elated to learn that they were expecting a baby, due September 28. Their unborn son, Eli James Frokjer, will never know his father, but he will know that his father died while valiantly defending this country and the freedoms which he loved dearly. Eli James will know that his country is safer because of his father's courageous and honorable sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the life of Sgt. Chad D. Frokjer for his brave and honorable service to the United States and his commitment to protecting our freedom. I extend my deepest sympathies to Sergeant Frokjer's widow, Leslie, his parents, Arlene and Brian, and his sister, Nikki, for their profound loss.

EVRAZ PUEBLO STEEL TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 23, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Evraz Pueblo Steel and its importance to Pueblo and the entire State of Colorado. I want to share a good news story about this business in my district that is not only a success story but a company that is meeting the challenges of global competition.

The Evraz Pueblo steel mill has—for more than 100 years—provided steel made in Colorado to projects throughout America and the world. Today it is the largest employer in Pueblo with 1,200 workers; its workforce has expanded by more than 10 percent in just the past year.

In these tough economic times, it's great to report on a business that's expanding and creating high-quality, family-sustaining jobs. But the impact of the Pueblo mill goes beyond those workers and their families. It is a major economic engine for the region and the potential expansion shows the commitment the company has to the continued economic growth of the region.

The company reports that last year it invested \$36 million with nearly 400 Colorado-based suppliers. These figures include more than 200 suppliers in the Pueblo area, which represents a \$24 million infusion into Pueblo's economy.

The company shared with me the fact that this facility is looked to by others in the steel industry as an innovator in efficient operations that put top-flight environmental protection at a premium. Evraz Pueblo has achieved this status by taking proactive steps to assure environmental protection, investing \$30 million in environmental improvements since 2008. Today, Evraz Pueblo uses the lowest-emitting commercially available method of steel production.

Coupling economic success with strong, proactive environmental protection proves that the two are not antagonistic or mutually exclusive. In fact, I would argue that the best companies are those that make both a priority.

In these difficult economic times, we are often focused on the struggles of our manufacturing base coupled with widespread job losses. These challenges are touching every corner of our country. It is important, when we can to point out companies that are beating the odds, growing their job base and expanding market share in a globally competitive economy. I am pleased that the Evraz Pueblo steel mill, in Colorado's Third Congressional District, is a shining example of a growing company that couples economic success with environmental protection.

Mr. Speaker, this is an impressive manufacturing facility. I commend the employees and

the company for the great job they are doing together in Pueblo.

HONORING SANTA CLARA COUNTY ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY ROLANDA PIERRE-DIXON UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 23, 2011

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and commend Santa Clara County Assistant District Attorney Rolanda Pierre-Dixon who is retiring in August after over 30 years of service. Ms. Pierre-Dixon's tenure has been marked by professionalism, universal respect, style and grace.

By the time Ms. Pierre-Dixon entered ninth grade, she knew that she would be an attorney. Her call to service came when, at that young age, she learned that lawyers "speak for those who can't speak for themselves." She applied herself with the aim of achieving that goal and graduated from San Jose State University and Santa Clara University School of Law.

In her professional life, Ms. Pierre-Dixon has become an expert in the prosecution of domestic violence crimes. She gained this expertise in a very personal way when a friend sought her help in getting out of an abusive relationship. Seeking to give the abused a voice, in 1991, Ms. Pierre-Dixon started the Domestic Violence Unit in the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office and supervised that unit for over 17 years. This unit now reviews over 4,400 cases per year. She also serves as the Office Liaison on Human Trafficking, and she has been the Supervisor of the Family Violence Unit, Victim Witness Advocates, Criminal Issuing and the Victim Restitution Unit.

Tireless in her efforts to speak for those who can't speak for themselves, Ms. Pierre-Dixon serves on numerous committees and holds an executive office position on the Domestic Violence Council. She chairs the Domestic Violence Review Committee, is a Senior Fellow of the American Leadership Forum Silicon Valley, Advisory Board Member of the SJSU School of Nursing, Board Member of the SJSU Administration of Justice Bureau, and a Member of the State Bar Commission on Access and Fairness.

I know I join many others in Santa Clara County in thanking Ms. Pierre-Dixon for her indefatigable efforts to prevent and end domestic violence in our community, and I wish her well upon her retirement.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING DR. ROBERT L. MOORE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 23, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of community member Dr. Robert L. Moore for his 16 years of work with Clinic Ole, in Napa, California.

Dr. Moore studied at the University of California-Berkeley, where he majored in biochemistry. He later went on to earn a Master's degree in Public Health from Columbia University and a Medical degree from the University of California San Francisco Medical School.

In 1995, two years after graduating medical school, he joined Clinic Ole, a small non-profit clinic which served 4,000 patients a year at the time. In 1998, Dr. Moore was given the position of Medical Director and the clinic had expanded its capacity to serve 15,000 patients annually. Since then, Clinic Ole has continued to experience rapid growth due to Dr. Moore's leadership and tireless commitment to provide compassionate and high quality health care. He was the driving force behind the clinic's implementation of electronic health records and the re-engineering of patient visits, which allows the clinic to provide same-day or same-week appointments for all patients, which now number more than 22,000 each year.

Dr. Moore has served on the Board of Directors of Healthy Moms and Babies, and is the Medical Director for Redwood Community Health Coalition, a coalition of community health centers across northern California. Over the years, his passion for community health has led him to win several awards, including the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Napa County Hispanic Network in 2008 and the Hero Award from the California Primary Care Association in 2009.

Dr. Moore is being recognized for his many achievements in providing high quality health

care to Napa County residents, and for his role as a dedicated teacher and mentor to the Clinic Ole staff.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge Dr. Robert L. Moore for his 16 years of devoted service to the Napa Valley Community.

**RECOGNIZING THE HAMPTON
CLASSIC HORSE SHOW**

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 23, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a staple of summer life on the East End of Long Island for nearly four decades—the Hampton Classic Horse Show. Taking place from August 28 to September 4, the Hampton Classic celebrates its 36th anniversary in 2011 as one of the nation's premier hunter/jumper horse shows and Long Island's prime summer social event.

The Hampton Classic traces its roots to the earliest years of the twentieth century, when local equestrian enthusiasts gathered in the fields overlooking Lake Agawam in Southampton for the inaugural "Horse Show." The Horse Show quickly gathered a large following among the East End's residents through its tenure as the Hamptons' preeminent celebration. Eventually interrupted by World War II, the energy behind the Horse Show waned during the forties and fifties, and the exhibition ceased operations.

In the late 1960s, momentum gathered for a revival of the Horse Show to fulfill the growing interest in one of the Hamptons' favorite pastimes. In the early years of the revitalized Southampton Horse Show, the social activities surrounding the event became as popular as the horse jumping itself. However, in 1976, Marie-Christophe de Menil proposed to expand the Southampton Horse Show from a

local event to five-day "A" rated event that would draw top riders and horses from around the country. In 1977, the Hampton Classic formally incorporated the Southampton Horse Show. This merger resulted in the Hampton Classic as it has been commonly known ever since.

The Hampton Classic is a boon to local charities and philanthropic organizations across Long Island, including the Southampton Hospital, ASPCA, Stony Brook University Medical Center, Sag Harbor Food Pantry, and Bridgehampton Fire Department to name just a few. Notably, the Hampton Classic also hosts the finals of the Long Island Horse Show Series for Riders with Disabilities.

This year, the Hampton Classic will feature approximately 1,600 horses from around the world and will award roughly \$700,000 in prizes. Expecting close to 50,000 over the course of the Classic, the show will result in millions of dollars stimulating our local economy.

While it takes scores of dedicated staff members and sponsors to organize an event of this magnitude, I would be remiss if I did not specifically point out the contributions of Betty Knight Scripps. I would like to thank Ms. Scripps for her continued support of not only the Hampton Classic, but also for the other numerous philanthropic endeavors in which she participates. As co-founder of the Edward W. and Betty Knight Scripps Foundation with her late husband, Edward, Ms. Scripps is exalted on Long Island for her support of groups such as the American Red Cross, the Mayo Clinic, and the Thomas Jefferson Foundation for nearly 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Hampton Classic for its contributions to eastern Long Island. I am proud to represent and recognize this celebrated institution in my district, and I wish good luck to all organizers, riders, spectators, and sponsors as they enjoy this wonderful event.

SENATE—*Friday, August 26, 2011**(Legislative day of Tuesday, August 2, 2011)*

The Senate met at 11:15 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, August 26, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CARDIN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECESS UNTIL TUESDAY, AUGUST
30, 2011 AT 10 A.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until Tuesday, August 30, 2011, at 10 a.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 11:15 and 31 seconds a.m., recessed until Tuesday, August 30, 2011, at 10 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, August 26, 2011

The House met at 10 o'clock and 30 minutes a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
August 26, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANDY HARRIS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend James Stoeger, S.J., Jesuit Secondary Education Association, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, draw us to Yourself, to Your concerns and desires for us.

Help us attend as You might Yourself to the needs of our communities, Nation, and world. Draw our hearts towards those persons in want, those suffering illness or hunger or poverty. Inspire us to approaches and solutions for matters such as defense and learning and financial well-being.

For those Members on vacation, help them enjoy needed rest and family time. Please, God, bless the Members of this House, their staffs, and the country they serve.

This morning, in particular, we pray as well for the safety of those people and communities in the path of Hurricane Irene. Please, God, care for them. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5 of House Resolution 375, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4 of House Resolution 375, no legislative business will be conducted on this day.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to sections 3 and 4 of House Resolution 375, the House stands adjourned until 11 a.m. on Tuesday, August 30, 2011.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 34 minutes a.m.), the House adjourned until Tuesday, August 30, 2011, at 11 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2818. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department for multiple fiscal years, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

2819. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Bernard J. McCullough III, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2820. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report on Credit Ratings References in Department and Bureau Regulations; to the Committee on Financial Services.

2821. A letter from the Acting Comptroller, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, transmitting a Report on Credit Ratings; to the Committee on Financial Services.

2822. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Annual Report entitled, "Delays in Approvals of Applications Related to Citizen Petitions and Petitions for Stay of Agency Action for Fiscal Year 2010", pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 355, section 505(q)(3); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2823. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting written notification of the determination that a public health emergency exists and has existed in the state of North Dakota since April 5, 2010, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 247d(a) Public Law 107-188, section 144(a); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2824. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Diesel-Powered Motor Vehicle

Idling Act [EPA-R03-OAR-2011-0471; FRL-9445-9] received July 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2825. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of California; Interstate Transport of Pollution; Interference with Prevention of Significant Deterioration Requirement [EPA-R09-OAR-2011-0211; FRL-9446-6] received July 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2826. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Lead; Clearance and Clearance Testing Requirements for the Renovation, Repair, and Painting Program [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2005-0049; FRL-8881-8] (RIN: 2070-AJ57) received July 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2827. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revision to the California State Implementation Plan, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2011-0429; FRL-9444-3] received July 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2828. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revision to the California State Implementation Plan; South Coast Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2011-0462; FRL-9437-6] received July 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2829. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, South Coast Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2011-0416; FRL-9446-7] received July 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2830. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report entitled, "RCRA Hazardous Waste Identification of Methamphetamine Production Process By-products"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2831. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Codes and New and Revised ASME Code Cases [NRC-2008-0554] (RIN: 3150-AI35) received July 18, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2832. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting the semi-annual report on the activities of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

2833. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Customs and Border Protection Officer Retirement (RIN: 3206-AL69) received July 19, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2834. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Foreign Species, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Listing the Salmon-Crested Cockatoo as Threatened Throughout its Range with Special Rule [Docket No.: FWS-R9-IA-2009-0056; MO 92210-1111F105 B6] (RIN: 1018-AW00) received July 18, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2835. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting a report on applications for delayed-notice search warrants and extensions during fiscal year 2010; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2836. A letter from the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's decision not to appeal the decision of the district court in the case of the United States v. Scott A. Holencik, No. 10-00017-VAP (C.D. Cal.); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2837. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Determining the Amount of Taxes Paid for Purposes of the Foreign Tax Credit [TD 9536] (RIN: 1545-BK40) received July 20, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 2826. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exemption from employer social security taxes with respect to service members and veterans, and to provide a business credit for the retention of such individuals for at least 1 year; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 2827. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to clarify provisions relating to the regulation of municipal advisors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California:

H.R. 2828. A bill to provide funds to States, units of general local government, and community-based organizations to save and create local jobs through the retention, restoration, or expansion of services needed by local communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 2826.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 2827.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 3, which provides Congress the power to "regulate commerce with foreign Nations and among the several States." This legislation clarifies language in the Dodd-Frank Act regarding the registration and regulation of municipal advisors. It does this by amending the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California:

H.R. 2828.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, 3, 18 of the U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 9, Clause 7 of the U.S. Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS TO PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 104: Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 389: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

H.R. 402: Ms. DeGETTE, Ms. BASS of California, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. BERMAN, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 772: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 795: Mr. TIPTON and Mrs. BONO MACK.

H.R. 835: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 1236: Mr. TERRY, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, and Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 1244: Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 1327: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 1418: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California.

H.R. 1546: Mr. WELCH, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. CRITZ.

H.R. 1639: Mr. DENT and Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 1700: Mr. ROHRBACHER.

H.R. 1744: Mr. GRIMM and Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 1792: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 1848: Mr. BACHUS.

H.R. 1897: Mr. BARLETTA and Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 1936: Mr. TERRY.

H.R. 2005: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 2028: Mr. FATTAH and Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 2082: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 2194: Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 2195: Mr. PAUL, Mr. HARPER, and Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 2210: Mr. HIMES, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. ELLISON, and Ms. HIRONO.

H.R. 2223: Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 2414: Mr. CARTER.

H.R. 2497: Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 2541: Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 2557: Mr. ROSS of Arkansas.

H.R. 2655: Mr. DENT and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 2698: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 2814: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H. Res. 134: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF PETER DOUGLAS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 26, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the long and distinguished public service career of my dear friend Peter Douglas. Peter is retiring after nearly 26 years as the California Coastal Commission's Executive Director, a post that he has held continuously since 1985, longer than any other director of a California State agency. In that time he has done more than any other individual to shape the California Coastal Commission and by extension the California coast we know today. So I think it appropriate that we honor his vision, dedication, and tenacity in doing as much as humanly possible to keep the California coast natural, open, and accessible.

Peter has always had a knack for pulling success from challenging circumstances. Peter's Jewish mother gave birth to him while living in Berlin, Germany, in 1942. His family managed to escape to Mexico and then, in the early 1950s, to the United States. Peter went on to graduate from UCLA in 1965 and later from the UCLA law school in 1969. After a brief law practice, Peter went to work for Assemblyman Alan Sieroty, a Democrat from Beverly Hills. And that is when I first met him and where he really started his work as a troublemaker and paradigm shifter par excellence.

In the late 1950s, my father, the late State Senator Fred Farr, authored an early version of a California Coastal Act, but the politics were not yet there to support its passage. Peter helped change that by drafting an updated version of my father's legislation that this time went to the voters as Proposition 20. As part of the grass roots campaign to pass Prop 20, Peter, with a little help from me and some others, organized a coastal bike ride along the coast from far north to the Mexican border. With Prop 20's passage the California Coastal Commission was born. Peter then went to work for the Assembly Natural Resources Committee and the Select Committee on Coastal Protection, from where he helped draft the 1976 California Coastal Act, which made the Coastal Commission permanent and set in motion the creation of local coastal plans and the other basic elements of California's coastal protection framework.

Peter then went to work for the Commission as its Chief Deputy, a position he held until his 1985 appointment as the Commission's executive director. As Executive Director, Peter led the Commission's development into the bulwark of California coastal protection that it is today. He has described the measure of his success as the things that we don't see: the wetlands left unfilled; the scenic vistas left open; the coastal habitat still available for wildlife; and even the coastal amenities now open

to minorities. Others have measured his success with a catalogue of awards and recognition too long to detail here. Of course this has not come without controversy. He has frequently tangled with the rich and powerful over various coastal development proposals and has survived over a dozen attempts to remove him.

Unfortunately, illness has done what lobbyists could not. His long running struggle with cancer has forced Peter to step down from his executive director position. I know I speak for many of my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, in thanking Peter for his selfless service and in wishing him and his family and friends all the best.

TRIBUTE TO 70TH MCAFEE FAMILY REUNION IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 26, 2011

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the McAfee family for celebrating their 70th family reunion in San Antonio, Texas.

On Saturday, August 27, 2011, members of the McAfee family will gather at Rodriguez City Park in San Antonio to celebrate a tradition of coming together that has lasted 70 years. The McAfee Family Reunion began in 1941 with the family of William and Charlotte Newton McAfee, and their nine children. This year, four of the McAfee children from the initial reunion will be celebrating their 70th continuous McAfee Family Reunion: Harold McAfee, Delton McAfee King, Doris McAfee Walker, and Joseph McAfee.

At the core of American values is a commitment to family, and I want to thank all of the members of the McAfee family for their incredible dedication to each other. They are truly a model for families all across our great country, and I am honored to have their family celebrate such a tremendous milestone in my district. The McAfee family's steadfast embodiment of family values is an inspiration, and I wish them years of continued happiness for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY BY PROTECTING WOMEN'S HEALTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 26, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize August 26 as Women's Equality Day, which marks the date in 1920 that women earned the right to vote. Today,

we celebrate women's equality in the United States after so many years of being treated as second-class citizens, denied the full rights and privileges of male citizens.

Mr. Speaker, voting rights are now an institutionalized right for all women. Any attempt to weaken or withdraw them would be met with universal public condemnation. Unfortunately, there are other historic advances for women which face an uncertain future. One of these is Medicare, which 1 in 5 women rely on for basic health insurance protection.

Since its enactment, Medicare has been a great equalizer for women's rights. By removing some of the burdens associated with being primary caregivers, Medicare freed women to pursue roles outside the home.

Unfortunately, even in retirement, women are more likely to be dependent on Medicare than men. It is a critical source of health insurance coverage for nearly all older women in the United States and for many younger women who have permanent disabilities. Nearly half, 49 percent, of women on Medicare have three or more chronic health conditions and 57 percent of women on the program live below the federal poverty level.

Mr. Speaker, Medicare is a social insurance program that provides health insurance coverage to all people who are aged 65 and over as well as those who are permanently disabled.

Like women's suffrage, Medicare endured a long and difficult battle to be signed into law since it was first called for by President Truman in 1946. It was introduced in Congress every session from 1952 to 1964 and was defeated each time. Finally passed as part of the Great Society initiative under President Lyndon B. Johnson, Medicare was signed into law in Independence, Missouri on July 30, 1965.

Johnson chose Independence as a tribute to President Harry Truman's efforts to pass Medicare decades before and enrolled the former President as the first Medicare beneficiary. Medicare has four different parts: Hospital Coverage, Medical Insurance, Medicare Advantage Plans, and Prescription Drug Plans which help to cover the cost of inpatient care in hospitals, doctor's visits, hospital outpatient care, preventative services, and the cost of prescription drugs.

Since the beginning of the program, Medicare has had a profound impact on the health and well-being of older women. In 1964, only 51 percent of Americans 65 and older had health care coverage, nearly 30 percent of seniors lived below the poverty line and the average life expectancy of Americans was 70.2 years old.

Today, virtually all Americans 65 and older have health care coverage, only 8.9 percent of seniors live below the poverty line and the average life expectancy of Americans has increased to 78.2 years old. Additionally, Medicare provides affordable health care coverage to over 47 million Americans, including 39 million seniors and 8 million Americans under 65

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

with disabilities. Among the oldest Medicare beneficiaries, those 85 years and older—70 percent are women.

Mr. Speaker, Medicare is popular and strongly supported by the majority of American women, with 72 percent regarding Medicare as extremely important to their retirement security.

House Republicans ignore or pretend not to recognize the extraordinary success of Medicare. In fact, earlier this year House Republicans adopted a fiscal plan that ends Medicare as we know it and replaces it with a voucher program that requires seniors to purchase health care from private insurance companies with a voucher that is worth \$6,200 less than they receive currently under Medicare. Of course, my friends across the aisle do not explain how seniors can be expected to be better off fending for themselves with less money in a profit-based system with higher administrative costs that discriminates against older persons and those with preexisting medical conditions.

Mr. Speaker, my Democratic colleagues and I believe that Medicare needs to be preserved and strengthened so that it may be available for future generations. Just as Medicare has been kept solvent for the last 46 years; we believe it can be strengthened and maintained for at least the next 46 years.

Because women constitute the majority of individuals on Medicare, the program is therefore critically important to preserving our health and well-being. In addition, because women, on average, are paid less, live longer and have more health care needs than men, Medicare plays a greater role toward preventing illness and destitution.

Therefore, in honor of Women's Equality Day, I rise to honor the brave and courageous women of past generations who fought for the right to vote and for equality. They deserve equal attention to their long-term health, and I intend to continue fighting to that end.

HONORING GAIL T. LOVELACE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 26, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring native Washingtonian Gail T. Lovelace for 38 years of outstanding, tireless service to the federal government, and especially in celebrating her tenure at the General Services Administration (GSA).

Gail graduated from Notre Dame Academy, where she was a proud member of the basketball team, the French club, and the glee club, where she honed her signature voice. She is an honors graduate of the University of Maryland and the University of Louisville.

Gail is a human resources guru and served as the first Chief People Officer in the federal government, as well as GSA's top human resources executive. During her tenure, GSA has repeatedly been voted as one of the top agencies to work for in the federal government. Her expertise and skill set have made her the "go-to" person and a problem solver

on matters dealing with federal personnel. She is equally well known as a strong advocate for civil servants.

IN 2008, Gail served as the Director of Presidential Transition for GSA, an important role given GSA's responsibility for finding suitable and appropriate work space, for providing information technology services, and for providing a variety of administrative services for each incoming administration. Gail is known for her flawless approach to solving problems, and has received numerous awards and honors during her career, including the Human Resources Executive of the Year Honor Roll Award and the Meritorious and the Distinguished Presidential Rank Awards.

In addition to her stellar career, Gail takes great pride in her family. Her husband, Reginald, her children, Ryan and Resa, her son-in-law, Salvatore, and her granddaughter, Lindsey, are highlights in her life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in honoring Gail T. Lovelace for her accomplishments and devotion to public service and in wishing her well on her retirement. Our federal government is a better place because of her service.

WINDSOR WOODS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FIFTH GRADERS MARCH ON TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, August 26, 2011

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, on June 17, 2011, I was honored to take part in a ceremony recognizing more than sixty 5th grade students from Virginia Beach's Windsor Woods Elementary School to mark the transition from the elementary level to the secondary level. After six years of hard work, they enjoyed reflecting back on their accomplishments, over this important time in their development, with different types of recognitions and awards. I spoke to them about their next challenge in the upcoming seven years of secondary school. I reminded them that each part of this next period in their lives is made up of small resolute steps toward their near goal of graduating from high school by illustrating numerous stories from my life. Below are the names of the 5th grade scholars:

Otoniel Adame-Perez, Dmitry S. Alelekov, Katlyn Allen, Aric L. Asper, Joshua A. Bailey, Joseph L. Baker, Peyton E. Berning, Tanner S. Blais, Julia M. Bland, Monica C. Boone, Fabricio Borda, Christopher Brazelton, Isreal Brownlow, Jacob A. Brown, Emily B. Bullock, Alexandria E. Carman, Justin D. Chesnut, Michelle Ciely.

Mya L. Clark, Briyana C. Davenport, Logan Davis, Morgan L. Davis, Michael Deany, Clayton G. Ditty, Justin W. Dowell, Christopher Dunlap, Evan Fisher, James Fisher, John P. Gordley, Nia S. Hamiel, Angel Harris, Chance W. Harbour, Kiavon Ingrain, Arne J. Jakobsson, Krystina A. Johnson.

Darryl Jones, Ky-Asia M. Jones, Cody T. Kaneiss, Gregory Klein, Sarah N. Kline, Benjamin R. Kohler, Nguyen T. Le, Joseph A. Leake, Makaela L. Leisy, Mahogany Leslie, Yong Hao Li, Noelle N. Litchfield, Anastasia

E. Maletz, Christiana L. Marlowe, Emmalyn R. Martin, Isabella Martinelli, Raymond Matos-Dominguez, Sean McClurg.

Jackson Mills, Christian N. Moe, Bridget L. Moran, Dillon Morey, Mark A. Mount, Joseph L. Nguyen, Aaron J. Ortiz, John M. Pagan Lamberty, Andjee Phillips, Jeffery Proctor, Brianna I. Quilan, Emily I. Rice-Wheeler, Alexia R. Robbins, Andrew B. Rowe, Jenna A. Rylko, Elijah Sailes, Esabel J. Samonte, Carson D. Saunders.

Joseph Savage, Joseph Scharf, Matthew J. Schreck, William Scott, Montez Scutchings, Colin S. Seys, Destani E. Shine, Christopher Smith-Dent, Sophie R. Sparling, Jaden G. Stanford, Jaekwon Vinson, Brandon M. Waddington, Cassidy M. Wagner, Amari T. Wall, Aliya D. Walker, Christian Walker, Erica M. Walker, Desmond O. Warren, Nicholas H. White, Javon Williams, Janasia L. Woodard, Victoria E. Yocom, Matthew Zieger.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LANCE CORPORAL TRAVIS M. NELSON, USMC

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, August 26, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with great respect and honor that I rise today to recognize the life of Northwest Florida's beloved Lance Corporal Travis M. Nelson.

Lance Corporal Nelson succumbed to wounds sustained in combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, on August 18, 2011. At the time, he was assigned as a rifleman with 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2d Marine Division, based at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Born in Pace, Florida, on August 5, 1992, Lance Corporal Nelson was a true American patriot. Drawn to military service at an early age, with the support of his family, he joined the Young Marines of Pensacola at 14. He later participated in the Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Pace High School, where he graduated from in 2010. He then enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, and upon completion of basic training in January 2011, Lance Corporal Nelson chose to serve in the infantry. He knew of the challenging role; however, he felt that the job should not be left for someone else. His decision to join the Marine Corps is a true testament to his character's strength and selflessness.

Lance Corporal Nelson was a beloved member of his community, remembered as an athlete, an avid fisherman, and a friend by those who knew him. He is survived by his parents, Scott and Beckie; his sister, Anna; his brother, Daniel; and his fiancée, Madeline Cates.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the life of Lance Corporal Travis Nelson for his selfless service and sacrifice in defense of our nation. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers for his entire family. He will be truly missed by all.

CONGRATULATING COLONEL
HARRY M. "MIKE" ROBERTS ON
THE OCCASION OF CHANGE OF
COMMAND AND RETIREMENT

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 26, 2011

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District to congratulate Colonel Mike "MR" Roberts on the occasion of his change of command and retirement and for his outstanding service to our Nation.

Colonel Roberts is to be recognized for his outstanding command of the 178th Fighter Wing, Springfield Air National Guard from January 5, 2008 to August 21, 2011, and upon his retirement after more than 29 years of dedicated service to the United States and the United States Air Force.

Colonel Roberts received his commission in 1982 upon his graduation from the U.S. Air Force Academy. After graduation, he completed Air Force Pilot Training with an assignment to fly the A-10 Thunderbolt. Following his A-10 assignment, Colonel Roberts went on to fly the AT-38 and various models of the F-16C, while stationed in numerous locations including: New Mexico, Florida, Arizona, and Torrejon Air Base in Spain.

While assigned to Torrejon Air Base, he deployed and flew combat sorties in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Colonel Roberts was shot down over downtown Baghdad on January 19, 1991 and spent six weeks as a Prisoner of War until combat operations ceased and he was released in March of 1991.

In 1996, Colonel Roberts was assigned as the Active Duty Advisor to the 178th Fighter Wing, Springfield Air National Guard. In 2000, he resigned from active duty and was commissioned into the Ohio Air National Guard. As a member of the Ohio Air National Guard, Col. Roberts held numerous leadership positions, culminating as the Commander of the 178th Fighter Wing, Springfield Air National Guard Base.

Colonel Roberts' command of the 178th was simply outstanding, as evidenced by his winning the 2010 Ohio Adjutant General's Commander of the Year Award. He won this award

for his invaluable contributions to the families of the 178th by ensuring all of their needs were met while maintaining a 100 percent deployment cycle and a changing mission set that required a complete retraining and reassignment of many of the Wing's personnel.

His "people first" style of leadership helped lead the 178th Fighter Wing through a successful transition from an F-16 Training Wing, including international students, to an Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Wing flying the MQ-1 Predator. During this transition, the 178th completed all sortie requirements, totaling more than 5,800 flying hours with zero mishaps.

Colonel Roberts is a Command Pilot with over 5,000 flying hours, and has received numerous Department of Defense Awards, including the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart, and Prisoner of War Medal.

For his tireless service and strong dedication to our Nation and the world's greatest Air Force, I join the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District in extending our congratulations for a mission well done and a huge thanks for his many years of service. We wish him and his family the very best in their future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE FIFTIETH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE SATELLITE
COMMUNICATIONS STATION AT
CAMP ROBERTS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 26, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Satellite Communications Station at Camp Roberts, California, for fifty years of service to our nation. Nestled in the rolling rangeland of California's Central Coast, Camp Roberts has a long continuous tradition dating back to WWII of training soldiers for the active duty Army and Army National Guard. Many veterans remember Camp Roberts for its beautiful vistas and searing summer heat. But there is a lesser known side of Camp Roberts history and continuing service.

Half a century ago, at the dawn of the satellite age, defense engineers focused on

Camp Roberts for its ideal location for communicating with satellites stationed over the Pacific Ocean. The Department of Defense installed a satellite communications terminal on a remote hill in the center of Camp Roberts in support of the then nascent Defense Communications Satellite Program. It was the first world-wide strategic communications station of its kind to be established. Today, the Camp Roberts Satellite Communications Station, provides highly reliable, relevant, and unique advanced communications that are crucial to the combat effectiveness of the Armed Forces of the U.S., and critical to our national security.

This station is the premier Gateway for the Department of Defense, providing joint interoperable communications capabilities and the full spectrum of communications services in direct support to the President, Secretary of Defense, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Combatant Commanders, Department of Defense components, Warfighters, and civil authorities.

Camp Roberts Satellite Communications Station is one of the oldest and most prestigious operational signal assets belonging to the U.S. Department of Defense. Since its inception a half-century ago, the Camp Roberts Satellite Communications Station has flawlessly executed critical communications support during the most pivotal times in our nation's history. The unsung heroes of the Satellite Communications Station at Camp Roberts have been vital to the success of every major conflict from the fall of Saigon to the killing of Osama bin Laden, every space shuttle launch, and every disaster relief effort since Hurricane Katrina. Every day they contribute to global stability and national security and help protect the lives of the men and women serving our nation in harm's way. Indeed this House approved last year funding for a major expansion of the station and its capacity.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for the whole House in commending the men and women who have served at the Camp Roberts Satellite Communications Station over the course of the past fifty years. Their efforts are not forgotten. And on the occasion of this anniversary, I want to particularly single out those on duty today, for their unceasing efforts are indeed the true monument to this important milestone in the history of our nation's defense.

SENATE—Tuesday, August 30, 2011

(Legislative day of Tuesday, August 2, 2011)

The Senate met at 10 and 5 seconds a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RICHARD J. DURBIN, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, August 30, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICHARD J. DURBIN, a Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. DURBIN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECESS UNTIL FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 2, 2011, AT 10 A.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until Friday, September 2, 2011, at 10 a.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10 and 32 seconds a.m., recessed until Friday, September 2, 2011, at 10 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, August 30, 2011

The House met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STIVERS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
August 30, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE STIVERS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend William George, S.J., Archdiocese of Washington, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, source of every person, thank You for these best of times.

May we Members of the United States House of Representatives, who serve Your people under You, more deeply appreciate that we are all Your sons and daughters.

May we come together as family in this House and share the joy of politics and serving Your people.

We ask You to guide us, You whose laws rule forever and ever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5 of House Resolution 375, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4 of House Resolution 375, no legislative business will be conducted on this day.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to sections 3 and 4 of House Resolu-

tion 375, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. on Friday, September 2, 2011.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 4 minutes a.m.), the House adjourned until Friday, September 2, 2011, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2838. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, Army Case Number 10-06, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

2839. A letter from the Director, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Bank Secrecy Act Regulations — Definitions and Other Regulations Relating to Prepaid Access (RIN: 1506-AB07) received July 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2840. A letter from the Acting Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting a report on the review of regulations that reference credit ratings and the status of modifications to replace such references; to the Committee on Financial Services.

2841. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Security Ratings [Release No.: 33-9245; 34-64975; File No. S7-18-08] (RIN: 3235-AK18) received July 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2842. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Filing, Retention, and Return of Export Licenses and Filing of Export Information (RIN: 1400-AC91) received July 19, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2843. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: International Import Certificate BIS-645P/ATF-4522/DSP-53 (RIN: 1400-AC85) received July 18, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2844. A letter from the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, transmitting the twelfth quarterly report on the Afghanistan reconstruction, pursuant to Public Law 110-181, section 1229; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2845. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2846. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regula-

tion, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2847. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2848. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2849. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2850. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2851. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's report for fiscal year 2010 on the Acquisition of Articles, Materials, and Supplies Manufactured Outside the United States, pursuant to Public Law 110-28, section 8306; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2852. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting a report entitled "Compendium of Tribal Crime Data, 2011", pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 3732; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2853. A letter from the Assistant Deputy Secretary for Innovation and Improvement, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Priorities, Requirements, and Selection Criteria; Charter Schools Program (CSP) Grants for Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools [CFDA Number: 84.282M] (RIN: 1855-ZA08) received July 19, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2854. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Pantego Creek; Belhaven, NC [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0473] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2855. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Charleston Sharkfest Swim, Charleston Harbor, Charleston, SC [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0501] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2856. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Bay Point Fireworks, Bay Point Marina; Marblehead, OH [Docket No.: USCG-

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

2011-0516] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2857. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; 4th of July Festival Berkeley Marina Fireworks Display Berkeley, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0370] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2858. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Hylebos Bridge Restoration, Hylebos Waterway, Tacoma, WA [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0114] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2859. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zones; July 4th Weekend Fireworks Displays within the Captain of the Port St. Petersburg Zone, FL [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0350] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2860. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Waterway Closure, Morgan City — Port Allen Route from Mile Marker 0 to Port Allen Lock [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0432] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2861. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Independence Day Fireworks Celebration for the City of Richmond, Richmond, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0399] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2862. A letter from the Attorney — Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Fan Pier Yacht Club Fireworks, Boston Harbor, Boston, Massachusetts [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0437] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2863. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Independence Day Fireworks Celebration for the City of Half Moon Bay, Half Moon Bay, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0396] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2864. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc (RR) RB211-524 Series Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0624; Directorate Identifier 2010-NE-11-AD; Amendment 39-16724; AD 2011-13-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2865. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca S.A. ARRIEL 2B and

2B1 Turbohaft Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0115; Directorate Identifier 2010-NE-40-AD; Amendment 39-16728; AD 2011-13-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2866. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Various Aircraft Equipped with Rotax Aircraft Engines 912 A Series Engine [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0714; Directorate Identifier 2011-CE-024-AD; Amendment 39-16744; AD 2010-14-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2867. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company GE90-74B; GE90-77B; GE90-85B; GE90-90B; and GE90-94B Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2010-1024; Directorate Identifier 2010-NE-34-AD; Amendment 39-16753; AD 2011-15-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2868. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; MD Helicopters, Inc. Model MD900 Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0695; Directorate Identifier 2011-SW-001-AD; Amendment 39-16740; AD 2011-14-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2869. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Model CL-600-2A12 (CL-601) and CL-600-2B16 (CL-601-3A, CL-601-3R, and CL-604 Variants) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2010-1307; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-049-AD; Amendment 39-16671; AD 2011-09-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2870. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; B/E Aerospace, Continuous Flow Passenger Oxygen Mask Assembly, Part Numbers 174006-0, 174080-0, 174085-0, 174095-0, 174097-0, and 174098-0 [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0139; Directorate Identifier 2010-CE-057-AD; Amendment 39-16743; AD 2011-14-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2871. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Model DC-9-81 (MD-81), DC-9-82 (MD-82), DC-9-83 (MD-83), DC-9-87 (MD-87), and MD-88 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0217; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-165-AD; Amendment 39-16748; AD 2011-15-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2872. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Model 747 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2010-1158; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-125-AD; Amendment 39-16750; AD 2011-15-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2873. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Saab AB, Saab Aerosystems Model SAAB 2000 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0307; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-111-AD; Amendment 39-16747; AD 2011-24-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2874. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Lockheed Martin Corporation/Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company Model 382, 382B, 382E, 382F, and 382G Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2010-1305; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-074-AD; Amendment 39-16749; AD 2011-15-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2875. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Hawker Beechcraft Corporation Models B300 and B300C (C-12W) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0436; Directorate Identifier 2011-CE-009-AD; Amendment 39-16752; AD 2011-15-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2876. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Model 747-400 and -400D Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2010-1159; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-006-AD; Amendment 39-16746; AD 2011-14-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2877. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A330-342 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0653; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-249-AD; Amendment 39-16745; AD 2011-14-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2878. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; 328 Support Services GmbH (Type Certificate Previously Held by AvCraft Aerospace GmbH; Fairchild Dornier GmbH; Dornier Luftfahrt GmbH) Model 328-100 and -300 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0308; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-233-AD; Amendment 39-16754; AD 2011-15-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2879. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300 B4-600, B4-600R, and F4-600R Series Airplanes, and Model A300 C4-605R Variant F Airplanes (Collectively Called A300-600 Series Airplanes); and Model A310 Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0309; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-255-AD; Amendment 39-16755; AD 2011-15-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2880. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Manual Requirements [Docket No.: FAA-2001-

11133; Amendment No. 91-323] received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2881. A letter from the Office of Government Contracting and Business Development, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's annual report for fiscal year 2010 on Minority Small Business and Capital Ownership Development, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 636(j)(16)(A); to the Committee on Small Business.

2882. A letter from the Chief, Impact Analyst, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a report on the rulemaking package; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

2883. A letter from the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, transmitting the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction (SIGIR) July 2011 Quarterly Report and Semiannual Report; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Appropriations.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

[Submitted August 12, 2011]

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 2816. A bill to support and encourage the health and well-being of elementary school and secondary school students by enhancing school physical education and health education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 2817. A bill to amend the Community Services Block Grant Act to authorize appropriations for national or regional instructional programs for low-income youth; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

[Submitted August 16, 2011]

By Mr. PALAZZO (for himself and Mr. MILLER of Florida):

H.R. 2821. A bill to allow damage payments from BP in connection with the blowout and explosion on the offshore drilling unit Deepwater Horizon to be included in gross income ratably over 3 years; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SABLON (for himself, Mr. HINCHY, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 2822. A bill to require that the United States Attorney, and the United States Marshal, appointed for the Northern Mariana Islands reside in the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

[Submitted August 30, 2011]

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. PENCE, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BARTLETT, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Ms. BUEKLE, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, Mr. DOLD, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. FORBES, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. HURT, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KLINE, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LANCE, Mr. LATTI, Mr. LONG, Mr. MARINO, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. MIL-

LER of Michigan, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. OLSON, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. POSEY, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. RIVERA, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. TURNER, Mr. WALSH of Illinois, Mr. WEST, and Mr. WESTMORELAND):

H.R. 2829. A bill to promote transparency, accountability, and reform within the United Nations system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. BERMAN):

H.R. 2830. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2012 and 2013 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and for other purposes; referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Armed Services, Ways and Means, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RIVERA:

H.R. 2831. A bill to amend Public Law 89-732 to modify the requirement for a Cuban national to qualify for and maintain status as a permanent resident; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 4 of Rule XXII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

119. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of California, relative to Assembly Joint Resolution No. 9 urging the Congress to expedite a solution to provide a public alert and warning system to warn the American people in situations of war, terrorist attack, natural disaster, or other hazards to the health, safety and well being of the population; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

120. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Michigan, relative to Senate Resolution No. 59 memorializing Congress to modernize the Toxic Substances Control Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

121. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Idaho, relative to House Joint Memorial No. 3 urging the Department of Health and Human Services to remove health insurance agent and broker commissions from the MLR calculation; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

122. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of California, relative to Assembly Joint Resolution No. 7 commending its conscientious educators who teach about human rights and genocide; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

123. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Maine, relative to Joint Resolution supporting Taiwan's participation as an observer in the meetings and activities of the International Civil Aviation Organization and participation in the United States Visa Waiver Program; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

124. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Maine, relative to Joint Resolution opposing the creation of a National park in Maine's north woods and request that the President and the Secretary of the Interior deny requests to conduct a feasibility study concerning the establishing a national park in Maine's north woods; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

125. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of California, relative to Assembly Joint Resolution No. 11 urging the Congress to protect and preserve the ability of California wineries, as well as all American wineries, to ship wine directly to consumers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

126. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Alabama, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 25 urging the Congress to pass an amendment to the Constitution requiring a balanced budget by October 1, 2011; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

127. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of California, relative to Assembly Joint Resolution No. 5 requesting the President and the Congress to enact legislation to study the feasibility of the collection process for a transportation revenue source based on vehicle miles traveled; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

128. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of California, relative to Assembly Joint Resolution No. 4 urging the President and the Secretary of Transportation to award a federal TIFIA loan to enable the timely construction of the State Route 91 Corridor Improvement Project; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

129. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Maine, relative to Joint Resolution urging the Congress to award the designation of the "Veterans of the United States and the State of Maine" to those who protected and defended the northeastern boundary during the Aroostook War; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H.R. 2829.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 2830.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. RIVERA:

H.R. 2831.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 (immigration regulation) and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (interstate travel regulation).

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 679: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 711: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 942: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 1063: Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. TERRY, Mr. KISSELL, and Mr. ANDREWS.

H.R. 1280: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 1478: Mr. HERGER.

H.R. 1558: Mr. HUELSKAMP and Mrs. BLACK.

H.R. 1681: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Mrs. MALONEY.
H.R. 1738: Mr. PAUL, Mr. DOLD, and Mr. BOSWELL.
H.R. 1774: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1905: Mr. CARNAHAN.
H.R. 2016: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 2106: Ms. BROWN of Florida and Mr. CHAFFETZ.
H.R. 2247: Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 2250: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Mrs. BLACK.
H.R. 2359: Mr. STARK and Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 2377: Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 2397: Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois.
H.R. 2447: Mrs. MYRICK, Ms. HAHN, Mr. CLYBURN, and Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 2543: Mr. FARR.
H.R. 2670: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 2758: Ms. NORTON.
H.J. Res. 69: Mr. HEINRICH.
H. Res. 134: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Res. 296: Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the Clerk's desk and referred as follows:

19. The SPEAKER presented a petition of AFL-CIO, Illinois, relative to supporting the AT&T/T-Mobile Merger Resolution; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

20. Also, a petition of Charter Township of Brownstown, Michigan, relative to a letter urging the Congress to reconsider the budget reductions to the Fish and Wildlife department; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR. GARLAND E. "GARY" MOREY, JR. AND RECOGNIZING HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOUTH FLORIDA HIV/AIDS COMMUNITY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 30, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Dr. Garland E. "Gary" Morey, Jr., a pioneer in South Florida's HIV/AIDS community. Dr. Morey passed away after a lengthy battle with cancer on August 1, 2011, at the age of 57. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends at this most difficult time. He is survived by his life partner, William Silver; father, Garland Morey, Sr.; brother, Donald Morey; sister, Linda Thomas; and four nephews, Tim and Bryan Thomas, and Trevor and Kevin Morey.

Dr. Morey was born in Syracuse, NY, to Garland "Gene" Morey and Theresa "Terry" Morey. He graduated from Cicero High School, attended Cornell University for his undergraduate studies, and received his medical degree from Upstate Medical Center. Dr. Morey was determined to go wherever his service was needed. During his studies and residency, he completed externships at the University of Cape Town in South Africa and Alaska Native Medical Center in Barrow. Furthermore, Dr. Morey practiced in Syracuse before joining the Public Health Service and setting up a rural medical practice in Onley, VA. Later, his work would take him to Florida, where he went into practice in Marathon and Big Pine Key.

In 1987, Dr. Morey answered the call to help treat patients infected with a newly emerging immune system disease now known as HIV/AIDS. He moved to Fort Lauderdale and joined the Broward County Health Department's Northwest AIDS Center as its first HIV/AIDS specialist. Furthermore, he co-founded Care Resources, Inc., South Florida's oldest and largest HIV/AIDS service organization.

In September 1994, after caring for over 1,200 HIV-positive patients, Dr. Morey was forced to retire as a physician, but his work did not end there. He wrote grants, established new programs, and served on the committees and boards of numerous community-based organizations, including the University of Miami AIDS treatment center, Community Research Initiative, People With AIDS Coalition, International Foundation for Alternate Research in AIDS, Broward Community Foundation, Shadowood II, South Florida AIDS Network, Broward County HIV Health Services Planning Council, and chairman of the board for Center One.

When Dr. Morey lost his larynx to esophagus cancer in 2000, he joined the New Voice Club of South Florida. He became a speech

therapist to help individuals like himself learn to talk and live with throat cancer. Dr. Morey also established a training program for nursing students at Florida Atlantic University and invited students to club meetings to work with members. In addition, he traveled to schools throughout Broward County teaching young children the hazards of smoking.

Mr. Speaker, for over 16 years, Dr. Gary Morey volunteered his time and expertise whenever and wherever he could to help those individuals most in need. He was a wonderful human being whose generosity and selflessness are a true inspiration to us all, and he will be dearly missed. Dr. Morey's legacy of care and compassion is now in our hands to continue. Let us honor his memory by working to ensure that people living with HIV/AIDS have access to quality health care and are treated with dignity and respect.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ZACHARY TIMS, JR.

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 30, 2011

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the Third Congressional District of Florida and myself, we rise now to offer our heartfelt condolences and pay tribute to the life of my friend, Dr. Zachary Tims, Jr., founder, Senior Pastor and CEO of the New Destiny Christian Center (NDCC) in Apopka, FL. Dr. Tims was a humanitarian, healer, life activist, community leader and friend.

We are moved and encouraged when recalling the life achievements of this champion and steward in the ministry that was called according to his purposed life of service. The focus of this ministry was to exemplify the love of Christ with a passion for helping the community. His extraordinary gift to illustrate transformational life principles empowered a thriving membership of more than 8,000. Through his passion to touch lives and save souls, the church has been a blessing to countless individuals through its major outreach crusades and ministries. The legacy of Dr. Zachary Tim's ministry through the New Destiny Christian Center produced a life changing concept that brought a divine intervention in the lives of the members of his congregation that sought spiritual guidance and change in their lives. An anointed man of God and one committed to serving, Dr. Tims was loved and respected by his family, friends, church congregation and community. Dr. Tims was an internationally renowned pastor. His Christian broadcast advanced the Kingdom of God and reached more than 100 million households globally and heralded contributions to the community by providing community-based

education, food, clothing, medical screenings, housing and foreclosure assistance and children's toys to the less fortunate. These and many other civic activities were distinctive. The accolades received for his superior endeavors in the ministry were unparalleled, prolific and countless.

A man for whom education was important, Dr. Tims earned a bachelor degree in Accounting from Towson State University and obtained his degree in Theology from Maranatha Bible College in Baltimore, MD. He held two honorary doctoral degrees from Vision International University and St. Thomas Christian College for the tremendous work accomplished in his ministry.

As a man of God and vision, Dr. Tims was intellectually charismatic. Where he saw pain, he sought to relieve it with spiritual acumen and personal interaction; where he saw potential in others, he gave them hope and encouragement; where he saw despair, he brought direction, purpose and promise; where he saw the need for love and caring, he unselfishly ensured there was a response and outcome for every knee bowed and every tongue that confessed.

The life of Dr. Zachary Tims was one of accomplishment and service. As a community activist, he gave of himself and his talents to benefit both the individuals and the organizations he served. In his passing, we pay tribute to an exceptional religious leader whose love of his fellow colleagues and community left an indelible legacy for future generations. He will be remembered and respected because he had an awesome gift of teaching his congregation how to discover the wonderful plan that God has for each of us. We pray that by his example that each of us becomes the bearers of his humanitarian and spiritual legacy. We offer our prayers for his immediate family and host of loving relatives and friends whose lives have been forever changed by this phenomenal man of God. We thank our Heavenly Father for allowing us to be blessed with the time spent with Dr. Tims, our friend, brother and International Ambassador for Christ.

Dr. Zachary Tims is survived by his mother, Madeline Y. Tims, his grandmother, Eleanor D. Grant, former wife Riva Tims, and children, Zoelle Tims, Zachary Tims III, Zion Tims, and Zahira Tims.

A TRIBUTE TO STANLEY R. FRIESEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 30, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Stanley Friesen of Ogden, IA, who passed away on August 22.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Stan was born on June 17, 1942 in Hood River, OR, and educated in South Dakota. After earning his Master's Degree in 1967, Stan would teach for 3 years in South Dakota before making Iowa his home. After 3 years as the Floyd Valley High School Principal in Alton, IA, Stan moved to Ogden to begin his tenure as the Ogden High School principal. Mr. Friesen would make a lasting positive impact on scores of young Iowans for the next 34 years before retiring in 2004. Fortunately, Stan didn't allow his retirement to impede his passion for the students and citizens of Ogden. Instead, he would go on to serve as the president of the Ogden School Board to continue enriching the community that he loved.

Stan was never one to sit on the sidelines. In addition to his academic contributions to Ogden, Mr. Friesen also volunteered with Habitat of Boone and Greene Counties Board, the Lions Club, Ogden Scholarship Foundation Board, Boone County Hospice of Central Iowa Board, Ogden Community United Methodist Church, in addition to coordinating unforgettable Ogden senior trips to such destinations as Gettysburg, Washington, DC, Philadelphia and New York City. Stan also served on the Youth and Shelter Services of Boone County Community Advisory Board for more than 5 years and was awarded its 2010 Volunteer Leadership and Service award this past December.

While his contributions to his city and state have resulted in awards for his distinguished service, Stan would be the first to tell you that his family is his greatest achievement. Stan is survived by his wife, two brothers, two children, three grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, Stan Friesen lived his life like a true Iowan by placing service and family above all else. It was truly an honor to represent such an exemplary Iowan in the United States Congress. His contributions to the Ogden community and our state as a whole will be deeply missed. I offer his family my sincerest sympathies and best wishes in this difficult time. Thank you.

SENATE—Friday, September 2, 2011*(Legislative day of Tuesday, August 2, 2011)*

The Senate met at 10 and 1 second a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 2, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WEBB thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 6, 2011, AT 2 P.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until Tuesday, September 6, 2011, at 2 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10 and 29 seconds a.m., adjourned until Tuesday, September 6, 2011, at 2 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, September 2, 2011

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 2, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE FITZPATRICK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Patrick Riffle, St. Peter's Catholic Church, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

God our Father, You guide everything in wisdom and love. "You are good and forgiving, full of love to all who call upon You" (Psalm 86:5). We now praise You for that love and rejoice in Your abundant blessings. You call us today to grow in the knowledge of that love and invite us to receive Your blessings.

Accept the prayers we offer for our Nation, protect it and keep it ever in Your sight. Fill this House of Representatives with Your holy wisdom. Strengthen these Representatives and their staffs as they labor for what is good and just. May true harmony and justice be secured for all and may there be lasting prospering and peace.

We ask this in Your most holy name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5 of House Resolution 375, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4 of House Resolution

375, no legislative business will be conducted on this day.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to sections 3 and 4 of House Resolution 375, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 6, 2011.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 3 minutes a.m.), the House adjourned until Tuesday, September 6, 2011, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2884. A letter from the Secretary to the Commission, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Removing Any Reference to or Reliance on Credit Ratings in Commission Regulations; Proposing Alternatives to the Use of Credit Ratings (RIN: 3038-AD11) received August 3, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2885. A letter from the Secretary of the Commission, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Process for Review of Swaps for Mandatory Clearing (RIN: 3038-AD00) received August 3, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2886. A letter from the Secretary of the Commission, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's "Major" final rule — Swap Data Repositories: Registration Standards, Duties, and Core Principles (RIN: 3038-AD20) received August 24, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2887. A letter from the Secretary of the Commission, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's "Major" final rule — Final Rules for Implementing the Whistleblower Provisions of Section 23 of the Commodity Exchange Act (RIN: 3038-AD04) received August 24, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2888. A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Provisions Common to Registered Entities (RIN: 3038-AD07) received August 3, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2889. A letter from the Regulatory Analyst, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Export Inspection and Weighting Waiver for High Quality Specialty Grain Transported in Containers (RIN: 0580-AB18) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2890. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID: FEMA-2011-0002] July 19, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2891. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID: FEMA-2011-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-B-1201] received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2892. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket ID: FEMA-2011-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8189] received August 2, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2893. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID: FEMA-2011-0002] received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2894. A letter from the Deputy to the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Certain Orderly Liquidation Authority Provisions Under Title II of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2895. A letter from the Deputy to the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Interest on Deposits; Deposit Insurance Coverage (RIN: 3064-AD78) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2896. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment to Rule Filing Requirements for Dually-Registered Clearing Agencies [Release No. 34-64832; File No. S7-29-11] (RIN: 3235-AL18) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2897. A letter from the Chief, Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Cooperation in USDA Studies and Evaluations, and Full Use of Federal Funds in Nutrition Assistance Programs Nondiscretionary Provisions of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, Public Law 111-296 [FNS-2011-0031] (RIN: 0584-AE20) received August 2, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

2898. A letter from the Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Requirements for Fee Disclosure to Plan Fiduciaries and Participants — Applicability Dates (RIN: 1210-AB08) received July 19, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

2899. A letter from the Deputy Director for Policy, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Disclosure to Participants (RIN: 1212-AB12) received August 2, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

2900. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Safety Standards for Toddler Beds (RIN: 3041-AC79) July 20, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2901. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Furnaces and Residential Central Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps [Docket No.: EERE-2011-BT-STD-0011] (RIN: 1904-AC06) received August 16, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2902. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Food Additives Permitted for Direct Addition to Food for Human Consumption; Hydroxypropyl Cellulose [Docket No.: FDA-2010-F-0103] received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2903. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers to Coverage of Preventive Services under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (RIN: 0938-AQ07) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2904. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Make Inoperative Exemptions; Vehicle Modifications To Accommodate People With Disabilities, Side Impact Protection [Docket No.: NHTSA-2011-0079] (RIN: 2127-AK77) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2905. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's "Major" final rule — Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards and Fuel Efficiency Standards for Medium- and Heavy-Duty Engines and Vehicles [EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-0162; NHTSA-2010-0079; FRL-9455-1] (RIN: 2060-AP61; RIN 2127-AK74) received August 18, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2906. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Parts 73 and 74 of the Commission's Rules to Establish Rules for Digital Low Power Television, Television Translator, and Television Booster Stations and to Amend Rules for Digital Class A Television Stations [MB Docket No. 03-185] received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2907. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Transmission Planning and Cost Allocation by Transmission Owning and Operation Pub-

lic Utilities [Docket No.: RM10-23-000; Order No. 1000] received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2908. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Policy Statement of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission on the Protection of Cesium-137 Chloride Sources Notice of Meeting received August 2, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2909. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Qualification of Connection Assemblies for Nuclear Power Plants [Regulatory Guide 1.156] received August 2, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2910. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries in the Western Pacific; Mechanism for Specifying Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures [Docket No.: 100803320-1319-03] (RIN: 0648-AY93) received July 19, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2911. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization Program [Docket No.: 0910301387-1315-02] (RIN: 0648-AY33) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2912. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization Program; Amendment 37 [Docket No.: 100723308-1315-02] (RIN: 0648-BA11) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2913. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Recreational Management Measures for the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries; 2011 Scup Specifications; Fishing Year 2011 [Docket No.: 110222150-1280-02] (RIN: 0648-BA92) received July 19, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2914. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments [Docket No.: 100804324-11265-02] (RIN: 0648-BB21) received July 19, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2915. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species;

Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Quotas and Atlantic Tuna Fisheries Management Measures [Docket No.: 110210132-1275-02] (RIN: 0648-BA65) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2916. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 101126522-0640-02] (RIN: 0648-XA542) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2917. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Northern Rockfish and Pelagic Self Rockfish for Trawl Catcher Vessels Participating in the Entry Level Rockfish Fishery in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 101126522-0640-02] (RIN: 0648-XA546) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2918. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch for Catcher Vessels Participating in the Rockfish Entry Level Trawl Fishery in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 101126522-0640-02] (RIN: 0648-XA543) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2919. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Deep-Water Species Fishery by Catcher Vessels in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 101126522-0640-02] (RIN: 0648-XA536) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2920. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Shallow-Water Species Fishery by Catcher/Processors in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 101126522-0640-02] (RIN: 0648-XA539) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2921. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Closure of the Directed Butterfish Fishery [Docket No.: 100804323-0569-02] (RIN: 0648-XA523) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2922. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Closure [Docket No.: 0912281446-0111-02] (RIN: 0648-XA554) received August 2, 2011, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2923. A letter from the Rules Administrator, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Psychiatric Evaluation and Treatment [BOP-1088-F] (RIN: 1120-AB20) received August 8, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2924. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Truman-Hobbs alteration of the Elgin Joliet & Eastern Railroad Drawbridge; Illinois River, Morris, Illinois [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0584] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2925. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations; Detroit APBA Gold Cup, Detroit River, Detroit, MI [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0614] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2926. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Central Astoria Independence Celebration Fireworks Event, Wards Island, NY [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0475] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2927. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations for Marine Events; Lake Gaston, Enterprise NC [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0277] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2928. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Kathleen Whelan Wedding Fireworks, Lake St. Clair, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0573] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2929. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations; Port Huron to Mackinac Island Sail Race [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0648] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2930. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations for Marine Events, Bogue Sound; Morehead City, North Carolina [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0306] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2931. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Navigation Area; Chelsea Street Bridge Construction, Chelsea, MA [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0536] (RIN: 1625-AA11) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2932. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmit-

ting the Department's final rule — Safety Zones; Swimming Events in Captain of the Port Boston Zone [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0533] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2933. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations & Safety Zones; Marine Events in Captain of the Port Long Island Sound Zone [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0550] (RIN: 1625-AA08; 1625-AA00) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2934. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30790; Amdt. No. 3432] received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2935. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 30791; Amdt. No. 3433] received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2936. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Model FALCON 7X Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0477; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-108-AD; Amendment 39-16735; AD 2011-12-51] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2937. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A318, A319, A320, and A321 Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0573; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-082-AD; Amendment 39-16734; AD 2011-13-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2938. A letter from the Chairman, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulations Governing Fees for Services [EP 542 (Sub-No. 18)] received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2939. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Lycoming Engines (Type certificate previously held by Textron Lycoming) and Teledyne Continental Motors (TCM) Turbocharged Reciprocating Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0126; Directorate Identifier 2011-NE-03-AD; Amendment 39-16726; AD 2011-13-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2940. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc RB211-Trent 500 Series Turbofan Engines

[Docket No.: FAA-2011-0445; Directorate Identifier 2011-NE-14-AD; Amendment 39-16727; AD 2011-13-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2941. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30788; Amdt. No. 3430] received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2942. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30789; Amdt. No. 3431] received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2943. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's "Major" final rule — Claims for Patent and Copyright Infringement [Notice 11-070] (RIN: 2700-AD63) received August 9, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

2944. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Life Insurance Gross Income (Rev. Rul. 2011-15) received July 26, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2945. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare Program; Hospice Wage Index for Fiscal Year 2012 (RIN: 0938-AQ31) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[The following action occurred on September 2, 2011]

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan: Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. H.R. 1892. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 112-197). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CAMP (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BRADY of Texas, and Mr. McDERMOTT):

H.R. 2832. A bill to extend the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes.

By Mr. QUAYLE:

H.R. 2833. A bill to repeal the rule requiring employers to post notices relating to the National Labor Relations Act; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BENISHEK (for himself, Mr. BOREN, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. KELLY):

H.R. 2834. A bill to recognize the heritage of recreational fishing, hunting, and shooting on Federal public lands and ensure continued opportunities for these activities.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (for himself, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. CLAY, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. BASS of California, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CLARKE of Michigan, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LUJÁN, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEAL, Mr. REYES, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. RUPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SIREN, Mr. STARK, Mr. TONKO, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. DOYLE, and Mr. CLYBURN):

H.R. 2835. A bill to establish a joint select committee of Congress to report findings and propose legislation to restore the Nation's workforce to full employment over the period of fiscal years 2012 and 2013, and to provide for expedited consideration of such legislation by both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (for himself, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. CLAY, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. CLYBURN):

H.R. 2836. A bill to amend the Budget Control Act of 2011 to require the joint select committee of Congress to report findings and propose legislation to restore the Nation's workforce to full employment over the period of fiscal years 2012 and 2013.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (for himself, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. CLAY, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, and Mr. TOWNS):

H.R. 2837. A bill to amend the Budget Control Act of 2011 to require the joint select committee of Congress to report findings and propose legislation to restore the Nation's workforce to full employment over the period of fiscal years 2012 and 2013.

By Mr. LOBIONDO (for himself and Mr. MICA):

H.R. 2838. A bill to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2012 through 2015, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. LOBIONDO (for himself and Mr. MICA):

H.R. 2839. A bill to suppress the threat of piracy on the high seas, and for other purposes.

By Mr. LOBIONDO (for himself, Mr. MICA, and Mr. GIBBS):

H.R. 2840. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to regulate discharges from commercial vessels, and for other purposes.

By Mr. WOMACK:

H.R. 2841. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to approve waivers under the Medicaid Program under title XIX of the Social Security Act that are related to State provider taxes that exempt certain retirement communities.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CAMP:

H.R. 2832.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1—The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. QUAYLE:

H.R. 2833.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill makes specific changes to existing law in a manner that returns power to the States and to the People, in accordance with Amendment X of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BENISHEK:

H.R. 2834.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2.

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.R. 2835.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.R. 2836.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.R. 2837.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. LOBIONDO:

H.R. 2838.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. LOBIONDO:

H.R. 2839.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. LOBIONDO:

H.R. 2840.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. WOMACK:

H.R. 2841.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 415: Mr. CONYERS and Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 890: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 894: Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 1289: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 1351: Mr. BOREN, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. MARINO, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. DENT, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. GUTIERREZ.

H.R. 1513: Ms. HAHN, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. INSLEE, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. HIMES, and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H.R. 1558: Mrs. SCHMIDT.

H.R. 1738: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H.R. 1774: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey.

H.R. 1845: Mr. PAULSEN and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 1860: Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California and Mr. BACA.

H.R. 1968: Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 2106: Mr. SESSIONS and Mr. WESTMORELAND.

H.R. 2127: Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 2447: Mr. McCOTTER and Mr. WOLF.

H.R. 2537: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

H.R. 2581: Mr. BROOKS.

H.R. 2698: Mr. HASTINGS of Washington.

H.R. 2796: Mr. McCOTTER and Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 2829: Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. WOODALL.

H. Con. Res. 72: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. REYES, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. RUSH.

H. Res. 137: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. PEARCE.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE PINEY CREEK COLORADO CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I rise today to recognize the Piney Creek Colorado chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, DAR, for its commitment to preserving American history and fostering patriotism across the country.

The parent society's history dates back to 1890, a time marked by a revival in patriotism and an intense interest in the beginnings of the United States. While the Piney Creek chapter was only chartered in 2004, the energy and dedication directed towards the local community has enhanced the lives of many Coloradans.

The founders of DAR sought to create an organization which would commemorate the patriots of the American Revolution, cultivating national pride in its members and in local communities. The Piney Creek DAR superbly embodies these tenants, and tirelessly works to forward the organization's mission of perpetuating the memory of those who contributed to American Independence, promoting educational endeavors as instructed by President George Washington, and cherishing American institutions of freedom.

National events organized by DAR, such as Constitution Week, celebrate the foundations of democracy and contribute to the education of communities. Started in 1955, Constitution Week seeks to honor and reaffirm the ideals outlined by our Founding Fathers in 1787. The Piney Creek chapter of the DAR has truly taken heart in this annual event and has gone above and beyond to thoughtfully promote the importance of the Constitution. From sponsoring and performing education programs about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights at local elementary schools, to disseminating pocket Constitutions to students and patrons, the Piney Creek DAR has captured the spirit of this important week. Moreover, their work promoting the ideals of the Constitution continues throughout the year by sponsoring high school Advance Placement U.S. American History Classrooms and partnering with local libraries to publicly display copies of our founding documents.

These efforts and others demonstrate the Piney Creek DAR's exceptional dedication to country and community. I'm incredibly proud to have such dedicated volunteers residing in the 6th district of Colorado, and I am certain that the Piney Creek DAR will continue to serve as an example of American spirit both past and future.

RECOGNIZING THE 48TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, August 28, was the 48th anniversary of the historic March on Washington, the most famous act of peaceful protest in our nation's history. I rise to pay tribute to the great Americans who conceived, organized, executed and participated in the March for Jobs and Freedom. That march was a seminal event in our nation's history and awakened Americans of goodwill to the urgent need to rededicate ourselves to the great unfinished task of making real the promise of America for all Americans, especially African Americans.

The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom was a nonviolent, political demonstration that advocated for civil rights and economic justice for African Americans. The march and rally took place on the National Mall in Washington DC on August 28, 1963, the 100th anniversary of the issuance of President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.

Mr. Speaker, 1963 was a year of racial strife and unrest, preceded by centuries of legalized discrimination and inequality against African Americans, who faced higher levels of unemployment, lower wages, substandard housing and inferior educational opportunities.

The march was organized by a coalition of religious, labor and civil rights organizations, including the "Big Six": Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC); National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); the National Urban League; and the International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

In May 1963, A. Phillip Randolph, President of the International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, wrote to Interior Secretary Stewart Udall requesting a permit for a march culminating at the Lincoln Memorial that fall. As preparations for the march on the mall went underway, the list of organizations participating in and sponsoring the event expanded significantly.

On the day of the march, a quarter of a million people from all over the nation gathered at the Washington Monument and marched together to Lincoln's Memorial, where the crowd listened to musical performances, engaged in prayer and listened to inspirational speeches encouraging the crowd to stand up for their civil rights.

The diversity of those in attendance was reflected in the event's speakers and performers including singers such as Bob Dylan and Marian Anderson and actors Harry Belafonte,

Ossie Davis, and Ruby Dee. Attendees included people of all genders, races, religions, and nationalities. Among the luminaries who addressed the gathering was John Lewis, who was then the 23-year-old Chairman of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and now one of the most beloved members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

It was at the March on Washington that the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his famous, "I Have a Dream" speech which is universally considered by historians and scholars as one of the greatest speeches in American history. Beneath the gaze of President Lincoln, Dr. King challenged the Nation to make real the promise of America for all Americans and shared his dream that his "four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

The March on Washington was a defining moment of the rapidly expanding Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's and is credited with galvanizing the federal government to enact the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The March on Washington demonstrated the power of non violent direct action to effect social and political change. An enduring legacy of the March on Washington is that it was the model and inspiration for future social movements around the world, from Eastern Europe to South Africa to the Arab Spring uprisings witnessed earlier this year.

Therefore, I rise with pride and gratitude for the brave and courageous men and women who worked to organize the March on Washington. They fought, struggled and risked their lives in order to ensure a better nation for future generations. The leaders of the Civil Rights Movement and the March on Washington will be forever remembered for their courageous leadership and sacrifices that made our country better.

But, the best way to pay tribute to these heroes is to continue the fight for jobs and freedom. With the national unemployment rate above 9 percent—and 15.9 percent for African Americans—joblessness in America has reached crisis proportions requiring dramatic action to put people back to work. Making sure that all Americans can find jobs that pay enough to raise a family, own a home, educate their children, and care for their parents is the pressing challenge of our time and is the unfinished work to which we must rededicate ourselves today.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

A TRIBUTE TO HOWARD COLLEGE
ON ITS 65TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2011

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Howard College on its 65th Anniversary. Howard College is a fine institution of higher education in West Texas that has been educating young people since September 30, 1946.

The original Howard County Junior College District was created when residents of the county approved a ballot measure on November 17, 1945. That vote shows area residents had a vision for the future as they began to

move beyond World War II, which had just ended a few months before.

After a few years of operating in a converted hospital, the decision was made in 1951 to move the college to a new location consisting of 120 acres where it could build a new campus in. Over the years, the Big Spring campus expanded and satellite campuses have now been added in the cities of Lamesa and San Angelo. Additionally, a campus for the hearing impaired, known as the Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf, was opened in August of 1980.

Howard College has also developed an exceptional athletics program over the years which offers team sports for students including baseball, softball, men's and women's basketball and a rodeo team. The accomplishments of these teams include the record setting 2009 Hawk Baseball team that had a record of 63–

1 and won the 2009 JUCO World Championship and the Men's Hawk Basketball team won the NCJAA D1 National Championship in 2010.

Today, Howard College has a service area that includes 13 counties and 13,000 square miles. Students at Howard College can receive two-year degrees in a number of areas including computer technology, respiratory care, or business just to name a few. Howard College has and I suspect will continue to offer a quality two-year education to young adults in the West Texas region.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my hearty congratulations to Howard College and its staff, alumni, students and supporters on reaching 65 years as an educational institution. I applaud them and extend my best wishes for all their future endeavors.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, September 6, 2011

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEST).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 6, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ALLEN B. WEST to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:
Dear Lord, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

In the wake of a great American holiday, we ask Your special blessing on American workers, those fortunate to have jobs during these difficult economic times, and those desiring work. May they know and be confident of the nobility and sacredness of their labor.

And during this day of travel, bringing the Members of the people's House back to the Capitol, may Your angels accompany all, ensuring a safe return for all.

Lord, the task facing the Nation's Congress is a difficult one, which will call upon each Member to consider what is best for American workers first. It is the challenge facing all Americans. Give the Members wisdom in their work that our economy might begin to rebound and our countrymen and women throughout these United States might be able to provide for their families to build lives we have all come to expect for our citizens.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5 of House Resolution 375, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4 of House Resolution 375, no legislative business will be conducted on this day.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to sections 3 and 4 of House Resolution 375, the House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Wednesday, September 7, 2011.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 3 minutes a.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, September 7, 2011, at 2 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2946. A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Large Trader Reporting for Physical Commodity Swaps (RIN: 3038-AD17) received July 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2947. A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Prohibition on the Employment, or Attempted Employment, of Manipulative and Deceptive Devices and Prohibition on Price Manipulation (RIN: 3038-AD27) received July 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2948. A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Privacy of Consumer Financial Information; Conforming Amendments Under Dodd-Frank Act (RIN: 3038-AD13) received July 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2949. A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Effective Date for Swap Regulation received July 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2950. A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Agricultural Commodity Definition (RIN: 3038-AD23) received July 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2951. A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, trans-

mitting the Commission's final rule — Business Affiliate Marketing and Disposal of Consumer Information Rules (RIN: 3038-AD12) received July 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2952. A letter from the Attorney, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Alternative Mortgage Transaction Parity (Regulation D) [Docket No.: CFPB-2011-0004] (RIN: 3170-AA04) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2953. A letter from the Attorney, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Disclosure of Records and Information [Docket No.: CFPB-2011-0003] (RIN: 3170-AA01) received July 29, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2954. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID: FEMA-2011-0002] received July 29, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2955. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID: FEMA-2011-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-B-1205] received July 29, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2956. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulation Division, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA): Technical Corrections and Clarifying Amendments [Docket No.: FR-5180-F-07] (RIN: 2502-AH85) received July 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2957. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, LRA, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Office of Thrift Supervision Integration; Dodd-Frank Act Implementation (RIN: 1557-AD41) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2958. A letter from the Chief, Policy Division, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Reporting Requirements for U.S. Providers of International Telecommunications Services Amendment of Part 43 of the Commission's Rules [IB Docket No.: 04-112] received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2959. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Highway Use Tax; Filing and Payment for Taxable Period Beginning July 1, 2011 [TD 9537] (RIN: 1546-BK36) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2960. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

— Modifications of Certain Derivative Contracts [TD 9538] (RIN: 1545-BK14) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

[Submitted August 5, 2011]

By Ms. FUDGE (for herself, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. LEE of California and Mr. PAYNE):

H.R. 2795. A bill to address childhood obesity, and for other purposes; referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, Ways and Means, Natural Resources, the Judiciary, Financial Services, and Agriculture for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BASS of California (for herself, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. MORAN):

H.R. 2801. A bill to establish a task force for the purpose of studying and making recommendations to prevent and combat internet-facilitated human trafficking; referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RICHMOND:

H.R. 2809. A bill to amend the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 to improve the micro-enterprise technical assistance and capacity building grant program, to establish an Office of Youth Entrepreneurship in the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Small Business, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. HANABUSA (for herself and Ms. HIRONO):

H. Res. 388. A resolution acknowledging the contributions and sacrifices of the young men who served as colonists on behalf of the United States in the Federal occupation of the islands of Howland, Baker, Jarvis, Canton, and Enderbury from 1935 through 1942, facilitating the United States claim of jurisdiction over such islands; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Mr. RIVERA, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. WEST, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Ms. BROWN of Florida):

H. Res. 390. A resolution honoring the achievements of E. Thom Rumbergert; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

[Submitted August 12, 2011]

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 2818. A bill to provide temporary housing during schools breaks to students who are homeless or in foster care; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. JENKINS:

H.R. 2819. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Defense, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and any other officer or employee of the Federal Government from providing information about the mission to kill Osama bin Laden to any person outside the Federal Government until the Inspectors General of the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency carry out an investigation and provide a briefing to Congress on the matter, and for other purposes; referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Select Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MICHAUD:

H.R. 2820. A bill to provide for the establishment and operation of Advanced Composites Development Centers; referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, Armed Services, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

[Submitted August 19, 2011]

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. COHEN, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. WATT, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida):

H.R. 2823. A bill to preserve knowledge and promote education about jazz in the United States and abroad; referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

[Submitted September 2, 2011]

By Mr. CAMP (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BRADY of Texas, and Mr. MCDERMOTT):

H.R. 2832. A bill to extend the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BENISHEK (for himself, Mr. BOREN, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. KELLY):

H.R. 2834. A bill to recognize the heritage of recreational fishing, hunting, and shooting on Federal public lands and ensure continued opportunities for these activities; on referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (for himself, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. CLAY, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. BASS of California, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CLARKE of Michigan, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. DELAUNO, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of

Georgia, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LUJÁN, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEAL, Mr. REYES, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SIREN, Mr. STARK, Mr. TONKO, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. DOYLE, and Mr. CLYBURN):

H.R. 2835. A bill to establish a joint select committee of Congress to report findings and propose legislation to restore the Nation's workforce to full employment over the period of fiscal years 2012 and 2013, and to provide for expedited consideration of such legislation by both the House of Representatives and the Senate; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (for himself, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. CLAY, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. CLYBURN):

H.R. 2836. A bill to amend the Budget Control Act of 2011 to require the joint select committee of Congress to report findings and propose legislation to restore the Nation's workforce to full employment over the period of fiscal years 2012 and 2013; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (for himself, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. CLAY, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, and Mr. TOWNS):

H.R. 2837. A bill to amend the Budget Control Act of 2011 to require the joint select committee of Congress to report findings and propose legislation to restore the Nation's workforce to full employment over the period of fiscal years 2012 and 2013; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. LOBIONDO (for himself and Mr. MICA):

H.R. 2839. A bill to suppress the threat of piracy on the high seas, and for other purposes; referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LOBIONDO (for himself, Mr. MICA, and Mr. GIBBS):

H.R. 2840. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to regulate discharges from commercial vessels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. WOMACK:

H.R. 2841. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to approve waivers under the Medicaid Program under title XIX of the Social Security Act that are related to State provider taxes that exempt certain retirement communities; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

[Submitted September 6, 2011]

By Mr. TIPTON (for himself and Mr. GOSAR):

H.R. 2842. A bill to authorize all Bureau of Reclamation conduit facilities for hydropower development under Federal Reclamation law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

PRIVATE BILLS AND
RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, private bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

[Submitted September 6, 2011]

By Mr. GONZALEZ:

H.R. 2843. A bill for the relief of Monica Elizondo; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY
STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representa-

tives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

Mr. TIPTON:

H.R. 2842.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I. Section 8 the power to make rules for the government and regulation of the land.

Mr. GONZALEZ:

H.R. 2843.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 104: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 358: Mr. ROYCE.

H.R. 1004: Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 1744: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania and Mr. FINCHER.

H.R. 2107: Mr. BOSWELL.

H.R. 2348: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.

H.R. 2497: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. HUELSKAMP, and Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 2530: Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. CONYERS.

H. R. 2815: Mrs. CAPPS.

SENATE—Tuesday, September 6, 2011

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of new beginnings, the author and sustainer of our faith, thank You for this fresh start as we begin this fall session of the Senate. Bless our lawmakers to strive to do Your will, empowering them with greater knowledge and discernment so that they may approve the things that are excellent. Lord, give them a productivity that comes from the power of Your spirit, using them to do Your work on Earth. Show them Your greatness and Your mighty hand, for You are the God of our salvation. You are our rock, our fortress, and our deliverer; we will trust in Your strength to preserve this land we love.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 6, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WEBB thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Following leader remarks, the Senate will proceed to a period of

morning business until 5 p.m. During that period of time, Senators will be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

At 5 p.m., the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Bernice Bouie Donald of Tennessee to be U.S. circuit judge for the Sixth Circuit. There will be 30 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to the vote on confirmation of the nomination.

Upon disposition of the Donald nomination, the Senate will resume consideration and vote on the motion to proceed to invoke cloture on the patent reform bill. Senators should expect two rollcall votes this evening about 5:30 p.m.

JOBS AGENDA

Mr. President, first of all, I welcome the Presiding Officer and everyone back to the Senate after the August recess, as well as my good friend, the Republican leader.

I look forward to the No. 1 priority we have; that is, job creation. This isn't just a conversation among those of us in the Senate. The American people agree that is the No. 1 priority we should have.

I am sorry to say Republicans have distracted Congress from its most important responsibility—getting our economy back to work and back on track. That means jobs. We have been distracted time and time again. They have filed endless amendments on legislation that should engender bipartisan support. They have killed good bills with obstructionism and stall tactics. They have dragged out votes to continue funding the government. They did that on the CR we worked on for weeks and weeks, and all we were trying to do was to fund the government until October 1 and to avert a default crisis. Votes that normally had been routine under Democratic and Republican administrations were not with this Republican obstructionism we have had.

President Reagan asked Congress to extend the debt ceiling 18 times, and it was done 18 times. But this year—not like the era of President Reagan, when the debt was increasing significantly as a result of his agenda—our jobs agenda was held up and set aside for months. The work of Congress and our ability to do something about the economy was being held hostage. Rather than working with Democrats to pass job-creating legislation, Republicans insisted on reckless cuts that hurt our economic recovery.

Economists—take, for example, Mark Zandi, certainly a person who has

shown some bipartisanship, worked for JOHN MCCAIN as his economic adviser and who is now in the private sector—have said we have to cut spending, and we have all acknowledged that. We agree with Mark Zandi. But we also agree with economist Mark Zandi in saying we have to be very careful about how we cut now because of the difficult times we are going through. We cut significantly in programs that create jobs, but we did it because we have to get this debt under control.

As my friend said, his No. 1 goal is to defeat President Obama—my friend the Republican leader. With that as the No. 1 goal, it makes it very difficult to get things done around here.

The August employment report, released last week, should be a wake-up call to every Member of Congress—Democrats and Republicans. We cannot waste any more time, as has been wasted over the last 8 months. The private sector added less than 20,000 jobs last month, and that was offset by the further unemployment that came in the ranks of government. So the net job increase was basically zero. Although August marked the 18th straight month of private sector job growth, a stagnant unemployment rate is simply not good enough. Congress must act very quickly to jump-start the economy, and in doing that it will help the recovery.

We have to bring the unemployment rate down. It is time for us to get down to work, as we should have been doing all along, and we look forward to working with the Republicans who have delayed our ability to work together for some 8 months. That is going to take cooperation, which has been in short supply, it seems, in Washington in the last 8 months. I am hopeful we can begin a new work period, where our constituents' voices will be fresh in our minds.

I just returned from Nevada—as we all have returned from our States—and I had the time to talk with my friends in Nevada, people whom I have known for many years. I was talking to one of my friends in Reno today, and I said to him: Pete, it is very hard to look as you drive by these strip malls and see the for lease signs all over, in Reno and in Las Vegas. It is not good. They are struggling. Nevada leads the Nation in unemployment. That is not something of which we are proud.

People are having trouble finding steady work not only in Nevada but around the country and in all segments of our economy. Public radio had a piece on law schools, where enrollments have been cut way back. As I understood the piece they had on the

radio, 16 percent of law school graduates can't find work—not in the legal profession or anyplace. So it is not only Nevada, it is all over the country. People are having trouble finding steady work—people with education and people without education. People are having trouble making their mortgage payments and even putting food on the table. So our constituents are going to be watching very closely this fall to see whether we have heard their message: We need some jobs.

We must set aside partisanship and we must do it for the sake of America and jobs. The American people are not going to be satisfied with the same obstructionism and gridlock they saw in the spring and summer. They know, as I do, that the Nation's economy depends on dedicated men and women—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—working together to put bipartisan bills together and get America back to work.

We are going to waste no time in the Senate getting down to business. Today, we will hold a vote on legislation to streamline the patent system, which will help entrepreneurs start new businesses. The America Invents Act—which passed the beginning of this Congress—will significantly reform the patent system for the first time in some 60 years. It passed the House with more than 300 votes, and it passed the Senate with 95 votes. This is exactly the kind of job-creating legislation our country needs to get our economic recovery back in motion. This bill will promote innovation, create American jobs, and grow our economy without adding a penny to the deficit.

I have to say, the patent bill was not held up by Republicans in the Senate; it was held up by Republicans in the House who held that bill for months and months. It is here now, and I am going to do everything I can—I think we all feel this way—to move this legislation along. Today, there are 700,000 patent applications—3 years' worth, at least—waiting to be reviewed. Who knows what is in that pile of patents. Could it be another Google? Could it be another software system that will revolutionize different parts of our society? Of course, there could be and likely is. We need to get through that backlog, and we need to unlock the job-creating potential of each patent.

This bill will also lower fees for small business applicants by up to 75 percent, helping put more people to work.

It is time our patent system became a tool to spark innovation, which is important, and so we need to move forward. The American Invents Act is the kind of bipartisan effort Americans have demanded and deserve from Congress, though I acknowledge it is only a beginning, a downpayment on the aggressive jobs agenda we understand is necessary.

We will hold a cloture vote on this legislation tonight, which I hope will allow us to get on the bill. I hope we will not have to file cloture on the bill itself. I have told my Republican colleagues, if there are amendments that need to be offered—a reasonable number of amendments—let's get them done. We have too much to do to waste weeks on this piece of legislation. We have already done that. So I hope we will have final passage in the next few days. This is important legislation, and we have had plenty of time to debate this in Congress. It is time to move on to other job-creating measures.

This work period is 3 weeks long. I hope we don't have to extend it into the following week. We have a holiday on the Wednesday following the Friday we intend to leave here. I hope we don't have to work into that work period, so we are going to do everything we can to avoid that. But during this work period we must extend the authorization of the Federal Aviation Administration. This is important.

As we know from what happened last month, 80,000 Americans were put out of work. I think it was certainly something which had some impact on the safety of what was going on around the country. We had safety inspectors who were paying their own way to go around the country. They were buying their own tickets and their own meals. We can't afford another FAA shutdown. It would put air travelers at risk and, as I indicated, immediately lay off 80,000 workers—thousands of them construction workers and 4,000 of them permanent employees.

This bill was held up for one reason and one reason only, to protect one airline company—one airline company—that is all. All the other excuses are only excuses. We need to move forward with this legislation and make this legislation pass on a permanent basis. We have had 20-plus temporary extensions of this legislation. We have to move on, but we certainly have to get an extension until after the first of the year. We can no longer be wanting to protect one airline—one airline of all the airlines in America. Only one airline company is complaining. Neither can we afford a disruption in the collection of the gasoline taxes or delay highway and mass transit construction projects that employ—I believe Senator BOXER indicated—1.7 million people. She is the chairman of that committee.

So before the end of the month, we must authorize Federal spending for the Nation's highways. Even Grover Norquist, the person who goes around telling everybody which bills are good to vote for and which aren't, has said advancing the highway bill is not a tax increase. And he, as I understand, is clearly one who won't oppose this crucial legislation which extends the highway bill we hope until the first of February or thereabouts.

During this work period, Congress also must make sure that FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has the resources it needs to help American families rebuild their lives after some of the most deadly disasters in the history of this country. No. 1 was Hurricane Irene. We don't know for sure, but it will be in the top 5 or 10 of the most costly disasters in American history. We have to free this money. Right now, because of FEMA running out of money because of these disasters—just this past month, we had an earthquake here in the East, which surprised everyone. It was in the Presiding Officer's State but had impact in a lot of other places. The National Cathedral was damaged significantly, the Washington Monument was closed. FEMA has frozen long-term aid to Joplin, MO. We had almost 30 people killed, Mr. President. FEMA is there to lend a helping hand, and that hand has been drawing back because they are running out of money. So we need to fund FEMA and help the victims of Hurricane Irene and to make sure, with those other disasters taking place, we can also complete that work. We plan for these disasters as best we can. We put money in our budgets for what we anticipate will be disasters. But no one can have a crystal ball and determine all these disasters are going to take place. So we need to understand these are emergency monies. If there ever were an emergency—it is these people who have been hurt by these devastating storms and emergencies.

On Thursday, I look forward to hearing President Obama's speech. It is a joint session of Congress. He is going to talk about job creation. It will be crucial for Congress to work together with the President to jump-start our flagging economy. It won't be easy for Congress to tackle all the things this fall—and I am only talking about things we need to do this work period—but it has never been more important than now to put our jobs agenda ahead of either party's political agenda.

I look forward to a productive work period during which colleagues on both sides of the aisle will work together for the good of our economy and the good of this great Nation.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader.

CONTROL OF THE ECONOMY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it is good to see my friend the majority leader. I agree with him that I think we can make some significant progress in the next few weeks on some issues on which both sides have largely agreed. However, there are other things where clearly there remains differences among us.

As lawmakers return to Washington this week, every one of us, I am sure, is aware of the fact that many Americans are not only frustrated with the state of our economy but also with the state of their government. I don't think any one of us is under any illusion that the American people were particularly eager to see us come back. And who could blame them? After 2½ years of being told that Washington had the answer to everything from the high cost of health care to high unemployment, people have every reason to be skeptical. For more than 2½ years under the administration, Americans have been hearing about the wonders government spending would do for our economy and about the dangerous consequences of failing to apply bold solutions to big problems. And what has it gotten them? As Washington has grown bigger and bigger, Americans have continued to lose jobs. The national debt has exploded literally out of sight. And for the first time in our history, America's once pristine credit rating has been downgraded by a major rating agency. The average length of unemployment recently surpassed 40 weeks for the first time ever, and just last week we learned that in the month of August not a single new job was created in this country—not one. But here is the bottom line. In the 2½ years since President Obama signed his signature jobs bill—the so-called stimulus—there are 1.7 million fewer jobs in our country.

Statistics such as these help us to understand the dimensions of the economic challenges so many Americans continue to face. But most people don't need to read the morning papers or wait for the monthly jobs report to know they are struggling. And no amount of speeches, however carefully crafted to appeal to the anxieties of the moment, will convince them that some politician here in Washington, from the President on down, has the solution. The truth is, President Obama did more for jobs last week by reversing himself on a single government-imposed regulation than he has done in all the speeches he has given put together.

At this point, I think most people have safely concluded that the problem with our economy isn't that Washington is doing too little but that Washington is doing too much already. That is why in the coming weeks and months many of us will continue to press for an entirely new approach, one that puts individuals and businesses at the center of our recovery instead of Washington, one that clears away the redtape and the regulatory overreach, one that lifts the cloud of uncertainty that has been holding job creators back and enables the American people to move our economy in the direction they want instead of having it dictated to them from above by the President.

It is time for an approach that is based on the simple principle that if the American people are going to have control of their own destiny, they need to have more control of their economy. They have seen where consolidating every economic decision in Washington has gotten us. They see that folks in Washington seem to be doing just fine. Millions of Americans may have lost their homes over the past few years, millions more may owe more on their homes than those homes are worth, but home values here in Washington are going up—going up. Countless Americans outside of Washington may have seen their savings dry up or have been forced to decide between making a car repair or a tuition payment, but you would never know that here. As countless economic tragedies unfolded in homes across the country over the past few years, the Washington metropolitan area was working on a new distinction: the highest median income in America—the highest median income in America right here in Washington. I assure you, these folks aren't getting rich off of farming. While most of the rest of the country continues to struggle, Washington is booming. And that is not the kind of change people voted for 3 years ago.

So before we get into the details about what many of us believe will succeed in reigniting the economy outside of Washington, we need to be clear about what hasn't because while I have no doubt that the President will propose many things on Thursday night that when looked at individually sound pretty good or that he will call them all bipartisan, I am equally certain that, taken as a whole, they will represent more of the same failed approach that has only made things worse over the past few years and resulted in fewer jobs than when we started.

Over the weekend, the President tested a few of the lines I expect we will hear on Thursday. His central message, evidently, is that anyone who doesn't rubberstamp his economic agenda is putting politics above country.

Well, with all due respect, Mr. President, there is a much simpler reason for opposing your economic proposals that has nothing whatsoever to do with politics, and it is this: They don't work.

We can trace these failures to the President's very first days in office. One of the first things he did upon assuming office was to direct Congress to send him the stimulus. Here was one of the single most expensive pieces of legislation Congress has ever approved. The interest payments alone were projected to cost an average of \$100 million a day. This was the President's way of jump-starting an agenda that, in his words, "began with jobs." The agenda, he said, began with jobs, and he knew some of us were skeptical it

would work. That is why shortly after it became law he asked if he could come up to Capitol Hill and use his very first speech to a joint session of Congress to explain exactly what it would achieve. Here is what the President told us. The stimulus, he said, would save or create 3.5 million jobs—3.5 million jobs, he said—and ultimately that is how he will measure its success, on whether it created jobs. To reassure those of us who thought government couldn't be counted on to spend this kind of money wisely, he insisted that anyone who received it would be held strictly accountable.

Then he said something some people may have forgotten: He said the stimulus was just a first step. The primary purpose of the stimulus, he said, was to help the economy in the short term. But the only way to fully restore America's economic strength, he told us then, was through a 10-year budget that would reach into all areas of the economy that the stimulus did not.

Just like the stimulus, the unifying theme of the President's budget was more government. And once again, he felt in selling it that he needed to speak to the skeptics first. Here is what he said about that. The goal of the budget, he said, wasn't to replace private enterprise but to catalyze it, not to stifle business but to create the conditions for entrepreneurs and businesses to adapt and thrive. Well, how did that work out? As government continued to grow, the economy sputtered, and it is still sputtering. Yet the President wants to know why the people are resistant to his economic proposals. He says they must be motivated by politics.

A stimulus bill aimed at creating jobs was followed by a period where we lost 1.7 million jobs. The inspector general who was appointed to oversee distribution of the stimulus funds reports that he received more than 7,000 complaints of wrongdoing. More than 1,500 of those complaints have triggered investigations. Just last week, one of the companies the President personally vouched for as a shining example of how stimulus dollars would work announced it was laying off more than 1,000 workers and filing for chapter 11 bankruptcy. And it wasn't the first. But still, according to the President, anyone who opposes this agenda is playing partisan games.

Well, the President can attempt to blame our economic problems all he wants on his political adversaries or his predecessors or natural disasters. But at the end of the day, he is the one, as he himself said, who is responsible for what happens on his watch, and that includes the epic failure of a bill he himself touted as the key to our recovery.

By any measure, including his own, the stimulus and the economic principles it was built on have been a failure, and that is the reason so many

people are skeptical of the President's economic proposals. They don't work as advertised. Now, the President, of course, doesn't want to acknowledge it, and I understand that. It is hard to admit when you have been wrong. But in other, more subtle ways, the administration has acknowledged the fundamental flaws in its approach to the economy. The only reason the President agreed to keep taxes from going up last December, for instance, was that he knew it would lead to even more job loss. The only problem with this proposal and others like it, of course, is they are temporary, which only perpetuates the uncertainty that has kept so many businesses, large and small, from making investments in new products and new workers over the past few years. Businesses actually do not want shots in the arm or quick fixes. They want to know what the landscape will look like a few years down the road. And, until now, that is not something the President has been willing to do. He has not been able to bring himself to let go of government's grip—which brings me back to a different approach which some of us have been proposing for some time now, and which the White House continues to resist. Simply put, we think Washington should take a little break from the massive spending programs the President likes to refer to as "bold" solutions. Quite frankly, we are not very good at them, and anyone who thinks otherwise has not been paying very much attention to Washington over the past few years.

No one believes government doesn't have a role to play. Of course it does. But it is not the center of the universe and it should stop pretending to be the center of the universe. What we need is a shift in thinking when it comes to thinking about how government's role in the economy should work. We need to shift the center of gravity away from Washington and back to the innovators and entrepreneurs, the engineers and the shop floor managers who will be at the heart of our recovery. We need to be serious about it.

The President is forever eager to embrace big proposals whenever government is at the helm, but when it comes to doing the kinds of things job creators want, he is suddenly quite timid. He will agree to a tax cut as long as it is temporary. He will agree to reverse a job-killing regulation, but only if he knows he has gotten dozens of other doozies in the pipeline right behind it. We need to do a lot better than that. We need the President to be as bold about liberating job creators as he has been about shackling them. I mean, you do not lift a single regulation and suddenly claim to be Margaret Thatcher. The Environmental Protection Agency alone has dozens of other new rules in progress. The Labor Department has dozens of rules of its own in

progress. The administration's proposed utility standards would increase costs for every family and business in America. One of these new standards, for boiler emissions, would endanger literally tens of thousands of jobs. New rules for cement plants would strike a blow right at the heart of our manufacturing and building sectors. New rules regulating coal ash would endanger thousands of jobs.

Then there is the ObamaCare bill, which has to be counted as one of the most far-reaching and comprehensive single sources of government regulation ever devised. Though this bill has still not yet taken effect, the myriad of rules that will be imposed on every American have been written as we speak, and so far those regulations already run to nearly 10,000 pages.

Republicans will spend the next weeks and months arguing in favor of a robust legislative agenda aimed at blocking or repealing some of the most pernicious rules and regulations so business can breathe again and begin to hire, and the American worker, not Washington, can help this economy get moving again.

Putting the American people back in charge of our economy also means reforming the Tax Code and that is why, over the next weeks and months, Republicans will continue to make the case that Washington should get out of the business of picking winners and losers. We should strive to become more competitive by lowering the tax rate on American job creators that right now ranks as the second highest in the developed world, and we should level the playing field with America's competitors overseas by approving the three free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea that have been languishing on the President's desk for nearly 3 years. The President himself acknowledges that these trade pacts will help create tens of thousands of jobs right here at home by vastly expanding the market for U.S. goods. He should send them to Congress today so we can finally ratify them.

Another thing we can do is reform the budget process. There is no good reason that nearly three-fourths of government spending is on auto pilot and that last year's spending levels should automatically carry over into the next, regardless of whether they are effective or affordable.

We need to continue to make the case for a balanced budget amendment. Budget reform is an essential part of getting Washington to live within its means. It needs to be a top priority.

None of these ideas are groundbreaking and they certainly should not be controversial. They are just common sense. Most importantly, they are rooted in a respect for the independence, the wisdom, and the power, as another U.S. President once

put it, "of a free people and the efficiency of free institutions."

The President who spoke those words did so during another period of sluggish growth and high unemployment and the solution he proposed, not only for the sake of the domestic economy but also for the preservation of America's influence in the wider world, focused not unlike the one I have outlined here on alleviating the heavy burdens government had imposed on both individuals and businesses.

This is what he further said: "The final and best means of strengthening demand among consumers and businesses is to reduce the burden on private income and the deterrents to private initiative which are imposed by [the] . . . tax system."

"Such an approach," he continued, "would lead to a new interest in taking risks, increasing productivity, and the creation of new jobs and new products for long-term economic growth." I would only add that the same approach President Kennedy outlined with these words in 1962 is worth trying again today.

We have tried President Obama's approach. It has failed. It is time for something new. The new approach we are suggesting is not aimed at pleasing any party or constituency. It is aimed at nothing more than giving back to the American people the tools they need to do the work Washington has not been able to do on its own. Once we do that, once we come together and agree to turn the keys of this economy back to the American men and women who actually drive it, I have no doubt that much of the acrimony that has marked our dealings here over the past several months will fade away.

Even more importantly, though, we will have done something good for the country and for the millions of Americans who are looking for Washington not so much to do more but for the first time in a long time to do less so they can finally do what it takes to get this economy moving again.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for as much time as I might consume.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMERICA INVENTS ACT

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1249, the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act. Some other responsibilities may take me from the Senate floor during this coming week when we will be debating the act and therefore I wanted to lay out my views at this time, strongly urging my colleagues to support the bill.

Although the present bill originates in the House of Representatives, it is actually based on and is substantially identical to the bill that passed the Senate in March by a vote of 95 to 5. Also, before Chairman SMITH brought his bill to the House floor, he negotiated final changes to the bill with the lead supporters of the measure in the Senate Judiciary Committee. The House and Senate have now been working on patent reform for 6 years. The present bill is a good bill. It reflects a genuine compromise between the House and the Senate. It is a bill that will provide substantial benefits to the U.S. economy in the coming years, so I hope that, as I said, the Senate will adopt this legislation and be able to pass it on directly to the President for his signature.

The overarching purpose and effect of the present bill is to create a patent system that is clearer, fairer, more transparent, and more objective. It is a system that will ultimately reduce litigation costs and reduce the need to hire patent lawyers. The bill will make it simpler and easier to obtain valid patents and to enforce those patents, and it will cure some very clear litigation abuses that have arisen under the current rules, abuses that have done serious harm to American businesses.

By adopting the first-to-file system, for example, the bill creates a rule that is clear and easy to comply with and that avoids the need for expensive discovery and litigation over what a patent's priority date is. By adopting a simple definition of the term "prior art," the bill will make it easier to assess whether a patent is valid and cheaper for an inventor to enforce his patent. By recognizing a limited prior user right, the bill creates a powerful incentive for manufacturers to build factories and create jobs in this country. By allowing post-grant review of patents, especially low quality, business method patents, the bill creates an inexpensive substitute for district court litigation and allows key issues to be addressed by experts in the field. By eliminating the recent surge of false-marking litigation, the bill effectively repeals what amounts to a litigation tax on American manufacturing.

Let me take a few moments to describe how the provisions of this bill will provide concrete benefits to American inventors, both large and small, and to the American manufacturing

economy. First, prior commercial use defense.

A new provision of the present bill that was added by the House of Representatives will provide important advantages to U.S. manufacturers. Section 5 of the bill creates a new defense to patent infringement of prior commercial use. This new defense will ensure that the first inventor of a new process, or of a product used in a manufacturing process, can continue to use the invention in a commercial process even if a subsequent inventor later patents the idea. For many manufacturing processes the patent system presents a Catch-22. If the manufacturer patents the process, he effectively discloses it to the world. But patents for processes that are used in closed factories are difficult to police. It is all but impossible to know if someone in a factory in China, for example, is infringing such a patent. As a result, unscrupulous foreign and domestic inventors will simply use the invention in secret without paying licensing fees. Patenting such manufacturing processes effectively amounts to giving away the invention to foreign manufacturers.

On the other hand, if the U.S. manufacturer does not patent the process, a subsequent party may obtain a patent on it and the U.S. manufacturer will be forced to stop using a process that he was the first to invent and which he has been using for years.

The prior commercial use defense provides relief to U.S. manufacturers from this Catch-22, allowing them to continue to use a manufacturing process without having to give it away to competitors or running the risk that it will be patented out from under them. To establish a right to this defense, however, the America Invents Act requires the manufacturer to use the process in the United States. As a result, the AIA creates a powerful incentive for manufacturers to build their factories and plants in the United States. Currently, most foreign countries recognize some prior user rights that encourage manufacturers to build facilities in those countries. This bill corrects this imbalance and creates a strong incentive for businesses to create manufacturing jobs in this country.

Second, something called supplemental examination. A provision of this bill that will particularly benefit small and startup investors is section 12, which authorizes supplemental examination of patents. It is one of the reasons the bill has such strong support in the small business community. Currently, even minor and inadvertent errors in the patent application process can lead to expensive and very unpredictable and very inequitable conduct litigation. It is often the case that startup companies or university researchers cannot afford to hire the very best patent lawyers. Their patents are prosecuted by an in-house attorney

who does a good enough job but who is unfamiliar with all of the sharp corners and pitfalls of the inequitable conduct doctrine, such as the need to present cumulative studies and prior art. Later, when more legally sophisticated investors evaluate the patent for potential investment or purchase, these minor flaws in prosecution can deter the investor from purchasing or funding the development of the invention. An investor would not risk spending hundreds of millions of dollars to develop a product if a potential inequitable conduct attack may wipe out the whole investment.

Parties on both sides of these exchanges report that investors routinely walk away from inventions because of their inability under current law to resolve uncertainties whether a flaw in prosecution was, in fact, inequitable conduct. These decisions not to invest in a new invention represent important new cures never tested and brought to market and other important inventions that are never developed.

The America Invents Act provides a solution to this problem by authorizing supplemental examination of patents. This new proceeding will allow inventors or patent purchasers to return to the Patent Office with additional material and have the Patent Office re-evaluate the patent in light of that material. If the patent is invalid in light of the new material, the Patent Office will cancel the claims. But if the office finds that the patent is valid, the parties will have a patent that they can be legally certain will be upheld and enforced. The authorization of supplemental examination will result in path-breaking inventions being developed and brought to market that otherwise would have lingered on the shelf because of legal uncertainty over the patent. It will ensure that small and startup companies with important and valid patents will not be denied investment capital because of legal technicalities.

Let me talk about what I think is undoubtedly the most important among the bill's changes to current law, and that is its transition to the first-to-file system. This long overdue reform will create a system for establishing a patent's priority date that is official, simple, transparent, and fair. Priority dates not only establish priorities between competing patent applications for the same invention but are also used to measure a patent against potentially invalidating prior art.

Currently, establishing a priority date requires expensive litigation and discovery into what the inventor's notebooks show and when they show it and whether the inventor diligently perfected his invention after he conceived of it.

Also, for businesses seeking legal certainty, our current system can be a nightmare. A company hoping to bring

a new product to market in a particular field of technology has no way of knowing whether a competitor that belatedly sought the patent on its new product will succeed in securing a valid patent on the product. It all depends on the invention date the competitor will be able to prove relative to the company that the company developing the product can prove.

Given that both the product developer and competitor can rely on their own secret documents that the other side will not see until litigation over the patent commences, neither of these two parties can gain a clear picture of whether a patent is valid without years of litigation and millions of dollars of discovery and other litigation costs. Under first to file, by contrast, inventors will file informal and inexpensive provisional applications. These applications need only disclose what the invention is and how to make it, information the inventor already needs to have in his possession anyway in order to establish a priority date under the current system. Under first to file, once the inventor files this information with the Patent Office, he has a priority date that is both secure and public. The application is a government document. There is no need to litigate over its priority date. We know that.

Other industry participants will be able to easily determine the patent's priority date, allowing them to measure the patent against prior art and determine if it is valid. There will be no opportunity to fraudulently backdate the priority date. That date will depend on a government document, not privately held files.

Most U.S. businesses already effectively operate under the first-to-file system. They file applications promptly because it is difficult and risky to rely on proof of invention dates to defeat a competing application that was filed earlier. Also, because the rest of the world uses first to file, U.S. investors need to secure first-to-file priority if they want their patents to be valid anywhere outside of this country.

For many U.S. businesses the America Invents Act does not change the system under which they operate. Rather, it simply allows American businesses to comply with just one set of rules rather than being forced to operate under two different systems.

Another one of the bill's clear improvements over current law is its streamlined definition of the term "prior art." Public uses and sales of an invention will remain prior art, but only if they make the invention available to the public. An inventor's confidential sale of his invention, his demonstration of its use to a private group, or a third party's unrestricted but private use of the invention will no longer constitute private art. Only the sale or offer for sale of the invention to the relevant public or its use in a way that

makes it publicly accessible will constitute prior art.

The main benefit of the AIA public availability standard of prior art is that it is relatively inexpensive to establish the existence of events that make an invention available to the public. Under current law, depositions and litigation discovery are required in order to identify all of the inventor's private dealings with third parties and determine whether those dealings constitute a secret offer for sale or third party use that invalidates the patent under the current law's forfeiture doctrines. The need for such discovery is eliminated once the definition of "prior art" is limited to those activities that make the invention accessible to the public. This will greatly reduce the time and cost of patent litigation and allow the courts and the PTO to operate much more efficiently.

Both of these last two changes—the first to file and the new definition of "prior art"—will also protect American inventors against theft of their invention both at home and abroad. Under current law, if an American inventor sells or otherwise discloses his invention, there is a risk that an unscrupulous third party will steal the idea and file a U.S. patent for it. If the thief claims he himself made the invention before the U.S. inventor, then the U.S. inventor will need to prove the invention was stolen from him. Current law even allows activities that occur in a foreign country to establish a priority date for a U.S. patent. Thus, if a U.S. inventor who has been a victim of theft is unable to prove that activities alleged to have occurred in China or India, say, never actually took place, he not only loses his patent but the foreign thief can obtain a U.S. patent and block the U.S. inventor from practicing his own invention.

Finally, under current law, even if the U.S. inventor files a patent application right away, his rights still are not secure. Under current law, an early filing date can be defeated by another applicant's claim that he conceived of the invention earlier. Thus a foreign thief can claim he came up with the idea in his overseas laboratory, and the U.S. inventor would bear the burden of proving that a fraud had been perpetrated in a foreign country.

Under the America Invents Act, by contrast it will be much harder for thieves, both foreign and domestic, to steal a U.S. inventor's invention. Under this bill, if a U.S. inventor publicly discloses his invention, no third party's application filed after that date can be valid because the filing date is what will determine priority, not a purported date of conception. Nor can a third party easily contrive fake prior art to defeat the patent. Under the AIA, only those actions that made the invention publicly available will constitute prior art, and these are much

harder to fake than are claims of having secretly made the invention in a private laboratory, again, say, in China. Under new section 102(b)(1)(B), once the U.S. inventor discloses his invention, no subsequent prior art can defeat the invention. The U.S. inventor does not need to prove that the third party disclosures following his own disclosures are derived from him. He can thus take full advantage of the grace period and disclose his invention in academic papers and at trade shows without worrying that such disclosures will lead to theft or fraudulent invalidation of his patent.

Similarly, under the America Invents Act, once the U.S. inventor files even a provisional application, his rights will be secured. Under this bill, no one can file a later application but claim an earlier priority date because the priority date is set by the filing date. The provisional application also constitutes section 103 prior art as of its filing date. As a result, a third party's patent for a trivial or obvious variation of the patent will be invalid and will not crowd out the original inventor's patent rights.

Finally, validating prior art will depend on publicly accessible information, not private activities that take place, for example, in a foreign land. As a result, it will be impossible for a third party who derived the invention from a U.S. inventor's public disclosure or patent application to steal the invention or sabotage the U.S. inventor's patent. The only way to obtain priority or invalidate the invention would be to file or publicly disclose the invention before the U.S. inventor has done so—something that will obviously be impossible for the deriver to do.

Finally, I would like to talk about false marking for a moment. I would like to describe the bill's important reforms to the false marking statute. The America Invents Act reins in abuses that are reflected in a recent surge in false marking litigation. It allows such suits to be brought only by those parties who have actually suffered a competitive injury as a result of false marking.

Currently, such suits are often brought by parties asserting no actual competitive injury from the marking—or who do not even patent or manufacture anything in a relevant industry. Many cases have been brought by patent lawyers themselves claiming the right to enforce a fine of \$500 for every marked product. One manufacturer of plastic cups who stamped his patent number on his cups was recently sued by a lawyer for \$500 for each disposable cup that was sold, for a gargantuan total of \$9 trillion.

In reality, the bulk of these suits settle for their nuisance value, the costs of continuing to litigate. They represent a tax that patent lawyers are imposing on domestic manufacturing—

a shift in wealth to lawyers that comes at the expense of manufacturing jobs. Well, this bill prevents such abuses by repealing the statute's qui tam action while still allowing parties who have separate actual injury from false marking to sue and allowing the United States to enforce a \$500-per-product fine where appropriate. Qui tam statutes are a relic of the 19th century and generally produce far more litigation than is in the public interest. Almost all of these statutes have been repealed.

The America Invents Act continues this trend. By repealing the false marking qui tam statute, the AIA will allow American companies to spend money hiring new workers rather than fighting off frivolous false marking suits.

In conclusion, the America Invents Act will provide important benefits to U.S. inventors of all sizes, to startup companies, to domestic manufacturing, and to the U.S. economy generally. I look forward to its passage by the Senate and its enactment into law.

As the majority leader stated in his remarks in leader time, I hope those who may have amendments will immediately file those amendments so the Senate can take them up in good order, have plenty of time to debate them, and dispose of them in the appropriate way. It would be my hope the Senate will end up passing the bill adopted by the House of Representatives so our action can result in sending the bill directly to the President for his signature. That is an accomplishment that could be achieved with cooperation between the House and the Senate, between Democrats and Republicans, between the legislative and executive branches, and I think it would certainly begin to mark the time when the American people could see their legislative representatives begin to work together on their behalf.

Mr. President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CARSON CITY SHOOTING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I was saddened to hear just a few minutes ago of a senseless act of violence committed in our capital, Carson City, NV. It happened at a restaurant. There are few details of what happened and what led to this tragedy that occurred just a few minutes ago, but according to early reports three people are now dead and six others have been wounded by a single gunman.

So I extend my deepest sympathies to all of those who have been affected. The victims and their families are in my thoughts and will be every day, and certainly they have been during the last several minutes. I am disturbed to hear that two of the victims were serving this Nation proudly as part of the Nevada National Guard.

I commend the brave first responders who rushed to the scene for their professionalism.

Carson City is a wonderful place. I have spent time there through three legislative sessions. There are the beautiful Sierra, NV, mountains. It is a peaceful, quiet place; and to have something such as this happen is very difficult to accept.

I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. SHAHEEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

HURRICANE IRENE

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, as I suspect you know, Vermont has been hit very hard by Hurricane Irene. The storm caused widespread flooding, resulting in a number of deaths, the loss of many homes and businesses, and hundreds of millions of dollars in damage to property and infrastructure.

I have visited many of the most hard-hit towns in the past week, including Ludlow, Wilmington, Brattleboro, Berlin, Moretown, and Waterbury. I was shocked and moved by the extent of the damage I saw. Many towns still have very limited access because the roads and bridges that link them to the world have been destroyed. This disaster will go down in history as one of the very worst natural disasters in the history of the State of Vermont.

Let me take this opportunity to personally thank the emergency rescue teams and all those aiding the victims of the floods for their outstanding work. Local crews, along with the Vermont National Guard, and Guard units from other States, such as New Hampshire, Maine, and Illinois, have airline-lifted food, water, blankets, and medicine to the worst hit towns. Police, fire, and local officials have also done an extraordinary job.

We still don't know the cost of this disaster—it probably will not be tabulated for a while—but let me share a few figures in terms of what we have experienced. Just days after the declaration of a major disaster by the President, more than 2,000 Vermonters had already registered with FEMA—2,000. To date, there have been more than 700 homes confirmed as severely damaged or destroyed.

I had the opportunity to go to some trailer parks in Berlin, in central Vermont, and I was down in the southern part of the State in Brattleboro and it is an incredibly sad sight to see. Mobile homes, where senior citizens were living, have been destroyed. They are now forced to relocate. It was a very tragic circumstance.

Further, the storm has knocked out 135 segments of the State highway system, as well as 35 State bridges, completely isolating 13 communities for several days. An unknown number of farms and businesses have been destroyed.

I was down in Wilmington, a beautiful town in the southern part of the State on Route 9. Virtually their entire downtown business community has been severely damaged, and that is clearly undermining the fabric not only of the economy of that town but of towns throughout the State.

Our Amtrak and freight rail services were completely suspended as tracks literally washed into rivers. So we had tracks underwater. The State's largest office complex is located in Waterbury, VT, a few miles from our capital, Montpelier, and I visited that facility. It had been completely flooded. There are 1,700 people who work there. For a small State, that is a lot of people—1,700 people—who work in our major office complex in Waterbury. That has now been shut down for an indefinite period of time. That impacts, obviously, the State's ability to provide services to the people of Vermont.

At least 65 public schools were impacted and could not open on time. School is just beginning, with 65 public schools not able to open on time. This is just a short list of some of the devastation that is going on in the State.

I also want to call to the attention of the Senate another extraordinary tragedy in our State, and that is the death of a gentleman named Michael Garafano. Mr. Garafano was an employee of the city of Rutland, and Rutland was very hard hit by this disaster. He and his son went up to a local dam to inspect the condition of the dam. They were hit by a flash flood and both of them lost their lives. So here we have an extraordinary public servant, trying to protect the well-being of the people of Rutland, and he gave his life in that effort. Mr. Garafano's effort will never be forgotten.

As we go forward—not just for Vermont but for New Jersey, for North Carolina, and we know upstate New York was also hard hit—I have every confidence the Senate and the House will do for Hurricane Irene as we have done for other natural disasters that have impacted different parts of our country, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to make sure, as Americans, we rebuild the communities in Vermont and in other sections of the country that were devastated by this terrible flood.

I thank the Chair, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DONALD NOMINATION

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, later today the Senate will consider the nomination by the President of Judge Bernice Donald for the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Donald is from Memphis, TN. I know her well. I am here today to introduce her to my colleagues and to encourage them to support her confirmation.

Judge Donald has been before the Senate before. She has been a Federal district judge since 1995. Our Judiciary Committee in the Senate has looked over her qualifications again and has recommended her to us without dissent. The American Bar Association has reviewed her credentials and said she is either qualified or well qualified.

I think there is not much doubt about her fitness to serve on the court of appeals, so in my remarks I would like to talk more about Judge Donald's role in the community and her role as a pioneer in our country during her lifetime. She is the sixth of 10 children. Her parents were a domestic worker and a self-taught mechanic in DeSoto County, MS, which is just south of Memphis. As a young person, she was among the first African Americans to integrate in her high school during the period of desegregation. She obtained a bachelor's degree from the University of Memphis and graduated from its law school. She focused her career at the beginning working among the most vulnerable citizens in Memphis in the Office of Legal Defender.

Here is where the pioneer story continues, not just in desegregating her high school or working with vulnerable citizens, but only 3 years after she left law school, she began a judicial career that has spanned nearly three decades. She became the first African-American female judge in the history of our State in 1982. Six years later, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, upon which she has been nominated to serve by the President, appointed her to serve as U.S. bankruptcy judge for the Western District of Tennessee. Again she made history—an African-American female judge had been appointed as a bankruptcy judge in the United States. Then, in 1995, as I mentioned earlier, President Clinton nominated her to be a Federal district judge. On December 22 of that year the Senate confirmed

her by unanimous voice vote, and she became the first African-American female district court judge in the history of Tennessee. She served in that capacity for 15 years.

She has flourished in her career, not just on the court but in her profession. She has just concluded a 3-year term as Secretary of the American Bar Association, and she has previously served on its Committee on Governance and on its Board of Governors. She has been equally active in the local and Tennessee bar associations. She gives a good deal of her time to community organizations: the Memphis Literacy Council, the University of Memphis alumni board, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Calvary Street Ministry, the YWCA, and others.

It is coincidental, but I think it is fitting that Judge Bernice Donald, a pioneer in so many ways in our State's history, will be the first nomination for the Federal bench that this body will consider after the opening of the Martin Luther King Memorial in the Nation's Capital. Her life, which is full of education and service and achievement, is a testimonial to the success of Dr. King's movement and the kind of leadership he inspired.

I commend her on all that she has accomplished both in her profession and in our State and in her community. I know Memphis is proud of her. I look forward to voting in favor of her confirmation this afternoon, and I hope my colleagues will do so as well.

I yield the floor.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASEY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, is there a nominee to report?

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF BERNICE BOUIE DONALD TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Bernice Bouie Donald, of Tennessee, to

be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 30 minutes of debate, equally divided, in the usual form.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I wish to speak in support of the nomination of Bernice Bouie Donald as a U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit. With today's vote, we will have confirmed 34 article III judicial nominees during this Congress.

We continue to make great progress in processing President Obama's judicial nominees. We have taken positive action on 78 percent of the judicial nominations submitted during this Congress. The Senate has confirmed 63 percent of President Obama's nominees since the beginning of his Presidency, including two Supreme Court Justices, which everyone may recall was a lengthy process.

Despite our productive efforts, we continue to hear unsubstantiated and unfounded charges of delays and obstruction on the part of the minority party of the Senate. Over the August recess, opinion writers and bloggers parroted one another in churning out this message of obstruction on the part of the Republicans. I am not surprised to see this from outside groups. However, I was very disappointed the White House joined in publishing a distorted record on judicial nominations. I had a meeting this year with the White House Counsel's Office, and at that meeting I expressed my intent to move forward as the Republican leader of the Judiciary Committee Republicans on consensus nominees. I thought we had cooperative and productive conversations with the White House. Furthermore, I have demonstrated a record, on the part of the Republicans on the Judiciary Committee, of cooperation and action regarding judicial nominees.

But in a White House blog that was titled "Record Judicial Diversity, Record Judicial Delays" the White House characterized "the delays these nominees are encountering" as unprecedented. The White House has a short memory or a very limited definition to characterize the nominations process as "unprecedented."

To illustrate, the blog cites a statistic on the average wait time between the Judiciary Committee reporting out a nominee and confirmation on the Senate floor as evidence of an unprecedented delay. For example, it indicates circuit nominees of President Bush only waited 29 days, while President Obama's circuit nominees waited 151 days.

The nominations process, as everyone knows but maybe the White House needs to be informed about, is more than Senate floor action. It starts with the President actually nominating somebody. I have previously commented on the White House delay in

sending nominations and have criticized some of the qualities of the nominees the White House has submitted. I will not elaborate on that today. But after a nomination is received, there is a process for hearing, for questions, and for committee debate prior to our committee vote. For whatever reason, the White House blog fact sheet ignored the bulk of the process.

The record shows, then, that we are moving nominees through committee much faster than President Bush's nominees. For instance, President Obama's circuit court nominees have only waited, on average, 68 days for a hearing. President Bush's circuit court nominees were forced to wait over 247 days. President Obama's district court nominees have been afforded a hearing in just 78 days. President Bush's district court nominees, on the other hand, had to wait close to 120 days. So we can see how wrong the White House blog is when they just cite the waiting period between the committee reporting out and actually voting on it.

Not only are President Obama's judicial nominees receiving hearings quicker than those of President Bush, they are also being reported out of committee more quickly. Circuit court nominees have been reported to the Senate floor in just 118 days, while President Bush's circuit court nominees were held for 369 days before they saw a vote in committee. The same is true for district court nominees. President Obama's nominees have been reported in just 129 days, while President Bush's district court nominees waited 148 days. Despite the so-called obstruction, we are confirming President Obama's circuit court nominees faster than those nominated by President Bush. That is the cooperation I promised. Thus far, circuit court nominees have been confirmed, on average, in 259 days. President Bush's circuit court nominees waited, on average, 350 days.

The White House blog also stated that 21 months is the "[l]ongest wait for one of President Obama's judicial confirmations." This is neither unprecedented nor uncommon. The Democrats should know; they held President Bush's circuit court nominee Raymond Kethledge for 23 months before he was confirmed by the Senate, and then when he was confirmed, he was confirmed on a consensus voice vote basis. In addition, the record will show district nominees who waited well over 1 year for confirmation, one of them as long as 441 days.

After today's vote, there will be 19 judicial nominees on the Executive Calendar. If you listened to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, you would conclude that this, too, is "unprecedented." But again, the record demonstrates otherwise.

Colleagues may recall a period in the 108th Congress when the Democrats—in the minority at that time—completely

shut down the judicial nominations process. Not only were there numerous filibusters conducted by my friends on the other side of the aisle, but they would allow no votes on judicial nominees. As a result, in April and May of 2004, when George W. Bush was President, 32 highly qualified judicial nominees awaited final votes while on the Executive Calendar. Only after a compromise was reached did judicial nomination votes resume on those who were on the Executive Calendar.

I could continue to rebut this outrageous assertion that Senate Republicans are somehow paving new ground, according to the White House blog. The facts demonstrate that the current status of nominations is not—not—unprecedented. It is unfortunate that the media, the bloggers, and even this administration continue to distort the facts. I would rather use my time to speak on positive actions, such as the nominee we are about to confirm. But if my colleagues on the other side of the aisle wish to continue to live in the past, then I feel, as leader of the Republicans on the Judiciary Committee, the need to correct the record.

I support the nomination before us today, and I congratulate Judge Donald. I wish to say a few words about her before we vote.

Bernice Donald is nominated to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit. Judge Donald received her undergraduate degree and law degree from the University of Memphis. After graduating from law school, Judge Donald worked for a few months as a sole practitioner. In April of 1980, she began work as a staff attorney for the Memphis Area Legal Services Clinic. In November of 1980, she began working as an assistant public defender at the Shelby County Public Defender's Office.

In 1982, Judge Donald was elected to serve as a judge on the Court of General Sessions in Shelby County. As a general sessions judge, Judge Donald presided over trials of State misdemeanor offenses, and the preliminary hearings of State felony cases involving alleged crimes against persons as well as property.

In 1988, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit appointed Judge Donald to a 14-year term on the Bankruptcy Court.

In 1996, Judge Donald was confirmed by the Senate and appointed by President Clinton as United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee. She has served as a Federal judge for the past 15 years.

The American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary has given Judge Donald a rating of substantial majority "well-qualified"; minority "qualified."

Mr. President, if I could, I wish to take 2 minutes to speak about the second vote we are having today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 4 minutes remaining.

LEAHY-SMITH AMERICA INVENTS ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to support cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 1249, the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act. This bipartisan legislation will make our patent system more effective and more efficient. It will enhance transparency and patent quality and improve certainty in the patent process. It will also enhance the ability of the Patent and Trademark Office to cut its backlog and process patent applications in a more expeditious manner. Ultimately, this bill will help promote innovation and technological advancements and will provide a stimulus for American businesses and, obviously, will help generate new jobs.

My colleagues will recall the Senate passed the bill we entitled the America Invents Act earlier this year by a margin of 95 to 5. The House bill is very similar to our Senate bill, so Senators should not have a problem supporting it. In addition, the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act enjoys the widespread support of a large number of industries and other stakeholders from within the United States patent community.

I am pleased to support the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act, and I urge my colleagues to vote for cloture on the motion to proceed so we can get this bill done as soon as possible.

NATURAL DISASTER IN VERMONT

Mr. President, I am happy to yield the floor, but before I do, I wish to say to Senator LEAHY we are all sorry for the natural disasters that have happened in his State, wish him well and his State well, and, obviously, there will be some congressional action to help not only that natural disaster but the rest of the natural disaster that occurred as a result of Irene.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, if the Senator would yield on that point, I would tell my good friend from Iowa how touched I was when I received his e-mail saying how the people of Iowa have stood with the people of Vermont, as we did with the people of Iowa when they faced a disaster. When I received the e-mail, the Governor of our State, Governor Shumlin, and I and the head of our Vermont National Guard, General Dubie, had just helicoptered into one of our prettiest towns, but it was totally cut off. The only way we could reach it was by helicopter. I saw people working together. Nobody knew whether they were Republicans or Democrats or cared. They were all working together to help each other.

I will tell my friend from Iowa, I took the liberty of showing his very meaningful, very heartfelt e-mail—similar, also, to ones I got from other Senators—and I thought how much that meant. If I might address the Senator from Iowa directly, I will tell you,

the people of Vermont appreciate it because I know how heartfelt it was. It meant a great deal.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, we are on the question of the flooding in Vermont. I was born in Vermont. I have lived there all of my life. We live on a dirt road in a small town, Middlesex, up about 1,000 feet, in an 1850s farmhouse. It means a lot to us. It is a place my wife Marcelle and I spent part of our honeymoon 49 years ago. But I saw something I had never seen before in Vermont. Ten days ago, Vermont bore the full brunt of then-Tropical Storm Irene as it dumped more than 6 inches of rain across the State in just a few hours. You have to understand, in our small State—with the Green Mountains running down the spine of it, north to south—the narrow valleys of the Green Mountains, where towns, roads, and rivers are historically intertwined, were particularly hard hit as gentle rivers and streams became rushing torrents of destruction. Whole towns were cut off from the outside world for days. You would fly over, and you could see a town completely marooned—every road going into it, every bridge going into it gone. Homes, businesses, water systems, and miles of roads were swept away. Even worse, some Vermonters lost their lives in these devastating floods.

In our State, we have had an unprecedented wave of flooding this year. We had two spring events previously declared as major disasters. Vermonters have shouldered these great burdens. We have pulled together from all parts of the State, all walks of life. We are meeting this new crisis with the same courage, cooperation, and resilience we Vermonters have always shown.

I applaud the brave first responders—the police departments, the fire departments, the EMS, and others—the National Guard members who have worked around the clock. Our National Guard in Vermont has been joined by the National Guard from Illinois and Maine, and we have had offers from our other adjoining States. I also applaud the power crews and road crews. I remember how impressed I was looking down there from the helicopter and seeing this long line of power trucks coming down the road and knowing they are going to be working around the clock. I also applaud the many others who have helped in the recovery and rebuilding process—our local Red Cross and other service organizations.

But our small State—it is only 660,000 people—is stretched to the limit right now, and we need both immediate and ongoing assistance in recovering from these enormous setbacks. Winter is fast approaching. In Vermont, snow will be flying in a matter of weeks, certainly in a matter of a couple months.

We must move quickly to secure our homes and businesses, restore our roads, our bridges, our water systems, our schools, and our medical facilities. With just weeks to accomplish so much, we need the full and immediate support of FEMA and so many of our Federal agencies.

I appreciate President Obama's swift approval of Governor Shumlin's request to declare most of Vermont a Federal disaster area—something all of us in the Vermont delegation joined him in. But I am greatly concerned FEMA may not have adequate resources to meet the immediate assistance needs of the Irene victims in Vermont and all the other States. We do not consider ourselves an island here. We know a whole lot of other States were badly hurt by Irene. FEMA has less than \$600 million in its disaster account for the rest of fiscal year 2011. OMB said today that FEMA needs at least \$1.5 billion for recovery assistance in States affected by Hurricane Irene.

We need to act quickly to find a solution to this pressing problem. I do not think any of us wants to get into a situation where we underfund FEMA at this critical juncture, and then have FEMA run out of resources next spring, just as rebuilding efforts get going on the East Coast.

Given the breadth and depth of Irene's destruction, on top of the ongoing disasters already declared in all 50 States, I am going to continue to work with the Democratic leader, the Republican leader, the Appropriations Committee, and all of my colleagues to ensure that FEMA has the resources they need to help all of our citizens at this time of disaster—not just in Vermont but in all of our States.

IRAQ

Mr. President, as many Members know, I opposed the war in Iraq, believing it had nothing to do with 9/11. It turned out it had nothing to do with 9/11. I thought there were no weapons of mass destruction. It turned out there were no weapons of mass destruction. Iraq is a country that bore no threat to the United States. It did to Iran but not to the United States.

We have spent hundreds of billions, ultimately well over a trillion dollars, in Iraq. Year after year that money is just sent—no offset; it is put on the credit card. It is time to get out of Iraq and start thinking about people in America. It is time to take care of Americans. The needs of Americans are not just in a disaster but in the needs of Americans in their education, their medical care, our scientific research to find cures for cancer and Alzheimer's, to take care of the housing needs of America, to take care of our rivers and bridges. It is time to start worrying about this great country of ours. It is time to start paying for that which can give benefits immediately to Ameri-

cans and make sure we have enough to care for the families and our returning soldiers who so bravely answered the call. Let's start thinking about the needs of 325 million Americans. Let's come home to the things we need. Because if we do that, we can then still be the force for good throughout the world. We can still fulfill commitments, legitimate commitments we have around the world. We can still be the humanitarian nation we have always been when there have been disasters in Haiti, in Indonesia, in Africa, or elsewhere. But we have neglected America too long.

Mr. President, I understand I have some time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 8 minutes remaining.

Mr. LEAHY. How much?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Eight minutes remaining.

Mr. LEAHY. I thank the Presiding Officer.

Mr. President, I was disappointed that before the August recess, the Senate was not allowed to take greater steps to address the serious judicial vacancies crisis on Federal courts around the country. As we resume consideration of pending judicial nominations, there are 20 nominees fully considered by the Senate Judiciary Committee and ready for final Senate action. Of those, 16 were approved by the Judiciary Committee unanimously, without a single Republican or Democratic Senator in opposition.

The nomination of Judge Bernice Donald of Tennessee is one such nomination. This is a nomination that has been waiting for Senate consideration, despite the support of her Republican home State Senators, since May 9. Nearly 4 months ago, the Judiciary Committee favorably reported her nomination without opposition. This is reminiscent of the nomination of Jane Stranch of Tennessee. She, too, had the support of her Republican home State Senators, but her confirmation was nonetheless stalled—inexplicably—by Senate Republicans. Judge Stranch was finally confirmed in September 2010, after an extended and unnecessary 10-month delay. These Tennessee nominations were the subject of a column by Professor Carl Tobias in early August, which I inserted in the RECORD on August 2. I, too, had hoped the Senate would be allowed to vote on this nomination last month. I am glad that we finally have agreement for a vote tonight.

At this point in the Presidency of George W. Bush, 144 Federal circuit and district court judges had been confirmed. On September 6 of the third year of President Clinton's administration, 162 Federal circuit and district court judges had been confirmed. By comparison, although there are 20 judicial nominees stalled and awaiting final consideration by the Senate—

many of them stalled since May and June—even after the confirmation of Judge Donald, the total confirmations of Federal circuit and district court judges confirmed during the first 3 years of the Obama administration will only be 96.

In the 17 months I chaired the Judiciary Committee during President Bush's first term, the Senate confirmed 100 Federal circuit and district judges. By contrast, President Obama is approaching his 32nd month in office and we have yet to reach that total. The Senate has a long way to go before the end of next year to match the 205 confirmations of President Bush's judicial nominees during his first term.

To understand the strain on the Federal judiciary and the American people, it is important to note another set of comparisons. The number of judicial vacancies was reduced during the first years of the Bush and Clinton administration. The vacancies in early September in the third year of the Bush administration had been reduced to 54. The vacancies in early September in the third year of the Clinton administration had been reduced to 55. By contrast, the judicial vacancies now in September of the third year of the Obama administration stand at 93. As the Congressional Research Service confirmed in a recent report, this is a historically high level of vacancies and this is now the longest period of historically high vacancy rates on the Federal judiciary in the last 35 years.

Even though Federal judicial vacancies have remained near or above 90 for more than 2 years, the Senate's Republican leadership continues to delay votes on many qualified, consensus nominations. After tonight, there will remain 15 unanimously reported nominees stalled on the calendar. This is not the way to make real progress. In the past, we were able to confirm consensus nominees more promptly, often within days of being reported to the full Senate. They were not forced to languish for months. The American people should not have to wait more weeks and months for the Senate to fulfill its constitutional duty and ensure the ability of our Federal courts to provide justice to Americans around the country.

It is not accurate to pretend that real progress is being made in these circumstances. Vacancies are being kept high, consensus nominees are being delayed, and it is the American people and the Federal courts that are being made to suffer. This is another area in which we must come together for the American people. There is no reason Senators cannot join together to finally bring down the excessive number of vacancies that have persisted on Federal courts throughout the Nation for far too long.

At a time when judicial vacancies remain near or above 90, these needless

delays perpetuate the judicial vacancies crisis that Chief Justice Roberts wrote of last December and that the President, the Attorney General, bar associations, and chief judges around the country have urged us to join together to end. The Senate can and should be doing a better job working to ensure the ability of our Federal courts to provide justice to Americans across the country.

We were able to lower vacancies dramatically during President Bush's years in office, cutting them in half during his first term. The Senate has reversed course during the Obama administration, and with Republican objections slowing the pace of confirmations, judicial vacancies have been at crisis levels for over 2 years. As a recent report by the Constitutional Accountability Center noted, "Never before has the number of vacancies risen so sharply and remained so high for so long during a President's term." I ask unanimous consent that an August 5 letter to the editor of the Washington Post from Wade Henderson, entitled "Remiss in confirming judges," and an August 4 article in *Politico* from Andrew Blotky and Doug Kendall entitled "It's Senate's duty to confirm judges," be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(see Exhibit 1.)

Mr. LEAHY. Over the 8 years of the Bush administration, from 2001 to 2009, we reduced judicial vacancies from 110 to a low of 34. The vacancy rate—which we reduced from 10 percent to 6 percent by this date in President Bush's third year, and ultimately to less than 4 percent in 2008—is back above 10 percent. Federal judicial vacancies now stand at 93.

Time and time again over the last 2½ years, I have urged the Senate to come together and work to address this crisis. At the beginning of this year, I called for a return to regular order in the consideration of nominations. We have seen that approach work on the Judiciary Committee. I have thanked the Judiciary Committee's ranking member, Senator GRASSLEY, many times for his cooperation with me to make sure that the committee continues to make progress in the consideration of nominations. His approach has been the right approach. Regrettably, it has not been matched on the floor, where the refusal by Republican leadership to come to regular time agreements to consider nominations has put our progress—our positive action—at risk.

I expect the committee in the weeks ahead to continue to make progress and favorably report superbly qualified, consensus judicial nominations to fill vacancies in States throughout the country, in States with Democratic and Republican Senators. Most of these

nominations will, I expect, join the 15 on the calendar after tonight's vote that were reported unanimously. I hope that the Americans in those districts will not have to wait for months for the Senate to act to fill the vacancies and ensure that the Federal courts in their States have the judges they need.

Republican obstruction has led to a backlog of dozens of judicial nominations pending on the Senate's Executive Calendar. Half of the judicial nominations on the calendar would fill judicial emergency vacancies. Many were ready for final consideration and confirmation in May and June.

Republican leadership should explain to the people and Senators from South Carolina, Missouri, Louisiana, Maine, New York, Texas, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Florida why there continue to be vacancies on the Federal courts in their States that could easily be filled if the Senate would vote on the President's qualified, consensus nominees. Yet those nominees still wait for months on the Senate's calendar. These damaging delays leave the people of these States to bear the brunt of having too few judges available to do the work of the Federal courts.

All 20 of the judicial nominations on the calendar today have been favorably reported by the Judiciary Committee after a fair but thorough process. We review extensive background material on each nominee. All Senators on the committee, Democratic and Republican, have the opportunity to ask the nominees questions at a live hearing. Senators also have the opportunity to ask questions in writing following the hearing and to meet with the nominees. All of these nominees have a strong commitment to the rule of law and a demonstrated faithfulness to the Constitution. They should not be delayed for weeks and months needlessly after being so thoroughly and fairly considered by the Judiciary Committee.

I continue to urge the Senate to join together to end the judicial vacancies crisis that concerns Chief Justice Roberts, the President, the Attorney General, bar associations, and chief judges around the country. I hope that this month Senators will finally join together to begin to bring down the excessive number of vacancies that have persisted on Federal courts throughout the Nation for far too long. We can and must do better. Vacancies are being kept high, consensus nominees are being delayed, and it is the American people and the Federal courts that are being made to suffer.

EXHIBIT 1

[From the Washington Post, Aug. 5, 2011]

REMISS IN CONFIRMING JUDGES

(By Wade Henderson)

In Ben Pershing's close-to-complete Aug. 2 Fed Page roundup of the most important stories overshadowed by the debt-ceiling debate ["Debt debate isn't only story on Capitol

Hill.” In Session], one story that failed to make the cut was how the Senate’s refusal to vote on 20 judicial nominees before recess has led to almost as many vacancies on the federal bench—111—as there were in January.

During the past two months, the Senate Judiciary Committee has steadily processed nominations, yet the Senate has voted on a mere nine judges. There is no reason to delay confirming every one of the nominees pending before the full Senate. All but one enjoyed strong bipartisan support in committee. In fact, 17 of the 20 were approved without recorded opposition.

Many of these seats have been designated as “judicial emergencies” by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, meaning there are simply not enough judges to get the work done. More and more people seeking to protect their rights in a court of law are forced to wait, and justice delayed is all too often justice denied.

[From Politico, Aug. 3, 2011]

IT’S SENATE’S DUTY TO CONFIRM JUDGES

(By Andrew Blotky and Doug Kendall)

While Washington has been consumed by the debt ceiling crisis, another serious crisis demands the attention of President Barack Obama and the Senate: the threat to justice by our overworked federal judiciary.

There aren’t enough judges to hear the cases piling up in federal courtrooms across the country—which for countless Americans means justice significantly delayed and denied.

Our federal courts, which hear cases brought by ordinary Americans to vindicate rights guaranteed by the Constitution, are overworked and understaffed. Today’s federal judiciary resembles our armed forces—stretched thin and deployed on multiple tours of duty.

There are now almost 90 empty seats on the federal bench, with 22 more retirements on the way.

Make no mistake, judges now on the bench are doing their part—and then some. Last month, federal Judge Malcolm Muir died in his chambers at age 96, while working on Social Security appeals. Muir had continued to work literally until his last breath, to reduce the case backlog caused by a judge shortage. He was the fourth oldest judge on the federal bench when he died. Last December, U.S. District Judge James F. McClure Jr. died at age 79—also while working at the courthouse.

With fewer new judges being confirmed, the third branch of government is increasingly run by judges working well into their 80s, 90s and even 100s.

“The way we are going,” 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Richard Cudahy, age 84, said, “it looks to me as if most of the judicial work is going to be done by 80- and 90-year-olds like me . . . since they will be the only ones left to do anything.”

There have been at least 80 vacancies on the federal courts for the past 760 straight days and counting, according to a recent Constitutional Accountability Center study. At the same time, only 35 new permanent judgeships have been authorized by Congress in the past 20 years—even as the overall federal caseload has expanded by fully a third.

The third branch is deteriorating largely because of unprecedented Republican obstruction. Senate Republicans refuse to agree to votes for well-qualified nominees, who enjoy the unanimous support of their Republican and Democratic colleagues on the Senate Judiciary Committee. Today, 16

such nominees are waiting for a vote by the Senate, with four more qualified nominees approved by the Judiciary Committee, and new nominations being added regularly to the Senate calendar.

Some Republican senators are blocking—or placing holds—on judicial nominations for reasons unrelated to justice, to serve their own political interests. Republican senators are also delaying or blocking nominees who would fill seats in courtrooms so overwhelmed with cases that they are deemed by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts to be “judicial emergencies.” It is a level of obstruction not seen under any previous president in U.S. history.

Again, numbers tell the story. The glacial pace of judicial confirmations has seen the number of judicial vacancies explode from 55, when Obama took office, to 88 today. By this time in the Bush administration, the Senate had confirmed 40 percent more judges than it has during the Obama administration.

Astonishingly, in the past two months, the Senate has voted on just 11 nominations. The chamber could have easily confirmed judges while awaiting a final debt ceiling deal. Instead Republicans blocked, stalled and delayed.

The Senate has now recessed for a month, yet the work of the courts continues.

When judicial vacancies remain at such record levels, needless delays create a crisis that has drawn concern from all corners—including Chief Justice John Roberts, Attorney General Eric Holder, federal judges around the country and bar associations.

The Senate is failing in one of its key constitutional duties. It is preventing the third branch of government from doing its job—and making it impossible for Americans to have their cases heard in a timely fashion.

The solution is simple. With no Supreme Court nomination battle consuming Washington this fall, there are no excuses. The Senate should vote on these waiting nominees at the earliest possible moment when it returns from its August recess.

It is time for the Senate to do what the Constitution commands—advise and consent to the nomination of qualified judges. The long-term health of the third branch of government depends on it—and so do the American people.

Mr. LEAHY. I have outlined where we stand in comparison to the progress we made when the Senate moved to confirm 205 Federal circuit and district judges during President Bush’s first term. Three years into President Obama’s administration, we have yet to confirm 100 judges. We are going to have to move pretty quickly to catch up, especially to what a Democratic-controlled Senate did for President Bush. I wish to be able to do the same for President Obama.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I use my remaining time to speak as in morning business about the America Invents Act and the cloture vote that will be taken tonight on proceeding to that important measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMERICA INVENTS ACT

Mr. LEAHY. The Senate is today turning its attention back to the America Invents Act—a measure that will help create jobs, energize the economy and promote innovation without

adding a penny to the deficit. This legislation is a key component of both Democratic and Republican jobs agendas, and is a priority of the Obama administration.

Too often in recent years, good legislation has failed in the Senate because bills have become politicized. That should not be the case with patent reform. Innovation and economic development are not uniquely Democratic or Republican objectives—they are American goals. That is why so many Democratic and Republican Senators have worked closely on this legislation for years, along with a similar bipartisan coalition of House Members.

And that is why a Democratic chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee can stand on the floor of the Senate and advocate, as I do today, that the Senate pass a House bill, H.R. 1249, sponsored by the Republican chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, LAMAR SMITH of Texas. As Chairman SMITH and I wrote earlier this year in a joint editorial, “Patent reform unleashes American innovation, allowing patent holders to capitalize on their inventions and create products and jobs.”

This bill, which passed the House with more than 300 votes, will make crucial improvements to our outdated patent system. These improvements can be divided into three important categories that are particularly noteworthy.

First, the bill will speed the time it takes for applications on true inventions to issue as high quality patents, which can then be commercialized and used to create jobs. There are nearly 700,000 applications pending at the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) that have yet to receive any action by the PTO. The Director of the PTO often says that the next great invention that will drive our economic growth is likely sitting in that backlog of applications.

The America Invents Act will ensure that the PTO has the resources it needs to work through its backlog of applications more quickly. The bill accomplishes this objective by authorizing the PTO to set its fees and creates a PTO reserve fund for any fees collected above the appropriated amounts in a given year—so that only the PTO will have access to these fees.

Importantly, the bill also provides immediate tools the PTO needs to fast track applications, and continues discounts for fast tracked applications requested by small business, as well as for applications involving technologies important to the Nation’s economy or national competitiveness, thanks to amendments offered in the Senate by Senators BENNET and MENENDEZ.

Second, the America Invents Act will improve the quality of both new patents issued by the PTO, as well as existing patents. High quality patents

incentivize inventors and entrepreneurs by providing a limited monopoly over the invention. Low quality patents, conversely, can impede innovation if the product or process already exists.

The bill makes commonsense improvements to the system by allowing, for example, third parties to comment on pending applications so that patent examiners will have more and better information readily available. The bill also implements a National Academy of Sciences recommendation by creating a postgrant review process to weed out recently issued patents that should not have been issued in the first place.

The bill will also improve upon the current system for challenging the validity of a patent at the PTO. The current inter partes reexamination process has been criticized for being too easy to initiate and used to harass legitimate patent owners, while being too lengthy and unwieldy to actually serve as an alternative to litigation when users are confronted with patents of dubious validity.

Third, the America Invents Act will transition our patent filing system from a first-to-invent system to the more objective first-inventor-to-file system, used throughout the rest of the world, while retaining the important grace period that will protect universities and small inventors, in particular. As business competition has gone global, and inventors are increasingly filing applications in the United States and other countries for protection of their inventions, our current system puts American inventors and businesses at a disadvantage.

The differences cause confusion and inefficiencies for American companies and innovators. These problems exist both in the application process and in determining what counts as “prior art” in litigation. We debated this change at some length in connection with the Feinstein amendment in March. That amendment was rejected by the Senate by a vote of 87 to 13. The Senate has come down firmly and decisively in favor of modernizing and harmonizing the American patent system with the rest of the world.

The House, to its credit, improved on the Senate bill in this area by including an expanded prior user right with the transition to a first-inventor-to-file system. Prior user rights are important for American manufacturing, in particular.

There is widespread support for the America Invents Act, and with good reason. In March, just before the Senate voted 95–5 to pass the America Invents Act, *The New York Times* editorialized that the America Invents Act will move America “toward a more effective and transparent patent protection system” that will “encourage investment in inventions” and “should

benefit the little guy” by transitioning to a first-inventor-to-file system.

A few weeks ago, the Washington Post editorial board added that “[i]n the six decades since its last overhaul, the patent system has become creaky,” but the patent bill “poised for final approval in the Senate would go a long way toward curing [the] problems.”

The Obama administration issued a Statement of Administration Policy in connection with the House bill, in which it argued that “[t]he bill’s much-needed reforms to the Nation’s patent system will speed deployment of innovative products to market and promote job creation, economic growth, and U.S. economic competitiveness all at no cost to American taxpayers.”

The House bill is not the exact bill I would have written. It contains provisions that were not in the Senate bill, and it omits or changes other provisions from the Senate bill that I supported. But that is the legislative process, and the core elements of the House bill are identical or nearly identical to the core elements of the Senate bill. In addition, the House bill retains amendments adopted during Senate consideration of S. 23, including amendments offered by Senator BENNET, Senator MENENDEZ, Senator KIRK, Senator STABENOW, Senator BINGAMAN, and Senator REID, among others.

The America Invents Act, as passed by the House, will not only implement an improved patent system that will grow the economy and create jobs, but it is the product of a process of which we should all be proud. Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate have worked together with the administration and all interested stakeholders large and small to craft legislation that has near unanimous support.

I thank Senator KYL, the minority whip, for his comments early today. I agree with him that sending this House-passed bill directly to the President will begin the process of demonstrating to the American people that we can work together, Democrats and Republicans, House and Senate, on their behalf.

Those now advocating for enactment of the America Invents Act without further amendment include the United States Chamber of Commerce, the United Steelworkers, the National Association of Manufacturers, the Association of American Universities, BIO and PhRMA, Community Bankers, the Coalition for 21st Century Patent Reform, the Coalition for Patent Fairness, the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council, and businesses representing virtually every sector of our economy.

In a recent letter from Louis Foreman, a well known independent inventor, he wrote of his support for the America Invents Act saying:

The independent inventor has been well represented throughout this process and we

are in a unique situation where there is overwhelming support for this legislation. . . . H.R. 1249 is the catalyst necessary to incentivize inventors and entrepreneurs to create the companies that will get our country back on the right path and generate the jobs we sorely need.

American ingenuity and innovation have been a cornerstone of the American economy from the time Thomas Jefferson examined the first patent application to today. A recent Department of Commerce report attributes three-quarters of America’s post-World War II economic growth to innovation. It is the patent system that incentivizes that innovation when it holds true to the constitutional imperative to “promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to . . . inventors the exclusive right to their respective . . . discoveries.”

The Founders recognized the importance of promoting innovation. A number were themselves inventors. The Constitution explicitly grants Congress the power to “promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to . . . inventors the exclusive right to their respective . . . discoveries.” The time for Congress to undertake this responsibility and enact patent reform legislation into law is now.

The discoveries made by American inventors and research institutions, commercialized by American companies, and protected and promoted by American patent laws have made our system the envy of the world. But we cannot stand on a 1950s patent system and expect our innovators to flourish in a 21st century world.

The America Invents Act will keep America in its longstanding position at the pinnacle of innovation. This bill will establish a more efficient and streamlined patent system that will improve patent quality and limit unnecessary and counterproductive litigation costs, while making sure no party’s access to court is denied.

The President recently called on Congress to pass patent reform as soon as it returned from recess because it will create jobs and improve the economy without adding to the deficit. This bill is bipartisan, it is the product of years of thoughtful bicameral discussions, and it should be sent to the President’s desk this week. There is no reason for delay.

When we proceeded to the Senate version of this legislation last February, we did so by unanimous consent. The Senate proceeded to approve patent reform legislation with 95 votes. It is disappointing that we are being delayed from completing this important legislation. Further delay does nothing for American inventors, the American economy or the creation of American jobs. It is time, time to take final action on the America Invents Act.

I see the time has arrived. Is the roll-call automatic?

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

Is all time yielded back?

Mr. LEAHY. I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Bernice Bouie Donald, of Tennessee, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit?

The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), is necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNET). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 96, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 124 Ex.]

YEAS—96

Akaka	Franken	Menendez
Alexander	Gillibrand	Merkley
Ayotte	Graham	Mikulski
Barrasso	Grassley	Moran
Baucus	Hagan	Murkowski
Begich	Harkin	Murray
Bennet	Hatch	Nelson (NE)
Bingaman	Heller	Nelson (FL)
Blumenthal	Hoeven	Paul
Blunt	Hutchison	Portman
Boozman	Inhofe	Pryor
Boxer	Inouye	Reed
Brown (MA)	Isakson	Reid
Brown (OH)	Johanns	Risch
Burr	Johnson (SD)	Roberts
Cantwell	Johnson (WI)	Sanders
Cardin	Kerry	Schumer
Carper	Kirk	Sessions
Casey	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Chambliss	Kohl	Shelby
Coats	Kyl	Snowe
Coburn	Landrieu	Stabenow
Cochran	Lautenberg	Tester
Collins	Leahy	Thune
Conrad	Lee	Toomey
Coons	Levin	Udall (CO)
Corker	Lieberman	Udall (NM)
Cornyn	Lugar	Warner
Crapo	Manchin	Webb
Durbin	McCain	Whitehouse
Enzi	McCaskill	Wicker
Feinstein	McConnell	Wyden

NAYS—2

DeMint Vitter

NOT VOTING—2

Rockefeller Rubio

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

LEAHY-SMITH AMERICA INVENTS ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 87, H.R. 1249, the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act:

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Thomas R. Carper, Joseph I. Lieberman, Richard Blumenthal, Charles E. Schumer, Amy Klobuchar, Robert Menendez, Jeanne Shaheen, John F. Kerry, Mark Udall, Mark R. Warner, Ben Nelson, Jeff Bingaman, Max Baucus, Mark Begich, Robert P. Casey, Jr.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call is waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 1249, an act to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) is necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 93, nays 5, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 125 Leg.]

YEAS—93

Akaka	Franken	Merkley
Alexander	Gillibrand	Mikulski
Ayotte	Graham	Moran
Barrasso	Grassley	Murkowski
Baucus	Hagan	Murray
Begich	Harkin	Nelson (NE)
Bennet	Hatch	Nelson (FL)
Bingaman	Heller	Portman
Blumenthal	Hoeven	Pryor
Blunt	Hutchison	Reed
Boozman	Inhofe	Reid
Boxer	Inouye	Risch
Brown (MA)	Isakson	Roberts
Brown (OH)	Johanns	Sanders
Burr	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Cantwell	Kerry	Sessions
Cardin	Kirk	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Shelby
Casey	Kohl	Snowe
Chambliss	Kyl	Stabenow
Coats	Landrieu	Tester
Cochran	Lautenberg	Thune
Collins	Leahy	Toomey
Conrad	Levin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Lieberman	Udall (NM)
Corker	Lugar	Vitter
Cornyn	Manchin	Warner
Crapo	McCain	Webb
Durbin	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Enzi	McConnell	Wicker
Feinstein	Menendez	Wyden

NAYS—5

Coburn Johnson (WI) Paul
DeMint Lee

NOT VOTING—2

Rockefeller Rubio

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 93, the nays are 5. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, yesterday I was in Cincinnati, OH. Terralift has the largest Labor Day gathering in the United States of America by 15,000, 20,000, around Coney Island and just southeast of Cincinnati, not far from the Ohio River. They have a picnic every year celebrating workers, not just organized workers but workers generally.

I met a woman there by the name of Lillian Brayhound, and Ms. Brayhound was wearing a t-shirt that said "Service Employees International Union." I asked her where she works, and she said she is a custodian in downtown Cincinnati. And I remember that 3 or 4 years ago I was at a dinner, and there was a group of workers, all middle-aged women, mostly minorities, mostly African American, a couple Latino women, and they had just signed their first union contract to represent the custodians in downtown Cincinnati office buildings.

I sat down at this table, and I said: What does this new union contract mean to you, to the workers there?

A 50-year-old woman turned to me and she said: This is the first time in my life I have ever had a paid week vacation.

Think about that: This is the first time in my life I have ever had a paid week vacation. That was because those workers, each of them working separately before for a building owner in a downtown Cincinnati office building, had gotten together, had voted to join a union, had the right to organize and bargain collectively. They still weren't getting rich. They still weren't making more than, I believe, if I recall, \$10 or \$11 an hour. But now they had a bit of a pension, now they had health care, and now they had a chance to actually earn a 1-week vacation, something many, many workers in America don't have the opportunity for. And when I hear people say: Well, unions meant something in the past, but they have outlived their usefulness, that really tells you what that is all about.

We celebrate that on Labor Day, but we also know the union movement is under attack. We look at what has happened in the Ohio Statehouse, where legislators in Columbus, most of whom were elected by talking about lost jobs

in large part because of what happened in the Bush administration and the 8 years previously, but people who were very unhappy, as they have a right to be, as they should be, because of lost jobs, but what they have done is, after getting elected, they have gone after collective bargaining rights, worker rights. They have attacked voter rights. They have attacked in far too many cases women's rights.

Let's be clear. It is not teachers and firefighters and police officers who caused Ohio's budget deficit. It is not teachers and firefighters and police officers who caused this financial implosion our Nation has. Look at the history. It has been tax cuts for the wealthy; it has been reckless spending, overspending on corporate welfare, overspending on all kinds of things; it has been regulatory sleepwalking that has left our economy in ruins. As a result, we have a widening income gap, with wages generally stagnant for the last decade for middle-class and working-class voter citizens, wages stagnating or declining for most of the workforce but salaries and bonuses going up for people who are the most privileged, the bankers and wealthy executives and CEOs.

Robert Reich recently pointed out that the 5 percent of Americans with the highest incomes now account for 37 percent of all consumption. Reich points out that when income is concentrated at the top, the middle class doesn't have enough purchasing power to pull themselves out of this recession our economy suffers. The wealthiest people can only spend so much. If the middle class has their wages stagnant or actually decline, there simply isn't the purchasing power we need to create the demand to grow our economy. Our economy has been most prosperous when the middle class is thriving rather than when we have these huge gaps in income.

Today we have lost the consensus that our Nation's prosperity was tied to a thriving middle class, where opportunity was afforded to those seeking to join it.

We used to see that consensus on manufacturing, where an economy built wealth and built strong communities for millions of Americans around production. You only create wealth by mining, by agriculture—growing something—and by manufacturing. Yet we have seen what has happened to manufacturing jobs in Ohio. Ohio is still the largest manufacturing State in the country, below only Texas, twice our size, and California, three times our size. We still put out a lot of production. There is a lot of productive capacity in Ohio and a lot of production. But 30 years ago, 26, 27 percent of our GDP was manufacturing and about 10 percent was financial services. Those manufacturing jobs created wealth for a lot of middle-class families. Kids could go

to college, they could buy a home or a car or two in so many cases. Today what used to be more than a quarter of our GDP in manufacturing and only 10 percent in financial services has flipped so today only about 10 percent of our GDP is manufacturing.

We know what that has done. Yet some of my Senate colleagues do not want to extend the payroll tax. In many ways, it seems they will essentially will go on strike to prevent the wealthiest in America from paying a penny more. I hope that changes now that we are back from the August break and we are listening to what voters, what citizens at home are talking about.

Mr. President, let me share a couple of letters from people in Ohio, a couple of stories. Then I know Senator DURBIN wants to address the Senate.

Last April, I met with workers at Navistar in Springfield, OH, who are building next-generation military and commercial vehicles. The plant's production is up because a company and a community came together, forging compromise between the union and employer to keep jobs and increase production. We see it across Ohio. At the other end of our State, at Arcelor Mittal's plant—a big steel maker near Cleveland—for every 1 person-hour, 1 ton of steel is produced. To my understanding, we have never seen that kind of productivity anywhere else in the world. They are the most productive steelworkers in the world, able to produce 1 ton of steel for 1 man-hour, 1 woman-hour invested. We see it at the Lima Tank Plant and at the GE Aviation Plant in Evendale. It is a story we see down in Piketon. We see it in towns across Ohio, where the "Made in Ohio" or "Made in America" is stamped on everything from airplanes to auto parts.

I got a letter from David from Akron. He said:

I am a firefighter/paramedic for the city of Akron. For 11 years I have put the safety and well-being of my community above mine.

I am a proud member of my local union. I am married to a high school English teacher. When I took the job I was told my life expectancy would be 10 years less than that of the average man. As a paramedic I do my job all hours of the night, all days of the week, 24 hours at a time. I miss birthdays, holidays, celebrations and much more. I have never complained until now.

As our country tries to recover from very hard times, I understand there is a need for reform. It is easy to think about what someone else has and how it is not fair. My wife and I worked hard to get where we are. No one has handed it to us. That is what I love about our country, if you are willing to work for something then you can be successful.

Public employees are once again asked to make sacrifices.

He is not arguing he will not make sacrifices. But to attack public employees with all that has happened in Ohio, to imply that they are not doing their jobs, they are all slackers, is too

much for people who have given so much of their lives serving the public.

This last letter I will read is from Anestis from Canton, OH, a teacher.

My father was a teacher in Canton City schools from 1953 to 1989. He and my mother raised 6 children, of whom I am the youngest. He taught and coached three sports from the time he received his job until he retired. He went to school on the GI bill after World War II. He could have earned a degree in anything, but he chose teaching because he sincerely wanted to earn a living through the hard, honest work of teaching and helping children.

Both of my grandparents were Greek immigrants who came to this country in 1913 and 1920 through Ellis Island to escape the suppression in their counties and better their lives. My grandfathers worked in the factories in Canton so their children could have an education and better their lives.

I have been teaching for 17 years. My father went on strike in the 1970's so we can now have collective bargaining, and I wouldn't be here today [if it were not for that]. Their work ethic and values of fair play helped my parents raise their children on a teacher's salary. If our rights are taken away, I cannot raise my own family—or educate our children.

Going the next step, a number of teachers and a number of college students have told me they are watching some young teachers, they are watching some of their classmates who planned to become teachers or just started their careers in the classroom and they are having second thoughts when they see conservative elected officials attack their profession of public schoolteachers or attack the profession of firefighters or police officers, all because they have a radical political agenda that wants to end the practice of organizing and bargaining collectively. It is a disservice to our country. We know we have a middle class because large numbers of workers—mostly private sector, some public sector—have had the ability under law to organize and bargain collectively. That is what built the middle class. It is not something we should give up lightly.

That is what I heard all over Ohio in the last couple of months. I assume I will hear it for the next couple of months. It is so important to our country that the focus here be on jobs, the focus here be on living-wage jobs, the focus here be on giving opportunities so Americans can stay in the middle class or have the opportunity to join the middle class.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

NO POLITICS ZONE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Ohio for highlighting what has to be our focal point as we return to the Senate, and that is the unemployment picture across America and the desperate situation many families are facing. As I visited

my home State of Illinois, I found what the Senator did in Ohio, that many people have been desperately trying to find jobs for a long time and it is becoming increasingly difficult. The longer it goes on, the more difficult it becomes. It turns out the national statistics, which I read over the weekend, suggest that it is primarily males who are out of work—not exclusively, but 60 percent males, 40 percent females—and more and more not in minority populations. They are having a difficult time. I am glad the Senator from Ohio focused on getting us back on track as we should be on this issue.

I read with interest when Republican Leader McCONNELL wrote an opinion article in the Washington Post yesterday. One line in that article struck me particularly and I wish to read it. Senator McCONNELL said, “Job creation should be a no-politics zone.”

I would like that to become our slogan for the month of September. I hope both parties will live by it. If we do, I think we can achieve some things and surprise the American people who have just about given up on us. Take a look at the numbers across the board. They say 12 or 13 percent of the American people think favorably of Congress. As I said on the “Jon Stewart Daily Show,” I don’t think we have that many relatives so I question the number. I think it has reached the point that most people do not have a positive view of what we are doing here, and we need to change it. The only people who can change it are those of us who serve in this Chamber.

Unfortunately, the Republican leader came to the floor of the Senate today and said a little different thing, which I hope I am not overreading, but he said:

Mr. President, there is a much simpler reason for opposing your economic proposals that has nothing whatsoever to do with politics, and it’s this: They don’t work.

I think that could be read to suggest that whatever the President has to say, he is going to run into opposition. I hope the joint session of Congress is productive. I spoke to the President this afternoon. He called a number of Members. He didn’t give me any inside story on what he is about to say, but my guess is he is going to make proposals and then say to the Republicans: Now come up with your proposals and let’s sit down together and work them out between us. That is the right way to do it in a divided government and that is the way we should approach it.

I recall when President George W. Bush in 2008 felt we needed an economic stimulus. At that time unemployment was 4.8 percent. Senator McCONNELL supported an economic stimulus by President George W. Bush when our unemployment rate was 4.8 percent. He actually said on the floor today that, “Businesses actually don’t want shots in the arm or quick fixes.”

But when he was supporting President Bush’s economic stimulus in 2008, it was called “a booster shot for our economy.” I think sometimes that kind of booster shot can make a difference.

I think there are two vital elements in our economy that challenge us. I don’t know how much we can change them or how quickly we change them. As I visited in my home State with community bankers who actually loan mortgages in their communities, time and again they said to me the biggest single problem is we don’t know where the bottom is. We don’t know where fair market value is on real estate so as a result it is very tough to close a deal and very tough to get agencies such as Fannie and Freddie to go along with it because of disputes over appraisals.

The second issue was one highlighted this morning in today’s Chicago Sun-Times and that is the spending and saving habits of the American family, and they are changing pretty substantially. The rate of savings is up from 1 percent to 5 percent. People have decided putting some money in the bank is not a bad idea and they are borrowing less on their credit cards and other things and making fewer purchases. That is the right thing for a family to do in an uncertain economy. It is not the best thing for an economic recession. In fact, just the opposite is true. But you can understand, people were burned in 2007; burned again in the stock market a few weeks ago. They don’t want to see it happen again and they don’t want to be victimized by it, so those two things haunt us.

More than anything, I hope in the month of September this does not become a month of confrontation on the floor of the Senate and the House. The American people are fed up with it. If we have a confrontation over extending the Federal Aviation Administration or extending the Federal highway bill, they will rightly be angry that we are back to our old tricks of staring one another down and not accomplishing what needs to be done for this Nation and this economy.

I urge my colleagues, I hope I can join in this, to look for what the Republican leader called job creation as a “no-politics zone” in the weeks ahead.

In August, the American economy added zero net new jobs. That was painful. The private sector added just 17,000 jobs. Unemployment is at 9.1 percent. Fourteen million Americans are unemployed and millions more are underemployed. GDP growth was just 1 percent in the second quarter of this year.

Year-over-year real GDP growth is now at 1.5 percent. Since 1948, every time the four-quarter change in GDP has fallen below 2 percent, the economy has entered a recession. These figures are stunning and worrying. Now is not the time for us to shrink from our responsibilities on a bipartisan basis.

The President is going to lay out a job creation proposal this week. He will offer a plan that should have broad bipartisan support, as these initiatives have had in the past when suggested by other Presidents. I hope this President will call for investments in America, in physical, human, and intellectual capital to provide the seed money for long-term growth. Among other things, that means investing in our infrastructure.

Mr. President, you know what is going on in China today. We have seen it. The infrastructure construction in China is mind boggling. They are preparing for the 21st century. America is not, and we need to change that. The American Society of Civil Engineers estimates our country’s infrastructure needs at least \$1 trillion. Our infrastructure is rapidly aging, whether bridges falling down in Minnesota or planes being diverted from airports because they are not up to where they ought to be. This is what ought to challenge all of us. Dozens of bipartisan commissions have told us to invest in infrastructure. We also need to invest in human and intellectual capital. That means jobs for teachers and job trainers, and research jobs which will create good jobs across the whole economy.

Congress must invest now because the private sector remains skittish. Here is what Bill Gross, a Republican and chief investment officer of the giant bond fund PIMCO, said:

Capitalism in its raw form can’t pull us out of this hole.

That is an important message from a man in the private sector, in the financial community. In the near term, the private sector is not uneasy because of high taxes or government debt or the Environmental Protection Agency or even health care reform or Wall Street reform. These things all exist. But corporations are doing better than ever. A recent report found that of the last year’s 100 highest paid corporate executives in the United States, 25 of the 100 highest paid CEOs in America earned more in income than their company paid in taxes to the Federal Government. Corporate profits grew 8.3 percent year over year in the second quarter. That growth is far better than the overall growth of our economy in the same timeframe.

As of March 31, the blue-chip companies and Standard and Poor’s 500 index are sitting on nearly \$1 trillion in cash. It is not government debt, it is not the EPA, it is not health care reform, it is not Wall Street reform. No, the private sector in America is still on the sidelines because it is still recovering from the wounds of the deepest global crisis in over 75 years. While the private sector is licking its wounds, the government can promote job creation and reduce uncertainty. It is a false choice to say government can either create jobs or reduce debt. The truth is, creating

jobs will reduce debt, and the argument can be made with 14 million Americans out of work you will never balance the budget. Creating jobs will bring more people into the tax base, increasing our revenues and take people off of the safety net programs such as unemployment insurance and food stamps. We need more jobs and less debt. One begets the other. It is possible. I know many pundits listening now will say: Impossible. We can't get bipartisan agreement on job measures now. But short-term spending coupled with long-term spending had bipartisan support less than a year ago. That is when I was a member of the Simpson-Bowles Commission, voted for their findings, and that is what they recommended. The Commission said: Don't cut back on spending for 2 years, until we get out of the recession, and then make a serious commitment to deficit reduction. I think they had it right then. They still do.

The Commission explicitly called for near-term spending, a payroll tax credit in concert with long-term deficit reduction. Mr. President, 11 of the 18 members of that Commission, myself included, voted for it: 5 Democrats, 5 Republicans, 1 Independent. By supporting progrowth policies and locking in deficit reduction in the outyears, we can turn this economy around, provide certainty in the marketplace, and create good-paying jobs right here in America.

One last point I would like to make. Illinois was largely spared from the disasters of the last several weeks. We had our problems with flooding earlier this year. But 2011 is shaping up to be a record year with regard to disasters. Hurricane Irene could cost us at least \$1 billion, maybe \$1.5 billion. People in Illinois have been recovering from two federally declared disasters over the long term—one, a blizzard in February, and the other, major flooding in the spring.

Out of the \$130 billion provided in FEMA disaster funds in the past decade, some \$110 billion has been provided as emergency funding. We cannot budget for these disasters.

At a hearing before we left—and I knew government experts would be suspect to some, so I brought in experts from the insurance industry, the people who write property and casualty insurance. They said: Be prepared—more disasters and higher costs in loss than ever before. That was before Hurricane Irene.

According to NOAA's National Climate Data Center, the United States has already experienced 10 natural disasters with damages totaling more than \$1 billion. The previous record for weather-related disasters of this magnitude was nine in 1 year. We have already broken it, and there are more hurricanes to follow, I am afraid to say. The United States has sustained

109 weather-related disasters over the past 31 years in which overall damage or costs exceeded \$1 billion. The total normalized losses for the 109 events exceeded \$750 billion.

In 2011 alone, over \$35 billion in damages has been caused by catastrophic events. I make that point because some Members of Congress—one, a Congressman from Virginia—suggest we can take the need for disaster funds out of the regular budget of the United States. I will tell you, it is virtually impossible, and we don't know what the final cost will be. At this point we expect it to be much more. We have to deal with these disasters and come to the aid of families and businesses, communities and States, as our State has been aided and almost every State has in the past.

A provision in the Budget Control Act allows Congress several billion dollars in emergency spending for additional FEMA aid without budget cuts elsewhere. We are going to have to get together on a bipartisan basis to deal with this. FEMA estimates that the request leaves the disaster fund short by \$2 billion to \$4.8 billion in the upcoming year. These figures do not take into account the most recent damage from Hurricane Irene, particularly in the State of Vermont and many other places. We need to work on a bipartisan basis to meet these needs for the disaster assistance all across America and put America back to work.

At this point I would like to yield the floor to my former remarks and engage in the closing script.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PETTY OFFICER TUMILSON

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, as an Iowan, it is with great sadness but also a sense of pride that I rise to pay tribute to Navy SEAL Jon T. Tumilson who gave his life for his country along with 29 other American heroes as the result of a helicopter crash in Afghanistan on August 6. He worked hard to get where he did and was extremely proud to have become a Navy SEAL. The people of the State of Iowa, and particularly his hometown of Rockford, are extremely proud to call him a native son.

Petty Officer Tumilson is described as someone who committed fully to everything he did and he applied that intense dedication to serving his country. We as a nation must be grateful that we have brave and selfless Ameri-

cans like Jon Tumilson who are willing to undertake the incredible training necessary to become a Navy SEAL so that they can then put their lives on the line repeatedly in some of the most dangerous missions imaginable. Our country has lost a powerful force for good, and his fellow sailors have lost a brother in arms. Of course, his loss will be felt particularly deeply by his family, friends, and neighbors. My prayers go out to Jon's parents, George and Kathy, and all those who are grieving. Nothing can compensate for his loss, but I hope they can take comfort in knowing that he died a true American hero. Jon Tumilson's memory will now join the honored ranks of those patriots who, since the Revolutionary War, have fought to defend American liberty.

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER ROBERT REEVES

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a true American hero. On August 5, 2011, our State and Nation lost a great patriot when Navy SEAL CPO Robert Reeves, aged 32, died in Afghanistan during combat operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Chief Reeves was raised in Louisiana by his loving parents Jo and James Reeves, and he graduated from Caddo Magnet High School in Shreveport, LA, where he played both soccer and lacrosse.

After 1 year at LSU, Chief Reeves enlisted in the U.S. Navy and joined the SEALs in 1999. Since that time, he has been assigned to various SEAL teams where he made several combat deployments in support of the global war on terror, distinguishing himself in combat operations during 13 years of service in the U.S. Navy.

A decorated soldier, he served as a member of the Naval Special Warfare Development Group, or SEAL Team Six as it is more commonly known, and was the recipient of four Bronze Stars—earned for his bravery and meritorious service. He carried out his duties with pride and without reservation and each of us owes him our gratitude for his selfless sacrifice.

There is no doubt that this tragic loss will not only be felt within the Reeves family but also the Navy and the entire Nation. My deepest thoughts and prayers are with his family during this extraordinarily difficult time. Our Nation is safer and stronger because of brave heroes like Chief Reeves. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me as we honor the life of Navy SEAL CPO Robert Reeves and his legacy, as well as all the other brave men and women in our Armed Forces who have given the ultimate sacrifice in service to our great Nation.

CORDRAY NOMINATION

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise to speak in favor of Rich Cordray's

nomination as Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and to urge a vote on his nomination.

The enactment of the Dodd-Frank law last Congress is a triumph for consumers. This landmark law reins in the abusive and predatory practices of bad actors in the financial industry and protects consumers through the creation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

The CFPB will empower consumers by giving them the knowledge and tools they need to make responsible financial decisions and will level the playing field by policing and curtailing the unfair practices of some unscrupulous banks and financial institutions. I applauded the creation of the CFPB and have heard from Connecticut residents who want the consumer protections that the CFPB will provide.

Last month, President Obama nominated former Ohio attorney general Rich Cordray to serve as the Director of the CFPB. This is an inspired choice. Rich has dedicated his career to protecting and educating consumers: he has vigorously pursued lenders that employed abusive and fraudulent foreclosure practices like robo-signing and he has repeatedly gone after financial institutions that weakened employees' pension funds by concealing material information from investors.

Recognizing that informed consumers are empowered consumers, Rich has also sought to improve financial literacy among Ohio residents by working to include personal finance education in Ohio schools.

Rich's nomination has been widely praised, even by those he has clashed with. Former Senator Mike DeWine, who ran against Rich for State attorney general last year, called Rich "very well-qualified for this job."

As Connecticut's attorney general, I worked alongside Rich, and I know he is a true consumer advocate and an outstanding nominee to lead this critical new agency.

Despite Rich's impressive background and qualifications, some of my colleagues are refusing to allow a confirmation vote on his nomination. They do this not because they doubt Rich's qualifications, but because they resent the agency he has been nominated to lead. Earlier this year, 44 Senators wrote President Obama and threatened to block any nominee for the CFPB until the agency's structure and authority was gutted. Now, they are following through on that threat.

This is a bad precedent. The CFPB was created by the Dodd-Frank law passed by the previous Congress and signed by President Obama. This legislation was not rushed through; it was debated for months and months, with members given plenty of time to criticize the bill, offer amendments, or vote no on the legislation. Eventually, the bill passed. Sixty Senators voted for it,

including several who are now seeking to block the nominee for an agency they voted to create.

Some of my colleagues may not like the law or the CFPB. I respect that. But their course of action should be to introduce legislation to change the law, not to shirk their constitutional duty by refusing to allow a confirmation vote.

REMEMBERING DR. BERNADINE PATRICIA HEALY

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Bernadine Patricia Healy. Dr. Healy was a cardiologist and a pioneer in the field of medical research. Among her many impressive accomplishments, Dr. Healy served as the first female director of the National Institutes of Health, dean of the College of Medicine and Public Health at the Ohio State University, president of the American Red Cross, and president of the American Heart Association.

A brilliant scientist, an innovator, and a strong leader who could effectively communicate technical information, Dr. Healy was also a valued Presidential adviser. Dr. Healy selflessly answered the call to public service from Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush.

Dr. Healy was a courageous champion of women in science and medicine. While serving as the director of the National Institutes of Health, Dr. Healy introduced a number of initiatives, including the Women's Health Initiative, which resulted in monumental advances in understanding the causes and researching the cures of diseases that affect women. Dr. Bernadine Healy was truly a source of inspiration who touched the lives of so many of us in Ohio and around the world, and her extraordinary legacy lives on. She will not be forgotten.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO PETER DOUGLAS

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the achievements and legacy of Peter Douglas, executive director of the California Coastal Commission, who will be retiring this November. Peter is truly a giant among California conservationists, and our State is a much better and more beautiful place as a result of his life's work.

Established by voter initiative in 1972, the Coastal Commission was created by the people of California and is sustained by their support and active participation. For nearly four decades, the California Coastal Commission has worked to protect, conserve, restore, and enhance the resources of the California coast and ocean for current and future generations.

Peter Douglas was there at the creation of the commission, and he has shaped and guided its work every step of the way. As a legislative aide in the early 1970s, he helped draft the 1972 Coastal Initiative and the California Coastal Act of 1976, which made the commission a permanent public institution. After 7 years as the commission's chief deputy director, he was named executive director in 1985 and has served ever since.

Along with its stewardship of responsible development along the coast, the Coastal Commission has led the way in preserving public access to our State's coastline and beaches. From the beginning, Peter Douglas believed that protecting public access went hand in hand with protecting California's natural heritage, because the public would work to protect a resource that they could enjoy. Under Peter's leadership, the commission worked to create public parks in some key areas that might otherwise have been developed, including Crystal Cove, Malibu Bluffs, and Tomales Bay State Park.

Here is what Peter Douglas himself says about coastal conservation: "The coast is what it is because a lot of people worked really hard and sacrificed to protect it. And if we want it to be there for our children, we have to keep fighting to protect it. In that way, the coast is never saved—it is always being saved."

When asked if he had any idea when he started out 40 years ago what his legacy would be, Peter Douglas replied, "Absolutely not. I never thought about it. I just thought it was noble work, and I wanted to make a difference."

Peter Douglas has made a tremendous difference. From the bottom of my heart, I offer him my profound thanks and best wishes.●

REMEMBERING JEREMY HENWOOD

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I am honored to pay tribute to San Diego Police Officer Jeremy Henwood, who recently died in the line of duty at the age of 36. On August 6, 2011, Officer Henwood was shot by a suspect who pulled alongside his patrol car. He passed away several hours later.

In his 4-year career with the San Diego Police Department's Mid-City Division, Officer Henwood earned a reputation as a caring, dedicated officer, and committed leader. Everyday, he selflessly put his life on the line to protect the city he loved.

A strong believer in public service, Jeremy Henwood served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 15 years, first on active duty and later as Reservist. Major Henwood did two tours of duty in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. He recently returned from deployment in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, where he commanded a Marine logistics company.

Police Chief William Lansdowne has stated that Officer Henwood "believed

he was a protector and his job was to save others." One of his colleagues called him "a true hero who not only served this country, but served this city." A generous and courageous man in life, Officer Henwood's organs were donated to save other lives.

Officer Henwood is survived by his mother Beverly, his father Robbie, and younger siblings Robbie Junior and Emily. My thoughts and prayers are with them during this tragic time. I also send my deepest condolences to Officer Henwood's colleagues in the San Diego Police Department, who continue to serve our community and protect our people.●

NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize the 100th anniversary of the founding of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, the oldest African American church in San Bernardino, CA.

In 1911, New Hope Missionary Baptist Church opened its doors under the leadership of Minister James Hart.

It all began in response to African-American migrants who wanted a place of worship. In 100 years, New Hope Missionary Baptist Church never lost sight of its responsibility to creatively meet the ever-changing needs of the community it serves.

During the pastorate of Dr. David E. Campbell from 1950-1978, New Hope built a new building and became the first Black Baptist congregation in southern California to elect women to the board of trustees. Under Dr. LeMar Foster from 1984-1997, the congregation established numerous organizations, fellowships, and outreach programs. The church's current pastor, Dr. Robert E. Fairley who has served from 1978-1983 and from 1997-present, has introduced worship services to accommodate overflow crowds, added a van to support the new transportation ministry, and established new programs for hospitality, premarital, and marital counseling.

The year 2011 marks a significant milestone in the life of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, which was "Founded on Hope, Built in Love, and Sustained by Faith." I congratulate New Hope Missionary Baptist Church on this significant anniversary and 100 years of extraordinary service to the community.●

OCEAN VIEW LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD CHAMPIONS

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am very pleased to extend my best wishes and congratulations to the Ocean View Little League team from Huntington Beach, CA. On August 28, this team of 11- and 12-year-olds defeated Japan to win the Little League World Series championship in Williamsport, PA.

It was a dramatic victory. With two outs and the bases loaded in the bottom of the sixth and final inning, first baseman Nick Pratto delivered a sharp single to center to score the winning run for Ocean View.

Nothing could stop this team. Not their friendly rivals from Billings, MT, who pushed Ocean View to the brink of elimination by winning an extra-inning thriller earlier in the Little League World Series. And not Hurricane Irene, which brought rain to Williamsport and pushed back the final game by more than 3 hours. Ocean View defeated Billings on August 27 to win the U.S. championship and then outlasted a tough Japanese team 2-1 to win the final.

Orange County, CA, has produced scores of major league baseball players, the 2002 World Champion Angels, and the Cal State Fullerton Titans, four-time winners of the College World Series. Now, for the first time, Orange County has a Little League World Series champion.

This was a great victory for Ocean View's players and coaches as well as their families and the Huntington Beach community that supported their long march to the championship.●

CHARLES TOWN, WEST VIRGINIA

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today I celebrate the 225th anniversary of the incorporation of the city of Charles Town, WV. Charles Town has a rich history and heritage of great significance not only to West Virginia but to the entire nation.

Charles Town was originally founded in 1786 in what was then Virginia. The city was named after Charles Washington, the brother of our first President, George Washington. Charles Washington moved to the lower Shenandoah Valley in 1780 and there he began building his home known as "Happy Retreat." In 1786, he asked the Virginia State Legislature for permission to incorporate a town there, which he named "Charles Town." After Charles Washington's death, Charles Town became the county seat of newly formed Jefferson County.

Our Nation's focus turned to Charles Town in 1859 with the trial and execution of abolitionist John Brown and his followers after their historic raid on Harper's Ferry. The trial proceedings, and the words uttered by John Brown in Charles Town on the institution that held millions of Americans in bondage, helped shape our Nation's debate on issues surrounding the Civil War. When Virginia seceded from the Union, Charles Town became part of the newly created State known as West Virginia. Today, visitors come to Charles Town from all over to view an area steeped in the history of our Nation.

Charles Town has undergone many changes over 225 years. And those

many changes are evident in its abundance of historic sites, including its architectural landmarks and museums, and transitions over time in its local economy. The residents of Charles Town have always met these changes with courage and vision, and have confronted challenges with resilience and strength of spirit. They are proud and hard-working, and will undoubtedly help carry the city into a promising future.

The city's local leaders—both past and present—also deserve credit for the city's success. Their leadership and inspiration have guided Charles Town as it has developed and grown, while remaining true to its heritage and our West Virginia values. I join Mayor Peggy Smith and the city council in celebrating this momentous occasion.

Two hundred twenty-five years ago, Charles Washington had a vision for the city of Charles Town and the people of the lower Shenandoah Valley who would establish their lives there. And, as the citizens and leaders of Charles Town look ahead, I believe strongly that the city continues to hold great promise for a prosperous future.●

BILLINGS BIG SKY ALL-STARS

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I wish to share some exciting news from my home State of Montana. As many already know, the Little League World Series reached its thrilling completion last month. Montana's team, the Big Sky All-Stars from Billings, played in the U.S. Championship Game after a breathtaking, extra-inning victory over California in its previous game.

This Billings team was the first team from Montana to reach the Little League World Series. Only eight teams from the thousands of Little Leagues across the country make it to the World Series held in South Williamsport, PA, each year. One of our boys, Ian Leatherberry, originally said that the team was just hoping to play in the regional tournament. Instead, they played so long that they had a good excuse for missing the first week of school.

Behind the leadership of manager Gene Carlson and his coaches, these Treasure State champs became the talk of the tournament and the Nation. With great pitching, outstanding defense, and timely hitting, they quickly proved they belonged by defeating South Dakota and Louisiana, winning each game by a thrilling two-run margin.

Despite our State not even having a million people, Montana's All-Stars didn't blink when taking on the team from Huntington Beach, CA, for the right to reach the U.S. championship game. Montana's starting pitcher Cole McKenzie battled California's hitters, holding them scoreless. Then Ben

Askelson hit a dramatic walk-off home run to give our boys an amazing 1-0 win in extra innings.

It is honestly no surprise to me that the Big Sky All-Stars punched above their class. Whether competing in Little League baseball or showing the rest of the world true sportsmanship, Montana knows how to compete.

Despite their loss in the national championship game, Gene and his players earned the respect of all of Montana. These 12 boys—Ben Askelson, Jet Campbell, Sean Jones, Connor Kieckbusch, Pearce Kurth, Ian Leatherberry, Brock MacDonald, Andy Maehl, Cole McKenzie, Dawson Smith, Gabe Sulser and Patrick Zimmer—played with great skill and determination, making everyone from the Big Sky State proud of their immense accomplishment.●

HONORING RAYMOND MEDER

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I honor Raymond Meder and his service to the Army of the United States during World War Two.

Raymond arrived in Normandy 6 days after D-day and went on to fight in the frigid Battle of the Bulge. After that defining battle, Raymond Meder and his commanding officer were ordered to take a jeep full of ammunition to the front line—in German territory.

A mortar exploded in front of Raymond's jeep, flipping it over. The crash shattered Raymond's wrist and he suffered from shrapnel in his leg. Still under heavy fire, Raymond Meder crawled to the side of the road and covered his commanding officer with his own body. Sadly, that officer never made it. But Raymond returned fire through the night and into the morning with a machine gun until reinforcements arrived.

In a hospital in France, Raymond Meder was visited by an Army captain who told him, "You'll earn medals for this."

Yes, he earned them. But he never received them.

Three weeks later, Raymond returned to the battlefield. His wrist was deformed for the rest of his life. He never complained. And his military records were destroyed by a 1973 fire in St. Louis.

Raymond Meder passed away just a few months ago, on March 30. His son Ray and daughter-in-law Corine started asking questions about Raymond's service. Last month I had the honor of presenting to his family Raymond Meder's Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman Badge 1st Award, World War Two Victory Medal and Honorable Service Lapel Button.

These may be small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism, sacrifice, and dedication to service.

These medals are presented on behalf of a grateful nation.●

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH CETNAR

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I honor Joseph Cetnar.

According to his sister, Joe grew up as "real New York City street kid." He was born to Polish-Ukrainian immigrants who wanted to give their children the American dream. He had to work for the American dream. And he did.

Joe worked hard his whole life from a very early age, when he sold hot dogs on the streets of New York. In 1941, Joe enlisted in the Army Air Corps. And he parachuted into France during the invasion of Normandy.

Like many veterans who returned from war, Joe didn't speak much about his experience in the European theater.

His military records were destroyed by a fire in 1973. And in 2009, Joe passed away, leaving behind his wife of 65 years.

Joe Cetnar never received the recognition he deserved. His sister Dotty and his niece Aleksy started asking questions about Joe's service. And together, we discovered that Joe earned several medals he never received.

Last month I had the honor of presenting to his family Joseph Cetnar's American Defense Service Medal, World War Two Victory Medal, and Honorable Service Lapel Button.

These may be small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism, sacrifice, and dedication to service.

These medals are presented on behalf of a grateful nation.●

TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND DEUTSCHER

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I honor the military service of Raymond Deutscher.

Raymond enlisted in the Army in his home State of North Dakota in the spring of 1942. He was a born leader who became a combat infantry squadron leader. And he led his troops to the beaches of Normandy, June of 1944.

When Raymond and his troops arrived, he said the water and sand was already stained with blood. In Normandy, on June 11, 1944, Raymond was shot and severely wounded by German forces. His recovery took 7 months at a hospital in England and further hospital stays at home.

Through the long trauma and his long recovery from enemy fire, Raymond Deutscher never received the medals he earned as a hero of World War II.

His military records were destroyed by a 1973 fire in St. Louis. And he passed away on January 10, 2001.

His family reached out to me and started asking questions about Raymond's service and the due recognition he never received.

Last month I had the honor of presenting to his family Raymond Deutscher's Bronze Star, Purple Heart,

Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge First Award with Rifle Bar, World War Two Victory Medal, and Honorable Service Lapel Button

These eight medals may be small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism, sacrifice, and dedication to service. These medals are presented on behalf of a grateful nation.●

HONORING PETER SCHNEIDER

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I honor CPL Peter Schneider and his service to the U.S. Army during World War II.

At the age of 17, Corporal Schneider's parents passed away and he was left to raise two younger siblings. Although he didn't have to go to war, he believed it was his calling. And his older brother agreed to take care of the children.

On July 3, 1944, Corporal Schneider was severely wounded by German troops in Livry, France. His wounds were so severe he spent 4 years recovering in a hospital. The attack left Mr. Schneider 100 percent disabled. But that didn't stop him from working the rest of his life after the war.

Corporal Schneider received a Purple Heart for his sacrifice. His daughter Marlene keeps the medal in her home as a memorial. But after some research, Marlene discovered her father never received all the recognition he earned for his service in World War II.

A full year before he was wounded, Corporal Schneider served in the 41st Armored Infantry Division under General Patton. And in July of 1943, he was part of the first wave of Allied Forces—the tip of the spear—to storm Sicily and liberate Palermo.

After reaching out to me, we discovered that for his heroism in that significant part of the war, Corporal Schneider earned two more important medals.

Last month I had the honor of presenting to his family CPL Peter Schneider's Bronze Star and European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal.

These may be small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism, sacrifice, and dedication to service.

These medals are presented on behalf of a grateful nation.

Peter Schneider passed away in 1999 having never seen these medals. But they will be part of his family's history forever.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE
RECEIVED DURING RECESS

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 5, 2011, the Secretary of the Senate, on August 5, 2011, during the recess of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives, announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2715. An act to provide the Consumer Product Safety Commission with greater authority and discretion in enforcing the consumer product safety laws, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2553. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend the airport improvement program, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of August 5, 2011, the enrolled bills were signed on August 5, 2011, during the recess of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. CARDIN).

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 5, 2011, the Secretary of the Senate, on August 19, 2011, during the recess of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives, announcing that pursuant to section 401(b)(4)(B)(iii) of the Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-25) and the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction: Mr. HENSARLING of Texas, Co-Chair, Mr. UPTON of Michigan, and Mr. CAMP of Michigan.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 401(b)(4)(B)(iv) of the Budget Control Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-25) and the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Minority Leader appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction: Mr. CLYBURN of South Carolina, Mr. BECERRA of California, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN of Maryland.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following joint resolution was read the first time:

H.J. Res. 66. Joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER
COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2825. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half) in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2826. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2827. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2011 annual report of the Financial Stability Oversight Council; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2828. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pelagic Shelf Rockfish by Vessels Subject to Amendment 80 Sideboard Limits in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XA556) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2829. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program: Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System for Federal Fiscal Year 2012; Changes in Size and Square Footage of Inpatient Rehabilitation Units and Inpatient Psychiatric Units" (RIN0938-AQ28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2830. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Hospice Wage Index for Fiscal Year 2012" (RIN0938-AQ31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2831. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Prospective Payment System and Consolidated Billing for Skilled Nursing Facilities for Fiscal Year 2012" (RIN0938-AQ29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2832. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems for Acute Care Hospitals and the Long-Term Care Hospital Prospective Payment System. . . ." (RIN0938-AQ24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2833. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services to Mexico for the delivery, operation, and maintenance of one Sikorsky S-70i helicopter in the amount of \$14,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2834. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" (RIN0938-AQ07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2835. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-98 "Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Support Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2836. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the national emergency with respect to the lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2837. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the continuation of the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13396 on February 7, 2006, with respect to Cote d'Ivoire; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2838. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Chile; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2839. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to India; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2840. A communication from the Senior Counsel, Financial Stability Oversight Council, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Authority to Designate Financial Market Utilities as Systemically Important" (RIN4030-AA01) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 10, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2841. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of Office of Management and Budget Guidance on Drug-Free Workplace Requirements" (RIN2501-AD54) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 4, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2842. A communication from the Deputy to the Chairman, Legal Office, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Certain Orderly Liquidation Authority Provisions under Title II of the Dodd-

Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act” (12 CFR Part 380) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 4, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2843. A communication from the Deputy to the Chairman, Legal Office, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Interest on Deposits; Deposit Insurance Coverage” (RIN3064-AD78) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 4, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2844. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “16 Part 640 and Part 698: Fair Credit Reporting Risk-Based Pricing Regulations” (RIN3084-AA94) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 10, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2845. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Mortgage Acts and Practices—Advertising Rule” (RIN3084-AB18) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 10, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2846. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Office of Thrift Supervision Integration Pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act” (RIN1557-AD47) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2847. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Final Flood Elevation Determinations” ((44 CFR Part 67) (Docket No. FEMA-2011-0002)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2848. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations” ((44 CFR Part 65) (Docket No. FEMA-2011-0002)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2849. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Suspension of Community Eligibility” ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2011-0002)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2850. A communication from the Regulatory and Policy Specialist, Bureau of In-

dian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Indian Trust Management Reform—Implementation of Statutory Changes” (RIN1076-AF07) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2010; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-2851. A communication from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of Information and Technology, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Release of Information from Department of Veterans Affairs Records” (RIN2900-AN72) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2011; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

EC-2852. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Thiamethoxam; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 8874-9) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2853. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Metconazole; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 8882-7) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2854. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fluoxastobin; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 8884-4) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2855. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Process for Review of Swaps for Mandatory Clearing” ((17 CFR Parts 39 and 140) (RIN3038-AD00)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 3, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2856. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Removing Any Reference to or Reliance on Credit Ratings in Commission Regulations; Proposing Alternatives to the Use of Credit Ratings” ((17 CFR Parts 1 and 4) (RIN3038-AD11)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 3, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2857. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Provisions Common to Registered Entities” ((17 CFR Part 40) (RIN3038-AD07)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 3, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2858. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursu-

ant to law, Selected Acquisition Reports (SARs) for the quarter ending June 30, 2011 (DCN OSS 2011-1397); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2859. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Defense’s 2011 report to Congress entitled “The Worldwide Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Weapons and Ballistic and Cruise Missile Threat” (DCN OSS 2011-1288); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2860. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a quarterly report entitled, “Acceptance of Contributions for Defense Programs, Projects, and Activities; Defense Cooperation Account”; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2861. A communication from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the feasibility of establishing a full-service exchange store in the Northern Mariana Islands; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2862. A communication from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department of Defense’s purchases from foreign entities for Fiscal Year 2010; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2863. A communication from the Co-Chairs of the Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of the Commission’s final report; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2864. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, “Federally Funded Research and Development Centers Estimated FY 2011 Staff-years of Technical Effort (STEs) and Estimated Funding”; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2865. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2866. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Nonavailability Exception for Procurement of Hand or Measuring Tools” ((RIN0750-AH17) (DFARS Case 2011-D025)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2867. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Contractors Performing Private Security Functions” ((RIN0750-AH28) (DFARS Case 2011-D023)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2868. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Transmission Planning and Cost Allocation by Transmission Owning and Operating Public Utilities” (Docket No. RM10-23-000) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 3, 2011; to

the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2869. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Energy's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management's Annual Financial Report for the years ending September 30, 2009 and 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2870. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Energy (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy), transmitting, pursuant to law, the semi-annual Implementation Report on Energy Conservation Standards Activities of the Department of Energy; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2871. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the progress made in licensing and constructing the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2872. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Clothes Dryers and Room Air Conditioners" (RIN1904-AA89) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2011; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2873. A communication from the Division Chief of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Segregation of Lands—Renewable Energy" (RIN1004-AE19) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2011; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2874. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Efficiency Design Standards for New Federal Commercial and Multi-Family High-Rise Residential Buildings and New Federal Low-Rise Residential Buildings" (RIN1904-AC41) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2011; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2875. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Furnaces and Residential Central Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps" (RIN1904-AC06) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2011; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2876. A communication from the Chief of the Division of Policy and Programs, Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Financial Assistance: Wildlife Restoration, Sport Fish Restoration, Hunter Education and Safety" (RIN1018-AW65) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 10, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2877. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nu-

clear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Qualification of Connection Assemblies for Nuclear Power Plants" (Regulatory Guide 1.156, Revision 1) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 4, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2878. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Endangered Status for *Ipomopsis polyantha* (Pagosa Skyrocket) and Threatened Status for *Penstemon debilis* (Parachute Beardtongue) and *Phacelia submutica* (DeBeque Phacelia)" (RIN1018-AV83) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 4, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2879. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status for the Cumberland Darter, Rush Darter, Yellowcheek Darter, Chuckey Madtom, and Laurel Dace" (RIN1018-AV85) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 4, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2880. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Emergency Listing of the Miami Blue Butterfly as Endangered, and Emergency Listing of the Cassius Blue, Ceraunus Blue, and Nickerbean Blue Butterflies as Threatened Due to Similarity of Appearance to the Miami Blue Butterfly" (RIN1018-AX83) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 4, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2881. A communication from the Senior Management Analyst of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 44 Marine and Anadromous Taxa: Adding 10 Taxa, Delisting 1 Taxon, Reclassifying 1 Taxon, and Updating 32 Taxa on the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife" (RIN1018-AW09) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 4, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2882. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, South Coast Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 9447-4) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2883. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Pro-

mulgation of Implementation Plans; New York Reasonable Further Progress Plans, Emissions Inventories, Contingency Measures and Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets" (FRL No. 9453-2) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 15, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2884. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cobalt Lithium Manganese Nickel Oxide; Significant New Use Rule" (FRL No. 8878-2) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 3, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2885. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "TSCA Inventory Update Reporting Modifications; Chemical Data Reporting" (FRL No. 8872-9) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 3, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2886. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Section 110(a)(2) Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone and the 1997 and 2006 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9447-6) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 3, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2887. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; Delaware; Section 110(a)(2) Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone and the 1997 and 2006 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9447-7) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 3, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2888. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; State of Colorado; Attainment Demonstration for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard, and Approval of Related Revisions" (FRL No. 9276-8) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 3, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2889. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Limited Federal Implementation Plan; Prevention of Significant Deterioration; California; North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 9448-5) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 3, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2890. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Adjustments to the Allowance System for Controlling HCFC Production, Import, and Export" (FRL No. 9448-4) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 3, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2891. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Change of Address for Region 1; Technical Correction" (FRL No. 9449-3) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 3, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2892. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protocol Gas Verification Program and Minimum Competency Requirements for Air Emission Testing; Corrections" (FRL No. 9450-7) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 10, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2893. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans North Carolina: Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Nonattainment New Source Review Rules" (FRL No. 9449-8) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 10, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2894. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Minnesota; Rules Update" (FRL No. 9450-1) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 10, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2895. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Federal Implementation Plan for Interstate Transport of Pollution Affecting Visibility and Best Available Retrofit Technology Determination" (FRL No. 9451-1) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 10, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2896. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidance for the Assessment of Beyond-Design-Basis Aircraft Impacts" (Regulatory Guide 1.217) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2897. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled

"Evaluation of the National Competitive Bidding Program for Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2898. A communication from the Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, transmitting, a report of proposed legislation relative to implementing an intellectual property enforcement strategy; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2899. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of Distilled Spirits Plant Regulations" (RIN1513-AA23) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2900. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2011 Marginal Production Rates" (Notice 2011-58) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 8, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2901. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2011 Section 43 Inflation Adjustment" (Notice 2011-57) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 8, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2902. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Group Health Plans and Issuers Coverage of Preventive Services under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" ((RIN1545-BJ60)(TD 9541)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 8, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2903. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Method for Making Election to Apply Carryover Basis Treatment under Section 1022 to the Estates of Decedents Who Died in 2010 and Rules Applicable to Inter Vivos and Testamentary Generation-Skipping Transfers in 2010" (Notice 2011-66) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 8, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2904. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Update of Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates" (Notice 2011-67) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 8, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2905. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Examination of Returns and Claims for Refund, Credit or Abatement; Determination of Correct Liability" (Rev. Proc. 2011-41) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 8, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2906. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Use of Actuarial Tables in Valuing Annuities, Interests for Life or Terms of Years, and Remainder or Reversionary Interests" ((RIN1545-BH67)(TD9540)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 8, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2907. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "State and Local Bonds: Volume Cap and Timing of Issuing Bonds" (Notice 2011-63) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 8, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2908. A communication from the Program Manager, Information Sharing Environment, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting, pursuant to law, a "Classified Supplement" to the fifth "Annual Report to the Congress on the Information Sharing Environment" (DCN OSS No. 2011-1279); to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC-2909. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting, pursuant to law, (2) reports relative to vacancies within the Office received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2011; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC-2910. A communication from the Rules Administrator, Office of General Counsel, Federal Bureau of Prisons, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Psychiatric Evaluation and Treatment" (RIN1120-AB20) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 4, 2011; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2911. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of the Antelope Valley of the California High Desert Viticultural Area" (RIN1513-AB55) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2011; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES DURING RECESS

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of August 2, 2011, the following reports of committees were submitted on August 30, 2011:

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 1510. An original bill to promote the domestic development and deployment of clean energy technologies, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-47).

S. 201. A bill to clarify the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior with respect to the C.C. Cragin Dam and Reservoir, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-48).

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment:

S. 270. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Deschutes County, Oregon (Rept. No. 112-49).

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments:

S. 271. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into a property conveyance with the city of Wallowa, Oregon, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-50).

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 278. A bill to provide for the exchange of certain land located in the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-51).

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment:

S. 292. A bill to resolve the claims of the Bering Straits Native Corporation and the State of Alaska to land adjacent to Salmon Lake in the State of Alaska and to provide for the conveyance to the Bering Straits Native Corporation of certain other public land in partial satisfaction of the land entitlement of the Corporation under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (Rept. No. 112-52).

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 333. A bill to reinstate and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the Little Wood River Ranch (Rept. No. 112-53).

S. 334. A bill to reinstate and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the American Falls Reservoir (Rept. No. 112-54).

S. 382. A bill to amend the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 to clarify the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture regarding additional recreational uses of National Forest System land that is subject to ski area permits, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-55).

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments:

S. 519. A bill to further allocate and expand the availability of hydroelectric power generated at Hoover Dam, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-58).

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 535. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease certain lands within Fort Pulaski National Monument, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-59).

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments:

S. 683. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of land to the town of Mantua, Utah (Rept. No. 112-60).

S. 684. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of land to the town of Alta, Utah (Rept. No. 112-61).

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 808. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to allow for prepayment of repayment contracts between the United States and the Uintah Water Conservancy District (Rept. No. 112-62).

S. 897. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to clarify that uncertified States and Indian tribes have the authority to use certain payments for certain noncoal reclamation projects and acid mine remediation programs (Rept. No. 112-63).

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments:

S. 916. A bill to facilitate appropriate oil and gas development on Federal land and waters, to limit dependence of the United States on foreign sources of oil and gas, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-64).

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 997. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to extend a water contract between the United States and the East Bench Irrigation District (Rept. No. 112-65).

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1067. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of Energy to carry out a research and development and demonstration program to reduce manufacturing and construction costs relating to nuclear reactors, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-66).

By Mr. KERRY, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. 954. A bill to promote the strengthening of the Haitian private sector (Rept. No. 112-67).

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 404. A bill to modify a land grant patent issued by the Secretary of the Interior (Rept. No. 112-56).

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 512. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of Energy to carry out programs to develop and demonstrate 2 small modular nuclear reactor designs, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-57).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mrs. MURRAY, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, without amendment:

S. 572. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to repeal the prohibition on collective bargaining with respect to matters and questions regarding compensation of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs other than rates of basic pay, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-68).

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment:

S. 714. A bill to reauthorize the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-69).

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 734. A bill to provide for a program of research, development, demonstration, and commercial application in vehicle technologies at the Department of Energy (Rept. No. 112-70).

S. 1000. A bill to promote energy savings in residential and commercial buildings and industry, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-71).

S. 1001. A bill to reduce oil consumption and improve energy security, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-72).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE—TREATIES

The following executive reports of committee were submitted on August 30, 2011, during the recess of the Senate, under the authority of an order of the Senate of August 2, 2011:

By Mr. KERRY, from the Committee on Foreign Relations:

[Treaty Doc. 112-1 Protocol Amending Tax Convention with Swiss Confederation with 1 declaration (Ex. Rept. 112-1); Treaty Doc. 110-23 Investment Treaty with Rwanda (Ex. Rept. 112-2); Treaty Doc. 111-6 Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty with Bermuda with 1 declaration (Ex. Rept. 112-3); Treaty Doc. 111-7 Tax Convention with Hungary with 1 declaration (Ex. Rept. 112-4); and Treaty Doc. 111-8 Protocol Amending Tax Convention with Luxembourg with 1 declaration (Ex. Rept. 112-5)]

The text of the committee-recommended resolutions of advice and consent to ratification are as follows:

[112-1 Protocol Amending Tax Convention with Swiss Confederation]

As reported by the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Resolved (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent subject to a declaration.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Protocol Amending the Convention between the United States of America and the Swiss Confederation for the Avoidance of Double Taxation With Respect to Taxes on Income, Signed at Washington on October 2, 1996, signed on September 23, 2009, at Washington, as corrected by an exchange of notes effected November 16, 2010, together with a related agreement effected by an exchange of notes on September 23, 2009 (the "Protocol") (Treaty Doc. 112-1), subject to the declaration of section 2.

Section 2. Declaration.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: The Protocol is self-executing.

[110-23 Investment Treaty with Rwanda]

As reported by the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Resolved (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent subject to a declaration.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda Concerning the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investment, signed at Kigali on February 19, 2008 (Treaty Doc. 110-23), subject to the declaration of section 2.

Section 2. Declaration.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: Articles 3 through 10 and other provisions that qualify or create exceptions to these Articles are self-executing. With the exception of these Articles, the Treaty is not self-executing.

[111-6 Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty with Bermuda]

As reported by the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Resolved (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent subject to a declaration.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and

the Government of Bermuda Relating to Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Hamilton on January 12, 2009 (the "Treaty") (Treaty Doc. 111-6), subject to the declaration of section 2.

Section 2. Declaration.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: The Treaty is self-executing.

[111-7 Tax Convention with Hungary]

As reported by the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Resolved (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent subject to a declaration.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Hungary for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, signed on February 4, 2010, at Budapest, and a related agreement effected by an exchange of notes on February 4, 2010 (the "Convention") (Treaty Doc. 111-7), subject to the declaration of section 2.

Section 2. Declaration.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: The Convention is self-executing.

[111-8 Protocol Amending Tax Convention with Luxembourg]

As reported by the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Resolved (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent subject to a declaration.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Protocol Amending the Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, signed on May 20, 2009 at Luxembourg and a related agreement effected by the exchange of notes also signed on May 20, 2009 (the "Protocol") (Treaty Doc. 111-8), subject to the declaration of section 2.

Section 2. Declaration.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: The Protocol is self-executing.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS DURING RECESS

On August 30, 2011, under the authority of the order of the Senate of August 2, 2011, the following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. 1510. An original bill to promote the domestic development and deployment of clean energy technologies, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; placed on the calendar.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 1511. A bill to extend the participation term for small business concerns affected by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita in certain programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 1512. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 1513. A bill to amend title XII of the Social Security Act to extend the provision waiving certain interest payments on advances made to States from the Federal unemployment account in the Unemployment Trust Fund; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. AKAKA, and Mr. INOUE):

S. 1514. A bill to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Elouise Pepion Cobell, in recognition of her outstanding and enduring contributions to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and the Nation through her tireless pursuit of justice; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN:

S. 1515. A bill to permit certain members of the United States Secret Service and certain members of the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division who were appointed in 1984, 1985, or 1986 to elect to be covered under the District of Columbia Police and Firefighter Retirement and Disability System in the same manner as members appointed prior to 1984; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. COATS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. KYL, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. HATCH, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SHELBY, and Mr. LEE):

S.J. Res. 25. A joint resolution relating to the disapproval of the President's exercise of authority to increase the debt limit, as submitted under section 3101A of title 31, United States Code, on August 2, 2011; placed on the calendar.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. REID, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN,

Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELLER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WICKER):

S. Res. 257. A resolution relative to the death of the Honorable Mark O. Hatfield, former United States Senator for the State of Oregon; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 48

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 48, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of pharmacists in National Health Services Corps programs, and for other purposes.

S. 202

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 202, a bill to require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States before the end of 2012, and for other purposes.

S. 242

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 242, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the roles and responsibilities of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

S. 256

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 256, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for equity investments in small business concerns.

S. 274

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 274, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand access to medication therapy management services under the Medicare prescription drug program.

S. 296

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 296, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide the Food and Drug Administration with improved capacity to prevent drug shortages.

S. 362

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 362, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a Pancreatic Cancer Initiative, and for other purposes.

S. 364

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 364, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a new Small Business Savings Account.

S. 374

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 374, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate the 190-day lifetime limit on inpatient psychiatric hospital services under the Medicare program.

S. 384

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 384, a bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research.

S. 398

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 398, a bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to improve energy efficiency of certain appliances and equipment, and for other purposes.

S. 418

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 418, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol.

S. 434

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 434, a bill to improve and expand geographic literacy among kindergarten through grade 12 students in the United States by improving professional development programs for kin-

dergarten through grade 12 teachers offered through institutions of higher education.

S. 438

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 438, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve women's health by prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases in women.

S. 501

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 501, a bill to establish pilot projects under the Medicare program to provide incentives for home health agencies to utilize home monitoring and communications technologies.

S. 539

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 539, a bill to amend the Public Health Services Act and the Social Security Act to extend health information technology assistance eligibility to behavioral health, mental health, and substance abuse professionals and facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 565

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 565, a bill to establish an employment-based immigrant visa for alien entrepreneurs who have received significant capital from investors to establish a business in the United States.

S. 569

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 569, a bill to provide for fairness for the Federal judiciary.

S. 580

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 580, a bill to amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to require the appointment of a member of the Science Advisory Board based on the recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture.

S. 584

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 584, a bill to establish the Social Work Reinvestment Commission to provide independent counsel to Congress and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on policy issues associated with recruitment, retention, research, and re-investment in the profession of social work, and for other purposes.

S. 633

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to prevent fraud in small business contracting, and for other purposes.

S. 643

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 643, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to direct Medicaid EHR incentive payments to federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics.

S. 697

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 697, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for amounts paid by a spouse of a member of the Armed Services for a new State license or certification required by reason of a permanent change in the duty station of such member to another State.

S. 798

At the request of Mr. THUNE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 798, a bill to provide an amnesty period during which veterans and their family members can register certain firearms in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record, and for other purposes.

S. 815

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 815, a bill to guarantee that military funerals are conducted with dignity and respect.

S. 818

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 818, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.

S. 827

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 827, a bill to allow a State to combine certain funds and enter into a performance agreement with the Secretary of Education to improve the academic achievement of students.

S. 838

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 838, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to clarify the

jurisdiction of the Environmental Protection Agency with respect to certain sporting good articles, and to exempt those articles from a definition under that Act.

S. 857

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 857, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to aid gifted and talented learners, including high-ability learners not formally identified as gifted.

S. 866

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 866, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to modify the per-fiscal year calculation of days of certain active duty or active service used to reduce the minimum age at which a member of a reserve component of the uniformed services may retire for non-regular service.

S. 919

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 919, a bill to authorize grant programs to ensure successful, safe, and healthy students.

S. 922

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 922, a bill to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to authorize the Secretary of Labor to provide grants for Urban Jobs Programs, and for other purposes.

S. 951

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 951, a bill to improve the provision of Federal transition, rehabilitation, vocational, and unemployment benefits to members of the Armed Forces and veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1013

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1013, a bill to renew the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to approve demonstration projects designed to test innovative strategies in State child welfare programs.

S. 1025

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1025, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the national

defense through empowerment of the National Guard, enhancement of the functions of the National Guard Bureau, and improvement of Federal-State military coordination in domestic emergency response, and for other purposes.

S. 1045

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1045, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage for treatment of a minor child's congenital or developmental deformity or disorder due to trauma, burns, infection, tumor, or disease.

S. 1048

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1048, a bill to expand sanctions imposed with respect to the Islamic Republic of Iran, North Korea, and Syria, and for other purposes.

S. 1094

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA), the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1094, a bill to reauthorize the Combating Autism Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-416).

S. 1132

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1132, a bill to establish programs to provide services to individuals with autism and the families of such individuals and for other purposes.

S. 1239

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1239, a bill to provide for a medal of appropriate design to be awarded by the President to the memorials established at the 3 sites honoring the men and women who perished as a result of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001.

S. 1265

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1265, a bill to amend the Land and Water Conserva-

tion Fund Act of 1965 to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the land and water conservation fund to maximize the effectiveness of the fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 1280

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1280, a bill to amend the Peace Corps Act to require sexual assault risk-reduction and response training, and the development of sexual assault protocol and guidelines, the establishment of victims advocates, the establishment of a Sexual Assault Advisory Council, and for other purposes.

S. 1299

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1299, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of Lions Clubs International.

S. 1316

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1316, a bill to prevent a fiscal crisis by enacting legislation to balance the Federal budget through reductions of discretionary and mandatory spending.

S. 1359

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1359, a bill to make the National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Pass available at a discount to members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

S. 1374

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1374, a bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to prescribe rules prohibiting deceptive advertising of abortion services.

S. 1376

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1376, a bill to conform income calculations for purposes of eligibility for the refundable credit for coverage under a qualified health plan and for Medicaid to existing Federal low-income assistance programs.

S. 1392

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1392, a bill to provide additional time for the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to issue achievable standards for industrial, commercial, and institutional

boilers, process heaters, and incinerators, and for other purposes.

S. 1440

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1440, a bill to reduce preterm labor and delivery and the risk of pregnancy-related deaths and complications due to pregnancy, and to reduce infant mortality caused by prematurity.

S. 1452

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1452, a bill to promote simplification and fairness in the administration and collection of sales and use taxes.

S. 1463

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1463, a bill to amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to protect breastfeeding by new mothers and to provide for reasonable break time for nursing mothers.

S. 1467

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1467, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to protect rights of conscience with regard to requirements for coverage of specific items and services.

S. 1491

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1491, a bill to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to expand the electric rate-setting authority of States.

S. 1500

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1500, a bill to give Americans access to affordable child-only health insurance coverage.

S.J. RES. 19

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

S. RES. 251

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 251, a resolution expressing support for improvement in the collection, processing, and consumption of recy-

clable materials throughout the United States.

S. RES. 252

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 252, a resolution celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the United States-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty.

S. RES. 253

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 253, a resolution designating October 26, 2011, as "Day of the Deployed".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 1511. A bill to extend the participation term for small business concerns affected by Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita in certain programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to speak on an issue that is of great importance to my home State of Louisiana: disaster recovery. As you know, along the Gulf Coast, we keep an eye trained on the Gulf of Mexico during hurricane season. This is following the devastating one-two punch of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita of 2005; Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in 2008; and more recently the Deepwater Horizon disaster. Our communities and businesses are still recovering from these disasters—some from a disaster that devastated the Gulf Coast over 6 years ago. For this reason, as Chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship disaster preparedness is one of my top priorities. While the Gulf Coast is prone to hurricanes, other parts of the country are no strangers to disaster as we have seen recently. For example, we just saw an earthquake strike Washington, DC, and Hurricane Irene work its way up the East Coast. In general though, the Midwest also has annual tornadoes, California experiences earthquakes and wildfires, and the Northeast sees crippling snowstorms. So no part of our country is spared from disasters—disasters which can and will strike at any moment. With this in mind, we must ensure that the Federal Government is better prepared and assist those businesses impacted by natural disasters.

As I mentioned, everyone around the country is familiar with the impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on the New Orleans area and the southeast part of our State. Images from the devastation following these storms, and the subsequent Federal levee breaks, were transmitted around the country and around the world. This is because

Katrina was the deadliest natural disaster in United States history, with 1,800 people killed—1,500 alone in Louisiana. Katrina was also the costliest natural disaster in United States history with over \$81.2 billion in damage. In Louisiana, we had 18,000 businesses catastrophically destroyed and 81,000 businesses economically impacted. I believe that, across the entire Gulf Coast, some estimates ran as high as 125,000 businesses impacted by Katrina and Rita. While we have made significant progress in rebuilding infrastructure, housing, and our economy, I continue to hear from individual business owners who are struggling to fully recover. These business owners tell me that they have not been hit by one disaster but three: Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Hurricane Gustav in 2008, and the Deepwater Horizon disaster in 2010.

In order to help ongoing recovery efforts in the Gulf Coast, I am introducing today the Gulf Coast Disadvantaged Business Relief Act of 2011. This legislation is the Senate companion bill to H.R. 2808 introduced by my colleague Representative CEDRIC RICHMOND last month. I note that his legislation also had two original cosponsors from Alabama and Mississippi: Representative TERRI SEWELL and Representative BENNIE THOMPSON.

This bill focuses on assisting minority businesses in the Gulf Coast that were impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Everyone is familiar with the images and the cost of these storms, but they may not be too familiar with the impact on individual businesses. In particular, I am speaking about the affects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on minority firms in the Gulf Coast. As a result of these storms, many minority firms in the Gulf Coast were disrupted and thus lost valuable time for participating in the 8(a) program. The 8(a) business development initiative, created under the Small Business Administration, helps minority entrepreneurs access Federal contracts and allows companies to be certified for increments of 3 years. These contracts are vital to the revival of these impacted areas. However, as currently structured the program allows businesses to participate for a limited length of time, 9 years, after which they can never re-apply nor get back into the program. It is imperative that we provide contracting assistance to our local minority businesses.

The bill includes a provision which would tackle this problem in three important ways. First, the bill extends 8(a) eligibility for program participants in Katrina/Rita-impacted areas in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama by 24 months. The bill would also apply to any areas in the state of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama that have been designated by the administrator of the Small Business Administration as a disaster area as a result of Hurricanes Katrina or Rita. Lastly, the bill

would require the administrator of the Small Business Administration to ensure that every small business participating in the 8(a) program before the date of enactment of the Act is reviewed and brought into compliance with this act. This requirement would ensure that any eligible previous 8(a) participants will be allowed back into the program. As such, these key provisions would ensure that these businesses continue to play a vital role in rebuilding their communities. I note that I introduced a similar provision as part of S. 3285, the disadvantaged Business Disaster Eligibility Act during the 110th Congress and as part of S. 2731 last Congress. During the 109th Congress, this proposal passed the House of Representatives but we were unable to pass the legislation here in the Senate before we adjourned for the year. I look forward to renewing my fight this Congress as I believe that this is a commonsense proposal which would not cost a great deal. It would, however, make a huge difference for these businesses impacted by Katrina and Rita.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1511

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Gulf Coast Disadvantaged Business Relief Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Small Business Administration;

(2) the term "covered parish or county" means a parish in the State of Louisiana, or a county in the State of Mississippi or the State of Alabama, that has been designated by the Administrator as a disaster area by reason of Hurricane Katrina of 2005 or Hurricane Rita of 2005 under disaster declaration 10176, 10177, 10178, 10179, 10180, 10181, 10205, or 10206; and

(3) the term "small business concern" has the meaning given that term under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF PARTICIPATION TERM FOR VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA OR HURRICANE RITA.

(a) RETROACTIVITY.—If a small business concern, while participating in any program or activity under the authority of section 7(j)(10) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(j)(10)), was located in a covered parish or county and was affected by Hurricane Katrina of 2005 or Hurricane Rita of 2005, the period during which the small business concern is permitted continuing participation and eligibility in the program or activity shall be extended for 24 months after the date such participation and eligibility would otherwise terminate.

(b) REVIEW AND COMPLIANCE.—The Administrator shall ensure that the case of every small business concern participating before the date of enactment of this Act in a program or activity described in subsection (a)

is reviewed and brought into compliance with this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 257—RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE MARK O. HATFIELD, FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF OREGON

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. REID of Nevada, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELLER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED of Rhode Island, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 257

Whereas from 1967 to 1997 Mark Hatfield represented the people of Oregon with distinction for 30 years in the Senate, and was the longest-serving Senator in the history of Oregon;

Whereas Mark Hatfield served in the United States Navy during World War II with the rank of Lieutenant, took part in the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa as a landing craft officer, and was one of the first people from the United States to see the effects of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima;

Whereas Mark Hatfield served in the Oregon House of Representatives, in the Oregon Senate, and as Oregon Secretary of State;

Whereas in 1958, Mark Hatfield was elected as the 29th Governor of the State of Oregon, and served 2 terms as Governor and helped diversify the State's economy;

Whereas while serving in the United States Senate, Mark Hatfield co-authored legisla-

tion to bring United States troops home from Vietnam and to end nuclear weapons testing;

Whereas Mark Hatfield authored legislation to protect a number of Oregon's natural treasures including Oregon Dunes, Opal Creek, Bull Run, and the Mark Hatfield Wilderness Area in the Columbia Gorge;

Whereas Mark Hatfield served as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations in the 97th through 99th Congresses and in the 104th Congress;

Whereas Mark Hatfield was a champion of civil rights who devoted himself to promoting a peaceful resolution to international conflict and the elimination of the threat of nuclear weapons; and

Whereas the hallmarks of Mark Hatfield's public service were bipartisanship, civility, and working for the common good: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Mark Hatfield, former member of the Senate;

(2) the Secretary of the Senate communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of the deceased; and

(3) when the Senate adjourns today, the Senate stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable Mark Hatfield.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet in executive session on Wednesday, September 7, 2011, at 10 a.m. in SD-106 to mark-up the following: S. 958, the Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2011; S. 1094, the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act; and, any nominations cleared for action.

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact the committee on (202) 224-5375.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Subcommittee on Children and Families of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet in open session on Thursday, September 8, 2011, at 10:15 a.m. in SH-216 to conduct a hearing entitled "Examining Quality and Safety in Child Care: Giving Working Families Security, Confidence, and Peace of Mind."

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact the subcommittee on (202) 224-9243.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet in open session on Tuesday, September 13, 2011, at 10 a.m. in SD-428 to conduct a hearing entitled "Is Poverty a Death Sentence?"

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact the subcommittee on (202) 224-5480.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 6, 2011, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 6, 2011, at 2 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "U.S. Postal Service in Crisis: Proposals to Prevent a Postal Shutdown."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE MARK O. HATFIELD, FORMER U.S. SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF OREGON

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 257 submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 257) relative to the death of the Honorable Mark O. Hatfield, former United States Senator for the State of Oregon.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, first I ask unanimous consent to be added as a cosponsor of this resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 257) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 257

Whereas from 1967 to 1997 Mark Hatfield represented the people of Oregon with distinction for 30 years in the Senate, and was the longest-serving Senator in the history of Oregon;

Whereas Mark Hatfield served in the United States Navy during World War II with the rank of Lieutenant, took part in the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa as a landing craft officer, and was one of the first people from the United States to see the effects of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima;

Whereas Mark Hatfield served in the Oregon House of Representatives, in the Oregon Senate, and as Oregon Secretary of State;

Whereas in 1958, Mark Hatfield was elected as the 29th Governor of the State of Oregon, and served 2 terms as Governor and helped diversify the State's economy;

Whereas while serving in the United States Senate, Mark Hatfield co-authored legislation to bring United States troops home from Vietnam and to end nuclear weapons testing;

Whereas Mark Hatfield authored legislation to protect a number of Oregon's natural treasures including Oregon Dunes, Opal Creek, Bull Run, and the Mark Hatfield Wilderness Area in the Columbia Gorge;

Whereas Mark Hatfield served as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations in the 97th through 99th Congresses and in the 104th Congress;

Whereas Mark Hatfield was a champion of civil rights who devoted himself to promoting a peaceful resolution to international conflict and the elimination of the threat of nuclear weapons; and

Whereas the hallmarks of Mark Hatfield's public service were bipartisanship, civility, and working for the common good: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Mark Hatfield, former member of the Senate;

(2) the Secretary of the Senate communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of the deceased; and

(3) when the Senate adjourns today, the Senate stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable Mark Hatfield.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.J. RES 66

Mr. DURBIN. I understand that H.J. Res. 66 introduced earlier today is at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 66) approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will have its second reading on the next legislative day.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces the following appointment made by the majority leader during the recess:

Pursuant to Public Law 112-25, on behalf of the majority leader, the ap-

pointment of the following Senators to serve as members of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction on August 20, 2011: the Honorable PATTY MURRAY of Washington, Co-Chair, the Honorable MAX BAUCUS of Montana, and the Honorable JOHN F. KERRY of Massachusetts.

The Chair announces the following appointment made by the Republican leader during the recess: Pursuant to Public Law 112-25, on behalf of the Republican leader, the appointment of the following Senators to serve as members of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction on August 12, 2011: the Honorable JON KYL of Arizona, the Honorable ROB PORTMAN of Ohio, and the Honorable PATRICK J. TOOMEY of Pennsylvania.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2011

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 7; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 1249, the America Invents Act; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 to 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings and that at 12:30 p.m. there be 30 minutes for tributes to the late Senator Mark O. Hatfield as in morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that all time during adjournment, recess, and morning business count postcloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 1249.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, we expect to begin consideration of the America Invents Act—the patent reform bill—during Wednesday's session. Senators will be notified when votes are scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before

the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the provisions of S. Res. 257 as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Senator Mark O. Hatfield, of Oregon.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:53 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, September 7, 2011, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

ALAN B. KRUEGER, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS, VICE AUSTAN DEAN GOOLSBEE, RESIGNED.

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

MICHAEL A. KHOURI, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE A FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2016. (REAPPOINTMENT)

AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ALBERT DICLEMENTE, OF DELAWARE, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MARK FRANCIS BRZEZINSKI, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO SWEDEN.

SUSAN DENISE PAGE, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN.

ADAM E. NAMM, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR.

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

SARA MARGALIT AVIEL, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS, VICE ANA M. GUEVARA.

INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION

EDUARDO ARRIOLA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 6, 2016, VICE KAY KELLEY ARNOLD, TERM EXPIRED.

J. KELLY RYAN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 20, 2012, VICE THOMAS A. SHANNON, JR., RESIGNED.

FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD

DANA KATHERINE BILYEU, OF NEVADA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 11, 2015. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DAVID AVREN JONES, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 11, 2014, VICE ALEJANDRO MODESTO SANCHEZ, RESIGNED.

STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

JAMES R. HANNAH, OF ARKANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2013. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DANIEL J. BECKER, OF UTAH, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2013. (REAPPOINTMENT)

JAMES MADISON MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP FOUNDATION

DREW R. MCCOY, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE JAMES MADISON MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 27, 2016. (REAPPOINTMENT)

CATHERINE ALLGOR, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE JAMES MADISON MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 27, 2014, VICE JOHN RICHARD PETROCIK, TERM EXPIRED.

HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

STEVEN H. COHEN, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 10, 2013, VICE LUIS D. ROVIRA, TERM EXPIRED.

SAINT LAWRENCE SEAWAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

DAVID J. MCMILLAN, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY BOARD OF THE SAINT LAWRENCE SEAWAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, VICE SCOTT KEVIN WALKER.

WENONA SINGEL, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY BOARD OF THE SAINT LAWRENCE SEAWAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, VICE JACK EDWIN MCGREGOR.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUILDING SCIENCES

MARY B. VERNER, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUILDING SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 7, 2012, VICE STEVE M. HAYS, TERM EXPIRED.

MARY B. VERNER, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUILDING SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 7, 2015. (REAPPOINTMENT)

OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION

MICHAEL JAMES WARREN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 17, 2014. (REAPPOINTMENT)

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. MICHAEL A. MEYER

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIGADIER GENERAL JOSEPH G. BALSUS
BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM S. HADAWAY III
BRIGADIER GENERAL MARK R. KRAUS
BRIGADIER GENERAL CATHERINE S. LUTZ

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JAMES L. TERRY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM T. GRISOLI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MARGARET W. BOOR

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. RAPHAEL G. PEART

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. TERRY M. HASTON

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF THE BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY AND SURGEON GENERAL AND FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 5137:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. MATTHEW L. NATHAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. MICHAEL S. ROGERS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. FRANK C. PANDOLFE

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531(A):

To be major

MARK W. DUFF
HADJATOU J. JARRA
BIANCA TRUONG
BRYAN A. WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531(A):

To be lieutenant colonel

CHAD J. CARDA
WAYNE W. KIM

To be major

KAREN A. DEIS
BARRY J. VAN SICKLE

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

DAVID D. DINKINS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

ANDREW K. LEDFORD

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate, September 06, 2011:

THE JUDICIARY

BERNICE BOUIE DONALD, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ARTHUR AND DOROTHY ROGERS

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation.

Whereas, Arthur and Dorothy Rogers are celebrating fifty years (50) in marriage today in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, on August 27, 1961 because of their union then, our community today has been blessed with a family that has enhanced our district, Mr. Arthur Lewis Rogers and Mrs. Dorothy Elizabeth Rogers; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God and this phenomenal and virtuous Proverbs 31 woman are beacons of light to those in need, they both have been blessed with their family, their church and the DeKalb County community; and

Whereas, Mr. and Mrs. Rogers are distinguished citizens of our district, they are spiritual warriors, persons of compassion, fearless leaders and servants to all, but most of all visionaries who have shared not only with their family, but with our District their passion to improve the lives of others; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mr. Arthur and Mrs. Dorothy Rogers as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary, fifty (50) years in marital bliss;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim August 27, 2011 as Mr. Arthur and Mrs. Dorothy Rogers Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 27th day of August, 2011.

HONORING DEBBE HARTRIDGE AND IRA SAMUEL BLATT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Debbe Hartridge and Ira Blatt, two extraordinary citizens of Humboldt County, California, who have dedicated their lives to public service. The husband and wife team are being honored by the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee as 2011 Citizens of the Year for one of our nation's most precious rights—participation in the political system. Their commitment to the general health and welfare of the community and to the preservation of our liberty is worthy of appreciation and recognition.

Mrs. Hartridge is director of information, education and public affairs for Six Rivers

Planned Parenthood, where she has worked for the past 20 years. She has served as President of the Humboldt County Integrated Waste Task Force, as an elected member of the Humboldt County Board of Education, and as President and Chair of the Education Committee for the Six Rivers Planned Parenthood Board of Directors. Mrs. Hartridge's work on reproductive rights has been honored with the Planned Parenthood Federation Affiliate Excellence Award for Education programs in 2000 and by the Association of Planned Parenthood Leaders in Education Award for Courage and Creativity in 2002.

Mr. Blatt is an attorney-at-law who opened a private practice law firm in 1974, serving primarily injured workers and disabled individuals. He received awards from the California Bar Association and the Humboldt County Bar Association for his pro-bono work. Mr. Blatt served 16 years as an elected board member for Arcata Elementary School District, and on the board of Redwood Legal Assistance for 25 years. He was Board President of the National Alliance on Mental Illness for four years beginning in 2000, and remains an active member. He has also served as a member of the Arcata Economic Development Board.

These outstanding individuals have been vital contributors to the Humboldt County community for years. Mrs. Hartridge has four daughters, and the couple share four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Debbe Hartridge and Ira Blatt for their unwavering compassion and for their contribution to the ideals and traditions that have made America a nation of hope and achievement.

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Catholic Church, who will celebrate its 100th anniversary on October 22, 2011. Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Catholic Church has been serving the community of Nanticoke, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, since it was started in October 1911 by 11 families of Carpatho-Rusyn settlers from Poland and Slovakia.

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Catholic Church has been helping form the youth of Hanover and Nanticoke through its extensive youth ministry. The church ensures that children understand the value of assisting not only those in their parish, but also those in their communities, their country and the world. These youth work with the elderly at senior living homes, send school supplies to children

across the world who otherwise would not have any, and have been cleaning up their parish to make more space for their activities. Creating an environment where children can learn how to selflessly give to others and celebrate their faith is important, and I applaud the church's efforts.

Providing ministry to the aged is also a priority of Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Catholic Church. Because elderly who live in senior citizen homes cannot always maintain an active spiritual life inside a church, Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Catholic Church brings its ministry to the seniors, enriching their lives and providing community outreach.

Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Catholic Church has a very involved and dedicated parish membership. Since its inception, parishioners have been critical in the advancement of the church.

Mr. Speaker, today, Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Catholic Church stands as a pillar of faith in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania. I commend them for their 100 years of committed service to their faith, their community, and their country.

RECOGNIZING LABOR DAY AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICAN WORKERS

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, Labor Day is a holiday which recognizes the economic and social achievements of American workers. Today, we celebrate the hard-working men and women who have raised this country to unprecedented levels of productivity and prosperity not seen in any other country around the globe.

While we take a day to celebrate the history of American workers, we must also take a moment to reflect on their present struggles. Millions of Americans who helped to grow our nation to the way it is today are now unemployed, and millions more are fighting to get through a grueling economic recession.

After the first Labor Day occurred in New York City, celebrations spread to other states as workers fought to win better working conditions and wages at a time when they had little power. Today, we stand by those who fought for their rights, because they fought for us; our families and our children. And we are united in our resolve to preserve the American Dream and to ensure the continuing validity of the promise that anyone willing to work hard and play by the rules can make it in America.

But to Democrats, "Make It In America" isn't just a dream—but a plan to help make dreams

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

come true. It's a plan to create jobs and restore economic growth by promoting an encouraging environment for businesses to innovate and make products here in the United States.

While we are still waiting on Republicans to put forward a true, comprehensive jobs plan, we stand ready to revitalize American industries and innovation and help to put more Americans back to work. I urge my colleagues to stand with me and support this plan to create well-paying, middle class jobs and help ensure more families can make it in America.

Mr. Speaker, Labor Day signifies the end of the summer and the beginning of a new fall season. Schools are back in session, and many Americans return from their end-of-summer vacations. Well, I say it's about time that Republicans returned from their 244-day vacation of failing to put forth any job creating legislation, and join Democrats to enact our bipartisan solutions and the "Make It In America" initiative.

Under this plan, we can rebuild our infrastructure, invest in innovation and clean energy, and level the playing field for American businesses and workers by demanding that our trading partners, including China, play fairly in global trade.

Later this week, President Obama will address a joint session of Congress and unveil his plan to create jobs for the millions of persons who desperately want to work and provide for their families. In addition to the Make it in America agenda, Democrats in Congress have long been promoting an agenda focusing on jobs for the American worker.

Take for instance transportation infrastructure projects with the potential to employ millions and facilitate trade across the Nation. We must pass a clean extension of the Surface Transportation Act and the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act; both are set to expire at the end of this month. These transportation programs provide funding for highway construction, mass transit systems, transportation projects and bridge repair.

If Congress does not act, the laws will expire and these programs will be shut down. Almost one million construction and other workers will lose their jobs over the course of the year. In addition, if the extension is delayed over 4,000 professionals in the Department of Transportation will be immediately furloughed without pay.

Passing a fully funded Surface Transportation bill is an essential step in protecting

nearly a million American jobs and creating new opportunities for workers across the Nation. Transportation infrastructure is one of the most effective ways to stimulate the economy and reduce unemployment. Studies suggest that for every \$1 billion spent on transportation projects, more than 35,000 jobs are created.

Our number one goal should be putting Americans back to work. Congress needs to work together to create jobs, strengthen the economy, and help small business owners hire workers.

Labor Day is a time to honor a movement that respects the dignity of work and reflects the decency and dedication of our workers. Let us honor the story of the American workers who built this country, who created this dream by protecting and promoting what matters to them the most—their jobs.

HONORING MARY LEE SPENCER

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation.

Whereas, reaching the age of 93 years is a remarkable milestone; and

Whereas, Mrs. Mary Lee Spencer was born on August 28, 1918 and is celebrating that milestone; and

Whereas, Mrs. Spencer has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; and

Whereas, Mrs. Spencer is celebrating her 93rd birthday with her family members, church members and friends here in De Kalb County, Georgia on August 28, 2011; and

Whereas, the Lord has been her Shepherd throughout her life and she prays daily and is leading by example a blessed life; and

Whereas, we are honored that she is celebrating the milestone of her 93rd birthday in the 4th District of Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Mary Lee Spencer for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all,

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim August 28, 2011 as Mrs. Mary Lee Spencer Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 28th day of August, 2011.

HONORING JENNIFER CASTELAZO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 6, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Mrs. Jennifer Castelazo, a truly remarkable person who has been chosen to be the Napa County Teacher of the Year for 2012.

Mrs. Castelazo has always had a profound love for teaching and it is clearly visible with her students. She has been teaching Chemistry, Honors Chemistry, and Advanced Placement Chemistry at Vintage High School since 1998.

Born in Massachusetts but raised in Livermore, California, she obtained an undergraduate degree in microbiology and her Master's of Science in food science and nutrition at California Polytechnic San Luis Obispo. She is a credentialed teacher in Physical and Life Science.

Throughout her teaching career, Mrs. Castelazo has volunteered for leadership positions on her campus, including twice participating on Western Association of Schools and Colleges leadership teams and serving as the 9th grade House lead teacher. She has supported student enrichment activities, serving as advisor to the Adventure Club, the GREEN Club, and senior class. Mrs. Castelazo has also led student sports, coaching Junior Varsity Girls' Soccer, Boys' Varsity Tennis and teaching the foreign exchange student summer program physical education course.

Mrs. Castelazo has been married for 15 years to Mark Castelazo. She is the mother of 12-year-old Maddie, 9-year-old Connor, and 7-year-old Ethan, and is often seen coaching her daughter's soccer games on Saturday mornings.

Mrs. Castelazo makes herself available to all students to ensure they are achieving their highest potential and works to ignite a passion for the sciences. She is a natural teacher and a leader among her peers. It is therefore appropriate that we honor her at this time for her service to Napa students and the community.

SENATE—Wednesday, September 7, 2011

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord God, You are holy and inhabit the praises of Your people. We are thankful that those who seek You will not lack any good thing. Help us to make You our source of hope, depending on Your providence and trusting Your mighty arms to save us. As our lawmakers seek to serve You by making choices that honor You, purify their intentions that they will say what they believe and will act consistently with their speech. Keep them aware of how their words and deeds affect the good fortune of the lives of those in need.

O God, You are our hiding place. And in these challenging days, we are depending on You to protect this Nation from trouble. You are the one who puts the songs of deliverance in our hearts.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

Washington, DC, September 7, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following leader remarks, if any, there will be an hour of morning business, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to the America Invents Act.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 until 2:15 for our weekly party conferences. At 2:30, there will be 30 minutes of tribute to the late Senator Mark Hatfield of Oregon, and I would indicate that if people are unable to come during that 30 minutes, I would solicit their statements so that we can put them together, as we often do in these situations, so they are in that nice little booklet people can look through at a later time.

I would say, Madam President, that I had the good fortune of being able to serve with Mark Hatfield—a treasure of a man. We have had great leaders from Oregon, but certainly he was equal to any of them—a man of great character who was not bound by party. He was bound by what he thought was best for this country.

I had the good fortune to travel on a codel he led. It was a wonderful trip, led by this great statesman. We went into the Soviet Union—Mongolia—and saw Lake Baikal and found that the Soviets had not ruined this great Alpine glacier lake. There are only two in the world. One is in Nevada and California—we share Lake Tahoe. But Lake Baikal is one thing the Soviets didn't ruin. Anyway, it was a trip I will always remember, not only where we went but who led that trip.

I will give a more complete statement at a later time regarding Mark Hatfield, a man for whom I had great respect and admiration. He was really a role model, in my mind, for what a Senator should be.

We expect to be in consideration of the patent bill today. I hope the Republicans will let us get on that. It is too bad we had to move to proceed to it, but we did. I hope we don't have to use the full 30 hours, and I hope I don't have to file cloture again. I hope there are a couple of amendments and then we can get rid of this bill as early as possible.

We have a lot to do. We have so much to do in this work period—the highway bill, the patent bill, FEMA, and trade issues. We need to complete all those matters before we leave here in just a few weeks. We have to take a break because of the holidays coming up toward the end of this month.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.J. Res. 66

Mr. REID. Madam President, I understand H.J. Res. 66 is at the desk and is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the joint resolution by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 66) approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to this joint resolution.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The joint resolution will be placed on the calendar in accordance with rule XIV.

NEVADA TRAGEDY

Mr. REID. Madam President, yesterday morning a man walked into a pancake house in Carson City, NV, our capital, and proceeded to—with, I am told, an AK-47—first shoot and kill some poor woman outside the pancake house, and he then walked inside and started shooting with this automatic weapon and killed three National Guardsmen and another innocent person. We have a number of people who are in the hospital, and we hope no more die. We are still learning the details of this tragedy, but we do know five are dead. The shooter then killed himself following this rampage he went on.

The National Guardsmen—as I understand, there were five of them there having breakfast prior to their duties when this madman walked in and killed them. One of the five was a woman who was an assistant to one of my outstanding employees, a colonel in the Nevada Army National Guard. He is an airman, and she was his assistant when he does his duty out there. She was killed.

It is sad, this violence around us, even in little Carson City, NV, where citizen soldiers—sacrificing their time to defend our country—are killed having pancakes at a little restaurant. My thoughts go out to the victims, and I appreciate their commitment to Nevada and this country.

What else can you say, Madam President? Your heart goes out to these people who are going through such a turmoil today, trying to figure out why this happened. It is hard to imagine such a terrible act taking place in this quiet little town. The legislature is out of session, which is when the town picks up a little bit. There is not much

going on in Carson City, not as you would have with the buzz of a capital when the legislature is in session. I spent three legislative sessions in Carson City. My kids went to school in Carson City when I was the Lieutenant Governor.

I wish all the citizens of Carson City well as they begin the process of healing after this shocking event.

JOB CREATION

Mr. REID. Madam President, this fall the Democrats are hoping to find Republican allies willing to reach across the aisle for the sake of creating jobs in America, for the sake of putting people back to work. For 8 months now, Republicans have wasted our time on partisan politics regarding issues that should have been so simple, such as funding the government for last year. We were forced to deal with that for months. Then, when we finished that, we went to do something that happens as a matter of fact around here. Not that it is unimportant, but there is no reason for our country to default on the debts we have. Extending the debt ceiling doesn't allow us to spend money on more items, it simply allows us to pay our debts.

Take, for example, Ronald Reagan. Ronald Reagan is somebody whom Republicans idolize, and I have no problem with that. He was a good President and did some good things for our country—lots of good things. I liked him very much as a person and as a President. He asked us 18 different times to raise the debt ceiling, and we did it every time—every time. But this time, no thanks. The Republicans forced us to spend months on raising the debt ceiling.

They have also used unrelated amendments and procedural stall tactics to kill good pieces of legislation that have always had the support of Democrats and Republicans. Take, for example, the Economic Development Administration. They blocked that, something that has been going on for 35 years creating jobs. This piece of legislation alone would have created 314,000 jobs. They killed it. The EDA has worked with little businesses, universities, and economically challenged areas to create jobs, as I said, for three decades. Actually, it has been 4½ decades.

For nearly 2 months, they held up efforts to reauthorize the Small Business Innovation and Research Program before finally killing it altogether. This legislation would have helped small businesses, small technology companies, which have invented everything from the electric toothbrush to how to put armor on a Bradley fighting vehicle. These small business innovation loans were terrific for bringing out the innovation and creativity of the American people, creating thousands of jobs. They forced that bill off the floor.

The fate of these two pieces of legislation alone cost more than one-half million jobs—more than 500,000 jobs. But not only did they take away these two pieces of legislation—and there are many others but speaking of these two—their obstructionistic tactics also cost us lots of time. Every moment wasted on procedural hurdles—and we have spent months on these useless amendments—was a moment we weren't creating jobs.

Republicans held up the work of Congress for months in the hope of defeating the President. And this is not something I have made up. My counterpart, the Republican leader, has said that is his No. 1 issue—making sure President Obama is not reelected. But this effort to defeat President Obama has also held up our economic recovery. We saw the toll in last month's job report, showing unemployment holding steady. For the eighth month in a row we have created private-sector jobs—we didn't create many—last month, about 20,000.

Because of what is going on around the country, with the Republicans' austerity programs, there are lots of government jobs being cut. Each of us, from New York, Illinois, and Nevada, has had local governments really being cut to the bone—police and fire. These are the jobs that people need very much.

Madam President, I hope the Republicans have gotten the stalling tactics out of their system and really will work with us to create jobs. Hopefully, the Senate is now moving forward with this patent bill, the America Invents Act. This bill will reform the Nation's outdated patent system that has almost 1 million patents waiting to be looked at. Any one of those patents could be a new benefit—something that will create jobs and allow people who have such great ingenuity in America to put their product on line.

We are told that this reform of our Nation's outdated patent system will allow us to create almost 300,000 jobs, and it will clear up a 3-year backlog in patent applications so inventors might be able to invent the next iPod or iPad or electric car or whatever other interesting thing that makes America so great. I hope the spirit of bipartisanship comes into being now, because Congress and this country cannot afford to waste any more time.

There are two things we can do right away to create lots of jobs. First, extend the authorization of the FAA bill. Let me explain what this is all about.

We passed an FAA bill, a good bill, passed overwhelmingly, Democrats and Republicans. It went to the House and they put it in some dark hole over there, and finally they gave us a bill back. It is different than our bill, and here is how it is different. The National Mediation Board set a new rule. It is something called democracy. What it

means is that in a labor election, the majority wins. Under Republican dominance in years past, if you had a group of people who were trying to be unionized, and let's say there were 1,000 and that is how many were in the work unit and there was an election held and 600 people turned out for that election, 450 voted, yes, we think we should be able to collectively bargain with our employer, under the old rules that is not enough; 450 out of 600 is not enough. You would have to get a majority of the people in the unit.

I ask my friend from New York, the Presiding Officer, and my friend from Illinois, because I have asked myself, under rules like that, none of us would have been elected. Of the millions and millions of people in New York and Illinois and the 3 million people in Nevada, I won by 5 percent last election. I got a majority of the people who were registered to vote. That is how you win in America, not a majority of everyone in the State, because no one would be elected if that in fact were the case.

But that is how the Republicans want to change the rules. They want to go back and say a simple majority of those voting is not enough. You have to have a majority of everybody in the union. And, as I indicated, based on our elections, it would mean each of us would have to get a majority of everyone in the State.

So they stuck that provision in the bill saying, no, a majority is not enough; you have to have a majority of everyone in the unit. It is this kind of antidemocratic issue they placed in this legislation. I would hope they would take that out. They haven't been willing to do that.

If we can reform our antiquated air traffic control system, it will bring us into the modern world where we are no longer depending on Second World War technology; that is, radar, and we can move into the modern world as most all countries have, where we would have GPS, and it will create lots and lots of jobs, hundreds of thousands of jobs which are so badly needed. Ray LaHood, Secretary of Transportation, thinks it is essential that we get this done for the safety and security of our Nation and certainly to create lots and lots of jobs.

Second, we must authorize Federal spending for our Nation's highways. About 1.8 million construction jobs in highway and mass transit projects are at stake. If we don't extend this bill, they will be gone, almost 2 million jobs.

So we will be happy to consider a bipartisan idea to get the economy going again. I have talked about two things.

Here are two ideas Republicans have supported in the past: payroll tax cuts and extension of unemployment insurance. Extending the payroll tax cut could save 972,000 American jobs next year alone. Extending unemployment

insurance during these tough economic times would save 528,000 American jobs. They have agreed to these in the past.

Speaker BOEHNER and Leader CANTOR wrote to the President yesterday and they said, Our differences should not preclude us from taking action in areas where there is common ground.

I hope they would agree that extending unemployment benefits and cutting the payroll tax are agreements that are common sense. So I agree with them, our differences should not preclude us from taking action in areas where there is common agreement. Let's start with the four commonsense measures I have talked about: the FAA bill; of course, we have to do the extension of the payroll tax cuts; do the unemployment insurance; and, of course, FAA. I would hope we can move on these as quickly as possible.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leaders' time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the second half.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 10 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. I see the Senator from New Hampshire is here, and I ask that she be permitted to speak immediately after I have concluded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE BUDGET

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, tomorrow night we will hear a speech from the President of the United States about an issue that affects every single one of us in America. It affects millions in a personal way and all of us indirectly. It is the state of our economy. It is an economy that has been wracked by a recession which has gone on way too long. Even the President concedes that we had hoped we would have emerged at this point, but we still have not. I think it is important for us to focus on the reality of life even for working families in Amer-

ica. Too many working families today are struggling to survive paycheck to paycheck.

Over the last 10 or 20 years, we have seen a decline in the rate of growth in real wages, which means that families, even working families, aren't earning enough to keep up with the cost of living. They are falling a little bit behind each year.

They recently surveyed working families across America and asked them a basic question. They said: If you had an emergency in your family and needed to come up with \$2,000 in the next 30 days, could you find that \$2,000 either in your savings or borrowed? Forty-seven percent of working families said they could not come up with \$2,000 in 30 days. Now \$2,000 is the cost of an uneventful trip to an emergency room. It is an indication of the vulnerability of families all across America.

I am also concerned about the fact that, as we speak about the economy, we know many families are doing the right thing, trying to shed debt. We see the credit card debt in America declining as fewer and fewer people borrow against their credit cards, understanding the interest rates they are going to pay are way too high and it is impossible to keep up with your debt if you pile it all on credit cards. People are reluctant to purchase because they are afraid of debt, and vulnerable, with the thought of losing their jobs or perhaps seeing a decline in their wages. That is the reality of life for working families across America. It is the reality I have seen in Illinois and a reality that affects us nationwide. The President will address that tomorrow night, as he should.

I think there are ways to deal with it, but here is the caution I wish to add: We are fixed on the theme of our Nation's deficit and debt, and we should be, because as we borrow 40 cents for every dollar we spend, we create an unsustainable situation for future generations. That is a fact.

I have been party to the Bowles-Simpson Commission, where I voted for their report. I have worked with the Gang of Six, a bipartisan effort in the Senate which has more than 30 Senators showing an interest in this approach. So I seriously believe this deficit and debt are a problem for us in the long term. But I might remind my colleagues on both sides of the aisle that Bowles-Simpson, this bipartisan Presidential commission, concluded that we should not hit the brakes on spending, should not hit the brakes on government activity too soon because of the recession. In fact, they recommended that we wait another year, with a serious effort to reduce the deficit coming after the recession.

The logic behind it is obvious. It is virtually impossible to balance the budget of the United States with 14 million people out of work. You need to

put Americans back to work earning a good paycheck, paying their taxes, and then you can start building this economy and building toward a balanced budget. I hope we keep that in mind as we talk about what we are facing, as we try to create a climate to create more jobs in America.

It is interesting to me, the President will propose to extend the payroll tax cut for working families across America. It accounts for 2 percent of income. That, to me, is sensible. Put spending power in the hands of working families, lower and middle-income families. These are the people who are struggling paycheck to paycheck. We have done that. We should continue to do that.

The criticism from the Republican side of the aisle is, no, you shouldn't allow a tax cut for middle-income families and those in lower income categories unless you pay for it. Interestingly enough, that is exactly the opposite position from what they took when they talked about tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans. When the Republicans wanted to see tax cuts for those making over \$250,000 a year, they say we don't have to pay for it. But when we talk about tax cuts for working families, middle-income families, all of a sudden they become deficit hawks and say you have to pay for those tax cuts. I think we should continue the 2-percent payroll tax cuts to help working families. I think that is good. I also think we ought to extend unemployment benefits.

I spent my time in August in Illinois visiting unemployment offices, where I met a lot of people who are struggling every single day to apply for jobs, sometimes four and five applications a day, and many times without success. They are doing their best to pick up new skills at community colleges and training courses. They are trying to make their resumes look a little more attractive, working to do so, and they are running into a brick wall time after time. Some are in extremely difficult circumstances. Extending unemployment compensation at this point in our economy is absolutely essential. It is the right and caring and humane thing to do, and it also injects money into the economy. The President will call for this, and I think he is right. The Republicans have said we have to pay for that unemployment compensation. Again, it is hard to follow their logic as they offer millions of dollars in tax relief for millions of people, refuse to end the tax cuts and benefits for the most profitable oil companies in America, and when it comes to helping the unemployed and middle income, then they become deficit hawks.

They also talk about the corporate income tax. The corporate income tax rate in America is 35 percent, and they say it is one of the highest in the world. That is true. But it is an effective rate versus the nominal rate. The

nominal rate is 35 percent. The effective rate is much lower.

Take, for example, the report that just came out that puts this in perspective. There was a report that compared the salaries for the CEOs, the chief executive officers, of major American corporations. Twenty-five of the one hundred highest paid corporate executives in the United States earned more in pay than their company paid in taxes in the year 2010. That is right. Our Tax Code is so easy on massive multinational corporations, they pay their top executives more than they pay in Federal taxes each year. It is a startling fact. It is a report released by the Institute for Policy Studies. If you look through the report, you will see some of the biggest names in corporate America.

Look at General Electric. They made waves when it was reported that they paid zero, absolutely nothing, in Federal taxes last year. In fact, GE got a refund from the government of over \$3 billion. The top executive at General Electric was compensated to the tune of \$15.2 million. Consider that for a moment when we talk about the unfairness of corporate taxes. The biggest multinational corporations in America are escaping the 35-percent rate. Some are actually getting money back, and they are paying their executives money in reward for coming up with these tax strategies under our current Tax Code.

Do you want to clean up the Tax Code? Stop imposing the highest corporate tax rate on middle and small businesses, and impose it on the large corporations, the most profitable corporations in America.

The other idea is this repatriation tax holiday. We should take care here. Before we allow major corporations to bring their profits back into the United States tax free or at lower tax rates, which is what they are asking for, look at what happened when we tried that under the Bush administration. There were \$362 billion of earnings repatriated under the holiday, and \$312 billion qualified for the tax break, but we didn't see a corresponding increase in employment of those corporations. They brought back the money they earned in profits overseas and declared it as dividends and profits, and gave it in compensation and bonuses to their executives. They did not create jobs. Now the Republicans are pushing for that same strategy. They want to give this tax holiday to these major corporations with no strings attached. I think we have learned our lesson under the Bush administration. If that money is coming back to America, it should be dedicated to growing the corporations in America and growing good-paying jobs right here at home. It shouldn't go out the door in executive compensation, dividends, and profits.

The Tax Code is unfair, but it is primarily unfair to working families. We

have got to do everything we can to make it fairer for them. Secondly, we have got to make sure we eliminate some of the loopholes that are stacked in the Tax Code today. I have been in favor of tax reform and think it is an essential part of fairness in America, getting the economy moving forward, and dealing responsibly with our deficit.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Hampshire.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, as you know so well as the Senator from New York, across the country this weekend Americans everywhere will gather to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the tragic events that took place on September 11, 2001. Families from every town, from every city and State will mark this day in their own solemn way and take a moment to remember and honor the nearly 3,000 victims of those senseless attacks. More than any episode in recent American history, the events of 9/11 were experienced on a very personal level all across this country.

No one was untouched by the tragedy of that day. All of us can remember exactly where we were when we heard the news. We remember those frantic hours as we tried to call loved ones. We remember the silence in our skies as our Nation's entire air system shut down. We remember mourning the loss of family, friends, and neighbors; and we remember the fear and uncertainty as we wondered if more attacks were coming.

We remember the sight we all watched on television, again and again—the sickening sight of the falling towers of the Trade Center. It is a vision that has been forever seared into every American's mind.

As Governor of New Hampshire at the time, I was actually in Washington for a National Governors Association event on early childhood education. I will never forget looking out of my hotel and seeing the smoke rising from the Pentagon.

The attacks of 9/11 forever changed us as a nation. Our entire notion of security was turned upside down. Our government changed, our policies changed, and our view of the world changed. For our children and grandchildren especially, this became one of the defining events of their generation and has left an indelible mark on their world view.

As we gather this weekend, all of us in our own way will take a moment to recall those feelings of sadness and anger and to honor the memories of those we lost. But that loss is not the end of the story, and grief is not the true legacy of 9/11. We are not defined

by what happens to us but by how we respond when we are faced with adversity. September 11 did not cripple us as a nation. Instead, it brought out the best in all of us. Our story is really how we responded in the face of this attack—with courage, resolve, and unity. In the aftermath of September 11, we showed the world the true meaning of the American spirit.

The story of America's response to 9/11 starts on that very day with accounts of heroism that we could never have imagined. We remember the firefighters and the other first responders climbing up the stairwells of the burning World Trade Center while others fled down, and how they made the ultimate sacrifice for their selflessness. We remember the courageous passengers on American Airlines Flight 93 who took away the terrorists' greatest weapon, fear, by fighting back even though it meant their lives. And who knows how many lives they saved, whether they stopped that attack.

In the days that followed, all Americans stepped forward in any way they could. Red Cross centers were overwhelmed with volunteer blood donors. Millions of us donated money and offered up prayers. In New Hampshire in the days following the attack I remember joining a crowd of hundreds for a prayer service at St. Paul's Church in Concord. We came together to honor the victims and to comfort each other. The response was incredible. The crowd spilled out into the streets with many waving American flags, holding candles, and singing "God Bless America."

In New Hampshire, our State government and our employees refused to buckle under the terrorist threat. We kept the State working on September 11.

I will not forget the more than 100 fire departments across New Hampshire that called our State fire marshal's office to offer their services for assistance in New York or the countless physicians, rescue workers, and volunteers who made themselves available to help at a moment's notice.

Of course, we cannot tell America's story without telling the story of the men and women in our military who have spent the last decade trying to make sure an attack like this never happens again. Since September 11, more than 5 million men and women have voluntarily joined the Armed Forces to protect America and defend her freedom abroad. More than 6,200 Americans, including 37 troops from New Hampshire, have given the ultimate sacrifice in our Nation's defense. Over 45,000 more have been wounded or injured and returned home with lasting scars. Millions of troops and their families have sustained the toughest, most debilitating tempo of deployments in our Nation's history, often being deployed into war five or six times, enduring constant mental and physical strains in service to our country.

The resolve our troops have demonstrated since 9/11 has yielded a string of successes on an extremely complex battlefield. Our men and women in uniform have done everything that has been asked of them. Osama bin Laden has been brought to justice. Countless other high-level terrorist operatives, including the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks, have been killed or captured, and the organization's bases in Afghanistan and Pakistan remain under constant pressure. Al-Qaida and its extremist affiliates' deadly ideology is being questioned around the globe, and the remnants of al-Qaida's diminishing leadership are disorganized and struggling to reestablish themselves in the face of an aggressive U.S. offensive.

As our current Secretary of Defense, Leon Panetta, has remarked, we are "within reach of strategically defeating al-Qaida." Although we can't be complacent and we must remain steadfast in our pursuit, our military should be honored for the gains our Nation has made against the terrorists who attacked us on September 11.

In New Hampshire our Air National Guard deployed almost immediately after the attacks, and every day since September 11, 2011, they have been providing persistent air refueling coverage for homeland defense and for our command issues in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I will forever remember walking through the New Hampshire airport with the New Hampshire National Guard when flights resumed after 9/11. As we walked through, people everywhere stopped what they were doing to applaud the National Guard for their efforts to keep the people of New Hampshire safe.

In the decade since the attacks, Americans have found new appreciation for the service these citizen soldiers provide, and Americans outside the military have learned they have a role to play too. With the heroes of United Flight 93 as their inspiration, everyday Americans have stopped a number of terrorist plots from succeeding. Passengers and flight personnel stopped the December 2001 bomber, the attempt by shoe bomber Richard Reid, and they stopped the Christmas Day 2009 attempt onboard the Northwest Airlines flight. The attempted Times Square bombing last year, as you remember, was in part averted by an alert New York City street vendor.

Perhaps most importantly, as we remember America's 9/11 story this weekend, we should all reflect often the unity we demonstrated in the face of this terrible attack. On September 11 we were not Republicans or Democrats, Black or White, rich or poor. We were all Americans. The attack focused our attention on our common bonds and on the American ideals we all hold dear. We were determined to prove, despite our differences, that the United States

of America would persevere and endure. While we have not always maintained that sense of unity in the years since, our memory of it has inspired us and continually reminded us of what is possible when we reach for the best within ourselves.

When the history books are written and America's 9/11 story is told to the generations to follow, I hope it will tell of how we came together to remind the entire world of what this country stands for and who we are as a people; how after our darkest day we rose up with new determination; how instead of turning inward, we chose to confront the evil that had visited our shores and to fight on; and how we continued to be the beacon of hope, liberty, and opportunity that we have always been to the world.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I ask that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor because this week President Obama is going to present his new jobs plan to the American people and to all of us. I am certain we will hear a lot of talk and a lot of promises.

I remember when former House Speaker NANCY PELOSI famously announced in 2010 their White House health care summit. I sat around the table at that summit. In the discussion, she said the President's new health care law would create 4 million jobs. Here is exactly what former Speaker PELOSI promised on February 25, 2010. She said:

... this bill is not only about the health security of America, it's about jobs. In its life it will create 4 million jobs—400,000 jobs almost immediately.

I ask, where are the jobs? The fact is, the President's health care law didn't create jobs. As a physician, I have come to the floor every week since the health care law has been signed and have given a doctor's second opinion about this health care law and why I believe it is bad for patients, bad for providers—the nurses and the doctors who take care of those patients—and terrible for the taxpayers.

Here we are 17 months after the President signed his health care plan into law and the American people have yet to see job growth anywhere near the figures promised by NANCY PELOSI.

In fact, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported last week the American economy generated a whopping zero jobs during the month of August. This is sobering news when we have 9.1 percent unemployment in America.

The New York Times, on September 3, had an editorial called "The Jobs Crisis," and let me read from it. It says:

The August employment report, released on Friday, is bleak on all counts, but at least it leaves no doubt that the United States is in the grip of a severe and worsening jobs crisis. That should lend a sense of urgency to the speech on jobs that President Obama plans to deliver this week.

The speech is scheduled for tomorrow night. The New York Times goes on to say:

The economy added no jobs in August—zero—and the anemic numbers for June and July were revised downward. The unemployment rate is stuck at 9.1 percent, but it would be 16.2 percent if it included the swelling ranks of those who find only part-time work and the millions who have given up looking for jobs that simply do not exist.

Here we are looking at this sobering news, and it seems the only connection between the health care law and the jobs market in America is that the job creators—the people who create jobs in this country—made it very clear they cannot afford the President's new health care law. Month after month we hear from more people in the private sector who explain they will either have to fire people or stop providing coverage in order to comply with the significant expenses of the new health care law. Let me repeat. This law encourages job creators not to create jobs but to fire workers, not to hire workers.

To get around this problem in the short term, the administration began doing something I did not anticipate when the health care law was signed. They began to grant waivers from the President's health care law. They said: Oh, it doesn't apply to you. It doesn't apply to you. Come and apply for a waiver. During the month of August—this past month—the administration, once again, granted another round of waivers from the President's health care law. There were another 73 waivers allowing 105,000 people to get out of the mandates of the Obama health care law.

Since October of 2010, the Obama administration has granted over 1,500 annual benefit limit waivers. Now they are granting them for 3 years. These waivers now cover over 3.4 million Americans. So the law and the mandates don't have to apply to them with regard to the benefits. Whom have over 50 percent of these waivers gone to? They have gone to union people, people who have gotten their health care through a union health plan. These are the same people who supported the President's health care law. It is startling that even unions cannot afford the President's law.

Remember NANCY PELOSI saying: First, we have to pass it before you get to find out what is in it. As more and more Americans have found out what is in the health care law, they say we do not want this to apply to us. In fact, the Service Employees International Union said the law would be financially impossible; that it is financially impossible for them to comply with. I don't think any job creator or American family should have to bear financially impossible costs because of the President's health care law. Each time this administration releases yet another round of its health care law waivers, it reminds the American people how fatally flawed the President's new law is.

As the President prepares for his speech tomorrow night, he needs to take a hard look at his health care law. He needs to face the unfortunate reality that his law actually makes it harder and more expensive for the job creators of this country to hire more people. We need to make it easier and cheaper for the job creators in this country to create private sector jobs, but yet the President's health care law makes it harder and more expensive. Tomorrow night, the President needs to change direction. Instead of giving waivers to businesses and unions, he should announce that all Americans can get a waiver from his health care law.

The good news is, I have a bill he can support immediately. My bill will allow any individual—any American citizen—to submit a waiver application seeking relief from any or all of the health care law's mandates. The waivers will be granted to individuals showing that the health care law is either increasing their health care premiums or decreasing their access to benefits. The bill is simple. It is straightforward. It is S. 1395. It is called the Waive Act, and there are 16 cosponsors in the Senate. Basically, it says, if a person's costs go up or their benefits go down, they have the freedom to get out of the President's health care law. Health insurance premiums have risen 19 percent since President Obama took office.

Tomorrow night, the President should announce that he will allow all Americans an opportunity to opt out of his health care law. If he did, this would be one of the best steps he could take to help America's economy. That is why I come to the floor, week after week, with a doctor's second opinion about a health care law that I believe is hurting our country.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEBT CRISIS

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, the debt crisis has become a jobs crisis. There is no doubt in my mind that the debt we have now incurred is already weakening our economy. The gross Federal debt has increased by almost \$5 trillion since President Obama took office, surging past 100 percent of our gross domestic product—100 percent of the size of the economy.

Academic research shows this level of debt is already costing us 1 million jobs a year. Our debt is destroying growth and confidence in the economy. More borrowing—more borrowing—will only make matters worse. But according to the Associated Press in an article today, the President's job plan will add another \$300 billion to the debt.

This is the article by David Espo:

The economy weak and the public seething, President Obama is expected to propose \$300 billion in tax cuts and Federal spending Thursday night to get Americans working again.

I would say that is what he says will get the American people working again. But we have already borrowed all we can borrow without damaging the economy. It has come to a point where we can't keep borrowing in a futile attempt to stimulate the economy when the increased debt itself is weakening the economy.

The article goes on to say this:

According to people familiar with White House deliberations, two of the biggest measures in the proposal for 2012—

that begins October 1 of this year, fiscal year 2012—

are expected to be a one-year extension of the payroll tax for workers and an extension of expiring jobless benefits. Together those two would total about \$170 billion.

It goes on:

The White House is also considering a tax credit for businesses that hire the unemployed. That could cost about \$30 billion. Obama has also called for public works projects, such as school construction. Advocates of that plan have called for spending of \$50 billion . . .

on school construction. I don't think school buildings are the problem with our education right now, and when we don't have any money, we have to be careful about borrowing more to spend.

It goes on to say—and this is significant:

Though Obama has said he intends to propose long-term deficit reduction measures to cover the up-front costs of his jobs plan, White House spokesman Jay Carney said Obama would not lay out a wholesale deficit reduction plan in his speech.

In other words, he won't lay out a plan that would pay for it.

So this is where we are heading, it seems to me.

Remember the big debate we had over the debt ceiling that ended just before our August recess at the eleventh hour and the 59th minute. We remember how much spending reductions it would call for in the next fiscal year: \$7 billion. That is how much we would actually cut spending next fiscal year: \$7 billion. And this plan has called for over \$300 billion in spending anew, not paid for. We are already in debt. We are already borrowing 40 cents of every dollar we spend, and we are going to add another \$300 billion in spending, not paid for, borrowed, every penny of it. At some point, this country gets to a position where we cannot continue to borrow without damaging the economy. It is that simple. Americans understand it. As one man told me in Evergreen, AL: you can't borrow your way out of debt. You cannot borrow your way out of debt. We have reached and gone past that limit, in my opinion.

In order to have the kind of robust growth we desperately need, we must remove the looming threat of a Greek-like debt crisis. We must do so. This debt has a chilling effect throughout our economy. Indeed, a European banker just a few days ago said this feels like 2008, and that gained quite a bit of traction because people were feeling that, but nobody was saying it, and he was quoted all over the business channels about 2008 and the crisis we might be facing.

But the President has refused to do anything to actually reduce the surge in spending that he has engineered, nor have our Senate Democratic colleagues here in the Senate. The House proposed a sound budget plan that would reduce spending over the next 10 years and change the debt trajectory of America, but we spent almost \$8 trillion here in the Congress since the Senate Democratic majority has passed a budget—861 days. In fact, the Lewis and Clark expedition lasted 860 days. We have passed that now, without having a budget. That is a do-nothing record. It just is.

At a time of national crisis, we have a failure of leadership in the Senate and in the Presidency, in my opinion. President Obama has never once looked the American people in the eye and told them the bitter truth about the economic dangers we are facing and how much work must be done to get us back on a sound, secure path. It is hard to ask a people to sacrifice. It is hard to ask the American public to make tough choices if the President, our leader, will not affirm that we need to make these choices because it is a serious threat to America. Admiral Mullen, who is the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, has stated that the greatest threat to our security is the national debt. Every expert tells us that the greatest threat to our country is the debt. In my opinion, it dwarfs any

other threat this Nation faces. Yet according to the Associated Press, the President's speech is going to talk about spending and nothing about how to deal with the debt, or nothing significant about that.

So the rhetoric needs to confront reality. The President has given a number of speeches about creating jobs and reducing the deficit. But a speech is no substitute for a budget or for a detailed plan. The only plan the President has ever put on paper—the only plan that can be reviewed by the press, the public, and Congress—is his February budget. He reaffirmed that plan last week, sending Congress a midsession review that made no policy changes in his budget he submitted earlier. He had the 500-person Office of Management and Budget staff working for him. Is it too much to ask for a real plan? Whatever he may say on Thursday night, on paper—officially—he remains committed to this budget plan that grows the debt by about \$12 trillion and raises taxes by about \$2 trillion. What it does is it increases spending and increases taxes significantly, but the increase in spending is greater than the increase in taxes. So the net result is that the President's plan makes the budget projections we have from the Congressional Budget Office worse than they would be if we didn't have this budget plan.

America needs the confidence that only a concrete plan can provide. The constant threat of more Federal taxing, borrowing, and regulating undermines confidence, certainty, and predictability in our economy, that which our economy so desperately needs.

This isn't a question simply of ideology; it is a question of leadership. We need and have to grow the economy, not the government. We need to grow the economy. America needs a budget plan that recognizes a core truth. Our Nation's strength does not lie in the size of our government, but in the scope of our freedoms and in the creativity of our people. We need to focus on policies that unleash the enormous productive potential of the private sector. We need to focus on policies that remove instability fostered by the President's refusal to put forward a coherent economic plan that will actually reduce debt, not make it worse, and that would end the threat of high taxes and improve conditions for our job creators. Instead of the failed tax-and-spend approach the voters rejected in the last election, we need to focus on policies that create jobs—not more bureaucracy—helping to steady the economy in these difficult, uncertain times. That would include such things as energy production. We have definitely damaged and delayed significantly the production of energy in the gulf far beyond what was necessary. Only now is it beginning to come back. We are having incredibly increased regulations of

every kind on our economy, and we have failed to undertake the kind of serious tax reform that could help create growth and productivity. So these are very dangerous things.

I wish to remind our colleagues that the debt problem can't all be blamed on President Bush. I was a critic of some of his spending programs. But, for example, in the last 3 years of President Bush's plans compared to the first 3 years of President Obama's, he has increased spending for education 67 percent. His budget for the next fiscal year beginning October 1, which was defended a few weeks ago in the Appropriations Committee, calls for a 13.5-percent increase in the Education Department. His budget plan calls for a 10.5-percent increase in the Energy Department. I affectionately call them the Department of Anti-Energy, the Anti-Energy Department. The State Department is looking at a 10.5-percent increase. At a time when we are borrowing 40 cents of every dollar we spend, how can this be reality? Now we are talking about \$300 billion which will be thrown in on top of this to stimulate the economy again. I hope and trust there are some things the government can do to improve the economy, but I am afraid we are at a point where borrowing more money is not one of them.

Look what the Europeans have done. They are facing a similar crisis. Do they think they should borrow more and spend more? Is that what they are doing? No. They are taking their medicine. Italy is attempting to pass a \$65 billion austerity plan that would balance their budget by 2013. The budget the President submitted to us does not even come close to balancing in 10 years. In fact, the projected annual 1-year deficit under the President's plan for the tenth year of his 10-year budget is \$1 trillion plus. The highest budget deficit President Bush ever had was \$450 billion. He will average almost \$1 trillion a year—\$1,000 billion average—over 10 years. The interest payment last year was \$240 billion. The CBO projects in the tenth year after President Obama has doubled the deficit based on his budget, interest in 1 year will be \$840 billion, crowding out things such as aid to education, which is \$100 billion, Federal aid to highways, \$40 billion.

We cannot continue on this path. Italy is making a change. What about Spain? These are three of the so-called "PIGS" in Europe, the ones that are in financial trouble. Spain is planning a constitutional amendment and complementary law that will require close to balanced budgets at the Federal and State levels and to limit Federal debt to 60 percent of their economy. The enacted austerity plan reduces salaries of public sector workers and cuts public sector spending.

Portugal has a 4-year consolidation plan that will reduce Federal spending

by 7 percent of GDP and would balance the budget by 2015. We have no plan to balance the budget, nothing close to it. Indeed, the plan the President has submitted to us—and I am not exaggerating. This is in the record books. We have the two-volume budget he sent to us, and it has been analyzed by the Congressional Budget Office. It will average \$1 trillion a year in deficits, which I suppose is why, when I brought it up, the Senate voted 97 to 0 to reject the budget. We do not have one. That is the only one that is pending.

Our Democratic colleagues cancelled the budget markup in the Budget Committee in which I am the ranking Republican—we never even pretended to produce a budget this year. Senator REID, the majority leader, said it would be "foolish" to do so.

So we are now looking at a crisis that involves millions of Americans, the jobs they, hopefully, have now and hope to continue, and those who have lost their jobs. Unemployment has almost doubled. So we are facing a difficult time. I know the pressure is on to just do something so we can politically say we did something. But that is not sufficient now. We need mature, strong, detailed leadership, a detailed plan that will put us on a path to a sound economy.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. SESSIONS. We need a plan. I hope the President will do more than the article in the newspaper says and provide the kind of specific leadership that can help us move forward from the economic difficulties we face.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEAHY-SMITH AMERICA INVENTS ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 1249, which the clerk will report by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of H.R. 1249, an act to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, every time I hear discussion about how we balance the budget, especially coming from the other side of the aisle—maybe because I have been here long enough—I remember the last time we did balance the budget during President Clinton's term. We balanced the budget. We created an amazing surplus. We created millions and millions of new jobs.

But you know what. Not a single Republican voted for that. It passed in the Senate only because the Vice President of the United States cast the deciding vote. No Republican voted—we actually had to do more than just have a bumper sticker “Let’s Balance the Budget.” We actually did balance the budget, which required some very tough choices. No Republican voted for that.

In fact, they all condemned it saying: This would bring about wrack and ruin, and on and on. It did not. It created an enormous budget surplus and created 22 million new jobs. We were paying down the national debt. We left a very large surplus to President Clinton’s successor, President Bush, who immediately wasted it on a needless war in Iraq and tax cuts, both of which I voted against.

It is also interesting to be lectured by the other side of the aisle about balancing the budget when they voted to go into two of the longest wars in our history, and for the first time in our history voted to pay for them by borrowing the money. Now look where trillions of dollars will have gone because of Iraq and Afghanistan, and now to be told that to continue to pay for unnecessary wars we must cut out things for Americans such as education, medical care, housing, scientific research, and things such as finding cures for cancer, Alzheimer’s, repairing our aging bridges, roads—even hearing a Member of the other body saying: We cannot respond to the tragedies caused by Irene in the distinguished Presiding Officer’s home State, mine and others, unless we take the money from other needs in this country. Yet that same Member supported an unnecessary war in Iraq and supports paying for it on the credit card. Come on. Let’s be real. Let’s start thinking about things in America.

The Senate began debate last night on the America Invents Act. Unfortunately, as has happened so many times, we had to invoke cloture on a motion to proceed to something that has strong support. I would note that 93 Senators, Republicans and Democrats alike, voted to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed.

This is a bipartisan consensus bill. It is largely similar to the legislation the Senate passed in March. Incidentally, we passed that on a vote of 95 to 5. Some would say these days that we cannot even have a vote like that on a resolution saying the Sun rises in the east. Here Republicans and Democrats came together 95 to 5. The Senate can and should move immediately to pass this bill. It will create good jobs. It will encourage innovation. It will strengthen our recovering economy, and it will not cost the taxpayers anything.

I want to commend Senator HATCH, the longtime Republican lead sponsor of this measure; Senator GRASSLEY, the

ranking Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee; and Senator KYL, the Republican whip, for their support of the bill and for their commitment to making patent reform become a reality.

This is an effort we have worked on for nearly 6 years. I sometimes shudder to think of the amount of time my staff and I have spent on this issue. During those 6 years it has become even more important to the economy. The time has come to enact this bipartisan, bicameral legislation.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the Statement of Administration Policy on H.R. 1249 from the Obama administration.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 1249—AMERICA INVENTS ACT

(Rep. Smith, R-Texas, and 5 cosponsors,
June 21, 2011)

The Administration supports House passage of H.R. 1249 as modified by the Manager’s Amendment, but final legislative action must ensure that fee collections fully support the Nation’s patent and trademark system.

The bill’s much-needed reforms to the Nation’s patent system will speed deployment of innovative products to market and promote job creation, economic growth, and U.S. economic competitiveness—all at no cost to American taxpayers. The bill represents a balanced and well-crafted effort to enhance the services to patent applicants and America’s innovators provided by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, USPTO. It does so by supporting the USPTO’s efforts to improve patent quality and reduce the backlog of patent applications, reducing domestic and global patenting costs for U.S. companies, providing greater certainty with respect to patent rights, and offering effective administrative alternatives to costly and complex litigation.

By adopting a first-inventor-to-file system, the bill simplifies the process of acquiring intellectual property rights. This provision provides greater certainty for innovators, reduces legal costs that often burden small businesses and independent inventors, and makes it easier for innovators to market their inventions in the global marketplace. This legislation also provides authority for the USPTO to establish and adjust its fees to reflect the actual costs of the services it provides. In addition, the Manager’s Amendment provides important authority for a 15 percent surcharge on patent fees and additional fees for “fast-track” patent applications, which will enable the USPTO to reduce the backlog. Finally, to increase the quality and certainty of patent rights and offer cost-effective, timely alternatives to district court litigation, the Administration also supports provisions in the legislation that would enhance the opportunities for post-grant review of patents by the USPTO.

To carry out the new mandates of the legislation and reduce delays in the patent application process, the USPTO must be able to use all the fees it collects to serve the users who pay those fees. In this light, the Administration is concerned that Section 22 of the Manager’s Amendment to H.R. 1249 does not by itself ensure such access. The

Administration looks forward to working with Congress to provide additional direction that makes clear that the USPTO will have timely access to all of the fees collected, subject to the congressional oversight provisions in the bill.

House passage of H.R. 1249 would foster innovation, improve economic competitiveness, and create jobs at no expense to taxpayers—all of which are key Administration goals. The Administration looks forward to working with Congress to finalize this important bipartisan legislation and ensure that the USPTO can effectively accomplish its mission to support America’s innovators.

Mr. LEAHY. The statement describes the bill as a balanced and well-crafted effort to enhance the services to patent applicants and America’s innovators provided by the U.S. Patent Office.

The Statement of Administration Policy emphasizes the bill supports the USPTO’s efforts to improve patent quality, reduce the backlog of patent applications, reducing domestic and global costs for U.S. companies. I underscore these points because they are exactly the goals Chairman SMITH of the other body and I set out to achieve when we first introduced patent reform legislation 6 years ago. It has been over half a century since our patent laws were updated.

Look at the changes that have occurred during that time. We have become even more of a global economy than ever before. We have become more of an innovative economy than ever before. Improving patent quality will benefit businesses across the economic spectrum. The America Invents Act will improve patent quality by expanding the role of third parties to the patent examination process, creating a streamlined first-window, postgrant review to quickly challenge and weed out patents that never should have been issued in the first place.

It improves the funding mechanism for the Patent Office to confront its backlog of nearly 700,000 patent applications. Those are patents that could be creating jobs and improving our economy. For years, low-quality patents have been a drain on our patent system, and in turn our economy, by undermining the value of what it means to hold a patent. Higher quality patents will bring greater certainty in the patent system. That is going to make it easier to get investment in American businesses, create jobs, and grow our economy. This act is bipartisan legislation. It is going to lead to long-needed improvements in our patent system and laws. I would note that no one Senator, no industry, no interest group, got everything it wanted in this bill. I suggested that if we were going to write this bill exactly the way we wanted in this body, we would have 100 separate bills. But we can only pass one. That is the nature of compromise.

This bill represents a significant step forward in preparing the Patent Office and, in turn businesses, to deal with the challenges of the 21st century. Support for the bill has grown over time. It

is now endorsed by an extensive list of supporters across the political spectrum. Look at who we have here. How often do you see this kind of a breakdown?

The National Association of Manufacturers, the United Steelworkers, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Association of American Universities, the American Intellectual Property Law Association, Coalition for the 21st Century Patent Reform, Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council, the National Retail Federation, the Financial Services Roundtable, the American Bar Association, the United Inventors Association of America, the Association of Competitive Technology, the Association of University Technology Managers, the Information Technology Council, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and so many more.

I cannot remember a time in my years in the Senate where we have seen such a broad coalition come together: business, labor, high-tech, and others, coming together to pass legislation. We should grant this legislation final approval.

The Senate and the House have now both considered it. A host of associations, interested parties from the private sector have endorsed passing the bill without further amendment. At a time when we can do something to create jobs and not cost the taxpayers money, every day we wait, every day we delay is another day before those jobs are created. Every day we wait, every day we delay is another day that we hold back the innovative genius of America. Every day we wait, every day we delay is another day we are unable to compete with the rest of the world on a level playing field.

Any amendment—any amendment, including ones I might like—would force reconsideration by the House, and more unnecessary delay, and longer before we can create those jobs, longer before we can innovate, longer before we can compete with the rest of the world. I can think of a half dozen amendments that I would like to have in the bill.

I will vote against them because it is time to get this done. Patent reform legislation has been debated exhaustively in both the Senate and the House for the past four Congresses. It is the product of dozens of hearings and weeks of committee markups. We should proceed to the bill and pass it.

Let's not have any one person feeling they have the magic point everybody else has somehow overlooked. That is not the way the legislative process works. There are 100 here in the Senate and 435 in the House. Nobody gets every single thing they want. But here, the vast majority of Republicans and Democrats in the House and the Senate are getting what they feel is best for America.

It is time for the Senate to serve the interests of the American people by passing the legislation before us. We have before us a consensus bill that will facilitate invention, innovation, and job creation today. This can help everybody from startups and small businesses to our largest cutting-edge corporations.

Let's put Americans back to work. Let's show the American people that the Congress can actually accomplish something and do it for America. Here is something on which both Republicans and Democrats can come together. Let's not delay any longer. We have taken 6 years to get here. We had a vote yesterday where over 90 Senators voted to proceed, which indicates it is time to get moving, it is time to stop debating, and it is time to vote.

Madam President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, it is quiet in here. Tomorrow night, down at the other end of the Capitol, hopefully it won't be this quiet. The President is going to give a speech that is to be focused on the next steps of getting our economy moving and getting people back to work. That is something which is on all of our minds.

As a guy who used to make my living as Governor of my State, I focused a lot on the economy. These are issues of great interest to me and certainly to the people I represent. The thought that occurs to me as we anticipate the President's speech is that I don't know that there is any one particular jobs bill that will do the trick. I would like to think there is a silver bullet, but I don't know that there is.

I have always focused on and what we try to focus on in our State is how to create a nurturing environment for job creation and job preservation. How do we do that? We try to make sure we invest wisely in infrastructure—roads, highways, bridges, ports, trains, water, sewer, broadband. We try to invest in the workforce and make sure we have people who are coming out of our schools who can read, write, do math, and who have the skills that will enable them to fill the kinds of jobs that will exist in the 21st century. The other part of what we focus on is trying to help promote research and development, and not just any kind but R&D that can be used to create products that can be commercialized and sold not only in this country but in other places as well.

Hopefully, the President will talk about some of those things tomorrow night. I look forward to whatever he talks about. I hope he talks about that kind of nurturing environment and what we can do to allow them to plow the fields so that companies, large and small, can actually grow some jobs here.

Part of the nurturing environment for job creation is infrastructure. We have been trying for many months since the beginning of this year to work on the airport infrastructure in our country, to try to bring the FAA and air traffic control system into the 21st century because it is not and it needs to be. We need resources to modernize our airports across the country, and it is important that we actually pay for it and not add to the deficit.

Legislation was passed earlier this year that does that—modernizes the FAA and brings the air traffic control system into the 21st century, provides some agreement between the airlines and the general aviation community on how to come up with the resources we need to modernize our airports. It is a good approach, but it has been hung up in the House since then. We need to get that done.

Today and this week, another part of that infrastructure needs to be worked on. This is the infrastructure that allows companies that have a good idea—and inventors—to get a patent on their idea and the patent doesn't end up being litigated on and on, maybe for years, in the courts. Too often, it takes years when somebody comes up with a good idea. They submit it to the Patent Office, and it takes a long time to get to the top of the list and for somebody to pay attention to the application. Somebody may come in and say: I had the same idea before he did, and then it ends up in litigation. We need to stop that. We worked out a compromise that provides that whoever files first is essentially the winner. It is not necessarily the one who came up with the idea sooner. We need to get that legislation done and deal with that one aspect of uncertainty and unpredictability that businesses face. It would be great if we could make progress on that front this week.

Another part of the infrastructure for job creation and preservation is the Postal Service. Not a lot of people pay much attention to the Postal Service until they get into trouble. The Postal Service is in trouble. I describe the situation as dire, but it is not hopeless. The Postal Service finds itself in a situation not unlike that of the auto industry a couple of years ago. The auto industry was losing market share, and their products weren't especially good. They were losing market share, and they essentially concluded that we have more people than we need for the size of the market to which we now sell. We need to reduce our head count.

They said: We have to make our wage-benefit structure more competitive for the people we are hiring in the future in order to be competitive. Third, they said: We have too many plants, and the wage-benefit structure was out of whack.

In the Postal Service today, we are seeing an enormous diversion of people using traditional mail, first-class mail, and a diversion into electronic media. As a naval flight officer in the Vietnam war, I remember how excited I was—and we have been joined by Senator MCCAIN, who went for a long time without getting much mail at all when he was a POW. Those of us who were more fortunate, while deployed it was exciting to get mail—postcards, letters, cards, packages, magazines, newspapers. It was some connection from home.

Senator KLOBUCHAR has been over to Afghanistan, as have Senator MCCAIN and I. Our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines Skype. They communicate through different social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Internet, and cell phones. We never had that stuff, even 30, 35 years ago, in Southeast Asia or around the world. But people don't use the mail too much, especially first-class mail.

The situation the Postal Service is in today—and they lost last year—is they are on track to lose about \$10 billion. They can only borrow \$15 billion on a line of credit with the Federal Government. That is it. They are looking to lose more money. If we don't let them do something, they are going to lose more next year. At the end of this year—they can default by the end of the month if we do nothing. If they don't do something, by the end of next September, they could be out of business. That is not good for them, for us, or for the 7 or 8 million jobs that depend on the Postal Service.

The situation with the Postal Service is similar to that of the auto industry a couple of years ago, but it is different too. The U.S. auto industry—not Ford but Chrysler and GM—was looking for, if you will, a taxpayer bailout. They got that and have repaid most of that to the Treasury.

The Postal Service is not asking for a bailout. They want to be allowed to be treated like a real business, run like a real business. They say, like the auto industry, we have too many people—more than they need. They need to continue to reduce the headcount through attrition and to incentivize the 120,000-or-so people who are eligible to retire, to retire by giving them early payments—maybe \$10,000 or \$20,000—and allowing them to maybe get credit for a couple extra years, but get the people who are eligible to retire and encourage them to do so, incentivize them to retire—not to be fired or laid off but to retire. So there are too many people.

Two, there are too many post offices. There are 33,000 post offices around the country. The post office doesn't want to close them all. They are saying: Let's look at 3,000 of them, and let's have a conversation with the communities there. Do all of these 3,000 post offices in those communities need to stay open? Are there some that could locate services elsewhere? Say, if you go to a convenience store that is open 24/7 or a pharmacy that is open maybe 7 days a week or if you go into a supermarket that is open 7 days a week, you can get your postal services there. They could locate those post offices there, and all those services in one place adds more convenience to consumers. That is what the Postal Service wants to do.

The last thing the Postal Service has too much of is mail processing centers. They have over 500 of them around the country, which is probably twice the number they need. They need to be able to reduce those.

The Postal Service needs to be treated fairly, and they have been paying into the Civil Service Retirement System for many years for some of the older employees and more recently the Federal Employees Retirement System for the newer employees. Two separate audits done by the Segal Company and by a consulting company called the Hay Group have concluded that the Postal Service has overpaid its obligation into the Civil Service Retirement System by \$50 billion or more. They have estimated they have overpaid their obligation to the Federal Employees Retirement System by about \$7 billion more. The Postal Service has asked to be reimbursed for those overpayments. They would like to use those overpayments, on the one hand, to help meet their obligation to pay the heavy health care cost for folks who are retiring from the Postal Service or about to retire. They want to prefund that. It is an obligation they have under the 2006 law, and they would like to use some of the \$7 billion overpayment into the Federal Employees Retirement System to actually incent people who are eligible to retire from the Postal Service to go ahead and retire.

Eighty percent of the cost of the Postal Service is people—80 percent. The Postal Service has reduced its head count from about 800,000 people to, say, 600,000 people over the last 7 or 8 years. They need to be able to continue to reduce that in the years to come—roughly 100,000 over the next 2 or 3 years through attrition and maybe another 120,000 by incentivizing people to retire.

The Senator from Minnesota is still standing here waiting for me to stop, and I have a lot more I wish to say, but I am going to stop and come back maybe later today to finish my comments, but let me conclude with this.

We need to act so the Postal Service can save itself. We don't need to bail them out. We need to let them act as a real company. The situation is dire, but it is not hopeless. They need to be able to address, as the auto industry did, too many people. They need to be able to close and consolidate some post offices and colocate those services in places that make more sense and are more convenient to consumers, they need to be able to close some of their mail processing centers, and they need to be treated fairly with respect to their overpayments into both the Civil Service Retirement System and the Federal Employees Retirement System. We can do this, and we don't need to do it next year; we need to do it this year.

I yield the floor to our friend from Minnesota.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Minnesota.

AMERICA INVENTS ACT

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I thank very much the Senator from Delaware, and I appreciate the ability to go ahead. I know the Senator from Arizona is waiting as well.

I rise to speak in support of the America Invents Act, a bill to revamp our patent system. As a member of the Judiciary Committee, I worked on this bill. I was one of the cosponsors, and I also helped manage the bill the last time it was on the floor. I am here to make sure we get it over the finish line.

It is without dispute that intellectual property is one of our Nation's most valuable assets, and our patent system plays a vital role in maintaining the value of our intellectual property. In fact, the Commerce Department estimates that up to 75 percent of economic growth in our Nation since World War II is due to technological innovation—innovation that was made possible, in part, by our patent system.

I see firsthand the importance of success of a robust patent system whenever I am visiting Minnesota companies and talking with business leaders in our State, as I did many times over the past month. Minnesotans have brought the world everything from the pacemaker to the Post-It-Note. These innovations would not have been possible without the protection of the patent system. This strong commitment to innovation and development is why our State ranks sixth in the Nation in patents per capita, and we are No. 1 per capita for Fortune 500 companies.

Companies such as 3M, Ecolab, and Medtronic need an efficient patent system. But it is also medium-sized companies, such as Imation in Oakdale and Polaris in Medina, that rely on patents to grow their companies and create jobs in America. In fact, from 1980 to 2001, all the net job growth in our country came from companies that were

less than 5 years old. It is the person in the garage building a mousetrap or, in the case of Medtronic, the first battery-powered pacemaker who drives our economy forward and creates the products Americans can make and sell to the world.

I truly believe, to get out of this economic rut, we need to be a country that makes stuff again, that invents, that exports to the world. That is why it is so critical we pass the America Invents Act.

Unfortunately, our patent laws haven't had a major update since 1952. The system is outdated, and it is quickly becoming a burden on our innovators and entrepreneurs. Because of these outdated laws, the Patent and Trademark Office faces a backlog of over 700,000 patent applications. Many would argue that all too often the office issues low-quality patents. One of these 700,000 patents may be the next implantable pacemaker or a new and improved hearing aid.

Our current patent system also seems stacked against small entrepreneurs. I have spoken to small business owners and entrepreneurs across Minnesota who are concerned with the high cost and uncertainty of protecting their inventions. For example, under the current system, when two patents are filed around the same time for the same invention, the applicants must go through an arduous and expensive process called an interference, to determine which applicant will be awarded the patent. Small inventors rarely, if ever, win interference proceedings because the rules for interferences are often stacked in favor of companies with deep pockets. This needs to change.

Our current patent system also ignores the realities of the information age we live in. In 1952, the world wasn't as interconnected as it is today. There was no Internet and people didn't share information, as they do in this modern age. In 1952, most publicly available information about technology could be found either in patents or scientific publications. So patent examiners only had to look to a few sources to determine if the technology described in the patent application was both novel and nonobvious. Today, there is a vast amount of information readily available everywhere we look. It is unrealistic to believe a patent examiner would know all the places to look for this information. Even if the examiner knew where to look, it is unlikely he or she would have the time to search in all these nooks and crannies. The people who know where to look are the other scientists and innovators who also work in the field. But current law does not allow participation by third parties in the patent application process, despite the fact that third parties are often in the best position to challenge a patent application. Without the

benefit of this outside expertise, an examiner might grant a patent for technology that simply isn't a true invention, and those low-quality patents clog the system and hinder true innovation.

Our Nation can't afford to slow innovation any more. While China is investing billions of dollars in its medical technology sector, we are still bickering about the regulations. While India encourages invention and entrepreneurship, we are still giving our innovators the runaround—playing red light, green light, with stop-and-go tax incentives. The truth is, America can no longer afford to be a country that simply exists on churning money and shuffling paper, a country that consumes imports and spends its way to huge trade deficits. What we need to be is that Nation that invents again, that thinks again, and that exports to the world, a country where we can walk into any store and pick up a product and turn it over and it says "Made in the USA." That is what our country needs to be. It is what Tom Friedman, who writes for the New York Times and is a Minnesota native, calls nation building in our own nation.

As innovators and entrepreneurs across Minnesota have told me, we need to rejuvenate our laws to ensure that our patent system supports the needs of a 21st century economy. The America Invents Act does just that.

First, the America Invents Act increases the speed and certainty of a patent application process by transitioning our patent system from a first-to-invent system to a first-inventor-to-file system. This change to a first-inventor-to-file system will increase predictability by creating brighter lines to guide patent applicants and Patent Office examiners.

By simply using the filing date of an application to determine the true inventors, the bill increases the speed of the patent application process while also rewarding novel, cutting-edge inventions. To help guide investors and inventors, this bill allows them to search the public record to discover with more certainty whether their idea is patentable, helping eliminate duplication and streamlining the system. At the same time, the bill still provides a safe harbor of 1 year for inventors to go out and market their inventions before having to file for their patent.

This grace period is one of the reasons our Nation's top research universities, such as the University of Minnesota, support the bill. The grace period protects professors who discuss their inventions with colleagues or publish them in journals before filing their patent application. The grace period, along with prior user rights, will encourage cross-pollination of ideas and eliminate concerns about discussing inventions with others before a patent application is filed.

This legislation also helps to ensure that only true inventions receive protection under our laws. By allowing third parties to provide information to the patent examiner, the America Invents Act helps bridge the information gap between the patent application and existing knowledge.

The legislation also provides a modernized, streamlined mechanism for third parties who want to challenge recently issued, low-quality patents that should never have been issued in the first place. Eliminating these potential trivial patents will help the entire patent system by improving certainty.

The legislation will also improve the patent system by granting the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office the authority to set and adjust its own fees. Allowing the office to set their own fees will give them the resources to reduce the current backlog and devote greater resources to each patent that is reviewed to ensure higher quality. The fee-setting authority is why IBM—one of the most innovative companies around, that has facilities in Rochester, MN, and in the Twin Cities—was granted a record 5,896 patents in 2010 and why they support this bill. They want to bring even more inventions and more jobs to America.

As chair of the Subcommittee on Competitiveness, Innovation, and Export Promotion, I have been focused on ways to promote innovation and growth in the 21st century. Stakeholders from across the spectrum agree this bill is a necessary step to ensure the United States remains the world leader in developing innovative products that bring prosperity and happiness to our citizens. Globalization and technology have changed our economy. This legislation will ensure that our patent system rewards the innovation of the 21st century.

I know this is not the exact bill we passed in the Senate earlier this year, but the major components of that earlier bill are in the one on the floor today. Those components are vital to bringing our patent system into the 21st century and unleashing American ingenuity as never before. Sometimes it is obvious how one can get a job, but sometimes it is harder to see, such as when one has to get an invention developed and get it approved and get the patent on it and get it to market. That is the hard work that goes on in this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield the floor to my colleague and friend from Arizona, Senator MCCAIN.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate as in morning business, and I additionally ask unanimous consent that I be joined in a colloquy with Senator GRAHAM from South Carolina and Senator LIEBERMAN from Connecticut.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IRAQ

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, yesterday, we learned from media reports the Obama administration has made a decision to sharply reduce the number of U.S. forces it is proposing for a post-2011 security agreement with Iraq to roughly 3,000 troops. That media report has not been contradicted yet by anyone in the administration, so one has to assume that is the direction which the administration is headed.

As is well known, 3,000 troops is dramatically lower than what our military commanders have repeatedly told us, on multiple trips to Iraq, would be needed to support Iraq's stability and secure the mutual interests our two nations have sacrificed so much to achieve. Our military leaders on the ground in Iraq have told us, in order to achieve our goal—which is a stable, self-governing Iraq, and as a partner in fighting terrorism and extremism—they need a post-2011 force presence that is significantly higher than 3,000 troops.

We continue to hear that the Iraqis are to blame because they haven't asked for a new agreement. The fact is, in early August, Iraq's major political blocks reached agreement to begin negotiations with the United States on a new security agreement. This week, Massoud Barzani, the President of the Kurdistan regional government and one of the most respected men in Iraq—and, in my view, one of the finest—called for a continued presence of U.S. troops, saying Iraqi security forces are still not prepared to secure protection for Iraq.

Perhaps significantly the inspector general for Iraq reconstruction, Mr. Stuart Bowen, recently reported:

Iraq remains an extraordinarily dangerous place to work. It is less safe, in my judgment, than 12 months ago. Buttressing this conclusion is the fact that June was the deadliest month for U.S. troops in more than 2 years.

And, by the way, we continue to hear these quotes from various administration officials about absent a request from the Iraqis, it is difficult to settle on any one thing. Victoria Nuland stated that if they come forward with a request, we would consider it. That is assuming it is only in Iraq's national interests to have additional troops here. It is in America's national security interests not to lose Iraq after the sacrifice of some 4,500 brave young Americans, and the consequences of failure are obvious.

Who is it that opposes the continued presence of the U.S. troops most vociferously, strenuously, and sometimes in a very subversive way? Iran and the Sadrists. Iran and the Sadrists want

the United States out. It is not a matter of Iraqi national security interests, it is a matter of American national security interests.

What do 3,000 troops do? I don't know what 3,000 troops do, but I know they are required to have certain force protection numbers, which would be significant, and then how many troops would be left to carry out the mission of protecting the United States civilians, contractors, and personnel who remain there.

I guess you can sum this up, this decisionmaking process, best, and I quote from a New York Times article, "Plan Would Keep Small Force in Iraq Past Deadline":

A senior American military officer said the planning at this point seemed to be driven more by the troop numbers than the missions they could accomplish, exactly the opposite of how military planners ideally like to operate. "I think we are doing this thing backwards," the officer said. "We should be talking about what missions we want to do, and then decide how many troops we will need."

I can assure my colleagues that is the view of the majority of members of the military, many of whom have had multiple tours in Iraq, that is their view of this process we are going through.

I would point out that my friends Senator GRAHAM and Senator LIEBERMAN, who are coming—and I have been to Iraq on many occasions since the initial invasion. We have had the opportunity to watch the brave young Americans serve and sacrifice. We have had the ability to see as the initial military success deteriorated into a situation of chaos, beginning with the looting and unrest in Baghdad to very unfortunate decisions that were made in the early period after the victory in Iraq. And we watched. We watched the situation where many of our military leaders, but also those who are now in the administration, say that if we employed a surge, it would fail. The President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the Secretary of State, the President's National Security Adviser, all of them said the surge would fail; it was doomed to failure.

The fact is the surge succeeded. The fact is we now have an Iraq that has an opportunity to be a free and independent country, but, maybe more importantly, one that would never pose a threat to the United States of America and, most importantly, a chance for the Iraqi people to enjoy the fruits of the sacrifice that thousands and thousands and thousands of Iraqis have made on their behalf and approximately 4,500 brave young Americans have.

The Senator from South Carolina, the Senator from Connecticut, and I recall meeting with military leaders in 2006, where we were told that everything was going fine. The Senator from

Connecticut, the Senator from South Carolina, and I recall meeting with a British colonel in Basra who told us that unless we turned things around, we were doomed to failure. We remember the summer of 2007, when we were lonely voices, along with that of General Petraeus, General Odierno, and other great leaders who have been saying the surge could, and must, succeed.

I will leave it up to historians to decide whether our venture into Iraq was a good one or a bad one, whether the sacrifice of young Americans' lives was worth it, whether a stable and democratic Iraq, which can be the result of our involvement there, was the right or wrong thing to do. But what we should not do, and in deference to those who have served and sacrificed we must not do, is make a decision which would put all of that sacrifice and all that was gained by it in jeopardy because of our failure to carry out the fundamental requirement of contributing to Iraqi security in this very difficult transition time.

I would ask my friend from South Carolina, to start with, perhaps he remembers when we went to Baghdad, I believe it was 2007, and went downtown with General Petraeus and were mocked and made fun of in the media as I came back and said that things had improved in Iraq. Perhaps the Senator from South Carolina recalls when we had that almost triumphant visit in downtown Fallujah, a conflict that was won with great cost in American blood and treasure. Perhaps the Senator from South Carolina recalls going into downtown Baghdad and going to a bakery in an environment not of complete security but dramatically improved. All of it was purchased by the expenditure of America's most precious asset, young Americans' blood. And now we place all of that at great risk in the decisions, I say with respect, made by the same people who said the surge couldn't succeed.

I urge the administration and the President to reconsider what apparently is a decision and listen to our military leaders once, and employ a sufficient number of troops to provide the Iraqis with—as Barzani said, a sufficient number of troops to secure. As Barzani said, Iraq security forces are still not prepared to secure protections for Iraq.

I would ask my colleagues from South Carolina and Connecticut, aren't there plans for us to have a large amount of American civilians there, contractors, to protect them? Probably the most expensive form that we could do rather than American troops. Is it not a flawed strategy to not have enough American troops there to ensure that the lives of Americans who are serving there in various capacities are protected?

Mr. GRAHAM. If I may, trying to respond to the Senator's question, the

answer is yes. But you don't have to believe me or Senator MCCAIN. Ambassador Jeffrey, who is our U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, told us back in June when he was getting confirmed that all civilian movements are accompanied by American forces, to some extent, a mixture of Iraqi and American forces.

We are about to pass the baton between the Department of Defense to the Department of State. The civilian-military partnership that has been formed over the last decade has been working very well, and the future of Iraq is in Iraqis' hands, but they do need our help. As Senator MCCAIN said, we are helping ourselves.

On June 24, 2010, we asked General Odierno, Where are we in terms of Iraq? How would you evaluate our situation? And since this is football season—

Mr. MCCAIN. This was at a hearing?

Mr. GRAHAM. Yes. This was at a hearing for confirmation for General Austin. He said, We are inside the 10-yard line.

Well, this is football season. I think most Americans can understand this great progress. He said, We have four downs. This is first in 10, on the 10, we have 4 downs. He felt good that we can get it into the end zone, but getting it into the end zone is going to require a follow-on presence in 2012.

Having said that, I know most Americans want our troops to come home. Include me in that group. We are going to go from 50,000 to zero at the end of this year if something new doesn't happen. I am confident the Iraqis want our continued presence in a reasoned way.

What do they need that we can provide? Intelligence gathering. We have the best intelligence-gathering capability of anyone in the world, and it helps the Iraqis stay ahead of their enemies. And who are their enemies? The Iranians are trying to destabilize this young democracy. Ambassador Jeffrey, who is a good man, said the reason we need to get Iraq right is it helps our national security interests.

Show me an example in history where two democracies went to war. There is not any. So if he could take Saddam Hussein's dictatorship and replace it with a representative government, that is a huge advancement in our national security interests over time.

What do the Iraqis need militarily? They don't have a mature air force, so General Austin said it would be in our interests not only to sell them planes, F-16s, but actually train them how to use those airplanes. They have an infant navy to patrol their coast, to protect them against threats there. It is in our interests not only to train and develop the Iraqi police and army but to make sure that our civilians who are going to help build this new democracy can travel without fear and without unnecessary casualties, because the Iranians are going to try to undercut

us at every turn. That means targeting American forces left behind.

What else do they need? Counterterrorism. Al-Qaida and other groups, other radical groups, are going to try to come back into Iraq and destabilize what we have done. We have seen some signs of that. We have had 60 al-Qaida types released from American custody to Iraqi custody, and some are back out on the streets. So a counterterrorism footprint would be smart. Vice President BIDEN is right about this. A CT footprint in Afghanistan and Iraq makes sense.

When you add up all these missions, intelligence gathering, training, embedding, counterterrorism, force protection—

Mr. MCCAIN. Could I ask the Senator, are you leaving out the necessity for peacekeeping in the north between the Kurdish and the Arabs?

Mr. GRAHAM. That is a very good point, and that is exactly sort of where I was going to take this. That requires the footprint of thousands. We don't need 5,000, but I think 10,000 when you add it up is probably the bare minimum to do this. Because the commanders who are policing the Kurdish-Arab dispute boundary line in the northern part of Iraq have come up with a very novel approach, and I want to give the administration credit and the military credit. What they have done is they have taken Peshmergas, which are basically Kurdish militia, integrated them with Iraqi national security forces and American forces to form companies that eventually go to brigades, where they will get to know each other and work together as a team. I think any neutral observer would tell you our presence in Kirkuk has prevented a shooting conflict in the past. That is what President Barzai is worried about in the Kurdish areas. That is 5,000, he said. He has said we will need 5,000 troops here for a while to make sure this new concept of jointness develops over time. So when you add the whole package, you are somewhere around 10,000 plus.

To the administration, not only is bipartisanship desired in national security, I think it is required. We can look back and pat each other on the back or blame each other about Iraq. That is not what I am trying to do. We are where we are, and we are in a pretty decent place to the point that the Iranians are going nuts. They are trying to undercut Iraq's national development, because their biggest nightmare is to have a representative democracy on their border. That will incite their own people in Iran to ask for more freedom.

So, please, to the Obama administration, don't make the same mistakes at the end that the Bush administration made in the beginning. I can say with some credibility that I argued against my own political party infrastructure,

that Senators MCCAIN and LIEBERMAN and others—we went there enough to know it was not a few dead-enders, that the whole security footprint was not sufficient, and the model to change Iraq was not working.

It was General Petraeus's model that was adopted, to President Bush's credit. That was a hard decision for President Bush. The war was incredibly unpopular. People were frustrated. It seemed it was a lost cause, and President Bush went against what was the political tide at the moment. I am glad he did.

I ask President Obama to consider the long-term national security interests of the United States and do what Senator MCCAIN suggested—not what he suggested, what our military suggested: define missions. Is it important to have some support to intelligence gathering? I would say yes. Training the Army and Air Force and Navy? I would say yes. Having some presence to protect our civilians who are going to be the largest groups? I would say overwhelmingly yes. Does it make sense to have some American military support in the Kurdish-Arab dispute area? Overwhelmingly yes.

We will stand by you. I think most Americans are frustrated and war weary, but they don't want to lose. We are very close to changing Iraq by helping the Iraqi people. We can't change Iraq; only they can. They want to.

We talk about the deaths of Americans and it breaks our hearts. For every American who has died there have probably been 10 Iraqis. This has not been easy for people in Iraq. That is why I never lost faith. What kept me going with Iraq and Afghanistan is I have been there enough to know there are people in those countries who want the same thing for their children as most people in this body want for theirs.

To be a judge in America, one can get criticized. It is a tough job. One can lose their life in Iraq and Afghanistan, and I have personally met people who decided to step to the plate—to be lawyers, be judges, be policemen—who got killed. They knew what was coming their way.

It is in our national security interest to help this infant democracy, and that is what it is. Corruption still abounds, there are tons of problems in Iraq, but they are on the right trajectory.

I am asking the administration: Listen to your commanders. And 25,000, in my view—I am not a commander, but I could understand why the President would say that is a bridge too far. I know what the generals have recommended. It goes from the midteens to the midtwenties. But somewhere to the north of 10, given my understanding of Iraq, I think it will work. But I know we are broke. One thing I can tell you is, we cannot afford to lose after all this investment. The price and

cost of losing in Iraq now would be devastating for years to come.

If we do not see this through, who would help us in the future push back against extremism, knowing that America left at a time when they were asking us to stay? I am confident Sunnis, Shias, and Kurds want us there in reasonable numbers to make sure they can have the help they need to get this right.

Apparently, the decision has not been made yet. I am urging the administration to look at the missions, be reasonable, understand that we cannot give the military all they want all the time.

This is the decision of the Commander in Chief. He is a good man. It is his call. But the one thing I offer and I think the three of us offer in these very difficult times when America is under siege at home is to be supportive voices for the idea we cannot retreat and become fortress America.

Look what happened when a few people from Afghanistan, in far away places, for less than \$1 million—what havoc they wreaked on our country. This Sunday is the 10th anniversary. I am hopeful as we get to the 10th anniversary we can look back and say we have defended America in a bipartisan way. It is not just luck that has prevented us from being attacked. The President deserves a lot of credit for going after bin Laden, a lot of credit for adding to troops in Afghanistan when people were ready to come home.

I urge this administration to listen to our military leaders and finish this right. It would be a tragedy upon a tragedy for us to be inside the 10-yard line and fumble at a time when we can score a touchdown—not only for our national security but for fundamental change in the Mideast. If we get it right in Iraq, the Arab spring is going to get the support it needs and deserves. If we fail in Iraq, it will be just repeating history's mistakes.

The Bush administration did change. Thank God they did because they did not get it right early on. We are so close to the end now. Let's be cautious, let's be reasonable, let's err on the side of making sure we can sustain what we have all fought for. I tell you this: History will judge everybody well, including President Obama—and that would be OK with me—if we can turn Saddam Hussein's dictatorship into a representative government that would be aligned with us and be a voice of moderation for the rest of the 21st century.

I would like to get Senator LIEBERMAN's thoughts. It is one thing for me to talk about this in South Carolina. But even in South Carolina, a very red State, people are war weary and they are not excited about having to stay in Iraq in 2012. I think they will listen to reason. But during the darkest days of this effort in Iraq, Senator MCCAIN went the road less traveled by saying we need more at a time when the polls

said everybody is ready to come home. I do not question anybody's patriotism. It was a hard call. It was a tough fight, and there were no easy answers. But I am glad we chose to do what we did. I am glad President Bush adjusted.

But Senator LIEBERMAN, above all of us quite frankly, literally risked his political career because he believed that what happened in Iraq mattered to the United States.

The Senator was right. I want to thank him on behalf of all those who served in Iraq for giving them the time and resources to prove we could get it right.

I would like the Senator to, if he doesn't mind, to share his thoughts with the body about how we should finish Iraq.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN). The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I thank the Chair and thank my friend from South Carolina for his generous words.

Obviously, what turned the tide in Iraq was a vision, a commanding vision by General Petraeus about what had to happen to succeed with a new counterterrorism strategy and tremendous support from the men and women of the American military, a generation that volunteered, that stepped up to the call, that rightfully should be called America's "new greatest generation." They are an inspiration to us.

Of course, we lost a lot of them there. The Iraqi military fought hard and now, increasingly, has shown its capability to defend its own nation, which is what we had hoped and prayed and fought for. So my friends from Arizona and South Carolina had the same reaction I did yesterday. We began to talk to each other by the end of the day as we came back to Washington, to what was originally a FOX News story, that the decision had been made in the administration to go down to 3,000 troops. We reacted that way because it was lower than any number we had ever heard from anybody we had confidence in about what was necessary to secure all that we have gained and all the Iraqis have gained.

The papers today report it as a fact. Secretary Panetta says no decision has been made. I hope not because in these matters—I understand there is politics in Iraq as well as here, but what has to be put at the top of the list is what is best for our national security and, of course, for the Iraqis, what is best for their national security.

To me, if the number is right, and it is only going to be 3,000 more there after the end of this year, I don't see how we can feel confident that we can protect what we have spent a lot of American lives—a lot of Iraqi lives, a lot of our national treasure and theirs—securing. And I don't see how we can help to avoid a kind of possible

return to civil war, particularly on the fault lines my friends have mentioned, between the Kurdish areas and the Arab areas.

This is a decision ultimately for the President. I want to say this about doing the right thing: The President, obviously, took a position for withdrawal of American troops from Iraq during the campaign of 2008. I think there were a lot of his supporters who felt, who hoped, who dreamed that pretty much the day—we are hearing a lot about day one these days, a lot about day one after the next election. But I think a lot of President Obama's supporters expected that on day one of his administration he would begin a full withdrawal from Iraq. To his great, great credit, he did not do that because I think he understood he had a goal, which was to pull our troops out of Iraq but that America had an interest and he as President had to protect that interest in not losing in Iraq, not letting it fall apart, and not letting us suffer the loss we would to our credibility and strength around the world.

My friends and I traveled a lot together. We have been in places far away from Iraq—Asia, for instance—where, when it was uncertain about whether we were going to stick to it in Iraq we heard real concern from our allies in Asia. They said: You know, Iraq is far from here, but we depend on American strength and credibility for our security and freedom in Asia, in the Asia-Pacific region. If you are seen to be weak and lame and not up to the fight in Iraq, it is going to compromise our freedom.

The President, to his credit, understood all that and put us on a slow path to withdrawal. But I don't think anybody would fault the President if we—and I think the expectation has been that we have achieved so much that we could—leave a core group there to continue to train the Iraqi military so they reach their full potential, to be there to assist them in a counterterrorism fight because that is essentially what is going on in Iraq now. The war is basically over, but the extremists, the Shia militia, some remnants of al-Qaida, are carrying out terrorist attacks. Those are the explosive—literally explosive—high-visibility attacks.

We have special capacities in the U.S. military to work with the Iraqi military to prevent and counter those terrorist attacks.

Then the final part of the mission has to be to protect the American personnel there, civilian personnel. I don't know what that number will be. At one point—we already have the largest—

Mr. MCCAIN. Can I ask my friend to yield?

Mr. LIEBERMAN. I yield.

Mr. MCCAIN. I ask unanimous consent for an additional 7 minutes past 12:30.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. I thank my friend. At one point somebody indicated to us—we were in Baghdad—that the American Embassy, which is already the largest U.S. Embassy in the world in terms of personnel, could go up as high as 20,000. It could be that high. Those are a lot of civilians committed to working in the country that we need to have forces there to protect.

We are all coming to the floor today to appeal to Secretary Panetta, to the President: It would be shortsighted. If it is really going to be 3,000 and only 3,000, and, frankly, we are not going to tuck some away in those civilian personnel numbers in the embassy or somewhere else, covert operators—if it is really only 3,000, they are not going to be able to do the job that needs to be done. Not only that, they are going to send a message of weakness, lack of resolve, anxiousness to get out to the Iraqis' enemies and ours in the region, and that particularly includes Iran.

I join my colleagues. We have been together on this for a long time. I don't want us to squander what we have won, and we will, I am afraid, if we only leave 3,000 American troops there.

Mr. MCCAIN. Could I say to my colleague, no events in history are exactly similar. But I think we learned in Lebanon and again in Somalia that forces that are too small and do not have sufficient force protection—and I am not saying they are exact parallels, but certainly it puts whoever is there, whether they be military or civilian, in some kind of danger. As that progress has been made—and it has been significant progress in a country that has never known democracy—we have now Turkish attacks on the PKK up in the Kurdish area. We have continued tensions in the areas to which the Senator from South Carolina referred, which at one point, I believe, last June almost came to exchange of hostilities, between the Peshmerga and the others, and there is also increased Iranian interest in Basra. There continues to be the export of arms and IEDs from Iran into Iraq. They have no air force. They have no ability to protect their airspace.

Isn't it true their counterintelligence is dependent on our technical assistance, which means personnel?

So the argument seems to be that if we want this experiment to succeed, we should not put it in unnecessary jeopardy.

Mr. GRAHAM. I will add, if I may, the 3,000 number does not allow the missions that are obvious to most everybody who has looked at Iraq to be performed in a successful manner. That is the bottom line. That is why no one has thrown out 3,000 before. Can you do it with 10,000? That is where you are pushing the envelope. The Kurdish-Arab boundary dispute almost went

hot. This new plan we have come up with to integrate the Peshmurga, the Iraqi security forces with some Americans, will pay dividends over time. Mr. President, 5,000 is what the American commander said he needed to continue that plan. We have a plan to even wind down that number. It is just going to take a while. When it comes to Iraq, I can tell you right now I would not want our American civilians to be without some American military support, given what I know is coming to Iraq from Iran.

Mr. MCCAIN. Could I mention one fundamental here? The question is: Is it in the United States national security interest to have these 10,000-plus American troops carrying out the missions we just described or is it not? If it is, then it is pure sophistry to say: Well, we would only consider this if the Iraqis requested it. If we are waiting for the Iraqis to request it, then it means it doesn't matter whether the United States is there.

I think the three of us and others—including General Odierno, General Petraeus, and the most respected military and civilian leadership—think it is in our national interest. The way this should have happened is the United States and the Iraqis sitting down together, once coming to an agreement, making a joint announcement that it is in both countries' national security interest. If it is not, then we should not send one single American there, not one.

Mr. GRAHAM. If the Senator will yield for a second, that is a good point. We have been asked to go by both administrations. The Iraqis have a political problem. That is not lost upon us. Most people in most countries don't want hundreds of thousands of foreign troops roaming around their country forever. So the Iraqis have been upfront with us. We want to continue the partnership, but it needs to be at a smaller level. They are absolutely right. I don't buy one moment that there is a movement in Iraq saying we will take 3,000, not 1 soldier more. I think what is going on here is there is, as Senator MCCAIN suggested, a number drives the mission, not the mission drives the number. At the end of the day, this 3,000 doesn't get any of the essential jobs done. It leads to 3,000 exposed. It leaves the thousands of civilians without the help they need. It leaves the Iraqi military in a lurch. There is no upside to this.

I would end with this thought: Let's get the missions identified and resource them in an adequate way, and I think the country will rally around the President. I cannot think of too many Americans who would want our people to be in harm's way unnecessarily. If you leave one, you have some obligation to the one. Well, if you left one, you would be doing that person a disservice. Leave enough so we can get it

right, and that number is far beyond 3,000.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I want to say in response to something Senator MCCAIN said, somebody in the military said to me: If we are not going to leave enough to do the job, we might as well not leave anybody there.

Of course, we don't want that to happen. There are a couple of alternatives here. One is that the 3,000 is not the number. Hopefully we will have clarification. It is more than that. In all our trips to Iraq, talking about repeated teams of leadership, never has there been anyone who said to us that we needed less than 10,000 American troops there to do this job. I want to repeat this; there is a kind of sleight of hand here. Maybe it is 3,000 here and a few more thousand tucked into the civilian workforce at the embassy and a few more somewhere in the special covert operators. If that is the game plan here, it is a mistake. We ought to see exactly how many troops are leaving there. It gives confidence to our allies in the region, particularly in Iraq, and it will unsettle our enemies, particularly in Iran.

Dr. Ken Pollack has a piece in the National Interest that is out now about this situation. He is concerned about the small number of troops that may be left there and agrees that there may be some Iraqis who might be pushing for a smaller post-2011 force with a more limited set of missions. Dr. Pollack says:

That would be a bad deal for the Iraqi people and for the United States. Our troops would be reduced to spectators as various Iraqi groups employ violence against one another. Moreover, if we have troops in Iraq but do nothing to stop bloodshed there, it would be seen as proof of Washington's complicity. If American forces cannot enforce the rules of the game, they should not be in Iraq, period, lest they be portrayed as contributing to the destruction of the country.

That is what we are saying.

The final point here is Dr. Pollack argues in this piece that the United States, if this is in response—giving the benefit of the doubt for a moment—to Iraqi political concerns, that the U.S. has the leverage to avoid this dangerous outcome. He writes:

America has the goods to bargain. The question is whether Washington will.

That is the question I believe my colleagues from Arizona and South Carolina are asking today: Will we bargain with our Iraqi allies that this is the problem to be able to work with them for another chapter to secure all we have gained together up until now?

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I appreciate your indulgence and yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:37 p.m. recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CARDIN)

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING SENATOR MARK O. HATFIELD

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, my home State of Oregon has many towering and majestic features, such as our iconic Mount Hood and our beautiful State tree, the Douglas fir. Senator Mark O. Hatfield, who passed away on August 7, stood head and shoulders above all of them.

Last night, the Senate passed S. Res. 257, a resolution in respect of the memory of Senator Hatfield. This afternoon, Senator MERKLEY and I, with colleagues of both parties, would like to reflect on the extraordinary legacy of our special friend, Senator Mark Hatfield.

For me, Senator Hatfield's passing this summer, just as it seems the Congress has become embroiled in a never-ending series of divisive and polarizing debates and battles, drove home that Senator Hatfield's approach to government is now needed more than ever in our country.

Senator Hatfield was the great reconciler. He was proud to be a Republican with strongly held views. Yet he was a leader who, when voices were raised and doors were slammed and problems seemed beyond solution, could bring Democrats and Republicans together. He would look at all of us, smile and always start by saying: "Now, colleagues," and then he would graciously and calmly lay out how on one issue or another—I see my friend, Senator COCHRAN from Mississippi, who knows this so well from their work together on Appropriations—it might one day be a natural resources question, it might one day be a budget issue or a health issue or an education issue, but Senator Hatfield had this extraordinary ability to allow both sides to work together so an agreement could be reached, where each side could achieve some of the principles they felt strongly about. They would not get them all, but they would get a number of them. That, of course, is the key to what is principled bipartisanship.

It was not very long ago, it seems, when Senator Hatfield walked me down that center aisle, when I had the honor

of being selected Oregon's first new Senator in almost 30 years. I remember coming to the Senate, a new Senator, and watching Senator Hatfield at work. Sometimes he would be with Senator Kennedy and a big flock of the Senate's leading progressives, and sometimes he would shuttle over to visit with Senator Dole and a big group of conservatives. Somehow the public interest was addressed.

The question then becomes: How did he do it? What was the Hatfield approach all about? To me, Senator Hatfield was religious, but he was never intolerant. He was idealistic, but he was never naive. He was willing to stand alone but never one to grandstand.

But it was not his public life that shaped his belief and his principles. Those were forged in the most hellish of places: World War II in the Pacific. As a landing craft officer in the U.S. Navy, Senator Hatfield witnessed firsthand the battles at Iwo Jima and Okinawa. He was one of the first Americans to see the devastating effects of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

Later, he served in French Indochina, where he saw the economic disparities that would later lead to war in Southeast Asia. Those images remained with him throughout his life, acting as a touchstone for his belief that the world should be a safer and more peaceful place. It was Senator Hatfield's beliefs—those beliefs—that served as the foundation for his career in the Senate and for his opposition to the Vietnam war and to the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Senator Hatfield was a major player on the national stage. At the same time, he never forgot our home State or strayed very far from his approach of trying to bring people together. I see our friend, Senator ALEXANDER, on the floor, who also has had a lot of experience on natural resources issues.

I can tell my friends on both sides of the aisle that watching Senator Hatfield champion the need for family-wage jobs in the forest products sector, while at the same time being a champion of environmental protections of wilderness areas and scenic rivers, was like a classroom in the effort to come up with sound public policy.

When colleagues come to our home State, they will have an opportunity to go to the Columbia River Gorge, a special treasure. We had a big anniversary recently on the anniversary of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area. Senator MERKLEY and I were there. That never could have happened without that unique ability of Senator Hatfield to bring people together, and he went into every nook and cranny of our State, communities that barely were bigger than a fly speck on the map. He would make their roads better and their schools better and their health care better, again by bringing people together.

I know colleagues are waiting. I would simply wrap up by saying that my State has lost a great son. The Senate has lost one of its former giants. Our Nation has lost a man who represented honesty and decency in public service. I will never, ever forget how much Senator Hatfield has meant to my home State of Oregon.

I note Senator MERKLEY is here who served as one of Senator Hatfield's interns as well as Senator ALEXANDER and Senator COCHRAN. I think we have, through the graciousness of Senator REED and Senator MCCONNELL, time for all our colleagues.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon is recognized.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate a statesman and a mentor, Senator Mark O. Hatfield. He took many roles: dedicated public servant, conscientious man of faith, and pioneer for new development in the West. He was born in 1922 in Dallas, OR, a small town not far from our capital, Salem, to a family of modest means. His father was a blacksmith and his mother was a schoolteacher. When he was young, his family then actually moved to the State capital, which gave him a chance, as a teenager, to work as a guide in the State capitol building and to imagine returning one day as a public leader.

He proceeded to study at Willamette University in Salem. During his freshman year, events took a dramatic turn with the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. Senator Hatfield joined the Reserves and accelerated his studies, so he completed his degree in 1943 and joined the Navy. He proceeded as a naval officer and fought in Okinawa and Iwo Jima, and he saw the devastating aftermath of the atomic bomb at Hiroshima, an imprint that, along with his State, caused him to struggle with the appropriate and moral use of force throughout his life in public service. In his own words:

In the war's immediate aftermath, one vivid experience made the profoundest impression on me. I was with a Navy contingent who were among the first Americans to enter Hiroshima after the atomic bomb had been dropped. Sensing, in that utter devastation, the full inhumanity and horror of modern war's violence, I began to question whether there can be any virtue in war.

He elaborates on this process of questioning, this process of challenging, in his book "Conflict and Conscience." In terms of the Vietnam war, he concluded that it did not meet the Christian theologians' test for a just war. After the war, Hatfield went back to Oregon and he started a law degree, but he changed course after a year. He decided instead to pursue a master's in political affairs, and he went to Stanford and completed that master's and came back to Oregon. He started teaching at Willamette University, and in short order he was running for the Oregon House, in 1950, first elected at the

age of 28, and then Secretary of State 6 years later at the age of 34, and Governor 2 years later at the age of 36. Through these experiences, Senator Hatfield developed the ability to chart his own course, to determine and follow his own convictions. In 1964, he championed an initiative to outlaw the death penalty. That ballot measure passed, and Governor Hatfield then commuted the sentences of those on death row.

In 1965, in July, he was the one Governor at the National Governors Association to vote against the resolution endorsing the Vietnam war.

In 1995, he proceeded to oppose the balanced budget amendment, and as the Senate historian, Don Ritchie, observed, "It was one of the most courageous votes I had ever seen. He knew he was sacrificing his chairmanship and his position as a Senator. Few knew then that Senator Hatfield had offered to resign."

Senator Hatfield also worked hard to build core institutions in Oregon. He was a champion of Oregon Health and Sciences University and built it into a fabulous institution of research and learning. The Mark O. Hatfield School of Government carries on his legacy of leadership, conveying those principles to young leaders who are dispersing throughout the public policy arena. The Marine Science Center in Newport, a tremendous research facility, continues to yield benefits, including setting the foundation for the recent location of NOAA's research fleet in the city of Newport.

He was an intense advocate of medical research, and he championed NIH, where a building now bears his name. He was a champion for the U.S. Institute of Peace. He felt if there were academies that studied war, there should be academies to study peace and reconciliation.

In 1975, he introduced the George Washington Peace Academy Act to further the understanding of the process and state of peace among nations, to consider the dimensions of peaceful resolutions of differences, to train students and to inform government leaders in the process of peaceful resolutions. It took 9 years, but this effort which began as the George Washington Peace Academy Act ended in the establishment of the U.S. Institute of Peace in 1984.

As my senior colleague mentioned, he championed many efforts to protect Oregon's precious wilderness. One of his final projects was to protect Opal Creek, which has been described as 6,800 acres of virgin old growth, the largest span remaining in western Oregon. He said about this:

It is an inspiration. It is a place of educational and spiritual renewal and exploration. To walk among the centuries old fir, hemlock, and cedar inspires tremendous awe and instills, I think, a perspective unlike itself.

My own connection to Senator Hatfield began in 1976, in the spring of that year, when I went to Salem to meet with Jerry Frank, Senator Hatfield's legendary Chief of Staff, to interview for a possible summer internship in Senator Hatfield's DC office. I will be eternally grateful to Jerry Frank and Senator Hatfield for offering me that internship, for that opportunity to come to our Nation's capital to see government in action. My first responsibility was to open the mail. When you open the mail, you start to understand the dimension, the breadth of political opinion in the breadth of a State.

How readily did many constituents attack Senator Hatfield's Christian faith because they disagreed with him on some policy position. I opened so much mail that said: Hi, my policy position is this and yours is different. So how can you be a man of Christian faith?

Indeed, Senator Hatfield started his book "Conflict and Conscience" with just this dimension, a politicization of religion. He puts in it a number of letters that he received. One reads:

Dear Mr. Hatfield,
Your encouragement of antiwar demonstrations and the riots that have come from such demonstration are in fact treason for they give comfort and aid to our enemies.

...
I and a lot of other Christian people are extremely disappointed in your performance in the Senate, for you who claim to be a Christian and have access to our Almighty God should have a better understanding of human nature and the evil in the human heart.

Senator Hatfield talked about the challenge of being a public man of faith and working to take those principles and convert them to public policy in the face of hostility coming from the left or the right. But it was his determination to stay that course, to continue to be a person of reflection and depth in the pursuit of public policy.

That summer, I was assigned to the Tax Reform Act of 1976. The great joy that I had was that it happened to come up on the floor that summer. Back then, before there was television in this Chamber, before there was e-mail, you would come to the floor, if you were working on an issue, and go up to the staff gallery and follow debate, and you would rush down with the other staffers to meet your Senator coming out of the elevators just outside those double doors. Because there were lots of amendments, I got to meet with the Senator many times to describe the debate on the floor here, and to fill in what folks back home were saying about the particular issue at hand.

Then, occasionally, the timing being just right, we would have a chance to walk back and forth. Senator Hatfield loved to walk back and forth outside in the sunshine under the trees between the Capitol and his office in the Russell

Office Building. It was while observing those debates that I saw the Senate at its best. There was an amendment from the right side of the aisle that was debated and discussed and voted on an hour and a half later. Then there was an amendment from the left side of the aisle. The amendments were on the issue at hand, such as different tax strategies, and often they were bipartisan in nature. Indeed, you saw that our Senators at that time—most of whom had served in World War II together—could disagree without demonizing each other. This is a tremendously important facet of the Senate that has been lost over the decades since. Indeed, there were many friendly debates between Republicans and Democrats.

My father, Darrell, was a mechanic, and he had one of these debates with his boss who owned the company. When I was offered the internship with Senator Hatfield, Jerry called my father and said, Darrell, I won the debate because Senator Hatfield will work to make JEFF a good Republican. My dad said, no, no, no, I won the debate because JEFF will work to make Senator Hatfield a good Democrat. Neither of us would have broached such a topic.

The conversation wasn't about Democrats and Republicans. It was about the challenges at hand and how you resolve them. It was from that summer that I developed a lifelong admiration for Senator Hatfield and his model of public service. Here is what Senator Hatfield had to say about public calling:

Political service must be rooted in a philosophy of society's overall well-being, with a broad vision of how the body politic serves the people through its corporate structures. The heart of one's service in the political order must be molded by ideals, principles, and values that express how we, in the words of the Constitution, are "to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the General Welfare, and secure the Blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

He continued:

Political service must flow out of such a commitment. Convictions about war and peace, about the priorities governing the expenditure of Federal funds, about the patterns of economic wealth and distribution, about the Government's responsibility toward the oppressed and dispossessed both in our land and throughout the world, about our Nation's system of law and justice, and about the meaning of human liberty—these should be at the core of one's desire to seek public office.

It was because of my admiration for Senator Hatfield that when I became Speaker of the Oregon House in 2007, I called him and asked if he would consider coming to swear me in when I took the oath of office. He readily agreed to do so. That was the last public event that my father was at before he passed away. It was one of Senator Hatfield's last major public events.

I so much appreciated the symbolism of a Republican and a Democrat coming together at that moment, and sought to help guide the Oregon House, the same Chamber where Senator Hatfield started his political career to solve Oregon's problems.

It is because of my admiration for Senator Hatfield that when I came to this Chamber I asked for Senator Hatfield's desk. There are 14 names carved into the desk drawer in his desk. The 13th is Senator Hatfield's. As I looked at the names, I was surprised to discover this desk had never crossed the aisle before. So I think it is symbolic of Senator Hatfield's career of public service, focused on solving problems and working together across the aisle, that his desk made that journey to where it is now.

During those walks back and forth between here and the Russell Senate Office Building, Senator Hatfield paused one day to pull the leaf off a Ginkgo tree. He said: JEFF, this is one of the simplest of God's creations. Why is it that folks can't see the beauty of God's creation in the very simplest of one of his plants?

I held that leaf tightly in my hand, determined to preserve it. Just as we got back to the office, he plucked it out of my hand and said: Well, of course, you don't want to continue to carry that leaf. I didn't have the courage at that moment to say: No, I would treasure that leaf all my life, and then grab it back from him. So I don't have the leaf, but I take that memory of his deep personal faith and conviction.

I was sharing this story with another intern who served with Senator Hatfield in 1985, and he said: Well, let me tell you another story about a tree and Senator Hatfield. On this walk between the Capitol and the Russell Senate Office Building there is a tree that Senator Hatfield planted. It is a Metasequoia tree. It so happens the Metasequoia used to grow throughout Oregon millions of years ago. When people found the fossils and studied them, they concluded the tree was extinct—until the 1940s when they found a stand of Metasequoias growing in China.

Senator Hatfield arranged to have one of these trees planted in that walk. It so happens in 2005, when I was House Democratic leader in Oregon, we passed a bill that made the Metasequoia tree the fossil of Oregon, but we didn't know about this tree Senator Hatfield had planted. But there it is today. It is now 25 years old. It sheds its needles every winter, so people think it is a fir tree that has died. But it comes roaring back to life in the spring.

Now, 25 years into its life, it is equal to the highest of the broad leaf trees on the grounds of the Capitol. In another 25 years the Hatfield tree is going to soar over these Capitol grounds. In so doing, it is going to represent the val-

ues he fought for—the courage of one's convictions, the effort to get beyond the bumper stickers and into the nitty-gritty of issues, and to come to a conscientious decision that will take our Nation forward, the determination to be oriented toward solving problems and not to a partisan divide.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, would my colleague yield?

Mr. MERKLEY. Certainly.

Mr. WYDEN. I appreciate that, and I certainly don't want to interrupt his very eloquent remarks.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time for tributes to former Senator Hatfield be extended until 3:30 so that my friend and colleague can speak, as well as Senators LEAHY, ALEXANDER, COCHRAN, BINGAMAN, and LEVIN, who all wish to speak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I have just one closing comment, and that is this: This is a picture of the Senator Hatfield tree. It has my staff in front of it. We went out there on July 12, Senator Hatfield's birthday, to take this picture and we hoped to give this to him. We didn't have a chance to do that before he passed away. But I think this tree will serve as a living reminder of all that he championed throughout his tremendous career. We have lost a great man, and our Senate and our Nation are poorer for it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, let me speak a little bit about Mark Hatfield, because those of us who knew Mark thought the world of him. I had an opportunity to know him and to serve with him, and for 23 years I served with him in the Senate.

I rise to pay tribute to Mark as a dedicated public servant and a respected lawmaker, a man whom I liked to call my friend, and I think virtually everybody serving during that time, Republican and Democrat alike, considered him a friend.

He dedicated nearly his entire life to public service. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He took part in the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. He taught political science in Oregon at Willamette College for 7 years. He served in the Oregon State legislature. He served two terms as Governor. I remember him smiling when somebody would see him in the corridors and call him Governor. He became Oregon's longest serving Senator. He served five terms in the Senate.

Unfortunately, Mark was one of a dying breed in politics today. He was an old-fashioned Senator and a political moderate. He came from a brand of Senators that included names such as Bob Stafford and George Aiken, both from Vermont. Oregon, like my State, prizes independence in their elected officials, and he was certainly never

afraid to buck his party. From his opposition to the war in Vietnam to his early support for the Endangered Species Act and federally protected wilderness, Mark showed us all that he was ruled only by the people of Oregon and his conscience.

A true compassion for people drove many of Mark's decisions. After being one of the first American servicemen to see the destruction and carnage of Hiroshima following the atomic bombing, he later declared his leadership in the campaign to pass the 1987 nuclear weapons test ban, one of his major accomplishments.

Having a father with Alzheimer's disease and other family members with cancer, Mark became one of the strongest Senate advocates of Federal spending on medical research. He also supported prohibiting the sale of arms to undemocratic countries and countries that did not respect human rights.

Spending 8 years as the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Mark Hatfield did an amazing amount of good for his State of Oregon. In fact, it is hard to travel in the State of Oregon without seeing the differences he made.

Senator Hatfield was always known for his courteousness. Despite his independent streak, he had complete respect on both sides of the aisle. More than once I was there, and my two colleagues from Oregon on the floor know this, when people would come up to him and call him "Saint Mark."

It is important to remember that despite the squabbling that goes on in Washington these days, there are politicians who care deeply about the well-being of their colleagues in their State.

On a personal note, when I came to the Senate, I was No. 99 in seniority. Actually, there were only 99 of us in the Senate because there had been a tied race in New Hampshire. So I was the junior most Senator, sitting way over in the corner seat. Several of the more senior Senators reminded me how junior I was. I received a handwritten note, which I still have, from a Senator who wrote: When I came to the Senate, I was No. 99. But you move up. You move up quickly in seniority. He said: My door is always open to you. Let me know what I can do to help.

That Senator was Mark Hatfield. We became friends from that moment. I did go to him for advice. Marcelle and I traveled with him and Antoinette in numerous parts of the world. I can still remember the laughter on the plane. We would talk about everything—everything from children to politics, to sports, to whatever.

What a wonderful person. He was a public servant. He was a statesman. He was a friend. I consider myself fortunate to have known him, but especially to have served with him. This Senate was a better place with Mark Hatfield.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, before he leaves the floor, let me thank Chairman LEAHY for his kind and gracious thoughts. I know Senator Hatfield was very fond of the Senator as well. You have represented his values very well. I thank the Senator for those remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mark Hatfield was elected to the Senate in 1966. It was a distinguished class that included some prominent Republicans, sort of a new wave in the Republican Party. In addition to Governor Hatfield, a former two-term Governor, there was Charles Percy of Illinois, former President of Bell & Howell; there was Ed Brooke of Massachusetts, the first African American popularly elected to the Senate.

Also in that Republican class were Cliff Hansen, a prominent rancher from Wyoming, and a young man who was a son-in-law of then-Republican leader, Everett Dirksen, Howard H. Baker, Jr.

I hitched a ride with Howard Baker to Washington, DC, in that year and went to work as Baker's legislative assistant in 1967, and, of course, had a chance to meet Senator Hatfield. At that time, there was less space for Senators than there is even today. So new Senators were put into rooms with each other. For example, Senator Baker and Senator Brooke and all their staffs were put in a single room, separated only by a partition.

They got along with that for 6 months. But Senator Hatfield did not like it very much. After all, he had been a Governor for two terms and was not used to being treated in that way. He was polite about it, as he always was. But soon he made a mission. He went around the Senate and the Capitol and he counted up all the rooms that then-Senator James Eastland of Mississippi had taken to himself. He found 34 different rooms that were assigned to Senator Eastland and only half a room was assigned to Hatfield.

Senator Hatfield then reported to the Republican conference that Eastland had 34 rooms and that apparently someone was living in one of the rooms because someone from Restaurant Associates was putting a tray of food outside the door of this room in the Capitol and every morning two arms would come out and bring the food in.

This was Senator Hatfield's first report to the Senate. I saw him about 25 years later, when he was chairman of the Appropriations Committee and had a lot of power. I said: Senator Hatfield, how many rooms do you have now? He just smiled. My guess is he probably had 34.

But what I remember about Senator Hatfield, as a very young aide, was how unfailingly courteous he was to every single person. If you caught his attention, you had his full attention. It is easy to see why he was elected to the Senate for 30 years. It is easy to see why he won 11 elections.

Of course, the other reason, he was so interesting. He was a Baptist. He was a Libertarian. He was a great friend of Billy Graham. He was pro-life, not just on abortion but on the death penalty as well. He was antiwar. He was antibalanced budget. He was an interesting, independent, decent man. I simply wanted to say, from the vantage point of someone who feels privileged to serve in the Senate, what an impression this man from Oregon made on a 26-year-old young aide to Howard Baker in 1967.

I remember him for his courtesy, his decency, and for his independence.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I applaud my colleague from Tennessee. I appreciate him coming to make comments about his service with Senator Hatfield. When I was first coming to the Senate, Senator Hatfield asked me to bring greetings to his former colleagues. One of the first conversations I was able to have was to sit down with Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER who, like Senator Hatfield, served as a Governor, and who embodies so many of the qualities Senator Hatfield worked to cultivate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, today, the Senate mourns the death of the former United States Senator of the State of Oregon, Mark Odom Hatfield. He was elected to the Senate in 1966, and served for 30 years until his retirement.

The U.S. Senate lost one of its most talented and successful Senators when Mark Hatfield retired from this body.

It was a pleasure for me to serve on the Appropriations Committee when he became Chairman and to learn from his example of courtesy to others and his polite but unapologetic adherence to his personal views and convictions, even when they may have differed from those of others.

His service reflected great credit on the United States Senate.

Senator Hatfield was a tireless and effective advocate for serious reforms aimed at improving the quality of life for all Americans and addressing what he called "the desperate human needs in our midst." During the 1980s, he effectively used his Appropriations Chairmanship to champion a wide range of issues from human rights to improvements in health and education programs and environmental and conservation issues; and he got results.

Senator Hatfield's strength of character and commitment to doing the right thing, according to his conscience, whatever the consequences, was widely admired.

His contributions through his lifetime of dedicated service in Oregon and our Nation's capital are impressive, and will be long respected.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an

outline of Senator Hatfield's legislative accomplishments.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

FORMER SENATOR MARK HATFIELD'S LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Served five terms as a United States Senator for Oregon making him the longest serving U.S. Senator from Oregon. (1967–1997) Twice served as chairman of the Appropriations Committee (1981–1987 and 1995–1997)

As chairman and later ranking Republican on the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Hatfield steered millions of dollars to public works projects in Oregon. They ranged from national scenic areas and hydro-power dams to the state university system and the Marine Science Center that bears his name. Senator Hatfield fought earnestly throughout his career for environmental protection and conservation, including reforestation, the development of alternative energy, and pollution control. He was a longtime defender of Native American tribes, serving on the Indian Review Commission to protect treaty rights on tribal lands.

Senator Hatfield quadrupled Oregon's wilderness areas to more than two million acres and worked successfully to protect the Columbia River Gorge, the Oregon Dunes and Oregon's rivers. During his last session of Congress, Hatfield helped preserve the Opal Creek Wilderness from logging. He also generously funded a wide variety of civic, academic and environmental programs.

Senator Hatfield restored funding for the National Institutes of Health and secured appropriations for the improvement of the Oregon Health & Sciences University, now a leading U.S. research institution. In a hushed congressional hearing room in 1990, he pleaded for increased money for Alzheimer's research while describing how the disease had reduced his father, a powerfully built former blacksmith, to a "vegetable."

His unwavering commitment to peace and matters of national security were heavily influenced by his experiences as a young naval officer in World War II. He manned a landing craft during the invasion of Iwo Jima in 1944 and then became one of the first Americans to see the devastation in Hiroshima the following year. Senator Hatfield believed that lasting national security is not achieved through military might exclusively, but only possible when people have access to education, health care, housing and job opportunities.

In 1970 with Senator George McGovern (D-South Dakota), he co-sponsored the McGovern-Hatfield Amendment, which called for a complete withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam.

In the 1980s, Hatfield co-sponsored nuclear weapons freeze legislation with Senator Ted Kennedy. He also advocated for the closure of the N-Reactor at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, though he was a supporter of nuclear fusion programs. The N-Reactor was used for producing weapons grade plutonium while producing electricity.

Because of his opposition to what he viewed as excessive defense spending and an unnecessary military buildup under President Reagan, Senator Hatfield was the lone Republican to vote against the 1981 fiscal year's appropriations bill for the Department of Defense.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I am honored to join with my colleagues in

saying a few words about our former colleague, Mark Hatfield.

At the time I came to the Senate, Mark Hatfield had already served for 16 years. For the next 14 years we were colleagues and friends in the Senate. His retirement in 1997 was an occasion for regret for all of us who knew him and admired him. He set a very high standard for service in the Senate.

He was a master of the complex spending and tax issues that are the weekly focus of most Senate work. Of course, in his role as chairman of the Appropriations Committee, he was respected and appreciated for his fair-minded consideration of requests from all Senators—Democrat and Republican and Independent. He was a model of civility and of kindness, and he took a genuine interest in the well-being of those with whom he worked, both Senators and staff and all of those who worked to keep the Senate functioning.

He had a heartfelt commitment to seeking nonmilitary solutions to our Nation's problems around the world, and his votes—including his votes against the Vietnam War—reflected that strongly held commitment.

It was not in Mark Hatfield's nature to be a demagogue on any issue. He saw no advantage, political or otherwise, in twisting issues. The pandering and posturing that afflict much of our political debate today were not part of the politics he practiced.

I considered Mark both a mentor and a friend during the time he served in the Senate and when I was able to serve with him. He has been greatly missed since his retirement from the Senate, and now, of course, our sense of loss is even greater.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to pay tribute to the life and the public service of Mark Hatfield.

Mark Hatfield began his lifelong career of public service in the U.S. Navy during World War II. After the war he returned to Oregon where he served in the State house of representatives, in the State senate, as the Oregon secretary of state, and eventually as Governor of the State. Fortunately for us—for the Senate and for the country—Mark Hatfield did continue his career of public service and went on to serve five terms in the U.S. Senate.

During his time in the Senate, Mark Hatfield repeatedly demonstrated he possessed the courage of his convictions. We have heard that word "courage" used this afternoon by Oregon Senators and others as it relates to Mark Hatfield, and there are so many examples of that courage, including an unpopular position he took relative to the Vietnam war. But in 1995 he opposed the balanced budget constitutional amendment, which was then under consideration by the Senate. It

was a difficult position then to take as it is today. But he followed the courage of his convictions, and this is what he said about the constitutional amendment they were debating in the Senate back in 1995:

A balanced budget can come only through leadership and compromise. This compromise must come from each one of us. . . . In the end there is no easy answer, and there never will be. Regardless of the procedural restraint in place, where there is political will to create a balanced budget we will create one. Where there is a will to avoid one, we will avoid it. . . . A vote for this balanced budget constitutional amendment is not a vote for a balanced budget, it is a vote for a fig leaf.

Mark Hatfield said it as he believed it, straight from the shoulder—courageously and direct. He did so in regard to many other issues.

From the vantage point of the Appropriations Committee, Senator Hatfield was able to champion causes near and dear not only to his heart but near and dear to the hearts of so many Americans. Among these causes was medical research. Senator Hatfield was such an effective supporter of medical research that in 2005—8 years after his retirement from the Senate—the National Institutes of Health opened the Mark Hatfield Clinical Research Center in honor of his career-long support of medical research.

How well I personally remember, as a member of the FDR Memorial Commission, how Mark Hatfield joined DANNY INOUE, his cochairman, to finally lead us to build the long overdue memorial to one of America's greatest Presidents.

Today, the Senate mourns the passing of Senator Hatfield. How vividly those of us who had the pleasure of serving with him remember him. My wife Barbara and my deepest sympathies go out to Mark's wife Antoinette, to their family, and to their friends. As the Senate honors his extraordinary career, we can all take inspiration from his willingness to join with colleagues of both parties to achieve enduring goals.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I wish to join my colleagues in remembering Senator Mark Hatfield, an extraordinarily good man, a man of dignity and integrity. I didn't have the opportunity to serve with him in the Senate, but he chaired the Senate Appropriations Committee when I was a member of the House Appropriations Committee, so oftentimes we would come together in conference on a given issue, and I admired him greatly.

Mark Hatfield was an independent man throughout his public career. He was a man of civility and deep faith, a devout evangelical Christian. He was a Republican who believed government could be a force for good.

During the course of my statement, I will read some comments by Senator Mark Hatfield, and those who are fol-

lowing this should pause and reflect that his was once a major voice in the Republican Party. Unfortunately, few, if any, voices such as his can be heard today. I hope there are those who are listening who will take heart that it is consistent with Republican principles to stand for the values of Mark Hatfield.

Announcing his retirement from the Senate in 1995, Mark Hatfield said:

As a young man I felt the call of public service and believed in the positive impact government can have on the lives of people. Government service has allowed me to promote peace, protect human life, enhance education, safeguard our environment, improve the health care of Oregonians, and guard the rights of the individual.

As I said, though I didn't have the honor of actually serving in the Senate with Mark Hatfield, we shared a common hero. If a person visited his Hart Office Building suite and went to his conference room, they would see the most amazing display of memorabilia and tributes to Abraham Lincoln I have seen anywhere outside of my hometown of Springfield, IL. One whole wall in Senator Hatfield's office was covered with a collection of Abraham Lincoln paintings, photographs, and memorabilia. His fascination with Lincoln began when he was in grade school and he first learned about the evil of slavery and the leadership Lincoln provided in abolishing it.

Sometimes at night, Mark Hatfield said to a reporter, he liked to quietly slip down to the Lincoln Memorial to meditate. "It's like a cathedral," he said. "People come in talking loudly, but then they go up the steps, and it's amazing, they all begin to whisper. How can they help it?"

I can recall one particular instance where Mark Hatfield agreed to come to my hometown of Springfield, IL. Each year on February 12, we have the Abraham Lincoln Association dinner, and we invite people who are in public life or who are historians and academics to come and talk about their impressions of some aspect of the life of Abraham Lincoln. I remember his speech because he spoke about a man named Edward Dickinson Baker.

Edward Dickinson Baker had served in the U.S. House of Representatives as a Congressman from Illinois from two separate congressional districts. He then moved to Oregon and became a Senator from the State of Oregon. He was a close friend of President Abraham Lincoln. He was killed early in the Civil War at the Battle of Ball's Bluff. His statue is one of the Oregon statues here in the Capitol Building.

Mark Hatfield came to tell a story of Edward Dickinson Baker and the friendship of Abraham Lincoln and the connection with Oregon. I went up to him afterward and said: There is another part of this story you might find interesting. After Abraham Lincoln served as a Congressman—he was given

one term, which was the agreement with the Whigs back in Illinois. He wanted to stay on, but they said: No, you can't. So they offered him another job which he turned down before returning to Springfield to practice law, and that was the job to be the provincial Governor of Oregon, the territory of Oregon. Had Lincoln made that decision, history might have been a lot different for America. Hatfield and I laughed about that and the Oregon connection between Lincoln and Edward Dickinson Baker. He was an extraordinary man, Hatfield was, in that he not only admired Lincoln, but he studied him and the history of his life.

Mark was born in 1922, the son of a railroad blacksmith and a schoolteacher. He attended Willamette University in Salem, OR. He ran for the office of student body president—the only race he ever lost.

As a young Navy officer in World War II, Mark Hatfield was at both Okinawa and Iwo Jima, the two Pacific islands that were the scene of some of the bloodiest fighting of the war. Later, he was one of the first Americans to enter Hiroshima after the city was devastated by the first atomic bomb. Those experiences and his own religious views had a profound influence on his beliefs about the use of military power.

He was a lifelong foe of excessive arms buildup. He told the *Christian Science Monitor* in 1982:

There comes a time in a Nation's life when additional money spent for rockets and bombs, far from strengthening national security, will actually weaken national security—when there are people who are hungry and not fed, people who are cold and not clothed.

Mark Hatfield once castigated Democrats in the 1980s for not speaking up strongly enough about what he considered excessive military spending during the Ronald Reagan administration. He was the only Senator to have voted against the Vietnam war and the Persian Gulf war.

Politics wasn't his first calling. He was a college professor and then college president. In 1956, he was elected to the Oregon State Legislature, where he was instrumental in passing measures banning racial discrimination in housing and public accommodations—a decade before the government considered similar civil rights laws here in Washington. From there, it was a steady climb to State senator and secretary of state. In 1958, he was elected Governor, becoming the youngest ever in his State. He was reelected in 1962.

He successfully ran for the Senate in 1966 with a straightforward platform that included opposition to the Vietnam war. In all, he spent 30 years in this body, including 8 years as chairman of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee. I remember him as chairman. When he would have con-

ference committees, you could always count on Mark Hatfield to be genteel, courteous, and bipartisan. It was a great experience. Every conference committee was a great experience. The man really exuded fairness and integrity, and it is one of the reasons I wanted to come to the floor today and say a few words about how much he meant to me. When it came to particular issues on appropriations, he really focused on medical research, which was very important to him, and on efforts to eliminate poverty in the United States.

In 1995, he cast a historic vote. He was the only Republican to vote against a constitutional amendment to require a balanced Federal budget. His vote meant defeat for the measure because it fell one vote short for the two-thirds majority needed for passage. Senator Hatfield said he voted against the amendment for two reasons: because he believed it would starve social programs and tear deep holes in America's safety net and because it exempted defense and entitlement spending from cuts. Besides, he said, if Congress wanted a balanced budget, all it had to do was pass one.

Some younger Senators in his party were so angry at Hatfield for having cost them this balanced budget amendment that they set out to strip him of his committee chairmanship as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Luckily, that threat never materialized. Senator Mark Hatfield shrugged off their anger. He told a reporter:

I've been out of step most of my political life. So what else is new?

In the year after the balanced budget amendment vote, the Appropriations Committee, under Chairman Hatfield's leadership, went on to cut more than \$22 billion in discretionary nondefense spending from the budget. He wasn't opposed to spending cuts, but he didn't support a constitutional amendment.

I wish to offer my condolences to Senator Hatfield's wife Antoinette, who has been his partner for more than 50 years, and his children and grandchildren.

"Stand alone or come home"—that is the advice Mark Hatfield's father gave him about facing moral choices, and Mark Hatfield lived his life by that rule. Now he has gone home, and we are left to recall and celebrate the life and service of this good man.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the passing last month of Mark Hatfield, a former colleague of mine in the U.S. Senate whose service to the people of our great Nation and his beloved State of Oregon is truly noteworthy and continues to inspire public servants today, 15 years after his retirement in 1996 from the world's greatest deliberative body.

Indeed, service is the hallmark of Senator Hatfield's legacy; I know be-

cause I had the pleasure of serving alongside him for many years. Senator Hatfield served the people of Oregon as a State legislator, as their secretary of state, as their Governor, and as a U.S. Senator. The only election he ever lost was for student body president for his beloved alma mater, Willamette! Although that is a record any statesman can envy, it is more importantly, an example of public service we can all admire.

As a Senator, Mark Hatfield served the people of Oregon for 30 years—longer than anybody in the history of the State—and he served them well. He was an Oregonian through and through, and you could tell he loved his home State. He worked tirelessly for all Oregonians, regardless of their background or political persuasion.

As a young naval officer, Mark Hatfield experienced the battle of Iwo Jima and the aftermath of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima. These experiences had a profound and lifelong effect on Senator Hatfield. He hated war, but he always had respect for our servicemen and women. Senator Hatfield was also deeply religious, and relied upon his religious convictions and love for this country to guide him. He believed in America as what some call it, "a miracle of light."

Senator Hatfield and I did not always agree on everything, but we respected each other's views. I admired that Senator Hatfield always tried to find common ground with his fellow Senators. This made him a successful statesman and a respected individual on both sides of the aisle.

Today, I am honored to have the privilege to add my voice to the chorus of praise for this outstanding public servant whose service will long endure in the heads and hearts of all Americans, especially those who knew and had the pleasure of serving with him. My thoughts and prayers are with his family as they mourn the loss and celebrate the life of this great man.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Mark Hatfield, a former Governor and U.S. Senator from the State of Oregon. Mr. Hatfield passed away on August 7, 2011, in Portland at the age of 89.

The son of a Baptist railroad blacksmith and a schoolteacher, Mr. Hatfield was born in Dallas, OR, on July 12, 1922. He graduated from Willamette University in 1943, having fast-tracked his studies so that he could enlist with the Naval Reserve.

As a young man, Mr. Hatfield served in World War II at the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa and later saw firsthand the devastation of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. These experiences shaped him personally and politically, and he became an outspoken advocate for peace, and a prominent opponent of the Vietnam war.

In 1966, Governor Hatfield stood alone in the National Governors Association when he voted against supporting the Vietnam war. And in 1970, as a Member of the U.S. Senate, he sponsored the McGovern-Hatfield amendment with Senator George McGovern of South Dakota, which would have created a deadline to end U.S. military action in Vietnam.

Senator Hatfield later was one of only two Republicans along with Senator CHARLES GRASSLEY of Iowa—to vote against the 1991 Senate resolution authorizing the first gulf war.

Mr. Hatfield will also be remembered as a leader in the fight against the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

In 1982, he introduced S.J. Res. 163—the nuclear freeze amendment—with Senator Edward Kennedy, which argued that “the greatest challenge facing the Earth is to prevent the occurrence of nuclear war by accident or design.”

Had it passed, the resolution would have urged the United States and the Soviet Union to “pursue a complete halt to the nuclear arms race.”

Senator Hatfield told the Christian Science Monitor, “We’ve developed the ability to destroy the planet, but that doesn’t give us the right to destroy the planet.”

Throughout his career in public service, Mr. Hatfield fought for what he believed was right, rather than walking any strict party line. He fought for peace, for civil rights, for the environment, and for medical research.

As chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee for two terms, he supported increased budgets for the National Institutes of Health; fought for crucial social programs in a time of shrinking government; and was an early supporter of the Endangered Species Act.

As a dedicated, remarkable and outspoken public servant, Mark Hatfield’s life was filled with a wide range of service and accomplishments. Early in his career, he said, “I pray for the integrity, justice and courage to vote the correct vote, not the political vote.” It is clear he lived up to this principle and made extraordinary contributions to our nation and to the world. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family. He will be missed.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Senator Mark Hatfield—a lifelong Oregonian, a genuine statesman, and a dedicated public servant. With a career in government that spanned nearly five decades, Mark leaves behind a legacy of service and a model of civility in American political life.

From the shores of Iwo Jima, to the halls of the statehouse in Salem, Oregon, and the Chamber of the U.S. Senate, Mark dedicated his life to our country. He served courageously as a naval officer in the Second World War

in the Pacific theater. He was a notable lawmaker in the Oregon State Legislature, championing civil rights legislation in the 1950s well before the Federal Government’s landmark efforts in that area. He also served as Oregon’s secretary of state, and for two terms, he was a successful Governor. He went on to serve the people of Oregon as a U.S. Senator for three decades.

I knew Mark to be a man of decency, always civil in the way he conducted his business, and I believe that was his signature strength as a legislator. While Mark and I did not always agree, he was never disagreeable. He was principled and passionate about the things he believed to be true, but he was also respectful of those with whom he disagreed. His demeanor won him many friends and built many fruitful relationships on both sides of the aisle, making him a most effective legislator.

Upon retiring from the Senate in 1996, Mark reflected upon the nature of our country’s politics, saying, “I’m going to miss the people, but not the process.” He had grown disenchanted with the coarse partisanship that had warped the political process, and he knew that if we were to keep moving forward as a country, the vital center would have to hold, civility would have to prevail, and bipartisanship would have to return. Solutions do not come from gridlock. Bipartisanship has to win the day.

Since Mark retired from the Senate, our politics have become even more tribal. But I believe it would serve us all well, as we honor his life, to reflect upon the example he set—that disagreements do not have to become roadblocks but instead can be opportunities for innovative compromise.

I learned a great deal from Mark Hatfield during our time in the Senate together, and I am grateful for this opportunity to honor Mark’s memory.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Senator Mark Hatfield. He was a true giant, a man who placed principle above politics—doing what he felt was right for the people of Oregon and the Nation.

Senator Hatfield’s life was one of service. He served as a naval officer during World War II. He fought in the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Later, he was one of the first Americans to see the effects of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. He served in the Oregon state legislature, as secretary of state and Governor, and then as Senator of the United States.

In the Senate, Senator Hatfield was known for his many accomplishments for the people of Oregon. He used his position on the Appropriations Committee, where he became chairman, to bring jobs and opportunity to his State. One of his greatest legacies is in foreign policy, nuclear disarmament, and in the pursuit of peace. Senator

Hatfield was one of the first in the Senate to oppose the Vietnam war. He was a leader in the pursuit of nuclear disarmament, and he was a steadfast supporter of civil rights.

I was honored to serve with Senator Hatfield in the Senate and on the Appropriations Committee. We were neighbors on the 7th floor of the Hart Building. We worked together on many important issues, especially on international women’s rights. As coastal Senators, we also worked together on jobs that affected both of our States—everything from fishery issues to saving jobs in the shrinking shipbuilding industry.

Senator Hatfield was a man of deep faith, known for putting his values into action. He was also a gentleman who accomplished so much for his State and his Nation. He will be greatly missed.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to join those who have spoken or intend to speak about our former colleague Mark Hatfield.

Most people remember Mark as one of our party’s most liberal members—as a Republican who called himself a liberal even after Democrats started avoiding the term.

I think he would like to have been remembered as someone who tried to bring people together or as he put it, as a reconciler.

He was, as we all know, a man of deep principle and compassion. He was also a gifted politician, to this day the longest serving Senator in Oregon history.

Mark was also deeply influenced by his experiences.

It is said his deep aversion to war derived, in part, from his experience as one of the first American servicemen to enter Hiroshima after the dropping of the atomic bomb.

Those of us who knew Mark as a colleague are glad to have had the chance to know him and serve with him. And I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt condolences to Antoinette and the Hatfield children, as well as Mark’s many grandchildren. America, and the Senate family, have lost a good man.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, this afternoon we heard tributes to former Senator Mark Hatfield from a bipartisan group of Senators. I would like to add to those tributes by including in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the eulogy that Senator Hatfield’s son Visko delivered at his father’s Memorial Service.

I ask unanimous consent that the following statement be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Good afternoon, thank you Dr. Ogilvie, Father Mike (Maslowski) amazing as usual, thank you. Pastor Ron (Kinkead), thank you. Thank you also to the Village Baptist

church for providing this lovely sanctuary for today's Public Memorial.

I would like to thank the distinguished guests, former staff members, life-long friends, and complete strangers who have turned out today to honor my father.

It is remarkable to see the outpouring of love and support for the man we simply called Dad.

I have pondered this moment over and over in my head for a long time.

Would I speak? What would I say?

What could I possibly add to what has already been said about my father.

So many introductions, so much accolade, hundreds of honors, countless speeches, ground breaking ceremonies, ribbon cutting dedications, political campaigns, opinion pages, articles and books.

Words, words, words and more words, volumes of stories some true, some false and some, hybrids of both.

A dear friend advised me to share the personal side, share the family side, and share something close to my heart.

I thought to myself, I have shared enough. I have shared my childhood, I have shared my adolescence, and I have shared my adulthood.

My entire life, shared as a function of a public figure.

The tank is pretty empty, what more could I share?

So I thought about it and came up with the reoccurring question.

The question that, I have been asked throughout my life.

"What is it like to be a Senator's son?"

I used to quip that I really didn't know anything different he had always been a senator; except for the day I was born, when he was Governor of this state of Oregon.

The only time in my life I wasn't a Senator's son, I was a Governor's son.

What is it like to be a Senator's son?

To be in the public eye, under the microscope, in the spotlight.

What was it like to grow up under the weight of assumption and misconception, subject to the torment of political persuasion?

In the shadow of a figure so large and with the awesome responsibility of privilege, simply because the people of Oregon had given my father their faith in him every six years, five times.

What is it like to be a Senator's son?

I have been subpoenaed and compelled to testify in front of a Senate ethics committee. Grilled for five hours by government lawyers because someone thought my father had sold out his career and the people of Oregon.

I witnessed my mother's real estate business shredded, slowly, painfully and publicly, because someone thought my father had sold out his career and the people of Oregon.

I have been hugged by total strangers who shared very personal stories about how my father had changed their life, or how he had bestowed their Eagle Scout award, on them decades before.

In high school, I was walking a friend home after school. Trailing us were two Secret Service agents. The same two who had taken me to school earlier that morning, the same two who had sat in on classes and in the lunchroom with me.

Two men whose job it was to throw down their lives for mine. Not because mine was so important, but because the same nut case had threatened the life of the President of the United States and my father's life, in the same breath. While my father and mother

were out of the country, the thinking was, the family would be the next, most likely target.

Agent Robert Alt, Agent Don and other members of the 24 hour protection detail, I will never forget the position you were in for two weeks because I am a senator's son.

Twelve years ago ran into friends, a couple from Oregon, on the street in New York. Even more than being delighted at our chance meeting, in a city of millions, they were giddy with the news that they had just seen my father's obituary at the New York Times.

With great surprise I informed them that I had just hung up the phone with him not 30 minutes earlier.

They proceeded to clarify that they had won and auction item—a tour of the New York Times offices. During the tour, they had seen the Obituaries of the notable and famous. Including my father's. Pre written, ready to go.

I remember one time at a photo studio in New York I was introduced by a friend, to an Art Director from Oregon. Upon hearing "Oregon" and "Hatfield," I could see the light bulb go on over the art director's head. The same connection, I had awkwardly embraced many times in my life, was made. He then asked in a definite and knowing voice . . . "are you related (I began nodding) to Tinker Hatfield?"

With great relief, I said, "no I am not."

No offense to the famed shoe designer at Nike.

What is it like to be a Senator's son?

I could tell you about the woman who came up to me when I was 12 years old. I was with my father on a re-election campaign swing thorough eastern Oregon. I was wearing a three-piece, brown velvet suit—in eastern Oregon . . . in July.

She had cornered me when I was alone. She waved her finger in my face and exclaimed "look at you in your fancy three piece suit all dressed up from the east coast. You know we have pretty girls here too, you just have to look for them hiding behind the sage brush."

I was stunned—where was the political playbook? What do I say? I smiled and assured her I would keep my eye out for girls hiding in the sage brush and I thanked her for coming to the "Meet Mark" spaghetti dinner to support my Dad.

One night at dinner at my home, I sat to the right of former president Nixon, a dinner that included a round table of official presidential historians. Nixon was brilliant, the man fielded question after question on every aspect of geopolitics, managed to eat his dinner and comment on how he fondly remembered my mother's steamed green beans, and how happy he was that she had served them again that night.

He conjured a memory of a visit to Oregon when he was VP. My father, as governor greeted him at the airport. Dad wore a white trench coat, Nixon a black one. The former president said it was a smart move wearing white, because, when the front-page photo of the event was published the next day, it was my Dad who jumped off the page, not him.

What is it like to be a Senator's son?

Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter, Billy Graham, all guests in our home on separate occasions.

I have met Mother Theresa, Menachem Begin and the Pope.

I have flown onto the deck of an aircraft carrier, visited mental institutions, medical research centers, and courthouses.

Tom Brokaw wrote six simple pages about my father in his book, *The Greatest Genera-*

tion. I always liked Tom Brokaw and this book is amazing. It highlighted the few things and more of what my father told me the "one" time he spoke about his service in World War II. He spoke of how he was poised, as the Commander of an Amphibious Craft, for the invasion of mainland Japan. Of how if we had not dropped the atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, he would more than likely never have made it to the shores of Japan alive.

He said the catharsis for him was in sharing his rations with Japanese children, after his mission changed from that of invader to clean up and relief operations, in the aftermath of the bomb. He showed me a few small porcelain pieces he had dug out of the rubble. Simple everyday objects, teacups and saucers.

I will always be grateful to the people of Japan for their sacrifice, because in doing so, one US Soldier made it back alive and went on to become my father and to spend nearly fifty years of public service, fighting for the lives of millions of people worldwide.

I would learn more about my father reading books and newspapers, than I would learn about him, from him, or so I thought.

Dad was the man who taught me to pray.

To say thank you, to give thanks and to be grateful, to give thanks for food, to give thanks for the blessings of the day.

The prayer: Inner voice as outer voice.

"God bless this food, in Jesus name amen."

The kids' simple prayer around our table.

"Dear heavenly father we pray that you bless this food to the nourishment of out bodies and thus to thy service in Christ's name we pray, Amen." His simple version around our table.

I have heard Dad give thanks in front of thousands and in front of a few. Because he wanted to and because he was asked to.

His faith was remarkable. His prayers were soothing, thoughtful and kind.

I have gone to nearly every kind of church with my father. But one in particular stood out . . . a Baptist church.

When I was a teenager, Dad would come into my room and wake me up on a Sunday to go to church. Then he would come in again and wake me up again.

Often times he would come in with a look of incredulous disbelief, when it seemed as though I was not going to budge.

He would declare "I cannot believe you can't commit one hour of the week to the Lord."

Well "one hour" in those days at this particular Baptist church soon became about 35 minutes.

This was because when would arrive on time and take our seats, the minister, Pastor Maritz—had kind of squeaky voice and he would say—"I see we have Senator Hatfield in our congregation today, perhaps he would lead us in the pastoral prayer."—Privacy shattered—Dad would rise and deliver, praying for all of us, for those less fortunate, for those in need, for our soldiers over seas, for our leaders to have strength and wisdom to make good decisions, to make better decisions.

Dad was fond of mixing church and state—in church—during prayer.

I believe he thought there was certain irony in doing so.

And that in church, he was a safe enough distance from those who might decry his faith and it's influence on him when it came to matters of state.

When he had given enough pastoral prayers we began arriving late to church, well after the pastoral prayer had been given. Pastor

Maritz began to catch on. Being the smart Baptist that he was, he switched to asking dad to give the benediction.

Not long afterward Dad re-maneuvered, so we would arrive late AND then leave early. I felt okay with dedicating 35 minutes a week, to the Lord in Church.

What is it like to be a Senator's son?

I want to read a letter, which I opened and read to my father two years ago.

It was at a time when his health and his total awareness as we knew it began to fade. I believe it was during this phase, that his inner awareness was unwavering, was still intact.

The letter had been mailed to the MOH School of government at PSU and had been forwarded on to dad's home. It was written by Philip Millam.

(Read Letter)

I have had this letter on my desk for two years.

Forty Years this man carried the desire to thank my father. To tell Dad that with the simplest words "thank you . . . thank you for your service," that Dad had made this man's effort in an unpopular war, feel honorable. In the fewest of words he had lessened the feelings of animosity and of being marginalized.

It brought tears to my father's eyes and to mine. I was proud of my father and he knew it.

Mr. Millam I would like to respectfully ask you to stand up and to be recognized. For your service to our country, in the most difficult of circumstances, I would like to thank you. And for providing me with a memorable father and son moment, I would like to say Thank You.

What is it like to be a Senator's son?

Awe, Awareness, Anger.

Pride, Press and Privilege.

The realization that it is not about who I have met, where I have gone or what I have done.

It is to be witness to his impact on the lives of others.

Mark Odom Hatfield.

His life was never about the man or the name. To shower praise on it, to honor it, to chisel it granite or cast it in bronze or, to sully or demean it, or to criticize it, is missing the point.

The point of my father's existence was not to collect awards or praise, but rather, I believe, to teach a lesson.

The lesson is a simple one, yet too often overlooked.

The lesson is that we need to be kinder to one another, to help and to teach each other.

To honor and to respect one another.

Because long after the man is gone and the buildings are renamed or torn down, the lesson must live on in each of us.

The lesson from the teacher, from the servant leader.

The lesson in many instances was to stand up when others chose to sit, to speak out when others were silent. To find clarity when the noise was deafening. To forgive those who are unforgivable.

The lesson is to protect life at all stages of vulnerability, or as he used to say, in the womb, at the gallows and on the battlefield. Dad taught me that it cannot be the selfish, it must be the selfless who make the world a better world.

Each one of us has a part to play,

Each one of us has influence on the other,

Each one of us has a responsibility to ourselves and in turn, to each other.

Dad never wanted to be a giant, he preferred to have giant impact. His were not the

shoulders to stand on, his were foot steps to follow.

A few months ago in what we thought were Dad's final moments, it was late at night I was going into the second straight day at his bedside. I was holding his hand and telling him it was okay to let go, he had lived a good life and fought long enough, we would take care of mom.

It was during this time, he and I had a remarkable exchange.

At the time, he wasn't talking very much.

I asked him of there anything he needed or anything I could do.

He straightened up his leaning body and opened his eyes wide and he said.

"You need to save a life."

He asked me to save a life.

I said, "Whose life should I save?"

He said, "The first one you can."

There was a long pause, he was staring straight ahead, not blankly, but like he was seeing something that I wasn't.

I asked him what he was looking at, he said

"There are so many poor people and people who are hungry, who are on the doorstep."

I paused a while, wondering.

Then I asked him "what do they look like?"

Without hesitating, he said

"They look like us."

A glimpse at what it is like to be this senator's son.

It is a continual reminder that there is a calling to help where ever possible, a calling to open our eyes to people who we may think are different, or who we may think are less, than who we think we are.

It is a reminder for us to open our eyes to help people who others cannot see, or who others choose not to see.

Why?

Because they "look like us." They are in fact us.

I would like to take a moment and thank from the bottom of my heart, Dr. Francis Collins director of the NIH as well as Dr. John Gallin, director of the MOH clinical research center at NIH. Two men whose effort at sustaining human life and medical research continues to inspire.

I would like also like to thank my sister Elizabeth who for years has magnificently worn the titles of both doctor and daughter, through some of the most difficult times during our father's stages of declining health. You are a rock star of a doctor. And a fabulous sister.

Lastly, I would like to thank my mother Antoinette Hatfield, who for more decades than anyone, has stood by my father's side in life. She has made sacrifices most of us will never know, under more difficult circumstances than anyone should have to.

Always the matriarch, she is the woman behind the man, in front of the world.

Allow me to straighten your halo. You are an angel among us.

Visko Hatfield, August 14, 2011.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I think we have seen in the last half hour, almost going on an hour, the enormous goodwill that Senator Hatfield generated in the Senate, with Democrats and Republicans alike coming to the floor. I just wanted to wrap up with one last comment.

Senator Hatfield did not serve alone. He was accompanied through his extraordinary public service journey that we have heard discussed today on the

Senate floor by a remarkable woman, Antoinette Hatfield. For those of us who knew Mrs. Hatfield, the only way we could sum her up would be to say: What a woman. Whip smart, boundless energy, persistent in a way that made it clear she was going to push hard for what was important, but always in a way that left you with a sense that she would be standing up for what was right and almost invariably with her husband standing up for our State.

My colleague in the Chair, the Presiding Officer, Senator MERKLEY, described his experiences with Senator Hatfield very eloquently. We have heard that from one Senator after another. But I thought it was appropriate this afternoon—as many Senators knew Mrs. Hatfield and, I think, share my views—and important to note that Senator Hatfield often said—and my colleague will recall it as well—he could not have made the contributions to Oregon without having at his side, having the good counsel, enjoying the affection of this wonderful woman, Antoinette Hatfield.

So as the Oregon delegation in the Senate wraps up these tributes, we simply want to acknowledge not just Senator Hatfield's contributions but the chance we have had to be with Mrs. Hatfield in work situations and personal situations, and we wish to express our gratitude for all she has done for decades now working with her husband, working with Oregonians to make Oregon a better place.

This afternoon, Antoinette Hatfield, as well as her late husband, has our undying gratitude.

Mr. President, with that, I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MERKLEY). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEAHY-SMITH AMERICA INVENTS ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the remaining time postcloture be yielded back, and the motion to proceed to H.R. 1249, the America Invents Act, be agreed to; that there be debate only on the bill until 5 p.m., and at 5 p.m. the majority leader be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. I ask that the unanimous consent request be modified so once we are on the bill I can offer an amendment related to the Secretary of the Treasury and that a vote on that issue be reported.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to my friend's request. I ask that once we get on the bill that the Senator from Kentucky, Mr. PAUL, be recognized to speak for up to 10 minutes in order to explain the amendment that he had hoped to offer and will offer at some point in the future.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request as so modified?

Mr. REID. I modify my request to that effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1249) to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, they say the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. We now have been in 3 years of a policy that is not working. Joblessness is up and our debt has been downgraded. Our country is on a precipice, and yet we continue with the same people giving the same ideas that are not working. It is important to know how we got here.

We are in a great recession, the worst recession since the Great Depression. How did we get here? We got here through bad economic policy and bad monetary policy. This policy originated with Timothy Geithner when he was at the Federal Reserve in New York. It originated with Ben Bernanke, the head of the Federal Reserve.

What did we do? We reappointed these people to higher office. They say the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result.

I would respectfully ask at this point we have a vote in the Senate. I think the American people have given a vote of no confidence to the Secretary of the Treasury. I think the American investors and worldwide investors have given a vote of no confidence to the debt ceiling deal and to what has been going on.

Over and over we are doing the same policy. We have now appointed as head of the Council of Economic Advisers someone who brought us Cash for Clunkers. We spent \$1 trillion—money we don't have—trying to stimulate the economy and unemployment is worse. Gas prices have doubled. Economic growth is anemic, if at all. We are in the process, perhaps, of sliding into another recession and something has to be different. We cannot keep doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result.

For the first time in our history our debt has been downgraded. This came after a policy that came from the Secretary of the Treasury and from this administration. It came from a deal the American people and the world

public, world class of investors, judged and deemed to be inadequate.

This country needs a shakeup. We need new ideas. We need different propositions. The same propositions, the same tired, old proposals are not working. We are set during this administration to accumulate more debt than with all 43 previous Presidents combined. We are accumulating debt at \$40,000 a second. We are spending money at \$100,000 a second.

When a policy doesn't work, we need new policy leaders. There will not be a new President until 2012, but this President could choose new advisers because the advice he has been getting is not working. We are languishing. We are on the precipice of possibly going into another recession, and I would suggest at this point we need a new Secretary of the Treasury.

How did we get into this problem? We got into this problem because we had a housing boom. This came from bad monetary policy. It came from the Federal Reserve setting interest rates below the market rate, and that signal was transmitted out into the economy and we got a housing boom. Then we had a housing depression. We are still in the midst of a housing depression.

Where did that policy come from? That policy came from Secretary Geithner and Ben Bernanke.

What have we done? We have reappointed these people and reapproved their policies that got us into the problem in the first place. If we want our country to thrive again, we must diagnose the problem correctly before we try to fix it. Because they didn't understand how we got into this recession, they also passed a whole bunch of new regulations. The Dodd-Frank bill heaps all kinds of new regulations that make it harder to get a home loan.

In the midst of a housing depression, we have heaped all these new rules on community banks. You know what? In my State of Kentucky, not one bank failed. The problem is at the Federal Reserve. The problem is with the policy. The problem is with the people we still have running this country and advising the President.

What I am asking for today is a vote of no confidence on Timothy Geithner. I see no reason and no objective evidence that any of his policies are succeeding. I have come to the floor today to ask for this vote, and we will continue to try to get this vote. We have introduced a resolution in favor of voting a vote of no confidence on Timothy Geithner, and I hope this body will consider it.

I yield back the remainder of my time and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask the Chair what is pending before the Senate at this moment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill H.R. 1249 is pending for debate only.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNET). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, on Monday, we observed but did not celebrate Labor Day. I say "observed and did not celebrate" because we are painfully aware that there are at least 29 million underemployed and unemployed Americans in our midst. Last Friday, the Department of Labor sent shock waves through the global economy by reporting that the U.S. economy created zero net jobs in August. A growing chorus of economists is warning against the dangers of making immediate draconian cuts to the Federal budget—something that, by its very nature, will drain demand, reduce growth, and destroy jobs.

Tragically, too many Members of Congress refuse to listen. Over the summer, they have insisted on a mindless march to immediate austerity—an approach that threatens to strangle the weak economy.

Inside the Washington bubble, some of our political leaders continue to insist that the biggest issue is the budget deficit. Outside the beltway, ordinary Americans are desperately concerned with a far more urgent deficit, the job deficit.

I am also concerned about a third deficit, the deficit of vision and leadership in Washington. I am disturbed by our failure to confront the current economic crisis with the boldness and vision that earlier generations of Americans summoned in times of national challenge.

Smart countries, in tough economic times, do not just turn a chainsaw on themselves. Instead of the current slash-and-burn approach, which is being sold through fear and fatalism, we need an approach that reflects the courage and determination of the American people. By all means, we must agree on necessary spending cuts and revenue increases, but we also must continue to invest in that which

will spur economic growth, create jobs, and rebuild the middle class.

I cannot emphasize too strongly the importance of restoring the middle class in America. I have given several floor speeches on this very subject. In the committee I am privileged to chair, the HELP Committee, we have had hearings on what has happened to the middle class. In fact, on September 1, our committee issued this report: "Saving the American Dream: The Past, Present, and Uncertain Future of America's Middle Class." I commend it to my colleagues.

Restoring the middle class is essential to boosting demand and revitalizing our economy. It is the only way to restore long-term fiscal balance at the Federal level.

Economists across the political spectrum, from left to right, agree that a major cause of our current economic stagnation is a chronic lack of demand. For nearly three decades, workers' incomes have been stagnant. Simply put, they lack the purchasing power to drive America's consumer economy. Without adequate demand, businesses are reluctant to invest and hire.

Adjusted for inflation, average hourly earnings in 1970 were \$18.80 an hour or \$39,104 annually. Again, average hourly earnings in 1970 were \$39,104. However, by 2009, those inflation-adjusted average hourly earnings had actually declined to \$18.63 an hour or \$38,750 a year. Imagine that. From 1970 to 2009, average hourly earnings went down. One might say: So what.

This second chart will show what is happening to the middle class. This chart shows the rising cost of essentials. At the same time earnings have stagnated or gone down a little bit, the costs that make up the largest part of a family budget have skyrocketed. Here is the food budget, up 2 percent; gas, up 18 percent; rent and utilities, up 41 percent; health expenditures, up 50 percent; public colleges, up 80 percent; price of a home, up 97 percent; cost of a private college, up 113 percent. No wonder the middle class is finding it harder and harder to make ends meet.

However, at the same time, let's look at what is happening at the higher end of the income spectrum and see what happened to CEO compensation during this same period of time. Average hourly earnings have gone down, as I said. The value of the minimum wage—I will talk about that in a minute—has gone down 19 percent from 1970 to last year. But the median executive compensation has gone up 430 percent in the same time. Is there any surprise that people are upset around America, that middle-class families are kind of edgy today? Sure, they are edgy. How are they going to send their kids to college or buy a new home or get out from the ones that are already underwater, provide rent or buy gasoline for cars in

rural areas where they have to drive to go to work, to school or to go to church?

How do we boost income and restore people's purchasing power? There are a number of ways we need to do this. I will suggest one to start with. We need to restore a robust right to organize unions and bargain collectively. I say that unabashedly. It is no coincidence the decline of the middle class has coincided with the dramatic decline of union membership in the United States. Why? Because unions provide workers with the leverage to ensure that they share in their company's gains through wages and benefits and are not just providing company CEOs with even larger pay packages. That is just one step.

Another very practical step we can take to boost purchasing power and boost the economy is to increase the minimum wage. The minimum wage today is \$7.25. If we raised the minimum wage to make up for what it has lost to inflation over the last 40 years, it would be \$10.39 an hour. As we saw, the average CEO pay has gone up 430 percent, and the minimum wage—adjusted for inflation—should be \$10.39 an hour today. But it is only \$7.25. So the minimum wage has gone down, and the median executive compensation has gone up 430 percent. A raise in the minimum wage puts money in the pockets of low-income consumers who are likely to spend it at local businesses.

Most important, of course, we have to create more jobs—but not just any jobs, quality jobs with fair wages and real benefits that can support a family and help hard-working people build a brighter future. That is the way we will put demand back in the economy and get the economy moving again.

Tomorrow evening, the President will present to Congress his plan for boosting job creation and helping to lift the economy. I urge the President to point out that there are some things—big national undertakings—that the private sector simply is not capable of doing. At critical junctures, going back to the beginning of our Republic, the Federal Government has stepped up to the plate. Congresses and Presidents have to act decisively to spur economic growth, foster innovation, and help create jobs. We need that kind of bold action today.

The mantra I hear from my friends on the Republican side is that government can't create jobs. That is nonsense. Smart government can create jobs. Shortsighted government can destroy jobs. For example, the brief shutdown of the Federal Aviation Administration this summer put nearly 70,000 private sector construction employees out of work. Draconian cuts proposed by House Republicans to the new Transportation bill would destroy an estimated 490,000 highway construction jobs and nearly 100,000 transit-related

jobs. That is dysfunctional government, making the problem even worse.

By contrast, across our history, an often visionary and bold Federal Government has funded and spearheaded initiatives that have expanded private commerce, given birth to countless inventions and new industries, and created tens of millions of jobs.

During the Presidency of Franklin Roosevelt, with the private sector paralyzed by the Great Depression, the Federal Government responded with an astonishing array of initiatives to restart the economy, restore opportunity, and create jobs. I still have on my wall in my office—and I will bet I am the only Senator on the floor today who can say this—the actual WPA form of my father when he worked for the Works Projects Administration. He got a job to help feed his family. Some of the things my father worked on in the WPA exist today—still used by the public, still used by kids going to high school. A lot of times people say: Well, that was all well and good, but that didn't stop the depression that was World War II. Well, what was World War II but massive government infusion into the economy?

By the end of the Second World War, wartime investments in plants and equipment and making tanks and airplanes and all kinds of things, which we then turned over to the private sector, created an industrial colossus the likes of which the world had never seen. Franklin Roosevelt and President Truman were followed by a Republican President, Dwight Eisenhower. President Eisenhower—I am sure a very proud Republican—was also determined to move America forward. He championed one of the greatest public works projects in American history—the construction of the Interstate Highway System. A 1996 study of that system concluded:

The interstate highway system is an engine that has driven 40 years of unprecedented prosperity and positioned the United States to remain the world's preeminent power into the 21st century.

This kind of visionary thinking, by both Democratic Presidents and a Republican President, is by no means a relic of the distant past. In more recent times, the Federal Government has funded and spearheaded scientific discovery and innovation that has had profound impacts on our economy—spanning scores of new industries and creating millions of high-value jobs. I will just mention a few.

Specifically, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency—called DARPA—invented the Internet, making possible everything from e-mail to social networking to the World Wide Web. Federal researchers at that same agency—DARPA, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency—invented the global positioning satellite system.

I can remember when I first came to the Congress as a House Member on the House Science and Technology Committee and we first started authorizing funding for the GPS system. A lot of people at that time said: Oh no, no. This is not the role for the Federal Government. Only the private sector can do it. But the private sector could not undertake that at that point in time. So the Federal Government put up the satellites and the private sector took over, and now we have Garmin and TomTom and we have all kinds of things now for airplanes and cars and boats—all made by the private sector employing people in private-sector jobs—because the Federal Government put forth the money and the investment to put that system into place.

Need I mention NASA, and the number of technological breakthroughs over the years—everything from microchips to CAT scanner technology. And of course any discussion of the Federal role in promoting our economy would not be complete without mentioning the National Institutes of Health. More than 80 Nobel prizes have been awarded for NIH-supported research.

One might say: Well, how has that benefitted us? Recently, the Battelle Memorial Institute, a nongovernment research institute, reported on the Federal Government's \$3.8 billion investment in the Human Genome Project from 1988 to 2003. Battelle estimates this Federal investment of \$3.8 billion in taxpayer money has produced a staggering \$796 billion in economic output. In 2010 alone, this "genomic revolution" generated \$67 billion in U.S. economic output and supported 310,000 jobs.

These are the kinds of investments that are some of the best ways to reduce budget deficits. They will help many of the 29 million unemployed and underemployed get jobs and become taxpayers again. With the private-sector engine again threatening to stall out, there is a critical role for the Federal Government in creating demand and preventing a slide back into recession.

The most obvious way forward—with support across the political spectrum, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce—is to dramatically ramp up Federal investments in infrastructure in order to boost U.S. competitiveness. The American Society of Civil Engineers estimates that America faces a \$2.2 trillion—trillion dollars—infrastructure backlog. Bringing this U.S. infrastructure into the 21st century would create millions of private-sector jobs—especially in the hard-hit construction industry—while modernizing the arteries and veins of commerce.

As someone once recently said: Think about it this way: We are still driving on Eisenhower's highways and going to Roosevelt's schools. It is time to do it for the next century.

There can be no economic recovery, no return to fiscal balance without the recovery of the middle class. And there will not be a middle class unless and until we come to grips with the need for Federal investment in education, innovation, research, and infrastructure. It means restoring a level playing field with fair taxation, vibrant unions, a strong ladder of opportunity to give every American access to the middle class.

I hope President Obama will be bold, as Presidents in the past have been. I hope he will put forward a very bold, visionary, challenging—challenging—proposal tomorrow night, to challenge us to the better side of our human nature and to recapture again what we have done in the past. In that way, we can rebuild the middle class and put America back to work. I believe that is the only way we will be able to do that.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, with that, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WHITEHOUSE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the period for debate only on H.R. 1249 be extended to 6:30 p.m. and that at 6:30 p.m. the majority leader be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have worked on efforts to prevent the diversion of fees collected by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for years. When the distinguished Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. COBURN, took on the issue, I urged him to work with me, to withhold the amendment during the Judiciary Committee's consideration of the bill, and I would work with him to include improvements on the Senate floor.

I did. I kept my word. In fact, I included language he drafted in the managers' amendment and worked hard to pass it despite the misgivings of several Senators on both sides of the aisle.

However, when our bill went over to the House of Representatives, they preserved the principle against fee diversion but changed the language. The language of the bill is that which the House devised and voted to include as worked out by the House Republican leadership to satisfy House rules. The provisions Senator COBURN had drafted—and I understand may offer with his amendment—apparently violate House rule 21, which prohibits authorizing legislation from converting discretionary spending into mandatory spending. So instead of a revolving

fund, the House established a reserve fund.

The America Invents Act, as passed by the House, continues to make important improvements to ensure that fees collected by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office are used for USPTO activities. That office is entirely fee-funded and does not rely upon taxpayer dollars, but it has been and continues to be subject to annual appropriations bills. That allows Congress greater opportunity for oversight.

The legislation that passed the Senate in March would have taken the Patent and Trademark Office out of the appropriations process by setting up a revolving fund that allowed the PTO to spend all money it collects without appropriations legislation or congressional oversight. But instead of a revolving fund the House formulation against fee diversion establishes a separate account for the funds and directs they be used for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

The House forged a compromise with its appropriators to reduce any incentive to divert fees from the PTO and to provide the PTO with access to all fees that it collects while keeping the PTO within the normal appropriations process with the oversight that process includes. The America Invents Act thus creates a new Patent and Trademark fee reserve fund into which all fees collected by PTO in excess of that amount appropriated in a fiscal year are to be deposited. Fees in the reserve fund may only be used for operations of the PTO. In effect, they are doing what we have asked but staying within the House rules.

In fact, in addition, the House appropriators agreed to carry language in their appropriations bills that would guarantee that fees collected by the PTO in excess of the appropriated amounts would remain available to the PTO until expended and could be accessed by the PTO through reprogramming procedures without the need for subsequent legislation.

This may sound kind of convoluted, but what a number of people, including Senator COBURN, wanted to do was to make sure the fees went to PTO. I happen to agree with that. What the House did has the effect of making sure the fees go to the PTO.

What I hope we not do now is try to offer amendments that may change that and in effect kill the bill. Through the creation of the reserve fund, as well as the commitment by House appropriators, H.R. 1249 makes important improvements in ensuring that user fees collected by the PTO for services are used by the PTO for those services.

So while I oppose fee diversion, I also oppose the Coburn amendment, and I will tell you why. After 6 years of work getting this bill here, this may kill the bill over a formality: the difference between a revolving fund and a reserve

fund. One would be hard-pressed to know what the difference is except it would kill the bill. It would require the House to consider the whole bill again. They spent days and weeks in heavy debate working out their compromise in good faith. It was worked out by the House Republican leadership. There is no reason to think that having done that, they are going to reconsider and allow the original Coburn language to violate the rules and avoid oversight.

In fact, I ask that a letter from Congressmen ROGERS and RYAN to Chairman SMITH be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, June 6, 2011.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, House
of Representatives, Washington, DC.

CHAIRMAN SMITH: It is our understanding that H.R. 1249, the America Invents Act, is likely to be considered on the House floor in the upcoming weeks.

As you know, section 22 of H.R. 1249 would strike the current appropriations account language for the Patent Trademark Office (PTO), replace it with a "United States Patent and Trademark Office Public Enterprise Fund," and permit the PTO to collect and spend authorized fees—all without requiring action or approval from Congress.

We strongly oppose this proposed shift of billions in discretionary funding and fee collections to mandatory spending. Putting PTO funding on auto-pilot is a move in exactly the wrong direction, given the new Republican majority's commitment to restraining spending, improving accountability and transparency, and reducing the nation's unparalleled deficits and debt.

Placing PTO spending on mandatory auto-pilot as outlined in H.R. 1249 would also hand the Congressional "power of the purse"—bestowed in the Constitution—to the Obama White House, and essentially eliminate the ability of Congress to perform substantive oversight of the PTO. We strongly oppose undermining these critical efforts, particularly when House Republicans have pledged to strengthen oversight of federal agencies to ensure resources are being used wisely and appropriately, and to prevent federal agencies from over-stepping their authority.

Oversight of the PTO belongs with the Congress, and should not be abdicated to the Executive Branch of government. Patent applications are filed by U.S. citizens and companies from all 50 states and territories, ranging from as many as 66,191 from California, 16,545 from Texas, 15,258 from New York, 8,128 from Ohio, 3,577 from Virginia, and 600 from Nebraska in 2010. Virtually every Member of Congress represents constituents who have a stake in the oversight of PTO—and often businesses and livelihoods depend on actions the agency undertakes. It would be both irresponsible and unwise to allow the PTO to operate solely under the authority of bureaucrats and White House political appointees—without being held accountable to the American public through their elected Representatives in Congress.

Given these concerns, we ask that section 22 be deleted or otherwise be modified prior to floor consideration in order to strengthen oversight of this important agency, and to ensure American citizens are getting the most from every dollar.

Sincerely,

HAROLD ROGERS,

Chairman, House Committee on Appropriations.

PAUL RYAN,
Chairman, House Committee on the Budget.

Mr. LEAHY. I know the members of the Senate Appropriations Committee. I know them. I trust Senator INOUE, someone awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his bravery and valor in World War II. I trust the senior Senator from Mississippi and the senior Senator from Alabama with whom I have served for many years. They will follow the law. They will abide by the Supreme Court. I was disturbed to read a comment that this amendment is being brought forward out of distrust of these Senators. These are Senators I have served with for decades. They can and should be trusted. We should not kill this bill over this amendment. Instead, we should reject the amendment and pass the bill.

(Mr. BENNET assumed the Chair.)

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in favor of H.R. 1249, the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act. This is a vital piece of job-creating legislation and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Before I turn to the merits of the bill, let me start by applauding the long, hard work of Chairman LEAHY. He has led the effort on this legislation for many years, patiently working towards a bill that would win broad support from the many interested stakeholders while achieving the crucial goals of spurring innovation, generating jobs, and securing America's place as the world leader in the intellectual property economy. It has been a pleasure to work with him on this important issue. I likewise applaud the hard work of colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have sought to support continued American leadership in technology, medicine, and countless other fields.

Our patent system unfortunately has become a drag on that leadership, largely because it has gone 60 years without improvements. It is long past time to repair that system and thereby energize our innovation economy and create jobs.

Our Nation long has led the world in hard work and ingenuity. My home State of Rhode Island, for example, has a long and proud history of industry and innovation, from the birth of the American industrial revolution to the high-tech entrepreneurs leading our State forward today. An area has developed in Providence, for example, that is rightfully known by the nickname "the Knowledge District" for its remarkable innovation. Rhode Island likewise is the home of remarkable research universities, individual inventors, and businesses of all sizes that have contributed giant leaps forward in the fields of technology, medicine, and mechanical science.

Innovators like these in Rhode Island, and across America, are the drivers of our future economic well-being. My conversations with these Rhode Islanders, however, have made clear to me that the current patent system is making it unnecessarily difficult for them to innovate. Innovators who can solve the most complicated problems of medicine, mechanics, or technology are losing out because of basic problems in our patent system. We need to fix these problems now. Fail to do so and we will pay the price in jobs and international competitiveness.

I have heard two complaints over and over back home in Rhode Island. The first relates to delays in the issuance of patents. Enormous backlogs persist at the Patent and Trademark Office. As a result, our innovators have no certainty whether they have successfully established intellectual property rights in their inventions. This dampens and frustrates innovation.

The America Invents Act takes on the backlog in a number of different ways. It allows the Patent and Trademark Office discretion to set its own fees and includes a provision that will discourage fee diversion. While I would have preferred to have seen Senator COBURN's anti-fee-diversion amendment accepted by the House, I am confident that these provisions, coupled with exceptions that will ensure low fees for small businesses, will enable the Patent and Trademark Office to better manage its resources and reduce examination times.

My conversations with Rhode Island inventors also identified a second clear problem in our patent system: the threat of protracted litigation. Unfortunately, numerous poor quality patents have issued in recent years, resulting in seemingly endless litigation that casts a cloud over patent ownership. Administrative processes that should serve as an alternative to litigation also have broken down, resulting in further delay, cost, and confusion.

The America Invents Act will address these problems by ensuring that higher quality patents issue in the future. This will produce less litigation and create greater incentives for innovators to commit the effort and resources to create the next big idea. Similarly, the bill will improve administrative processes so that disputes over patents can be resolved quickly and cheaply without patents being tied up for years in expensive litigation. The bill also moves America to the simple First-Inventor-to-File system which will eliminate needless uncertainty and litigation over patent ownership, and it eliminates so-called "tax patents."

In all, the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act is an important and much-needed reform of our patent system. True, every intellectual property stakeholder did not get everything

they wanted in this version of the patent bill. I am sure every participant in this process would like a few things added to the bill and a few things taken out. That is inevitable in a bill that has been crafted in a true spirit of compromise. The result is a bill that may not please everyone in all respects but that satisfies its core responsibility to remove existing burdens on American innovation and allow the growth of high quality, high technology jobs in our country. It is extremely important in this time of economic hardship that we put people to work. That is exactly what this bill will do and I believe we should pass it immediately. We should not amend it further in a manner that will risk the bill's ultimate defeat. This is a long journey and we are at the finish; let's get this bill done for American inventors and workers. Let's see this much-needed piece of patent reform passed into law.

I once again urge my colleagues to vote to pass this important piece of legislation into law.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I rise today to submit for the RECORD two letters addressed to the chairman and ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee. The letters were written by Judge Michael McConnell, a former member of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and the current director of the Constitutional Law Center at Stanford Law School. Judge McConnell's letters examine the constitutionality of section 18 of the America Invents Act, a section of the bill that authorizes a temporary program for administrative review of business-method patents. The letters thoroughly refute the arguments being presented by some opponents of section 18 that the provision either constitutes a taking or runs afoul of the rule of *Plaut v. Spendthrift Farm, Inc.*, 514 U.S. 211 (1995). Because these letters have circulated widely among members and staff and have played a substantial role in the debate about section 18, I think that it is appropriate that they be published in the RECORD.

I ask unanimous consent that the following materials be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MICHAEL W. MCCONNELL,
Stanford, CA, June 16, 2011.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH AND RANKING MEMBER CONYERS: I am the Richard and Frances Mallery Professor and Director of the Constitutional Law Center at Stanford Law School, and a Senior Fellow of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, where I teach and write in the field of constitutional law. I previously served as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. Congress is now considering legislation (the "America Invents Act") that would expand the grounds on which patents may be reexamined by the Patent and Trademark Office ("PTO"), after their initial issuance. I

write to address the constitutionality of those sections: Section 6 (Post-grant Review Proceedings) and Section 18 (Transitional Program for Covered Business Method Patents) of the America Invents Act. Based on my review, these sections of the proposed Act are constitutional as drafted.

As you are aware, for the past thirty years, this nation's patent laws have included procedures for reexamination of already-issued patents. In two leading cases, parties challenged the constitutionality of reexamination of patents in court, raising all the theories now propounded in opposition to sections 6 and 18 of the proposed America Invents Act—takings, due process, retroactivity, and separation of powers. The court of appeals carefully considered and rejected those challenges, upholding the reexamination process in all respects. Sections 6 and 18 of the proposed Act merely expand the grounds on which reexamination is available under current law, but do not change substantive patent law at all, nor the fundamental procedure of reexamination in any constitutionally significant way. We may therefore state with confidence that the proposed legislation is supported by settled precedent.

Moreover, the proposed measure conforms to the purposes of the Patent Clause of the Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 8, which grants Congress authority to "promote the Progress of Science and the useful Arts." By means of this provision, the Framers sought to balance the goal of encouraging innovation against the dangers and economic loss of monopoly. The reexamination process serves to preserve that balance by adopting a procedure by which the PTO can identify patents that were issued in error. Challenges to the reexamination process proceed on the theory that a patent is a vested right, which once granted may not be taken away, at least not by the agency that granted it. This is a fundamental misconception. If a party is issued a patent that does not comply with the patent laws—and the patent is therefore invalid—it is not a "taking" for either a court or the PTO to determine that the patent is invalid. Just as it is not a taking to determine that a person occupying land has a defective title to it, it is not a taking to determine that a patent holder never had a right to a patent in the first place.

Unlike many other familiar forms of property, the validity of a patent is never determined once and for all; members of the public with competing or adverse interests have long had a continuing right to demonstrate, through reexamination before the PTO, that a patent was invalidly issued. And a party threatened with a patent infringement action has always had the right to seek to demonstrate that the patent is invalid, regardless of whether the same issue has been previously litigated in a different case. In other words, there is no such thing as "adverse possession" in patent law. The only change wrought by the proposed Act is to expand the grounds under which such reexaminations are made by the PTO in the first instance. As a constitutional matter, Congress is entitled to allocate the responsibility of determining whether a patent was properly granted to the courts or to the expert agency, in its discretion. As long as interested parties have the ultimate right to challenge the agency's decisions in court, the administrative nature of the proceeding has no constitutional significance. Moreover, I see nothing in sections 6 and 18 of the proposed Act that would alter or interfere with exist-

ing principles of res judicata or collateral estoppel in the context of a final judgment, much less allow the PTO to disturb the final judgment of a court.

I offer no view on the merits or policy of the Act, but offer my judgment that it is entirely consistent with the Constitution for Congress to bring to bear the experience and expertise of the PTO in providing for more robust review of issued patents.

I. BACKGROUND PRINCIPLES

I begin with the basic background principles. The Framers of the United States Constitution were well aware of the dangers of monopoly, and sought to ensure that patents could be granted only when they served an overriding public interest. An invalidly issued patent does not properly reward innovation, but instead impedes commerce, hence "the public good." The Federalist, No. 43 (Madison), at 268 [1788] (C. Rossiter ed., 1961). The Framers were also painfully aware of the propensity of governmental agencies and bureaucracies to err. They would not, therefore, have been surprised by efforts to ensure that patent rights may be exercised only when the underlying patent claim is valid and the patent was properly issued. That is why, from the beginning, patents have never been regarded as a fully and irrevocably vested right. As the Supreme Court has explained, the Patent Clause of the Constitution "is both a grant of power and a limitation," and Congress' actions must be directed to striking the balance between encouraging innovation and stifling competition through the grant of patents that do not promote "the Progress of . . . useful Arts. This is the standard expressed in the Constitution and it may not be ignored." *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 5 (1966) (internal citations and quotation marks omitted); see also *Bonito Boats, Inc. v. Thunder Craft Boats, Inc.*, 489 U.S. 141, 146-47 (1989).

Patents are unquestionably property rights. *Consolidated Fruit Jar Co. v. Wright*, 94 U.S. 92, 96 (1876). However, unlike many property rights, the right to exclude under a patent "is a right that can only be conferred by the government." *Patlex Corp. v. Mossinghoff*, 758 F.2d 594, 604 (Fed. Cir. 1985). A patent is not a natural right, but solely a product of positive law; its extent, duration, and validity is a matter that must be determined by the legislative branch. In contrast with purely private rights, "the grant of a valid patent is primarily a public concern." *Id.* In assessing the validity of a patent, the "threshold question usually is whether the PTO, under the authority assigned to it by Congress, properly granted the patent." *Id.* As the Supreme Court recently reaffirmed, the statutory presumption of validity found in 35 U.S.C. §282, is a reflection of the presumption of administrative correctness by the PTO. *Microsoft Corp. v. i4i Ltd. P'ship*, — U.S. —, No. 10-290, slip op. 16-17 (2011).

Patents are issued after a limited, ex parte process in which the public has no opportunity to participate. The PTO largely only has before it the information provided by the inventor's attorney. As a result, as courts have recognized, the PTO may not have all of the material information at the time it issues a patent. Therefore, although patents are presumed valid, "if the PTO did not have all material facts before it, its considered judgment may lose significant force." *i4i*, slip op. at 17.

The validity of a patent is not a matter that is ever fully and finally settled. Rather, it remains "ever-present," *Patlex Corp.*, 758 F.2d at 600, because any defendant may assert an invalidity defense in patent litigation—even if the same issue has been previously litigated by another defendant. Prior

to 1980, the only means by which a party could challenge the validity of a patent was through litigation in court. In 1980, however, Congress created an administrative reexamination procedure, designed to weed out patents that are invalid because they did not meet the requirements for patentability set forth in the Patent Act. See Public Law No. 96-517. Under these procedures, “[a]ny person at any time may file a request for reexamination by the [PTO] of any claim of a patent on the basis of any prior art” that was published. 35 U.S.C. §302 (emphasis added).

Since 1980, therefore, the validity of a patent may be challenged several ways: A party who is sued for patent infringement may assert a defense of invalidity, which must be proven by the higher standard of clear and convincing evidence (in deference to the presumed correctness of the PTO’s decision), or a patent’s validity can be reviewed through a reexamination proceeding. Upon reexamination, the PTO may confirm any patentable claim or cancel any unpatentable claim. Reexamination thus provides an opportunity for the PTO to review and correct its own work based on fuller information. As the Federal Circuit has described, “[t]he innate function of the reexamination process is to increase the reliability of the PTO’s action in issuing a patent by reexamination of patents thought ‘doubtful.’” *In re Etter*, 756 F.2d 852, 857 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

The reexamination process created in 1980 endured constitutional challenges similar to what opponents of the America Invents Act are marshalling today: the 1980 reexamination procedure was challenged by patent holders as an unconstitutional taking, as a violation of due process, as a violation of the Seventh Amendment right to a jury trial, and as a violation of separation of powers. See *Patlex Corp.*, 758 F.2d 598-599; *Joy Technologies v. Manbeck*, 959 F.2d 226 (Fed. Cir. 1992). Each of these challenges was soundly rejected by the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

Thus, to be clear, under current law, at the instance of a party, the PTO may reexamine a patent that has been issued, and the validity of which has been unsuccessfully challenged in litigation. With this in mind, I first address the constitutionality of Sections 6 and 18 of the America Invents Act.

II. SECTION 6 OF THE AMERICA INVENTS ACT IS CONSTITUTIONAL

Section 6 of the America Invents Act amends the Patent Act to create a post-grant review procedure available for a limited time (one year, in the current America Invents Act legislation) after the date a patent is granted. Section 6 also amends existing inter partes reexamination procedures to make them available after the period of time for post-grant review has passed or, if post-grant review has been initiated, after that post-grant review is complete. A key distinction between the post-grant review procedures and the inter partes reexamination procedures is the grounds and evidence that can be considered for invalidating a patent: as with current law, the inter partes reexamination procedure of Section 6 is limited to considering (1) whether a patent is invalid for failing to meet the Patent Act’s requirements of novelty and non-obviousness (2) based on patents or printed publications.

Section 6 is in harmony with the first principles of the Constitution and with the body of legal precedent addressing the existing reexamination procedures. The Patent Clause of the Constitution empowers Congress to “promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts” by granting patents to inventors, but

it correspondingly limits Congress’ authority to grant patents that do not advance “the Progress of Science and useful Arts.” The Supreme Court has recognized that from the beginning our Founders have sought to strike that constitutional balance: “Thus, from the outset, federal patent law has been about the difficult business of ‘drawing a line between the things which are worth to the public the embarrassment of an exclusive patent, and those which are not.’” *Bonito Boats*, 489 U.S. at 148 (quoting 13 Writings of Thomas Jefferson (Memorial ed. 1904) at 335). One manner in which Congress has fulfilled this mandate to strike the proper balance is through the existing reexamination procedures, which provide a mechanism for removing patents that should never have been granted by the PTO because they did not meet the requirements for a valid patent set by Congress in the Patent Act. As the Federal Circuit has observed, “[t]he reexamination statute’s purpose is to correct errors made by the government, to remedy defective governmental (not private) action, and if need be to remove patents that should never have been granted.” *Patlex Corp.*, 758 F.2d at 604 (emphasis added). A determination that a patent should never have been granted is no more a “taking” than is a determination that a putative landowner suffers a defect in title.

Accordingly, the revised inter partes reexamination procedures and the post-grant review procedures of Section 6 are hardly novel but rather are based on longstanding procedures established by Congress and repeatedly recognized as constitutional by the Federal Circuit in decisions such as *Patlex Corp.*, 758 F.2d 594, 607 (Fed. Cir. 1985) (emphasis added), *Joy Technologies*, 959 F.2d 226, 228-29 (Fed. Cir. 1992), and *In re Swanson*, 540 F.3d 1368, 1379 (Fed. Cir. 2008). As such, Section 6 does little more than expand the grounds for reexamination of patents, something Congress is plainly entitled to do pursuant to its authority under the Patent Clause (Article I, Section 8, Clause 8) of the Constitution.

Nor is there any conflict between Section 6 and other parts of the Constitution such as Article III and the Seventh Amendment. The gist of the arguments suggesting a conflict is that the PTO would be permitted to “overrule” final judicial determinations made by an Article III court and/or jury of a patent’s validity. But these arguments fail to understand the nature of judicial review of patent validity and fail to recognize the body of precedent that has rejected these arguments as applied against the current legal regime.

To begin, what exactly happens when issues of patent validity are litigated in district courts should be placed in proper context. As the Federal Circuit has explained, “Courts do not find patents ‘valid,’ only that the patent challenger did not carry the burden of establishing invalidity in the particular case before the court under 35 U.S.C. 282.” *Ethicon, Inc. v. Quigg*, 849 F.2d 1422, 1429 n.3 (Fed. Cir. 1988) (emphasis original and internal quotation marks omitted). For this reason, “a prior holding of validity is not necessarily inconsistent with a subsequent holding of invalidity and is not binding on subsequent litigation or PTO reexaminations.” *In re Swanson*, 540 F.3d 1368, 1377 (Fed. Cir. 2008) (internal citations and quotation marks omitted). In other words, a district court decision that a patent is “not invalid” merely means that the challenger did not carry his burden; it does not mean that the patent is valid.

The existing reexamination procedures and the new post-grant review procedures pro-

posed in the America Invents Act vest authority to determine validity upon reexamination in the agency entrusted by Congress with making the validity decision in the first instance—the PTO. It is entirely proper that this corrective action be taken by the PTO, with review 67 the Federal Circuit. It need not be limited to an Article III court in the first instance. “A defectively examined and therefore erroneously granted patent must yield to the reasonable Congressional purpose of facilitating the correction of governmental mistakes. This Congressional purpose is presumptively correct, and we find it carries no insult to the Seventh Amendment and Article III.” *Patlex Corp.*, 758 F.2d at 604. In other words, under a well-settled body of case law, “the Constitution does not require that [courts] strike down statutes, otherwise having a reasonable legislative purpose, that invest administrative agencies with regulatory functions.” *Id.* at 604.305. That holding is just as applicable to Section 6 of the America Invents Act as it is to the original reexamination procedures adopted in 1980.

Nor does it matter, for constitutional purposes, that the PTO may reconsider the validity of patents’ that are, or have been, adjudicated by district courts. In *In re Swanson*, 540 F.3d 1368 (Fed. Cir. 2008), the Federal Circuit specifically considered and rejected the argument that *Plaut v. Spendthrift Farm, Inc.*, 514 U.S. 211 (1995), prohibited reexamination of a patent by the PTO after that patent had survived an invalidity challenge in court. See *Swanson*, 540 F.3d at 1378, 79 (“[The patentee] argues that this reading of the statute—allowing an executive agency to find patent claims invalid after an Article III court has upheld their validity—violates the constitutionally mandated separation of powers, and therefore must be avoided. We disagree.”). As the Federal Circuit held, “the court’s final judgment and the examiner’s rejection are not duplicative—They are differing proceedings with different evidentiary standards for validity. Accordingly, there is no Article III issue created when a reexamination considers the same issue of validity as a prior district court proceeding.” *In re Swanson*, 540 F.3d 1368, 1379 (Fed. Cir. 2008) (citation omitted). Because Section 6 merely broadens the kinds of invalidity challenges that can be pursued during reexamination, that holding would apply to the America Invents Act as well. *Plaut* simply does not apply.

Relatedly, invalidation of a patent by the PTO (or by a court, for that matter), after it has been adjudicated “not invalid” in one particular case, does not purport to undo a court’s judgment in an earlier case. The PTO has no authority to disturb a final judgment of a court, and nothing in the proposed Act would change that. Rather, it would remain within the discretion of the district court to determine whether relief from a final judgment was appropriate under Rule 60(b) based on changed circumstances. See *Amado v. Microsoft Corp.*, 517 F.3d 1353, 1363 (Fed. Cir. 2008). Nothing in Section 6 purports to alter the standards under which a court determines whether to grant relief from a final judgment. Accordingly, there is no constitutional problem under *Plaut*.

III. SECTION 18 OF THE AMERICA INVENTS ACT IS CONSTITUTIONAL

Section 18 of the America Invents Act is equally constitutional. As an initial matter, it is important to recognize that Section 18 does nothing more than apply the more robust post-grant review provisions of Section 6 to existing business-method patents. By any measure, this is not a “taking” within

the meaning of the constitution (unless for the past thirty years patent law has been effecting “takings” each time a reexamination takes place). The constitutional arguments that have been marshaled against Section 18—that it applies “retroactively” to existing patents, that it would change the rules of the game, or that it would upset settled property rights—were rejected by the Federal Circuit in *Patlex Corp.* and again in *Joy Technologies*. These are the precedents that would govern any future challenge to Section 18.

I understand that critics of Section 18 are arguing that it improperly singles out business-method patents and that it creates a “second bite at the apple.” I find both sets of arguments to be unpersuasive as a constitutional matter. First, Congress is well within its authority to determine that a particular subset of patents warrant closer administrative review than other patents due to their history and development. Business-method patents are relatively novel creatures, and far removed from what the Founders would have envisioned when they sought to “promote the Progress of Science and the useful Arts.” Prior to the 1990s, business-method patents were largely unheard of. The surge in the issuance of such patents followed the 1998 decision of the Federal Circuit in *State Street Bank & Trust Co. v. Signature Financial Group, Inc.*, 149 F.3d 1368 (Fed. Cir. 1998), which has been widely viewed as having opened the door to business-method patenting. The increase in business method patents does not appear to be abating. According to the PTO, the number of business-method patent applications that issued as patents jumped from 494 in 2002 to 3649 in 2010. See <http://www.uspto.gov/patents/resources/methods/applicationfiling.jsp> (last visited June 14, 2011). In the intervening 13 years since *State Street*, the PTO and the courts have struggled to determine when such patents should issue. The Supreme Court’s decision last Term in *Bilski v. Kappos*, 130 S. Ct. 3218 (2010), offered some clarification, reaffirming the basic minima required to be patent-eligible subject matter under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Nonetheless, in light of the continuing confusion over such patents, and the paucity of traditional published prior art at the time such patents were issued, it is entirely rational—and thus constitutionally appropriate—for Congress to make the judgment that it wants to provide a mechanism for ensuring that adequate vigor went into the PTO’s decision to issue a business-method patent, and that such further review helps to ensure that this category of patents is subject to the same quality of review as other patents were. See *eBay Inc. v. MercExchange, LLC*, 547 U.S. 388, 397 (Kennedy, J., concurring) (noting the “suspect validity of some” business-method patents). Given Congress’s general authority to allow administrative reexamination, as well as judicial challenge, to an already-issued patent, there can be no valid objection to Congress’s decision to focus these reexaminations on a class of patents that, because of their novelty, were especially prone to improvident grant.

Second, providing a more robust reexamination procedure does not create a second bite at the apple. By their nature, patents are continuously subject to challenge, whether in court or before the PTO. As noted above, patents are initially issued after an entirely ex parte process in which no one else is allowed to participate. To the extent a patent’s validity has been challenged in court, the challenge is only reviewed for

clear and convincing evidence that the PTO erred in granting the patent. That does not answer the question of whether or not the PTO made a mistake—only reexamination provides a vehicle for answering that question. To the extent this is a second bite, it is at a different apple. Section 18 does not create any more opportunities for challenge than there are under existing law. It simply allows reexamination on a broader array of theories than allowed today.

Moreover, just as a criminal defendant can be acquitted under a beyond-a-reasonable-doubt standard, but found civilly liable under a preponderance standard, there is also nothing unusual about the fact that a patent may be upheld in court (where a thumb is decidedly on the scale of the patentee), but subsequently rejected as invalid by the PTO during reexamination. That is exactly what happened in *Translogic Technology, Inc. v. Hitachi, Ltd.*, 250 F. App’x 988 (Fed. Cir. 2007), and *In re Translogic Tech., Inc.*, 504 F.3d 1249 (Fed. Cir. 2007). In the *Translogic* cases, the district court found the asserted patent to be infringed and not invalid. While the case was pending, the PTO reexamined the patent in an inter partes proceeding and found the patent was improperly issued and, thus, invalid. The Federal Circuit affirmed, and thus found that the judgment of infringement in the case against Hitachi had to be vacated. The only material difference between the law today and the procedures contemplated in Section 18, is that Section 18 allows a broader array of invalidity arguments to be presented to the PTO. Moreover, nothing in Section 18 purports to alter how principles of res judicata and collateral estoppel would apply to a final judgment after all appeals are resolved, or to change the standard for a district court to determine whether relief should be granted under Rule 60(b). Thus, as discussed above, the procedures in Section 18 and Section 6 do not present any of the constitutional concerns identified in *Plaut v. Spendthrift Farm, Inc.*, 514 U.S. 211 (1995).

Nor is there anything constitutionally suspect about limiting the review of existing business-method patents to those that have actually been asserted in court (or threatened to be asserted, such that a declaratory judgment action could be brought). Rather, such a decision serves to limit the burden on the PTO and to focus the use of limited resources on reexamining patents that, if improperly issued, are more detrimental to the economy. It is like limiting challenges to land claims to competing users of the land. Again, I see nothing in section 18 that purports to alter or interfere with application of existing principles of res judicata or collateral estoppel in the context of a final judgment, or to alter the standard for obtaining relief from a final judgment.

Finally, Section 18(c) provides that a party that initiates a PTO reexamination may also seek a stay of ongoing litigation pending reexamination from the court where ongoing litigation is pending. It is the court, not the PTO, that decides whether or not to grant a stay. That is consistent with existing law. See, e.g., *Medichem, S.A. v. Rolabo, S.L.*, 353 F.3d 928, 936 (Fed. Cir. 2003) (IAJ stay of proceedings in the district court pending the outcome of the parallel proceedings in the PTO remains an option within the district court’s discretion.”). Although Section 18(c) provides a list of factors for a district court should consider, these factors are quite balanced and provide the district court with ample discretion. Indeed, these are the factors currently used by district courts in de-

ciding whether to grant a stay pending reexamination. See, e.g., *Akeena Solar Inc. v. Zep Solar Inc.*, 2010 WL 1526388, *1 (N.D. Cal. 2010); *Broadcast Innovation, L.L.C. v. Charter Communications, Inc.*, 2006 WL 1897165, *4 (D. Colo. 2006); *Mots Fr ove Co.*, 2005 WL 3465664, *1 (D.N.J. 2005); *Tap Pharm. Prods. Inc. v. Atrix Labs., Inc.*, 70 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1319, 1320 (N.D. Ill. 2004). Moreover, Section 18(c) provides for immediate appellate review of a decision to grant or deny a stay, ensuring that this discretion is not abused.

In sum, there is nothing novel or unprecedented, much less unconstitutional, about the procedures proposed in sections 6 and 18 of the America Invents Act. The proposed procedures simply expand existing reexamination procedures to a broader array of invalidity issues. And under settled case law, the application of these new reexamination procedures to existing patents is not a taking or otherwise a violation of the Constitution. Congress’s decision, to make these new reexamination procedures available only to a subset of existing patents—a category of patents that Congress could rationally believe were more suspect than other patents—represents a constitutionally proper decision on how to expend limited resources.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL W. MCCONNELL.

MICHAEL W. MCCONNELL,
Stanford, CA, June 23, 2011.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH AND RANKING MEMBER CONYERS: I am the Richard and Frances Mallery Professor and Director of the Constitutional Law Center at Stanford Law School, and a Senior Fellow of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, where I teach and write in the field of constitutional law. I previously served as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. On June 16, I wrote to you regarding several constitutional issues that have arisen regarding proposed changes to patent reexamination procedures in sections 6 and 18 of the America Invents Act. Since then, two distinguished constitutional authorities, my old friends Richard Epstein and Charles Cooper have written responses to my letter. I thought it would be helpful for me to address those two responses directly and to explain why I remain convinced my original analysis was correct.

Both responses give far too broad a reading to *Plaut v. Spendthrift Farm, Inc.*, 514 U.S. 211 (1995), and give short shrift to binding precedent of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit that directly addresses the very kinds of constitutional objections that are being made with respect to sections 6 and 18 of the America Invents Act. Indeed Professor Epstein and Mr. Cooper acknowledge, as they must, that their position is contradicted by *In re Swanson*, 540 F.3d 1368 (Fed. Cir. 2008). This shows that their analysis, whatever its abstract merits, is a departure from actual judicial precedent governing these questions.

Most fundamentally, the Epstein and Cooper critiques refuse to accept the importance of the fact that judicial review of invalidity in the context of a patent infringement suit applies a different standard than administrative reexamination. When the PTO (and subsequently the Federal Circuit) reviews invalidity in the context of a reexamination, a court is not “rehearing” the same issue, much less “reopening” a final judgment (as Professor Epstein erroneously posits), nor does it somehow render an earlier decision that an accused infringer had failed to carry its burden of proving invalidity by clear and

convincing evidence an “advisory opinion” (as suggested by Mr. Cooper). Indeed, this fundamental point was critical to the holding in *Swanson*. See 540 F.3d at 1377 (“[A] prior holding of validity is not necessarily inconsistent with a subsequent holding of invalidity and is not binding on subsequent litigation or PTO reexaminations”). *Plaut* does not need to be “overcome”—it is simply inapplicable.

Professor Epstein attempts to distinguish the well-developed body of case law upholding the constitutionality of reexamination procedures, on which sections 6 and 18 of the proposed act are based, by highlighting factual differences in those cases that are, in my view, simply irrelevant to the constitutional analysis. For example, he contends *Patlex Corp. v. Mossinghoff*, 758 F.2d 594 (Fed. Cir. 1985), is different because there was no final judgment at the time the reexamination had begun. However, the Federal Circuit ascribed no significance to that fact—and with good reason. The case rests on the necessarily provisional and correctable nature of patents, not on whether they had previously gone unchallenged in court. A prior judicial decision that a patent was not invalid would mean only that the initial PTO decision was not bereft of substantial support in the evidence—not that it was correct for all time, under a *de novo* standard. The court rejected the notion that there was a “right to judgment by an Article III court on those issues” of invalidity. *Id.* at 600. The court reasoned that “[t]he reexamination statute’s purpose is to correct errors made by the government, to remedy defective governmental (not private) action, and if need be to remove patents that should never have been granted.” *Id.* at 604. That holding and reasoning would apply equally whether or not the reexamination was commenced before entry of a final judgment.

Likewise, Professor Epstein attempts to distinguish *Joy Technologies v. Manbeck*, 959 F.2d 226 (Fed. Cir. 1992), by saying it arose in the context of a settlement. But regardless of the context in which it arose, the court there considered and rejected the same constitutional objections being raised by the objectors to sections 6 and 18 in the context of reexamination. The attempt to distinguish *Ethicon, Inc. v. Quigg*, 849 F.2d 1422 (Fed. Cir. 1988), is also unavailing. That case cogently explains the distinction between a court considering a challenge to validity under the clear and convincing standard, and reexamination by the PTO under the preponderance standard.

In addressing *Swanson*, Professor Epstein suggests that it is “strange” to “think that the PTO will help purge the legal system of weak patents when it allows itself to use a weaker standard than those involved in litigation.” But under the clear-and-convincing evidence standard used for reviewing the PTO’s work in court, an improperly issued patent will often survive even in the face of significant evidence that the patent should not have issued. Thus, there are many mistakes that can be corrected only by the PTO—the agency that erroneously issued the patent in the first place. Professor Epstein further suggests that *Swanson* is of “dubious validity.” However, I am not aware of any subsequent court decision calling *Swanson*’s holding into question. That Professor Epstein disagrees with *Swanson* shows only that his analysis is contrary to precedent, not that the precedent is “dubious.” He also contends that the reexamination procedures in *Swanson* are distinguishable because they were limited to new prior art. However, he

ignores the higher-threshold gatekeeping function required under sections 6 and 18 of the proposed Act to obtain reexamination in the first place. In any event, the distinction is one without constitutional significance: there is no constitutional basis for confining reexamination to only one of possible correctable defects in the original issuance of a patent.

Professor Epstein asserts that I am incorrect in stating that under current law, at the instance of a party, the PTO may reexamine a patent that has issued, and the validity of which has been unsuccessfully challenged in litigation. Yet, that is essentially what happened in *Translogic Technology, Inc. v. Hitachi, Ltd.*, 250 F. App’x 988 (Fed. Cir. 2007), and *In re Translogic Technology, Inc.*, 504 F.3d 1249 (Fed. Cir. 2007)—cases that he simply does not address.

Mr. Cooper barely addresses the above-mentioned precedent at all, except to assert that the unanimous decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in *In re Swanson* is inconsistent with his reading of *Plaut*. In so doing, Mr. Cooper suggests that there is something unseemly about the fact that a patent could be found “not invalid” in a proceeding against an infringer, but then subsequently found invalid by the PTO through reexamination at the behest of the infringer. Yet that is the law today. Sections 6 and 18 do nothing more than expand the types of invalidity challenges that may be considered by the PTO. Mr. Cooper’s analysis is not really a critique of sections 6 and 18; it is a critique of patent law as it has existed for thirty years. By analogy, the fact that a party may be acquitted by one court under a reasonable doubt standard, but found civilly liable by another court under a preponderance standard does not render either decision “advisory.” So too here. Finally, the passage Mr. Cooper cites from *Plaut* is simply inapplicable. The standard of patentability is not being changed, and the use of a clear-and-convincing standard of review in court is merely an acknowledgement of the presumption of administrative correctness, which is inapplicable when the PTO reviews its own work.

At bottom, nothing in sections 6 and 18 of the proposed Act purports to change the substantive law regarding when a patent is validly issued. They merely broaden the availability of one of the preexisting procedural vehicles (reexamination) for assessing validity. Matters of a technical nature, such as this, are especially appropriate to administrative as opposed to judicial redetermination. Courts have consistently rejected the notion that there is a property right in having patent validity reviewed only in an Article III court. And courts have rejected the argument that the PTO cannot reconsider its own decision to issue a patent merely because a court has found in a particular proceeding that an accused infringer failed to carry its burden of proving the patent invalid by clear and convincing evidence. Against this backdrop, we may be confident that the amendments to the reexamination procedure provided by sections 6 and 18 will be judged to pass constitutional muster.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL W. MCCONNELL.

Mr. KYL. I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant editor of the Daily Digest proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BEGICH.) Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Thursday, September 8, when the Senate resumes consideration of the America Invents Act, the following amendments be the only first-degree amendments in order: Coburn No. 599, Sessions No. 600, Cantwell No. 595; that there be 5 hours of debate on the amendments divided in the following manner: 75 minutes for Senator COBURN or his designee; 1 hour for Senator SESSIONS or his designee; 45 minutes for Senator CANTWELL or her designee; 1 hour for Senator GRASSLEY or his designee; and 1 hour for Senator LEAHY or his designee; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to votes in relation to the amendments in the following order: Sessions No. 600; Cantwell No. 595; Coburn No. 599; that no other amendments or points of order be in order to any of the amendments or the bill prior to the votes; finally, that following disposition of the amendments, the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, with this agreement, there will be up to four rollcall votes tomorrow afternoon beginning about 4 p.m. Senators should also expect an additional vote following the President’s speech to the joint session. This vote will be on a motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 25, which is a joint resolution of disapproval of the President’s exercise of authority to increase the debt limit.

If we proceed to the debt limit; that is, S.J. Res. 25, that means we will be in session for a long time on Friday—enough to dispose of that. If we do not move, the motion to proceed is not made successfully, then we would finish that matter and the week’s business, at least as far as votes. Friday we have some other items we need to be filing, different motions and things, but the general body would not have to worry about that.

MORNING BUSINESS

COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS, BUDGET AGGREGATES, AND PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, section 106 of the Budget Control Act of 2011 provides for budget enforcement in the Senate for the remainder of the current year, 2011, for the upcoming budget year, 2012, and, if necessary, for fiscal year 2013.

Section 106(b)(1) requires the chairman of the Budget Committee to file: (1) allocations for fiscal years 2011 and 2012 for the Committee on Appropriations; (2) allocations for fiscal years

2011, 2012, 2012 through 2016, and 2012 through 2021 for committees other than the Committee on Appropriations; (3) aggregate spending levels for fiscal years 2011 and 2012; (4) aggregate revenue levels for fiscal years 2011, 2012, 2012 through 2016, and 2012 through 2021; and (5) aggregate outlay and revenue levels for fiscal years 2011, 2012, 2012 through 2016, and 2012 through 2021 for Social Security.

In the case of the Committee on Appropriations, the allocations for 2011 and 2012 shall be set consistent with the discretionary spending limits set forth in the Budget Control Act. In the case of allocations for committees other than the Committee on Approp-

priations and the revenue and Social Security aggregates, the levels shall be set consistent with the Congressional Budget Office's March 2011 baseline adjusted to account for the budgetary effects of legislation enacted prior to and including the Budget Control Act but not included in the March 2011 baseline. In the case of the spending aggregates for 2011 and 2012, the levels shall be set consistent with the Congressional Budget Office's March 2011 baseline adjusted to account for the budgetary effects of legislation enacted prior to and including the Budget Control Act but not included in the March 2011 baseline and the discretionary

spending limits set forth in the Budget Control Act.

In addition, section 106(c)(1) requires the chairman of the Budget Committee to reset the Senate pay-as-you-go scorecard to zero for all fiscal years and to notify the Senate of this action.

I ask unanimous consent that the following tables detailing the new committee allocations, budgetary and Social Security aggregates, and pay-as-you-go scorecard that I am making pursuant to section 106 of the Budget Control Act of 2011 be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SENATE COMMITTEE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 106(b)(1)(A) AND 106(b)(1)(B) OF THE BUDGET CONTROL ACT OF 2011 AND SECTION 302 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974, BUDGET YEAR 2011

[in millions of dollars]

Committee	Direct spending legislation		Entitlements funded in annual appropriations acts	
	Budget authority	Outlays	Budget authority	Outlays
Appropriations:				
General Purpose Discretionary	1,211,141	1,391,055		
Memo:				
on-budget	1,205,096	1,385,032		
off-budget	6,045	6,023		
Mandatory	760,339	745,168		
Total	1,971,480	2,136,223		
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	17,123	15,419	116,980	101,878
Armed Services	138,783	142,549	107	106
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	849	-13,714	0	0
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	14,441	9,883	1,401	1,376
Energy and Natural Resources	3,876	3,885	446	446
Environment and Public Works	44,872	3,557	0	0
Finance	1,481,842	1,478,151	545,640	545,944
Foreign Relations	35,904	25,673	159	159
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	95,763	92,229	10,032	10,032
Judiciary	11,987	10,652	675	685
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	-10,039	-12,323	14,190	14,020
Rules and Administration	47	45	26	25
Intelligence	0	0	292	292
Veterans' Affairs	2,452	2,595	70,284	70,099
Indian Affairs	2,773	782	0	0
Small Business	4,722	4,722	0	0
Unassigned to Committee	-739,945	-732,331	107	106
Total	3,076,930	3,167,997	760,339	745,168

Note: In the absence of a discretionary spending limit for Fiscal Year 2011 in the Budget Control Act, the 302 allocation to the Committee on Appropriations for 2011 is set consistent with the already enacted level.

SENATE COMMITTEE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 106(b)(1)(A) AND 106(b)(1)(B) OF THE BUDGET CONTROL ACT OF 2011 AND SECTION 302 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974 BUDGET YEAR 2012

[In millions of dollars]

Committee	Direct spending legislation		Entitlements funded in annual appropriations acts	
	Budget authority	Outlays	Budget authority	Outlays
Appropriations:				
General Purpose Discretionary	1,043,000	1,262,000		
Memo:				
on-budget	1,036,835	1,255,845		
off-budget	6,165	6,155		
Mandatory	750,166	737,515		
Total	1,793,166	1,999,515		
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	13,326	14,478	116,916	104,805
Armed Services	143,163	139,124	107	109
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	37,057	28,793	0	0
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	14,840	9,815	1,440	1,402
Energy and Natural Resources	4,913	5,052	456	456
Environment and Public Works	44,501	3,191	0	0
Finance	1,351,138	1,344,534	536,327	536,271
Foreign Relations	33,593	27,088	159	159
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	98,428	94,857	10,034	10,034
Judiciary	15,414	11,152	705	717
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	6,825	11,786	14,924	14,711
Rules and Administration	47	220	26	26
Intelligence	0	0	514	514
Veterans Affairs	1,021	1,182	68,448	68,201
Indian Affairs	758	1,097	0	0
Small Business	0	0	0	0
Unassigned to Committee	-703,805	-704,465	110	110
Total	2,854,385	2,987,419	750,166	737,515

SENATE COMMITTEE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 106(b)(1)(A) AND 106(b)(1)(B) OF THE BUDGET CONTROL ACT OF 2011 AND SECTION 302 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974 5-YEAR: 2012–2016

[in millions of dollars]

Committee	Direct spending legislation		Entitlements funded in annual appropriations acts	
	Budget authority	Outlays	Budget authority	Outlays
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	69,511	71,290	567,654	514,904
Armed Services	759,884	759,430	505	503
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	126,377	24,581	0	0
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	75,817	51,156	7,768	7,515
Energy and Natural Resources	25,982	27,251	688	688
Environment and Public Works	222,367	15,744	0	0
Finance	7,561,995	7,528,351	3,181,096	3,180,794
Foreign Relations	135,604	135,069	604	604
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	520,945	501,945	49,678	49,678
Judiciary	52,914	53,470	3,837	3,835
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	114,076	126,121	84,445	83,936
Rules and Administration	235	432	137	137
Intelligence	0	0	2,570	2,570
Veterans' Affairs	4,662	5,629	359,214	357,979
Indian Affairs	3,562	5,405	0	0
Small Business	0	0	0	0

SENATE COMMITTEE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 106(b)(1)(A) AND 106(b)(1)(B) OF THE BUDGET CONTROL ACT OF 2011 AND SECTION 302 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974 10-YEAR: 2012–2021

[In millions of dollars]

Committee	Direct spending legislation		Entitlements funded in annual appropriations acts	
	Budget authority	Outlays	Budget authority	Outlays
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	143,439	143,223	1,126,571	1,017,059
Armed Services	1,658,690	1,653,081	981	969
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	226,333	— 33,553	0	0
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	156,465	104,984	16,778	16,224
Energy and Natural Resources	51,909	53,765	978	978
Environment and Public Works	445,435	32,142	0	0
Finance	18,064,976	18,041,945	7,746,200	7,745,605
Foreign Relations	242,023	248,438	1,083	1,083
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	1,145,274	1,100,595	97,602	97,602
Judiciary	98,494	100,244	8,677	8,624
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	403,560	412,703	200,923	200,152
Rules and Administration	447	642	297	297
Intelligence	0	0	5,140	5,140
Veterans Affairs	7,605	9,740	759,332	756,862
Indian Affairs	6,631	8,608	0	0
Small Business	0	0	0	0

BUDGETARY AGGREGATES—PURSUANT TO SECTION 106(b)(1)(C) OF THE BUDGET CONTROL ACT OF 2011 AND SECTION 311 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974

	\$s in millions	2011	2012	2012–16	2012–21
Spending:					
Budget Authority		3,076,930	2,854,385	n/a	n/a
Outlays		3,167,997	2,987,419	n/a	n/a
Revenue		1,664,563	1,890,921	12,710,420	30,279,657

SOCIAL SECURITY LEVELS—PURSUANT TO SECTION 106(b)(1)(D) OF THE BUDGET CONTROL ACT OF 2011 AND SECTION 311 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974

	\$s in millions	2011	2012	2012–16	2012–21
Outlays		487,502	574,011	3,352,634	7,866,233
Revenue		565,636	666,758	3,833,608	8,733,524

PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD FOR THE SENATE—PURSUANT TO SECTION 106(c)(1) OF THE BUDGET CONTROL ACT OF 2011

\$s in millions	Balances
Fiscal Years 2011 through 2016	0
Fiscal Years 2011 through 2021	0

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

MASTER AT ARMS FIRST CLASS JOHNNY DOUANGDARA

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a true American hero, Master-at-Arms PO1 Johnny Douangdara of South Sioux City, NE, who was tragically killed on August 6, 2011, when the CH-47 Chinook helicopter in which he was a passenger was shot down in Wardak Province, Afghanistan.

After graduating from South Sioux City High School in 2003, Johnny knew he wanted to serve in the Navy. While

initially he wanted to work on nuclear submarines, his love of dogs instead led him to become the lead dog handler serving with an East Coast-based Navy SEAL unit.

Johnny earned numerous decorations throughout his five overseas tours, including the Bronze Star with “V” device, Joint Service Commendation Medal with “V” device, Army Commendation Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Good Conduct Medal, Rifle Marksmanship Medal, and the Pistol Marksmanship Medal, among others.

The son of Laotian immigrants, Sengchanh and Phouthasith Douangdara, Johnny was never outspoken about his career. He was a humble man, a man doing a job he loved and a job in which he believed strongly. And in that belief, he and his dog, Bart, selflessly climbed aboard a Chinook with 29 other U.S. service members and 8 Afghans, rushing to help a band of

Army Rangers pinned down by enemy fire. That helicopter was shot down in what has become the single deadliest incident for the U.S. military in this 10-year operation.

Johnny knew the dangers he faced and the risks he took working with the Navy's elite SEALs. He also knew the importance of the work he did in the Navy on behalf of his fellow Americans. He risked—and ultimately sacrificed—his own life so that people a world away could have the chance to enjoy the freedoms he and his family had found in America.

PO Johnny Douangdara and Bart made the ultimate and most valiant sacrifice in service to their country, and my condolences and prayers go out to Johnny's family and friends. His heroism and selflessness will remain an inspiration for all of us.

STAFF SERGEANT PATRICK HAMBURGER

Mr. President, I also rise today to honor a true American hero, SSG Patrick Hamburger of Lincoln, NE, who was tragically killed on August 6, 2011, when the CH-47 Chinook helicopter in which he was a passenger was shot down in Wardak Province, Afghanistan.

Sergeant Hamburger was born in Sioux City, IA, on Memorial Day, May 25, 1981. In 1985 his family moved to Lincoln, NE, where Patrick graduated from Lincoln Southeast High School in 1999. While still attending school, Patrick chose to use his talents and serve his fellow citizens as a member of the Nebraska National Guard.

Patrick met Candie Reagan and her daughter, Veronica, in 2005. In 2008 the three of them moved to Grand Island, NE, where Patrick served as a full-time helicopter flight engineer with the 2-135th General Support Aviation Battalion. In January 2009, Candie gave birth to their daughter, Payton. There is no doubt that while Patrick loved being a soldier, he loved his family more.

Patrick was less than 2 weeks into his deployment when he selflessly climbed aboard a Chinook with 29 other U.S. service members and 8 Afghans, rushing to help a band of Army Rangers pinned down by enemy fire. The helicopter was shot down in what has become the single deadliest incident for the U.S. military in this 10-year operation.

Patrick knew the dangers he faced and the risks he took. He also knew the importance of the work he did in the Army on behalf of his fellow Americans. He risked—and ultimately sacrificed—his own life so that people a world away could have the chance to enjoy the freedoms he had found in America.

Patrick is survived by his girlfriend, Candie Reagan; her daughter, Veronica Reagan; their daughter, Payton; his mother and stepfather, Joyce and DeLayne Peck of Lincoln; father and stepmother, Douglas and Shaune Hamburger of Knoxville, TN; brothers, Michael of New York, NY, and Christopher of St. Louis, MO; grandparents, Willard and Jacque Hamburger of Omaha; stepsiblings Jessica, Jeremy, and Joshua Francis of Knoxville, TN; and numerous other family members and friends.

Sergeant Patrick Hamburger made the ultimate and most valiant sacrifice in service to his country, and my condolences and prayers go out to his family and friends. His heroism and selflessness will remain an inspiration for all of us.

SERGEANT JOSHUA J. ROBINSON

Mr. President, I further rise today to honor a true American hero, SGT Joshua J. Robinson of Nebraska, who was tragically killed on August 7, 2011, in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

Joshua grew up on a 100-acre farm near Oak, NE, where he would spend his days hunting and tracking in the back pasture. Joshua took the skills he learned in his early years with him into the Marine Corps, where he quickly excelled and became an instructor, teaching younger marines how to track the enemy and survive in the mountains. Joshua even developed an enemy-tracking course which is believed to be the first of its kind.

Joshua deployed three times to Iraq before being sent to Afghanistan, leaving at home his wife, Rhonda, and two sons, Wyatt and Kodiak. Although he was a proud, smart, tough marine, he was first and foremost a loving father and husband.

I offer my most sincere condolences to the family and friends of Sergeant Robinson. He made the ultimate and most courageous sacrifice for our Nation, and his sons will grow up knowing their father was truly a hero. I join all Americans in grieving the loss of this remarkable young man and know that Sergeant Robinson's passion for serving, his leadership, and his selflessness will remain a source of inspiration for us all.

INAUGURATION OF DR. LOBSANG SANGAY

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, on August 8, 2011, in the small town of Dharamsala in northern India, a modest ceremony was held to inaugurate the new Prime Minister of the Central Tibetan Administration. The new Prime Minister's name is Dr. Lobsang Sangay, and I had the opportunity, together with some of my distinguished colleagues, to meet him last month.

Dr. Sangay assumes office at an important moment in Tibetan history. Indeed, his election marks a significant milestone in the advancement of Tibetan democracy, as His Holiness the Dalai Lama earlier this year announced his decision to devolve fully his political authority to the elected leadership, now led by Dr. Sangay.

At a time when dictators in many parts of the world have proven themselves willing to slaughter their own people rather than cede an iota of power, the decision of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to surrender his political authority in favor of democracy is both inspiring and significant. It was also a wise decision that will strengthen the legitimacy of the Tibetan cause among the international community and sustain it for decades to come.

The election that brought Dr. Sangay to power involved voting by tens of thousands of Tibetans living in exile in over 30 countries, from Belgium to Bhutan. In my home State of Connecticut, nearly 100 Tibetan Americans took part in this election.

Dr. Sangay, a 43-year-old academic who holds a doctorate from Harvard

Law School, was elected Prime Minister with 55 percent of the vote. Now the executive authority of the Central Tibetan Authority rests solely on his shoulders.

I came away from my conversation with Dr. Sangay deeply impressed. He is a young man of considerable intellect and accomplishment, and I am certain that he will prove to be a leader of courage and conviction. The Tibetan people have chosen wisely in electing him as their Prime Minister.

During our meeting, Dr. Sangay affirmed his commitment to the Dalai Lama's "Middle Way Approach," which seeks genuine autonomy for Tibet, not independence, and I was encouraged by his determination to meet the challenge of finding a solution for the Tibet issue.

Unfortunately, the situation for the 6 million Tibetans living under Chinese rule today remains deeply troubling. This is a community that has never been permitted to participate in a free and fair election of the sort that just took place among Tibetans in exile. In fact, this is a community that is governed by authorities who have deemed that carrying a copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights or a simple photograph of his Holiness the Dalai Lama to be illegal and punishable acts. It is a community that has faced brutal repression and violence and that has, for decades, been denied their fundamental rights, including the freedoms of expression, assembly, and association.

I hope that the self-fulfillment of democratic governance exercised by Tibetan refugees can provide hope and inspiration to those in Tibet and China who yearn for the fundamental freedom to choose their own government and leaders.

While the U.S. government does not officially recognize the Central Tibetan Administration, we do work with them through a variety of programs to help Tibetan refugees. As the United States continues its outreach to civil society and nongovernmental groups, and its promotion of democracy around the world, I hope we should enhance our engagement with the Central Tibetan Administration and Dr. Sangay.

Moreover, when Lobsang Sangay returns to Washington this fall, I hope many doors will be open to him. What the Dalai Lama and his fellow Tibetan refugees have accomplished is worthy and deserving of our attention and respect.

FREEDOM IN CUBA

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the following articles highlighting the resilience and strength of the Cuban people as they continue to struggle under an oppressive regime.

These stories and videos which continue to surface out of Cuba have underlined the Cuban Government's inhumane actions against its people. Santa Maria Fonseca is one of these brave "Ladies in White" who continue to peacefully fight for liberty in Cuba. She explained, "Our objective is that one day the people will join us." Ms. Fonseca and the Cuban people deserve our unyielding support in their courageous efforts to reclaim freedom in Cuba.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal, Aug. 29, 2011]

CASTRO VS. THE LADIES IN WHITE

(By Mary Anastasia O'Grady)

Rocks and iron bars were the weapons of choice in a government assault on a handful of unarmed women on the outskirts of Santiago de Cuba on the afternoon of Aug. 7. According to a report issued by the Paris-based International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), the beatings were savage and "caused them injuries, some considerable."

It was not an isolated incident. In the past two months, attacks on peaceful women dissidents, organized by the state security apparatus, have escalated. Most notable is the intensity with which the regime is moving to try to crush the core group known as the Ladies in White.

This is not without risk to the regime, should the international community decide to pay attention and apply pressure on the white-elite regime the way it did in opposition to apartheid in South Africa. But the decision to take that risk suggests that the 52-year-old dictatorship in Havana is feeling increasingly insecure. The legendary bearded macho men of the "revolution," informed by the trial of a caged Hosni Mubarak in an Egyptian courtroom, apparently are terrified by the quiet, prayerful, nonviolent courage of little more than 100 women. No totalitarian regime can shrug off the fearless audacity these ladies display, or the signs that their boldness is spreading.

The Castro brothers' goons are learning that they will not be easily intimidated. Take, for example, what happened that same Aug. 7 morning in Santiago: The women, dressed in white and carrying flowers, had gathered after Sunday Mass at the cathedral for a silent procession to protest the regime's incarceration of political prisoners. Castro supporters and state security officials, "armed with sticks and other blunt objects," according to FIDH, assaulted the group both physically and verbally. The ladies were then dragged aboard a bus, taken outside the city and dropped off on the side of a highway.

Some of them regrouped and ventured out again in the afternoon, this time to hold a public vigil for their cause. That's when they were met by another Castro onslaught. On the same day thugs set upon the homes of former political prisoner José Daniel Ferrer and another activist. Six people, including Mr. Ferrer's wife and daughter, were sent to the hospital with contusions and broken bones, according to FIDH.

The Ladies in White first came on the scene in the aftermath of the infamous March 2003 crackdown in which 75 independent journalists and librarians, writers and democracy advocates were rounded up and handed prison sentences of six to 28

years. The wives, mothers and sisters of some of them began a simple act of protest. On Sundays they would gather at the Havana Cathedral for Mass and afterward they would march carrying gladiolas in a silent call for the prisoners' release.

In 2005, the Ladies in White won Europe's prestigious Sakharov prize for their courage. Cellphones that caught the regime's brutality against them on video helped get their story out. By 2010, they had so embarrassed the dictatorship internationally that a deal was struck to deport their imprisoned loved ones along with their family to Spain.

But some prisoners refused the deal and some of the ladies stayed in Cuba. Others joined them, calling themselves "Ladies in Support." The group continued its processions following Sunday Mass in Havana, and women on the eastern end of the island established the same practice in Santiago.

Laura Pollan, whose husband refused to take the offer of exile in Spain and was later released from prison, is a key member of the group. She and her cohorts have vowed to continue their activism as long as even one political prisoner remains jailed. Last week I spoke with her by phone in Havana, and she told me that when the regime agreed to release all of the 75, "it thought that the Ladies in White would disappear. Yet the opposite happened. Sympathizers have been joining up. There are now 82 ladies in Havana and 34 in Santiago de Cuba." She said that the paramilitary mobs have the goal of creating fear in order to keep the group from growing. But the movement is spreading to other parts of the country, places where every Sunday there are now marches.

This explains the terror that has rained down on the group in Santiago and surrounding suburbs on successive Sundays since July and on other members in Havana as recently as Aug. 18.

Last Tuesday, when four women dressed in black took to the steps of the capitol building in Havana chanting "freedom," a Castro bully tried to remove them. Amazingly, the large crowd watching shouted for him to leave them alone. Eventually uniformed agents carried them off. But the incident, caught on video, is evidence of a new chapter in Cuban history, and it is being written by women. How it ends may depend heavily on whether the international community supports them or simply shields its eyes from their torment.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Aug. 26, 2011]

ON CUBA'S CAPITOL STEPS

The four Cuban women who took to the steps of the capitol in Havana last week chanting "liberty" for 40 minutes weren't exactly rebel forces. But you wouldn't know that by the way the Castro regime reacted. A video of the event shows uniformed state security forcibly dragging the women to waiting patrol cars. They must have represented a threat to the regime because they were interrogated and detained until the following day.

The regime's bigger problem may be the crowd that gathered to watch. In a rare moment of dissent in that public square, the crowd booed, hissed and insulted the agents who were sent to remove the women.

One of the four women, Sara Marta Fonseca, gave a telephone interview to the online newspaper *Diario de Cuba*, based in Spain, as she made her way home after being freed. Ms. Fonseca, who is a member of the Rosa Parks Feminist Movement for Civil Rights, said that the group was demanding "that the government cease the repression

against the Ladies in White, against the opposition and against the Cuban people in general." The Ladies in White are dissidents who demand the release of all political prisoners.

Yet as Ms. Fonseca explained, the group wasn't really addressing the government. "Our objective is that one day the people will join us," she said. "Realistically we do not have the strength and the power to defeat the dictatorship. The strength and the power are to be found in the unity of the people. In this we put all our faith, in that this people will cross the barrier of fear and join the opposition to reclaim freedom."

Ms. Fonseca said her group chose the capitol because the area is crowded with locals and tourists and they wanted to "draw attention to the people of Cuba." In the end, she said that they were satisfied with the results because she heard the crowd crying "abuser, leave them alone, they are peaceful and they are telling the truth." This reaction, the seasoned dissident said, "was greater" than in the past. "I am very happy because in spite of being beaten and dragged we could see that the people were ready to join us."

For 52 years the Cuban dictatorship has held power through fear. The poverty, isolation, broken families and lost dreams of two generations of Cubans have persisted because the regime made dissent far too dangerous. If that fear dissipates, the regime would collapse. Which is why four women on the capitol steps had to be gagged.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

LAUREL SENIOR LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate the world champion Laurel Senior League Softball team, led by manager Brad Lee, and by coaches Bo Collins and Kevin Green. By winning the Senior League Softball World Series, the young women on the team demonstrated that success comes from hard work, perseverance, and teamwork, with the help of dedicated coaching and the support of community, parents, and fans.

This spring when the softball season opened, more than 2.5 million girls around the world dreamed of winning the Senior League Softball World Series. Among them were 14 girls from the town of Laurel in Sussex County, DE, who—after suffering a heart-breaking loss in the 2010 championship game—vowed that 2011 would be their year. And that is exactly what happened.

The players are Alison Pusey, Alexis Hudson, Logan Green, Sara Jo Whaley, Whitney Toadvine, Emily Pusey, Regan Green, Erin Johnson, Kortney Lee, Kristen Collins, Nicole Ullman, Alyssa Givens, Bethany Wheatley, and Bree Venables. Led by manager Brad Lee and coaches Bo Collins and Kevin Green, these young women worked hard all season to improve their hitting, fielding, pitching, and base running.

In its 38th year, the Senior League Softball Little League division for girls

ages 14 to 16 is a worldwide tournament with teams traveling to compete from as far away as Italy and the Philippines. The Senior League Softball World Series has been held for 8 years in Sussex County, DE. As the host, Delaware's top team gets a berth in the tournament, and Laurel has captured that spot 7 of the past 8 years.

While the Laurel girls have served as excellent hosts and ambassadors for Delaware and for the United States of America during those 7 years, they fell just short of the championship year after year.

The championship title almost slipped again from Laurel's grasp—not once, but twice—during the 2011 tournament. In two of the playoff games, the team came from behind in the bottom of the final inning to win. While the championship game proved to be a pitching match, clearly the many hours of practice at the plate paid off.

On August 13, under the threat of rain, 16-year-old Logan Green took the mound against the Latin America team and pitched a three-inning no-hitter. Laurel scored in the first inning when first-baseman Bree Venables was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded. Logan's sister, 14-year-old Regan Green, took over the mound in the fourth inning and gave up four hits—but no runs—over the last four innings to secure the final win and the championship.

Regan Green recalled her nervousness during that final game but said that her fellow players' teamwork gave her the confidence she needed on the mound. "It's always good knowing they have my back," she said.

Alyssa Givens set the stage for the "safety run" with a well-hit double in the sixth inning and then stole home from third base. Regan Green and the fielders took care of five batters in the seventh inning.

Finally, after years of coming close, the Laurel Senior League Softball team claimed the World Championship title.

Team Manager Brad Lee credited the victory to players' hard work and expressed the pride of his hometown. "There's nothing like playing for your hometown. This is something that these young ladies will remember forever, and to bring the trophy home to Laurel for the first time is an unbelievable feeling."

The State of Delaware—and especially the town of Laurel—share Manager Lee's sentiment.

Today, we congratulate the Laurel Senior League Softball team, manager Lee, and coaches Collins and Green. Through their commitment to excellence, perseverance, hard work and team work, they made their dreams come true and accomplished something that no other Delaware team, male or female, has ever done. In doing so, they have not only made the town of Laurel and its citizens proud; they have made all Delawareans proud.●

TRIBUTE TO SECOND LIEUTENANT VICKI ALTHAGE

● Mr. JOHANNNS. Mr. President, today I wish to acknowledge an important life milestone for a very patriotic young woman. On September 10, Officer Candidate Vicki Althage in the Nebraska Army National Guard will become 2LT Vicki Althage.

The Army commissions around 7,500 new officers every year, each and every one is a volunteer. Like most of her fellow lieutenants, Vicki did not have to follow this path. She has a college degree and a burgeoning career in public service. From the time she entered high school, the Nation has been at war in our struggle to defeat terrorism.

Vicki enrolled in the Army National Guard Officer Candidate School knowing that she will likely be called upon to serve overseas, perhaps in Iraq or Afghanistan. She also knows that upon becoming an officer, the welfare and lives of soldiers will become her direct responsibility.

The Nation pays frequent tribute to those who served in World War II—we call them the "greatest generation." On September 10, Officer Candidate Vicki Althage will take the oath of office and become an Army officer in what many today describe as the "next greatest generation."

Proud parents, other family members, and a fiancé will be on hand to witness her commissioning. Another group will also be thinking of her on that day. Vicki happens to be a member of my staff in Nebraska. I can assure you that the entire JOHANNNS office will be cheering loudly and filled with a sense of pride as Vicki accepts this new responsibility.

We hold our heads high when we talk about the strong tradition of military service in our great State. Today I am proud to salute this outstanding member of my staff and dedicated public servant. May God bless 2LT Vicki Althage and her family as she pursues a military career in the Nebraska Army National Guard.●

DELMONT, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the founding of the community of Delmont, SD. I am proud to honor the people of Delmont and extend my congratulations to them on this memorable occasion.

Delmont was a railroad town along the Milwaukee Road even before South Dakota achieved statehood. An investor named Thomas Ball built the town at the top of a hill overlooking the East Choteau Creek Valley. Its railroad depot served the people of Douglas County.

Many of the people who originally settled Delmont were Germans from Russia. Today they still celebrate their heritage with the annual Old-time Har-

vest Festival. The residents use the celebration to honor their heritage with kuchen, a sweet German pastry with a custard topping, South Dakota's official dessert. This year's festival will be special in honor of the 125th anniversary. The 2-day festivities will include tractor pulls, demonstrations of frontier-era harvesting equipment, fireworks, and plenty of kuchen.

A hundred twenty-five years after its founding, Delmont continues to celebrate its rich heritage through the Old-time Harvest Festival. Though the railroad is gone, the community remains an important historical and cultural asset to South Dakota. I am proud to honor the achievements of Delmont on this memorable occasion.●

REMEMBERING MICHAEL GAROFANO

● Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to an authentic hero, Michael Garofano, who died tragically in Rutland, VT on August 28, 2011, during Tropical Storm Irene.

Michael Garofano was the water treatment and resource manager in the Rutland City Department of Public Works, a position he held since 1981. He was known by his coworkers as someone who always went above and beyond the call of duty, and his work ethic was second to none. He took his responsibilities of protecting the Rutland water supply very seriously. He was a model of a dedicated public servant.

So it was not unusual that the night of August 28, as the heavy rains from Tropical Storm Irene started assaulting Rutland, Mr. Garofano, went to check on the city reservoir one more time, looking out for his fellow citizens as he had done so often, and so well, and with such dedication, over three decades. Tragically, his life was taken by the raging storm. Compounding his tragedy is another: Michael Garofano took his son Michael Jr. to check the city reservoir when he went out that night. Michael Garofano Jr. never returned from that journey and is still missing.

Alan Shelvey, Rutland Commissioner of Public Works, said of Michael Garofano, "He was doing what he always did—trying to make sure everything was right and the water supply was protected. We're going to miss him tremendously. He can't be replaced. People say that about people—in this case that's true."

Michael Garofano represented what is best about Vermont and about America: he worked hard and with great dedication, he loved his work, he cared about those who lived in the community where he lived. When there was a job to be done, a responsibility to be met, he responded with generosity and directness. He was the epitome of public service, and lost his life doing the job he cared so deeply about.

Michael Garofano was devoted to his family, and he was a friend to many who knew they could count on him when they were most in need.

It is people like Michael Garofano who make our communities and our entire Nation work and prosper, who make our cities and towns into communities and not just random groups of people. The State of Vermont grieves the loss of one of its unsung heroes.

He will be sorely missed by his family, by the city of Rutland, and by the many people whose lives he touched and enriched.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:45 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 74. Concurrent resolution providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following joint resolution was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.J. Res. 66. Joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following joint resolution was read the first time:

S.J. Res. 26. Joint resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner no longer holds the confidence of Congress or of the people of the United States.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2912. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Softwood Lumber Research, Promotion, Consumer Education and Industry Information Order" (Doc. No. AMS-FV-10-0015; FR) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 17, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2913. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the National Organic Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Organic Program (NOP); Sunset Review (2011)" (Doc. No. AMS-TM-07-0136; TM-07-14FR) received during recess of the

Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 17, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2914. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Irish Potatoes Grown in Washington; Modifications of the Rules and Regulations" (Doc. No. AMS-FV-11-0024; FV11-946-3-FIR) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 17, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2915. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Dairy Promotion and Research Program; Final Rule on Amendments to the Order" (Doc. No. DA-08-07: AMS-DA-08-0050) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 17, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2916. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Veterinary Accreditation Program; Currently Accredited Veterinarians Performing Accredited Duties and Electing to Participate" (Doc. No. APHIS-2006-0093) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2917. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Swap Data Repositories: Registration Standards, Duties and Core Principles" ((17 CFR Part 49) (RIN3038-AD20)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2918. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tetraconazole; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 8885-1) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2919. A communication from the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Emergency Restoration Plan (ERP)" (RIN0572-AC16) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2920. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Agricultural Swaps" ((17 CFR Part 35) (RIN3038-AD21)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2921. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities' Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-2922. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act that occurred within the Defense Health Program, Operation and Maintenance account and at the Madigan Army Medical Center (MAMC), Tacoma, WA and was assigned Army case number 10-05; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-2923. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of (6) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half), in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2924. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Mark D. Shackelford, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2925. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Defense Environmental Programs report for fiscal year 2010; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2926. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Display of Department of Defense Inspector General Fraud Hotline Posters" ((RIN0750-AG98) (DFARS Case 2010-D026)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2927. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Admiral Michael G. Mullen, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2928. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Defense Cargo Riding Gang Member" ((RIN0750-AG25) (DFARS Case 2007-D002)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2929. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Syria that was originally declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004 and expanded in Executive Order 13572 of April 29, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2930. A communication from the Under Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2931. A communication from the Under Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Libya that was originally declared in Executive Order 13566 of February

25, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2932. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to persons undermining democratic processes or institutions in Zimbabwe that was declared in Executive Order 13288 of March 6, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2933. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Mexico; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2934. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Mexico; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2935. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Mexico; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2936. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Mexico; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2937. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving Citibank, N.A. of New York, NY and The Boeing Company of Chicago, Illinois; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2938. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Kazakhstan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2939. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Mexico; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2940. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Mexico; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2941. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interim Rule; Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations" ((44 CFR Part 65) (Docket No. FEMA-2011-0002)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 17, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2942. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations" ((44 CFR Part 65) (Docket No. FEMA-2011-0002)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 17, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2943. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management

Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" ((44 CFR Part 67) (Docket No. FEMA-2011-0002)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2944. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations" ((44 CFR Part 65) (Docket No. FEMA-2011-0002)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2945. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules of Practice and Procedure" (RIN2590-AA14) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2946. A communication from the Secretary, Division of Corporation Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of the Duty to File Reports for Classes of Asset-Backed Securities under Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934" (RIN3235-AK89) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 17, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2947. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rules for Implementing the Whistleblower Provisions of Section 23 of the Commodity Exchange Act" ((17 CFR Part 165) (RIN3038-AD04)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2948. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" ((44 CFR Part 67) (Docket No. FEMA-2011-0002)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 17, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2949. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations" ((44 CFR Part 65) (Docket No. FEMA-2011-0002)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 17, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2950. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Privacy Act Implementation" (RIN2590-AA46) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 17, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2951. A communication from the Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the

Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to material violations or suspected material violations of regulations relating to Treasury auctions and other Treasury securities offerings for the period of January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2952. A communication from the Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report for the period of January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 relative to any exceptions granted by the Secretary of the Treasury to the prohibition against favored treatment of a government securities broker or government securities dealer; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2953. A communication from the Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a significant modification to the auction process for issuing United States Treasury obligations; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2954. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for a report entitled "Enforcement First for Removal Actions" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2955. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Ohio; Control of Emissions of Organic Materials that are Not Regulated by Volatile Organic Compound Reasonably Available Control Technology Rules" (FRL No. 9451-4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2956. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference" (FRL No. 9454-1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2957. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Colorado; Revised Definitions; Construction Permit Program Fee Increases; Regulation 3" (FRL No. 9454-3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2958. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Adoption of Control Techniques Guidelines for Large Appliance and Metal Furniture Coatings" (FRL No. 9453-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2959. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Control of Nitrogen Oxides Emissions from Glass Melting Furnaces" (FRL No. 9453-9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2960. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Revisions to Clean Air Interstate Rule Emissions Trading Program" (FRL No. 9453-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2961. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New York Reasonable Further Progress Plans, Emissions Inventories, Contingency Measures and Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets" (FRL No. 9453-2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2962. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions and Additions to Motor Vehicle Fuel Economy Label; Correction" (FRL No. 9459-8) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2963. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia: Kentucky; Ohio; Huntington-Ashland Nonattainment Area; Determinations of Attainment of the 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Standards" (FRL No. 9459-4) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2964. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designations of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Kentucky and Indiana; Louisville; Determination of Attainment by Applicable Attainment Date for the 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Standards" (FRL No. 9459-5) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2965. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Georgia: Prevention of Significant Deterioration;

Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule and Fine Particulate Matter Revision" (FRL No. 9458-1) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2966. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Permits for Major Stationary Sources and Major Modifications Locating in Prevention of Significant Deterioration Areas" (FRL No. 9459-1) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2967. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designations of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Alabama, Tennessee, and Georgia: Chattanooga and Macon; Determination of Attainment by Applicable Attainment Date for the 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Standards" (FRL No. 9459-2) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2968. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designations of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Georgia: Rome; Determination of Attainment by Applicable Attainment Date for the 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Standards" (FRL No. 9459-3) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2969. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for a report entitled "Memorandum: Issuance of 2011 Word Version of CERCLA Model Remedial Design/JRemedial Action Consent Decree" received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 17, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2970. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule Revising the California State Implementation Plan, South Coast Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 9457-6) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2971. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Change to the Reporting Date for Certain Data Elements Required Under the Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gases Rule" (FRL No. 9456-3) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2972. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District" (FRL No. 9455-3) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2973. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Infrastructure State Implementation Plan Requirement to Address Interstate Transport for the 2006 24-Hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS" (FRL No. 9457-2) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2974. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Review of National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Carbon Monoxide" (FRL No. 9455-2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2975. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards and Fuel Efficiency Standards for Medium- and Heavy-Duty Engines and Vehicles" (FRL No. 9455-1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2976. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Wildlife Refuge System, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2011-2012 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations" (RIN1018-AX54) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2977. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Branded Prescription Drug Fee" (RIN1545-BK34) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2978. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Timely Mailing Treated as Timely Filing" (RIN1545-BA99) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2979. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revenue Procedure Under Section 263(a) Regarding the Capitalization or Deduction of Electric Utility Transmission and Distribution Costs" (Rev. Proc. 2011-43) received during recess of the

Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2980. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interest and Penalty Suspension Provisions Under Section 6404(g) of the Internal Revenue Code" (RIN1545-BG75) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2981. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "United States Income Tax Treaties That Meet the Requirements of Section 1(h)(1)(C)(i)(II)" (Notice 2011-64) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2982. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Definition of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities for Tax-Exempt Bond Purposes" (RIN1545-BD04) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2983. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Applicable Federal Rates—September 2011" (Rev. Rul. 2011-20) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2984. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Elections Regarding Start-up Expenditures, Corporation Organizational Expenditures, and Partnership Organizational Expenses" (RIN1545-BE77) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2985. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Annuity and Life Insurance Contracts with a Long-Term Care Insurance Feature" (Notice 2011-68) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2986. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Credibility of U.K. Remittance Basis Charge" (Rev. Rul. 2011-19) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2987. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Election to Expense Certain Refineries" (RIN1545-BF05) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2988. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch,

Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Documentation Requirements Under Section 6050W for U.S. Payors Making Payment Outside the United States to an Offshore Account" (Notice 2011-71) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2989. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Certification of Factual Information to Import Administration during Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings: Supplemental Interim Final Rule" (RIN0625-AA66) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 29, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2990. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protecting the Public and Our Personnel to Ensure Operational Effectiveness" (RIN0960-AH35) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2991. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Disclosure Law, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules of Origin for Imported Merchandise" (RIN1515-AD53) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2992. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Changes to the Electronic Prescribing (eRx) Incentive Program" (RIN0938-AR00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2993. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Revisions to the Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Benefit Programs" (RIN0938-AP24 and RIN0938-AP52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2994. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the activities of the Office of the Medicare Ombudsman; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2995. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Medicare Competitive Acquisition Ombudsman's 2009 Annual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Finance.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. KOHL, from the Committee on Appropriations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 2112. A bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and

Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-73).

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Appropriations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 2017. A bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-74).

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN, from the Committee on Appropriations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 2354. A bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-75).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. HARKIN for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

*Constance Smith Barker, of Alabama, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2016.

*Robert J. Zimmer, of Illinois, to be a Member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2016.

*Arnold F. Stancell, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2014.

*Walter A. Barrows, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Railroad Retirement Board for a term expiring August 28, 2014.

*Charles R. Korsmo, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation for a term expiring October 13, 2011.

*Charles R. Korsmo, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation for a term expiring October 13, 2017.

*John H. Yopp, of Kentucky, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation for a term expiring October 13, 2011.

*John H. Yopp, of Kentucky, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation for a term expiring October 13, 2017.

*Marcos Edward Galindo, of Idaho, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation for a term expiring April 17, 2014.

*Maria E. Rengifo-Ruess, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation for a term expiring February 4, 2014.

*Robert C. Granger, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Board for Education Sciences for a term expiring November 28, 2014.

*Anthony Bryk, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Board for Education Sciences for a term expiring November 28, 2015.

*Matan Aryeh Koch, of New York, to be a Member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2013.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 1516. A bill to establish a program under which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall provide grants to eligible State consortia to establish and carry out municipal sustainability certification programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. REED):

S. 1517. A bill to provide for the creation of jobs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1518. A bill to require a jobs score for each spending bill considered in Congress; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1519. A bill to strengthen Indian education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1520. A bill to ensure the continued investigation of terrorist attacks against the United States attributable to the government of Muammar Qaddafi; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1521. A bill to provide assistance for agricultural producers adversely affected by damaging weather and other conditions relating to Hurricane Irene; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 1522. A bill to establish a joint select committee of Congress to report findings and propose legislation to restore the Nation's workforce to full employment over the period of fiscal years 2012 and 2013, and to provide for expedited consideration of such legislation by both the House of Representatives and the Senate; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 26. A joint resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner no longer holds the confidence of Congress or of the people of the United States; read the first time.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. WHITE-

HOUSE, Mr. WEBB, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. Res. 258. A resolution supporting the designation of National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 491

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 491, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law, and for other purposes.

S. 496

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 496, a bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act to repeal a duplicative program relating to inspection and grading of catfish.

S. 624

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 624, a bill to authorize the Department of Housing and Urban Development to transform neighborhoods of extreme poverty into sustainable, mixed-income neighborhoods with access to economic opportunities, by revitalizing severely distressed housing, and investing and leveraging investments in well-functioning services, educational opportunities, public assets, public transportation, and improved access to jobs.

S. 634

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 634, a bill to ensure that the courts of the United States may provide an impartial forum for claims brought by United States citizens and others against any railroad organized as a separate legal entity, arising from the deportation of United States citizens and others to Nazi concentration camps on trains owned or operated by such railroad, and by the heirs and survivors of such persons.

S. 800

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) were added as cosponsors of S. 800, a bill to amend the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users to reauthorize and improve the safe routes to school program.

S. 829

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 829, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the

Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 891

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 891, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the recognition of attending physician assistants as attending physicians to serve hospice patients.

S. 968

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of S. 968, a bill to prevent online threats to economic creativity and theft of intellectual property, and for other purposes.

S. 986

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 986, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to regulate the subsidies paid to rum producers in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and for other purposes.

S. 1025

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1025, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the national defense through empowerment of the National Guard, enhancement of the functions of the National Guard Bureau, and improvement of Federal-State military coordination in domestic emergency response, and for other purposes.

S. 1048

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1048, a bill to expand sanctions imposed with respect to the Islamic Republic of Iran, North Korea, and Syria, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1048, *supra*.

S. 1232

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1232, a bill to modify the definition of fiduciary under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to exclude appraisers of employee stock ownership plans.

S. 1273

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1273, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act with regard to certain exemptions under that Act for direct care workers and to improve the systems for the collection and reporting of data relating to the direct care workforce, and for other purposes.

S. 1299

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1299, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of Lions Clubs International.

S. 1308

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1308, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to child pornography and child exploitation offenses.

S. 1356

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1356, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to encourage States to increase generic drug utilization under Medicaid, and for other purposes.

S. 1369

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1369, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to exempt the conduct of silvicultural activities from national pollutant discharge elimination system permitting requirements.

S. 1376

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1376, a bill to conform income calculations for purposes of eligibility for the refundable credit for coverage under a qualified health plan and for Medicaid to existing Federal low-income assistance programs.

S. 1381

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1381, a bill to provide for the expansion of Federal efforts concerning the prevention, education, treatment, and research activities related to Lyme and other tick-borne disease, including the establishment of a Tick-Borne Diseases Advisory Committee.

S. 1395

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1395, a bill to ensure that all Americans have access to waivers from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 1427

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1427, a bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to authorize producers on a

farm to produce fruits and vegetables for processing on the base acres of the farm.

S. 1438

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1438, a bill to provide that no agency may take any significant regulatory action until the unemployment rate is equal to or less than 7.7 percent.

S. 1440

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1440, a bill to reduce preterm labor and delivery and the risk of pregnancy-related deaths and complications due to pregnancy, and to reduce infant mortality caused by prematurity.

S. 1454

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) were added as cosponsors of S. 1454, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for extended months of Medicare coverage of immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant patients and other renal dialysis provisions.

S. 1463

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1463, a bill to amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to protect breastfeeding by new mothers and to provide for reasonable break time for nursing mothers.

S. 1467

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1467, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to protect rights of conscience with regard to requirements for coverage of specific items and services.

S. 1508

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1508, a bill to extend loan limits for programs of the Federal Housing Administration, the government-sponsored enterprises, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 17

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 17, a joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

S.J. RES. 19

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of

S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

S.J. RES. 25

At the request of Mr. RISCH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 25, a joint resolution relating to the disapproval of the President's exercise of authority to increase the debt limit, as submitted under section 3101A of title 31, United States Code, on August 2, 2011.

S. RES. 132

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 132, a resolution recognizing and honoring the zoos and aquariums of the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1519. A bill to strengthen Indian education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the issue of tribal education; an issue of great importance to Indian Country, but one that does not receive the attention it should from the rest of the nation.

Native students' academic outcomes show the worst achievement gaps in the country. Graduation rates for American Indians and Alaska Natives are lower than the graduation rates for all other racial and ethnic groups. American Indian and Alaska Native students have a lower average score in reading than other students. Sadly there's been little improvement to these statistics over the past 80 years.

I hear often from many of the tribal school districts in my State, and the issues they face in providing quality education to their students are numerous. Aging infrastructure badly in need of renovation. Difficulties in recruiting trained, Native teachers and administrators. Chronic underfunding and late payments of Impact Aid. The failure of No Child Left Behind requirements to address tribal needs and learning styles especially related to language and culture. All are impediments to the goal of improving educational outcomes of Native American youth.

To try and help address these issues, I rise today to introduce the Building upon the Unique Indian Learned and Development, or BUILD, Act. This legislation is an important step towards improving the conditions and teaching for Native American students.

In general, our Nation's schools are aging and in a state of disrepair. But this is especially true of BIE schools, where over half of the almost 4,500 education buildings are over 30 years old, and more than 20 percent are more than 50 years old. It is reprehensible that any child is being subjected to learning conditions that are literally a danger to them. Although education construction has improved dramatically over the last few years, the deferred maintenance backlog is still estimated to be over \$500 million and increasing annually. How can we expect our students to succeed academically when we fail to provide them with a proper environment to achieve success?

That is why the BUILD Act includes a School Facility Innovation Contest, which would allow students and faculty who learn and work in these old school buildings, as well as engineering and architecture students and faculty nationwide to propose creative ways to improve tribal school facilities through a national competition. It is time for bold, new ideas to renovate or replace these old facilities, and there's no one better to contribute than those who use the buildings most often, and some of the brightest architectural and engineering minds in the country.

In addition to infrastructure needs, a major concern is the achievement gap of Native American students. So many of them are not reaching their academic potential. These students need to be inspired and shown the possibilities in their future. One way to do so is to expose them to successful members of their own communities and cultural backgrounds. These kids must have role models, mentors, and teachers, from their community and culture. Unfortunately, today, while American Indians are 11 percent of the student population, less than 3 percent of their teachers, counselors or principals are also Native American.

New Mexico has already developed some programs to increase the pipeline for Native American teachers and leaders, both in its tribal colleges and non-tribal colleges. These local programs are models for what can be expanded in New Mexico and nationwide. We need many more programs growing local leaders to meet the needs of the tribal schools.

For example, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute offers an Early Childhood Associate Degree program, which works closely with the surrounding tribal communities to meet the Office of Head Start standards for certified Early Childhood educators in their classrooms.

New Mexico State University offers an American Indian Education Doctoral Program in its College of Education, where the majority of students stay to work in NM.

The University of New Mexico offers an Institute for American Indian Edu-

cation to encourage upper-level Native American undergraduates to consider teaching, and helps paraprofessionals from tribal communities receive their teaching certification. In addition, it offers Native Language teachers professional development and training for language revitalization and immersion style teaching.

At the Zuni Pueblo's "Grow your Own" program, started in 1980, tribal members attend Saturday school to produce Zuni-certified teachers, meeting the state's alternative certification.

Research tells us that with incentives, we can increase the number of effective Native teachers and leaders in public and tribal schools. And all of these programs are a great example of it.

But more must be done, which is why the BUILD Act seeks to provide these incentives and expand the pipeline for Native American students to become teachers, principals and administrators. Strong classroom teachers and school leadership must be developed, not left to chance.

In addition to Native American students learning from Native American teachers and mentors, learning in their own language and culture has been shown to improve academic outcomes. Schools can succeed when they promote and maintain an overall educational climate that values and respects Native language and culture, and make the curriculum relevant to Native students' lives. Native American children who are proficient in their native language have higher proficiency in English and lower dropout rates.

My bill would strengthen language and culturally based education by allowing tribal leaders and elders to teach Native language in schools. School districts in New Mexico are piloting programs like these.

For example, the Mescalero Apache Schools developed a Native Language K-12 Curriculum aligned to New Mexico State Standards where tribal members are teaching in the school system.

The Central Consolidated School District is the first public school in the State to implement a language Immersion Program/Model in Navajo language.

The Pueblo of Jemez has created an Education Collaborative by coordinating effort between Tribal, Public, Charter and Bureau school educators and administrators to align curriculum and transitions from one school to the next, while supporting and honoring the Jemez language, culture and traditions.

Also related to this, the BUILD Act reauthorizes the Esther Martinez Act for native language immersion programs, and allows standards, assessments, and teaching strategies to accommodate diverse culture and language learning needs.

Last but not least, the BUILD Act calls for both full and forward funding of Impact Aid. Forward funding so that tribal school administrators will know before the school year begins what resources they have for salaries, for maintenance and utilities, and for supplies. Full funding so that school districts receive the funds they need to provide a quality education to all children.

For many of these local school districts responsible for educating children connected to federal land, Impact Aid represents the basic funding that supports their schools. Yet, Impact Aid appropriations have not matched the loss in property taxes that these communities would otherwise have been able to use to support their local schools. Impact Aid construction and facilities funds have been redirected to basic support, resulting in school buildings deteriorating and in such poor condition that no parent could expect their child to learn in them. Years of not fully funding Impact Aid has resulted in Indian Treaty Land school districts with insufficient resources to meet Average Yearly Progress under No Child Left Behind, including the difficulties to retain highly qualified teachers and purchase adequate computer equipment to educate its children, and an inability to renovate existing facilities and maintain adequate transportation fleets.

In developing the BUILD Act, I worked closely with many tribes, Indian Educators, and Indian institutes of higher education and am happy to have the support from many of them. Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, Institute of American Indian Arts, Navajo Technical College, the NM Indian Education Advisory Council, the National Indian Education Association, American Indian Higher Education Consortium, and National Association of Federally Impacted Schools have all endorsed the BUILD Act. I would like to thank them for their support and collaboration.

I would also like to thank Senator AKAKA, my chairman on the Indian Affairs Committee, with whom I worked to include many of these provisions in the Native CLASS Act, which he introduced this past June. The Native CLASS Act is important legislation that will improve the Elementary and Secondary Education Act by including provisions to strengthen tribal control of education for Native American students through relationships between tribes and local education agencies and greater parental involvement with school districts; by providing alternatives to detention programs for at-risk Indian children; and by providing for alternative licensure and other incentives to increase the number of skilled native language teachers.

I look forward to working with Senator AKAKA and the rest of my colleagues to ensure that the provisions

and ideas in the BUILD Act and Native CLASS Act are reflected in any ESEA Reauthorization legislation. Native American children are the future of their communities and our nation. They deserve equal access to resources, teachers, and safe schools. Unfortunately, to date, they have not been getting this. It is long past time for us to do something about it.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 258—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY WEEK

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WEBB, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 258

Whereas the National Assessment of Adult Literacy reports that approximately 90,000,000 adults in the United States lack the literacy, numeracy, or English language skills necessary to succeed at home, in the workplace, and in society;

Whereas the literacy of the people of the United States is essential for the social and economic well-being of the United States, and literacy allows individuals to benefit from full participation in society;

Whereas the United States reaps the economic benefits from the efforts of individuals to raise their literacy, numeracy, and English language skills;

Whereas literacy and educational skills are a prerequisite to individuals reaping the full benefit of opportunities in the United States;

Whereas the economy and the position of the United States in the world marketplace depend on having a literate, skilled population;

Whereas the unemployment rate in the United States is highest among individuals without a high school diploma or an equivalent credential, indicating that education is key to economic recovery;

Whereas parents who are educated and read to their children directly impact the educational success of their children;

Whereas parental involvement is a key predictor of a child's success, and the level of parental involvement increases as the education level of the parent increases;

Whereas parents in family literacy programs become more involved in their children's education and gain the tools necessary to obtain a job or find better employment;

Whereas, as a result of family literacy programs, children's lives become more stable, and success in the classroom, and in all future endeavors, becomes more likely;

Whereas adults need to be part of a long-term solution to the education challenges of the United States;

Whereas many older people in the United States lack the reading, math, or English language skills necessary to read a prescription and follow medical instructions, endangering their lives and the lives of their loved ones;

Whereas many individuals who are unemployed, underemployed, or receive public assistance lack the literacy skills to obtain and keep a job to sustain their family, continue their education, or participate in job training programs;

Whereas many high school dropouts do not have the literacy skills to complete their education, transition to postsecondary education or career and technical training, or become employed;

Whereas a large percentage of individuals in prison have low educational skills, and prisoners without educational skills are more likely to return to prison once released;

Whereas many immigrants to the United States do not have the literacy skills necessary to succeed in the United States;

Whereas National Adult Education and Family Literacy week highlights the need to ensure that each and every citizen has the necessary literacy and educational skills to succeed at home, at work, and in society; and

Whereas the week beginning September 12, 2011, would be an appropriate week to designate as National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week, including raising public awareness about the importance of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy;

(2) encourages people across the United States to support programs to assist those in need of adult education, workforce skills upgrading, and family literacy programs; and

(3) recognizes the importance of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy programs, and calls upon public, private, and non-profit stakeholders to support increased access to adult education and family literacy programs to ensure a literate society.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 594. Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin (for himself and Mr. JOHANNIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1249, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 595. Ms. CANTWELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1249, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 596. Ms. CANTWELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1249, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 597. Ms. CANTWELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1249, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 598. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1249, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 599. Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. DEMINT, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. BURR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1249, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 600. Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1249, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 594. Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin (for himself and Mr. JOHANNIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1249, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place insert the following:

SEC. ____ . REGULATION MORATORIUM AND JOBS PRESERVATION ACT OF 2011.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Regulation Moratorium and Jobs Preservation Act of 2011”.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section—

(1) the term “agency” has the meaning given under section 3502(1) of title 44, United States Code;

(2) the term “regulatory action” means any substantive action by an agency that promulgates or is expected to lead to the promulgation of a final regulation, including notices of inquiry, advance notices of proposed rulemaking, and notices of proposed rulemaking;

(3) the term “significant regulatory action” means any regulatory action that is likely to result in a rule or guidance that may—

(A) have an annual effect on the economy of \$100,000,000 or more or adversely affect in a material way the economy, a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health or safety, small entities, or State, local, or tribal governments or communities;

(B) create a serious inconsistency or otherwise interfere with an action taken or planned by another agency;

(C) materially alter the budgetary impact of entitlements, grants, user fees, or loan programs or the rights and obligations of recipients thereof; or

(D) raise novel legal or policy issues; and

(4) the term “small entities” has the meaning given under section 601(6) of title 5, United States Code.

(c) **SIGNIFICANT REGULATORY ACTIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—No agency may take any significant regulatory action, until the Bureau of Labor Statistics average of monthly unemployment rates for any quarter beginning after the date of enactment of this Act is equal to or less than 7.7 percent.

(2) **DETERMINATION.**—The Secretary of Labor shall submit a report to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget whenever the Secretary determines that the Bureau of Labor Statistics average of monthly unemployment rates for any quarter beginning after the date of enactment of this Act is equal to or less than 7.7 percent.

(d) **WAIVERS.**—

(1) **NATIONAL SECURITY OR NATIONAL EMERGENCY.**—The President may waive the application of subsection (c) to any significant regulatory action, if the President—

(A) determines that the waiver is necessary on the basis of national security or a national emergency; and

(B) submits notification to Congress of that waiver and the reasons for that waiver.

(2) **ADDITIONAL WAIVERS.**—

(A) **SUBMISSION.**—The President may submit a request to Congress for a waiver of the application of subsection (c) to any significant regulatory action.

(B) **CONTENTS.**—A submission under this paragraph shall include—

(i) an identification of the significant regulatory action; and

(ii) the reasons which necessitate a waiver for that significant regulatory action.

(C) CONGRESSIONAL ACTION.—Congress shall give expeditious consideration and take appropriate legislative action with respect to any waiver request submitted under this paragraph.

(e) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—

(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term “small business” means any business, including an unincorporated business or a sole proprietorship, that employs not more than 500 employees or that has a net worth of less than \$7,000,000 on the date a civil action arising under this section is filed.

(2) REVIEW.—Any person that is adversely affected or aggrieved by any significant regulatory action in violation of this section is entitled to judicial review in accordance with chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) JURISDICTION.—Each court having jurisdiction to review any significant regulatory action for compliance with any other provision of law shall have jurisdiction to review all claims under this section.

(4) RELIEF.—In granting any relief in any civil action under this subsection, the court shall order the agency to take corrective action consistent with this section and chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code, including remanding the significant regulatory action to the agency and enjoining the application or enforcement of that significant regulatory action, unless the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that application or enforcement is required to protect against an imminent and serious threat to the national security from persons or states engaged in hostile or military activities against the United States.

(5) REASONABLE ATTORNEY FEES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES.—The court shall award reasonable attorney fees and costs to a substantially prevailing small business in any civil action arising under this section. A party qualifies as substantially prevailing even without obtaining a final judgment in its favor if the agency changes its position as a result of the civil action.

(6) LIMITATION ON COMMENCING CIVIL ACTION.—A person may seek and obtain judicial review during the 1-year period beginning on the date of the challenged agency action or within 90 days after an enforcement action or notice thereof, except that where another provision of law requires that a civil action be commenced before the expiration of that 1-year period, such lesser period shall apply.

SA 595. Ms. CANTWELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1249, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 119, strike line 21 and all that follows through page 125, line 11, and insert the following:

SEC. 18. TRANSITIONAL PROGRAM FOR COVERED BUSINESS-METHOD PATENTS.

(a) REFERENCES.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, wherever in this section language is expressed in terms of a section or chapter, the reference shall be considered to be made to that section or chapter in title 35, United States Code.

(b) TRANSITIONAL PROGRAM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall issue regulations establishing and implementing a transitional post-grant review proceeding for review of the validity of covered business-method patents. The transitional proceeding implemented pursuant to this subsection shall be regarded as,

and shall employ the standards and procedures of, a post-grant review under chapter 32, subject to the following exceptions and qualifications:

(A) Section 321(c) and subsections (e)(2), (f), and (g) of section 325 shall not apply to a transitional proceeding.

(B) A person may not file a petition for a transitional proceeding with respect to a covered business-method patent unless the person or his real party in interest has been sued for infringement of the patent or has been charged with infringement under that patent.

(C) A petitioner in a transitional proceeding who challenges the validity of 1 or more claims in a covered business-method patent on a ground raised under section 102 or 103 as in effect on the day prior to the date of enactment of this Act may support such ground only on the basis of—

(i) prior art that is described by section 102(a) (as in effect on the day prior to the date of enactment of this Act); or

(ii) prior art that—

(I) discloses the invention more than 1 year prior to the date of the application for patent in the United States; and

(II) would be described by section 102(a) (as in effect on the day prior to the date of enactment of this Act) if the disclosure had been made by another before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

(D) The petitioner in a transitional proceeding, or his real party in interest, may not assert either in a civil action arising in whole or in part under section 1338 of title 28, United States Code, or in a proceeding before the International Trade Commission that a claim in a patent is invalid on any ground that the petitioner raised during a transitional proceeding that resulted in a final written decision.

(E) The Director may institute a transitional proceeding only for a patent that is a covered business-method patent.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The regulations issued pursuant to paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and shall apply to all covered business-method patents issued before, on, or after such date of enactment, except that the regulations shall not apply to a patent described in section 6(f)(2)(A) of this Act during the period that a petition for post-grant review of that patent would satisfy the requirements of section 321(c).

(3) SUNSET.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—This subsection, and the regulations issued pursuant to this subsection, are repealed effective on the date that is 4 years after the date that the regulations issued pursuant to paragraph (1) take effect.

(B) APPLICABILITY.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), this subsection and the regulations implemented pursuant to this subsection shall continue to apply to any petition for a transitional proceeding that is filed prior to the date that this subsection is repealed pursuant to subparagraph (A).

(c) REQUEST FOR STAY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If a party seeks a stay of a civil action alleging infringement of a patent under section 281 in relation to a transitional proceeding for that patent, the court shall decide whether to enter a stay based on—

(A) whether a stay, or the denial thereof, will simplify the issues in question and streamline the trial;

(B) whether discovery is complete and whether a trial date has been set;

(C) whether a stay, or the denial thereof, would unduly prejudice the nonmoving party or present a clear tactical advantage for the moving party; and

(D) whether a stay, or the denial thereof, will reduce the burden of litigation on the parties and on the court.

(2) REVIEW.—A party may take an immediate interlocutory appeal from a district court's decision under paragraph (1). The United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit shall review the district court's decision to ensure consistent application of established precedent, and such review may be de novo.

(d) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term “covered business method patent” means a patent that claims a method or corresponding apparatus for performing data processing operations utilized in the practice, administration, or management of a financial product or service, except that the term shall not include patents for technological inventions. Solely for the purpose of implementing the transitional proceeding authorized by this subsection, the Director shall prescribe regulations for determining whether a patent is for a technological invention.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as amending or interpreting categories of patent-eligible subject matter set forth under section 101.

SA 596. Ms. CANTWELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1249, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 124, line 19, strike all through page 125, line 7, and insert the following:

(d) DEFINITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the term “covered business method patent” —

(A) means a patent that claims a method or corresponding apparatus for performing data processing operations utilized in the practice, administration, or management of a financial product or service;

(B) shall include only patents claiming abstract business concepts; and

(C) shall not include patents for technological inventions or inventions relating predominantly to nonfinancial goods or services.

(2) REGULATIONS.—To assist in implementing the transitional proceeding authorized by this subsection, the Director shall issue regulations for determining whether a patent is for a technological invention or inventions relating predominantly to nonfinancial good or services.

SA 597. Ms. CANTWELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1249, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 119, strike line 21 and all that follows through page 125, line 11.

SA 598. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1249, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner no longer holds the confidence of Congress or of the people of the United States.

SA 599. Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. DEMINT, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. BURR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1249, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 137, line 1, strike all through page 138, line 9, and insert the following:

SEC. 22. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE FUNDING.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

(2) **FUND.**—The term “Fund” means the public enterprise revolving fund established under subsection (c).

(3) **OFFICE.**—The term “Office” means the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

(4) **TRADEMARK ACT OF 1946.**—The term “Trademark Act of 1946” means an Act entitled “Act to provide for the registration and protection of trademarks used in commerce, to carry out the provisions of certain international conventions, and for other purposes”, approved July 5, 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.) (commonly referred to as the “Trademark Act of 1946” or the “Lanham Act”).

(5) **UNDER SECRETARY.**—The term “Under Secretary” means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property.

(b) **FUNDING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 42 of title 35, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (b), by striking “Patent and Trademark Office Appropriation Account” and inserting “United States Patent and Trademark Office Public Enterprise Fund”; and

(B) in subsection (c), in the first sentence—
(i) by striking “To the extent” and all that follows through “fees” and inserting “Fees”; and

(ii) by striking “shall be collected by and shall be available to the Director” and inserting “shall be collected by the Director and shall be available until expended”.

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the later of—

(A) October 1, 2011; or

(B) the first day of the first fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) **USPTO REVOLVING FUND.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a revolving fund to be known as the “United States Patent and Trademark Office Public Enterprise Fund”. Any amounts in the Fund shall be available for use by the Director without fiscal year limitation.

(2) **DERIVATION OF RESOURCES.**—There shall be deposited into the Fund on or after the effective date of subsection (b)(1)—

(A) any fees collected under sections 41, 42, and 376 of title 35, United States Code, provided that notwithstanding any other provision of law, if such fees are collected by, and payable to, the Director, the Director shall transfer such amounts to the Fund, provided, however, that no funds collected pursuant to section 9(h) of this Act or section 1(a)(2) of

Public Law 111-45 shall be deposited in the Fund; and

(B) any fees collected under section 31 of the Trademark Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1113).

(3) **EXPENSES.**—Amounts deposited into the Fund under paragraph (2) shall be available, without fiscal year limitation, to cover—

(A) all expenses to the extent consistent with the limitation on the use of fees set forth in section 42(c) of title 35, United States Code, including all administrative and operating expenses, determined in the discretion of the Under Secretary to be ordinary and reasonable, incurred by the Under Secretary and the Director for the continued operation of all services, programs, activities, and duties of the Office relating to patents and trademarks, as such services, programs, activities, and duties are described under—

(i) title 35, United States Code; and

(ii) the Trademark Act of 1946; and

(B) all expenses incurred pursuant to any obligation, representation, or other commitment of the Office.

(d) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Not later than 60 days after the end of each fiscal year, the Under Secretary and the Director shall submit a report to Congress which shall—

(1) summarize the operations of the Office for the preceding fiscal year, including financial details and staff levels broken down by each major activity of the Office;

(2) detail the operating plan of the Office, including specific expense and staff needs for the upcoming fiscal year;

(3) describe the long term modernization plans of the Office;

(4) set forth details of any progress towards such modernization plans made in the previous fiscal year; and

(5) include the results of the most recent audit carried out under subsection (f).

(e) **ANNUAL SPENDING PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 30 days after the beginning of each fiscal year, the Director shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the plan for the obligation and expenditure of the total amount of the funds for that fiscal year in accordance with section 605 of the Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109-108; 119 Stat. 2334).

(2) **CONTENTS.**—Each plan under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) summarize the operations of the Office for the current fiscal year, including financial details and staff levels with respect to major activities; and

(B) detail the operating plan of the Office, including specific expense and staff needs, for the current fiscal year.

(f) **AUDIT.**—The Under Secretary shall, on an annual basis, provide for an independent audit of the financial statements of the Office. Such audit shall be conducted in accordance with generally acceptable accounting procedures.

(g) **BUDGET.**—The Fund shall prepare and submit each year to the President a business-type budget in a manner, and before a date, as the President prescribes by regulation for the budget program.

(h) **SURCHARGE.**—Notwithstanding section 11(i)(1)(B), amounts collected pursuant to section 11(i)(1)(A) shall be credited to the United States Patent and Trademark Office Public Enterprise Fund.

SA 600. Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment in-

tended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1249, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 149, line 20, strike all through page 150, line 16.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON DEFICIT REDUCTION**

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I wish to announce that Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction will meet in open session on Thursday, September 8, 2011, at 10:30 a.m. in room 2123 of the Rayburn House Office Building, to consider proposed committee rules.

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON DEFICIT REDUCTION

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I wish to announce that Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction will meet in open session on Tuesday, September 13, 2011, at 10:30 a.m., in room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “The History and Drivers of Our Nation’s Debt and Its Threats.”

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet in open session on Wednesday, September 14, 2011, at 10 a.m. in SD-430 to conduct a hearing entitled “Securing the Pharmaceutical Supply Chain.”

For further information regarding this hearing, please contact Elizabeth Jungman of the committee staff on (202) 224-7675.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS**

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 7, 2011, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 7, 2011, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “Defending the Nation Since 9/11: Successful Reforms and Challenges Ahead at the Department of Homeland Security.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized

to meet during the session of the Senate, on September 7, 2011, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Cybercrime: Updating the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act to Protect Cyberspace and Combat Emerging Threats."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on September 7, 2011, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Nominations."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my intern, Yan Perng, have the privilege of the floor for the balance of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Madeleine Bien and Mandy McClure of my staff be granted floor privileges for the duration of today's proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROVIDING FOR A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 74.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 74) providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, there be no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 74) was agreed to.

NATIONAL CELIAC DISEASE AWARENESS DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 219 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 219) designating September 13, 2011, as "National Celiac Disease Awareness Day".

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 219) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 219

Whereas celiac disease affects approximately 1 in every 130 people in the United States, for a total of 3,000,000 people;

Whereas the majority of people with celiac disease have yet to be diagnosed;

Whereas celiac disease is a chronic inflammatory disorder that is classified as both an autoimmune condition and a genetic condition;

Whereas celiac disease causes damage to the lining of the small intestine, which results in overall malnutrition;

Whereas when a person with celiac disease consumes foods that contain certain protein fractions, that person suffers a cell-mediated immune response that damages the villi of the small intestine, interfering with the absorption of nutrients in food and the effectiveness of medications;

Whereas such problematic protein fractions are found in wheat, barley, rye, and oats, which are used to produce many foods, medications, and vitamins;

Whereas because celiac disease is a genetic disease, there is an increased incidence of celiac disease in families with a known history of celiac disease;

Whereas celiac disease is underdiagnosed because the symptoms can be attributed to other conditions and are easily overlooked by doctors and patients;

Whereas as recently as 2000, the average person with celiac disease waited 11 years for a correct diagnosis;

Whereas ½ of all people with celiac disease do not show symptoms of the disease;

Whereas celiac disease is diagnosed by tests that measure the blood for abnormally high levels of the antibodies of immunoglobulin A, anti-tissue transglutaminase, and IgA anti-endomysium antibodies;

Whereas celiac disease can be treated only by implementing a diet free of wheat, barley, rye, and oats, often called a "gluten-free diet";

Whereas a delay in the diagnosis of celiac disease can result in damage to the small intestine, which leads to an increased risk for malnutrition, anemia, lymphoma, adenocarcinoma, osteoporosis, miscarriage, congenital malformation, short stature, and disorders of the skin and other organs;

Whereas celiac disease is linked to many autoimmune disorders, including thyroid disease, systemic lupus erythematosus, type

1 diabetes, liver disease, collagen vascular disease, rheumatoid arthritis, and Sjogren's syndrome;

Whereas the connection between celiac disease and diet was first established by Dr. Samuel Gee, who wrote, "if the patient can be cured at all, it must be by means of diet";

Whereas Dr. Samuel Gee was born on September 13, 1839; and

Whereas the Senate is an institution that can raise awareness in the general public and the medical community of celiac disease: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 13, 2011, as "National Celiac Disease Awareness Day";

(2) recognizes that all people of the United States should become more informed and aware of celiac disease;

(3) calls upon the people of the United States to observe National Celiac Disease Awareness Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and

(4) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Celiac Sprue Association, the American Celiac Society, and the Celiac Disease Foundation.

NATIONAL ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY WEEK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 258.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 258) supporting the designation of the "National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements on this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 258) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, and its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 258

Whereas the National Assessment of Adult Literacy reports that approximately 90,000,000 adults in the United States lack the literacy, numeracy, or English language skills necessary to succeed at home, in the workplace, and in society;

Whereas the literacy of the people of the United States is essential for the social and economic well-being of the United States, and literacy allows individuals to benefit from full participation in society;

Whereas the United States reaps the economic benefits from the efforts of individuals to raise their literacy, numeracy, and English language skills;

Whereas literacy and educational skills are a prerequisite to individuals reaping the full benefit of opportunities in the United States;

Whereas the economy and the position of the United States in the world marketplace

depend on having a literate, skilled population;

Whereas the unemployment rate in the United States is highest among individuals without a high school diploma or an equivalent credential, indicating that education is key to economic recovery;

Whereas parents who are educated and read to their children directly impact the educational success of their children;

Whereas parental involvement is a key predictor of a child's success, and the level of parental involvement increases as the education level of the parent increases;

Whereas parents in family literacy programs become more involved in their children's education and gain the tools necessary to obtain a job or find better employment;

Whereas, as a result of family literacy programs, children's lives become more stable, and success in the classroom, and in all future endeavors, becomes more likely;

Whereas adults need to be part of a long-term solution to the education challenges of the United States;

Whereas many older people in the United States lack the reading, math, or English language skills necessary to read a prescription and follow medical instructions, endangering their lives and the lives of their loved ones;

Whereas many individuals who are unemployed, underemployed, or receive public assistance lack the literacy skills to obtain and keep a job to sustain their family, continue their education, or participate in job training programs;

Whereas many high school dropouts do not have the literacy skills to complete their education, transition to postsecondary education or career and technical training, or become employed;

Whereas a large percentage of individuals in prison have low educational skills, and prisoners without educational skills are more likely to return to prison once released;

Whereas many immigrants to the United States do not have the literacy skills necessary to succeed in the United States;

Whereas National Adult Education and Family Literacy week highlights the need to ensure that each and every citizen has the necessary literacy and educational skills to succeed at home, at work, and in society; and

Whereas the week beginning September 12, 2011, would be an appropriate week to designate as National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week, including raising public awareness about the importance of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy;

(2) encourages people across the United States to support programs to assist those in need of adult education, workforce skills upgrading, and family literacy programs; and

(3) recognizes the importance of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy programs, and calls upon public, private, and non-profit stakeholders to support increased access to adult education and family literacy programs to ensure a literate society.

MEASURE READ FIRST TIME—S.J. RES. 26

Mr. REID. I understand there is a joint resolution at the desk due for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 26) expressing the sense of the Congress that Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner no longer holds the confidence of Congress or of the people of the United States.

Mr. REID. I now ask for its second reading, and in order to place the joint resolution on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The joint resolution will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF ESCORT COMMITTEE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the President of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort President Obama into the House Chamber for the joint session at 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 8, 2011.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2011

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 8; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the second half; and that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 1249.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have reached an agreement to complete action on the bill, as I outlined earlier.

There will be four rollcall votes at approximately 4 p.m. on Thursday. Senators should gather in the Senate Chamber at 6:30 p.m. tomorrow to proceed to the House for the joint session. After the joint session, there will be an additional rollcall vote on the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 25, a joint resolution of disapproval regarding the debt limit increase.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, September 8, 2011, at 9:30 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, September 7, 2011

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day and for a safe return to Washington.

Bless the Members of this assembly as they set upon the important work that faces them. Help them to make wise decisions in a good manner and to carry their responsibilities steadily with high hopes for a better future for our great Nation.

May they be empowered by what they have heard during their home district visits to work together. May they realize that each of them represents voters who side with their opponents and that there are millions of Americans who voted for their opponents as well. The work to be done must benefit all Americans. Give them courage to make difficult choices when they are faced with them.

May Your blessing, O God, be with them and with us all this day and every day to come, and may all we do be done for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

GOVERNMENT CENSORSHIP OF VETERANS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, recently I met with the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Houston, Texas, who shared some disturbing news:

The First Amendment rights of veterans have come under attack by the Federal Government. The director of the Houston Veterans Administration Cemetery has led an authoritarian quest to remove Christianity and religion from funerals. She has banned the words "God" and "Jesus Christ" in the burial ceremonies of deceased veterans. She censors the prayers. She shut down the chapel, took out the cross, took out the Bible, and locked the doors.

Government censorship of funeral services for those who have fought and died for our country is unacceptable, unconstitutional, and un-American. The policy of the director is anti-Christian, antireligion, and antiveteran.

Today I filed the Veterans Religious Freedom Act. This bill will protect the constitutional right to freedom of religion and prohibit the Veterans Administration from censoring free speech and censoring religion. It will require the veteran cemetery directors to be veterans.

The First Amendment is sacred. Funerals are sacred. And when our veterans are buried, that soil becomes sacred. It is the constitutional duty of the Federal Government to protect speech and religion, not censor it.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRESS' PERFORMANCE

(Mr. DINGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened by what I heard while I was home in August. People are disappointed with us, their elected representatives, and they want us to do our constitutional duty of solving the Nation's problems and to start working together.

They want to get America moving again. They want the problems of the economy addressed. They want jobs, they want opportunity, and they want a government that works for the good of the country.

Is there anyone amongst us here that is proud that we could not produce a budget? that we caused the downgrading of the U.S. Government securities? that we caused appalling disorder and confusion in the market, stifling economic growth and job creation and contributing to the hopelessness and the misfortune of millions of Americans?

Failed leadership and failed followership—we owe the country better. We must do better.

I hope that those of you here who feel ashamed of our performance, as I do, will join together. It is our duty to solve the Nation's problems and to stop this nonsense. If we do not, the people in their righteous and justified outrage will get rid of us all. And well they should.

SELECT COMMITTEE NEEDS TO PUT PATIENT PROTECTION AFFORDABLE CARE ACT ON THE TABLE

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, every household in America knows this: The easiest money to save is money you haven't yet spent. That seems like common sense.

We could reduce the deficit by eliminating spending that is to begin in the future, spending Americans simply cannot afford. This new select committee could easily achieve almost their entire target of reducing the Nation's deficit, and, most surprisingly, almost every dollar would come from benefits that do not yet exist.

New mandates in the Affordable Care Act give the Federal Government far too much control, and taxpayers far too much responsibility, for financing health care in this country. Given our deteriorating debt, the simple truth is we simply cannot afford this new spending.

The select committee will look to strengthen existing entitlement programs—Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security—but also these existing entitlements are on the table. So why shouldn't new entitlements created by the Affordable Care Act be as well?

We have this choice moving forward: We can make the select committee negotiations as painful as possible or we can have a logical discussion about cutting back on spending that we simply cannot afford.

The select committee is getting to work, and I encourage both parties, all 12 members, to put the Affordable Care Act on the table alongside other entitlements in need of reform. Failure to stop will simply threaten the very fabric of our Republic.

IN HONOR OF GEORGE A. KALOGRIDIS, PRESIDENT OF DISNEYLAND RESORT

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission

to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor George Kalogridis, who is the president of Disneyland in my hometown of Anaheim. George will be celebrating 40 years on September 11, in just a few days, and I wish to offer him my heartiest congratulations for his 40 years with the Disney Corporation.

George started as a busboy at the age of 17 at Walt Disney World, and he has worked his way up to numerous positions including being the chief operating officer for Disneyland in Paris, and now he's the president of Disneyland in Orange County, California, where he oversees 21,000 employees.

George's outstanding record of achievement has increased the value of Disneyland to our community in Orange County, and I know that he continues to try to improve and to provide the leadership that that wonderful world-known resort needs.

The story of George's rise from a busboy to the president of Disneyland is really the accomplishment of the American Dream, and I am proud to extend him my best wishes and congratulations.

□ 1410

AMERICANS WANT REAL JOBS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, the Bureau of Labor Statistics released the August jobs report. Unfortunately, the news was grim. Unemployment remained at 9.1 percent with zero jobs being created in August. This is another tragedy for millions of American families.

Today, Congress returns from the district work period. After having spent the last weeks with constituents in the district I represent, their one clear concern is jobs. People are tired of the President's lofty words with actions that destroy jobs. Americans want a change in course from the failed stimulus plans of borrow and wastefully spend. Let us work together to adopt real reforms that have an immediate impact on job creation. It's time to implement meaningful spending cuts, passing legislation designed to encourage small businesses to hire employees and help with job creation in the American economy. House Republicans have passed dozens of job-promoting bills since January. Now it's time for the liberal Senate and President to really help families who want jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

COMMUNICATION FROM CASEWORK DIRECTOR, THE HONORABLE HOWARD L. BERMAN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) laid before the House the following communication from Margaret Mott, Casework Director, the Honorable HOWARD L. BERMAN, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
September 2, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a subpoena, issued by the United States District Court for the Central District of California, for witness testimony.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House, except to the extent that questions put to me seek information that is privileged.

Sincerely,

MARGARET MOTT,
Casework Director.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 7, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 7, 2011 at 9:47 a.m.:

Appointments:
Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

PROVIDING FOR A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS TO RECEIVE A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged concurrent resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 74

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the two Houses of Congress assemble in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Thursday, September 8, 2011, at 7 p.m., for the purpose of receiving such communication as the President of the United States shall be pleased to make to them.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 5:30 p.m.

□ 1730

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) at 5 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SPECIAL OLYMPICS LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 67) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 67

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR DC SPECIAL OLYMPICS LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN.

On September 30, 2011, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate may jointly designate, the 26th Annual District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run (in this resolution referred to as the "event") may be run through the Capitol Grounds as part of the journey of the Special Olympics torch to the District of Columbia Special Olympics summer games.

SEC. 2. RESPONSIBILITY OF CAPITOL POLICE BOARD.

The Capitol Police Board shall take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the event.

SEC. 3. CONDITIONS RELATING TO PHYSICAL PREPARATIONS.

The Architect of the Capitol may prescribe conditions for physical preparations for the event.

SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.

The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in section 5104(c) of title 40, United States Code, concerning sales, advertisements, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, in connection with the event.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 67.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. DENHAM. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

House Concurrent Resolution 67 would authorize the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run that will be held on September 30 of this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Emergency Management, and Public Buildings for introducing this resolution. I am pleased to be a cosponsor.

As in years past, the torch run will be launched from the west terrace of the U.S. Capitol and continue through the Capitol Grounds as part of the journey to the 26th Annual D.C. Special Olympics summer games. The Special Olympics is an international organization dedicated to enriching the lives of children and adults with disabilities through athletics and competition.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run began in 1981 when the police chief of Wichita, Kansas, saw an urgent need to raise funds for and increase awareness of the Special Olympics. The torch run was then quickly adopted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Today the torch run is the largest grassroots effort that raises funds and awareness for the Special Olympics program. The event in D.C. is one of the many law enforcement torch runs throughout the country and across 35 nations. This year about 50 different local and Federal law enforcement agencies are participating in the day's events, and more than 1,500 law enforcement officials will be honoring the Special Olympics athletes by completing the 2-mile run.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, 2011 marks the 26th Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit the District of Columbia Special Olympics. The torch relay event is a traditional part of the opening ceremonies for the Special Olympics, which take place at Catholic University in the Nation's Capital in 2011. This event has become a popular event on Capitol Hill and is an integral part of the District of Columbia Special Olympics. Torch run participants will assemble at the U.S. Capitol Building on the west terrace steps for opening ceremonies and then proceed to run or walk a 2-mile course to Ft. McNair, also in the Nation's Capital.

Each year, approximately 2,500 Special Olympians compete in over a dozen events and more than a million children and adults with special needs participate in Special Olympics worldwide. The goal of the games is to help bring mentally challenged individuals into the larger society under conditions where they will be accepted and respected. Confidence and self-esteem are the building blocks for the Special Olympic games. The Special Olympics District of Columbia has been operating for 42 years, providing services to a wide swath of D.C. residents, and I am pleased to support such a worthy organization and event.

I also urge the House to support House Concurrent Resolution 67.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 67.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1745

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro

tempore (Mr. HARRIS) at 5 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

EXTENDING THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2832) to extend the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2832

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES.

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 505 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2465) is amended by striking “December 31, 2010” and inserting “July 31, 2013”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to articles entered on or after the 15th day after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION FOR CERTAIN LIQUIDATIONS AND RELIQUIDATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 514 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1514) or any other provision of law and subject to subparagraph (B), any entry of an article to which duty-free treatment or other preferential treatment under title V of the Trade Act of 1974 would have applied if the entry had been made on December 31, 2010, that was made—

(i) after December 31, 2010, and

(ii) before the 15th day after the date of the enactment of this Act, shall be liquidated or reliquidated as though such entry occurred on the 15th day after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(B) REQUESTS.—A liquidation or reliquidation may be made under subparagraph (A) with respect to an entry only if a request therefor is filed with U.S. Customs and Border Protection not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act that contains sufficient information to enable U.S. Customs and Border Protection—

(i) to locate the entry; or

(ii) to reconstruct the entry if it cannot be located.

(C) PAYMENT OF AMOUNTS OWED.—Any amounts owed by the United States pursuant to the liquidation or reliquidation of an entry of an article under subparagraph (A) shall be paid, without interest, not later than 90 days after the date of the liquidation or reliquidation (as the case may be).

(3) DEFINITION.—As used in this subsection, the terms “enter” and “entry” include a withdrawal from warehouse for consumption.

SEC. 2. MERCHANDISE PROCESSING FEES.

For the period beginning on October 1, 2011, and ending on June 30, 2014, section 13031(a)(9) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(a)(9)) shall be applied and administered—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by substituting “0.3464” for “0.21”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)(i), by substituting “0.3464” for “0.21”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2832.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. CAMP. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan legislation, which renews the nearly 40-year-old Generalized System of Preferences, is a vital part of a robust trade agenda, an agenda that makes American companies more competitive and increases American exports. GSP is an important tool for boosting economic growth and job creation.

Just last week, we learned that on the whole there were zero jobs created in August and that the unemployment rate remains above 9 percent. Over the next several weeks, congressional Republicans will bring several bills to the floor that will address the shortage of American jobs and help promote job creation.

This legislation is an important component of that effort because GSP is critical to the competitiveness of many American manufacturers. Having more competitive American companies means creating and supporting more American jobs. The lapse of this program since the beginning of the year has unnecessarily imposed higher costs on American manufacturers and consumers at a time when we can least afford it.

The GSP program is the largest U.S. trade preference program and provides duty-free treatment to nonsensitive imports from over 130 developing countries. Many U.S. companies source raw materials and other inputs from GSP countries, and the duty-free treatment of these imports reduces the production costs of these U.S. manufacturers, making them more competitive. Nearly three-quarters of all GSP-eligible imports are raw materials, components, parts, or machinery and equipment used by American workers to manufacture goods in the United States for both consumption here and for export.

According to an analysis by the Coalition for GSP, approximately 82,000 jobs are either directly or indirectly associated with the importation and use of GSP-eligible imports. The clear connection with jobs reinforces how important it is the program is renewed.

Many of the jobs supported by GSP imports are in Michigan, where the unemployment rate remains almost 2 percentage points above the national average. Unfortunately, the lapse in the GSP program has forced employers in Michigan to pay over \$9 million in un-

necessary duties. Instead of paying unnecessary duties, these employers could have been paying \$9 million more in needed salaries.

The legislation renews the program until July 30, 2013, and permits importers to apply for duty refunds for eligible products imported since the program's expiration on December 31 of 2010. This retroactive renewal will provide a timely infusion of capital to U.S. manufacturers that have faced higher duties and, therefore, higher production costs since the program expired. It will allow them to compete with manufacturers abroad who already have duty-free access to such inputs.

I also note that this legislation will not add to the deficit as the costs are fully offset.

I would like to thank my colleague, Ranking Member LEVIN, for working with me to find a path forward for this legislation. Given how important this legislation is, I hope that our colleagues in the other body will act quickly.

Mr. Speaker, I want to emphasize how important this job-creating legislation is for American manufacturers and their employees by creating and supporting American jobs. It's a valuable part of an aggressive, pro-growth trade agenda. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield myself such time as I shall consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 2832. Unfortunately, today we are acting to rectify only one wrong in the Republican agenda of disregard for workers and economic recovery. The Generalized System of Preferences, GSP, that we extend today for 22 months should never have been permitted to lapse at the beginning of the year.

The Andean Trade Preferences program should also not stand expired. And, importantly, it is inexcusable that the Trade Adjustment Assistance that we improved on a bipartisan basis in 2009 has stood expired since February. The only reason we are considering this legislation today is because House Republicans have been unwilling to support a simple extension of the expanded TAA Program.

□ 1750

They have been unwilling to support a program targeted at helping unemployed Americans get back to work, this at a time when more Americans have remained jobless for a longer period than ever recorded in our Nation's history.

In FY 2010 alone, more than 227,000 workers took advantage of TAA, receiving assistance such as case management, training, and income support. And there is broad support for the program. I quote just one such evidence, a letter circulated by the U.S. Chamber

of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the Business Roundtable in May 2011, which states: "TAA is as vitally important today as it has been over the years. It helps American businesses get into exporting and is designed to give displaced workers the new skills and resources they need to reenter the 21st century job market. Accordingly, we urge Congress and the administration to find a way forward to ensure that the United States has in place an effective TAA program to support U.S. global economic engagement."

I support the GSP program and the legislation before us today. That program is an important tool in U.S. trade policy. It is a means by which the U.S. can help developing countries to capture the opportunities and meet the challenges of trade and globalization. One hundred and twenty-nine developing countries participate in GSP and depend on it to spur economic growth. This includes some of the poorest countries in the world. Moreover, GSP benefits Americans. I emphasize that. In fact, the majority of U.S. imports under GSP, approximately 65 to 75 percent, are inputs used to support U.S. manufacturing, including raw materials, parts and components, and machinery and equipment.

This program is important enough that it should not have been allowed to lapse, and can now be considered on its own merits. It appears that the prospect is that the Senate will act on GSP by adding TAA. If that is the path for the renewal of TAA, the Republicans have an obligation to ensure that it happens immediately as a primary action.

The Republicans often talk about a languishing trade agenda. What has been languishing is action on trade items ready for action—GSP, TAA, ATPA—languishing at the hands of the Republican majority here while action has been underway to address the shortcomings of the Bush trade agreements.

I am confident that each of the free trade agreements can be considered on their own merits. Other programs, especially those vital to workers transition during this difficult economy, should never have been held hostage.

I would like now to ask that the balance of our time be managed by the ranking member on the Trade Subcommittee, JIM MCDERMOTT of Washington.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Washington will control the time.

There was no objection.

Mr. CAMP. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT).

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, it is evident that our country is in desperate need of jobs. And I rise today to bring light on an issue that could cost

literally hundreds of jobs in America. Currently, there is a flaw in the GSP, and if it is not addressed, it will cause the loss of 150 jobs in the district that I represent alone, and could cause the loss of many other jobs across the industry.

Implemented back in 1974, GSP was designed to exclude import-sensitive items, and therefore excluded all textiles. However, in the early 1990s, sleeping bags, along with a long list of other items, were added to GSP as eligible for duty-free import, causing sleeping bags to be the only manufactured textile that is allowed to be imported without a 9 percent duty.

The sleeping bags made at Exxel Outdoors in Haleyville, Alabama, are simply fabric, filling and zipper, yet they are not treated as other textiles. Sleeping bags that are manufactured in Bangladesh, where 90 percent of their value comes from materials in China, cut into America's sleeping bag sales by 20 percent a year.

Without this modest import duty, there will be at least another 150 people who will lose their jobs unnecessarily in a region where unemployment is already over 15 percent. While the economy added no new jobs in August and U.S. unemployment numbers remain stagnant, this issue gives us another example of government policy that hinders job growth and retention.

I want to thank the Ways and Means Committee for their time, attention, and concern regarding this matter and for working with us as we move forward on this process to find a resolution. I am looking forward to continuing our work with them in pursuit of a fair, commonsense solution.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2832, a bill which extends the Generalized System of Preferences, or GSP, for 22 months.

Let's make it very clear what's going on here tonight. Usually, Members of Congress come from all over the country on the first day of session, and we come back here and we rename post offices. So the President said: Why don't I go over there on Wednesday and give a speech about jobs and about the agenda that this country ought to face. He sent a pro forma request to the leadership of the House, and they said: Oh, no. We have important business. We can't make room for you. It's the first time in history the President has been denied access to a general speech to the entire Congress.

Now, then you have the problem, what important stuff have you got? So they come looking for a bill. So this is the bill they brought forward. It's going to pass on unanimous consent. It could have passed months ago. It should have passed months ago because it is the cornerstone of our U.S. trade and development policy and has been in place since 1976.

The GSP program allows duty-free entry into the United States for lots of products coming from 129 developing countries, including some of the poorest in the world. But the poor countries are not the only ones that rely on this. As you just heard, American businesses rely on GSP to be competitive. In fact, most GSP products are import products for U.S. manufacturers. Unfortunately, GSP was allowed to lapse in December in the midst of all of the anti program; anything that the White House or anybody wanted around here, they said "no." This was no. This was the Congress of no. And so it undermined the development goals of GSP.

Now, this job-killing delay didn't have to happen. But like so much else, the Republicans wanted to use GSP as a hostage no matter what the cost to U.S. businesses and consumers. Despite the damage to our economy by the Republicans, I am supportive of finally passing GSP. And now that we are about to get this done, hopefully we can act on the other critical trade programs the Republicans have allowed to expire. In particular, I'm talking about the Trade Adjustment Assistance program, or TAA, as it is known around here, which helps workers who are laid off as a result of trade. It retrains workers so they can compete better in the global environment. TAA has been in place since 1962, and the bunch running this place let it expire early last year. The expansion in 2009 had strong bipartisan support as recently as up to this past December, and with good reason. Most Members understand or should understand that to compete in a global economy, you need a globally competitive workforce.

Now, the Speaker has taken TAA hostage—or the leadership of the Republican Party. I don't know who's doing it. But they have held it hostage for no good reason whatsoever, even though they voted for it in the past—unanimously voted for it in the past, and now suddenly they can't pass it.

□ 1800

Mr. Speaker, the level of dysfunction in this body is astonishing, and it's not just intentional delays in extending TAA and our other Preference programs. The Republicans have refused to act on any of the trade agenda. And why? Because they want action on the three pending FTAs first, above all else, no matter what. Even when the Obama administration wanted to move forward on the renegotiated Korea FTA last spring, the Republicans refused to act because they wanted action on all three Bush-era agreements, all at once, regardless of how flawed they might be. And as the Republicans delayed the agreements with their hostage-taking, they have criticized the administration.

Mr. Speaker, U.S. businesses are failing. They are falling behind their EU

competitors who already have their agreement up and running, making contracts, while we're still sitting here waiting for the leadership of the Republican Party to let it loose.

Now, the Republican delay: Republicans kill jobs with their tactics and then they blame the President. They must have found out something in August when they went home, and that's why they're back here worried about jobs. We'll see about it. We'll see how serious they are. They spent too much time with Alice in Wonderland—where up is down and down is up. It's a cynical game the Republicans are playing with the public.

We need to act on the two FTAs that have been fixed—Korea and Panama—and also on the trade programs that have expired. For example, I have submitted a bill that will extend the important parts of AGOA—the African Growth and Opportunity Act—that will expire next year and add the new country of South Sudan to our list of trading partners. These changes need to be made soon to keep the development that is already occurring under AGOA from withering. And nobody is opposed to the changes. It's just being held as a hostage.

We need to put American jobs first and get this work done, and we need to do it quickly. We just need to pass this bill that's before us today. I'm sure it will pass by unanimous consent.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I think today we'll find that we're the Congress of "yes" on this bipartisan legislation, and I want to thank the ranking member of the Trade Subcommittee for his original cosponsorship.

With that, I yield 4 minutes to the chairman of the Trade Subcommittee, the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY).

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

You may not sense it from some of the remarks today, but, in truth, this bill has strong bipartisan support, and I rise in support of this legislation renewing the Preference program as one valuable step Congress can take together to help spur economic and job growth here in America.

As last week's jobs number—or, more importantly, zero jobs number—showed us, our economy is struggling, and there are 14 million Americans who want a job that can't find a job. Twenty-two million Americans want a full-time job and can't find one. The lapse of this Preference program has hurt the competitiveness of our American manufacturers and others who rely upon these GSP imports as raw materials and inputs.

We all know our States best. In Texas, 27 companies have asked Congress to renew this Preference program. These companies import such products as chemicals, iron and steel

flanges, and ceramics for use as inputs in their manufacturing operations at home in Texas. These imports support jobs in my local communities and make our manufacturers more competitive when they compete against companies overseas. And the program benefits every State in this way, not just mine.

The lapse of the program since the beginning of the year has cost these Texas companies over \$21 million in unnecessary duties. That \$21 million could have been used to hire more employees and invest in new equipment. Instead, it was taxed away from them. This legislation would provide a retroactive renewal of the program and give these companies the opportunity to get these duties refunded to them. And I know they can use this money more effectively to promote jobs and invest in our economy than sending it here to Washington.

Mr. Speaker, I am particularly pleased there is strong bipartisan support for this legislation under the leadership of Chairman DAVE CAMP, along with Ranking Member LEVIN and Congressman McDERMOTT—my friend and coworker on the Trade Subcommittee—who are original cosponsors of this legislation. As a result of this strong bipartisan support, I expect it to pass strongly tonight in the House. I hope the other body will move quickly to consider this legislation.

Last December, during the holidays, the House passed by voice vote a renewal of this program that would have prevented the lapse of the program. Unfortunately, it never made it out of the Senate. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge not only bipartisan support for this legislation but bicameral support for it as well so we can get this money back in the hands of American manufacturers and job creators.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. My good friend from Texas is right; there is strong bipartisan support for this legislation. There was bipartisan support for the legislation when it passed in the House last December when it expired. But, unfortunately, the Senate shut down. It would not be allowed to move forward by the Republicans in the other body, and it died inexplicably. I don't understand the workings of the other body and why Republicans would require supermajorities to move things through that will ultimately pass unanimously.

There was bipartisan support for this legislation in January, in February, March, April, May, June. I am proud to support it now, and I'm pleased that the Republican leadership and my friend, Chairman CAMP, brought it forward. But there's just as much support today as there was in January.

It made me feel bad that our friend from Texas talked about the \$21 mil-

lion that was lost to his Texas industries. It didn't need to happen. Any night that we came into session at the beginning of any week, the legislation could have come forward, since January. This is important, and I'm pleased we're having the discussion now. I will do anything I can to lobby people in the other body to move forward with it. But it's part of a simple bipartisan agenda where there's no objection. These are the sorts of things that can come forward.

In the 1960s, a growing number of nations agreed that more needed to be done to bring the benefits of trade to the developing world and devised a system of trade preferences to meet this objective. The United States enacted it first in 1974, and criteria under this System of Preferences were not merely related to trade but reflected our Nation's social values when we inaugurated this program, Preferences, in 1974 and included a statement of the policies we feel valuable in our trading partners and about which policies we feel drive the development of nations. It's often referred to as a tool of foreign policy as well as trade.

Among the criteria we judge our trading partners on in eligibility for this program are the protection of American commercial interests like the protection of intellectual property, the prevention of seizure of property belonging to United States citizens and businesses, as well as the protection of individual rights such as the protection of commonly accepted labor rights and the elimination of child labor.

I wonder at this point if I may ask a question of my friend, the chairman of the committee.

As I scanned the legislation, I don't see any reference in the elements to the protection of the environment. Is there anything in this legislation that would speak to that?

Mr. CAMP. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. CAMP. Well, the short answer is no. The gentleman is correct in his analysis or reading of the bill. This is a straightforward extension of the existing program, so it has not added any additional eligibility criteria in this legislation. This is just simply a straightforward extension.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. If the gentleman would entertain an additional question. I appreciate that this has not been incorporated in the past and that this is just a simple extension over the course of the next 22 months.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. As we move forward, hopefully we won't be dealing with the expiration in the future. I'm wondering if the gentleman would entertain working with us and, as we

come forward in the course of a replacement, if we might consider including environmental protections in the list of accepted criteria.

Mr. CAMP. I haven't had a chance to review your suggestion but would be happy to take a look at it.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Thank you. I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy and interest in at least looking at it.

□ 1810

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that we have done with the trade agenda in 2007 was establish environmental protections which are part of future FTAs. We've kind of turned the corner with trade agreements. And I'm hopeful that this relatively modest—and I would think noncontroversial—item could be included so that as we move forward in the future we add to our list and would benefit developing countries' respect for the environment.

Trade can have a powerful effect on environmental protection. We've worked hard to include them in previous items. And I'm hopeful that we can work together to make sure when this comes before us again that the environment is given its due protection.

Mr. CAMP. I am prepared to close at this point if the gentleman has no further speakers.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I have no other speakers, so I will close on our side.

Mr. Speaker, I expect this bill will pass in 5 minutes without a vote against it.

This bill could be law by tomorrow at noon if the Senate would act, and I hope that my colleagues on the other side will do as we will do on this side, which is to contact our colleagues in the Senate and ask them this time, put it up and move it. Now, if they don't, all you can say is this was a trial balloon we put up in the air, and we found out the Senate was asleep or dysfunctional or—I don't know what you would put on it. They have to act on this if they're serious about a trade agenda for this country, and I hope that we can make it happen for the American worker.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank both of my colleagues for their commitment to work with the other body to ensure that this legislation becomes law. As we all know, we can use all the help we can get when we get to the other side of the Capitol. But I want to just reemphasize that this is part of a 40-year history of more competition for U.S. manufacturers and U.S. companies. This is bipartisan legislation which has been around for a long time.

It is important to continue to grow markets and create exports; and this legislation helps American employers, American manufacturers—and their employees, more importantly—by creating and supporting jobs here in

America. So it's just an important, valuable part of our export policy, and I urge all of my colleagues to join in supporting this bipartisan legislation.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2832.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEST) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SPECIAL OLYMPICS LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on the motion to suspend the rules previously postponed.

The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 67) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 379, nays 0, not voting 52, as follows:

[Roll No. 692]

YEAS—379

Ackerman	Baca	Becerra
Adams	Bachus	Berg
Aderholt	Baldwin	Berman
Alexander	Barletta	Biggart
Altmire	Barrow	Billbray
Amash	Bartlett	Bilirakis
Andrews	Barton (TX)	Bishop (GA)
Austria	Bass (CA)	Black

Blackburn	Frelinghuysen	Luján
Blumenauer	Fudge	Lummis
Bonner	Gallegly	Mack
Bono Mack	Garamendi	Manzullo
Boswell	Gardner	Marchant
Boustany	Garrett	Marino
Brady (PA)	Gerlach	Markey
Brady (TX)	Gibbs	Matheson
Braley (IA)	Gingrey (GA)	Matsui
Brooks	Gohmert	McCarthy (CA)
Brown (GA)	Gonzalez	McCaul
Brown (FL)	Goodlatte	McClintock
Buchanan	Gosar	McCollum
Bucshon	Gowdy	McCotter
Buerkle	Granger	McDermott
Burgess	Graves (GA)	McGovern
Burton (IN)	Graves (MO)	McHenry
Butterfield	Green, Al	McIntyre
Calvert	Green, Gene	McKeon
Camp	Griffin (AR)	McKinley
Campbell	Griffith (VA)	McMorris
Canseco	Grimm	Rodgers
Cantor	Guinta	McNerney
Capito	Guthrie	Meehan
Capps	Hahn	Meeks
Capuano	Hall	Mica
Cardoza	Hanabusa	Michaud
Carnahan	Hanna	Miller (FL)
Carney	Harper	Miller (MI)
Carson (IN)	Harris	Miller (NC)
Carter	Hartzler	Miller, George
Cassidy	Hastings (FL)	Moore
Castor (FL)	Hastings (WA)	Moran
Chabot	Hayworth	Murphy (CT)
Chaffetz	Heck	Murphy (PA)
Chandler	Heinrich	Myrick
Chu	Hensarling	Nadler
Cicilline	Herger	Napolitano
Clarke (MI)	Herrera Beutler	Neugebauer
Clay	Himes	Noem
Cleaver	Hinche	Nugent
Clyburn	Hinojosa	Nunes
Coble	Hirono	Nunnelee
Coffman (CO)	Hochul	Olson
Cole	Holden	Oliver
Conaway	Holt	Owens
Connolly (VA)	Hoyer	Palazzo
Conyers	Huelskamp	Pallone
Cooper	Huizenga (MI)	Pascarell
Costa	Hultgren	Pastor (AZ)
Courtney	Hunter	Paulsen
Cravaack	Hurt	Payne
Crawford	Inslee	Pearce
Crenshaw	Israel	Pelosi
Critz	Issa	Perlmutter
Crowley	Jackson (IL)	Peters
Cuellar	Jackson Lee	Peterson
Culberson	(TX)	Petri
Cummings	Jenkins	Pitts
Davis (CA)	Johnson (GA)	Platts
Davis (KY)	Johnson (IL)	Poe (TX)
DeFazio	Johnson (OH)	Polis
DeGette	Johnson, E. B.	Pompeo
DeLauro	Johnson, Sam	Posey
Denham	Jones	Price (GA)
Dent	Jordan	Price (NC)
DesJarlais	Kaptur	Quayle
Deutch	Keating	Quigley
Diaz-Balart	Kelly	Rahall
Dicks	Kildee	Rangel
Dingell	Kind	Reed
Doggett	King (IA)	Rehberg
Dold	King (NY)	Reichert
Donnelly (IN)	Kingston	Renacci
Doyle	Kinzinger (IL)	Ribble
Dreier	Kline	Richardson
Duffy	Kucinich	Rigell
Duncan (SC)	Labrador	Rivera
Duncan (TN)	Lamborn	Roby
Edwards	Lance	Roe (TN)
Ellmers	Lankford	Rogers (AL)
Emerson	Larsen (WA)	Rogers (KY)
Eshoo	Larson (CT)	Rogers (MI)
Farenthold	Latham	Rohrabacher
Farr	LaTourette	Rooney
Fattah	Latta	Ros-Lehtinen
Filner	Lee (CA)	Roskam
Fitzpatrick	Levin	Ross (AR)
Flake	Lewis (CA)	Ross (FL)
Fleischmann	Lipinski	Roybal-Allard
Fleming	LoBiondo	Royce
Forbes	Loeb	Ryun
Fortenberry	Lofgren, Zoe	Ruppersberger
Fox	Long	Ryan (OH)
Frank (MA)	Lowey	Ryan (WI)
Franks (AZ)	Luetkemeyer	

Sánchez, Linda	Smith (NJ)	Velázquez
T.	Smith (TX)	Walberg
Sanchez, Loretta	Smith (WA)	Walden
Sarbanes	Southerland	Walz (MN)
Scalise	Speier	Wasserman
Schakowsky	Stark	Schultz
Schiff	Stearns	Waters
Schilling	Stivers	Watt
Schmidt	Stutzman	Waxman
Schock	Sullivan	Webster
Schwartz	Sutton	Welch
Schweikert	Terry	West
Scott (VA)	Thompson (CA)	Westmoreland
Scott, Austin	Thompson (MS)	Whitfield
Scott, David	Thompson (PA)	Wilson (FL)
Sensenbrenner	Thornberry	Wilson (SC)
Serrano	Tierney	Wittman
Sessions	Tipton	Wolf
Sherman	Tonko	Womack
Shuler	Towns	Woodall
Shuster	Tsongas	Woolsey
Simpson	Turner	Yarmuth
Slaughter	Upton	Yoder
Smith (NE)	Van Hollen	Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—52

Akin	Grijalva	Pence
Bachmann	Gutierrez	Pingree (ME)
Bass (NH)	Higgins	Reyes
Benishke	Honda	Richmond
Berkley	Kissell	Rokita
Bishop (NY)	Landry	Rothman (NJ)
Bishop (UT)	Langevin	Rush
Boren	Lewis (GA)	Schrader
Clarke (NY)	Lucas	Scott (SC)
Cohen	Lungren, Daniel	Sewell
Costello	E.	Shimkus
Davis (IL)	Lynch	Sires
Ellison	Maloney	Tiberi
Engel	McCarthy (NY)	Visclosky
Fincher	Miller, Gary	Walsh (IL)
Flores	Mulvaney	Young (AK)
Gibson	Neal	Young (FL)
Giffords	Paul	

□ 1854

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. WALSH of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 692, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 692, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, on September 7, 2011, I inadvertently missed rollcall vote No. 692. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district and missed the vote on September 7, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 692, H. Con. Res. 67.

□ 1900

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING CLASSIFIED SCHEDULE OF AUTHORIZATIONS AND CLASSIFIED ANNEX ACCOMPANYING INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION BILL FOR FY 2012

(Mr. ROGERS of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I wish to announce to all Members of the House that the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

has ordered the bill, H.R. 1892, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012, reported favorably to the House with an amendment, and last week filed its report on the bill in the House. The bill is currently expected to be considered in the House this coming Friday.

Mr. Speaker, the classified Schedule of Authorizations and the classified Annex accompanying the bill are available for review by Members at the offices of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence in room HVC-304 of the Capitol Visitors Center. The committee office will open during regular business hours for the convenience of any Member who wishes to review this material prior to its consideration by the House.

I recommend that Members wishing to review the classified Annex contact the committee's director of security to arrange a time and date for that viewing. This will ensure the availability of committee staff to assist Members who desire assistance during their review of these classified materials.

I urge interested Members to review these materials in order to better understand the committee's recommendations. The classified Annex to the committee's report contains the committee's recommendations on the intelligence budget for fiscal year 2012 and related classified information that cannot be disclosed publicly.

It is important that Members keep in mind the requirements of clause 13 of House rule XXIII, which only permits access to classified information by those Members of the House who have signed the oath provided for in the rule.

If a Member has not yet signed that oath but wishes to review the classified Annex and Schedule of Authorizations, the committee staff can administer the oath and see to it that the executed form is sent to the Clerk's Office. In addition, the committee's rules require that Members agree in writing to a nondisclosure agreement. The agreement indicates that the Member has been granted access to the classified Annex and that they are familiar with the rules of the House and the committee with respect to the classified nature of that information and the limitations on the disclosure of that information.

I thank the Speaker.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2218, EMPOWERING PARENTS THROUGH QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1892, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

Ms. FOXX, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-200) on the resolution (H.

Res. 392) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2218) to amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1892) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

QUESTION OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of personal privilege.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHWEIKERT). The Chair has been made aware of a valid basis for the gentleman's point of personal privilege.

The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, tonight I wish to speak to this Congress and to my fellow Americans about international policy and its relationship to the domestic economy. I will advocate a new direction America must take in the world so that we can meet the needs of our people here at home.

For the past decade, we have relied on the force of our arms to make America more secure while our economy has rotted from within. America has lost its focus. America has spent more time concentrating on reshaping the world than on reshaping our economy. We have created hundreds of thousands of jobs for military contractors all over the world while we have just learned that we have created zero jobs here in the United States in the month of August as unemployment continues to stay above 9 percent. Come home, America.

We must begin to focus on things here at home and stop roaming the world looking for dragons to slay. We have a right and an obligation to defend our Nation, but that includes working for peace abroad and seeking peaceful resolution of conflict, a capacity that, at our peril, we have not fully developed. I call it strength through peace. It involves the pursuit of what President Franklin Roosevelt called the science of human relations, actually engaging those with whom we disagree most to attempt to find a way to coexist peacefully.

As Dr. Martin Luther King said at a commencement address at Oberlin College in 1965: "We must find some alternative to war and bloodshed. I do not wish to minimize the complexity of the problems to be faced in achieving disarmament and peace. But we shall not have the courage, the insight, to deal with such matters unless we are prepared to undergo a mental and spir-

itual change. It is not enough to say we must not wage war. We must love peace and sacrifice for it. We must fix our visions not merely on the negative expulsion of war, but upon the positive affirmation of peace. We must see that peace represents a sweeter music, far superior to the discords of war."

I believe the American people have the capacity, Mr. Speaker, to undergo the mental and spiritual change that Dr. King spoke about.

□ 1910

People are about that work in their own private lives every day. The question is: Does our government and those who lead it have that capacity? Are we willing to look, recognize that the path we are on leads only to destruction and poverty, and are we willing to embark courageously on a new path?

To those who say that this is naive, I ask: Has the strategy of military intervention which took us and keeps us in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya, made us any safer? The musclebound "with us or against us" mindset which passes for statecraft has placed us on a march of folly that in the past decade has left America with thousands of dead young soldiers, over a million dead innocents in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the surrounding region, a new generation of terrorists, and trillions upon trillions of dollars of debt. As poverty and war are twins, so are peace and prosperity.

Mindful of the disaster of spreading war and being an eyewitness as to how easily our country seems to be drawn into conflict, I traveled to Syria this year to personally urge their leader to stop the violence, respect human rights, and begin a transition towards a democratic state. I traveled to Lebanon afterwards to hear the concerns of leaders who also believe that the violence in Syria must stop and who are concerned that if radical fundamentalism results in the overthrow of the government of Syria, the same fires will consume their own nation which developed a fragile political and social consensus after years of civil war.

I opposed the war in Libya, not only because it was unconstitutional but it was, and is, unconscionable for America to precipitate or take sides in a civil war, spending perhaps billions in an ongoing war when we have so many pressing needs here at home. We went in because we were told a massacre could occur. Yet civilian casualties in Libya mounted after the U.S. and NATO attacked. In order to please the West, Libya cooperated with the CIA, got rid of its WMD program in 2004, and privatized its economy, resulting in massive unemployment.

It was moving through to reform even as the West moved to bomb it and, inexplicably, the West moved to take up the cause of elements of al Qaeda spurring the rebels. We learn today

from CNN that the rebels and fighters aligned with them are looting weapons warehouses across Libya, where as many as 20,000 surface-to-air missiles had previously been kept under lock and key. Western officials, perhaps the same geniuses who knowingly helped rebel elements with ties to al Qaeda overthrow the Libya Government, are now worried that the surface-to-air missiles and other weapons will get into the wrong hands.

This lawless interventionism spurred on by an unaccountable NATO which violates United Nations Security Council resolutions with impunity, this attempt to use force to bring others to subjection in the name of democracy, actually has become a device for control over the wealth of other nations and the squandering of our own wealth and the spreading of poverty here at home.

Did our government just wake up one day and discover that 14 million Americans are out of work and that we need a massive program to put them back to work? No. It's known that for some time. War has become our great distraction. It has given those who have little or no ability to construct a fair economy an opportunity to pretend leadership at the expense of those brave men and women who served and at the expense of the American economy and the expense of the American taxpayers. We can no longer afford participating in this war-game of nations.

I opposed the war in Afghanistan and have brought Congress to confront it several times because the U.S. has spent half a trillion dollars trying to democratize a tribal nation while failing to spend sufficient resources to protect our democracy here at home. The latest report is that we may be in Afghanistan through 2024 at the request of the Afghanistan Government. This will cost us hundreds of billions, perhaps even trillions, more. Doesn't it make more sense for America to come home at the request of and for the benefit of the American people?

I led opposition in this Congress to the war in Iraq. Nine years ago, I warned this Congress that there was no reason to go to war against Iraq. I was asked at that time, Whose side are you on, America's or the murderous dictator, Saddam Hussein? Opposing that intervention was seen by some as coddling a murderous dictator, no matter that Hussein had opposed al Qaeda, no matter that there was no proof that Iraq had anything to do with 9/11 or al Qaeda's role in 9/11, no matter that Iraq did not have the intention or capability of attacking the United States and that no one had been able to show that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. I wasn't "for" Saddam Hussein. I was for the troops. And for peace.

America pursued war anyway. America put the lives of its sons and daughters on the line. America will spend

over \$3 trillion for this war that was based on lies. And even today we find our government will not bring the troops home as promised, but instead will continue to spend billions on this stupid and corrupt war in Iraq while our own Nation is falling apart. Money for war, but no money for jobs?

Am I advocating isolationism? Certainly not. We need to strengthen the United Nation's peacekeeping ability and blunt NATO's war-making capability. We must stop NATO from going rogue. We need a counterterrorism strategy which brings people to justice, not that dispenses justice from 10,000 feet with the help of Predator drones. It is the predatory interventionism which must stop. We must stop intervening for the benefit of oil companies or other corrupt corporate interests.

We cannot be the policeman of the world and lay off police and firemen in our own Nation. We cannot continue to bomb bridges in other countries and say that we do not have the money to build bridges in America. We must stop pretending that America can solve all the problems in the world when we can't solve our own problems here at home. How can we bring democracy to other nations when we are losing it here at home? We cannot tell other people how to live when we have people here at home having trouble or difficulty living. We should look to the wisdom of the Book of Proverbs where it was written: "He who troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind." And we must work to set our own house in order.

Mr. Speaker, there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, but there are weapons of mass destruction here in America. Unemployment is a weapon of mass destruction. Poverty is a weapon of mass destruction. Homelessness is a weapon of mass destruction. Inadequate education is a weapon of mass destruction. Lost pension benefits are a weapon of mass destruction. Poor health care is a weapon of mass destruction.

Yet despite the obvious needs domestically, the Pentagon budget now consumes over 50 percent of our discretionary spending. And the Pentagon budget has grown alongside the war budget.

□ 1920

Just this year, the wars and the Pentagon budget will consume close to \$1 trillion of taxpayers' money. Do you have any idea how many jobs \$1 trillion can create? Stop the wars, trim the bloated Pentagon budget, use the savings to put America back to work. The American people want work, not warfare.

Can we see any clearer example of the danger of endless war? We are supposed to be impressed with the strength of our leaders who, in the name of America, wield awesome weap-

ons against states a fraction of our size, but when it comes to the economy and jobs, the same leaders lack the ability to confront Wall Street, which is destroying jobs on Main Street.

While spending trillions for unnecessary wars, the government bailed out the banks for \$700 billion, refusing to link the bailout to mortgage modification which would have helped millions of Americans stay in their homes. The Fed, which infamously looked the other way as the financial crisis was building and failed to properly monitor the overexposure of top banks, created \$1.2 trillion out of nothing and gave secret emergency loans to some of the largest banks who helped to cause the financial collapse through reckless investments. This secret money, created out of nothing but backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S., is going to fuel an international financial system which siphons wealth out of the U.S., avoids paying taxes, and takes American jobs and moves them to low-wage climates.

According to Bloomberg News, the \$1.2 trillion peak on December 5, 2008, was almost three times the size of the Federal budget deficit that year and approximates the amount of money, \$1.27 trillion, that is due in unpaid principal on 6.5 million homes that are in or facing foreclosure. Secret loans went to Morgan Stanley for \$107.3 billion; Citigroup, \$99.5 billion; Bank of America, \$91.4 billion; Goldman Sachs, \$69 billion; and to foreign borrowers, including the Banks of Scotland, \$84.5 billion, and to Zurich-based UBS AG, \$77.2 billion.

How is it possible that banks too big to fail still exist? We all know these banks will fail again. The taxpayers will be asked to bail them out again to preserve the wealth of shareholders, bondholders, and executives again. The destruction of the middle class has been accelerated by the Wall Street manipulators who brought about the collapse of the housing market that destroyed trillions of wealth built into American homes.

Risk, like taxes, is a yoke unfairly placed upon the shoulders of the middle class. As income and resulting wealth is being redistributed upward at a pace not seen since the 1920s, the purchasing power of the middle class has been seriously eroded. Americans have less equity in homes to fuel home equity loans to keep their consumer spending up.

A third of all Americans owe more than their home is worth. How is it possible that 120 million Americans literally have no wealth, just debt? How is it possible that 150 million Americans have less wealth than the top 400 individuals? How did it come to pass that the top 13,400 households, according to David Cay Johnston, have more

yearly income than the bottom 96 million Americans? Who created this economy where welfare for the wealthy creates a system where a person earning \$4 billion a year managing a hedge fund pays a lower tax rate on most of his income than a person who drives a truck?

In a report just released, the Pew Charitable Trust wrote: "The idea that children will grow up to be better off than their parents is a central component of the American Dream and sustains American optimism. However, a middle class upbringing does not guarantee the same status over the course of a lifetime. A third of Americans raised in the middle class fall out of the middle as adults."

The implications of the Pew Charitable Trust report are chilling. America's middle class is being destroyed. America is headed towards a two-class society. Just as America could not survive half free and half slave, so America cannot survive half rich and half poor.

What happens to a dream deferred?—wrote Langston Hughes.

Does it dry up
like a raisin in the sun?
Or fester like a sore—
and then run?
Does it stink like rotten meat?
Or crust and sugar over
like a syrupy sweet?
Maybe it just sags
like a heavy load.
Or does it explode?

It is democracy, itself, which is at risk here. An economic democracy is a precondition of a political democracy. With endless wars, without solid jobs to sustain a middle class, a new national security state armed with the PATRIOT Act will exist primarily to provide surveillance of a growing, bristling poverty class. America knew this 44 years ago when, on February 29, 1968, the report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, also known as the Kerner report, pronounced: "Our Nation is moving towards two societies, one black, one white—separate and unequal."

Then, the inequalities were in lack of access to opportunities for jobs, housing, education, and social services. In 1998, 30 years after the Kerner report, Senator Fred Harris said: "There is more poverty in America. It is deeper, blacker and browner than before, and it is now more concentrated in the cities which have become America's poorhouses."

The inequalities exist today. Just since January of 2009, unemployment has skyrocketed among African Americans from 12.7 percent to 16.7 percent. Among Hispanics, the unemployment is currently 11.3 percent. While intensifying among people of color, poverty today is colorblind. Foreclosures have spread through all American neighborhoods as a wildfire, consuming with it the hopes and dreams of millions.

We had a moral urgency to address unemployment in the inner cities, but we failed as a society to do that. We have learned that writ large in the fate of people who live in our cities has been the fate of those who live in the suburbs, because the same massive economic machinery that for generations was crushing the hopes of millions of inner-city Americans—banks who disinvested, insurance companies who redlined, businesses which pulled out—this same plague is now visited throughout America.

The official unemployment figure of 9.1 percent conceals a much larger, more devastating picture in America. According to a recent study by Youngstown State University, the de facto unemployment rate, as conceived and computed by their Center for Working Class Studies, is 26.37 percent. This figure includes individuals who are no longer looking for work, discouraged, underemployed, and those who are marginally employed.

Corporations, meanwhile, are sitting on trillions of dollars and not hiring because of uncertainty, insinuating that small changes in Federal regulations or tax policy are killing jobs. Yet we know that massive changes in Federal tax policy and government regulations have taken place at periods of great economic growth in the United States. Our economy has not hit a rough spot on the road; it has hit a wall.

The greatest losers in today's economic system are the young. They have been fleeced. They were promised good jobs with good pay if they got a good education. Millions have done that only to discover that the jobs that were promised were not there. Millions of young people have moved in with their family and friends, barely scraping by, dreading the student loans which come due.

The major fault of the domestic economy is the failure to provide good-paying jobs for all Americans.

□ 1930

The reasons for the high unemployment and low-paying jobs are many, but two major reasons stand out: lack of consumer demand and stagnant wages accompanying low union participation. There is a lack of consumer demand in an economy that is 70 percent dependent on consumer spending.

There are those who say we can spur demand with more tax cuts for businesses. Well, this fails the test of experience. Business received tax cuts. We still have high unemployment. Business profits, greater than ever. Investment, less. We have learned from the past few years that businesses will not invest while the economy is in bad shape.

Since World War II, America has come out of every recession in less than a year. But this time we had a

false recovery. The economic numbers improved briefly while stimulus was injected. Today we're back in a recession, a double-dip recession that is destroying people's lives and setting back our Nation.

We did not have enough stimulus to begin with. As the stimulus runs out, things are getting worse. The recession is feeding on itself.

In 1937, a second round of depression surfaced as stimulus was withdrawn, requiring another effort by the government to stabilize the economy. The parallel between 1937 and 2011 is obvious. We need a second stimulus, and it has to be strong enough to put millions of Americans back to work.

State and local governments are forced to lay off people by the hundreds of thousands. These layoffs are not introducing efficiency. They undermine service. They reduce the necessary role of government in the life of a community.

Massive aid is needed to all areas of government, not because governments have spent recklessly, but because revenues are down. Income tax revenue is down. Sales tax revenue is down. Property tax revenue is down due to foreclosures.

We can stimulate the economy by providing revenue to rehire State and local government employees. This is the easiest way to put hundreds of thousands back to work. This is an obvious way to stimulate the economy on a significant scale. State, local government, public schools, public and private colleges would all have an enhanced ability to restore service. Such a stimulus would create an economic climate where businesses will expand their investment utilizing their own profits.

The same thing is true in the housing area. The government must immediately implement a new housing program. More and more properties are becoming vacant and vandalized while people are doubling up. We need a full-scale program where economically troubled homeowners are given the right to rent, at market rate, property in foreclosure. The government would provide a rent subsidy while the homeowners seek work. After all, the American people want work, not welfare. There should be work for those who are able to work. Government must become the employer of last resort.

The private sector is not providing the jobs. When the private sector fails to provide the jobs, the government has a moral responsibility and a practical responsibility to step forward to put the country back to work.

As with FDR and the New Deal, the government must now put millions of Americans back to work rebuilding our infrastructure. The American Society of Civil Engineers issued a report that there is \$2.2 trillion in infrastructure rebuilding that must take place to move the commerce of America.

It's not enough to describe the situation and make a few suggestions as to what could be done to take us in a new direction. But there comes a time when we need to look at some dramatic change that needs to be done, to restructure our economy.

This month I'm going to be introducing a bill which will be aimed at addressing our structural economic problems directly. It is called the National Employment Economic Defense Act, the NEED Act.

America needs millions of jobs. How can we create millions of jobs in a time of annual deficits, long-term debt, and contracting budgets? Here's how.

The Federal Reserve creates money out of nothing, and, as we all know, it's given it to the banks. The Fed assumed that power through an act of Congress. The Federal Reserve has used all of its standard monetary policy tools, but the American economy is not getting any better. Whatever the Fed is doing, it is not working. The reason why is perhaps best explained by the Fed itself: "The Fed can't control inflation or influence output and employment."

The Fed has been buying Treasury and our securities to put downward pressure on interest rates. The idea is to lower finance costs, encourage more borrowing, and nudge investors into riskier investments. This provides breathing space, but little else. Consumers are already over their heads in debt. They aren't going to borrow more, neither will producers whose sales are slack.

High default rates are widening spreads. Many investors will still prefer to make a small gain on government securities rather than risk taking losses.

Reality beats theory. The reality is that not enough people have enough money. Why is this? Where does the money come from? Why isn't it coming?

The Fed doesn't create money we use in our bank accounts; the banks do. Most of this money is created when banks make loans. This is why the Fed can't control inflation or influence output and employment. Output and employment depend on demand. Demand depends on how much money people have or can borrow. Because banks create this money, they control demand.

If banks aren't lending, or borrowers aren't borrowing, new money isn't being created to replace the money removed when bank loans are paid, so the money supply shrinks.

The Fed can only put more money into the economy by buying assets from non-banks. No money goes into the economy when the Fed buys their assets. It's just a swap of one asset for another called reserves. Banks can't lend reserves into the economy.

The non-bank sellers of assets are mainly large institutional investors. They don't spend much of the money

they receive; they reinvest it in other assets. That's their business.

But this churning of assets up into the stratosphere doesn't trickle down to Earth. The real economy of families and shops, small businesses, of roads and schools, that real economy is bypassed, and we know this. The money is not getting to where it's needed; and until it does, things can only get worse. None of the current policies work because of the way the current system is set up.

So here's how we fix it. We have to reclaim our constitutional power to issue money into the economy, unburdened by debt.

Last Congress I introduced legislation to do just that, and I'll be reintroducing it next week. Here's what this legislation does.

First, it ends the Fed's unaccountability by putting it under Treasury.

Second, it ends fractional reserve banking, ending the banks' ability to control demand in our economy.

And, third, it empowers our Nation to issue money directly into the economy to create jobs to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure unhindered by debt and interest payments, creating millions of new good-paying jobs. It gets the money to where it's needed the most. It gets the economy going and keeps it going. It avoids debt and deficit. It primes the pump of the economy. It enables us to regain control of our destiny as a Nation.

This plan would not create inflation because it would reduce infrastructure costs. Lower costs means that prices can go down. Lower prices do not define inflation.

Real wealth will be created with new money. Infrastructure is enduring wealth, unlike the financial wealth of the stock market. If government borrows money created by banks for infrastructure, it's an interest-bearing debt paid for over a long time. But if government creates the money for infrastructure, spends it in the circulation, there's no debt or interest cost. The same amount of money is created in either case, adding to the money supply by exactly the same amount. This is also a way to save the free enterprise system from self-destruction.

The American people know what's going on in our economy. It's run by Wall Street for Wall Street. It's run by banks for banks. Unless we take a look at serious structural reforms, we are headed for a two-class society.

The ability to coin or create money is an inherent power under article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution. The NEED Act would enable government to invest in America.

This coming Sunday, we will observe the 10th anniversary of a terrible blow to our Nation's sense of security and confidence.

□ 1940

We will never forget September 11, 2001, but we also need to remember the enduring capacity of our Nation to bounce back from tragedy. We need to remember what this country is made of. America is made of vision and courage—the courage and vision of Washington, Jefferson, and Adams to put lives, fortunes, sacred honor on the line for the purpose of freedom and independence. We are the country of FDR and the New Deal, of John F. Kennedy and the New Frontier, of LBJ and the Great Society. We are a nation of charismatic leaders like Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton who, agree with them or not, inspired a sense of optimism and confidence in America.

We need to remember who we are, and perhaps in that act of remembering, we'll regain our confidence; we'll regain our economic strength; we'll regain our ability to put people back to work; we'll help millions save their homes; we'll protect the retirement security of the elderly; we'll ensure that our children will be able to obtain a college education and a job when they graduate; we'll restore our public institutions and the services they provide.

We can do all of this and more, but we must ask that those who operate the engines of finance abandon their recklessness, their selfishness, and pledge allegiance to our Nation and its people. We must demand that corporations pay a fair share of the tax. We must end the off-shoring of jobs and profits.

While some of our leaders, with trembling hands and nervous eyes, have focused abroad, our country is falling apart from within. America was never meant for decline. America was always meant for an upward, up-lit path. We must now correct our course. We must move away from trying to determine the fate of nations around the globe and focus on the fate of the one Nation that must matter to us more than all others, the United States of America.

Thank you.

WILKES GIRLS ALL-STARS FIRST TEAM FROM NORTH CAROLINA TO MAKE LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I want to congratulate the Wilkes County 11/12-year-old-girls All-Star softball team for their amazing and record-breaking season this year. They won 15 games in a row and became the first team from North Carolina to reach the World Series. Although they did not take the World Series title, their third-place finish and their victories over opponents from around the country and around the world on their journey to

the semifinals proved that this is a remarkable team.

Their teamwork, sportsmanship, and character served to rally the entire Wilkes County community around them and saw them through their historic run for the World Championship of Little League Softball.

I want to congratulate the whole team, the coaches, and the dedicated parents who helped make this season one for the record books.

The Wilkes Girls All-Stars have inspired many and made their county proud. I hope to see them win their way back to the World Series again next year.

REGULATIONS AND JOB LOSS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, we've all been back in our districts for the last month, and we've been talking to friends and neighbors back home about what America is truly concerned with, what is most important in the eyes of all Americans, and that is getting America back to work.

Our economy is stagnant. This administration is throwing up barriers, which is freezing assets because the folks that normally would invest in growth and hiring people are frightened about what's around the next corner, and they're sitting with all their money and they're not growing.

I met this morning with around somewhere between 12 and 14 of my neighbors in just a sit-down cup of coffee, where we sat around and we talked about the way that folks in central Texas view what's going on with the job market.

You know, in Texas we've been blessed. We haven't faced the kinds of unemployment numbers that other States have had. But we now are certainly seeing unemployment creeping up in our State also.

We had small businessmen and -women there, and they talked about the things that concern them. But yet we've had meetings with bankers who've explained to us that you can look at their deposits and see that American local investors are sitting on the sidelines and keeping their deposits in the bank and not investing in growth and not investing in capital structure, not building buildings, and certainly not hiring people. And so part of the discussion this morning from some very intelligent small business folks was, we think we know why; why do you say this is happening?

The answers I got were answers that we hear on the floor of this House every day.

But the one that I've been talking about now for almost a year, probably

maybe even over a year, is the fact that we are seeing the administration doing through government regulations, which are basically laws passed by the regulators which change the playing field for people and our economy across the board at every level. It's not done by acts of this Congress. It's done by acts of bureaucrats in the Obama administration as they make rules and regulations that fit their view of the world and how they think the world should work. And these regulations regulate the drivers, the force builders that employ the American people.

Many of these regulations have become such a shock to the conscience of people who are in business that they say, "My Lord, I'm not about to get invested in growth until I know whether I'm going to even have my business once the regulators are through with me."

And then sitting on the sideline is the giant regulator program, which is the health care bill that this House passed last year and the Senate passed. We call it ObamaCare. Its 2,000 pages are multiplying very rapidly as the regulators, the people who are able to pass rules to set up the regulations that govern that bill, are imposing more and more burden on the individual employer and on those people seeking health care.

So what I heard today from some people who are presidents of small businesses, run small businesses—a Thomas Barrett, a very intelligent lawyer who is both a financial adviser and a lawyer for small and other sized businesses all over central Texas and is highly sought after for his opinion—they said it's the unknown that's driving the investment off the page in the United States. It's the unknown. We don't know what's going to happen next. Our taxes. What are taxes going to do? We've got taxes that will last for a while and then go back to a different tax automatically unless this House acts.

Then most importantly, and what we talked mostly about today, was all the new regulations that are coming up.

In the next 3 or 4 months, the Republican leadership in this House is going to do everything it can to turn back some of the craziness that's gone on in the regulatory world. I brought the Members here tonight just a few examples of some of the regulations, many of which we've been talking about all year. We've spent a lot of time talking about the cement industry; we've talked about Boiler MACT; we've talked about a lot of other things we're going to talk about tonight.

But it's just a general outline of some corrective measures that this Republican-led House is going to try and going to pass through this body to just start slowing down and changing the direction of what we think are some ill-conceived regulations by the execu-

tive branch, the Obama administration.

□ 1950

I want to start off with this poster right here, which just gives you a small example of what we're talking about. In July of this summer—this is what we've called the "regulatory summer"—these are regulations that have been proposed by various agencies. Many of them are household words like the Environmental Protection Agency; but there are plenty of others, the Labor Department—you could go on and on.

In July, 229 proposed regulations went into effect, 379 final regulations, and the cost estimated of these proposed and final regulations: over \$9.5 billion to the economy in the month of July. That meant business, the job creators, took a hickey of \$9.5 billion in 1 month, the month of July 2011. We have just finished August—270 proposed regulations, 347 final regulations: over \$8.2 billion in August. So for this summer, just July and August, the 2-month total: \$17.7 billion in costs to the people who create jobs.

Now, is it any wonder that the people who create jobs are sitting on the sidelines and saying, holy cow, how do I hire somebody? And I think the American people know why people in business hire somebody. They hire somebody because they think that person will make their business more prosperous, will make it work more efficiently, will make it do the job the business was set up to do. If you are in the roofing business and you put roofs on houses, you hire more roofers because you think you will be able to produce a better quality product faster and more efficiently, therefore enhancing the profit that those who have invested their capital and labor into that business—they can make a profit so that that business can thrive. You don't hire roofers when you don't need to put roofs on houses. I mean, that doesn't make any sense, and everybody with any kind of common sense knows that.

Now, if you've got a person who's got some business, whether it be big or small, and they literally don't know what the government is going to do to them tomorrow or, let's just say, in the next 2 months, following this track record, they could be looking at another almost \$20 billion worth of additional costs to their business that could be coming up in September and October. Based upon the last 2 months, it's arguable that it's pretty close to \$20 billion of additional costs that they were not anticipating and never thought was going to happen to them; and all of a sudden out of the clear blue, it drops in their lap.

Now, you will hear arguments like, wait a minute, there are these things that are environmental and other ways

and people have known all along something about this was going to be done. And that may or may not be true. But the ramifications of what the regulators actually did are turning out to be horrendous costs to industries that right now are trying to get the ground under them stable so they can start hiring people again.

If you're on balancing ground sort of like this earthquake we had up here in Washington, which I am very fortunate that I wasn't in, when that ground is unstable, you don't know which way to turn. Well, the same thing goes for business. When the foundation underneath your business is unstable, you don't know which way to turn. Are you going to go out and hire somebody, give them a job, when this is what your life is right now and someone is creating that problem, that are actually by their actions making it unstable?

I would argue that questionable regulations, the imposition of additional costs, the unknown of what taxes are going to be tomorrow—all these things create an unstable environment for the people who hire people. So this last regulatory summer is a perfect example of the earthquake that has shaken the foundation of the small businessman and the job creators in America.

The President of the United States promised us, the White House promised us, to save \$10 billion in redtape, which is kind of the slang term for bureaucratic regulations, in 5 years. But the White House has put forward \$17.7 billion worth of redtape in 2 months. The message has been lost somewhere. Where is it? When did what we were promised change into a three-for-one worse situation? We were promised a \$5 billion savings for the job creators; and, in fact, we've created a \$17.7 billion expense and uncertainty to the job creators, and we wonder why we are not creating jobs.

Mr. KUCINICH was talking about his view of the world. He and I don't see the world the same way, but the facts are when he was talking about we need to create jobs, we darn sure need to create jobs.

The role of the Congress today is finding ways to get this country back to work. If we put this country back to work, 90 percent of our problems will be much, much better. So the real goal of the Republican House this year, to finish this year out, is going to be trying to correct at least some of this instability created by these regulators, these unelected regulators. These are appointed people, not elected people. The heads of these agencies are appointed by the President. They are under the wings of the White House, if you will. They are part of the executive branch of government. And the legislature, this branch, the Congress, is going to, in the next several months, try to put some reins on these out-of-control regulators and hold them back.

And we've got just some of them I am going to talk to you about that some of my colleagues are putting forward in the future.

The week of September 12, which is next week, I suppose, we're going to take up the Protecting Jobs from Government Interference Act, by TIM SCOTT of South Carolina. Now, the facts of this situation are very unusual in my way of thinking, and I think most of the people in the United States, when they heard this on television, they said, they can't do that, can they?

It seems the Boeing Corporation has a big operation up in the Washington State area, and they were wanting to build an additional plant to build whatever Boeing builds, whether it's aircraft or whatever it is—they wanted to do it in South Carolina. They have been negotiating and working in good faith with the citizens of South Carolina and the government of South Carolina. They have looked at alternative locations around the country to make a determination of what is best for their business in their situation today, and they determined that they were going to build a very important plant in South Carolina.

□ 2000

But the National Labor Relations Board, the NLRB, issued a complaint against the Boeing Company for the alleged transfer of an assembly line from the Washington plant to South Carolina. Yet not one union employee at the Boeing's Puget Sound facility, that's the Washington plant, has lost his or her job as a result of the proposed South Carolina plant.

Still, the NLRB is pursuing a restoration order against Boeing that would cost South Carolina thousands of jobs—these are new jobs in South Carolina—and deter future investment in the United States. This is the government telling Boeing how they can run their business at the base level of you can't move unless we tell you you can move; and if you choose to go to a right-to-work State instead of a union shop State, we're going to tell you, no, you can't do it.

What happened to the freedom of movement that our Founding Fathers created in this country? I mean, part of what makes us great is if you can't prosper in Texas, you can maybe prosper in South Dakota. In fact, people are right now, as we talk right now, people are taking businesses from one part of the country and going to another part of the country because of maybe newly discovered resources, maybe a better work environment, maybe a more intelligent workforce, maybe a better investment community, maybe better opportunities, maybe better tax structure. That's the free right of every American, is seeking prosperity for their company and

for their family to go seek these places.

If we're going to tell Boeing they can't build a plant to create jobs in South Carolina, next they may be telling Sam Smith in Oklahoma, I'm sorry, but we need you to stay in Oklahoma, we don't want you to move to Texas, or we don't want you to move to South Carolina to go to work in the Boeing plant, which we just canceled. Is that the kind of world we have and we want this government to have? I would say no.

Do we want the people of South Carolina to have 1,500 new jobs? Yes. Is anybody talking about hurting the people employed at Puget Sound? No.

It's the issue of union membership that drove this whole thing, and we have given our States the right to choose whether they have a right-to-work State or they have a union State, and every State in this country has some difference in how they view that. It's part of the environment that State creates to bring business into the community.

What in the world is wrong with that, and when did that become Big Brother's job to tell somebody where they can and can't offer you a job? So are we now saying that the people of Washington State—and I have many friends there and I love very much, and I don't mean to be in any way defaming Washington State—but we have got a group of bureaucrats that are saying those are more important people than the people in South Carolina who want to work for Boeing for a good salary, because the government's telling them they can't do it.

The gentleman from South Carolina, TIM SCOTT, has got this bill, H.R. 2587, we're going to take it up next week, I understand, which is going to protect these jobs from this government interference. It would take the common-sense step, and it would prevent that National Labor Relations Board from restricting where an employer can create jobs in the United States.

Who would have ever thought we would have had to even address this on the floor of this House? This world that we have lived in, and, in fact, President John F. Kennedy in writing one of his dissertation papers at Harvard came up with a term "The Great Frontier," which the whole concept of America was if you failed in one place, the great blessing of America is you can pack up and move to another place. At one time that was the frontier.

Now that frontier is in technology; that frontier is in science. That frontier is not just moved from one place to the other; it's moved from one idea to the other. That's the greatness of America. To have the government tell you where you can and can't locate is an abomination to the very spirit of the American Dream.

This one, we need to do it right away; we are going to do it. We hope our friends in the Senate are going to help.

We have the administration's new Maximum Achievable Technology Act, MACT, standards and Cross State Air Pollution, CSAPR, for utility plants, will affect electricity prices for nearly all American consumers. In total 10,000 power plants are expected to be affected. I can't tell you the number in other States, but Texas surprisingly fell under this act, which no one anticipated, and we actually had no input whatsoever—but that's a different argument which I have made before, but I know that we are talking about 17 to 19 plants just in Texas are being closed down.

These are coal-powered plants. We're talking about coal-powered plants in most instances here. The result to middle class America is an annual electricity bill increase in parts of the country anywhere from 12 to 24 percent, just by this one regulation that has been proposed dealing with coal-powered plants and greenhouse gas emissions. Well, Representative JOHN SULLIVAN of Oklahoma has come up with a solution for this, H.R. 2401, the Transparency in Regulatory Analysis of Impacts on the Nation.

One of the things that we think any regulator should be looking at as he is doing this type of work is how does this impact the jobs of the American people, how does this impact the economy of the area. If you have a State that has 20 power plants and the results of your mandatory and arbitrary ruling is going to shut down 12 or 15 of those plants, it doesn't take a genius to figure the price of electricity is going up.

Even if they go in and they make a conversion to some other form of power at great cost and expense, billions of dollars of additional money happen to be spent, even if they do that, you are still going to have down time when electricity is going to be scarce and the risk of blackouts and brownouts is going to be increased. Quite honestly, it hurts every industry and every person that depends on that electricity.

Has anybody looked into this and said here is how we figure this out and told us with transparency what effect this has? No.

So what Mr. SULLIVAN is trying to say is that we need to call a time-out; and it would require a cumulative, economic analysis for specific environmental protection rules and specifically delay the final date for both utility MACT and CSAPR rules until full impact of the Obama's administration regulatory agenda has been studied.

Some of this stuff is done with computer projections, but the facts are it's kind of a shock and surprise to everybody that's in the business, and it's time that we call time out and rather than cost this country jobs, give these

people a chance to continue to have good jobs for the American people to work in.

This is a good bill, and we're going to take this bill up the week of September 19.

The next bill that this Republican Congress is going to go take up is H.R. 2250 to deal with what's called boiler MACT. From hospitals to factories, colleges, thousands of major American employers use boilers that will be impacted by the EPA's new boiler MACT rules.

These new stringent rules will impose billions of dollars in capital and compliance costs, increasing the costs of many goods and services. College kids will tell you how expensive going to university is today. They don't need any more cost increase there, but it will increase the cost of higher education; and it will put over 200,000 jobs at risk, just what they have done under the boiler MACT rules.

So what are we doing with H.R. 2250? Representative MORGAN GRIFFITH of Virginia has proposed this. It's called the EPA Regulatory Relief Act and would provide a legislative stay for four interrelated rules issued by the EPA in March of this year. The legislation would also provide the EPA with at least 15 months to repropose and finalize new achievable rules that do not destroy jobs and provide employers with an extended compliance period.

In other words, if it's a problem, let's fix the problem without costing people jobs. Let's fix the problem with a reasonable amount of time for compliance so that it's not a knee-jerk reaction that is required by everybody to try to keep from going out of business because of EPA-imposed rules.

□ 2010

So basically, just like the last bill we talked about, this is saying stop this craziness, take a new look, let the people you're regulating have some input into the cost and the compliance and the job loss, and then let's restructure. If we've got to fix this problem, restructure it in a manner that makes common sense to keep the American men and women of this country working, keep the factories open and producing and the colleges and universities open and producing and not impose a short-term, heavy burden of an additional capital infusion in order to meet regulatory changes. Give them a reasonable amount of time that common sense says it would take to fix the problem instead of imposing this rammed-down-your-throat series of rules. October 3 is the week the Republican Congress will be bringing that before the American people and before this House.

This is one I've been working on for quite awhile. I hope through part of our efforts during these evenings when we've talked about the cement MACT

issue, the imposition of new regulations on greenhouse gas emissions for the cement factories, and the fact that we've had the opportunity to very effectively drive cement production out of this country and offshore to China, India, and maybe Mexico where they don't regulate at all the emissions, and then we think that somehow it's going to fix greenhouse gases. It's kind of insane that cleaning it up over here and driving people offshore to where they don't clean it up at all is going to help anything. It's going to hurt something, but that's a different argument.

In the week of October 3, the cement MACT and two related rules are expected to affect approximately 100 cement plants in America. The cost is estimated to be somewhere between \$3–4 billion for a \$6–8 billion industry. Just do the math. That's a tremendous burden if these rules come into effect. These stringent requirements will be cost prohibitive, and the American cement industry, quite frankly, could be at risk across the board. We could wake up finding ourselves importing from other countries, by necessity, a product that we now lead the world on.

You know, concrete is the second most used building material on Earth. The only thing that's used more than concrete is water. So Portland cement, which is the base ingredient in creating concrete, is as important to the building of infrastructure buildings, and basically everything that we live with, as anything on Earth. And we are in that business and we produce cement in various States in this country. We produce the Portland cement process, and these regulations would shut down factories and basically cause these international companies—because all companies, whether they are based here or not, trade internationally—to move someplace else. And you wonder why jobs are going overseas. Well, in this case, in the cement industry, jobs will be going out of the country for one specific reason—government regulations beyond reasonableness.

The Cement Sector Regulatory Relief Act sponsored by Representative SULLIVAN, my good friend from Oklahoma, will provide a legislative stay of these rules—hold off, brother, we need to look at these things—and provide the EPA with at least 15 months to repropose and finalize new, and here's the magic word, achievable rules that do not destroy jobs and provide employers with an extended compliance period. Once again, quit cramming it down our throat. Quit saying you've got to do it tomorrow. Give us time to implement reasonable rules. And as we look at these rules, let's analyze what they are going to cost us in the way of jobs and in the way of our economy, and take that into consideration as you plan out the reasonable way forward. You'll find that many of the things that we'll be taking up in the next couple of months,

right there is the secret key ingredient. We're going to come up with rules that you can achieve without destroying jobs that will still, over a long term, if you give time to comply, will meet the requirements that are necessary that people think to clean things up if they need to be cleaned up.

October 3 is when we are going to take that up. Sometime in the month of October or November we will take up another bill.

Oh, by the way, when you're talking about jobs in these Portland cement factories, these jobs are good jobs. These are labor jobs, but they are trained labor jobs. They are good jobs that pay somewhere between \$65,000 and \$85,000 each. Now, that's a good American job that ought to be done by an American, not by someone from China or from India because we have driven these industries out of our country.

Coal ash. H.R. 2273, these are anti-infrastructure regulations commonly referred to as coal ash rules that will cost hundreds of billions of dollars to fix, according to the existing regulations, affect everything from concrete production to building products, like wallboard. The result is an estimated loss of well over 100,000 jobs.

So, you know, at the end of this last month, we had no job gains. Not one job was created. That's what the report said. Well, just in the things that I've read to you so far as a result of these regulations, if all of this took place next month, just the numbers we've given, we're talking about 500,000 jobs so far that these bills that this Republican Congress is going to take up and try to get some reasonableness in this regulatory process.

It's time for this Congress to not surrender the lawmaking—rulemaking is lawmaking—authority to regulators without overseeing what they are doing and making sure that they are not harming our economy and harming what is going on in America and the jobs that everybody needs. We can't afford to lose more jobs. We have to keep the people working who have jobs, and then we've got to enhance these businesses in such a way that they feel that they are not going to be threatened by surprise regulations; and, therefore, they are willing to say, I have got stable ground under my feet and I can start to expand and hire again and start to invest my capital which right now is sitting in the bank into new and better products, services, factories, et cetera.

So this coal ash bill that will cost this country 100,000 jobs, H.R. 2273, the Coal Residual Reuse and Management Act, sponsored by Representative DAVID MCKINLEY of West Virginia, will create an enforceable minimum standard for regulation of coal ash by the States, allowing their use in a safe manner to produce products and pro-

tect jobs. It's just basically saying let the people who have this coal ash—and it's in certain States more than other places—use this coal ash and regulate this coal ash in such a manner that it does enhance the environment without destroying American jobs.

Once again, the Congress has got to act, and the Republican Congress is prepared to act.

Now, here comes my favorite of the crazy regulatory acts. The EPA is now proposing rules to regulate dust. Now, I live in Texas. We've got more highway miles than any other State in the Union, plenty of paved roads, but we've also got what we call farm roads and ranch roads. And in the western part of the State, those farm roads are covered with what we call caliche, which is a pulverized limestone, and over in the eastern part, they're covered with certain types of gravel. Some of it's river gravel and other things.

□ 2020

When a farmer drives up to his house on his driveway, it's usually got some kind of gravel or caliche on it and it kicks up dust. The EPA is now saying you can be fined for driving home every night on your gravel road. Now, what is your solution? Well, it's easy. Go out and spend \$20,000 and pave your driveway—5 miles of driveway. So put pavement on it. Oh, but make sure you put a certain kind of pavement because it's got to have pavement that doesn't kick up dust. Arguably, if you use asphalt, it won't kick up dust, or concrete won't kick up dust—or not as much—but you might kick up a little more dust if you do what they call "squirt top," which is what most farm roads are, which is tar with gravel spread on it. Until that gravel sets, it kicks up dust.

So even if you went to the expense to build a farm road that was a paved farm road, your paving method might kick up enough dust to get them to fine you and take money out of your pocket anyway. And the EPA now wants to regulate dust. California does this already. I asked one of my California colleagues, How do you keep from getting fined in California while having the dust regulations? Here's what they said: Water down your roads every day so it doesn't have dust. Mud is okay. Dust is bad.

Okay. Now that may be great for California. I don't know what the water situation is in California. But it hasn't rained in Texas. Some kids are about to go off to school and haven't seen rain in Texas, it hasn't rained so long. But seriously, I landed at the airport and looked out at this waterfall up here on the east coast, and said, Holy cow, we don't know what that looks like back home. Why don't they move all this water on the east coast down to Texas, where it hasn't rained, to my knowledge, in 6 months. And

half of my neighboring county of Bastrop is burning to the ground because it's so dry and so hot, and we haven't had a rain in so long. We may be the only State in America that's praying that a hurricane will hit our coast so we can get some rain.

Are you going to tell that farmer that the only way he's getting that water that he's feeding his animals is through shallow wells that may have gone dry on him, or deep wells he has to drill to get to additional water under the ground, or windmills that are pumping that water, if you are out West, which are not that deep, and a lot of them have gone dry—his precious water that his livestock and his family needs to survive, he's got to take it out and squirt it on his road so he can get home at night?

Now, does that make economic sense to the American people? I don't think so. But then if you sit in the big EPA building in Washington, D.C., and have never even seen one of these roads and probably never been outside this Beltway, it may make perfect sense to that person in this paved world that we live in inside the Beltway. But it doesn't make sense to the average person that's trying to make a living all across the rural parts of the United States. And not just rural, but all across the United States where, unfortunately, we kick up dust. By the way, plowing kicks up dust. So then you can only plow when the fields are wet. Did you ever plow when the fields are wet? The only person who would sit in the EPA office and think that the farm products magically appear at their grocery store would know that you can't get off in a muddy field and plow effectively. Yes, you can turn up some moisture at the right time, and you can keep dust down, and farmers do. They don't want their top soil blowing away like it did in the Dust Bowl. They've learned their lesson about that, and they're doing the best they can, and I would commend them for doing it.

I went to school in Lubbock, Texas, back in the 1960s, at the end of what we call the Dust Storm era. And because of modern farming methods and so forth, they still have dust storms up there, but they're nothing like what they had in the fifties, nothing like what we had in the sixties, and I would argue that because of good modern farming methods, we keep the dust to a minimum. But we still sometimes have half the State of New Mexico blow through the panhandle of Texas.

Now, who are you going to fine? The State of New Mexico? The New Mexico farmers? The Texas farmers where it lands? Who's going to be responsible for all that dust that's out there in the air? Well, the EPA says somebody is, because they set regulations, and that would be a violation of these regulations. The biggest shortage of anything

in this town is common sense. This is the most nonsensical rule of anything that's come down.

One of our new freshman Congressmen, KRISTI NOEM, is a smart lady. She knows rural America. She knows the ridiculousness of this set of EPA rules. She's come up with a farm dust bill which we will take up this winter to make EPA start using some common sense. The President was asked a question about this in one of his meetings here recently at a town hall. He sent this farmer on a bureaucratic wild goose chase and he never got anything in return. So as a result of that, that farmer, his efforts which—that wild goose chase produced nothing that was satisfactory—Representative KRISTI NOEM of South Dakota has H.R. 1633, which would protect American farmers and jobs by establishing a 1-year prohibition against revising any national ambient air quality standards applicable to coarse particulate matter—that's dust—and limiting Federal regulations of dust which are already regulated under State and local laws. In other words, let the States take care of it.

Let me tell you something. This is not one of those Texas brags. We had dust storms when I went to school where girls didn't wear dresses in the spring because it would pick up pea gravel the size of a dime with those 60-mile-an-hour winds coming across the plains and it would blow that gravel so hard against their bare legs, if they had on dresses it would literally cut them off if they tried to walk to class. Now that's an act of God. Nobody created that wind. And certainly pea gravel is about as big a particulate matter that would be flying around anywhere. But the Federal Government doesn't control the wind, and it never will. We've got to get some reasonableness back into what's going on.

Finally, because I've been talking about this now for over a year, and in my office we are tracking every regulatory agency, and every day we're seeing new and bizarre concepts of what we need to do from regulatory agencies—we're seeing bugs shut down major highway projects. When the President laughed and he said he learned that shovel-ready jobs are not really shovel-ready jobs, he should have gone on to tell you why many of those shovel-ready jobs weren't shovel ready, and it was because of regulations created by the regulatory agencies that stopped legitimate road and bridge projects that were funded. I have one in my district right now that is funded and the dozers are on the ground, ready to move, and that project is shut down by one of these many, many regulations. It's the same across the country.

We can't do today what FDR did. It's great to talk about what FDR did. I don't think it accomplished a whole lot

in getting us out of the Depression, but that's my opinion. But the facts are you couldn't build a Hoover Dam today. Just up and go out there and start building a Hoover Dam. My Lord, just to build an electric power plant, the number of regulatory agencies and permits that you would have to have would cover the walls of this Chamber before you even get to break ground. I've seen those rules put on walls. It's an amazing number of rules. We are a world of government control of everything. That's what these regulatory acts are about.

Finally, this Congressman, JOHN CARTER, because of looking at this stuff now just for the last year or so, I really and truly think the best thing we can do to give the stability to the employers who employ people is to basically ban the implementation of any new Federal regulations from now through January 31, 2013, guarantee a 2-year window for businesses to hire without any fear of new costs from regulations, and certain exceptions would be allowed for the military or foreign affairs or internal agency management and personnel rules. So they'd still be able to have regulations that fit in those categories and make sure that we keep our foreign operations and our military operating. They have to make rules to operate under. We would exempt those particular things. But the rest of them, we would say: Timeout. Continue your studies. Continue your discussions. I would encourage you to extend an arm out to business to say, This is what we're looking at. Let's hear what you think.

□ 2030

Let's start putting ourselves together with the idea that people are part of this environment, too.

People are really what makes up this country. Without people, we're just a barren land. People, to live, need to have a job, and the people who create jobs need to have a reason for hiring people and giving them a job. People who have ideas—the great driving force of America, the new idea. We just have so many examples of new ideas just in the high-tech industry and the communications industry, the revolution that has taken place just in the last 10 years of new ideas. Those new ideas come from the freedom to think and the belief that you can take that idea and put it into reality without somebody stepping on your toes and preventing you from doing it.

These regulations and this control from Washington, D.C., this cradle-to-grave mentality that seems to be running inside this beltway and the creation of these regulatory rules is putting the brakes on our economy and putting fear in the hearts of American entrepreneurs and businesspeople and employers who want to make their business better by hiring those good

people that we're graduating from our colleges and universities, those good people that are trained in trained skills that we need to put to work in America, and we'll put them to work in real jobs, not government-created jobs with borrowed money but real jobs that produce something and create wealth and make us and continue to keep us the most prosperous Nation on Earth.

It doesn't come from government; it comes from the people. The people are the wealth of this Nation—their ideas, their entrepreneurship, the investment of their own personal capital, and their willingness to take a risk on America because they know America is great. And to people who don't think we're great or think that they're smarter and can be inside this beltway and make rules that can do a better job of telling you how to run your life or how to drive home on your farm road than you know, I say, Get out of the way.

That's what this fall is going to be about. We're going to be bringing these things up. And these are things that are going to be discussed and talked about and voted on this fall because we Republicans believe that the right path to create jobs and create wealth in America is to get the regulators to start thinking in terms of creating jobs, not destroying jobs; enhancing businesses, not negating businesses; and to put America back to work.

And if we put America back to work, all the rest gets better: the debt goes down; the tax revenues go up; the country has more to pay back the people we owe, which ought to be our first priority. We can get our financial house back in order. We can get our credit rating back that was taken away from us, and we can start operating like America has always operated. The business of this country is business; and as much as that was criticized back in the twenties, that statement is true today just like it was then. It's the American people that give the American people jobs, not the government.

Let's put the brakes on these regulatory things. We're going to do that this fall. I look forward to it. Pay attention to it. Members of this House and anyone around the country who has an interest, pay attention to it. Give us your input because we are bound and determined to level out and stabilize that playing field that business creates jobs on so that we can put America back to work.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

MAKE IT IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60

minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, it's a great privilege to stand here on the floor of the House even at this late hour as we prepare to hear, tomorrow, the President of the United States come before a joint session of Congress to talk about how America can get back on the right road, on the road to recovery from this long recession, and how we can create jobs here in the United States.

For many, many months now, my colleagues and I have been here on the floor and have submitted legislation time after time and week after week talking about specific programs to create jobs. I want to thank my colleague on the Republican side of the aisle for his presentation and the solution of doing away with regulations as the way of creating jobs.

He mentioned getting government out of the way, and he also mentioned the Hoover Dam—which was built with borrowed money. Yes, they borrowed money to build the dam, and it did in fact create jobs. Now, whether there were regulations or not, the fact was that the United States created an enormous infrastructure system in the past, and for the last decade, we've done very, very little, even though we borrowed a vast amount of money to build infrastructure projects in Iraq and Afghanistan but precious few here in the United States. We need to bring that money back home. We need to build those infrastructure projects here.

By all expectation, tomorrow, when the President stands here before us, he will be talking about infrastructure, as he should. It is the foundation upon which we build any economy, and it's certainly the foundation upon which the American economy has been built and succeeds such as it is today.

We need an infrastructure bank. We need to take money that we will borrow at about a 1 or 2 percent interest rate for a 10-year note, put that money into an infrastructure bank, let's say it's \$20 billion, reach out to the pension funds—in my State of California, CalPERS and CalSTRS, the public pension funds—and say, Here, invest in this infrastructure bank so we can build projects in California, so that we can put in place the levees to protect us from floods, so we can put in place the communication systems, the fiberoptic cables, so that we can build the sanitation facilities, the water recycling facilities, the dams that we need for a growing population in a State that once again could be growing if we put in place the infrastructure; nothing modest but, rather, a bold program, a bold program to build America's infrastructure, to rebuild the bridges, to rebuild those facilities that are crumbling as a result of years of inattention. Infrastructure, construction jobs, putting people to work.

As the President said on Labor Day, there are a lot of construction men and women out there that are prepared to get dirty on the job once again to end their unemployment. That's one project that I am sure the President will be putting forth to this Congress, and the question to my Republican colleagues: Are they ready to be bold? Are they ready to step forward and put America back to work or only talk about regulations and doing away with regulations?

While we're talking about regulations, one of the regulations they want to do away with is one that would prevent mercury from being in our water and air. It's as though somehow they must think that mercury is good for children and adults. We don't need more mad hatters around. What we really need is a safe, clean environment, and those are the regulations that are out there.

Oh, by the way, if you want to stop our regulations, I suppose you would stop the President's effort to roll back those regulations that have no good purpose.

□ 2040

Yes, indeed, the current administration is in the process of reviewing the regulations and eliminating, rolling back and modifying those that no longer serve a good useful purpose in protecting Americans.

So, here tomorrow, we'll have the President speaking here on the floor of the Congress, talking about putting men and women back to work. We're some 250-plus days into this year and, to date, not one Republican bill has been brought to the floor that would create one job. A lot of bills have been brought to the floor that would actually eliminate tens of thousands, indeed, hundreds of thousands of jobs.

What we need to do is not to address the deficit with immediate cuts that actually constrain and restrict the economy. An austerity budget is not called for as we limp along in the current economy, but, rather, a growth budget, infrastructure bank being but one example.

There are numerous other examples; a tax policy, a tax policy that's rational.

Let me just put this all in the context, for a moment, of what we talk about on the Democratic side, which is jobs, putting people back to work. We can do that. And the Make It in America agenda, which I have here, is just that kind of agenda to put Americans back to work.

We talked already about infrastructure, which is down here. It's not at the bottom of this list; it just happens to be at the bottom here. It's the Number 1 thing that's on the agenda.

We also should talk about research. Yesterday I was in Davis, California, invited there by a biotech company

that uses biotechnology to manufacture bio-herbicides and bio-pesticides. These are naturally occurring chemical compounds found in plants and animals and bugs that actually kill bugs or kill other plants. They formulate this, using research that comes out of the universities in California and around the nation. That research is extraordinarily important. It's creating a whole new industry of safe, biologically derived chemicals that are safe in the environment, that actually come from the environment and kill bugs in agriculture, or unwanted plants. That's what we need. That's the research agenda part of making it in America.

Now, I notice that joining me on the floor is my colleague and part of our east coast/west coast operation, PAUL TONKO from the State of New York. Earlier today PAUL and I were talking here on the floor as we were voting, and he was showing me some pictures of the devastation that has occurred in his part of New York State. And out of that conversation came, once again, the word "infrastructure."

Mr. TONKO, I'm very sorry about what's happened in your district and New England and here on the east coast. We've had our disasters in California in the past. Not this year, and we're thankful for that. Our hearts reach out to you and your constituents as they go about rebuilding. I think you were saying even today there may be another flood.

PAUL TONKO, Representative from the State of New York, thank you for joining us this evening.

Mr. TONKO. Thank you, Representative GARAMENDI, for bringing us together on what is a very thoughtful discussion about how we create jobs, grow jobs in America. And that is such a vital agenda. I thank you for bringing us together, and I thank you and our colleagues in the caucus for allowing myself and others to share the woes that we have faced in our respective districts over the recent district work period.

It's ironic that in my district, in upstate New York, within days, we suffered from an earthquake, from a hurricane, from a tornado in my hometown, and now flooding, as we speak. The ravages of the waters of Irene have produced tremendous consequences for the great communities and the people that I represent. And as I've said at all of my stops in the district, I knew, always believed that there was a strength to the people that I represent. But they have made a profound statement about that resilience and that strength in the last few days.

I have seen people lose everything they've ever worked for, homes totally washed into the river, devastation from the floodwaters, cattle that were lost, harvest season almost at hand, all the investment of sweat equity and resources and fuel that never will really

have the fruits of that labor captured in harvest.

The heritage infrastructure. As I made mention, in my hometown, the oldest building dates back to 1766, older than our Nation, a wedding gift from Sir William Johnson to his daughter. And watching the velocity of waters tear away the stone of that building and now expose it to the elements, and it was severely threatened and weakened by the storm.

I mention this because it is so important for us to put together the resources that enable us to come back with the skilled labor that can rebuild communities, the heritage infrastructure that very much trailed through the waterway path in my district—covered bridges, historic homes, historic churches, gathering places that have significance, that speak to the character of the communities that I represent. That character is forever changed, and we need to have the resources to go forward and rebuild the infrastructure, the lock system that manages the waters, the gauging system, the technology that needs to be incorporated.

Representative GARAMENDI, my district hosted, hosts the site of the Erie Canal Barge Canal. They gave birth to mill towns, a necklace of communities we call mill towns that became the epicenters of invention and innovation. The progress of which we speak, the agenda that you bring forward with such passion, is about now a new era of job creation, where we move it up a notch because of our sophisticated quality as a society.

We have perhaps shared manufacturing of traditional types with other nations, and now it's our job to bring in issues like the chip manufacturing that's done, and all sorts of innovative ideas in clean energy that allow for renewables to take hold.

But I make mention of that because we have a richness of history that spoke to job creation, that offered the opportunity to have our constituents, or constituents of the past, express their God-given talents and express them in ways that strengthens the larger picture, that strengthens society and had an impact around the world, coming right here from New York State, that gave birth to a westward movement that finally reached the west coast of California that you represent. So we can do it again.

We should take to heart our history that showed that, as a people, we have that pioneer spirit; as Americans, we have that uniqueness, we have that gift, we have those strengths, we have the opportunity to turn these situations, these challenges into jobs, jobs that are driven by ideas, that are nurtured by research and development, that translate into manufacturing, manufacturing of an innovation economy of the present moment. And we

can make that happen simply by the stewardship of sound public policy and advocacy for resources in our budget planning.

I firmly believe, and I know you share this belief, we don't cut our way to prosperity. We don't cut our way to opportunity. We invest our way to prosperity. We invest our way to innovation, to opportunity. That's what it's all about, and the Make It In America agenda embraced by the Democratic Caucus in which we have the pleasure of serving has adopted that slogan, has adopted the meaning of that passionate opportunity for us to take the trades, take tax policy, take the energy challenges, take the strength of labor, reinforced by the underpinnings of education and higher education and, coupled with research, it all happens if we put the plan together.

Thank you for opening us up to a discussion that is very meaningful to the lives of our individual constituents and to the fabric of our communities which are really looking for this sort of involvement, this sort of implementation of strategy.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Representative TONKO so well explained with great passion the problems that his constituents are facing at this very moment, as, once again, the floodwaters rise in his district and throughout the Northeast. Actually, I guess it's most of the east coast as that tropical storm starting on the gulf is now finding its way all the way up the east coast.

Our prayers go out to all the people that have suffered thus far, and our hopes that this will not be a repetition of the devastating floods of last week.

You also brought to our attention the need to rebuild. This is part of the community of America. We're a community. We're 380 million, but we're still a community. We call ourselves Americans. And in these times of disaster, we must come together as a community bringing what resources are necessary, not what's available, that are necessary to rebuild to get people back on the path of living their lives in a safe, harmonious community with the necessary resources to carry out their goals so they can have a job, so that they can rebuild their manufacturing facilities. That fits into the Make It In America agenda.

□ 2050

As we go about that rebuilding, and we've all seen the pictures of the washed-out roads you mentioned, and you showed me the picture of the lock. Was that an Erie Canal lock?

Mr. TONKO. Yes. It was the second stage of the canal when we moved from the mule-driven barge canal to the Erie Canal, which was engineered with locks. And again, to see the damage, tens of millions of dollars worth of damage; infrastructure here, putting the trades to work to rebuild these communities.

You made an interesting observation that the impacts of natural disasters and manmade disasters never ask about political persuasion or philosophy or geography. We've been impacted from coast to coast.

And with pride the other day, we in upstate New York, some colleagues in government, were talking. When the Midwest needed us, we were there. When the West Coast needed us, we were there, as you have been for other regions in the country. When the Southeast needed us, the Gulf States needed us, we were there. We're the family of America, the 50 States speaking as one.

Now it's the turn for us to ask for your help. Thanks to the goodness of folks like yourself, we're going to make it happen. We're going to be able to rebuild. And I think the greatest commodity that we can bring to individuals at times like this where they're enduring, they're coping with tragedy, is to deliver hope to their doorstep. That hope goes a long way, and the hope to recover, the hope to rebuild, the hope to reestablish the character of these communities which is so replete with history and heritage expression: covered bridges, historic homes, historic churches, lock systems that define not only developments of New York State but this Nation and the global impact it had with quality of life being enhanced simply by the genius of oftentimes blue collar workers.

Make It In America came to mind for me over this past week. The greatness of how we developed jobs and products in this country now finds us a century later challenged with new dynamics. How do we draw ourselves away? How do we wean down this dependency on fossil-based fuels? How can we grow America's energy independence? How do we grow high-tech jobs that impact the quality of health care services or communications? We've seen it.

Our whole Sputnik moment drove us to land a person on the moon before any other nation. We need that passion again, we need that resolve here today, and Make It In America does it.

Mr. GARAMENDI. You're talking about real patriotism. You're talking about real American patriotism, the great strength of this Nation. First of all, our compassion for each other that we're willing to sacrifice today so that you can rebuild in the Northeast. The Northeast has done that or all of America has done that many, many times for California because it seems to have more than its share of disasters.

But across this Nation, this year we've seen natural disaster after natural disaster occur with billions of dollars of loss. As Americans, it is our patriotic duty, it is our community to reach out to help rebuild. As we rebuild, if we keep in mind these seven principles of the Make It In America agenda, we'll not only put people back

on their feet, but we will strengthen the American economy.

You mentioned that lock that was taken out, the historic nature of it. It's been rebuilt. I saw the picture. It's a modern piece of equipment. But if that equipment is made in America, it's not only going to help the economy and your community once it gets back into place and the commerce that results from it is restarted, but it will also mean jobs for steelworkers who are making the steel, the fabricators who are building the lock, the engineers, and even the regulators that are making sure the lock goes in in a safe and appropriate way. Those are all American jobs.

So part of the rebuilding of America is the Make It In America, so that Americans can make it once again.

Mr. TONKO. I think what this tragedy reminds us of is that we come together at times of tragedy in a way that really brings out the best expression of America's spirit. This is about a sense of urgency. It's about a sense of justice. People have been brought down by this tragedy, but their resilience, their strength of character is driven by the belief that we can work together to rebuild.

I was so inspired today in caucus to hear so much support for a supplemental and to say no, no idea of offsets. We're not going to have offsets here. This is tragedy. If this Nation were being attacked by a foreign enemy, we wouldn't sit around and play partisan games or have political dialogue over what to do, but we'd go right to the table and say this is what is needed and let's make it happen. That's what I think we need to have here.

We need the American response to come forward and react in a way that really has that American spirit all about it. This is how we built America one community at a time, putting together the strengths that are all released here in this country enabled to be expressed in magnanimous terms. This is what's so important.

We're going to rebuild America by making it in America. Our workers are raring to go, and there are jobs that can invest the power of that genius in all sorts of ways, infrastructure needs that are out there in the traditional sense or in the more creative or updated sense with broadband and a transmission grid system that needs to be upgraded so as to speak to what is a vulnerability in our system.

So there is a lot of work there waiting to happen. We need to invest, and we need to do it in a way that doesn't have us groping for offsets.

There's no more important issue right now than jobs. Jobs, jobs, job creation, job retention. Let's make it happen. And as we do it, let's make it respond to the tragedies that I've seen in my district over the last week and a

half and that we heard about today in caucus from other colleagues.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Thank you very much.

You're quite correct about how we pay for all of this. We know that we're going to be borrowing money to rebuild these communities, as we should and as we must and as it is our purpose in a community. But in doing that, we must be very careful not to offset that expenditure in some way that harms others, for example, the educational system.

Now, tomorrow, we have a bill on the floor dealing with charter schools and the funding of charter schools, both the physical plant as well as the educational programs in charter schools. It seems to me that if a charter school is to be built, or any school for that matter, it's our tax money, either local or Federal or State tax money, that that money ought to be used to buy American-made equipment—American-made roofing, American-made concrete and steel—so that our tax money is used to buy American made.

If you want to use your own money, and anybody out there that wants to go buy a solar cell for their house and they're using their own money, fine, buy anything you want to buy. But if you want to use our tax money as a subsidy for that solar system, then, by golly, it ought to be an American-made solar panel; not one made in China but, rather, one made in the United States.

Now, I have two bills that deal specifically with that. One in the energy that says, hey, you want an energy subsidy to put up this big energy clean, green solar power plant, good. We need that clean energy. But use that tax subsidy to buy American-made equipment. That way, we can rebuild our American manufacturing base.

Similarly with transportation. In transportation, we all pay 18½ cents on every gallon of gas beyond the Federal excise tax. It's billions of dollars. It's used to build the roads. It's used to repair the bridges. Not enough now to keep us going but, nonetheless, billions of dollars a year. Is that tax money used to buy American-made buses and American-made trains and American-made steel and concrete? Not really. But we need legislation that says our tax money is going to be used to buy American-made equipment.

□ 2100

Mr. TONKO. Representative GARAMENDI, thank you again for bringing us together.

I noticed in the listing of dynamics that you have research indicated there, and education and, I'd say, slash higher education, but I witnessed testimony of those investments yesterday in my district with a group called Ener-G-Rotors. And they're actually taking the waste heat market in this country and retrofitting it so that they capture

that as a byproduct in different industries, and they make certain that it's utilized to add to the energy supplies that that industry might need.

Now, what happens there? Well, the genesis of that story is that ideas, again, were thought up because of the investment in higher education. This brain was ignited to come forward with this idea that would capture heat and that waste heat market is a precious commodity now. So instead of it just going up into waste, it is captured, recaptured, brought into the energy grid for that particular industry. We're addressing greenhouse gas emissions to the positive. We're reducing those. And we are reducing the energy supply that this industry needs, and we're creating jobs in this incubator startup. They came up with this idea. This took investment in research dollars. It took tax credits from the Federal Government to buy in the commitment from the private sector. It produced the equity that they needed simply with the tax credits that were provided. And all lived happily ever after. There is a win-win-win scenario here that was produced, and that's grounded here in America, and we can export this intellect, this concept, to people around the world, and we begin to be the agents that deal with the waste heat market. What a wonderful concept. And that's how you grow jobs. And they're projecting within a few years 120 jobs in this concept. This is wonderful. This is what we're talking about at the Democratic Caucus, investing in the intellectual capacity of this Nation in a way that responds to challenges that confront us this very day and where we can grow our energy independence, grow jobs through investing in ideas, moving ideas along.

Research equals jobs. Research equals jobs. You can't say it over enough and often enough.

Mr. GARAMENDI. You're absolutely correct on that.

I want to give just a couple of very quick examples of the way in which that policy finds its way into legislation, and then I want to turn to our colleague who just arrived from the great State of Texas. SHEILA, thank you so very much.

But let me just give a couple of examples. Tax policy. You're talking about a system to capture waste heat and to use it in a productive way, to generate it for electricity or for some other purpose. That's a capital investment.

When the Democrats controlled this floor, we passed legislation that allowed a business such as you've described to put that equipment into place and to write off the total investment in 1 year, in the very first year, an immediate writeoff, giving an enormous incentive to businesses to make a capital investment. Now, that's very wise tax policy put forth by the Democrats, signed by President Obama, and

it's one of the kinds of tax policies and tax breaks that we think needs to be in place to grow the economy.

There are many other examples, and I can go on for several hours, but I would rather yield to my colleague from the great State of Texas.

Please tell us what's going on in Texas besides fires here and there and, once again, another disaster area in which, as America, we need to reach out and support Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Let me thank my good friend from California for carrying on, if you will, the clarion cry that all of us heard throughout our districts and around the country.

To my good friend from New York, let me just turn and say to you what deep concern the American people have. Do not listen to the jangled noises of cuts and not having the potential to assist our fellow Americans. We were all pained to see Prattsville and to see what had happened to unsuspecting people. That's Mother Nature. To see what happened to Vermont and all up and down the coast as we listened to our colleagues.

And as I was driving in Texas, I want you to know that I saw the smoke. This is not something that is distant and far away. We've seen the pain of Congressman DOGGETT's district, and I want to thank him for his leadership there, as I mentioned the leadership that the Members have given; that you go to a place where 500 homes are gone and more and, as he indicated, maybe even a thousand.

So I happen to be proud to be an American. And when I listened to my friend from California with the list of assets and credentials that you bring to the table, your leadership in the State of California, the leadership of Mr. TONKO in New York, I know that we are all wearing that brand of proud to be an American. That's why Democrats proudly wear the insignia dealing with Make It In America. Frankly, I can't project what the President might say, but I would hope that a good portion—and I want the American people to hear me because when we traveled across the country with the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Progressive Caucus—Minnesota, Oakland, Miami, Detroit, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Atlanta—thousands were in line from all walks of life, and what they said was they wanted a job. And I want the President to hear that as he passionately speaks to the Nation tomorrow, and I want the President to lift his pen. Make It In America could be part of an Executive order. Make It In America could be part of instructions.

So as I listened to you, I wanted to come and frame it in this way: The American people are looking for work now, and I would like the President to listen to our dialogue, as he finishes the finishing touches, to show the

American people what can be done now by an agreeable Congress, maybe, but by the President with the support of those of us who believe we owe an obligation to those who are suffering in this disaster, to declare it an emergency and that this funding is an emergency. I don't want to hear the chatter that talks about deficit spending. Everyone knows that when you declare an emergency, it is off the account, if you will. It's off the balance sheet. So that's one thing.

The second thing is, let me just give four points of what I would like to see. You mentioned, Mr. GARAMENDI, about buying. What a brilliant idea. I want to go further or to complement that legislation. Let's get together. And that is even though we think America buys America, if the Federal Government needs a paper clip, it should be the paper clip company in Illinois, in California, in New York, in Mississippi, in Texas, because if the government buys something for you—you've got a business with 20 or 30 employees. Let the Federal Government lead. Let the President announce tomorrow that he is asking his agency, barring any legalities or contracts, to buy America. You mentioned buses and all others, I assume, with Federal funding. Excellent because that is not happening now.

The second thing is the criticism that there are workers not trained to the work. It's a new day now. It's technology, it's medicine, it's various new jobs, it's simple logistics, et cetera. Allow someone to train to a new job and have a stipend while they're training that allows them to be like they're working and to get paid. Then I would like to see our private sector stand up—I'm proud to be an American, born in the USA—step up and stand up. I want them to provide the President within a period of time a 6-month to 12-month plan—it's called the I'm An American Plan—of how their industry can hire the qualified unemployed.

I come from energy territory. I know we've had a lot of discussion about that. But they exist and they hire. Somebody else might be coming from technology. Somebody else is in health care. Somebody else is in industries that we're not even aware of. Of course we've talked about the whole renewable energy. But there are a lot of energy industries that can be asked to come to the table. You need hires; I understand that you have not, but I need you to be an American, proud to be an American, the private sector.

Finally, let me just say that I have a man in my area who is making solar flashlights. Not solar panels. He doesn't have to worry about the panel issue. What a brilliant idea. He can't get a bank to lend him money. He wants to build his company in and around my area and hire people. He can't get a bank loan. Well, I want the President, within reason, to be Mr. De-

reg, take the challenge of the banks and ask them, So what is the reg that keeps you from lending to a credible, legitimate businessman who has a proven product?

Let me just say this: He's making it in China. He wants to bring it home. So I want the President, through an Executive order, to insist, put a criterion in, that our banks have been given a gift, and they need to turn that gift back as proud Americans and lend to small businesses.

So I wanted to come today to answer the question of Americans who say, I need a job now. And even though there will be some legislative initiatives, and I want to applaud the President for his leadership in coming forward and putting it to us, but we know that the Democrats are ready to travel down the job road and to give the American people their jobs now.

Mr. President, if you're going to run into obstacles—not the Democrats—then you stand up and use that executive power.

□ 2110

I know that the Members on this floor, I'm going to speak for California and New York, will stand alongside of you and behind you, that you will provide jobs for the American people.

So I am delighted to have the opportunity. I want to offer again any help that we can give. I'm a member of the Homeland Security Committee. We've done this for Hurricane Ike and Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. We are helping the tragedy in Joplin, Missouri. I went to Alabama to see what a tornado can do. There was damage with the earthquake that went on right before on the east coast.

I ask, what are we than the Federal Government to be the rainy-day umbrella when you are in need? There is no excuse to block any funding for those that are in need, and we are going to be behind you and we are going to create jobs.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Representative SHEILA JACKSON LEE, you are a true leader. Your State of Texas is under a fiery assault and will also need direct Federal assistance, not only in fighting the fires but also in the eventual recovery, and that's certainly going to be the case in New York.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I mentioned Congressman DOGGETT, but what I wanted to say on this point that I think is so important, and I will state, it is documented that our Governor has cut the volunteer firefighters. Those are great heroes. We even lost a firefighter just a few months ago when our wildfire started in the spring. Of course, it sort of—I won't even say the term died down—but it has now risen again and attacked a whole new area.

We are going to have to ask for Federal aid and we have just, as I understand the facts, through Congressman

DOGGETT, the Governor has just indicated, Governor Perry, that the Federal Government has a role. He has just asked that Texas be declared a national disaster.

My question to my fellow colleagues is, then, what will be our response? Prattsville was washed away. There is nothing but ashes. They can't even find a picture book.

So are we going to tell them it's off budget, that we're not able to fund it, that it's deficit spending? I think not. I thank you for reminding the American people that Texas is facing its own mount of decline, and those fires, by the way, have not yet been extinguished. They are visible to all of us.

Mr. GARAMENDI. We understand. There are many different kinds of disasters. There are natural disasters that we have discussed for several minutes here on the floor. There is also the disaster of not having a job, of losing your home, not being able to care for your family and seeing all of your dreams just basically disappear for lack of a job.

As we reach out, as we think about these natural disasters and our human desire to be helpful, we would also think about those millions of Americans, and we are probably talking well over 20 million, maybe 25 million Americans that do not have a job, and they are facing their own personal disaster. They need help. They need help from many different places, certainly their communities, wherever it may be, but also the Federal Government.

I know that those of us on the Democratic side of this aisle have for the last 3 years attempted and succeeded in developing programs that actually have created millions of jobs. A lot of people talk about the American Recovery Act not working. In fact, it did work. Some 3 million jobs were created. Those are not my estimates, those are estimates by the Congressional Budget Office and others. Give or take 100,000, we are talking about thousands and tens or hundreds of thousands, millions of jobs that were actually created.

We cannot go through an austerity period at this point, because people are hurting. They need help, they need jobs, and we can do it and simultaneously build the American economy by the infrastructure, putting in place the foundation, by educating, a great example. Just yesterday, I talked earlier about this biotech company that's creating bioherbicides and biopesticides. They need to hire technicians in their laboratories and in the manufacturing. They can't find them.

The education bills that we put forth that have been stopped and actually reduced by our Republican colleagues are necessary for the community colleges and other educational institutions to provide the skills needed for those people that have lost their jobs to become

technicians, high-paid technicians in that new biotechnology field.

So there is where these things come together. We need to always keep in mind the millions of personal disasters that are out there as people have lost their jobs and struggled.

Representative TONKO, I know you're facing natural disasters, but when we were here in August, in early August and July, you were talking about jobs and the need for jobs in your area. Please come back and let's just pick this up again and carry it.

Mr. TONKO. Sure. I want to pick up on the importance of education as a role for our comeback, but before I do that, I want to thank two very good friends and two very sensitive hearts for the empathy that you have expressed on behalf of the people of my district and neighboring districts in the northeast.

So Representative GARAMENDI from California and Representative JACKSON LEE from Texas, thank you for bringing out the neighborliness in all of us. That is our best expression as an American people, and we do it through the auspices of our Federal Government when one amongst us hurts. We respond in a way that enables us to come back and strengthen the fabric of our entire Nation.

But to the point of education, recently the district I represent, the region that I represent, was dubbed the fastest-growing hub in America for green collar jobs and the third-fastest growing jobs for high-tech jobs by two independent surveys. The reason that happened was because we invested through Federal Government, State government, and private sector and academia in an agenda that speaks to cutting-edge technology, and it happened because there are three basic formats of infrastructure that need to be reinforced and responded to, that being your physical infrastructure; your fiscal infrastructure, your capital infrastructure; and human infrastructure.

Representative GARAMENDI and Representative JACKSON LEE, you both referenced the education issues. They are very important to the comeback of this Nation, to growing jobs and retaining jobs. What I witnessed through the efforts in our region, we have a clustering happening as you have this strength.

We have the largest ship manufacturing plant construction going on right now in all of America in the region that we call Capital Region, New York. I know that as other industries come in, other businesses come in, there is a demand for workers. Now, it's great to grow jobs, that's our first step in the process, but we have to make certain that jobs are responded to with the skill sets required, and those skill sets need to be brought to and enhanced for all neighborhoods, all communities.

It has to be the coalition of a mosaic of workers brought to the table. And how do we do it? It's an investment in education beginning as early as pre-K and right through the college setting.

Now, I witnessed what happens at our community colleges. We have grown programs for clean-room science. We have those investing in solar application to construction majors, those who are going to be building residences and businesses in our region. They are going to have State of the art know-how to retrofit those buildings with renewable concepts, from solar to wind to geothermal, whatever. So that cutting edge is being offered.

We have an incubator in the region, several incubators. But we have one that incorporates a business that has produced automation in their manufacturing. At Kintz Plastics in Schoharie County, New York—which, by the way, absorbed some of the greatest blows from Mother Nature this past week—but right there in rural Schoharie County, New York, just absolutely replete with heritage and history, in that county, in a rural county, they are providing for automation and advanced manufacturing. That took place because we invested in the CAT concept, an incubator, a Center for Advanced Technology. And there we are getting ideas again that are then put into prototypes that are then further developed into a manufacturing concept that enables us to be competitive with this automation.

But then you need now the skill set to operate these automated networks that are now part of the assembly process. So it's that investment again in the worker, in the brain power. This country will be competitive if we put the tools together, if we provide the tool kit.

And how does it happen? It happens by doing it smarter, and that enables us to cut costs and be competitive in the global market. It's as simple as that. And Make It in America is a pronouncement of a commitment by the Democratic Caucus in the House of Representatives that says let's do the tax packaging, let's do the resource advocacy, let's see the research development incentives that bring together the strongest force of manufacturing.

Manufacturing as a sector was ignored in the last decade and a half. Now this President has said we are going to be about an innovation economy, we are going to be about a clean energy agenda. We are going to be about bolstering our manufacturing sector.

I know there is growing expectation. We are going to hear about Make It In America. We are going to hear about an infrastructure bank. I am convinced that's what we will hear tomorrow, and that will produce for us a far stronger outcome for America's workers and America's potential.

□ 2120

Mr. GARAMENDI. Representative TONKO, as you were talking, I reached back and I found this display that we sometimes use. These are critical investments. Yes, infrastructure, the dams and the roads, those are critical investments. But here is the most critical investment of all. These are American workers being educated, getting prepared for the new technology jobs, carrying on the jobs of the future. This is where we need to make a critical investment in America, and this is a key part of the Make It In America agenda—that is, the education, labor and education, making sure our labor force is well educated and well prepared for the jobs of the future.

SHEILA JACKSON LEE, you were looking like you wanted to get in the middle of this.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I thank the gentleman for being so prepared with such important statements. This statement, a better deal for America, invest in America, make it in America.

I want to acknowledge the whip of our caucus, Mr. HOYER, who has been persistent. We have joined him like a choir because it is important. But let me make this economic point. I want to hold this up.

When we had the helm in the 1990s, since I am talking patriotic and saying I'm proud to be an American, we understood one economic factor, and even politically, I think, some of us suffered. But under the Clinton administration, if I might say, it was an investment and revenue, and we turned the economy around. And we weren't down in the soup. We knew we had to tighten our belt. We even did a budget reform in 1997, if I can bring back ancient history. But 20 million jobs were created.

I know there are a lot of pundits and economists who want to say that we are on our last legs. Don't tell that to the American people. We're not on our last leg. Your area is going to be resilient because we are going to help you. You might have thought, as we come to this very somber weekend, that New York and Manhattan were on their last leg in 2001. That might have been our assumption, our conclusion when we were so overwhelmed with grief. Look at them now. Why? Because we've put public—the Federal Government—and private partnership together, and they are restored in terms of their infrastructure. This is what we're talking about.

Another economic point that I want to make very quickly: I have no angst against China and India, but I am disappointed that, again, a number of economic talking heads want to compare economies. Understand what is happening. What they are saying is that the growth in those areas is surpassing us. Do you understand that we have been growing now for almost two centuries? We started the Industrial Revolution

in the 1900s, and no one could catch us.

We're now—I don't want to say we are coasting, but we have our economic challenges because that is almost what economics is about. The growth that they're talking about is the fact that there is something to grow. They didn't have anything. And so if they are growing, they are growing because they are developing this new, if you will, level of income in their citizens, their middle class. But at the same time, they have this huge economic pit hole which is the number of poor and impoverished. No one comments on that.

What I am suggesting is that America is still the greatest economy in the world. We have challenges, but I am tired of hearing: Deficit, deficit. We have to cut spending—because it means we have no vision. And if you really want to understand what we need to do, we need to do this: We need to build the inventors who are out there. When I say "build them," build them up.

The President is going to talk about patent bills, and we have to do what you have so eloquently dictated. But I just want everybody to know that America is not broke, nor are we broke of ideas. I believe that Make It In America, with investing in America, with building revenue and deficit reduction, we are the nation that many will still look to for its greatness.

I thank the gentleman for his leadership on this particular Special Order, and I just say this: Jobs, jobs, jobs.

Mr. GARAMENDI. It is jobs, jobs, jobs, Ms. JACKSON LEE. Thank you so very much.

This is America. This is America, the strongest country in the world today. There are others that are growing, and thankfully they are. But this is America. We talk about patriotism. Some people say we are broke. We're not broke. We have troubles, to be sure, but we have an extraordinary strength in America, and that is the American worker, and they need a chance. They need a governmental system that is supporting them with education, with programs such as infrastructure, with using our tax money to buy the products that they make.

This is America. We're Americans. We are the people who get things done. Nobody has been at it longer than upstate New York. The Industrial Revolution started in your territory, Mr. TONKO, and I see the strength that you have and I see the strength your people have to rebuild after this devastating week.

Mr. TONKO. Right. Their strength, their resilience is infectious. They motivate me. They fill my voice with passion.

Again, I thank you for the wonderful support you have expressed today in caucus to do a stand-alone supplemental bill for the people of this recent

tragedy. My district was in the midst of that, as were many others. Forty-seven, I believe, districts were impacted by it. But, Representative GARAMENDI, I couldn't help but think, as Representative JACKSON LEE spoke with such eloquence, that America's most shining moments are when we invested in America, invested in a canal system, invested in an infrastructure program with rail. We invested in a rail system and an interstate system and invested in a race to the moon that unleashed untold amounts of technology. That investment had a bipartisan spirit to it under Republican and Democratic administrations. We were at our shining best when we invested in America.

What do we hear now? Let the free market rule. Well, go tell it to companies whose countries are co-investing with them. We hear it all the time. They are co-investing in these other countries. In fact, the private sector investment in renewables used to be placing America number one. We slipped to number two to China, and recently slipped to number three after China and Germany. The America I love, the America we all love is not about being number three; we are about being number one, and that's the investment we are talking about.

Mr. GARAMENDI. You mentioned something that just caught me like that. Public policy, public laws make a difference. I want to give you an example. You mentioned Germany and the advances that they've made in green technology.

I had the opportunity over the recess to go to a manufacturing plant owned by Siemens, a German company, one of the biggest manufacturing companies in the world, in Sacramento, California, and they are manufacturing in Sacramento, starting with just pieces of steel, and building light railcars and heavy-duty locomotives for Amtrak. I mean, this is the heaviest manufacturing that occurs in any country. It's a German company located in Sacramento, manufacturing from start to finish for American transportation systems.

Why are they doing that? Why is that German company investing millions upon millions of dollars in California to manufacture trains and locomotives? They are doing it because the American Recovery Act, the stimulus bill, said that the money must be used on American-made equipment. The laws we make on this floor, the work done here in this Capitol, will determine the future of America's manufacturing.

If we ignore the necessity of putting in place laws that say make it in America, use American taxpayer dollars to buy American-made equipment, if we ignore that, then we will see those jobs go offshore and we will see that equipment come onshore. That's

not what I want. That's not what the Make It In America agenda is all about. It's about a set of policies, trade policies. Free trade, no; fair trade, yes.

China, you're manipulating your currency. There is a bill that's being held up in committee by our Republican colleagues that would force China to deal with its currency manipulation. They have a 25 to 30 percent advantage in cost simply through an unfair trade practice that China is foisting upon this Nation and others.

Taxes. We haven't talked about tax policy much, but there are tax policies that are critically important.

□ 2130

Energy we touched on. We'll come back to energy in the days ahead, because this is about national security. Labor, education, research, infrastructure. We've touched on that today.

We've got about 5 to 7 minutes. Let's do our lightning rounds here and we'll go round and round. That Invest in America, I like that one.

SHEILA JACKSON LEE, Texas, tell us about it.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Let me say to my friend from California, because I know California has itself faced some of those travails when it had a natural disaster, and let me say to my friend from New York, you are absolutely right, we are committed for that supplemental to those in New England, to those along the east coast, and to my fellow Texans. I know there's a time and a place for America to stand with you.

I want to see the President with those of good faith. There's a little comment here: Congress, the Autumn of its Discontent. I want the gentleman from California to know that I have no discontent. I have excitement. I have enthusiasm. I just ask my friends on the other side of the aisle to join me and walk down the aisle and celebrate the idea that we are the Congress of action. Take the Democrats' ideas about job creation, about investment, about infrastructure, about educating our people, about research; take my ideas about getting people trained to jobs, paying them while they're training. They have an income. Take the idea of buying a paper clip from a small company that's here in America, and take the idea, if you will, to ask our fellow Americans—corporations, I heard they were people—to stand up and give us their 6-month plan to put people to work. If they've got openings, let's ask them to join us as patriots and put Americans to work however they want to frame it, but Americans will then be back to work and then we are then healing that economy. Because everybody says: People working, people buy. That means they're buying furniture, that means their buying paper clips, that means they're buying cars. That's what I would like to see.

I will finally say this. Mr. President, if you've got a pen and you want to sign it into law or into action as an executive order, we are standing with you and the American people. We want jobs.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Thank you, SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

Mr. TONKO.

Mr. TONKO. Representative GARAMENDI, I'll try to do this in lightning speed. I think of two things here. People that were impacted by the storms in my district that need to rebuild are also impacted with the loss of jobs. Small businesses that have shut are losing jobs for the community. So it makes sense to bring back those jobs. The dignity of work is what should drive us, what should motivate us. And oftentimes in this equation, as has usually been the tradition, people of most modest means—neighborhoods, communities, people, businesses of modest means, farms of modest means have been impacted here. So we need to respond, and we need to respond with that dignity of work, for the young college grad who has college loans to pay off and is told to come back when you have experience; for the middle-aged person who lost a job through no fault of her own who now needs to continue to work and maybe at the age of 55 is having a tough time landing that work; or seniors who need to supplement their income. Across the age spectrum, we need to be there to provide the dignity of work.

Again, let's give America its newest shining moment. Let's invest in jobs. Let's make it in America. Let's invest in manufacturing as a sector. We are still perched at the top of the list with manufacturing jobs. We lost too many because the manufacturing sector was ignored. Let's shine that moment again for America.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Thank you, Mr. TONKO and Ms. SHEILA JACKSON LEE. Your representation of your constituents and for America is unparalleled. You are fighters. You are fighters for those people that have faced the personal disaster of losing their job, losing their home, and many of their dreams.

Tomorrow, here on the floor of this Congress, the Senate and the House will meet and we'll be listening to our President talk to us and to the American people at a moment in time that is of critical importance to the very future of this country; a moment in which we will choose a path, an aggressive path, to deal with the disaster of unemployed Americans. He will come to us with a plan. I believe it will be a bold plan. It will be comprehensive. It will cover probably many of the issues that are here on our Make it in America agenda. But I want all of us, Democrat and Republican, to take those ideas and to put them into law so that Americans can have a job so that once again they can become taxpayers, and

in doing so, bring to America's Treasury the money that we need to deal with our deficit. It's a very, very important moment.

We're going to need to reach across the aisle, right down this middle aisle, reach across it, and say, okay, our colleagues here were talking earlier about regulation. There's some good that needs to come from that. There are regulations that impede progress. And on our side, we want to put people to work.

With that, we await the President tomorrow, and we'll stand with him and with all Americans to put us back to work. Thank you so very, very much.

OMMISSION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2011 AT PAGE 12927

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
Washington, DC, August 12, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, The Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on August 12, 2011, at 11:20 a.m., and said to contain a message from the President whereby he notifies the Congress that he has extended the national emergency with respect to the lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

ROBERT F. REEVES,
Deputy Clerk.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BISHOP of New York (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of weather problems.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of a family medical issue.

Mr. HONDA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. LUCAS (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of family illness.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and the balance of the week on account of medical reasons.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, September 8, 2011, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2961. A letter from the Principle Deputy Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2010 Purchases from Foreign Entities; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2962. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report to Congress on the Feasibility of Establishing a Full Exchange Store in the Northern Mariana Islands Pursuant to H.R. 6523, Section 642, of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2963. A letter from the Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Financial Crimes Enforcement Network; Repeal of the Final Rule and Withdrawal of the Finding of Primary Money Laundering Concern against VEF Banka (RIN: 1506-AA82) received July 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2964. A letter from the Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the Bank Secrecy Act Regulations — Definitions and Other Regulations Relating to Money Services Businesses (RIN: 1506-AA97) received July 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2965. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Financial Stability Oversight Council 2011 Annual Report; to the Committee on Financial Services.

2966. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting the 2010 Report of Statistics Required by the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2967. A letter from the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a decision in the case of United States of America V. James Mathurin, No. 09-21075-CR-Cooke; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2968. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting Activities of the Review Panel on Prison Rape in Calendar year 2010; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2969. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the third annual report of the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2970. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Second Quarter report of Settlements by the United States with Nonmonetary Relief Exceeding Three Years and Settlements Against the United States Exceeding \$2 Million; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2971. A letter from the Attorney, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Jameson Beach Fourth of July Fireworks Display [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0398] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2972. A letter from the Attorney, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Stockton Ports Baseball Club Fourth of July Fireworks Display, Stockton, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0397] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2973. A letter from the Attorney, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Delta Independence Day Foundation Celebration, Mandeville Island, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0395] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2974. A letter from the Attorney, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River, Mile 856.0 to 855.0, Minneapolis, MN [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0198] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2975. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Temporary Change of Dates for Recurring Marine Event in the Fifth Coast Guard District; Elizabeth River, Norfolk, VA [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0392] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received July 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SMITH of Texas: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 2189. A bill to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes (Rept. 112-198). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of Texas: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 2633. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify the time limits for appeals in civil cases to which United States officers or employees are parties (Rept. 112-199). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. FOX: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 392. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2218) to amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1892) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes (Rept. 112-200). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MICA (for himself and Mrs. MALONEY):

H.R. 2844. A bill to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in the District of Columbia to provide for the establishment of a National Women's History Museum and direct the Administrator of General Services to transfer administrative jurisdiction, custody, and control of the building located at 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., in the District of Columbia, to the National Gallery of Art, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SHUSTER (for himself and Mr. MICA):

H.R. 2845. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for enhanced safety and environmental protection in pipeline transportation, to provide for enhanced reliability in the transportation of the Nation's energy products by pipeline, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RIGELL (for himself, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, and Mr. LONG):

H.R. 2846. A bill to amend the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 to provide immunity for reporting and responding to suspicious transactions, activities, and occurrences that involve a vessel, facility, port, or waterway, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas:

H.R. 2847. A bill to create a nonimmigrant H-2C work visa program for agricultural workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 2848. A bill to provide for certain requirements of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to funeral and memorial services for deceased veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. RICHARDSON (for herself, Mr. STARK, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. BROWN of Florida, and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 2849. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Office of Disability Integration and Coordination within the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. RICHARDSON (for herself and Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas):

H.R. 2850. A bill to assist States and local governments develop and implement emergency notification systems suitable for use on public recreational lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a

period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BARROW:

H.R. 2851. A bill to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to establish a technical school training subsidy program; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah (for himself, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. GOSAR, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. GOHMERT):

H.R. 2852. A bill to authorize Western States to make selections of public land within their borders in lieu of receiving 5 percent of the proceeds of the sale of public land lying within said States as provided by their respective enabling Acts; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. CAPPS (for herself, Mr. FILNER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. HINCHY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. ENGEL, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 2853. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants to State emergency medical service departments to provide for the expedited training and licensing of veterans with prior medical training, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DESJARLAIS:

H.R. 2854. A bill to repeal the rule relating to the notification of employee rights under the National Labor Relations Act; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 2855. A bill to amend the Budget Control Act of 2011 to reduce the deficit and restore the middle class by creating jobs; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committees on the Budget, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GIBSON (for himself, Mr. TONKO, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. HINCHY):

H.R. 2856. A bill to provide assistance for agricultural producers adversely affected by damaging weather and other conditions relating to Hurricane Irene; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, and Ms. LEE of California):

H.R. 2857. A bill to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to create an adjustment to the discretionary spending limits for appropriations for emergency job creation; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. KIND (for himself and Mr. HERGER):

H.R. 2858. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a business credit for investments in rural microbusinesses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. JONES, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HONDA, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. STARK, Mr. FILNER, and Ms. WATERS):

H.R. 2859. A bill to repeal Public Law 107-40; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. LOEBSACK (for himself, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. RENACCI):

H.R. 2860. A bill to amend the Budget Control Act of 2011 to require members and staff of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction to disclose lobbying activities and

campaign or member-designated political action committee contributions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. MARKEY:

H.R. 2861. A bill to restore the jurisdiction of the Consumer Product Safety Commission over amusement park rides which are at a fixed site, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MEEKS:

H.R. 2862. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a temporary dividends received deduction and to create the Jobs Trust Fund to fund infrastructure projects; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself and Mr. PASCRELL):

H.R. 2863. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit physical therapy services to be furnished under the Medicare Program to individuals under the care of a dentist; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SHUSTER (for himself, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. AUSTRIA, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. CRITZ, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. HECK, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. MARINO, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PITTS, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. WOLF):

H.R. 2864. A bill to provide for a medal of appropriate design to be awarded by the President to the memorials established at the 3 sites honoring the men and women who perished as a result of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. MACK, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. McCLINTOCK, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. AUSTRIA, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. TERRY, Mr. LANDRY, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. WEST, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. LATTA, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. GUINTA, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. BONNER, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. JONES, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. QUAYLE, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. McKEON, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. BURTON of Indiana):

H.J. Res. 77. A joint resolution relating to the disapproval of the President's exercise of authority to increase the debt limit, as submitted under section 3101A of title 31, United States Code, on August 2, 2011; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H. Con. Res. 74. Concurrent resolution providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CANTOR (for himself and Ms. PELOSI):

H. Res. 391. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the terrorist attacks launched against the United States on September 11, 2001, on the 10th anniversary of that date; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Armed Services, Transportation and Infrastructure, the Judiciary, Homeland Security, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BOSWELL:

H. Res. 393. A resolution expressing support for designation of October 2011 as National Chiropractic Health Month; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. MICA:

H.R. 2844.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress) and clause 17 (relating to authority over the district as the seat of government), and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mr. SHUSTER:

H.R. 2845.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Mr. RIGELL:

H.R. 2846.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: "The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: "The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers,

and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. SMITH of Texas:

H.R. 2847.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause IV of the Constitution

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 2848.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 13 and 18

By Ms. RICHARDSON:

H.R. 2849.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. RICHARDSON:

H.R. 2850.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BARROW:

H.R. 2851.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is Article I, Section 8, Clause 1—The Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:

H.R. 2852.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article IV, section 3, clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 2853.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DESJARLAIS:

H.R. 2854.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 2855.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. GIBSON:

H.R. 2856.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to the power of Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States), clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate interstate commerce), and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and

proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress)."

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 2857.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, §§1 and 8.

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 2858.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8.

By Ms. LEE of California:

H.R. 2859.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. LOEBSACK:

H.R. 2860.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 2 of section 8 of article I of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. MARKEY:

H.R. 2861.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (the Commerce Clause).

By Mr. MEEKS:

H.R. 2862.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 2863.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, section 3, clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States)."

By Mr. SHUSTER:

H.R. 2864.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. REED:

H.J. Res. 77.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 relating to the power to pay the debts of the United States.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 23: Mr. HOLT, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. TOWNS.

H.R. 58: Mr. ROYCE, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 100: Mr. WOODALL.

H.R. 127: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H.R. 157: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan and Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 178: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 181: Mr. YODER and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 187: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H.R. 190: Mr. MICHAUD and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 192: Mr. SABLAN.

H.R. 198: Mr. YODER, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. DOYLE, and Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 205: Ms. RICHARDSON.

H.R. 328: Mr. HOLDEN.

H.R. 329: Mr. ROSS of Arkansas.

H.R. 333: Mr. RUSH and Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 365: Mr. GOSAR and Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 396: Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 436: Mr. RENACCI.

H.R. 452: Mr. BACHUS, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H.R. 458: Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. CARNAHAN, and Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 459: Mr. WOLF, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. WOMACK.

H.R. 494: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 495: Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 589: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 605: Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROSS of Florida, and Mr. RENACCI.

H.R. 615: Mrs. HARTZLER and Mr. ROYCE.

H.R. 630: Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 639: Mr. BERMAN, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. RUNYAN, and Mr. WAXMAN.

H.R. 674: Mr. BASS of New Hampshire, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. HURT, Mr. WEBSTER, Mr. REICHERT, and Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana.

H.R. 719: Mr. YODER, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. WEST, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Mr. COSTELLO.

H.R. 733: Mr. TIERNEY and Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 735: Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. AUSTRIA, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 788: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 812: Mr. STARK, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. HUNTER.

H.R. 849: Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 864: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 883: Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. CARNAHAN.

H.R. 905: Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 942: Mr. LUJÁN.

H.R. 959: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 972: Mr. FINCHER and Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 973: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 984: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H.R. 997: Mr. ALEXANDER.

H.R. 1005: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 1015: Mr. RANGEL, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. RICHMOND, and Ms. WOOLSEY.

H.R. 1030: Ms. BERKLEY and Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 1037: Mr. MCINTYRE.

H.R. 1041: Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 1084: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 1159: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 1175: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 1179: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, and Mr. HALL.

H.R. 1186: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.

H.R. 1187: Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 1206: Mr. KELLY, Mr. NUGENT, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 1208: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 1260: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 1283: Mr. COSTELLO.

H.R. 1293: Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas.

H.R. 1307: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 1340: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 1370: Mrs. BONO MACK.

- H.R. 1381: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 1386: Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. BARLETTA, and Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 1398: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 1416: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 1452: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 1475: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 1479: Mr. PALLONE and Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 1483: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 1489: Mr. WELCH, Mr. OLVER, and Mr. KISSELL.
H.R. 1506: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 1509: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 1537: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 1550: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 1558: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 1563: Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 1568: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. FARR.
H.R. 1576: Mr. HULTGREN.
H.R. 1639: Mr. NUGENT.
H.R. 1653: Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 1681: Mr. HIGGINS and Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 1704: Ms. LEE of California, Ms. CHU, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 1724: Mr. ACKERMAN and Ms. LEE.
H.R. 1730: Ms. RICHARDSON.
H.R. 1738: Mr. PETRI, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 1739: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 1744: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 1747: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 1756: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. HANNA, and Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 1776: Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. LATOURETTE, and Ms. EDWARDS.
H.R. 1792: Mr. LOEBSACK and Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 1804: Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 1809: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 1815: Mr. GOODLATTE.
H.R. 1817: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 1842: Mr. HOLT and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 1865: Mr. WALSH of Illinois, Mr. BARROW, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. KELLY.
H.R. 1872: Mr. KELLY.
H.R. 1895: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 1897: Mr. KLINE, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
H.R. 1903: Ms. LEE of California, Ms. RICHARDSON, and Ms. CHU.
H.R. 1931: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 1936: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 1941: Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. INSLEE, and Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 1965: Mr. HURT.
H.R. 1968: Mr. PLATTS.
H.R. 1995: Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 2005: Mr. KEATING, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. YODER.
H.R. 2010: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.
H.R. 2032: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 2048: Mr. LATOURETTE.
H.R. 2088: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MOORE, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. OWENS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. INSLEE, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 2103: Mrs. MALONEY.
H.R. 2104: Mr. HINCHEY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DICKS, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, and Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 2108: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. ROSS of Florida.
H.R. 2123: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 2131: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. OWENS, Mr. HOLDEN, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 2137: Mr. CARNEY.
H.R. 2139: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CRITZ, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. SHULER.
H.R. 2144: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 2148: Mr. BUCSHON.
H.R. 2164: Mr. TERRY and Mr. ROSKAM.
H.R. 2188: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 2195: Mr. BOSWELL.
H.R. 2198: Mr. KING of Iowa and Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 2224: Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 2238: Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois and Mr. ROSS of Arkansas.
H.R. 2245: Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 2250: Mr. SCHILLING, Mr. WEST, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Mr. HALL.
H.R. 2257: Ms. HARTZLER, Mr. HENSARLING, and Mr. CARTER.
H.R. 2299: Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. PALAZZO, and Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 2306: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 2312: Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 2324: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 2330: Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 2346: Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas and Ms. BASS of California.
H.R. 2369: Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. BERKLEY, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. LATHAM, and Mr. GUTIERREZ.
H.R. 2381: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 2393: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 2401: Mr. BACHUS and Mr. AUSTRIA.
H.R. 2405: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 2432: Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 2433: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mrs. BLACK.
H.R. 2443: Mr. ROONEY, Mr. WEST, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 2447: Mr. CLAY, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. DICKS.
H.R. 2459: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
H.R. 2466: Mr. WEST.
H.R. 2492: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 2497: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
H.R. 2499: Mr. LATHAM and Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 2505: Mr. PLATTS and Mr. YOUNG of Florida.
H.R. 2511: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 2514: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. AUSTRIA, Mr. FINCHER, and Mr. WOODALL.
H.R. 2517: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia and Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 2521: Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 2528: Mr. HERGER.
H.R. 2594: Mrs. CAPITO.
H.R. 2600: Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. RIVERA, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. BACA, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. PALAZZO.
H.R. 2602: Mr. DENT.
H.R. 2607: Ms. LEE of California and Ms. BASS of California.
H.R. 2617: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 2629: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. HONDA, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 2634: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 2635: Mr. LANDRY.
H.R. 2643: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2668: Mr. JONES and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 2677: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 2679: Mr. MORAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 2681: Mr. RIVERA, Mr. WEST, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. KISSELL, and Mr. HOLDEN.
H.R. 2692: Mrs. MALONEY.
H.R. 2698: Mr. INSLEE.
H.R. 2716: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 2728: Mr. POLIS.
H.R. 2751: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 2752: Mr. BROWN of Georgia.
H.R. 2757: Ms. HAHN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, and Ms. CHU.
H.R. 2763: Ms. LEE of California, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. MOORE, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 2778: Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 2796: Mr. BROOKS and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.
H.R. 2814: Mr. REICHERT.
H.R. 2815: Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 2823: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 2825: Mr. RIVERA and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 2826: Mr. BOSWELL.
H.R. 2828: Mr. HINOJOSA.
H. Con. Res. 39: Mr. YODER.
H. Con. Res. 63: Mr. NEAL.
H. Res. 20: Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey.
H. Res. 21: Mr. ELLISON.
H. Res. 95: Mr. HANNA.
H. Res. 111: Mr. YODER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H. Res. 152: Mr. HANNA.
H. Res. 177: Mr. HULTGREN and Mr. STIVERS.
H. Res. 220: Mrs. DAVIS of California and Ms. LEE of California.
H. Res. 256: Mr. MORAN and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H. Res. 282: Ms. TSONGAS and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.
H. Res. 317: Mr. WEST.
H. Res. 356: Mr. FORBES, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California.
H. Res. 366: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN and Ms. NORTON.
H. Res. 380: Mr. LONG.
H. Res. 385: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered to H.R. 1892, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012, by Representative ROGERS of Michigan, or a designee, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

The amendment to be offered by Representative KLINE, or a designee, to H.R. 2218, the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING THE 300TH BIRTHDAY OF HENRY MELCHIOR MUHLENBERG

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Franke Foundations of Halle, Germany and Muhlenberg College of Allentown, in commemorating the 300th anniversary of the birth of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg.

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg was born in Einbeck, Germany on September 6th, 1711. In 1742, the Franke Foundations of Halle (Germany) sent Muhlenberg to be pastor of congregations in Pennsylvania, located in Philadelphia, Trappe and New Hanover. In 1748, Muhlenberg organized the Pennsylvania Ministerium, the first Lutheran denomination in the New World. Through his writings and works, Muhlenberg became the most influential German-American Lutheran clergyman in colonial America, establishing or assisting congregations throughout the region. One of his sons, John Peter Gabriel, served as a Revolutionary War general and another, Frederick Augustus, as the first speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Today, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg's legacy continues through the nearly 4,000 persons The Lutheran Theological Seminary has trained for the public ministry throughout the United States and around the world. With a current enrollment of over 350 students from thirty Christian denominations, LTSP is a major educational institution in the Philadelphia region and continues to celebrate its ties to the Muhlenberg tradition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in celebrating the life and accomplishments of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of his birth and to extend best wishes to The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Franke Foundations of Halle, Germany and Muhlenberg College of Allentown on this celebratory occasion.

RECOGNIZING S&W CONTRACTING OF WESTERN NEW YORK'S ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of S&W Contracting, a successful local

business, which recently landed at No. 47 on this year's Fortune Magazine Inner City 100, a list of the country's 100 fastest-growing inner city businesses.

Shandra Spicer, the company's president and CEO was recognized last year during Minority Enterprise Development Week as Minority Small Business Person of the Year for the Small Business Association's Buffalo District and Region II, including New York, New Jersey, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

S&W Contracting of Western New York was founded in 1999 by Shandra Spicer and her parents. They began as a small company that cleaned and painted units in Buffalo's Old First Ward area apartment complexes.

About one decade later S&W had grown into a general construction contractor and commercial janitorial services company with 27 employees and revenue of 1.7 million. The company saw profits of \$2.1 million in 2010. At age 22, Shandra Spicer became the CEO and President of S&W Contracting, a testament to her maturity and strong business sense at a young age.

In twelve years of business, S&W Contracting has secured some choice construction contracts, including work for Erie County Buffalo Public Schools and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Shandra Spicer graduated from the University at Buffalo all State Minority and Women Emerging Entrepreneurs program and LPCiminelli's Emerging Contractor Mentor Program; she regularly attends workshops at the Women's Business Center at Canisius College.

Ms. Spicer advises other contractors to invest in their infrastructure, understand developers and their mission, and build relationships. S&W has clearly built relationships and put in the hard work necessary to secure contracts based on merit, a valuable message for any local business in today's economy.

It is with great pride that I stand today to recognize the achievements of S&W Contracting, under the leadership of Shandra Spicer, an inspiration to our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHIEF RICHARD LASKY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fire Chief Richard Lasky of Lewisville, Texas for his 30-year commitment to the fire rescue service and to celebrate his retirement.

Chief Lasky began his career as a firefighter in the outskirts of Chicago, where he also taught for the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute and at the Illinois Fire Chiefs' Asso-

ciation. There, Chief Lasky received the 1996 International Society of Fire Service Instructors' prestigious "Innovator of The Year" award. He has been a trail blazer in learning and leading on the job ever since.

Chief Lasky later moved to Lewisville where he continued his career in the fire service. He has held numerous positions in the fire service including earning the distinguished title of command-level officer. Although he has held many positions in the fire and police service, Chief Lasky is best known as being a family man whether at home or at the station.

Soon after he began his position in Lewisville, tragedy struck our great Nation on September 11, 2001 when the World Trade Centers were attacked. Chief Lasky came to the aid of his fire fighter brethren in New York City.

In addition to his tenure as a firefighter, Chief Lasky has also experienced a successful career as both a motivational speaker and an author. He has written over 150 technical articles and published a best-selling book entitled "Pride and Ownership: A Firefighter's Love of the Job."

To add to his already impressive career, Chief Lasky also works as a co-host for the radio show "The Command Post" heard on the Fire Engineering Talk Radio.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing this exceptionally courageous patriot and his professional and personal dedication to our community. It is my honor to represent him in the U.S. House of Representatives.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF FRED DONALD "DON" GIACOMAZZI

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Fred Donald "Don" Giacomazzi, who passed away on August 18, 2011 at the age of seventy-three. Don was a distinguished dairyman and community leader who always placed the utmost importance on kinship, family, and friends.

Don was born on October 26, 1937 to Fred and Lilia Giacomazzi in Hanford, California. He grew up working on his family's dairy, which was established by his grandfather, Luigi Giacomazzi in 1893, and is one of the oldest operating dairies in California. He became active in the family business and learned the value of hard work early in his childhood. Don also became active in 4-H and the Future Farmers of America during his youth, demonstrating his passion for agriculture.

Upon graduating from Hanford High School in 1955, Don studied at College of the Sequoias, and then transferred to California

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

State University, Fresno, where he was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity. Years later, in 1966, Don married Jacqueline Giglio and they had four children and five grandchildren.

Don spent his adult life as a farmer in Kings County, California. In 1969, he and his father formed Don and Fred Giacomazzi Farms, which is currently run by Don's son, Dino, producing a fourth-generation family dairy operation. Don's passion and commitment to agriculture was evident in his enthusiastic membership and leadership within a number of dairy organizations. Don was a member of the Dairy Herd Improvement Association for 22 years and served as president for five years, a member of the California Milk Advisory Board for 12 years, and chairman of the Kings County Western United Dairymen for four years. In addition, his family was named Dairy Family of the Year in 1998. In 2008, he and his wife Jackie were honored as the Distinguished Dairy Couple at the 52nd annual Salute to the Dairy Industry Dinner in Hanford, California.

A truly notable son of the San Joaquin Valley, Don also found time to enrich the community as a member of the Kings County Citizens for a Healthy Environment. Balancing his time and service to dairy and agriculture issues, Don also served as a member of the school board for 30 years and 4-H club leader, clearly exhibiting his personal vested interest in youth and education programs in agriculture.

Whether he was spending time with his family and friends, or serving our community, Don will be remembered as a man filled with compassion and joy. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Jackie; his mother Lilia; his four children Gina, Dino, Cara, and Mia; sister Patricia; five grandchildren; and many loving aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life of Fred Donald "Don" Giacomazzi, an honorable and respected man with an unwavering commitment to our community and his loving family.

HONORING "REMEMBER THEM:
CHAMPIONS FOR HUMANITY"

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary and historic event taking place in California's Ninth Congressional District, the official unveiling of master artist Mario Chiodo's world-class bronze monument Remember Them: Champions for Humanity in Oakland's new Henry J. Kaiser Sculpture Park.

Originating as a heartfelt response to the tragic events of September 11, 2001, Mr. Chiodo's masterpiece honors 25 world-renowned humanitarians who boldly championed human rights despite hardship, barriers and personal risk. In the last decade, many in our community have helped to bring Remember Them to fruition. With the collaborative effort of private and corporate donors under the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce

Foundation, Mr. Chiodo's vision has grown to include additional tributes to 14 local Bay Area activists. Remember Them is a source of Oakland pride and a powerful symbol of human altruism, sacrifice and resilience.

As we celebrate the three-section debut of the four-piece, 1,000-square-foot monument, we recognize that this magnificent work of art is not only the largest bronze sculpture in the West. It is a lasting, living legacy that will empower future generations to come. For example, Remember Them is already part of a K-12 education curriculum developed with Stanford University's Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute as part of its Global Liberation Project. Thousands of young people in the Bay Area and throughout the country will have multi-faceted, hands-on access to the United States' first large-scale monument to promote global diversity and celebrate international humanitarians as a group. Another groundbreaking Remember Them feature is its unique access for visually impaired persons, including information in Braille. Moreover, a small-scale casting of the monument will be on permanent display in the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee.

The 25 global humanitarians who are honored today, and who will continue to inspire the hearts and minds of our young people, are (in alphabetical order) The Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, Maya Angelou, Susan B. Anthony, Ruby Bridges, Cesar Chavez, Chief Joseph, Head of the Nez Perce Nation, Sir Winston Churchill, Frederick Douglass, Shirin Ebadi, Mahatma Gandhi, Helen Keller, Coretta Scott King, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Abraham Lincoln, Nelson Mandela, Harvey Milk, Mother Teresa, Rosa Parks, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Oskar Schindler, Thich Nhat Hanh, Rigoberta Menchu Turn, The Unknown Rebel of Tiananmen Square, Elie Wiesel, and Malcolm X.

The many names and faces of Remember Them represent our vast global community and the beauty of our differences. Yet, more importantly, they remind us of what we share in common: the capacity to demonstrate extraordinary acts of human decency in the face of injustice and iniquity. In fact, this monument is designed on a spiraling axis that emulates the helix of humans' common DNA. Therefore, as we commemorate those who have made larger-than-life contributions to social justice, let us be reminded that we are well-equipped to follow suit.

On behalf of the residents of California's Ninth Congressional District, I would like to salute all who have contributed to the success of Mario Chiodo's Remember Them: Champions for Humanity. Thank you for your service to our community, and for ensuring that peace and social justice are a lasting symbol in our daily lives.

CONGRATULATIONS EDWARDS
FAMILY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate my good

friends Shawn and Susann Edwards on the birth of their son Robert Lacy Edwards. Robert was born on Monday, August 22, 2011, at 5:36 p.m.

Robert Lacy Edwards is seven pounds and eight ounces of pride and joy to his loving grandparents, Gerald Robert and Marsha Miller of Simpsonville, South Carolina, and Lacy and Pauline Edwards of Marion, South Carolina. I am so excited for this new blessing to the Edwards family and wish them all the best.

HONORING GREGORY WAYNE
MEYER, M.D.

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of a beloved doctor in the Merced Community, Gregory Wayne Meyer, M.D.

Gregory Wayne Meyer, M.D. was born in 1957 in Merced, California and died at the age of 53 after a tragic hiking accident on June 29, 2011 in Yosemite National Park. A family lost more than a husband, father, son and brother when Dr. Meyer died while trying to rescue a friend and colleague in Hetch Hetchy, Yosemite National Park.

Dr. Meyer, 53, and physician assistant Richard Fox, 53, were swept to their deaths while trying to cross a bridge at Wapama Falls, which was swollen by near-record ice melt and an unseasonably late thunderstorm. Meyer was trying to save Fox, who was overtaken by rushing water according to Paula Meyer who survived the accident.

The Meyer family lost a budding rancher, a gourmet cook, the driver of a battered '69 green pickup, a tree grower, a pie baker, a wine connoisseur, an ice cream maker and a man whose trademark under pressure was striving to be the calmest man in the ER. Greg touched all those around him with a special sense of "grace and elegance," which is how he defined a "great" practitioner of emergency medicine, which is what he did at Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital in Whittier.

That's where the Merced High graduate met his wife, Paula, in 1997, when he was a doctor and she was a physician assistant. It wasn't love at first sight—"we bonded over cooking," she recalls—but after they were married in 2006, they became inseparable and expanded their joy with twin daughters, Kate and Emily, in 2008.

His parents think back to a boy who borrowed \$140 from his dad at age 8 to buy a Hereford bull. He saved nickels from his allowance to pay back the loan, with 1 percent interest, until his dad finally told him he could pay him in full when he sold Cheyenne, the bull. "He had 30 head of cattle when he went to college," his mom remembers.

And Paula, Texas-born but Southern California-bred, had no clue that the guy who took her to lunch at the Bel Air Hotel in L.A. for their first date was more comfortable riding in the "Green Beast" pickup, wearing an old straw Stetson hat and muddy work boots. "Bet you never thought when you met me you'd get

cow bleep on your shoes," he told her after one of their trips back to Merced. It was also on a visit to Merced that he took her to the Branding Iron and they dined under his own brand.

He blended a high-profile career in emergency medicine with a down-home love of the ranch. Paula used to surprise and entertain friends at the ER with photos of the two of them in Merced, hauling compost and working the land. In recent years, they'd begun to spend two weeks in Whittier and two weeks in Merced, at the 17-acre ranch where he planted oak, peach, almond, cherry and plum trees. "He was living his dream," his mom says. Adds Paula: "We had a charmed and beautiful life. I've never met anybody who had a happier childhood and lived everyday to the fullest."

Greg was an Elks member, donated to the Merced Theater restoration project, contributed to the Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital Foundation in Whittier as well as to Mercy Medical Center Merced although his own medical partnership was in Southern California.

He learned to cook and loved it. Their babies' first solid food was fresh steamed broccoli and rutabagas he'd grown. With good food came good wine, and although he wasn't a snob, he liked to pick wines he liked. Years ago, he proposed to Paula at Hetch Hetchy after telling her to come look at some "variegated stones" in the water—and the ruby one was a bottle of Peter Michael wine. Two days before he died, he reproposed to her, using the same ploy and the same wine, while asking if she knew everything she knew now back when he first asked her to marry him, would she have done it? "Oh yes," she told him. "I had no doubts in how much I was loved."

Greg was all-Merced through and through, a career lifesaver and a hero to many. One of his partners says that although there were 13 doctors in the Whittier partnership, Greg was an "influential de facto leader. He had this ability to get in there and work with all the partners." One of them, Dennis Conneen, was on a 10-day religious retreat in England, broke off his trip after two days and flew back to California when he heard Greg had died. He was a cherished friend of Greg's and delivered a beautiful eulogy at Greg's memorial service in Whittier.

Greg is survived by his wife, Paula, his twin daughters Kate and Emily, his parents, Chuck and Annetta Meyer of Merced and sister; Kellee Meyer and her husband Doug Brown, also from Merced, his grandmother, Mary Wood, his aunt, Myrna Akins, of McHenry, IL and three cousins, Andrea Akins Berrett of Arrington, TN, Angela Smith of Rancho Santa Margarita, CA, and Aric Akins of Poplar Grove, IL and their respective spouses and children. Greg was predeceased by his grandfather, Iris (Spud) Wood, who was extremely inspirational to Greg in both his love of the outdoors and farm life.

Greg attended Merced High School, University of California at Irvine for both his undergraduate and medical degrees. He completed his internship and residency in Emergency Medicine at Harbor UCLA in Los Angeles, and a fellowship in Hyperbaric Medicine at Long Beach Memorial, Long Beach, CA.

Greg's family is profoundly grateful to Mark Alee, the California Conservation Corps professional who bravely risked his life trying to save Ric and Greg. Paula acknowledges she may not be alive today if it weren't for Mark's selfless act of heroism, quick physical strength and his strength of character. Steve Yu, the lead investigator, Rebecca Lund, the family liason, both with the National Park Service have treated our family with unusual kindness and respect throughout this tragedy. We also are grateful for the many men and women who searched tirelessly for Greg after the accident under extreme conditions.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Gregory Wayne Meyer, M.D. for his unwavering leadership, and recognizing his accomplishments and contributions to the Merced Community. The life of Dr. Meyer serves as an example of excellence to those in our community, and his legacy will not be soon forgotten.

HONORING COLONEL GREGORY B. CANNEY

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and highlight the distinguished career of Colonel Gregory B. Canney. Colonel Canney's career spanned 26 years that began in Florida at Eglin Air Force Base and ended in Tampa at MacDill Air Force Base.

Colonel Gregory B. Canney is the Commander, 6th Dental Squadron, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. As the Commander, Colonel Canney was responsible for providing top quality dental restorative and preventive care to the 6th Mobility Wing and its 36 mission partners. Colonel Canney ensured the world-wide deployment of over 10,000 active duty members from the 6th Air Mobility Wing and two combatant commands. Colonel Canney interfaced with command, wing, group and squadron leaders on dental matters and managed a \$400,000 annual budget and 53,486 annual dental visits.

Colonel Canney was born in Groton, Connecticut. He completed his undergraduate education at Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA. He entered the Air Force directly from the University of Connecticut, School of Dental Medicine in 1980 and served 10 years. After a break in service, he resumed his Air Force career in 1995 and has enjoyed a total of 8 assignments. He is guided by the credo "attitude is everything."

Living by that credo is what led Colonel Canney to receive several major awards and decorations such as the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters. As the Deputy Group Commander for the 6th Medical Group, Colonel Canney has directly impacted the careers of hundreds of troops in all Healthcare Corps and will influence several generations beyond the tenure of his career.

The Tampa community and MacDill Air Force Base are proud to recognize Colonel Canney for his outstanding career and his many significant contributions to the Air Force

and our country. His determination and hard work have made him an inspirational leader within our Nation's Armed Services. I ask that you and all Americans recognize such a remarkable patriot for his service to his country.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ERNEST L. THOMAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Ernest L. Thomas for his career and commitment in academia and educating America's youth.

Dr. Thomas, who has been the President at Tarrant County College South Campus since 1998, graduated with a major in Sociology from Washington State in 1971. He received his master's from the University of Massachusetts in 1976 and his doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin in the Community College Leadership Program in 1996.

From 1975 to 1990, Dr. Thomas was the Director of Educational Support Programs and Dean of Student Development at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. Before holding his current position, Dr. Thomas was the Vice-President of Student Development at Brookhaven College in the Dallas County Community College District for almost eight years.

Dr. Thomas has been involved with numerous professional committees and organizations including the American Association of Community Colleges and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

In addition to his professional involvement, Dr. Thomas is actively involved with several community and civic organizations such as the Fort Worth Independent School District and the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce where he served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for nearly five years. In addition, Dr. Thomas serves as a motivational speaker for numerous community events.

Dr. Thomas' outstanding service has been well documented and has earned him a long list of achievements and awards. These honors include the Kellogg Fellow Award from the Community College Leadership Program of the University of Texas at Austin, and the Silver Scholar award from the Texas Association of Black Personnel in Higher Education. Please join me in recognizing and thanking this exceptional educator and community leader and his lifelong commitment to education.

BILL MATTOS RECOGNITION

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest respect that I rise today to recognize my friend, Bill Mattos, who is being recognized with the Golden Rooster Award from the California Poultry Federation for his outstanding

service to California's Poultry Industry and whose dedication and inspiration is an example for all of us to follow.

Bill was born and raised on a farm in Stanislaus County. He is an honors graduate of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo where he was named Outstanding Graduate in Journalism. He also holds a Master's degree in Agricultural Journalism from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He currently lives in Newman and is the proud father to two daughters, Toni and Natalie.

Bill was the Founder and former President of Mattos Newspapers, Inc., where he operated a local newspaper and printing company for 30 years. He currently hosts a cable television program, "Westside Stories," which features monthly interviews with elected officials, non-profit executives and leaders throughout Stanislaus and Merced County communities.

Bill has served our community through many different facets of government and community service. Bill was appointed by the Governor to the Stanislaus County Fair Board and has been working extensively on livestock and fair issues for the last 17 years. Prior to his appointment, Bill was a former Stanislaus County Supervisor. He also worked for the USDA Undersecretary Earl Butz and served as a White House Intern in the Nixon Administration.

Bill is the current President of the California Poultry Federation where he manages the affairs of the meat poultry industry with emphasis in governmental relations, public affairs, public relations, animal welfare and marketing. He also works with agricultural and business groups throughout the West Coast as well as Washington, DC to promote and advocate for business and industry in California. Bill is known across the nation as a leader on poultry issues and his effectiveness has been critical to the success and growth of the California Poultry Federation.

Bill takes an active role in his local community in addition to his commitments with the California Poultry Federation. He is a past chairman of the Doctors Medical Center Board of Governors, Past President of the Stanislaus State University Foundation Board, member of the Dean's Advisory Board of the School of Agriculture at the University of California, Davis, Executive Committee Member of the Valley Coalition for UC Merced's Medical School, Former President of the Newman Rotary and the Newman Chamber of Commerce, and Former California Chairman of the National Newspaper Association.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring my good friend, Mr. Bill Mattos, for his leadership, dedication, and outstanding service to our community and the California Poultry Federation.

HONORING BARBARA HAILE

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and celebrate a dedicated public serv-

ant and my longtime staffer and friend, Barbara Haile.

Barbara Haile would make a good book. Each chapter could start with, "When I had dinner with . . ." Unfortunately, many of those passages would be left out because she could recognize their faces but not always their names. Some dinner stories would start with professional athletes, such as Baseball Hall of Famers Willie Mays and Willie McCovey or they would end with after dinner taxi rides with people like Norman Mailer arguing with one of his many wives. If you drop a name of an iconic American in the last half century, it's a good bet Barbara knew them or at least had dinner with them.

Her life story took her from Jamaica to the United Nations in New York, to Saudi Arabia to San Francisco during the late 60s, eventually landing in San Luis Obispo with her husband Allen Haile and two children, Jonathan and Courtney.

And speaking of books, Barbara can recite the Good Book from memory and may break out singing an old-time hymnal, though she would never describe herself as a religious woman, just the product of a traditional Jamaican upbringing. Whether the results of her traditional Jamaican work ethic or her life experiences she could also write a how-to on helping those in need.

The consummate caseworker, Barbara's name is known throughout federal government agencies. If you work in one of my offices and have the occasion to speak with a Federal social service agency you will eventually be asked, "Oh, Representative Capps's office. Do you work with Barbara Haile?" It is not because she had dinner with these folks but because she is a caseworker extraordinaire who found ways to help people who had given up hope.

Barbara Haile was the last hope for many people facing walls of bureaucracy and red tape or those without options until she authored one of her countless letters. Her tenacity for helping those in need likely led to officials trying to find a way to help because they knew she would not go away. While her countless stories of finding homeless veterans a place to live, getting seniors needed healthcare or assisting immigrants to become American citizens are confidential, the volume of files on her cases would make Superman, possibly a dinner guest, cringe at moving her cabinets to make room for more.

Barbara will be sorely missed not only by me but by the entire community of the Central Coast of California. Not only has her hard work helped countless constituents but she is a true example of a dedicated public servant. Her service and diligence to both me and my late husband Walter—and, most importantly, to the constituents we serve—will not be forgotten. I am honored to have worked with her, and proud to call her my friend.

CONGRATULATING BECKWOOD SERVICES, INC. ON RECEIVING THE RAYTHEON FIVE STAR SUPPLIER EXCELLENCE AWARD

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Beckwood Services, Inc. on receiving the Raytheon Five Star Supplier Excellence Award. This is truly a prestigious honor as only fourteen other suppliers have been recognized at the five star level for their excellence in on time delivery measures, sustained performance on quality, and commitment to continuous process and quality improvement. They have stood out time and again as a great company and a leader in the defense industry for both New Hampshire and the country.

New Hampshire is proud to have them in Plaistow, furthering their work and adding to the local community. Most importantly, we are honored to have Beckwood Services supporting the mission of our service men and women in the United States Armed Forces. Your work helps support their mission and keeps them safe, and we are grateful that our military is supported by the quality products you manufacture.

I congratulate Beckwood Services, Inc. for receiving this award and for their outstanding leadership in the field of defense systems. I wish you all the best for continued success in the future.

RECOGNITION OF REX FERRY

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you this evening in recognition of a truly great American, Rex Ferry, who has served as President of Valley Electrical Consolidated, Inc. and Evets Electrical, both headquartered in Girard, Ohio. I wish to recognize him for his extraordinary service, for the past 3 years, serving as President of the National Electrical Contractors Association, NECA.

There are many things that impress and amaze me about Rex Ferry. First among them is that he grew up in the trade and worked hard to build up the necessary resources and assets to eventually own his own company and become an electrical contractor. He began his career as an apprentice with the IBEW Local 573 in Warren, Ohio. He worked in many areas of electrical construction and purchased Valley Electrical in 1990 and later added Evets Electric to his management portfolio in 2006.

Also high on the list of Rex's strong attributes are his family and his faith. He has been married to Mary, his high school sweetheart, for over 30 years. Additionally, his company is family-owned and operated as his daughter and sons-in-law all work for his company.

There is an old saying that leaders rise up in times of crisis and if that saying holds true, there is no one I know who has demonstrated a capacity to lead through difficult times quite like Rex Ferry. NECA and its member companies were not and are not immune to the challenging economic times with construction nearly grinding to a halt. I know this has weighed on him tremendously during his tenure. But as I've grown to enjoy Rex's company over the past years, I've known him to be one of the most optimistic business leaders around.

I know he has appeared at many local and national NECA meetings where he has been called upon to deliver one of his infamous 'pep' talks where groups became accustomed to his legendary "Magic Wand." He welcomes the opportunity to report on the significant challenges not only facing his company, but also, the electrical contracting industry. He has challenged business leaders from around the country to adapt to a changing economic environment. He has implemented a variety of changes at NECA including, but not limited to, creation of focus groups to bring out the youth movement, what he refers to as future leaders, and to encourage women, through installation of a women's peer group, to learn about opportunities in the electrical industry.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that his tenure will expire at the end of this year where the leadership reins will turn over to another capable Ohioan, Dennis Quebe, of Dayton. I'm honored to recognize Rex this evening for his incredible leadership, his passion, his vision, and for his continued friendship.

HONORING THE LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the League of Women Voters of Berkeley, who are celebrating 100 years of women voting in California, starting with the historic and narrowly won California State referendum and the first California Civic League, Berkeley Forum led by Miss Blanche Morse in 1911. It is an immense honor to represent Bay Area communities who have truly been at the forefront of a century's worth of major achievements in social justice.

Over the years, what is now the League of Women Voters of Berkeley/Albany/Emeryville, as well as its sister leagues in Oakland, Piedmont, and the surrounding Bay Area, have worked tirelessly to advocate, educate, and champion citizens' informed and active participation in government and civic affairs.

An expansive and well-organized network of committed chapters, over 4,000 members in 21 local Leagues comprise the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area, LWVBA, which took shape in 1959. On a national scale, the League of Women Voters of the United States, LWVUS, was founded during the 1920 convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, held just six months before the 19th Amendment was rati-

fied. Thus, after a 72-year struggle, the U.S. Constitution finally reflected what women in the Bay Area and California had fought to achieve a decade earlier.

As members of the League of Women Voters, you are part of a magnificent legacy. Additionally, you have pledged to continue to be the kind of bold pioneers and astute advocates who led us to this point. Therefore, I would like to thank you for your dedicated service in guiding and encouraging our community toward civic engagement.

Moreover, the League has flexed its power in shaping public policy through the strength of its grassroots organization and by maintaining its important stance of non-partisanship. For example, the Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville chapter has worked extensively on advocating for fair housing and the promotion of social resources, including mental health, education, juvenile justice, and senior services. Likewise, the Oakland chapter has been a major advocate for ranked choice voting, quality education, and accessible housing. And, the Piedmont chapter holds positions in the areas of social policy, diversity, and natural resources, to name a few.

On behalf of the residents of California's 9th Congressional District, I would like to congratulate you on this milestone and thank you for the invaluable service you provide to our community. I wish the League of Women Voters' local, State, and national members all the best as you forge ahead toward another 100 years of protecting the rights of voters, promoting sound policy, and creating a more just and peaceful world.

HONORING ADMIRAL ERIC T.
OLSON

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the inspirational leadership of ADM Eric T. Olson. Admiral Olson's service is worthy of recognition by the entire Tampa community, the United States Armed Services and every citizen of our great Nation.

A native of Tacoma, Wash., Olson graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1973 and qualified as a Naval Special Warfare, SEAL, officer in 1974. He has served operationally in an Underwater Demolition Team, SEAL Team, SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team, Special Boat Squadron, and at the Naval Special Warfare Development Group. He has commanded at every level.

Olson has participated in several conflicts and contingency operations, and has served as a SEAL instructor, strategy and tactics development officer and joint special operations staff officer. His overseas assignments include service as a United Nations military observer in Israel and Egypt, and as Navy Programs officer in Tunisia. He served on the Navy staff as assistant deputy chief of Naval Operations (Plans, Policy, and Operations).

Olson earned a Master of Arts degree in National Security Affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School and studied at the Defense

Language Institute. He is a Joint Specialty officer and Political-Military Affairs sub-specialist with emphasis on Africa and the Middle East. His awards include the Distinguished Service Medal and Silver Star.

Admiral Olson became the first Navy SEAL to take the helm at Special Operations Command. It is only befitting that such a decorated and committed SEAL played an integral role in the successful raid on the Abbottabad compound that ended the search for Osama bin Laden. In addition to being the first three- and four-star Navy SEAL, Admiral Olson is currently the Bull Frog, the longest serving Navy SEAL still on duty. At four-star flag rank, Olson is the highest ranking Navy SEAL to hold the Bull Frog title.

The Tampa community and MacDill Air Force Base are proud to recognize Admiral Olson for his outstanding career and his many significant contributions to the Navy and our country. His determination and hard work have made him an inspirational leader within our Nation's Armed Services.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
JESSE E. COOLEY, JR.

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Jesse E. Cooley, Jr., who passed away on July 20, 2011 at the age of 79. He will be remembered for his savvy business sense, impressive musical abilities, and his great service to Central Valley families.

Jesse E. Cooley, Jr. was born on November 2, 1931 in Fresno, California. He attended Edison High School where he was class president, played on the football team, ran for the track and field team, sang as a member of the Boys Glee Club, and played as lead drummer for the school band.

Upon graduating from high school, Mr. Cooley embraced his passion for music. He found work playing as a member of the Cal Tjader jazz band, which served as the beginning of his music career. His talent provided him the opportunity to play with jazz legends including Lionel Hampton, Count Basie, and Jack Teagarden.

In addition to having an impressive musical repertoire, Mr. Cooley was also a proud and respected businessman. Mr. Cooley's father, Jesse E. Cooley, Sr., opened the first Black-owned mortuary in the San Joaquin Valley. In 1953, Mr. Cooley followed in his father's footsteps when he teamed up with his business partner, Andrew Riolo, and opened the first Black-owned mortuary in Solano County, California. Three years later, Mr. Cooley returned to Fresno and immersed himself in the family business. In 1959, Mr. Cooley and his father opened the second branch of their business in Bakersfield, California to serve the residents of the southern Central Valley. The family business expanded north in 1971 when they opened a third location in Stockton, California.

As a member of the San Joaquin Valley business community for more than 50 years,

Mr. Cooley was able to help thousands of individuals during times of great sadness. The great amount of trust Central Valley families placed in Mr. Cooley and his business is exemplified by the 10,000 services he hosted; most notably, the family of civil rights activist César E. Chávez and the family of Major General Vang Pao.

Whether he was playing music for his family and friends, or serving our community, Mr. Cooley will be remembered as a man filled with compassion and joy. He was preceded in death by his son, Jesse E. Cooley III. He is survived by his wife Barbara Taylor-Cooley; sons, Stephen R. Cooley, David A. Cooley, Phillip M. Cooley, and Corey D. Cooley; his daughters, Lisa C. Oliver and Christie M. Cooley; his sister Dorythea Cooley; and numerous friends and community members.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Jesse E. Cooley, Jr., an honorable and respected man with a commitment to bringing peace and comfort to families during their most difficult time. May his legacy continue to live on in our community and in the lives of those he touched.

HONORING THE 75TH
ANNIVERSARY OF VASA PARK

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Vasa Park, located in the Township of Mount Olive, Morris County, New Jersey, as it celebrates its 75th anniversary.

Vasa Park, established in 1929, was originally created to serve as a retirement community for Scandinavian immigrants in the Morris County area. However, as time passed and the community grew, it became a vacation spot for many of those same Scandinavian immigrants and their families. Today, ancestors of the original founders still come with their families to vacation every summer, staying in one of the many cabins dispersed throughout the park.

In the summer, the park offers 31 cabins for rent, a Cultural Center for social events and a large swimming pool for its Scandinavian members. Families descending from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden make up the over 1,000 park membership. The park itself is one of 12 New Jersey parks that is within the Vasa Order of America. The Order is an American-Scandinavian fraternal society that was established as a way for Scandinavian peoples in the United States and Canada to meet each other and share a common heritage.

In addition to providing a vacation spot for Scandinavian immigrants and their families, the park hosts an annual Scandinavian Festival every year. This year will mark its 27th year. The festival features live Scandinavian music, dancing, children's activities, and medieval games. It is a fun way for members to not only get to know one another, but also to celebrate their rich Scandinavian heritage. The surrounding community is also invited to participate in the activities.

For the last 75 years, Vasa Park has upheld the tight knit Scandinavian presence that is so important to the citizens of Mount Olive. The Mount Olive community as a whole is proud to call Vasa Park their own.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Vasa Park for 75 years of upholding Scandinavian tradition in Morris County, New Jersey.

105TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOLY
TRINITY HUNGARIAN CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and enthusiasm that I rise today to honor the Holy Trinity Hungarian Church in East Chicago, Indiana, as the parish celebrates its 105th anniversary. On Saturday, September 24, 2011, a celebrated Mass will take place at Holy Trinity, which will be followed by a celebratory banquet to recognize this extraordinary occasion.

Around the turn of the 20th century, the Hungarian community in East Chicago, Indiana, with its deep religious traditions, embarked on a venture to start a church of its own. With this goal in mind, on July 4, 1904, a group of community members met in the home of Stephen Farkas on Alexander Avenue to discuss ideas for what would later become the Holy Trinity Hungarian Church. The cornerstone was laid for the first church building on November 11, 1906, followed by its dedication on the Feast of the Holy Trinity in 1907. The parish's first resident pastor, Father Oscar Szilagyi, arrived on Christmas Eve in 1907. Although regulations of the Religious Order prevented Father Szilagyi from remaining at the church for a longer period of time, he has the distinction of performing Holy Trinity's first marriage, baptism, and funeral. Sadly, this building, as well as a second church, were lost to fires, but through the faith, hard work, and dedication of its leaders and congregation, the present church was constructed and was dedicated on May 22, 1921. After the church was rebuilt, the parish continued to grow. In 1922, Holy Trinity opened the doors to a new school, providing a much needed service for young people in the community. By 1927, several organizations had also formed, including: the Holy Rosary Circle, Altar Society, Holy Name Society, Knights of Holy Trinity, Children of Mary, and Young Ladies Sodality.

Although Holy Trinity has faced its share of struggles, the collective faith of the clergy and parishioners, and their commitment to the church, has allowed the parish to reach many milestones during its 105-year history. In February of 1957, the Diocese of Gary was established, and Holy Trinity joined other area Catholic parishes in welcoming its first bishop, the Most Reverend Andrew G. Grutka. On July 10, 2004, Holy Trinity experienced the most prestigious event in its history when the church was honored with a visit from Peter Cardinal Erdo, Primate of Hungary.

Another extraordinary event took place on May 1, 2005, when the present pastor, Father

Alphonse Skerl, celebrated his 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. For the past forty years, Father Skerl has served the parishioners of Holy Trinity. Under the leadership of Father Skerl, and because of the dedication of the parish members, 2011 has been a year of two more historic milestones, the 90th anniversary of the present church and the 105th anniversary of the parish.

Mr. Speaker, Holy Trinity Hungarian Church offers an invaluable service to its parishioners and community, providing numerous opportunities for all to join together to experience its rich heritage. I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating the clergy and congregation Holy Trinity Hungarian Church as they celebrate their 105th Anniversary. Throughout the years, these fine individuals have provided spiritual guidance to their community while honoring and preserving their faith and the traditions of the Hungarian people. Their devotion is worthy of our deepest admiration, and I am proud to serve as their Representative in Washington, DC.

CELEBRATING FORMER MAYOR OF
THE CITY OF MANCHESTER
EMILE BEAULIEU'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, on April 2, 2011 Emile Beaulieu will celebrate with his family and friends his 80th birthday. Mr. Beaulieu is a selfless public servant having served our nation, state, and local communities in various capacities for many years.

Known as an honest, warm, and generous man, Mr. Beaulieu's public service includes twenty years of service in the Air Force Reserves, two terms as Mayor of the City of Manchester, eight years serving as Welfare Commissioner, past President of the Easter Seals Board, past president of Big Brother Big Sisters of Greater Manchester, and former member of the Jaycees.

Mr. Beaulieu is a long-standing advocate and leader of conservative values and principles. He has served in numerous leadership capacities in the New Hampshire Republican Party and continues to remain active in various political campaigns. However, Mr. Beaulieu's greatest joy and accomplishment is as a loving husband and father of six children, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

This is a great day for Mr. Beaulieu, his wife Laurette, and his family and friends. I wish him the very best on his 80th birthday. This is truly a very joyous occasion.

CELEBRATING ARTS CLAYTON'S
25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Arts Clayton's 25th Anniversary. Since its opening in 1986, Arts Clayton has provided access to art and art education for my constituents in the 13th District of Georgia.

In 1999 Arts Clayton used funding from a HUD Community Development Block Grant to create a Mobile ArtVan to bring art directly to children from low-income families. This initiative is especially important in today's economic climate as school budgets continue to tighten.

In 2000 Arts Clayton extended their reach into the community by opening the Arts Clayton Gallery. This Gallery places a high premium on local art—accepting only Georgia artists. Those desiring to display their art must first meet with the Curators Committee to prove the quality and uniqueness of their work.

In addition to the artwork that is displayed year-round, the Arts Clayton Gallery also hosts various showcases throughout the year including a juried Fine Arts show in February and a juried Photography show in October. I am particularly thankful that the Gallery hosts the annual Congressional Art Competition for my district, the winners of which are displayed here in Washington, D.C.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication Arts Clayton displayed when assisting my wife find art and jewelry for the First Lady's Luncheon. With their help, Alfredia found and selected a local Georgian artist to custom design jewelry for attendees and another artist who donated a beautiful quilt to then First Lady Laura Bush.

It is my greatest hope that Arts Clayton will continue to serve our community for many more years to come. Art is vital to a strong, vibrant society, and Arts Clayton has played a pivotal role bringing art into Clayton County, my Congressional District and the Greater Metro Atlanta area.

HONORING FIRST UNITED METH-
ODIST CHURCH OF PALESTINE,
TEXAS 175TH CELEBRATION

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the Demisemiseptcentennial Celebration of the First United Methodist Church in Palestine, Texas.

On September 11, 2011, the First United Methodist Church of Palestine will celebrate 175 years of Methodism in Palestine and Anderson County, Texas as well as the 100th anniversary of its sanctuary and worship facilities. For 175 years evangelism, missionary service, youth development, Sunday school,

Bible study, fellowship, and worship have been continually celebrated by the congregation from Fort Houston, through the Box home, Bascom Chapel, Centenary Church and now the First United Methodist Church.

As Thomas Jefferson said, "It is in our lives and not our words that our religion must be read," it is an honor to represent the parishioners of the First United Methodist Church of Palestine, Texas whose lives exude service and faith.

HONORING BRUCE FIEDLER

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished career of Mr. Bruce Fiedler, who, after 26 years, is retiring as the administrator for the non-profit Pleasanton Gardens senior housing facility.

Pleasanton Gardens, started in 1967, developed from the collaboration of four local churches—St. Augustine's Catholic Church, Lynwood Methodist, First Baptist and Centerpointe Church. Mr. Fiedler joined Pleasanton Gardens in 1985 and he worked tirelessly for over two decades to create a home for our seniors while still finding time to serve the community.

Bruce Fiedler dedicated himself to making Pleasanton Gardens a caring home and family for its residents. He enlisted the support of local Rotary Club members to host events such as the annual Valentine's Day themed "Sweetheart Dinner." This year marked the 16th annual "Sweetheart Dinner," which dozens of seniors attended.

Mr. Fiedler also took part in many community initiatives. He served on the Housing Commission and the Human Services Commission for the City of Pleasanton. He participated in the task force that led the planning, financing and development of the Pleasanton Senior Center. He volunteered on the Wheels Senior and Disabled Passengers Advisory Committee, which designated bus routes and passenger shelters in Pleasanton, as well as the Alameda County Senior Needs Committee, which allocated funds for Dial-a-Ride and other senior services.

In 1992, Mr. Fiedler participated in a grassroots effort to make restaurants in the Tr-Valley area smoke-free. During Mr. Fiedler's leadership, Pleasanton Gardens also became a smoke-free facility. Since that time, he has spoken at seminars, both locally and nationally, on the dangers of secondhand smoke and how to make multiple housing units smoke-free.

Bruce Fiedler is a valued and respected member of our community who improved the lives of many. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Bruce Fiedler for his exceptional service to our seniors and our community.

SAN JACINTO MONUMENT: EVERY-
THING IS BIGGER AND BETTER
IN TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, everything I know and love and about the State of Texas, including what we stand for, is due in part to General Sam Houston. We've celebrated his victory over Dictator Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto for 175 years, and through the San Jacinto Monument, we celebrate his legacy as well.

We get our Texas pride from Sam Houston. Houston refused to be overrun by a dictator and fought for freedom and independence even when he was outnumbered 2 to 1. Houston's army was an odd, terrifying-looking bunch. They were all volunteers. Instead of regular uniforms, they were dressed in buckskins, with pistols in their belts, bowie knives, long muskets, and tomahawks. They came from numerous States and Mexico. The Tejanos were hungry for independence. So as not to confuse these Tejanos with Santa Anna's army, General Sam had Capitan Juan Sequin put a playing card in the head band of each Tejano so they could easily be recognized. The combat lasted but 18 minutes on April 21, 1836, but the legacy is timeless: Texas became a free, independent nation that day.

Houston and the Tejanos' legacy lives on through an obelisk soaring into the sky and crowned with a 34-foot star, the lone star of Texas. Built in 1936, one hundred years after the battle ended, the San Jacinto Monument looks like the Washington Monument, but of course, it's taller—15 feet to be exact. Just like the Texas State Capitol is bigger than the Capitol of the United States. As a child, I stood before the Monument, amazed at its size—a staggering 570 feet. It really felt like everything was bigger in Texas.

165 men built the Monument. The crew completed 6 feet of wall every day—an amazing feat when you consider the weight and height of the monument. Each stone weighed 500 pounds. (I'm sure the Ford Tough F-150 would have come in handy back then.) Weighing in at 70,300,000 pounds, the Monument is fittingly Texas big. Thanks to the crew's hard labor, the San Jacinto Monument is now recognized as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark.

This year, as we celebrate the 175th anniversary of Texas Independence, head east to those famous marshy banks of the San Jacinto to see the Monument and witness the telling story at the San Jacinto Day Festival and Battle Reenactment. We remember our past, knowing we were a nation once; and we have to smile knowing that sometimes we still act like an independent country. The Texas that we know and love would not exist had General Sam Houston and his men been defeated in 1836. They came from most of the States in the Union and many foreign countries—and they were all volunteers. Always remember Houston's Boys.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING NOTRE DAME OF
MARYLAND UNIVERSITY FOR ITS
NEW DESIGNATION AS A UNI-
VERSITY

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Notre Dame of Maryland University on their new designation as a university.

Notre Dame has been a leader in educating women leaders since its founding on September 9, 1895. Founded by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, this University was the first Catholic college for women to offer a four-year baccalaureate degree. Over the past 116 years, the University has grown to offer both men and women undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees. The University has also recently established schools for Arts and Sciences, Education, Nursing and Pharmacy, recognizing the growing need for these professions in the region and across the country. This successful institution not only values education, but also embraces the call for global outreach which was so valued by the founders and is captured in their motto, Veritatem Prosequimur, We Pursue Truth.

Education is critical not only to the success of Maryland, but to this great country. I am proud that Maryland is home to an educational institution such as Notre Dame of Maryland University and I know that this school will continue to prepare students to be critical thinkers and leaders of tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again congratulate Notre Dame of Maryland University for its educational excellence and wish its continued success for the next 116 years.

IN HONOR OF DR. GLENNAH
TROCHET

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Glennah Trochet, who has been a tireless advocate of quality health care for more than 30 years. As she retires from her position as Sacramento County's Public Health Officer, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking Dr. Trochet for her never-ending service to the Sacramento community.

For the last 12 years, Dr. Trochet has served as the Public Health Officer for Sacramento County. She has been instrumental in implementing and overseeing numerous key public health programs, such as the indigent program, an innovative free drug program that saved the county more than \$4 million a year, as well as the county's diabetes education program. The diabetes education program has been so successful, that the county is looking to expanding its services to those with asthma, coronary artery disease and hypertension.

I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Trochet on a number of issues over the years,

ranging from investing in the public health workforce to encouraging families to participate in the National Children's Study. Dr. Trochet's service with the Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services and her tireless work ethic has not gone unnoticed. In 2009, she was named one of six "Women Who Mean Business" by the Sacramento Business Journal, which celebrates the achievements of outstanding women with impactful careers within the Sacramento region. Dr. Trochet has also served on a number of advisory boards, such as Board of Director for Center for AIDS Research, Educates and Services, CARES, as well as the Sacramento County's Community Advisory Board, CAB, for the National Children's Study.

Dr. Trochet began her career completing residency at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, and moving to Sacramento to begin a private practice with the Sutter Medical Group and Family Physicians of Sacramento. In 1989, she left this practice to pursue a career with the Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services as the Physician Lead of Mercy Clinic Loaves and Fishes. Four years later, she accepted the position of Medical Director for the County, where she managed all of the County's health care clinics. These clinics are crucial to our community, as they are the primary source of care for thousands of Sacramento families. During that same period, she also served as the Sexually Transmitted Disease, STD, Controller for Sacramento County.

Mr. Speaker, as Dr. Trochet, her husband, John, daughters Rene and Holly, friends and colleagues gather to celebrate her retirement as Sacramento County Public Health Officer, I ask you to join me in saluting this remarkable woman for her many years of service to the Sacramento community.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR.
GEORGE F. REGAS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Dr. George F. Regas of Pasadena, California. On September 11, 2011, Rev. Regas will be the first recipient of the George F. Regas Courageous Peacemaker Award, an award created by the Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace to acknowledge his tireless efforts for justice and peace.

For nearly three decades, during his tenure as the Rector of All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena, Rev. Regas continually worked towards peace by speaking out against war and advocating nonviolent solutions to the world's problems. He established many organizations toward that end, including an Interfaith Center to Reverse the Nuclear Arms Race with Rabbi Leonard Beerman of Leo Baeck Temple calling for religious institutions to oppose the global arms race. In addition, in collaboration with Professor John Cobb of Claremont Graduate University, he founded Progressive Christians Uniting that works for

opportunity and economic justice for all, established the interfaith group called Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace and a South African Center to expose the atrocities of apartheid with Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Community-focused organizations include Union Station in Pasadena (now Union Station Homeless Services), a service center for homeless citizens, and the All Saints AIDS Service Center (now AIDS Service Center), the largest AIDS service program in the San Gabriel Valley.

Rev. Regas has served on the Boards of Trustees of both Claremont Graduate University and the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, and the Board of Directors of the Coalition For Zero Violence. In addition, he served as Chair of the Abrahamic Faiths Peacemaking Initiative, a group of Jewish, Muslim and Christian leaders, and Chair of the National Coalition for the Ordination of Women as Priests and Bishops in the Episcopal Church. Currently, he is on the Board of Directors for the Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation and is the Executive Director of The Regas Institute, an organization he founded that advocates for a progressive religion that addresses the issues of war, justice, and equality.

Rev. Dr. Regas has received many prestigious awards during his lifetime. Some of the honors include the 2008 Distinguished Peace Leadership Award from the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, Harvard-Radcliffe Club's John Harvard Distinguished Service Award, the Justice Award from The Islamic Center of Southern California, and the Humanitarian Award from B'nai B'rith International.

I ask all Members to join me in congratulating Reverend Dr. George F. Regas, a paramount voice for peace and justice in the United States, upon being named the inaugural recipient of the George F. Regas Courageous Peacemaker Award.

HONORING FIRST METHODIST
CHURCH OF BROWNSBORO,
TEXAS 100TH CELEBRATION

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the Centennial Celebration of the First Methodist Church in Brownsboro, Texas.

On September 25, 2011, the First Methodist Church of Brownsboro will celebrate 100 years of Methodism in Brownsboro and Henderson County, Texas. For 100 years evangelism, missionary service, youth development, Sunday school, Bible study, fellowship, and worship have been continually celebrated by the congregation.

As Thomas Jefferson said, "It is in our lives and not our words that our religion must be read," it is an honor to represent the parishioners of the First Methodist Church of Brownsboro, Texas whose lives exude service and faith.

WIDELL OBITUARY

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor my friend, the late David L. Widell.

David L. Widell was a passionate supporter of political solutions to a host of California's Conservation issues. Unfortunately, one of our greatest wetlands advocates passed away far too early. Dave, General Manager and Director of Governmental Affairs of Grassland Water District, was without equal in his passion about Central Valley wetlands' water issues.

Dave was a native son to California, born in Watsonville and raised in Los Banos. Dave grew up hunting and fishing from the Valley floor to the Sierras. He would often recount getting the special excuse slips from Los Banos High School on traditional Wednesday duck hunts.

Dave was no stranger to local politics and issues having graduated from Los Banos High School in 1985 and Modest Junior College in 1987, before attaining a BA degree in political history from UC Davis in 1990. He was a former field representative to Assemblyman Rusty Areias; City of Los Banos Planning Commissioner; and Director on the Merced County Farm Bureau Board. In 1992, following service in the United States Air Force, he joined the Grassland Water District as Assistant General Manager.

Dave was a strong supporter of the Grasslands Ecological Complex and pushed for fair landscape planning. He fought several large urban developments that would have divided the Grasslands and caused fragmentation of wetland habitats.

Dave spent the majority of his life devoted to conservation organizations. In 1998, he left the District to spread his wings at California Waterfowl Association where he served as Chief Deputy Director of Governmental Affairs. After leaving CWA, Dave moved on to serve as Deputy Director of State Parks in charge of ORVs and then Assistant Secretary at the California Resources Agency under both Davis and Schwarzenegger administrations. He joined Ducks Unlimited as Director of Conservation Policy for the Pacific Flyway, before returning to the District in 2007 as General Manager.

Dave fought for legal water rights of the Grasslands and Central Valley wetlands. He co-authored an important chapter for the Central Valley Joint Venture on water for wetlands and wildlife-friendly agriculture. It is with some joy that he knew he had helped reach full supply of wetland water for the first time in over 20 years. Dave was as comfortable in the Halls of Congress as he was in an old duck shack.

Sharing his knowledge of wing shooting or fly fishing with youth or novices was one of Dave's pleasures. He was most proud of the skills his son Ty developed in the outdoors and the intellectual challenges he has achieved by matriculating to Purdue University.

The unique combination of knowledge, political resolve, and dedication the Dave brought to the District will remain unmatched. Dave's jovial demeanor and laugh will remain with us. As we reflect fondly on the relationships Dave made and the partnerships he formed in his quest to defend the Grasslands from degradation, we also remember how he touched our lives. When a flock of ducks sails across the sky this fall, think of Dave.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF THE
LIFE OF MALIN KENNETH OSHMAN**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Malin Kenneth Oshman, a visionary, a leader, a builder of businesses, a family man, and a most generous contributor to our community. A man of his brilliance and accomplishment is a rarity, and his family's great loss is also a great loss for our nation.

Ken is reported to have said, "The interesting thing is that there are so few important decisions. You don't have to go in the 'right' direction. You don't have to enter the 'right' business. What you have to do is have made a decision as to what you're going to do and then you just have to figure out how to succeed at it." Ken succeeded at many things, including earning B.S. and B.S.E.E. degrees from Rice University, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Stanford University, while working at Sylvania. He was a founder of ROLM Corporation, and was CEO, President and Executive Chairman of Echelon until he stepped down for health reasons. He served on many corporate boards and was a mentor to countless Silicon Valley leaders and an advisor to President Reagan.

Ken's final corporate creation was Echelon, a company that is working to transform the electricity grid into a smart, communicating energy control network. At the company's 20th anniversary event, Ken spoke about the company's future opportunities and his hopes for it. His words demonstrate Ken's concern not just for his company, but for all of us. "Today, the demand for energy has made it obvious that efficiency is the best, most accessible, and lowest cost alternative fuel in existence, and we believe Echelon is at the forefront in delivering the technology to make the world a more energy efficient, cleaner, and better place."

Ken's creations were not limited to high-tech businesses. Ken and his beloved wife Barbara donated \$10 million to help create the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center in Palo Alto, a building many times larger than the 2,000 square foot building in Texas where Jewish families gathered when he was a boy. The Oshman Family JCC, which opened two years ago, has already provided thousands of people with living space, healthy recreation, intergenerational activities, child care and more.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest sympathies to the

Oshman family . . . his childhood sweetheart and wife of 49 years, Barbara; his two sons, Peter and David, and their wives, Stephanie and Joanna; four grandchildren; and his brother and sister-in-law, Rick and Tania Oshman of Texas. His loss will be felt deeply by his family, by the Silicon Valley he helped to found, and to all those who had the privilege of knowing him. He was a great and good man, and his life's work, in all of its diverse dimensions, will live long after him. I have always considered it a great privilege to know Ken Oshman, to represent him and to call him my friend. He made his community better and our country stronger.

85TH ANNIVERSARY OF SACRED
HEART PARISH**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I congratulate the congregation of the Sacred Heart Parish in East Chicago, Indiana, as they celebrate the 85th anniversary of the founding of the parish, as well as the 70th anniversary of the dedication of the church. On Sunday, August 28, 2011, a special Holy Mass, officiated by Bishop Dale Melczek, will take place at Sacred Heart, which will be followed by a celebratory luncheon.

Sacred Heart was originally known as Mission of Assumption Slovak Parish. It was founded in order to meet the spiritual needs of Catholic Slovaks in East Chicago, Indiana. From 1926 to 1941, the church held Mass, Confession, and other services at various churches in East Chicago. Father Clement Mlinarovich began to see a great need to build the church in East Chicago, and in May 1941, Bishop John Francis Noll dedicated the beautiful church building and new home of Sacred Heart Parish. The congregation was overjoyed to have a tremendous place of worship and prayer. In addition, parishioners took great pride in the new building because so many of them assisted in its construction. Father Andrew G. Grutka was the first resident pastor at the newly completed church, a position he held from 1942 to 1944, and later became the first Bishop of the Diocese of Gary. Following Father Grutka, Father Louis Duray and Father Milan Bach made significant improvements to the church, which included updating the sanctuary and purchasing the priest's home. My good friend and fellow Slovak, Monsignor Joseph Semancik, has served the people of Sacred Heart Parish since 1960. Over the years, the parish has grown to include members from many different ethnicities. During his tenure, Monsignor Semancik served as the Director of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Gary. Monsignor Semancik's devoted life of charitable good works is truly inspirational. For his struggle to ensure economic justice for all, and for passionately serving those in need, he is to be respected and admired.

This August celebration is tinged with sadness because the parish will be closing in October. Monsignor Semancik will be retiring as

the priest of the parish and the congregation will be dispersing to neighboring parishes. The past 85 years have been times of grace for the members and friends of Sacred Heart Parish, which they have shared with the community of East Chicago. Although the parish will be closing, the spirit and prayers of its members will be remembered for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Sacred Heart Parish. Throughout the years, Sacred Heart has built their congregation and expanded their mission, not only by serving the dedicated, loyal parishioners, but also by touching the lives of countless members of the surrounding community. For their outstanding commitment to serving so many in need, the church leaders and parish members are to be highly commended. May God continue to bless the parish members and its leaders upon the closing of the church and as they move on to the next part of their spiritual lives.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSEPH
"JOE" PETER FISCHER**

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Mr. Joseph "Joe" Peter Fischer whose life was tragically taken on August 11, 2011, in Sanger, California, at the age of one-hundred. Mr. Fischer was a proud veteran of the California Army National Guard and a dedicated member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, an organization dedicated to improving communities. His vibrant spirit will be deeply missed.

Mr. Fischer was born on February 15, 1911, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He relocated to Fresno, California's Fig Garden Village as a child with his parents and siblings. It was in the great San Joaquin Valley that he learned the value of hard work. He grew up working on his family's small farm, picking figs and caring for farm animals; his fondest memories included those of him and his mother working on the pastures. He eventually began working on automobiles and ultimately showcased his entrepreneurial spirit by opening a mechanic shop.

A true American patriot, Mr. Fischer proudly served his state and country in the 185th Second Infantry California Army National Guard and was honorably discharged in 1933. Mr. Fischer recognized the importance of serving his country and his time in the California Army National Guard served as a testament to his character and his commitment to the preservation of freedom and democracy.

Upon completing his military service, Joe continued his support of his community by always maintaining an active role in his neighborhood. Most notably, his involvement and membership in the Fraternal Order of Eagles, demonstrated his desire to promote peace, prosperity, and hope. It also demonstrated his commitment to the betterment of Sanger, California, the community he resided in and became a beloved member of.

Mr. Fischer was a loyal friend and cherished confidant to those he knew. He was passionate for the ideals and values in which he believed in. He served as a role model for the entire community and was a respected voice among his colleagues and friends.

Mr. Fischer is survived by his sisters Mary Morgan, Alyce Holland, Betty Babcock, and son Joe Fischer, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of Joseph "Joe" Peter Fischer, a man who lived a life full of energy and love. His bravery and determination will forever be remembered.

**COMMENDING LEICESTER CARPET
SALES ON THEIR 40TH ANNIVER-
SARY IN WESTERN NORTH CARO-
LINA**

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Leicester Carpet Sales on 40 years of successful business and commend them for recently committing to only selling products made by American workers. With that commitment, Leicester Carpet Sales became western North Carolina's first All-American flooring store.

Leicester Carpet Sales was founded in 1971, by Mr. JB Snelson, a Vietnam veteran, and his wife. After starting the business in their home, Mr. Snelson and his wife moved the store twice to accommodate the demand for their expert craftsmanship and high-quality customer service. Mr. and Mrs. Snelson retired in 1995 and entrusted the store to their son Brad Snelson.

After taking ownership over the company at the young age of 21, Brad Snelson kept his parents' tradition of excellent customer service. He moved the company to its current location in Asheville and opened another facility in Hendersonville.

Leicester Carpet Sales has proven to be an important element in western North Carolina. By giving back to the community and helping to sponsor the Crossfire Christian Ministry, Mr. Brad Snelson continues to reflect Christian values in the family company. With his morals leading the way, the company recently announced its decision to exclusively sell American made products. Leicester Carpet Sales hopes this move will raise the morale for supporting American jobs, products, and the economy.

Leicester Carpet Sales has shown extraordinary dedication to our community and has had an indelible impact in western North Carolina. I am proud to represent Leicester Carpet Sales and the Snelson family. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 40 years of this company and their remarkable commitment to their community and country.

**HONORING FORT LUPTON,
COLORADO**

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 175th anniversary of the founding of Fort Lupton, Colorado.

The city was originally founded as a trading fort by LT Lancaster Platt Lupton. The post thrived as trappers bought furs and other supplies from Native American tribes.

Settlement around the fort continued throughout the mid 19th-Century and the town of Fort Lupton was incorporated by 1889.

By the 1900s, Fort Lupton was transformed from a simple trading post to a thriving community with a rich agricultural economy.

With the addition of strong oil and gas industries moving into the area, Fort Lupton flourished into a vibrant town in Eastern Colorado.

However, when the manufacturing community moved to Fort Lupton, the old Fort had to be torn down to accommodate the growth. There are very few original artifacts remaining from the original foundation.

To coincide with the 175th anniversary, the South Platte Valley Historical Society worked to create an exact replica of the adobe fort that was originally built in 1837. It will open to the public as part of the 175th anniversary celebration.

I am proud to recognize this historic city on their 175th anniversary. Many people of Eastern Colorado call Fort Lupton their home.

HONORING HUGH L. CAREY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Hugh L. Carey, former Governor of New York, Member of Congress and decorated World War II veteran, who passed away on August 7, 2011.

Governor Carey's life is truly indicative of what it means to be an American. His accomplishments were many, and I know he will be remembered as one of the greatest New Yorkers in history.

Born to first-generation Irish immigrants, the Governor at an early age dedicated his life to serving his city, State and country. As a member of the U.S. Infantry's 104th Division during World War II, Carey and his unit courageously helped liberate the citizens of France, Belgium and the Netherlands, as well as the prisoners of the Nordhausen concentration camp. After returning from the war, he finished his undergraduate and law degrees at St. John's University in New York City, and in 1961, Governor Carey was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he represented the people of New York until 1974.

In addition to his many successes serving as a Congressman, most New Yorkers admire him for his role in saving the city and State of

New York from fiscal insolvency during the economic crisis of the 1970s. During a period of great economic uncertainty, Governor Carey had the insight, fortitude and wisdom to make the tough decisions to repair New York's finances. Employing a system of shared sacrifice, Governor Carey brought labor, industry and government together to the negotiating table to hammer out an agreement that pulled the city back from the brink of insolvency. As a leader during some of New York's darkest times, his willingness to make the difficult choices and bring disparate parties to the bargaining table should be an example to leaders today.

The Governor had far too many other accomplishments to list them all. However, a common thread connected all of his efforts—from his work to promote peace in the North of Ireland to his efforts at expanding aid to students in need, the Governor always put the people of New York first. Because of his commitment, his perseverance and his love of New York, the impact of his life is felt today by all New Yorkers. We will all miss a great American and true son of New York, Governor Hugh L. Carey.

A TRIBUTE TO ANN AND RICHARD MARSHALL ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary couple, Ann and Dick Marshall, as they celebrate a great milestone in their lives on September 9, 2011—fifty years of marriage.

They are the proud and devoted parents of Katie, Richard and Kristin; the loving grandparents of eight grandchildren—Annie, Gabriel and Lochan Flaherty; Seph, Tonnian and Raffi Marshall-Burgardt; and Owen and Fiona Marshall-Young. They are also the terrific mother and father-in-law to John Flaherty, Madeline Marshall and Paul Young.

Ann Dillon and Dick Marshall met at St. David's School in New York as they were each pursuing their careers in education. They were married in 1961, at St. Augustine Church in Larchmont, New York, and went on to build a storied life, filled to the brim with children, grandchildren, educational pursuits, a love for learning and the betterment of humankind, nourished by the deep faith they share.

Ann and Dick made their home in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, where Dick taught Russian and Russian literature at the University of Toronto, and Ann taught ESL to generations of immigrants.

One of their great loves is their farm—Valley Haven—where Dick, the gardener extraordinaire, raises hundreds of varieties of daffodils, taps his own maple syrup, raises turkeys, and makes his own wine.

Ann and Dick are avid readers, travelers and adventurers. Dick cooks marvelous meals and Ann lights all the candles, and together they light up everyone's life and the world around them.

The Marshalls are devoted parishioners of Holy Rosary Church, and it is there, with their entire family, that they will celebrate 50 years of marriage at Mass.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Ann and Dick Marshall on their 50th wedding anniversary, and pay tribute to them for the integrity of their lives together—for their extraordinary work as parents, grandparents and educators, and for being a source of joy and inspiration to me and countless others for so many years.

HONORING TINO ADAME

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished service of Tino Adame—Marine, Vietnam veteran, and 15-year Commander of the American Legion Karl Ross Post 16 in Stockton, California. I am proud to know Tino and have seen firsthand how hard he works on behalf of the men and women who served our country. He is a passionate advocate, a mentor for his fellow veterans, and a leader in our community.

Tino Adame was born in French Camp, California, and graduated from Franklin High School in 1965. After two years of study at San Joaquin Delta College, he joined the U.S. Marines at the age of 19 and has proudly worn the honorable title of Marine ever since that day. Tino was stationed with the "2/9 Hell in a Helmet" unit in Vietnam, and as a result of his service, earned a Purple Heart, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Rifle Marksman Badge, and the Good Conduct Medal.

Tino completed his service in Vietnam in 1967 and came home to work at the Tracy Defense Depot. He married Mary Hope Lopez in 1970 and continued to work at the Depot until he retired after 33 years.

Tino Adame has dedicated himself to serving his fellow veterans. In 1998, Tino became the first Latino Commander of the American Legion Karl Ross Post 16. One of his first initiatives was a successful petition of the Stockton City Council to sponsor an Independence Day parade honoring veterans—the first such parade to take place in 10 years. Tino then went on to chair both the Independence Day and Veterans Day parades.

Tino has also taken part in many community initiatives involving our community's young people. He has taught students correct flag etiquette, including the proper way to retire old flags and dedicate new ones. He has recognized JROTC cadets at his alma mater, Franklin High School, with plaques of achievement. He has also worked with young students to write Valentine's Day cards to veterans at the VA facility in Livermore.

Following the attacks on 9/11, Tino requested and obtained a piece of limestone from the part of the Pentagon that was damaged during the attack. That limestone is now

enclosed in front of the Karl Ross Post and serves as an important reminder to our community about the 9/11 attacks and the sacrifice of our men and women in uniform.

Tino also played an important role in convincing the Department of Veterans Affairs to select San Joaquin County as the home for a new veterans' medical facility and nursing home. Thanks to his hard work and the efforts of many in the community, the Valley's veterans will be able to get medical care close to home.

Tino Adame's steadfast commitment to his country, community and fellow veterans is an example to us all. I know his work to improve the lives of our heroes will make a lasting impact for years to come. It is for these reasons that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Tino Adame for his exceptional service to our country and our veterans.

**HONORING NEA JAZZ MASTER
RANDY WESTON**

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, legendary jazz artist Randy Weston will be honored this year by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation at the Jazz Issue Forum and Concert that will take place during the 40th Annual Legislative Conference. Mr. Weston will also perform at the concert, which will take place on Thursday, September 22, 2011, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, in Washington, DC.

Randy Weston is an internationally renowned pianist, composer, bandleader and cultural ambassador, whose compositions encompass the vast rhythmic heritage of both America and Africa. After six decades of active work, he is widely recognized as a true innovator and visionary who continues to inform and inspire. Mr. Weston has had an outstanding career that deserves the recognition of this body. Let me share some of the highlights from his biography.

Randy Weston was born on April 6, 1926 and raised in Brooklyn, New York, son of parents from Jamaica and Virginia. New York City has long been a Mecca for jazz giants and Weston cites Count Basie, Duke Ellington, and Art Tatum as his piano heroes. It was Thelonius Monk, however, who made the greatest impact. "He was the most original I ever heard," Mr. Weston remembers. "He played like they must have played in Egypt 5000 years ago."

Much of Mr. Weston's connection to African music stems from his father, Frank Edward Weston, who told his son he was "an African born in America. . . . He told me I had to learn about myself, about him and about my grandparents," stated Weston, "and the only way to do it was I'd have to go back to the motherland one day." Inspired by Nigeria's newly won independence from the United Kingdom, Weston started to incorporate tribal music with a type of West African pop music known as High Life. This blend culminated in Mr. Weston's 1960 album *Uhuru Afrika*, which

featured traditional African percussion and rhythms in the form of a jazz suite.

In the late 1960's, Mr. Weston took his father's advice and left the United States for Morocco, travelling throughout Africa to experience each country's musical diversity. One of the highlights of his travels was the 1977 Nigerian Festival, which drew artists from 60 cultures. "At the end," Weston says, "we all realized that our music was different but the same, because if you take out the African elements of bossa nova, samba, jazz, blues, you have nothing. . . . To me, it's Mother Africa's way of surviving in the New World." He had the honor of playing at the Kamigamo Shrine in Kyoto, Japan in 2008 and commemorated the 50th Anniversary of his Uhuru Africa album in 2010. With his strong connection to African music, Weston has enjoyed success with the dozens of albums he released over the past 50 years.

Randy Weston has received awards and acclaim at home and abroad, including the prestigious Jazz Masters Award from the National Endowment for the Arts, NEA, in 2001. He has also received an honorary Doctor of Music degree from Brooklyn College, City University of New York, in June 2006. In 2009 he was added to the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) Jazz Wall of Fame. On May 11, 2011 Weston received the award of Royal Wissam of National Merit of the Order of Officer by command of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI of Morocco, for his lifelong commitment to Morocco. His memoirs, *African Rhythms: The Autobiography of Randy Weston*, composed by Randy Weston and arranged by Willard Jenkins, was published in 2010.

Mr. Speaker, Randy Weston is a living jazz treasure and I urge all members to join me in commending him for his magnificent contribution to jazz fans around the world.

RETIREMENT OF MICHAEL SULLIVAN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I stand before you today to congratulate Mr. Michael J. Sullivan on his retirement from his position as General President of the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association, SMWIA. For 46 years, Mike has devoted his life to serving, protecting, and improving the lives of all Americans who want to earn a living wage for their labor. This is particularly true for the members of the Sheet Metal Workers. Michael Sullivan will be honored for his many years of dedicated service at a retirement celebration on September 20, 2011, at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland.

Michael Sullivan's leadership over the years has been indispensable for the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association. During his tenure, Mike has held numerous positions. I'm proud that his career began in my home state, in Indianapolis, Indiana, where he completed his apprenticeship. In 1973, Mike was elected

business representative. He later became the business manager and financial secretary of Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union 20. While residing in Indiana, he served as president of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) for the state of Indiana. Later, he was appointed by the Governor to serve as a member for the Indiana Workers' Compensation Commission and Hoosier Alliance Against Drugs. Mike was vice president of the SMWIA General Executive Council for 10 years and then served as the General Secretary-Treasurer of the SMWIA. In 1999, Michael became President of the SMWIA, a position that includes supervising and directing 157 Sheet Metal Workers' Local Unions throughout the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico. This vital group provides skilled services to various industries including sheet metal, air conditioning, kitchen equipment, transportation and other metal related manufacturing. Mike has also served as the vice president of the AFL-CIO Executive Council, while also participating in several AFL-CIO executive committees. In addition to the prestigious positions held by Mike, he has served as the labor co-chairman of the Democratic Governors' Association and also currently serves as president of the Eugene Debs Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, Mike Sullivan represents the very best values of his home state of Indiana: hard work, perseverance in the face of setbacks, and a selfless nature of wanting to serve others before being served. He is a gentleman in the truest sense of the word: strong, decisive, but governed by compassion and kindness.

Michael's dedication to his fellow members throughout his outstanding career is exceeded only by his devotion to his amazing family. Mike and his lovely wife, Amy, are happily married and enjoy spending time with their family, especially their beloved nieces and nephews and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Michael Sullivan as he is honored for his lifetime of service to the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association, its membership, and communities across the nation. Michael Sullivan is worthy of the highest praise for the tremendous contributions he has made to all of us. As my 95-year-old father, John Visclosky, would say, "He's a 100 percent guy."

HONORING THE VETERANS OF HOPE PROJECT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary work of Dr. Vincent Harding and the Veterans of Hope Project, VOHP, headquartered in Denver, Colorado. Founded in 1997 by long-time human-rights activists and educators Dr. Harding and the late Rosemarie Freeney Harding, the Project encourages a healing-centered approach to community building, creativity and education regarding religion, culture, democracy, reconciliation and nonviolence.

The couple founded the Project on the Iliff School of Theology campus, where Dr. Harding was a decades-long faculty member. Borrowing from Dr. and Mrs. Harding's deep roots in the Southern Freedom Movement of the 1960s, the Veterans of Hope Project took shape as a spirit-centered social justice and humanitarianism campaign.

With the help of their daughter, Rachel, the Hardings honed the Project as an education resource for spiritual, intergenerational community building and compassionate leadership development. One example of their multi-faceted work is a series of professionally filmed interviews with over 70 pioneering activists from around the world, including Grace Lee Boggs, Staughton and Alice Lynd, Charles Long, Bernice Johnson Reagon, Tom Feelings, Katherine Dunham, Imam Warith Deen Muhammad, Dolores Huerta, Vine Deloria, Corky Gonzales, Andrew Young, Dorothy Cotton, Bishop Samuel Ruiz, Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons and others.

Currently, the Project is creating a "Network of Hope" that engages youth and elders to demonstrate and develop compassionate leadership skills. With the help of Executive Director Gloria Smith, staff, volunteers and Dr. Harding's guiding and inspirational vision, the Veterans of Hope Project is preparing a compassionate leadership force for the 21st century. VOHP's effective programming includes an "Ambassadors of Hope" program that utilizes creative mentorship opportunities between elders and youth, workshops and training in compassionate leadership development, and a public symposium series.

Moreover, as Dr. Vincent Harding celebrates his 80th birthday, I would like to personally thank him for his continued work to build community bridges across national, racial, ethnic, religious, class and gender lines. His ever-expanding network of friends, colleagues and collaborators, including Education for Liberation, The Black Star Project and the Tewa Women's Project, speak of the breadth of his recent travels and the vast extent of his altruism.

Therefore, I salute Dr. Vincent Harding and the Veterans of Hope Project as they continue to tell the stories of faith, peace and justice that communities around the world must recognize, promote and impart. Thank you, once again, for all that you do to educate and encourage a new generation of compassionate leaders. I wish you all the best in the coming years.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF THOMAS "TOM" CLARK

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Tom Clark of Bakersfield, California, who passed away on July 23, 2011 at the age of 65. Tom was a great champion for the people of Kern County, California and a respected voice in the development of water policies. Most importantly, Tom will be remembered for being a loving family man and loyal friend.

A second generation Californian, Tom was born on October 21, 1945 in Bakersfield, California. He graduated from North High School in 1963. Three years later, he married his wife Karen and they were blessed with two children, Krista and Jeff. Tom joined the United States Army where he served our Nation at Fort Irwin, California and received an honorable discharge in 1970 with a rank of Sergeant E-5.

A loyal son of the Central Valley, Tom attended Bakersfield College and California State University, Bakersfield. Tom decided to further expand his horizons and attended the University of Pittsburgh on a full scholarship, where he earned a Master of Science in Water Supply—Water Pollution Control in 1974.

Tom began his water career in 1974 with the Kern County Water Agency as a Water Resources Planner where he was responsible for contract administration and planning. His tenacity and passion led him to do work for Nickel Enterprises and La Hacienda, Inc., where he helped establish the Rio Bravo hydroelectric plant on the Kern River. In 1986, Tom returned to the Kern County Water Agency and served as Assistant Manager. In 1989, he was promoted to Assistant General Manager, and in 1990, he was named General Manager.

Tom's legacy will live on through a series of groundbreaking water deals that he helped broker. Before Tom stepped in as General Manager of the Kern County Water Agency, Kern County had perhaps the most unreliable water supply in the State. Through his hard work, Tom was able to secure a much more stable supply for the people of Kern County.

In an industry where tensions run high, Tom's character was able to shine. He was well-liked by his colleagues—even the ones who did not agree with him. Tom was a pillar in the community and could be relied on to provide leadership and creative management skills to find solutions to some of the Valley's most pressing problems. Of note was the way in which he handled disputes over the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta. He was consistently an advocate for the Central Valley, while being able to understand and respect other points of view.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Thomas "Tom" Clark, a man with passion and persistence who accomplished great things for the people of California. He enriched the lives of all those who knew him and will forever be remembered.

**RANDY CAMMACK, 2011 LABOR
LEADER OF THE YEAR**

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proclaim that organized labor is often the sole source fighting for the rights of not just union members, but all workers.

Today, we are recognizing a great leader of working men and women in Randy Cammack. Randy currently serves as the Vice President

at Large of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Executive Board President Joint Council 42, and the Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 63.

Randy Cammack began his Teamster career in Los Angeles, California as a UPS truck driver in 1967. He has logged over 31 years as either a business agent or officer with the Teamsters International. As the Vice President at Large of the Teamsters International, he represents over 1.4 million workers; and as President of the California State Federation of Labor, he is the voice for over one million workers.

Randy has served on several collective bargaining teams at the local, state and national levels. He is frequently brought in to help solve many complex, tough grievances and wage negotiations sessions. It is basically in this area of his vast experience that he has earned numerous local, state, and national recognitions.

Among the many awards he has received are the Hispanic Community Service Man of the Year Award, twice won the Community Service Man of the Year Award, 2011 Inaugural Labor Award and the 2011 Gladys Mason Labor Award for Patriotic Leadership presented to him by my colleague, Congresswoman LORETTA SANCHEZ.

It gives me great honor to join with the San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council in honoring Randy Cammack as the 2011 Labor Leader of the Year.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF SPC. DENNIS JAMES, JR.**

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, August 31, 2011 a Central Florida Soldier lost his life in service to our nation from wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his unit with an I.E.D. in Wardak Province while assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division out of Ft. Polk, LA.

Specialist James joined the U.S. Army in June of 2008. Upon completion of his training in November of 2009, Specialist James reported to Ft. Polk, LA. where he deployed with his unit in October 2010 to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Specialist James's impressive list of awards and decorations include the Bronze Star; Purple Heart; Army Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal; Army Good Conduct Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal; Overseas Service Ribbon; NATO Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism Medal and the Combat Action Badge.

Specialist James was a former student at Pine Ridge High School in Deltona where he was an accomplished athlete in Football, Basketball and Track. James was known as a good student who was well liked by those who knew him.

We shall never forget the ultimate sacrifice Specialist James has given for his country. His actions will serve as an everlasting reminder

of the dedication and sacrifice the members of our nation's armed services make every day.

Specialist James is survived by his Aunt and Uncle.

**HONORING COACH MEL
TJEERDSMA**

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the outstanding achievements of Northwest Missouri State University Football Coach Mel Tjeerdsma. Coach Tjeerdsma is one of the most successful and well respected coaches in the history of collegiate football, coaching Bearcat Football for 17 seasons. I join with the rest of the Bearcat Nation in congratulating Coach Tjeerdsma on his many years of success, contributions to the community and retirement.

Mr. Speaker, Coach Tjeerdsma orchestrated arguably the greatest football program transformations in the history of collegiate athletics. In his first season, Coach Tjeerdsma went from 0-11 in 1994 to 183-32 with three national championships and 12 conference championships. He coached 44 All-Americans, 119 All-MIAA student athletes, and 14 National Football League players. Coach Tjeerdsma's leadership and mentoring has made a difference in the lives of his student-athletes. Coach Tjeerdsma was recently recognized and inducted into the NCAA Division II Football Hall of Fame and the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, Coach Tjeerdsma is not only the Bearcat football program's all-time winningest coach, but his focus on the classroom is second to none for his student-athletes. Coach Tjeerdsma's teams have featured seven academic All-Americans and one National Scholar Athlete of the Year. Coach Tjeerdsma's football graduation rate is far above the national average of 53 percent with an impressive 85 percent.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and the rest of the Bearcat Family in applauding Coach Mel Tjeerdsma's outstanding achievements and contributions to the community and to the sport. We wish Coach Tjeerdsma and Carol the very best in years to come.

**TRIBUTE TO COL. CHARLES P.
MURRAY, JR., AMERICAN HERO**

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on August 12, 2011, one of the most outstanding patriots of America's Greatest Generation passed away. The beloved Col. Charles P. Murray, Jr., a Medal of Honor recipient of World War II who also served in Korea and Vietnam died peacefully at home in Columbia, South Carolina.

Colonel Chuck Murray was recognized by a thoughtful article on August 18, 2011, by Jeff

Wilkinson of The State (August 18, 2011) newspaper of Columbia.

COL. CHARLES P. MURRAY REMEMBERED

(By Jeff Wilkinson)

Col. Charles P. Murray, Jr., a Medal of Honor recipient from World War II, was remembered Wednesday in Columbia as a humble hero who protected his men in battle, loved his family and worked tirelessly, until his death at age 89, to promote veterans' issues and educate students about patriotism and service to country.

"The word hero has never been about football players and movie stars," retired Col. Kevin Shwedo, a past deputy commander of Fort Jackson, said in a eulogy. "He defines what a hero is."

After being drafted in 1942, Murray, who grew up in Wilmington, N.C., landed on Omaha Beach in 1944 after D-Day and joined the 3rd Infantry Division in France.

On Dec. 16 near Kayersberg, France, the platoon that Murray was leading was pinned down on a ridge under heavy fire by 200 well-entrenched Germans. Murray, using a variety of weapons, killed 20 enemy soldiers and captured 10 more, single-handedly driving the Germans from the position. At the end of his assault, a German grenade riddled him with shrapnel, wounding him in eight places. He spent only four days recovering at a medical aid station before "borrowing" a uniform and returning to his unit.

None of the other men in his platoon was injured.

"His focus was keeping his men safe," Shwedo said. "And he kept his men safe."

Murray, awarded the Medal of Honor for that action, also received three Silver Stars and two Bronze Stars for other acts of valor.

Murray's flag-draped coffin was carried by horse-drawn caisson from Dunbar Funeral Home to the First Presbyterian Church, a few blocks away. It was accompanied by pallbearers from the Arlington Cemetery's "Old Guard," the Army's oldest active-duty infantry unit. Murray once was deputy commander of the unit, best known, perhaps, for maintaining a 24-hour-a-day vigil at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.

Honorary pallbearers included four Medal of Honor recipients—Sgt. John F. Baker Jr. of Columbia, Maj. Gen. James E. Livingston of Charleston, Sgt. Maj. Robert M. Patterson of Raleigh, N.C., and Col. Walter J. "Joe" Marm of Fremont, N.C.—as well as members of Murray's VFW Post 641. Also participating were a color guard and about 40 members of the 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Stewart, Ga., Murray's unit in World War II.

Murray died of congestive heart failure Friday, six weeks after having a pacemaker implanted. He passed away in his bed while taking a nap, family members said.

Murray is survived by his wife, Anne, son Brian of Fort Payne, Ala., and daughter Cynthia Anne of Roswell, Ga. Another son, Charles P. Murray III, of Columbia passed away in 2004.

About 600 people attended the memorial service.

More stood quietly outside on the sidewalk throughout the service to see Murray's remains pass by on the way to and from the church. "I wanted to pay my respects," said Dick Rosenbeck of Columbia, a four-year veteran of the U. S. Air Force.

Inside, dignitaries included Fort Jackson commander Maj. Gen. James Milano, U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson of Springdale and Col. Ted Bell of Columbia, one of The Citadel's most decorated graduates from World War II.

Bell was on the faculty of the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga., after the war with Murray, a close friend.

"I thought he would be a big ol' dumb fella coming in there with all his exploits, but he had a brilliant mind," said Bell, 91, who received the Distinguished Service Cross and Silver Star while fighting in the Pacific. "He was a fine person. A fine family man. And he was one of the greatest heroes we've ever known. There is no question about it."

The Service of Worship for the Remembrance of and Thanksgiving for the Life of Col. Charles P. Murray, Jr., September 26, 1921–August 12, 2011, on August 17, 2011, was conducted at the historic First Presbyterian Church (Associate Reformed Presbyterian Denomination) established in 1795. This was the boyhood church of President Woodrow Wilson and his parents Reverend and Mrs. Joseph R. Wilson are buried in the Churchyard with Ann Pamela Cunningham who, in 1853, founded the Mount Vernon Ladies Association which purchased and preserved Mount Vernon.

The following biography and citation were published in the program:

CHARLES P. MURRAY, JR.

Charles P. Murray, Jr., entered the Army from Wilmington, North Carolina, in 1942, attended Infantry OCS and was commissioned 2d Lt. in 1943. He served during WWII in France, Germany and Austria with 3d Infantry Division. His final combat assignment was as a brigade commander in Vietnam, where he served with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade and 9th Infantry Division. His awards include the Medal of Honor, the Silver Star (3 OLC), Legion of Merit (3 OLC), Bronze Star (OLC), Air Medal (6 OLC), Purple Heart, French Legion of Honor and Croix de Guerre, and various Republic of Vietnam commendation and service medals. He attended National War College and has degrees from University of North Carolina and George Washington University.

CITATION FOR THE MEDAL OF HONOR

For commanding Company C, 30th Infantry, displaying supreme courage and heroic initiative near Kayersberg, France, on 16 December 1944, while leading a reinforced platoon into enemy territory. Descending into a valley beneath hilltop positions held by our troops, he observed a force of 200 Germans pouring deadly mortar, bazooka, machinegun, and small arms fire into an American battalion occupying the crest of the ridge. The enemy's position in a sunken road, though hidden from the ridge, was open to a flank attack by 1st Lt. Murray's patrol but he hesitated to commit so small a force to battle with the superior and strongly disposed enemy. Crawling out ahead of his troops to a vantage point, he called by radio for artillery fire. His shells bracketed the German force, but when he was about to correct the range his radio went dead. He returned to his patrol, secured grenades and a rifle to launch them and went back to his self-appointed outpost. His first shots disclosed his position; the enemy directed heavy fire against him as he methodically fired his missiles into the narrow defile. Again he returned to his patrol. With an automatic rifle and ammunition, he once more moved to his exposed position. Burst after burst he fired into the enemy, killing 20, wounding many others, and completely disorganizing its ranks, which began to withdraw. He prevented the removal of 3 German mortars by knocking out a truck. By that time a mortar had been brought to his support. 1st Lt. Murray directed fire of this

weapon, causing further casualties and confusion in the German ranks. Calling on his patrol to follow, he then moved out toward his original objective, possession of a bridge and construction of a roadblock. He captured 10 Germans in foxholes. An eleventh, while pretending to surrender, threw a grenade which knocked him to the ground, inflicting 8 wounds. Though suffering and bleeding profusely, he refused to return to the rear until he had chosen the spot for the block and had seen his men correctly deployed. By his single-handed attack on an overwhelming force and by his intrepid and heroic fighting, 1st Lt. Murray stopped a counterattack, established an advance position against formidable odds, and provided an inspiring example for the men of his command.

PARTICIPATING IN THE SERVICE

The Rev. Dr. Sinclair B. Ferguson, Senior Minister, The First Presbyterian Church;

The Rev. L. Craig Wilkes, Associate Minister, The First Presbyterian Church;

The Rev. Dr. Mark E. Ross, Professor of Theology, Erskine Seminary;

Col. (ret.) Kevin A. Shwedo, Executive Director, South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles;

Dr. Richard Conant, Professor Emeritus, University of South Carolina School of Music;

Mr. Ronald E. Miller, Organist, The First Presbyterian Church.

One of Colonel Murray's greatest honors was the naming in 2001 in appreciation of his service of Charles P. Murray Middle School in his childhood home of Wilmington, North Carolina. This is such an appropriate legacy for an American Hero. He was devoted to promoting freedom and opportunity for the young people of America. At Wilmington, he earned the Boy Scout Eagle Scout Award in 1934. He is one of only eight known Eagle Scouts to receive the Medal of Honor. In 1938, he graduated from Wilmington's New Hanover High School.

Thomas E. McCutchen, Sr., Esq., one of South Carolina's most respected attorneys as senior partner of McCutchen, Blanton, Hopkins, and Campbell, LLP, eloquently praised his fellow church member:

"Colonel Charles Murray, Jr., was an incredible giant who successfully performed for all America and for you and for me. He was the ultimate soldier. He was a step ahead of bravery. Every man, woman, and child here is indebted to him for freedom. On Sundays, he sat next to the outside aisle on the left side of this Church as you face the congregation."

Colonel Murray was a vital participant in patriotic observances. He enlivened each year the Carolina Celebration of Liberty at the First Baptist Church of Columbia led by Pastor Wendell Estep and First Lady Linda Estep with the extraordinary choreography by Minister of Music Steve Phillips being passionately emceed by the legendary Joe Pinner. Each year, he highlighted the Columbia Veterans Day Parade, one of the nation's largest, where tens of thousands of school children recognized his achievements with the program organized by Mayors Patton Adams, Bob Coble, and now Steve Benjamin, with emcee Earl Brown who is Second Congressional District Deputy Director. I especially remember in 2003 Colonel Murray was recognized at the patriotic services at Grace Baptist Church in West Columbia organized by Mary Kerr and the late Reverend Bob Kelly. This was my last opportunity to appear with him in uniform as a Colonel in the Army National Guard.

Another legacy of his life of service is his success with the late Medal of Honor recipient J. Elliott Williams, the Navy's most

decorated hero of the Vietnam War, in moving the Medal of Honor Society Museum to the U.S.S. *Yorktown* in 1993 at Patriot's Point in Charleston Harbor at Mount Pleasant.

Colonel Murray was instrumental in October 2010 to work with Brigadier General Eugene F. Rogers and his wife former State Representative Elsie Rast Stuart Rogers (R-Pelion) along with Colonel Myron Harrington to organize the national 2010 Congressional Medal of Honor Convention at Charleston. The hosts were the South Carolina State Guard Foundation and The Citadel, South Carolina's historic military college.

In 2004, Colonel Murray was presented an elegantly engraved Browning weapon by Herst Fabrique Nationale of Liege, Belgium, in appreciation of helping the liberation of Belgium, France and Luxembourg from the Nazis. It was presented to him at their subsidiary FN Manufacturing Company located near his home in Columbia which is recognized for its world class armaments. The Browning Automatic Rifle was his weapon on December 16, 1944.

I will always cherish our final joint appearance as co-Grand Marshalls of the Sparkleberry Country Fair Parade this spring at Sandhills in Richland Northeast. This family-friendly event was organized by former County Councilman John Monroe and the white horse-drawn carriage was driven by Don Purcell. It was inspiring to see the public's warm response when they recognized Colonel Murray.

My wife, Roxanne, and I know of his encouragement of young people in military service. He was a devoted advisor to our son Alan for his Field Artillery service in Iraq and his current service as an Army National Guard Major and Attorney General of South Carolina. Col. Murray and his wife, Anne, hosted our son Addison and fiancée Lauren Houston for the Washington 2001 Inaugural Ceremonies for Medal of Honor recipients and he is now a Lieutenant in the Navy having served as a physician in Iraq. At the 60th Anniversary of The Battle of the Bulge, Colonel Murray was an inspiration for our two youngest sons, Army Captain Julian Wilson and Army 2nd Lt. Hunter Wilson, where the Colonel gave real meaning to our visit to The Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial at Hamm, Luxembourg, which is a world-class perpetual shrine for our fallen heroes where General of the Army George S. Patton is buried facing thousands of his troops.

Rest In Peace, Colonel Charles P. Murray, Jr. You have successfully completed your duty for the American people.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DRS. FAHIM AND NAEEM RAHIM

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, at a time when relations between the US and Pakistan seem tense, I would like to take a moment as a long time friend of Pakistan to remind my colleagues of the tremendous contribution that Americans of Pakistani origin have made in this country. Today, I wish to bring my colleagues attention to the story of

two of these exemplary individuals, Drs. Fahim and Naeem Rahim of Pocatello, Idaho. Their unparalleled contributions were formally recognized this past July when they were both awarded the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor. The award, presented by the National Ethnic Coalition, is given yearly to American citizens of diverse ethnic origins whose contributions to our society inspire and touch the lives of people everywhere. In their journey from Peshawar, Pakistan to Pocatello, Idaho, the Rahim brothers have come to exemplify the American Dream.

I was in pursuit of this dream that both brothers first arrived to the United States in the late 90's, completing their training in Nephrology and Internal Medicine at the New York Medical College in Valhalla, New York, finishing only one year apart. During this time, Fahim and Naeem would lay the foundation of what would become their legacy, driven by a relentless drive to fulfill the American dream while also building bridges between their native and adopted cultures.

Their relentless drive and hard work soon brought the two brothers to little Pocatello, Idaho, where they would establish the first Idaho Kidney Institute in 2005. What began as a single facility in Pocatello has, through the desire, hard work, and clinical expertise of Fahim and Naeem, now become the largest provider for patients suffering with kidney disease in Southeast Idaho, with a service area that covers a population of 250,000. The Idaho Kidney Institute facilities provide hundreds of patients with a medical home for treatment of their kidney disease, delivering state of the art care and saving hundreds of miles of travel for rural Idahoans.

In addition to their professional success as nephrologists, the Drs. Rahim are also members of the faculty at Idaho State University, giving their time to teaching tomorrow's medical residents, medical students, physician assistants in training, and nurses. Fahim and Naeem have also had commercial success creating their own consulting firm, Nephro Consultants, which aids new physicians in starting their own medical practices. Fahim was recently nominated (2008) by the local business community for the annual award, "Overachiever Under 40."

Their journey serves as an irrefutable example that the American dream is still alive and well. Drs. Fahim and Naeem's noble service to others, and the community that they now call home, make them two shining examples of our unique American tapestry.

MARTI EMERALD, 2011 JOHNS FELLOWSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proclaim that there are very few public servants who are as deeply committed to the plight of working men and women than San Diego City Councilwoman Marti Emerald.

For the past several decades, Marti could usually be found at numerous rallies and pub-

lic forums strongly advocating for decent wages and adequate healthcare benefits for the working men and women in our community.

In fact, Marti Emerald excelled as a broadcast journalist for 30 years before taking the oath of office for the San Diego City Council in 2008. Most notably Marti was the Consumer Advocate or "The Troubleshooter" at San Diego's ABC television affiliate for 22 years, earning more than 100 awards for community service and journalistic excellence.

Marti has deep roots in the San Diego Community. She served on the Boards of Directors of Catholic Charities, the Better Business Bureau, and the Glenner Alzheimer's Family Centers. Marti graduated Magna Cum Laude from National University.

During her tenure on the San Diego City Council, Marti has focused on repairing the image of City government through fiscal restraint, pension reform and increasing transparency in City government functions. Marti is serving her third year as the Chair of the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee.

It gives me a great honor to join with the San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council in honoring San Diego City Councilwoman, The Honorable Marti Emerald, with the 2011 Johns Fellowship Award.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SCOTT HARRIS

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my Florida Colleagues, Representatives SANDY ADAMS, CORRINE BROWN, BILL POSEY and DANIEL WEBSTER, to honor and pay tribute to Scott Harris of Longwood, Florida, who passed away on Monday, August 29, 2011.

It was our honor and privilege to have known Scott, a veteran journalist who spent his career covering Central Florida. Scott's professional journalism informed and enlightened both his colleagues and viewers alike. He took the time to mentor many, and was a respected, longtime political analyst covering both Florida and national politics.

Scott knew the news business from the ground up. He worked his way up as a reporter at WCPX-Channel 6; assistant news director and anchor at WESH-Channel 2; and as news anchor, reporter and producer for WDBO-580 AM. Later in 1997, Scott was instrumental in launching News Channel 13, where he remained until this year. With his passing, Central Floridians lost a respected member of our community and a real star.

Scott is fondly remembered for his wisdom, humility and kindness. The sheer power of his personality made a dramatic impact upon the lives of many in Central Florida, both professionally and personally. When relaxing, Scott enjoyed the tranquility of sailing and the challenge of golfing.

Actually, Scott Harris is a stage name. Born Vincent McGough, he graduated from both Edgewater High School and the University of

Central Florida. Scott proudly served our country in the U.S. Air Force prior to his lifelong career in broadcast journalism.

Scott is survived by his son Emery McGough of Central Florida, and three siblings, Jane McGough of New York City, Sue McGough of Central Florida and Tom McGough of Tallahassee.

Mr. Speaker, it is our privilege to recognize Scott Harris' contributions to our Nation and the great State of Florida. I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives of the 112th Congress to join me in remembering this great American.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 8, 2011 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 12

4 p.m.

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Joseph H. Gale, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court, Michael W. Punke, of Montana, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative, with the Rank of Ambassador, and Islam A. Siddiqui, of Virginia, to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, both of the Executive Office of the President, Paul Piquado, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce, and David S. Johanson, of Texas, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission.

SD-215

SEPTEMBER 13

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Ashton B. Carter, of Massachusetts, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine housing finance reform, focusing on if there should a government guarantee.

SD-538

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Primary Health and Aging Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine poverty.

SD-430

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine ten years after 9/11, focusing on if we are safer.

SD-342

Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Civil Rights Division.

SD-226

2 p.m.

Finance

Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Growth Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine whether there is a role for tax reform in comprehensive deficit reduction and United States fiscal policy.

SD-215

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine agro-defense, focusing on responding to threats against America's agriculture and food system.

SD-628

SEPTEMBER 14

9:30 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Securities, Insurance and Investment Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine emerging issues in insurance regulation.

SD-538

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine securing the pharmaceutical supply chain.

SD-430

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the "Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act", focusing on renewing the commitment to victims of human trafficking.

SD-226

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine moving intercity passenger rail into the future.

SR-253

2 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Housing, Transportation and Community Development Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine new ideas for refinancing and restructuring mortgage loans.

SD-538

Armed Services

Personnel Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine general and flag officer requirements.

SR-232A

SEPTEMBER 15

10 a.m.

Finance

To hold hearings to examine tax reform options, focusing on promoting retirement security.

SD-215

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the future of employment for people with the most significant disabilities.

SD-106

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine tribal transportation, focusing on paving the way for jobs, infrastructure, and safety in native communities.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine improving financial accountability at the Department of Defense.

SD-342

SEPTEMBER 21

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentation of The American Legion.

SDG-50

2 p.m.

Judiciary

Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Google, focusing on consumers and competition.

SD-226

SEPTEMBER 22

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the "Tribal Law and Order Act" one year later, focusing on improved public safety and justice throughout Indian country.

SD-628

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, September 8, 2011

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBSTER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 8, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL WEBSTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

HOUSE CONGRESSIONAL PAGES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, tonight is a very historic joint session of Congress. Indeed, it is unique in the history of our Nation.

Not because it was the first time a President's request had been refused by the Speaker. No. Or that the President's speech, in and of itself, is somehow going to be extraordinary, although we all hope that it is.

This event is historic because for the first time in two centuries, there will be no young House pages in attendance when the President takes the podium behind me. There will be no sea of young men and women in blue blazers with bright faces intent on shaking the President's hand and drinking in the ceremony and the significance of a joint session of Congress.

This is sad on so many levels, especially as a symbol of why Congress is held in such low esteem. Many here understand the cost of a program but fail to understand its value.

Dedicated staff were dismissed without notice in a decision that was an-

nounced via press release without a chance for the people who care passionately about the program to argue for its future or help pay for it. It may save a few million dollars, but we lose the opportunity to enrich thousands of lives whose influence and contributions have spread across the decades and across America, while strengthening and uplifting this institution. This is part of a disturbing trend here in Congress, devaluing youth and civic education.

Also scheduled for elimination is the Classroom Law Project sponsored "We the People" program and the national high school Constitution competition that takes place every year all across the country. This is at a time when our friend, the esteemed documentary producer, Ken Burns, points out that the average teenager can name eight kinds of blue jeans but can't name eight American Presidents. Yet Federal support for civic education is not on the radar screen here in Washington, D.C.

This is not really any different than the other basic infrastructure that is falling victim to reckless budget knives and congressional indifference. The young people who participate in the page program and the Classroom Law Project could easily construct a path forward for this Congress and the President.

These young people would craft a path forward that featured a balanced and fair revenue system that would raise revenue and reduce the deficit. They would accelerate health care reform, not put sand in the gears. They would right-size and redirect our military involvement, and they would reform agricultural programs to help more family farms and ranchers while saving money.

These alumni could figure it out, while those who control the levers of power in the House pursue an extreme agenda that is not what America needs or what Americans want. These young people, the pages, may not be in attendance here this evening, but their absence speaks volumes about political dysfunction and a shortsighted agenda.

I hope we will all listen to them.

CHIEF ENFORCER OF THE LAW OR CHIEF IGNORER OF THE LAW?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I come today to talk to you about something pretty basic—that is our Con-

stitution, the way our Constitution was set up. We all learned in civics that this body, Congress, writes the laws for the people.

Down the street the Supreme Court interprets that law, they judge that law. And the executive branch is the branch of government that we expect through our Constitution to execute the law or enforce the law. In fact, our Constitution in article II states specifically about the President and gives the President a job and a duty that no other person in this country has under our Constitution.

Besides taking the oath to uphold the Constitution, article II, section 3, says that the President shall "take care that the laws be faithfully executed", that the laws are in the hands of the President, and he is to take care that he fulfills his obligation to execute those laws, to follow those laws. That's the way our Constitution is set up, but that is not occurring. Because, you see, we have laws in this country that this body has passed that the administration doesn't want to enforce.

In fact, recently, the administration sent down an edict through its administrative agencies and said no longer will the President be the chief enforcer of the law. He will, in my opinion, become the chief ignorer of the law, the immigration laws. Because, you see, Immigration Services has decided, well, we are really not going to enforce the law that applies to all of those people that are here in the United States illegally.

So we are going to defer action. What does that mean? Here's what it means, Mr. Speaker. It means that people who have been charged with being in the country illegally, who are waiting for their hearings, waiting to be deported, they are going to get a pass if they haven't committed some serious crime or some other condition that Immigration Services has outlined.

And if people are in this country illegally and they haven't committed a violent crime, well, they are going to get a pass too. They are not going to be deported because the law will not be enforced. The action of prosecuting them will be deferred indefinitely.

Now, whether it's a good idea or not to let certain people stay in the country because of certain reasons is not the issue. The issue is Congress has not authorized this so-called prosecutorial discretion. I was a prosecutor, many Members were prosecutors. Before I was a judge, I was a prosecutor.

Prosecutorial discretion means this: A case comes before the prosecutors'

office and you read the case and you find out, hey, this person may not be guilty or there is no evidence to prove they did this. So you dismiss that case because the person is innocent.

The law sets up reasons for why there is prosecutorial discretion, but not so anymore. The Administration has written exceptions to the law. There are 20 reasons, Immigration Services says—by no means these are exhaustive—why people should not be deported any longer.

What that means is Immigration Services has given a list of reasons, well, we are not going to deport these people for these reasons. They don't have that authority. Congress writes the laws, not the administration. And just because the administration doesn't like the law gives them no authority to say we are going to ignore certain laws for this reason. I notice that this memo that came out from Immigration Service came out while Congress was in recess.

The chief enforcer of the law has the duty to enforce the rule of law. We write them, the President enforces it. Whether the President, the administration, Immigration Services likes it or not, they are going to enforce the rule of law and not come out with some memo saying, well, here are some exceptions to the law, we are just not going to get around to deporting people because of these numerous reasons.

□ 1010

In essence, the administration has altered the law by edict—or by memo in this case. It is the obligation of the chief enforcer of the law to enforce the rule of law, not to give a pass to certain people that are in this country illegally because of certain reasons. I don't know the reason why the President has made this decision. People can conjecture up their own reasons why certain folks are getting a pass.

But it is great news for people who are in the country illegally. It's great news for people who are coming to the country illegally. The Government is saying: "It's okay to stay in America as long as you don't commit some serious crime in the United States." And it is an obligation of the President to enforce the law, enforce the immigration laws that we write and not become the chief ignorer of the laws.

And that's just the way it is.

EXERCISING PROSECUTORIAL DISCRETION CONSISTENT WITH THE PRIORITIES OF THE AGENCY FOR THE APPREHENSION, DETENTION, AND REMOVAL OF ALIENS

FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN EXERCISING PROSECUTORIAL DISCRETION

When weighing whether an exercise of prosecutorial discretion may be warranted for a given alien, ICE officers, agents, and attorneys should consider all relevant factors, including, but not limited to—

the agency's civil immigration enforcement priorities;

the person's length of presence in the United States, with particular consideration given to presence while in lawful status;

the circumstances of the person's arrival in the United States and the manner of his or her entry, particularly if the alien came to the United States as a young child;

the person's pursuit of education in the United States, with particular consideration given to those who have graduated from a U.S. high school or have successfully pursued or are pursuing a college or advanced degrees at a legitimate institution of higher education in the United States;

whether the person, or the person's immediate relative, has served in the U.S. military, reserves, or national guard, with particular consideration given to those who served in combat;

the person's criminal history, including arrests, prior convictions, or outstanding arrest warrants;

the person's immigration history, including any prior removal, outstanding order of removal, prior denial of status, or evidence of fraud;

whether the person poses a national security or public safety concern;

the person's ties and contributions to the community, including family relationships;

the person's ties to the home country and conditions in the country;

the person's age, with particular consideration given to minors and the elderly;

whether the person has a U.S. citizen or permanent resident spouse, child, or parent;

whether the person is the primary caretaker of a person with a mental or physical disability, minor, or seriously ill relative;

whether the person or the person's spouse is pregnant or nursing;

whether the person or the person's spouse suffers from severe mental or physical illness;

whether the person's nationality renders removal unlikely;

whether the person is likely to be granted temporary or permanent status or other relief from removal, including as a relative of a U.S. citizen or permanent resident;

whether the person is likely to be granted temporary or permanent status or other relief from removal, including as an asylum seeker, or a victim of domestic violence, human trafficking, or other crime; and

whether the person is currently cooperating or has cooperated with federal, state or local law enforcement authorities, such as ICE, the U.S. Attorneys or Department of Justice, the Department of Labor, or National Labor Relations Board, among others.

This list is not exhaustive and no one factor is determinative. ICE officers, agents, and attorneys should always consider prosecutorial discretion on a case-by-case basis. The decisions should be based on the totality of the circumstances, with the goal of conforming to ICE's enforcement priorities.

FOOD INSECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, every year the Department of Agriculture collects, analyzes, and releases a report detailing the amount of domestic food insecurity. Yesterday, USDA released this report. This may sound like a wonkish, policy-driven report, but it is one of the most important reports written and released by any Federal agency. Simply put, Mr. Speaker, this is a report about hunger in America.

Our country is going through very difficult economic times; the most difficult since the Great Depression. One of the results of this recession has been an increase in hunger. Families who have lost their jobs or have seen their incomes reduced because of the economy have had a difficult time putting food on their tables. It's common to see families who once volunteered at or donated to local food pantries now stand in line for food from these very same nonprofit organizations. Unfortunately, these organizations have had difficulty meeting the demands they've faced over the past few years.

The good news, I suppose, is that the new USDA report shows that fewer people were food insecure in 2010 than in 2009. The bad news is that there are still 48.8 million Americans who struggled to put food on their tables last year.

Frankly, Mr. Speaker, these numbers are unacceptable. It's unconscionable that even one person in this country goes without food, let alone 48.8 million people. It breaks my heart that 16.2 million of these hungry people are children. That's almost a quarter of the total food insecure population.

President Obama pledged to end childhood hunger by 2015. It's clear, barring some dramatic shifts in policy, he's not going to achieve that goal. I regret that very much; so should every elected Member of this Congress.

While 48.8 million hungry Americans is a daunting figure, it's important to realize that these figures would be much worse if it weren't for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. Formerly known as Food Stamps, SNAP is a true safety net program that helps low-income individuals and families buy groceries. The added benefit of SNAP is that it is also an economic stimulus that benefits local economies. It's a simple concept—for every SNAP dollar spent, \$1.84 goes into the economy.

But despite what SNAP critics may claim, SNAP prevented millions of Americans from going without food. Without a doubt, yesterday's food insecurity numbers would have been much worse if it weren't for SNAP.

Mr. Speaker, hunger is a political condition. We have the means to solve hunger if we muster the political will to do so. SNAP is a proven program, one that prevents hunger while stimulating the economy. It's for both the moral reason and the economic reason that any deficit reduction proposal considered by the Select Committee on Deficit Reduction—the so-called super-committee—must not cut SNAP or do anything that increases hunger and poverty.

Cutting SNAP or similar antihunger programs will increase hunger, an action which I believe is morally indefensible. That's why I will be circulating a

letter urging the 12 members of the select committee not to approve any deficit reduction policies that will increase hunger or poverty in this country. I urge my colleagues, Republican and Democrat, to join with me in this important letter.

A responsibility of government is to protect the most vulnerable people in our country while doing everything we can to ensure that we pass on the strongest country possible to our children and our grandchildren. Cutting SNAP, the program that literally prevents millions of Americans from going hungry, would be wrong. And collectively, we must do everything we can to prevent any actions that increase hunger in America.

These food insecurity numbers are sad and disheartening, but they are also a call to action. We can do better. We must do better.

TAX ON MEDICAL INNOVATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, last year, as part of the new health care reform law, a new \$20 billion tax on medical devices was put in place. Since the day this ill-conceived tax was first proposed on medical innovation, I have said it would reduce access to new life-saving technologies and put American jobs on the line. Yesterday, a study was released that confirms just that. According to the report, this new tax on medical innovation, which goes into effect in January 2013, could cost America as many as 43,000 jobs in just the next several years.

Mr. Speaker, there is still time to repeal this tax. There is still time to pass my bill to prevent this job-crushing tax from being implemented and ensuring that we do everything possible to retain these high paying, high-tech manufacturing jobs here in the United States.

Made in America innovation of medical devices is an American success story. But if we don't stop this new innovation tax, we could see more jobs go overseas and the decline of one of our leading U.S. industries.

PROVEN POLICIES RATHER THAN POLITICAL POSTURING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, America needs jobs, and it's time we focused on proven policies rather than political rhetoric and posturing.

We need a real jobs program that builds on actual successes. The President tonight will be putting forward his job creation proposal. Unfortun-

nately, some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have already decided that they are not even going to come and respect the President's joint appearance tonight. Talk about closed minds.

According to reports, he will call for infrastructure investments and middle class tax relief through an extension of the payroll tax cut, policies we know can create jobs. I look forward to working with the President and those who are willing to work with us on the other side to jump-start our economy and create American jobs.

To that end, I have introduced two bills to incentivize private sector job creation. They include tax cuts and private sector tax incentives, ideas that work, ideas that Republicans traditionally have supported.

I introduced H.R. 11 to extend the successful Build America Bonds program to leverage private sector investment to facilitate needed infrastructure improvements. Repairing bridges, building hospitals, renovating schools create jobs now. During the last 2 years under the Build America Bonds program, for every Federal dollar we invested, we leveraged \$41 of private sector support for more than 2,000 projects in every State and created hundreds of thousands of jobs. Build America Bonds is the kind of public-private partnership that Republicans generally support, and we know from the Recovery Act that they create jobs.

I have also introduced legislation to expand the tax deduction for business startups. Lending and venture capital investments in small businesses, especially startups, continue to lag significantly behind traditional levels. Extending this tax deduction for startup expenses gives entrepreneurs greater certainty for their financial planning and greater incentives to start creating jobs. These tax cuts and small business startups will enable the private sector to do what it does best—create jobs.

Make no mistake: The challenge is daunting. The Great Recession was the worst economic collapse in 80 years. At its height, America was losing 700,000 jobs a month; so Democrats in the last Congress took action. We passed the Recovery Act, which cut taxes for 95 percent of all Americans and increased infrastructure investment, saving and creating hundreds of thousands of construction jobs. We provided educational support to train a more highly skilled workforce. We enacted a hiring tax credit to spur private sector hiring of recently laid off workers, and we saw results. After months of horrific job losses, America began more than 1 year of monthly private sector net job growth, peaking earlier this year with 3 straight months of more than 200,000 private sector jobs created. In fact, in the last 18 months, we created 2.4 million private sector jobs. The public sector, however, has lost jobs every single

month this year. Isn't this the result for which the Republicans actually advocated?

□ 1020

Didn't they tell us that cutting government will free up the private sector? Then why did we have just 17,000 private sector jobs created in August? In fact, the job results this August, with the Republican economic plan in action, continued cutting and zero net jobs created.

It's time we acknowledge that the Republican "cut to create" philosophy cuts the job market and creates only uncertainty. The choice is simple: Politics versus job creation. We're all going to be listening with great attention tonight to the President, and I hope all of us attend.

FINDING COMMON GROUND FOR JOB CREATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOLD. Over the past several weeks, I've had the privilege to meet with people from all over Illinois's 10th Congressional District. Whether I was at a senior center or holding a town hall meeting, one thing was clear: The people are concerned about the economy, and they want Congress to work together to find solutions. Throughout August I toured several factories, held town hall meetings, hosted a job fair where over 600 people attended, and organized meetings with manufacturers and entrepreneurs. At each and every one of these events people eagerly shared their ideas about how to spur the economy. And one thing also was clear, that they were fed up with Washington's politics as usual.

Mr. Speaker, we know Washington doesn't create jobs. Small businesses and entrepreneurs do. But Congress does have the responsibility to create an environment that fosters job creation and removes barriers that stifle innovation and economic growth.

Tonight, Mr. Speaker, we're going to hear from the President. I'm looking forward to finding common ground so that we can put people before politics and progress, before partisanship so we can get America back to work.

WE NEED A BOLD VISION FOR THE ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFazio. We have the economy the tax cuts will give us. Eight years of Bush tax cuts, 2 years of Bush-Obama tax cuts, and now the individual Obama tax cut proposals. We have \$5 trillion borrowed, distributed generally with the Bush tax cuts, principally to the job creators, as the Republicans

call them—millionaires and billionaires—and in little bits to working Americans. It's not working. So why would we do more of the same?

Apparently, the President tonight is going to propose again to extend the Social Security tax holiday. Two things wrong with that, maybe three. One, it's not putting anybody back to work. Two, we borrowed \$110 billion this year to put into the Social Security trust fund because we cut the income of Social Security by \$110 billion. And now we're being told perhaps we should double down. Let's give both the employers and the employees a little bit of a Social Security tax holiday.

That's \$20 a week to someone who earns \$50,000 a year. Not bad. They can use it. It's probably about the difference they pay for filling up their car to get to work. But ExxonMobil isn't hiring. Or maybe they use it to put food on the table for the kids or maybe buy junk from China. It's an old economic theory: Put money in the pockets of Americans and the idle plant capacity in America will rev up and hire Americans to make things in America. We don't make things any more because of failed trade policies. Apparently, failed trade policies are going to be part of this jobs proposal.

Three more Bush free trade proposals now adopted by Obama. That would be a disaster if that's a part of this so-called package. It would be a travesty.

Let's forget about the tax cuts. Let's not just have a little dribble or drab of infrastructure investment. People say, Oh, the stimulus failed. What happened? All your infrastructure investment, 40 percent of that stimulus was tax cuts; 7 percent was investment in infrastructure. Yes, it worked, but it was a pathetically small part of the package in a country that has a \$3 trillion infrastructure deficit, with dams that are failing, levees that are failing, highways that are crumbling, bridges that are falling, transit systems that are based in 19th- and early 20th-century technology; and our competitors are building out a 21st-century infrastructure.

We need a bold vision. We don't need another little dribble or drab in infrastructure. We sure as heck don't need another one of these stupid shovel-ready project things. We need long-term investment. When you do long-term investment, the private companies who build all these projects—these aren't government projects. Taxpayers fund them. The private sector builds them. Many small businesses, they will go out and buy equipment. When they buy equipment, especially if we put Buy America requirements on all these proposals, they'll buy things that will be made in America that will put people back to work in manufacturing.

So this isn't just about construction jobs. It's about manufacturing jobs, it's about engineering jobs, it's about small

business jobs. But it needs to be a major, bold, long-term vision on building a 21st-century infrastructure for America to make us more competitive in the world.

Enough with the tax cuts. They don't work. They don't put people back to work. Guess what? If you don't have a job, you don't get a tax cut, do you? Let's do something for the people who need jobs and for the future of the country and for our kids with a grand long-term vision tonight, not more of the same.

PURPLE HEART HOMES HELPS WOUNDED VETERANS LIVE WITH DIGNITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, over the district work period, I had the chance to attend a celebration sponsored by the Statesville Chamber of Commerce to honor the founders of a remarkable organization called Purple Heart Homes, based in Statesville, North Carolina. John Gallina and Dale Beatty, both combat-wounded disabled veterans, founded Purple Heart Homes in 2008 to help other disabled veterans live with dignity.

Beatty and Gallina were severely injured in Iraq in 2004 when their Humvee was blown up by an anti-tank mine. As a result of their injuries, these two friends discovered a new passion—helping other service-disabled veterans of all ages. Their mission is to provide appropriate housing solutions to disabled veterans at little or no cost. They know firsthand the value of returning home after serving America while deployed, and they understand just how much it means for service-disabled veterans to have a usable and accessible home.

Their leadership, hard work, and commitment to honoring those who have sacrificed so much for their Nation has not gone unnoticed. Last month, Time magazine featured them on its front cover as examples of a new generation of emerging leaders. The people of Statesville and North Carolina could not be more proud of these veterans and their exemplary dedication to serving others.

John Gallina and Dale Beatty have overcome great odds to succeed in their mission of serving others. Their stirring example gives me confidence that they have only just begun to accomplish great things. I hope that many others follow in their footsteps and are inspired to serve those in need.

MEMO TO THE SUPERCOMMITTEE: CUT WAR SPENDING, NOT THE SAFETY NET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from

California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, today the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction holds its first organizational meeting; and it does this as it begins its work on reaching the spending cut benchmarks called for in the debt ceiling compromise.

I have a suggestion for the 12 members who have been entrusted with this responsibility. I know exactly the place they should identify for their savings. It's a government program that's been notorious for waste and cost overruns. It's been cited many times over by neutral experts for its excess and inefficiency. It hasn't achieved its stated goals and it is deeply unpopular with the American people.

I'll give you a hint. It's not Medicare or Social Security. It's not food stamps or unemployment benefits or Pell Grants or WIC. It's not any of the programs that comprise the safety net for our Nation. It's not any initiative designed to lift up the American people and giving them a chance to rise above difficult economic times.

No. It's a decade-long effort that has been fiscally irresponsible, eroded our moral authority around the world, and cost our Nation more than 6,000 precious lives.

□ 1030

That's right, Mr. Speaker, our ongoing wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are the perfect target for the spending cuts our country needs to restore fiscal balance.

I have written a letter to the supercommittee, cosigned by 23 of my colleagues—so far, they're still signing on—strongly urging the committee to take a hard look at the overwhelming crippling costs of these wars. Afghanistan alone is costing the American people at least \$10 billion a month, and to date, Iraq and Afghanistan combined have sucked the Treasury dry to the tune of a staggering \$2.3 trillion—not million, not billion, \$2.3 trillion. Frankly, this would be a rip-off at a fraction of the cost. If these wars were revenue neutral, if they carried no price tag at all, I would say it's not worth it. Just during the month of August, when Congress was in recess, 70 more brave Americans died in Afghanistan, making last month the single deadliest month of this 10-year war.

The notion that things are looking up in Afghanistan is ridiculous on its face. Our continued occupation is impeding progress, not making it; fanning the flames of the insurgency instead of putting them out; making us less safe, not more. And for this, we are asking our people here in the United States to go without.

Less than 12 hours from now, however, the President will be speaking from the Chamber, and he will be talking about his job creation strategy. My

colleagues on the other side of the aisle, I fear, will react by saying we can't spend a dime more to solve our devastating economic crisis and put Americans back to work, yet the overwhelming majority of them have nothing at all to say about the trillions of dollars we've wasted and are continuing to spend on reckless, senseless, immoral wars.

It's true that budgets are about choices. Which will we choose: the human destruction of seemingly endless wars abroad or the pressing human needs we have here at home?

The supercommittee has a big job, Mr. Speaker. It will be grossly irresponsible for them to ignore one of the biggest ticket items when they're making their considerations. Let's help solve our budget crisis and our moral crisis at the same time by bringing our troops home.

JOB CRISIS IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. HURT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the current state of the economy and the jobs crisis that is facing Virginia's Fifth District and our Nation.

The August jobs report that was released last week showed that no net new jobs were added to the economy in the month of August, while unemployment remains unacceptably high at 9.1 percent, underscoring the urgent need for real change in Washington so we can get America working again.

To help jump-start our economy, the House has been laser focused on supporting those policies that seek to remove the Federal Government as a barrier to job creation, to unleash innovation and invite opportunity in the private sector. To this end, the House has already passed several pro-growth measures that could immediately help spur job creation in Virginia's Fifth District and across our country. Unfortunately, the Senate has inexplicably refused to take action on these bills, blocking progress on commonsense solutions that would help turn our economy around at a time when we need it most.

Continuing to build on our efforts in the House to grow the economy and create jobs, the majority leader recently announced the upcoming fall and winter legislative schedule for Congress, which will focus on reducing and repealing unnecessary government regulations to create a more certain economic environment to provide our true job creators with the confidence and the freedom necessary to expand and hire.

I was glad that the Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act, H.R. 1633, a bill I coauthored with Representative NOEM, was included as a part of this

overall agenda on jobs and regulatory relief, and I am glad that the House will take action on this important bipartisan legislation. H.R. 1633 will prohibit the EPA from burdening farmers and small business owners in rural America with additional dust regulations so they can focus on growing their businesses and putting people back to work.

As the President prepares to address a Joint Session of Congress this evening to unveil his latest jobs plan, it is my hope that he will take this opportunity to urge the Senate to act on the bipartisan House-passed jobs bills, move past his failed stimulus measures, abandon his threats of more tax hikes, and join with us in the House in supporting those policies that put our economic recovery in the hands of the people of the Fifth District and all Americans instead of the Federal Government.

OUT OF POVERTY CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, as the ranks of the unemployed continue to swell, all eyes have been focused on the plight of the middle-income working Americans. Many of their fortunes have changed dramatically for the worse. Many have lost their homes to foreclosure, many have seen their retirement accounts all but disappear, and, sadly, many of those who have been out of work for months have fallen below the poverty level.

From 2006 to 2009, more than 7 million Americans joined the ranks of the poor. Next week, on September 13, the Census Bureau will publish its annual report on poverty and income. We expect dire news again. These are not just poor people; they are poor Americans. The vast majority of poor people in this country are not poor because they are lazy and don't want to work or to do better. Many people are poor because they grew up in poverty and could not find the means to escape. They were trapped by failing schools, broken families, poor nutrition, and hopeless conditions.

In recent years, we have witnessed a dramatic increase in the number of children living in poverty. It looked like we were making progress at the turn of the century when the child poverty rate dipped to 16 percent. By 2009, the rate has risen to 21 percent, with 15.5 million children living in poverty. This disturbs me greatly. Children who grew up in poverty are more likely to be poor during adulthood. Children who were born in middle class families have a 76 percent chance of being middle class. Poor children only have a 35 percent chance of escaping poverty.

On Friday, September 16, in conjunction with the National Association of

Social Workers, I will be conducting a forum on The Future of New York City's Children. One thing we will be doing is taking a look at what we are doing for children in poverty. This is still the greatest nation on Earth. We are still the richest nation on Earth. There is just no good reason why so many of our citizens are living in poverty. We must do better.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S SPEECH ON JOB CREATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOUTHERLAND) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. Mr. Speaker, when the President steps into this Chamber tonight, he will be addressing an American public that has grown weary of unfulfilled promises and empty, prepackaged rhetoric. He will be speaking to a restless Nation that grows louder than ever in its demand for strong, visionary leadership from its government leaders. They want solutions.

Not one job was added during the entire month of August. I will remind all of us that it requires 150,000 new jobs each and every month for this country's economy just to break even. For 31 straight months, the unemployment rate has been above 8 percent, the lowest percentage of Americans holding a job in 28 years, over half of my lifetime.

Two hundred nineteen newly planned regulations are on tap for the American people if not stopped, costing over \$100 million each. The average small business with fewer than 20 employees faces yearly regulatory costs of over \$10,000.

□ 1040

Total yearly regulatory costs equal \$1.75 trillion, according to the Small Business Administration. And according to the EPA Numeric Nutrient Criteria Standards, these standards would cost the State of Florida, my home state, over 14,000 agriculture jobs alone. And a GDP, I might say, that grew this year at just 0.4 percent in the first quarter.

The American small business people, Mr. President, deserve real results. They will expect that tonight. They will expect that from this entire body from this point forward.

American small business people are real people, people like Jay Trumbull. Jay is a personal friend I've known for a long time. He lives in my own congressional district. Jay is an independent dealer for Culligan Water, a company with offices in Panama City, Tallahassee, and Fort Walton Beach. He has been in business for over 30 years delivering water purification systems and installing water softeners and drilling wells throughout north and northwest Florida.

Jay told me that he's never seen conditions as bad as during the past 3 years of this administration. Over the last 3 years, Jay estimates that his personal business has dropped over 25 percent. Jay says that continued economic uncertainty has made it very difficult, almost impossible for him to expand his work force and to purchase new work vehicles.

He has said that he receives 25 to 30 job inquiries each and every week, people seeking employment, but he says he's stuck in a "holding pattern" due to this administration's failed economic policies.

We've all heard similar stories. With 25 million Americans who are unemployed or underemployed, we can all count family, friends, and neighbors among those who are struggling to find work.

The American people will be listening very closely tonight to this address. They will be hoping, they will be praying that this President acknowledges we need to chart a new course. Government doesn't create jobs, but it certainly, certainly can destroy them.

We need tonight to reduce regulatory burdens on our small businesses. Small businesses make up 85 percent of this Nation's economy. We need to streamline our Tax Code to spur investment and create jobs.

We need to help the American manufacturers be more competitive. We need to expand access to safe, affordable American-made energy. And of course, we all know we should, by now, that we must pay down our crushing burden of our debt. Mortgaging our children's future is immoral. It is unacceptable.

That is the agenda that the American people want to hear about tonight, Mr. President. And until we do our jobs here in Washington, the American people will continue to find it harder and harder, if not impossible, to do theirs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

CONGRESSIONAL OUT OF POVERTY CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as one of the founding cochairs of the Congressional Out of Poverty Caucus to, once again, bring to light an issue that we have swept under the rug for far too long: The fact that millions of children, families and adults are living in poverty in America.

Last month, the Annie Casey Foundation released its KIDS COUNT Data Book, which includes state-by-state rankings and data on child well-being in the United States.

It's a tragedy, Mr. Speaker, that this report reveals that the child poverty rate increased 18 percent from 2000 to 2009. Eighteen percent. Every gain in the fight against child poverty across America in the 1990s was lost from the year 2000 to 2009.

We now have 2.4 million more children across America living below the Federal poverty line. It's a moral outrage that, in this prosperous country, so many of our children are suffering, and we know that the impact is far worse in communities of color.

While the national child poverty rate is a staggering 20 percent, when we break it down, we find some tragic and heart-wrenching numbers. The child poverty rate for non-Hispanic White children is 12 percent. For African American children it's 36 percent. For American Indian and Alaska Native children, it's 35 percent. For Hispanic and Latino children, it's 31 percent. And for Asian American and Pacific Islanders, the rate is 13 percent. But among Southeast Asian American children, the poverty rate is 22 percent.

These statistics, these children, this childhood poverty rate, this is unacceptable. This data confirms what we've seen in our communities all along—the irresponsible fiscal policies of the prior administration plunged working families, especially those in communities of color, into poverty.

This report also reveals the impact of the Great Recession on children and their families. Nearly 8 million children lived with at least one parent who was actively seeking employment but was unemployed in 2010. This is double the number in 2007, just 3 years earlier.

That's why I again call upon the Speaker to bring my legislation and Congressman SCOTT's legislation, H.R. 589, to the floor for an up-or-down vote immediately, to help millions of children with job-seeking parents to get out of poverty.

We have 13.9 million people out of work, 6.2 million of whom are long-term unemployed. Worse yet, these numbers do not include those people across this country who have given up on trying to get a job or those who are unemployed.

And communities of color continue to carry the burden of higher unemployment rates than the national average of 9.1 percent. African Americans have an unemployment rate of 16.7 percent, and Latinos an unemployment rate of 11.3 percent. So the legislation I referenced increases unemployment compensation by 14 weeks for what we call the 99ers.

Our Nation has a job crisis, and this is a national emergency requiring significant investment in the programs and projects that not only better our country but put Americans back to work. That's why the cochairs of the Out of Poverty Caucus, Congressman JOE BACA, Congressman BUTTERFIELD,

Congressmen CONYERS and MIKE HONDA, we sent a letter to the President asking him to create a big and bold jobs plan that will address the needs of workers and those seeking work across this country. This will result in helping our economy, our communities, and our Nation's children.

While we believe that the investment could and should take many forms, we urge President Obama to include key programs and proposals that will support low income people and grow our economy: Restoring TANF; maintaining the emergency extension of unemployment insurance benefits, extend these benefits by 14 weeks; expand targeted Federal on-the-job training programs; expand Federal programs that support, train and focus on youth; initiate a work-sharing program that would subsidize wages at firms that manage to substitute shorter hours for layoffs.

We look to President Obama to present a bold package of direct investment which is aimed at our Nation's most vulnerable, those facing or living in poverty.

And most importantly, we look to the Republican majority to stop obstructing Democratic efforts to put people back to work. I urge the Republicans to end their "no jobs" agenda that makes it easier for corporations to send American jobs overseas, protects tax breaks for Big Oil, and ends Medicare. I hope they know that to make it in America, we must Make It In America.

ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I came back from a trip to Israel, and I wanted to share with my colleagues some of the things that are going on currently in the Middle East and some of the things that will happen within the next couple of weeks.

First of all, it's always a pleasure to visit Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East. It's a pleasure to watch. Last Saturday night there were demonstrations throughout Israel, the young people, in the democratic way, voicing their feelings about important issues, just like we do here in the United States, and the people in Israel who are doing this. In a region where you have governments in Syria killing their own people, demonstrations and soldiers firing on people in Libya and Egypt, in Israel you have peaceful demonstrations and no fear of the police or the military harming people because Israel is a full-fledged democracy, just like we are, just like the United States is, and it was a pleasure to be in that country.

□ 1050

There are several things that are happening during the next few weeks,

and a number of them are at the United Nations in my home city in New York.

The Palestinian leadership has decided that it will go to the United Nations to try to get a declaration of statehood. Now, that is something that I believe, and any reasonable person believes, should be decided in face-to-face negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

In any dispute anywhere in the world, the only way that you can resolve the issue is if the two adversaries sit down and hammer out the issues—not by going to the United Nations, which is, frankly, a kangaroo court against Israel. There are so many resolutions that get passed year in and year out against Israel. Israel can never have a fair shake.

And thinking the Palestinians are thinking that if they go there somehow or other they will have a state, in reality it will make it even worse.

Because what happens is if the United Nations declares a Palestinian state, that shows that there need not be any negotiations. And down the line, the Palestinian leadership will not be able to settle for anything less than what the resolution says. And no Israeli government, frankly, can agree to what a likely resolution is likely to say. And it will set back the cause of negotiation and the cause of peace even greater.

So I would say to the countries of the United Nations not to do a knee-jerk reaction, but to think about what will really bring peace to the region. A two-state solution, which I support—a Palestinian state and Israel living side by side in peace—that is what we want. And I should say the Jewish State of Israel and an Arab-Palestinian state living side-by-side in peace.

If the Palestinians truly want peace, they can get it. They can get it by face-to-face negotiations, not by running to the United Nations and having a resolution that will set back the cause of peace for many, many years to come.

Now, another thing that's happened in the region has been frankly the belligerence of Turkey with Israel. Turkey is a NATO nation, but for some reason the leadership in Turkey has decided that they want to look away from democracy. They want to look towards Iran and towards the Middle East. So they have become increasingly hostile towards Israel.

And we have, of course, the flotilla incident where Israel has a blockade of Gaza because the Hamas terrorist organization is in Gaza and in control of Gaza, and Israel has to be very, very sure that it protects its citizens from terrorism. We have had rockets and rockets and rocket barrages fired into Israel from Gaza, Israeli citizens being killed. No country would ever allow that to happen.

If we had a situation where terrorists were firing missiles at us from any of the border countries, Mexico or Canada, we wouldn't stand for it for a second. We would go in and clean out the terrorists that are threatening our civilian population.

Israel has the absolute right to do that. And the United Nations, in a rare instance where it agreed with Israel, just came out with a report saying that the Israeli blockade of Gaza to prevent weapons and weaponry from killing Israeli citizens was legal.

So of course we had the flotilla. It came from Turkey. And there was an incident that they were trying to break the blockade. And there was an incident. And of course what happened with it was the people were killed. And Turkey has used that as an excuse to be belligerent against Israel.

I would say to Turkey they ought to stop the nonsense, act more like a NATO country, and act more like a country that wants to go into the European Union, not a country that is sympathetic to extremism and not a country that is saying the most belligerent things. Just tone down and scale back its diplomatic recognition with Israel. I ask Turkey to act like a NATO nation.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 55 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Clark Johnson, First Southern Baptist Church, Topeka, Kansas, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, we begin our day by humbly thanking You for Your love, from which comes the blessings of life. Among those blessings, none seems more important or more needed to this legislative body than the gift of wisdom.

We pray that each Member of this Congress will seek the wisdom that comes from You. We are thankful for the leaders who use that wisdom to discern direction and implement the right course of action to enrich the lives of the citizens they represent. And I pray for them personally, the demands made upon them, the heavy burdens and responsibility, the lifestyle interruptions, that they will physically, men-

tally, and emotionally remain steadfast to the task.

Lord, we collectively lift our Nation to You, that it will be a blessing to You and to those to whom we're involved with throughout the world.

It is in the name of Jesus that we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. CHU led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING PASTOR CLARK JOHNSON

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

(Ms. JENKINS asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased this morning to welcome a fellow Kansan to the halls of Congress. Pastor Clark Johnson is here today serving as Guest Chaplain to the House of Representatives, and I have to say it was a nice start to the day with a prayer infused with a little Kansas spirit.

Pastor Johnson joined the Topeka community in 1989 when he accepted the call to become senior pastor of the First Southern Baptist Church in Topeka, and over the last 20 years, Pastor Johnson has built a true family at his church with members steadfastly working together for the greater glory of Our Lord and Savior.

Kansas and Topeka are so blessed to have Pastor Johnson in our community, and the House is especially blessed to have Pastor Johnson with us today. I want to thank him for his service, and wish him well for many years to come.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

EMPOWERING PARENTS THROUGH QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans today are seeking to empower parents through the Empowering Parents Through Quality Charter Schools Act.

Charter schools are public schools created through a contract with an authorized agency or local school district. This bipartisan legislation encourages states to support the expansion and development of charter schools. It allows for successful charter school models to be duplicated. Finally, it accounts for an evaluation of the impact charter schools have on students, families, and communities. More importantly, it encourages the sharing of best practices between charter and traditional public schools.

Charter schools enable parents to have a more active role in their children's education. They pave the way for teachers to introduce fresh teaching methods while providing a viable option for students to escape from underperforming schools. This legislation is important to the educational needs of our Nation's families and children.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

JOBS

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, American families are profoundly worried. Many have lost their jobs. They've seen college tuition rise, and watched their nest egg shrink. Unemployment is stuck at 9.1 percent. You can feel the pain.

That is why a jobs bill is so critical. And yet, after 9 months of the Republicans taking over the House, they haven't passed a single jobs bill. Instead, they voted 10 times against job creation plans. They passed bills that gut millions of American jobs.

And Governor Perry even attacked one of the few programs still keeping Americans afloat, calling Social Security "a Ponzi scheme," blaming seniors for defrauding younger generations.

Americans need more than empty promises. Tonight we will hear a proposal from the President. Let's work together to finally provide real solutions that will put people back to work and give them hope for the future.

AN AUTUMN GROWTH AGENDA

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, over the last months I've had the privilege to travel across the 14th Congressional District in Illinois. I've met with hundreds of my constituents at town hall meetings, coffee shops, diners, and in their workplaces. Over and over I heard the same concern about our economy and our Nation.

We talked about how to get our economy moving again, and many of my constituents are convinced that we must get government out of the way, cut spending, cut redtape, keep taxes low. They know, as I do, that government itself cannot create jobs. They know that the best thing we can do to help our economy is to create a pro-growth environment, reasonable regulations, fiscal sanity, and a cleaner, fairer Tax Code.

I'm pleased that that will be our agenda here in the House this fall, and I look forward to serving my constituents by giving our job creators the certainty they need to expand, hire, and get our economy moving again.

RESTARTING OUR ECONOMY

(Mr. MORAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, tonight the President will try, once again, to restart this economy. But the problem is not with the President or his policies. It's here with the House majority who will oppose whatever he proposes. They will say that we tried the stimulus and it didn't work. But one of the reasons why the economy is slowing down is that stimulus dollars are drying up.

They will say that we need to cut corporate tax rates. But corporate after-tax profits are at an all-time high. They will say that we need to deregulate the financial markets, but it was that kind of deregulation that put us into this mess in the first place.

What we need is the faith to invest in this country's future. There are \$2.2 trillion of infrastructure projects that need to be funded. Every billion dollars that goes into this country's infrastructure creates 47,500 more jobs and, in fact, generates \$6.2 billion of additional economic activity.

That's what we need to do. That will work. That will make our country stronger, will reduce the deficit and will put people back to work.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE LATE SERGEANT DARRELL CURLEY

(Mr. GOSAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the memory of the

late Sergeant Darrell Curley of the Navajo Police Department who, after 26 years of dedicated service, lost his life in the line of duty on June 25, 2011.

Sergeant Curley was killed in the line of fire responding to a call in his community, Kaibeto, where he lived with his wife, Pauline, and three children, Arielle, Bronte, and Derrick.

Sergeant Curley was a dependable public servant and an outstanding family man whose smile is remembered warmly by those who knew him. He also was recently appointed to a position of leadership within his faith community, as second counselor in the Bishopric of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Kaibeto.

Sergeant Curley was a kind man who was always willing to do for others, dedicating his life to improving the safety and security of the people of the Navajo Reservation, where he was raised and lived his life.

It is outstanding individuals like Sergeant Curley that have the experience and courage to serve and protect our communities, as well as put their lives in danger for the safety of others. My thoughts and prayers are with Sergeant Curley's family, the Navajo Nation, and the broader northern Arizona law enforcement community for such an outstanding individual.

□ 1210

MAKE IT IN AMERICA

(Ms. HOCHUL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, this summer I heard one message over and over as I visited my district: We need to create a jobs program to get our people back to work.

I was sent to Washington to work with anybody and everybody who's willing to put aside the partisan bickering and get the job done for Americans. Yet we wasted a tremendous amount of time this summer fighting over the debt ceiling and issues that had nothing to do with creating jobs in this country. Starting today, let's get back to work.

I've got to tell you, folks, I was also very offended when I was at an Akron "Congress on Your Corner," when a Marine held up a cap that said "United States Marine Corps" on the top and it was made in China. I've got an amazing company right back in my district, New Era Cap, that could have made that.

Let's get people back to work working in America. Make it in America. Let's get the job done.

JOBS

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, while working in Florida during August, I hosted two small business roundtables because I wanted to hear from my constituents on how the Federal Government can best help the small business community. Their message was loud and clear: Washington needs to get out of the way so small businesses can innovate, grow, and create desperately needed jobs.

Burdensome regulations, the crippling costs of Federal health care reform, and uncertainty surrounding the Tax Code are holding businesses back from making crucial decisions.

Jeff, a constituent who owns a moving company, told me, "GUS, I have money in the bank. I'd love to do something with it, but I can't when everything is so uncertain."

Reducing unnecessary regulations and simplifying the Tax Code would help provide the certainty that business owners like Jeff need to make the decisions that drive the economy forward.

WORDS OF JOHN ADAMS

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. "I fear that in every assembly, members will obtain an influence by noise, not sense. By meanness, not greatness. By contracted hearts, not large souls."

Mr. Speaker, John Adams wrote those words to his wife over 200 years ago, but the same fear lives today. Congress is back in town and all anyone wants to know is when, not if, we will tear each other apart. I think we are better than that.

As we move into September and tonight's address, let's remember how John ended that letter to Abigail: "There must be decency and respect, and veneration introduced for persons of authority of every rank, or we are undone. In a popular government," wrote Adams, "this is our only way."

PLAN FOR AMERICA'S JOB CREATORS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the seasons may be changing but our Nation's jobs crisis is not. With unemployment still at 9.1 percent and no measurable job growth in August, I'm glad to hear that this administration is ready to find common ground with Republicans to help create jobs.

But before he addresses the Nation tonight, the President should take a close look at our Plan for America's Job Creators and know that House Republicans have already paved the path to job growth for him.

So far this year, House Republicans have passed more than a dozen bills

that do exactly what countless employers around the country are asking of Washington: Get out of the way so that our private sector can begin creating jobs again.

This fall, we'll continue to roll back job-killing regulations and rebuild long-term confidence for job creators. We all hope the President will join us in this effort.

RELIEF FOR HURRICANE IRENE VICTIMS

(Mr. WELCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, the scene to my right is a typical scene in Vermont. It's the result of the fury of Hurricane Irene. The damage to homeowners, to businesses, to the State infrastructure is immense.

This scene inflicted itself on 47 districts represented by Members of this House of Representatives. The fury of Irene was indiscriminate in who was on the receiving end of a very bad storm. That was an act of God. The relief will come as a result of an act of Congress.

Republicans represent Democrats in their districts; Democrats represent Republicans in our districts. We have a mutual responsibility to work together to get the tools back to those first responders, to those municipalities, to those volunteer firefighters who are doing the very hard work in each and every one of our districts to recover from Hurricane Irene.

Mr. Speaker, we had a meeting this morning of a coalition to fight for relief for Hurricane Irene. We're going to get the funds back to our first responders, to our municipalities and States, to our families so that they can get the job done.

JOBS AND IMMIGRATION

(Mr. BROOKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, this morning a "jobs now" protest and chant reverberated through the Rayburn House Office Building.

Per a 2009 study by the Pew Hispanic Center, 7.8 million illegal aliens hold jobs in America.

Mr. Speaker, there is a surefire way to create jobs now for American citizens: Evict all illegal aliens from America and immediately open up millions of jobs for American citizens. That also forces blue-collar wages up, helping American families afford and pursue the American Dream.

Unfortunately, the White House chases a different dream, a nightmare that pits unemployed Americans against illegal aliens in a competition for scarce jobs. The DREAM Act gives amnesty for millions of illegal aliens,

thereby legitimizing illegal conduct and depriving American citizens of job opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, Congress and the White House must create jobs now for American citizens. We must fight for American citizens, not for illegal aliens.

WE NEED TO GET TO WORK

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, this August I was home holding town hall meetings, meeting with chambers, senior centers. The message was the same: Congress should stop the bickering, get to work, and get some results.

Coming back here, we've got a lot of work to do. We've got a budget that's going to expire at the end of this month, transportation and infrastructure which will expire, Federal aviation, small business, research and development, disaster relief—and, by the way, the post office is about to go bankrupt. Yet with all of these to-do items and 21 days left in this month, the leadership of this House has only scheduled 5 full working days. That is a schedule that would make Homer Simpson blush.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the leadership of this House to scrap that schedule, get us to work, get these issues done, create some certainty in this country and some confidence that Washington can get the job done and stop the lackadaisical do-nothing schedule which is leading this country totally without trust and confidence about whether or not we as a Nation can address the challenges facing us.

SHOOTINGS IN CARSON CITY, NEVADA

(Mr. PALAZZO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 11 victims of the shooting in Carson City, Nevada, including five of my fellow National Guardsmen.

As a member of the Mississippi Army National Guard, I have the utmost respect for what these men and women do on a daily basis and the trials and tribulations that go along with being a citizen soldier. They risk danger and loss of life every time they put on the uniform. They should not have to face danger in their own backyards.

Unfortunately, the sacrifices that many of these soldiers and their families make for our country go largely unnoticed by many Americans. I hope that my colleagues in the House will join me in commending the work our National Guard does every day both here and overseas.

I hope for a quick recovery for all of those injured, and my thoughts and

prayers go out to the families of the members that were killed by this senseless act of violence.

□ 1220

THE SUPERCOMMITTEE AND ITS GOAL OF SOLVING AMERICA'S FISCAL CRISIS

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, the supercommittee begins its work this week with the goal of setting a course for fiscal stability. We absolutely need to reduce the debt and deficit, but we need to do it in a responsible and balanced manner that supports and rebuilds the middle class.

Nobody is more patriotic and nobody knows more about sacrifice than brave Americans who serve their Nation in the military. A retired Navy pilot who flew 215 missions during his career wrote to my office to stress that every American should contribute to a solution, especially those in his income bracket. The retired pilot now makes over \$250,000 a year in the private sector and is eager to do whatever he can to help put the Nation back on track fiscally.

The debt crisis impacts every American, and every American should contribute to the solution. We are all in this together. It is the wrong approach to put the entire burden on those struggling the most in the economic downturn, such as the middle class, the unemployed, or seniors.

I urge the committee members to adopt a balanced approach to solving our fiscal crisis.

CREATING JOBS THROUGH COMMONSENSE SOLUTIONS

(Mr. SCALISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, tonight the President is going to be addressing this Chamber, and the focus is going to be on jobs. Frankly, I hope that the President doesn't give us an instant replay of the first 2 years of his administration, where he tries to push more stimulus spending that didn't work, where he tries to push more bailouts to States that didn't work. What we need to focus on are commonsense solutions that can bring us all together that will actually be proven to create jobs.

If you look at some of the legislation we've already passed out of the House, just to get our people back to work, exploring for American energy could create over 250,000 jobs. There are free trade agreements for Panama, Colombia, and South Korea sitting on the President's desk, trade agreements he has refused to act on, that would create over 350,000 American jobs.

There is bill after bill, but there is regulation after regulation that is holding back our ability to create jobs as you talk to small business owners across the country. The President even acknowledged when he rolled back the ozone standard that EPA is out of control.

We've got to roll back these crazy regulations that are killing jobs as well. That's the solution to this problem that will get our economy back on track.

THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, Sunday marks the 10th anniversary of one of our Nation's most tragic days. This weekend, we remember and honor those we lost and those they left behind. In the days and months following these attacks, our Nation was in mourning, but there was also hope as we came together to build a stronger country. This anniversary, let us reawaken that spirit.

Ten years ago, we stood on the Capitol steps, Republicans and Democrats alike, in a show of national unity and resolve. The spirit of that moment was only a tiny symbolic action dwarfed by the enormous outpouring of kindness and volunteerism across this Nation, but it is one we clearly need to see again. Let us once again channel the strength we found in the aftermath of 9/11 and begin a new chapter in rebuilding America.

TOGETHER AS A NATION THROUGH NATURAL DISASTERS OR ECONOMIC HARDSHIP

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, as Hurricane Irene roared through the East, central New Jersey braced for the winds. Our towns and homes were battered by the winds and experienced even more damage from the water. Our thoughts and our efforts are with those people injured and harmed, and our heartfelt sympathy goes to those who lost loved ones, including the family of Michael Kenwood, a rescue worker who died on duty.

Today, water is now coming back to exact further vengeance with even greater floods in some areas in New Jersey. Many are helping, including FEMA—yes, a government agency. Whether it is a natural disaster, a terrorist attack or economic hardships, Americans pull together as a Nation. It is unwise for anyone to suggest that people are on their own to deal with a natural disaster or to find work.

LET'S BUILD A STRONGER AMERICA

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, our unemployed are hurting, and America's infrastructure is crumbling. It would seem morally indefensible and fiscally irresponsible not to take the opportunity to help solve one problem by addressing the other.

The latest data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that 14 million Americans are looking for jobs while the total number of job openings is just over 3 million. So if every single job is miraculously filled overnight, there would still be 11 million unemployed Americans looking for work and needing jobs. At the same time, all across America, there is work that urgently needs to be done. Our bridges, our roads, our schools, and other infrastructure are structurally deficient.

The two most important responsibilities this Congress faces are keeping Americans safe and helping to create jobs. This is our chance to do both. Let's choose to build a stronger America through making it in America and building it in America with American workers.

THE AMERICAN WAY

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the American people sent us here to work together and are tired of the partisan bickering and the finger-pointing. I think it's very important tonight, as we listen to the President talk about creating jobs, that we work together to work with him; and I hope my Republican friends on the other side of the aisle don't summarily reject what the President is saying just to play politics.

We need to create jobs in this country. Many years ago, Franklin Delano Roosevelt decided that, in order to get America back to work, he would create infrastructure jobs from the government. I think that is something that we should do, and I hope the President mentions it tonight. We have crumbling roads, crumbling bridges, and all kinds of things that could put America back to work.

Let's not have a repetition of what happened a month or so ago when Standard & Poor's downgraded the United States in terms of finances. Let's work together. Let's work with our President. Let's support him as he tries to create more jobs.

Less finger-pointing, more working together. That is the American way.

IT'S AS EASY AS ABC

□ 1230

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Tonight, our President will speak to us and all America and will call on Congress to put America back to work and our economy back on a stronger track to recovery. House and Senate Democrats have kept up a steady drumbeat for jobs since we convened in January.

As our Democratic leader says, it's as easy as ABC—make it in America; build our infrastructure; and focus on community recovery, which so many parts of our country desperately need right now after tornadoes, storms, floods and fires, with more storms to come.

I support our President's call to action and ask all of my colleagues to do the same, but I also hope that we in Congress can make sure the jobs package we pass is big enough to do the job. We are where we are now because we listened to the deficit hawks and agreed to a Recovery Act that was not big enough to bring us out of the recession.

Our constituents all over this country are hurting, and I really hope we can put aside partisanship and put them first. We can get an important two-for because job creation is also deficit reduction. When we make sure our fellow Americans can take care of their families, we will also be making sure America can begin to take care of its debt.

SOCIAL SECURITY IS NOT A PONZI SCHEME

(Ms. FUDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I spend a lot of time at home talking to my senior citizens. On one of my visits home, they gave to me a package of 25,000 signatures, asking if I would pledge to support Social Security. I want them to know that I am going to pledge to do that. I also want to say to them that, yes, we need to make some changes, but it is not a Ponzi scheme. I want for them to understand that those who get by keep food and shelter because of Social Security. It is not a Ponzi scheme.

Yes, we need to make some changes, but do you know what, Mr. Speaker? We just need to raise the cap. We don't need to say that it can't be fixed, that it's broken. We need to raise the cap. Again, I am going to say it is not a Ponzi scheme. It is something that hardworking Americans deserve when they have finally retired after working for 25 or 30 or 40 years. It is not a Ponzi scheme.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER AS AMERICANS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Before I begin, Mr. Speaker, I cannot help but acknowledge that we are just days away from memorializing those lost on 9/11, and I am reminded of that time some 10 years ago and how this body drew together.

I don't know if our leadership has thought of it, but I think it would be more than appropriate if we went to the steps of the Capitol and sang again "God Bless America." I hope we can do that because we did that together.

Tonight, I hope we can be together as the President commands the attention of the American people. I hope we can be together to lift up the concept of Make It in America, rebuild America, put our small businesses and inventors and geniuses back to work. I hope we can come together with the FAA reauthorization so Houston, Texas, won't lose \$90 million in airport construction.

I hope that we can come together and recognize that when we do a supplemental to help our friends with the wildfires in Texas, my constituents, others, and LLOYD DOGETT's constituents and all in the northeast, that we are coming together to place jobs. Mr. Speaker, there is nothing more bipartisan than putting America back to work.

Thank you, Mr. President.

JOBS

(Mr. CLAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask our friends in the majority to put their country ahead of their party and join us by enacting the Make It in America jobs agenda.

Jobs is not a Democratic issue or a Republican issue. Putting America back to work is what we all should be fighting for. When working families hurt, America hurts, and what elevates them lifts up the entire Nation.

We must pass without delay a reauthorization of the vital highway and transit bill. We need to enact the Make It in America agenda to strengthen our manufacturing, technological, and industrial base.

We need to build up America's infrastructure by putting people to work, rebuilding our roads, bridges, railways, ports, schools and airports; and we need to speed disaster assistance to hard-hit communities without injecting partisan politics into the process.

The time for political games is over and the time for jobs is now.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 8, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 8, 2011 at 9:27 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendments H. Con. Res. 74.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ELECTING A CERTAIN MEMBER TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 395

Resolved, That the following named Member be and is hereby elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS.—Mr. SCHILLING.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2218, EMPOWERING PARENTS THROUGH QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1892, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 392 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 392

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2218) to amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and

the Workforce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. (a) At any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1892) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this resolution and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule.

(b) In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of the Rules Committee Print dated August 31, 2011. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived.

(c) No amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution and amendments en bloc described in subsection (f).

(d) Each amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

(e) All points of order against amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules or amendments en bloc described in subsection (f) are waived.

(f) It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this subsection shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. The original proponent of an amendment included in such amendments en bloc may insert a statement in the Congressional Record immediately before the disposition of the amendments en bloc.

(g) At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 3. A motion to proceed with regard to a joint resolution of disapproval specified in subsection (a)(1) of section 3101A of title 31, United States Code—(a) shall be in order only if offered by the Majority Leader or his designee; and (b) may be offered even following the sixth day specified in subsection (c)(3) of such section but not later than the legislative day of September 14, 2011.

□ 1240

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. House Resolution 392 provides for a structured rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2218, the Empowering Parents Through Quality Charter Schools Act, and H.R. 1892, the Fiscal Year 2012 Intelligence Authorization Act.

My colleagues on the House Education and the Workforce Committee and I have been working to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. H.R. 2218, Empowering Parents Through Quality Charter Schools, is just one of a series of bills the committee has considered this year.

During committee consideration, this legislation received strong bipartisan support, including that of the committee's ranking Democrat member, GEORGE MILLER. H.R. 2218 reauthorizes the charter school program and modernizes it by allowing the replication or expansion of high quality charter schools in addition to the creation of new charter schools.

The charter school program is important to ensure that parents and students have choice in education. With this bill, the House Education and the Workforce Committee has begun the bipartisan process of reauthorizing ESEA, and I urge my colleagues in the full House to support this rule in favor of the bill.

The rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 1892, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012.

Mr. Speaker, the intelligence community plays a vital role in our national security and defense. The bill was reported out of committee by a voice vote, and the committee has worked with the Senate to develop a bipartisan, bicameral bill. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Under this rule, the Rules Committee has made it in order to consider six Democrat amendments and three Republican amendments to the Intelligence Authorization bill. We have also made in order five Democrat amendments, two bipartisan amendments, and one Republican amendment to the charter school bill.

I am pleased to work with my colleagues on the Rules Committee to report rules for floor debate and the consideration of legislation that promotes transparency and participation.

Mr. Speaker, I again urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this rule, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today we will be discussing two good bills. Both bills under this rule are bipartisan bills. One will support students across this Nation, give parents better choices, improve the quality of our charter schools in our country; and so, too, we will improve and enhance the intelligence gathering of our Nation that keeps us safe under the authorization bill.

The Quality Charter Schools Act will improve our global economic standing by improving student access to quality and effective public charter schools.

I find, Mr. Speaker, sometimes it is necessary to help educate some of our colleagues on the definition of what charter schools are. Charter schools are established by school districts or other authorizers. They are public schools and have to accept all students equally. The concept of these schools is that they have site-based management. So, again, they are public schools with site-based management. That, in brief, is the definition of a charter school.

Now, that is not better or worse than a district running a school. It can be better; it can be worse. And as we look across the country, we see examples of good charter schools and bad charter schools. Just because something is a charter school certainly doesn't mean it is good.

What we've tried to do with this bill is improve the quality of the authorizing practices of the States and the districts as they go into: A, initially evaluating charter schools and making sure they serve at-risk students and show demonstrated success in closing the achievement gap; and, B, making sure that they follow through on what their charter contains.

A charter is a synonym for a contract. Effectively, these schools operate through contracts with public authorities, namely authorizers, States, State charter institutes, regions, and school districts, and they are able to operate under those contracts and fulfill their role as public schools.

What are charter schools not? And I sometimes hear from my colleagues, is this corporate control of our schools? Is this some for-profit thing? No, it is actually irrelevant to that discussion, the discussion of charter schools.

Sometimes for-profit companies are brought in as vendors to run schools. Now, this can happen with school districts just as surely as it can happen with charter schools. Some of the larger instances of this have been school districts because, of course, charter schools are much more mom and pop. But that is a separate discussion about what vendors can and cannot be brought in to actually run public schools.

In the State of Colorado, as an example, we don't allow any for-profit institutions to hold a charter. Now, certainly we don't restrict charters to school districts, and they bring in a variety of vendors. I think every school district in the country uses private, for-profit textbook vendors as an example. But we would be against managing out of D.C. what vendors they bring in. In fact, charter schools and school districts have great discretion about what vendors they use.

But what this bill does is it effectively ups the ante on the account-

ability, the oversight, and also assisting with the growth of quality charter schools. Many charter schools across the country focus on particular areas of learning or emphasize particular aspects of curriculum. We have excellent art charter schools, college prep charter schools, Montessori charter schools, core knowledge, English language acquisition, outdoor learning, and education charter schools.

They can function more independently than a large district because they do have site-based management that allows for operational flexibility. They can have different school calendars, different school days, and different curriculums. This freedom allows the charters to function autonomously in areas that can benefit children's success in school.

And again, with experimentation, not everything you try is going to work. And, of course, for every example of a charter school that successfully serves at-risk kids, there are also counterexamples of charter schools that are doing as poorly, or more so, than some of the failing neighborhood schools that the children were in before.

I have direct experience founding and running several charter schools in Colorado that filled particular education niches. I founded and served as superintendent of New America School. When I saw that many school districts in my State were dropping funding for older students that were still learning English and there weren't the types of programs to keep new immigrants in high school through a diploma, I approached several school districts about approving a charter school for this population, for 16- to 21-year-old English language learners. We were granted several charters. New America School now operates in Colorado and New Mexico and has served thousands of English language learners, helping them achieve a high school diploma through meeting their real-life needs.

Again, we really worked backwards from where the customers were. Why weren't these students in school in the first place? Many of them had real-life obstacles. They had day jobs; so they needed a night school. Forty percent of the young women had children; so they needed either on-site daycare or some sort of daycare voucher that we were able to help them supply.

And just as importantly, we made sure that every member of the staff, the teachers at the school, every single one of them, is passionate about helping new immigrants learn English; and that is what brought them to our school and actually improved the faculty morale because they were able to practice their passion rather than it being an afterthought as it was in some of the other conventional schools.

I also founded the Academy of Urban Learning, which is focused on educating homeless students in Denver.

Right here in Washington, D.C., we have seen the success of several excellent charter schools that have outperformed other public schools, including the KIPP schools.

So we have seen across this country, as a result of the charter school movement, great experimentation, some successes and some failures. It's time, 10 years on, to learn from our experiences with charter schools and replace the Federal authorizing act with one that can really up the ante, take the learning that has occurred over the last decade into account and improve both the quality of charter schools generally and the quantity of good charter schools across our country.

□ 1250

This bill would update the existing Federal initiatives. We provide critical investment in quality alternatives. The bill carves out 15 percent of the funding for facilities, capital, and credit enhancements, and the remaining 80 percent would go to start new charter schools. The bill would require States to provide 90 percent of their grants to charter school authorizers and operators. It also incorporates much of the language from a bill that Mr. PAULSEN of Minnesota and I introduced last session and this session, the All-STAR Act, which would add for the first time Federal law State-level funding for expansion of successful charter schools.

So, again, when we have examples of what works in public education, why not do more of it? Yes, we want to turn around failing schools. Yes, we need to improve upon what doesn't work. And yes, we need to hold charter schools that are not working fully accountable under the law. But when we have an example of something that works, we should support serving more kids. As a simple example, in my State and district, the Ricardo Flores Magon Academy in Westminster is a K-8 charter school that opened just 4 years ago. I'm glad, by the way, that one of the amendments made in order under this rule is an amendment from Mr. PAULSEN and I that would specify that schools that have 3 years of demonstrated success are eligible for expansion grants, because this school has only been around for 4 years. It has an extended year, extended day program. It provides after-school tutoring, full-day kindergarten. Every student studies chess and tennis. The student population maps the kind of a traditional at-risk population, with 95 percent Latino, 86 percent English language learners, 93 percent free and reduced lunch. This means these are poor and working families. Yet, the Ricardo Flores Magon Academy has scored far above the State average, including our wealthy suburban districts like some of the other areas that I represent, in the past 3 years. They scored 95 to 100 percent proficient in math, between 77 and

97 percent proficient in reading and writing, and for third- and fifth-graders they've averaged 20 percent higher than the State averages. Other successful charter schools in Colorado, like the Denver School of Science and Technology, have also achieved positive outcomes with low-income students.

I'm sure we'll have the opportunity to talk about many of the amendments made in order under this bill. We did in the Rules Committee propose an open rule for these bills, and it would have been nice to have a more thorough discussion, which is why I'll be opposing this rule. But I am glad I did make in order several amendments, including one of mine.

Mr. Speaker, this rule also brings another very important bill to the floor, the Fiscal Year 2012 Intelligence Authorization Act. This bill continues the recent bipartisan tradition of passing authorization bills in order to reform and conduct oversight of our intelligence community. Every Member of this body believes strongly in keeping our country safe. When we're discussing the threats to our Nation and the war on terror, the front line of that war is our intelligence-gathering apparatus and our intelligence community. In this time of budget constraint we know we need to spend our money wisely. I've often argued that instead of wasting hundreds of billions of dollars invading countries preemptively, we should use our force selectively, including targeted collection of intelligence about where threats arise.

This bill makes a balanced compromise between budget realities and our national security need. This authorization did find savings in various aspects of the intelligence community. It proposes to curb post-personnel growth while protecting our capabilities. While it invests in select high-priority needs, it also achieves savings by handling contractors similar to the way the President handles pay for civilian employees.

Mr. Speaker, I'm glad that this body was able to come together with both of the committees of jurisdiction, Intelligence and Education and Workforce, around strong bipartisan compromise under these two bills. And while I wish we had the opportunity to further discuss additional recommendations for amendments on the floor, I am appreciative that in fact there will be a robust discussion with regard to the charter school bill under this rule.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Colorado for his support of the bill and support of the concept of charter schools. I want to congratulate him on his involvement and say that I think this is a great example of bipartisan cooperation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to yield 3 minutes to the gen-

tleman from Massachusetts, a colleague of mine on the Rules Committee, Mr. MCGOVERN.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk just for a couple of minutes about a serious matter that relates to the Intelligence bill that we will later consider.

For the past decade, Colombia's intelligence agency, the Department of Administrative Security, or the DAS, has engaged in illegal activities. Created to investigate organized crime, insurgents, and drug traffickers, the DAS instead provided paramilitary death squads with the names of trade unionists to be murdered and carried out illegal surveillance on journalists, human rights defenders, political opposition leaders, and Supreme Court judges. American cash, equipment, and training to help shut down drug trafficking may have been used for spy operations, smear campaigns, and threats against civil society leaders in Colombia. Several U.S. agencies aided the DAS—the State Department, Pentagon, DEA, CIA, and DIA—even as scandal after scandal after scandal became publicly known. It was only in April, 2010, when U.S. Ambassador William Brownfield suspended U.S. aid to the DAS, diverting those resources to the Colombian National Police.

Yesterday, Congresswoman SCHAKOWSKY and I sent a letter to the Secretaries of State and Defense, the U.S. Attorney General, and the CIA Director, asking them to provide Congress with a comprehensive report on all forms of U.S. aid to the DAS and to tell us what the DAS used the aid for. It's not too much to ask, Mr. Speaker. There has been a shocking lack of oversight over all the U.S. aid that poured into the DAS over the past decade. Getting to the bottom of this is what oversight is all about. Colombia appears to be doing its part. The Attorney General is carrying out an aggressive investigation and series of prosecutions. Six former high-ranking intelligence officials have confessed to crimes. More than a dozen other operatives are on trial, with more still under investigation. President Santos has promised to dismantle the DAS and replace it with a new intelligence agency. But in the meantime, the old structures still remain. Witnesses cooperating with the Attorney General find themselves and their families threatened, and human rights defenders even now are still under surveillance.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that U.S. intentions were good, but I also believe the DAS was generally up to no good. I find it impossible to understand how the State Department and Embassy officials can say with certainty that absolutely no U.S. aid funding was ever used by the DAS for criminal purposes. Congress must insist on safeguards to ensure that no funding, equipment,

training, or intelligence-sharing with any Colombian intelligence agency is used for illegal surveillance or criminal activities now and in the future.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. POLIS. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. MCGOVERN. The administration or Congress must prohibit any further funding for the DAS, including aid in the pipeline, until the Attorney General has completed all investigations and prosecutions, finds out who ordered these illegal activities, and President Santos has completely dismantled the current agency. I ask the committee chairman and ranking member to guarantee the Members of this House that no further aid will be provided to the DAS, and if that prohibition is not explicitly in this bill, that they will work with the Senate to include it in the final conference report.

[From the Los Angeles Times, Sept. 2, 2011.]

COLOMBIA'S SPREADING SCANDAL

The U.S. provided nearly \$6 billion as part of Plan Colombia, an anti-narcotics and counterinsurgency program. But did the money also pay for human rights abuses?

The United States has long considered Colombia its strongest ally in Latin America. Over the last eight years it has provided the Colombian government with nearly \$6 billion as part of Plan Colombia, an ambitious anti-narcotics and counterinsurgency program that has often been held up as a model of cooperation.

But recent reports in the Washington Post suggest that U.S. assistance intended to combat drugs and terrorism was diverted to Colombian intelligence officials, who used it instead to spy on judges, journalists, politicians and union leaders.

The Post also reported that the United States was aware of the spying, including illicit wiretapping. Whether that is true is unclear. State Department officials say no one at the U.S. Embassy in Bogota knew about the wiretaps. And President Juan Manuel Santos, who took office last year after the spying controversy erupted, has also denied that the United States had any role in the growing scandal.

That will do little to quell questions about U.S. involvement, given Plan Colombia's troubled past. A United Nations human rights investigator concluded last year that a large number of Colombian military units were involved in shooting innocent young men and falsely identifying them as rebels in an effort to boost body counts. The extrajudicial killings were alleged to have been carried out by army units that had been vetted by the U.S. State Department and cleared to receive U.S. funding.

And last year, then-U.S. Ambassador William Brownfield announced that all assistance to Colombia's Department of Administrative Security was being suspended indefinitely following disclosures in the Colombian media that indicated widespread spying abuses. Since then, Colombian authorities have arrested 28 officials, including former President Alvaro Uribe's chief of staff, in connection with the scandal.

Colombia's government has vowed to dismantle the intelligence agency, and the Santos administration and attorney general have been courageous in investigating the

scandal. Now it's up to the United States to move quickly to determine how much aid was provided to the agency and what it was used for. The U.S. must show the same resolve as Colombia has in ferreting out the truth.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, September 7, 2011.

Hon. HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON,

Secretary of State, Department of State, Washington, DC.

Hon. LEON E. PANETTA,

Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, Washington, DC.

ERIC H. HOLDER, Jr.,

U.S. Attorney General, Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

General DAVID H. PETRAEUS,

Director, Central Intelligence Agency, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY CLINTON, SECRETARY PANETTA, ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER AND DIRECTOR PETRAEUS, We write to request a comprehensive accounting of U.S. assistance to the Colombian government's Department of Administrative Security (DAS) during the period of August 7, 2002 to August 7, 2010. Specifically, we request a full accounting of all funds, training, lethal and non-lethal equipment, intelligence- and information-sharing, technical assistance, facilities construction and any other aid provided to the DAS, its officials, its employees or any of its contractors during this period, whether in Colombia, the U.S., or at other facilities. We further request the information indicate any such aid or information provided to the National and International Observations Group of the DAS.

As you know, the Colombian Attorney General's Office is undertaking an aggressive investigation and series of prosecutions of illegal activities carried out by the DAS during these years. Six former high-ranking intelligence officials have confessed to crimes and more than a dozen other agency operatives are on trial, and several more are under investigation by the Attorney General or by a special legislative commission of the Colombian Congress.

These investigations have revealed a vast illegal network of surveillance of nearly all sectors of civil society, including human rights defenders, political party leaders, journalists and members of the Colombian Supreme Court engaged in investigations of elected officials with alleged ties to paramilitary groups or who engaged in corrupt practices. These illegal operations were also connected to threats received by many of the individuals under surveillance, and in some cases the DAS shared information with paramilitary and other violent actors that resulted in the assassinations of trade unionists and other rights defenders.

Recent articles in the Washington Post (8/21/11) assert that U.S. aid may be implicated in these abuses of power. We are concerned that former President Alvaro Uribe has made public statements claiming the reporters who wrote these articles are terrorist sympathizers (*simpatizantes del terrorismo*), going so far as to characterize one reporter as a terrorist ally (*ocultador del terrorismo*), language that increases the level of threat under which journalists work in Colombia. We strongly urge you to make clear to the former president that such statements are unacceptable and ask that he retract them.

We believe it is important to set the record straight in a clear and transparent manner by providing Congress with a comprehensive report on all forms of U.S. assistance to the

DAS. We also believe it is important to provide Congress with this information in as rapid a manner as possible, but assuredly prior to when Congress begins debate on the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement.

To the maximum extent possible, the information included in this comprehensive report should be provided in an unclassified format; if necessary, a classified annex should be made available for review by all Members of Congress. We further ask that you inquire and coordinate with your counterparts in other departments and agencies that might have been working with the DAS (e.g. Treasury/Internal Revenue Service) to ensure that the report is indeed comprehensive.

Thank you for your serious attention to this request. We look forward to your timely response and the receipt of this comprehensive report regarding all forms of U.S. support for the DAS over the past decade.

Sincerely,

JAMES P. MCGOVERN,

Member of Congress.

JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY,

Member of Congress.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished chairman of the Rules Committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

Mr. DREIER. I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by congratulating my friend on his very strong and passionate commitment and let him know that I share our desire to ensure that human rights are recognized in Colombia and anyplace in the world. I worked with him in the past when he was a staff member working for Mr. Moakley on this issue in El Salvador. It is imperative that we resolve it and ensure that our tax dollars are not being used for any kind of nefarious purposes.

Mr. Speaker, having said that, I want to rise in strong support of this rule. I do it because it's been a long time since we've had the occurrence that we did yesterday in the House Rules Committee. We just came back, as we all know, from this 5-week district work period of August, and we had the first meeting in the Rules Committee.

□ 1300

In that meeting, we began with the chairman of the Education and Workforce Committee, Mr. KLINE, and the ranking member of that committee, Mr. MILLER; the chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Mr. ROGERS, and the ranking member, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, coming before the Rules Committee and offering bipartisan proposals on both charter schools for the Education Committee, obviously, and the authorization bill from the Intelligence Committee. In fact, I quipped at one point during the Rules Committee that maybe we should have a 5-week break between each Rules Committee meeting so that we can, in fact, come together in a bipartisan way and deal with these critically important issues.

I have to say, Mr. Speaker, it is a great day, especially as we prepare, in just a little less than 7 hours, to hear from the President of the United States on an issue that Democrats and Republicans alike say needs to be addressed. We all know, from having been in our States over the past 5 weeks, that job creation and economic growth are the top priorities for the American people. We all represent constituents who are hurting. I have friends who have lost their homes, their businesses, their jobs, and we want to make sure that we get our economy back on track.

It's my hope that the example that we're going to have today as we begin consideration of the charter schools bill and then tomorrow as we deal with the intelligence bill—and obviously the bill that we're going to be considering today, because of the President's speech tonight, will have to carry on into next week, so we will obviously have this continued bipartisan spirit on the issue of charter schools next week. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we're in a position where we can use these two as a model to address this issue of job creation and economic growth.

Now, there is recognition that there are a wide range of views on the issue of job creation and economic growth, and we were reminded by the Senate minority leader just today of the proverbial Einstein directive that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and over again and expecting a different outcome.

I think that many of us—most all Republicans and some Democrats—have come to the conclusion that this notion of dramatically increasing spending, which is what we went through with the stimulus bill and several other issues, is not, in fact, the panacea that we have. And, frankly, I don't believe that there is an absolute silver bullet, there is not an absolute panacea, but I do believe that we need to try to put into place an effort that will reduce the regulatory burden imposed on those who are seeking to create jobs in this country. That's one of the proposals that we have. And again, I hope that we can work with the President on that issue.

There has also been recognition that, since the Japanese have reduced their top rate on job creators, we in the United States of America have the highest tax rate on job creators—it's the corporate tax rate—of any country in the world. Now, I realize that obviously we know there are corporations that, through the tax structure that we have today, don't pay that 35 percent rate, but I think that we need to make sure that we close loopholes and reduce that top rate. And I'm not the only one who has spoken in support of that. Former President Bill Clinton has spoken in support of that idea. President

Barack Obama has spoken in support of that idea.

And I know that, as I look at my friends on the other side of the aisle—at this moment I'm looking at one who shares my view. I'm not going to name names, Mr. Speaker, but I'm looking at one who does share my view and another who might share my view as well on this issue. So there is a bipartisan consensus that if we can reduce that top rate on job creators, we have the potential to create jobs and also—and I know my friends on both sides of the aisle share this notion—generate an increase in the flow of revenues to the Federal Treasury, thereby dealing with this tremendous fiscal problem that we have.

We have our joint select committee that is going to be dealing with the issue of deficit reduction. And we know that economic growth would be the single best way to generate the revenues that we need to pay down the debt and deal with the overall fiscal challenges we have and have the resources necessary for the priorities that are out there.

Another issue, building on what was said by my friend from Worcester earlier, he mentioned the issue of Colombia. I happen to believe that if we look at the pending trade agreements that have been, unfortunately, languishing for 4 years, we need to make sure that we bring those forward. I am very encouraged by the fact that the President of the United States has indicated his willingness to do that. I also want to congratulate Speaker BOEHNER and Leader CANTOR for the letter that they sent to the President saying we want to find these areas of agreement, and the trade issue is one of them.

I don't speak for every single Republican, but I speak for most all Republicans who believe very, very strongly that the notion of opening up new markets around the world for job creation and economic growth here in the United States, creating union and non-union jobs is something that would take place if we were to pass the Korea, Colombia, and Panama agreements.

Mr. Speaker, there are many people who believe that somehow passing these agreements will open up a flood of foreign products coming into the United States, undermining the ability to create jobs here in the United States, when, in fact, the opposite will be the case because Korea, Colombia, and Panama today have, by and large, free access to the U.S. consumer market. That's a good thing. It's a good thing because it allows that single mother who is trying to make ends meet, going to Wal-Mart or Kmart or Target or wherever, to buy products that are affordable. That's a positive thing. That's a good thing for our economy.

What we need to do is we need to recognize that now we need to open up

those markets so that while things come in from Korea, and Colombia especially, we need to do what we can to get into their markets. There are 40 million consumers in Colombia.

Manufacturing jobs will be created here. Caterpillar, John Deere, Whirlpool, other great manufacturing companies here in the United States would have access to those markets.

And on the Korea deal, Mr. Speaker, it will be the single largest bilateral free trade agreement in the history of the world, allowing us to have the ability to sell our automobiles and other products into the Korean market.

So this is an area where I believe that, again, recognizing that union and nonunion jobs will be created here in the United States, that this can be an area of bipartisan agreement, and I know that the President will clearly talk about the imperative of these in the address he's going to be giving right behind me early this evening.

What we're dealing with today, Mr. Speaker, is a very positive thing on the issue of charter schools, and I laud my friend from Colorado, who has done such a great job in starting charter schools and improving charter schools.

I also want to comment on the statement that was made in the Rules Committee yesterday by the former chairman and now the ranking member of the Education Committee, Mr. MILLER, who said that for many years he was a strong opponent of charter schools and now, for many years, he has been a strong proponent of charter schools, recognizing that we can go through a learning process here. And I quipped that one of our former colleagues said that ours is one business where you can never admit to having learned anything because, obviously, if you admit to having learned anything, you've flip-flopped.

The fact is we all are learning and we should be proud of the fact that we've learned. I congratulate—I probably will hurt my friend Mr. MILLER by praising him here, but I will say that the process that he has gone through on this issue of charter schools is something that I believe is a very, very good and positive thing. It's something that we all need to learn from, that experience that he had on the issue of charter schools, to be willing to listen to our colleagues on both sides of the aisle on a wide range of issues.

That is why I think that this rule, enjoying bipartisan support—we have allowed many more Democratic amendments than Republican amendment in the rule itself. We're going to have a free-flowing debate on this issue, and then of course the very important intelligence authorization bill. Then tonight, I hope we can have again these areas of agreement so that we can get our fellow Americans who have been losing their homes, their businesses, and their jobs back on track.

□ 1310

Mr. POLIS. I yield myself 30 seconds to respond.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from California laid down an excellent framework for the potential of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction to accomplish their mandate; namely, bringing down tax rates by eliminating loopholes in a way that effectively eliminates expenditures in the Tax Code. For whether something is a subsidy or a tax credit, it is very much an expenditure.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I want to join with my colleague, first of all, to wish the President well and to work together in a bipartisan manner to put Americans back to work, put them to work now, and keep them working.

I am supportive of the Intelligence authorization bill for a number of reasons dealing with the issue of investing in new positions to select high priority needs as FBI surveillance, so increasing the personnel. I'm concerned about the cuts in personnel. The language is very appropriate. In these days, as we celebrate 9/11, I'm concerned about what is appropriate.

I'm also interested in moving forward on diversity. We should ensure that our intelligence community reflects the diversity of America, from African Americans to Asians, Latinos, Muslims, people speaking different languages, to be more effective to protect this country.

The DNI is going to conduct a review to determine the security implications of moving intelligence systems. I think that is important. I think it is important, as well, to collect information about drug trafficking. And I certainly think it's important to again, as I said, talk about the question of the work force.

I am concerned about the requests that I understand may be in the bill on information about Guantanamo Bay detainees, information that could undermine our security. And I am questioning the value of making the Director of the National Security Agency, a Senate conferee, to juxtapose that person in the midst of controversial politics.

But I am glad, and I thank Mr. POLIS for his leadership on charter schools. I'm proud to say that I've been to the Victory Charter School in Texas, in Houston, the Harmony Charter School, the KIPP Charter School, the Yes Charter School, and a school district, a public system that I am working with, and I love public schools, I am a product of public schools. The North Forest Independent School District, it's finding its way to embrace and coalesce with charter schools.

What is the call for that? It is the education of our children with the

most important level of education ever, excellence. It is for our children to pass tests, but it is for our children to think and to create and to invent. And I think we can work with charter schools, in particular, who are focusing on science, technology, engineering, and math where there are young people who are actually doing medical center level research, cures by middle schoolers and high schoolers.

So I hope that we will deal with the Intelligence bill. I associate myself with the gentleman from Massachusetts. I'm concerned about the human rights violations in Colombia, the monies that may be going to the DAS, and the killing of trade unionists. It's all right to be a neighbor, but it is horrible to take intelligence funds and be part of the killing of trade unionists.

Ms. FOXX. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the whip, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman from Colorado. I also thank the gentleman from North Carolina as well.

Mr. Speaker, while I would prefer us to be addressing a reauthorization of No Child Left Behind, today's legislation reflects bipartisan support for innovation in public schools and improving educational opportunities for students who still lack access to a high-quality education.

I know this rule that we are dealing with deals with both bills. I am for the rule. I think it's a rule that provides for two pieces of legislation that enjoy bipartisan support.

The Chesapeake Public Charter School, a K-8 school located in my district, has developed a year-round school model which embeds the arts and environmental studies throughout its curriculum. This school hopes to, one day, expand its successful model through its existing charter with our local school system and would be able to do so with funding from this bill.

As we consider this bill today, it's unfortunate that after 9 months in session, however, we are still not bringing jobs bills to this floor. So today, and throughout the fall, Democrats will offer Make It in America amendments at every opportunity to highlight ways we can create jobs and strengthen our economy.

Today, Democrats are proposing two Make It in America amendments. I would say parenthetically that Mr. GARAMENDI had an excellent amendment. It wasn't made in order. He's going to ask that we get to it by the previous question.

Congressman LUJÁN's amendment, however, focuses on sharing best practices in instruction and professional development in the STEM subjects to develop a more competitive and highly skilled work force. America needs that.

And Congresswoman DAVIS' amendment reminds us that the primary ob-

jective of this bill is to use the innovation of charter schools to improve educational outcomes so all students can make it in America.

The jobs of the future require a high-quality elementary and secondary education, which lead to high-quality post-secondary education and training components. We need to make sure that we are preparing students for the diversity of jobs that awaits them, the jobs that will bring home good wages, the jobs that will improve our economy in the long term.

I believe charter schools can play a valuable role in that objective, which is why I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. LEWIS of California. I appreciate that. We've got a great charter school dealing with science and technology in Apple Valley, California.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Maryland has expired.

Mr. POLIS. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. LEWIS of California. It's a fabulous school, and that model is working with our local people creating opportunities for jobs, et cetera. I like your idea. I may very well join you in some of those amendments, but at least join you in supporting this bill.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, when I speak about Make It in America, there is not a person on this floor, the most conservative, the most liberal, and everybody in between, who is not for our young people and all of our people making it in America. I'm hopeful that we can forge a bipartisan coalition to promote legislation which will promote making it in America.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Will the gentleman further yield?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Maryland has again expired.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of California. Presuming that, I mean, this is really a good idea. If we can get all the teachers unions in California to join us in this sponsoring of charter schools, then I'd really get excited about it.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to make Mr. GARAMENDI of California's amendment in order.

I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI).

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I proposed to the Rules Committee an amendment about making it in America, one more way we can build jobs here in this country by using our own tax money.

In the charter schools legislation there is some \$300 million a year authorized for the construction of charter schools, the enhancement, the improvement of those schools. Now, where will the material come from? Where will the heating and air conditioning systems be manufactured? Where will the lumber, the concrete, the other materials, the high-tech equipment come from? Will it be American-made, or will it be made over in China and imported into the United States?

It seems to me we're about to use \$300 million of our tax money, that is the American taxpayers' money, to build some schools, or to improve some charter schools. All well and good. But why don't we create some jobs in addition to that? Why don't we put into this bill an amendment that simply says that the Secretary of Education, in prioritizing the grants, shall give higher priority to those proposals that would use American-made equipment, American-made jobs?

We can, and I thank my colleague from California, Mr. LEWIS, for agreeing that we ought to be making it America. This amendment was rejected for reasons unknown to me by the Rules Committee, perhaps known to them. And if Mr. DREIER were here, or maybe I should ask Ms. FOXX, why was this objected to? Why was it not made possible to put this amendment on the floor so that we can create American jobs?

I would note that we're 247 days into this session, and not one bill has been put forward by the Republican majority to advance jobs. Here's a little chance for us to do it.

□ 1320

Ms. FOXX. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would only say to the gentleman from California that Republicans have passed many, many bills in this session that would help to create jobs in this country.

I did a little research this morning on what has happened with bills that have gone over to the Senate. A total of 28 bills have passed the House and the Senate and been sent to the President for his signature. Of those, only six were substantive bills. One of those was the 1099, one was the continuing resolution, one was DOD appropriations, a couple of bills were bills that came from here, one on lead for toys.

I think the gentleman from California needs to look to the other body to see what is happening to the bills that are passing out of the House that would create hundreds of thousands of jobs for Americans.

The problem is not in the House. The problem is in the Senate, that as one headline said and one Senator said, the Senate is moribund, and I believe that's where the problem lies. It is not with Republicans in the House.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, the urgent priority of this country, and it should be of this Congress, is to get Americans back to work. There is not a corner of this country that's not been severely afflicted by the unemployment crisis in this country.

Mr. GARAMENDI proposes that we take a simple idea and put it into this bill, and I think he's absolutely right.

Here's the idea. If we spend a significant amount of money, I think it's \$300 million, for the purpose of retrofitting and maybe building some schools around the country, let's give a preference to schools that use American-made products and American-made goods over those that do not. I think that's a very commonsense idea. So if a school is going to put in solar panels to become more energy efficient and they can either buy the solar panels from a company here in the United States or one in Asia, let's favor the school that buys the solar panels from the United States to create jobs here. This is a simple and good idea. It should be on the floor so that we could debate it.

Now, the dialogue I just heard was it's the Senate fault or it's this one's fault. With all due respect to all of our colleagues, Mr. Speaker, the days of whose fault it is are over. Long since over. And the time has long since passed for us to get to work passing commonsense legislation that puts the American people back to work. Mr. GARAMENDI has proposed just such a commonsense piece of legislation.

I would urge people to vote "no" on the previous question so we can consider Mr. GARAMENDI's amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado has 6½ minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from North Carolina has 14½ minutes remaining.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise also to support the effort of my colleague Mr. GARAMENDI to require that materials made in America be used to construct and renovate the charter schools that we're talking about in this legislation.

We have a serious issue in this country, in case the Republicans haven't noticed, that we need to create as many jobs as we can. And anybody who has made a speech about job creation these days, talking about making it in America is a definite applause line. I would just like to recommend that. Making it in America is something that really has resonated with people all around this country.

Why would we take taxpayer dollars, when we could spend it on products that are made right here, including the building materials that we need to upgrade, to create more schools in our country, and buy products that are made overseas and support jobs that are outside of our country?

The issue in this bill of creating more schools is so important. In the United States, schools on average are 40 years old and actually in need of an estimated \$500 billion in repairs and upgrades.

I'm actually introducing a piece of legislation next week that would provide \$100 billion dollars to repair, renovate, modernize America's schools and would create 400,000 construction and 250,000 maintenance jobs alone.

But in addition, what we should be doing is rejecting this previous question that's up before us so that we can make a good bill even better. This is a bipartisan effort. We've heard from the other side of the aisle that these are good ideas. Let's make it better. Vote "no" and let's add the Garamendi amendment.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Mr. POLIS. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the Intelligence Authorization Act is not perfect. There are some provisions that have already received a veto threat from the President that need to be amended. Thankfully, the chairman and the ranking member have worked together to submit a manager's amendment that would do just that.

It is vital that this manager's amendment pass because of two provisions in particular.

The first would make the Director of the National Security Agency a Senate-confirmed position. This would unnecessarily politicize one of our most critical intelligence needs. Traditionally, this position has already been indirectly subject to confirmation through the Senate's confirmation of military officers who have been promoted into the position. We can't afford to damage the management of the intelligence community in this manner.

The second provision would modify the reporting requirements regarding Guantanamo detainees. This would require the Director of National Intelligence to provide State Department cables to the Intelligence Committees. While effective oversight is an essential role of Congress, we also must not interfere with the ability of the State Department to conduct effective diplomatic negotiations. Therefore, I call on my colleagues to support the manager's amendment as well as the amended version of the underlying bill.

I also want to thank, with regard to the Charter School bill, Chairman

KLINE and Ranking Member MILLER for their excellent work both on the bill as well as their manager's amendment that would improve the bill in a wide variety of ways, including prioritizing States that authorize charters to be their own School Food Authority so that they can serve healthy meals to their students, including transportation considerations to help ensure that kids have access, and that choice is made more meaningful by ensuring that families who don't have the ability to carpool or transport their kids to school also have choices within the public education system.

This truly bipartisan bill and manager's amendment really exemplifies what the House can do to support good public education and improve student outcome.

I agree with my colleague, Mr. HOYER, who said that this is a start. While many of us would rather see a full reauthorization of ESEA, this is a very promising start to what will hopefully be a very productive session with regard to education, one of the most important goals of this Congress as well as absolutely necessary to improve the economy in the long run.

Unfortunately, one of the amendments disallowed by the Republican majority under this rule is one that I proposed to help facilitate charter schools in obtaining Federal competitive grant funding by adding priority for States that allow charter schools to be LEAs, or Local Education Agencies. Effectively, my amendment would have reduced paperwork and overhead. If the school districts and charter schools agree, the charter schools themselves could effectively function as their own fiscal agent for Federal purposes and to compete for Federal grants.

What happens now, and it works in most cases 9 out of 10 times—unfortunately it's the cases where it doesn't work out that cause the difficulty—is charter schools have to go through their LEA, their authorizing institute, or their school district in order to apply for Federal grants.

What does this mean? It means there's another set of bureaucrat's eyes that have to see every proposal, another person that has to sign off. Sometimes this can lead to unnecessary delays. At worst, it can lead to missing deadlines if funding applications are submitted to districts and not turned around in enough time to meet Federal deadlines for grant funding.

So it would be nice to continue to work on this with the committee, and I think that many of us would like to see charter schools recognized as LEAs for purposes of Federal funding.

□ 1330

I am proud to say that, in my home State of Colorado, we were able to get this fixed in the last legislative session, and now charter schools are recognized as LEAs. In fact, about half of

the States allow charter schools to be LEAs for Federal purposes.

A key goal of the bill is to ensure charter schools have equitable funding as well. Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to make in order an amendment by Mr. GARAMENDI of California, one which would give priority to eligible entities working with charter schools that plan to use materials made in America for the construction or renovation of school facilities. Once again, it would make that amendment in order and allow for a discussion and vote by the House on that amendment. Republicans blocked this germane amendment last night in the Rules Committee by a party-line vote.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment into the RECORD, along with extraneous material immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” and defeat the previous question so we can help American workers and allow this House to deliberate on an amendment that deserves debate in this body.

I urge a “no” vote on the rule as well, having left off several amendments that would otherwise improve these bipartisan bills.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The material previously referred to by Mr. POLIS is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 392 OFFERED BY
MR. POLIS OF COLORADO

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 4. Notwithstanding any other provision of this resolution of this resolution, the amendment printed in section 5 shall be in order as though printed after the amendment numbered 8 in Part A of the report of the Committee on Rules if offered by Representative Garamendi of California or his designee. That amendment shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent.

SEC. 5. The amendment referred to in section 4 is as follows:

AMENDMENT TO H.R., AS REPORTED OFFERED
BY MR. GARAMENDI OF CALIFORNIA

Page 21, after line 24, insert the following:

“(3) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities that demonstrate a plan to require charter schools receiving assistance under subsection (a) to use materials that are made in America for the construction and renovation of facilities.”.

(The information contained herein was provided by the Republican Minority on multiple occasions throughout the 110th and 111th Congresses.)

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT
IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against or-

dering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the opposition, at least for the moment, to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as “a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge.” To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that “the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition” in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: “The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition.”

Because the vote today may look bad for the Republican majority they will say “the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution ... [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever.” But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: “Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule ... When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment.”

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled “Amending Special Rules” states: “a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate.” (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: “Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon.”

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for the rule.

I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of adoption.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 226, nays 176, not voting 29, as follows:

[Roll No. 693]

YEAS—226

Adams	Gibbs	McMorris
Aderholt	Gibson	Rodgers
Akin	Gingrey (GA)	Meehan
Alexander	Gohmert	Mica
Amash	Goodlatte	Miller (FL)
Austria	Gosar	Miller (MI)
Bartlett	Gowdy	Mulvaney
Barton (TX)	Granger	Murphy (PA)
Benishek	Graves (GA)	Myrick
Berg	Graves (MO)	Neugebauer
Biggert	Griffin (AR)	Noem
Billbray	Griffith (VA)	Nugent
Billirakis	Grimm	Nunes
Black	Guinta	Nunnelee
Blackburn	Guthrie	Olson
Bono Mack	Hall	Palazzo
Boustany	Hanna	Paulsen
Brady (TX)	Harper	Pearce
Brooks	Harris	Pence
Broun (GA)	Hartzler	Petri
Buchanan	Hastings (WA)	Pitts
Bucshon	Hayworth	Platts
Buerkle	Heck	Poe (TX)
Burton (IN)	Hensarling	Pompeo
Calvert	Herger	Posey
Camp	Herrera Beutler	Price (GA)
Campbell	Himes	Quayle
Canseco	Huelskamp	Reed
Cantor	Huizenga (MI)	Rehberg
Capito	Hultgren	Reichert
Carter	Hunter	Renacci
Cassidy	Hurt	Ribble
Chabot	Issa	Rigell
Chaffetz	Jenkins	Rivera
Coble	Johnson (IL)	Roby
Coffman (CO)	Johnson (OH)	Roe (TN)
Cole	Johnson, Sam	Rogers (AL)
Conaway	Jones	Rogers (KY)
Costa	Jordan	Rogers (MI)
Cravaack	Kelly	Rohrabacher
Crawford	King (IA)	Rokita
Crenshaw	King (NY)	Rooney
Davis (KY)	Kingston	Ros-Lehtinen
Denham	Kinzing (IL)	Ross (FL)
Dent	Kline	Royce
DesJarlais	Labrador	Runyan
Diaz-Balart	Lamborn	Ryan (WI)
Dold	Lance	Scalise
Dreier	Landry	Schilling
Duffy	Lankford	Schmidt
Duncan (SC)	Latham	Schock
Duncan (TN)	LaTourette	Schweikert
Ellmers	Latta	Scott (SC)
Emerson	Lewis (CA)	Scott, Austin
Farenthold	LoBiondo	Sensenbrenner
Fincher	Long	Sessions
Fitzpatrick	Lucas	Shimkus
Flake	Luetkemeyer	Shuster
Fleischmann	Lummis	Simpson
Fleming	Mack	Smith (NE)
Flores	Manzullo	Smith (NJ)
Forbes	Marchant	Smith (TX)
Fortenberry	McCarthy (CA)	Southerland
Fox	McCaul	Stearns
Franks (AZ)	McClintock	Stivers
Frelinghuysen	McCotter	Stutzman
Gallegly	McHenry	Sullivan
Gardner	McKeon	Terry
Garrett	McKinley	Thompson (PA)
Gerlach		Thornberry

Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden

NAYS—176

Ackerman
Altmire
Andrews
Baca
Baldwin
Barrow
Bass (CA)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Courtney
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah

NOT VOTING—29

Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Bass (NH)
Bishop (UT)
Bonner
Burgess
Clay
Culberson
Giffords

□ 1358

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. DICKS, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. HOCHUL, and Ms. SEWELL changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. WOODALL changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (IN)

Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richardson
Richmond
Ross (AR)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Woolsey
Yarmuth

Marino
Miller, Gary
Neal
Paul
Reyes
Roskam
Stark
Van Hollen
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 693, had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 237, noes 163, not voting 31, as follows:

[Roll No. 694]

AYES—237

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Amash
Bachus
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Benishak
Berg
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Black
Blackburn
Bono Mack
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cannoco
Cantor
Capito
Carney
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Cooper
Costa
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Davis (CA)
Davis (KY)
Dent
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emerson
Eshoo
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foss

Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Pitts
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Hinojosa
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Lankford
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)

Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Speier
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry

Ackerman
Altmire
Andrews
Baca
Baldwin
Barrow
Bass (CA)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Costello
Courtney
Critz
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Farr
Fattah
Filner

Austria
Bachmann
Barletta
Bass (NH)
Bishop (UT)
Bonner
Culberson
Denham
Giffords
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)

Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Webster
West
Westmoreland

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Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
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Himes
Hinchey
Hochul
Holt
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
(TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kildee
Kind
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Maloney
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McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Miller (NC)
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Olver
Owens
Pallone

NOT VOTING—31

Hirono
Holden
Honda
Hoyer
Lewis (GA)
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Marino
McClintock
Miller, Gary

□ 1404

So the resolution was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 694 I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye”.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 693 and 694, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall votes 693 and 694, my votes were not recorded. Had I been recorded, I would have voted in the affirmative on both ordering the previous question and adoption of the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2218, to amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act; and for consideration of H.R. 1892, to authorize appropriations for FY 2012 for intelligence activities of the U.S. Government, the Community Management Account, and the CIA Retirement System.

EMPOWERING PARENTS THROUGH QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS ACT

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2218.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 392 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2218.

□ 1405

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2218) to amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, with Mr. WOMACK in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 2218, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act is a key component of our efforts to reform the Nation's education system and ensure more students have access to a quality learning experience. I join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have been strong proponents of charter schools for the breadth of opportunities they offer students and parents.

These innovative institutions empower parents to play a more active

role in their child's education and offer students the priceless opportunity to escape underperforming schools. They also open doors for educators to experiment with the fresh teaching methods uniquely geared to meeting the needs of their individual students.

The stories of charter school success are impressive. Students who previously had little hope have been inspired by excellent teachers to reach new heights. The tales of groundbreaking programs and initiatives at local charter schools have motivated surrounding public schools to improve. Parents have witnessed children of all backgrounds transition from struggling to excelling as a result of their charter school education.

Unfortunately, there are not enough charter schools to meet demand and hundreds of thousands of students remain on wait lists each year.

□ 1410

The legislation we consider today takes important steps to encourage and support the establishment of more high-quality charter schools in communities across the United States.

The bipartisan Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act will consolidate funding under the Federal Charter School Program into the existing State grant program. This will allow State educational agencies, State charter school boards, and governors the freedom to award subgrants to support new charter schools as well as replicate or expand high-quality charter schools.

To ensure States are facilitating the growth and expansion of charter schools, this act will give funding priority to those that lift arbitrary caps on the number of charter schools permitted in the State. The legislation also will provide priority to States that take additional steps to encourage charter school growth, such as allowing more than one State or local agency to authorize charter schools, or promoting charters as a solution to improve struggling public schools.

As we work to increase the presence of charter schools in the United States, we must also protect limited taxpayer funds and make sure every dollar is well spent. It has been said that charter schools are the epitome of performance-based education: In exchange for increased flexibility and autonomy, these schools are held accountable for results. The Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act will ensure charter schools continue to be held accountable by supporting an evaluation of schools' impact on students, families, and communities, while also encouraging shared best practices between charter and traditional public schools.

Charter schools are a valuable part of our efforts to improve the education available to our children. This legisla-

tion does not represent the whole solution. All of us recognize that additional measures must be enacted to support excellence and innovation in the American education system. However, this act takes an important step in the right direction.

I am very pleased that members of the Education and Workforce Committee have put their differences aside and worked through a very bipartisan process to develop an exceptional piece of legislation. I would like to thank Members and their staffs for these efforts. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join with us in supporting this positive legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 5 minutes.

I rise today in support of the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act, and I want to thank the chairman of the committee, Mr. KLINE, and the subcommittee chair, Mr. HUNTER, for all of their cooperation and support in working with the minority on this side of the aisle on this legislation. Both sides of the aisle have strong proponents of this legislation and of the charter school movement in this country.

This legislation, because of that cooperation, is the first bipartisan piece of reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. It passed the Education Committee with bipartisan support, and I'm hopeful that it will receive similar support from the full Congress.

This country is facing a severe education crisis. Our schools are simply not meeting the educational needs of our students, and it is a threat to our global competitiveness and to our economic security.

Charter schools began 20 years ago as a laboratory for innovation to help tackle the stagnant education system at that time and to give options to parents who felt helpless. These schools have often become the myth busters of what is possible for a demographic of children that have all too often been written off. Currently, they serve about 4 percent of all public school students. In urban areas, that number is much higher. Charter schools are not a silver bullet and will not solve all of the education challenges, but they have become an important part of the education system. We need to update the law to reflect that reality.

The Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act encourages effective reforms that will help transform schools and communities.

First, this bill makes significant improvements to the existing Charter School Program and addresses issues that we have heard from education advocates across the country. It rightfully returns charter schools to their original purpose—public schools that

identify and share innovative practices that lead to improvements in academic achievement for all public schools. It requires that charters be brought back into the traditional public school system as opposed to running in a parallel system. And it requires charters to actually serve all student populations and therefore provides more parents with real choices.

Second, this bill prioritizes accountability. It puts student achievement first, and it greatly increases the accountability of charter school authorizers and oversight by State education authorities.

Third, this bill addresses a recurring problem in charter schools, which is the lack of service to students with disabilities and English language learners. In this bill, we dramatically improve access for underserved populations. We require better recruitment and enrollment practices for underserved populations.

Lastly, this bill rightly focuses on our students and what they need to succeed. In many States, high-performing charter schools are a great option for some students. These schools are closing achievement gaps and shattering the low expectations that have stood in the way of student success.

Charter schools have been on the forefront of bold ideas and innovation in education. They have shown that, given the right tools, all students can achieve at high levels. We are learning from great charter schools about what works for students and what students need to be able to compete in the global economy. Replicating this success will help our students, our communities, and our economy.

With this legislation, we can help ensure that the positive reforms happening at some charter schools will happen at all charter schools, and we can help ensure that best practices are shared throughout that school district. But this legislation is only one piece of the education reform puzzle. Unfortunately, we are not taking up the whole Elementary and Secondary Education Act, but just one part.

This country is in the midst of the most dynamic education reform atmosphere that I have seen in my tenure in Congress. The reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act presents an opportunity to take hold of that momentum and bring our education system into the future.

The bill before us today is good, but we need to do much more. It will be a tremendous disservice for our children and our country if we do not provide relief for schools that are struggling under an outdated law. This relief should come in the form of a full, comprehensive reauthorization of ESEA. To do that, we must take on all of the real issues facing all our schools, not just charters. We need to address accountability, data, assessments, and

college- and career ready standards and modernizing the teaching profession. We all have to hold true to the reason that the Federal Government has a role in education in the first place: to ensure equal opportunity for every student in this country to access a great education.

We know what it will take to fix our schools. It isn't a mystery. But accomplishing that goal isn't easy. It takes real political will to overcome ideology and to stay focused on what's best for kids.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation, and I hope that we can get to a much more comprehensive reauthorization of ESEA in the near future.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I am very pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), the chair of the K-12 Subcommittee.

Mr. HUNTER. I also want to extend my appreciation to Chairman KLINE for his leadership and tireless work toward improving the quality of education for America's children, as well as Ranking Member KILDEE, my colleague on the subcommittee and full committee, Ranking Member MILLER, as well as JARED POLIS from Colorado, who is not even on this full committee but was very supportive of this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act is a bill that will have a direct impact on our Nation's children. Expanding access to high-performing charter schools has the potential to make a world of difference for students across the Nation simply by adding a much needed layer of choice and competition that is good for the entire school system, not just charters.

Unlike traditional public schools, the charter school model is not limited by a one-size-fits-all approach. Instead, these institutions enjoy increased freedom from State and local rules and regulations in exchange for greater accountability.

Also, the flexibility afforded to charter schools allows teachers and school administrators to adjust schedules and course work to better serve a wide range of students in their individual communities, including disadvantaged students. For example, a Louisiana charter school established in the wake of Hurricane Katrina enrolled many students who had fallen significantly behind other students their age after the disaster forced them to miss a full year of school. Despite these difficult circumstances, dedicated teachers tailored ground-breaking coursework to meet the needs of these students. Student achievement levels soared, and this charter school is now the third most successful high school in New Orleans.

Improved academic achievement in even the most troubled school districts

is one reason why charter schools are in such high demand, with more than 400,000 students across the Nation on wait lists. Even so, many States have imposed arbitrary caps on the total number of charter schools permitted as well as the total number of students allowed to attend these schools. These provisions unnecessarily stifle parental choice and keep students trapped in low-performing schools.

Charter schools also have difficulty securing adequate funding. Current law awards funding for the establishment of new charter schools but does not support funds for replication, updates, or improvements. As a result, charter schools with a proven record of high student achievement may be unable to secure funding to replicate their educational model in a new community.

The Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act will help put an end to these barriers to charter school growth by streamlining and modernizing the Federal Charter Schools Program.

□ 1420

The law will facilitate the ability of States to access funding for the expansion and replication of the best charter schools through the simplification of the Federal grant program. Additionally, the legislation incentivizes charter school development by offering priority grant funding to States that remove arbitrary caps on charter school growth.

Charter schools provide an opportunity for students who might otherwise spend their formative years stuck in subpar classrooms. We cannot allow arbitrary measures or partisan differences to stand in the way of providing all children access to a high quality education. I strongly encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to unite in support of a better future for the Nation's students and vote "yes" on the Empowering Parents Through Quality Charter Schools Act.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA).

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 2218, the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act. This bill strengthens our Nation's charter schools by making much needed improvements to current law, and I commend Chairman JOHN KLINE and Ranking Member GEORGE MILLER of the Education and Workforce Committee for their leadership on this issue.

As ranking member of the Subcommittee on Higher Education, I want to help K-12 schools to give us college-ready high school graduates and to send them to colleges or 4-year universities. That's why I support H.R. 2218.

In regard to accessibility, this bill helps to ensure that English language

learners and students with disabilities have an opportunity to attend and excel in high quality charter schools. Under this proposal, charter school authorizers must ensure that charter schools comply with the Civil Rights Act, as well as Individuals With Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act, and monitor the schools in recruiting, enrolling, and meeting the needs of students with disabilities and English language learners.

I am pleased that the manager's amendment to H.R. 2218 requires authorizers to ensure that charter schools solicit and consider input from parents and community members on the implementation and operation of charter schools.

This bill prioritizes high quality charter schools. By adding a new definition for high quality charter schools and providing priority consideration for States with high quality charter schools, this bill encourages States to set higher expectations for our Nation's charter schools.

This legislation improves charter authorizing. H.R. 2218 ensures that authorizers within the State monitor the performance of charter schools and require charter schools to conduct and publicly report financial audits.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. HINOJOSA. In my congressional district, the IDEA public high schools, a network of high quality public charter schools, have done a terrific job of preparing minorities, English language learners, and students with disabilities for college and careers. Currently, IDEA public schools operate 20 schools in 10 communities in the Rio Grande Valley.

This year, all the IDEA public schools were rated exemplary, the highest district rating issued by the Texas Education Agency; and our IDEA college preparatory school in Donna, Texas, has been recognized as one of the very best high schools in the Nation. In fact, 100 percent of IDEA public school graduates are enrolled in a community college or university.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 2218.

I applaud Tom Torkelsen, JoAnn Gama, co-founders of the IDEA Public Schools, as well as the teachers, parents, staff, and community members for their outstanding track record and unwavering commitment to fulfill IDEA's mission of 'College For All Children.'

Our nation's public charter schools must strive to be high-performing and inclusive; have the highest standards of excellence, accountability, and transparency; and foster strong, healthy partnerships with traditional public schools that yield successful outcomes for all students.

Mr. KLINE. I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee, a member

of the committee and the chairman of the Health Subcommittee, Dr. ROE.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act. It's heartening to see strong, bipartisan support for a bill that will do a lot of good for America's children.

A high quality education should be the birthright of every American child. As a society, we must ensure that they have the tools needed to chase their dreams and to succeed in an increasingly competitive global marketplace. A child growing up in Cocke County, Tennessee, today will some day compete for jobs with young people in China, India, and around the world. It's our duty to prepare our children and this great country for this reality.

Sadly, we're falling short in this responsibility. While many of our traditional public schools are outstanding, others leave students falling through the cracks. That's why an increasing number of parents are turning to charter schools to educate their children. But the supply has been unable to keep up with the demand. An estimated 420,000 students are on the waiting list to be admitted to charter schools. It's heartbreaking to know that the trajectory of these children's lives will be, in no small part, determined by a lottery. We can and must do better.

H.R. 2218 will help more students gain access to a quality education by facilitating the development of high performing charter schools. It reauthorizes the charter school program, which provides start-up grants to help charter schools open the doors, buy classroom materials, and teach new students. The bill also encourages States to support the development and expansion of charter schools, while ensuring an emphasis on quality and innovation.

The best educational system is one in which parents, teachers, and local school boards collaborate to set the agenda, not Washington, DC. This bill puts more power in the hands of those who know our children best and their needs best.

Charter schools are not a silver bullet, but they offer a way out for students who otherwise would be trapped in a failing school. Every charter school that is supported through this program is one more choice a parent will have to ensure their children's future success.

I thank my colleagues for their bipartisan support, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY), a member of the committee.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on H.R. 2218, the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act.

During my first visit to a charter school years ago, when charter schools were first on the horizon, I was so impressed. I was impressed with the small class sizes. I was impressed with the level of parental involvement and the individualized learning programs. In fact, when I left the school, I was actually teary; I mean, I was overcome because I wanted every single child in the United States of America to have this same rich educational experience.

All charter schools aren't quite that successful and all public schools aren't failing, but charter schools were created to develop best practices and innovative learning methods, and, if they were successful, those methods could be brought back and used in all public schools. While some charter schools have found new ways to promote academic achievement, other public schools have yet to benefit from this investment.

This bill will return charter schools to their original mission by helping improve the public school system and ensuring that charters no longer operate in isolation without strict accountability.

For many years, I've been concerned that charter schools, using taxpayer dollars, would function at the expense of public schools instead of complementing them. For instance, without reform, the most talented and motivated students could simply go to the charter schools, while public schools would be left with the most challenging situations, especially students with disabilities, English language learners, and students who come from broken homes and are having a hard time just keeping up in general. And that was totally contrary to the intent of the charter schools movement; it would weaken, rather than strengthen, our public school system.

So to address this problem, this bill stood up and, in a very bipartisan way, our committee put together a bill that we have here on the House floor that requires charter schools to adopt practices that promote inclusion, that allow for increased enrollment of students with disabilities and limited English skills, and provides an information sharing system regarding systems programs.

There are many other necessary reforms included in H.R. 2218, and they'll all ensure charter schools fill their original purpose. With these reforms, charter schools will play the constructive role in our education system that they were designed to play.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan, the chair of the Workforce Protection Subcommittee, Mr. WALBERG.

□ 1430

Mr. WALBERG. I thank the chair and committee leadership for bringing this

bill forward, H.R. 2218, for which I urge my colleagues' support.

In the Northwest Ordinance, the same language in that ordinance, as well as what was then put into many of our State constitutions, says this: "Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good governments and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education, shall forever be encouraged."

I believe this bill, H.R. 2218, does just that. It's a simple bill. It promotes a charter school program that accomplishes three goals. Those being, one, to provide parents greater options for their children's education; two, consolidating education programs and reducing the authorization level; and, three, supporting the development of high-quality charter schools. That's what we're about in education. That's what we ought to be concerned with.

This bill accomplishes our goal of modernizing and streamlining the program by consolidating the current programs to one program and one authorization line. The result in savings still affords the taxpayer, the parent, and the educator with even more opportunity for growth of proven charter school models and new innovative charter schools.

The bill ensures that charter schools and charter school authorizers reach out to parents to serve students who can benefit from these schools. The legislation supports quality initiatives in the authorizing world without putting any new mandates on the schools.

The legislation has broad support, including a community that includes the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Business Roundtable, National Alliance of Public Charter Schools, Texas Charter School Association, Chiefs for Change, the National Association of State Directors of Special Education, just to name a few.

Charter schools were created in Michigan, my State, 15 years ago. And since that time nothing but proven educational success has taken place, with children in tough school districts before now receiving education that is promoting success for them and their future prosperity in an education opportunity that expands in the real-world experience.

For that reason and many others, I urge the support of H.R. 2218 as a proposal that does exactly what our Northwest Ordinance says. It encourages schools and the means of education for quality, students, and future people that will work in our system.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

Mr. ANDREWS. I thank my friend for yielding.

In the earliest days of our Republic, our prosperity came from our abundant natural resources. Then in later days, our prosperity came from the fact that

we were bordered by two vast oceans to our east and west which gave us an isolated domestic market.

In the days after the Second World War, our prosperity was grounded in the fact that we were the sole remaining industrial power untouched by the Second World War, relatively speaking.

All of those advantages relatively speaking are gone; and the way we're going to be prosperous today and in the future is by having the best educated, best motivated workforce anywhere in the world. We're not going to have that best educated and best motivated workforce without a high-quality education for every child in America.

I see this bill as a step in that direction by enriching and making more accountable the charter school movement in our country.

Make no mistake about it: all charter schools are not perfect. Many charter schools, frankly, are very troubled. But the charter school movement has been a positive step forward for our country. This bill adds accountability to that movement and adds new resources that I think are welcome.

I would echo the words of Ranking Member MILLER and note that 90 percent of children in America's schools are in public schools. And the principal legislative action we have on those public schools is the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. I know that the chairman of the committee has worked very diligently to prepare the committee for the work we could do on that. And I'm hopeful that we can have the same kind of cooperative effort for the ESEA reauthorization as we have for this charter school bill.

There is much more to do, but today is a good first step. I urge a "yes" vote.

Mr. KLINE. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana, Dr. BUCSHON.

Mr. BUCSHON. Thank you, Chairman KLINE.

Mr. Chairman, first let me thank Representative HUNTER, Chairman KLINE, Ranking Member MILLER, and others for their hard work and leadership on this legislation.

I rise today as a cosponsor of H.R. 2218, the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act. Where American education was once a world leader, over the past few decades we are losing our advantage. The Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act will facilitate the development and replication of high-performing charter schools that will help America regain its stature as a leader in educating its citizens.

Charter schools are created through a contract with local education providers that allow flexibility and innovation in educating our children while maintaining the same requirements and accountability of traditional public schools. Charter schools are able to bring innovation and special programming into the curriculum that is

uniquely tailored to the needs of their specific student population. This not only allows choice for parents whose children may be better suited for this kind of flexibility, but also can inspire progress in traditional schools by raising the bar and creating greater transparency.

By increasing funding opportunities for the replication of successful charter schools and facilities assistance, H.R. 2218 encourages States to invest in charter schools.

Further, H.R. 2218 supports the evaluation of the impact of charter schools on their students, faculty, parents, and communities to ensure that high-quality education is available for every child and parents can choose the correct venue for their child's education.

In my district in Evansville, Indiana, Signature School was ranked the top high school in the Midwest and the number three charter school in the country by The Washington Post. These rankings were based on data that indicate how well a school prepares its students for college based on Advanced Placement tests or International Baccalaureate completions. Signature School is an example of a high-performing charter school that this legislation aims to replicate.

Replicating schools like Signature School that have a proven history for effectively preparing our children for college is not only in the best interest of students and parents but also in the best interest of the economy. By increasing the number of students that are college ready, we build a more educated generation, more prepared to take on the complex jobs in health care, engineering, science and technology and others that future industries will demand.

With an unemployment rate near 9 percent, educating our students is critical. By increasing our students' access to high-quality charter schools, H.R. 2218 will prepare our children for the high-tech jobs of the future. This is essential if we are to maintain our competitiveness in a global economy.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), the intellectual architect of all of this.

Mr. POLIS. I thank the gentleman from California and the gentleman from Minnesota.

There is a lot of good in public education today. When we look across our country, just as we see examples of what doesn't work—drop-out factory schools where kids are falling further and further behind each year, schools that are unsafe learning environments for their kids—just as we have that, we also have examples of what works, what works with our most at-risk populations in this country showing that every student in this country can learn and can achieve, given the right opportunity and the right school environment.

Now, charter schools aren't the silver bullet or the solution, but they are a tool in the arsenal of school districts in the States to address the learning needs of all students.

Nationally, there's over 5,000 charter schools representing just over 5 percent of all public schools in the country. Many of those charter schools couldn't have gotten off the ground without the Federal start-up grant that this bill re-authorizes. Importantly, again because we have examples that this works, this bill, for the first times, allows States to use the money to expand and replicate learning models that work.

I point to one in Colorado, the Ricardo Flores Magon Academy. Ninety-three percent free and reduced lunch, 86 percent English language learners, and yet they scored far above the State average in the past 3 years, 95 to 100 percent proficient in math and about 20 percent higher than the State average score—the State average score that includes wealthy suburban districts as well.

□ 1440

Yes, these students can learn, and schools like Ricardo Flores Magon Academy will now under this new authorization have access to expansion and replication money.

So, when models work—whether that's a model like KIPP nationally, which has successfully served some of our most at-risk communities, or whether it's grassroots efforts across our country—they will be able to access resources to serve more students and grow or to open up additional branches of the same school. National, State, and local research consistently shows that, yes, not all charter schools work. Some underperform other public schools. Some perform at the same level, and some do better.

What we do with this bill is we provide for best practices nationally. We've learned a lot in the last 10 years with regard to charter schools. We now have some best practices in this bill, like removing caps on the number of charter schools in districts. Through the manager's amendment, we ensure that charter schools can participate in food services as well as in transportation services in districts. I want to point out the importance of the transportation because, to make choice meaningful, to add the emphasis to choice, you have to have transportation options to get the most at-risk kids to school; otherwise choice is simply an empty promise.

By focusing Federal investments, as H.R. 2218 does, it ensures that we maximize the impact of our limited Federal resources on improving student achievement and reducing the learning gap across the country. To succeed as a Nation, we need to do a better job with our human capital in preparing the next generation of Americans for the

next generation of jobs, and this bill will be an important tool in that arsenal.

I strongly support this bill.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to the time remaining on both sides?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Minnesota has remaining 16 minutes. The gentleman from California has remaining 15 minutes.

Mr. KLINE. It is my understanding that the gentleman from California has several more speakers.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. They're here in spirit. They're not here in person, unfortunately.

Mr. KLINE. I am prepared to reserve and let you call on speakers.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I thank the gentleman. I have one or two other speakers. We've put out a call to them, but they've not responded. I'll see if we can maybe fit them in on the manager's amendment if they want to speak because I'll be very brief on the manager's amendment on this side.

So let me just close by again thanking everyone on the committee for their support. I certainly want to thank the staff on both sides of the aisle but particularly the staff on this side of the aisle, and the members of our committee, for helping me with this legislation. I want to recognize Jamie Fastreau, Ruth Friedman, Kara Marchione, Laura Schifter, Daniel Brown, Megan O'Reilly, and Adam Schaefer for all of their contributions to this successful bipartisan effort.

Finally, I would just like to say, as many speakers have said, all charter schools aren't perfect; this isn't a silver bullet. What we hope to be able to do is to really continue to grow the entrepreneurial spirit of young people across the board looking at our education system, thinking how it can be done better, what are the best practices, what are the indicators of successful schools, of successful learning environments, of successful teaching environments for teachers, for students, and focusing on the academic achievement and the benefits to the students. And then to be able to share those models across the charter school spectrum, across the traditional public school spectrum so that all of us can learn and benefit from that, and most importantly so we can create those environments where America's children will have the opportunity to have access to a first-class education that will serve them the rest of their lives.

I believe that that effort is facilitated by the charter school movement. I believe that this legislation is a substantial improvement on the original authorization for charter schools to participate in this area, and I look forward to the passage of this legislation.

With that, I've danced as long as I can. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, I want to add my thanks to those of Ranking Member MILLER's to the staffs on both sides, to the members of the committee on both sides, and to our colleagues not on the committee, like Mr. POLIS, for their input and help on this legislation.

All of us were elected to Congress with the promise to enact laws that will make this country a better place for our children and our grandchildren. This starts with ensuring that every child has access to a quality education.

For many students and their parents, charter schools are a beacon of hope and, in some cases, the only beacon of hope. They symbolize opportunity, choice, and educational excellence, and it is past time to ensure more families and communities across the United States have access to these groundbreaking institutions.

By approving the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act today, we can help put more students on the path to a successful future. I urge my colleagues to put differences aside and to join together in supporting this legislation for the sake of those students trapped in underperforming schools across America.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 2218, the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act. Although this bill includes some modest improvements to charter school regulation over current laws, it still falls short of ensuring that charter schools are held to high standards for educational quality, accountability and accessibility for all students.

Charter school education currently lies at the center of a growing movement to challenge traditional notions of what public education means in America. Although it is important for students to have choice within the educational model, we cannot solely rely on charter schools and private for-profit companies to solve all of our educational challenges within our public school system. There is considerable research which documents mixed reviews of success among charter schools. In a national study conducted by Stanford University economist Margaret Raymond, she found that only 17 percent of charter schools were superior to the local public schools, 37 percent of charter schools received worse results than comparable neighborhood schools and 46 percent did about the same.

With more than 1.5 million students enrolled in charter schools that vary widely in quality, it is critical that we, as a nation, have protections in place that will ensure these students achieve educational success and this bill falls short of ensuring just that. We must enhance the focus on charter schools' and authorizers' accountability. We must enhance the ever so important role of parents and the community's input in the authorizing process. We must to ensure that adequate educational resources play a critical role in improving achievement for all students. With this bill's lack of transparency and accountability requirements, guarantee to adequate resources and parental

and community involvement we will only further exacerbate current resource and opportunity gaps in the American educational system.

I appreciate my colleague Rep. GEORGE MILLER's commitment to equality education in American and his hard work on this bill but I think is important for us to take a closer look at this bill's provisions just to ensure that every student receives a quality education that is transparent, holds its educators accountable and is most importantly equal.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act, H.R. 2218, which is a bipartisan bill to reform and strengthen the charter school program.

I recently gave the graduation speech at the Princeton Charter School, a high quality charter that opened its doors more than a decade ago and was recognized as a blue ribbon school by the U.S. Department of Education in 2004. And I was pleased to see the success there. But I urged them to make sure they are well-integrated in the public school system in their community.

We need to reinvigorate America's education system and give each and every child the opportunity to learn and thrive. I am an advocate of alternative forms of education including charter schools. I think these institutions can be viable and beneficial in promoting academic achievement and diversity.

It is important to remember that charter schools are part of the public school system, and we must hold them to the same standards of broad educational access and same standards of accountability—which means we have to be willing to shut down charter schools that fail to meet expectations. Otherwise, charter schools are not true to their reason for being: to inject innovation and experimentation into the public school system. I am pleased that this bill increases accountability for charter schools and ensures states use a schools performance as a primary factor for charter renewal.

I have long believed that charter school innovations and best practices must be shared with other school districts—urban, rural, and suburban school districts alike. This requires work on both sides: outreach by the charter schools and acceptance by the traditional public school system to learn what there is to be learned. I worked with Rep. POLIS to include such language in his ALL-STAR Act.

That is why I am pleased that the bipartisan legislation before us today includes provisions to require charter schools to disseminate best practices with other public schools.

This legislation also ensures that States work with charter school authorizers to put in place the quality controls necessary for holding charter schools accountable, including annual performance data and financial audits. These provisions will lead to more replication of high-quality charter schools nationwide.

I share the concerns of some that more can be done to improve the accountability, equity and transparency of charter school, and as we continue to move this bill through the process, I hope additional improvements can be made. But we should all recognize that this bill makes a great deal of progress from the existing program and deserves our support today.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, I voted in favor of House Resolution 2218, the Empowering Parents Through Quality Charter Schools Act. While I support most of the legislation, I have a few concerns which I would like to highlight.

I welcome the additional accountability requirements and the increased access measures incorporated into this legislation, as well as the specific encouragement for public charter schools and traditional public schools to share best practices. However, I am worried about the authority given to the Secretary to dispense charter planning grant money. We have often seen this discretionary authority used to coerce school districts or states into adopting policies that do not fit within the state's education framework.

While I appreciate the bipartisan nature of this legislation, and the important advances it makes for accountability and access issues, I hope that the discretionary authority given to the Secretary is used judiciously.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 2218, the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act.

While there is no silver bullet to resolve all the problems facing our nation's education system, this bill represents a critical step toward better preparing our children to meet the challenges of a 21st century economy. It is also the first major element of reform to be acted on this year by either chamber of Congress.

We all want our kids to be able to attend a great school. It's like my father told me, "If you have a good education, you can accomplish anything."

That's why transparent and accountable charter schools are so important. They ensure greater access among our children to the high-quality education they deserve. Moreover, charter schools often operate in flexible and innovative ways that promote student success.

Unfortunately, demand for these opportunities continues to outpace supply. Over 400,000 U.S. students remain on waiting lists for enrollment in charter schools.

That's why I support H.R. 2218, which contains provisions that will remove barriers to the establishment of charter schools, improve academic performance, and reduce the number of students waiting for admission. This legislation also establishes commonsense quality controls that will protect students and taxpayers alike. The bill requires accurate assessments of schools through independent financial audits, and establishes clear academic and performance standards.

Following passage in the House, this bill will be sent to the Senate, where I hope it receives the consideration it deserves. And, should it be signed into law, I will continue to work with my colleagues to monitor its impact and ensure that our nation's charter school system continues to reflect the transparency and accountability required by this legislation.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Chair, as the House of Representatives continues to discuss how we can improve upon our nation's system of education, I would like to address my colleagues and constituents on the importance of collaboration on this issue. Our nation's young people play a vital role in the future of our country, and we must focus on the best interests of our children.

Over 20,000 students in my state of Indiana attend public charter schools. Parents seeking fresh opportunities for their children are finding successful charter school programs within some communities that educate our children in new and innovative ways. Whereas misguided programs, such as private school vouchers, take money away from improving our schools, investing in well-managed charter schools is one way to improve upon existing public school systems. Through these efforts, public school educators are able to offer experiential learning programs that take creative approaches to teaching.

H.R. 2218, the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act, has come to a vote at a critical time in our nation's history. America is at a crossroads with record unemployment, staggering deficits and widespread public discontent. Members of Congress must make the tough decisions that will make preparing all American children for the global economy a priority.

Although I realize the bill fails to address the needs to reform all of our schools, I decided to vote in support of Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act. I support the Charter Schools Program and believe we must continue to invest in school infrastructure and innovative teaching styles. I believe this legislation takes a positive step toward adding civil rights protections for students with disabilities and ensuring higher levels of overall quality within public charter schools.

As the husband of a public school principal, I recognize the need to ensure that America's children are all equally prepared for the future. I pledge to continue working with all of my colleagues to invest in across-the-board improvements in all of our public schools and create incentives that include traditional public schools, students, parents and educators.

Mr. KLINE. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered read.

The text of the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 2218

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Except as otherwise specifically provided, whenever in this Act a section or other provision is amended or repealed, such amendment or repeal shall be considered to be made to that section or other provision of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.).

SEC. 3. PURPOSE.

Section 5201 (20 U.S.C. 7221) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 5201. PURPOSE.

"It is the purpose of this subpart to—

"(1) provide financial assistance for the planning, program design, and initial implementation of charter schools;

“(2) expand the number of high-quality charter schools available to students across the Nation;

“(3) evaluate the impact of such schools on student achievement, families, and communities, and share best practices between charter schools and other public schools;

“(4) encourage States to provide support to charter schools for facilities financing in an amount more nearly commensurate to the amount the States have typically provided for traditional public schools;

“(5) improve student services to increase opportunities for students with disabilities, English language learners, and other traditionally underserved students to attend charter schools and meet challenging State academic achievement standards; and

“(6) support efforts to strengthen the charter school authorizing process to improve performance management, including transparency, monitoring, and evaluation of such schools.”.

SEC. 4. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

Section 5202 (20 U.S.C. 7221a) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 5202. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—This subpart authorizes the Secretary to carry out a charter school program that supports charter schools that serve elementary school and secondary school students by—

“(1) supporting the startup, replication, and expansion of charter schools;

“(2) assisting charter schools in accessing credit to acquire and renovate facilities for school use; and

“(3) carrying out national activities to support—

“(A) charter school development;

“(B) the dissemination of best practices of charter schools for all schools; and

“(C) the evaluation of the impact of the program on schools participating in the program.

“(b) FUNDING ALLOTMENT.—From the amount made available under section 5211 for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall—

“(1) reserve 15 percent to support charter school facilities assistance under section 5204;

“(2) reserve not more than 5 percent to carry out national activities under section 5205; and

“(3) use the remaining amount after the Secretary reserves funds under paragraphs (1) and (2) to carry out section 5203.

“(c) PRIOR GRANTS AND SUBGRANTS.—The recipient of a grant or subgrant under this subpart, as such subpart was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act, shall continue to receive funds in accordance with the terms and conditions of such grant or subgrant.”.

SEC. 5. GRANTS TO SUPPORT HIGH-QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS.

Section 5203 (20 U.S.C. 7221b) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 5203. GRANTS TO SUPPORT HIGH-QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—From the amount reserved under section 5202(b)(3), the Secretary shall award grants to State entities having applications approved pursuant to subsection (f) to enable such entities to—

“(1) award subgrants to eligible applicants for—

“(A) opening new charter schools;

“(B) opening replicable, high-quality charter school models; or

“(C) expanding high-quality charter schools; and

“(2) provide technical assistance to eligible applicants and authorized public chartering agencies in carrying out the activities described in paragraph (1) and work with authorized public chartering agencies in the State to improve authorizing quality.

“(b) STATE USES OF FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A State entity receiving a grant under this section shall—

“(A) use 90 percent of the grant funds to award subgrants to eligible applicants, in accordance with the quality charter school program described in the entity's application approved pursuant to subsection (f), for the purposes described in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of subsection (a)(1); and

“(B) reserve 10 percent of such funds to carry out the activities described in subsection (a)(2), of which not more than 30 percent may be used for administrative costs which may include technical assistance.

“(2) CONTRACTS AND GRANTS.—A State entity may use a grant received under this section to carry out the activities described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) directly or through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements.

“(c) PROGRAM PERIODS; PEER REVIEW; DIVERSITY OF PROJECTS.—

“(1) PROGRAM PERIODS.—

“(A) GRANTS.—A grant awarded by the Secretary to a State entity under this section shall be for a period of not more than 5 years.

“(B) SUBGRANTS.—A subgrant awarded by a State entity under this section shall be for a period of not more than 5 years, of which an eligible applicant may use not more than 18 months for planning and program design.

“(2) PEER REVIEW.—The Secretary, and each State entity receiving a grant under this section, shall use a peer review process to review applications for assistance under this section.

“(3) DIVERSITY OF PROJECTS.—Each State entity receiving a grant under this section shall award subgrants under this section in a manner that, to the extent possible, ensures that such subgrants—

“(A) are distributed throughout different areas, including urban, suburban, and rural areas; and

“(B) will assist charter schools representing a variety of educational approaches.

“(d) LIMITATIONS.—

“(1) GRANTS.—A State entity may not receive more than 1 grant under this section for a 5-year period.

“(2) SUBGRANTS.—An eligible applicant may not receive more than 1 subgrant under this section per charter school for a 5-year period.

“(e) APPLICATIONS.—A State entity desiring to receive a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require. The application shall include the following:

“(1) DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM.—A description of the entity's objectives in running a quality charter school program under this section and how the objectives of the program will be carried out, including a description—

“(A) of how the entity—

“(i) will support both new charter school startup and the expansion and replication of high-quality charter school models;

“(ii) will inform eligible charter schools, developers, and authorized public chartering agencies of the availability of funds under the program;

“(iii) will work with eligible applicants to ensure that the applicants access all Federal funds that they are eligible to receive, and help the charter schools supported by the applicants and the students attending the charter schools—

“(I) participate in the Federal programs in which the schools and students are eligible to participate; and

“(II) receive the commensurate share of Federal funds the schools and students are eligible to receive under such programs;

“(iv) in the case in which the entity is not a State educational agency—

“(I) will work with the State educational agency and the charter schools in the State to maximize charter school participation in Federal and State programs for charter schools; and

“(II) will work with the State educational agency to adequately operate the entity's program under this section, where applicable;

“(v) will ensure eligible applicants that receive a subgrant under the entity's program are prepared to continue to operate the charter schools receiving the subgrant funds once the funds have expired;

“(vi) will support charter schools in local educational agencies with large numbers of schools that must comply with the requirements of section 1116(b);

“(vii) will work with charter schools to promote inclusion of all students and support all students once they are enrolled to promote retention;

“(viii) will work with charter schools on recruitment practices, including efforts to engage groups that may otherwise have limited opportunities to participate in charter schools;

“(ix) will share best and promising practices between charter schools and other public schools;

“(x) will ensure the charter schools they support can meet the educational needs of their students, including students with disabilities and English language learners; and

“(xi) will support efforts to increase quality initiatives, including meeting the quality authorizing elements described in paragraph (2)(E);

“(B) of the extent to which the entity—

“(i) is able to meet and carry out the priorities listed in subsection (f)(2); and

“(ii) is working to develop or strengthen a cohesive statewide system to support the opening of new charter schools and replicable, high-quality charter school models, and expanding high-quality charter schools;

“(C) how the entity will carry out the subgrant competition, including—

“(i) a description of the application each eligible applicant desiring to receive a subgrant will submit, including—

“(I) a description of the roles and responsibilities of eligible applicants, partner organizations, and management organizations, including the administrative and contractual roles and responsibilities; and

“(II) a description of the quality controls agreed to between the eligible applicant and the authorized public chartering agency involved, such as a contract or performance agreement, and how a school's performance on the State's academic accountability system will be a primary factor for renewal; and

“(ii) a description of how the entity will review applications; and

“(D) in the case of an entity that partners with an outside organization to carry out the entity's quality charter school program, in whole or in part, of the roles and responsibilities of this partner.

“(2) ASSURANCES.—Assurances, including a description of how the assurances will be met, that—

“(A) each charter school receiving funds under the entity's program will have a high degree of autonomy over budget and operations;

“(B) the entity will support charter schools in meeting the educational needs of their students as described in paragraph (1)(A)(x);

“(C) the entity will ensure that the authorized public chartering agency of any charter school that receives funds under the entity's program—

“(i) ensures that the charter school is meeting the obligations under this Act, part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and

“(ii) adequately monitors and helps the schools in recruiting, enrolling, and meeting the needs of all students, including students with disabilities and English language learners;

“(D) the entity will provide adequate technical assistance to eligible applicants to—

“(i) meet the objectives described in clauses (vii) and (viii) of paragraph (1)(A) and paragraph (2)(B); and

“(ii) enroll traditionally underserved students, including students with disabilities and English language learners, to promote an inclusive education environment;

“(E) the entity will promote quality authorizing, such as through providing technical assistance, to support all authorized public chartering agencies in the State to improve the monitoring of their charter schools, including by—

“(i) using annual performance data, which may include graduation rates and student growth data, as appropriate, to measure the progress of their schools toward becoming high-quality charter schools; and

“(ii) reviewing the schools’ independent, annual audits of financial statements conducted in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and ensuring any such audits are publicly reported; and

“(F) the entity will work to ensure that charter schools are included with the traditional public school system in decision-making about the public school system in the State.

“(3) REQUESTS FOR WAIVERS.—A request and justification for waivers of any Federal statutory or regulatory provisions that the entity believes are necessary for the successful operation of the charter schools that will receive funds under the entity’s program under this section, and a description of any State or local rules, generally applicable to public schools, that will be waived, or otherwise not apply to such schools.

“(f) SELECTION CRITERIA; PRIORITY.—

“(1) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall award grants to State entities under this section on the basis of the quality of the applications submitted under subsection (e), after taking into consideration—

“(A) the degree of flexibility afforded by the State’s public charter school law and how the entity will work to maximize the flexibility provided to charter schools under the law;

“(B) the ambitiousness of the entity’s objectives for the quality charter school program carried out under this section;

“(C) the quality of the strategy for assessing achievement of those objectives;

“(D) the likelihood that the eligible applicants receiving subgrants under the program will meet those objectives and improve educational results for students;

“(E) the proposed number of new charter schools to be opened, and the number of high-quality charter schools to be replicated or expanded under the program;

“(F) the entity’s plan to—

“(i) adequately monitor the eligible applicants receiving subgrants under the entity’s program; and

“(ii) work with the authorized public chartering agencies involved to avoid duplication of work for the charter schools and authorized public chartering agencies;

“(G) the entity’s plan to provide adequate technical assistance, as described in the entity’s application under subsection (e), for the eligible applicants receiving subgrants under the entity’s program under this section; and

“(H) the entity’s plan to support quality authorizing efforts in the State, consistent with the objectives described in subparagraph (B).

“(2) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to State entities to the extent that they meet the following criteria:

“(A) In the case in which a State entity is located in a State that allows an entity other than the State educational agency to be an authorized public chartering agency or a State in which only a local educational agency may be an authorized public chartering agency, the State has an appeals process for the denial of an application for a charter school.

“(B) The State entity is located in a State that does not impose any limitation on the number or percentage of charter schools that may exist or the number or percentage of students that may attend charter schools in the State.

“(C) The State entity is located in a State that ensures equitable financing, as compared to traditional public schools, for charter schools and students in a prompt manner.

“(D) The State entity supports full-, blended-, or hybrid-online charter school models.

“(E) The State entity is located in a State that uses charter schools and best practices from charter schools to help improve struggling schools and local educational agencies.

“(F) The State entity partners with an organization that has a demonstrated record of success in developing management organizations to support the development of charter schools in the State.

“(G) The State entity demonstrates quality policies and practices to support and monitor charter schools through factors, including—

“(i) the proportion of high-quality charter schools in the State; and

“(ii) the proportion of charter schools enrolling, at a rate similar to traditional public schools, traditionally underserved students, including students with disabilities and English language learners.

“(g) LOCAL USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible applicant receiving a subgrant under this section shall use such funds to open new charter schools or replicable, high-quality charter school models, or expand existing high-quality charter schools.

“(h) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Each State entity receiving a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary, at the end of the third year of the 5-year grant period and at the end of such grant period, a report on—

“(1) the number of students served and, if applicable, how many new students were served during each year of the grant period;

“(2) the number of subgrants awarded under this section to carry out each of the following—

“(A) the opening of new charter schools;

“(B) the opening of replicable, high-quality charter school models; and

“(C) the expansion of high-quality charter schools;

“(3) the progress the entity made toward meeting the priorities described in subsection (f)(2), as applicable;

“(4) how the entity met the objectives of the quality charter school program described in the entity’s application under subsection (e);

“(5) how the entity complied with, and ensured that eligible applicants complied with, the assurances described in the entity’s application; and

“(6) how the entity worked with authorized public chartering agencies, including how the agencies worked with the management company or leadership of the schools in which the subgrants were awarded.

“(i) STATE ENTITY DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘State entity’ means—

“(1) a State educational agency;

“(2) a State charter school board; or

“(3) a Governor of a State.”.

SEC. 6. FACILITIES FINANCING ASSISTANCE.

Section 5204 (20 U.S.C. 7221c) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 5204. FACILITIES FINANCING ASSISTANCE.

“(a) GRANTS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—From the amount reserved under section 5202(b)(1), the Secretary shall award not less than 3 grants to eligible entities that have applications approved under subsection (d) to demonstrate innovative methods of assisting charter schools to address the cost of acquiring, constructing, and renovating facilities by enhancing the availability of loans or bond financing.

“(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(A) a public entity, such as a State or local governmental entity;

“(B) a private nonprofit entity; or

“(C) a consortium of entities described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

“(b) GRANTEE SELECTION.—

“(1) EVALUATION OF APPLICATION.—The Secretary shall evaluate each application submitted under subsection (d), and shall determine whether the application is sufficient to merit approval.

“(2) DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS.—The Secretary shall award at least one grant to an eligible entity described in subsection (a)(2)(A), at least one grant to an eligible entity described in subsection (a)(2)(B), and at least one grant to an eligible entity described in subsection (a)(2)(C), if applications are submitted that permit the Secretary to do so without approving an application that is not of sufficient quality to merit approval.

“(c) GRANT CHARACTERISTICS.—Grants under subsection (a) shall be of a sufficient size, scope, and quality so as to ensure an effective demonstration of an innovative means of enhancing credit for the financing of charter school acquisition, construction, or renovation.

“(d) APPLICATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under subsection (a), an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary an application in such form as the Secretary may reasonably require.

“(2) CONTENTS.—An application submitted under paragraph (1) shall contain—

“(A) a statement identifying the activities proposed to be undertaken with funds received under subsection (a), including how the eligible entity will determine which charter schools will receive assistance, and how much and what types of assistance charter schools will receive;

“(B) a description of the involvement of charter schools in the application’s development and the design of the proposed activities;

“(C) a description of the eligible entity’s expertise in capital market financing;

“(D) a description of how the proposed activities will leverage the maximum amount of private-sector financing capital relative to the amount of government funding used and otherwise enhance credit available to charter schools, including how the entity will offer a combination of rates and terms more favorable than the rates and terms that a charter school could receive without assistance from the entity under this section;

“(E) a description of how the eligible entity possesses sufficient expertise in education to evaluate the likelihood of success of a charter school program for which facilities financing is sought; and

“(F) in the case of an application submitted by a State governmental entity, a description of the actions that the entity has taken, or will take, to ensure that charter schools within the State receive the funding the charter schools need to have adequate facilities.

“(e) CHARTER SCHOOL OBJECTIVES.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this section shall use the funds deposited in the reserve account established under subsection (f) to assist one or more charter schools to access private sector capital to accomplish one or both of the following objectives:

“(1) The acquisition (by purchase, lease, donation, or otherwise) of an interest (including an interest held by a third party for the benefit of a charter school) in improved or unimproved real property that is necessary to commence or continue the operation of a charter school.

“(2) The construction of new facilities, including predevelopment costs, or the renovation, repair, or alteration of existing facilities, necessary to commence or continue the operation of a charter school.

“(f) RESERVE ACCOUNT.—

“(1) USE OF FUNDS.—To assist charter schools to accomplish the objectives described in subsection (e), an eligible entity receiving a grant under subsection (a) shall, in accordance with State and local law, directly or indirectly, alone or in collaboration with others, deposit the funds received under subsection (a) (other than funds used for administrative costs in accordance with subsection (g)) in a reserve account established and maintained by the eligible entity for this purpose. Amounts deposited in such account shall be used by the eligible entity for one or more of the following purposes:

“(A) Guaranteeing, insuring, and reinsuring bonds, notes, evidences of debt, loans, and interests therein, the proceeds of which are used for an objective described in subsection (e).

“(B) Guaranteeing and insuring leases of personal and real property for an objective described in subsection (e).

“(C) Facilitating financing by identifying potential lending sources, encouraging private lending, and other similar activities that directly promote lending to, or for the benefit of, charter schools.

“(D) Facilitating the issuance of bonds by charter schools, or by other public entities for the benefit of charter schools, by providing technical, administrative, and other appropriate assistance (including the recruitment of bond counsel, underwriters, and potential investors and the consolidation of multiple charter school projects within a single bond issue).

“(2) INVESTMENT.—Funds received under this section and deposited in the reserve account established under paragraph (1) shall be invested in obligations issued or guaranteed by the United States or a State, or in other similarly low-risk securities.

“(3) REINVESTMENT OF EARNINGS.—Any earnings on funds received under subsection (a) shall be deposited in the reserve account established under paragraph (1) and used in accordance with such subsection.

“(g) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—An eligible entity may use not more than 2.5 percent of the funds received under subsection (a) for the administrative costs of carrying out its responsibilities under this section (excluding subsection (k)).

“(h) AUDITS AND REPORTS.—

“(1) FINANCIAL RECORD MAINTENANCE AND AUDIT.—The financial records of each eligible entity receiving a grant under subsection (a) shall be maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and shall be subject to an annual audit by an independent public accountant.

“(2) REPORTS.—

“(A) GRANTEE ANNUAL REPORTS.—Each eligible entity receiving a grant under subsection (a) annually shall submit to the Secretary a report of its operations and activities under this section.

“(B) CONTENTS.—Each annual report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include—

“(i) a copy of the most recent financial statements, and any accompanying opinion on such statements, prepared by the independent public accountant reviewing the financial records of the eligible entity;

“(ii) a copy of any report made on an audit of the financial records of the eligible entity that

was conducted under paragraph (1) during the reporting period;

“(iii) an evaluation by the eligible entity of the effectiveness of its use of the Federal funds provided under subsection (a) in leveraging private funds;

“(iv) a listing and description of the charter schools served during the reporting period, including the amount of funds used by each school, the type of project facilitated by the grant, and the type of assistance provided to the charter schools;

“(v) a description of the activities carried out by the eligible entity to assist charter schools in meeting the objectives set forth in subsection (e); and

“(vi) a description of the characteristics of lenders and other financial institutions participating in the activities undertaken by the eligible entity under this section (excluding subsection (k)) during the reporting period.

“(C) SECRETARIAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall review the reports submitted under subparagraph (A) and shall provide a comprehensive annual report to Congress on the activities conducted under this section (excluding subsection (k)).

“(i) NO FULL FAITH AND CREDIT FOR GRANTEE OBLIGATION.—No financial obligation of an eligible entity entered into pursuant to this section (such as an obligation under a guarantee, bond, note, evidence of debt, or loan) shall be an obligation of, or guaranteed in any respect by, the United States. The full faith and credit of the United States is not pledged to the payment of funds which may be required to be paid under any obligation made by an eligible entity pursuant to any provision of this section.

“(j) RECOVERY OF FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in accordance with chapter 37 of title 31, United States Code, shall collect—

“(A) all of the funds in a reserve account established by an eligible entity under subsection (f)(1) if the Secretary determines, not earlier than 2 years after the date on which the eligible entity first received funds under this section (excluding subsection (k)), that the eligible entity has failed to make substantial progress in carrying out the purposes described in subsection (f)(1); or

“(B) all or a portion of the funds in a reserve account established by an eligible entity under subsection (f)(1) if the Secretary determines that the eligible entity has permanently ceased to use all or a portion of the funds in such account to accomplish any purpose described in subsection (f)(1).

“(2) EXERCISE OF AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall not exercise the authority provided in paragraph (1) to collect from any eligible entity any funds that are being properly used to achieve one or more of the purposes described in subsection (f)(1).

“(3) PROCEDURES.—The provisions of sections 451, 452, and 458 of the General Education Provisions Act shall apply to the recovery of funds under paragraph (1).

“(4) CONSTRUCTION.—This subsection shall not be construed to impair or affect the authority of the Secretary to recover funds under part D of the General Education Provisions Act.

“(k) PER-PUPIL FACILITIES AID PROGRAM.—

“(1) DEFINITION OF PER-PUPIL FACILITIES AID PROGRAM.—In this subsection, the term ‘per-pupil facilities aid program’ means a program in which a State makes payments, on a per-pupil basis, to charter schools to provide the schools with financing—

“(A) that is dedicated solely for funding charter school facilities; or

“(B) a portion of which is dedicated for funding charter school facilities.

“(2) GRANTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—From the amount reserved under section 5202(b)(1) remaining after the Secretary makes grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall make grants, on a competitive basis, to States to pay for the Federal share of the cost of establishing or enhancing, and administering per-pupil facilities aid programs.

“(B) PERIOD.—The Secretary shall award grants under this subsection for periods of not more than 5 years.

“(C) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost described in subparagraph (A) for a per-pupil facilities aid program shall be not more than—

“(i) 90 percent of the cost, for the first fiscal year for which the program receives assistance under this subsection;

“(ii) 80 percent in the second such year;

“(iii) 60 percent in the third such year;

“(iv) 40 percent in the fourth such year; and

“(v) 20 percent in the fifth such year.

“(D) STATE SHARE.—A State receiving a grant under this subsection may partner with 1 or more organizations to provide up to 50 percent of the State share of the cost of establishing or enhancing, and administering the per-pupil facilities aid program.

“(E) MULTIPLE GRANTS.—A State may receive more than 1 grant under this subsection, so long as the amount of such funds provided to charter schools increases with each successive grant.

“(3) USE OF FUNDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A State that receives a grant under this subsection shall use the funds made available through the grant to establish or enhance, and administer, a per-pupil facilities aid program for charter schools in the State of the applicant.

“(B) EVALUATIONS; TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; DISSEMINATION.—From the amount made available to a State through a grant under this subsection for a fiscal year, the State may reserve not more than 5 percent to carry out evaluations, to provide technical assistance, and to disseminate information.

“(C) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds made available under this subsection shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, State, and local public funds expended to provide per pupil facilities aid programs, operations financing programs, or other programs, for charter schools.

“(4) REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—No State may be required to participate in a program carried out under this subsection.

“(B) STATE LAW.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, a State shall establish or enhance, and administer, a per-pupil facilities aid program for charter schools in the State, that—

“(I) is specified in State law; and

“(II) provides annual financing, on a per-pupil basis, for charter school facilities.

“(ii) SPECIAL RULE.—A State that is required under State law to provide its charter schools with access to adequate facility space may be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection if the State agrees to use the funds to develop a per-pupil facilities aid program consistent with the requirements of this subsection.

“(5) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, a State shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.”.

SEC. 7. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

Section 5205 (20 U.S.C. 7221d) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 5205. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—From the amount reserved under section 5202(b)(2), the Secretary shall—

“(1) use not less than 50 percent of such funds to award grants in accordance with subsection (b); and

“(2) use the remainder of such funds to—

“(A) disseminate technical assistance to State entities in awarding subgrants under section 5203;

“(B) disseminate best practices; and

“(C) evaluate the impact of the charter school program, including the impact on student achievement, carried out under this subpart.

“(b) GRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible applicants for the purpose of carrying out the activities described in section 5202(a)(1), subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 5203(a)(1), and section 5203(g).

“(2) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, grants awarded under this subsection shall have the same terms and conditions as grants awarded to State entities under section 5203.

“(3) ELIGIBLE APPLICANT DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘eligible applicant’ means an eligible applicant that desires to open a charter school in—

“(A) a State that did not apply for a grant under section 5203;

“(B) a State that did not receive a grant under section 5203; or

“(C) a State that received a grant under section 5203 and is in the 4th or 5th year of the grant period for such grant.

“(c) CONTRACTS AND GRANTS.—The Secretary may carry out any of the activities described in this section directly or through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements.”.

SEC. 8. RECORDS TRANSFER.

Section 5208 (20 U.S.C. 7221g) is amended—

(1) by inserting “as quickly as possible and” before “to the extent practicable”; and

(2) by striking “section 602” and inserting “section 602(14)”.

SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.

Section 5210 (20 U.S.C. 7221i) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (K);

(B) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (L) and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end, the following:

“(M) may serve prekindergarten or post secondary students.”;

(2) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking “under section 5203(d)(3)”;

(3) by inserting at the end the following:

“(5) EXPANSION OF A HIGH-QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOL.—The term ‘expansion of a high-quality charter school’ means a high-quality charter school that either significantly increases its enrollment or adds one or more grades to its school.

“(6) HIGH-QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOL.—The term ‘high-quality charter school’ means a charter school that—

“(A) shows evidence of strong academic results, which may include strong academic growth as determined by a State;

“(B) has no significant issues in the areas of student safety, financial management, or statutory or regulatory compliance;

“(C) has demonstrated success in significantly increasing student academic achievement and attainment for all students served by charter schools; and

“(D) has demonstrated success in increasing student academic achievement for the subgroups of students described in section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v)(II).

“(7) REPLICABLE, HIGH-QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOL MODEL.—The term ‘replicable, high-quality charter school model’ means a high-quality charter school that will open a new campus under an existing charter.”.

SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 5211 (20 U.S.C. 7221j) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 5211. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subpart \$300,000,000 for fiscal year 2012 and each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.”.

SEC. 11. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) REPEAL.—Subpart 2 of part B of title V (20 U.S.C. 7223 et seq.) is repealed.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in section 2 is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to section 5203 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 5203. Grants to support high-quality charter schools.”;

(2) by striking the item relating to section 5204 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 5204. Facilities Financing Assistance.”; and

(3) by striking subpart 2 of part B of title V.

The CHAIR. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part A of House Report 112-200. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. KLINE

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part A of House Report 112-200.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, beginning on line 6, strike “English language learners” and insert “limited English proficient students”.

Page 5, line 19, insert “or subpart 2” after “this subpart”.

Page 7, line 16, insert “GRANT NUMBER AND AMOUNT;” after “REVIEW;”.

Page 7, line 17, insert “; WAIVERS” after “PROJECTS”.

Page 8, after line 6, insert the following:

“(3) GRANT NUMBER AND AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall ensure that the number of grants awarded under this section and the award amounts will allow for a sufficient number of new grants to be awarded under this section for each succeeding fiscal year.”.

Page 8, line 7, redesignate paragraph (3) as paragraph (4).

Page 8, after line 15, insert the following:

“(5) WAIVERS.—The Secretary may waive any statutory or regulatory requirement over which the Secretary exercises administrative authority except any such requirement relating to the elements of a charter school described in section 5210(1), if—

“(A) the waiver is requested in an approved application under this section; and

“(B) the Secretary determines that granting such a waiver will promote the purpose of this subpart.”.

Page 11, line 16, strike “English language learners” and insert “limited English proficient students”.

Page 12, line 5, strike “expanding” and insert “the expansion of”.

Page 12, line 7, insert “of” before “how”.

Page 12, line 17, strike “and”.

Page 13, after line 2, insert the following:

“(III) a description of how the eligible applicant will solicit and consider input from parents and other members of the community on the implementation and operation of each charter school receiving funds under the entity’s program; and”

Page 13, line 4, strike “and”.

Page 13, line 9, strike the period and insert “; and”.

Page 13, after line 9, insert the following:

“(E) of how the entity will help the charter schools receiving funds under the entity’s program consider the transportation needs of the schools’ students; and

“(F) of how the entity will support diverse charter school models, including models that serve rural communities.”.

Page 13, line 22, strike “the charter school” and insert “each charter school”.

Page 14, line 1, strike “and”.

Page 14, line 2, insert before the semicolon, “the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972”.

Page 14, beginning on line 3, strike “the schools” and insert “each charter school”.

Page 14, beginning on line 6, strike “English language learners” and insert “limited English proficient students”.

Page 14, line 7, insert “and” after the semicolon.

Page 14, after line 7, insert the following:

“(iii) ensures that each charter school solicits and considers input from parents and other members of the community on the implementation and operation of the school;”.

Page 14, line 15, strike “English language learners” and insert “limited English proficient students”.

Page 14, beginning on line 22, amend clause (i) to read as follows:

“(i) assessing annual performance data of the schools, including, as appropriate, graduation rates and student growth; and”.

Page 15, line 8, strike “and”.

Page 15, line 12, strike the period at the end and insert “; and”.

Page 15, after line 12, insert the following:

“(G) the entity will ensure that each charter school in the State make publicly available, consistent with the dissemination requirements of the annual State report card, the information parents need to make informed decisions about the educational options available to their children, including information on the educational program, student support services, and annual performance and enrollment data for the groups of students described in section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v)(II).”.

Page 16, line 17, insert “proposed” before “number”.

Page 17, line 7, strike “and”.

Page 17, line 10, strike the period at the end and insert “; and”.

Page 17, insert after line 10, the following:

“(I) the entity’s plan to solicit and consider input from parents and other members of the community on the implementation and operation of the charter schools in the State.”.

Page 18, beginning on line 7, strike subparagraph (D).

Page 18, line 9, redesignate subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (D).

Page 18, line 13, redesignate subparagraph (F) as subparagraph (E).

Page 18, line 18, redesignate subparagraph (G) as subparagraph (F).

Page 18, line 20, strike the comma after "factors".

Page 19, line 2, strike "English language learners" and insert "limited English proficient students".

Page 19, after line 2, insert the following:

"(G) The State entity supports charter schools that support at-risk students through activities such as dropout prevention or dropout recovery.

"(H) The State entity authorizes all charter schools in the State to serve as school food authorities."

Page 19, line 12, insert "by each subgrant awarded under this section" after "number of students served".

Page 19, line 14, strike "grant" and insert "subgrant".

Page 20, line 10, strike "in which the subgrants were awarded" and insert "that received subgrants under this section".

Page 20, line 23, strike "not less than 3 grants to eligible entities that have" and insert "grants to eligible entities that have the highest-quality".

Page 20, line 24, after "subsection (d)" insert ", after considering the diversity of such applications,"

Page 21, beginning on line 11, amend subsection (b) to read as follows:

"(b) GRANTEE SELECTION.—The Secretary shall evaluate each application submitted under subsection (d), and shall determine whether the application is sufficient to merit approval."

Page 26, beginning on line 2, strike "subsection" and insert "paragraph".

Page 32, line 23, strike "To" and insert "Except as provided in clause (ii), to".

Page 33, line 7, strike "A" and insert "Notwithstanding clause (i), a".

Page 33, line 10, insert ", but which does not have a per-pupil facilities aid program for charter schools specified in State law," after "space".

Page 34, line 7, insert ", and eligible entities and States receiving grants under section 5204" before the semicolon.

Page 36, line 8, strike "inserting" and insert "adding".

Page 37, line 4, strike "subgroups" and insert "groups".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 392, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the manager's amendment offered by myself and Mr. MILLER.

In all our goals for an improved education system, one stands above the rest: ensuring students have access to a quality education. My colleagues and I firmly believe supporting the growth of high-performing charter schools will help us reach that goal.

Charter schools epitomize choice and flexibility in education, and represent an efficient way school districts can transform an underperforming traditional public school into a dynamic learning institution. Thanks to the additional autonomy afforded to these institutions, charter schools have become renowned for their ability to effectively meet the needs of the unique student population.

A great case study of adaptability of charters is Locke High School, located

in the tough South Central area of Los Angeles. Students in this area face a multitude of challenges—from gang violence to poverty to troubled homes. Locke High School had some of the lowest test scores and highest dropout rates in the country. Only roughly 5 percent of its students went on to 4-year colleges and universities.

In 2007, the LA Unified School District agreed to transform Locke High School into a public charter school. Charter school officials instituted broad changes to the school, such as improved facilities, new teachers, parental volunteer hours, uniforms, and strict disciplinary measures. As a result, attendance rates have increased to 90 percent—a real success story.

Stories of charter schools that inspire success in students no matter the circumstance exist beyond Locke High School. These institutions have benefited children and communities in cities across the United States. Unfortunately, charter schools are not growing as they should. This act will facilitate the development of high-performing charter schools by consolidating Federal funding streams, incentivizing States to support the development and expansion of these institutions, and evaluating the benefits these schools offer to students and their families.

However, as my colleagues and I continued to work together on this legislation, we realized even more could be done to help charter schools assist a variety of students, including those most at risk. The accomplishments of a charter school like Locke High School should be encouraged and supported. That's why we have developed language in the manager's amendment that would offer incentives to States that use charter schools to reach out to special populations, such as at-risk students.

Additionally, Members on both sides of the aisle decided steps must be taken to help Federal Charter School Program grants remain on a sustainable path. The manager's amendment directs the Secretary of Education to undertake proper planning efforts to ensure sufficient new grants can be awarded annually to the best applicants.

As we work to ensure all students have access to a quality education, this act is a step in the right direction. Mr. Chairman, the manager's amendment makes commonsense adjustments to improve the underlying legislation, and I urge my colleagues to lend their support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition, although I am not in opposition to the manager's amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I will be brief here because I want to yield to the gentleman from Colorado, but I want to point out that the manager's amendment again was a lot of hard work by the staff to put together the various ideas from the members of the committee on both sides of the aisle, but I think they have done a spectacular job, and the chairman and myself both support this legislation.

I am very supportive of the efforts in the manager's amendment to make sure that parent and community input is a priority in the implementation of the charter school improvement and the operation of those charter schools. We require that, as you consider the beginning of a charter school, you take into consideration, and the State entities take into consideration, the input of parents and the community. I think this is very important.

We know that there are many, many parents that want to be involved in creating charter schools, sustaining a charter school, thinking about what they want to do with the schools in their neighborhood. I think this is an important component that I hope to see in the reauthorization of the ESEA, that more consideration is given to community and to parents about how we turn schools around so that they have some skin in the game, they have some interest in the game, and they have a stake in the outcome of that.

The manager's amendment also requires that each charter school in the State make publicly available information on the educational program, the student support services, teachers, and annual performance enrollment data for all students by the subgroups, and it strengthens the application process that includes application and description of how schools will consider the transportation needs of their students, and also on how the schools and entities will support diverse charter school models, including those serving rural areas.

With that, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Colorado to talk about the replication of high-quality charters.

Mr. POLIS. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chairman, again, this process really demonstrates strong bipartisan leadership and a commitment to our Nation's children from both Chairman KLINE and Ranking Member MILLER, as well as all the members of the committee and their staff. And I express not only my deep appreciation but, I am sure, the deep appreciation of the many millions of children that this bill will help provide additional opportunities for to them both.

This manager's amendment makes a good bill even better, including allowing priority for States that allow charters to have autonomous school food services. It's critical charter schools

are allowed to have independent food services. Many lack cafeteria space in some facilities, and this amendment will prioritize States that allow for that. We all know how important nutrition is for success. Transportation to and from charter schools is also critical.

The bill also allows for the expansion, for the very first time, a replication of successful charter school models, again deferring to States in that regard. Previously, these monies were only eligible for the establishment of innovative new charter schools, a worthy goal and one that is preserved under this bill as well. But we are now 10 years later down the road. We know a little bit about what works and what doesn't work.

Based on that, the bill in the manager's amendment, A, upped the ante on the best practices for the States in terms of being good authorizers, and, B, allowed some of the funds to be used to expand and replicate proven success, as well as preserving some for the continued innovation, which is also necessary to drive our education system forward.

This manager's amendment also supports dropout prevention and recovery and rural needs. Figuring out how charter schools can fit in the context of rural and smaller school districts has also been an important learning curve over the last 10 years. This bill and the manager's amendment incorporate some of the very best thinking in that regard in terms of making sure that States have plans to ensure that charter schools can also benefit rural areas.

This bipartisan amendment exemplifies the great work of the committee leadership overall in the bill and truly does improve upon the base bill. I am very proud to be strongly supportive of the manager's amendment as well as the underlying bill.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MRS. DAVIS OF CALIFORNIA

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part A of House Report 112-200.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 17, redesignate paragraph (1) as paragraph (2), and insert the following:

"(1) improve the United States education system and educational opportunities for all Americans by supporting innovation in public education in public school settings that

prepare students to compete and contribute to the global economy;"

Page 3, line 20, redesignate paragraph (2) as paragraph (3).

Page 3, line 22, redesignate paragraph (3) as paragraph (4).

Page 4, line 1, redesignate paragraph (4) as paragraph (5).

Page 4, line 5, redesignate paragraph (5) as paragraph (6).

Page 4, line 10, redesignate paragraph (6) as paragraph (7).

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 392, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Chairman, this amendment simply stresses the need to constantly seek ways to improve and find innovative ways to teach our students in the public education system.

Given the state of the economy, we need to encourage economic and job growth from every angle. We need to do whatever is possible to compete in the global economy. The best way to stay on the cutting edge is to build a workforce that can compete against the best and the brightest in the world. We need schools to find new and innovative ways to teach our students, particularly in the key subjects of math, science, and engineering.

One example of an innovative school is the High Tech High charter school in San Diego, which has the goal of bringing highly skilled employees into the workforce.

With the support of technology companies such as Qualcomm and Microsoft, High Tech High has taken innovation in its curriculum to a new level. Since 2003, the result has been that 100 percent of High Tech High's graduates have gone on to attend college at such universities as NYU, MIT, and Yale.

High Tech High has successfully found innovative ways to teach innovation. And what does innovation in education mean? It means teachers and principals who find ways to inspire and get students excited to learn. It can mean teaching students and children how to think, how to work together, how to think across disciplines, and, most importantly, how to act on their knowledge. It will take innovation to meet these goals to consistently improve instruction in the classroom.

Steve Jobs, as we know, led Apple to become one of the largest and most successful technology companies in history. His visions led to such products as the iPod, the Mac computer, and, recently, the iPad.

Mr. Jobs once said Apple's success is not just about how much money it invests in research and development; it's about the people and creative vision. "It's about the people you have, how you're led, and how much you get it," Mr. Jobs told *Fortune* magazine in 1998.

"People," Mr. Chairman, "people" is the key word. With better and more innovative schools, we will have more creative people entering our workforce.

Unfortunately, the World Economic Forum just announced that the United States dropped to fifth place in the world's most competitive economies behind nations such as Switzerland and Singapore. Well, Mr. Chairman, that's the wrong direction and we need to turn it around.

If America is going to reach its potential, we need schools that cultivate entrepreneurs and visionaries. We need more companies such as Apple that can compete globally.

Please join me in stressing the need to support innovation, beginning with our approach to education. I applaud the efforts of our bipartisan team here that's worked so hard on this underlying bill and the amendments.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition to the amendment, although I do not intend to oppose it.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. KLINE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

This amendment is entirely consistent with the underlying purpose of the charter school movement. It improves the bill. I support the amendment.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KLINE. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this legislation.

I think one of the intents of this bill and, hopefully, in our reforms of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act is to keep our eye on global competition and understand that we must prepare today's students for tomorrow's global economy and the global competition that that suggests.

I strongly support and have had long conversations with the gentlewoman on this amendment and agree to it.

Mr. KLINE. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. PAULSEN

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part A of House Report 112-200.

Mr. PAULSEN. I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 8, line 22, after "period" insert " , unless the eligible applicant demonstrates to

the State entity not less than 3 years of improved educational results in the areas described in subparagraphs (A) and (D) of section 5210(6) for students enrolled in such charter school”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 392, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

□ 1500

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the underlying bill, H.R. 2218, the Empowering Parents through Charter Schools Act, and to offer this amendment that will give America's students more opportunities to succeed.

My amendment will make it easier for successful charter schools to replicate and expand in a timely manner because by giving these schools the ability to receive an expansion grant after 3 years rather than the current 5 years, they will be able to grow and offer quality education to even more students and provide expanded choices to parents in a shorter period of time.

So this amendment will also strengthen the bill by continuing to break down barriers to help quality charter schools grow to meet their staggering demand.

Currently, Mr. Chairman, an estimated 420,000 students across the country are being kept on waiting lists to attend the charter school of their choice. We should be giving these students more opportunities to attend and learn and be successful.

My home State of Minnesota has seen tremendous success because we have been a pioneer in expanding educational options and choice. In 1991, we were the first State to pass a charter school law, and we now have 149 registered charter schools with over 35,000 students attending them. Today, over 40 States and the District of Columbia have established charter school laws of their own.

I support the underlying bill which was crafted bipartisanship. It encourages States to support the development of charter schools. It streamlines funds to reduce administrative burdens and improve funding opportunities for the replication of successful charter schools and facilities assistance. It also supports an evaluation of the school's impact on students, families, and communities while encouraging best practices sharing between charters and traditional public schools.

There is no doubt that charter schools are a prime example that innovative education methods are constantly at work, and this bill will give our schools the ability to do even more for our children.

We all know that these charter schools consistently rank as top performers among the U.S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Schools, and

multiple national rankings of the Best High Schools in America. It is no surprise that public support and demand for these charter schools is steadily increasing.

So, Mr. Chairman, the legislation recognizes the opportunity to enhance the empowerment of parents and should go forward, allowing them to play an active role in their child's education. This amendment will give the most successful schools the ability to grow and offer even more quality education options to more parents and students.

I want to thank Chairman KLINE for his leadership, the ranking member from California for his leadership, and I also want to thank Representative POLIS for cosponsoring this amendment and for his leadership and his true advocacy, his steadfast advocacy for expansion of school choice and opportunities across the country.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. I claim time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, I am proud to bring forward this bipartisan bill. Let me express why it is important. To delay the expansion of a successful charter school for 5 years and prevent States from having the flexibility to deploy these resources after 3 proven years only consigns more kids to failure and lack of opportunity. It is an important amendment because it provides flexibility for States and charter schools to expand what works. And 1 year could be an aberration, 2 years of proven success can be lucky, but 3 years of success is hard to dispute.

When a school has 3 years of proven success, to make it wait 5 full years before it's eligible to expand with Federal money only consigns all of those students who would have been served to otherwise reside on the waiting list and are forced to attend schools that provide less educational opportunity. We are only young once in life, and that's why with regard to education and improving the quality of our public schools, we all feel the fierce urgency of now.

When a charter school starts out, it is not possible to predict whether it will be successful or not, and that's the purpose of the innovation grants. Without this amendment, charter schools that have proven success could be forced to wait 5 years before being able to replicate and expand, a wait that our Nation can't afford and, most of all, those kids on the waiting list can't afford.

This revision is especially needed for charter schools that don't use the grants for planning, which is another year before the charter school starts,

so it could be 1 year or 3 or 4 years. But if they don't use the year for a planning year, it is actually a full 5-year wait before the school would have access to expansion and replication resources without this amendment. So I am particularly glad of Mr. PAULSEN's effort to bring this forward.

The national activity section of the bill already reflects this. In fact, the national activity section provides funding after 3 years of demonstrated success, but that's only 2.5 percent of the total funds of the bill. Most of the funds under this bill are pushed to the States and allowed for the dual purpose of innovation and expansion and replication. And essentially what this bill remedies, it reflects the national activities language in saying that the States have the discretion, they are actually allowed to require 5 years of demonstrated success. I wouldn't encourage them to do that, but they have the flexibility to do it with 3 years of demonstrated success to ensure that proven educational opportunities for kids can reach more kids sooner under this amendment which is why I am proud to lend it my support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Chairman, I ask for adoption of this bipartisan amendment and the underlying bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. LUJAN

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part A of House Report 112-200.

Mr. LUJAN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 11, line 12, insert before the semicolon “, including, where appropriate, instruction and professional development in science, math, technology, and engineering education”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 392, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. LUJAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico.

Mr. LUJAN. Mr. Chairman, the United States has the best research facilities and educational facilities in the world, and we continue to be a leader in developing cutting-edge technology in fields spanning from renewable energy to medicine. But our Nation's competitiveness depends upon our ability to educate our students and equip them with the skills they need to succeed in the jobs of the future.

The President, congressional leadership, and business have all agreed that our Nation must do better in order to compete and excel globally in science,

technology, engineering and math, or STEM fields. My amendment today simply says that entities include in their application a description of how the school's program would share best practices between charter schools and other public schools, including best practices in instruction and professional development in STEM education. This amendment supports the identification of best practices and encourages opportunities for teacher training and mentoring in STEM.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. high school seniors recently tested below the international average for 21 countries in mathematics and science. This is simply not acceptable. We must make a commitment to restore science and innovation as keys to a new American economy. We must ensure that America's students are trained to be innovators, critical thinkers, problems solvers, and prepared to become part of the work force for the 21st century.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LUJAN. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding, thank him for offering the amendment, and I rise in strong support of this amendment.

Mr. LUJAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition to the amendment, but I do not intend to oppose it.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. KLINE. This amendment simply emphasizes the importance of STEM education. It is widely recognized in the business community, the education community and throughout America that there is a growing gap that we need to fill in STEM education. By underscoring the importance of STEM education, this is helpful to the bill. I encourage my colleagues to support the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. LUJAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. POLIS

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in part A of House Report 112-200.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 17, beginning on line 14, strike subparagraph (A), and insert the following:

“(A) In the case of a State entity located in a State that allows an entity other than

a local educational agency to be an authorized public chartering agency, the State has a quality authorized public chartering agency that is an entity other than a local educational agency.”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 392, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, again, one of the best practices that I think we have learned over the last 10 years is the importance of having alternative authorizing agencies. In fact, 32 States have created alternative authorizing agencies, including my home State of Colorado which has a charter school institute. In other States it takes the form of vesting mayors, university board of regents, or State boards of education as alternative authorizers.

□ 1510

Doing so ensures that bold ideas for charter schools brought forth by parents and grassroots community members are more likely to get a fair shot at being considered if there is an alternative authorizer, instead of what's already in the bill, which also should be present, which is an appeals process. An appeals process automatically kind of sets up a kind of adversarial relationship. We have that as well in Colorado. When I served on the State Board of Education, we heard appeals processes. So if a district turned down a charter school, it was appealed to the State Board. We could then overrule that district and force them to grant it. But it set up a very adversarial relationship.

What has proven to work better in 32 States that have it is having an alternative authorizer in addition to an appeals process so that districts that simply don't want to be in the charter authorizing business or that refuse to grant any charter schools or don't have an application process for them can simply allow another entity to provide the quality oversight that's needed for a charter school in the district.

One of the great evolutions of the last 10 years has been the responsibility of charter school authorizers. It's not simply a charter school that needs to reform. It's the authorizer, the public entity, that needs to hold that charter school responsible for the performance of its students. In my State of Colorado, our charter school institute approved 22 charter schools serving 10,000 students in the 6 years that we've had it. That's 22 out of about 120 charter schools that exist in the State. The State University of New York and the University of Indiana in Michigan have also approved some of those States' most successful charter schools.

Local school boards look at things in a different way sometimes. They appropriately consider their district's own

financial situation when voting on charter schools. But that focus sometimes interferes with their consideration of the greater good and local control. Quiet, quality, viable public school choices for parents and students that address the diverse learning needs of their district. Unreasonable denials by school districts can be appealed in States. And that's already one of the provisions of this. But from my own experience on the State Board of Education, I know that the appeals process is really less desirable for a number of reasons. First of all, it's only reactive and only addresses the merits of whether a particular school board denial was valid or not. It's not proactive in terms of developing innovative learning models and supporting the quality, development, and authorizing practice of charter schools. Two, appeals can address school district delays in approving charter schools. There's also a way of kind of killing by delay—burying under paperwork, unreasonable request after unreasonable request from the school district to the founders of the charter school that ultimately lead to the abandonment of the idea.

Appeals are often limited in scope and criteria. And appeals are also a drain on State resources, State Board of Education members' time, Department of Education staff time, State attorney generals' time. So while they have their role, it really should be a last resort and shouldn't be prioritized as the best practice. That's why I'm proposing to add a priority for multiple charter authorizers. Again, States will be able to determine the best form that that should take.

I should also point out this is very important for rural areas and small districts. It is very, very difficult if not impossible for a small district or rural school district to be a quality authorizer. In many cases, they recognize that, and would rather not be. In fact, in Colorado, most of the districts that have welcomed the State authorizer and said for the local applicants to apply to them instead of their district are districts that know that they can't engage in a meaningful approval or oversight process. By having a State-wide entity you allow some scale to the very important business of being an authorizer—a scale that small and rural districts lack. We can empower community members in those districts with the power of school choice and charters by ensuring that there is a multiple authorizer.

This amendment is supported by the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools as well as—and very important, a newer entity at the national level—the National Association for Charter School Authorizers, which is actually composed of districts and State authorizing agencies, both of whom have endorsed this amendment.

Again, it simply establishes this as a priority for funding, ensuring that this

best practice that we've come to learn over the last decade can better be reflected and that hopefully States that haven't yet had the chance to look at a way to create an alternative authorizing agency will be able to learn from the States that have under this, and do so, to ensure that charter schools get a fair hearing, prevent the adversarial outcomes that too frequently come from the appeals process, and ensure that choice is given meaning in rural school districts and small school districts.

I urge support of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition, although I do not intend to oppose the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. KLINE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The gentleman from Colorado has very succinctly, clearly, and I would even say eloquently explained the problem in the authorizing business in charter schools and offered a very, very good solution. This is a good amendment. It improves the bill. I support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MS. MOORE

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in part A of House Report 112-200.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 20, line 13, insert "or" after the semicolon.

Page 20, line 14, strike "or" and insert a period.

Page 20, line 15, strike paragraph (3).

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 392, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Ms. MOORE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I encourage my colleagues to support my amendment to H.R. 2218, which would strike a provision that allows Governors to apply and receive direct grants from the Federal Government and preempts State education agencies from their oversight and operational responsibilities. Let me say before I defend this amendment that I think that H.R. 2218 makes very critical changes to the charter school program that are long overdue, and it moves in the right direction in terms of being more inclusive of students, including groups that have typically had limited access to

charters such as students with disabilities and English language learners. I believe that my amendment will secure and protect these improvements and expansions of charter school programs.

I really question the wisdom of putting Governors' offices in the business of overseeing charter programs and implementing these extremely complex programs. We do know that Governors' offices do not have the infrastructure, expertise, or staff to do the job—a job which includes close monitoring of schools, holding authorities accountable, and much more. These are intricate programs with multiple moving parts that require time and labor-intensive administration.

I do believe that in my own State of Wisconsin, for example, we have constitutionally elected superintendents of public instruction. And it should remain within their purview to oversee and administer this program. Certainly, we all want Governors to be involved. But I think that my amendment makes it really clear that the ultimate responsibility should stay with those State public instruction agencies.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KLINE. All across the country we've seen Governors and other State and local officials stand up in support of important education reform efforts that put the interest of children first. The underlying legislation before us today expands the number of State entities that may compete for charter school funding, allowing Governors to act on their support for charter schools. It addresses a real concern that has arisen in States that do not have a State education agency which supports charter schools.

Today, there are more than 420,000 students on charter school wait lists. And we've all seen the recent documentaries, "Waiting for Superman" and "The Lottery." These chronicle low-income students trapped in failing schools, desperate for better education opportunities. Instead of helping States meet this truly incredible demand for more high quality charter schools, unfortunately, this amendment would actually stifle charter school growth by limiting a Governor's ability to support these institutions.

At the core of this bill is our desire to see more quality charter schools available for more students. More choice, more opportunity. Less "Waiting for Superman." And so I oppose this amendment because it works in opposition to what the underlying bill is trying to do and what we're trying to do—and that's give the States more opportunities to create and replicate more quality charter schools.

□ 1520

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KLINE. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I know Ms. MOORE has reserved her time so she can respond to this, but I just want to say I think we tried to work this out in this legislation in the fashion that if a Governor makes application, he must do this in conjunction with the SEA. And the idea that the Governor would do this on his own, or whatever, we forced that working together simply because, as you point out, most Governors' offices would not have the internal capacity to carry out the responsibilities under the grant. But to deny the Governor the opportunity seems to me doesn't make sense when it's required that the SEA be involved.

I will just say I know why you're offering the amendment, and I am obviously reluctant to oppose it, but I think we have addressed this concern in the legislation.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. KLINE. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MOORE. I want to thank the gentlemen for responding, even though they are opposed.

Let me say that I am old enough to have gone through several gubernatorial races; and Governors run for office based on crime prevention and crime control, economic development, lowering taxes, environmental protection, and even welfare reform. And so the public in many States have elected to elect separate constitutional officers that deal solely with educational opportunity. And by not adopting this amendment, we are literally cutting off the legs of the statewide constitutional officers to do the only duty for which they are elected, and that is for educational purposes, and transferring those duties to a Governor whose agenda may have nothing to do with education at all.

With respect to the notion that the Governor has to work with the statewide superintendent of public instruction, under current law right now, superintendents do work with the Governor. And so I am sad that this is being opposed by both the majority and the minority on this committee because I do think that, rather than expanding opportunities for these 420,000 charter school students, it is going to really put them all under the purview of some ideology of some Governor, Democrat, Republican, independent, whatever. They are going to be subsumed by ideology instead of under the purview of a publicly elected State public instruction superintendent.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, again, I rise in opposition to this amendment. I believe that the underlying legislation,

as Ranking Member MILLER alluded to, has language in it that strongly encourages, at the very least, Governors to work with their SEAs. But I would underscore the point that States are different. Some States are set up with different relationships between the different elected officers. They're not all elected the same way they are maybe in Wisconsin or something. Our underlying purpose here is to expand access to quality charter schools, and I believe this amendment gets in the way of that.

So I oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. HOLT

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in part A of House Report 112-200.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 33, after line 19, insert the following: "(6) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this subsection, the Secretary is encouraged to give priority to States that encourage green school building practices and certification."

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 392, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. HOLT. I thank Chairman KLINE, Ranking Member MILLER, and their staffs for their work to produce this reauthorization bill that makes a good deal of progress from the existing law. I share many of the concerns of our colleagues who want to see even more improvement in the accountability, equity and transparency of charter schools as we continue to move the bill forward.

I have a simple amendment today in this bill that reauthorizes the Charter School Program. My amendment encourages the Secretary of Education to award a priority for green school building practices to ensure that any Federal investment in charter school facilities would improve the energy efficiency and environmental advantages of those schools.

Energy bills are the second highest operating expenditure for schools after personnel costs. So we must do all we can to help schools implement green building practices and reduce their energy costs. My amendment will help ensure that schools spend educational resources on educating students rather than heating and cooling inefficient buildings.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, 30 percent of energy

consumed in buildings is used unnecessarily or inefficiently. By using green building techniques to eliminate areas where energy is used unwisely and is wasted, a school's operating costs can be reduced significantly. A dollar wasted on inefficient heating is lost forever. A dollar invested in a child will pay dividends forever.

The U.S. Green Building Council supports this amendment and in a letter to me they wrote: "On average, green schools save \$100,000 per year—enough to hire two new teachers, buy 200 new computers, or purchase 5,000 new textbooks." They go on to note that green schools don't cost more, but in fact can be built at or below regional cost and operated within existing facilities' budgets and save money.

Now, I'm disappointed that the bill we are considering today reauthorizes only charter school programs. We should be considering full reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. We should be considering a public school construction bill. Assisting local school districts with school construction and modernization would help rebuild and upgrade local schools and create jobs.

But I do want to see this amendment included in the bill. It will help schools all across America. It will save energy; it will create jobs; it will improve education.

I urge its passage.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire of the time remaining, please.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. HOLT. I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from California.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I rise in support of this amendment. I think it is very important for all the reasons the gentleman from New Jersey cited.

In terms of the savings, we are seeing more and more schools taking economic liabilities, if you will, such as parking lots and vacant land around the school, turning them into economic assets, and saving the kind of money—it has been recorded now for a number of years the money that is actually saved in these design practices in the schools that free up those resources for other educational purposes.

I want to thank the gentleman for offering the amendment.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS).

Mr. POLIS. I think the gentleman from New Jersey has, as he put it, good language that should not only be included in this bill, but I think in other relevant construction bills as well.

Very simply, it encourages the Secretary to give priority to States that encourage green building practices and certification. Again, that could be as

simple as a State making sure that those options are available. Other States have tax credits or other methods of incentivizing green school development.

When we are talking about our national energy policy, we are talking about how frustrated our constituents are with gas prices; we're talking about our national security as a Nation and our energy security. I think that for this Congress to ensure that in every bill, large and small, we encourage—again, without any mandate to school districts, without any requirement, but encourage the Secretary to give priority to States that have at least some system for encouraging green school building development, I think this is a good thing to start right here in a small way, in a bill that certainly won't on its own turn around the energy future of our country, but on its own does have the potential to help drive scale of green technology without compromising educational outcomes.

Again, I think this is an appropriate addition to the bill and will hopefully lead to improvements of energy efficiency in charter schools across the country.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

□ 1530

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition to this amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KLINE. The underlying bill maintains and strengthens Federal support to assist charter schools in accessing credit for facilities construction, as it has in the past and will in this, but it doesn't get into the details of school construction. It doesn't take another step towards getting the Federal Government involved in school construction.

I understand there's a great excitement in some areas about putting green in any construction, or in anything for that matter. If it's green, apparently it's better.

This amendment, I'm afraid, will actually weaken efforts at the State level to fund school construction. It will dramatically increase the cost of building elementary and secondary charter schools. Where there's already limited funds available, some States, school districts, and charter schools will be forced to use union workers to construct public charter schools and to comply with this need for green schools.

Instead of imposing new burdens on charter schools, we should support State and local efforts to raise student academic achievement, stay out of the school construction business. This amendment is not an appropriate role for the Federal Government. I urge opposition to the amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I think the chairman of the committee reads too

much into this amendment. It says, in awarding grants, the Secretary is encouraged to give priority to States that encourage green building practices and certification. In other words, if it certifiably will save energy and thereby save the school district money, it should be encouraged. What in the world could be wrong with that?

I would urge my chair to reconsider after he has read this amendment and support us in the passage of this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I am, at the suggestion of my colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey, indeed rereading the amendment. It says: "Priority.—In awarding grants under this subsection, the Secretary is encouraged"—and we've got to figure out what "encouraged" means—"to give priority"—I think we know what "priority" means—"to States that encourage"—we're encouraging again—"green school building practices and certification."

Again, I think this language is going to make it more difficult for States to be able to build these charter schools. We're trying to expand charter schools here and improve academic opportunities for schools, not get into a semantics battle over encouraging and green, which this is necessarily going to lead to. So, again, I oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. KING OF IOWA

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in part A of House Report 112-200.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 36, line 22, insert "and" after the semicolon.

Page 37, line 2, strike "; and" and insert a period.

Page 37, beginning on line 3, strike subparagraph (D).

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 392, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The gentleman from Iowa is happy to be recognized.

Addressing this issue, in particular it's this: that the intent of this bill is a good intent, and I support it, providing an extra incentive for high quality charter schools. It rewards those high quality charter schools with an opportunity to receive grants that are rewards for that excellence that's there, and I certainly support the initiative and the philosophy behind that.

It also identifies high quality charter schools as those that have achieved strong academic results, student safety, financial management, statutory and regulatory compliance, and has demonstrated significantly increasing student academic achievement for all students. And I emphasize "all students."

But when I read the bill, then it says, also has demonstrated success in increasing student academic achievement for the subgroups of students described in, and that's where a lot of people stop reading the bill. But when you go back and look at the reference, it sets it up so that it requires not just that the schools be open and available to students that meet these categories, four categories, Mr. Chairman—economic disadvantaged students, students from major racial and ethnic groups, students with disabilities, and students with limited English proficiency—but, in fact, the language of the bill requires that all four categories must be met in order to qualify for these grants.

I know there's misinformation out there, but this language has been something we have drilled through now for days.

What my amendment does is strike that requirement that they meet all four categories. They will have to show academic achievement for all students, and that's what I hope to achieve with this amendment. We go back to all students, which automatically includes the redundant list that is, I think, unnecessary in the bill. And the result will be, if the King amendment doesn't go on, then we'll have high quality charter schools that will have to meet four standards, those four standards of minorities and disabilities, economically disadvantaged, and limited English proficiencies.

For example, an inner city school that might have all African American students with no limited English proficiencies might qualify on the other three categories but be disqualified because they must meet all four. That's the purpose of my amendment. I urge its adoption.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment offered by Mr. KING of Iowa.

We should be very clear about this amendment, what it would do and why it would be incredibly detrimental to our students, our schools, and to our country.

In this bill, we require the performance of poor and minority students and students with disabilities to be considered when measuring the success of charter schools. That's as we chose to do when we passed No Child Left Behind, not a perfect education act by any means. But a very important component was the disaggregation of the data so that the parents of each and every one of those children, so the community leaders representing each and every one of those children would know how those children were doing.

We used to have the day when we asked how these students are doing, how this school is doing and all we got were the averages, and everybody said, oh, it's better. The fact of the matter is this is to assure that we understand how those children who have access to these schools, how, in fact, they're individually doing.

These are Title I public schools. They happen to be charter schools. And the point of that is to make sure that poor and minority children, English learners, students with disabilities have the full access to an appropriate education. And to go back to a time when we start to hide those results or we don't hold schools accountable for that is to rip away the fabric of accountability that parents and communities and taxpayers are asking for from those schools.

The idea that you would be held accountable for English learners if you had no English learners in your school is simply hokum. It just isn't what the law says.

This would be an absolute disservice to parents, to the students, and to our communities. It takes us back to the time prior to No Child Left Behind when schools would participate in hiding their failures and champion what they were trying to present to the community as their successes, and that's why we have the charter school movement. That's why we have accountability now that we never had before. That's why this amendment is opposed by so many people who are involved in the promotion of the educational opportunities for these populations: the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, the Center for American Progress, the Children's Defense Fund, and many others on the list that I would ask to be put into the RECORD. The National Council of La Raza, the National Disability Rights Network.

LIST OF GROUPS AGAINST KING AMENDMENT

The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools; 50CAN; Center for American Progress; Children's Defense Fund; Democrats for Education Reform; Education Equality Project; KIPP; Massachusetts Charter Public School Association; National

Council of La Raza; National Disability Rights Network; NewSchools Venture Fund; Council for Exceptional Children; National Center for Learning Disabilities; Easter Seals Leadership Conference on Civil Rights.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS,
Washington, DC, September 8, 2011.

DEAR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: On behalf of nearly 2 million children attending more than 5,000 public charter schools across the country, we applaud you on your successful efforts to bring H.R. 2218, Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act, to the House Floor for a vote. This legislation will improve the core federal charter school programs that are imperative in helping charter schools overcome state and local inequities as they work to provide more families with high-quality public school options.

We urge you to reject the amendment offered by Representative Steve King (R-IA). Rep. King's amendment would strike a key provision that defines a high-quality charter school as one that is showing achievement gains for students from historically disadvantaged groups, including low-income and minority students, students with disabilities, and students who are non-native English speakers. As you well know, demonstrating student achievement for all children is imperative for a successful accountability system and one that we fully support.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, 50CAN, Center for American Progress, Children's Defense Fund, Democrats for Education Reform, Education Equality Project, KIPP, Massachusetts Charter Public School Association, National Council of La Raza, National Disability Rights Network, NewSchools Venture Fund, Texas Charter School Association, Wyoming Association of Public Charter Schools.

COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN,
Arlington, VA, September 7, 2011.

Re: Oppose Amendment #9 to H.R. 2218: Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: On behalf of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), whose members serve over 10 million children and youth with disabilities and/or gifts and talents as teachers, administrators, parents, and researchers, I urge you to vote against amendment #9 to H.R. 2218, the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act offered by Congressman King (IA). This misguided amendment would weaken protections for students with disabilities in charter schools, and severely undermine the bill, which CEC supported and which passed out of the Education and the Workforce Committee on a bi-partisan vote.

CEC and its members have long been concerned by reports that demonstrate both a lack of access for students with disabilities to charter schools and a lack of oversight to ensure that students with disabilities in charter schools are appropriately served and receive all of their rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Several provisions within H.R. 2218 support increased access, service and accountability, thereby addressing many of the existing issues for students with disabilities in charter schools. Key to addressing these issues, however, is a provision within H.R. 2218 which defines a High Quality Charter School

as one that has demonstrated success in increasing academic achievement for all students, and specifically students with disabilities. Congressman King's amendment would remove this important requirement and lower the standard. Specifically, it would strike language that requires charter schools to have a record of success in working with student subgroups (i.e. students with disabilities, students from low-income backgrounds, English language learners) to receive federal dollars. Striking this important language would weaken protections added in direct response to reports of inequities in charter schools. If included, CEC would no longer support this legislation.

Provisions for students with disabilities in H.R. 2218 have bi-partisan support and represent a step forward for education policy in our nation by acknowledging that charter schools must include and appropriately serve students with disabilities. CEC supports the passage of H.R. 2218, as it passed out of the Education and the Workforce Committee, and, therefore, urges you to vote against Amendment #9 by Congressman King (IA). This misguided amendment will only weaken this bill and allow inequities for students with disabilities to continue.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

DEBORAH A. ZIEGLER,
Associate Executive
Director, Policy and
Advocacy Services,
Council for Exceptional Children.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR
LEARNING DISABILITIES
Washington, DC, September 8, 2011.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The National Center for Learning Disabilities urges you to oppose the King amendment to H.R. 2218, the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act. This amendment would roll back an important and much needed provision focused on the achievement of students with disabilities and other at-risk populations.

H.R. 2218 makes a number of improvements in how charter schools will enroll, serve, and be held accountable for the achievement of all students, including students with disabilities. Unfortunately, the King amendment would reverse one of these significant improvements by striking the focus on achievement of students with disabilities, English language learners, and other at-risk populations from the definition of a high quality charter school. Rather than embracing the bill's emphasis on improving educational experiences for all students, the amendment alters this critical improvement made to ensure high quality charter schools are focusing on every enrolled student, including those with disabilities and other at-risk populations.

This bill and its focus on all students represents a critical first step to improving the quality of instruction and educational experiences provided in charter schools. Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Miller deserve credit for crafting a bipartisan bill that will help both charter schools and the students with disabilities which they serve. The King amendment reverses this course and we urge you to oppose the amendment.

Sincerely,

JAMES H. WENDORF,
Executive Director.

NATIONAL DISABILITY
RIGHTS NETWORK,

Washington, DC, September 8, 2011.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES: On behalf of protection and advocacy agencies that represent students with disabilities and their families, we thank you for your work to bring the "Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act" (H.R. 2218) to a floor vote. The National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) is the national membership association for the 57 Protection & Advocacy (P&A) agencies that advocate on behalf of persons with disabilities in every state, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. For over 30 years, the P&A agencies have been mandated by Congress to protect and enhance the civil rights of individuals with disabilities of any age and in any setting. A central part of the work of the P&As has been to advocate for opportunities for students with disabilities to receive a quality education with their peers.

NDRN believes that H.R. 2218 improves for students with disabilities the current charter school program, but we urge you to reject the amendment offered by Representative King (R-IA). The amendment strikes a critical provision included in the definition of a high-quality charter school. A successful accountability system is imperative to ensure that charter schools are meeting the needs of students with disabilities, and the amendment will remove the provision that requires high quality charter schools to demonstrate their success in increasing student academic achievement for underserved groups of students, including students with disabilities.

Thank you for considering our views. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Cindy Smith, Public Policy Counsel at cindy.smith@ndrn.org or 202-408-9514 ext 101.

Sincerely,

CURT DECKER, J.D.,
Executive Director.

EASTER SEALS,
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, September 8, 2011.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: Today, you will have the opportunity to vote on H.R. 2218, Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act. Easter Seals urges you to vote in favor of this legislation that seeks to improve the federal charter school program and make charter schools more available to students with disabilities.

We urge you to oppose the amendment offered by Representative Steve King (R-IA) to H.R. 2218. Our experience is that students who have their academic progress measured and reported get taught. Mr. King's amendment strips away key policies within the Elementary and Secondary Education Act that require the disaggregation of data of student progress by student subgroup. Currently students with disabilities are a subgroup for which disaggregated data is required. Easter Seals strongly believes that such data is essential for students with disabilities to have opportunities to achieve academic success.

For nearly 100 years, Easter Seals has been advocating for public policies that allow children and adults with disabilities to live, learn, work and play in their communities. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

KATY BEH NEAS,
Senior Vice President, Government Relations.

With that, I would like to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE), the chairman of the committee.

Mr. KLINE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I reluctantly rise in opposition to the gentleman from Iowa's amendment. That's an unusual place for me to be on the floor of this House, but I believe that the gentleman from California has correctly outlined the problem.

One of the strengths of an otherwise pretty seriously flawed law in No Child Left Behind was the disaggregation of data. It was allowing parents and, in this case, authorizers and Governors and school boards to look in and make sure that there was no element in a school body that was being left behind. It is important, since we're trying to replicate high quality schools, that that information be available. I'm afraid the gentleman from Iowa's amendment would, in fact, end up masking that information and depriving those who need to make decisions of the kind of information they need in order to make sure that we're replicating high quality charter schools.

□ 1540

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 1½ minutes.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa.

The purpose of No Child Left Behind was to ensure that all children are provided a quality education regardless of race, ethnicity, income, language, status, or disability. Although the original legislation was not perfect and needs improvement, it has helped shed light on achievement gaps facing certain groups of children who are in fact being left behind by the current system. We are aware of this deficiency in its enormity because we collect data by subgroups, and we can begin to fix the problem through educational reform.

Now, this bill we're debating today is limited to charter schools. H.R. 2218 includes a definition of high quality charter schools as a school that has demonstrated success in increasing student achievement for subgroup students described in ESEA, namely economically disadvantaged students, students of racial and ethnic minorities, students with disabilities, and students with limited English proficiency.

Unfortunately, this amendment would strip away the efforts to identify the students who are not performing and will cover up the fact that some groups of students are in fact being left behind. Any school that is leaving groups of students behind should not be considered high quality. I think we really ought to be collecting this data for all of the schools, not just those trying to achieve high quality, but we need to hold all schools accountable for the success of all students. This

amendment goes in the opposite direction, and therefore ought to be defeated.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, I appreciate the tone and the tenor of this debate, and I'm completely convinced that all parties involved here want to accomplish the same thing, and that is to provide an opportunity for all young people in America to achieve to the extent of their ability. That's the purpose of this legislation that's before us, high quality charter schools, and it's the intent of Mr. MILLER and Mr. SCOTT and Mr. KLINE and everyone else that likely will vote for this bill. It's also my intent.

I strongly want to see people reach the highest level of their achievement. We need to be in the business in this Congress and aware of it on a daily basis of seeking to increase the average annual productivity of our people. We can do that one at a time, every three-hundred-and-six millionth of us. Every one of us that increases our productivity on a daily basis helps the whole.

Every class, every generation of people that improves their productivity is good for all of us. It takes the load off of the higher earners to have the income coming on the lower earners, for example. It brings that balance about. I want that. I think that's the intent of this bill.

When the gentleman from California says it's not what the law says, that I have somehow misunderstood this, I will tell you that I think it has been misrepresented by some analysts behind the scenes—not on this floor—and I will just read this into the record in short version. I will compress it and then I will give you the quote.

High-quality charter schools means a charter school that, A, shows strong academic results; B, that has no significant issues in the areas of student safety, financial management, statutory, regulatory compliance; C, has demonstrated success in significantly increasing student and academic achievement and attainment for all students served by charter schools. I want that. We want that.

But D says, has demonstrated success in increasing student academic achievement for subgroups of students described, and they are this: economically disadvantaged students. Now, that's fine. Most kids are going to be economically disadvantaged. Some students from racial and ethnic groups, that may not be the case. North Dakota or Montana, for example, might have to go a long way to find someone who meets that category.

Students with disabilities? Perhaps, but not always. Are we going to ask them to go out and recruit students with disabilities in order to qualify as a high school, and a high-academic achieving school, high-quality charter school?

And the fourth one is students with limited proficiency. That doesn't exist in every region in America where there is a need for a charter school.

This sets up a requirement that all four categories be met. If we wanted reporting, as the chairman of the committee has suggested, I would say then let's ask for a report rather than write this all in as a requirement that can't be met because there only can be two results of this. Either we're going to follow the law, if it becomes law, in which case many, many schools will be disenfranchised, will not be able to become high-quality charter schools, or we're going to ignore the law. I don't like either of those results.

I want to follow in here with the intent of this legislation. That's why I've offered this amendment. I would urge its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time. The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa will be postponed.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CHAFFETZ) having assumed the chair, Mr. WOMACK, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2218) to amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, had come to no resolution thereon.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. After consultation among the Speaker and the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent, the Chair announces that, when the two Houses meet in joint session to hear an address by the President of the United States, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those immediately to his left and right will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House. Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly enforced. Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor. The cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of reserving seats prior to the joint session by placard will not be allowed. Members may reserve their

seats only by physical presence following the security sweep of the Chamber.

Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:35 p.m. for the purpose of receiving in joint session the President of the United States.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:35 p.m.

□ 1843

JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS
PURSUANT TO HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 74 TO RECEIVE A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 6 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.

The Deputy Sergeant at Arms, Mrs. Kerri Hanley, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The joint session will come to order.

The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort the President of the United States into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR);

The gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS);

The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE);

The gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI);

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN);

The gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON);

The gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA);

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN); and

The gentlewoman from New York (Ms. HOCHUL).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER);

The Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY);

The Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW);

The Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH);

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL);

The Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER);

The Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO);

The Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE); and

The Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN).

The Deputy Sergeant at Arms announced the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Roble Olhaye, Ambassador from the Republic of Djibouti.

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Deputy Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 7 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m., the Sergeant at Arms, the Honorable Wilson Livingood, announced the President of the United States.

The President of the United States, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The SPEAKER. Members of the Congress, I have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you the President of the United States.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The PRESIDENT. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, and fellow Americans:

Tonight we meet at an urgent time for our country. We continue to face an economic crisis that has left millions of our neighbors jobless, and a political crisis that has made things worse.

This past week, reporters have been asking, What will this speech mean for the President? What will it mean for Congress? How will it affect their polls, and the next election?

But the millions of Americans who are watching right now don't care about politics. They have real-life concerns. Many have spent months looking for work. Others are doing their best just to scrape by—giving up nights out with the family to save on gas or make the mortgage, postponing retirement to send a kid to college.

These men and women grew up with faith in an America where hard work

and responsibility paid off. They believed in a country where everyone gets a fair shake and does their fair share—where if you stepped up, did your job, and were loyal to your company, that loyalty would be rewarded with a decent salary and good benefits; maybe a raise once in a while. If you did the right thing, you could make it, anybody could make it in America.

But for decades now, Americans have watched that compact erode. They have seen the deck too often stacked against them. And they know that Washington has not always put their interests first.

The people of this country work hard to meet their responsibilities. The question tonight is whether we'll meet ours. The question is whether, in the face of an ongoing national crisis, we can stop the political circus and actually do something to help the economy; whether we can restore some of the fairness and security that has defined this Nation since our beginning.

Those of us here tonight can't solve all of our Nation's woes. Ultimately, our recovery will be driven not by Washington, but by our businesses and our workers. But we can help. We can make a difference. There are steps we can take right now to improve people's lives.

I am sending this Congress a plan that you should pass right away. It's called the American Jobs Act. There should be nothing controversial about this piece of legislation. Everything in here is the kind of proposal that's been supported by both Democrats and Republicans—including many who sit here tonight. And everything in this bill will be paid for. Everything.

The purpose of the American Jobs Act is simple: to put more people back to work and more money in the pockets of those who are working. It will create more jobs for construction workers, more jobs for teachers, more jobs for veterans, and more jobs for the long-term unemployed. It will provide a tax break for companies who hire new workers, and it will cut payroll taxes in half for every working American and every small business. It will provide a jolt to an economy that has stalled, and give companies confidence that if they invest and hire, there will be customers for their products and services. You should pass this jobs plan right away.

Everyone here knows that small businesses are where most new jobs begin. And you know that while corporate profits have come roaring back, smaller companies haven't. So for everyone who speaks so passionately about making life easier for "job creators," this plan's for you.

Pass this jobs bill, and starting tomorrow, small businesses will get a tax cut if they hire new workers or if they raise workers' wages. Pass this jobs bill, and all small business owners will

also see their payroll taxes cut in half next year. If you have 50 employees making an average salary, that's an \$80,000 tax cut. And all businesses will be able to continue writing off the investments they make in 2012.

It's not just Democrats who have supported this kind of proposal. Fifty House Republicans have proposed the same payroll tax cut that's in this plan. You should pass it right away.

Pass this jobs bill, and we can put people to work rebuilding America. Everyone here knows that we have badly decaying roads and bridges all over this country. Our highways are clogged with traffic. Our skies are the most congested in the world. It's an outrage.

Building a world-class transportation system is part of what made us an economic superpower. And now we're going to sit back and watch China build newer airports and faster railroads? At a time when millions of unemployed construction workers could build them right here in America?

There are private construction companies all across America just waiting to get to work. There's a bridge that needs repair between Ohio and Kentucky that's on one of the busiest trucking routes in North America. There's a public transit project in Houston that will help clear up one of the worst areas of traffic in the country. And there are schools throughout this country that desperately need renovating. How can we expect our kids to do their best in places that are literally falling apart? This is America. Every child deserves a great school—and we can give it to them, if we act now.

The American Jobs Act will repair and modernize at least 35,000 schools. It will put people to work right now fixing roofs and windows; installing science labs and high-speed Internet in classrooms all across this country. It will rehabilitate homes and businesses in communities hit hardest by foreclosures. It will jump-start thousands of transportation projects all across the country. And to make sure the money is properly spent, we're building on reforms we've already put in place. No more earmarks. No more boondoggles. No more bridges to nowhere. We're cutting the red tape that prevents some of these projects from getting started as quickly as possible. And we'll set up an independent fund to attract private dollars and issue loans based on two criteria: how badly a construction project is needed and how much good it will do for the economy.

This idea came from a bill written by a Texas Republican and a Massachusetts Democrat. The idea for a big boost in construction is supported by America's largest business organization and America's largest labor organization. It's the kind of proposal that's been supported in the past by Democrats and Republicans alike. You should pass it right away.

Pass this jobs bill, and thousands of teachers in every State will go back to work. These are the men and women charged with preparing our children for a world where the competition has never been tougher. But while they're adding teachers in places like South Korea, we're laying them off in droves. It's unfair to our kids. It undermines their future and ours. And it has to stop. Pass this bill, and put our teachers back in the classroom where they belong.

Pass this jobs bill, and companies will get extra tax credits if they hire America's veterans. We ask these men and women to leave their careers, leave their families, and risk their lives to fight for our country. The last thing they should have to do is fight for a job when they come home.

Pass this bill, and hundreds of thousands of disadvantaged young people will have the hope and the dignity of a summer job next year; and their parents, low-income Americans who desperately want to work, will have more ladders out of poverty.

Pass this jobs bill, and companies will get a \$4,000 tax credit if they hire anyone who has spent more than 6 months looking for a job.

We have to do more to help the long-term unemployed in their search for work. This jobs plan builds on a program in Georgia that several Republican leaders have highlighted, where people who collect unemployment insurance participate in temporary work as a way of building their skills while they look for a permanent job. The plan also extends unemployment insurance for another year. If the millions of unemployed Americans stopped getting this insurance and stopped using that money for basic necessities, it would be a devastating blow to this economy. Democrats and Republicans in this Chamber have supported unemployment insurance plenty of times in the past. At this time of prolonged hardship, you should pass it again—right away.

Pass this jobs bill, and the typical working family will get a \$1,500 tax cut next year; \$1,500 that would have been taken out of your paycheck will go right into your pocket. This expands on the tax cut that Democrats and Republicans already passed for this year. If we allow that tax cut to expire—if we refuse to act—middle class families will get hit with a tax increase at the worst possible time. We can't let that happen. I know that some of you have sworn oaths to never raise any taxes on anyone for as long as you live. Now is not the time to carve out an exception and raise middle class taxes, which is why you should pass this bill right away.

This is the American Jobs Act. It will lead to new jobs for construction workers, for teachers, for veterans, for first responders, young people, and the

long-term unemployed. It will provide tax credits to companies that hire new workers, tax relief for small business owners, and tax cuts for the middle class. And here is the other thing I want the American people to know: The American Jobs Act will not add to the deficit. It will be paid for, and here's how:

The agreement we passed in July will cut government spending by about \$1 trillion over the next 10 years. It also charges this Congress to come up with an additional \$1.5 trillion in savings by Christmas. Tonight, I am asking you to increase that amount so that it covers the full cost of the American Jobs Act; and a week from Monday, I'll be releasing a more ambitious deficit plan, a plan that will not only cover the cost of this jobs bill but stabilize our debt in the long run.

This approach is basically the one I've been advocating for months. In addition to the trillion dollars of spending cuts I've already signed into law, it is a balanced plan that would reduce the deficit by making additional spending cuts, by making modest adjustments to health care programs like Medicare and Medicaid, and by reforming our Tax Code in a way that asks the wealthiest Americans and biggest corporations to pay their fair share. What's more, the spending cuts wouldn't happen so abruptly that they'd be a drag on our economy or prevent us from helping small businesses and middle class families get back on their feet right away.

Now, I realize there are some in our party who don't think we should make any changes at all to Medicare and Medicaid, and I understand their concerns, but here is the truth: millions of Americans rely on Medicare in their retirement, and millions more will do so in the future. They pay for this benefit during their working years. They earn it. But with an aging population and rising health care costs, we are spending too fast to sustain the program; and if we don't gradually reform the system while protecting current beneficiaries, it won't be there when future retirees need it. We have to reform Medicare to strengthen it.

I'm also well aware that there are many Republicans who don't believe we should raise taxes on those who are most fortunate and who can best afford it, but here is what every American knows: While most people in this country struggle to make ends meet, a few of the most affluent citizens and most profitable corporations enjoy tax breaks and loopholes that nobody else gets. Right now, Warren Buffett pays a lower tax rate than his secretary—an outrage he has asked us to fix. We need a Tax Code where everyone gets a fair shake and where everybody pays their fair share—and by the way, I believe the vast majority of wealthy Americans and CEOs are willing to do just

that if it helps the economy grow and gets our fiscal house in order.

I'll also offer ideas to reform a corporate Tax Code that stands as a monument to special interest influence in Washington. By eliminating pages of loopholes and deductions, we can lower one of the highest corporate tax rates in the world. Our Tax Code should not give an advantage to companies that can afford the best-connected lobbyists. It should give an advantage to companies that invest and create jobs right here in the United States of America.

So we can reduce this deficit, pay down our debt, and pay for this jobs plan in the process, but in order to do this, we have to decide what our priorities are. We have to ask ourselves, What's the best way to grow the economy and create jobs?

Should we keep tax loopholes for oil companies or should we use that money to give small business owners a tax credit when they hire new workers? Because we can't afford to do both.

Should we keep tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires or should we put teachers back to work so our kids can graduate, ready for college and good jobs? Right now, we can't afford to do both.

This isn't political grandstanding. This isn't class warfare. This is simple math. These are real choices. These are real choices that we've got to make, and I'm pretty sure I know what most Americans would choose—it's not even close—and it's time for us to do what's right for our future.

The American Jobs Act answers the urgent need to create jobs right away, but we can't stop there. As I've argued since I ran for this office, we have to look beyond the immediate crisis and start building an economy that lasts into the future—an economy that creates good, middle class jobs that pay well and offer security. We now live in a world where technology has made it possible for companies to take their business anywhere. If we want them to start here and stay here and hire here, we have to be able to out-build and out-educate and out-innovate every other country on Earth.

This task of making America more competitive for the long haul, that's a job for all of us—for government and for private companies, for States and for local communities, and for every American citizen. All of us will have to up our game. All of us will have to change the way we do business.

My administration can and will take some steps to improve our competitiveness on our own. For example, if you're a small business owner who has a contract with the Federal Government, we're going to make sure you get paid a lot faster than you do right now. We're also planning to cut away the red tape that prevents too many rapidly growing start-up companies from

raising capital and going public. And to help responsible homeowners, we're going to work with Federal housing agencies to help more people refinance their mortgages at interest rates that are now near 4 percent. I know you guys must be for this because that's a step that can put more than \$2,000 a year in a family's pocket and give a lift to an economy still burdened by the drop in housing prices.

So some things we can do on our own. Other steps will require congressional action. Today, you passed reform that will speed up the outdated patent process so that entrepreneurs can turn a new idea into a new business as quickly as possible. That's the kind of action we need. Now it's time to clear the way for a series of trade agreements that would make it easier for American companies to sell their products in Panama, Colombia and South Korea while also helping the workers whose jobs have been affected by global competition.

If Americans can buy Kias and Hyundais, I want to see folks in South Korea driving Fords and Chevys and Chryslers. I want to see more products sold around the world stamped with three proud words: "Made in America." That's what we need to get done.

And on all of our efforts to strengthen competitiveness, we need to look for ways to work side by side with America's businesses. That's why I've brought together a jobs council of leaders from different industries who are developing a wide range of new ideas to help companies grow and create jobs.

Already, we've mobilized business leaders to train 10,000 American engineers a year by providing company internships and training. Other businesses are covering tuition for workers who learn new skills at community colleges, and we're going to make sure the next generation of manufacturing takes root, not in China or in Europe, but right here in the United States of America. If we provide the right incentives, the right support and if we make sure that our trading partners play by the rules, we can be the ones to build everything from fuel-efficient cars to advanced biofuels to semiconductors that we sell all around the world. That's how America can be number one again, and that's how America will be number one again.

Now, I realize that some of you have a different theory on how to grow the economy. Some of you sincerely believe that the only solution to our economic challenges is to simply cut most government spending and eliminate most government regulations.

I agree that we can't afford wasteful spending, and I'll work with you, with Congress, to root it out; and I agree that there are some rules and regulations that do put an unnecessary burden on businesses at a time when they can least afford it. That's why I or-

dered a review of all government regulations. So far, we've identified over 500 reforms which will save billions of dollars over the next few years. We should have no more regulation than the health, safety and security of the American people require. Every rule should meet that commonsense test.

But what we can't do—what I will not do—is let this economic crisis be used as an excuse to wipe out the basic protections that Americans have counted on for decades. I reject the idea that we need to ask people to choose between their jobs and their safety. I reject the argument that says, for the economy to grow, we have to roll back protections that ban hidden fees by credit card companies or rules that keep our kids from being exposed to mercury or laws that prevent the health insurance industry from short-changing patients. I reject the idea that we have to strip away collective bargaining rights to compete in a global economy.

We shouldn't be in a race to the bottom where we try to offer the cheapest labor and the worst pollution standards. America should be in a race to the top, and I believe we can win that race.

In fact, this larger notion that the only thing we can do to restore prosperity is just dismantle government, refund everyone's money, let everyone write their own rules, and tell everyone they're on their own—that's not who we are. That's not the story of America.

Yes, we are rugged individuals. Yes, we are strong and self-reliant. And it has been the drive and initiative of our workers and entrepreneurs that has made this economy the engine and envy of the world. But there has always been another thread running throughout our history—a belief that we are all connected and that there are some things we can only do together as a Nation.

We all remember Abraham Lincoln as the leader who saved our Union—the founder of the Republican Party—but in the middle of a Civil War, he was also a leader who looked to the future—a Republican President who mobilized government to build the Transcontinental Railroad, launch the National Academy of Sciences, set up the first land grant colleges; and leaders of both parties have followed the example he set.

Ask yourselves: Where would we be right now if the people who sat here before us decided not to build our highways, not to build our bridges, our dams, our airports? What would this country be like if we had chosen not to spend money on public high schools or research universities or community colleges? Millions of returning heroes, including my grandfather, had the opportunity to go to school because of the GI Bill. Where would we be if they hadn't had that chance?

How many jobs would it have cost us if past Congresses decided not to support the basic research that led to the Internet and the computer chip? What kind of country would this be if this Chamber had voted down Social Security or Medicare just because it violated some rigid idea about what government could or could not do? How many Americans would have suffered as a result?

No single individual built America on their own. We built it together. We have been and always will be one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all—a Nation with responsibilities to ourselves and with responsibilities to one another.

Members of Congress, it is time for us to meet our responsibilities.

Every proposal I've laid out tonight is the kind that has been supported by Democrats and Republicans in the past. Every proposal I've laid out tonight will be paid for, and every proposal is designed to meet the urgent needs of our people and our communities.

Now, I know there has been a lot of skepticism about whether the politics of the moment will allow us to pass this jobs plan or any jobs plan. Already, we're seeing the same old press releases and tweets flying back and forth. Already, the media has proclaimed that it's impossible to bridge our differences, and maybe some of you have decided that those differences are so great that we can only resolve them at the ballot box.

But know this: the next election is 14 months away. And the people who sent us here—the people who hired us to work for them—they don't have the luxury of waiting 14 months. Some of them are living week to week, paycheck to paycheck, even day to day. They need help, and they need it now.

I don't pretend that this plan will solve all our problems. It should not be, nor will it be, the last plan of action we propose. What's guided us from the start of this crisis hasn't been the search for a silver bullet. It's been a commitment to stay at it, to be persistent, to keep trying every new idea that works and listen to every good proposal, no matter which party comes up with it.

Regardless of the arguments we've had in the past, regardless of the arguments we will have in the future, this plan is the right thing to do right now. You should pass it. And I intend to take that message to every corner of this country. And I ask every American who agrees to lift your voice. Tell the people who are gathered here tonight that you want action now. Tell Washington that doing nothing is not an option. Remind us that if we act as one Nation and one people, we have it within our power to meet this challenge.

President Kennedy once said, "Our problems are manmade. Therefore,

they can be solved by man. And man can be as big as he wants."

These are difficult years for our country. But we are Americans. We are tougher than the times we live in, and we are bigger than our politics have been. So let's meet the moment. Let's get to work. And let's show the world once again why the United States of America remains the greatest Nation on Earth.

Thank you very much. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 7 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m., the President of the United States, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Deputy Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The members of the President's Cabinet; the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

The SPEAKER. The Chair declares the joint session of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 7 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m., the joint session of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE ON THE STATE OF THE UNION

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move that the message of the President be referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered printed.

The motion was agreed to.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. MARINO (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and the balance of the week on account of severe flooding in his district.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, September 9, 2011, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2976. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Requirements for Bicycles (RIN: 3041-AC95) received June 21, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2977. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Criteria for Use of Computers in Safety Systems of Nuclear Power Plants [Regulatory Guide 1.152] received July 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2978. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-106, "Closing of a Portion of the Public Alley in Square 5148, S.O. 10-01784, Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2979. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-102, "Brewery Manufacture's Tasting Permit Amendment Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2980. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-107, "Arthur Capper/Carrollsbury Public Improvements Revenue Bonds Temporary Amendment Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2981. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-108, "Heights on Georgia Avenue Development Extension Temporary Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2982. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-109, "KIPP DC — Shaw Campus Property Tax Exemptions Temporary Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2983. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-110, "Campaign Finance Reporting Temporary Amendment Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2984. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-111, "District Department of Transportation Capital Project Review and Reconciliation Temporary Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2985. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-119, "Heat Wave Safety Temporary Amendment Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2986. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-100, "Southeast Federal Center/Yards Non-Discriminatory Grocery Store Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2987. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-152, "Healthy Schools Amendment Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2988. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-99, "Athletic Concussion Protection Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2989. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-151, "Distributed Generation Amendment Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2990. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-101, "Closing of Streets and Alleys in and adjacent to Squares 4533, 4534, and 4535, S.O. 09-10850, Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2991. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-105, "Closing of a Portion of Bryant Street, N.E., and a Portion of 22nd Street, N.E., S.O. 06-1262, Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2992. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-103, "Closing of a Public Alley in Square 514, S.O. 09-9099, Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2993. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. ACT 19-104, "Closing of a Public Alley in Square 451, S.O. 11-03672, Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2994. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's "Major" final rule — Boards and Committees (RIN: 2700-AD50) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

2995. A letter from the Deputy Chief Counsel, Regulations and Security Standards, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Air Cargo Screening [Docket No.: TSA-2009-0018; Amendment Nos. 1515-2, 1520-9, 1522-1, 1540-11, 1544-10, 1546-6, 1548-6, 1549-1] (RIN: 1652-AA64) received August 11, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Homeland Security.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SMITH of Texas: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 2552. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to change the state of mind requirement for certain identity theft offenses, and for other purposes (Rept. 112-202). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. GRIMM (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. RANGEL):

H.R. 2865. A bill to establish the 9/11 Memorial Cross located at the National 9/11 Memorial Museum in New York as a national monument, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MANZULLO (for himself, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. BISHOP of New

York, Mr. CRITZ, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. HOLT, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. ISRAEL):

H.R. 2866. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax incentive for the installation and maintenance of mechanical insulation property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WOLF (for himself, Ms. ROSELEHTINEN, and Mr. BERMAN):

H.R. 2867. A bill to reauthorize the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 2868. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide payroll tax relief to encourage the hiring of unemployed individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 2869. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to local educational agencies for the construction, renovation, or repair of athletics facilities; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. LANCE, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, and Mr. POE of Texas):

H.R. 2870. A bill to reauthorize certain programs established by the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 2871. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish integrity verification requirements for pipeline facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 2872. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to improve the New Markets Venture Capital Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 2873. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit to employers for the retention of certain individuals hired before 2013; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HULTGREN:

H.R. 2874. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, to award grants on a competitive basis to public and private entities to provide qualified sexual risk avoidance education to youth and their parents; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida:

H. Con. Res. 75. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Libya's frozen assets be utilized to pay for NATO's military campaign; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MACK:

H. Con. Res. 76. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner no longer holds the confidence of Congress or of the people of the United States; to the Com-

mittee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WALSH of Illinois:

H. Res. 394. A resolution supporting Israel's right to annex Judea and Samaria in the event that the Palestinian Authority continues to press for unilateral recognition of Palestinian statehood at the United Nations; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. FOXX:

H. Res. 395. A resolution electing a certain Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MANZULLO (for himself and Mr. RYAN of Ohio):

H. Res. 396. A resolution encouraging energy efficient and environment-friendly building and facility programs to incorporate the use of mechanical insulation as part of their standards and ratings system; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. GRIMM:

H.R. 2865.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

By Mr. MANZULLO:

H.R. 2866.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress as stated in Article I, Section 8 and Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. WOLF:

H.R. 2867.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 2868.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1, which provides Congress the power to lay and collect taxes. This legislation provides for a temporary payroll tax reduction.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 2869.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:
H.R. 2870.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 2871.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8: Congress shall have the power to regulate commerce among the states, and provide for the general welfare.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 2872.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power *** To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 2873.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. HULTGREN:

H.R. 2874.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8, Article 1 of the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 121: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 399: Mr. HANNA.
H.R. 420: Mrs. CAPITO and Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 458: Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 539: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 615: Mrs. ELLMERS.
H.R. 640: Mr. NEAL.
H.R. 642: Mr. SULLIVAN.
H.R. 665: Mr. YODER.
H.R. 687: Mr. LOEBACK.
H.R. 692: Mr. ROYCE.
H.R. 721: Mr. CARTER.
H.R. 735: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. BLACK, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina.
H.R. 750: Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. AUSTRIA, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. WOODALL, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 765: Mr. PERLMUTTER.
H.R. 860: Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MEEHAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. HOLT, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, and Mr. BACA.
H.R. 878: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 881: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 891: Mr. PETERSON, Mr. HIGGINS, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. TERRY, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. RENACCI.

H.R. 909: Mr. PENCE.
H.R. 912: Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 925: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 965: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 973: Mr. PALAZZO.
H.R. 992: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 1025: Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 1111: Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 1117: Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 1134: Mr. WOODALL.
H.R. 1138: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 1154: Mr. LUJÁN and Mr. HULTGREN.
H.R. 1159: Mr. PLATTS.
H.R. 1161: Mr. REYES, Mr. JONES, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. JENKINS.
H.R. 1167: Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. WOMACK, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.
H.R. 1172: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
H.R. 1182: Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.
H.R. 1186: Mr. PLATTS.
H.R. 1195: Mr. PETERSON, Mr. ACKERMAN, and Mr. GOODLATTE.
H.R. 1206: Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 1208: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 1219: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. PETERSON, and Ms. BASS of California.
H.R. 1240: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 1244: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas and Mr. AKIN.
H.R. 1279: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
H.R. 1288: Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 1328: Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 1331: Mr. HASTINGS of Washington.
H.R. 1340: Mr. LONG.
H.R. 1351: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. WATT, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BARROW, and Mr. MATHESON.
H.R. 1370: Mrs. ROBY.
H.R. 1464: Mr. WELCH, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. GARRETT, and Mrs. ROBY.
H.R. 1465: Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 1515: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 1558: Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.
H.R. 1591: Mr. DENT.
H.R. 1684: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 1697: Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. OWENS, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Mr. CASSIDY.
H.R. 1700: Mr. DENHAM.
H.R. 1738: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. POE of Texas.
H.R. 1754: Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 1755: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. SCALISE, and Mr. LONG.
H.R. 1756: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts and Mr. NEAL.
H.R. 1780: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 1781: Ms. HANABUSA and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 1834: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 1955: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1971: Mr. PETERSON and Mr. HINCHHEY.
H.R. 1980: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROHRBACHER, and Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 1987: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 2012: Mr. CARDOZA.
H.R. 2042: Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. REICHERT, and Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 2051: Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 2069: Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 2085: Mr. CICILLINE and Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 2097: Mr. BARTLETT and Mr. BARROW.
H.R. 2130: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 2144: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 2188: Mr. HALL.
H.R. 2190: Mr. RANGEL and Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 2206: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H.R. 2207: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. EDWARDS, and Mr. CARNAHAN.
H.R. 2248: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 2249: Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 2250: Mr. GOSAR, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. POMPEO, and Mr. ROSKAM.
H.R. 2271: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 2304: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
H.R. 2316: Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 2328: Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 2357: Mr. KLINE.
H.R. 2362: Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 2387: Mrs. MALONEY.
H.R. 2429: Mr. POE of Texas.
H.R. 2444: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 2497: Mr. WALSH of Illinois, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. ROSKAM.
H.R. 2499: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 2514: Mr. POMPEO, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. WALSH of Illinois, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. FLORES.
H.R. 2528: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
H.R. 2529: Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 2541: Mrs. EMERSON, Ms. SEWELL, and Mr. RIBBLE.
H.R. 2547: Mr. MARKEY and Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 2559: Mr. LOEBACK.
H.R. 2594: Mr. RIBBLE.
H.R. 2595: Mr. TONKO, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. RENACCI, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. HOLT, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 2632: Mr. SMITH of Texas.
H.R. 2674: Mr. PETERSON, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mr. LATOURETTE.
H.R. 2681: Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. POSEY, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 2689: Ms. SPEIER, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 2695: Mr. GALLEGLY.
H.R. 2696: Mr. GALLEGLY.
H.R. 2698: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 2699: Mr. RIVERA, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
H.R. 2712: Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 2763: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 2772: Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 2796: Mr. BURGESS, Mr. WALSH of Illinois, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. RIVERA, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. WEBSTER, Mrs. ADAMS, Mr. SCHOCK, and Mr. BOUSTANY.
H.R. 2823: Mr. McDERMOTT.
H.R. 2828: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 2834: Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, Mr. COLE, and Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.
H.R. 2835: Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Ms. SUTTON.
H.R. 2836: Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. DOYLE, and Ms. SUTTON.
H.R. 2837: Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. DOYLE, and Ms. SUTTON.
H.R. 2852: Mr. POE of Texas.
H.R. 2853: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana and Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 2856: Ms. HAYWORTH and Mr. HANNA.
H.J. Res. 28: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. STARK, Ms. WATERS, and Ms. NORTON.
H.J. Res. 77: Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. SCHILLING, and Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California.
H. Con. Res. 72: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. DEFazio.

H. Res. 25: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia and Mr. ROYCE.

H. Res. 111: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mrs. LUMMIS.

H. Res. 134: Mr. HEINRICH.

H. Res. 137: Mr. RAHALL and Mr. BARROW.

H. Res. 177: Mr. TIBERI.

H. Res. 239: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H. Res. 262: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H. Res. 295: Mr. MCCAUL and Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.

H. Res. 306: Mr. HEINRICH.

H. Res. 374: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

SENATE—Thursday, September 8, 2011

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord God, through whom we find liberty and peace, lead us in Your righteousness and make the way straight before our lawmakers. As they grapple with complex issues and feel the need for guidance, lead them to the decisions that will best glorify You. Looking to You to guide them, may they not be overwhelmed, remembering that in everything You are working for the good of those who love You.

May Your good blessings continue to be with us, and may we, in response to Your abiding love, ever seek to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with You.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TOM UDALL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 8, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following any leader remarks, there will be 1

hour of morning business, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the America Invents Act. There will be four rollcall votes starting about 4 p.m. That time could move a little bit but not much. We are doing that in order to complete action on this patent bill that is so important for the country. It will be the first revision of this law in more than six decades.

Senators should gather in the Senate Chamber about 6:30 this evening to proceed as a body to the House for the joint session with President Obama. When we return this evening, there will be an additional rollcall vote on the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 25, which is a joint resolution of disapproval regarding the debt limit increase. As I indicated to everyone last night, if the motion to proceed prevails, we will be back tomorrow to complete that work, and that could take as much as 10 hours tomorrow. If the motion to proceed fails, then we will have other things to do tomorrow but there will be no votes.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S.J. RES 26

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am told that S.J. Res. 26 is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 26) expressing the sense of Congress that Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner no longer holds the confidence of Congress or of the people of the United States.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to this resolution.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar under rule XIV.

JOBS AGENDA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, tonight, before a joint session of Congress, President Obama will address the Nation on the single most important issue facing our country: the unemployment crisis we have before us. I look forward to hearing the specifics of his plan. I have spoken to him, and I have a pretty good idea of what he is going to talk about.

I support his goal to create good jobs for the 14 million people who have no

jobs. This is a time of dark economic times, and it is important that we do this. I applaud the commonsense, bipartisan approach the President will unveil tonight to invest in badly needed infrastructure and to cut taxes for working families and small businesses to spur job creation.

These are ideas around which Members of both parties should rally. Republicans have always supported tax cuts. They have done it in the past, and they agree we must bring America's infrastructure up to 21st-century standards. I hope that in fact is the case. But if my Republican friends oppose these proposals now—proposals they have supported in the past—the reason will be very clear: partisan politics. Republicans seem convinced that a failing economy is good for their politics. They think that if they kill every jobs bill and stall every effort to revive the economy, President Obama will lose. My good friend the Republican leader has said so. He has said the Republican Party's No. 1 goal in this Congress is to defeat the President. But Republicans aiming at the President have caught innocent Americans in the crossfire.

This week, Republican leaders have said they want to work with the President and Democrats in Congress. They want to work on job creation in a bipartisan way, they say. I hope that in fact is the case, but their actions over the last 8 months speak much louder than their words of the last few days.

For example, Republicans opposed the reauthorization of the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Economic Development Administration. Both have proven track records of spurring innovation, encouraging entrepreneurship, and creating jobs. Republicans were willing to put more than ½ million Americans' jobs at risk and, in fact, eliminate those jobs rather than work with us to pass that legislation.

The Senate passed much needed patent reform in March. Yet House Republicans stalled for months before sending us back their version of the bill, which we will vote on today. I am hopeful we can send it back to the House untouched.

Republicans wasted weeks threatening to shut down the economy this spring. They held our economy hostage for months this summer over a routine vote on whether to pay the Nation's bills. Congress took the same vote 18 times while President Reagan was President and 7 times while George W. Bush was President and never was the vote time-consuming or contentious. Through it all, Republicans hacked

away at funding for the very programs that were helping to get this Nation's economy back on its feet.

The results of their stall tactics, obstructionism, and mindless budget cuts are beginning to show. Although the private sector created jobs for the 18th month in a row, August saw no change in the national unemployment rate. Unemployment in Nevada is still the highest in the Nation. But in spite of all this, the Republicans have refused to allow us to focus on unemployment. As Democrats introduced jobs bill after jobs bill, Republicans made it clear they were more interested in pursuing a political agenda than a jobs agenda.

We will no longer allow our Republican colleagues to put politics ahead of the American people. There are two things we must get done this work period and both will create and save jobs immediately. We need to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration to protect both air travelers and airline workers—that is 80,000 jobs—and we must pass a highway bill to fund construction projects across the Nation. These two bills combined will save about 2 million jobs, including many jobs in the struggling construction industry, and it will do it now. But we need Republican help. We can't get it done without them. This is their chance to prove they remember the meaning of the word "bipartisan." It is time for necessity to trump ideology.

Senator Robert Byrd once said, "Pot-holes know no parties." The challenges this Nation faces today are greater than any speed bump, but the road to recovery is the same: cooperation. Partisanship will not solve our jobs crisis, but setting aside politics in service to our country certainly will.

Mr. President, we have been able to move forward this week and get some work done. I especially appreciate very much the work of Senator KYL, who is the Republican whip. His work to put the patent bill in the position it is in so we can finish that bill today—we certainly hope to be able to do that—has been very exemplary, and I appreciate it very much.

Next week, likely, our first vote will be to do something about FEMA—the Federal Emergency Management Agency—which is broke. We have had a string of natural catastrophes that have been just awful—Irene, Lee, and tornadoes that don't have names, but the one that struck Joplin, MO, killed almost 200 people and devastated that town.

I went down to S-120 last night, and they had a number of scientists showing some of the things they have developed. One of the things they have developed—and these are things they have done at universities, handmade pieces of magnificent equipment that do many things—is something they can place in the path of a storm—they have never been able to do that before—to

determine from which direction the wind is coming and how hard it blows. Without belaboring the point, one of the instruments there recorded the strongest winds ever recorded in the history of the world—more than 300 miles an hour. That is basically what we had in Joplin, MO. There is no building that can withstand that. It is devastating.

The pictures you see of Joplin, MO, look like a series of bombs hit. Every building was affected, most of them knocked down. The reason I mention that is that FEMA has stopped work in Joplin, MO. People were there working for \$9 an hour, just putting things back into some semblance of order, but that work has stopped. FEMA has had to look at the places that are impacted right now. They are still trying to get the water out of some places because of Lee and to restore some of the immediate damage done by Irene. We have to do something to replenish that money.

I was happy to see some of the statements from one of the Republican leaders in the House yesterday in effect changing his position on how all this has to be paid for. As we speak, we are spending billions of dollars every week in Iraq and Afghanistan. I understand that. But that is all unpaid for—unpaid for.

Certainly, we have to do something to help the American people in an emergency and figure out some other way in the future to look at how to handle other disasters. We try to prefund what we think will happen as a result of disasters, but these are acts of God—that is what we learn in law school—these hurricanes and tornadoes and floods. Along the Mississippi River, we have more than 3 million acres underwater. This is farmland. It is not just vacant land, it is farmland underwater. These people need help, and the Federal Government can help them. So we need to do that, and that is why we will have a vote, as soon as I can arrange it next week, on funding FEMA so they can continue doing the work that is so important for our country.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ECONOMIC CLIMATE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, later today both Houses of Congress will welcome President Obama to speak about a very serious crisis we face as a nation, namely, an economic climate that is making it impossible for millions of Americans to find the work they need to support themselves and their families.

In a two-party system such as ours, it shouldn't be surprising that there would be two very different points of view about how to solve this particular crisis. What is surprising is the President's apparent determination to apply the same government-driven policies that have already been tried and failed. The definition of insanity, as Albert Einstein once famously put it, is to do the same thing over and over again and to expect a different result. Frankly, I can't think of a better description of anyone who thinks the solution to this problem is another stimulus. The first stimulus didn't do it. Why would another?

This is one question the White House and a number of Democrats clearly don't want to answer. That is why some of them are out there coaching people not to use the word "stimulus" when describing the President's plan. Others are accusing anybody who criticizes it of being unpatriotic or playing politics. Well, as I have said before, there is a much simpler reason to oppose the President's economic policies that has nothing whatsoever to do with politics: They simply don't work. Yet, by all accounts, the President's so-called jobs plan is to try those very same policies again and then accuse anyone who doesn't support them this time around of being political or overly partisan, of not doing what is needed in this moment of crisis.

This isn't a jobs plan. It is a reelection plan. That is why Republicans have continued to press for policies, policies that empower job creators, not Washington.

According to the Wall Street Journal, nearly a third of the unemployed have been out of work for more than a year. The average length of unemployment is now greater than 40 weeks, higher than it was even during the Great Depression. As we know, the longer you are out of a job, the harder it is to find one. That means, for millions of Americans, this crisis is getting harder every day. It is getting worse and worse.

We also know this: The economic policies this President has tried have not alleviated the problem. In many ways, in fact, they have made things worse. Gas prices are up. The national debt is up. Health insurance premiums are up. Home values in most places continue to fall. And, 2½ years after the President's signature jobs bill was signed into law, 1.7 million fewer Americans have jobs. So I would say

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

Americans have 1.7 million reasons to oppose another stimulus. That is why many of us have been calling on the President to propose something entirely different tonight—not because of politics but because the kind of policies he has proposed in the past haven't worked. The problem here isn't politics. The problem is the policy. It is time the President start thinking less about how to describe his policies differently and more time thinking about devising new policies. And he might start by working with Congress instead of writing in secret, without any consultation with Republicans, a plan that the White House is calling bipartisan.

With 14 million Americans out of work, job creation should be a no-politics zone. Republicans stand ready to act on policies that get the private sector moving again. What we are reluctant to do, however, is to allow the President to put us deeper in debt to finance a collection of short-term fixes or shots in the arm that might move the needle today but which deny America's job creators the things they need to solve this crisis—predictability, stability, fewer government burdens, and less redtape. Because while this crisis may have persisted for far too long and caused far too much hardship, one thing we do have right now is the benefit of hindsight. We know what doesn't work.

So tonight the President should take a different approach. He should acknowledge the failures of an economic agenda that centers on government and spending and debt, and work across the aisle on a plan that puts people and businesses at the forefront of job creation.

If the American people are going to have control over their own destiny, they need to have more control over their economy. That means shifting the center of gravity away from Washington and toward those who create jobs. It means putting an end to the regulatory overreach that is holding job creators back. It means being as bold about liberating job creators as the administration has been about shackling them. It means reforming an outdated Tax Code and getting out of the business of picking winners and losers. It means lowering the U.S. corporate tax rate, which is currently the second highest in the world. And it means leveling the playing field with our competitors overseas by approving free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea that have been languishing on the President's desk literally for years.

Contrary to the President's claims, this economic approach isn't aimed at pleasing any one party or constituency. It is aimed at giving back to the American people the tools they need to do the work Washington has not been able to do on its own, despite its best efforts over the past few years.

The President is free to blame his political adversaries, his predecessor, or even natural disasters for America's economic challenges. Tonight, he may blame any future challenges on those who choose not to rubberstamp his latest proposals. But it should be noted that this is precisely what Democratic majorities did during the President's first 2 years in office, and look where that got us. But here is the bottom line: By the President's own standards, his jobs agenda has been a failure, and we can't afford to make the same mistake twice.

After the President's speech tonight calling for more stimulus spending, the Senate will vote on his request for an additional \$500 billion increase in the debt limit, so Senators will have an opportunity to vote for or against this type of approach right away.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half.

The Senator from Nebraska is recognized.

(The remarks of Mr. JOHANNES and Mr. ALEXANDER pertaining to the introduction of S. 1528 are printed in today's RECORD under Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.)

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I believe I have up to 20 minutes?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 16½ minutes remaining on the Republican side.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Will the Chair please let me know when 5 minutes is remaining.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, tonight we welcome President Obama to the Congress to deliver a jobs address. The President will be coming at a time when we have had persistent unemployment at a greater rate than at any time since the Great Depression. No one should blame our President for problems with an economy that he inherited, but the President should take responsibility for making the economy worse.

Unemployment is up. The debt is up. Housing values are down. The morning

paper reports we may be on our way—at least the chances are 50-50, the newspaper says this morning—to a double-dip recession. The number of unemployed Americans is up about 2 million since the President took office. The amount of Federal debt is up about \$4 trillion.

As I mentioned in discussing the proposals of the Senator from Nebraska, the President's policies, rather than helping over the last 2½ years, have thrown a big wet blanket over private sector job creation. They have made it more expensive and more difficult for the private sector to create jobs for Americans.

Let me be specific about that. The President chose, 2 years ago, rather than to focus exclusively on jobs, to focus on health care. His proposal was to expand a health care delivery system that already cost too much, that was already too expensive. So we have new health care taxes and mandates that make the economy worse.

Why do I say that? I met, for example, with the chief executive officers of several of the nation's largest restaurant companies. They reminded me that restaurants and hospitality organizations in the United States are the largest employers, outside of government, and that their employees are mostly young and mostly low income. One of the chief executives said because of the mandates of the health care law it would take all of his profits from last year to pay the costs, when it is fully implemented, so he will not be investing in any new restaurants in the United States. Another said they operate with 90 employees per store, but as a result of the mandates and taxes in the health care law, their goal will be to operate with 70 employees per store. One of the largest employers is saying instead of having 90 employees per store, we are going to have 70. That doesn't help create new jobs in the United States.

Let's take the debt. The President inherited the debt but he has made it worse. The economists who look at debt say we are heading toward a level that will cost us, in the United States, 1 million jobs every year.

Undermining the right-to-work law—the President's appointees to the National Labor Relations Board have told the Nation's largest manufacturer of large airplanes that they cannot build a plant in South Carolina. It is the first new plant to build large airplanes in 40 years in this country. The Boeing Company sells those airplanes everywhere in the world. It could build them anywhere in the world. We want them to build them in the United States. Those kinds of actions by the National Labor Relations Board make it worse.

Regulations that put a big wet blanket over job creation, such as the one the Senator from Nebraska talks about, make it worse. The President's

refusal to send trade agreements to Congress makes it worse. Let's be clear about this. Since the day the President took office, he has had on his desk three trade agreements, already signed by both countries. They simply need approval by Congress—one with Panama, one with South Korea, one with Colombia. We are ready to approve them in a bipartisan way if he will send them here. What will that mean in Tennessee? We make a lot of auto parts in Tennessee. We can sell them to South Korea. At the present time, Europeans sell them to South Korea at a lower price because of the tariff situation, because the President has not sent the three trade agreements to Congress. So all these steps have made the economy worse. Of course, with a bad economy home values have stayed down. That is making it worse, too.

So what can we do about this? What are the kinds of things the President could talk about tonight and that we could work on together to make it easier and cheaper to create private sector jobs? We could change the tax structure in a permanent way, not short-term fixes but long-term lowering of tax rates for everyone, closing loopholes, creating a situation where our businesses are more competitive in the world marketplace. That is one thing we could do.

We could stop the avalanche of regulations that is throwing the big wet blanket over job growth. The Senator from Nebraska suggested a few—a moratorium on new regulations; avoiding guidance, as he suggested, that circumvents the rules or regulations; stopping wacky ideas such as regulating farm dust, as if everybody did not know that all farms create dust.

More exports—the President could send, today, the three trade agreements to Congress. We could ratify them and then crops grown in Tennessee and Nebraska and every other State in this country, and auto parts, and medical devices, could be sold around the world. Our State alone has \$23 billion and tens of thousands of jobs tied up in exports. This could add to that.

In addition to that, we could agree on advanced research. The President's recommendations have been good on that. But we should agree on that and move ahead with appropriations bills and a fiscal situation that permits us to do the kind of advanced research we need to do to create jobs.

We need to fix No Child Left Behind. Better schools mean better jobs. We need a long-term highway bill. We need roads and bridges in order to have the kind of country we want. We need to find more American energy and use less. We should be able to agree on that.

There is an agenda, not of more spending, not of more taxes, not of more regulation, but an agenda that

would make it easier and cheaper to create private sector jobs and get the economy moving again.

In another time a President named Eisenhower said "I should go to Korea" and he was elected President. He went to Korea before he was inaugurated and then he said "I shall focus my time on this single objective until I see it all the way through to the end." The country felt good about that, they had confidence in him, he did that, and the Korean war was ended.

President Obama chose, instead of focusing on jobs 2½ years ago in the same sort of Presidential way, to expand a health care delivery system that already was too expensive and in fact makes the problem worse. Tonight is an opportunity to make it better and we are ready to join with him in doing that, especially if he were to recommend lower tax rates, fewer loopholes on a permanent basis, fewer regulations, and if he were to send the three trade agreements to us to ratify.

I wish to turn my attention to a different subject. September 11 is Sunday. I listened carefully, as most of us in the Senate do, to words that seem to resonate with my audiences. I have consistently found there is one sentence that I usually cannot finish without the audience interrupting me before breaking into applause, and it is this: "It is time to put the teaching of American history and civics back into its rightful place in our schools so our children can grow up learning what it means to be an American." The terrorists who attacked us on September 11 were not just lashing out at buildings and people. They were attacking who we are as Americans. Most Americans know this, and that is why there has been a national hunger for leadership and discussion about our values. Parents know our children are not being taught our common culture and our shared values.

National tests show that three-fourths of the Nation's 4th, 8th, and 12th graders are not proficient in civics knowledge, and one-third don't even have basic knowledge, making them civic illiterates. That is why I made making American history and civics the subject of my maiden speech when I first came to the Senate in 2003, and by a vote of 90 to 0 the Senate passed my bill to create summer residential academies for outstanding teachers of American history and civics. Every year I bring them on the Senate floor, and those teachers from all over our country have a moment to think about this Senate. They usually go find a desk of the Senator from Alaska, if they are an Alaskan teacher, or the Senator from Tennessee, or Daniel Webster's desk, or Jefferson Davis's desk, and they stop and think about our country in a special way.

The purpose of those teachers is better teaching, and the purpose of the

academy is more learning of key events, key persons, key ideas, and key documents that shape the institutions of the democratic heritage of the United States.

If I were teaching about September 11, these are some of the issues I would ask my students to consider. No. 1, is September 11 the worst thing that ever happened to the United States? Of course the answer is no, but I am surprised by the number of people who say yes. It saddens me to realize that those who make such statements were never properly taught about American history. Many doubted that we would win the Revolutionary War. The British sacked Washington and burned the White House to the ground in the War of 1812. In the Civil War we lost more Americans than in any other conflict, with brother fighting against brother. The list goes on. Children should know why we made those sacrifices and fought for the values that make us exceptional.

The second question I would talk about is, What makes America exceptional? I began the first session of a course I taught at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government 10 or 11 years ago by making a list of 100 ways America is exceptional, unique—not always better but unique. America's exceptionalism has been a source of fascination ever since Tocqueville's trip across America in 1830 when he met Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie on the Mississippi River. His book, "Democracy in America," is the best description of America's unique ideals in action. Another outstanding text is "American Exceptionalism" by Seymour Martin Lipset.

A third question I ask my students is, Why is it you cannot become Japanese or French, but you must become an American? If I were to immigrate to Japan, I could not become Japanese. I would always be an American living in Japan. But if a Japanese citizen came here, they could become an American, and we would welcome that person with open arms. Why? It is because our identity is not based on ethnicity but on a creed of ideas and values in which most of us believe.

The story Richard Hofstadter wrote:

It is our fate as a nation not to have ideologies, but to be one.

To become American citizens immigrants must take a test demonstrating their knowledge of American history and civics.

Fourth, what are the principles that unite us as Americans? In Thanksgiving remarks after the September 11 attacks, President George W. Bush praised our Nation's response to terror. "I call it the American character," he said.

Former Vice President Gore, in his speech after the attacks, said:

We should fight for the values that bind us together as a country.

In my Harvard course that I mentioned, we put together a list of some of those values: liberty, *e. pluribus unum*, equal opportunity, individualism, rule of law, free exercise of religion, separation of church and state, *laissez-faire*, and the belief in progress, the idea that anyone can do anything. Anything is possible if we agree on those principles.

I would say to my students, Why is there so much division in American politics? Just because we agree on the values doesn't mean we agree on how to apply those values. Most of our politics, in fact, is about the hard work of applying those principles to our everyday lives. When we do, we often conflict.

For example, when discussing President Bush's proposals to let the Federal Government fund faith-based charities, we know, in God we trust—we have it here in the Senate—but we also know we don't trust government with God. When considering whether the Federal Government should pay for scholarships that middle- and low-income families might use at any accredited school—public, private, or religious—some object that the principle of equal opportunity can conflict with the principle of separation of church and state.

What does it mean to be an American? After September 11, I proposed an idea I call Pledge Plus Three. Why not start each school day with the Pledge of Allegiance—as many schools still do—and then ask a teacher or a student to take 3 minutes to explain what it means to be an American. I would bet the best 3-minute statements of what it means to be an American would come from the newest Americans. At least that was the case with my university students. The newest Americans appreciated this country the most and could talk about it the best.

Ask students to stand and raise their right hands and recite the oath of allegiance just as immigrants do when they become American citizens. This is an oath that goes all the way back to the days of George Washington and Valley Forge. It reads like it was written in a tavern by a bunch of patriots in Williamsburg late one night. I recited this with my right hand up during a speech I recently gave on my American history and civics bill. It is quite a weighty thing and startles the audience to say:

I absolutely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty [and agree to] bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law.

The oath to become an American taken by George Washington and his men and now taken today in courthouses all across America is a solemn, weighty matter. Our history is a struggle to live up to the ideas that have united us and that have defined us

from the very beginning, the principles of what we call the American character. If that is what students are taught about September 11, they will not only become better informed, they will strengthen our country for generations to come.

I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, how much time is left on the majority side in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 19 minutes remaining.

REMEMBERING 9/11

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, we are now approaching the 10th anniversary of 9/11. As with countless others who experienced all that happened that day, recounting 9/11, assessing its implications on our Nation is both a profound and deeply personal undertaking.

I will never forget the moments when I learned what happened. I was in the House gym. I was a Senator then and still went to the House gym. There is a little TV on top of the lockers, and somebody pointed out—one of our colleagues who was in the House with me from the other side of the aisle said: Look on the TV. It looks like a plane has crashed into the World Trade Center.

We all gathered around and watched the TV and came to the conclusion that it was probably a little turbo plane that had lost its way. We kept our eyes on the TV, and then, of course, we saw the second plane hit the second tower, and we knew it was not just an accident.

I quickly showered, dressed, rushed to get into my car, and as I was driving quickly to my office, I saw another plane flying low over the Potomac, and I saw a big plume of smoke, which obviously was the plane aimed at the Pentagon. I said to myself, "World War III has started."

I quickly called my wife, and our first concern was our daughter who went to high school just a few blocks from the World Trade Center. We didn't know what happened. The towers were on fire. We actually took out the almanac to see how high the trade center was to see whether it could fall in the direction of her school and whether it would hit it. For 5 hours, we couldn't find Jessica. They had successfully evacuated the school, but because they shut down the elevators in the school, they all had to walk down the stairs. She was on the ninth floor, and, being

Jessica, she escorted an elderly teacher who couldn't get down very quickly and lost her way from the group. Of course, praise God, we found her.

That was just the beginning of the anguish. The next day, Senator Clinton and I flew to New York. I will never forget that scene. I think of it just about every day. The smell of death was in the air. The towers were still burning. People were rushing to the towers—firefighters, police officers, construction workers—to see if they could find the missing. The most poignant scene I think of all the time is literally hundreds of people, average folks of every background, holding up little signs—"Have you seen my daughter Sally?" with a picture, "Have you seen my husband Bill?"—because at that point we didn't know who was lost and who was not. It was a very rough time, and we think of it every day.

We know what happened, and it is something that will remain in our minds for the rest of our lives but, of course, not close to those who lost loved ones either during the horrible conflagration or in these later years. Now is the time for the 10th anniversary, so it is a good time to take stock of the effect of the trauma and what it means, both locally and nationally.

Obviously, every one of us in America was scared, shocked, traumatized, horrified, angry, and heartbroken. At first, we didn't know what happened. Then, as we learned who had attacked us and why, we had to confront a crisis for which we didn't feel prepared. It was an experience we as New Yorkers and Americans were not used to at all. We felt so vulnerable. Were we now going to be the subject of attack after attack from stateless, nihilistic enemies we poorly understood and were even more poorly prepared to fight? There was this doctrine of asymmetrical power: Small groups living in caves were empowered by technology to do damage to us—horrible damage—that we couldn't stop. Could it be that our vast military was a poor match for a small group of technologically savvy extremists bent on mass murder and mayhem, directed from half a world away? It seemed more likely—certain even—that attack after attack would come our way from a small group willing to use any tactic, from a box cutter and a loaded plane to weapons of mass destruction, focused solely on massive loss of life and damage to the economy, not to mention to our collective psyche and confidence as a people.

It certainly was a hammer blow to the great city in which I live and have lived my whole life. It raised the question of its future. People everywhere were writing the obituaries on downtown Manhattan. People and businesses were leaving or seriously contemplating leaving. Being diffuse was the answer, not concentrated. Some wrote that maybe now densely populated, diverse cities such as New York

would no longer have a future. A permanent exodus seemed imminent. Downtown New York would become a ghost town. Who would work here again? Who would live here? Who would dine or see a show here? What global firm would locate thousands of jobs here? It was not an exaggeration to say that New York's days as the leading city on the global stage seemed as though they could be over.

But our response was immediate, proactive, unified, and successful. In the days, weeks, and first months after 9/11, America as a society and, by extension, its political system came together and behaved in a remarkable way. New Yorkers, as always, did the same. There immediately developed a sense of shared sacrifice and common purpose that gave rise to a torrent of actions in the private and public spheres.

Amongst the American people, there was an unprecedented outpouring of voluntary help—a tradition deeply rooted in our American tradition of community service and voluntary action noted by observers as far back as Alexis de Tocqueville, who, in the earliest days of our Republic, observed:

Americans of all ages, all conditions, all minds constantly unite. Not only do they have commercial and industrial associations in which all take part, but they also have a thousand other kinds: religious, moral, grave, futile, very general and very particular, immense and very small.

Fueled by this reaction, our government went to work immediately, at all levels, collaborating on the Federal, State, and local levels.

In Washington, DC, the policy response to the situation at hand was remarkable for its productivity, its extraordinary speed, and, overall, the positive impacts it made both in the short term and long term. All of what we did was far from perfect, but when our government is able to be this nimble, responsive, and effective, it is worth asking what the elements of its success were so that we might think about how we can apply them to future situations such as the one we are in now.

If I were to characterize our policy actions post-9/11, I would say they were nonideological, practical, partisanship was subdued; the actions were collaborative, not vituperative; they were balanced and fair; they were bold and decisive; and they were both short- and long-term focused. Let's take a quick look at each.

We were nonideological. Post-9/11, we were driven primarily by facts, not primarily by ideology. We asked, "What does the situation require and how might we best execute that?" not, "How can I exploit this situation to further my world view or political agenda or pecuniary self-interest?" We didn't have a debate about the nature of government and whether or how we ought

to support disaster victims or the need for housing or to get small businesses and not-for-profits back open, nor did we wring our hands about the appropriateness of rebuilding infrastructure or responding to the lack of insurance available for developers; rather, we attacked each problem as it became apparent. We professionally engaged, we compromised, and we hammered out a plan to address each problem as it arose. And we did it fast.

We were tempered in our partisanship. Partisanship is never absent from the public stage, but the degree to which it is the dominant element in the many influences on public policy waxes and wanes. In the days after 9/11, we were able to keep partisanship on a short leash.

I remember being in the Oval Office the day after I visited New York with Senator Clinton, and we told President Bush of the damage in New York. I asked the President: We need \$20 billion in New York; we need a pledge immediately. Without even thinking, the President said yes. New York is a blue State, one that didn't support President Bush. He didn't stop and weigh and calculate politically; he said yes, and, to his credit, he stuck by that promise in the years to come.

We were collaborative, not vituperative, unlike recent tragedies, such as the Fort Hood shooting, where some sought to heap blame on President Obama, or the Gabby Giffords shooting, where premature blame was mistakenly directed at the rightwing for spurring the attacker which, in turn, begat a round of unseemly recriminations. Unlike those examples, following 9/11, people refrained from using the powerful and exploitable event as an opportunity to blame President Bush or President Clinton for letting an attack happen.

Rather than looking back and hanging an iron collar of blame around the neck of a President to score political points, people from both parties were willing to look forward, to plan forward, and to act forward. This, in turn, helped create a climate where collaboration was possible. And, to his credit, the President, as I mentioned, did not think about the electoral map or political implications of supporting New York.

We were bold and decisive. We did not shrink from the big thing or fail to act on multiple levels at once. On one front, we crafted the \$20 billion aid package to rebuild New York. On another, we crafted the PATRIOT Act. On still another, the military and intelligence communities planned the invasion of Afghanistan to root out al-Qaida. These were big moves, with massive implications for life, the national coffers, and the structure of our society. None of the moves was perfect, but rather than, for example, derail the \$20 billion aid package to New York be-

cause you might think we do not have the money to spend or blocking the PATRIOT Act because you believe it does not do enough to produce civil liberties, in the period after 9/11, those with objections made a good-faith effort to have their points included in nascent legislation, and had some real success, such as building in punishments against those who leak information obtained from wiretaps or preventing information from unconstitutional searches from abroad from being used in a legal proceeding.

But, in the end, on the PATRIOT Act, for example, Democrats—who were in the minority and could have played the role of blocker—let it pass with a pledge to improve it over time, rather than scuttling it entirely, because while there were parts of it that some disagreed with strongly, there were parts that were absolutely necessary.

Compare this to our current stalemate on fiscal policy and the economy, where time after time the "my way or the highway" view seems to prevail, leading to inaction, gridlock, and failure to do what the economy truly needs.

We were balanced and fair. On the one hand, we were pragmatic. We made the airlines and owners of the World Trade Center and other potential targets immune from potentially bankrupting lawsuits. It was not an easy decision. It was strenuously opposed by some in the trial bar and other Democratic allies, but it was a reasonable one.

On the other hand, we were just. We created, with billions in financing, the Victims Compensation Fund, the VCF, so no victim or their loved one would be denied access to justice. It proved to be a win-win. The crippled airline industry, so critical to our economy, was able to get back up and running, and every injured person or loved one of those lost had an expedited and fair system to pursue a claim of loss.

This harkened back to the kind of grand bargains on big issues that are the very foundation of effective government in the system of diffused power that we were bequeathed by our Founders, the kind of bargains the current state of politics make so elusive today.

We were short- and long-term focused. We were concerned with both short-term support, via FEMA aid to homeowners, renters, and small businesses, and with long-term competitiveness. We invested heavily in transportation infrastructure to move millions in and out of the central business districts, even while we supported the arts, community groups, parks, nonprofits, and more to create the vibrant and growing 24/7 downtown we have today—a hub that is at the very center of the Nation's economy and culture—far from the horrible view we had that

the downtown would become a ghost town shortly after 9/11.

In short, the response to 9/11 by all Americans, by both parties, is a roadmap for how our political system ought to function but is not now functioning.

I am not a Pollyanna. I understand the inherent nature of conflict in the political realm, and I often partake in it. I also know the trauma of 9/11 was uncommon, and made possible uncommon action. Then we had both the shocking murder of thousands of innocent victims, the heroism of the responders to inspire us, and the advantage of a common enemy to unite us.

But what we were able to achieve then in terms of common purpose and effective collective action provides us with a model for action that we in Washington must strive to emulate and—even if just in part, even if just sporadically—to recreate. We should look back to what happened during 9/11 and apply it to our own time and see how we can make ourselves better and break the kind of gridlock, partisanship, finger pointing that seems to dominate our politics today, only 10 years later.

As we survey the current state of our national psyche and the ability of our political system to debate and then implement effective policy actions for the challenges that confront us, it is painfully clear that, in a relative blink of the eye, the ability of our political system to muster the will to take necessary actions for the common good has degenerated to a place that is much too far away from our actions after 9/11.

The question that haunts me—and should haunt all of us—is this: If, God forbid, another 9/11-like attack were to happen tomorrow, would our national political system respond with the same unity, nonrecrimination, common purpose, and effective policy action in the way it did just 10 years ago or are our politics now so petty, fanatically ideological, polarized, and partisan that we would instead descend into blame and brinksmanship and direct our fire inward and fail to muster the collective will to act in the interests of the American people?

As I ponder it, I have every confidence that the first responders—cops, firefighters, and others—would do now as they did then. Their awe-inspiring selflessness and bravery continues to be a humbling wonder and an inspiration.

I know our building trades workers would again drop everything and show up, put their lives on the line, and throw their backs into the task at hand without waiting to be asked.

I am certain that the American people would come together and find countless ways to donate their time, their energy, their ideas, and their compassion to the cause at hand.

But what of our political system?

I am an optimist, so I want to believe the answer is yes. But I am also a realist, and a very engaged player on the Washington scene, who has just been through the debt ceiling brinksmanship, amongst other recent battles, and that realistic part of me is not so sure the answer is yes.

Today, would we still pass a bipartisan \$20 billion aid package to the afflicted city or would we say that is not my region or would we fail to take the long view and say we cannot afford to spend lavish sums of money like that; we have to spend within our means.

Would we be capable of coming together to pass a grand bargain such as the one that immunized the airlines from lawsuits and created the Victims Compensation Fund or instead would we embrace the politics of asphyxiation and find every excuse to block getting to “yes” in order to prevent our political opponents from appearing to achieve something positive.

Would all parties refrain from using the occasion to place blame on the President and on each other to gain relative political advantage or would we hear, first, the leaked whispers, then the chatter, then the recriminations that build to the ugly echo chamber of vituperation that has been the sad hallmark of more recent tragedies and national security events.

This political accord following 9/11 had its limits, especially in the aftermath of our invasion of Iraq, when one key rationale for going to war was discredited. But even for those who came to view our involvement as distracting and wrong—distracting from the more important political objective of rooting out al-Qaida and wrong because it could not work; and there was a great loss of life and treasure—even for those of us who came to abhor the war in Iraq, it would have been unthinkable then to root against our country's eventual success in Iraq. Compare that to now, when it is fathomable that some would rather America not recover its economic strength and prowess just yet.

When we think back to where we were then and to how we reacted and compare it to challenges we confront today, it is clear that while the sacrifice of the victims and the heroism of the responders were eternal, our ability to sustain both the common purpose and effective political action they inspired has proved all too ephemeral.

I will not recount details of our current dysfunction, but suffice it to say our politics are paralyzed. Domestically, we are frozen in an illogical arm-wrestling match between the need to get people back to work and jump-start the economy and the drive to rein in the deficit. Globally, we are confronted by an uncertain place in an increasingly competitive world.

Finally, our challenges are psychological and emotional and aspirational,

much as they were in the darkest hours and days after 9/11, and these doubts whisper to us the following questions: Are we no longer able to tackle the big issues? Are we a nation in decline?

I am not saying the challenges we face today are an exact parallel for what we faced then. It is obvious they are not. Nor are all the conditions the same. But today's challenges—from the economic to the global to the social—are not intractable, and if any one of our current dilemmas were subject to the same policy environment we had post-9/11, I have no doubt we would make substantial progress in tackling it.

Confronted with a more profound, complex, and existential challenge on 9/11, we rose to the occasion. We confronted the problem before us with uniquely American doggedness, pragmatism, creativity, collaboration, and optimism—optimism—because that is what Americans do and that is who we are. We believe that no matter how bad it gets—whether hunkered down for the winter in Valley Forge after a series of humiliating military defeats or arriving, like Lincoln, in Washington, DC, in 1860 to find half our Nation and next-door neighbor States are attempting to destroy our Union or FDR confronting, in 1932, 25-percent unemployment and an unprecedented deflationary spiral in a modern industrial-financial economy or believing that, indeed, all people are created equal, even while you were rudely ushered to the back of the bus or facing down the totalitarian threats of fascism and communism, and believing that, yes, we will tear that wall down—Americans believe in a brighter tomorrow. We believe in our ability as a people, individually and collectively, both through private action and via our elected representatives who make our Nation's policy, to get things done to make that brighter tomorrow a reality.

We have, as a nation, faced bigger challenges. We have answered the call, and 9/11 was one shining example. We are in better shape now on many fronts as a result of the actions we took in the immediate aftermath of 9/11, and those are well known: rebuilding New York City, compensating families, flushing al-Qaida from its base in Afghanistan, leading to the fact that Osama bin Laden is dead.

In the Middle East it is not, as we feared after 9/11, the hateful, myopic, reactive philosophy of bin Laden that took hold and changed their societies. Rather, it is imbued with some decent measure of hope and optimism and courage that created a cascading wave of political, social, and economic aspiration that has transformed this region from Tunisia and Libya to Egypt and Syria, added and abetted by entrepreneurial innovations pioneered here in America. This transformation is not without enormous dangers and challenges, but consider how much worse it

would have been if a pro-bin Laden movement were fueling this transformation.

It is plain we need more of what we had post-9/11 now. I am not naive. I know it cannot be conjured up or wished into existence. But if we are optimistic, if we are inspired by the Americans who died here, if we truly understand our shared history and the sacred place compromise and rationality hold at the very center of the formation of our Nation and the structure of our Constitution, then we can again take up the mantle of shared sacrifice and common purpose that we wore after 9/11 and apply some of those behaviors to the problems we now confront.

The reality of our current political climate is that both sides are off in their corners; the common enemy is faded. Some see Wall Street as the enemy many others see Washington, DC, as the enemy and to still others any and all government is the enemy.

I believe the greatest problem we face is the belief that we can no longer confront and solve the problems and challenges that confront us; the fear that our best days may be behind us; that, for the first time in history, we fear things will not be as good for our kids as they are for us. It is a creeping pessimism that cuts against the can-do and will-do American spirit. And, along with the divisiveness in our politics, it is harming our ability to create the great works our forbears accomplished: building the Empire State building in the teeth of the Great Depression, constructing the Interstate Highway System and the Hoover Dam, the Erie Canal, and so much more.

While governmental action is not the whole answer to all that faces us, it is equally true that we cannot confront the multiple and complex challenges we now face with no government or a defanged government or a dysfunctional government.

As we approach the 10th anniversary of 9/11, the focus on what happened that day intensifies—what we lost, who we lost, and how we reacted—it becomes acutely clear that we need to confront our current challenges imbued with the spirit of 9/11 and determine to make our government and our politics worthy of the sacrifice and loss we suffered that day.

To return to de Tocqueville, he also remarked that:

The greatness of America lies not in being more enlightened than any other nation, but rather in her ability to repair her faults.

So, like the ironworkers and operating engineers and trade workers who miraculously appeared at the pile hours after the towers came down with blowtorches and hard hats in hand, let's put on our gloves, pick up our hammers and get to work fixing what ails the body politic. It is the least we can do to honor those we lost.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN of Ohio). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEAHY-SMITH AMERICA INVENTS ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1249, which the clerk will report by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

An Act (H.R. 1249) to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform.

AMENDMENT NO. 600

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to call up my amendment No. 600, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Alabama [Mr. SESSIONS], for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. LEE, proposes an amendment numbered 600.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 600

(Purpose: To strike the provision relating to the calculation of the 60-day period for application of patent term extension)

On page 149, line 20, strike all through page 150, line 16.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, the amendment that I have offered is a very important amendment. It is one that I believe is important to the integrity of the U.S. legal system and to the integrity of the Senate. It is a matter that I have been wrestling with and objecting to for over a decade. I thought the matter had been settled, frankly, but it has not because it has been driven by one of the most ferocious lobbying efforts the Congress maybe has seen.

The House patent bill as originally passed out of committee and taken to the floor of the House did not include a bailout for Medco, the WilmerHale law firm, or the insurance carrier for that firm, all of whom were in financial

jeopardy as a result of a failure to file a patent appeal timely.

I have practiced law hard in my life. I have been in court many times. I spent 12 years as a U.S. Attorney and tried cases. I am well aware of how the system works. The way the system works in America, you file lawsuits and you are entitled to your day in court. But if you do not file your lawsuit in time, within the statute of limitations, you are out.

When a defendant raises a legal point of order—a motion to dismiss—based on the failure of the complaining party to file their lawsuit timely, they are out. That happens every day to poor people, widow ladies. And it does not make any difference what your excuse is, why you think you have a good lawsuit, why you had this idea or that idea. Everyone is required to meet the same deadlines.

In Alabama they had a situation in which a lady asked a probate judge when she had to file her appeal by, and the judge said: You can file it on Monday. As it turned out, Monday was too late. They went to the Alabama Supreme Court, and who ruled: The probate judge—who does not have to be a lawyer—does not have the power to amend the statute of limitations. Sorry, lady. You are out.

Nobody filed a bill in the Congress to give her relief, or the thousands of others like her every day. So Medco and WilmerHale seeking this kind of relief is a big deal. To whom much has been given, much is required. This is a big-time law firm, one of the biggest law firms in America. Medco is one of the biggest pharmaceutical companies in the country. And presumably the law firm has insurance that they pay to insure them if they make an error. So it appears that they are not willing to accept the court's ruling.

One time an individual was asking me: Oh, JEFF, you let this go. Give in and let this go. I sort of as a joke said to the individual: Well, if WilmerHale will agree not to raise the statute of limitations against anybody who sues their clients if they file a lawsuit late, maybe I will reconsider. He thought I was serious. Of course WilmerHale is not going to do that. If some poor person files a lawsuit against someone they are representing, and they file it one hour late, WilmerHale will file a motion to dismiss it. And they will not ask why they filed it late. This is law. It has to be objective. It has to be fair.

You are not entitled to waltz into the U.S. Congress—well connected—and start lobbying for special relief.

There is nothing more complicated about that than this. So a couple of things have been raised. Well, they suggest, we should not amend the House patent bill, and that if we do, it somehow will kill the legislation. That is not so. Chairman LEAHY has said he supports the amendment, but he

doesn't want to vote for it because it would keep the bill from being passed somehow.

It would not keep it from being passed. Indeed, the bill that was brought to the House floor didn't have this language in it. The first vote rejected the attempt to put this language in it. It failed. For some reason, in some way, a second vote was held, and it was passed by a few votes. So they are not going to reject the legislation if we were to amend it.

What kind of system are we now involved in in the Senate if we can't undo an amendment? What kind of argument is it to say: JEFF, I agree with your amendment, and I agree it is right that they should not get this special relief, but I can't vote for it because it might cause a problem? It will not cause a problem. The bill will pass. It should never have been put in there in the first place.

Another point of great significance is the fact that this issue is on appeal. The law firm asserted they thought—and it is a bit unusual—that because it came in late Friday they had until Monday. We can count the days to Monday—the 60 days or whatever they had to file the answer. I don't know if that is good law, but they won. The district court has ruled for them. It is on appeal now to the court of appeals.

This Congress has no business interfering in a lawsuit that is ongoing and is before an appeals court. If they are so confident their district court ruling is correct, why are they continuing to push for this special relief bill, when the court of appeals will soon, within a matter of months, rule?

Another point: We have in the Congress a procedure to deal with special relief. If this relief is necessary at all, it should go through as a special relief bill. I can tell you one reason it is not going there now: you can't ask for special relief while the matter is still in litigation, it is still on appeal. Special relief also has procedures that one has to go through and justify in an objective way, which I believe would be very healthy in this situation.

For a decade, virtually—I think it has been 10 years—I have been objecting to this amendment. Now we are here, I thought it was out, and all of a sudden it is slipped in by a second vote in the House, and we are told we just can't make an amendment to the bill. Why? The Senate set up the legislation to be brought forward, and we can offer amendments and people can vote for them or not.

This matter has gotten a lot of attention. The Wall Street Journal and the New York Times both wrote about it in editorials today. This is what the New York Times said today about it:

But critics who have labeled the provision "The Dog Ate My Homework Act" say it is really a special fix for one drug manufacturer, the Medicines Company, and its pow-

erful law firm, WilmerHale. The company and its law firm, with hundreds of millions of dollars in drug sales at stake, lobbied Congress heavily for several years to get the patent laws changed.

That is what the Wall Street Journal said in their editorial. The Wall Street Journal understands business reality and litigation reality. They are a critic of the legal system at times and a supporter at times. I think they take a principled position in this instance. The Wall Street Journal editorial stated:

We take no pleasure in seeing the Medicine Company and WilmerHale suffer for their mistakes, but they are run by highly paid professionals who know the rules and know that consistency of enforcement is critical to their businesses. Asking Congress to break the rules as a special favor corrupts the law.

I think that is exactly right. It is exactly right. Businesses, when they are sued by somebody, use the statute of limitations every day. This law firm makes hundreds of millions of dollars in income a year. Their partners average over \$1 million a year, according to the New York Times. That is pretty good. They ought to be able to pay a decent malpractice insurance premium. The New York Times said WilmerHale reported revenues of \$962 million in 2010, with a profit of \$1.33 million per partner.

Average people have to suffer when they miss the statute of limitations. Poor people suffer when they miss the statute of limitations. But we are undertaking, at great expense to the taxpayers, to move a special interest piece of legislation that I don't believe can be justified as a matter of principle. I agree with the Wall Street Journal that the adoption of it corrupts the system. We ought not be a part of that.

I love the American legal system. It is a great system, I know. I have seen judges time and time again enter rulings based on law and fact even if they didn't like it. That is the genius and reliability and integrity of the American legal system. I do not believe we can justify, while this matter is still in litigation, passing a special act to give a wealthy law firm, an insurance company, and a health care company special relief. I just don't believe we should do that. I oppose it, and I hope my colleagues will join us.

I think we have a real chance to turn this back. Our Congress and our Senate will be better for it; we really will. The Citizens Against Government Waste have taken an interest in this matter for some time. They said:

Congress has no right to rescue a company from its own mistakes.

Companies have a right to assert the law. Companies have a right to assert the law against individuals. But when the time comes for the hammer to fall on them for their mistake, they want Congress to pass a special relief bill. I don't think it is the right thing to do.

Mr. President, let's boil it down to several things. First, if the company is right and the law firm is right that they did not miss the statute of limitations, I am confident the court of appeals will rule in their favor, and it will not be necessary for this Senate to act. If they do not prevail in the court of appeals and don't win their argument, then there is a provision for private relief in the Congress, and they ought to pursue that. There are special procedures. The litigation will be over, and they can bring that action at that time.

That is the basic position we ought to be in. A bill that comes out of the Judiciary Committee ought to be sensitive to the legal system, to the importance of ensuring that the poor are treated as well as the rich. The oath judges take is to do equal justice to the poor and the rich.

How many other people in this country are getting special attention today on the floor of the Senate? How many? I truly believe this is not good policy. I have had to spend far more hours fighting this than I have ever wanted to when I decided 10 years ago that this was not a good way to go forward. Many battle this issue, and I hope and trust that the Members of the Senate who will be voting on this will allow it to follow the legitimate process. Let the litigation work its way through the system.

If they do not prevail in the litigation, let a private relief bill be sought and debated openly and publicly to see if it is justified. That would be the right way to do it—not slipping through this amendment and then not voting to remove it on the basis that we should not be amending a bill before us. We have every right to amend the bill, and we should amend the bill. I know Senator GRASSLEY, years ago, was on my side. I think it was just the two of us who took this position.

I guess I have more than expressed my opinion. I thank the chairman for his leadership. I thank him and Senator GRASSLEY for their great work on this important patent bill. I support that bill. I believe they have moved it forward in a fair way.

The chairman did not put this language into the bill; it was put in over in the House. I know he would like to see the bill go forward without amendments. I urge him to think it through and see if he cannot be willing to support this amendment. I am confident it will not block final passage of the legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I will speak later about the comments made by the distinguished Senator from Alabama. He has been very helpful in getting this patent bill through. He is correct that this amendment he speaks to

is one added in the other body, not by us. We purposely didn't have it in our bill. I know Senator GRASSLEY will follow my remarks.

There is no question in my mind that if the amendment of the Senator from Alabama were accepted, it in effect will kill the bill. Irrespective of the merits, it can come up on another piece of legislation or as freestanding legislation. That is fine. But on this bill, after 6 years of effort to get this far, this bill would die because the other body will not take it up again.

HURRICANE IRENE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I will use my time to note some of the things happening in my own very special State of Vermont, the State in which I was born.

As Vermonters come together and continue to grapple with the aftermath of storm damage from Irene, I wish to focus today on the agriculture disaster that has hit us in Vermont and report to the Senate and our fellow citizens across the Nation about how the raging floodwaters wreaked havoc on our farming lands and infrastructure in Vermont.

It was 12 days ago now that this enormous, slow-moving storm hit Vermont and turned our calm, scenic brooks and creeks into raging gushers. In addition to our roads and historic covered bridges that were destroyed or carried away, we had barns, farmhouses, crops, parts of fields, and livestock washed away in the rising floodwaters. I recall the comments of one farmer who watched his herd of cows wash down the river, knowing they were going to die in the floodwaters.

Now the cameras have begun to turn away, but the cleanup and urgent repairs are underway. For major parts of Vermont's economy, the worst effects of this storm are yet to come. For our dairy farmers, who are the bedrock of our economy and keystones of our communities, the toll of this disaster has been heavy and the crises has lasted longer as they have struggled to take care of their animals while the floodwaters recede.

This is a photograph of East Pittsford, VT, taken by Lars Gange just over a week ago. The water we see is never there. It is there now. Look at this farm's fields, they are destroyed. Look at homes damaged and think what that water has done.

As I went around the state with our Governor and Vermont National Guard General Dubie the first couple of days after the storm hit, we went to these places by helicopter and I cannot tell you how much it tore at my heart to see the state, the birthplace to me, my parents, and grandparents. To see roads torn up, bridges that were there when my parents were children, washed away. Historic covered bridges, mills, barns, businesses just gone and what it has done to our farmers, it is hard, I cannot overstate it.

Our farmers have barns that are completely gone, leaving no shelter for animals. They are left struggling to get water for their animals, to rebuild fencing, to clean up debris from flooded fields and barns, and then to get milk trucks to the dairy farms. Remember, these cows have to be milked every single day. We also have farmers who do not have any feed or hay for their animals because it all washed away. As one farmer told me, the cows need to be milked two or three times every day, come hell or high water. This farmer thought he had been hit with both, hell and high water.

While reports are still coming in from the farms that were affected, the list of damages and the need for critical supplies, such as feed, generators, fuel, and temporary fencing is on the rise. As we survey the farm fields and communities, we know it will be difficult to calculate the economic impacts of this violent storm on our agriculture industry in Vermont.

Many of our farmers were caught by surprise as the unprecedented, rapidly rising floodwaters inundated their crops, and many have had to deal with the deeply emotional experience of losing animals to the fast-moving floodwaters. We have farms where whole fields were washed away and their fertile topsoil sent rushing down river. The timing could not have been worse. Corn, which is a crucial winter feed for dairy cows, was just ready for harvest, but now our best corn is in the river bottoms and is ruined. Other farms had just prepared their ground to sow winter cover crops and winter greens; they lost significant amounts of topsoil.

River banks gave way, and we saw wide field buffers disappear overnight, leaving the crops literally hanging on ledges above rivers, as at the Kingsbury farm in Warren, VT. Vegetable farming is Vermont's fastest growing agricultural sector, and, of course, this is harvest season. Our farmers were not able to pick these crops, this storm picked many fields clean.

Many Vermonters have highly productive gardens that they have put up for their families to get through the winter by canning and freezing. Those too have been washed away or are considered dangerous for human consumption because of the contaminated floodwaters. Vermont farmers have a challenging and precarious future ahead of them as they look to rebuild and plan for next year's crops, knowing that in our State it can be snowing in 1½ or 2 months.

I have been heartened, however, by the many stories I have heard from communities where people are coming together to help one another. For instance, at the Intervale Community Farm on the Winooski River, volunteers came out to harvest the remaining dry fields before the produce was hit by still rising floodwaters.

When the rumors spread that Beth and Bob Kennett at Liberty Hill Farm in Rochester had no power and needed help milking—well, people just started showing up. By foot, on bike, all ready to lend a hand to help milk the cows. Fortunately for them and for the poor cows, the Vermont Department of Agriculture had managed to help get them fuel and the Kennetts were milking again, so asked the volunteer farm hands to go down the road, help somebody else and they did.

Coping with damage and destruction on this scale is beyond the means and capability of a small State such as ours, and Federal help with the rebuilding effort will be essential to Vermont, as it will be to other States coping with the same disaster. I worry the support they need to rebuild may not be there, as it has been in past disasters, when we have rebuilt after hurricanes, floods, fires and earthquakes to get Americans back in their homes, something Vermonters have supported even though in these past disasters Vermont was not touched.

So I look forward to working with the Appropriations Committee and with all Senators to ensure that FEMA, USDA and all our Federal agencies have the resources they need to help all our citizens at this time of disaster, in Vermont and in all our states. Unfortunately, programs such as the Emergency Conservation Program and the Emergency Watershed Protect Program have been oversubscribed this year, and USDA has only limited funds remaining. We also face the grim fact that few of our farms had bought crop insurance and so may not be covered by USDA's current SURE Disaster Program.

But those are the things I am working on to find ways to help our farmers and to move forward to help in the commitment to our fellow Americans. For a decade, we have spent billions every single week on wars and projects in far-away lands. This is a time to start paying more attention to our needs here at home and to the urgent needs of our fellow citizens.

I see my friend from Iowa on the floor, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Iowa.

AMENDMENT NO. 600

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise to rebut the points Senator SESSIONS made, and I do acknowledge, as he said on the floor, that 2 or more years ago I was on the same page he is on this issue. What has intervened, in the meantime, that causes me to differ from the position Senator SESSIONS is taking? It is a district court case giving justice to a company—as one client—that was denied that sort of justice because bureaucrats were acting in an arbitrary and capricious way.

Senator SESSIONS makes the point you get equal justice under the law

from the judicial branch of government and that Congress should not try to override that sort of situation. Congress isn't overriding anything with the language in the House bill that he wants to strike because that interest was satisfied by a judge's decision; saying that a particular entity was denied equal justice under the law because a bureaucrat, making a decision on just exactly what counts as 60 days, was acting in an arbitrary and capricious way. So this language in the House bill has nothing to do with helping a special interest. That special interest was satisfied by a judge who said an entity was denied equal justice under the law because a bureaucrat was acting in an arbitrary and capricious manner.

This amendment is not about a special interest. This amendment is about uniformity of law throughout the country because it is wrong—as the judge says—for a bureaucracy to have one sort of definition of when 60 days begins—whether it is after business hours, if something goes out, or, if something comes in, it includes the day it comes in. So we are talking about how we count 60 days, and it is about making sure there is a uniform standard for that based upon law passed by Congress and not upon one judge's decision that applies to one specific case.

I would say, since this case has been decided, there are at least three other entities that have made application to the Patent Office to make sure they would get equal justice under the law in the same way the entity that got help through the initial decision of the judge. So this is not about special relief for one company. This is about what is a business day and having a uniform definition in the law of the United States of what a business day is, not based upon one district court decision that may not be applied uniformly around our Nation.

So it is about uniformity and not about some bailout, as Senator SESSIONS says. It is not about some ferocious lobbying effort, as Senator SESSIONS has said. It is not just because one person was 1 hour late or 1 day late, because how do you know whether they are 1 hour late or 1 day late if there is a different definition under one circumstance of when 60 days starts and another definition under other circumstances of when a 60-day period tolls?

Also, I would suggest to Senator SESSIONS that this is not Congress interfering in a court case that is under appeal because the government lost this case and the government is not appealing. Now, there might be some other entity appealing for their own interests to take advantage of something that is very unique to them.

But just in case we have short memories, I would remind my colleagues that Congress does sometimes interject

itself into the appeal process, and I would suggest one time we did that very recently, maybe 6 years ago—and that may not be very recent, but it is not as though we never do it—and that was the Protection of Lawful Commerce Act of 2005, when Congress interjected itself into an issue to protect gun manufacturers from pending lawsuits. It happens that 81 Senators supported that particular effort to interject ourselves into a lawsuit.

So, Mr. President, in a more formal way, I want to repeat some of what I said this past summer when I came to the Senate floor and suggested to the House of Representatives that I would appreciate very much if they would put into the statutes of the United States a uniform definition of a business day and not leave it up to a court to maybe set that standard so that it might not be applied uniformly and, secondly, to make sure it was done in a way that was treating everybody the same, so everybody gets equal justice under the law, they know what the law is, and they don't have to rely upon maybe some court decision in one part of the country that maybe they can argue in another part of the country, and also to tell bureaucrats, as the judge said, that you can't act in an arbitrary and capricious way. But bureaucrats might act in an arbitrary and capricious way, in a way unknown to them, if we don't have a uniform definition of what a business day is.

So I oppose the effort to strike section 37 from the patent reform bill for the reasons I have just given, but also for the reasons that were already expounded by the chairman of this committee that at this late date, after 6 years of trying to get a patent reform bill done—and we haven't had a patent reform bill for over a decade, and it is badly needed—we shouldn't jeopardize the possible passage of this bill to the President of the United States for his signature by sending it back to the other body and perhaps putting it in jeopardy. But, most important, I think we ought to have a clear signal of what is a business day, a definition of it, and this legislation and section 37 makes that very clear.

This past June, I addressed this issue in a floor statement, and I want to quote from that because I wanted my colleagues to understand why I hoped the House-passed bill would contain section 37 that was not in our Senate bill but that was passed out of the House Judiciary Committee unanimously. Speaking as ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee now and back in June when I spoke, I wanted the House Judiciary Committee to know that several Republican and Democratic Senators had asked me to support this provision as well.

Section 37 resulted from a recent Federal court case that had as its genesis the difficulty the FDA—the Food

and Drug Administration—and the Patent Office face when deciding how to calculate Hatch-Waxman deadlines. The Hatch-Waxman law of the 1980s was a compromise between drug patent holders and the generic manufacturers. Under the Waxman-Hatch law, once a patent holder obtains market approval, the patent holder has 60 days to request the Patent Office to restore the patent terms—time lost because of the FDA's long deliberating process eating up valuable patent rights.

The citation to the case I am referring to is in 731 Federal Supplement 2nd, 470. The court found—and I want to quote more extensively than I did back in June. This is what the judge said about bureaucrats acting in an arbitrary and capricious way and when does the 60 days start.

The Food and Drug Administration treats submissions to the FDA received after its normal business hours differently than it treats communications from the agency after normal business hours.

Continuing to quote from the decision:

The government does not deny that when notice of FDA approval is sent after normal business hours, the combination of the Patent and Trademark Office's calendar day interpretation and its new counting method effectively deprives applicants of a portion of the 60-day filing period that Congress expressly granted them . . . Under PTO's interpretation, the date stamped on the FDA approval letter starts the 60-day period for filing an application, even if the Food and Drug Administration never sends the letter . . . An applicant could lose a substantial portion, if not all, of its time for filing a Patent Trademark Extension application as a result of mistakes beyond its control . . . An interpretation that imposes such drastic consequences when the government errs could not be what Congress intended.

So the judge is telling us in the Congress of the United States that because we weren't precise, there is a question as to when Congress intended 60 days to start to toll. And the question then is, If it is treated one way for one person and another way for another person, or if one agency treats it one way and another agency treats it another way, is that equal justice under the law? I think it is very clear that the judge said it was not. I say the judge was correct. Congress certainly should not expect nor allow mistakes by the bureaucracy to up-end the rights and provisions included in the Hatch-Waxman Act or any other piece of legislation we might pass.

The court ruled that when the Food and Drug Administration sent a notice of approval after business hours, the 60-day period requesting patent restoration begins the next business day. It is as simple as that.

The House, by including section 37, takes the court case, where common sense dictates to protect all patent holders against losing patent extensions as a result of confused counting calculations. Regrettably, misunderstandings about this provision have

persisted, and I think you hear some of those misunderstandings in the statement by Senator SESSIONS.

This provision does not apply to just one company. The truth is that it applies to all patent holders seeking to restore the patent term time lost during FDA deliberations—in other words, allowing what Hatch-Waxman tries to accomplish: justice for everybody. In recent weeks, it has been revealed that already three companies covering four drug patents will benefit by correcting the government's mistake.

It does not cost the taxpayers money. The Congressional Budget Office determined that it is budget-neutral.

Section 37 has been pointed out as maybe being anticonsumer, but it is anything but anticonsumer. I would quote Jim Martin, chairman of the 60-Plus Association. He said:

We simply can't allow bureaucratic inconsistencies to stand in the way of cutting-edge medical research that is so important to the increasing number of Americans over the age of 60. This provision is a common-sense response to a problem that unnecessarily has ensnared far too many pharmaceutical companies and caused inexcusable delays in drug innovations.

We have also heard from prominent doctors from throughout the United States. They wrote to us stating that section 67 "is critically important to medicine and patients. In one case alone, the health and lives of millions of Americans who suffer from vascular disease are at stake . . . Lives are literally at stake. A vote against this provision will delay our patients access to cutting-edge discoveries and treatments. We urgently request your help in preserving section 37."

So section 37 improves our patent system fairness through certainty and clarity, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to preserve this important provision as an end in itself, but also to make sure we do not send this bill back to the House of Representatives and instead get it to the President, particularly on a day like today when the President is going to be speaking to us tonight about jobs. I think having an updated patent law will help invention, innovation, research, and everything that adds value to what we do in America and preserve America's greatness in invention and the advancement of science.

In conclusion, I would say it is very clear to me that the court concluded that the Patent and Trademark Office, and not some company or its lawyers, had erred, as is the implication here. A consistent interpretation ought to apply to all patent holders in all cases, and we need to resolve any uncertainty that persists despite the court's decision.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Vermont is recognized.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Senator from Iowa

for his words, and I join with the Senator from Iowa in opposing the amendment for two reasons. First, as just simply as a practical matter, the amendment would have the effect, if it passed, of killing the bill because it is not going to be accepted in the other body, and after 6 years or more of work on the patent bill, it is gone. But also, on just the merits of it, the provision this amendment strikes, section 37 of H.R. 1249, simply adopts the holding of a recent district court decision codifying existing law about how the Patent and Trademark Office should calculate 5 days for the purpose of considering a patent term extension. So those are the reasons I oppose the amendment to strike it.

The underlying provision adopted by the House is a bipartisan amendment on the floor. It was offered by Mr. CONYERS, and it has the support of Ms. PELOSI and Mr. BERMAN on the Democratic side and the support of Mr. CANTOR, Mr. PAUL, and Mrs. BACHMANN on the Republican side. I have a very hard time thinking of a wider range of bipartisan support than that.

The provision is simply about how they are calculating filing dates for patent extensions, although its critics have labeled it as something a lot more. A patent holder on a drug is entitled by statute to apply for an extension of its patent term to compensate for any delay the Food and Drug Administration approval process caused in actually bringing the drug to market. The patent holder not only has to file the extension within 60 days beginning on the date the product received permission for marketing, but there is some ambiguity as to when the date is that starts the clock running.

Only in Washington, DC, could the system produce such absurd results that the word "date" means not only something different between two agencies—the PTO and the FDA—but then it is given two different constructions by the FDA. If this sounds kind of esoteric, it is. I have been working on this for years and it is difficult to understand. But the courts have codified it. Let's not try to change it yet again.

What happens is that the FDA treats submissions to it after normal hours as being received the next business day. But the dates of submissions from the FDA are not considered the next business day, even if sent after hours. To complicate matters, the PTO recently changed its own method of defining what is a "date."

If this sounds confusing even in Washington, you can imagine how it is outside of the bureaucracy. Confusion over what constitutes the "date" for purposes of a patent extension has affected several companies. The most notable case involves the Medicines Company's ANGIOMAX extension application request.

The extension application was denied by the PTO because of the difference in

how dates are calculated. MedCo challenged the PTO's decision in court, and last August the federal district court in Virginia held the PTO's decision arbitrary and capricious and MedCo received its patent term extension.

Just so we fully understand what that means, it means PTO now abides by the court's ruling and applies a sensible "business day" interpretation to the word "date" in the statute. The provision in the America Invents Act simply codifies that.

Senator GRASSLEY has spoken to this. As he said a few weeks ago, this provision "improves the patent system fairness through certainty and clarity."

This issue has been around for several years and it was a controversial issue when it would have overturned the PTO's decision legislatively. For this reason Senator GRASSLEY and others opposed this provision when it came up several years ago. But now that the court has ruled, it is a different situation. The PTO has agreed to accept the court's decision. The provision is simply a codification of current law.

Is there anyone who truly believes it makes sense for the word "date" to receive tortured and different interpretations by different parts of our government rather than to have a clear, consistent definition? Let's actually try to put this issue to bed once and for all.

The provision may solidify Medco's patent term extension, but it applies generally, not to this one company, as has been suggested. It brings common sense to the entire filing system.

However, if the Senate adopts the amendment of the Senator from Alabama, it will lead to real conflict with the House. It is going to complicate, delay, and probably end passage of this important bipartisan jobs-creating legislation.

Keep in mind, yesterday I said on the floor that each one of us in this body could write a slightly different patent bill. But we do not pass 100 bills, we pass 1. This bill is supported by both Republicans and Democrats across the political spectrum. People on both sides of the aisle have been working on this issue for years and years in both bodies. We have a piece of legislation. Does everybody get every single thing they want? Of course not. I am chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. I don't have everything in this bill I want, but I have tried to get something that is a consensus of the large majority of the House and the Senate, and we have done this.

In this instance, in this particular amendment, the House expressly considered this matter. They voted with a bipartisan majority to adopt this provision the amendment is seeking to strike. With all due respect to the distinguished Senator from Alabama, who contributed immensely to the bill as

ranking member of the committee last Congress, I understood why he opposed this provision when it was controversial and would have had Congress override the PTO. But now that the PTO and court have resolved the matter as reflected in the bill, it is not worth delaying enactment of much-needed patent reform legislation. It could help create jobs and move the economy forward.

We will have three amendments on the floor today that we will vote on. This one and the other two I strongly urge Senators, Republicans and Democrats, just as the ranking member has urged, to vote them down. We have between 600,000 and 700,000 patents applications that are waiting to be taken care of. We can unleash the genius of our country and put our entrepreneur class to work to create jobs that can let us compete with the rest of the world. Let's not hold it up any longer. We have waited long enough. We debated every bit of this in this body and passed it 95 to 5. On the motion to proceed, over 90 Senators voted to proceed. It has passed the House overwhelmingly. It is time to stop trying to throw up roadblocks to this legislation.

If somebody does not like the legislation, vote against it. But this is the product of years of work. It is the best we are going to have. Let us get it done. Let us unleash the ability and inventive genius of Americans. Let us go forward.

We have a patent system that has not been updated in over a half century, yet we are competing with countries around the world that are moving light years ahead of us in this area. Let's catch up. Let's put America first. Let's get this bill passed.

I yield the floor.

AMENDMENT NO. 595

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HAGAN). The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I call up Cantwell amendment No. 595.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Washington [Ms. CANTWELL] proposes an amendment numbered 595.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish a transitional program for covered business method patents)

On page 119, strike line 21 and all that follows through page 125, line 11, and insert the following:

SEC. 18. TRANSITIONAL PROGRAM FOR COVERED BUSINESS-METHOD PATENTS.

(a) REFERENCES.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, wherever in this section language is expressed in terms of a section or chapter, the reference shall be considered to be made to that section or chapter in title 35, United States Code.

(b) TRANSITIONAL PROGRAM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall issue regulations establishing and implementing a transitional post-grant review proceeding for review of the validity of covered business-method patents. The transitional proceeding implemented pursuant to this subsection shall be regarded as, and shall employ the standards and procedures of, a post-grant review under chapter 32, subject to the following exceptions and qualifications:

(A) Section 321(c) and subsections (e)(2), (f), and (g) of section 325 shall not apply to a transitional proceeding.

(B) A person may not file a petition for a transitional proceeding with respect to a covered business-method patent unless the person or his real party in interest has been sued for infringement of the patent or has been charged with infringement under that patent.

(C) A petitioner in a transitional proceeding who challenges the validity of 1 or more claims in a covered business-method patent on a ground raised under section 102 or 103 as in effect on the day prior to the date of enactment of this Act may support such ground only on the basis of—

(i) prior art that is described by section 102(a) (as in effect on the day prior to the date of enactment of this Act); or

(ii) prior art that—

(I) discloses the invention more than 1 year prior to the date of the application for patent in the United States; and

(II) would be described by section 102(a) (as in effect on the day prior to the date of enactment of this Act) if the disclosure had been made by another before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

(D) The petitioner in a transitional proceeding, or his real party in interest, may not assert either in a civil action arising in whole or in part under section 1338 of title 28, United States Code, or in a proceeding before the International Trade Commission that a claim in a patent is invalid on any ground that the petitioner raised during a transitional proceeding that resulted in a final written decision.

(E) The Director may institute a transitional proceeding only for a patent that is a covered business-method patent.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The regulations issued pursuant to paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and shall apply to all covered business-method patents issued before, on, or after such date of enactment, except that the regulations shall not apply to a patent described in section 6(f)(2)(A) of this Act during the period that a petition for post-grant review of that patent would satisfy the requirements of section 321(c).

(3) SUNSET.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—This subsection, and the regulations issued pursuant to this subsection, are repealed effective on the date that is 4 years after the date that the regulations issued pursuant to paragraph (1) take effect.

(B) APPLICABILITY.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), this subsection and the regulations implemented pursuant to this subsection shall continue to apply to any petition for a transitional proceeding that is filed prior to the date that this subsection is repealed pursuant to subparagraph (A).

(c) REQUEST FOR STAY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If a party seeks a stay of a civil action alleging infringement of a patent under section 281 in relation to a transi-

tional proceeding for that patent, the court shall decide whether to enter a stay based on—

(A) whether a stay, or the denial thereof, will simplify the issues in question and streamline the trial;

(B) whether discovery is complete and whether a trial date has been set;

(C) whether a stay, or the denial thereof, would unduly prejudice the nonmoving party or present a clear tactical advantage for the moving party; and

(D) whether a stay, or the denial thereof, will reduce the burden of litigation on the parties and on the court.

(2) REVIEW.—A party may take an immediate interlocutory appeal from a district court's decision under paragraph (1). The United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit shall review the district court's decision to ensure consistent application of established precedent, and such review may be de novo.

(d) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term "covered business method patent" means a patent that claims a method or corresponding apparatus for performing data processing operations utilized in the practice, administration, or management of a financial product or service, except that the term shall not include patents for technological inventions. Solely for the purpose of implementing the transitional proceeding authorized by this subsection, the Director shall prescribe regulations for determining whether a patent is for a technological invention.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as amending or interpreting categories of patent-eligible subject matter set forth under section 101.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, simply my amendment restores section 18 of the language that was passed out of the Senate. Basically it implements the Senate language.

I come to the floor today with much respect for my colleague Chairman LEAHY, who has worked on this legislation for many years, and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who have tried to work on this important legislation and move it forward. I am sure it has been challenging. I mean no offense to my colleagues about this legislation. It simply is my perspective about where we need to go as a country and how we get there.

I am excited that we live in an information age. In fact, one of the things that I count very fortunate in my life is that this is the age we live in. I often think if I lived in the agrarian age, maybe I would be farming. That is also of great interest, given the State of Washington's interests in agriculture. Maybe I would live in the industrial age when new factories were being built. That would be interesting. But I love the fact that whether you are talking about agriculture, whether you are talking about automotive, whether you are talking about health care, whether you are talking about software, whether you are talking about communications, whether you are talking about space travel, whether you are talking about aviation, we live in an information age where innovation is

created every single day. In fact, we are transforming our lives at a much more rapid pace than any other generation because of all that transformation.

I love the fact that the United States has been an innovative leader. I love the fact that the State of Washington has been an innovative leader. If there is one thing I pride myself on, it is representing a State that has continued to pioneer new technology and innovations. So when I look at this patent bill, I look at whether we are going to help the process of making innovation happen at a faster rate or more products and services to help us in all of those industries I just mentioned or whether we are going to gum up the wheels of the patent process. So, yes, I joined my colleagues who have been out here on the Senate floor, such as Senator FEINSTEIN and others who debated this issue of changing our patent system to the "first to file," which will disadvantage inventors because "first to file" will lead to big companies and organizations getting the ability to have patents and to slow down innovation.

If you look at what Canada and Europe have done, I don't think anybody in the world market today says: Oh, my gosh, let's change to the Canadian system because they have created incredible innovation or let's look to Europe because their "first to file" has created such innovation.

In fact, when Canada switched to this "first to file" system, that actually slowed down the number of patents filed. So I have that concern about this legislation.

But we have had that discussion here on the Senate floor. I know my colleague is going to come to the floor and talk about fee diversion, which reflects the fact that the Patent Office actually collects money on patents. That is a very viable way to make the Patent Office effective and efficient because it can take the money it collects from these patents and use it to help speed up the process of verifying these patents and awarding them. But the Senate chose good action on this issue, and good measure, and simply said that the money collected by the Patent Office should stay in the Patent Office budget.

But that is not what the House has done. The House has allowed that money to be diverted into other areas of appropriations, and the consequence will be that this patent reform bill will basically be taking the economic engine away from the Patent Office and spreading it out across government. So the reform that we would seek in patents, to make it a more expeditious process, is also going to get down.

I could spend my time here today talking about those two things and my concerns about them, but that is not even why I am here this morning. I am

here to talk about how this legislation has a rifleshoot earmark in it for a specific industry, to try to curtail the validation of a patent by a particular company. That is right, it is an earmark rifleshoot to try to say that banks no longer have to pay a royalty to a particular company that has been awarded a patent and that has been upheld in court decisions to continue to be paid that royalty.

That is why I am here this morning. You would say she is objecting to that earmark, she is objecting to that personal approach to that particular industry giveaway in this bill. Actually, I am concerned about that, but what I am concerned about is, given the way they have drafted this language to benefit the big banks of America and screw a little innovator, this is basically drafted so broadly that I am worried that other technology companies are going to get swept up in the definition and their patents are also going to be thrown out as invalid. That is right. Every State in the United States could have a company that, under this language, could now have someone determine that their patent is no longer viable even though the Patent Office has awarded them a patent. Companies that have revenue streams from royalties that are operating their companies could now have their bank financing, everything pulled out from under them because they no longer have royalty streams. Businesses could lay off people, businesses could shut down, all because we put in broad language in the House version that exacerbates a problem that was in the Senate version to begin with.

Now I could say this is all a process and legislation follows a process, but I object to this process. I object to this language that benefits the big banks but was never debated in the committee of jurisdiction, the Judiciary Committee. It was not debated. It was not voted on. It was not discussed there. It was put into the managers' amendment which was brought to the Senate floor with little or no debate because people wanted to hurry and get the managers' amendment adopted.

Now, I objected to that process in driving this language because I was concerned about it. I sought colloquy at that point in time and was not able to get one from any of my colleagues, and I so opposed this legislation. Well, now this legislation has been made even worse in the House of Representatives by saying that this language, which would nullify patents—that is right. The Senate would be participating in nullifying patents that the Patent Office has already given to companies, and it can now go on for 8 years—8 years is what the language says when it comes back from the House of Representatives.

All I am asking my colleagues to do today is go back to the Senate lan-

guage they passed. Go back to the Senate language that at least says this earmark they are giving to the big banks so they can invalidate a patent by a company because they don't like the fact they have to pay a royalty on check imaging processing to them—I am sorry you don't like to pay the royalty. But when somebody innovates and makes the technology, they have the right to charge a royalty. You have been paying that royalty. I am sorry, big banks, if you don't like paying that royalty anymore. You are making a lot of money. Trying to come to the Senate with an earmark rifle shot to X out that competition because you don't want to pay for that technology—that is not the way the Senate should be operating.

The fact that the language is so broad that it will encompass other technologies is what has me concerned. If all my colleagues want to vote for this special favor for the big banks, go ahead. The fact that my colleagues are going to basically pull us in to having other companies covered under this is a big concern.

The section I am concerned about is business method patents, and the term "covered business method patent" means patents or claims or method or corresponding apparatus for performing data processing or other operations. What does "or other operations" mean? How many companies in America will have their patents challenged because we don't know what "or other operations" means? How many? How many inventors will have their technology basically found null and void by the court process or the Patent Office process because of this confusing language?

I am here to ask my colleagues to do a simple thing: revert to the Senate language. It is not a perfect solution. If I had my way, I would strip the language altogether. If I had my way, I would have much more clarity and predictability to patent lawyers and the Patent Office so the next 3 or 4 years will not be spent in chaos between this change in the patent business method language and the whole process that is going to go on. Instead, we would be moving forward with predictability and certainty.

I ask my colleagues to just help this process. Help this process move forward by going back to the Senate language. I know my colleagues probably want to hurry and get this process done, but I guarantee this language with the Senate version could easily go back to the House of Representatives and be passed. What I ask my colleagues to think about is how many companies are also going to get caught in this process by the desire of some to help the big banks get out from under something the courts have already said they don't deserve to get out of.

I hope we can bring closure to this issue, and I hope we can move forward

on something that gives Americans the idea that people in Washington, DC, are standing up for the little guy. We are standing up for inventors. We are standing up for those kinds of entrepreneurs, and we are not spending our time putting earmark rifle shot language into legislation to try to assuage large entities that are well on their way to taking care of themselves.

I hope if my colleagues have any questions on this language as it relates to their individual States, they would contact our office and we would be happy to share information with them.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I rise today to urge this body to complete the extensive work that has been done on the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act and send this bill to the President for signature.

The America Invents Act has been years in the making. The time has come to get this bill done once and for all.

The importance of patent law to our Nation has been evidenced since the founding. The Constitution sets control over patent law as one of the enumerated powers of the Congress. Specifically, it gives the Congress the power "To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries."

Today we take an important step toward ensuring that the constitutional mandate of Congress is met as we modernize our patent system. This bill is the first major overhaul of our patent laws in literally decades.

My colleagues have spoken at length about the myriad ways the America Invents Act will bring our patent law into the 21st century. What I want to focus on, of course, is jobs.

The America Invents Act is fundamentally a jobs bill. Innovation and intellectual property has always been and always will be at the heart of the American economy. By rewarding innovators for inventing newer and better products, we keep America's creative and therefore economic core healthy.

Over the last few decades, however, innovation has outpaced our patent system. We have an enormous backlog at the PTO. The result of this backlog is that it is much harder for creators to obtain the property rights they deserve in their inventions. That challenge in turn makes it harder for inventions to

be marketed and sold, which reduces the incentive to be innovative. Eventually, this vicious cycle becomes poisonous.

The America Invents Act cuts this cycle by making our patent system more efficient and reliable. By providing the Patent and Trademark Office the resources it needs to reduce the backlog of nearly 700,000 patent applications, the bill will encourage the innovation that will create and protect American jobs. In addition, the bill streamlines review of patents to ensure that the poor-quality patents can be weeded out through administrative review rather than costly litigation.

I am especially pleased that H.R. 1249 contains the Schumer-Kyl provisions that we originally inserted in the Senate to help cut back on the scourge of business method patents that have been plaguing American businesses. Business method patents are anathema to the protection that the patent system provides because they apply not to novel products or services but to abstract and often very common concepts of how to do business. Often business method patents are issued for practices that have been in widespread use for years, such as check imaging or one-click checkout. Imagine trying to patent the one-click checkout long after people have been using it.

Because of the nature of the business methods, these practices aren't as easily identifiable by the PTO as prior art, and bad patents are issued. Of course, this problem extends way beyond the financial services industry. It includes all businesses that have financial practices, from community banks to insurance companies to high-tech startups. Section 18, the Schumer-Kyl provision, allows for administrative review of those patents so businesses acting in good faith do not have to spend the millions of dollars it costs to litigate a business method patent in court.

That is why the provision is supported not only by the Financial Services Roundtable and the Community Bankers, but by the Chamber of Commerce, the National Retail Foundation, and in my home State by the Partnership for a Greater New York.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that letters in support of section 18 from all of these organizations be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY
BANKERS OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, June 14, 2011.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: On behalf of ICBA's nearly 5,000 community bank members, I write to voice strong support for Section 18 of the America Invents Act (H.R. 1249), which addresses the issue of poor-quality business-method patents. I strongly urge you to oppose efforts to strike or weaken the

language in Section 18, which creates a program to review business-method patents against he best prior art.

Poor-quality business-method patents represent an extremely problematic aspect of the current system for granting, reviewing and litigating patents. The problems with low-quality patents are well documented and beyond dispute. On an escalating basis, financial firms are the target of meritless patent lawsuits brought by non-practicing entities. Such entities exploit flaws in the current system by bringing action in friendly venues, where they wring money from legitimate businesses by asserting low-quality business-method patents.

Section 18 addresses this problem by establishing an oppositional proceeding at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (PTO), where business-method patents can be re-examined, using the best prior art, as an alternative to costly litigation. This program applies only to business-method patents, which are defined using suggestions proffered by the PTO. Concerns about the scope of the definition have been addressed by exclusion of technological innovations. Additionally, it has been well-settled law for over 25 years that post-grant review of patent validity by the PTO is constitutional. The Federal Circuit explained that a defectively examined and therefore erroneously granted patent must yield to the reasonable Congressional purpose of facilitating the correction of governmental mistakes. This Congressional purpose is presumptively correct and constitutional. Congress has given the PTO a tool to ensure confidence in the validity of patents. Section 18 furthers this important public purpose by restoring confidence in business-method patents.

I urge you to oppose changes to Section 18, including changes that would create a loophole allowing low-quality business-method patent holders to wall off their patents from review by the PTO. Congress should ensure that final patent-reform legislation addresses the fundamental, and increasingly costly, problem of poor-quality business-method patents.

Sincerely,

CAMDEN R. FINE,
President and CEO.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, June 14, 2011.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, supports H.R. 1249, the "America Invents Act," which would encourage innovation and bolster the U.S. economy. The Chamber believes this legislation is crucial for American economic growth, jobs, and the future of U.S. competitiveness.

A key component of H.R. 1249 is section 22, which would ensure that fees collected by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) fund the office and its administration of the patent system. PTO faces significant challenges, including a massive backlog of pending applications, and this backlog is stifling domestic innovators. The fees that PTO collects to review and approve patent applications are supposed to be dedicated to PTO operation. However, fee diversion by Congress has hampered PTO's efforts to hire and retain a sufficient number of qualified examiners and implement technological improvements necessary to ensure expeditious

issuance of high quality patents. Providing PTO with full access to the user fees it collects is an important first step toward reducing the current backlog of 1.2 million applications waiting for a final determination and pendency time of 3 years, as well as to improve patent quality.

In addition, the legislation would help ensure that the U.S. remains at the forefront of innovation by enhancing the PTO process and ensuring that all inventors secure the exclusive right to their inventions and discoveries. The bill shifts the U.S. to a first-inventor-to-file system that we believe is both constitutional and wise, ending expensive interference proceedings. H.R. 1249 also contains important legal reforms that would help reduce unnecessary litigation against American businesses and innovators. Among the bill's provisions, Section 16 would put an end to frivolous false patent marking cases, while still preserving the right of those who suffered actual harm to bring actions. Section 5 would create a prior user right for those who first commercially use inventions, protecting the rights of early inventors and giving manufacturers a powerful incentive to build new factories in the United States, while at the same time fully protecting universities. Section 19 also restricts joinder of defendants who have tenuous connections to the underlying disputes in patent infringement suits. Section 18 of H.R. 1249 provides for a tailored pilot program which would allow patent office experts to help the court review the validity of certain business method patents using the best available prior art as an alternative to costly litigation.

The Chamber strongly opposes any amendments to H.R. 1249 that would strike or weaken any of the important legal reform measures in this legislation, including those found in Sections 16, 5, 19 and 18. The Chamber supports H.R. 1249 and urges the House to expeditiously approve this necessary legislation.

Sincerely,

R. BRUCE JOSTEN,
*Executive Vice President,
Government Affairs.*

NATIONAL RETAIL FEDERATION,
Washington, DC, June 21, 2011.

Hon. LAMAR S. SMITH,
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, House
of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

Hon. JOHN CONYERS, Jr.,
*Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH AND RANKING MEMBER CONYERS: I am writing in support of Section 18 of H.R. 1249, the American Invents Act of 2010. This provision would provide the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) the ability to re-examine qualified business method patents against the best prior art.

As the world's largest retail trade association, the National Retail Federation's global membership includes retailers of all sizes, formats and channels of distribution as well as chain restaurants and industry partners from the U.S. In the U.S., NRF represents the breadth and diversity of an industry with more than 1.6 million American companies that employ nearly 25 million workers and generated 2010 sales of \$2.4 trillion. Retailers have been inundated by spurious claims, many of which, after prolonged and expensive examination, are subsequently found to be less than meritorious.

Increasingly, retailers of all types are being sued by non-practicing entities for infringing low-quality business method patents which touch all aspects of our business: mar-

keting, payments, and customer service to name a few aspects. A vast majority of these cases are brought in the Eastern District of Texas where the statistics are heavily weighted against defendants forcing our members to settle even the most meritless suits.

Section 18 moves us closer to a unified patent system by putting business method patents on par with other patents in creating a post-grant, oppositional proceeding that is a lower cost alternative to costly patent litigation. The proceeding is necessary to help ensure that the revenues go to creating jobs and bringing innovations to our customers, not paying litigation costs in meritless patent infringement litigation.

We appreciate the opportunity to support this important section and oppose any efforts to strike or weaken the provision. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Best regards,

DAVID FRENCH,
*Senior Vice President,
Government Relations.*

Mr. SCHUMER. A patent holder whose patent is solid has nothing to fear from a section 18 review. Indeed, a good patent will come out of such a review strengthened and validated. The only people who have any cause to be concerned about section 18 are those who have patents that shouldn't have been issued in the first place and who were hoping to make a lot of money suing legitimate businesses with these illegitimate patents. To them I say the scams should stop.

In fact, 56 percent of business patent lawsuits come in to one court in the Eastern District of Texas. Why do they all go to one court? Not just because of coincidence. Why do people far and wide seek this? Because they know that court will give them favorable proceedings, and many of the businesses that are sued illegitimately spend millions of dollars for discovery and everything else in a court they believe they can't get a fair trial in, so they settle. That shouldn't happen, and that is what our amendment stops. It simply provides review before costly litigation goes on and on and on.

Now, my good friend and colleague, Senator CANTWELL, has offered an amendment that would change the section 18 language and return to what the Senate originally passed last March. Essentially, Senator CANTWELL is asking the Senate to return to the original Schumer-Kyl language. Of course, I don't have an inherent problem with the original Schumer-Kyl language. However, while I might ordinarily be inclined to push my own version of the amendment, I have to acknowledge that the House made some significant improvements in section 18.

First, H.R. 1249 extends the transitional review program of section 18 from 4 to 8 years in duration. This change was made to accommodate industry concerns that 4 years was short enough, that bad actors would just wait out the program before bringing their business method patent suits.

The lying-in-wait strategy would be possible under the Cantwell amendment because section 18 only allows transitional review proceedings to be initiated by those who are facing lawsuits.

On a 20-year patent, it is not hard to wait 4 years to file suit and therefore avoid scrutiny under a section 18 review. It would be much harder, however, to employ such an invasive maneuver on a program that lasts 8 years.

Second, the Cantwell amendment changes the definition of business method patents to eliminate the House clarification that section 18 goes beyond mere class 705 patents. Originally, class 705 was used as the template for the definition of business method patents in section 18. However, after the bill passed the Senate, it became clear that some offending business method patents are issued in other sections. So the House bill changes the definition only slightly so that it does not directly track the class 705 language.

Finally, the Cantwell amendment limits who can take advantage of section 18 by eliminating access to the program by privies of those who are sued. Specifically, H.R. 1249 allows parties who have shared interests with a sued party to bring a section 18 proceeding. The Cantwell amendment would eliminate that accommodation.

All of the House changes to section 18 of the Senate bill are positive, and I believe we should keep them. But to my colleagues I would say this in closing: The changes Senator CANTWELL has proposed do not get to the core of the bill, and the most profound effect they would have is to delay passage of the bill by requiring it to be sent back to the House, which is something, of course, we are all having to deal with on all three of the amendments that are coming up.

I urge my colleagues to remember that this bill and the 200,000 jobs it would create are too important to delay it even another day because of minor changes to the legislation. I urge my colleagues to vote against the amendment of my good friend MARIA CANTWELL and move the bill forward.

With that, I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I rise to express my continued support for the America Invents Act. We have been working on patent reform legislation for several years now—in fact, almost the whole time I have been in the Senate—so it is satisfying to see the Senate again voting on this bipartisan bill.

It is important to note that this bill before us is the same one that was passed by the Republican-controlled House of Representatives in June. I commend House Judiciary chairman LAMAR SMITH for his leadership on this monumental legislation. He has worked hard on this for many years,

and I wish to pay a personal tribute to him.

I also wish to recognize the efforts of my colleague from Vermont, Senate Judiciary Committee chairman PATRICK LEAHY. Over the years, he and I have worked tirelessly to bring about long overdue reform to our Nation's patent system, and I personally appreciate PAT for his work on this matter.

I also wish to recognize the efforts of Senate Judiciary Committee ranking member CHUCK GRASSLEY of Iowa, as well as many other Senate colleagues who have been instrumental in this legislative process.

The Constitution is the supreme law of the land and the shortest operating Constitution in the world. America's Founders put only the most essential provisions in it, listing the most essential rights of individuals and the most essential powers the Federal Government should have. What do we think made it on to that short list? Raising and supporting the Army and maintaining the Navy? No question there. Coining money? That one is no surprise. But guess what else made the list. Here is the language: The Founders granted to Congress the power "To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for . . . Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their Respective Writing and Discoveries."

In other words, the governance of patents and copyrights is one of the essential, specifically enumerated powers given to the Federal Government by our Nation's Founders. In my view, it is also one of the most visionary, forward-looking provisions in the entire U.S. Constitution.

Thomas Jefferson understood that giving people an exclusive right to profit from their inventions would give them "encouragement . . . to pursue ideas which may produce utility." Yet Jefferson also recognized the importance of striking a balance when it came to granting patents—a difficult task. He said:

I know well the difficulty of drawing a line between the things which are worth to the public the embarrassment of an exclusive patent and those which are not.

As both an inventor and a statesman, he understood that granting a person an exclusive right to profit from their invention was not a decision that should be taken lightly.

This bill is not perfect, but I am pleased with the deliberative process that led to its development, and I am confident that Congress followed Jefferson's lead in striking a balanced approach to patent reform.

There can be no doubt that patent reform is necessary, and it is long overdue. Every State in the country has a vested interest in an updated patent system. When patents are developed commercially they create jobs, both for the company marketing products

and for their suppliers, distributors, and retailers. One single deployed patent affects almost all sectors of our economy.

Utahns have long understood this relationship. Ours is a rich and diverse and inventive legacy. In the early 1900s, a young teenager approached his teacher after class with a sketch he had been working on. It was a drawing inspired by the rows of dirt in a potato field the teenager had recently plowed. After examining the sketch, the teacher told the young student that he should pursue his idea, and he did. That teenager was Philo Farnsworth, a Utah native who went on to patent the first all-electronic television.

Farnsworth had to fight for many years in court to secure the exclusive rights to his patent, but he continued to invent, developing and patenting hundreds of other inventions along the way.

Another Utah native developed a way to amplify sound after he had trouble hearing in the Mormon Tabernacle. His headphones were later ordered by the Navy for use during World War I. His name was Nathaniel Baldwin.

William Clayton, an early Mormon pioneer, grew tired of manually counting and calculating how far his wagon company had traveled each day. So, in the middle of a journey across the plains, he and others designed and built a roadometer, a device that turned screws and gears at a set rate based on the rotation of the wagon wheel. It worked based on the same principles that power modern odometers.

John Browning, the son of a pioneer, revolutionized the firearm, securing his inventions through a patent. He is known all over the world for the work he did.

Robert Jarvik, who worked at the University of Utah—a wonderful doctor whom I know personally—invented the first successful permanent artificial heart while at the University of Utah.

These and countless other stories illustrate the type of ingenuity that was required by the men and women who founded Utah, the type of ingenuity that has been exemplified in every generation since.

Last year, Utah was recognized as one of the most inventive States in the Union. Such a distinction did not surprise me, especially since the University of Utah recently logged the university's 5,000th invention disclosure and has over 4,000 patent applications filed to date. This impressive accomplishment follows on the heels of news that the University of Utah overtook MIT in 2009 to become America's No. 1 research institution for creating startup companies based on university technology.

A group of students at Brigham Young University recently designed a circuit that was launched with the shuttle Endeavour, and another group

developed a prosthetic leg that costs \$25 versus the \$10,000 a prosthetic leg may typically cost. Utah inventors contribute to everything from electronic communications, to biotechnology, to computer games.

Like my fellow Utahns, citizens across the country recognize that technological development is integral to the well-being of our economy and the prosperity of our families and communities. As technology advances, it is necessary at times to make adjustments that will ensure Congress is promoting the healthy progress of science and useful arts.

The America Invents Act will improve the patent process, giving inventors in Utah and across the country greater incentives to innovate. Strengthening of our patent system will not only help lead us out of these tough economic times, but it will help us maintain our competitive edge both domestically and abroad. Take, for example, the transition to a first-inventor-to-file system and the establishment of a post-grant review procedure. These changes alone will decrease litigation costs so that small companies and individuals will not be dissuaded from protecting their patent rights by companies with greater resources.

This bill provides the USPTO with rulemaking authority to set or adjust its own fees for 7 years without requiring a statutory change every time an adjustment is needed. Providing the USPTO with the ability to adjust its own fees will give the agency greater flexibility and control, which, in the long run, will benefit inventors and businesses.

The legislation enables patent holders to request a supplemental examination of a patent if new information arises after the initial examination. By establishing this new process, the USPTO would be asked to consider, reconsider, or correct information believed to be relevant to the patent.

Further, this provision does not limit the USPTO's authority to investigate misconduct or to sanction bad actors. I am confident this new provision will remove the uncertainty and confusion that defines current patent litigation, and I believe it will enhance patent quality.

The America Invents Act creates a mechanism for third parties to submit relevant information during the patent examination process. This provision will provide the USPTO with better information about the technology and claimed invention by leveraging the knowledge of the public. This will also help the agency increase the efficiency of examination and the quality of patents.

This bill would create a reserve fund for user fees that exceed the amount appropriated to the USPTO. I prefer the language in the Senate-passed bill, which created a new revolving fund for

the USPTO separate from annual appropriations. Certainty is important for future planning, but the appropriations process is far from reliable.

While conceptually I understand why our House counterparts revised the Senate-passed language—and I am in agreement about maintaining congressional oversight—I believe this is one area that should be reconsidered. It is just that important. That is why I support Senator TOM COBURN's amendment. If passed, his amendment will preserve congressional oversight and give the USPTO the necessary flexibility to operate during these critical times.

The House-passed compromise language is a step in the right direction, especially since the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee has committed that all fees collected by the USPTO in excess of its annual appropriated level will be available to the USPTO. However, I remain concerned that the budget uncertainties that exist today may negatively impact the USPTO and its ability to implement many of the new responsibilities required by the America Invents Act.

I remain concerned about some provisions the House either expanded or added. On balance, however, the positives of this legislation far outweigh the negatives, and I am confident it will contribute to the greater innovation and productivity our economy demands. It provides essential improvements to our patent system, such as changes to the best mode disclosure requirement; expansion of the prior user rights defense to affiliates, with an exemption for university-owned patents; incentives for government laboratories to commercialize inventions; restrictions on false marking claims; removal of restrictions on the residency of Federal circuit judges; clarification of tax strategy patents; providing assistance to small businesses through a patent ombudsman program and establishing additional USPTO satellite offices.

We all know every piece of legislation has its shortcomings. That is the reality of our legislative process. However, taken as a whole, the America Invents Act further builds upon our country's rich heritage of intellectual property protections—a cornerstone provided by article I, section 8 of the Constitution.

Passage of the America Invents Act will update our patent system, help strengthen our economy, and provide a springboard for further improvements to our intellectual property laws. I urge all of my colleagues to join in this monumental undertaking, and I appreciate those who have worked so hard on these programs. Again, I mentioned with particularity the Congressman from Texas, LAMAR SMITH, and also my friend and colleague, Senator LEAHY, and others as well, Senator GRASSLEY

especially. There are others as well whom I should mention, but I will leave it at that for this particular time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on a matter of great importance to our country, and that is jobs and our economy. I know the President will be speaking this evening. I want to emphasize the importance that we focus on a long-term strategy to get our economy going. By that I mean a pro-jobs, progrowth economic strategy for our country.

The things that go into that include building the best possible business climate. We have got to have a business climate that will stimulate private investment, that will stimulate entrepreneurship, ingenuity, that will stimulate job creation by businesses small and large across our economy. We need to build a strong business climate. We need a long-term, progrowth economic strategy to do that.

We also need to control our spending and live within our means. We need a comprehensive energy policy. All three of these things go into the right kind of long-term comprehensive approach this country needs to get our economy growing and get people back to work.

I wish to start by taking a minute to look at our current situation, to talk about where we are. If you look at unemployment, unemployment is more than 9 percent, and it has been more than 9 percent for an extended period of time. Weekly jobless claims: more than 400,000. We have more than 14 million people who are out of work. That does not include people who are underemployed or people who are no longer looking for work because they have been discouraged and are not included in the workforce—14 million people we need to get back to work.

We also have a tremendous deficit problem. If you look at our revenues today, we have revenues of about \$2.2 trillion. Our spending is at a rate of \$3.7 trillion. That is a \$1.5 trillion deficit. That is adding up to more than a \$14 trillion dollar debt—a \$14 trillion debt that weighs on our economy. If we do not deal with it, it is a debt our children will have to pay. That is not acceptable for us and we have to deal with it at the same time we get this economy going.

If you look at our current situation, we are borrowing 40 cents of every dollar we spend, and deficit and our debt

is growing at \$4 billion a day. I brought some graphs so we can look at it graphically. Here you see revenues and spending.

Unfortunately, the spending line is the red line along the top here. Spending is more than \$3.7 trillion a year. At the same time, our revenues are \$2.2 trillion. That gap is a \$1.5 trillion budget deficit we are accumulating on an annual basis. As I say, it is now leading to a debt that is more than \$14 trillion.

If you look at this next chart, we talk about unemployment. Here you see annual unemployment. Currently we are at 9.1 percent. We have been there for an extended period of time. Again, that represents more than 14 million people who are unemployed that we need to get back to work.

The other thing you will notice on this chart is the blue line. This blue line is the chart for my home State. There you will see our unemployment is about 3.2 to 3.3 percent. For the last decade in our State, we have focused on a progrowth, pro-jobs economic strategy. By that I mean building the best possible business climate, making sure we live within our means, and building a comprehensive energy approach to develop all of our energy resources. There is no reason we cannot do the same thing at the Federal level. In fact, we need to do exactly that at the Federal level. So I am here today to talk about some of the things we need to do to make that happen.

The first is that I emphasize by building a good business climate, I mean a legal, tax, and regulatory certainty so businesses know the rules of the road so they can invest. They can invest shareholders' dollars so entrepreneurs can start new businesses, so existing businesses can expand. But to do that, they need to know the rules of the road. They need to know what our tax policy is. Right now we have a tax policy that expires at the end of the next year. So how do you as a business person go out there and start making investments when you do not know what the tax policy is going to be beyond the end of next year? We need tax reform.

How about regulation? We have an incredible regulatory burden. How do you go out there and make an investment, get a business going, hire people, if you do not know what the regulatory requirements are? We need to reduce that regulatory burden.

We need to pass trade agreements so our companies can sell not just here in the United States but they can sell globally. If you look at the history of our country, that is how we have grown this economy, how we have become the most dynamic economic engine in the world. It is through that private investment, that entrepreneurship, that American ingenuity.

The role of government is to create a business climate that unleashes that

potential. We have got to roll back the regulatory burden. We have got to create clear, understandable rules and tax policy to follow so these companies can make these investments, get those 14-plus million people back to work, get a growing economy, at the same time that we get a grip on our spending and start living within our means. That is how we not only raise our standard of living and our quality of life, but we make sure we do not pass on a huge debt to our children and our grandchildren.

Let me talk about some of the kinds of laws and legislation we need to pass to make sure that happens.

Not too long ago, President Obama issued an Executive order. I hope it is something he talks about this evening in his address to the joint session of Congress. In that Executive order, he said all of the agencies—all of the Federal agencies—need to look at their regulations, at their existing regulations and any regulations they are putting out, and make sure that if those regulations are costly, burdensome, if they do not make sense, if they are outmoded or outdated, they are eliminated, they are stripped away, so we empower people and companies throughout this great country to do business. He said in that Executive order make sure all of our agencies look at their regulations and eliminate those that do not make sense, that are costly, and that are burdensome, so we can stimulate economic activity and job creation in this country. I think we need to do exactly that. In fact, let's make it a law. Let's make it the law that all of the regulatory agencies need to look at their existing regulations and any regulations they are looking at putting out, to make darn sure they are clear, straightforward, understandable, that they are workable, and not only that our regulations are clear and understandable, that the regulators work with Americans and American companies to make sure they understand them and they are able to meet them so they can pursue their business plans, their business growth, their business investment, and that they hire and put people back to work. That is how it is supposed to work.

Together, Senator PAT ROBERTS of Kansas, myself, and others have put forward the Regulatory Responsibility for Our Economy Act. That is just what it says. How much more bipartisan can we get than that? The President puts out an Executive order saying we need to roll back some of these regulations that are burdening our business base, and we as Republican Senators say: Okay, here is an act to put that Executive order into law. Let's work together in a bipartisan way to reduce this regulatory burden that is stifling economic growth and job creation in our country.

That is what Congress is supposed to do. That is what we need to do. That is

what the people of this country want us to do on a bipartisan basis.

When the President comes to the Capitol this evening and talks about how we get business going, let's get it going by reducing this regulatory burden so private investment can get people back to work in this country. It is not about more government spending, it is about private investment and initiative. We have to create the framework to make it happen. We can do it, and we can do it on a bipartisan basis.

Another example is that the United States has been the leader in aviation throughout its history. Throughout the history of aviation, since Kitty Hawk, the United States has led the world in aviation, in invention, development, and innovation, and all the things that have gone into the development of aviation. Again, throughout its history, the United States has been the leader. One of the key areas for growth in aviation right now is UAS, unmanned aerial systems or unmanned aircraft. They call them remotely piloted aircraft. Our military uses them to tremendous benefit in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world.

Even though our military flies UAS all over the globe, we can't fly them here in the United States together with manned aircraft. Yet if we are going to continue to lead the world in aviation innovation, we have to find a way to fly both manned and unmanned aircraft together in our airspace in the United States.

Others and I have been talking to the FAA and working with the FAA, saying that you have to promulgate rules, set the rules of the road—or, in this case, the rules of the air—so we can fly both manned and unmanned aircraft together in the U.S. airspace. The FAA has been working on this for I don't know how long but a long period of time. As of yet, they have not come out with those rules so we can fly both manned and unmanned aircraft in our airspace. But we need to, because if we don't, other countries will, and they will move ahead of us—maybe not in military aviation, where we are flying unmanned aircraft all over the world, but how about in commercial and general aviation and all the other applications it will have for unmanned aircraft.

The FAA bill, which we are now working to complete—a version was passed in the House and a version was passed in the Senate, and we are trying to reconcile the two versions. Again, we need to do this in a bipartisan way. I have included language that authorizes—in fact requires—that the FAA set up airspace in the United States so that manned and unmanned aircraft can be flown concurrently. Again, it is about making sure that we not only maintain our lead in aviation but create those exciting, good-paying jobs of the future. If the agency isn't going to

take that step, we as the Congress have to make sure we take that step and move the aviation industry forward.

Another example is how we have to create the environment, the forum that encourages that type of innovation, entrepreneurship, and investment in job creation. That is our role, our responsibility, in this most important of all issues, which is getting the economy going and getting people back to work.

On the free trade agreements, we have three of them pending—one with South Korea, the U.S.-South Korea Free Trade Agreement, another is the Panama Free Trade Agreement, and the other is with Colombia. Those trade agreements have been negotiated for some time. For three years those trade agreements have been pending. It is time to take them from pending to being passed. We need the administration to bring those free trade agreements to the Senate and to the House and we will pass them. We have worked across the aisle in a bipartisan way to make sure that whatever issues needed to be dealt with to bring them to the Congress—whether it is trade adjustment authority or whatever, we have worked together in a bipartisan way to say, look, we have addressed the issues. Now the administration needs to bring the free trade agreements to the Senate floor. We will pass them.

With just one of those free trade agreements—for example, if we take the South Korea free trade agreement—we are talking about more than \$10 billion in trade every year for our U.S. companies.

These free trade agreements reduce tariffs on the order of 85 percent. We are talking more than a quarter of a million jobs that will be created if we pass these agreements. For every 4-percent increase in trade, we are talking about 1 million American jobs that we can create. Again, it is about creating the environment that empowers investment, empowers our entrepreneurs in this country, and empowers businesses large and small to invest and get our economy going.

At the same time we get this economy growing, we have to start living within our means. Right now, as I indicated, we have a \$1.5 trillion deficit and a debt that is closing in on \$14.5 trillion. So at the same time we get the economy growing, which will grow our revenues—not higher taxes, but grow revenues from a growing economy, and with tax reform that empowers that economic growth, at the same time, we have to get control of our spending and live within our means.

Along with some fellow Senators, we have sponsored a number of pieces of legislation that I believe we can pass in a bipartisan way to make sure we get spending under control. The first is a balanced budget amendment. I come from a State where I was Governor for 10 years. We have a balanced budget

amendment. Every year, we are required by our Constitution to balance the budget. States have a balanced budget requirement, and businesses and families and communities all have to live within their means. Our Federal Government has to live within its means.

If you think about it, a balanced budget amendment gets everybody involved. We not only have to pass it in the Senate and in the House with a two-thirds majority, but then it goes out to the States for ratification. What better way to get everybody throughout the country directly involved in making sure that we control our spending. Every State has to deal with a balanced budget amendment. So it is all of us working together as Americans, and it is the Congress going to the people of this great country and saying: Here is a balanced budget amendment, you tell us what you think. Again, what a great way to get everybody involved, the way we should get everybody involved in making sure we live within our means not only today but tomorrow and throughout future generations.

At the same time, we need to pass other tools that can help us get control of our spending. For example, the Reduce Unnecessary Spending Act. This is a bipartisan act that I think was originally sponsored by Senator TOM CARPER, a former Governor, a Democrat from Delaware, and Senator JOHN MCCAIN. I am proud to be a cosponsor. One of the key provisions is to give the President a line-item veto. Reaching across the aisle, we are giving our President a tool—a line-item veto—to make sure we cut out waste, fraud, and abuse, and that we control our spending. As a Governor, the most effective tool I had was the line-item veto. We need to make sure our President has it as well.

I think we also need to look at a biennial budget, so that we pass a budget on a two-year cycle—make sure we get it passed and the next year we can come back and make the adjustments we have to make; but at the same time we have time for oversight and making sure spending is going in accordance with the directive of the Congress, and whether it is waste, fraud, abuse, or duplication, that we cut it out. Again, this is absolutely what the American people want us to do.

The third area I will touch on for a minute—and I will go to the next chart—is building the right kind of energy plan, a comprehensive energy policy that will help this country develop all of its energy resources. We did it in North Dakota. I know we can do it at the Federal level.

If you think about it, energy development in this country is an incredible opportunity. It is an opportunity to produce more energy more cost effectively, with better environmental stewardship that will enable all of our in-

dustries to compete in a global high-tech economy. In addition, what a great opportunity it is to create high-paying jobs. Again, I go back to what I said before. For our energy companies looking to invest hundreds of millions and billions of dollars, they need to know the rules of the road. It comes back to creating a comprehensive energy policy that sets up those rules of the road so they know what their tax situation is and what the regulation and regulatory requirements are. When they make those investments to produce more energy more cost effectively, with good environmental stewardship, they have to know they are going to be able to get a return. They have to know they can meet the regulatory requirements. Those investments may last 40 and 50 years, and they know they are going to have to be able to recoup those investments.

This first chart gives an example of some of the energy development in our State. Out West, there is oil and gas. North Dakota is now the fourth largest oil-producing State in the country. We have passed Oklahoma and Louisiana, and people don't realize it. Every State has some kind of energy. If you look at this map, we have oil, gas, coal, and wind. We are in the top 10 wind producers. We have biofuels, biomass, solar—we have all of them. Different States have different strengths. A lot of States have oil, gas, coal, or certainly wind, or they can develop the biofuels.

It comes down to creating that environment that stimulates private investment so companies will come in and do exactly what I am talking about—at the Federal level, as well as at the State level.

This next chart shows what is actually happening at the Federal level. This chart is the cost of major new regulations. What it shows over the last three decades is the cost of regulation by year, over the last 30 years. When the cost of regulation is high, if you go back and check, you will see our economy wasn't doing very well. When the cost of regulation was low, you will see that it was doing much better. Look at the cost of regulation today. It was \$26.5 billion in 2010, the cost of meeting the regulatory requirements. That is what I am talking about. That is what is impeding job growth and economic growth and business investment. We have to address that. We have to roll back the regulatory burdens our companies and entrepreneurs face today.

This last chart gives one example of some of the new regulations EPA is putting out that somebody who wants to develop energy has to meet. If you are an energy company or a young person with a good idea to develop a new type of energy, or existing type of energy with a new technology, can you meet all of these requirements? Can you even begin to understand them? Do

you have a big enough legal team and scientific team, or a deep enough wallet to try to figure that all out before you put your money or your shareholders' money at risk? That is what is impeding economic growth in our country, and we have to deal with it. Congress has to deal with it.

Again, this is not rocket science, and it is not about spending more Federal dollars. We have to create an environment that will encourage, stimulate, and empower private investment. It is that private investment throughout this land that will get our economy going and get people back to work. We can do it. It has to be a long-term strategy. It can't be a few stopgap measures that we put into place now for the next 90 days or for 1 year at a time. It has to be on a long-term sustained basis. I believe that is what the people want to hear this evening. I think they want to hear that kind of commitment to a long-term strategy, a progrowth, pro-jobs economic strategy that will get this economy going now, tomorrow, and for the long term. It has to be done in a bipartisan way to get it through this Congress and signed by the President. But it is that kind of vision we need for our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana is recognized.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, U.S. job creation in this country, as you know, has come to a halt. The Labor Department reported last Friday that zero jobs were created in August. The economic recovery that was hoped for failed to materialize, and unemployment remains at 9.1 percent.

Hope is not enough. Our economy is stagnant. The President's latest pivot to jobs is anchored on blaming the previous administration, which is now nearly 3 years past. Yet, despite repeated assurances of improvement, President Obama's own economic policies have failed. The President's stimulus plan failed to produce the 3.5 million jobs he promised. His "green jobs" initiative gave us more red ink but never came close to the 5 million new jobs he predicted it would. All the while the Federal bureaucracy he controls churns out expansive and expensive new regulations that amount to an assault on private sector job creation.

The facts are inescapable. Since President Obama took office, America has lost approximately 2.3 million jobs. We are in an economic crisis—a crisis that extends to America's confidence in the President to do anything that will change the current course. What the American people want is a plan, a plan that will yield results. They want leadership, and they have rejected the President's insistence that the only way forward is through more spending.

Today, western Members of the Senate and House are calling on the President to accept a new way—a progrowth

plan to create jobs in the West that will lead to broader economic recovery all across the country. The western caucus Jobs Frontier report was produced by Members of the Senate and congressional western caucuses. It contains legislative proposals already introduced in both Houses of Congress, and these are proposals that create jobs now.

The proposals we support speak largely to the economic challenges faced by Western States. They are also aimed at ruinous regulations and reliance on foreign energy and lawsuit abuse that continues to stifle our entire economy. These bills are ready to pass. They are ready to create jobs today.

Any serious job creation proposal has to start with serious steps to increase affordable American energy. For decades, westerners have worked in high-paying energy jobs, and these jobs have good benefits. Since taking office, the Obama administration has consistently pushed extreme policies and heavy-handed regulations that make it harder to develop American energy. Very simply: Fewer energy projects mean fewer American jobs. Members of the Senate and House western caucuses have proposed a wide range of proposals to increase the number of red, white, and blue jobs all across the country.

Encouraging the development of all-of-the-above energy resources will create thousands of jobs in the West and make our country less dependent on foreign energy. This administration has consistently shut down offshore energy exploration. It has arbitrarily canceled existing leases, and it continues to try to impose additional hurdles to onshore production, such as redundant environmental reviews, burdensome permitting review requirements, and delays in processing of applications.

Our bills—the ones in this report—will streamline the permitting process and break down the barriers imposed by President Obama. This will make it cheaper and easier—cheaper and easier—for the private sector to create jobs.

Westerners recognize we cannot pick and choose which forms of energy to support. When it comes to energy, we need it all, and we need it now. That is why we need a bill that will let energy producers tap existing resources of American oil and natural gas. Our plan has a bill that will do that. It is called the Domestic Jobs, Domestic Energy, and Deficit Reduction Act. It has been introduced by both Representative ROB BISHOP of Utah and Senator DAVID VITTER of Louisiana.

This bill would force the Department of the Interior to stop blocking offshore energy exploration. That department's stall tactics have gone so far that even President Bill Clinton has called them ridiculous. The Domestic

Jobs, Domestic Energy, and Deficit Reduction Act would force the Obama administration to quit stalling.

The barrage of new regulations coming out of Washington continues to be a big wet blanket—a big wet blanket—thrown over the job creators in our country. In July of 2011, this administration issued 229 rules, and it finalized 379 additional rules that are going to cost our job creators over \$9.5 billion. That is in July alone.

Our plan includes a bill I have introduced, called the Employment Impact Act. This bill forces Washington regulators to look before they leap when it comes to regulations that could hurt American jobs. Under the bill I have introduced, every regulatory agency would be required to prepare a jobs impact statement. They would have to do it with every new rule they propose. That statement would include a detailed assessment of the jobs that would be lost or gained or sent overseas by any given rule. It would consider whether new rules would have a bad impact on our job market in general.

The administration has also attempted to drastically increase wilderness areas, to expand Washington's jurisdiction on private waters, and to misuse the Endangered Species Act. Western lawmakers are proposing to reassert congressional authority to ensure a proper balance between job creation and conservation. Our bills in this report will increase transparency and stop any administration from issuing regulations without considering the local economic impact.

Throughout our Nation's history, American farmers and ranchers have provided an affordable, abundant, and safe domestic supply of food and energy. In recent years, America's agricultural and forestry industries have been increasingly threatened by the surge of regulations coming from Washington—especially those from the Environmental Protection Agency. Our plan is going to push back. We will strengthen these industries and their ability to meet the world's growing food and energy needs.

Westerners also recognize the mining sector is vital to our economic recovery. We know manufacturing jobs cannot be created without the raw materials needed to produce goods. Since the Obama administration will not break down barriers to American minerals, our Nation is growing increasingly dependent on foreign minerals—countries such as China and Russia. This inaction is unacceptable and it is inexcusable.

Our plan includes Senator MURKOWSKI's bill, the Critical Minerals Policy Act, which will ensure long-term viability of American mineral production. Her bill requires the U.S. Geological Survey to establish a list of minerals critical to the U.S. economy and

then provide a comprehensive set of policies to address each economic sector that relies upon those critical minerals. It also creates a high-level inter-agency working group to optimize the efficiency of permitting in order to facilitate increased exploration and production of domestic critical minerals.

These are just some of the ideas included in our jobs frontier plan. As it says: "Breaking Down Washington's Barriers to America's Red, White and Blue Jobs." We eliminate back-door cap-and-tax regulations. Finally, we will take on excessive lawsuits against Federal agencies that have increased dramatically and destroyed jobs in the West.

Every single one of the bills in the Republican jobs plan has been written and introduced in one or both Houses of Congress. This is a plan that can be implemented now. This is a plan that will work to create jobs. This is a plan that will reduce the cost of energy and restart the economy.

There is a lot that needs to be done to fix our ailing economy. These are some ideas—western ideas—that come from the lawmakers that know best how our rural communities are suffering and how we can get folks back to work. Many of these proposals come from the States. They have the support of our western Governors and legislators. These are ideas not born in Washington.

Recent jobless numbers confirm the current approach from Washington has failed. If the President is serious about incorporating the ideas of every American in every part of the country, then he needs to look beyond Washington.

I thank every Member of the Senate and congressional western caucuses for their work and their expertise on this report. I look forward to turning these ideas into policies and in that way putting all of America back to work.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

AFGHANISTAN AND AID TO PAKISTAN

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, I want to take some time today to talk about my views on Afghanistan and why we should rethink aid to Pakistan.

I just completed my third 2-week reserve assignment in Afghanistan. While many Members of Congress get a first-hand look at the situation on fact-finding missions, my time provided me a more in-depth view, with a focus on the counternarcotics objectives of NATO's ISAF mission.

Now, first, the good news. The work of our soldiers, marines, sailors and airmen is nothing short of amazing. Serving in one of the poorest, roughest, and most remote parts of the globe, they have crushed al-Qaida's training bases, they have driven the Taliban from government, they have fostered a new elected government, and welded 47

allies into a force for human rights, development, and education—especially for girls.

Now, 42 percent of Afghans live on just \$1 a day. Only one in four can read. Malnutrition is a serious problem, and infant mortality is the third highest of any country. According to the United Nations, nearly 40 percent of Afghan children under 3 are moderately or severely underweight, and more than 50 percent of children under 3 experience stunted growth. Afghanistan has more than twice the population of Illinois, but its electricity generation for the entire year is less than 2 percent of the electricity generated in Illinois just for the month of May.

The nearly 30 million people of Afghanistan are victimized by a number of terrorist groups beyond just the Taliban, such as the HIG, the ETIM, and a new threat called the Haqqani network, which I will go into detail about. But the Afghans are mostly victimized by their neighbors, the Pakistanis.

I served as a reservist in Afghanistan for the first time in 2008, and I believed then that Pakistan was complicated; that we have many issues there and that we should advance our own interests diplomatically. I no longer agree with that.

Pakistan has now become the main threat to Afghanistan. Pakistan's intelligence service is the biggest danger to the Afghan Government. Pakistan also poses a tremendous threat to the lives of American troops. Let me be clear: Many Americans died in Afghanistan because of Pakistan's ISI.

Sitting in our commander's briefs for 2 weeks and talking to our headquarters' leaders and spending a few days in the field, it became clear to me if we were working in Afghanistan alone we would have had a much better chance to turn that country around more quickly, restoring it to its status as an agricultural economy with a loose government and a high degree of autonomy given to each tribe or region. But we are not alone.

While our military reduced al-Qaida in Afghanistan to a shadow of its former self, a new force is emerging. On the 10th anniversary of 9/11, al-Qaida, I must report, is still armed and dangerous, but it is far less numerous or capable than it once was. But al-Qaida is not the most potent force that is arrayed against us.

The new face of terror is called the Haqqani network. Built around its founder Jalaluddin Haqqani and his son Siraj, it has become the most dangerous, lethal, and cancerous force in Afghanistan.

One other thing. As much as Pakistani officials claim otherwise, the Haqqanis are backed and protected by Pakistan's own intelligence service. Statements by Pakistani Government officials to the contrary are direct lies.

The Haqqani network kills Americans, it attacks the elected Government of Afghanistan, and remains protected in its Pakistani headquarters of Miriam Shah. Without that Pakistani safe haven, the Haqqani network would suffer the same fate as al-Qaida. Afghan and U.S. special operations teams take out many Taliban and al-Qaida commanders, and these operators operate each night also against numerous Haqqani leaders. But the Haqqanis are able to spend all day planning attacks on Afghans and Americans and then sleeping soundly in their beds in Pakistan.

In such an environment, with our deficits and debt, military aid to Pakistan seems naive at best and counterproductive at worst. I am seriously thinking we should reconsider assistance to the Pakistani military.

Recently, our President chose to withdraw 33,000 American troops from the Afghan battle. General Petraeus and Admiral Mullen did not choose this option. Nevertheless, I think our new commander, General Allen, can withdraw the first 10,000 American troops by Christmas without suffering a military reversal in Afghanistan. Afghanistan's Army and police are growing in size—now numbering over 300,000—and capability. Despite recent reports of desertions, Afghan security forces will soon reach a level where some of our troops may safely leave the country. As we withdraw, we should consider enablements, such as a pay raise for Afghan troops, to improve their retention and morale.

I spoke with General Allen about a commander's assessment that should be delivered at the end of the year. After withdrawing 10,000 troops, I hope he will clearly define when the next 23,000 can come out.

In the United States, politically there is little difference between withdrawing at the end of the year and withdrawing at the end of the fiscal year, but militarily there is a world of difference. The fighting season in Afghanistan runs through October. If General Allen is ordered to withdraw his troops by September 30, then many of his forces will disappear during the Taliban's key offensive months. But if the troops leave in November-December, we will guarantee another bad military year for the Taliban and the Haqqanis and an even stronger Afghan Army in the long term.

I hope the President sets an end-of-year deadline rather than an end-of-fiscal-year deadline. It is right to do militarily and politically. If he does this, he reduces the chance of a radical Islamic extremist victory on the Afghan battlefield in 2012.

While in Afghanistan, I worked to help update and rewrite ISAF's counternarcotics plan. Afghanistan is the source of over 80 percent of the world's heroin and opium. The drug economy

fuels the insurgency and corruption of the Afghan Government itself. From 2001–09, Secretary Rumsfeld and then-Ambassador Holbrooke blocked ISAF from doing much about narcotics. This left a huge funding source for the insurgency untouched.

ISAF was able to change direction slightly in 2009 and 2010 by supporting interdiction and eradication and alternative livelihoods for Afghan farmers. While commendable, these programs didn't work and the size of the Afghan poppy crop is likely to go up.

The plan I worked on advocates a shift in ISAF to apply its military strength of intelligence, helicopters, and special operations to support Afghan decisions to arrest the top drug lords of Afghanistan, starting with the ones who heavily financially back the insurgency. We joined in 2005 to arrest bin Laden's banker Haji Bashir Noorzai, and we should do it again.

I strongly back the Afghan Counternarcotics Ministry idea to announce a top 10 drug lord list to emulate the early success of J. Edgar Hoover when he established the reputation of the FBI. In our remaining 2 years in Afghanistan, we can do a lot to cripple the insurgency and help the 2014 elections by removing a number of key bad actors from the battlefield.

What about the future? The President says our formal current mission will end in 2014. Much of his vision will be approved at the Chicago NATO summit in May of 2012. By 2014, I believe Afghans will be able to do nearly all of the conventional fighting, with some U.S. special operations support remaining.

But remember, while the Afghan Army is likely to win, its budget for this year is \$11 billion. The Afghan Government collected only \$1 billion in tax revenue in 2010. We will have to help. Without regular U.S. combat troops, we risk a Taliban-Haqqani-ISI alliance winning unless we do help that Afghan military.

On the 10th anniversary of 9/11, we should all agree that Afghanistan should never become a major threat to American families again. Should Pakistan not change its ways, we can do one other thing: an American tilt toward India, to encourage the world's largest democracy to bankroll an Afghan Government that fights terror and the ISI. Given the outright lying and duplicity of Pakistan, it appears a tilt toward India will allow us to reduce our forces in Afghanistan, knowing India will help bankroll an Afghan Government. This would allow us to reduce our troops while also reducing the possibility of Afghanistan once again becoming a terrorist safe haven.

Pakistanis would object to this pro-Indian outcome, but they will only have their own ISI to blame. September 11 teaches us that neither the United States nor India can tolerate a

new formal Afghan terror state. It is too bad Pakistan has chosen to back the losing side—the terrorists—against the Afghan people and the two largest democracies on Earth.

Finally, a word about our troops. Each night they combat the most dangerous narco-insurgents on Earth, and many 19- and 20-year-old Americans volunteer to serve over 7,000 miles from home. Their generation is named after September 11, but these Americans in uniform not only carry their generation's label, they are personally employed in risking their lives to ensure that all Americans will never again witness another September 11.

They are America's best hope, and I hope to God when I am older some of them run for President. From my own nursing home, I know the country would be in good hands if one of these young Americans were to guide our Nation's destiny.

I am lucky to know many of their names. MAJ Fred Tanner, U.S. Army; LT Doug McCobb, Air Force; MG Mick Nicholson, Army; and our allies, Wg Cdr Howard Marsh, Royal Air Force; GEN Renee Martin, French Army; RADM Tony Johnstone-Brute, Royal Navy; and COL Robin Vickers, British Army. I honor them and their younger comrades, wishing all the military personnel of ISAF's 47 nations a very good day as they awake in Afghanistan tomorrow morning for another hard day's work on one of the toughest battlefields in the world.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I wish to talk about an amendment, but also I had one of my colleagues who was sitting in your position as President pro tempore notice an error I made on July 27. Senator WHITEHOUSE questioned my numbers and, in fact, he was right. I said \$115 million in regard to the savings on limousines. It was \$11.5 million per year, not \$115 million. It was \$115 million over 10 years. So I wish to stand to put that in the RECORD that I was in error and Senator WHITEHOUSE as a cordial colleague questioned me on it and I thank him for his accountability.

We have before the Senate now a patent bill. There is no question there is a lot of work we need to do on patents. I know the President pro tempore sits on the committee that I do and we have spent a lot of time on this. But I am very concerned, I have to say, about what we are hearing in the Senate about why we wouldn't do the right thing that everybody agrees we should be doing because somebody doesn't want us to do that in the House, and I think it is the worst answer we could ever give the American people.

When we have a 12-percent approval rating, and the Republicans have worse than that, why would we tell the Amer-

ican people we are not going to do the right thing for the right reason at the right time because somebody in the House doesn't want us to and that we are going to say we are not going to put these corrections into a patent bill that are obviously important and we are going to say it is going to kill the bill when, in fact, it is not going to kill the bill? But that is what we use as a rationalization. So let me describe for a minute what has gone on over the years and what has not happened.

The first point I would make is there has not been one oversight hearing of the Patent Office by the Appropriations Committee in either the House or the Senate for 10 years. So they haven't even looked at it. Yet the objection to, and what we are seeing from an appropriations objection is—and even our chairman of our Committee on the Judiciary, who is an appropriator, supports this amendment but isn't going to vote for it because somebody in the House is going to object to it.

But the point is, we have money that people pay every day. From universities to businesses to individual small inventors, they pay significant dollars into the Patent Office. Do you know what has happened with that money this year? Eighty-five million dollars that was paid for by American taxpayers for a patent examination and first looks didn't go to the Patent Office. Yet we have over 1 million patents in process at the Patent Office, and over 700,000 of those haven't ever had their first look.

So when we talk about our economy and we talk about the fact that we want to do what enhances intellectual property in our country—which is one of our greatest assets—and then we don't allow the money that people actually pay for that process to go for that process and we have backlogged for years now patent applications, we have done two things. One is we have limited the intellectual property we can capture. No. 2 is we have allowed people to take those same patents, when we have limited ability, especially some of our smaller organizations, and patent them elsewhere. So the lack of a timely approach on that is lacking.

The process is broken. Since 1992, almost \$1 billion has been taken out of the Patent Office. So we wonder, why in the world is the Patent Office behind?

The Patent Office is behind because we will not allow them to have the funds the American taxpayers who are trying to get ideas and innovations, copyrights, trademarks, and patents done—we will not allow the Patent Office to have the money.

The amendment I am going to be offering—and I have a modification on it that is trying to be cleared on the other side, and I will not actually call

up the amendment at this time until I hear whether that has been accepted. The amendment I have says we will no longer divert the money that American businesses, American inventors, American universities pay to the Patent Office to be spent somewhere else; that it has to be spent on clearing their patents.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD—and I will submit a copy at this time—a letter I received August 1 from the head of the Patent Office.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE,
Alexandria, VA, Aug. 1, 2011.

Hon. TOM COBURN,
*U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATOR COBURN: Per your request, I am writing today to follow up on our discussion last week regarding United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) funding.

As you know, the House-passed version of the America Invents Act (H.R. 1249) replaces a key funding provision that would have created the USPTO Public Enterprise Fund—effectively sheltering the USPTO from the uncertainties of the appropriations process and ensuring the agency's ability to access and spend all of the fees it collects—with a provision creating the Patent and Trademark Reserve Fund. This provision keeps the USPTO in the current appropriations process, but requires that all fees collected in excess of the annual appropriated amount be deposited into the Reserve Fund, where they will be available to the extent provided for in appropriations acts. In a June 22, 2011 letter to Speaker Boehner, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rogers committed to ensuring that the Committee on Appropriations carry language providing that all fees collected in excess of the annual appropriated amount would be available until expended only to the USPTO for services in support of fee-paying patent and trademark applicants. I was pleased to see that the fiscal year 2012 appropriations bill reported by the Committee did in fact carry this language.

I would like to reiterate how crucial it is for the USPTO to have access to all of the fees it collects. This year alone, we anticipate that the agency will collect approximately \$80 million in fees paid for USPTO services that will not be available for expenditure in performing those services. Quite clearly, since the work for which these fees were paid remains pending at USPTO, at some point in the future we will have to collect more money in order to actually perform the already-paid-for services. If USPTO had received the authority to expend these funds, we would have paid for activities such as overtime to accelerate agency efforts to reduce the backlog of nearly 700,000 patent applications, as well as activities to improve our decaying IT systems, which are a constant drag on efficiency. As history has demonstrated, withholding user fees from USPTO is a recipe for failure. Effecting real reforms at the USPTO requires first and foremost financial sustainability. Ensuring that the agency has consistent access to adequate funding is a key component of achieving this.

Further, the unpredictability of the annual appropriations cycle severely hinders

USPTO's ability to engage in the kind of multi-year, business-like planning that is needed to effectively manage a demand-driven, production-based organization. The only way we will be able to effectively implement our multi-year strategic plan, and achieve our goals of reducing the patent backlog and pendency to acceptable levels, is through an ongoing commitment to ensuring the USPTO has full access to its fee collections—not just in fiscal year 2012, but for each and every year beyond FY 2012. Only this assurance will enable the agency to move forward with the confidence that we are basing critical multi-year decisions about staffing levels, IT investment, production, and overtime on an accurate and reliable funding scenario.

Along these lines, if America is to maintain its position as the global leader in innovation, it is essential that American businesses and inventors not suffer the adverse effects of drawn-out continuing resolutions (CR), which have become common in recent years. The constant stops and starts associated with the CR cycle can have disastrous consequences, especially for a fee-based agency with a growing workload, as is the case for USPTO. The challenges presented by the pending patent reform legislation will be particularly difficult to undertake if the agency is not allowed to grow along a steady path to address our increasing requirements. As such, we must be assured that the USPTO will have full access to its fees throughout the year—not just after a full year appropriations act is enacted. Therefore, a commitment to include language in future continuing resolutions that will address the USPTO's unique resource needs is paramount.

As outlined in our Strategic Plan and in our FY 2012 budget submission, USPTO has a multi-year plan in place to reduce patent pendency to 10 months first action and 20 months final action pendency, and to reduce the patent application backlog to 350,000. During the next three to four years, we will continue and accelerate implementation of a series of initiatives to streamline the examination process, including efforts to improve examination efficiency and provide a new, state-of-the-art end-to-end IT system, which will support each examiner's ability to process applications efficiently and effectively.

While efficiency gains are essential, we will not reach our goals without also increasing the capacity of our examination core. As outlined in the FY 2012 budget, we plan to hire an additional 1,000 patent examiners in FY 2012, with another 1,000 examiner hires planned for FY 2013. This added capacity, combined with full overtime, will allow us to bring the backlog and pendency down to an acceptable level.

Let me also be clear that while these enhancements are necessary to allow the USPTO to tackle the current backlog, the agency is not planning to continue growing indefinitely. An important part of our multi-year plan is an eventual moderation of our workforce requirements, once we have achieved a sustainable steady state.

At the same time that USPTO is working to achieve these goals, we will also be working to restructure our fees to ensure that the agency is recovering adequate costs to sustain the organization. Once our fees have been set, we will continually monitor our collections over the next several years to ensure that our operating reserve does not grow to unacceptably high levels at the expense of USPTO's stakeholders.

Thank you again for your support and your superb leadership on this important issue.

With the continued commitment of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations to ensuring the USPTO's ongoing ability to utilize its fee collections, we can put the agency on a path to financial sustainability, and enable it to deliver the services paid for and deserved by American innovators.

Sincerely,

DAVID J. KAPPOS,
Under Secretary and Director.

Mr. COBURN. I must tell you that we are so fortunate that we have Director Kappos. We have a true expert in patents, with great knowledge, who has made tremendous strides in making great changes at our Patent Office. But he requires a steady stream of money, and he requires the ability to manage the organization in a way where he can actually accomplish what we have asked him to do.

Frankly, I have spent a lot of time working with the Patent Office—not with everybody else who wants an advantage in the patent system but with the Patent Office—and I am convinced we have great leadership there.

In his letter, he talks about their inability to update their IT because the money is not there because we will not let him have the money—their money, the money from the American taxpayers.

Let me give a corollary. If, in fact, you drive your car into the gas station, you give them \$100 for 25 or 28 gallons of gas, and they only give you 12 gallons of gas and they say: Sorry, the Appropriations Committee said you couldn't have all the gas for the money you paid, you would be outraged. If you go to the movie, you pay the fee to go to the movie and you buy a ticket, you walk in, and halfway through the movie they stop the projection and say: Sorry, we are not going to give you the second half of the movie even though you paid for it—inventors in this country have paid the fees to have their patents examined and evaluated and reviewed. Yet we, because of the power struggle, have decided we are not going to let that money go to the Patent Office. The amendment I have says we are going to allow that to happen. If money is paid and it goes into a proper fund that is allocatable only to the Patent Office, it cannot be spent anywhere else and has to go to the Patent Office.

Some of the objections, especially from the House Appropriations Committee, are that there is no oversight. The reason there is no oversight is because they have not done any oversight and neither have we, so you cannot claim that as an excuse as to why you are afraid. This patent bill will give an authorization for 7 years for the fees. We can change that if we want, but the fact is that we are never going to know if we need to change it if we never do oversight, which we have not done. Nobody has done oversight on patents. I am talking aggressive oversight: What

did you start? What was your end? How much did you spend? Where did you spend the money? What is your employee turnover? What is your employee productivity? What should we expect?

None of that has been asked. I believe it is probably pretty good based on the fact that I have a lot of confidence in the management at the Patent Office, especially what I have seen in terms of performance for the last couple of years versus before that, but the fact is that oversight has not been done.

It is not just the Patent Office. It hasn't been done anywhere. Very little oversight has been done by the Senate, and it is one of the biggest legitimate criticisms that can be made of us as a body, that we are lazy in our oversight function. Of the \$3.7 trillion that is going to be spent, we are going to have oversight of about \$100 billion of the total.

The amendment does a couple of things. Let me kind of detail that for a moment. One of the things is that by returning the money to the Patent Office, the Director thinks he can actually cut the backlog in half. In other words, we have over 700,000 patents that have never been looked at sitting at the Patent Office now, and he believes that in a very short period of time they could cut that to 350,000.

From 1992 through 2011, \$900 million has been taken from the PTO. In 2004 Congress diverted \$100 million, in 2007 it diverted \$12 million, last year it diverted \$53 million, and it is \$80 million to \$85 million that is going to be diverted this year. In 4 years out of the last 10, Congress gave the Patent Office all the money because it was so slow, so lethargic in terms of meeting the needs of inventors. The only thing we have in the current bill is the promise of a Speaker and the promise of a chairman that they will do that. There is nothing in law that forces them to do it. There is nothing that will make sure the money is there. No matter how good we fix the patent system in this country, if there is not the money to implement it, we will not have solved the problems.

In June of 2000, the House debated the PTO funding, and an interesting exchange took place between Representative ROYBAL-ALLARD and Representative ROGERS, who was a cardinal at the time. Representative ALLARD discussed the problem of PTO fee diversion and the need for user fees to pay for the work of the agency. She asked—in the documentation of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, she asked Chairman ROGERS if 100 percent of the user fees would go to the PTO, and Mr. ROGERS stated that the fees would not be siphoned off for any other agency or purpose and remain in the account for future years. But according to the PTO, in fiscal year 2000, \$121 million was, in fact, diverted. So when we have

the chairman of the committee say we should not doubt the word of the Appropriations Committee, yet we have in the RECORD the exact opposite of what the Appropriations Committee said was going to happen, we should be concerned and we should fix it to where the money for patent examination goes for patent examination. So we have a clear record of a statement that says it was not going to happen, and, in fact, \$121 million was diverted from the Patent Office.

Finally, from 1992 to 2007, \$750 million more in patent and trademark fees was collected than was allowed to be spent by the Patent and Trademark Office. Had they had that money, we would have a backlog of about 100,000 patents right now, not 750,000. We would have intellectual property as a greater value in our country, with greater advantage over our trading partners because that money would have been effectively used.

On July 12, former CBO Director Douglas Holtz-Eakin wrote to Senators REID and MCCONNELL noting:

The establishment of the Patent and Trademark reserve fund in H.R. 1249 would be ineffective in stopping the diversion of the fees from the U.S. Patent Office.

In other words, what is in this bill now will not stop the diversion of the fees.

Just so people think I am not just picking on one area, this is a bad habit of Congress. It is not just in the Patent and Trademark Office that we tell people to pay a fee to get something done and we steal the money and use it somewhere else. For example, in the Nuclear Waste Fund at the Department of Energy, utility payments by individual consumers pay for a nuclear waste fee. That money has been spent on tons of other things through the years rather than on the collection and management of nuclear waste. To the tune of \$25 billion has been spent on other things.

The Securities and Exchange Commission is a fee-based agency. Since the SEC was established, it has collected money via user fees, charged for various transactions in order to cover the cost of its regulation. The primary fees are for sales of stock, registration of a new stock, mergers, tender offers. It also collects fees for penalty fines, for bad behavior. They go into the Treasury's general fund, and amounts collected above the SEC budget were diverted to other government programs.

In 2002, Congress changed the treatment of the fees of the SEC so they would only go to a special appropriation account solely for the SEC. SEC would not have access to the fees, however, should it collect more than its appropriation.

In the Dodd-Frank bill, Congress again changed the treatment of the fees and required some of the fees to go

to the General Treasury and others to the reserve fund. As a result, lots of complaints with the SEC, and they still do not have access to their funds. Thus, like the PTO, if Congress chooses not to provide all the funds in the initial appropriation, they will not have them.

In the 2012 budget justification from the Securities and Exchange Commission, they noted it had significant challenges maintaining a staffing level sufficient to carry out its core mission. From 2005 to 2077, SEC had frozen or reduced budgets that forced reduction of 10 percent of their staff and 50 percent of technology investment. What happened in 2007 in this country? What were the problems? So the diversion of the money from the SEC actually contributed to the problems we had in this country. So it does not work.

Finally, one that is my favorite and that I have fought against every year that I have been here is the Crime Victims Fund, and that is a fund where people who are criminals actually have to pay into a fund to do restitution for criminal victims, and we have stolen billions of dollars from that fund. They are not taxes, they are actually restitution moneys, but the Congress has stolen it and spent it on other areas. The morality of that I don't think leads anybody to question that that is wrong.

AMENDMENT NO. 599, AS MODIFIED

Now, if I may, let me call up amendment 599. I ask that the pending amendment be set aside and ask that the amendment be modified with the changes at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANDERS). Is there objection?

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma has the floor.

Is there objection?

Mr. LEAHY. Reserving the right to object, the Senator from Oklahoma knows that the basic thing he is trying to do is something I had supported. As he knows, I put it in the managers' package. He also is aware that my belief is—obviously we disagree—my belief is that the acceptance of his amendment will effectively kill the bill. Even today the leadership in the House told me they would not accept that bill with it. I say this only because tactically it would be to my advantage to object to the amendment. But the distinguished Senator is one of the hardest working members of the Judiciary Committee. He is always there when I need a quorum. Out of respect for him, I will not object.

Mr. COBURN. I thank the Senator for this. This is a minor technical correction.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. COBURN], for himself, Mr. DEMINT, Mrs. FEINSTEIN,

Mrs. BOXER, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. BURR, proposes an amendment (No. 599), as modified.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the provision relating to funding the Patent and Trademark Office by establishing a United States Patent and Trademark Office Public Enterprise Fund, and for other purposes)

On page 137, line 1, strike all through page 138, line 9, and insert the following:

SEC. 22. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE FUNDING.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) DIRECTOR.—The term "Director" means the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

(2) FUND.—The term "Fund" means the public enterprise revolving fund established under subsection (c).

(3) OFFICE.—The term "Office" means the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

(4) TRADEMARK ACT OF 1946.—The term "Trademark Act of 1946" means an Act entitled "Act to provide for the registration and protection of trademarks used in commerce, to carry out the provisions of certain international conventions, and for other purposes", approved July 5, 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.) (commonly referred to as the "Trademark Act of 1946" or the "Lanham Act").

(5) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term "Under Secretary" means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property.

(b) FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 42 of title 35, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (b), by striking "Patent and Trademark Office Appropriation Account" and inserting "United States Patent and Trademark Office Public Enterprise Fund"; and

(B) in subsection (c), in the first sentence—
(i) by striking "To the extent" and all that follows through "fees" and inserting "Fees"; and

(ii) by striking "shall be collected by and shall be available to the Director" and inserting "shall be collected by the Director and shall be available until expended".

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the later of—

(A) October 1, 2011; or

(B) the first day of the first fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) USPTO REVOLVING FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a revolving fund to be known as the "United States Patent and Trademark Office Public Enterprise Fund". Any amounts in the Fund shall be available for use by the Director without fiscal year limitation.

(2) DERIVATION OF RESOURCES.—There shall be deposited into the Fund [and recorded as offsetting receipts] on or after the effective date of subsection (b)(1)—

(A) any fees collected under sections 41, 42, and 376 of title 35, United States Code, provided that notwithstanding any other provision of law, if such fees are collected by, and payable to, the Director, the Director shall transfer such amounts to the Fund, provided, however, that no funds collected pursuant to section 9(h) of this Act or section 1(a)(2) of Public Law 111-45 shall be deposited in the Fund; and

(B) any fees collected under section 31 of the Trademark Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1113).

(3) EXPENSES.—Amounts deposited into the Fund under paragraph (2) shall be available, without fiscal year limitation, to cover—

(A) all expenses to the extent consistent with the limitation on the use of fees set forth in section 42(c) of title 35, United States Code, including all administrative and operating expenses, determined in the discretion of the Under Secretary to be ordinary and reasonable, incurred by the Under Secretary and the Director for the continued operation of all services, programs, activities, and duties of the Office relating to patents and trademarks, as such services, programs, activities, and duties are described under—

(i) title 35, United States Code; and

(ii) the Trademark Act of 1946; and

(B) all expenses incurred pursuant to any obligation, representation, or other commitment of the Office.

(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the end of each fiscal year, the Under Secretary and the Director shall submit a report to Congress which shall—

(1) summarize the operations of the Office for the preceding fiscal year, including financial details and staff levels broken down by each major activity of the Office;

(2) detail the operating plan of the Office, including specific expense and staff needs for the upcoming fiscal year;

(3) describe the long term modernization plans of the Office;

(4) set forth details of any progress towards such modernization plans made in the previous fiscal year; and

(5) include the results of the most recent audit carried out under subsection (f).

(e) ANNUAL SPENDING PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the beginning of each fiscal year, the Director shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the plan for the obligation and expenditure of the total amount of the funds for that fiscal year in accordance with section 605 of the Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109-108; 119 Stat. 2334).

(2) CONTENTS.—Each plan under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) summarize the operations of the Office for the current fiscal year, including financial details and staff levels with respect to major activities; and

(B) detail the operating plan of the Office, including specific expense and staff needs, for the current fiscal year.

(f) AUDIT.—The Under Secretary shall, on an annual basis, provide for an independent audit of the financial statements of the Office. Such audit shall be conducted in accordance with generally acceptable accounting procedures.

(g) BUDGET.—The Fund shall prepare and submit each year to the President a business-type budget in a manner, and before a date, as the President prescribes by regulation for the budget program.

(h) SURCHARGE.—Notwithstanding section 11(i)(1)(B), amounts collected pursuant to the surcharge imposed under section 11(i)(1)(A) shall be credited to the United States Patent and Trademark Office Public Enterprise Fund.

Mr. COBURN. I thank the chairman of the Judiciary Committee. I noted earlier, before I came to the floor, he supported it in principle and we have a difference in principle about what would happen to the bill. This is a minimal technical correction that was

recommended to us, and I appreciate the Senator for allowing that to be considered.

Let me spend a moment talking about the chairman and his belief that this will not go anywhere. This is a critical juncture for our country, when we are going to make a decision to not do what is right because somebody is threatening that they do not agree with doing what is right and that they will not receive it. In my life of 63 years, that is how bullies operate, and the way you break a bully is you challenge a bully.

The fact is, I have just recorded into the history of the House the statements by the chairman of the Appropriations Committee in the House in terms of his guarantee for protecting the funds for PTO, which he turned around and took \$121 million out of the funds that very same year that he guaranteed on the floor that he wouldn't do. So what I would say is we ought not worry about idle threats. What we ought to be worried about is doing what is best and right for our country. What is best and right is to give the money to the Patent Office that people are paying for so the patents will get approved and our technological innovations will be protected. I don't buy the idea the House is not going to take this if we modify it.

Actually, what 95 percent of the people in this country would agree to is that the Patent Office ought to get the money we are paying for patent fees, just as the FDA should get the money paid by drug companies for new applications, just as the Park Service should put the money for the camping sites—the paid-for camping sites—back into the camping sites. Why would we run away from doing the right thing?

I find it very difficult when we rationalize down doing the correct thing that everybody agrees should be done but we will not do it for the right reasons. That is why we have a 12-percent approval rating. That is why people don't have confidence in Congress—because we walk away from the tough challenges of bullies who say they won't do something if we do what is right. I am not going to live that way. I am not going to be a Senator that way. I am going to stand on the position of principle.

This is a principle with which 95 Senators in this body agree. We are going to have several of our leaders try to get them not to do that on the basis of rationalization to a bully system that says: We will not do the oversight, but we still want to be in control.

In fact, in the process of that, America loses because we have 750,000 patents that are pending right now, and there should only be about 100,000.

The bullies have won in the past, and I am not going to take it anymore. I am going to stand up and challenge it every time. I am going to make the ar-

gument that if a person pays a fee for something in this country for the government to do, that money ought to be spent doing what it was paid to the government to do. It is outside of a tax; it is a fee. It is immoral and close to being criminal to not correctly spend that money from that fee.

If our body decides today we are going to table this amendment, the question the American people have to ask is, Where is the courage in the Senate to do what is best for our country? Why are the Senators here if they are not going to do what is best for the country? Why are they going to play the game of rationalization and extortion on principles that matter so much to our future? I will not do that anymore. Everybody knows this is the right thing to do. We are babysitting some spoiled Members of Congress who don't want to carry out their responsibilities in an honorable way and do the oversight that is necessary. What they want to do is complain that they do not have control.

Well, this bill authorizes funds for 7 years. We can change that number of years. We can actually change the actual amount of fees if, in fact, they are not doing a good job. But right now, as already put in the RECORD, there is no history of significant oversight to the Patent Office, so they would not know in the first place. So what we are asking is to do what is right, what is transparent, what is morally correct and give the Patent Office the opportunity to do for America what it can do for them instead of handcuffing us and handicapping us where we cannot compete on intellectual property in our country.

I have said enough. I will reserve the remainder of my time when I finish talking about one other item.

There is an earmark in this patent bill for The Medicines Company. It ought not be there. This is something that is being adjudicated in the courts right now. Senator SESSIONS has an amendment that would change it. I believe it is inappropriate to specify one company, one situation on a drug that is significant to this country, and we are fixing the wrong problem. We probably would not win that amendment. I think it is something the American people ought to look at and say: Why is this here? Why is something in this big bill that is so important to our country?

I agree with our chairman. He has worked months, if not years, over the last 6 years trying to get to this process, and now we have this put in. We did not have it in ours. The chairman did not have it in ours. It came from the House.

We ought to ask the question Why is it there? Why are we interfering in something that is at the appellate court level right now? Why are we doing that? None of us can feel good

about that. None of us can say it is the right thing to do. Why would we tolerate it?

It is this lack of confidence in America; it is about a lack of confidence in us. When people know and find out what has happened here, they are going to ask the question. The powerful and the wealthy advantage themselves at the expense of everybody else. They have access. Those who are lowly, those who are minimal in terms of their material assets do not. It is the type of thing that undermines the confidence we need to have.

I just wanted to say I am a cosponsor of Senator SESSIONS' amendment. I believe he is accurate. I think they have won this in court. It is on appeal. They will probably win it on appeal. This will end up being necessary, and there is a way for us to fix it if, in fact, they lose, if it is appropriate to do that. I believe it is inappropriate at this time.

I yield the floor and reserve the remainder of my time.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I rise in support of the Sessions amendment which seeks to remove an egregious example of corporate welfare and blatant earmarking, to benefit a single interest, in the otherwise worthwhile patent reform bill before the Senate. Needed reform of our patent laws should not be diminished nor impaired by inclusion of the shameless special interest provision, dubbed "The Dog Ate My Homework Act" that benefits a single drug manufacturer, Medicines & Company, to excuse their failure to follow the drug patent laws on the books for over 20 years.

The President tonight will deliver another speech to tell us that unemployment is too high and that we need to get America back to work to turn around our near stagnant economy. While it may end up being more of the same policies that have not worked for the last 2½ years, I look forward to hearing what he has to say. But, look at what is going on here today, just a couple hours before the President tells us how he proposes to fix the economy, there are 14 million Americans out of work and a full day of the Senate's time is being spent debating a bailout of a prominent law firm and a drug manufacturer. I think the American people would be justified in wondering if they were in some parallel universe.

Patent holders who wish to file an extension of their patent have a 60-day window to make the routine application. There is no ambiguity in this timeframe. In fact, there is no reason to wait until the last day. A patent holder can file an extension application any time within the 60-day period. Indeed, hundreds and hundreds of drug patent extension applications have been filed since the law was enacted. Four have been late. Four!

Why is this provision in the patent reform bill? One reason: special inter-

est lobbying to convince Congress to relieve the company and its law firm from their mistakes. Millions of dollars in branded drug profits are at stake for a single company who will face generic competition much earlier than if a patent extension would have been filed on time.

Let me read from the Wall Street Journal Editorial page today:

As blunders go, this was big. The loss of patent rights means that generic versions of Angiomax might have been able to hit pharmacies since 2010, costing the Medicines Co. between \$500 million and \$1 billion in profits. If only the story ended there.

Instead, the Medicines Co. has mounted a lobbying offensive to get Congress to end run the judicial system. Since 2006, the Medicines Co. has wrangled bill after bill onto the floor of Congress that would change the rules retroactively or give the Patent Office director discretion to accept late filings. One version was so overtly drawn as an earmark that it specified a \$65 million penalty for late filing for "a patent term extension . . . for a drug intended for use in humans that is in the anticoagulant class of drugs."

. . . no one would pretend the impetus for this measure isn't an insider favor to save \$214 million for a Washington law firm and perhaps more for the Medicines Co. There was never a problem to fix here. In a 2006 House Judiciary hearing, the Patent Office noted that of 700 patent applications since 1984, only four had missed the 60-day deadline. No wonder critics are calling it the Dog Ate My Homework Act.

The stakes are also high for patients in our health care system. Let me read an excerpt from the Generic Pharmaceutical Association letter dated July 20, 2011:

The Medicines Company amendment adopted during House consideration of H.R. 1249 modifies the calculation of the 60-day period to apply for a patent term extension and applies that new definition to ongoing litigation. We are deeply concerned about the precedent of changing the rules of the patent extension process retroactively, which appears to benefit only one company—The Medicines Company, which missed the filing deadline for a patent extension for its patent on the drug Angiomax.

If enacted into law, this provision would change the rules to benefit one company that, by choice, waited until the last minute to file a simple form that hundreds of other companies have filed in a timely manner since the enactment of the Hatch-Waxman Act in 1984. In doing so, the amendment would ultimately cost consumers and the government hundreds of millions of dollars by delaying the entry of safe, affordable generic medications. . . .

The rules and regulations that govern patents and exclusivity pertaining to both generic and brand drugs are important public policy. While it is Congress's prerogative to change or clarify statutory filing deadlines, we strongly urge you to do so in a manner that does not benefit one company's litigating position. GPhA urges you to strike section 37 from H.R. 1249.

Passing the Sessions amendment and removing the provision from the bill is not detrimental to passing the patent reform bill. The bailout provision was not included in the Senate-passed patent bill earlier this year. It was added

in the House. The provision can and should be stripped in this vote today. The House can easily re-pass the bill without the bailout provision and send it to the President.

Support the Sessions amendment and send a loud signal to the American public, who are watching what we do, that laws matter and that this kind of business has no place in Congress.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this is an amendment that can derail and even kill this bill—a bill that would otherwise help our recovering economy, unleash innovation and create the jobs that are so desperately needed. I have worked for years against Patent Office fee diversion, but oppose this amendment at this time. Its formulation was rejected by the House of Representatives, and there is no reason to believe that the House's position will change. Instead, for ideological purity, this amendment can sink years of effort and destroy the job prospects represented by this bill. So while I oppose fee diversion, I also oppose the Coburn amendment.

I kept my commitment to Senator COBURN and included his preferred language in the managers' amendment which the Senate considered last March. The difference between then and now is that the Republican leadership of the House of Representatives rejected Senator COBURN's formulation. They preserved the principle against fee diversion but changed the language.

The language in the bill is that which the House devised and a bipartisan majority voted to include. It was worked out by the House Republican leadership to satisfy House rules. The provision Senator COBURN had drafted and offers again with his amendment today apparently violates House Rule 21, which prohibits converting discretionary spending into mandatory spending. So instead of a revolving fund, the House established a reserve fund. That was the compromise that the Republican House leadership devised between Chairmen SMITH, ROGERS and RYAN. Yesterday I inserted in the RECORD the June letter for Congressmen ROGERS and RYAN to Chairman SMITH of the House Judiciary Committee. Today I ask consent to insert into the RECORD the commitment letter from Chairman ROGERS to Speaker BOEHNER.

The America Invents Act, as passed by the House, continues to make important improvements to ensure that fees collected by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) are used for Patent and Trademark Office activities. That office is entirely fee-funded and does not rely on taxpayer dollars. It has been and continues to be subject to annual appropriations bills. That allows Congress greater opportunity for oversight.

The legislation that passed the Senate in March would have taken the Patent and Trademark Office out of

the appropriations process, by setting up a revolving fund that would have allowed the office to set fees and collect and spend money without appropriations legislation and congressional oversight. Instead of a revolving fund, the House formulation against fee diversion establishes a separate account for the funds and directs that they be used for U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The House Appropriations Chairman has committed to abide by that legal framework.

The House forged a compromise. Despite what some around here think, that is the essence of the legislative process. The Founders knew that when they wrote the Constitution and included the Great Compromise. Ideological purity does not lead to legislative enactments. This House compromise can make a difference and make real progress against fee diversion. It is something we can support and there are many, many companies and organizations that do support this final work-out in order to get the bill enacted without further delay, as do I.

The America Invents Act, as passed by the House, creates a new Patent and Trademark Fee Reserve Fund (the "Reserve Fund") into which all fees collected by the USPTO in excess of the amount appropriated in a fiscal year are to be deposited. Fees in the Reserve Fund may only be used for the operations of the Patent and Trademark Office. Through the creation of the Reserve Fund, as well as the commitment by House appropriators, H.R. 1249 makes important improvements in ensuring that user fees collected for services are used by the Patent and Trademark Office for those services.

Voting for the Coburn amendment is a vote to kill this bill. It could kill the bill over a formality—the difference between a revolving fund and a reserve fund. It would require the House to reconsider the whole bill again. They spent days and weeks working out their compromise in good faith. And it was worked out by the House Republican leadership. There is no reason to think they will reconsider and allow the original Coburn language to violate their rules and avoid oversight. They have already rejected that language, the very language proposed by the Coburn amendment.

We should not kill this bill over this amendment. We should reject the amendment and pass the bill. The time to put aside individual preferences and ideological purity is upon us and we need to legislate. That is what the American people elected us to do and expect us to do. The time to enact this bill is now. Vote no on the Coburn amendment.

I have listened to the Senator from Oklahoma, and no matter what we say about it, his is an amendment that can derail and even kill this bill. He expresses concern as to why the bill

should be sought because somebody objects to the bill. I sometimes ask myself that question. Of course, the distinguished Senator from Oklahoma has objected to many items going forward on his own behalf, but this is an amendment that could derail or even kill the bill. This is a bill that would otherwise help our recovering economy to unleash innovation, create the jobs so desperately needed.

I probably worked longer in this body than anybody against Patent Office fee diversion. As the Senator from Oklahoma knows, I put a provision in the managers' package to allow the fees to go to the Patent Office. Now it is a lobby to keep that in in the other body. Its formulation was rejected by the House of Representatives.

There is no reason to believe the House position will change. I checked with both the Republican and Democratic leaders over there. There is no reason to believe their position will change, but we insist on ideological purities—including something I would like. The amendment would take years of effort, destroy the job prospects represented by this bill. While I oppose the fee diversion, I also oppose this amendment.

Does this bill have every single thing in it I want? No. We could write 100 patent reform legislations in this body where each one of us has every single thing we want, and we would have 100 different bills. We only have one. It does not have all the things I like, but that is part of getting legislation passed.

I did keep my commitment to Senator COBURN. I kept his language in the managers' amendment, and I caught a lot for doing that—I am a member of the Appropriations Committee—but I kept it in there. The difference between then and now is that the Republican leadership of the House of Representatives rejected Senator COBURN's formulation. They preserved the principle against fee diversion but changed the language. In doing that, however, it is not a total rejection. They actually tried to work out a compromise. The language of the bill, which the House devised—a bipartisan majority voted to include—was worked out by the House Republican leadership to satisfy the House rules.

The provision that Senator COBURN has drafted and offers, again, with his amendment today apparently violates House rule 21 which prohibits converting discretionary spending into mandatory spending.

What the House did—and actually accomplished what both Senator COBURN and I and others want—instead of a revolving fund was to establish the reserve fund. That was the compromise that the Republican House leadership devised between Chairman SMITH, Chairman ROGERS, and Chairman RYAN.

Yesterday, I inserted into the RECORD the June letter from Congressmen ROGERS and RYAN to Chairman SMITH to the House Judiciary Committee.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the commitment letter from Chairman ROGERS to Speaker BOEHNER.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,
Washington, DC, June 22, 2011.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ERIC CANTOR,
Majority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER AND LEADER CANTOR: I write regarding provisions in H.R. 1249, The America Invents Act, affecting funding of the Patent Trademark Office (PTO). Following constructive discussions with Chairman Smith of the Judiciary Committee, this legislation now includes language that will preserve Congress' "power of the purse," under Article I, Section 9, Clause 7 of the Constitution. The language ensures: the PTO budget remains part of the annual appropriations process; all PTO collected fees will be available only for PTO services and activities in support of the fee paying community; and finally, this important agency will continue to be subject to oversight and accountability by the Congress on an annual basis.

To assure that all fees collected for PTO remain available for PTO services, H.R. 1249 provides that if the actual fees collected by the PTO exceed its appropriation for that fiscal year, the amount would continue to be reserved only for use by the PTO and will be held in a "Patent Trademark Fee Reserve Fund".

At the same time, consistent with the language included in H.R. 1249, the Committee on Appropriations will also carry language that will ensure that all fees collected by PTO in excess of its annual appropriated level will be available until expended only to PTO for support services and activities in support of the fee paying community, subject to normal Appropriations Committee oversight and review.

I look forward to working with the relevant stakeholders in efficiently implementing this new process.

I believe this approach will help U.S. innovators remain competitive in today's global economy and this in turn will contribute to significant job creation here in the United States, while holding firm to the funding principles outlined in the Constitution.

Sincerely,

HAROLD ROGERS,
Chairman, House Committee on
Appropriations.

Mr. LEAHY. I would note that it has been suggested somehow the Appropriations chairman is not going to keep his word. Well, Chairman ROGERS is a Republican. I have worked with him a lot. He has always kept his word to me, just as we have the most decorated veteran of our military serving in either body as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the only Medal of Honor recipient now serving, Senator

INOUE. Both he and the ranking Republican, Senator COCHRAN, have always kept their word to me certainly in more than the third of a century I have served on that committee.

The America Invents Act, as passed by the House, continues to make important improvements. It ensures the fees collected by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office are used for Patent and Trademark Office activities. The one thing in there is that we in the Congress at least have a chance to make sure they are using it the way they are supposed to.

The office is entirely fee funded. It does not rely on taxpayer dollars. It has been and continues to be subject to the annual appropriations bill which allows the oversight that we are elected and paid for by the American people to do.

The legislation we passed in March would have taken the Patent Trademark Office out of the appropriations process by setting up a revolving fund. Instead of a revolving fund, the House formulation against fee diversion established a separate account and directs that account be used only by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The House Appropriations chairman is committed to abide by that legal framework. The Speaker is committed to that. The House forged a compromise. That is the essence of the legislative process.

The Founders knew when they wrote the Constitution to include the Great Compromise. Ideological purity does not lead to legislative enactments. Ideological purity does not lead to legislative enactments.

The House compromise can make a difference. It made real progress against fee diversion, which is something we can support. There are many companies and organizations that do support this in order to get the bill enacted without delay. After 6½ years, let's not delay any more.

This is going to create jobs. We have 600,000 to 700,000 patents sitting there waiting to be processed. Let's get on with it. For all of these fees and the reserve fund can only be used for the operations of the Patent and Trademark Office. I don't know what more we can do. But I would say I am perfectly willing to accept what the House did because it assures that the fees go to the Patent Office.

I am also well aware that voting for this amendment kills the bill. It could kill the bill over a formality—the difference between a reserve fund and a revolving fund.

I think the House Republican leadership worked out their compromise in good conscience, and I agree with it.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is funded entirely by user fees, and the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act will ensure the PTO has access to the fees it collects. We have heard from a

number of organizations which agree with that, and I ask unanimous consent that a sample of these letters from the Business Software Alliance, the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council, DuPont, and other financial organizations be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

BUSINESS SOFTWARE ALLIANCE,
June 29, 2011.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Majority Leader,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR REID AND SENATOR MCCONNELL: We urge you to bring H.R. 1249 to the Senate floor as soon as the Senate's schedule permits.

The Business Software Alliance (BSA) strongly supports modernizing our patent system. An efficient and well-operating patent system is necessary to promote healthy and dynamic innovation. Innovation is critically important to software and computer companies' ability to provide new and better tools and technologies to consumers and customers.

BSA member companies believe H.R. 1249 establishes a transparent and efficient patent system. It will make the Patent and Trademark Office more accessible and useful to all inventors, large and small. In addition, the provisions of H.R. 1249 on Patent and Trademark Office funding will ensure that the user fees paid to the USPTO will be available to the Office for processing patent applications and other important functions of the Office.

H.R. 1249 and S. 23 are the products of many years of skillful and difficult legislative work in both the House and the Senate. H.R. 1249 represents a thoughtful and balanced compromise that is endorsed by virtually all stakeholders. We urge the Senate to adopt H.R. 1249 as acted upon by the House and pass it without amendment as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

ROBERT W. HOLLEYMAN,
President and CEO.

SBE COUNCIL,
Oakton, VA, June 29, 2011.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LEAHY AND RANKING MEMBER GRASSLEY: The Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council (SBE Council) has been a leading advocate for patent reform within the small business community, and we urge you to work with the leadership of the Senate to bring the America Invents Act (H.R. 1249) to the Senate floor for approval.

H.R. 1249 would improve the patent system in key ways. For example, the U.S. patent system would be brought in step with the rest of the world. The U.S. grants patents on a first-to-invent basis, rather than the first-inventor-to-file system that the rest of the world follows. First-to-invent is inherently ambiguous and costly, and that's bad news for small businesses and individual inventors.

A shift to a "first-inventor-to-file" system creates greater certainty for patents, and amounts to a far simpler and more transparent system that would reduce costs in the rare cases when conflict exists over who has the right to a patent. By moving to a first-inventor-to-file system, small firms will in

no way be disadvantaged, as some claim, while opportunities in international markets will expand.

In addition, an Associated Press report, for example, noted "that it takes an average of three years to get a patent approved and that the agency has a backlog of 1.2 million pending patents, including more than 700,000 that haven't reached an examiner's desk." Part of the problem here is that revenues from patent fees can be drained off by Congress to be spent elsewhere.

The agreement reached in the House on USPTO funding will assure that the fees paid to the USPTO by inventors will not be diverted elsewhere, but instead be made available for processing patent applications. While the Senate's approach in S. 23 to prevent diversion of USPTO funds would have been a better choice, the House bill still provides an effective option.

Patent reform is needed to clarify and simplify the system; to properly protect legitimate patents; and to reduce costs in the system, including when it comes to litigation and the international marketplace. All of this, of course, would aid small businesses and the overall economy.

H.R. 1249, like S. 23, is a solid bill, and the opportunity for long overdue and much-needed patent reform should not be lost.

Thank you for considering the views of the small business community. Please feel free to contact SBE Council with questions or if we can be of assistance on this important issue for small businesses.

Sincerely,

KAREN KERRIGAN,
President & CEO.

DUPONT,
Wilmington, DE, July 6, 2011.

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, DC.

Hon. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LEAHY AND RANKING MEMBER GRASSLEY: As a world leader in science and innovation, including agriculture and industrial biotechnology, chemistry, biology, materials science and manufacturing, DuPont recognizes the nation's patent system is a cornerstone in fostering innovation and creating jobs. Patents continue to be one of the engines for innovation and a process for discovery that leads to rich, new offerings for our customers and gives our company the edge to continue transforming markets and society. Our stake in the patent system is significant—in 2010, DuPont filed over 2,000 patent applications and was awarded almost 700 U.S. patents. Given the importance of its patents, DuPont has been a strong supporter of efforts to implement patent reform legislation that will improve patent quality and give the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office the resources it needs to examine and grant patents in a timely manner.

We believe that any changes to the patent system need to be made in a way that strengthens patents and supports the important goals of fostering innovation and creating jobs. In our view, the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act, H.R. 1249, achieves these objectives, and we urge you to consider adoption of this bill.

The agreement reached in the House on USPTO funding will assure that the fees paid to the USPTO by inventors will not be diverted and will be made available to the Office for processing patent applications and other important functions of the Office.

While we would have preferred the Senate's approach in S. 23 to prevent diversion of USPTO funds, we believe that acceptance of the House bill provides an effective and the most immediate path forward to address problems of the patent office. H.R. 1249, like S. 23, is an excellent bill. These bills are the product of many years of skillful and difficult legislative work in both the House and the Senate. We believe the time has now come for the Senate to take the final legislative act required for enactment of these historic reforms.

We look forward to patent reform becoming a reality in the 112th Congress, due in significant measure to your leadership, and we thank you for your efforts in this critical policy area.

Very truly yours,

P. MICHAEL WALKER,
*Vice President, Assistant General Counsel
and Chief Intellectual Property Counsel.*

JUNE 29, 2011.

Hon. HARRY REID,
*Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.*

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
*Republican Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR LEADERS REID AND MCCONNELL: We are writing to encourage you to bring H.R. 1249, the "Leahy-Smith America Invents Act," to the Senate floor at your earliest possible convenience and send the bill to the President's desk to be signed into law. H.R. 1249 closely mirrors the Senate bill that passed earlier this year by an overwhelming 95-5 vote.

Patent reform is essential legislation: enactment will spur innovation creating jobs and ensure that the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) has the tools necessary to maintain our patent system as the best in the world. We strongly support the improved re-examination procedures in H.R. 1249, which will allow the experts at PTO to review low-quality business-method patents against the best prior art. Equally important, the bill provides the PTO with increased and predictable funding. This certainty is absolutely critical if the PTO is to properly allocate resources and hire and retain the expertise necessary to benefit the entire user-community.

This bill has been nearly a decade in the making and is supported by a vast cross-section of all types of inventors and businesses. It is time to send patent reform to the President for signature, and we strongly encourage the Senate to take up and pass H.R. 1249 without delay.

Sincerely,

American Bankers Association, American Council of Life Insurers, American Financial Services Association, American Insurance Association, The Clearing House Association, Consumer Bankers Association, Credit Union National Association, The Financial Services Roundtable, The Independent Community Bankers of America, Mortgage Bankers Association, National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies, Property Casualty Insurers Association of America, Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to reserve the remainder of my time, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I wish to respond to my chairman's comments. First of all, what we have proposed came out of the Judiciary Committee in the House 32 to 3. In other words, only three people on the Judiciary Committee in the House objected to this.

The other point I wish to make is the letter from Chairman ROGERS does not bind the next Appropriations Committee chairman. I think everybody would agree with that. It only binds him and it only binds him as long as he honors his commitment. I have no doubt he will honor his commitment as long as he is chairman.

The third point I wish to make is what the House has set up doesn't make sure the funds go to the PTO, it just means they can't go somewhere else. That is what they have set up. They do not have to allow all the funds collected to go to the PTO. So they can reserve \$200 million or \$300 million a year and put it over there in a reserve fund and send it to the Treasury which will cause us to borrow less, but the money won't necessarily go to the PTO. There is nothing that mandates the fees collected go to the Patent and Trademark Office.

I understand my chairman. I understand his frustration with trying to get this bill through, and I understand that he sees this as a compromise. I don't. I understand we are going to differ on that and agree to disagree.

With that, I yield the floor to allow the chairman to speak, and I reserve the remainder of my time.

Mr. LEAHY. I thank the Senator. I reserve the remainder of my time and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LEAHY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

FLOODING IN VERMONT

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I wish to pick up on a point the senior Senator from Vermont made earlier today. Both he and I have had the opportunity to travel throughout the State of Vermont to visit many of our towns which have been devastated by one of the worst natural disasters in our State's history.

We have seen in the southern part of the State—in Wilmington, for exam-

ple—the entire business district severely damaged. I have seen in central Vermont a mobile home park almost completely wiped out, with people who are in their eighties and are now having to look to find new places in which to live. I have seen a public housing project for seniors in Brattleboro severely damaged. A lot of seniors there are now having to find new places to live. We have seen the State office complex in Waterbury—the largest State office building in the State, housing 1,700 Vermont workers, the nerve center of the State—devastated. Nobody is at work there today.

We have seen hundreds of bridges and roads destroyed, and right now, as we speak, there are rains coming in the southern part of the State, causing more flooding, more damage. We have seen a wonderful gentleman from Rutland lose his life because he was doing his job to make sure the people of that area were protected. So we have seen damage the likes of which we have never seen in our lifetime.

What I would say—and I know I speak for the senior Senator from Vermont as well—is that our country is the United States of America—the United States of America. What that means is we are a nation such that when disaster strikes in Louisiana or Mississippi in terms of Hurricane Katrina—I know the Presiding Officer remembers the outpouring of support from Vermont for the people in that region. All of our hearts went out to the people in Joplin, MO, when that community suffered an incredible tornado that took 150 or so lives and devastated that city. What America is about and what a nation is about is that when disaster hits one part of the country, we unite as a nation to give support to help those communities, those businesses, those homeowners who have been hurt get back on their feet.

I know the senior Senator from Vermont has made this point many times: Right now we are spending billions of dollars rebuilding communities in Afghanistan and Iraq. Well, I think I speak for the vast majority of the people in this country and in my State of Vermont that if we can spend billions rebuilding communities in Iraq and Afghanistan, we surely can rebuild communities in Vermont, New Jersey, North Carolina, and other parts of the United States of America that have been devastated by Hurricane Irene.

I think as a body, as a Congress, the House and Senate have to work as expeditiously as we can to come up with the funds to help rebuild all of the communities that have been so severely damaged by this terrible flood. I look forward to working with my colleagues to make that happen.

With that, I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANDERS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, when the America Invents Act was first considered by the Senate last March, I spoke about the contributions Vermonters have made to innovation in America since the founding of our Nation. The distinguished Presiding Officer and I know about what Vermont has done. I wish to remind everybody that from the first patent ever issued by our government to cutting-edge research and inventions produced today Vermonters have been at the forefront of innovation since the Nation's birth.

Many may think of our Green Mountain State as being an unlikely hotbed of innovation, but we have actually over the last few years issued the most patents per capita of any State in the country—actually more patents than a lot of States that are larger than we are. It is a small State, to be sure, but it is one that is bursting with creativity.

The rich history of the inventive spirit of Vermont is long and diverse. Vermonters throughout have pursued innovations from the time of the Industrial Revolution to the computer age. Vermont inventors discovered new ways to weigh large objects as well as ways to enjoy the outdoors. They have perfected new ways to traverse rivers and more environmentally friendly ways to live in our homes. Over the years, as America has grown and prospered, Vermont's innovative and creative spirit has made the lives of all Americans better and possibly made them more productive. The patent system in this country has been the catalyst that spurred these inventors to take the risks necessary to bring these ideas to the marketplace.

The story of innovation in Vermont is truly the American story. It has been driven by independent inventors and small businesses taking chances on new ideas. A strong patent system allowed these ideas to flourish and brought our country unprecedented economic growth. These same kinds of inventors exist in Vermont today, as they do throughout our great country.

But these inventors need to be assured that the patent system that served those who came before them so well can do the same today. The America Invents Act will provide that assurance for years to come.

My distinguished colleague from Vermont and I have both spoken several times on the Senate floor since the Senate came back in session about the devastation in Vermont. I cannot help but think of the devastation that Irene has caused in so many of our commu-

nities at home. Just as Senator SANDERS and Congressman WELCH and Governor Shumlin, I have seen the damage and heartbreak firsthand. But I also saw the fruits of innovation that will help bring recovery to communities throughout Vermont: the heavy machinery that helped to clear debris and that will build our roads and our bridges and our homes; the helicopters that brought food and water to stranded residents; and the bottles that allowed safe drinking water to reach them.

The American patent system has helped to develop and refine countless technologies that drive our country in times of prosperity but also in times of tragedy. It is critical we ensure that this system remains the best in the world.

Vermont and the rest of the country deserve the world's best patent system. The innovators of the past had exactly that, but we can ensure that the innovators who are among us today and those who will come in succeeding generations will have it as well by passing the America Invents Act.

I am proud of the inventive contributions that Vermonters have made since the founding of this country. I hope to honor their legacy. I hope to inspire the next generation by securing the passage of this legislation.

I have been here for a number of years, but this is one of those historic moments. The patent system is one of the few things enshrined in our Constitution, but it is also something that has not been updated for over half a century. We can do that. We can do that today with our vote. We can complete this bill. We can send it to the President. The President has assured me he will sign it. We will make America stronger. We will create jobs. We will have a better system. And it will not cost American taxpayers anything. That is something we ought to do.

Mr. President, the America Invents Act is supported by dozens of businesses and organizations, large and small, active in all 50 States.

The America Invents Act is the product of more than 6 years of debate and compromise. The stakeholders have crossed the spectrum—from small businesses to high-tech companies; financial institutions to labor organizations; life sciences to bar associations.

More than 180 companies, associations, and organizations have endorsed the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act. I ask unanimous consent that a list of these supporters be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

LIST OF SUPPORTERS OF THE AMERICA INVENTS ACT

3M; Abbott Adobe Systems Incorporated; Advanced Micro Devices; Air Liquide; Air Products; American Bar Association; Amer-

ican Bankers Association; American Council of Life Insurers; American Council on Education; American Financial Services Association; American Institute of Certified Public Accountants; American Insurance Association; American Intellectual Property Law Association; American Trucking Association; Apple, Inc.; Applied Materials, Inc.; Aruba Networks, Inc.; Assoc. for Competitive Technology; Assoc. of American Medical Colleges.

Association of American Universities; Association of Public and Land-grant Universities; Association of University Technology Managers; AstraZeneca; Atheros Communications, Inc.; Autodesk, Inc.; Avaya Inc.; Avid Technology, Inc.; Bank of America; Baxter Healthcare Corporation; Beckman Coulter; Biotechnology Industry Organization; Borealis Ventures; Boston Scientific; BP; Bridgestone American Holdings, Inc.; Bristol-Meyers Squibb; Business Software Alliance; CA, Inc.; Cadence Design Systems, Inc.; California Healthcare Institute.

Capital One; Cardinal Intellectual Property; Cargill, Inc.; Caterpillar; Charter Communications; CheckFree; Cisco Systems Citigroup; The Clearing House Association; Coalition for Patent and Trademark Information Distribution; Collexis Holdings, Inc.; Computer & Communications Ind. Assoc.; Computing Technology Industry Association; Consumer Bankers Association; Corning; Council on Government Relations; Courion; Credit Union National Association; Cummins, Inc.; Dell; The Dow Chemical Company.

DuPont; Eastman Chemical Company; Eastman Kodak; eBay Inc.; Electronics for Imaging; Eli Lilly and Company; EMC Corporation; EnerNOC; ExxonMobil; Facebook; Fidelity Investments; Financial Planning Association; FotoTime; General Electric; General Mills; Genzyme; GlaxoSmithKline; Google Inc.; Hampton Roads Technology Council; Henkel Corporation.

Hoffman-LaRoche; HSBC North America; Huntington National Bank; IAC; IBM; Illinois Technology Association; Illinois Tool Works; Independent Community Bankers of America; Independent Inventors; Infineon Technologies; Information Technology Council; Integrated DNA Technologies; Intel; Intellectual Property Owners Association; International Trademark Association; International Intellectual Property Institute; Intuit, Inc.; Iron Mountain; Johnson & Johnson; Kalido.

Lexmark International, Inc. Logitech, Inc.; Massachusetts Technology Leadership Council; Medtronic; Merck & Co, Inc.; Micron Technology, Inc.; Microsoft; Millennium Pharmaceuticals; Milliken and Company; Molecular; Monster.com; Motorola; Mortgage Bankers Association; National Association of Federal Credit Unions; National Association of Manufacturers; National Assoc. of Mutual Insurance Cos.; National Association of Realtors; National Semiconductor Corporation; National Retail Federation; National Treasury Employees Union; Native American IP Enterprise Council; Net Coalition; Netflix, Inc.; Network Appliance, Inc.; Newegg Inc.; News Corporation; Northrop Grumman; Novartis; Numenta, Inc.; Nvidia OpenAir, Inc.; Oracle; Overstock.com; Partnership for New York City; Patent Cafe.com, Inc.; PepsiCo, Inc.; Pfizer; PhRMA; Procter & Gamble Company; Property Casualty Insurers Association of America; Red Hat.

Reed Elsevier Inc.; RIM; Salesforce.com, Inc.; SanDisk Corporation; San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce; SAP America, Inc.; SAS Institute; Seagate Technology,

LLC; Sebit, LLC; Securities Industry & Financial Markets Association; SkillSoft; Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council; Software Information and Industry Association; Sun Microsystems, Inc.; Symantec Corporation; Tax Justice Network USA; TECHQuest Pennsylvania; Teradata Corporation; Texas Instruments; Texas Society of CPAs.

The Financial Services Roundtable; Toyota Trimble Navigation Limited; The United Inventors Association of America; United Steelworkers; United Technologies; U.S. Chamber of Commerce; USG Corporation; VeriSign Inc.; Verizon; Visa Inc.; Visi-Trak Worldwide, LLC; VMware, Inc.; Vuze, Inc.; Western Digital Technologies, Inc.; Weyerhaeuser; Yahoo! Inc.; Ze-gen; Zimmer; ZSL, Inc.

Mr. LEAHY. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. McCASKILL). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KERRY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KERRY. Madam President, regarding the parliamentary situation, how much time remains for Senator CANTWELL?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Thirteen minutes remains.

Mr. KERRY. It is my understanding that Senator CANTWELL wants to preserve a component of that, so I would, on behalf of Senator CANTWELL, yield myself 5 minutes at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 600

Mr. KERRY. Madam President, I appreciate the comments of our friend from Alabama, Senator SESSIONS, regarding his amendment to strike section 37 of the patent reform bill, but I disagree with him on substantive terms, and I ask our colleagues to look carefully at the substance of this amendment and the importance of this amendment with respect to precedent not for one company from Massachusetts or for one entity but for companies all over the country and for the application of patent law as it ought to be applied.

The only thing section 37 does—the only thing—is it codifies what a Federal district court has already said and implements what the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is already doing. There is no breaking of new ground here. This is codifying a Federal district court, codifying what the Patent Office has done, and, in fact, codifying common sense. It is putting into effect what is the right decision with respect to how we treat patents in our country.

Section 37 is, in fact, a very important clarification of a currently confusing deadline for filing patent term extension applications under the Hatch-Waxman Act. Frankly, this is a

clarification, I would say to the Senator from Alabama, that benefits everybody in the country. In fact, this is a clarification which has already been put into effect for other types of patents that were once upon a time treated with the same anomaly. They rectified that. They haven't rectified it with respect to this particular section of patent law.

So all we are doing is conforming to appropriate law, conforming to the standards the Patent Office applies, and conforming for all companies in the country, for any company that might be affected similarly. If this were a bailout for a single firm or a pharmaceutical company, as some have tried to suggest it might be, why in the world did a similar provision previously get reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee by a vote of 14 to 2? How in the world could this provision have then passed the House of Representatives as it did? And why would many House Republicans have supported it as they did? The answer is very simple: Because it is the right thing to do under the law and under the common sense of how we want patents treated in the filing process.

The law as currently written, frankly, was being wrongly applied by the Patent and Trademark Office. And you don't have to take my word for that; that is what a Federal court has said on more than one occasion. Each time, the court has ruled that it was the Patent and Trademark Office, not an individual firm called WilmerHale or Medicines Company—not those two—that made a mistake.

Let me make that very clear so the record is as clear as it can be. The current law as it is written says that “to obtain an extension of the term of a patent under this section, the owner of record of the patent or its agent shall submit an application to the Director. . . . Such an application may be only submitted within the sixty-day period beginning on the date the product received permission” under the appropriate provision of law.

Now, the FDA reasonably interprets this language to mean that if something is received after the close of business on a given business day, it is deemed to be received the next business day. Under this interpretation, the filing by the Medicines Company was indisputably timely.

So my colleagues should not come to the floor and take away from entities that are trying to compete and be in the marketplace over some technicality: the suggestion that because something was filed electronically on a particular given day at 5 o'clock in the afternoon when people had gone home—they weren't open—that somehow they deem that not to have been appropriately filed.

But rather than accept that common-sense interpretation, the Patent and

Trademark Office told the Medicines Company it was late. They just decided that. They said: You are late, despite the fact that interpretation contradicted the same-business-day rule the FDA uses when interpreting the very same statute. So as a result, the issue went to court, and guess what. The court told the PTO it was wrong. A Federal judge found that the Patent Office and FDA had been applying inconsistent interpretations of the exact same statutory language in the Hatch-Waxman Act. The FDA uses one interpretation that has the effect of extending its own internal deadlines, but the PTO insisted on using a different interpretation. The result was a “heads I win, tails you lose.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. KERRY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 additional minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KERRY. For companies investing in innovative medicines, the court found that the PTO failed to provide any plausible explanation for this inconsistent approach. It further found that the PTO's interpretation had the effect of depriving applicants of a portion of their time for filing an application.

After considering all the relevant factors, the court adopted the FDA's interpretation. So the court told the PTO that they were wrong and it was they, and not the Medicines Company, who made a mistake.

So this is not an earmark. It isn't, as Senator SESSIONS contends, a single-company bailout. It is a codification of a court ruling. It is a clarification. It is common sense. It puts a sensible court decision into legislative language, and it is legislative language that applies to all companies across the country equally. It doesn't single out any particular company but amends the patent law for the benefit of all applicants.

I ask my colleagues to oppose the Sessions amendment on the merits. More importantly, we need to move forward with this important bill on which Chairman LEAHY and Senator GRASSLEY have worked so hard. Passing the Sessions amendment would stop that. It would require a House-Senate conference on the bill, and it would at best seriously delay and at worst make it impossible to exact patent reform during this Congress. So this is, on the merits, for all companies. This is common sense. This is current law. This is current practice. So I ask my colleagues accordingly to vote appropriately.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at 4 p.m. the Senate proceed to the votes in relation to the amendments and passage of H.R. 1249, the America Invents Act, with all other provisions of the previous order

remaining in effect; that the final 10 minutes of debate be equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee or their designees, with the chairman controlling the final 5 minutes; further, that there be 4 minutes equally divided between proponents and opponents prior to each vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KERRY. Madam President, I reserve the remainder of Senator CANTWELL's time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. May I inquire of the Chair how much time remains for me to speak before getting to the last order?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 4½ minutes remaining.

TEXAS WILDFIRES

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I wish to speak for about 4½ minutes on the natural disasters that have been confronting our Nation and in particular Texas, where the State has had about 3½ million acres of land burned, with many people now finding themselves literally homeless as a result of fires that many of my colleagues have seen on TV or watched on the Internet but which, frankly, do not capture the scale of the devastation.

Just to give you an idea of the scope of this natural disaster, so far, in 2011, more than 18,000 wildfires have been reported in the State. As I mentioned, it has burned an area roughly the size of Connecticut. Nearly 2,900 structures have been lost and, unfortunately, there has also been a loss of life in these fires, as well as 5,000 Texans have now been evacuated from their homes. Unfortunately, these fires have been a feature of life in parts of Texas for most of the year because we are in the middle of a historic drought where, because of La Nina, the weather pattern, we have had an abnormally dry year, and, indeed, it has caused more than \$5 billion of agricultural losses alone as a result of that drought.

I have not only seen some of the devastation myself before I left Austin, but I have also talked to a number of people on the ground who are well informed.

Representative Tim Kleinschmidt, who represents the Texas district east of Austin in sort of the Bastrop area, told me that as many as 1,000 people have been evacuated from their homes in that area and have been living in shelters since Sunday. Water and electricity are also down in many areas, and the wind has unfortunately swept the fire into other areas and now is only about 30 percent contained.

I have also talked to some of our other local leaders, our county judges, such as Grimes County judge Betty Shiflett, who told me that while they

have no unmet needs right now, they are very concerned about the threat to life and property and are working as hard as they can to contain the fires.

I have also talked to our outstanding chief of the Texas Department of Emergency Management and the Director of the Texas Forest Service who tell me that as many as 2,000 Americans from places other than Texas have come to the State to help fight these fires and help protect property and life.

We have had a good Federal response to one extent, and that is the U.S. Forest Service has provided planes, bulldozers, and other equipment. Unfortunately, we have seen the White House so far not extend the disaster declaration beyond the original 52 counties approved for FEMA assistance on May 3. I should say that assistance ran out on May 3, more than 4 months ago. Suffice it to say, the disaster declaration should be extended to cover the rest of the State, at least 200 more Texas counties that need Federal assistance.

I am informed from reading the newspaper that President Obama reached out to Governor Perry yesterday to extend his condolences. But, frankly, more than condolences, what we need are the resources to help fight these fires to deal with the disaster and to help get people back into their homes as soon as possible.

I would just say in conclusion, Madam President, that the majority leader has raised the question of whether disaster relief should be paid for or whether it should be borrowed money. I come down on the side of believing that we can't keep borrowing money we don't have. That is what the American people keep telling us. That is what the last election was all about. That is what the financial markets are telling us, and I believe the American people believe we have plenty of money in the Federal Government for Congress to do its job by setting priorities and funding those priorities.

I believe emergency assistance to the people who have been hit hardest by these natural disasters is one of those priorities. We should fund it instead of funding wasteful spending and duplicative programs and engaging in failed Keynesian stimulus schemes.

I yield the floor.

SECTION 5

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, a significant change contained in H.R. 1249 from S. 23, the version of the bill debated and overwhelmingly passed by the Senate earlier this year, is the inclusion of the defense of prior commercial use against infringement of a later granted patent. Specifically, section 5 of H.R. 1249 creates a prior user right for processes, or machines, or compositions of matter used in a manufacturing or other commercial process, that would otherwise infringe a claimed invention if: (1) the person commercially used the subject matter

in the United States, either in connection with an internal commercial use or an actual arm's length sale or other arm's length commercial transfer of a useful end result of such commercial use; and (2) the commercial use occurred at least one year before the earlier of either the effective filing date of the claimed invention or the date on which the claimed invention was disclosed to the public in a manner that qualified as an exception from prior art.

As the distinguished chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary knows, such prior user rights, if properly crafted and understood, can be of great benefit to keeping high paying jobs in this country by giving U.S. companies a realistic option of keeping internally used technologies as trade secrets.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, my colleague and friend from Missouri is correct Prior user rights, if properly crafted and asserted, can be of great benefit to keeping high-paying jobs here at home.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank my good friend. A robust prior user right is not needed in today's first-to-invent regime. This is because, if a prior-user was sued for infringement, the patent could be invalidated under section 102(g)(2) because the prior-user was the first-to-invent. However, should H.R. 1249's first-to-file system become law, the prior invention bar to patentability under section 102(g)(2) will be eliminated. This switch to first-to-file then presents the question of whether a non-patent-filing manufacturer should be given some prior user rights that would continue to allow these non-patented internal uses. Section 5 of H.R. 1249 attempts to settle the question by granting prior user rights but only when the prior use is for certain "commercial" uses.

The prior user rights provided under section 5 of H.R. 1249 will allow developers of innovative technologies to keep internally used technologies in-house without publication in a patent. This will help U.S. industry to keep jobs at home and provide a basis for restoring and maintaining a technology competitive edge for the U.S. economy. For these reasons, I believe the Senate should support this valuable addition to the America Invents Act and I applaud the leadership of my friend from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. I thank the Senator.

Mr. BLUNT. However, as noted a moment ago, the utility of the prior user defense is linked to its clarity surrounding its scope and its limitations. Many innovative companies may be reticent to opt for the protection of prior user rights for fear that the defense may not stand against a charge of infringement by a later patent owner who sues for infringement. Many innovators may feel the need to rush to the patent office in order to assure their long term freedom to operate. I

do not need to belabor my colleagues with the attendant benefit the publication of patents provides to global competitors who are not respectful of intellectual property rights.

The reason for this detrimental reliance on patents for internal technology is that the utility and reliability of section 5 is dependent on the prior use being an "internal commercial use"—a term for which there is no readily available judicial precedent. Should section 5 of H.R. 1249 become law, an innovator and his legal counsel need some reasonable assurance that an internal use will, in fact, be deemed to be a commercial use protectable under the law. These assurances are all the more important for U.S. companies in the biotechnology field with extraordinarily long lead times for commercialization of its products. Does my colleague from Vermont understand the concern I am raising?

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I will say to my good friend that he is not the first to raise this issue with me and the other Members of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees who have worked on this bill. I have discussed section 5 at length with the distinguished House Judiciary Committee Chairman LAMAR SMITH. Perhaps I can help provide some of the needed clarity for my colleague concerning what we intend to be within the confines of the definition of "internal commercial use" as it is used in section 5 of the bill.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank my colleague for his willingness to discuss this matter here on the floor of the Senate. It is my reading of the bill's language under section 5 that prior user rights shall vest when innovative technology is first put into continuous internal use in the business of the enterprise with the objective of developing commercializable products. Does the chairman of the Judiciary Committee share this understanding?

Mr. LEAHY. Yes. My colleague and I are in agreement that it is our intention, as the sponsors of this comprehensive measure, that the prior user right set forth in section 5 of H.R. 1249 shall vest when innovative technology is first put into continuous internal use in the business of an innovator's enterprise with the objective of making a commercializable product.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank my colleague from Vermont. If he would permit me to clarify this matter further. Am I correct in understanding that, so long as that use begins more than 1 year prior to the effective filing date of a subsequent patent or publication by a later inventor, the initiation of continuous internal use by an original innovator in a manufacturing of a product should guarantee the defense of prior use regardless of whether the product is a prototype with a need for quality improvements?

Mr. LEAHY. I thank my colleague for the question. His understanding is correct. So long as the prior use begins more than 1 year prior to the effective filing date of a subsequent patent or publication by a later inventor, the initiation of continuous internal use in the manufacture of products should guarantee the defense of prior use.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank my colleague. Let me illustrate by showing the impact of the ambivalence of the statutory language on agricultural research which is a major industry not only in Midwestern States like Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Illinois, but in States ranging from California to Connecticut from Texas to Minnesota from North Carolina to Idaho. Virtually every State in this Union has an investment in agricultural research. The productivity of U.S. farmers provides a significant positive input to the U.S. balance of trade due in large part to the high technology adopted by U.S. farmers. That high technology is provided from multiple sources ranging from research at land grant universities, the USDA and private for-profit companies all of whom have internal technology that provides a competitive edge for maintaining agricultural competitive advantage for the U.S. economy.

To specifically illustrate let us consider that U.S. researchers are leading the world in discovering genetic markers that are associated with important agronomic traits which serves as breeding production tools. Instead of teaching foreign competitors these production tools, a preferred alternative may be to rely on prior user rights for such innovative crop breeding technology which is used in the manufacture of new plant varieties although the use may only occur once a year after each growing season and for many years to selectively manufacture a perfected crop product that is sold.

As another example let us consider an innovation in making potential new genetically modified products all of which need years of testing to verify their viability, repeatability and commercial value. Of the thousands of new potential prototype products made, only a few may survive initial screening to begin years of field trials. We should agree that a continuously used process qualifies as internal commercial use despite the fact that many prototypes will fail to have commercial merit.

As my examples illustrate, for section 5 to have its intended benefit, internal commercial use must vest when an innovator reduces technology to practice and takes diligent steps to maintain continuous, regular commercial use of the technology in manufacturing operations of the enterprise.

Mr. LEAHY. My colleague is correct in his reasoning and his understanding of what is intended by section 5. The

methods used by Edison in producing multiple failures for electric light bulbs were no less commercial uses before the ultimate production of a commercially successful light bulb. Let us agree that internally used methods and materials do qualify for the defense of prior user rights when there is evidence of a commitment to put the innovation into use followed by a series of diligent events demonstrating that the innovation has been put into continuous—into a business activity with a purpose of developing new products for the benefit of mankind.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank my colleague.

SECTION 5

Mr. KOHL. Madam President, I have long supported reforming our patent system and was pleased with the bill the Senate passed in March. It was not what everyone wanted, but it was an effective compromise that would spur innovation and economic growth. I am disappointed with changes the House made to the bill, specifically the expansion of the "prior user rights" defense a provision which raises serious concerns for the University of Wisconsin's patent licensing organization which fosters innovative discoveries, spawning dozens of small businesses and spurring economic growth in Wisconsin.

Let me explain why. A patent grants an innovator the right to exclude others from using an invention in exchange for making that invention public. The publication of patents and the research behind them advance further innovation and discovery. Anyone who uses the invention without permission is liable for infringement, and someone who was using the invention prior to the patent has only a limited defense for infringement. The purpose of limiting this defense to infringement is to encourage publication and disclosure of inventions to foster innovation. So by expanding the prior user defense we run the real risk of discouraging disclosure through the patent system. This is concerning to the University of Wisconsin because they depend on publication and disclosure to further research and innovation.

I appreciate the inclusion of a carve-out to the prior user rights defense provision so that it does not apply to patents owned by a university "or a technology transfer organization whose primary purpose is to facilitate the commercialization of technologies developed by one or more such institutions of higher education." However, I have some concerns about how the carve out will work in practice and I would like to clarify its application.

It is my understanding that the term "primary purpose" in this exception is intended to be consistent with and have a similar scope as the "primary functions" language in the Bayh-Dole Act. In particular, if a nonprofit entity is entitled to receive assignment of inventions pursuant to section 207(c)(7) of

title 35 because one of its primary functions is the management of inventions, presumably it falls under the primary purpose prong of the prior user rights exception. Is that the Senator's understanding of the provision?

Mr. LEAHY. The senior Senator from Wisconsin is correct. That is also my view of the exception. I understand the Senator has consistently opposed the expansion of prior user rights, but I agree with his analysis of the scope of the exception in section 5 of H.R. 1249.

SECTION 18

Mr. PRYOR. I would like to ask my colleague from Vermont, the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee and lead sponsor of the America Invents Act before us today, to further clarify an issue relating to Section 18 of that legislation. Ideally, I would have liked to modify the Section 18 process in accordance with the Cantwell amendment. It is of crucial importance to me that we clarify the intent of the process and implement it as narrowly as possible.

As I understand it, Section 18 is intended to enable the PTO to weed out improperly issued patents for abstract methods of doing business. Conversely, I understand that Section 18 is not intended to allow owners of valid patents to be harassed or subjected to the substantial cost and uncertainty of the untested review process established therein. Yet I have heard concerns that Section 18 would allow just such harassment because it enables review of patents whose claims have been found valid both through previous reexaminations by the PTO and jury trials. In my mind, patent claims that have withstood multiple administrative and judicial reviews should be considered presumptively valid. It would not only be unfair to the patent holder but would be a waste of both PTO's time and resources to subject such presumptively valid patent claims to yet another administrative review. It would be particularly wasteful and injurious to legitimate patent holders if the "transitional review" only considered prior art that was already considered in the previous administrative or judicial proceedings. Can the Chairman enlighten me as to how the PTO will ensure that the "transitional process" does not become a tool to harass owners of valid patents that have survived multiple administrative and judicial reviews?"

Mr. LEAHY. The proceeding created by Section 18 is modeled on the proposed post-grant review proceeding under Section 6 of the Act. As in other post-grant proceedings, the claims should typically be evaluated to determine whether they, among other things, meet the enablement and written description requirements of the act, and contain patentable subject matter under the standards defined in the statutes, case law, and as explained in relevant USPTO guidance. While the

program will generally otherwise function on the same terms as other post-grant proceedings, the USPTO should implement Section 18 in a manner that avoids attempts to use the transitional program against patent owners in a harassing way. Specifically, to initiate a post issuance review under the new post grant or transitional proceedings, it is not enough that the request show a substantial new question of patentability but must establish that "it is more likely than not that at least 1 of the claims challenged in the petition is unpatentable." The heightened requirement established by this bill means that these proceedings are even better shielded from abuse than the reexamination proceedings have been. In fact, the new higher standard for post issuance review was created to make it even more difficult for these procedures to be used as tools for harassment. Therefore, the rule that bars the PTO from reconsidering issues previously considered during examination or in an earlier reexamination still applies. While a prior district court decision upholding the validity of a patent may not preclude the PTO from considering the same issues resolved in that proceeding, PTO officials must still consider the court's decision and deviate from its findings only to the extent reasonable. As a result, I expect the USPTO would not initiate proceedings where the petition does not raise a substantial new question of patentability than those that had already been considered by the USPTO in earlier proceedings. Does that answer my colleague's question?"

Mr. PRYOR. I thank my colleague for that explanation.

SECTION 18

Mr. DURBIN. I would like to clarify an issue with my colleague from New York, who is the author of Section 18. Legislative history created during earlier consideration of this legislation makes clear that the business method patent problem that Section 18 is intended to address is fundamentally an issue of patent quality. Does the Senator agree that poor quality business method patents generally do not arise from the operation of American companies who use business method patents to develop and sell products and employ American workers in doing so?

Mr. SCHUMER. My friend from Illinois is correct. I have previously inserted into the RECORD a March 3 letter from the Independent Community Bankers of America which stated that "Under the current system, business method patents of questionable quality are used to force community banks to pay meritless settlements to entities that may have patents assigned to them, but who have invented nothing, offer no product or service and employ no one. . . . The Schumer-Kyl amendment is critical to stopping this economic harm."

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the Senator. I want to point out that there are a number of examples of companies that employ hundreds or thousands of American workers in developing and commercializing financial sector products that are based on business method patents. For example, some companies that possess patents categorized by the PTO as class 705 business method patents have used the patents to develop novel software tools and graphical user interfaces that have been widely commercialized and used within the electronic trading industry to implement trading and asset allocation strategies. Additionally, there are companies that possess class 705 patents which have used the patents to manufacture and commercialize novel machinery to count, sort, and authenticate currency and paper instruments. Are these the types of patents that are the target of Section 18?

Mr. SCHUMER. No. Patent holders who have generated productive inventions and have provided large numbers of American workers with good jobs through the development and commercialization of those patents are not the ones that have created the business method patent problem. While merely having employees and conducting business would not disqualify a patentholder from Section 18 review, generally speaking, it is not the understanding of Congress that such patents would be reviewed and invalidated under Section 18.

Mr. COBURN. Madam President, today, I rise to discuss section 18 of H.R. 1249, the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act. Consistent with the statement in the RECORD by Chairman LAMAR SMITH on June 23, 2011, I understand that section 18 will not make all business method patents subject to review by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Rather, section 18 is designed to address the problem of low-quality business method patents that are commonly associated with the Federal circuit's 1998 State Street decision. I further understand that section 18 of the bill specifically exempts "patents for technological inventions" from this new review at USPTO.

Patents for technological inventions are those patents whose novelty turns on a technological innovation over the prior art and are concerned with a technical problem which is solved with a technical solution. The technological innovation exception does not exclude a patent from section 18 simply because it recites technology. Inventions related to manufacturing and machines that do not simply use known technology to accomplish a novel business process would be excluded from review under section 18.

For example, section 18 would not cover patents related to the manufacture and distribution of machinery to count, sort, and authenticate currency.

It is the intention of section 18 to not review mechanical inventions related to the manufacture and distribution of machinery to count, sort, and authenticate currency like change sorters and machines that scan paper instruments, including currency, whose novelty turns on a technological innovation over the prior art. These types of patents would not be eligible for review under this program.

American innovation is an important engine for job growth and our economic revitalization. To this end, the timely consideration of patent applications and the issuance of quality patents are critical components and should remain the primary goal of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Mr. KYL. Madam President, I rise today to say a few words about aspects of the present bill that differ from the bill that passed the Senate in March. I commented at length on the Senate bill when that bill was before this body. Since the present bill and the Senate bill are largely identical, I will not repeat what I said previously, but will simply refer to my previous remarks, at 157 Cong. Rec. 1368–80, daily ed. March 8, 2011, which obviously apply to the present bill as well.

As I mentioned earlier, Mr. SMITH negotiated his bill with Senators LEAHY, GRASSLEY, and me as he moved the bill through the House of Representatives. The final House bill thus represents a compromise, one which the Senate supporters of patent reform have agreed to support in the Senate. The provisions that Mr. SMITH has added to the bill are ones that we have all had an opportunity to consider and discuss, and which I fully support.

Section 19(d) of the present bill adds a new section 299 to title 35. This new section bars joinder of accused infringers as codefendants, or consolidation of their cases for trial, if the only common fact and transaction among the defendants is that they are alleged to have infringed the same patent. This provision effectively codifies current law as it has been applied everywhere outside of the Eastern District of Texas. See *Rudd v. Lux Products Corp.*, 2011 WL 148052. (N.D. Ill. January 12, 2011), and the committee report for this bill at pages 54 through 55.

H.R. 1249 as introduced applied only to joinder of defendants in one action. As amended in the mark up and in the floor managers' amendment, the bill extends the limit on joinder to also bar consolidation of trials of separate actions. When this change was first proposed, I was skeptical that it was necessary. A review of legal authority, however, reveals that under current law, even if parties cannot be joined as defendants under rule 20, their cases can still be consolidated for trial under rule 42. For example, as the district court held in *Ohio v. Louis Trauth Dairy, Inc.*, 163 F.R.D. 500, 503 (S.D.

Ohio 1995), "[e]ven when actions are improperly joined, it is sometimes proper to consolidate them for trial." The same conclusion was reached by the court in *Kenvin v. Newburger, Loeb & Co.*, 37 F.R.D. 473 (S.D.N.Y. 1965), which ordered severance because of misjoinder of parties, concluding that the claims against the defendants did not arise out of single transaction or occurrence, but then suggested the desirability of a joint trial, and expressly made its severance order without prejudice to a subsequent motion for consolidation under rule 42(a). Similarly, in *Stanford v. TVA*, 18 F.R.D. 152 (M.D. Tenn. 1955), a court found that the defendants had been misjoined, since the claims arose out of independent transactions, and ordered them severed. The court subsequently found, however, that a common question existed and ordered the defendants' cases consolidated for trial.

That these cases are not just outliers is confirmed by Federal Practice and Procedure, which comments as follows at §2382:

Although as a general proposition it is true that Rule 42(a) should be construed in harmony with the other civil rules, it would be a mistake to assume that the standard for consolidation is the same as that governing the original joinder of parties or claims. . . . [M]ore than one party can be joined on a side under Rule 20(a) only if there is asserted on behalf of or against all of them one or more claims for relief arising out of the same transaction or occurrence or series of transactions or occurrences. This is in addition to the requirement that there be some question of law or fact common to all the parties. But the existence of a common question by itself is enough to permit consolidation under Rule 42(a), even if the claims arise out of independent transactions.

If a court that was barred from joining defendants in one action could instead simply consolidate their cases for trial under rule 42, section 299's purpose of allowing unrelated patent defendants to insist on being tried separately would be undermined. Section 299 thus adopts a common standard for both joinder of defendants and consolidation of their cases for trial.

Another set of changes made by the House bill concerns the coordination of inter partes and postgrant review with civil litigation. The Senate bill, at proposed sections 315(a) and 325(a), would have barred a party or his real party in interest from seeking or maintaining an inter partes or postgrant review after he has filed a declaratory-judgment action challenging the validity of the patent. The final bill will still bar seeking IPR or PGR after a declaratory-judgment action has been filed, but will allow a declaratory-judgment action to be filed on the same day or after the petition for IPR or PGR was filed. Such a declaratory-judgment action, however, will be automatically stayed by the court unless the patent owner countersues for infringement. The purpose of allowing the declara-

tory-judgment action to be filed is to allow the accused infringer to file the first action and thus be presumptively entitled to his choice of venue.

The House bill also extends the deadline for allowing an accused infringer to seek inter partes review after he has been sued for infringement. The Senate bill imposed a 6-month deadline on seeking IPR after the patent owner has filed an action for infringement. The final bill extends this deadline, at proposed section 315(b), to 1 year. High-technology companies, in particular, have noted that they are often sued by defendants asserting multiple patents with large numbers of vague claims, making it difficult to determine in the first few months of the litigation which claims will be relevant and how those claims are alleged to read on the defendant's products. Current law imposes no deadline on seeking inter partes reexamination. And in light of the present bill's enhanced estoppels, it is important that the section 315(b) deadline afford defendants a reasonable opportunity to identify and understand the patent claims that are relevant to the litigation. It is thus appropriate to extend the section 315(b) deadline to one year.

The final bill also extends intervening rights to inter partes and postgrant review. The bill does not allow new matter to be introduced to support claims in IPR and PGR and does not allow broadening of claims in those proceedings. The aspect of intervening rights that is relevant to IPR and PGR is section 252, first paragraph, which provides that damages accrue only from the date of the conclusion of review if claim scope has been substantively altered in the proceeding. This restriction applies even if the amendment only narrowed the scope of the claims. See *Engineered Data Products, Inc. v. GBS Corp.*, 506 F.Supp.2d 461, 467 (D. Colo. 2007), which notes that "the Federal Circuit has routinely applied the intervening rights defense to narrowing amendments." When patent-defeating prior art is discovered, it is often impossible to predict whether that prior art will be found to render the entire invention obvious, or will only require a narrowing amendment. When a challenger has discovered such prior art, and wants to practice the invention, intervening rights protect him against the risk of going forward—provided, of course, that he is correct in his judgment that the prior art at least requires a substantive narrowing of claims.

The final bill also adds a new subsection to proposed section 257, which authorizes supplemental examination of patents. The new subsection provides that the Director shall refer to the U.S. Attorney General any "material fraud" on the Office that is discovered during the course of a Supplemental Examination. Chairman

Smith's explanation of this addition, at 157 Cong. Rec. E1182–83 (daily ed. June 23, 2011), clarifies the purpose and effect of this new provision. In light of his remarks, I find the addition unobjectionable. I would simply add to the Chairman's remarks that, in evaluating whether a fraud is "material" for purpose of referral, the Director should look to the Federal Circuit's decision in *Therasense, Inc. v. Becton, Dickinson and Co.*, ___ F.3d ___, 2011 WL 2028255 (May 25, 2011). That case holds, in relevant part, that:

[T]he materiality required to establish inequitable conduct is but-for materiality. When an applicant fails to disclose prior art to the PTO, that prior art is but-for material if the PTO would not have allowed a claim had it been aware of the undisclosed prior art. Hence, in assessing the materiality of a withheld reference, the court must determine whether the PTO would have allowed the claim if it had been aware of the undisclosed reference.

Finally, perhaps the most important change that the House of Representatives has made to the America Invents Act is the addition of a prior-commercial-use defense. Current law, at section 273, creates a defense of prior-user rights that applies only with respect to business-method patents. The final bill rewrites section 273, creating a PCU defense that applies to all utility patents.

University researchers and their technology-transfer offices had earlier objected to the creation of such a defense. Their principal concern was that the defense would lead to a morass of litigation over whether an infringer was entitled to assert it, and the expense and burden of this litigation would ultimately prevent universities and small companies from enforcing valid patents. The compromise reached in the House of Representatives addresses university concerns by requiring a defendant to show that he commercially used the subject matter that infringes the patent at least 1 year before the patent owner either filed an application or disclosed the invention to the public. The House compromise also precludes assertion of the defense against most university-owned patents.

The PCU defense is similar to the prior-user right that exists in the United Kingdom and Germany. The defense is a relatively narrow one. It does not create a general license with respect to the patented invention, but rather only allows the defendant to keep making the infringing commercial use that he establishes that he made 1 year before the patentee's filing or disclosure. The words "subject matter," as used in subsection (a), refer to the infringing acts of the defendant, not to the entire patented invention. An exception to this limit, which expands the defense beyond what would be allowed in the United Kingdom, appears in subsection (e)(3), which allows the defendant to increase the quantity or volume of the use that he estab-

lishes that he made of the invention. Subsection (e)(3) also confirms that the defendant may improve or otherwise modify his activities in ways that do not further infringe the patent, although one would think that this would go without saying.

The PCU defense is principally designed to protect the use of manufacturing processes. For many manufacturing processes, the patent system presents a catch-22: if the manufacturer patents the process, he effectively discloses it to the world. But patents for processes that are used in closed factories are difficult to police. It is all but impossible to know if someone in a factory in China is infringing such a patent. As a result, unscrupulous foreign and domestic manufacturers will simply use the invention in secret without paying licensing fees. Patenting such manufacturing processes effectively amounts to giving away the invention to competitors. On the other hand, if the U.S. manufacturer does not patent the process, a subsequent party may obtain a patent for it, and the U.S. manufacturer will be forced to stop using a process that he was the first to invent and which he has been using for years.

The prior-commercial-use defense provides relief to U.S. manufacturers from this Catch-22, allowing them to make long-term use of a manufacturing process without having to give it away to competitors or run the risk that it will be patented out from under them.

Subsection (a) expands the defense beyond just processes to also cover products that are used in a manufacturing or other commercial process. Generally, products that are sold to consumers will not need a PCU defense over the long term. As soon as the product is sold to the public, any invention that is embodied or otherwise inherent in that product becomes prior art and cannot be patented by another party, or even by the maker of the product after the grace period has expired. Some products, however, consist of tools or other devices that are used only by the inventor inside his closed factory. Others consist of substances that are exhausted in a manufacturing process and never become accessible to the public. Such products will not become prior art. Revised section 273 therefore allows the defense to be asserted with respect to such products.

The defense can also be asserted for products that are not used to make a useful end result that is sold to others, but that are used in an internal commercial process. This would include, for example, customized software that is used to run a company's human-resources system. So long as use of the product is integrated into an ongoing commercial process, and not merely fleeting or experimental or incidental to the enterprise's operations, the PCU

defense can be asserted with respect to that product.

The present bill requires the defendant to commercially use the invention in order to be able to assert the defense. Chairman SMITH has suggested, at 157 Cong. Rec. E1219 (daily ed. June 28, 2011), that in the future Congress should expand the defense so that it also applies when a company has made substantial preparations to commercially use an invention. Some have also suggested that the defense should be expanded to cover not just using, but also making and selling an invention if substantial preparations have been made to manufacture the invention. This would expand the defense to more fully compensate for the repeal of current section 102(g), which allows a party to invalidate a patent asserted against it if the party can show that it had conceived of the invention earlier and diligently proceeded to commercialize it.

On the one hand, universities and others have expressed concern that a "substantial preparations" predicate for asserting the PCU defense would lead to expensive and burdensome litigation over whether a company's activities reflect conception and diligent commercialization of the invention. Some argue that it is often the case that different companies and researchers are working on the same problem, and it is easy for the unsuccessful parties to later recharacterize their past efforts as capturing or diligently implementing the successful researcher's invention. Questions have also arisen as to how tentative preparations may be and still qualify as "substantial preparations." For example, if a company had not broken ground for its factory, but had commissioned an architect to draw up plans for it, would that qualify? Would taking out a loan to build the factory qualify as substantial preparations?

On the other hand, proof of conception and diligent commercialization are currently used to apply section 102(g)(2), and I have not heard complaints that the current defense has resulted in overly burdensome litigation.

In the end, however, a substantial-preparations predicate is not included in this bill simply because that was the agreement that was struck between universities and industry in the House of Representatives last summer, and we are now effectively limited to that agreement. Perhaps this issue can be further explored and revisited in a future Congress, though I suspect that many members will want a respite from patent issues after this bill is completed.

The final bill also drops the requirement of a showing of a reduction to practice that previously appeared in subsection (b)(1). This is because the use of a process, or the use of product in a commercial process, will always constitute a reduction to practice.

One change made by the original House bill that proved contentious is the expansion of the personal nature of the defense, now at subsection (e)(1)(A), to also include uses of the invention made by contractors and vendors of the person asserting the defense. The House bill originally allowed the defendant to assert the defense if he performed the commercial use or “caused” its performance. The word “caused,” however, could be read to include even those uses that a vendor made without instructions or even the contemporaneous knowledge of the person asserting the defense. The final bill uses the word “directed,” which limits the provision only to those third-party commercial uses that the defendant actually instructed the vendor or contractor to use. In analogous contexts, the word “directed” has been understood to require evidence that the defendant affirmatively directed the vendor or contractor in the manner of the work or use of the product. See, for example, *Ortega v. Puccia*, 75 A.D. 54, 59, 866 N.Y.S.2d 323, 328 (N.Y. App. 2008).

Subsection (e)(1)(A)’s reference to entities that “control, are controlled by, or under common control with” the defendant borrows a term that is used in several federal statutes. See 12 U.S.C. 1841(k), involving bank holding companies, 15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(4)(B)(vi), involving securities regulation, 15 U.S.C. 6809(6), involving financial privacy, and 49 U.S.C. 30106(d)(1), involving motor vehicle safety. Black’s Law Dictionary 378 (9th ed. 2009) defines “control” as the “direct or indirect power to govern the management and policies of a person or entity, whether through ownership of securities, by contract, or otherwise; the power or authority to manage, direct, or oversee.”

A few other aspects of the PCU defense merit brief mention. Subsection (e)(5)(A), the university exception, was extended to also include university technology-transfer organizations, such as the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation. Subparagraph (B), the exception to the university exception, is only intended to preclude application of subparagraph (A) when the federal government is affirmatively prohibited, whether by statute, regulation, or executive order, from funding research in the activities in question.

In the course of the recodification of former subsection (a)(2) as new (c)(2), the former’s subparagraph (B) was dropped because it is entirely redundant with subparagraph (A).

Finally, subsection (e)(4), barring assertion of the defense if use of the subject matter has been abandoned, should not be construed to necessarily require continuous use of the subject matter. It is in the nature of some subject matter that it will be used only periodically or seasonally. If such is the case, and the subject has been so used, its use has not been abandoned.

I would also like to take a moment to once again address the question of the grace period created by this bill. During the House and Senate debates on the bill, opponents of the first-to-file system have occasionally asserted that they oppose the bill’s move to first to file because it weakens the grace period. See 157 Cong. Rec. S1094, S1096, S1112 (daily ed. March 2, 2011), and 157 Cong. Rec. H4424, H4430 (daily ed. June 22, 2011).

Some of these arguments are difficult to understand, in part because opponents of first to file have used the term “grace period” to mean different things. Some have used the term to mean the period between the time when the inventor conceives of the invention and the time when he files a full or even provisional application. Obviously, if the “grace period” is defined as the first-to-invent system, then the move to first to file eliminates that version of the grace period. Others, however, have suggested that public uses, sales, or “trade secrets” will bar patenting under new section 102(b), even if they consist of activities of the inventor during the year before filing.

This is not the case, and I hope that courts and executive officials interpreting this act will not be misled by arguments made by opponents of this part of the bill. The correct interpretation of section 102 and the grace period is that which has been consistently advanced in the 2007 and 2011 committee reports for this bill, see Senate Report 110–259, page 9, and House Report 112–98, page 43, as well as by both Chairman SMITH and Chairman LEAHY, see 157 Cong. Rec. S1496–97 (daily ed. March 9, 2011), and 157 Cong. Rec. H4429 (daily ed. June 22, 2011). These two chairmen are the lead sponsors and authorizing chairmen of this year’s bills, which are identical with respect to section 102. As Chairman SMITH most recently explained in his June 22 remarks, “contrary to current precedent, in order to trigger the bar in new 102(a) in our legislation, an action must make the patented subject matter ‘available to the public’ before the effective filing date.” Therefore, “[i]f an inventor’s action is such that it triggers one of the bars under 102(a), then it inherently triggers the grace period in section 102(b).”

When the committee included the words “or otherwise available to the public” in section 102(a), the word “otherwise” made clear that the preceding items are things that are of the same quality or nature. As a result, the preceding events and things are limited to those that make the invention “available to the public.” The public use or sale of an invention remains prior art, thus making clear that an invention embodied in a product that has been sold to the public more than a year before an application was filed, for example, can no longer be patented.

Once an invention has entered the public domain, by any means, it can no longer be withdrawn by anyone. But public uses and sales are prior art only if they make the invention available to the public.

In my own remarks last March, I cited judicial opinions that have construed comparable legislative language in the same way. Since that time, no opponent of the first-to-file transition has identified any caselaw that reads this legislative language any other way, nor am I aware of any such cases. I would hope that even those opponents of first to file who believe that supporters of the bill cannot rely on committee reports and sponsors’ statements would at least concede that Congress is entitled to rely on the consistent judicial construction of legislative language.

Finally, I would note that the interpretation of 102 that some opponents appear to advance—that nondisclosing uses and sales would remain prior art, and would fall outside the 102(b) grace period—is utterly irrational. Why would Congress create a grace period that allows an invention that has been disclosed to the world in a printed publication, or sold and used around the world, for up to a year, to be withdrawn from the public domain and patented, but not allow an inventor to patent an invention that, by definition, has not been made available to the public? Such an interpretation of section 102 simply makes no sense, and should be rejected for that reason alone.

Let me also address two other misstatements that have been made about the bill’s first-to-file system. In remarks appearing at 157 Cong. Rec. S1095 (daily ed. March 2, 2011), it was suggested that a provisional application filed under the first-to-file system will be vulnerable to an attack that the inventor failed to disclose the best mode of the invention. This is incorrect. Section 15 of this bill precludes the use of the best-mode requirement as a basis for cancelling a claim or holding it invalid. It was also suggested, at the same place in the record, that discovery would not be allowed in the derivation proceedings created by section 3(i) of the bill. That is incorrect. Section 24 of title 35 allows discovery in any “contested case.” The Patent Office’s regulations, at 37 CFR 41.2(2), indicate that contested cases included Board proceedings such as interferences. It is not apparent to me why these laws and regulations would suggest anything other than that discovery will be allowed in derivation proceedings.

Finally, let me close by commenting on section 18 of the bill. Some legitimate interests have expressed concern that non-business-method patents will be subject to challenge in this proceeding. I have been asked to, and am

happy to, reiterate that technological inventions are excluded from the scope of the program, and that these technological inventions include inventions in the natural sciences, engineering, and computer operations—and that inventions in computer operations obviously include software inventions.

This does not mean that a patent is ineligible for review simply because it recites software elements or has been reduced to a software program. If that were the case, then very few of even the most notorious business-method patents could be reviewed under section 18. Rather, in order to fall within the technological-invention exclusion, the invention must be novel as software. If an invention recites software elements, but does not assert that it is novel as software, or does not colorably appear to be so, then it is not ineligible for review simply because of that software element. But an actual software invention is a technological invention, and is not subject to review under section 18.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I support the America Invents Act.

Right now, as our economy struggles to recover, this legislation is needed to help create jobs and keep our manufacturers competitive. It will further strengthen and expand the ability of our universities to conduct research and turn that research into innovative products and processes that benefit Michigan and our Nation.

Because of this legislation, we will be able to see that boost up close in my home State of Michigan, where a new satellite Patent and Trademark Office will be established in Detroit. This office will help modernize the patent system and improve the efficiency of patent review and the hiring of patent examiners.

In addition, in an important victory after years of effort to address the problem, section 14 of the act finally bans tax patents, ending the troubling practice of persons seeking patents for tax avoidance strategies.

Issuing such patents abuses the Tax Code by granting what some could see as a government imprimatur of approval for dubious tax strategies, while at the same time penalizing taxpayers seeking to use legitimate strategies. The section makes it clear that patents can still be issued for software that helps taxpayers prepare their tax returns, but that provision is intended to be narrowly construed and is not intended to authorize patents for business methods or financial management software.

The bill will put a halt to both new and pending tax patent applications. Although it does not apply on its face to the 130-plus tax patents already granted, if someone tries to enforce one of those patents in court by demanding that a taxpayer provide a fee before using it to reduce their taxes, I hope a

court will consider this bill's language and policy determination when deciding whether such efforts are consistent with public policy.

This legislation is an important step forward and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I would like to clarify the record on a few points related to section 18 of the America Invents Act. Section 18, of which Senator KYL and I were the authors, relates to business method patents. As the architect of this provision, I would like to make crystal clear the intent of its language.

It is important that the record reflect the urgency of this provision. Just today, while the Senate has been considering the America Invents Act, Data Treasury—the company which owns the notorious check imaging patents and which has already collected over half a billion dollars in settlements—filed suit in the Eastern District of Texas against 22 additional defendants, primarily community banks. These suits are over exactly the type of patents that section 18 is designed to address, and the fact that they continue to be filed highlights the urgency of signing this bill into law and setting up an administrative review program at the PTO.

I would like to elucidate the intent behind the definition of business method patents. Other Members have attempted to suggest a narrow reading of the definition, but these interpretations do not reflect the intent of Congress or the drafters of section 18. For example, in connection with the House vote on the America Invent Act, H.R. 1249, Congressman SHUSTER submitted a statement in the RECORD regarding the definition of a “covered business method patent” in section 18. 157 Cong. Rec. H4497 (daily ed. June 23, 2011).

In the statement, Mr. SHUSTER states: “I would like to place in the record my understanding that the definition of ‘covered business method patent’ . . . is intended to be narrowly construed to target only those business method patents that are unique to the financial services industry.” Mr. SHUSTER's interpretation is incorrect.

Nothing in the America Invents Act limits use of section 18 to banks, insurance companies or other members of the financial services industry. Section 18 does not restrict itself to being used by petitioners whose primary business is financial products or services. Rather, it applies to patents that can apply to financial products or services. Accordingly, the fact that a patent is being used by a company that is not a financial services company does not disqualify the patent from section 18 review. Conversely, given the statutory and regulatory limitations on the activities of financial services companies, if a patent is allegedly being used by a financial services company, the patent

will qualify as a “covered business method patent.”

The plain meaning of “financial product or service” demonstrates that section 18 is not limited to the financial services industry. At its most basic, a financial product is an agreement between two parties stipulating movements of money or other consideration now or in the future. Types of financial products include, but are not limited to: extending credit, servicing loans, activities related to extending and accepting credit, leasing of personal or real property, real estate services, appraisals of real or personal property, deposit-taking activities, selling, providing, issuing or accepting stored value or payment instruments, check cashing, collection or processing, financial data processing, administration and processing of benefits, financial fraud detection and prevention, financial advisory or management consulting services, issuing, selling and trading financial instruments and other securities, insurance products and services, collecting, analyzing, maintaining or providing consumer report information or other account information, asset management, trust functions, annuities, securities brokerage, private placement services, investment transactions, and related support services. To be eligible for section 18 review, the patent claims must only be broad enough to cover a financial product or service.

The definition of “covered business method patent” also indicates that the patent must relate to “performing data processing or other operations used in the practice, administration, or management” of a financial product or service. This language makes it clear that section 18 is intended to cover not only patents claiming the financial product or service itself, but also patents claiming activities that are financial in nature, incidental to a financial activity or complementary to a financial activity. Any business that sells or purchases goods or services “practices” or “administers” a financial service by conducting such transactions. Even the notorious “Ballard patents” do not refer specifically to banks or even to financial transactions. Rather, because the patents apply to administration of a business transactions, such as financial transactions, they are eligible for review under section. To meet this requirement, the patent need not recite a specific financial product or service.

Interestingly, Mr. SHUSTER's own actions suggest that his interpretation does not conform to the plain meaning of the statute. In addition to his statement, Mr. SHUSTER submitted an amendment to the Rules Committee that would exempt particular types of business-method patents from review under section 18. That amendment was later withdrawn. Mr. SHUSTER's subsequent statement in the RECORD appears

to be an attempt to rewrite through legislative history something that he was unable to change by amendment.

Moreover, the text of section 18 further demonstrates that section 18 is not limited to patents exclusively utilized by the financial services industry. As originally adopted in the Senate, subsection (a)(1)(B) only allowed a party to file a section 18 petition if either that party or its real parties in interest had been sued or accused of infringement. In the House, this was expanded to also cover cases where a “privy” of the petitioner had been sued or accused of infringement. A “privy” is a party that has a direct relationship to the petitioner with respect to the allegedly infringing product or service. In this case, it effectively means customers of the petitioner. With the addition of the word “privy,” a company could seek a section 18 proceeding on the basis that customers of the petitioner had been sued for infringement. Thus, the addition of the “privy” language clearly demonstrates that section 18 applies to patents that may be used by entities other than the financial services industry.

The fact that a multitude of industries will be able to make use of section 18 is evident by the broad based support for the provision, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Retail Federation, among many others.

Mr. KIRK. Madam President, I support H.R. 1249, the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act, because this long-overdue patent reform will spur innovation, create jobs and strengthen our economy.

In particular, I am proud that this legislation contains a provision I worked to include in the Senate companion, S.23, that would establish the US Patent and Trademark Office Ombudsman Program to assist small businesses with their patent filing issues. This Ombudsman Program will help small firms navigate the bureaucracy of the patent system. Small businesses are the economic engine of our economy. According to the Small Business Administration, these companies employ just over half of all private sector employees and create over fifty percent of our nonfarm GDP. Illinois alone is home to over 258,000 small employers and more than 885,000 self-employers. Small businesses are also helping to lead the way on American innovation. These firms produce thirteen times more patents per employee than large patenting firms, and their patents are twice as likely to be the most cited among all patents. Small business breakthroughs led to the development of airplanes, FM radio and the personal computer. It is vital that these innovators spend their time developing new products and processes that will build our future, not wading through government red tape.

However, I vote for this legislation with the understanding that Section 18, which establishes a review process for business-method patents, is not too broadly interpreted to cover patents on tangible products that claim novel and non-obvious software tools used to execute business methods. H.R. 1249 seeks to strengthen our patent system in order to incentivize and protect our inventors so that Americans can grow our economy and bolster our global competitiveness. Thus, it would defy the purpose of this bill if its authority were used to threaten the viable patents held by companies that employ hundreds of Americans by commercializing software products they develop and engineer.

Our Founding Fathers recognized the importance of a strong patent system. I am proud to support H.R. 1249, which will provide strong intellectual property rights to further our technological advancement.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I rise to speak about the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act. This is bipartisan legislation that will enhance and protect innovation in our country. I want to commend Senator LEAHY, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, for his leadership and tireless work on this bill. I also want to commend my Republican colleagues on the Judiciary Committee, particularly Senators GRASSLEY, KYL, and HATCH, who have worked diligently with Chairman LEAHY in this effort to reform our patent system.

In this country, if you have a good idea for a new and useful product, you can get a patent and turn that idea into a thriving business. Millions of good American jobs are created in this way. The goals of today's legislation are to improve the operations of the Patent and Trademark Office and to help inventors in this country better protect their investments in innovation. By protecting innovations, we will help grow our economy and help businesses create jobs for American workers.

I regret that after the Senate passed a version of this legislation in March in a broadly bipartisan vote of 95–5, the House of Representatives modified the Senate-passed legislation. Not all of those changes improved the bill. Today, we voted on several amendments that responded to changes made by the House. I voted in support of an amendment that sought to strike Section 37, which the House had added to the bill. This section unnecessarily interferes with a matter that is currently being considered on appeal in the federal courts. I also voted reluctantly to table an amendment to restore the Senate-passed language regarding funding of the Patent and Trademark Office. I supported the tabling motion because of the significant risk that the bill would fail if the Sen-

ate sent it back to the House with that amendment included. It is unfortunate that disagreement between the House and Senate has prevented the PTO funding issue from being more clearly resolved in the current legislation, and I believe Congress must work diligently in the future to ensure PTO has the funding and resources it needs to effectively carry out its mission.

I also voted against an amendment relating to section 18 of the bill which creates a transitional review process for certain business method patents. I cast this vote after receiving assurances from my colleagues that the scope and application of section 18 would be appropriately constrained, as it is critically important that this section not be applied in a way that would undermine the legislation's focus on protecting legitimate innovation and job creation.

I want to note specifically that there are companies in many states, including my state of Illinois, that employ large numbers of American workers in bringing to market legitimate, novel and non-obvious products that are based on and protected by business method patents. Examples of such patent-protected products include machinery that counts, sorts or authenticates currency and paper instruments, and novel software tools and graphical user interfaces that are used by electronic trading industry workers to implement trading or asset allocation strategies. Vibrant industries have developed around the production and sale of these tangible inventions, and I appreciate that patents protecting such job-creating products are not understood to be the target of section 18.

I also note that there is an exemption in section 18 for patents for technological inventions. House Judiciary Chairman SMITH provided useful clarification with respect to the scope of that exemption in the June 23, 2011, RECORD, stating that:

Patents for technological inventions are those patents whose novelty turns on a technological innovation over the prior art and are concerned with a technical problem which is solved with a technical solution. The technological innovation exception does not exclude a patent simply because it recites technology. Inventions related to manufacturing and machines that do not simply use known technology to accomplish a novel business process would be excluded from review under Section 18.

Section 18 would not cover patents related to the manufacture and distribution of machinery to count, sort, and authenticate currency. It is the intention of Section 18 to not review mechanical inventions related to the manufacture and distribution of machinery to count, sort and authenticate currency like change sorters and machines that scan currency whose novelty turns on a technological innovation over the prior art. These types of patents would not be eligible for review under this program.

I agree with Chairman SMITH, and would note again that vibrant and job-

creating industries have developed around the types of mechanical inventions he describes that deal with the counting, sorting, authentication and scanning of currency and paper instruments. I am confident that the PTO will keep this in mind as it works to craft regulations implementing the technological invention exception to section 18. I also expect the PTO to keep in mind as it crafts these regulations Congress's understanding that legitimate and job-creating technological patents such as those protecting the novel electronic trading software tools and graphical user interfaces discussed above are not the target of section 18.

Overall, I am pleased that the Congress has passed patent reform legislation with strong bipartisan support and has sent the legislation to the President's desk. It has been a long time in the making, and I again want to congratulate Chairman LEAHY for his leadership and hard work on this issue.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa has 5 minutes.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I urge my colleagues to oppose all three amendments to the patent bill so we can send this important jobs bill to the President of the United States for his signature.

I then urge my colleagues to support final passage of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act. This is a strong bipartisan bill that will enhance America's innovation and give us economic growth. It will protect inventors' rights and improve transparency and third-party participation in the patent review process. It will strengthen patent quality and reduce costs and will curb litigation abuses and improve certainty for investors and innovators.

The Leahy-Smith America Invents Act will also help small entities with their patent applications and provide for reduced fees for micro entities and small businesses. It will help companies do business more efficiently both here and abroad.

The bill includes a provision that will prevent patents from being issued on claims of tax strategies. These strategies can add unwarranted fees on taxpayers for attempting to comply with the Tax Code.

Finally, the bill will enhance the operations of the Patent and Trademark Office with administrative reforms, give the Patent and Trademark Office fee-setting authority which we hope will then lead to a reduction of backlog and improve the ability of the Patent and Trademark Office to manage its affairs.

I thank Chairman LEAHY and Senator HATCH, the lead sponsors of this legislation, for the tremendous amount of work they put into this America Invents Act, not only for this Congress but over the past 3 to 4 years that this bill has been worked on. This has been

a long process spanning those several Congresses, and without the leadership of these two Senators on patent reform we wouldn't be ready to cross the finish line today.

In addition, I thank the staff of the Judiciary Committee: Bruce Cohen, Aaron Cooper, Curtis LeGeyt of Chairman LEAHY's staff, Matt Sandgren of Senator HATCH's staff, and Joe Matal of Senator KYL's staff. I would like to thank the floor staff for their help in processing this bill in an efficient manner, and I would like to especially thank Kolan Davis and Rita Lari Jochum of my staff for their hard work on the bill.

So for a third time I urge my colleagues to vote for the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act and to oppose the three amendments we are going to be voting on so we can keep the bill clean and send it to the President without delay.

Senator LEAHY has made it very clear to all 100 Senators that, if we support this bill, it is a gamble to say it will be law if we have to move it beyond the Senate to the House. This bill will help American inventors create innovative new products and services and stimulate job creation. The bill will upgrade and strengthen our patent system and keep America competitive in an increasingly global economy. This is a good bill, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

Madam President, how much time do I have?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 1 minute remaining.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I would urge my colleagues—because I rebut Senator SESSIONS' amendment—to keep in mind that when somebody tells us this is to bail out one company, understand that one company has gotten justice from the judicial branch of our government because a judge has said for that company that they were denied their rights under the 60-day rule to file for an extension of patent. So what that judge said was bureaucrats in our agencies acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner by not having the same rules that designate when the 60-day period of time starts.

So we have a judge that says so, so maybe people can refer to that opinion and get what they want. But we ought to have it in the statute of what is uniform, and that is what the bill does, and the Sessions amendment would strike that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont has the remainder of the time until 4 p.m.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I thank the distinguished Senator from Iowa for his strong support of this bill.

In a few moments the Senate is going to have the opportunity to make significant reforms to our Nation's patent system for the first time in more than half a century.

The America Invents Act is the product of extensive consideration. We have worked on this for four Congresses. We have had dozens of hearings, weeks of committee debate, and I have lost count of the hundreds of other meetings we have had. This bill is an opportunity to show the American people that Democrats and Republicans can come together to enact meaningful legislation for the American people. The time to do that is now.

The only remaining issues that stand in the way of this long overdue reform are three amendments. Each of them carries some merit. In the past, I might have supported them. But this is a compromise. No one Senator can have everything he or she may want.

The underlying issues have been debated. The bill as written represents a bipartisan, bicameral agreement that should be passed without changes. Any amendment to this bill risks killing it.

I would urge all Senators, Republicans and Democrats alike, to join me and join Senator GRASSLEY in opposing these amendments. They are the final hurdles standing in the way of comprehensive patent reform.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD letters from businesses and workers representing the spectrum of American industry and labor urging the Senate to pass the America Invents Act without amendment.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE COALITION FOR 21ST CENTURY
PATENT REFORM.

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, DC.

Hon. CHARLES E. "CHUCK" GRASSLEY,
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LEAHY AND RANKING MEMBER GRASSLEY: We urge you to work with the leadership of the Senate to bring H.R. 1249 to the Senate floor as soon the Senate's schedule might permit and pass the bill as is.

Our Coalition believes that this legislation will fully modernize our patent laws. Indeed, it will give the world the first truly 21st century patent law—creating patentability standards that are transparent, objective, predictable and simple in their application. It will enhance the inventor-friendly and collaboration-friendly features of our existing patent law. At the same time, it will increase public participation in the patenting process, while maintaining strong protections for inventors in the provisions that do so.

The agreement reached in the House on USPTO funding will assure that the fees paid to the USPTO by inventors will not be diverted and will be made available to the Office for processing patent applications and other important functions of the Office. While we would have preferred the Senate's approach in S. 23 to prevent diversion of USPTO funds, we believe that acceptance of the House bill provides an effective and the most immediate path forward to address problems of the patent office. H.R. 1249, like S. 23, is an excellent bill. These bills are the

product of many years of skillful and difficult legislative work in both the House and the Senate. We believe the time has now come for the Senate to take the final legislative act required for enactment of these historic reforms.

Sincerely,

GARY L. GRISWOLD.

COALITION FOR PATENT FAIRNESS,

June 27, 2011.

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,
Chairman, U.S. Senate, Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, DC.

Hon. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LEAHY AND RANKING MEMBER GRASSLEY: After years of effort, both houses of Congress have now successfully passed patent reform by impressive margins. On behalf of the high tech community, we congratulate you, as well as your House colleagues, on this achievement.

The Coalition for Patent Fairness supports Senate acceptance of H.R. 1249 as passed by the House. While neither bill is as we would have written it, we believe that the House passed bill represents the best opportunity to improve the patent system at the present time. We are also quite aware that House leaders worked very hard to take into account the views of the Senate during their deliberations.

H.R. 1249, as passed, offers us a chance of consensus and we believe it should be passed and signed into law. We are looking forward to advancing other policy matters that boost innovation and growth in this country.

Sincerely,

COALITION FOR PATENT FAIRNESS.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Washington, DC, September 6, 2011.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, strongly supports H.R. 1249, the "America Invents Act," which would encourage innovation and bolster the U.S. economy. The Chamber believes this legislation is crucial for American economic growth, jobs, and the future of U.S. competitiveness.

A key component of H.R. 1249 is section 22, which would help ensure that fees collected by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) fund the office and its administration of the patent system. PTO faces significant challenges, including a massive backlog of pending applications, and this backlog is stifling domestic innovators. The fees that PTO collects to review and approve patent applications should be dedicated to PTO operation. However, fee diversion by Congress has hampered PTO's efforts to hire and retain a sufficient number of qualified examiners and implement technological improvements necessary to ensure expeditious issuance of high quality patents. Though the PTO funding compromise embodied in the House-passed bill could be strengthened to match the fee diversion provision originally passed by the Senate, as crafted, Section 22 represents a meaningful step toward ensuring that PTO has better access to the user fees it collects, and would better allow the agency to address the current backlog of 1.2 million applications waiting for a final determination and pendency time of three years, as well as to improve patent quality.

In addition, the legislation would help ensure that the U.S. remains at the forefront of innovation by enhancing the PTO process and ensuring that all inventors secure the exclusive right to their inventions and discoveries. The bill shifts the U.S. to a first-inventor-to-file system that the Chamber believes is both constitutional and wise, ending expensive interference proceedings. H.R. 1249 also contains important legal reforms that would help reduce unnecessary litigation against American businesses and innovators. Among the bill's provisions, Section 16 would put an end to frivolous false patent marking cases, while still preserving the right of those who suffered actual harm to bring actions. Section 5 would create a prior user right for those who first commercially use inventions, protecting the rights of early inventors and giving manufacturers a powerful incentive to build new factories in the United States, while at the same time fully protecting universities. Section 19 also restricts joinder of defendants who have tenuous connections to the underlying disputes in patent infringement suits. Section 18 of H.R. 1249 provides for a tailored pilot program which would allow patent office experts to help the court review the validity of certain business method patents using the best available prior art as an alternative to costly litigation.

The Chamber strongly opposes any amendments to H.R. 1249 that would strike or weaken any of the important legal reform measures in this legislation, including those found in Sections 16, 5, 19 and 18.

The Chamber strongly supports H.R. 1249. The Chamber may consider votes on, or in relation to, H.R. 1249—including procedural votes, and any weakening amendments—in our annual How They Voted scorecard.

Sincerely,

R. BRUCE JOSTEN,
*Executive Vice President,
Government Affairs.*

UNITED STEELWORKERS,
Pittsburgh, PA, July 15, 2011.

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN LEAHY: On behalf of the United Steelworkers, I am writing to urge you to consider support for the recently passed House bill, H.R. 1249. Over the past several years the USW has been deeply involved in discussions concerning comprehensive patent reform. We were principally concerned with issues dealing with how damages are calculated for infringed patents, new post-grant review procedures, and publication requirements for pending patents. H.R. 1249, as did S. 23 which passed earlier this year, satisfactorily addresses these issues and has our support. While we prefer the provision in the Senate bill dealing with USPTO funding, we nevertheless believe that the House bill moves in the right direction and will help insure that the patent office has the appropriate and necessary resources to do its important work.

Certainly, no bill is perfect. But H.R. 1249 goes a long way toward balancing different interests on a very difficult and contentious issue. We believe it warrants your favorable consideration and enactment by the Senate so that it can be moved to the President's desk and signed into law without undue delay.

We worked closely with your office, and others in the Senate, in finding a consensus approach that would promote innovation, investment, production and job creation in the

U.S. We believe that H.R. 1249, which builds on your work in the Senate, strikes a proper balance.

The U. S. economy remains in a very fragile state with high unemployment and stagnant wages. Patent reform can be an important part of a comprehensive approach to getting the economy moving again and I urge its enactment.

Sincerely,

LEO W. GERARD,
International President.

JUNE 27, 2011.

Hon. PATRICK LEAHY,
*Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, DC.*

Hon. CHUCK GRASSLEY,
*Ranking Member,
Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Wash-
ington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN LEAHY AND RANKING MEMBER GRASSLEY: We write on behalf of six university, medical college, and higher education associations to encourage you to work with the leadership of the Senate to bring H.R. 1249 before the Senate as soon as possible for a vote on passage of the bill as is.

The patent system plays a critical role in enabling universities to transfer the discoveries arising from university research into the commercial sector for development into products and processes that benefit society. H.R. 1249 closely resembles S. 23; both bills contain provisions that will improve patent quality, reduce patent litigation costs, and provide increased funding for the USPTO. Although we preferred the USPTO revolving fund established in S. 23, we believe that the funding provisions adopted by the House in the course of passing H.R. 1249 provide an effective means of preventing fee diversion. Together with the expanded fee-setting authority included in both bills, H.R. 1249 will provide USPTO with the funding necessary to carry out its critical functions.

We very much appreciate the leadership of the Senate Judiciary Committee in crafting S. 23, which brought together the key elements of effective patent reform and formed the basis for H.R. 1249. These bills represent the successful culmination of a thorough, balanced effort to update the U.S. patent system, strengthening the nation's innovative capacity and job creation in the increasingly competitive global economic environment of the 21st century. Senate passage of H.R. 1249 will assure that the nation secures these benefits.

Sincerely,

HUNTER R. RAWLINGS III,
*President, Association
of American Univer-
sities.*

MOLLY CORBETT BROAD,
*President, American
Council on Edu-
cation.*

DARRELL G. KIRCH,
*President and CEO,
Association of Amer-
ican Medical Col-
leges.*

PETER MCPHERSON,
*President, Association
of Public and Land-
grant Universities.*

ROBIN L. RASOR,
*President, Association
of University Tech-
nology Managers.*

ANTHONY P. DECRAPPEO,

*President, Council on
Governmental Rela-
tions.*

JUNE 25, 2011.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LEAHY AND RANKING MEMBER GRASSLEY: As an independent inventor and someone who has personally interacted with thousands of other independent inventors and entrepreneurs, we urge you to work with the leadership of the Senate to bring H.R. 1249 to the Senate floor as soon as the Senate's schedule might permit and pass the bill as is.

Over the past few months, my enthusiasm and belief in the legislative process has grown as I have participated in the debate over patent reform. I believe that this legislation will fully modernize our patent laws. It will give independent inventors and entrepreneurs the speed and certainty necessary to go out and commercialize their inventions, start companies, and create jobs.

There has been a great deal of compromise amongst industries to balance the unique needs of all constituents. The independent inventor has been well represented throughout this process and we are in a unique situation where there is overwhelming support for this legislation.

The fee diversion debate has been important, since it has shed light on the fact that nearly a billion dollars has been diverted from the USPTO. These are dollars that inventors have paid to the USPTO expecting the funds to be used to examine applications as expeditiously as possible. While I would have preferred the Senate's approach in S. 23 to prevent diversion of USPTO funds, I believe that acceptance of the House bill provides the best way to ensure that the funds paid to the patent office will be available to hire examiners and modernize the tools necessary for it to operate effectively.

H.R. 1249 is the catalyst necessary to incentivize inventors and entrepreneurs to create the companies that will get our country back on the right path and generate the jobs we sorely need. I hope that you will take the needs of the "little guy" into consideration and move this legislation forward and enact these historic reforms.

Sincerely,

LOUIS J. FOREMAN,
CEO.

Mr. LEAHY. The bill is important for our economy. It is important for job creation. It is a product of bipartisan and bicameral collaboration. It is the way our system is supposed to work. I look forward to passing the bill and sending it directly to the President's desk for his signature.

I know my friends both on the Republican side and Democratic side have amendments to this bill, but they are not amendments that should pass. I mentioned the one earlier. I talked about the amendment that would put all our—well, Madam President, which amendment is the first in order?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Sessions amendment No. 600.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I yield the floor. I know both Senator SESSIONS and Senator GRASSLEY wish to speak to that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senators will have 4 minutes equally divided.

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, the oath that judges take is to do equal justice, and it says for the poor and the rich.

Every day statutes of limitations require that a litigant file a lawsuit within so many days and file petitions in so many days. I see Senator CORNYN, a former justice on the Texas Supreme Court and attorney general of Texas. He fully understands that. I know he supports my view of this issue; that is, that the rules have to be equally applied.

It is just not right to the little widow lady, it is not right that somebody with a poor lawyer, or whatever, misses a deadline and a judge throws the case out. And they do. Big law firms such as WilmerHale file motions every day to dismiss cases based on delay in filing those cases. Big insurance companies file lawsuits, file motions to dismiss every day against individuals who file their claims too late—and they win. So when this big one has a good bit of risk, presumably they have a good errors and omissions policy—that is what they are supposed to do.

One reason they get paid the big bucks—and the average partner makes \$1 million-plus a year—is because they have high responsibilities, and they are required to meet those responsibilities and be responsible.

So I believe it is improper for us, while this matter is on appeal and in litigation, to take action driven by this continual lobbying pressure that would exempt one company. They can say it is others involved, but, look, this is always about one company. I have been here for 10 years. I know how it is played out. I have seen it. I have talked to the advocates on their behalf. I just haven't been able to agree to it because I see the average person not getting the benefit they are due.

So I urge my colleagues to join in support of this amendment. The Wall Street Journal and others have editorialized in favor of it, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. GRASSLEY. How much time do I have?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Two minutes in opposition to the amendment.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I think the Senator from Alabama has given me a reason to suggest the importance of the language of the bill he wants to strike because he said that law ought to be equally applied.

The law for this one company is that they were not given justice by bureaucrats who acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner and they were denied their rights under the law. So that company is taken care of because there was an impartial judge who believed they had been abused in their rights under Hatch-Waxman to be able to extend their patent.

You might be able to argue in other places around the country when you are likewise denied your right that you have this court case to back you up, but we cannot have one agency saying when a 60-day period of time starts for mail going in or mail going out to exercise your 60-day period, and for another agency to do it another way. That is basically what the judge said, that Congress surely could not have meant that.

The language of this section 37 does exactly what Senator SESSIONS wants, which is to guarantee in the future that no bureaucrat can act in an arbitrary and capricious way when they decide when does the 60-day period of time start. We put it in the statute of the United States so the courts look at it and the bureaucrats look at it in exactly the same way.

If you are a citizen of this country, you ought to know what your rights are. You ought to know that a bureaucrat treats you the same way they treat, in like situations, somebody else. You cannot have this sort of arbitrary and capricious action on the part of faceless bureaucrats that denies the rights. This puts it in statute and solidifies it so everybody knows what the law is, rather than relying upon one judge or in the future having to rely upon the court someplace else. I ask my colleagues not to support the Sessions amendment because it would deny equal rights to some people in this country, as this judge said those equal rights were already denied.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. KLOBUCHAR). The time has expired. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that after the first vote—we have several more votes—the remaining votes be 10-minute votes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Have the yeas and nays been ordered?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. They have not.

The question is on agreeing to the Sessions amendment No. 600.

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) is necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 51, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 126 Leg.]

YEAS—47

Alexander	Enzi	Murkowski
Ayotte	Hatch	Paul
Barrasso	Heller	Portman
Baucus	Hoeven	Risch
Boozman	Hutchison	Rubio
Boxer	Inhofe	Sessions
Cantwell	Isakson	Shelby
Casey	Johanns	Snowe
Chambliss	Johnson (WI)	Stabenow
Coburn	Kirk	Tester
Conrad	Lee	Thune
Corker	Manchin	Toomey
Cornyn	McCaIn	Udall (CO)
Crapo	McCaskill	Vitter
DeMint	McConnell	Wicker
Durbin	Moran	

NAYS—51

Akaka	Graham	Merkley
Begich	Grassley	Mikulski
Bennet	Hagan	Murray
Bingaman	Harkin	Nelson (NE)
Blumenthal	Inouye	Nelson (FL)
Blunt	Johnson (SD)	Pryor
Brown (MA)	Kerry	Reed
Brown (OH)	Klobuchar	Reid
Burr	Kohl	Roberts
Cardin	Kyl	Sanders
Carper	Landrieu	Schumer
Cochran	Lautenberg	Shaheen
Collins	Leahy	Udall (NM)
Coons	Levin	Warner
Feinstein	Lieberman	Webb
Franken	Lugar	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Menendez	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Coats Rockefeller

The amendment was rejected.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. KERRY. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 595

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 4 minutes equally divided prior to a vote in relation to the Cantwell amendment.

The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I encourage my colleagues to support the Cantwell amendment. The Cantwell amendment is the reinstatement of section 18 language as it passed the Senate. So casting a vote for the Cantwell amendment will be consistent with language previously supported by each Member.

The reason we are trying to reinstate the Senate language is because the House language broadens a loophole that will allow for more confusion over patents that have already been issued. It will allow for the cancellation of patents already issued by the Patent Office, throwing into disarray and legal battling many companies that already believe they have a legitimate patent.

The House language, by adding the word "other," broadens the definition of section 18 and extends it for 8 years, so this chaos and disarray that is supposedly targeted at a single earmark for the banking industry to try to get out of paying royalties is now so broadened that many other technology companies will be affected.

I urge my colleagues to support the Cantwell amendment and reinstate the

language that was previously agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I rise in opposition to the amendment of my dear friend, Senator CANTWELL.

Business method patents are a real problem. They never should have been patented to begin with. Let me give an example: double click. We double click on a computer or something such as that and after it becomes a practice for awhile, someone files a patent and says they want a patent on double clicking. Because of the way the Patent Office works, the opponents of that never get a chance to weigh in as to whether it should be a patent. The Patent Office has gone way overboard in allowing these business method patents.

One might say: Then you get your day in court. That is true, except 56 percent—more than half—of all the business method patent litigation goes to one district, the Eastern District of Texas, which is known to be extremely favorable to the plaintiffs. It takes about 10 years to litigate. It costs tens of millions of dollars. So the people who are sued over and over for things such as double clicking or how to photograph a check—common things that are business methods and not patents—settle. It is a lucrative business for a small number of people, but it is wrong.

What this bill does is very simple. What the bill does, in terms of this amendment, is very simple. It says the Patent Office will make an administrative determination before the years of litigation as to whether this patent is a legitimate patent so as not to allow the kind of abuse we have seen. It applies to all financial transactions, whether it be a bank or Amazon or a store or anybody else, and it makes eminent sense.

So as much respect as I have for my colleague from Washington, I must strongly disagree with her argument and urge that the amendment be voted down.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Ms. CANTWELL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. PAUL (when his name was called). Present.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 13, nays 85, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 127 Leg.]

YEAS—13

Boxer	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
Cantwell	Lee	Udall (CO)
Coburn	McCaskill	Vitter
DeMint	Murray	
Hatch	Pryor	

NAYS—85

Akaka	Franken	Merkley
Alexander	Gillibrand	Mikulski
Ayotte	Graham	Moran
Barrasso	Grassley	Murkowski
Baucus	Hagan	Nelson (NE)
Begich	Harkin	Nelson (FL)
Bennet	Heller	Portman
Bingaman	Hoeven	Reed
Blumenthal	Hutchison	Reid
Blunt	Inhofe	Risch
Boozman	Inouye	Roberts
Brown (MA)	Isakson	Rubio
Brown (OH)	Johanns	Sanders
Burr	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Cardin	Kerry	Shaheen
Carper	Kirk	Shelby
Casey	Klobuchar	Shelby
Chambliss	Kohl	Snowe
Coats	Kyl	Stabenow
Cochran	Landrieu	Tester
Collins	Lautenberg	Thune
Conrad	Leahy	Toomey
Coons	Levin	Udall (NM)
Corker	Lieberman	Warner
Cornyn	Lugar	Webb
Crapo	Manchin	Whitehouse
Durbin	McCaIn	Wicker
Enzi	McConnell	Wyden
Feinstein	Menendez	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Paul

NOT VOTING—1

Rockefeller

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 599, AS MODIFIED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 4 minutes equally divided prior to the vote in relation to the Coburn amendment.

The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

Mr. COBURN. Madam President, this is a straightforward amendment that says if you pay into the Patent Trademark Office to have a patent evaluated, that money ought to be spent on the process. We have now stolen almost \$900 million from the Patent Office. We have almost a million patents in arrears. We have fantastic leadership in the Patent Office, and we will not send them the money to do their job. It is unconscionable that we will not do this.

I understand the arguments against it, and I reserve the remainder of our time.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I rise today in support of Senator COBURN's amendment to prevent the diversion of patent and trademark fees to other purposes.

I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this amendment. I believe this amendment is critical for this bill to have the innovation-encouraging, job-creating effects that its proponents say it will.

Prior to 1990, taxpayers supported the operations of the Patent and Trademark Office, or PTO. In 1990, this was

changed through a 69 percent user fee “surcharge,” so that the PTO became funded entirely through fees paid by its users, the American inventors who seek to protect the genius of their inventions from those who would copy these innovations for their own profit.

In short order, Congress began using the funds that inventors paid to protect their inventions for other purposes. In 1992, \$8.1 million in user fees were diverted. In 1993, \$12.3 million was diverted. In 1994, \$14.7 million. And so it continued, escalating every year, until what started as a trickle became a flood in 1998, with \$200.3 million in PTO user fees diverted. All told, since 1992, an estimated \$886 million in fees that were paid for the efficient and effective operation of the Patent and Trademark Office have been diverted to other uses, according to the Intellectual Property Owners Association.

Meanwhile, at the same time that these fees were being taken away, the length of time that it takes to get a patent out of the Patent Office has steadily increased. In fiscal year 1991, average patent pendency was 18.2 months. By fiscal year 1999, it had increased to 25 months. By fiscal year 2010, average patent pendency had increased all the way to 35.3 months.

These are not just numbers. This is innovation being stifled from being brought to market. The longer it takes to get a patent approved, the longer a new invention, a potential technological breakthrough, sits on the shelf gathering dust instead of spurring job growth and scientific and economic progress.

Ultimately, this hurts the competitiveness of the American economy. America has a stunning record of leading the world in innovation, which has provided us a competitive edge over the decades and even centuries. By stifling the progress of our innovation within the PTO, we are dulling that competitive edge.

Obviously, there is a direct relationship between fee diversion and patent pendency. The more fees that are diverted away from the PTO, the fewer patent examiners they can hire, the more patents each examiner has to process, and the longer it takes them to get to any individual patent—a longer patent pendency.

The manager of this bill, the distinguished chairman of the Judiciary Committee, has argued that “the bill will speed the time it takes for applications on true inventions to issue as high quality patents, which can then be commercialized and used to create jobs. . . . The America Invents Act will ensure that the PTO has the resources it needs to work through its backlog of applications more quickly. The bill accomplishes this objective by authorizing the PTO to set its fees. . . .”

But what this bill gave with the one hand, in authorizing the PTO to set its

fees, the House of Representatives took away with the other hand, by striking the strong antifee diversion language that the Senate included in its patent bill earlier this year. Setting higher fee levels to reduce patent pendency does no good if those fees are simply diverted away from the PTO, and not used to hire additional patent examiners. Indeed, requiring the payment of higher patent fees which are then used for general government purposes really amounts to a tax on innovation—which is the last thing we should be burdening in today’s technology-driven economy.

The chairman argues that the bill “creates a PTO reserve fund for any fees collected above the appropriated amounts in a given year—so that only the PTO will have access to these fees.” However, with all due respect, the language that the House put into the bill is not really different from previous bill language that proved ineffective to prevent diversion.

The 1990 law that authorized the patent user surcharge provided that the surcharges “shall be credited to a separate account established in the Treasury . . . ;” and “shall be available only to the Patent and Trademark Office, to the extent provided in appropriation Acts. . . .”

However, notwithstanding this language, the Congressional Budget Office found in 2008 that \$230 million had been diverted from the surcharge account.

Similarly, the House changed the bill before us today to “establish[] in the Treasury a Patent and Trademark Fee Reserve Fund . . . ;” and “to the extent and in the amounts provided in appropriations Acts, amounts in the Fund shall be made available until expended only for obligation and expenditure by the Office. . . .”

The key language is the same—“to the extent provided in appropriation Acts.” Calling it a “fund” rather than an “account” should not lead anyone to expect a different result.

Indeed, the Senate bill that we passed earlier this year explicitly struck the existing statutory language, “To the extent and in the amounts provided in advance in appropriations Acts . . .” And the House specifically restored that language, omitting only the words “in advance.” The Coburn amendment would restore the changes we made earlier this year, eliminating that language again.

The Coburn amendment, like the Senate bill, contains other key language, providing that amounts in the fund it establishes “shall be available for use by the Director without fiscal year limitation.” The bill before us today provides no such protection against diversion.

In short, this bill will permit the continued diversion of patent fees, to the detriment of American inventors and innovation.

But don’t just take my word for this. The Intellectual Property Owners Association, which includes more than 200 companies, just yesterday said:

The greatest disappointment with the House-passed patent reform bill H.R. 1249 . . . is its failure to stop USPTO fee diversion. The House-passed patent reform bill creates another USPTO account, a “reserve fund,” but nothing in the proposed statutory language guarantees the USPTO access to the funds in this new account. The language of H.R. 1249 defers to future appropriations bills to instruct the USPTO on how to access fees in the new USPTO account. Therefore, despite some claims to the contrary, the creation of this new account, alone, will not stop diversion.

The Innovation Alliance, a major coalition of innovative companies, and CONNECT, an organization dedicated to supporting San Diego technology and life science businesses, among others, also believe that the House language is insufficient to prevent fee diversion.

Without this protection from fee diversion, this bill could well make our patent system worse, not better. Many of the changes made by this bill will impose additional burdens on the PTO. For example, the CBO found that the new post-grant review procedure would cost \$140 million to implement over a 10-year period; the new supplemental review procedure would cost \$758 million to implement over that period; and the changes to the inter partes reexamination procedure would cost \$251 million to implement.

All told, these changes would impose additional duties on the PTO costing over \$1 billion to implement over a 10-year period. If the PTO is not permitted to keep the fees it needs to meet these obligations, patents will take even longer to be issued, and the promised improvements in patent quality may prove to be ephemeral. We won’t encourage innovation; we won’t create new jobs.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment by the Senator from Oklahoma, to support the strong antidiversion language that we passed this Spring, and to end fee diversion once and for all.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I rise in opposition to the amendment to the America Invents Act offered by the Senator from Oklahoma.

I, along with my fellow members of the Appropriations Committee, share the Senator from Oklahoma’s goal of ensuring that all fees paid by inventors to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PTO, are used only for the operations of the PTO. The PTO fosters American innovation and job creation by providing protections for ideas and products developed by our entrepreneurs, businesses and academic institutions.

As the chairwoman of the Appropriations Subcommittee that funds the PTO, I have worked to ensure that PTO

receives every dollar it collects from inventors. But, while I share the Senator's goal, I oppose his amendment for three reasons.

First, the amendment is unnecessary. It is a solution in search of a problem. The underlying America Invents Act before the Senate today ensures that PTO can keep and spend all of the fees collected. This legislation establishes a Patent and Trademark Fee Reserve Fund. Any fees collected in excess of annual appropriations would be deposited into the fund, and those fees would remain available until expended solely for PTO operations.

The creation of this fund is not a new idea. Provisions of several bills reported out of the Senate Appropriations Committee in prior years allowed PTO to keep and spend fee revenue in excess of appropriations levels. I can assure my colleagues that the committee will continue to support such language.

Second, the amendment would significantly reduce oversight of the PTO. The Senator from Oklahoma's amendment would establish a new, off-budget revolving fund for PTO fees. This would put the PTO on autopilot, without the oversight of an annual legislative vehicle to hold the agency accountable for progress and wise use of taxpayer funding.

Since fiscal year 2004, funding for PTO has increased by over 70 percent. At the same time, however, the backlog of patent applications has climbed to more than 700,000. It now takes over three years for PTO to make a decision on a patent application. This is unacceptable. While America's inventors are waiting in line, their ideas are being stolen by other countries.

Through annual appropriations bills, the Appropriations Committee has succeeded in forcing management reforms that have slowed the growth of PTO's backlogs and improved employee retention. While further accountability is needed, the America Invents Act keeps PTO on budget and on track for continued oversight by the Appropriations Committee each year.

Finally, the Senator's amendment could have unintended consequences. If PTO were permitted to operate on autopilot, the agency could face fee revenue shortfalls and the Appropriations Committee would not be poised to assist. The committee continually monitors the agency's fee projections to ensure the agency can operate effectively. It is not widely known, but over the past 6 years, PTO has actually collected nearly \$200 million less than the appropriated levels.

In fact, I recently received a letter from the Director of the PTO informing my Subcommittee that fee estimates for fiscal year 2012 have already dropped by \$88 million. I will ask consent to have this letter printed in the RECORD. If PTO was put on autopilot as

proposed by the Senator's amendment, the committee would no longer have the tools to provide the necessary funding to keep our patent and trademark system operating should a severe funding gap occur.

The PTO's full access to fee revenue is critical to American innovation and job creation. I commend Chairman LEAHY for his efforts to improve the patent system and ensure that PTO funding is spent wisely and effectively. I support the funding provisions of the America Invents Act and oppose the Coburn amendment. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the letter to which I referred.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE,
Alexandria, VA, September 1, 2011.

HON. BARBARA A. MIKULSKI,
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM CHAIR: This letter provides you with the United States Patent and Trademark Office's (USPTO) current, revised fee collection estimates for fiscal year (FY) 2012, as requested in the report accompanying H.R. 3288 (Pub. L. No. 111-117).

The President's FY 2012 Budget supports an aggressive approach to improving operations at the Agency, reducing the patent backlog and contributing to economic recovery efforts. The fee collection estimate submitted with the FY 2012 President's Budget earlier this year was \$2,706.3 million, including a 15% interim increase to certain patent user fee rates. This increase will help fund efforts to reduce the backlog of unexamined patent applications. Using more recent information, outcomes of events, and projections of demand for USPTO services, we now expect fee collections for FY 2012 to be in the \$2,431.9 million to \$2,727.6 million range, with a working estimate of \$2,618.2 million (a decrease of \$88.1 million from the FY 2012 President's Budget estimate).

The projected decrease is attributable to factors both internal and external to the USPTO; namely, a change in strategic direction resulting in the Office not pursuing a cost recovery regulatory increase to Request for Continued Examination fee rates (this was estimated to generate about \$70 million in patent application fees), the decision not to pursue a Consumer Price Index increase to patent statutory fees, and the decrease in demand for USPTO services as a result of processing reengineering gains from compact prosecution. The USPTO bases these revisions on current demand as well as discussions with our stakeholders about expected trends. The USPTO also reviews filing trends in foreign patent offices, which have experienced similar difficulties in estimating demand.

In closing, the USPTO would like to thank the subcommittee for their support of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act. We are especially grateful for the subcommittee's support in ensuring all fees collected by the USPTO will be made available for the USPTO to use in examination and intellectual property activities supporting the fee paying community.

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Mr. Anthony Scardino, the USPTO's Chief Financial Officer, at (571) 272-9200. Thank you for your continued support of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Sincerely,

DAVID J. KAPPOS,
Under Secretary and Director.

Identical Letters sent to:

The Hon. Kay Bailey Hutchison, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

The Hon. Frank R. Wolf, Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

The Hon. Chaka Fattah, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I understand what the Senator from Oklahoma says, but the Coburn amendment can derail and even kill this bill. So, as I have told the Senator, I will move to table in a moment. But this bill would otherwise help our recovering economy. It would unleash innovation and create jobs.

I have worked for years against Patent Office fee diversion, but I oppose this amendment. Its formulation was already rejected by the House of Representatives. They have made it very clear. There is no reason they will change. This amendment can sink years of efforts by both Republicans and Democrats in this body and the other body to pass it. Actually, this amendment could kill the bill over a mere formality: the difference between a revolving fund and a reserve fund.

We have worked out a compromise in good faith. The money, the fees—under the bill as it is here—can only be spent at the PTO, but the only thing is, we actually have a chance to take a look at what they are spending it on, so they could not buy everybody a car or they could not have a gilded palace. They actually have to spend it on getting through the backlog of patents. It will not go anywhere else. It will only go to the Patent Office.

So we should not kill the bill over this amendment. We should reject the amendment and pass the bill. It is time for us to legislate. That is what the American people elected us to do. That is what they expect us to do. Let's not kill the bill after all this work over something that will really make no difference in the long run. So I therefore will move to table the Coburn amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has not yet expired.

Mr. COBURN. Madam President, I think I have reserved my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma has reserved his time. He has 1½ minutes.

Mr. COBURN. Madam President, I will make the following points, and I would ask for order before I do that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Could we please have order so the Senator from Oklahoma can speak.

Mr. COBURN. It is true that the House bill moves the money to where it cannot be spent elsewhere, but there is no requirement that the money be spent in the Patent Office. There is a written agreement between an appropriations chairman and the Speaker that is good as long as both of them are in their positions. This is a 7-year authorization. It will not guarantee that the money actually goes to the Patent Office.

This bill, with this amendment in it, went out of the House Judiciary Committee 32 to 3 in a strong, bipartisan vote. It was never voted on in the Senate because the appropriators objected because of a technical error, which has been corrected in this amendment. So it violates no House rules, it violates no condition and, in fact, will guarantee that the Patent Office has the funds it needs to have to put us back in the place we need to be.

This bill will not be killed because we are going to make sure the money for patents goes to the Patent Office. Anybody who wants to claim that, ask yourself what you are saying. We are not going to do the right thing because somebody says they will not do the right thing? We ought to do the right thing.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, because this amendment would kill the bill, I move to table the amendment and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) is necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 128 Leg.]

YEAS—50

Akaka	Brown (OH)	Coons
Baucus	Cardin	Durbin
Bennet	Carper	Franken
Bingaman	Casey	Gillibrand
Blumenthal	Cochran	Grassley
Brown (MA)	Collins	Hagan

Harkin	Lieberman	Reed
Hoeven	Lugar	Reid
Inouye	Manchin	Sanders
Johnson (SD)	Menendez	Schumer
Kerry	Merkley	Shaheen
Kohl	Mikulski	Shelby
Kyl	Murkowski	Stabenow
Landrieu	Murray	Udall (NM)
Lautenberg	Nelson (NE)	Webb
Leahy	Nelson (FL)	Whitehouse
Levin	Pryor	

NAYS—48

Alexander	DeMint	McConnell
Ayotte	Enzi	Moran
Barrasso	Feinstein	Paul
Begich	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Hatch	Risch
Boozman	Heller	Roberts
Boxer	Hutchison	Sessions
Burr	Inhofe	Snowe
Cantwell	Isakson	Tester
Chambliss	Johanns	Thune
Coats	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Coburn	Kirk	Udall (CO)
Conrad	Klobuchar	Vitter
Corker	Lee	Warner
Cornyn	McCain	Wicker
Crapo	McCaskill	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Rockefeller Rubio

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have one more vote. We will have 4 minutes of debate and then a vote on final passage. This is important legislation.

The President's speech is at 7 o'clock. We will gather here at 6:30 to proceed to the House Chamber.

When the President's speech is over, we will come back here, and I will move to proceed to the debt ceiling vote that we know is coming. If that motion to proceed fails, then we will be through for the week as far as votes go. If the vote to proceed is affirmative in nature, we will be back tomorrow, and there will be 10 hours allowed, but we don't have to use it all.

We will have to finish this matter tomorrow. I think it is clear that I hope we don't proceed to that, but we will have to see. I am here tomorrow. That vote will start very quickly tonight, as soon as the speech is over. We will be in recess subject to the call of the Chair. The vote will start quickly.

Also, I have talked to the Republican leader about how we are going to proceed next week. We don't have that defined, but I am waiting to hear from the Speaker, either tonight or tomorrow, to make more definite what we need to do next week.

Again, we have one more vote after the President's speech tonight.

Mr. President, I move to reconsider the last vote.

Mr. KERRY. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 4 minutes of debate equally divided prior to the vote on passage of the measure. Who yields time?

The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, 6 months ago, the Senate approved the America

Invents Act to make the first meaningful, comprehensive reforms to the Nation's patent system in nearly 60 years. Today, the Senate has come together once again, this time to send this important, job-creating legislation to the President to be signed into law.

Casting aside partisan rhetoric, and working together in a bipartisan and bicameral manner, Congress is sending to President Obama the most significant jobs bill of this Congress. The bill originated 6 years ago in the House of Representatives, when Chairman SMITH and Mr. BERMAN introduced the first patent reform proposals.

After dozens of congressional hearings, markup sessions, and briefings, and countless hours of Member and staff meetings, through two Presidential administrations, and three Congresses, patent reform is finally a reality.

The Leahy-Smith America Invents Act is a bipartisan bill and a bipartisan accomplishment. This is what we in Washington can do for our constituents at home when we come together for the benefit of the country, the economy, and all Americans.

I especially thank Senator KYL for his work in bringing this bill to the floor of the Senate—twice—and Senator GRASSLEY for his commitment to making patent reform the Judiciary Committee's top priority this year. Chairman SMITH, in the other body, deserves credit for leading the House's consideration of this important bill. I look forward to working with him on our next intellectual property priority—combating online infringement.

I thank the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, who worked together to get quorums and get this passed. I thank them for their contribution.

Mr. President, I acknowledge several members of my Judiciary Committee staff, specifically Aaron Cooper, who sits here beside me. He spent more hours than I even want to think about, or his family wants to think about, working with me, other Senators, Members of the House, other staff, and stakeholders to preserve the meaningful reforms included in the America Invents Act, as did Susan Davis before him. Ed Pagano, my chief of staff, kept everybody together. I also thank Bruce Cohen, my chief counsel on the Judiciary Committee, who every time I thought maybe we are not going to make it would tell me "You have to keep going," and he was right. Erica Chabot, Curtis LeGeyt, and Scott Wilson of my Judiciary Committee staff have also spent many hours working on this legislation.

I also commend the hard-working staff of other Senators, including Joe Matal, Rita Lari, Tim Molino, and Matt Sandgren for their dedication to this legislation. Chairman SMITH's dedicated staff deserves thanks as well,

including Richard Hertling, Blaine Merritt, Vishal Amin, and Kim Smith.

I would also like to thank the majority leader for his help in passing this critical piece of legislation.

The America Invents Act is now going to be the law of the land. I thank all my colleagues who worked together on this.

In March, the Senate passed its version of the America Invents Act, S. 23, by a 95-5 vote. One of the key provisions of the legislation transitions the United States patent system from a first-to-invent system to a first-inventor-to-file system. The Senate considered and rejected an amendment to strike this provision, with 87 Senators voting to retain the transition.

When this body first considered the America Invents Act, some suggested that along with the first-inventor-to-file transition, the legislation should expand the prior user rights defense. The prior user rights defense, in general, is important for American manufacturers because it protects companies that invent and use a technology, whether embodied in a process or product, but choose not to disclose the invention through the patenting process, and instead rely on trade secret protection. The use of trade secrets instead of patenting may be justified in certain instances to avoid, for example, the misappropriation by third parties where detection of that usage may be difficult. These companies should be permitted to continue to practice the invention, even if another party later invents and patents the same invention.

In the United States, unlike in our major trading partners, prior user rights are limited to inventions on methods of doing or conducting business. The Senate bill included only a very limited expansion of this defense, and required the Director of the Patent and Trademark Office, "PTO", to study and report to Congress on the operation of prior user rights in other countries in the industrialized world, and include an analysis of whether there is a particular need for prior user rights given the transition to a first-inventor-to-file system.

The House-originated bill, the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act, which the Senate is considering today, makes important improvements to expand prior user rights beyond just methods of doing business. These improvements will be good for domestic manufacturing and job creation. I agree with the chairman of the House Committee on the Judiciary that inclusion of expanded prior user rights is essential to ensure that those who have invested in and used a technology are provided a defense against someone who later patents the technology.

I understand that there is some confusion regarding the scope of the defense in the bill. The phrase "commer-

cially used the subject matter" is intended to apply broadly, and to cover a person's commercial use of any form of subject matter, whether embodied in a process or embodied in a machine, manufacture, or composition of matter that is used in a manufacturing or other commercial process. This is important particularly where businesses have made substantial investments to develop these proprietary technologies. And if the technology is embedded in a product, as soon as that product is available publicly it will constitute prior art against any other patent or application for patent because the technology is inherently disclosed.

The legislation we are considering today also retains the PTO study and report on prior user rights. I again agree with the chairman of the House Committee on the Judiciary, that one important area of focus will be how we protect those who make substantial investments in the development and preparation of proprietary technologies. It is my hope and expectation that Congress will act quickly on any recommendations made by the PTO.

Section 27 of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act requires a study by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, USPTO, on effective ways to provide independent, confirming genetic diagnostic test activity where gen patents and exclusive licensing for primary genetic diagnostic tests exist. I support this section, which was championed by Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and look forward to the USPTO's report.

I want to be clear that one of the reasons I support section 27 is that nothing in it implies that "gene patents" are valid or invalid, nor that any particular claim in any particular patent is valid or invalid. In particular, this section has no bearing on the ongoing litigation in *Association for Molecular Pathology v. Myriad Genetics*, ___ F.3d ___, 2011 WL 3211513 (Fed. Cir. July 29, 2011).

In *Kappos v. Bilski*, ___ U.S. ___, 130 S. Ct. 3218 (2010), the Court found that the fact that a limited defense to business method patents existed in title 35 undermined the argument that business method patents were categorically exempt from patentability. Specifically, the Court held that a "conclusion that business methods are not patentable in any circumstances would render §273 [of title 35] meaningless." *Bilski*, 130 S. Ct. at 3228. But the section 27 study is readily distinguishable from the substantive prior user rights defense codified in title 35 referenced in *Bilski*. A "gene patent" may or may not be valid, and that has no impact on the USPTO study, which mentions the existence of gene patents issued by the USPTO (but still subject to a validity challenge), but focuses on the effect of patents and exclusive licensing of genetic diagnostic tests, regardless of

whether there are relevant patents. This study will be useful and informative for policymakers no matter how section 101 of title 35 is interpreted by the courts.

There has been some question about the scope of patents that may be subject to the transitional program for covered business method patents, which is section 18 of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act. This provision is intended to cover only those business method patents intended to be used in the practice, administration, or management of financial services or products, and not to technologies common in business environments across sectors and that have no particular relation to the financial services sector, such as computers, communications networks, and business software.

A financial product or service is not, however, intended to be limited solely to the operation of banks. Rather, it is intended to have a broader industry definition that includes insurance, brokerages, mutual funds, annuities, and an array of financial companies outside of traditional banking.

Section 34 of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act requires a study by the Government Accountability Office, GAO, on the consequences of patent infringement lawsuits brought by non-practicing entities under title 35, United States Code. The legislation requires that GAO's study compile information on (1) the annual volume of such litigation, (2) the number of such cases found to be without merit, (3) the impact of such litigation on the time to resolve patent claims, (4) the related costs, (5) the economic impact, and (6) the benefit to commerce.

Following the House passage of H.R. 1249, the Comptroller General expressed concern that Section 34 may require it to answer certain questions for which the underlying data either does not exist, or is not reasonably available. Where that is the case, I want to make clear my view that GAO is under no obligation to include or examine information on a subject for which there is either no existing data, or that data is not reasonably obtainable. Further, GAO is not required to study a quantity of data that it deems unreasonable.

In my view, GAO can satisfy its requirements under section 34 by compiling reasonably available information on the nature and impact of lawsuits brought by non-practicing entities under title 35 on the topics outlined in section 34(b). Where it deems necessary, GAO may use a smaller sample size of litigation data to fulfill this obligation. GAO should simply note any limitations on data or methodology in its report.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter from Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, detailing GAO's

possible limitations in complying with section 34.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE
Washington, DC, September 7, 2011.

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY, *Chairman,*
Hon. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, *Ranking Member,*
Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate.

Hon. LAMAR S. SMITH, *Chairman,*
Hon. JOHN CONYERS, Jr., *Ranking Member,*
Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,
House of Representatives.

I am writing to express our concern regarding a provision relating to GAO in H.R. 1249, the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act. Section 34 of the bill would require GAO to conduct a study of patent litigation brought by so-called non-practicing entities, that is, plaintiffs who file suits for infringement of their patents but who themselves do not have the capability to design, manufacture, or distribute products based on those patents. As the Supreme Court and Federal Trade Commission have noted, an industry of such firms has developed; the firms obtain patents not to produce and sell goods but to obtain licensing fees from other companies.

The GAO study required by H.R. 1249 would mandate a review of: (1) the annual volume of such litigation for the last 20 years; (2) the number of these cases found to be without merit after judicial review; (3) the impacts of such litigation on the time required to resolve patent claims; (4) the estimated costs associated with such litigation; (5) the economic impact of such litigation on the economy; and (6) the benefit to commerce, if any, supplied by such non-practicing entities.

We believe this mandate would require GAO to undertake a study involving several questions for which reliable data are not available and cannot be obtained. In the first instance, the mandate would require identification of non-practicing entities that bring patent lawsuits. While some information about these entities may be obtainable, a definitive list of such entities does not exist and there is no reliable method that would allow us to identify the entire set from court documents or other available databases. Moreover, quantifying the cases found to be meritless by a court would produce a misleading result, because we understand most of these lawsuits are resolved by confidential settlement. Similarly, there is no current reliable source of information from which to estimate the effects of litigation by such entities on patent claims, litigation costs, economic impacts, or benefits to commerce. Further, because GAO does not have legal access to these private parties, we would have to rely on voluntary production of such information, a method we believe would be unreliable under these circumstances and would yield information that is not likely to be comparable from entity to entity.

Finally, empirical estimates of the effects of patent litigation on various economic variables would likely be highly tenuous. Measures of the cost of litigation or other variables related to quantifying patents or litigation would be highly uncertain and any relationships derived would likely be highly sensitive to small changes in these measures. Such relationships are likely to lead to inconclusive results, or results so heavily qualified that they likely would not be meaningful or helpful to the Congress. In that regard, we understand recent regulatory

efforts to determine the economic and anti-competitive effects of such litigation have not been successful.

We appreciate your consideration of this matter and we would be happy to work with your staff regarding potential alternatives. GAO could, for example, identify what is currently known about each of the specific elements identified in Section 34. Managing Associate General Counsel Susan Sawtelle, at (202) 512-6417 or SawtelleS@gao.gov, or Congressional Relations Assistant Director Paul Thompson, at (202) 512-9867 or ThompsonP@gao.gov, may be contacted regarding these matters.

Sincerely yours,

GENE L. DODARO,
Comptroller General of the United States.

Mr. LEAHY. The America Invents Act is now going to be the law of the land. I thank all my colleagues who worked together on this.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington is recognized.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, rising in opposition, this is not a patent reform bill, this is a big corporation patent giveaway that tramples on the rights of small inventors. It changes "first to invent" to "first to file," which means if you are a big corporation and have lots of resources, you will get there and get the patent.

Secondly, it doesn't keep the money where it belongs. It belongs in the Patent Office. Yet, instead of having reforms that will help us expedite patents, it is giving away the money that is needed to make this kind of innovation work.

Third, the bill is full of special giveaways to particular industry corporations, as we have just witnessed with votes on the floor.

Fourth, by taking away the business patent method language, you will make it more complicated and have years and years of lawsuits on patents that have already been issued. If this is job creation, I have news for my colleagues; in an innovation economy, it is siding with corporate interests against the little guy. I urge a "no" vote.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the third reading and passage of the bill.

The bill (H.R. 1249) was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) is necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 89, nays 9, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 129 Leg.]

YEAS—89

Akaka	Gillibrand	Moran
Alexander	Graham	Murkowski
Ayotte	Grassley	Murray
Barrasso	Hagan	Nelson (NE)
Baucus	Harkin	Nelson (FL)
Begich	Hatch	Portman
Bennet	Heller	Pryor
Bingaman	Hoeben	Reed
Blumenthal	Hutchison	Reid
Blunt	Inhofe	Risch
Boozman	Inouye	Roberts
Brown (MA)	Isakson	Sanders
Brown (OH)	Johanns	Schumer
Burr	Johnson (SD)	Sessions
Cardin	Kerry	Shaheen
Carper	Kirk	Shelby
Casey	Klobuchar	Snowe
Chambliss	Kohl	Stabenow
Coats	Kyl	Tester
Cochran	Landrieu	Thune
Collins	Lautenberg	Toomey
Conrad	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Coons	Levin	Udall (NM)
Corker	Lieberman	Vitter
Cornyn	Lugar	Warner
Crapo	Manchin	Webb
Durbin	McConnell	Whitehouse
Enzi	Menendez	Wicker
Feinstein	Merkley	Wyden
Franken	Mikulski	

NAYS—9

Boxer	DeMint	McCain
Cantwell	Johnson (WI)	McCaskill
Coburn	Lee	Paul

NOT VOTING—2

Rockefeller	Rubio
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The bill (H.R. 1249) was passed.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today I voted against passage of the patent reform bill because it contained an egregious example of corporate welfare and blatant earmarking. Unfortunately, this special interest provision was designed to benefit a single interest and was tucked into what was otherwise a worthwhile patent reform bill. As I noted earlier today when I spoke in support of the amendment offered by my colleague from Alabama, Senator SESSIONS, needed reform of our patent laws should not be diminished nor impaired by inclusion of the shameless special interest provision, dubbed "The Dog Ate My Homework Act" that benefits a single drug manufacturer, Medicines & Company, to excuse their failure to follow the drug patent laws on the books for over 20 years.

Again, as I said earlier today, patent holders who wish to file an extension of their patent have a 60-day window to make the routine application. There is no ambiguity in this timeframe. In fact, there is no reason to wait until the last day. A patent holder can file an extension application anytime within the 60-day period. Indeed, hundreds and hundreds of drug patent extension applications have been filed since the law was enacted. Four have been late. Four.

I remind my colleagues of what the Wall Street Journal had to say about this provision:

As blunders go, this was big. The loss of patent rights means that generic versions of Angiomax might have been able to hit pharmacies since 2010, costing the Medicines Co. between \$500 million and \$1 billion in profits.

If only the story ended there.

Instead, the Medicines Co. has mounted a lobbying offensive to get Congress to end run the judicial system. Since 2006, the Medicines Co. has wrangled bill after bill onto the floor of Congress that would change the rules retroactively or give the Patent Office director discretion to accept late filings. One version was so overtly drawn as an earmark that it specified a \$65 million penalty for late filing for "a patent term extension . . . for a drug intended for use in humans that is in the anticoagulant class of drugs."

. . . no one would pretend the impetus for this measure isn't an insider favor to save \$214 million for a Washington law firm and perhaps more for the Medicines Co. There was never a problem to fix here. In a 2006 House Judiciary hearing, the Patent Office noted that of 700 patent applications since 1984, only four had missed the 60-day deadline. No wonder critics are calling it the Dog Ate My Homework Act.

This bailout provision was not included in the Senate-passed Patent bill earlier this year. It was added by the House of Representatives. The provision should have been stripped by the Senate earlier today. The fact that it wasn't required me to vote against final passage.

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, due to health concerns of my mother, I was absent for the motion to table amendment No. 599 offered by Senator COBURN to H.R. 1249, the America Invents Act, final passage of H.R. 1249, and on S.J. Res. 25.

Had I been present for the motion to table amendment No. 599 offered by Senator COBURN to H.R. 1249, I would have opposed the motion in support of the underlying amendment, and would have voted "nay" on final passage of the America Invents Act. H.R. 1249 is significantly different than the original Senate bill that I supported, and will ultimately not accomplish the goal of modernizing the patent process in the United States in the most effective manner.

The patent process in our country is painfully slow and inefficient. It takes years from the time an invention is submitted to the Patent and Trade Office, PTO, to the time that the patent is granted and the holder of the patent gains legal rights to their invention. Currently, there are over 700,000 patents waiting for their first review by the PTO. I supported the original Senate bill, S.23, which would have ensured that the PTO was properly funded, reducing the time between the filing of a patent and the granting of the same. This bill, which passed the Senate by a 95-5 margin on March 8, 2011, included critical provisions that would have ensured that user fees paid to the PTO would stay within the Office to cover its operating costs, rather being diverted to fund unrelated government programs.

Unfortunately, the House of Representatives removed these important provisions, which were critical to securing my support for patent reform. A modernized patent process that restricted "fee diversion" would have spurred innovation and job creation. Small inventors have raised concerns about the new patent processes that the bill sets forth, and without adequate protections against fee diversion, I am unable to support this bill. Additionally, I have concerns about House language that resolves certain legal issues for a limited group of patent holders. I support the underlying goals of this bill, but for the aforementioned reasons, I would have voted "nay" on H.R. 1249 had I been present.

Had I been present for the rollcall vote on S.J. Res. 25, I would have voted "yea." I strongly disapprove of the surge in Federal spending that has pushed our national debt to \$14.7 trillion, and firmly believe that Congress must cut spending immediately and send a strict constitutional balanced budget amendment to the States for ratification. We must also give job creators the certainty they need to hire new workers and expand operations, growing the economy and increasing revenue in the process. Instead of pretending that more debt-financed spending will create prosperity, Congress should take job-destroying tax hikes off the table, overhaul our burdensome regulatory system, and immediately pass the pending free trade agreements with South Korea, Colombia, and Panama. •

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I rise to explain my vote on one amendment today. But I would first like to commend Chairman LEAHY for his long years of work on patent reform, which culminated in final passage this evening of the America Invents Act. I proudly supported this legislation, and I am sure it's gratifying for the senior Senator from Vermont that the Senate overwhelmingly voted to send this bill to the President's desk.

But like most bills that the Senate considers, this legislation is not perfect, as I know the chairman himself has said. There is one major way that the bill we approved today could have been improved, and that is if we had retained language in the original Senate bill that guaranteed that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office would be able to maintain an independent funding stream. For that reason, I commend Senator COBURN for his effort to amend the bill to revert back to that better funding mechanism. For years, we have asked the PTO to do more than its funding levels have allowed it to do well. And while the bill we passed today takes important steps towards committing more resources to the PTO, I did prefer the independent funding stream approach.

Senator COBURN's amendment may have been the better approach, but I

voted to table the amendment because it could well have permanently sunk this enormously important legislation. Sending the bill back to the House with new language that the House has rejected and says it would reject again would have, at best, substantially delayed the reform effort and, at worst, stymied the bill just when we were reaching the finish line. And this bill is important it can help our economy at a critical juncture and can even result in my state of Colorado getting a satellite PTO office, which would be a major jobs and economic driver. I also worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to include important provisions that will help small businesses. None of this would have been possible if we amended the bill at this late stage.

I remain committed to working with colleagues in the coming months and years to make sure that PTO gets the resources it needs to do the job that Congress has asked it to do.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the bill was passed, and I also move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to morning business until 6:10 p.m. today and that Senators, during that period of time, be permitted to speak up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROVIDING FOR RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that upon the conclusion of the joint session, the Senate stand in recess, subject to the call of the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Montana.

REMEMBERING 9/11

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, on Sunday, this Nation will pause to remember a painful day in American history.

On September 11, 2001, I was glued to the radio in my pickup on a long drive back home to Big Sandy. It wasn't until I stopped at a Billings restaurant that I finally saw on TV what I had heard about all day. The pictures were surreal.

Although the attacks of 9/11 weren't America's first test of uncertainty, all of us knew this Nation would change forever.

In the hours and days and weeks following the attacks of September 11, 2001, Americans, neighbors, and perfect strangers joined together to fill the

streets despite their differences. They poured out their support. They redefined the United States of America. I knew then that this great Nation would overcome. Events that unite us will always make us stronger. I was reminded of that on May 2, when Navy SEALs found and brought swift justice to Osama bin Laden, prompting spontaneous celebrations across Montana and the rest of the country.

We must never lose sight of our ability to find common ground and work together on major issues that affect us all. We have much more in common than not, and we should never forget that. It is what built this country. It is what made this the best Nation on Earth, and we need to summon that spirit again as we work to rebuild our economy.

Over the past decade, we have been reminded of some powerful truths that we can never afford to lose sight of. We can never take the security of this country for granted. There are and, sadly, always will be people out there bent on destroying what America stands for, taking innocent lives with them. They are always looking for the weakest links in our security. They are trained and well financed. But our Nation's troops, our intelligence agents, our law enforcement and border security officers are even better trained.

I am particularly concerned about weaknesses along the Montana northern border with Canada. Up until recently, only a few orange cones in the middle of a road protected the country from terrorism. Unfortunately, the days when orange cones did the trick are behind us.

I have worked on the Homeland Security Committee to improve this Nation's security, and things are better than they were a decade ago. We are still working to achieve the right mix of people, technology, and know-how to secure the northern border.

We have also been reminded that America's military can achieve anything asked of it. This comes with a cost. Similar to so many folks of the greatest generation after Pearl Harbor day, hundreds of Montanans signed up to defend our country after 9/11. I stand in deep appreciation for the men and women who, in those dark hours, stood for our country. I thank them and their families for their service, their sacrifice, and their patriotism.

In the years since 9/11, American forces have paid a tremendous price in Iraq and Afghanistan in lives and livelihoods. Until only a few years ago, veterans had to fight another battle at home trying to get access to the benefits they were promised. Too many veterans are still fighting for adequate funding and access to quality health care services that they have earned. As one veteran said, "The day this Nation stops taking care of her veterans is the day this Nation should stop creating them." I couldn't agree more.

Montanans are reminded that some out there are still willing to invade our privacy and trample on our Constitution in the name of security and freedom. Measures such as the PATRIOT Act, which I have consistently opposed, forfeit some basic freedoms. Some lawmakers aren't stopping there.

In the House, a bill called the National Security and Federal Lands Protection Act would allow the Department of Homeland Security to waive laws and seize control of public lands within 100 miles of the border, even if that means closing off grazing lands, shuttering national parks, and trampling on the rights of private land owners. That would have an enormous impact on the whole of Montana. If bad bills such as that are turned into law, America loses.

Our Constitution is a powerful document, and terrorists want nothing more than to watch our rights crumble away by the weight of our own policies. We can, and we will, remain strong. But we must do it with respect to our rights and freedoms.

Today, as on Sunday, my prayers are with those Americans who have died at the hands of terrorists on and since 9/11 and for the tens of thousands of troops still on the frontlines in Afghanistan and elsewhere and for the families of thousands of American troops who have died in service to this country since that terrible day.

My wife Charlotte and I stand with all Montanans in saying thank you to the members of our military, present and past, especially those who have come home with injuries, seen and unseen. This Nation will never forget your sacrifices.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, many of us remember exactly where we were on the morning of September 11, 2001. We will never forget the footage from New York as the towers fell, from the Pentagon as fire raged, and from Pennsylvania, where United flight 93 was grounded in a field. We questioned who would do this, if another attack was coming, and if we were safe in our own country anymore. The tragedy suffered by our nation on that day left us with important lessons to learn, improvements to make, and a renewed sense of urgency towards the future of our society and national security.

On that Tuesday morning, we were victims of a terrible attack that killed 2,961 American citizens, destroyed \$15 billion of property, and launched us into a battle we continue to fight. The actions of the terrorists also sparked the spirit of a nation united. It left us with a resolve to regroup, rebuild and recover while renewing our country's reputation as a world leader and symbol of freedom.

The impacts of 9/11 were not lost on Alaskans. Although thousands of miles away at the moment of attack, Alaskans sprung into action to help their

countrymen in any way possible. Some deployed to Ground Zero, some sponsored fundraisers or blood drives, and some to this day are serving their country in the ongoing operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and around the world.

Today, we pay homage to our fallen heroes. On Sunday, I will join my fellow Alaskans in honoring those courageous first responders at the 2011 Alaska Fallen Firefighter Memorial Ceremony and 9/11 Remembrance in Anchorage. We will remember firefighters and other first responders who gave their lives on September 11, 2001 and since then. To them, emergency response was far more than a job—it was a vocation they felt was worth risking their lives in the face of incredible danger.

I urge Alaskans to join with all Americans across the country to serve their neighbors and communities on what Congress has deemed Patriot Day.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, our Nation will soon observe and reflect on the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

A decade after vicious terrorist attacks killed thousands of innocent people and caused immeasurable grief to victims and survivors, America has shown the world that 9/11 may have changed life as we knew it, but it has not changed America's commitment to freedom, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The national tragedy tapped an overwhelming sense of solidarity and sacrifice among Americans from across the country. Consider the selfless acts of courage and patriotism from the moment the hijackers commandeered three airplanes on that clear September morning 10 years ago: from the passengers aboard United flight 93, to the first responders who reported to the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and the heroes who serve on the front lines from within the Nation's military and from behind-the-scenes in our intelligence and counterterrorism operations.

Thanks to the allegiance of public servants and private citizens, our men and women in uniform and our captains of commerce and industry, the United States of America continues to serve as a beacon of hope, freedom and opportunity to the rest of the world. Those who sought to undermine the exceptionalism of the American people underestimated the resiliency of the American people.

Consider the recent protests across the globe, where after decades of oppression, the people of Tunisia, Egypt and Libya have thrown out autocratic regimes in the pursuit of self-government, economic opportunity, higher standards of living and personal freedoms. The 10th anniversary of 9/11 offers Americans and our friends around

the world the opportunity to embrace the common threads that tie us together.

For more than two centuries, the United States has attracted millions of newcomers to live and work in the land of opportunity. Generations of Americans have scaled the ladder of economic and social mobility, enjoyed the freedoms of press, speech and religion, and embraced the ups and downs of entrepreneurship, risk-taking and innovation. Unleashing the power of the individual has served as a catalyst for economic growth and prosperity for the last 235 years.

Along the way, the United States evolved as an economic, cultural and military leader in the world. The 9/11 terror attacks dealt a devastating blow to America and all of humanity. And yet, 10 years later, America still stands as the shining city on the hill. Despite the economic downturn, America still bears the promise of better days ahead. Despite high unemployment and unprecedented public debt, the American dream still serves as the magical elixir that ultimately defines the Nation's resiliency and bone-deep belief in the goodness of America.

That bone-deep belief in the goodness of America flows through the veins of those called to serve their country in the U.S. military, including one of Iowa's own hometown heroes who lost his life in the line of duty this summer. Jon Tumilson enlisted in the Navy after graduating from high school in 1995. A 35-year-old Navy SEAL from Rockford, he was one of 30 Americans killed in one of the deadliest attacks on U.S. forces since 9/11. My wife and I were able to pay our respects to this fallen Navy SEAL at his funeral in August. The long-time Iowa Hawkeye football and wrestling fan left behind family members and loved ones, including his beloved Labrador retriever named Hawkeye. The black lab led family members into the school gymnasium for the service and proceeded to lie next to the casket of his owner. They say a picture is worth a 1,000 words. The image of Tumilson's dog lying next to the flag-draped casket brought three words to mind; loyalty, loss and love.

I honor the memory of the many Iowans who've died in military service since 9/11, and all the soldiers and veterans who have served their country to protect U.S. national security and preserve our American way of life.

May their sacrifice remind us of their bone-deep belief in America's goodness. We must keep their legacy and love of country close to mind as we work to put America back on the right track towards economic growth and prosperity.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Sunday is September 11. It will be 10 years after

thousands perished in the worst terrorist attack the United States has ever seen. It was a day America lost fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers, and it was a day we will never forget.

With that historic date approaching, I think that it is imperative that we honor the tremendous bravery of our public safety officials. Every day they are on the front lines in one of our Nation's most pressing battles—protecting our neighborhoods, our communities, and responding fearlessly when tragedy strikes. And it is around this time every year that we particularly remember their bravery in responding to one of the most horrific tragedies of all.

The best way to honor our first responders is to make sure we are giving them the tools they need to be successful, to be safe and to do their job in a way that does not expose them to needless dangers. Right now, it is unimaginable, but we are not doing that. When it comes to public safety communications, these everyday heroes don't have the networks they need and depend on.

Too often first responders lack the interoperable networks that are essential to providing an effective response in emergencies. They lack the ability to communicate with one another, with other agencies and across different city and state lines. This hampers our ability to respond to crisis. Whether that crisis is a terrorist attack or natural disaster, it puts lives in unnecessary danger.

Shouldn't a firefighter be able to wirelessly download a floor plan of a burning building before running into it? Shouldn't a police officer be able to receive an immediate digital snapshot of a dangerous criminal? And shouldn't an emergency medical technician be able to receive life-saving medical information on a patient following an accident? If the average American traveler is able to wirelessly pull up a map to route a summer road trip why shouldn't our first responders be able to utilize the same type of technology to save lives?

Far too much time has passed for Congress to not act. That is why I have been working, side by side with the Commerce Committee's ranking member, Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, to pass S. 911, the Public Safety Spectrum and Wireless Innovation Act. This bipartisan legislation would implement a nationwide, interoperable wireless broadband communications network for our first responders.

It would set aside the 10 megahertz of spectrum known as the "D-block" for public safety to support the network and help foster communications for our first responders across the country.

It would also give the Federal Communications Commission the authority to hold incentive auctions based on the voluntary return of spectrum. These auctions, in turn, will provide funding

to support the construction and maintenance of a public safety network and will free up additional spectrum for innovative commercial uses. In an industry that has created 420,000 new jobs over the past decade, this bill is crucial to that continued growth.

In short, this bill marries much needed resources for first responders with smart commercial spectrum policy. It can keep us safe—and help grow our economy. That is why this legislation has the support of every major public safety organization across the country including in my State of West Virginia. It is also why this bill has strong support from governors and mayors across the country and why we have the support of our President and the administration.

This week, as we come together as a nation to remember and honor the lives lost on 9/11, I also urge my colleagues to support the Public Safety Spectrum and Wireless Innovation Act. And to those who say we cannot afford to do this now, I say we cannot afford not to. Because this effort is about saving lives. But if this reason is not compelling enough, it is important to know this: this legislation pays for itself. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office and even the industry itself, incentive auctions will bring in revenue well above what funding public safety requires, leaving billions over for deficit reduction. This is a win-win-win.

In closing, let me say that we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to provide our public safety officials with the spectrum they need to communicate when tragedy strikes. And with voluntary incentive auctions we can pair this with funding.

Let's seize this moment. This is not Republican, this is not Democrat. It is quite simply the right thing to do. Let's do something historic—together.●

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I join my colleagues in commemorating the 10th anniversary of September 11, 2001. I remember that morning so vividly. It was stunningly clear and beautiful with a crispness in the air that hinted that fall was just around the corner. And then, with a sudden ferocity, the airliners crashed into the World Trade Center, WTC, the Pentagon, and Somerset County, PA. Barely 2 hours elapsed between the first hijacking and the collapse of the North Tower of the WTC, 2 horrific hours that forever changed our Nation and the world.

We mourn the lives that were lost in New York City, here in the Washington metropolitan area, and in Pennsylvania. The emotional trauma of those losses affected each and every American. Millions of us remained glued to our TV sets, watching unbearable images of death and destruction.

We remember the 3,000 people who perished on 9/11. The attacks spared no

one: Blacks, Whites, Christians, Jews, and Muslims; the young and old; parents, children, siblings; Americans and foreigners—all these and more were among the victims. The attack was not on one ethnic group, but on a way of life. It was an attack on our freedom and our dedication to its preservation.

We honor the selfless actions of our first responders, including firefighters, police, paramedics, and other emergency and medical personnel, all of whom did not hesitate to answer the call of duty and demonstrated extraordinary bravery and courage in our hours of need.

We also honor our brave service men and women who have taken the fight to the terrorists on foreign soil. We must never forget our country's solemn obligation to our service men and women, our veterans, and their families.

There is no question that 9/11 and the days that followed were difficult ones. But they were also among our proudest ones. It brought out the best of the American spirit. Men and women waited in lines for hours to give blood, children donated their savings to help with relief efforts, communities sponsored clothing drives, and different faith groups held interfaith services.

On 9/11 and in the days and months that followed, Americans stood together. Our response showed the world that Americans have an unquenchable love of freedom and democracy. It showed American resilience, vigilance, and resolve.

Much has changed since that day in September. The 9/11 attacks propelled our Nation into a new kind of warfare, unlike any war we have ever fought. They exposed the scope, depth, and utter ruthlessness of the al-Qaida network. And the attacks revealed gaps in our national security. Evolving threats required new tools.

I am proud of how far we have come in addressing the challenge presented by al-Qaida or other terrorist organizations. While our security networks are far from perfect, in the decade since the 9/11 attacks, we created the Department of Homeland Security to streamline and better integrate the Federal departments and agencies responsible for protecting us. U.S. intelligence and law enforcement at all levels have become much more aggressive in pursuing terrorist threats at home and abroad. These measures have been largely successful.

And let us remember arguably our greatest success against al-Qaida: President Obama's bold stroke to bring Osama bin Laden to justice. The raid was the result of painstaking intelligence gathering and analysis and thorough planning, and it was a remarkable display of our Special Forces capabilities and the extraordinary heroism of our men and women in uniform.

The end of al-Qaida is in sight. Their future is bleak. They have far less glob-

al impact than they used to. They cling to an outdated and empty ideology, with little mainstream influence in the Muslim world. Indeed, the recent Arab Spring demonstrates that people in Middle Eastern countries—especially young people—are more interested in freedom and democracy than in being susceptible to al-Qaida's repressive ideology.

Even as al-Qaida becomes more and more marginalized, evolving state- and nonstate-sponsored threats to our Nation's security persist. One of our greatest challenges will be securing cyberspace. The Internet has grown into one of the most remarkable innovations in human history. But it carries risks.

Our current system allows hackers, spies, and terrorists to gain access to classified and other vital information. Today's cyber criminals, armed with the right tools, can steal our identities, corrupt our financial networks, and disrupt government operations. Tackling cybersecurity in a meaningful way will fill one of the last holes that exist in our national security regime.

As our government moves to extinguish the remnant of al-Qaida and address new threats, we must strive to maintain a careful balance between protecting our Nation and protecting our civil liberties. Commemorating 9/11 should remind us of what makes us unique as a nation. Our country's strength lies in its diversity and our ability to have strongly held beliefs and differences of opinion, while being able to speak freely and not fear that we will be discriminated against by our government or our fellow citizens.

After the 9/11 attacks, I went back to my congressional district and made three visits as a Congressman. First, I visited a synagogue and we prayed together. Then, I visited a mosque and we prayed together. Finally, I visited a church and we prayed together. On that day in September, Americans banded together, regardless of our personal belief or religion.

My message that day was clear: we needed to condemn the terrorist attacks and to take all necessary measures to eliminate safe havens for terrorists and bring them to justice. But my other message that day was equally important: we cannot allow the events of 9/11 to make us demonize a particular religion, nationality, creed, or community. In these trying times, we cannot let our society succumb to the temptation to scapegoat one group.

We did it before—with the Palmer Raids following World War I, the internment of 120,000 Japanese-American citizens during World War II, and the McCarthy-era witch hunts. These were shameful events of our history. We must strive to live up to our Nation's highest ideals and protect our precious civil liberties, even when doing so is difficult or unpopular. We must always

remember how we stood united on 9/11 and showed the world the depth of our commitment to "E Pluribus Unum." Out of many, one.

Our many faiths, origins, and appearances should bind us together, not break us apart. They should be a source of strength and enlightenment, not discord and enmity. All of us belong to smaller communities within the larger community we call the United States. Each community has an obligation to the larger community to promote the safety and well-being of each and every one of us. There is a mutual self-interest in preserving and nurturing our freedom.

September 11, 2001, was a dark day. We remember those who perished and mourn with those who lost family and friends. We honor those who responded and those who fought and continue to fight to keep us safe.

Archibald MacLeish wrote, "There are those who will say that the liberation of humanity, the freedom of man and mind, is nothing but a dream. They are right. It is the American dream." 9/11 was a nightmare. As horrific and cruel as it was, however, it can't extinguish the dream.

TRIBUTE TO DEBRA BROWN STEINBERG

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, the attacks of September 11, 2001, certainly had a profound impact on all Americans. In addition to the sadness, anger, fear, and, ultimately, resolve, we all felt in the aftermath of the attacks, many were also infused with a renewed sense of patriotism and fellowship that inspired them to engage in public and community service. As we approach the tenth anniversary of this terrible tragedy, I would like to honor one individual who answered the call to service, and who has done so much to help victims of the attack, Debra Brown Steinberg.

Debra was in New York City on September 11, and from her apartment she could see the smoke pouring out from the World Trade Center. As she desperately waited for news about her stepson, she made an agreement with God: if her stepson would come home safely, she would work to help the victims of the attack. Thankfully, her stepson did come home safely, and Debra has more than fulfilled her promise.

Utilizing her sharp legal acumen and more than 30 years of professional experience, Debra has become a passionate advocate for the families of those who perished in the 9/11 attacks. A partner in the respected New York firm Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP, Debra was integral in putting together a consortium of law firms that have worked together to deliver pro bono services to 9/11 families.

Early on, Debra realized that, if her firm was going to give victims the assistance they truly needed, they would have to do more than simply offer free legal advice. Under her direction, the consortium has taken a holistic approach toward assisting the families; not just offering counsel, but also seeking to ensure they receive the services they need, and lobbying lawmakers and regulators to ensure that all victims have access to the Victim Compensation Fund. Debra has also represented many victims' families, pro bono, before the fund to ensure that they are fairly compensated.

Perhaps Debra's most amazing work has been her advocacy on behalf of some of the most vulnerable victims of the attacks: immigrants who were in the country illegally when their relatives were killed during the attacks on the World Trade Center. These individuals, as the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has put it, "share with all Americans a moment of loss and pain and pride that is now a defining part of our national history." However, because of their status, they were forced to cope with their pain and sadness in isolation, afraid to seek assistance or to offer their help for fear of being found out. Our Nation cannot help but feel a deep connection and commitment to this group.

Debra has worked tirelessly to assure that we live up to this commitment and to enable these victims to participate in rebuilding after the attacks. With her guidance, 11 of these spouses and children of innocent victims of the attacks have provided assistance to the Federal Government in its 9/11 related investigations and prosecutions. Debra also successfully represented these families before the Victim Compensation Fund to ensure that they received equal consideration. Finally, she has fought doggedly to ensure that these families can continue to work and live in the United States. Due in great part to her work, these family members have so far been able to stay in the United States and their cases are now being considered for a temporary visa that would allow them to live and work legally in the United States. Let us all hope that DHS is able to quickly conduct its review so that these families can leave the shadows and rebuild their lives.

Over the years, my office has had the privilege of assisting Debra in her efforts, and I have witnessed firsthand her dedication to assisting the families of 9/11 victims. Those she has represented are certainly lucky to have had her on their side. Given all that Debra has done, it's no wonder that the American Bar Association honored her with the prestigious Pro Bono Publico award in 2006. She has also received the 9/11 Tribute Center Award in 2009 and the Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 2007. Her work has also been recognized sev-

eral times by my colleagues here in the Senate, as well as in the U.S. House of Representatives and the New York State Legislature.

Mr. President, I commend Debra Brown Steinberg for her commitment to assisting families of 9/11 victims. Her efforts truly personify the American values of fairness and patriotism. The U.S. Senate, and the American People, owe her our sincerest gratitude.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

TEXAS WILDFIRES

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise in morning business to talk about a situation in Texas, the wildfires and the drought.

Since we were mostly home during the August recess, I saw the floods in the Midwest and on the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. I saw the hurricane that hit New York and all along the East Coast. At the same time, with all the extra water in the East, we have had as much as 60 days in parts of Texas with no rain whatsoever. The drought is killing livestock. It is killing land. It is a sad situation. What has happened, of course, is, from that, the wildfires have been able to go farther than we have ever seen in Texas before.

Just in the past 7 days, the Texas Forest Service has responded to 176 fires, destroying nearly 130,000 acres. This year alone, over 2,000 fires have burned more than 2 million acres in Texas. We have high winds and drought conditions, which are a terrible combination in this instance.

Yesterday, the Texas Forest Service responded to 20 new fires, which consumed nearly 1,500 more acres. One of the hardest hit areas is Bastrop County, which is near Austin. I was talking to some of my constituents in Houston, which is not near Austin, and they were talking about seeing and smelling the smoke in Houston from these fires in Bastrop.

An assessment has been completed as of now that says 785 homes were completely destroyed, 238 homes have been reported lost as a result of other fires over the past 3 days, and the fires are so big that they are being photographed from space.

Senator CORNYN and I have asked the President to add the recent wildfires from just this last week to his previous disaster declaration from this spring, which did include wildfires. I want the people of Texas to know that Senator CORNYN and I are working together to get all the Federal help they need. I have been in contact with the State representatives from the area, the mayors, and the county judges to get the reports. So far they feel they have gotten the help they have needed. But now, in the aftermath, we will need to

be part of any kind of disaster bill that goes through this Senate or is declared by the President.

It is my hope we can work through that next week and make sure we include these most recent fires along with the flood disaster relief that supposedly will come to the floor next week. So we are going to work on it and try to help these people. We can't replace the graduation pictures and the wedding pictures and the children's pictures that are lost. This is the human loss you see in this type of a situation. But we can certainly help these people rebuild, and that is what we want to do.

We are going to be on the job trying to help in every way we can, knowing there will not be a 100-percent replacement because the photographs and the personal items and grandmother's wedding ring may not be recovered, but we are going to do what we can, as Americans always do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

VOTING RIGHTS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this afternoon, we held a hearing in the Constitutional Subcommittee on the Senate Judiciary Committee on new voting laws that are being passed in many States. It was one of the first hearings on Capitol Hill on the subject, and I thank you very much for attending as a member of the subcommittee.

We had an array of witnesses, starting with Members of the Senate and Members of the House of Representatives, expressing various points of view on this issue. What we discussed was the new laws in States that are establishing new standards for voting in America. It is essential for us on this subcommittee, with our jurisdiction and responsibility, to focus on this issue of voting rights.

As has been said so many times, there is no more important right in America. The right to vote is a right people have given their lives for.

As we look at the checkered history of the United States, we find that though we honor the right to vote, from the very beginning, we have compromised that principle. We started off with requirements of property ownership. We didn't allow women to vote for so long. African Americans were not given that opportunity for decades. Over the years, we have had as many as 10 different constitutional amendments focusing on extending the right to vote.

When we get to the heart of a democracy, it is about voting. That is why these new State laws are so important and so important for us to reflect on.

Requiring a photo ID for most of us at this station in life or who are in business, it seems like a very common

request. We present our IDs when we get on airplanes and in so many different places. But for a substantial percentage of Americans, they don't carry a government-issued ID. They live their lives without the need of one. Now State laws are requiring these IDs for people before they can vote. It sounds like a minor inconvenience, and for many people it would be just that. But for others, it could be more.

If there is not a good opportunity for a person to acquire an ID without cost, in a fashion that doesn't create hardship, many people will be discouraged from voting. They will just think: This is another obstacle in the path of exercising my right to vote, and maybe I will stay home.

That is not good for a democracy. We should be leaning in the other direction, trying to expand the electorate, expand the voting populous in this country, expand the voice of the voters in this country, not the opposite. Many of these State laws in the seven States that have now put in photo IDs create significant hardships.

We have a problem in Wisconsin, for example, and I have written to the Governor asking him to give me his impression of how he will deal with these issues.

One out of five people in Wisconsin do not have an ID; 177,000 elderly people in Wisconsin do not have the ID required by law; more than one-third of young people don't have an ID. Particularly among African Americans under the age of 24, 70 percent do not have the ID necessary to vote in Wisconsin. So, you say, they have their chance. The election will not be until next year, they have plenty of time.

It turns out that in the State of Wisconsin there is only one Division of Motor Vehicles Office that is open on a weekend in the entire State. That to me seems unconscionable and unacceptable. We need to take a hard look at this and the first stop will be the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice.

They asked me after the hearing today, what are we going to do next? They said what we will do next is follow the law. The law says the Department of Justice has to weigh each of these changes, whether it is voter registration in Florida or whether it is the voter ID or the limitation on early voting and decide whether this violates the basic standards of the Voting Rights Act. They have 60 days to do so after the law is enacted.

I have spoken to the division, Civil Rights Division. It is my impression they are going to move on this in a timely fashion. This is a critical issue. I am afraid it is way too political. The forces behind change in virtually every State—not every one but virtually every State—have come from the same political side of the equation. It is not lost on those of us who do this for a liv-

ing what is at stake here. If certain people are denied access to the polls, discouraged to vote, and those people turn out to be historically those voting on one side or the other, it is going to create not only a personal hardship but a distortion in the election outcome and I hope we can sincerely work together on the Judiciary Committee and with the Department of Justice to resolve this.

TRIBUTE TO ANNE WALL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to take a few minutes to thank a remarkable person on my staff who is moving to a new job. Anne Wall of Chicago is one of my most trusted staff members. She has been my Senate floor director for more than two years. A few C-SPAN viewers may recognize Anne as a regular on the floor of the Senate. Those of us who worked closely with her on both sides of the aisle know she is one of the smartest, hardest working, and most gracious members of the Senate community. No matter how early in the morning or late at night, Anne Wall is always there with a smile and a good answer. If an agreement needs to be worked out, Anne is there to offer a fair and constructive solution.

Next week Anne Wall starts an exciting new chapter in her life. My loss is the gain of a former Senator from Illinois, President Barack Obama. Anne is going to the White House to work as a Special Assistant to the President. I am going to miss working with her, as everyone on my staff will. Fortunately, we are going to see her often on Capitol Hill in her new job, representing the President of the United States.

A little about her background will explain how Anne came to the Senate. Anne grew up in Palos Heights, in the south suburbs of Chicago. She is a first-generation suburbanite. Her dad Michael and mom Liz both grew up on the South Side of Chicago, which means that Anne has the South Side in her blood. In Chicago that is noteworthy.

However, when Anne was a kid, her family did something that was considered heretical. They had, as South Siders, season tickets to the Chicago Cubs. That made the Walls something of an anomaly among South Siders, and it probably helps explain why Anne is able to work so well across the aisle here in the Senate.

Politics was not discussed much in the Wall home, but Anne developed her own interest in politics at a very early age, at every level. In the eighth grade she became the first girl ever elected class president at St. Alexander Grade School. That same year, Anne Wall became the first girl in her town to serve as "Mayor for a Day" of Palos Heights. She won that honor on the strength of an essay she wrote.

Anne attended high school at one of the most remarkable South Side institutions, Mother McAuley—a terrific Catholic girls school which usually fields one of the best volleyball teams in the State. Anne went to the school run by the Sisters of Mercy, where she was elected president of the student council. It was in that South Side Chicago high school that Anne Wall started to go astray. While her colleagues and friends in high school were reading *Rolling Stone*, Anne Wall was reading *Roll Call*. Anne read *Roll Call*, not for its accounts of partisan fights, but because she wanted to know how government works. She wanted to understand the rules and the mechanics of Capitol Hill. As her mom said, "Who does that?"

I will tell you who: Anne did; someone who wanted to serve her Nation and understand how the government can be a force for good.

She earned a bachelor's degree from Miami of Ohio College, and went on to DePaul University Law School, where she was chosen to serve on the Law Review. In her final year at law school, Anne worked as an intern in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Chicago. After law school, she clerked for two distinguished jurists, Cook County Circuit Court Judge Allen Goldberg and Cook County Circuit Court Judge Lynn Egan, before signing on as associate counsel at a prestigious Chicago law firm and making a few bucks. But that wasn't where her heart was.

In 2006, Anne Wall decided to leave the world of private law and its comfortable compensation to come to Capitol Hill. She saved up money because she knew she was going to take a pretty significant pay cut. Our office had the good luck and good sense to hire Anne, but we started her off at the bottom of the staff ladder. She started writing constituent letters and answering e-mails. She said whenever she questioned this career move from a prestigious law firm to answering letters in the office of a Senator, she would look at another lawyer hired at the same time and also writing letters and say: And he went to Harvard.

The people of Illinois were fortunate to have talented people such as Anne working for them. She quickly discovered the glamor of staff life on Capitol Hill, however. Anne's first apartment in Washington, the only one she could afford on the meager salary which I paid her, unfortunately was infested with vermin, the roof leaked, and one night it fell in. But she didn't want her mom to worry so she told her she was living in a wonderful place on Capitol Hill.

After 1 year, we promoted Anne to serve as my office counsel. She quickly learned the ins and outs of the Senate ethics rules, and I brought her on to counsel me on close calls on ethics decisions. Her counsel was always valuable and her answer was always "no." I

knew that and expected it and I am glad she steered me on the right path so many times.

In 2008 I asked her to work for me on the Senate floor and once again she excelled. In January of 2009 she became my floor director here in the Senate. As my right hand on the floor, Anne Hall helped help steer the majority whip operation and the entire Senate through historic changes: health care reform, Wall Street reform, and a long list of other historic endeavors.

Whatever the task, whatever the challenge, Anne Wall has always brought good humor, intelligence, and integrity to the task. When Anne was not winning elections or reading Roll Call in high school, she played tennis. It was one of the things she loved to do. She was ranked as one of the top high school players in the State, but not being able to play tennis regularly is another one of the sacrifices Anne made to work in the Senate. The job takes too much time. I hate to tell Anne, but she won't be able to pick up her tennis racquet again in the new job she is taking in the White House.

These are challenging times for America's families and businesses and we need bright, dedicated people giving it their all to get us through to a brighter day. Fortunately, America is up to that challenge, and so is Anne Wall. I am wishing her the best of luck.

When Anne Wall left Chicago, her law firm promised they would take her back in a heartbeat if she didn't like it in Washington. They kept her office vacant for months, hoping she would return. No such luck. We feel the same way in the Durbin office about losing Anne. She is always welcome to rejoin our staff. There will always be a place for her, but we are not holding her job for her. My new floor director is a person who has been Anne's right-hand person for the last 2½ years, Reema Dodin. Reema is equally dedicated to this Nation and the Senate, and I know she will do an outstanding job.

In closing, I want to thank Anne personally for all the fine and tireless work she has given the Senate. She helped us make history. We hope she will enjoy reading about this floor tribute in Roll Call.

REMEMBERING MICHAEL GAROFANO, SR. AND MICHAEL GAROFANO, JR.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I would like to pay tribute to two dedicated public servants in Vermont who passed away tragically in the floods of Hurricane Irene.

Both Michael Garofano Sr. and Michael Garofano Jr. were employees at the Rutland City Water Facility in Rutland, VT, where they served at the interest of their communities until the very end. During the worst hours of Hurricane Irene in Vermont, Michael

Sr. and Michael Jr. sought to protect the people of Rutland by inspecting the town's water system infrastructure. In this brave moment, both men unfortunately lost their lives as the waters of Mendon Brook rose to threatening levels. We will always remember them for their everlasting courage, evident by their extreme dedication to protecting their family and beloved community during a crisis.

Michael Sr. joined the Rutland City Water Facility as its manager in 1981. He served zealously, ensuring that the water of Rutland City was safe at all times for those living in the region. He was also a member of the American Water Works Association where he was committed to benefitting not only Vermont, but also the country, in its pursuit of clean water. Michael was highly respected and honored by those who worked under his supervision. He was known as one of the best employees the industry had to offer.

Michael Sr.'s son, Michael Garofano Jr., also had the interest of water quality at heart. As a water operator at the Rutland City Water Facility, he too braved the elements of Hurricane Irene to serve his family and community. As an independently contracted landscaper, Michael's loyalty to his community was widely recognized. At a mere 24 years of age, both his accomplishments and bravery are of honorable praise.

Michael Garofano Sr. and Jr. are survived by wife and mother, Celestine "Sally"—Sitek—Garofano and son and brother, Thomas Garofano of Rutland, Vermont. My wife Marcelle and I wish to express our deepest condolences to Sally, Thomas, and Michael Sr. and Jr.'s extended family. In the days following the hurricane, many acts of bravery have been displayed throughout our state. All of Vermont can be proud of Michael Sr. and Michael Jr.'s incredible courage and the legacy they both have left behind.

I ask unanimous consent that the obituary for Michael Garofano Sr. and Michael Garofano Jr. from the Rutland Herald be printed in the RECORD so all may recognize two men whose acts of bravery will not soon be forgotten.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

MICHAEL J. GAROFANO

Published in Rutland Herald from September 2 to September 3, 2011

Michael J. Garofano, 55, of Rutland died Sunday afternoon, Aug. 28, 2011, with his son Michael, as a tragic result of Hurricane Irene in Rutland.

He was born in Rutland, Vt., on March 27, 1956, the son of Patrick and Jacqueline (Roussil) Garofano.

Michael was a graduate of Rutland High School, Class of 1974. He graduated from Vermont Technical College in 1976, with an Associate Degree in Water Quality.

He was employed as the Water Treatment and Resource Manager in the Rutland City Department of Public Works since 1981.

He enjoyed his family, especially his three boys. He enjoyed puttering around the house and fixing things. Mike had a dry sense of humor and gave everyone a nickname.

Surviving are his wife, Celestine "Sally" (Sitek) Garofano of Rutland; a son, Thomas A. Garofano of Rutland, his parents of Rutland; two brothers, Thomas and his wife Maureen of Georgia, Vt., and Patrick and his wife Cindy of Daphne, Ala.; three sisters, Mary Goodchild and her husband Harvey of Rutland, Lynn Helrich of Anchorage, Alaska, and Stephanie Urso and her husband Frank of Proctor, Vt.; mother-in-law Valeria Sitek of Rutland, Vt.; sister-in-law Chris Giddings and her husband Fred Hellmuth of Pittsford; and several nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was predeceased by a son, Robert M. Garofano, on April 8, 2010.

Funeral services for Michael J. Garofano and his son Michael G. will be held Friday, September 9, 2011, at 11 a.m. at St. Peter's Church in Rutland.

Visiting hours for Michael J. Garofano and his son Michael G. will be held Thursday from 3 to 7 p.m. at Clifford Funeral Home in Rutland.

The family is intending to create a memorial fund to honor Michael and his son via the purchase of a plaque or similar item to be placed at the City Reservoir.

In lieu of flowers, you may send donations payable to the Garofano Memorial Fund, c/o Rutland City Treasurer's Office, PO Box 969, Rutland, VT 05702-0969.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, on August 26, 2011, we recognized the 40th anniversary of Women's Equality Day. It is on this day that we celebrate the many contributions of women in advancing our society by fighting for equality and justice. This day also marked the 91st anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which guaranteed women the right to vote in 1920. Wyoming was the first in the world to allow women to vote and own property. Wyoming adopted it in 1820. That was 50 years before the nation adopted women's suffrage.

Wyoming has a long history of advancing women's rights and actually refused to become a state when the option was women losing their rights. Wyoming became the first State to elect a female Governor, Nellie Tayloe Ross, just 5 years after the 19th amendment was ratified by the U.S. Congress. We also had the first female Justice of the Peace, Esther Hobart Morris and her commemoration is one of only a few female statues displayed in the U.S. Capitol today.

While we are certainly proud of our past, I am honored to currently serve in Wyoming's congressional delegation alongside U.S. Congresswoman CYNTHIA LUMMIS who has been a remarkable leader for Wyoming as she continues the proud tradition of leadership of women in our state. Speaking of firsts, Congresswoman LUMMIS became the youngest woman ever elected to the Wyoming State Legislature. She was also the first woman to serve on the

Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo Board. CYNTHIA has taken on a variety of roles ranging from a lawyer and rancher to a legislator and Wyoming State treasurer. Now in her role in the U.S. House of Representatives, her work continually impresses me as she does an outstanding job serving her constituents and fighting for their interests in Congress.

Without a doubt, the ratification of the 19th amendment to our country's Constitution was a landmark in our need to recognize the voices of women and recognize their contributions to our country. While there is no doubt we are a better country for offering full franchise to women, it needs to be recognized that on Equality Day our Nation recognizes a turning point for progress and civil rights, a watershed moment in our ongoing pursuit of liberty and justice for all.

Women serve as a pillar of strength in our country. I am proud to recognize the 141st year of Wyoming women voting and this 91st anniversary of women gaining the right to vote and look forward to welcoming their achievements and contributions in the years to come and assuring that equality is not just a word.

BLAIR, NEBRASKA FLOOD RESPONSE EFFORTS

Mr. JOHANNIS. Mr. President, as you are aware, my home State of Nebraska has battled devastating flood waters throughout much of this summer. As often occurs during disasters, it resulted in neighbors and communities coming together to help one another. On display in impressive fashion was the sense of determination and self-reliance that is woven into the character of our citizens and the fabric of our State. I have been privileged to witness the resiliency of Nebraskans many times throughout my public service as a county commissioner, mayor, Governor, secretary of agriculture and now, as a U.S. Senator. I am deeply moved by it. The flooding has been tragic, but the response has been inspiring. One shining example of this resiliency and compassion occurred in Blair, NE. In fact, the organized and dedicated response in Blair so impressed officials at the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency that on September 2, 2011, they issued a news release about the incredible response efforts in Blair. It is entitled, "How the People of Blair Took Care of Their Own," and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

HOW THE PEOPLE OF BLAIR TOOK CARE OF THEIR OWN

(By Paul Lomartire)

BLAIR, NE.—As the gritty, brown Missouri River just kept rising in early June, so did the will of the people in this small city northwest of Omaha. Residents of Blair's Northview Apartments and the Longview Trailer Court were forced out of their homes by flooding. Blair homes along the river were also flooded and the Cottonwood Marina and Restaurant on the Missouri River was destroyed and washed away.

"It happened so fast, the reality of this flood coming," recalls Harriet Waite, director of Blair's Chamber of Commerce. "It was like, OK, we are going to do this."

What they did in this city of almost 8,000 residents was to form a committee of eight citizens to help house and feed their neighbors who were flooded out of their homes. With Washington County and the City of Blair governments creating green lights, the committee of eight drove the rescue bus.

Blair is on the banks of the Missouri River across from Iowa, their eastern neighbor.

When the flooding began in early June, Washington County and the City of Blair struck a deal to rent the 76-room Holling Hall on the former Dana College campus. The cost was \$5,000 monthly to the bank that owned the former Lutheran college founded in 1884, which was forced to close in 2010.

"We cared about our business community staying open," explained Phil Green, Blair's assistant city administrator. "When we knew the water was coming, there was a lot going on with Cargill building levees to protect their plant and levees for our water treatment plant to keep it from flooding. We had to take care of employees in Blair whether they lived here or in Iowa. Our priorities for housing at Dana were Washington County residents and Washington County workers."

The committee of eight and other volunteers took care of everything from organizing meals at Holling Hall to maintenance, cleaning and security. Those families at Holling Hall were asked to pay \$150 per family unit to offset the cost of utilities.

Move-in at the vacant Dana College facility was on the weekend of June 11-12. There were 23 adults and 11 children comprising 13 families. Blair's business community donated all the supplies for Holling Hall, including paper products, plastic ware, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items and more. Donated meals came from mom-and-pop restaurants, national chains and local churches.

The population of flood survivors at Holling Hall hit a highpoint on July 8, with 115 people made up of 83 adults and 32 children. One-third of Dana's temporary residents were from Iowa.

Helen Mauney works at Crowell's Nursing Home in Blair and lives across the river in Mondamin, Iowa. Flooding meant that she couldn't get across the bridge to go home. Co-workers told her that she could find temporary housing help at city hall.

"They're wonderful people," she says of the ad hoc housing committee that administers Holling Hall, where she has lived for more than two months. "They made it as nice as possible. I appreciate everything they did."

The quickly-formed Washington County Cares Committee is now an efficient, tight-knit unit that delivered on its plan to have all the flood survivors relocated by the end of August and close Holling Hall.

Now the committee is transitioning into the Washington County Long-Term Recovery

Committee, according to assistant city administrator Green. They are being advised by a Federal Emergency Management Agency Voluntary Agency Liaison. That help became possible on August 12, when the president declared a major disaster that designated Washington and eight other Nebraska counties eligible for Individual Assistance.

Not only has the committee of eight cared for flood survivors' daily needs for nearly two months, they also were able to assist with deposits or rental payments up to \$500 to help with relocation from Holling Hall. That money came from \$30,000 in donations the committee has received.

"At the core," says Aaron Barrow, a Blair police lieutenant and committee member, "there's a really strong city government and local business community that has a very good working relationship with the ministries. Government didn't solve all the problems, but a partnership between government, business and churches did solve problems."

"This city and this county are very generous," said Kristina Churchill, who is the Holling Hall Food Coordinator. "It didn't surprise me that we got help. What surprised me was how much help we got."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

BIG SKY ALL STARS

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, Yogi Berra once said, "I think Little League is wonderful. It keeps the kids out of the house." A team of talented young athletes from Montana spent a lot of time out of the house this summer on an amazing and inspiring run all the way to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA.

The Big Sky All Stars from Billings were the first team ever from the State of Montana to qualify for the Little League World Series. I applaud the dedication of the teams manager Gene Carlson, coaches Mark Kieckbusch and Tom Zimmer, the players, and their families for their success and all the miles they've traveled, making Montana so proud along the way.

The team began their run in June and July by winning district and state championships back home in the Treasure State. The boys then traveled to California where they won the Northwest Regional Championship which qualified them for the Little League World Series.

Of the thousands of Little League teams that take the field across the U.S. every season, only eight qualify for the Little League World Series. Across Montana folks from Billings to Bigfork gathered in their communities to cheer on our all-stars. The team prevailed in their first three games in the tournament with heart-stopping victories before national television audiences.

Those three wins brought them to the U.S. Championship game on August 27 where they put up a commendable fight against the Ocean View All Stars

from Huntington Beach, California. The boys from Billings made their home state so proud. They reached their goals by exemplifying the Montana values of grit, determination, and hard work. Through great team work and encouragement from their coaches and families, these young men exceeded expectations.

Upon their return to Billings the team was greeted by a throng of supporters at the airport. The youngsters were also recognized with a parade and ceremonies at many local events this past week. I would like to join with Montanans from across the state and folks around the country in congratulating the Big Sky All Stars on their fantastic season and wishing them the best in the future. The lessons these young men learned this summer and the memories made will be with them forever.

Mr. President, I ask that the names of the manager, coaches, and players of the Big Sky All Stars be printed in the RECORD.

The information follows:

THE BIG SKY ALL-STARS

Manager Gene Carlson; Coach Mark Kieckbusch; Coach Tom Zimmer; Ben Askelson: #15, left field, catcher, pitcher; Jet Campbell: #2, 2nd base; Sean Jones: #21, 3rd base, pitcher; Connor Kieckbusch: #1, 2nd base, right field; Pearce Kurth: #13, 1st base; Ian Leatherberry: #5, 3rd base, pitcher; Brock MacDonald: #12, center field; Andy Maehl: #10, left field, catcher; Cole McKenzie: #17, shortstop, pitcher; Dawson Smith: #16, 1st base; Gabe Sulser: #4, right field, center field; Patrick Zimmer: #19, shortstop, pitcher.●

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR SAM GLOVER

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to MAJ Sam Glover for his extraordinary service to the Nation while serving in the U.S. Army for the past 18 years. His record of distinguished service includes tours in Korea, Bosnia, Iraq, and a nominative assignment as a defense fellow in the U.S. Senate.

Major Glover started his military career as an enlisted soldier—a combat engineer—in the South Carolina National Guard. After graduating from South Carolina State University, Major Glover was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army Aviation Corps. After completing requirements to become a UH-60 Blackhawk pilot, he served in Korea, where he served as a platoon leader for Bravo Company, 1-52nd Aviation Regiment supporting South Korean Special Operations Forces.

After his Korea tour, Major Glover was assigned to Fort Bragg, NC. Major Glover deployed with his unit to Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of Operation Joint Forge. During this deployment he acted as forward detachment commander during the Kosovo air strikes. In addition, he provided aerial

security support at the G-8 conference in Sarajevo, Bosnia, for President Clinton and other key leaders.

Following his Fort Bragg assignment, he assumed command of HHC-1-212th Aviation Company at Fort Rucker, AL. As the company commander, Major Glover managed the two largest Army heliports, training over 2,000 students and as an instructor pilot received his Army Senior Aviator Badge flying over 1,500 hours.

Following company command, Major Glover became a system evaluator for the procurement of new military system and equipment at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. He was then deployed to Iraq as an operations officer of a military transition team that trained over 830 Iraqis and conducted over 100 combat missions.

After he returned from Iraq, Major Glover was selected as an Army comptroller and worked in the Pentagon at the Army Asymmetric Warfare Office, AAWO in the Improvised Explosive Device, IED, Division. During that time he was one of the original combat vehicle architects of the Mine Resistant Ambush Program, MRAP, and worked with Congress and defense leaders to fund 12,000 vehicles valued at \$17 billion.

Major Glover was then selected as a Department of Defense congressional fellow and served as an Army fellow in the U.S. Senate for 1 year. After his tenure as a military fellow, he most recently served as Army congressional legislative liaison in the Army Senate Liaison Division. He represented the Army on Capitol Hill and conducted numerous codels and staffdels across the world. He has coordinated over 1,500 Capitol Hill and White House tours for State, local, and military constituents.

Mr. President, on behalf of the grateful nation, I join my colleagues today in saying thank you to MAJ Sam Glover for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the country throughout his distinguished career in the U.S. Army.●

REMEMBERING DR. LARRY MANNING ROSS

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize the passing of Dr. Larry Manning Ross, a great South Carolinian, who not only served his country honorably in uniform but also worked tirelessly as a psychologist for many years.

Dr. Ross graduated from Citadel in 1963 and served in the Vietnam war, where as a captain he was wounded in 1968. For his actions, Dr. Ross was awarded the Silver Star and the Vietnam Cross. After being medically discharged from the military, Dr. Ross went on to earn a PhD in psychology and taught at the University of South Carolina. He served in private practice until he could no longer practice.

Dr. Ross was an incredible man who made countless sacrifices for his family and for his country and for that I would like to honor him.●

RECOGNIZING DIMILLO'S FLOATING RESTAURANT

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, there are small businesses in cities and town across America that are local landmarks for a variety of reasons—whether they serve exceptional food, create a fun atmosphere, or possess a unique character. One such small business, DiMillo's Floating Restaurant in Maine's largest coastal city of Portland, enjoys all of these traits, and has been a community favorite since opening its doors in its current location in 1982. Today I commend DiMillo's for its remarkable achievements and determined resilience, and to highlight its remarkable story.

DiMillo's restaurant began serving some of Portland's favorite meals in 1982 after many reinventions of creator Tony DiMillo's dream. Tony opened his first restaurant, Anthony's, on Fore Street in 1954. After two relocations of the restaurant, he settled on changing his company's name to that of his last name, and moved the restaurant to Portland's scenic waterfront after purchasing the abandoned Long Wharf. Tony quickly evolved his business from a single restaurant to a multi faceted empire by creating DiMillo's Marina and eventually DiMillo's Yacht Sales, all on the newly renovated wharf.

The flagship of the DiMillo spirit lies in DiMillo's Floating Restaurant, a refurbished car ferry that originally ran between Delaware and New Jersey. By the time the DiMillo family purchased the vessel in 1980, its fate was sealed as a popular landmark of the Portland waterfront. DiMillo's Floating Restaurant is one of the largest converted ferries of its kind and is able to accommodate over 600 guests at any given time. The restaurant offers patrons a wide variety of the Gulf of Maine's bounty, from lobsters and haddock to scallops and clams. In homage to the family's Italian ancestry, DiMillo's also offers a number of both unique and classic Italian dishes, from seafood scampi to ricotta meatballs.

Like so many small Maine businesses, DiMillo's has been forced to adapt to the persistent economic downturn, as well as today's rising energy costs. Recently, the company announced that it will be raising a 35-foot wind turbine to help cut the cost of the electrical needs of the business. As part of their movement towards sustainability, DiMillo's has also pledged to consider adding solar panels to its energy future.

It is with great pride that I acknowledge the successes of small, family-owned businesses, because these are

the firms that help maintain the character and virtue of Main Street America. The long-term success and longevity of DiMillo's Restaurant and the entire DiMillo family is a byproduct of strong work ethic, responsive customer service, and a high level of quality.

The motto of the DiMillo family has always been, "A tradition of excellence for generations to come." And these words continue to ring true today, whether it is through their efforts at the restaurant, the marina, or in their yacht sales business. DiMillo's is an excellent example of our nation's unique and celebrated entrepreneurial spirit. I congratulate everyone in the DiMillo's businesses for their resilience and dedication to the community of Portland, and wish them many years of continued success.●

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER TIM DOYLE

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I join the Rapid City Police Department in honoring Officer Tim Doyle.

Officer Doyle was serving temporarily on the Street Crimes Unit, before resuming his work as a school liaison officer. The Street Crimes Unit was specially designed to handle public nuisance issues and has made noticeable improvements to the quality of life in Rapid City neighborhoods. During what seemed to be a typical stop on August 2, 2011, Officer Doyle was one of three officers shot while on duty. Officer Doyle was shot in the face, and two of his fellow officers, Officer Ryan McCandless and Officer Nick Armstrong, later died from their injuries.

Officer Doyle left the hospital 1 week after the shooting and then returned to work in less than 3 weeks. He assumed his newly assigned position as a Central High School liaison officer in time for the first week of school, with his jaw still wired shut and a bullet lodged in his chest.

Officer Tim Doyle is a four-year veteran of the Rapid City Police Department, and a certain hero. Tim joined the Rapid City Police Department on July 30, 2007. He was hired as a police officer assigned to the Field Services Division. In August 2010, he was assigned as the school liaison officer for Southwest Middle School in Rapid City, SD.

Originally from Minnesota, he received his bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City. He worked as an engineer in Minnesota for more than a decade before returning to Rapid City to pursue a career in law enforcement.

Officer Doyle continues to recover quickly, due to his remarkable courage and the incredible support of his family, friends, fellow officers, and the Rapid City community.

On September 14, 2011, Officer Tim Doyle will be honored with two awards

from the Rapid City Police Department. He will receive the Distinguished Service Cross, which is bestowed upon members who distinguish themselves by demonstrating exceptional bravery, despite an imminent risk of serious bodily injury or death. Officer Doyle will also receive the Purple Heart medal, awarded for a serious physical injury received in the line of duty.

So today I wish to honor this extraordinary public servant. I extend my thoughts, prayers and best wishes to Officer Doyle, his family, friends, his fellow public servants in the Rapid City Police Department, as well as the community at large who have shown outstanding support.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS CONCERNING PROPOSALS TO CREATE JOBS AND IMPROVE THE ECONOMY DELIVERED TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2011—PM 18

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with accompanying papers; which was ordered to lie on the table:

To the Congress of the United States:

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, and fellow Americans:

Tonight we meet at an urgent time for our country. We continue to face an economic crisis that has left millions of our neighbors jobless, and a political crisis that has made things worse.

This past week, reporters have been asking "What will this speech mean for the President? What will it mean for Congress? How will it affect their polls, and the next election?"

But the millions of Americans who are watching right now: they don't care about politics. They have real life concerns. Many have spent months looking for work. Others are doing their best just to scrape by—giving up nights out with the family to save on gas or make the mortgage; postponing retirement to send a kid to college.

These men and women grew up with faith in an America where hard work and responsibility paid off. They believed in a country where everyone gets a fair shake and does their fair share—where if you stepped up, did your job, and were loyal to your company, that loyalty would be rewarded with a decent salary and good benefits; maybe a raise once in awhile. If you did the right thing, you could make it in America.

But for decades now, Americans have watched that compact erode. They have seen the deck too often stacked against them. And they know that Washington hasn't always put their interests first.

The people of this country work hard to meet their responsibilities. The question tonight is whether we'll meet ours. The question is whether, in the face of an ongoing national crisis, we can stop the political circus and actually do something to help the economy; whether we can restore some of the fairness and security that has defined this nation since our beginning.

Those of us here tonight can't solve all of our nation's woes. Ultimately, our recovery will be driven not by Washington, but by our businesses and our workers. But we can help. We can make a difference. There are steps we can take right now to improve people's lives.

I am sending this Congress a plan that you should pass right away. It's called the American Jobs Act. There should be nothing controversial about this piece of legislation.

Everything in here is the kind of proposal that's been supported by both Democrats and Republicans—including many who sit here tonight. And everything in this bill will be paid for. Everything.

The purpose of the American Jobs Act is simple: to put more people back to work and more money in the pockets of those who are working. It will create more jobs for construction workers, more jobs for teachers, more jobs for veterans, and more jobs for the long-term unemployed. It will provide a tax break for companies who hire new workers, and it will cut payroll taxes in half for every working American and every small business. It will provide a jolt to an economy that has stalled, and give companies confidence that if they invest and hire, there will be customers for their products and services. You should pass this jobs plan right away.

Everyone here knows that small businesses are where most new jobs begin. And you know that while corporate profits have come roaring back, smaller companies haven't. So for everyone who speaks so passionately about making life easier for "job creators," this plan is for you.

Pass this jobs bill, and starting tomorrow, small businesses will get a tax

cut if they hire new workers or raise workers' wages. Pass this jobs bill, and all small business owners will also see their payroll taxes cut in half next year. If you have 50 employees making an average salary, that's an \$80,000 tax cut. And all businesses will be able to continue writing off the investments they make in 2012.

It's not just Democrats who have supported this kind of proposal. Fifty House Republicans have proposed the same payroll tax cut that's in this plan. You should pass it right away.

Pass this jobs bill, and we can put people to work rebuilding America. Everyone here knows that we have badly decaying roads and bridges all over this country. Our highways are clogged with traffic. Our skies are the most congested in the world.

This is inexcusable. Building a world-class transportation system is part of what made us an economic superpower. And now we're going to sit back and watch China build newer airports and faster railroads? At a time when millions of unemployed construction workers could build them right here in America?

There are private construction companies all across America just waiting to get to work. There's a bridge that needs repair between Ohio and Kentucky that's on one of the busiest trucking routes in North America. A public transit project in Houston that will help clear up one of the worst areas of traffic in the country. And there are schools throughout this country that desperately need renovating. How can we expect our kids to do their best in places that are literally falling apart? This is America. Every child deserves a great school—and we can give it to them, if we act now.

The American Jobs Act will repair and modernize at least 35,000 schools. It will put people to work right now fixing roofs and windows; installing science labs and high-speed internet in classrooms all across this country. It will rehabilitate homes and businesses in communities hit hardest by foreclosures. It will jumpstart thousands of transportation projects across the country. And to make sure the money is properly spent and for good purposes, we're building on reforms we've already put in place. No more earmarks. No more boondoggles. No more bridges to nowhere. We're cutting the red tape that prevents some of these projects from getting started as quickly as possible. And we'll set up an independent fund to attract private dollars and issue loans based on two criteria: how badly a construction project is needed and how much good it would do for the economy.

This idea came from a bill written by a Texas Republican and a Massachusetts Democrat. The idea for a big boost in construction is supported by America's largest business organiza-

tion and America's largest labor organization. It's the kind of proposal that's been supported in the past by Democrats and Republicans alike. You should pass it right away.

Pass this jobs bill, and thousands of teachers in every state will go back to work. These are the men and women charged with preparing our children for a world where the competition has never been tougher. But while they're adding teachers in places like South Korea, we're laying them off in droves. It's unfair to our kids. It undermines their future and ours. And it has to stop. Pass this jobs bill, and put our teachers back in the classroom where they belong.

Pass this jobs bill, and companies will get extra tax credits if they hire America's veterans. We ask these men and women to leave their careers, leave their families, and risk their lives to fight for our country. The last thing they should have to do is fight for a job when they come home.

Pass this bill, and hundreds of thousands of disadvantaged young people will have the hope and dignity of a summer job next year. And their parents, low-income Americans who desperately want to work, will have more ladders out of poverty.

Pass this jobs bill, and companies will get a \$4,000 tax credit if they hire anyone who has spent more than six months looking for a job. We have to do more to help the long-term unemployed in their search for work. This jobs plan builds on a program in Georgia that several Republican leaders have highlighted, where people who collect unemployment insurance participate in temporary work as a way to build their skills while they look for a permanent job. The plan also extends unemployment insurance for another year. If the millions of unemployed Americans stopped getting this insurance, and stopped using that money for basic necessities, it would be a devastating blow to this economy. Democrats and Republicans in this Chamber have supported unemployment insurance plenty of times in the past. At this time of prolonged hardship, you should pass it again—right away.

Pass this jobs bill, and the typical working family will get a fifteen hundred dollar tax cut next year. Fifteen hundred dollars that would have been taken out of your paycheck will go right into your pocket. This expands on the tax cut that Democrats and Republicans already passed for this year. If we allow that tax cut to expire—if we refuse to act—middle-class families will get hit with a tax increase at the worst possible time. We cannot let that happen. I know some of you have sworn oaths to never raise any taxes on anyone for as long as you live. Now is not the time to carve out an exception and raise middle-class taxes, which is why you should pass this bill right away.

This is the American Jobs Act. It will lead to new jobs for construction workers, teachers, veterans, first responders, young people and the long-term unemployed. It will provide tax credits to companies that hire new workers, tax relief for small business owners, and tax cuts for the middle-class. And here's the other thing I want the American people to know: the American Jobs Act will not add to the deficit. It will be paid for. And here's how:

The agreement we passed in July will cut government spending by about \$1 trillion over the next ten years. It also charges this Congress to come up with an additional \$1.5 trillion in savings by Christmas. Tonight, I'm asking you to increase that amount so that it covers the full cost of the American Jobs Act. And a week from Monday, I'll be releasing a more ambitious deficit plan—a plan that will not only allow us to boost jobs and growth in the short-term, but stabilize our debt in the long run.

This approach is basically the one I've been advocating for months. In addition to the trillion dollars of spending cuts I've already signed into law, it's a balanced plan that would reduce the deficit by making additional spending cuts; by making modest adjustments to health care programs like Medicare and Medicaid; and by reforming our tax code in a way that asks the wealthiest Americans and biggest corporations to pay their fair share. What's more, the spending cuts wouldn't happen so abruptly that they'd be a drag on our economy, or prevent us from helping small business and middle-class families get back on their feet right away.

Now, I realize there are some in my party who don't think we should make any changes at all to Medicare and Medicaid, and I understand their concerns. But here's the truth. Millions of Americans rely on Medicare in their retirement. And millions more will do so in the future. They pay for this benefit during their working years. They earn it. But with an aging population and rising health care costs, we are spending too fast to sustain the program. And if we don't gradually reform the system while protecting current beneficiaries, it won't be there when future retirees need it. We have to reform Medicare to strengthen it.

I'm also well aware that there are many Republicans who don't believe we should raise taxes on those who are most fortunate and can best afford it. But here is what every American knows. While most people in this country struggle to make ends meet, a few of the most affluent citizens and corporations enjoy tax breaks and loopholes that nobody else gets. Right now, Warren Buffet pays a lower tax rate than his secretary—an outrage he has asked us to fix. We need a tax code

where everyone gets a fair shake, and everybody pays their fair share. And I believe the vast majority of wealthy Americans and CEOs are willing to do just that, if it helps the economy grow and gets our fiscal house in order.

I'll also offer ideas to reform a corporate tax code that stands as a monument to special interest influence in Washington. By eliminating pages of loopholes and deductions, we can lower one of the highest corporate tax rates in the world. Our tax code shouldn't give an advantage to companies that can afford the best-connected lobbyists. It should give an advantage to companies that invest and create jobs here in America.

So we can reduce this deficit, pay down our debt, and pay for this jobs plan in the process. But in order to do this, we have to decide what our priorities are. We have to ask ourselves, "What's the best way to grow the economy and create jobs?"

Should we keep tax loopholes for oil companies? Or should we use that money to give small business owners a tax credit when they hire new workers? Because we can't afford to do both. Should we keep tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires? Or should we put teachers back to work so our kids can graduate ready for college and good jobs? Right now, we can't afford to do both.

This isn't political grandstanding. This isn't class warfare. This is simple math. These are real choices that we have to make. And I'm pretty sure I know what most Americans would choose. It's not even close. And it's time for us to do what's right for our future.

The American Jobs Act answers the urgent need to create jobs right away. But we can't stop there. As I've argued since I ran for this office, we have to look beyond the immediate crisis and start building an economy that lasts into the future—an economy that creates good, middle-class jobs that pay well and offer security. We now live in a world where technology has made it possible for companies to take their business anywhere. If we want them to start here and stay here and hire here, we have to be able to out-build, out-educate, and out-innovate every other country on Earth.

This task, of making America more competitive for the long haul, is a job for all of us. For government and for private companies. For states and for local communities—and for every American citizen. All of us will have to up our game. All of us will have to change the way we do business.

My administration can and will take some steps to improve our competitiveness on our own. For example, if you're a small business owner who has a contract with the federal government, we're going to make sure you get paid a lot faster than you do now. We're

also planning to cut away the red tape that prevents too many rapidly-growing start-up companies from raising capital and going public. And to help responsible homeowners, we're going to work with Federal housing agencies to help more people refinance their mortgages at interest rates that are now near 4%—a step that can put more than \$2,000 a year in a family's pocket, and give a lift to an economy still burdened by the drop in housing prices.

Other steps will require Congressional action. Today you passed reform that will speed up the outdated patent process, so that entrepreneurs can turn a new idea into a new business as quickly as possible. That's the kind of action we need. Now it's time to clear the way for a series of trade agreements that would make it easier for American companies to sell their products in Panama, Colombia, and South Korea—while also helping the workers whose jobs have been affected by global competition. If Americans can buy Kias and Hyundais, I want to see folks in South Korea driving Fords and Chevys and Chryslers. I want to see more products sold around the world stamped with three proud words: "Made in America."

And on all of our efforts to strengthen competitiveness, we need to look for ways to work side-by-side with America's businesses. That's why I've brought together a Jobs Council of leaders from different industries who are developing a wide range of new ideas to help companies grow and create jobs.

Already, we've mobilized business leaders to train 10,000 American engineers a year, by providing company internships and training. Other businesses are covering tuition for workers who learn new skills at community colleges. And we're going to make sure the next generation of manufacturing takes root not in China or Europe, but right here, in the United States of America. If we provide the right incentives and support—and if we make sure our trading partners play by the rules—we can be the ones to build everything from fuel-efficient cars to advanced biofuels to semiconductors that are sold all over the world. That's how America can be number one again. That's how America will be number one again.

Now, I realize that some of you have a different theory on how to grow the economy. Some of you sincerely believe that the only solution to our economic challenges is to simply cut most government spending and eliminate most government regulations.

Well, I agree that we can't afford wasteful spending, and I will continue to work with Congress to get rid of it. And I agree that there are some rules and regulations that put an unnecessary burden on businesses at a time when they can least afford it. That's

why I ordered a review of all government regulations. So far, we've identified over 500 reforms, which will save billions of dollars over the next few years. We should have no more regulation than the health, safety, and security of the American people require. Every rule should meet that common sense test.

But what we can't do—what I won't do—is let this economic crisis be used as an excuse to wipe out the basic protections that Americans have counted on for decades. I reject the idea that we need to ask people to choose between their jobs and their safety. I reject the argument that says for the economy to grow, we have to roll back protections that ban hidden fees by credit card companies, or rules that keep our kids from being exposed to mercury, or laws that prevent the health insurance industry from shortchanging patients. I reject the idea that we have to strip away collective bargaining rights to compete in a global economy. We shouldn't be in a race to the bottom, where we try to offer the cheapest labor and the worst pollution standards. America should be in a race to the top. And I believe that's a race we can win.

In fact, this larger notion that the only thing we can do to restore prosperity is just dismantle government, refund everyone's money, let everyone write their own rules, and tell everyone they're on their own—that's not who we are. That's not the story of America.

Yes, we are rugged individualists. Yes, we are strong and self-reliant. And it has been the drive and initiative of our workers and entrepreneurs that has made this economy the engine and envy of the world.

But there has always been another thread running throughout our history—a belief that we are all connected; and that there are some things we can only do together, as a nation.

We all remember Abraham Lincoln as the leader who saved our Union. But in the middle of a Civil War, he was also a leader who looked to the future—a Republican president who mobilized government to build the transcontinental railroad; launch the National Academy of Sciences; and set up the first land grant colleges. And leaders of both parties have followed the example he set.

Ask yourselves—where would we be right now if the people who sat here before us decided not to build our highways and our bridges; our dams and our airports? What would this country be like if we had chosen not to spend money on public high schools, or research universities, or community colleges? Millions of returning heroes, including my grandfather, had the opportunity to go to school because of the GI Bill. Where would we be if they hadn't had that chance?

How many jobs would it have cost us if past Congresses decided not to support the basic research that led to the Internet and the computer chip? What kind of country would this be if this Chamber had voted down Social Security or Medicare just because it violated some rigid idea about what government could or could not do? How many Americans would have suffered as a result?

No single individual built America on their own. We built it together. We have been, and always will be, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all; a nation with responsibilities to ourselves and with responsibilities to one another. Members of Congress, it is time for us to meet our responsibilities.

Every proposal I've laid out tonight is the kind that's been supported by Democrats and Republicans in the past. Every proposal I've laid out tonight will be paid for. And every proposal is designed to meet the urgent needs of our people and our communities.

I know there's been a lot of skepticism about whether the politics of the moment will allow us to pass this jobs plan—or any jobs plan. Already, we're seeing the same old press releases and tweets flying back and forth. Already, the media has proclaimed that it's impossible to bridge our differences. And maybe some of you have decided that those differences are so great that we can only resolve them at the ballot box.

But know this: the next election is fourteen months away. And the people who sent us here—the people who hired us to work for them—they don't have the luxury of waiting fourteen months. Some of them are living week to week; paycheck to paycheck; even day to day. They need help, and they need it now.

I don't pretend that this plan will solve all our problems. It shouldn't be, nor will it be, the last plan of action we propose. What's guided us from the start of this crisis hasn't been the search for a silver bullet. It's been a commitment to stay at it—to be persistent—to keep trying every new idea that works, and listen to every good proposal, no matter which party comes up with it.

Regardless of the arguments we've had in the past, regardless of the arguments we'll have in the future, this plan is the right thing to do right now. You should pass it. And I intend to take that message to every corner of this country. I also ask every American who agrees to lift your voice and tell the people who are gathered here tonight that you want action now. Tell Washington that doing nothing is not an option. Remind us that if we act as one nation, and one people, we have it within our power to meet this challenge.

President Kennedy once said, "Our problems are man-made—therefore they can be solved by man. And man can be as big as he wants."

These are difficult years for our country. But we are Americans. We are tougher than the times that we live in, and we are bigger than our politics have been. So let's meet the moment. Let's get to work, and show the world once again why the United States of America remains the greatest nation on Earth. Thank you, God bless you, and may God bless the United States of America.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 8, 2011.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:52 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2832. An act to extend the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 67. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following joint resolution was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 26. Joint resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner no longer holds the confidence of Congress or of the people of the United States.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2996. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the OMB Sequestration Update Report for Fiscal Year 2012, referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975 as modified by the order of April 11, 1986; to the Special Committee on Aging; Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Appropriations; Armed Services; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works; Select Committee on Ethics; Finance; Foreign Relations; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Indian Affairs; Select Committee on Intelligence; the Judiciary; Rules and Administration; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2997. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Importation of Peppers from Panama" ((RIN0579-AD16) (Docket No. APHIS-2010-0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2998. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Asian Longhorned Beetle; Quarantined Areas and Regulated Articles" (Docket No. APHIS-2010-0128) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2999. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "European Larch Canker; Expansion of Regulated Areas" (Docket No. APHIS-2011-0029) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3000. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2-Propenoic acid, polymer with ethenylbenzene and (1-methylethenyl) benzenes sodium acid; Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 8888-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3001. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pseudomonas fluorescens strain CL145A; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 8884-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3002. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Importation of Horses from Contagious Equine Metritis-Affected Countries" ((RIN0579-AD31) (Docket No. APHIS-2008-0112)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3003. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tebuconazole; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 8885-4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3004. A communication from the Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Transforming Wartime Contracting: Controlling Cost, Reducing Risk"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3005. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, a legislative proposal relative to allowing the Department

of Energy to restore certain information to the Restricted Data category; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3006. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Increase the Use of Fixed-Price Incentive (Firm Target) Contracts" (RIN0750-AH15) (DFARS Case 2011-D010) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 7, 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3007. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Export Administration Regulations: Netherlands Antilles, Curacao, Sint Maarten and Timor-Leste" (RIN0694-AF18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3008. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of a Decision Adopted under the Australia Group (AG) Intersessional Silent Approval Procedures in 2010 and Related Editorial Amendments" (RIN0694-AF14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3009. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the notification of the President's intent to exempt all military personnel accounts from sequester for fiscal year 2012, if a sequester is necessary; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-3010. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2011 Annual Plan: Ultra-Deepwater and Unconventional Natural Gas and Other Petroleum Resources Research and Development Program"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3011. A communication from the Director, Office of Natural Resources Revenue, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress: The Office of Natural Resources Revenue, Royalty in Kind Program" for fiscal year 2010; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3012. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Department of Energy Activities Relating to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Fiscal Year 2010"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3013. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Office of Regulations, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Requiring Use of Electronic Services" (RIN0960-AH31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 7, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3014. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2011-0130–2011-0144); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3015. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs,

Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, status reports relative to Iraq for the period of April 21, 2011 through June 20, 2011; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3016. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed amendment to a manufacturing license agreement for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad and the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services to Norway for the design, development and manufacture of the M72 Lightweight Anti-Armor Weapon system for several United States allies in Europe and Asia in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3017. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services to support the Missile Firing Unit and Stunner Interceptor Subsystems of the David's Sling Weapon System for end-use by the Government of Israel in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3018. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, certification for the export of defense articles, to include technical data related to the export of 5.56 mm rifles and accessories to the Critical National Infrastructure Security Force of the United Arab Emirates in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3019. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to U.S. military personnel and U.S. civilian contractors involved in the anti-narcotics campaign in Colombia (DCN OSS 2011-1395); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3020. A communication from the Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a GAO Report entitled "Nuclear Nonproliferation: US Agencies Have Limited Ability to Account for, Monitor, and Evaluate the Security of US Nuclear Material Overseas" (DCN OSS 2011-1394); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3021. A communication from the Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to providing certain support to aid the government of Uzbekistan in its counter-terrorism activities in fiscal year 2011 (DCN OSS 2011-1396); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3022. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services to the United Kingdom in support of the sale of Hellfire II missiles in the amount of \$25,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3023. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the export of defense articles,

including, technical data, and defense services relative to the export of 5.56 mm rifles to the Ministry of Interior, General Directorate of Security, Turkish National Police in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3024. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed amendment to a technical assistance agreement for the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services to Singapore for the maintenance, repair, and overhaul of the F100 engines in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3025. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed amendment to a technical assistance agreement for the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services to Italy, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom for the support of mechanical, avionics, environmental and lighting systems for the Joint Cargo Aircraft C-27J and industrial baseline variants in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3026. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services to support the design, manufacturing and delivery phases of the MEXSAT-3 Commercial Communications Satellite Program in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3027. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed amendment to a technical assistance agreement for the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services to the Republic of Korea for the sale of four C-130J-30 aircraft, related spares, and logistics support services in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3028. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services to the United Kingdom and Singapore for the manufacture of and repair of Display Assembly Kits, Display Monitors, Display Unit Subassemblies and Control Panel Assemblies; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3029. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed amendment to a manufacturing license agreement for the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services to the support the manufacture of Communication and Navigation Equipment for end use by the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Defense and Aviation, Royal Saudi Air Force in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3030. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs,

Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed amendment to a manufacturing license agreement for the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services to Italy for the design, development and manufacture of F135 engine parts and components for the Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3031. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services to Canada for the design, development and manufacture of the M72A5 Light Anti-Armor Weapon (LAW) system in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3032. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed amendment to a manufacturing license agreement for the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services to South Korea for the manufacture, assembly and maintenance support of the XTG411 Series Transmission in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3033. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a proposed amendments to part 126 of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3034. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Report to Congress on the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3035. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2011-0121—2011-0129); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3036. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's 2011 report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2010; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3037. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Food and Drug Administration's report relative to the Second Review of the Backlog of Postmarketing Requirements and Postmarketing Commitments; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3038. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a petition to add workers from the Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to the Special Exposure Cohort; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3039. A communication from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Arts Endowment's inventory of commercial activities for fiscal year 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3040. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Performance Report of the Food and Drug Administration's Office of Combination Products for fiscal year 2010; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3041. A communication from the Deputy Director for Operations, Legislative and Regulatory Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Part 4022) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 4, 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3042. A communication from the Deputy Director for Policy, Legislative and Regulatory Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disclosure to Participants" (RIN1212-AB12) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 4, 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3043. A communication from the Deputy Director for Policy, Legislative and Regulatory Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Part 4022) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3044. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" (RIN1210-AB44) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 5, 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3045. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for the Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Wage Methodology for the Temporary Non-Agricultural Employment H-2B Program; Amendment of Effective Date" (RIN1205-AB61) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3046. A communication from the Program Manager, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Responsibility of Applicants for Promoting Objectivity in Research for which Public Health Service Funding is Sought and Responsible Prospective Contractors" (RIN0925-AA53) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3047. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Office of Special Education

and Rehabilitative Services—Special Demonstration Programs—National Technical Assistance Projects to Improve Employment Outcomes for Individuals with Disabilities—Final Priority" (CFDA No. 84.235M) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 17, 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3048. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medical Devices; General and Plastic Surgery Devices; Classification of the Focused Ultrasound Stimulator System for Aesthetic Use" (Docket No. FDA-2011-N-0499) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 4, 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3049. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cardiovascular Devices; Classification of Electrocardiograph Electrodes" (Docket No. FDA-2007-N-0092) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 4, 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3050. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Labeling for Bronchodilators to Treat Asthma; Cold, Cough, Allergy, Bronchodilator, and Antiasthmatic Drug Products for Over-the-Counter Human Use" (Docket No. FDA-1995-N-0031) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 4, 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3051. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medical Devices; Neurological Devices; Classification of Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation System" (Docket No. FDA-2011-N-0466) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 8, 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3052. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Immunology and Microbiology Devices; Reclassification of the Herpes Simplex Virus Serological Assay Device" (Docket No. FDA-2010-N-0429) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 17, 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3053. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Effective Date of Requirement for Premarket Approval for Three Class III Preamendments Devices" (Docket No. FDA-2010-N-0412) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President

of the Senate on August 25, 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3054. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rate Increase Disclosure and Review: Definitions of 'Individual Market' and 'Small Group Market'" (RIN0938-AR26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3055. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Advisory Committee; Medical Imaging Drugs Advisory Committee; Re-Establishment" (Docket No. FDA-2010-N-0002) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 7, 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3056. A communication from the Director, Office of Government Relations, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the final report by the Office of the Inspector General on the Evaluation of the 2010 Social Innovation Fund Grant Application Review Process; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3057. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Office of General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security, received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3058. A communication from the Acting Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2011 FAIR Act inventory; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3059. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-152 "Healthy Schools Amendment Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3060. A communication from the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the activities performed by the agency that are not inherently governmental functions; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3061. A communication from the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Fiscal Year 2010 Annual Report on The Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3062. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Major System Acquisition; Earned Value Management" (RIN2700-AD29) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the

Senate on August 4, 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3063. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "NASA Implementation of Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Award Fee Language Revision" (RIN2700-AD69) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 4, 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3064. A communication from the Director, Employee Services, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prevailing Rate Systems: Redefinition of the Northeastern Arizona and Southern Colorado Appropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Areas" (RIN3206-AM33) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3065. A communication from the Executive Secretary, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Notification of Employee Rights under the National Labor Relations Act" (RIN3142-AA07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3066. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cost Accounting Standards: Change to the CAS Applicability Threshold for the Inflation Adjustment to the Truth in Negotiations Act Threshold" (48 CFR Parts 9901 and 9903) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 29, 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3067. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Elimination of the Exemption from Cost Accounting Standards for Contracts and Subcontracts Executed and Performed Entirely Outside the United States, Its Territories, and Possessions" (48 CFR part 9903) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 29, 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3068. A communication from the Acting District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Audit of Funding Agreements Including Contracts, Loans, Grants, and Sub-grants Issued By the District of Columbia to Peaceholics, Inc. From Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 to FY 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3069. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Boards and Committees" (RIN2700-AD50) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 5, 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3070. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Disclosure Law, Cus-

toms and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Courtesy Notice of Liquidation" (RIN1515-AD67) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 12, 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3071. A communication from the Senior Procurement Analyst, Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Acquisition Regulation Rewrite" (RIN1093-AA11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3072. A communication from the Senior Procurement Analyst, Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Acquisition Regulation Miscellaneous Changes" (RIN1093-AA13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3073. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-99 "Athletic Concussion Protection Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3074. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-100 "Southeast Federal Center/Yards Non-Discriminatory Grocery Store Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3075. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-101 "Closing of Streets and Alleys in and adjacent to Squares 4533, 4534, and 4535, S.O. 09-10850, Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3076. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-102 "Brewery Manufacturer's Tasting Permit Amendment Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3077. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-103 "Closing of a Public Alley in Square 514, S.O. 09-9099, Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3078. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-104 "Closing of a Public Alley in Square 451, S.O. 11-03672, Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3079. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-105 "Closing of a Portion of Bryant Street, N.E., and a Portion of 22nd Street, N.E., S.O. 06-1262 Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3080. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-106 "Closing of a Portion of the Public Alley in Square 5148, S.O. 10-01784, Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3081. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-107 "Arthur Capper/Carrollsville Public Improvements Revenue Bonds Temporary Amendment Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3082. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-108 "Heights on Georgia Avenue Development Extension Temporary Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3083. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-109 "KIPP DC—Shaw Campus Property Tax Exemption Temporary Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3084. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-111 "District Department of Transportation Capital Project Review and Reconciliation Temporary Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3085. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-119 "Heat Wave Safety Temporary Amendment Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3086. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-151 "Distributed Generation Amendment Act of 2011"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3087. A communication from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to revisions of two disclosure forms used by political committees to report campaign finance activity; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-3088. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Immigration Benefits Business Transformation, Increment I" (RIN1615-AB83) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 29, 2011; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3089. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Time for Payment of Certain Excise Taxes, and Quarterly Excise Tax Payments for Small Alcohol Excise Taxpayers" (RIN1513-AB43) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3090. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report of the Proceedings of the Judicial Conference of the United States" for the March 2011 session; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3091. A communication from the Staff Director, United States Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the appointment of members to the Oklahoma Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3092. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report of the Attorney General to the Congress of the United States on the Administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended for the six months ending December 31, 2010"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3093. A communication from the Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Per Diem Payments for the Care Provided to Eligible Veterans Evacuated from a State Home as a Result of an Emergency" (RIN2900-AN63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 7, 2011; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-3094. A communication from the Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program" (RIN2900-AN73) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2011; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-3095. A communication from the Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Expansion of State Home Care for Parents of a Child Who Died While Serving in the Armed Forces" (RIN2900-AN96) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2011; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-3096. A communication from the Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Revisions to Conform to the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010" (RIN2900-AN85) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2011; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-3097. A communication from the Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules Governing Hearings Before the Agency of Original Jurisdiction and the Board of Veterans' Appeals; Clarification" (RIN2900-AO06) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2011; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. INOUE, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2012" (Rept. No. 112-76).

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 657. A bill to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the

United States in order to disseminate information when a law enforcement officer is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty.

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 1525. An original bill to extend the authority of Federal-aid highway programs.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, for the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

*Anthony Frank D'Agostino, of Maryland, to be a Director of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation for a term expiring December 31, 2011.

*Anthony Frank D'Agostino, of Maryland, to be a Director of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation for a term expiring December 31, 2014.

*Gregory Karawan, of Virginia, to be a Director of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation for a term expiring December 31, 2013.

*Luis A. Aguilar, of Georgia, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2015.

*Daniel M. Gallagher, Jr., of Maryland, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2016.

*S. Roy Woodall, Jr., of Kentucky, to be a Member of the Financial Stability Oversight Council for a term of six years.

*Martin J. Gruenberg, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term expiring December 27, 2018.

*Martin J. Gruenberg, of Maryland, to be Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term of five years.

*Thomas J. Curry, of Massachusetts, to be Comptroller of the Currency for a term of five years.

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Morgan Christen, of Alaska, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

S. Amanda Marshall, of Oregon, to be United States Attorney for the District of Oregon for the term of four years.

John Malcolm Bales, of Texas, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas for the term of four years.

Kenneth Magidson, of Texas, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Texas for the term of four years.

Robert Lee Pitman, of Texas, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Texas for the term of four years.

Sarah Ruth Saldana, of Texas, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Texas for the term of four years.

Edward M. Spooner, of Florida, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Florida for the term of four years.

Scott Wesley Skavdahl, of Wyoming, to be United States District Judge for the District of Wyoming.

Sharon L. Gleason, of Alaska, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska.

Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

Richard G. Andrews, of Delaware, to be United States District Judge for the District of Delaware.

Jennifer Guerin Zipps, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. GRAHAM:

S. 1523. A bill to prohibit the National Labor Relations Board from ordering any employers to close, relocate, or transfer employment under any circumstance; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 1524. A bill to authorize Western States to make selections of public land within their borders in lieu of receiving 5 percent of the proceeds of the sale of public land lying within said States as provided by their respective enabling Acts; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 1525. An original bill to extend the authority of Federal-aid highway programs; from the Committee on Environment and Public Works; placed on the calendar.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. JOHANNIS):

S. 1526. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax incentive for the installation and maintenance of mechanical insulation property; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HAGAN (for herself, Mr. BURR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 1527. A bill to authorize the award of a Congressional gold medal to the Montford Point Marines of World War II; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. JOHANNIS (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. VITTER, Mr. KIRK, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. PAUL, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. ENZI, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 1528. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to limit Federal regulation of nuisance dust in areas in which that dust is regulated under State, tribal, or local law, to establish a temporary prohibition against revising any national ambient air quality standard applicable to coarse particulate matter, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 1529. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to protect against foodborne illnesses, provide enhanced notification of recalled meat, poultry, eggs, and related food

products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. JOHANNIS (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. PAUL, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. ENZI):

S. 1530. A bill to amend chapter 8 of title 15, United States Code, to provide for congressional review of agency guidance documents; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. JOHANNIS (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. PAUL, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. ENZI):

S. 1531. A bill to provide a Federal regulatory moratorium, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 1532. A bill to amend the Budget Control Act of 2011 to require the joint select committee of Congress to report findings and propose legislation to restore the Nation's workforce to full employment over the period of fiscal years 2012 and 2013; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 1533. A bill to amend the Budget Control Act of 2011 to require the joint select committee of Congress to report findings and propose legislation to restore the Nation's workforce to full employment over the period of fiscal years 2012 and 2013; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida:

S. 1534. A bill to prevent identity theft and tax fraud; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 1535. A bill to protect consumers by mitigating the vulnerability of personally identifiable information to theft through a security breach, providing notice and remedies to consumers in the wake of such a breach, holding companies accountable for preventable breaches, facilitating the sharing of post-breach technical information between companies, and enhancing criminal and civil penalties and other protections against the unauthorized collection or use of personally identifiable information; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 27. A joint resolution disapproving a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to the mitigation by States of cross-border air pollution under the Clean Air Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. Res. 259. A resolution designating September 9, 2011, as "National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WEBB (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. Res. 260. A resolution commemorating the 75th anniversary of the dedication of Shenandoah National Park; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 217

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 217, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to ensure the right of employees to a secret ballot election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board.

S. 260

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 260, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation.

S. 341

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 341, a bill to require the rescission or termination of Federal contracts and subcontracts with enemies of the United States.

S. 387

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 387, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to provide flexible spending arrangements for members of uniformed services, and for other purposes.

S. 598

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 598, a bill to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage.

S. 603

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 603, a bill to modify the prohibition on recognition by United States courts of certain rights relating to certain marks, trade names, or commercial names.

S. 657

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 657, a bill to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States in order to disseminate information when a law enforcement officer is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty.

S. 815

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 815, a bill to guarantee that military funerals are conducted with dignity and respect.

S. 933

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota

(Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 933, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and increase the exclusion for benefits provided to volunteer firefighters and emergency medical responders.

S. 1094

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1094, a bill to reauthorize the Combating Autism Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-416).

S. 1214

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1214, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, regarding restrictions on the use of Department of Defense funds and facilities for abortions.

S. 1239

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1239, a bill to provide for a medal of appropriate design to be awarded by the President to the memorials established at the 3 sites honoring the men and women who perished as a result of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001.

S. 1248

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1248, a bill to prohibit the consideration of any bill by Congress unless the authority provided by the Constitution of the United States for the legislation can be determined and is clearly specified.

S. 1263

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1263, a bill to encourage, enhance, and integrate Silver Alert plans throughout the United States and for other purposes.

S. 1288

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1288, a bill to exempt certain class A CDL drivers from the requirement to obtain a hazardous material endorsement while operating a service vehicle with a fuel tank containing 3,785 liters (1,000 gallons) or less of diesel fuel.

S. 1335

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1335, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide rights for pilots, and for other purposes.

S. 1369

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1369, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to exempt the conduct of silvicultural activities from national pollutant discharge elimination system permitting requirements.

S. 1438

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1438, a bill to provide that no agency may take any significant regulatory action until the unemployment rate is equal to or less than 7.7 percent.

S. 1440

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1440, a bill to reduce preterm labor and delivery and the risk of pregnancy-related deaths and complications due to pregnancy, and to reduce infant mortality caused by prematurity.

S. 1468

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1468, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to diabetes self-management training by authorizing certified diabetes educators to provide diabetes self-management training services, including as part of telehealth services, under part B of the Medicare program.

S. 1472

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1472, a bill to impose sanctions on persons making certain investments that directly and significantly contribute to the enhancement of the ability of Syria to develop its petroleum resources, and for other purposes.

S. 1477

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1477, a bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to prevent the dissemination to the public of certain information with respect to noncommercial flights of private aircraft owners and operators.

S. 1493

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1493, a bill to provide compensation to relatives of Foreign Service members killed in the line of duty and the relatives of United States citizens who were killed as a result of the bombing of the United States Embassy in Kenya on August 7, 1998, and for other purposes.

S. 1521

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1521, a bill to provide assistance for agricultural producers adversely affected by damaging weather and other conditions relating to Hurricane Irene.

S. 1522

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1522, a bill to establish a joint select committee of Congress to report findings and propose legislation to restore the Nation's workforce to full employment over the period of fiscal years 2012 and 2013, and to provide for expedited consideration of such legislation by both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

S.J. RES. 25

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, his name was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 25, a joint resolution relating to the disapproval of the President's exercise of authority to increase the debt limit, as submitted under section 3101A of title 31, United States Code, on August 2, 2011.

S. RES. 251

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 251, a resolution expressing support for improvement in the collection, processing, and consumption of recyclable materials throughout the United States.

S. RES. 253

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 253, a resolution designating October 26, 2011, as "Day of the Deployed".

AMENDMENT NO. 599

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 599 proposed to H.R. 1249, a bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform.

AMENDMENT NO. 600

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 600 proposed to H.R. 1249, a bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED
BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. JOHANNES (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. VITTER, Mr. KIRK, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. PAUL, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. ENZI, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 1528. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to limit regulation of nuisance dust in areas in which that dust is regulated under State, tribal, or local law, to establish a temporary prohibition against revising any national ambient air quality standard applicable to coarse particulate matter, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. JOHANNES. Mr. President, I have come to the floor many times, as we all do, to discuss issues that are important to our States, in my case the State of Nebraska, on issues that are important for our Nation. Many times those comments deal with what seems to be the constant regulatory assault on our Nation's job creators.

In meetings across Nebraska—and I did 15 townhall meetings in August—the second and third questions I often got, if not the very first, concerned the regulatory burden our Federal agencies are placing on our job creators.

This administration has generated nothing short of a mountain of redtape, including hundreds of new regulations. Of these, at least 219 have been categorized as significant. What that means is they will cost more than \$100 million per year, \$100 million taken out of our economy to finance regulation. The administration doesn't even dispute the mountain of redtape, nor does it dispute the size of the mountain that is created.

In a letter from the President to Speaker BOEHNER, the White House identified seven regulations on its agenda, each costing not \$100 million but at least \$1 billion per year. These costs take important capital out of our economy. These costs weigh on our job creators. These costs punish the little guy, and there is no doubt about it.

This mountain is so massive, the administration has had to expand the Federal workforce itself to write the regulations and to enforce them. Employment at Federal agencies is up 13 percent since President Obama took office.

With unemployment in excess of 9 percent, and underemployment greater than that, this administration is expanding the size of government to fuel more job-suppressing restrictions, and it makes no sense. It makes no sense to me as an individual Senator, but it makes no sense to the people of Nebraska.

For this reason, I am introducing legislation with the senior Senator from Arizona to press the pause button on this massive wave of redtape before it engulfs our very economy.

Our legislation is very straightforward. It says: Our small businesses are getting crushed; our citizens can't find jobs. Freeze the regulatory onslaught through 2013.

But our work simply cannot stop there. We also need some targeted regulatory reforms to rein in government bureaucracies that are simply out of control. Thus, I will also be introducing two other pieces of additional legislation today to help temper the endless quest for additional power, jurisdiction and, therefore, regulation.

The first one would close a loophole that allows agencies to grab power without opportunity for Congressional review.

Under the current state of the law, the Congressional Review Act permits Congress to use special procedures to step in and to disapprove of agency rules. However, in this administration, agencies have recently chosen to use what they call "guidance documents" instead of rules to achieve their policy preferences and to expand their power.

I am troubled by this trend because their efforts appear to deliberately and intentionally circumvent American law specifically crafted to protect citizens from aggressive bureaucracies. We have an example, but there are many. I wish to use this one.

I am talking about a guidance document issued jointly by EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers on May 2 of this year. It is very recent. The guidance documents' goal is clear—to expand Federal power over waterways.

But don't take my word for it. According to the EPA's own analysis, the guidance would significantly expand the waters of the United States subject to Federal control and regulation.

The Midwestern Farm Bureau has said the guidance "defines jurisdiction in the broadest way possible."

This is a page straight out of this administration's playbook. If their policy goal is rejected by Congress, they use their regulatory power to accomplish their agenda any way they can. Stretch the law, ignore the law, claim that the statute is too ambiguous, circumvent it, put out a guidance document to interpret it. That is exactly what they are doing. We have seen this playbook used over and over by this administration and its Federal agencies.

They should have gotten the message after an unsuccessful attempt during the last Congress to vastly expand their jurisdiction over virtually all waters, from irrigation ditches to farm ponds. But like a child that hears "no" from his parents, they jumped ahead, the administration went ahead anyway through this guidance document.

As the North Dakota Farm Bureau president described it, the EPA's guid-

ance is an end run around Congress, and I am quoting:

If you can't get what you want with Congress' blessing, make an end-run around them. That seems to be what is happening here. And make no mistake. If this guidance is adopted, EPA could regulate any or all waters found within a State, no matter how small or seemingly unconnected to a Federal interest.

The agencies could not convince Congress to change the law. So now what is happening? The same goal is being pursued in a different way that bypasses us. Notably, both the House and the Senate have expressed strong concern about this guidance document. Twenty Senators sent a letter noting that it represents a dramatic expansion of Federal power over private land.

In another letter, 41 Senators asserted that making changes to the scope of the agency's activities through guidance instead of through rulemaking is "fundamentally unfair." This letter requested the agencies "abandon any further action on this guidance document." This is a very significant concern. This guidance document also has shown us that there is a huge loophole through which agencies can circumvent the rulemaking process in its entirety, as well as circumventing congressional intent in order to expand Federal power.

The legislation I introduced today closes the loophole. It amends the Congressional Review Act to cover both traditional rules and guidance documents—no more end run around Congress. Consequently, agencies would be on notice that the loophole through which they intend to circumvent our will and the will of the American public is now a closed door. In other words, citizens would have another layer of protection from agencies seeking to unfairly expand Federal jurisdiction.

Finally, today I am introducing the Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act. Farmers and ranchers across this Nation are concerned about the EPA's efforts to regulate dust. Despite what the administrator is saying in farm country, EPA is still in the midst of their review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter or, put simply, "farm dust." In rural America, farm dust is a fact of life. I grew up on a farm. It is dusty there. We kick it up while driving on unpaved roads or working in farm fields. Farm dust has long been considered to have no health concern at ambient levels. However, EPA is considering bringing down the hammer by ratcheting down that standard to a level that would be economically devastating for many in our rural areas. That defies common sense.

To restore common sense to these burdensome job-threatening regulations and to give certainty to rural America, I am introducing this legislation. The bill simply says no to EPA regulating dust in rural America. Yet

it maintains the protections of the Clean Air Act to public health. It provides immediate certainty to farmers in rural areas by preventing revision of the current dust standard for a year. Afterward, EPA could regulate farm dust but only if they followed a scientific standard. First, they would need to show scientific evidence of substantial adverse health effects caused by dust. Thus far, the strongest the EPA can conjure up in terms of science is to say it is "uncertain." Second, EPA would need to show that the benefit of additional regulation outweighs economic costs. These are commonsense standards. Yet the EPA has unfortunately been unable to see the light, making this legislation necessary.

These are three commonsense regulatory reforms that are sorely needed: a 2-year moratorium on job-constraining regulations; No. 2, making agency guidance documents subject to a simple up-or-down vote by Congress; and stopping the ill-advised farm dust regulation. They would provide much certainty and relief for our Nation's job creators and our American workers.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor these important efforts. I urge the White House to support us. The runaway train of regulation is weighing down on America's ingenuity and job creation. It is time to unshackle American workers with these commonsense reforms.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BEGICH). The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President I congratulate the Senator from Nebraska on his typically commonsense, reasonable presentation about how we might take steps to deal with the smothering regulations that are putting a big wet blanket on job growth in this country, and the idea of a timeout to stop the avalanche of new regulations makes sense. Farm dust—the idea of regulating farm dust makes no sense. Slowing down the ability of Federal agencies to get around the regulatory process by issuing guidance, that is commonsense. These are three sensible steps that would help create an environment that would make it easier and cheaper for job creators to create private sector jobs in this country and I congratulate the Senator from Nebraska for his comments.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida:

S. 1534. A bill to prevent identity theft and tax fraud; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, today I am filing legislation aimed at stopping criminals from filing fraudulent tax returns with stolen Social Security numbers.

Specifically, the bill unveiled today would make it a felony punishable by

as much as five years in Federal prison and/or a fine of no less than \$25,000 for using another's Social Security number or other identifiable information to file a federal tax return and increases penalties for negligent or reckless disclosure of taxpayer information by tax preparers; require the IRS to develop a nationwide PIN system in which identity theft victims can receive a pin number to put on their tax return; and, allow identity theft victims to "opt-out" of electronic filing of their Federal tax returns; protect Social Security numbers of deceased taxpayers by restricting public access to the records; direct an investigation by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration to examine the role of prepaid debt cards and commercial tax software in facilitating fraudulent tax refunds; and permanently extend the information-sharing authority between the IRS and Federal and state correction authorities needed to prevent inmate tax fraud and require the agency to work specifically with state and local law enforcement officials on criminal investigative matters that involve violations at Federal and State or local level.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1534

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Identify Theft and Tax Fraud Prevention Act".

SEC. 2. CRIMINAL PENALTY FOR USING A FALSE IDENTITY IN CONNECTION WITH TAX FRAUD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7207 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking "Any person who willfully" and inserting the following:

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Any person who willfully",

(2) by striking "Any person required" and inserting the following:

"(b) INFORMATION IN CONNECTION WITH CERTAIN EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS.—Any person required", and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(c) MISAPPROPRIATION OF IDENTITY.—Any person who knowingly or willfully misappropriates another person's tax identification number in connection with any list, return, account, statement, or other document submitted to the Secretary shall be fined not less than \$25,000 (\$200,000 in the case of a corporation), or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both, together with the costs of prosecution."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to returns and information submitted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. INCREASED PENALTY FOR IMPROPER DISCLOSURE OR USE OF INFORMATION BY PREPARERS OF RETURNS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6713(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking "\$250" and inserting "\$1,000", and

(2) by striking "\$10,000" and inserting "\$50,000".

(b) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—Section 7216(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "\$1,000" and inserting "\$100,000".

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to disclosures or uses after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. PIN SYSTEM FOR PREVENTION OF IDENTITY THEFT TAX FRAUD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary's delegate) shall implement an identity theft tax fraud prevention program under which—

(1) a person who has filed an identity theft affidavit with the Secretary may elect—

(A) to be provided with a unique personal identification number to be included on any Federal tax return filed by such person, or

(B) to prevent the processing of any Federal tax return submitted in an electronic format by a person purporting to be such person, and

(2) the Secretary will provide additional identity verification safeguards for the processing of any Federal tax return filed by a person described in paragraph (1) in cases where a unique personal identification number is not included on the return.

SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS TO USE FOR TAX FRAUD ENFORCEMENT.

For any fiscal year, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue may transfer not more than \$10,000,000 to the "Enforcement" account of the Internal Revenue Service from amounts appropriated to other Internal Revenue Service accounts. Any amounts so transferred shall be used solely for the purposes of preventing and resolving potential cases of tax fraud.

SEC. 6. LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT LIAISON.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Commissioner of Internal Revenue shall establish within the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service the position of Local Law Enforcement Liaison.

(b) DUTIES.—The Local Law Enforcement Liaison shall—

(1) coordinate the investigation of tax fraud with State and local law enforcement agencies;

(2) communicate the status of tax fraud cases involving identity theft, and

(3) carry out such other duties as delegated by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

SEC. 7. REPORT ON TAX FRAUD.

Subsection (a) of section 7803 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(4) ANNUAL REPORT ON TAX FRAUD.—The Commissioner shall submit to the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House or Representatives an annual report detailing—

"(A) the number of reports of tax fraud and suspected tax fraud received from State and local law enforcement agencies in the preceding year, and

"(B) the actions taken in response to such reports."

SEC. 8. STUDY ON THE USE OF PREPAID DEBIT CARDS AND COMMERCIAL TAX PREPARATION SOFTWARE IN TAX FRAUD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General shall conduct a study to examine the role of prepaid debit cards and commercial tax preparation software in facilitating fraudulent tax returns through identity theft.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives a report with the results of the study conducted under subsection (a), together with any recommendations.

SEC. 9. RESTRICTION ON ACCESS TO THE DEATH MASTER FILE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Commerce shall not disclose information contained on the Death Master File to any person with respect to any individual who has died at any time during the calendar year in which the request for disclosure is made or the succeeding calendar year unless such person is certified under the program established under subsection (b).

(b) **CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Commerce shall establish a program to certify persons who are eligible to access the information described in subsection (a) contained on the Death Master File.

(2) **CERTIFICATION.**—A person shall not be certified under the program established under paragraph (1) unless the Secretary determines that such person has a legitimate fraud prevention interest in accessing the information described in subsection (a).

(c) **IMPOSITION OF PENALTY.**—Any person who is certified under the program established under subsection (b), who receives information described in subsection (a), and who during the period of time described in subsection (a)—

(1) discloses such information to any other person, or

(2) uses any such information for any purpose other than to detect or prevent fraud, shall pay a penalty of \$1,000 for each such disclosure or use, but the total amount imposed under this subsection on such a person for any calendar year shall not exceed \$50,000.

(d) **EXEMPTION FROM FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUIREMENT WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN RECORDS OF DECEASED INDIVIDUALS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Social Security Administration shall not be compelled to disclose to any person who is not certified under the program established under section 9(b) the information described in section 9(a).

(2) **TREATMENT OF INFORMATION.**—For purposes of section 552 of title 5, United States Code, this section shall be considered a statute described in subsection (b)(3)(B) of such section 552.

SEC. 10. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO DISCLOSE CERTAIN RETURN INFORMATION TO PRISON OFFICIALS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 6103(k)(10) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subparagraph (D).

(b) **REPORT FROM FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS.**—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the head of the Federal Bureau of Prisons shall submit to Congress a detailed plan on how it will use the information provided from the Secretary of Treasury under section 6103(k)(10) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce prison tax fraud.

(c) **SENSE OF SENATE REGARDING STATE PRISON AUTHORITIES.**—It is the sense of the Senate that the heads of State agencies charged with the administration of prisons should —

(1) develop plans for using the information provided by the Secretary of Treasury under section 6103(k)(10) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce prison tax fraud, and

(2) coordinate with the Internal Revenue Service with respect to the use of such information.

SEC. 11. TREASURY REPORT ON INFORMATION SHARING BARRIERS WITH RESPECT TO IDENTITY THEFT.

(a) **REVIEW.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary's delegate) shall review whether current federal tax laws and regulations related to the confidentiality and disclosure of return information prevent the effective enforcement of local, State, and federal identity theft statutes. The review shall consider whether greater information sharing between the Internal Revenue Service and State and local law enforcement authorities would improve the enforcement of criminal laws at all levels of government.

(2) **CONSULTATION.**—In conducting the review under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall solicit the views of, and consult with, State and local law enforcement officials.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report with the results of the review conducted under subsection (a), along with any legislative recommendations, to the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 259—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 9, 2011, AS “NATIONAL FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS DAY”

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Mr. BEGICH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 259

Whereas the term “fetal alcohol spectrum disorders” includes a broader range of conditions than the term “fetal alcohol syndrome” and therefore has replaced the term “fetal alcohol syndrome” as the umbrella term describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy;

Whereas fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are the leading cause of cognitive disability in Western civilization, including the United States, and are 100 percent preventable;

Whereas fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are a major cause of numerous social disorders, including learning disabilities, school failure, juvenile delinquency, homelessness, unemployment, mental illness, and crime;

Whereas the incidence rate of fetal alcohol syndrome is estimated at 1 out of 500 live births and the incidence rate of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders is estimated at 1 out of every 100 live births;

Whereas, although the economic costs of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are difficult to estimate, the cost of fetal alcohol syndrome alone in the United States was approximately \$6,000,000,000 in 2007, and it is estimated that each individual with fetal alcohol syndrome will cost the taxpayers of the United States between \$860,000 and \$4,000,000 during the lifetime of the individual;

Whereas, in February 1999, a small group of parents of children who suffer from fetal alcohol spectrum disorders came together with the hope that they could make the world

aware of the devastating consequences of alcohol consumption during pregnancy by establishing International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day;

Whereas the first International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day was observed on September 9, 1999;

Whereas Bonnie Buxton of Toronto, Canada, the co-founder of the first International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day, asked “What if ... a world full of FAS/E [Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Effect] parents all got together on the ninth hour of the ninth day of the ninth month of the year and asked the world to remember that during the 9 months of pregnancy a woman should not consume alcohol ... would the rest of the world listen?”; and

Whereas on the ninth day of the ninth month of each year since 1999, communities around the world have observed International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 9, 2011, as “National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day”; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States—

(A) to observe National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day with appropriate ceremonies—

(i) to promote awareness of the effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol;

(ii) to increase compassion for individuals affected by prenatal exposure to alcohol;

(iii) to minimize the effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol; and

(iv) to ensure healthier communities across the United States; and

(B) to observe a moment of reflection during the ninth hour of September 9, 2011, to remember that during the 9 months of pregnancy a woman should not consume alcohol.

SENATE RESOLUTION 260—COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

Mr. WEBB (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 260

Whereas the 75th anniversary of the dedication of Shenandoah National Park corresponds with the Civil War sesquicentennial, enriching the heritage of both the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States;

Whereas in the early to mid-1920s, as a result of the efforts of the citizen-driven Shenandoah Valley, Inc. and the Shenandoah National Park Association, the congressionally appointed Southern Appalachian National Park Committee recommended that Congress authorize the establishment of a national park in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia for the purpose of providing the western national park experience to the populated eastern seaboard;

Whereas, in 1935, the Secretary of the Interior, Harold Ickes, accepted the land deeds for what would become Shenandoah National Park from the Commonwealth of Virginia, and, on July 3, 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated Shenandoah National Park “to this and to succeeding generations for the recreation and re-creation they would find”;

Whereas the Appalachian Mountains extend through 200,000 acres of Shenandoah National Park and border the 8 Virginia counties of Albemarle, Augusta, Greene, Madison, Page, Rappahannock, Rockingham, and Warren;

Whereas Shenandoah National Park is home to a diverse ecosystem of 103 rare and endangered species, 1,405 plant species, 51 mammal species, 36 fish species, 26 reptile species, 23 amphibian species, and more than 200 bird species;

Whereas the proximity of Shenandoah National Park to heavily populated areas, including Washington, District of Columbia, promotes regional travel and tourism, providing thousands of jobs and contributing millions of dollars to the economic vitality of the region;

Whereas Shenandoah National Park, rich with recreational opportunities, offers 520 miles of hiking trails, 200 miles of which are designated horse trails and 101 miles of which are part of the 2,175-mile Appalachian National Historic Trail, more than 90 fishable streams, 4 campgrounds, 7 picnic areas, 3 lodges, 6 backcountry cabins, and an extensive, rugged backcountry open to wilderness camping to the millions of people who annually visit the Park;

Whereas the Park protects significant cultural resources, including—

(1) Rapidan Camp, once a summer retreat for President Herbert Hoover and now a national historic landmark;

(2) Skyline Drive, a historic district listed on the National Register of Historic Places;

(3) Massanutten Lodge, a structure listed on the National Register of Historic Places;

(4) 360 buildings and structures included on the List of Classified Structures;

(5) 577 significant, recorded archeological sites, 11 of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

(6) more than 100 historic cemeteries;

Whereas Congress named 10 battlefields in the Shenandoah Valley for preservation in the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District and Commission Act of 1996 (section 606 of Public Law 104-333; 110 Stat. 4174), and Shenandoah National Park, an integral partner in that endeavor, provides visitors with outstanding views of pristine, natural landscapes that are vital to the Civil War legacy;

Whereas Shenandoah National Park also protects intangible resources, including aspects of the heritage of the people of the United States through the rigorous commitments of the Civilian Conservation Corps and the advancement of Civil Rights as Shenandoah's "separate but equal" facilities became the first to desegregate in Virginia;

Whereas, on October 20, 1976, Public Law 94-567 was enacted, designating 79,579 acres within Shenandoah National Park's boundaries as wilderness under the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), which protects the wilderness character of the lands "for the permanent good of the whole people"; and

Whereas Congress should support efforts to preserve the ecological and cultural integrity of Shenandoah National Park, maintain the infrastructure of the Park, and protect the famously scenic views of the Shenandoah Valley: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 75th anniversary of the dedication of Shenandoah National Park; and

(2) acknowledges the historic and enduring scenic, recreational, and economic value of the Park.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, September 15, 2011, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider the nominations of Gregory H. Woods, to be General Counsel, Department of Energy, David T. Danielson, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy), Department of Energy, and LaDoris G. Harris, to be Director for the Office of Minority Economic Impact, Department of Energy.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to allison_seyferth@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Sam Fowler at (202) 224-7571 or Allison Seyferth at (202) 224-4905.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet in open session on Thursday, September 15, 2011, at 10 a.m. in SD-106 to conduct a hearing entitled "The Future of Employment for People with the Most Significant Disabilities."

For further information regarding this hearing, please contact Andrew Imperato of the committee staff on (202) 228-3453.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on National Parks. The hearing will be held on Wednesday, September 21, 2011, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider a recently released report by the National Park Service: A Call to Action Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to Jake_McCook@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact please contact David Brooks (202) 224-9863 or Jake McCook (202) 224-9313.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 8, 2011, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 8, 2011, at 10 a.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 8, 2011, at 9:30 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Tax Reform Options: International Issues."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled "Examining Quality and Safety in Child Care: Giving Working Families Security, Confidence, and Peace of Mind" on September 8, 2011, at 10:15 a.m., in room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on September 8, 2011, at 10 a.m., in SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION, CIVIL RIGHTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights, be authorized to meet during the session of the

Senate, on September 8, 2011, at 2 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "New State Voting Laws: Barriers to the Ballot?"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 8, 2011, at 2:30 p.m., to hold a International Development and Foreign Assistance, Economic Affairs and International Environmental Protection subcommittee hearing entitled, "Afghanistan: Right Sizing the Development Footprint."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORIZING USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to consideration of H. Con. Res. 67, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 67) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent the concurrent resolution be adopted, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any related statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 67) was agreed to.

AUTHORIZING USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 28 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Cons. Res. 28) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to award the Congressional Gold Medal, collec-

tively, to the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service, United States Army, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 28) was agreed to, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 28

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR EVENT TO AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used for an event on November 2, 2011, to award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service, United States Army, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the event described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

NATIONAL FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS DAY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 259, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 259) designating September 9, 2011, as "National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 259) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 259

Whereas the term "fetal alcohol spectrum disorders" includes a broader range of conditions than the term "fetal alcohol syndrome" and therefore has replaced the term "fetal alcohol syndrome" as the umbrella term describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy;

Whereas fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are the leading cause of cognitive disability in Western civilization, including the United States, and are 100 percent preventable;

Whereas fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are a major cause of numerous social disorders, including learning disabilities, school failure, juvenile delinquency, homelessness, unemployment, mental illness, and crime;

Whereas the incidence rate of fetal alcohol syndrome is estimated at 1 out of 500 live births and the incidence rate of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders is estimated at 1 out of every 100 live births;

Whereas, although the economic costs of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are difficult to estimate, the cost of fetal alcohol syndrome alone in the United States was approximately \$6,000,000,000 in 2007, and it is estimated that each individual with fetal alcohol syndrome will cost the taxpayers of the United States between \$860,000 and \$4,000,000 during the lifetime of the individual;

Whereas, in February 1999, a small group of parents of children who suffer from fetal alcohol spectrum disorders came together with the hope that they could make the world aware of the devastating consequences of alcohol consumption during pregnancy by establishing International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day;

Whereas the first International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day was observed on September 9, 1999;

Whereas Bonnie Buxton of Toronto, Canada, the co-founder of the first International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day, asked "What if ... a world full of FAS/E [Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Effect] parents all got together on the ninth hour of the ninth day of the ninth month of the year and asked the world to remember that during the 9 months of pregnancy a woman should not consume alcohol ... would the rest of the world listen?"; and

Whereas on the ninth day of the ninth month of each year since 1999, communities around the world have observed International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 9, 2011, as "National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day"; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States—

(A) to observe National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day with appropriate ceremonies—

(i) to promote awareness of the effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol;

(ii) to increase compassion for individuals affected by prenatal exposure to alcohol;

(iii) to minimize the effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol; and

(iv) to ensure healthier communities across the United States; and

(B) to observe a moment of reflection during the ninth hour of September 9, 2011, to remember that during the 9 months of pregnancy a woman should not consume alcohol.

COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 260, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 260) commemorating the 75th anniversary of the dedication of Shenandoah National Park.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any related statements be printed in the RECORD.

The resolution (S. Res. 260) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 260

Whereas the 75th anniversary of the dedication of Shenandoah National Park corresponds with the Civil War sesquicentennial, enriching the heritage of both the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States;

Whereas in the early to mid-1920s, as a result of the efforts of the citizen-driven Shenandoah Valley, Inc. and the Shenandoah National Park Association, the congressionally appointed Southern Appalachian National Park Committee recommended that Congress authorize the establishment of a national park in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia for the purpose of providing the western national park experience to the populated eastern seaboard;

Whereas, in 1935, the Secretary of the Interior, Harold Ickes, accepted the land deeds for what would become Shenandoah National Park from the Commonwealth of Virginia, and, on July 3, 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated Shenandoah National Park "to this and to succeeding generations for the recreation and re-creation they would find";

Whereas the Appalachian Mountains extend through 200,000 acres of Shenandoah National Park and border the 8 Virginia counties of Albemarle, Augusta, Greene, Madison, Page, Rappahannock, Rockingham, and Warren;

Whereas Shenandoah National Park is home to a diverse ecosystem of 103 rare and endangered species, 1,405 plant species, 51 mammal species, 36 fish species, 26 reptile species, 23 amphibian species, and more than 200 bird species;

Whereas the proximity of Shenandoah National Park to heavily populated areas, including Washington, District of Columbia, promotes regional travel and tourism, providing thousands of jobs and contributing millions of dollars to the economic vitality of the region;

Whereas Shenandoah National Park, rich with recreational opportunities, offers 520 miles of hiking trails, 200 miles of which are designated horse trails and 101 miles of which are part of the 2,175-mile Appalachian National Historic Trail, more than 90 fishable streams, 4 campgrounds, 7 picnic areas, 3 lodges, 6 backcountry cabins, and an extensive, rugged backcountry open to wilderness camping to the millions of people who annually visit the Park;

Whereas the Park protects significant cultural resources, including—

(1) Rapidan Camp, once a summer retreat for President Herbert Hoover and now a national historic landmark;

(2) Skyline Drive, a historic district listed on the National Register of Historic Places;

(3) Massanutten Lodge, a structure listed on the National Register of Historic Places;

(4) 360 buildings and structures included on the List of Classified Structures;

(5) 577 significant, recorded archeological sites, 11 of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

(6) more than 100 historic cemeteries;

Whereas Congress named 10 battlefields in the Shenandoah Valley for preservation in the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District and Commission Act of 1996 (section 606 of Public Law 104-333; 110 Stat. 4174), and Shenandoah National Park, an integral partner in that endeavor, provides visitors with outstanding views of pristine, natural landscapes that are vital to the Civil War legacy;

Whereas Shenandoah National Park also protects intangible resources, including aspects of the heritage of the people of the United States through the rigorous commitments of the Civilian Conservation Corps and the advancement of Civil Rights as Shenandoah's "separate but equal" facilities became the first to desegregate in Virginia;

Whereas, on October 20, 1976, Public Law 94-567 was enacted, designating 79,579 acres within Shenandoah National Park's boundaries as wilderness under the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), which protects the wilderness character of the lands "for the permanent good of the whole people"; and

Whereas Congress should support efforts to preserve the ecological and cultural integrity of Shenandoah National Park, maintain the infrastructure of the Park, and protect the famously scenic views of the Shenandoah Valley: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 75th anniversary of the dedication of Shenandoah National Park; and

(2) acknowledges the historic and enduring scenic, recreational, and economic value of the Park.

RECESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 6:30 p.m.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:12 p.m., recessed until 6:30 p.m., and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. FRANKEN).

JOINT SESSION OF THE TWO HOUSES—ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now proceed as a body to the Hall of the House of Representatives to receive a message from the President of the United States.

Thereupon, the Senate, preceded by the Deputy Sergeant at Arms, Martina Bradford, the Secretary of the Senate, Nancy Erickson, and the Vice President of the United States, JOSEPH R. BIDEN, proceeded to the Hall of the House of Representatives to hear the address by the President of the United States, Barack Obama.

(The address delivered by the President of the United States to the joint session of the two Houses of Congress is printed in the proceedings of the House of Representatives in today's RECORD.)

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Whereupon, at the conclusion of the joint session, the Senate, at 7:46 p.m., pursuant to the previous order, recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 7:49 p.m. when called to order by the Acting President pro tempore.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

DISAPPROVAL OF THE PRESIDENT'S EXERCISE OF AUTHORITY TO INCREASE THE DEBT LIMIT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 153, S.J. Res. 25.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 25) relating to the disapproval of the President's exercise of authority to increase the debt limit, as submitted under section 3101A of title 31, United States Code, on August 2, 2011.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The motion is not debatable under section 301(a) of Public Law 112-25.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I do ask now for the yeas and nays on my motion.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 45, nays 52, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 130 Leg.]

YEAS—45

Alexander	Coats	Enzi
Ayotte	Coburn	Graham
Barrasso	Cochran	Grassley
Blunt	Collins	Hatch
Boozman	Cornyn	Heller
Burr	Crapo	Hoeven
Chambliss	DeMint	Hutchison

Inhofe	McCain	Roberts
Isakson	McConnell	Sessions
Johanns	Moran	Shelby
Johnson (WI)	Murkowski	Snowe
Kirk	Nelson (NE)	Thune
Kyl	Paul	Toomey
Lee	Portman	Vitter
Lugar	Risch	Wicker

NAYS—52

Akaka	Franken	Mikulski
Baucus	Gillibrand	Murray
Begich	Hagan	Nelson (FL)
Bennet	Harkin	Pryor
Bingaman	Inouye	Reed
Blumenthal	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Boxer	Kerry	Sanders
Brown (MA)	Klobuchar	Schumer
Brown (OH)	Kohl	Shaheen
Cantwell	Landrieu	Stabenow
Cardin	Lautenberg	Tester
Carper	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Casey	Levin	Udall (NM)
Conrad	Lieberman	Warner
Coons	Manchin	Whitehouse
Corker	McCaskey	Wyden
Durbin	Menendez	
Feinstein	Merkley	

NOT VOTING—3

Rockefeller	Rubio	Webb
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The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2011

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:45 a.m. on Friday, September 9; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and that following any leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, there will be no rollcall votes during Friday's session. The next rollcall vote will be on Monday, September 12, no earlier than 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:45 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:30 p.m., adjourned until Friday, September 9, 2011, at 9:45 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

NATIONAL CONSUMER COOPERATIVE BANK

CYRUS AMIR-MOKRI, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL CON-

SUMER COOPERATIVE BANK FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS, VICE DAVID GEORGE NASON, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

CYRUS AMIR-MOKRI, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE MICHAEL S. BARR, RESIGNED.

THE JUDICIARY

STEPHANIE DAWN THACKER, OF WEST VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT, VICE M. BLANE MICHAEL, DECEASED.

GREGG JEFFREY COSTA, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, VICE JOHN D. RAINEY, RETIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

KATHRYN KENEALLY, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE NATHAN J. HOCHMAN, RESIGNED.

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (APHIS) FOR PROMOTION WITHIN AND INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE TO THE CLASSES INDICATED:

CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER:

NICHOLAS E. GUTIERREZ, OF NEW MEXICO

CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

JOHN L. SHAW, OF LOUISIANA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED PERSONS OF THE AGENCIES INDICATED FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS OF THE CLASSES STATED.

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS FOUR, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ERIK M. ANDERSON, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
WALTER B. ANDONOV, OF NEVADA
BENJAMIN BARRY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ROBERT CRAIG BOND, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JOSEPH CHARLES BRISTOL, OF WASHINGTON
KAREN L. BRONSON, OF WASHINGTON
EMILIE SUZANNE BRUCHON, OF VIRGINIA
EDWARD CHRISTOPHER BURLESON, OF TEXAS
STEPHANE MARC CASTONGUAY, OF HAWAII
JANE JERA CHONGCHIT, OF CALIFORNIA
HEATHER LYNN COBLE, OF VIRGINIA
CHRISTOPHER CORKEY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
LISA TERRY CROSS, OF CALIFORNIA
CARLOS POURUSHASP DHABHAR, OF NEW YORK
KELLY L. DIRO, OF VIRGINIA
DAVID MARSHALL DUERDEN, OF IDAHO
ACQUANIA ESCARNE, OF MARYLAND
JOHN B. EVERMAN, JR., OF VIRGINIA
HEATHER CARLIN FABRIKANT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

RICHARD G. FITZMAURICE, OF FLORIDA
SUSANNA GRANSEE, OF NORTH CAROLINA
PAUL M. GUERTIN, OF RHODE ISLAND
MICHAEL THOMAS HACKETT, OF CONNECTICUT
J. MICHAEL HARVEY, OF WASHINGTON
ANDREW WILLIAM HAY, OF COLORADO
GERRY PHILIP KAUFMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DANIEL G.D. KEEN, OF WASHINGTON
THANH C. KIM, OF VIRGINIA
STEPHEN SETH KOLB, OF TEXAS

KELLY LEE KOPCIAL, OF VIRGINIA
KEVIN KRAPP, OF CALIFORNIA
JAMES M. KUEBLER, OF FLORIDA
JONATHAN PATRICK LALLEY, OF VIRGINIA
REID B. MCCOY, OF TEXAS

BILLY E. MCFARLAND, JR., OF VIRGINIA
AMIEE REBECCA MCGIMPSEY, OF IOWA
FAITH MCCARTHY MEYERS, OF VIRGINIA
CHRISTIE MILNER, OF TEXAS

MARK R. MINEO, OF FLORIDA
ADAM LOREN SHEEHAN MITCHELL, OF OKLAHOMA
THOMAS WILLIAM MOORE, OF TEXAS

SERGIO ANTONIO MORENO, OF TEXAS
GILBERT MORTON, OF NEW YORK
KALPANA MURTHY, OF WASHINGTON
CHARLOTTE SULLIVAN NUANES, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MATTHEW RYAN PACKER, OF UTAH
TAMMY BETH PALTCHIKOV, OF ALABAMA
SCOTT D. PARRISH, OF CALIFORNIA
ELIZABETH J. POKELA, OF MINNESOTA
PRASHANTH RAJAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

GREGORY N. RANKIN, OF TEXAS
CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL RENDO, OF FLORIDA
OLGA B. ROMANOVA, OF FLORIDA

IAN D. ROZDILSKY, OF VIRGINIA
ALEXANDER THEODORE RYAN, OF PENNSYLVANIA
TANYA YUKI SALSETH, OF CALIFORNIA
DAVINIA MICHELLE SEAY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ALYSSA TEACH SERVELLO, OF NEW YORK
ANNIE M. SIMPKINS, OF FLORIDA

JAY M. SORENSON, OF VIRGINIA
RAVINDRA MOHAN SRIVASTAVA, OF COLORADO
ELIZABETH T. SWEET, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MICHAEL P. THOMAN, OF NEW JERSEY

DAVID COLIN TURNBULL, OF NEW YORK
CAROL M. VARGAS, OF OREGON
PETER P. VELASCO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CURT WHITTAKER, OF OREGON
JUSTIN WAYNE WILLIAMSON, OF TEXAS

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE TO BE CONSULAR OFFICERS AND SECRETARIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ROBERT N. BENTLEY, OF VIRGINIA
JOSE A. BERNAL, OF VIRGINIA
YEONJUNG C. BITTING, OF VIRGINIA
PATRICK F. BRENNAN, OF VIRGINIA
DANIEL S. BUGAJ, OF VIRGINIA
KIMBERLY BLACK CANNELL, OF VIRGINIA
RITA CRAGUE, OF VIRGINIA
ROBERT A. CRAMER, OF VIRGINIA
NICLAS S. ERICSSON, OF VIRGINIA
SHAWN T. FRANZ, OF VIRGINIA
JOHN EDWARD HAVASY, OF VIRGINIA
JENNIFER Y. KAWASHIMA, OF VIRGINIA
DAVID HENRY KLASSEN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MATTHEW P. LENARD, OF MARYLAND
JASON MAH, OF VIRGINIA
MINDY K. MANN, OF VIRGINIA
ROBERT J. MANN, OF VIRGINIA
COLLEEN CAITRIN MARTIN, OF VIRGINIA
JOSHUA MCCAULEY, OF VIRGINIA
FARRELL PATRICK MCHUGH, OF TEXAS
MELISSA K. MILLS, OF VIRGINIA
PATRICK L. MORAN, OF VIRGINIA
MICHAEL NAUD, OF TEXAS
ALYSSA PENN, OF VIRGINIA
LAWRENCE D. PETERS, OF MARYLAND
KEVIN M. POWERS, OF VIRGINIA
RAFAEL RESTO-OLIVIO, OF VIRGINIA
JINHEE CHOI SALZMAN, OF VIRGINIA
CAITLIN D. SPICER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THOMAS T. TSOUPELIS, OF VIRGINIA
RICHARD W. WALKER, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE TO THE CLASS INDICATED:

CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 16, 2011:

MARYRUTH COLEMAN, OF MARYLAND
JAMES J. MURPHY, OF VIRGINIA
LARRY G. PADGET, JR., OF VIRGINIA

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES FOR PERSONNEL ACTION IN THE REGULAR CORPS OF THE COMMISSIONED CORPS OF THE U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE SUBJECT TO QUALIFICATIONS THEREFORE AS PROVIDED BY LAW AND REGULATIONS:

To be surgeon

AYSHA Z. AKHTAR
SCOTT J. ASHBY
RODNEY C. CHARLES
AMINA A. CHAUDHRY
HELEN M. CHUN
RUBEN DELPILAR
YIMING A. DING
JUDITH M. EISENBERG
DAMON C. GREEN
FRANK P. HURST
ADOLPH J. HUTTER
DAVID L. MENSCHIK
QUYEN N. METZGER
KRISTINA D. MONEE
ROBERT C. MOORE
JOSEPH REINHARDT
TANGENEARE D. SINGH

To be senior assistant surgeon

ROBERT D. ALLISON
ADRIAN N. BILLINGS
MELISSA A. BRIGGS
STEVEN P. FONG
JEREMY C. FRANCIS
HANNA KANG
HUYI JIN KIM
BEN J. KOCHUVELI
JULEA L. MCGHEE
SHUK HAN T. WONG

To be dental officer

WILLIAM L. DERRICKSON
TOMORAL E. SAMS
CHRISTOPHER K. WYSZYNSKI

To be senior assistant dental officer

JARED C. BECK
SHEFAGH S. DARABI
JEREMY J. LAPINGTON
TATSUHIKO OSADA
TRACI M. TILLEY-ESPINOSA
ANNA M. WOODS
NEIL T. WRENN

To be assistant dental officer

KATIE BENDICKSON
LISA T. HOANG
DAVID H. NEAL

DONNIE S. RIVERA
ROBIN S. YAMAGUMA

To be nurse officer

CARLETTA M. ABERLE
MANDIE E. BAGWELL
MICHAEL BONISLAWSKI
ARICA CARPENTER
VICKY D. DOWDY
DOLETA ELLIS
MICHAEL V. GWATHMEY
SHERRY A. HAMMOCK
LAURA M. HUDSON
CRYSTAL M. HUGHLEY
BEATRICE R. LUNSFORD-WILKINS
JAMILA A. MWIDAU
MICHELLE ROWAN
NOEL M. TRUSALL
ANGELA E. WESTON
KIRA A. WILDER

To be senior assistant nurse officer

JULIE C. BRISKI
COLLEEN E. BURKE
KAREN B. BURNS
JOYCE A. BUSSARD
KRISTIE N. CHERRY
CHERONDA L. CHERRY-FRANCE
DERBY CLARK
DEBRA A. COOPER
BENARD N. DELOACH
JENNIFER H. DRISKILL
ANGELA D. DUKATE
LISA D. ELLIS
KATRINA L. GOAN
ARLEEN T. GRAY
ERIN N. GREEN
PATRICE D. HARRIS
MELISSA L. HUBBARD
ZAMORYA S. JORDAN
ANITA M. KELLAM
OUIDA M. LACEY
SHEALYN R. LUCERO
JUANITA H. LUNA
ZENIA M. MCKOY-CHASE
CHRISTY W. MCRAE-SIEBENBRODT
SABRINA L. METTIVIER
MELINDA A. MUSUMARRA
URUAKU A. OBASI
JENNIFER N. OCONNOR
LISA J. PAPPA
JASMINE PETERSON
EVA PIOTROWSKA
JENNIFER M. RAMON
ROBERT B. RATLIFF
SHARON C. RHYNES
RHONDA R. RODDEN
TANYA L. SANCHEZ
TRACY L. SANTANELLI
CELINDA A. SCOTT
MOLLY Y. SHORTY
AIMEE L. SMITH
ANGELA J. STONE
CHAD A. STUCKEY
KEBA M. TROTMAN
BILLITA WILLIAMS
LILLIE L. WILLIAMS
ANGELA K. WU

To be assistant nurse officer

BRYAN S. ANDERSON
OLABUSOLA AROWORAMIMO
KRISTINA R. BEHRENS
SHAWN P. BURNS
GREGORY T. CARLSON
KIMBERLY S. CARLSON-OLDAKER
BYUNGYONG CHOI
NATASHA L. COLMORE
JENNIFER M. CONN
MAHOGANEY N. DIXON
RYAN D. ERWIN
SHELDON L. FOSTER
TAMI L. GLADUE
TAWANA A. GOLDSTEIN-HAMPTON
CHARKETTA V. GORMAN
KIANA S. HARGROVE
CRYSTAL N. HARTIS
STEVEN A. HERRERA
ALEX M. HORTON
AMANDA E. HUSTON
NATASHA N. JOHNSON
JOI A. JOHNSON
ANGELA R. JONES
KRISTINA M. KELLEY
RITA B. KENAH
KANS B. LEWIS
AMY E. MCCONKEY
VIRGINIA MINTON
IFEOMA E. NNANI
SANDRA L. OLSON
MEGHAN L. POTTER
MEGAN L. POWERS
STEPHANIE T. SAI
CHIRALY T. SAINT-VAL
DEBORAH M. SCHOENFELD
TERESA M. SHEPHERD
KIRK F. SHIM
ROSSON C. SMITH
BRYAN SMITH
MELANY A. TOBIN
HEIDI J. VOSS

To be junior assistant nurse officer

DEIRDRE E. ABELLADA
MATTHEW J. BARLOW
MEKESHA D. BATES
JACQUELINE T. BEE
KAY M. BLYLER
EBONY L. BOSWELL
SHAY M. BULLOCK
BRIANA C. BUSEY
FELICE N. CARLTON
AMOS C. CHEN
SARAH E. COLBERT
TOMMIE L. COLLINS
WILLARD J. COOKSON
KAITLIN P. CORONA
TAYLOR R. DONOVAN
JEREMY M. DUBINSKY
STEVEN ESSIEN
VICTORIA M. EVANS—HAJARIZADEH
CAMILLUS O. EZEIKE
SARAH E. FOWLER
LAURA F. GOULD
ELIZABETH L. HARBISON
PATRICK A. HARMON
JESSICA L. HARVEY
COREEN HEACOCK
STACY T. HEFLIN
DOROTHY W. HEINRICH
TRENICE HENDRIX
ELIZABETH E. HOLT
JERRELL D. JAVIER
CHRISTINE G. JELE
TONYA L. JENKINS
BRIDGET R. JOHNSON
ASHLEY T. JOHNSON
LAVANYA L. KAMINENI
JESSICA A. KAPLAN—BEELER
MELANIE A. KELLY
SHARA L. KENNEDY
REBECCA M. KIBEL
JOSEPH M. KIBIRANGO
MICHELLE A. KRAYER
ANTOINETTE D. LAFRANCE—BUSSEY
BENJAMIN A. LANDRUM
STEPHANIE N. LANHAM
KIMBERLY M. LYNES
SHARLA E. MALDONADO
NICHOLAS C. MARTIN
AFSHEEN MASOOD
MOUSSA MBAHWE
HEATHER M. MCCLURE
KIZZY M. MCCRAY
L. MCELYEA JOY
PAULA A. MCENTIRE
SHIRLEY O. OWUSU—ANSAH
CARLEEN C. PHILLIP
JENNIFER L. POND
HEATHER S. RHODES
CATINA N. RIEVES
MARIELA RIVERA
TAQI SALAAM
CYNTHIA K. SATENAY
TIMOTHY J. SCHMIDT
CODY J. SCHNEIDER
TWYLA M. SHARP
NATHAN L. SHAW
TOTA T. SHULTZ
LYLE SIMMONS
PAULA J. SMITH
ERIKA J. SMITH
INGRID STAMAND
WILLIS R. STEORTZ
BENJAMIN TANNER
RACHEL C. TAYLOR
DANIEL THOMPSON
JOEL A. UY
ANTHONY W. VALORIC
MICHAEL VAN SICKLE
PATINA S. WALTON—GEER
EBONY S. WESTMORELAND
PATRICK J. WHEELER
JULIE M. WITMER

To be engineer officer

FRANCIS K. CHUA
DAVID A. GWSIDALLA

To be senior assistant engineer officer

RHETT C. COSTELLO
THERESA A. GRANT
LEO ANGELO M. GUMAPAS
GAYLE S.W. HAGLER
PHIL NGUYEN
THOMAS RADMAN
JUSTIN A. THOMPSON

To be assistant engineer officer

CHRISTOPHER HUNTER
JONATHAN R. IRELAND
RIA LEESHUELING
TANYA V. NOBLE
DAVID M. THOMAS

To be junior assistant engineer officer

BENJAMIN C. ALTHOFF
GREGORY M. BESSETTE
MIKE W. BUCKELK
MARK GIBEAULT
SCOTT C. GONZALEZ
DANH V. HO

KYLE P. KENTCH
TYRRELL L. LANG
MITCHEL J. MILLER
EVA N. OKADA
STEVEN M. RAISOR
JESSICA A. SHARPE

To be scientist officer

DEANNA R. BEECH
QIAO Y. BOBO
NIZAMETTIN GUL
EDUARDO H. ONEILL
LANA M. ROSSITER

To be senior assistant scientist officer

PARDIS AMIRHOUSHMAND
RICHARD A. ARAGON
STAYCE E. BECK
TYANN BLESSINGTON
MICHAEL B. CHRISTENSEN
JULEEN L. CHRISTOPHER
SETH J. GOLDENBERG
WENDY A. GOOD
ELIZABETH A. IRVIN-BARNWELL
CHARLES H. MARIS
GHASI P. PHILLIPS
DARKEYAH G. REUVEN
ERIC R. RHODES
STEPHANIE A. SINCOCK
KELSEY L. SMITH
CRYSTAL B. SPINKS
AVI J. STEIN
LOCKWOOD G. TAYLOR
ANNA MARIE TORRENS-ARMSTRONG
JAMES N. TYSON
NADRA C. TYUS
SHANNON WALKER
MATTHEW J. WALTERS
SARA E. WRIGHT

To be assistant scientist officer

NANCY TIAN

To be senior assistant environmental health officer

JONATHAN M. BROOKS
EUN GYUNG LEE
JASON A. LEWIS
MICHAEL L. MCCASKILL
MARY A. PSIAKI
JOHN G. WIERZBOWSKI
JOANNA YOON

To be assistant environmental health officer

CHARLES M. ALOE
MARYAM T. BORTON
MATTHEW R. ELLIS
JAMILA M. GALVEZ
MELANIE L. MOORE
EMMY S. MYSZKA
JILL A. NOGI
BETH C. WITTRY
DERRICK N. YOU

To be junior assistant environmental health officer

ISAAC N. AMPADU
BRIAN J. BERUBE
WILLIAM B. BURROWS
THALES J. CHENG
CALEB L. JOHNSON
YOLANY E. PALMA
MATTHEW A. SISBACH

To be veterinary officer

MARGARET A. SHAVER
EVAN T. SHUKAN

To be senior assistant veterinary officer

AMY M. BRAZIL
LAURA S. EDISON
KAYLEEN T. GLOOR
TRAVIS W. NIENHUESER
AMANDA J. OWENS
SAMANTHA J. PINIZZOTTO

To be pharmacy officer

NICHOLE T. BELLAND
KENT L. H. P. BUI
RICHARD H. CUTLIP
JOSHUA W. DEVINE
LORI A. ELDRED
MARK A. ELHARDT
CHIDOZIE N. EZENEKWE
DANIEL J. GARDNER
DIPTI R. KALRA
BETH N. KELLER
TAMY K. LEUNG
DORCAS A. TAYLOR
MARY J. THOENNES
QUYNH-VAN N. TRAN

To be senior assistant pharmacy officer

PHILIP A. BAUTISTA
DANA N. BROWN
JEREMY K. BURTONSHAW
MONICA M. CALDERON
JENNIFER CHENG

ELILTA R. DEMISSIE
JUSTIN W. EUBANKS
WILLIAM E. FREIBERG
ANDY GILLUM
BRIAN J. GILSON
JEREMY S. GUSTAFSON
JENNIFER H. HENDRIX
VICKY C. HUANG
VICTORIA O. IBUKUN
BENJAMIN C. KELLER
MICHELLE KERSHAW
JINA KWAK
ERICA R. LAFORTE
JAMIE L. LEMIRE
TEMEKA L. MAGETT
AMY K. MARCHUS
JENNIFER L. MARTI
MATTHEW M. MCCLUNG
ALIA T. MCCONNELL
THEODROS Y. NEGASH
ANTHONY G. PAZCOGUIN
JOANNE K. RIPLEY
DANA C. ROYSTON
ANNA SCHOR
ANASTASIA M. SHIELDS
NGUYET M. TON
OGOCHUKWU UMEJEI
CHALTU N. WAKIJA
SILVIA WANIS
CHRISTOPHER G. WHITEHEAD
LINCOLN J. WRIGHT
ALEXANDER H. N. YEH

To be assistant pharmacy officer

DEREK S. ALBERDING
MAGGIE A. ALLEN
RYAN P. BARKER
NYEDRA W. BOOKER
JOSEPH B. BUHANAN
RUBIE M. CHASE
DACHUAN CHEN
MINDY CHOU
COREY D. COOPER
BRIAN D. COX
LEIGHA M. CURTISS
DANIEL E. DAGADU
STEPHANIE D. DANIELS
LYSETTE A. DESHIELDS
JOHN DINH
GUERLINE DORMEUS
KATHERINE P. GILLETTE
MELISSA A. GROSSEHEIM
BRANDON D. HOWARD
EPIPHANIS N. IREGBU
JEREMY D. IVIE
JILL D. JAMES
BOGHOKO B. KASPA
ANDREW KIM
JESSICA E. KREGER
SASHA M. LATONIS
TIMOTHY A. LAVENS
ESTHER S. LIU
SARA M. LOUT
AMY C. LUO
REBECCA L. MAGEE
JUSTIN C. MCCORMICK
MATTHEW W. MILLER
MARISSA A. NOLAN
IFECHUKWU C. ONWUKA
KEMEJUMAKA N. OPARA
SOPHIA Y. PARK
DANIEL S. PECK
KELLY H. PHAM
CHARAN N. RICE
SHARONJIT K. SAGOO
JOHN S. SHENOUDA
MELANIE F. STEVENSON
SANGEETA TANDON
SHACARA S. THOMPSON
ALEXANDER P. VARGA
JENNIFER F. VELSOR
JAREK M. VETTER
MAVIS N. YEBOAH
ELIZABETH A. YORGANCIGIL

To be dietitian officer

DEIRDRA N. CHESTER
STACEY B. GYENIZSE
RHONDA A. MONA

To be senior assistant dietitian

TRAVIS L. SCOTT

To be assistant dietitian officer

JAYNE E. BERUBE
HEATHER K. BROSI
VERONICA A. HANDELAND
MELANIE A. HUETT
JOHN K. QUINN, JR.
JOSEPH TIBAY

To be junior assistant dietitian officer

CHRISTIE L. MENNA

To be therapist officer

JEFFREY D. BULLOCK
JOHANNA M. GILSTRAP
CATHLEEN SHIELDS
JENNIFER J. ZENTZ

To be senior assistant therapist officer

JAEWOO IM

AMY E. LEATHERMAN
KERANTHA N. POOLE-CHRISTIAN
MOLLY C. P. RUTLEDGE
CHRISTOPHER O. WHARTON

To be assistant therapist officer

MARSOPHIA R. CROSSLEY
CHANDRA J. PREATOR

To be health services officer

JASON T. BOUTSWELL
HEATHER A. BOYCE-JAMES
MARK H. DURHAM
ROMERL C. ELIZES
DONALD ERTTEL
RAMON E. FONT
KAREN C. FORBES
ERIC J. HALDEN
LINWOOD D. JONES
PAUL N. MOITOSO
MARIE C. OCFEMIA
CHRIS L. POULSON
STACEY L. ROBINSON
OMAYRA N. RODRIGUEZ
DORCAS A. TAYLOR
BEE B. VANG
AIMEE E. WILLIAMS

To be senior assistant health services officer

HOLLY L. ANDERSON-CALDWELL
BRIDGET D. BAKER
JAMES A. BANASKI, JR.
REBECCA A. BARRON
RICARDO R. BEATO
HOLLY B. BERILLA
CARLA S. BURCH
TYRUS J. COX
KELLY J. DALTON
RICHARD L. DUNVILLE
VICKY R. ELLIS
LORIE E. ERIKSON
COURTNEY A. FERENZ
ILISHER L. FORD
NEELAM D. GHIYA
BARBARA A. GOOLSBY
TANYA L. GRANDISON
KENNETH J. GREEN
RICHARD E. HANSON, JR.
BROOKE A. HEINTZ
CARL D. HILL
MICHAEL G. HODNETT
STEPHANIE A. HOOVER
YVONNE J. IRIZARRY
KIMBERLY R. JONES
NJERI J. JONES
JONATHAN A. KWAN
TUYEN D. LE
SEUNG-EUN LEE
SANDRA J. LEMON
SHAMEIKA D. LOGAN
PAMALA T. LOVE
SHAILESH MACWAN
TARSHA M. MCCRAE
JUAN L. MIRANDA
TUNESIA L. MITCHELL
MICHAELA A. MONTECALVO
CORNELIUS O. MOORE
PAULA MURRAIN-HILL
KIMBERLY H. NGUYEN
HEATHER L. ONEILL
JUSTIN J. PEGLOWSKI
CICILY R. PHILLIPS
STACIE L. PIERCE
GABRIELA RAMIREZ-LEON
CHRISTIAN B. RATHEK
MICHAEL J. REYES
ELIZABETH B. RUSSELL
SANDRA B. SMITH
MARK A. SMITH
JENNIFER C. SMITH
YVONNE L. STANSON
JENNIFER R. TATE
LILIANA R. TAVARES
EDDIE E. TUMANENG
TERRI L. WEBBER
NIKETTA A. WOMACK

To be assistant health services officer

SHEENA A. ARMSTRONG
VEENA G. BILLIOUX
LARRY W. BROCKMAN
JESSE F. BURK
ERICA D. BUTLER
HIEN T. N. CHAU
BERIVAN N. DEMIRNEUBERT
JONATHAN W. EBERLY
STEPHANIE S. FELDER
NEVA E. GARNER
ELLEN T. GEE
ANSARUDDIN I. HASAN
CHARLES E. HEAUSLER
ALISHA V. HOLMES
TARA L. HOUDA
TAMEIKA N. KASTNER
ABHA KUNDI
LINDA H. KWON
NEIL A. MAFNAS
SHAUN D. MCMULLEN
LATOYA Q. MILES
OLUWAMUREWA A. OGUNTINEIN
OLAJIDE O. OJEDIRAN

AMANDA C. ROBNIK
DANIELLE B. TERRETT
REBEKAH V. TILLER
NATASHA J. WILTSHIRE

To be junior assistant health services officer

VALERIE E. ALBRECHT
BRIAN R. ALEXANDER
DOLL L. DAVIS
MEGAN M. DODSON
TONYA A. FOWLER
DANIELLE E. FRANKS
COURTNEY E. GRAHAM
KIMISHA L. GRIFFIN
LEROY HERMAN I, II
LOUIS L. JOLLEY
JILL M. KISAKA
PAUL E. LEES
LIRISSIA Y. MCCOY
MAUREEN A. OKOLO
STELLA M. ONUORAH
CLAIRE N. PITTS
ERRICK ROBERTS
MARQUITA D. ROBINSON
JACLYN J. SEEFFELDT
MIRANDA Q. SHROPSHIRE
DONNAMARIE A. SPENCER
JULIE M. TAYLOR
ANDERSON A. TESFAZION
AIRA N. VAZQUEZ
SUSAN A. VELARDE
ANDREA L. VELARDO
ANH D. VU
RUTH A. WILLIAMS
BRANDON F. WYCHE
MYKAH N. WYNTER

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COLONEL RANDALL R. BALL
COLONEL JOHN P. BARTHOLF
COLONEL STEVEN J. BERRYHILL
COLONEL GRETCHEN S. DUNKELBERGER
COLONEL GREG A. HAASE
COLONEL SCOTT L. KELLY
COLONEL MAUREEN MCCARTHY
COLONEL MARK A. MCCAULEY
COLONEL EDWARD E. METZGAR
COLONEL MARSA L. MITCHELL
COLONEL HARRY D. MONTGOMERY, JR.
COLONEL JON K. MOTT
COLONEL BRIAN C. NEWBY
COLONEL DAVID W. NEWMAN
COLONEL DAVID SNYDER
COLONEL DEAN L. WINSLOW

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

CHRISTOPHER J. OLEKSA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

ARTHUR L. BOUCK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

TAMALA L. GULLEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

MICHAEL H. HEUER

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JAMES E. ORR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

STEVEN A. CHAMBERS
ROMAN J. FONTES
JOHN S. GLASGOW
MARK W. GRIFFITH
EARL M. HAIRSTON
ANDRE L. HANCE
LORENZO MIRANDA
EDWARD RENNIE
JAMES P. WALDRON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO

THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be colonel

SUSAN M. CAMORODA
MARK H. CHANDLER
ROGER J. KANESHIRO
JOSEPH F. LOPES
GREGORY S. MICHEL
JOHN E. SKILLICORN
GERSON S. VALLES

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

KEVIN J. OLIVER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

MICHAEL FORTUNATO
RICKY REYNOLDS
MATTHEW WELLOCK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

JOSEPH H. ADAMS II
JONATHAN V. AHLSTROM
JASON A. AHMANSON
ROBERT AHO
ROBEN E. ALFONSO
PATRICK M. ALFONZO
DOUGLAS W. ALLEY
ANTHONY E. AMODEO, JR.
ERIC R. ANDREWS
ROBERT J. ARELLANES
ANTHONY R. ARENDT
LUCAS R. ARGOBRIGHT
RICHARD K. ARLEDGE
DEVIN K. ARNOLD
FRANK J. AZZARELLO
JOSHUA L. BACCA
ROBERT J. BALLARD
BRIAN J. BAUMGAERTNER
MATTHEW W. BEAGHLEY
ANDREW R. BEARD
KEVIN A. BEATLEY
JOHN C. BEHNCKE
JAYSON L. BEIER
ERIC J. BELL
ANDREW J. BELLINA
MATTHEW L. BERGER
AARON T. BERGMAN
MICHAEL T. BETSCH
DAVID M. BIGAY
ROBERT C. BIGGS
CHARLES G. BIRCHFIELD
BLYTHE A. BLAKISTONE
MATTHEW P. BLAZEL
KENNETH W. BRADFORD
CHRISTOPHER J. BRADSHAW
UBIE S. BRANTLEY
ADAM J. BROCK
CHRISTOPHER A. BROWN
DARRELL W. BROWN II
CASEY R. BRUCE
JEFFREY S. BRUNER
WILLIAM S. BUFORD
DOUGLAS J. BULLIS
MATTHEW S. BURICH
WILLIAM L. BURTON
MELANE A. BYRD
ROBERT P. CARR
WILLIAM L. CARR
BRAD A. CARSTENS
BENJAMIN R. CARTER
CHRISTOPHER J. CARTER
RYAN C. CARTER
STEVEN M. CARTER
JOHN A. CAUTHEN
ROBERT D. CERAVOLO
MICHAEL G. CHARNOTA
ANDREW J. CHAUVIN
DANIEL F. CHIAFAIR
DANIEL K. CHOUDHURY
ASHLEY E. CHURCH
CHARLES R. CLARK
JOHN R. CLARK, JR.
TOMMY M. CLARKE
JESSICA E. CLEARY
JEEN S. CLEMITSON
TODD R. CLEVELAND
DANIEL B. CNOSSEN
JAMES O. COKER II
DANIEL M. COLON
MARK A. CONLEY
RYAN P. CONOLE
JAMES V. CONSALVI
DANNY M. COOK
NATHAN M. COOK
SEAN R. COOK
LARRY E. COOPER
THOMAS M. CORCORAN
MATTHEW B. COURTNEY

SPENCER M. COX
ANDREW D. CRAIG
PAUL A. CRAIG
CALEB T. CRAMER
CHRISTOPHER M. CRISLER
MATTHEW R. CROOK
ROBERT CROSBY
STEVEN C. CROUCH
JAMES K. CUNNINGHAM
MATTHEW E. CURNEN
ROY B. DALTON III
ADDISON G. DANIEL
DAVID J. DARTEZ
MARK C. DAVID
FELIX B. DAVIGNON, JR.
MATTHEW E. DAVIN
JUSTIN P. DAVIS
JARROD D. DAY
BRANDON J. DECKER
CHARLES B. DENNISON
JEFFREY M. DESMOND
MARCOS DIAZ, JR.
TROY J. DICKEY
SARAH E. DIXON
CHRISTOPHER A. DOBSON
REBECCA M. DOMZALSKI
MEGAN M. DONNELLY
TIMOTHY G. DROSINOS
MARIUSZ K. DROZDZOWSKI
MICHAEL F. DUEZ
JULIE A. DUNNIGAN
SHANE A. DURKEE
PETER J. EBERHARDT
KATHLEEN R. EHRESMANN
BRETT E. ELKO
MATTHEW L. ENOS
CHARLES E. ESCHER
MICHAEL C. ESCOBAR
ROGELIO ESPINOZA
JOHN R. ESPOSITO
DUSTIN E. EVANS
JAMES L. EVANS
RYAN E. EVANS
JOHNPAUL A. FALARDEAU
PETER R. FANNO
JEREMY B. FARMER
STANLEY A. FAULDS
THOMAS P. FAULDS
HARRY R. FEIGEL III
CHRISTINE FELICE
SANDRA L. FENNEL
JEFFREY A. FERGUSON
MEGAN M. FINE
DANIEL K. FINNEGAN
JOHN E. FITZPATRICK
MEAGAN V. FLANNIGAN
ERIN E. FLINT
PAUL A. FLUSCHE
SYLVESTER R. FOLEY IV
DANIEL A. FOLLETT
EDWARD H. FONG
MICHELLE R. FONTENOT
TYLER W. FORREST
BENJAMIN W. FOSTER
ERICH C. FRANDRUP
ROBERT A. FRANTZ III
KURT N. FREDLAND
JOHN A. FRENCH
MICHAEL D. FRENCH
KEVIN R. FRIEL
MICHAEL D. GALDIERI
KEVIN D. GAMBLE
BRYAN E. GEISERT
THOMAS C. GENEST
KIMBERLY N. GEORGE
PHILIP D. GIFT
SHANNON N. GILBERT II
MICHAEL L. GIVENS
CHRISTOPHER D. GLANDON
MATTHEW D. GLEASON
DEREK J. GORDON
ROYAL P. GORDON IV
WALTER D. GRAHAM IV
MEGAN M. GRANGER
STUART C. GRAZIER
NICHOLAS M. GREEN
ALLEN H. GRIMES
CHRISTOPHER M. GROCKI
RYAN F. GUARD
WILLIAM M. GUHEEN III
CHRISTOPHER M. GZYBOWSKI
KEVIN R. HAAKSMA
STEVEN D. HACKER
JARROD S. HAIR
GERMAINE E. HALBERT
DANIEL A. HANCOCK
BRYAN M. HANEY
STANTON R. HANLEY
BRIAN M. HANSEN
CHRISTIAN A. HANSEN
HAYWARD W. HARGROVE III
CHAD H. HARVEY
BRIAN J. HASSE
NATHANIEL M. HATHAWAY
PETER W. HAYNES
STEVEN G. HEGGIE
MARK D. HELLER
JARED E. HENDERSON
JAMES M. HENRY
COURTNEY S. HERDT
TREVOR F. HERMANN
DIRK H. HERON

STEPHEN A. HIERS
BRIAN R. HIGGINS
JERRY C. HIGGINS
EDWARD F. V. HILL
JOHN P. HILTZ
DEVON M. HOCKADAY
GABRIEL J. HOHNER
ROBERT D. HOLT
JARED J. HOOPER
JOSHUA A. HOOPS
HEATH D. HOPPE
MATTHEW G. HORTON
TIMOTHY J. HOUSEHOLDER
BRADLEY A. HOYT
GREGORY J. HRACHO
JAMES D. HUDDLESTON
CORY D. HUDSON
DAVID E. HUDSON
ALLAN C. HUEBNER
WILLIAM T. HUEBNER, JR.
JOHN R. HUMPHREYS
NATHANIEL L. HUNTER
MICHAEL Y. HUNTSMAN
TIMOTHY P. HURLEY
VINCENT J. JAKAWICH
MARK C. JANSEN
ERIC H. JEWELL
DEBORAH A. JIMENEZ
ERIC R. JOHNSON
LUKE R. JOHNSON
SCOTT G. JOHNSON
ANDREW T. JONES
JOSHUA F. JONES
SHANE P. JONES
DOUGLAS L. KAY
KENNETH P. KEEPE
WARREN R. KEIERLEBER
MAXWELL M. KEITH
JONATHAN A. KELLEY
ERIK J. KENNY
HENRY N. KEYSER IV
CHRIS M. KIESEL
IAN J. KIRSCHKE
KRISTOPHER D. KLAIBER
CHRISTOPHER M. KLUTCH
BRIAN D. KOCH
KENNETH C. KOKKELER
JAMES KOTORA
DANIEL D. KUITU
GEORGE G. KULCZYCKI
ROBERT W. KURRLE, JR.
IAN P. LAMBERT
DANIEL W. LANDI
VICTOR M. LANGE
JOSHUA A. LARSON
JASON A. LAUTAR
COLETTE B. LAZENKA
DANIELLE M. LEDBETTER
GREGORY P. LEMBO
CHRISTOPHER K. LEMON
LEONARD M. LEOS
GARY D. LEWIS
MATTHEW K. LEWIS
WAYNE G. LEWIS, JR.
HUGO M. LIMA
EDWARD C. L. LIN
KYLE D. LINDSEY
PHILIPP A. LINES
DANIELLE L. LITCHFORD
CHARLES C. LITTON
MICHAEL E. LOFGREN
GEORGE P. LORANGER
BENGT G. LOWANDER
JAMES E. LUCAS
THOMAS W. LUFT
JEREMY N. LYON
NATHAN W. LYON
MARQUETTE H. MAGEE
GWENDOLYN N. MAJOR
NICHOLAS C. MALOKOFSKY
JAMES M. MALVASIO
ROBERT W. MARRS
MATTHEW L. MARTIN
RION W. MARTIN
CARLOS F. MARTINEZ
MICHAEL D. MARTINKO
BRANDEN R. MARTY
CHRISTOPHER M. MARTYN
DEREK MASON
SAMUEL P. MASON
ANTHONY S. MASSEY
TODD R. MATSON
DAVID B. MATSUMOTO
RICHARD T. MCCANDLESS
DAVID S. MCCLINTOCK
ANDREW P. MCCLUNE
MATTHEW L. MCDERMOTT
LOUIS P. MCFADDEN III
JACKSON R. MCFARLAND
TIMOTHY J. MCKAY
ANDREW M. MCKEE
SCOTT A. MCKEE
EDWARD P. MCKINNON
BRADFORD J. MCNEESE
CHRISTOPHER MENDOZA
JOHN C. MERWIN
MICHAEL J. MESSEMER
GEORGE U. MESSNER III
CHRISTOPHER G. METZ
BRYAN W. MILLER
MICHAEL L. MINUKAS
MATTHEW L. MINZES

MICHAEL MOODY
 PHILIP C. MOORE
 STEPHEN J. MOORE
 DANIEL A. MORREIRA
 SAMUEL P. MORRISON
 JASON B. MORTON
 BRIAN T. MURPHY
 REBEKAH J. MURPHY
 CAROLINE C. MURTAGH
 ELIZABETH A. NELSON
 JONATHAN P. NELSON
 DOUGLAS J. NEVES
 SEAN M. NEWBY
 JESSE H. NICE
 CHRISTOPHER J. NICOLETTI
 ROBERT W. NIEMEYER
 JOHN P. NILLES
 GERONIMO F. NUNO
 TIMOTHY D. OBRIEN
 PATRICK J. OCONNOR
 GEORGE A. OKVIST
 MARTIN C. OLIVER
 MATTHEW P. OLSON
 MICHAEL L. OSULLIVAN
 CHRISTOPHER J. OTTO
 RYAN P. OVERHOLTZER
 WENDY J. OWCZAREK
 ELI C. OWRE
 PAUL C. OYLER
 RICHARDO V. PADILLA
 CRISTINA M. PAOLICCHI
 JASON N. PAPADOPOULOS
 JOHN W. PARKER
 JOSEPH D. PARSONS
 LESTER O. PATTERSON
 SCOTT W. PAUL
 FORREST S. PENDLETON
 BRIAN H. PENNELL
 MICHAEL A. PEREZ
 SAVERIO PERROTTA
 JOSEPH C. PERRY
 BENJAMIN D. PETERMANN
 NELS E. PETERSON
 ANTHONY M. PETROSINO
 DUSTIN W. PEVERILL
 MATTHEW M. PLANETTA
 MICHAEL E. PIANO
 BRADLEY S. PIKULA
 BRYAN S. PINCKNEY
 ALICIA J. PING
 CHRISTOPHER S. PISEL
 MICHAEL T. PLAGEMAN
 JASON R. POHL
 COREY POLITINO
 JOHN P. PONTRELLO
 EMELIA S. PROBASCO
 STEVEN C. PUSKAS
 THOMAS F. RADICH III
 THOMAS G. RALSTON
 CASEY M. RAYBURG
 JARRED T. REDFORD
 JESSE M. REED
 ERIC T. REEVES
 STEVE C. REIS

CRAIG M. REPLOGLE
 QUINN J. RHODES
 MICHAEL T. RICE
 THOMAS D. RICHARDSON
 DAWN T. RICKETTS
 TREVOR J. RITLAND
 ANDREW P. RIVAS
 DUSTIN W. ROBBINS
 MATTHEW P. ROCHA
 MATT W. RODGERS
 ARTHUR S. RODRIGUEZ
 GEORGE P. ROLAND
 JACOB M. ROSE
 NICHOLAS A. ROTUNDA
 ALEXANDER A. RUCKER
 CHRISTOPHER J. SABBATINI
 CRAIG R. SALVESON
 JAMES O. SAMMAN
 SUZANNE L. SAMPSON
 ADAM SCHANTZ
 JONATHAN K. SCHEIN
 PETER S. SCHEU
 DANIEL J. SCHLESINGER
 GEORGE A. SCHMUKE
 NATHAN A. SCOTT
 ERIC D. SEVERSON
 LUKE N. SHANK
 ARDIS C. SHANNON
 LEIGH C. SHANNON
 KENNETH M. SHEFFIELD
 MICHAEL S. SHELTON II
 NIKOLAOS SIDIROPOULOS
 CHRISTIAN J. SIMONSEN
 BRANDON L. SIMPSON
 MICHAEL J. SIMPSON
 RICHARD D. SITHIBANDITH
 BRANDON D. SMITH
 CHARLES R. SMITH
 DENNIS H. SMITH
 JARED C. SMITH
 JASON C. SMITH
 JEFFREY A. SMITH
 MICHAEL C. SMITH
 WILLIAM D. SMITH
 WAYNE O. SPARROW
 RYAN E. SROGI
 MICHAEL B. STANFIELD
 SUSAN M. STARKEY
 MICHAEL R. STEPHEN
 JOHN W. STIGI
 ROBERT G. STIMIS
 JENNIFER D. STIMSON
 SHARON K. STORTZ
 JASON T. SUROWIEC
 MATHEW J. SWENSON
 JASON S. TARRANT
 TYLER R. TENNILLE
 DANIEL N. TERESHKO
 MATTHEW S. THATCHER
 JI J. THERIOT
 ADAM J. THOMAS
 COLIN J. THOMPSON
 NATHANIEL B. THOMPSON
 QUERON THOMPSON

SARAH E. THOMPSON
 SCOTT M. THOMPSON
 JOHN M. THORPE
 DAVID A. TICKLE
 DAVID M. TIGRETT
 SCOTT K. TIMMESTER
 MARTY D. TIMMONS
 RYAN A. TOMKINS
 NICHOLAS M. TRAMONTIN
 JARROD M. TRANT
 STEPHEN M. TROY
 MICHAEL P. TRUMBULL
 GEORGE A. TSUKATOS
 SARAH E. TURSE
 CHRISTOPHER D. TYCHNOWITZ
 THOMAS J. UHL
 PATRICK M. VEITH
 JASON C. VINING
 CLAY S. WADDILL
 DORNELIEO A. WAITS
 ANTHONY J. WAKEFIELD
 CHRISTOPHER L. WALLACE
 DONALD J. WALLACE
 RICHARD B. WALSH
 DAVID M. WALSTON
 ANTHONY M. WATERS
 BRIAN P. WATT
 ROBERT C. WATTS IV
 BRYAN T. WEATHERUP
 WESLEY D. WEIBEL
 JOSHUA W. WELLE
 JASON D. WELLS
 KYLE C. WELSHANS
 MICHAEL F. WENDELKEN
 BRIAN K. WHITE
 CARL E. WHITE
 TIMOTHY R. WHITE
 WILLIAM R. WHITE
 BRIAN R. WHITTEN
 JOHN C. WIEDMANN III
 DAVID B. WILLIAMS
 SCOTT A. WILLIAMS
 THOMAS W. WILLIAMS
 JAMES P. WILLIAMSON
 JUSTIN A. WILSON
 ANDREW N. WINBERRY
 PATRINIA R. WINFREY
 CHRISTOPHER T. WINTERS
 JASON M. WITT
 MICHAEL A. WOEHMAN
 NATHAN M. WOLF
 MATTHEW A. WRIGHT
 GABRIEL D. YANCEY
 JEREMY S. YARBROUGH

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

JOHN L. HYATT, JR.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF SAND CITY POLICE
CHIEF J. MICHAEL KLEIN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sand City Police Chief J. Michael Klein, who was recently named Police Chief of the Year by Crisis Intervention Team International. This award recognizes his work in establishing Monterey County's Critical Incident Training Academy, which trains police officers to deal with confrontations involving the mentally ill and people in crisis situations.

Chief Klein established Monterey County's Critical Incident Training Academy in 2000 to align mental health and police action. At the onset, the Academy only offered 24 hours of training a few times per year. The concept was not readily accepted in the law enforcement community and officers were reluctant to attend.

However, in 2008, Chief Klein began working with Devon Corpus, the behavioral health unit supervisor at Natividad Medical Center. Together, they increased the training to 40 hours to include lectures on mental illness and created scenarios that officers were likely to actually encounter on the job.

Today, the program is incredibly successful and continues to break new ground. The Monterey County Critical Incident Training Academy combines resources from several local groups. By incorporating resources from law enforcement, emergency service workers, mental health officials and civil rights groups, the Academy works to create more effective interactions between officers and mental health care providers, individuals with mental illness, their families, and also to reduce the stigma of mental illness. Using a similar process as hostage negotiators, the officers learn techniques to de-escalate hostile situations and are thoroughly trained in intervention with people suffering from mental illnesses, PTSD and rage.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chief Klein for his service to our community. His leadership in aligning mental health with police efforts is a model for our nation and I am grateful for his service in protecting the life and dignity of our most vulnerable citizens.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House during rollcall vote 692. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE VETERANS WHO
RECEIVED THE SILVER STAR
BANNER AWARD ON AUGUST
12TH, 2011 IN MCCOOK, ILLINOIS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the veterans who received the Silver Star Banner on August 12th at a ceremony in McCook, Illinois in recognition of illness or injury sustained while on active duty in the United States Armed Forces. It is a privilege to acknowledge the sacrifices made by these brave citizens in the defense of our country, and I applaud their courage and fortitude.

At the ceremony hosted by Cook County Commissioner Jeffrey R. Tobolski of the 16th District, the following servicemen were recognized: William Cochran, Kenneth Marinelle, Thomas Bezouska, Anthony Bezouska, Donald Beach, Robert Tinson Sr., James Piotrowski, Thomas Higgins, Ralph Simpson, John Charles Judge, Louis Anderson, Joe Romano, Russell Meredith, and James Tobolski.

The Silver Star Banner was created by the Silver Star Families of America, founded in 2005. The mission of this nonprofit organization is to provide care packages and show support to ill and wounded veterans and their families. The Silver Star Families of America also works to serve the men and women of the Armed Forces through education and advocacy campaigns that focus on the plight of servicemen and servicewomen wounded while on active duty. This organization is unique because candidates need not receive additional military decoration to be eligible for the Silver Star Banner. Silver Star Families of America seeks to ensure that all those wounded and ill members who have served in the Armed Forces receive the recognition and honor they deserve.

This ceremony exemplifies the 16th District's support for local veterans. Those who risk their lives to protect our country deserve our utmost respect, and Commissioner Tobolski and the residents of the 16th District are helping to make sure they receive their due.

Please join me in recognizing the recipients of the Silver Star Banner from Cook County's 16th District and surrounding areas. Their sacrifice and dedication to our country are an inspiration to us all and will not be forgotten.

REDUCING ENERGY COSTS AND
SUPPORTING JOB CREATION
WITH MECHANICAL INSULATION

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today, with my good friend and Co-Chair of the House Manufacturing Caucus, TIM RYAN of Ohio, the Mechanical Insulation Incentive Act of 2011, MIA 2011. Mechanical insulation is the insulation placed around mechanical equipment, such as large boilers, heating and air conditioning units, duct work, and hot and cold water piping, to prevent energy loss, control condensation, regulate temperature, help reduce pollutants, and protect employees from hot or cold surfaces. Commercial buildings and industrial facilities consume 2.5 times more energy than homes, according to the Energy Information Administration. Energy efficiency in mechanical insulation is critical in reducing energy cost and consumption, and it is an essential industry for job creation.

MIA 2011 will help the commercial and industrial sectors invest in mechanical insulation and create much-needed jobs in one of the hardest-hit industries. The National Insulation Association, NIA, estimates that this bill alone could create or sustain more than 89,000 jobs annually. Specifically, this legislation would create up to a 30 percent tax deduction to encourage commercial and industrial entities, such as manufacturing facilities, office buildings, schools, hospitals, power plants, hotels, and universities, to go beyond minimum mechanical insulation requirements in new construction and retrofit projects and increase their maintenance activities. The NIA also estimates this bill could save up to \$35 billion in energy costs and reduce as much as 170 million metric tons of carbon emissions over the next five years.

Mechanical insulation systems are a vital component in creating and maintaining high-performance, energy-efficient buildings and increasing manufacturing efficiency. MIA 2011 cuts energy costs, reduces carbon emissions, and puts Americans back to work through a tax incentive encouraging the use of mechanical insulation.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR CHIEF
PETTY OFFICER SPECIAL WAR-
FARE OPERATOR DARRIK
CARLYLE BENSON

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Petty Officer Special Warfare Operator Darrik Carlyle Benson who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Chief Benson was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Chief Benson was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including two Bronze Star Medals with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Valor, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, two Afghanistan Campaign Medals, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Chief Benson is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Chief Benson an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Chief Benson's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
MS. JANE SCOTT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Ms. Jane Scott, Cleveland's preeminent voice on all matters rock 'n' roll.

Ms. Scott was born on May 3, 1919 in Cleveland, Ohio. She graduated from Lakewood High School in 1937 and went on to pursue English and drama majors at the University of Michigan, from which she graduated in 1941. During World War II, she was a code breaker for the U.S. Navy, and afterwards she became the women's editor of the Chagrin Valley Herald. She also had brief bouts in advertising and public relations.

On March 24, 1952, Scott started working at The Plain Dealer as a society writer. However, after the Beatles performed at Public Hall in September 1964, Scott became The Plain Dealer's rock critic, a role which she would keep for four decades. She wrote music features, concert reviews, and was well known for her long standing "What's Happening" column in Friday! Magazine.

Scott, affectionately known as the "World's Oldest Teenager," became known for her un-

dying passion for rock 'n' roll and rock musicians, her ability to gain access to areas where reporters were usually off-limits, and her ability to spot talent. In her review of a performance by Bruce Springsteen in 1975 at the Allen Theater, she predicted that "he will be the next superstar," months before he was featured on the front covers of Newsweek and Time.

Ms. Scott was admired by such rockers as Lou Reed, Peter Dinklage, David Thomas of Pere Ubu, and Michael Stanley. She went on to become a celebrity herself, and was profiled in the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, Rolling Stone, People Magazine, CNN and MTV, among others.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Ms. Jane Scott, a woman whose passion for rock 'n' roll made her a legendary figure in the Cleveland community.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTH-
DAY OF THE BAY CITY ARMORY
BUILDING

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of the Bay City Armory Building.

The landmark Bay City Armory building, designed by local architects Pratt and Koepke, celebrates its 100th birthday this month.

Dedicated on September 18, 1911, the Bay City Armory was first used by the military to organize and train local soldiers to chase Mexican strongman Pancho Villa along the U.S. border. They later trained soldiers for the battlefields in France and Belgium during World War I. Their units were on hand to help with disasters, riots and the conflicts of World War II, Korea and Vietnam. The building became home for Company C of the Peninsulars militia. The armory also was home to what became the 128th Ambulance Company, later the 121st Ambulance Company and the 207th Engineering Battalion.

In 1912, the Armory was also the site of the Republican state convention, where infighting among the delegates, some supporting President William Howard Taft and others backing former President Theodore Roosevelt, was so fierce that fist fights broke out inside and in front of the building. The 1912 convention broke apart the party, with the splintered faction helping to form the Progressive Party, or Bull Moose, in the November elections.

The last National Guard units moved out of the building in 1986 and it was acquired by the Bay County Historical Society to be renovated as the new historical museum. It opened as a museum in 1988 and continues to highlight Bay County's history.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Bay County Historical Society for preserving the Bay City Armory Building, one of Bay County's architectural jewels, and keeping Bay County's rich history alive.

GUNS UP—FOOTBALL AND MIKE
LEACH

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in coffee shops, barber shops and even in the beauty salons all across Texas, the talk is the same—how's the team gonna be this year? It's that time of year, a time that folks in Texas and across the South prepare for all year long, Football season. Football in Texas is its own religion, where even the preacher cuts the sermon short on Sundays to get you home in time to watch the game. Nowhere else on earth will you find a culture so linked with football like is in Texas.

Texas football is that of both legend and legacy. It has spawned countless books, movies and TV series; providing a look into a way of life that is so proudly unique. It's the Junction Boys, the Tyler Rose, the last minute touchdown run by Texas Longhorn Vince Young in the Rose Bowl for the National Championship. I was there by the way with my son, Kurt. What a game, what a memory.

Most Texans, if you ask them, have at least one team for which their loyalty lies. One thing I can say without a doubt is that Texas Tech fans love their football. It is the rich heritage of tradition that sets Texas Tech apart from all the rest. It is Bangin' Bertha, the Saddle Tramps and the Masked Rider. It's Raider Alley, the Double T Saddle and Raider Red. Raider Red fires two 12-gauge shotguns after every touchdown and field goal—only in Texas.

The Mike Leach Era, at Texas Tech, began in 2000, when he arrived from Oklahoma (OU Sooners) to take the head coaching position. During his first season, Coach Leach's offense produced records in nearly every passing category. In his following nine seasons, the Red Raiders surpassed each of those passing records and doubled their yards per game. Everyone can agree that Leach has one of the greatest offensive minds in football history. Leach coaches outside-the-box; he trained Tech in the art of air assault operations.

During his subsequent football seasons with Texas Tech, he was awarded three national coach-of-the-year awards: the Woody Hayes, the George Munger and the Howie Long/Fieldturf. He never had a losing season in his nine seasons at Tech. His record speaks for itself.

Seventeen of Leach's Red Raiders were drafted into the National Football League, and another twenty-one signed free agent contracts under Leach's tenure. In addition, while coaching at Tech, Leach's graduation rates increased and remained over 70 percent.

Not only is Mike Leach a great coach but he is also a lawyer. He earned his law degree from Pepperdine, and credits his law school education to his successful coaching career. According to Leach, "a law degree is a degree in problem solving. My Juris Doctor has helped me solve a number of problems I have faced throughout my coaching career." A lawyer, who thinks outside-the-box, sounds familiar.

In 2009, he was fired from Tech over controversy for allegedly mistreating one of his players. Leach denied mistreating the player and is currently working for CBS College Sports as an announcer. As legendary Coach Bum Phillips is credited with saying: "there are two types of coaches—those that have been fired and those that will be". Leach recently wrote a book about his path into coaching and he looks forward to getting back on the sideline.

Among Red Raider fans and those who have met him, played for him and learned from him, Mike Leach is wholeheartedly considered a legend in his own time.

So this weekend, grab the family, put on your team colors and head to the game. Grab some hot dogs and a coke and take part in one of Texas' finest traditions. You will see some of those folks that you went to high school with some of the same old guys sitting in the same seats as they were in 20–30 years ago. I wish all the players, the coaches, the trainers, the cheerleaders, the drill team and all those people that volunteer their time to support our kids the very best luck. Know that you are all a part of something very special, a Texas religion—Texas Football.

And that's just the way it is.

DUQUESNE LAW SCHOOL'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Duquesne University School of Law, a widely respected institution of higher learning in Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District.

The Duquesne University School of Law was founded in 1911. It was the first professional school added to Duquesne University, a private Catholic university which was established in 1878 by members of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, often referred to as Spiritans.

The Duquesne University School of Law began as a night school with 12 students. Consistent with the Spiritan tradition, the school was a pioneer in providing legal education to the working-class, minorities, and women. It was designed to accommodate students' family and work obligations. Enrollment has increased dramatically over the last 100 years to the current total of 646 students, and the Duquesne University School of Law now offers several degrees in full-time and part-time programs offering clinics, practicums, and international study as well as the Cyril H. Wecht Institute of Forensic Law. It continues to offer flexible schedules to expand access for those who could otherwise not pursue a law degree.

The Duquesne University School of Law has embraced the globalization of law in the 21st century. It opened the first summer schools for American Law Students in Beijing, China in 1995 and the Vatican City State in 2001, as well as additional programs in Dublin, Ireland, and Cologne, Germany.

The law school encourages moral and ethical exploration through coursework offerings on the intersection between Law and Philosophy and between Law and different religions. The school's educational philosophy maintains that preparation for the legal profession requires the development of a special character, competency, and disposition.

Alumni of the Duquesne University School of Law make up over a third of membership of the Allegheny County Bar association, with over 7,200 alumni practicing in every field of law, in all 50 states, and in several foreign countries. Alumni serve at the local, state, and federal levels. Duquesne Law alumni have also served as judges of the United States Court of Appeals and the Federal District Courts.

As the Duquesne University School of Law celebrates its centennial anniversary, I want to congratulate its faculty, staff, students, alumnae, friends, and supporters and commend them on their many contributions to the community of Pittsburgh and to our nation.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR SENIOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR THOMAS ARTHUR RATZLAFF

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Senior Chief Petty Officer Special Warfare Operator Thomas Arthur Ratzlaff who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Senior Chief Ratzlaff was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Senior Chief Ratzlaff was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards and decorations, including five Bronze Star Medals with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Joint Service Commendation Medals, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, two Combat Action Ribbons, Presidential Unit Citation, and numerous other personal and unit decorations. Additionally, Senior Chief Ratzlaff was awarded the Star of Military Valor, for actions in Afghanistan while supporting Canadian Soldiers. He is only the second American since World War I to have this honor bestowed upon him.

Senior Chief Ratzlaff is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Senior Chief Ratzlaff an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Senior Chief Ratzlaff's family, friends and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

CONGRATULATING ANNELISE BERGERON

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Annelise Bergeron for being chosen as Queen Evangeline of the 43rd International Acadian Festival held annually in Iberville Parish. The International Acadian Festival is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Council #970 of Plaquemine, LA, which is the 3rd oldest K.C. council in the State of Louisiana.

It always brings about personal pride to see young students of the Bayou State achieving their goals while simultaneously working to give back and improve their communities. This talented young woman is currently a senior at St. Joseph Academy in Baton Rouge. I have the highest confidence that Annelise will succeed in whatever endeavors she pursues.

I ask my colleagues to join me in passing good wishes to Annelise Bergeron, her family, and the International Acadian Festival. Annelise is truly deserving of this recognition.

IN RECOGNITION OF LAKEWOOD PARK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Lakewood Park, which is being dedicated with an Ohio Historical Marker.

The rich history of Lakewood Park chronicles the history and continuing development of the City of Lakewood. The 31 acres were originally part of a larger piece of land owned by Mr. John Honam, an early settler to the area. Mr. Honam's 1834 house was moved to the grounds of Lakewood Park in 1959 and is now the Oldest Stone House Museum. In the 1860s, Robert R. Rhodes began purchasing land in Lakewood. In 1881, Mr. Rhodes built a mansion on the estate known as "The Hickories." The mansion was home to the Rhodes family until his passing in 1916.

After Mr. Rhodes' passing, "The Hickories" served as a home for wounded World War I soldiers and later, a hospital annex during the influenza epidemic of 1918. The City of Lakewood purchased "The Hickories" in 1919 and the mansion was the home of Lakewood City Hall from 1920 until it was demolished in 1959. A single stone wall of the mansion remains in Lakewood Park commemorating its role in Lakewood's history.

Today, Lakewood Park serves as a gathering place for the residents of Lakewood. Lakewood Park is home to Foster Pool, the Lakewood Skate Park, the Lakefront Promenade, the Lakewood Park Bandshell, Kids Cove Playground, the Woman's Club Pavilion, the Kiwanis Open Pavilion and numerous sand volleyball courts, softball fields and picnic areas.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of the dedication of the new Lakewood Park Ohio Historical Marker.

JEAN MACCORMACK MOVES TO
THE NEXT PHASE OF A GREAT
CAREER

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, many of us in Southeastern Massachusetts—and indeed in Massachusetts as a whole—had very mixed emotions on learning of the decision by University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Chancellor Jean MacCormack to retire. She will be greatly missed, and we cannot help but express our deep regret that she will be moving on from the position from which she has shown such extraordinary leadership educationally, economically and culturally. But given how hard Jean MacCormack has worked, how dedicated she has been to her students, to the faculty, and to the region of which that institution is such an important part, no one can begrudge her the decision to take a pause and move to different work.

I say different work, Mr. Speaker, because no one who knows the energy, passion for helping others and improving the world around her, and great gift for friendship that Jean MacCormack possesses doubts that she will soon be doing something else of great value. But this is an appropriate time to note the wide range of very important contributions she has made to our region.

As the Member of the House proud to represent what has been for many years the leading fishing community in the United States, New Bedford, and its surrounding towns, I have derived enormous strength from the work that has been done at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth to support the fishing industry with first-rate research, and Jean MacCormack has been an essential factor in that effort.

Under her leadership, UMass Dartmouth has become a very important source of research and leadership for economic development in dealing with our ocean resources in general and UMass Dartmouth has played a very essential role in promoting the economic development of our region both with regard to some specific industries, including textiles and cranberries, in addition to fishing, and in general.

Many people talk about the important synergies that come from making sure that first-rate academic work is coordinated with economic development. Jean MacCormack has done as much as anyone I know to make that a reality. And I was very proud to be one of those who worked under her leadership to create the first public law school in the history of Massachusetts, with the merger of Southern New England Law School into the University of Massachusetts system, headquartered at the Dartmouth branch.

Mr. Speaker, Jean MacCormack was to me not just a great educational leader, but a great friend. No one could be in her presence without being made to feel valuable and to be entertained and instructed at the same time. I join with the population of Southeastern Massachusetts in thanking her for a job very well done and in wishing her well as we watch her move on to her next work.

And Mr. Speaker, as an indication of the impact Jean MacCormack has had, I ask that the excellent article from the New Bedford Standard Times about her career be printed here.

UMASS DARTMOUTH CHANCELLOR STEPPING
DOWN AFTER THIS YEAR
(By Steve Urban)

DARTMOUTH.—Expressing deep concern for the future of public higher education in America, Jean F. MacCormack Tuesday announced she will retire at the end of this academic year as chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

MacCormack, 64, notified the campus at the annual faculty/staff convocation breakfast and in a campus-wide email.

Noting the shrinking financial support for state-run colleges and universities, MacCormack, both in her address and in an interview, lamented the dwindling public support and today's increasing hostility toward the public sector. "They're angry at the government and it spills over," she said.

But she did not say that was the reason for her retirement; rather, she cited the wish to pursue other interests after three decades of working "24/7" in college administration. And despite the fact she has come under criticism politically, she said politics had no bearing on her decision.

Citing the 1862 Morrill Act signed by President Lincoln establishing land-grant colleges, MacCormack said: "We simply cannot allow the debate to be dominated by negative voices and allow the spirit and intent of the Morrill Act to be hijacked. We cannot accept the new dogmas of the stormy present to prevail. Too much is at stake for our nation and our democracy."

She said in her address that she sees no obvious strategy. "I would love to tell you that I see a clear pathway for improvement on the national issues, but instead I think those possibilities are only slowly emerging from the name-calling and the rancor. What I am quite certain about is that we must find our voice in this national debate and become strong advocates for not abandoning our nation's longstanding commitment to the clear mission of public higher education."

New Bedford Mayor Scott Lang, who has conducted hardball negotiations with MacCormack and the university over land at Fort Taber to expand SMAST, was effusive in his praise for the chancellor.

"She's left a very long-lasting, positive legacy for the university," Lang said. "She's left a tremendous amount of momentum in key areas that the next chancellor will need to build on."

"I regard her as a friend. We don't agree on every issue and we never, never will. But I enjoyed working with her. It's in the interest of everyone in this region that our university be extremely successful, innovative and a true partner," Lang said.

During her tenure, which began in 1999 when she arrived from UMass Boston, the campus expanded greatly, including a visual and performing arts campus in downtown New Bedford, the state's first public law school in Dartmouth, the Charlton College of Business, vastly increased on-campus housing, establishment of the School of Public Policy and Education, and the Advanced Technology Manufacturing Center, among others.

In her letter of resignation to UMass President Robert L. Caret, MacCormack listed several pieces of unfinished business that she hopes to complete. They include expansion of the School of Marine Science and Tech-

nology in New Bedford, the Bio-Manufacturing Center in Fall River, securing American Bar Association accreditation for the law school, finishing the renovation of the Claire T. Carney Library, and "re-engineering enrollment and retention strategies to address a changing marketplace."

MacCormack expressed frustration at the difficulty in getting enrollment up to 10,000 from 6,000. That's important, she said, because the campus had a 10-1 student-teacher ratio when it could support 16-1. With growth, she said, comes fiscal stability because students pay fees and tuition, which supports programs and development.

It also offsets steadily declining state support, down below 20 percent of the budget from as much as 78 percent two decades ago.

And yet, she said, public higher education accounts for 80 percent of enrollment and does—in theory, at least—offer as good an education as private schools, although perhaps without the connections a student can make at Harvard, for example.

MacCormack touted her efforts to connect UMass Dartmouth with the community, and said she will remain in SouthCoast to perhaps write a book and take up community-related interests. But she will retire, not return to teaching, to give herself a breather after 30 years in administrative jobs that required all of her time.

"UMass Dartmouth is already a model of a university whose teaching and discovery is fully engaged in the life of its community. I am sure that this campus will be attractive to higher education leaders who strive to be entrepreneurial and bold," she said in her address.

Margaret "MarDee" Xifaras, a local attorney and former chairman of the Southern New England School of Law, which was absorbed by UMass, said she doubts MacCormack will slow down all that much.

"Neither one of us is constitutionally capable of doing that," she said.

MacCormack's pending retirement did not strike her as much of a surprise, she said. "She always had a sort of a long-term plan that obviously would include retiring, but she was anxious to get things done, and she'll make sure certain things are well under way."

For merging the law school, Xifaras said, she will be "eternally grateful" to the chancellor. "She was a critical moving force," she said.

"Now its time for her to step back from a lifetime of commitment to education. She will be missed."

Fall River developer James Karam, chairman of the UMass Board of Trustees, said, "Jean has always understood that educational opportunity was vital to our area and has worked tirelessly to make sure that education of the highest quality was available to all of our citizens."

He added that MacCormack "has worked to transform our lives and in the process has transformed our region. She has championed the SouthCoast and has our undying gratitude."

HONORING OFFICER GARY
CONKLIN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a brave public servant Officer Gary Conklin of the Linden Police Department.

Recently, tragedy struck the town of Fenton when two contractors fell twenty feet into a sewer filled with methane gas. One of the contractors was killed in the accident and the other severely injured. If it were not for the bravery of Officer Conklin there would be two families grieving the loss of a loved one.

Upon arriving at the scene Officer Conklin saw the two men laying face down in two feet of water. Knowing the risk the gas posed Officer Conklin obtained a respiratory device from his vehicle. The device was not made for these types of toxic situations but he knew it was better than nothing. Putting himself in harm's way he entered the sewer and began working to stabilize the men.

He was able to prop the survivor Joseph Flipansick up on the side of the sewer. A civilian entered the sewer to assist and the two of them were able to roll the other victim over so he did not drown. After moving the men Officer Conklin felt his time running out and exited the sewer ordering the civilian out as well.

When Linden Police Chief, Scott Sutter asked Officer Conklin why he entered the sewer Officer Conklin responded simply "that's what I signed up for." Because of Officer Conklin's selfless act of courage and bravery Joseph Flipansick is alive.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my sympathies to the family that lost their loved one that day. I would also like to thank Officer Conklin for acting with such brazen courage. He embodies what it means to be a public servant and his commitment to "protect and serve" is inspiring to all.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHNNIE DOSS

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, one hundred and two years ago a tenacious man of God was born in Camp Hill, Alabama on August 14, 1909; and

Whereas, Mr. Johnnie Doss was born to Mr. Jack and Mrs. Minnie Doss, he grew up in Camp Hill, Alabama attending school in the local school system; he worked as an experimental farmer for the government. He owned cattle and sold milk to the local dairy; and

Whereas, Mr. Doss has shared his time and talents as a husband, father and motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia a person of great worth, a fearless leader and a servant to all who want to advance the lives of others; and

Whereas, Mr. Doss has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the will of God; he is a father of fifteen (15), a grandfather of fifty (50), a great-grandfather of forty-two (42) and a great-great grandfather of thirty-two (32); and

Whereas, Mr. Doss along with his family and friends are celebrating this day a remarkable milestone, his 102nd birthday, we pause to acknowledge a man who is a cornerstone in our community; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mr. Doss on his

birthday and to wish him well and recognize him for an exemplary life which is an inspiration to all;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim August 14, 2011 as Mr. Johnnie Doss Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 14th day of August, 2011.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR LIEUTENANT COMMANDER JONAS BENTON KELSALL

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Commander Jonas Benton Kelsall who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. LCDR Kelsall was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

LCDR Kelsall was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including the Legion of Merit, three Bronze Star Medals with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, two Joint Service Achievement Medals, two Combat Action Ribbons, two Presidential Unit Citations, three Afghanistan Campaign Medals, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

LCDR Kelsall is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates. His nation owes LCDR Kelsall an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to LCDR Kelsall's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

IN HONOR OF MR. WILHELM G. SPEIGELBERG, II

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Wilhelm G. Spiegelberg, II, who is retiring after 31 years of government service.

After graduating cum laude from Case Western Reserve University with a degree in political science in 1978, Mr. Spiegelberg attended the Cleveland Marshall School of Law. He earned his J.D. in 1982.

Mr. Spiegelberg began his career in public service with the Ohio State Lottery in 1976 as a public information officer. He later worked with the Ohio Department of Administrative Services as a grant coordinator. Once Mr. Spiegelberg had earned his law degree, in 1983, the City of Garfield Heights appointed

him as the city's assistant law director. After several years, Mr. Spiegelberg began working with Judge Deborah J. Nicastro. He would serve as her personal bailiff and law clerk and was later appointed Magistrate and Acting Judge to assist Judge Nicastro.

In addition to his distinguished career, Mr. Spiegelberg is an active member of the community. He has been involved in numerous campaigns throughout the State of Ohio and is well known for his political campaign management skills. He is a licensed referee who officiates local basketball, football, baseball and lacrosse games.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mr. Wilhelm G. Spiegelberg II and thanking him for 31 years of dedicated service to the City of Garfield Heights and State of Ohio.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE HONORING MS. SYLVIA S. SCHWAB, HOUSE CONGRESSIONAL LIAISON OFFICER, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS (RETIRED)

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to rise to honor Ms. Sylvia S. Schwab, House Congressional Liaison Officer, Office of Legislative Affairs, United States Marine Corps, for her decades of service on Capitol Hill and twelve years as an invaluable Civilian Marine.

Ms. Schwab is an alumna of Mary Washington College, and has undertaken graduate studies in social work at the Catholic University of America. Ms. Schwab's personal decorations include twenty-five years of outstanding performance and monetary awards as well as numerous letters of appreciation and training completion certificates. Ms. Schwab was a valued staffer to Representative Tom Beville (D-4-AL), who served in this body for 30 years. Representative Tom Beville (D-4-AL) and my father, Representative Walter B. Jones, Sr. (D-1-NC), both served together in Congress for many years and were close and personal friends.

Ms. Schwab brought her unique experience and perspective to numerous roles, including Senior Legislative Assistant/Director of Casework and Deputy Chief of Staff/Constituent Relations Director. Since that time, Ms. Schwab has served with distinction as Special Assistant to the Chief of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Secretary of the Navy, as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and as Special Legislative Liaison, Office of Legislative Affairs, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps.

As House Congressional Liaison Officer, Ms. Schwab has served four Commandants and five Legislative Assistants, providing her mastery skills and knowledge to the Marine Corps environment. She brought with her a keen insight into the inner workings of the House of Representatives. Ms. Schwab's two decades of experience on Capitol Hill and at Marine Corps Headquarters have provided her

with the ability to capitalize on long-standing relationships with congressional staff members to ensure that the Marine Corps message was being delivered and received in a manner that ensured open and effective communication between Congressional Staff and the Marine Corps. Ms. Schwab represented the Marine Corps on all Marine-related matters and guided the Marine Corps' most difficult and challenging legislative initiatives with great success. Through direct interaction with Members of Congress, and their staffs, she ensured that the Marine Corps requirements were widely known and understood, thereby guaranteeing the best possible support. Examples of her success include the procurement of the MV-22 Osprey, the acquisition of Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles and wide-ranging Congressional support for the establishment of the Wounded Warrior regiment.

Ms. Schwab's uncompromising professionalism, astute judgment and strong interpersonal skills contributed substantially to the development of many Marine Corps plans, programs, policies, and activities. She consistently worked to reinforce the Marine Corps policies and ensured that the guidance was widely disseminated to influential, keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

I had a long professional relationship with Ms. Schwab and always found her to be the consummate professional. It was a pleasure to serve with her.

It is for these outstanding personal qualities, dedication to service, and exceptional performance both on Capitol Hill and with the United States Marine Corps that we express to her our heartfelt pride and best wishes in her surely successful future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE BROWN CITY
FIRE DEPARTMENT IN HONOR OF
THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for this opportunity to recognize and acknowledge a special event occurring in the 10th Congressional District this upcoming Sunday, September 11, 2011. For many, this is a solemn time because our Nation is preparing to remember the 10th Anniversary of 9/11 and pay tribute to the brave men and women who lost their lives on that tragic day. I think it's important to note Americans across this land share in the grief felt by all who lived through and witnessed that horrendous attack on the United States of America.

I too share in that sorrow and want to commend and applaud the Brown City Fire Department for standing up to honor the innocent lives lost 10 years ago—just as they have done each of the past 9 years. Located in rural Sanilac County, Brown City started on this journey almost three years ago to obtain a piece of the World Trade Center by submitting an application to the New York Port Authority. To the delight of the fire department and the entire community, the application was

approved and a piece of the I-Beam from the World Trade Center would become the foundation of a memorial in memory of the 343 firefighters lost that horrific day.

Mr. Speaker, I have the distinct privilege to represent Brown City and coincidentally I have visited to New York City as well. Despite ending in the word "city", one could easily state this is where the similarities end. However, I would argue the few things they do share in common build a unique and solid bond which far exceeds the differences. I remind you no matter where we call home; we are all Americans first.

Like the NYFD, the Brown City Fire Department is comprised of men and women who have answered the call of duty to serve and protect. Firefighters are cut from the same cloth which is sewn with courage, bravery and fortitude always putting other citizens ahead of their own safety and well-being. Their love of country, honor and service diminishes any geographical disparities.

Although America was shocked by the events of 9/11, it ultimately re-affirmed and proved once again that the American spirit, resolve and character are full-proof and can withstand any damage a terrorist attack tries to inflict. Just as Brown City has done, and continues to do, we will always stand shoulder to shoulder with our fellow Americans no matter what our differences may be. Liberty and freedom will always prevail.

Lastly Mr. Speaker, I ask every American to take a moment to reflect upon and remember those who lost their lives in this senseless act. We all should also say a prayer of thanksgiving for those who gave their lives on that day and for those who since then have fought and sacrificed on battlefields across the globe.

Our great Nation was born in a revolution against tyranny. It has stood since that time as a beacon of hope for countless individuals who have come with a yearning to be free. We have sent our sons and daughters to defeat fascism, communism and to protect our freedom and spread it to hundreds of millions across the world. Today we continue that fight against yet another enemy of freedom, and once again freedom will triumph. The world should know that America will never surrender in the fight for liberty and will remain eternally vigilant to the simple statement in our Pledge—"One nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all."

I want to commend the Brown City Fire Department for their hard work and commitment to honor their brothers and sisters from New York City by constructing this 9/11 monument. This is a testament to the community's leadership to ensure future generations always remember and never forget. I thank them for their service and I appreciate this opportunity to acknowledge their exceptional work to see this project come to fruition.

RECOMMENDING A THOUGHTFUL
ARTICLE BY FORMER SENATOR
GEORGE MCGOVERN

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring the attention of my colleagues to a recent article by my friend, former Senator George McGovern, in the September, 2011 issue of Harper's magazine.

In the article, Senator McGovern offers a series of recommendations to improve our Nation, including bringing our troops home from Afghanistan, investing in the jobs of the future, and reducing defense spending.

Senator McGovern continues to bring an important, thoughtful perspective to the issues of the day. I urge my colleagues to read his article and to give serious consideration to the proposals he outlines.

EASY CHAIR—A LETTER TO BARACK OBAMA

(By George McGovern)

When President Franklin Roosevelt came into office in the depth of the Great Depression, he sought to stabilize and empower American society by introducing bold new initiatives: Social Security, the Public Works Administration, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Rural Electrification Administration, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Civilian Conservation Corps, and the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, among many others. These measures were sufficiently successful, as was his leadership during World War II, that he secured four terms in the White House. There was some congressional resistance but not enough to block the support of both political parties.

Like Roosevelt, President Barack Obama has inherited a serious economic crisis, but in his first two years in office he has been met with an even worse problem: the rigid opposition of the rival party leaders to national health care and nearly every other proposal he has made. The Republican House Appropriations Committee has even voted to terminate public funding for NPR and PBS. Neither during my four years in the House of Representatives, when Dwight D. Eisenhower was in the White House, nor through eighteen years in the U.S. Senate, under John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, and Richard Nixon, have I witnessed any president thwarted by the kind of narrow partisanship that has beset Obama. He has tried to avoid such divisions by publicly explaining his willingness to compromise, but these gestures have been spurned. Some of his political critics have gone so far as to express the hope that the Obama Administration will fail, even avowing their determination to hasten that failure. What has happened, one is compelled to ask, to the love of nation?

I have learned that it is not easy to succeed either as a senator or as a president if you are pushing for fundamental change. We tend, as lawmakers and as citizens, to drift along with the familiar ways of thinking: If it is good enough for Grandma and Grandpa, it is good enough for us. If it is good enough for the flag-wavers and the boosters, it is good enough for us. Such resistance to change often is strengthened by powerful interests—nowhere more forcefully than in the National Defense bill that Congress considers and passes each year.

When I entered the U.S. Senate in 1963, the defense budget was \$51 billion. This was at a time when our military experts felt it necessary to have the means to win a war against the combined powers of Russia and China. Today we have a military budget of over \$700 billion, and yet neither Russia nor China threatens us, if indeed they ever did. Nor does any other nation. Furthermore, the terrorist threat we face is not a military matter. The World Trade Center was brought down not by artillery or bombers or battle-ships but by nineteen young Arabs equipped only with box cutters. The Department of Homeland Security created by the Bush Administration after this attack is a better instrument against terrorism than our military, even though our armed forces are the best in the world.

In my career both in the House and in the Senate, inspired by the words of Eisenhower, my supreme commander in Europe during World War II, I tried hard to curb the powers of what Eisenhower, in his farewell address as president, referred to as the "military-industrial complex." Needless to say, all my efforts to reduce military spending were defeated. With the renaming of the War Department as the Defense Department in 1947, the military part of the government became sacred, virtually untouchable. How could anyone vote to cut defense unless he or she is willing to face political defeat?

We need a new definition of "defense" that takes into account the quality of our education, the health of our people, the preservation of the environment, the strength of our transportation, the development of alternative fuels, the vigor of our democracy. These were the concerns expressed by the people who stood in Cairo's Tahrir Square holding up their signs for more than two weeks this winter. Without guns, knives, or the use of their fists, they brought down the dictator who had exploited them for nearly thirty years.

All Americans want their country to have an adequate military defense. But under pressure from corporate lobbyists and legislators seeking military contracts or bases for their states, we are spending to excess while other sources of national defense, such as health care and education, are short-changed and the national debt grows ever larger.

Many patriotic Americans have opposed the two wars our gallant young troops have been asked to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan. Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz has estimated that the direct and indirect costs of the Iraq war will amount to \$3 trillion. This represents nearly a quarter of our national debt. I suspect that the war in Afghanistan will eventually cost another \$3 trillion and we still will not have achieved our aim. General David Petraeus, the commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, advises that we cannot think of withdrawing our troops before 2014. If we stay on that schedule, our soldiers will have been fighting, bleeding, and dying there for thirteen years—more than three times the length of U.S. involvement in World War II.

I recently conferred with President Obama in his White House office, urging him to withdraw from Afghanistan. I'm pleased that he has since announced the withdrawal of 10,000 troops in 2011 and 23,000 in 2012. I would have been even more pleased if all our 100,000 troops now in Afghanistan, as well as those in Iraq, were on the way home.

The president may be reluctant to follow the advice of a presidential candidate who in 1972 lost forty-nine states to Richard Nixon.

I can appreciate that concern. On the other hand, shortly after the 1972 election, two bipartisan investigations—one by the House and one by the Senate—forced the incumbent who beat me to resign his office in disgrace. A question from the New Testament comes to mind: What doth it profit a man if he gains the whole world or wins a big election and loses his own soul? The late Sargent Shriver, my running mate in 1972, came to me the day after the election and said, "George, we may have lost forty-nine states but we never lost our souls."

With this sentiment in mind, I would like to suggest a few bold steps President Obama might consider for the good of his soul and that of the nation.

1. We should bring our troops home from Afghanistan this year. No previous foreign power that has tried to work its will in Afghanistan has succeeded—not Alexander the Great, not the Mongols, not the British, and not the Russians, who, after nine years of fighting, had sent some 25,000 of their soldiers home in coffins. The Soviet treasury was emptied and the Soviet Union collapsed. Even if it were desirable for us to stay a decade more, we simply cannot afford to do so.

2. We should close all U.S. military bases in the Arab world. American troops in the Middle East incite rather than prevent terrorist attacks against us. We would do well to remember that when Osama bin Laden returned to Saudi Arabia after fighting the Soviets in Afghanistan, he found a large American army in his home country, positioned there to halt a possible Iraqi invasion—a presence that so offended him he denounced the king and his own family for quartering the American "infidels" within the shadow of the holy cities of Mecca and Medina. He then returned to Afghanistan to organize Al Qaeda and, later, launch the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks.

3. We should evaluate whether it is necessary to continue other American troop consignments to Europe, South Korea, and elsewhere. When the U.S. Army was sent to Korea in 1950 the deployment was described as a brief police action, but sixty years later our troops are still there. South Korea is now a wealthier, more populous, and more industrialized nation than North Korea, and is fully capable of defending itself. Similarly, U.S. troops in Europe, now numbering 80,000, have been there for half a century. They should be withdrawn, as were the Soviet forces from Eastern Europe under Mikhail Gorbachev.

4. President Obama should call on the Pentagon to reduce the current military budget of \$700 billion—a figure that accounts for almost half of the world's military expenditures—to \$500 billion next year, and then, over the next five years, to \$200 billion. In a careful and persuasive study, Lawrence Korb, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and an assistant secretary of defense under Ronald Reagan, identifies unneeded and costly programs that could be cut from the Pentagon budget without weakening our security, including the elimination of sophisticated warplanes—all of which, added up, could save a trillion dollars over the next ten years.

5. The Bush tax cuts for those with higher incomes should be not only repealed but reversed; with an increase in taxes for this bracket, the increased revenues could be used to reduce the national debt. There would, of course, be strong resistance to ending the tax favoritism now enjoyed by the rich, but this bonanza for the few at the top must end.

6. Savings in military spending could be used to launch valuable public investments, thereby creating jobs and stimulating the entire economy. The administration has expressed support for creating a European-style high-speed rail system in the United States, and indeed we ought to build the fastest, cleanest, and safest passenger- and freight-train system in the world.

The president should also revive the full provisions of the World War II—era G.I. bill, which enabled 7.8 million soldiers to secure a college education at government expense while also receiving a cost-of-living stipend. Having been a bomber pilot during World War II, flying missions over Nazi Germany, I was one of the beneficiaries of the bill, eventually earning a Ph.D. in history at Northwestern University. This program was costly, but the government certainly made its money back, because educated citizens earn more and so pay increased taxes. Now, as we experience a crisis in higher education caused by soaring tuition costs that exclude many working- and middle-class young people, why not offer government-paid higher education and vocational training for all qualified students—both civilian and military?

Another wise public investment would be the expansion of Medicare to all Americans. Some of the recently proposed health-care legislation has been so lengthy and complicated that I am not sure what is contained in it, but we all know what Medicare is. We could reduce the impenetrable legislation to a simple sentence: "Congress hereby extends Medicare to all Americans." I am at a loss as to why an old codger like me benefits from Medicare while my children and grandchildren do not. To soften the impact of this expansion on the budget, I propose that the program be implemented in steps every two years: the first step including children up to the age of eight; the second, those from nine to eighteen; the third, those from nineteen through thirty; and finally, those from thirty-one through sixty-five. Programs such as Medicare have been in place for years in many advanced countries. My Canadian relatives tell me that any government that tried to do away with their comprehensive medical and hospital care would be promptly expelled from office.

None of this is intended as a criticism of Barack Obama, who had my support when he was a candidate for the United States presidency and who has my support today. I hope that some of the ideas here might help him on the road to greatness. I wish him well on the journey ahead.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR MASTER
CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SPECIAL
WARFARE OPERATOR LOUIS
JAMES LANGLAIS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Master Chief Petty Officer Special Warfare Operator Louis James Langlais who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Master Chief Langlais was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Master Chief Langlais was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards,

including six Bronze Star Medals with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, Joint Service Commendation Medal, three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, three Combat Action Ribbons, three Presidential Unit Citations, Iraq Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Master Chief Langlais is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Master Chief Langlais an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Master Chief Langlais' family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

COMMENDING MICHAEL HOWARD
MADISON UPON THE OCCASION
OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Mr. Michael Howard Madison's retirement from Cleco Corporation. After 40 years of service in the electric power industry, in April of 2011, Mr. Madison announced his plan to retire from Cleco Corporation.

With his professional endeavors spanning an impressive four decades, his career began working as an electrician to put himself through college, graduating from the University of Oklahoma in 1971.

Various career choices, with one highlight being his position as state president for American Electric Power, led to his eventual position as president and CEO of Cleco Corporation in 2005. Of his many contributions, of special note are that he strengthened the utility company, proposed a new solid-fuel generating unit near Boyce, and grew the stock price by 71 percent.

Not only should Mr. Madison be celebrated for his ambitious career, but for his public service. Some of the active boards he has served on include the Better Business Bureau, Capital One Bank, Christus St. Frances Cabrini Hospital, Council for a Better Louisiana, the Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, along with many others.

Mr. Madison's career has brought honor and pride to his family, friends, community, and the state of Louisiana. I congratulate Mr. Michael Howard Madison upon the occasion of his retirement.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JEROME P.
STANO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mr. Jerome P. Stano, a former Parma Councilman, Ohio State Representative and Ohio State Senator.

Mr. Stano was born in Cleveland on September 30, 1932. He graduated from Cleveland's Benedictine High School and later attended Benedictine Illinois College. During the Korean War, Mr. Stano bravely served our country as a member of the U.S. Air Force.

Mr. Stano began his career in politics as a councilman for Parma's Ward 2. He was elected to the Ohio General Assembly as a State Representative and on January 3, 1974, Mr. Stano began his tenure as an Ohio State Senator. He served the citizens of the 24th District faithfully, working on issues such as medical care for the elderly, until December 31, 1980.

Mr. Stano worked tirelessly on behalf of the residents of Parma, Ohio and was an active member of the community following his career in politics. He is credited with founding Parma's Pee Wee Football program. Mr. Stano was also an active member of the Parma Elks Lodge, the American Legion and the Knights of Columbus. Due to his commitment to the citizens of Parma, one of the city's parks on Gerald Avenue, has been named in his honor.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Mr. Jerome P. Stano. I offer my condolences to his wife of 57 years, Klara; his children, Paul, Elaine, Diane and Kathy; and his grandchildren Christian, Bretton, Douglas, David and Grant.

"TEN YEARS AGO THIS DAY" IN
HONOR OF THE RISING AND THE
OPENING OF THE 9/11 MEMORIAL
ON THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF
9/11

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and in remembrance of all of the Heroes and lost loved ones of all of the families of 9/11. On this the 10th anniversary, I ask that this tribute in honor of them, and the new visitor center and the rising of The Two New Towers and their strength penned by Albert Caswell, be placed in the RECORD.

TEN YEARS AGO THIS DAY

Ten . . .
Ten years ago this very day . . .
Upon, this most hallowed ground . . . these
most scared graves . . .
As here and now we all so kneel and pray
. . .
As they tried to so take America's very
heart away!
As so many magnificent men and women
died on that day!
As so many fine lives were so lost, and so left
all in such pain and dismay!

As all of their loved ones were so left with
that kind of pain, that only Heaven can
so take away . . .
And all of those innocent children aboard all
of those planes who now so they . . .
Will never grow up to be happy, old, and so
gray . . .
Who were once but all the apples of their
parents eyes, night and day!
As all hearts are so warmed, whenever we so
think of how in the face of evil they so
stayed!
As all across our Nation, America so wept on
that day!
From The Towers, to The Pentagon . . . and
Flight 93, as upon us all such evil so
weighted!
As America so saw, "Let's Roll" and what of
most heroic hearts are so made!
And to what new heights, they could so
reach . . . so soar, as did they!
As all of our tears flowed and poured, as out
across our Nation we so mourned and
prayed!
As all of The Towers fell down on that day
. . .
Leaving us all with that kind of pain, that
even time can not so take away . . .
As ten years later to this very day, still all
of our hearts feel like it was only yester-
day!
And yet, America's heart has grown even
greater they say!
All because of what they so taught us, and to
what our Nation they so gave!
For from this most hallowed ground, and
from their strength and courage we
have so found!
The strength to stand and to rebuild, as over
these sacred footprints the water washes
down!
Upon, this spot where all of their most sac-
red ashes were once so found . . .
All so scattered all across this ground!
All in this high place of reverence and of
such faith so now, where all of their
most magnificent souls can so be felt
all around!
Has Come A Rising, of remembrance to all of
them so now!
To last forever and a day, this most sacred
ground!
A Rising . . . to so honor each and every
man, woman and child so how!
All in our Lord's plan, so that in 100 years
from now we will all stand here so very
proud!
And then 100 more, we will stand here all in
such honor at this shrine so now!
As we will feel all of their courage and
strength, and what their fine faith has
so meant!
To us all so now!
So that whenever someone looks upon this
hallowed place, that they will leave
with but tears on their face!
As a Tribute to Them and The American
Way, and to this The Human Race!
As A Triumph of Good Over Evil, that the
entire world will say!
That we have all so walked with our Lord
and his Angels this day!
With all of their blessings of Hope, Courage
and Faith . . . which within our hearts
will stay!
You, may bring down our buildings!
You may murder our women, men, and our
most precious children!
Crash planes into fields, or at The Pentagon,
and yet still you will not victory so
wield!
For, as long as we have such strong fine
women and men, who into such graves
do so tragically descend!

Who so believe in America and what our Freedom so brings, upon which our Nation depends!

Then, Will Come A Rising . . . over such evil that which all of us despise then . . .

Standing here on this sacred ground, one feel's all of their souls so beseeching us so now!

To teach our children well, all about what their fine lives have so meant . . .

So that they too may teach their children's children time and again!

To remember what it so means to be an American, as up from the ashes anew so came!

A Rising, With Faith In Hearts We Will Forever So Honor Their Names!

Goodness . . . Evil . . . Darkness . . . Light . . . Those Brave Hearts Who Bring The Light!

As Against The Darkest of All Evil's, As Onward We Fight!

Together enjoined, as we battle on into the darkest of all nights!

As why With This Rising, we so honor these Heroes and their Families, with such homage we pay!

All because they made America's heart stronger that day!

Ten Years Ago This Day! Never Forget!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. BASS of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, due to weather related travel delays I was unable to be present for rollcall vote 692 on September 7, 2011. This vote was on H. Con. Res. 67, a resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H. Con. Res. 67.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN HOWARD WELLS, JR.

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of John Howard Wells, Jr. Mr. Wells was a patriot, veteran, and had a love of country. Mr. Wells fought in the Korean War aboard the *USS Hollister*, DD-788. He was a Cold Warrior in the 60's and 70's and at one point in his career his security clearance was so high that the level of clearance was classified.

Mr. Wells also spent part of his career working for NASA. During the 80's and 90's he was a Ground Controller for the Space Shuttle Project and worked in the original Mission Control at the Johnson Space Center. He also took a major role in the design, engineering, construction, and start-up of the New Mission Control Room which recently closed in July following the last flight mission of *Atlantis*.

His family will tell you that even these accomplishments are not what made him great.

The titles of husband, father, and grandfather are what defined him in life. He taught his children how to have confidence in their talents. He wrote love letters to his wife. He loved and doted on his daughters and was joyous in the grandchildren they brought to him. He helped his son through the toughest years of his life with loving honesty and helped him never lose sight of the realities and obligations of being a man and father. He also taught his children about politics, but would never let the discussions get hotter than what was necessary to properly forge and hone their positions.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise and remember the veteran, and above all a husband, father and grandfather.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JOHN THOMAS WEEMES

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of John Thomas Weemes, a man who was an active member of the Los Angeles community. Mr. Weemes was born April 2, 1925 in Los Angeles, California to Annie Wardell Brown and Albert Thomas Weemes. Affectionately known as "Johnny," he was the fifth of six children. John was educated in the Los Angeles Unified School District and attended 20th Street Elementary School, Lafayette Junior High School, and graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1943. That same year, John was drafted into the United States Army and served our country proudly from 1943-1946 during World War II. After his tour of duty, John enrolled in California State College and earned his Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees. Throughout his career, John worked as an elementary school teacher, pupil service and attendance counselor, and administrator. He was also a member of the Associated Administrators of Los Angeles. After retiring in 1987, John continued to work part-time for the District.

John was baptized and engaged in fellowship at Ward A.M.E. church in Los Angeles, California. On July 8, 1951, John was united in holy matrimony with Lenicia Boggs, who preceded him in death. To this union, Stephen John Weemes was born. On July 31, 1981, John united in holy matrimony to Toni Anthony Brown, thanks to the late Clayton Moore for playing Cupid.

John was a kind, generous, loving, warm-hearted, and cordial gentleman. With his outgoing and infectious personality, John knew no strangers. He enjoyed spending time with family, friends, and colleagues. Some of his favorite leisure activities were golfing, reading, and watching all sports on television. John also loved to travel, and cruising was his and Toni's favorite mode of transportation. John took pleasure in walking and playing with his beloved dogs; first "Princess Lui," and currently "Lexie," a.k.a. "Pooh."

John Thomas Weemes passed away on August 31, 2011. He was preceded in death by his parents, siblings Emma Bess, Annie, Al-

bert, and Carrie. He leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife, Toni A. Weemes (Ruby), son Stephen John Weemes, daughter-in-law Sheyrl Nickles-Weemes, sister Evelyn Brown, Lexie, and a host of relatives and friends.

I ask all members to join me in a moment of silence to honor the memory of the late John Thomas Weemes.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR SENIOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR HEATH MICHAEL ROBINSON

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Senior Chief Petty Officer Special Warfare Operator Heath Michael Robinson who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Senior Chief Robinson was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Senior Chief Robinson was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including four Bronze Star Medals with Valor, including one for extraordinary heroism, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals with Valor, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, two Combat Action Ribbons, two Presidential Unit Citations, three Afghanistan Campaign Medals, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Senior Chief Robinson is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Senior Chief Robinson an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Senior Chief Robinson's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

IN HONOR OF MR. LE NGUYEN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Le Nguyen, who is celebrating 30 years of service to the City of Cleveland.

After graduating high school in 1974, Mr. Nguyen joined the South Vietnam Air Force. Following North Vietnam's invasion on April 30, 1975, he left South Vietnam and came to the United States. Just several years later, Mr. Nguyen became the Asian Liaison for the Community Relations Board/City of Cleveland.

Throughout his long career as the Asian Liaison, Mr. Nguyen has worked to promote understanding and cooperation amongst racially and culturally diverse groups within the Cleveland community. He played a vital role in some of the Community Relations Board's most successful projects, including a fundraiser for the Vietnamese Buddhist Association of Cleveland's Vien Quang Temple and the coordination of Cleveland's first Asian American Resource Directory. Mr. Nguyen has also served as the event chair for the Asian Pacific American Heritage Day Celebration since 2008.

Because of his dedication and hard work, Mr. Nguyen has received many awards over the past 30 years. In 1994 he was selected as the Community Relations Board's employee of the month and received a key to the City of Cleveland. He is also the recipient of a Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Leadership in the Asian American Community from the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, and has been recognized by the American Nationalities Movement and the Korean American Association of Greater Cleveland.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mr. Le Nguyen as he celebrates 30 years of service as the Asian Liaison for the Community Relations Board/City of Cleveland.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the special occasion of the centennial celebration of St. John's Hospital. For 100 years, this community hospital has provided quality health care to residents in the Saint Paul—Minneapolis Metropolitan Area.

In 1911, when it first opened its doors in Saint Paul's Dayton's Bluff neighborhood, St. John's German Lutheran Hospital was a 25-bed facility. A new 65-bed fireproof hospital was built in 1914 on the site of the current Metropolitan State University in Saint Paul. During the influenza epidemic of 1918, St. John's Hospital was turned over to the City of Saint Paul to care for charity patients. In just one month, St. John's Hospital treated nearly 400 flu patients. In a turn of events, in 1933, due to a low patient load, the hospital was forced to close some floors and hospital staff took vacations without pay and a 10 percent salary reduction.

After weathering difficult times, in the 1950s St. John's Hospital underwent an expansion to 165 beds, becoming one of the first hospitals in the nation to create an Intensive Care Unit (ICU), and was recognized for its "Progressive Patient Care." St. John's Hospital constructed a second facility in 1985 in Maplewood at its current location. St. John's Hospital joined the newly-created HealthEast Care System in 1986, along with Bethesda and St. Joseph's Hospitals. After 75 years, in 1987, St. John's Hospital closed its hospital on Saint Paul's East Side.

St. John's Hospital has implemented many innovations during the past decade. In 2005, St. John's Hospital was the first community hospital in the Twin Cities to offer the daVinci Surgical System—a robotic surgical system used to treat prostate cancer. In addition, St. John's Hospital was the first hospital in Minnesota to utilize digital mammography and one of the first hospitals in the state to provide cutting-edge artificial disc surgery for patients experiencing lower back pain.

Today St. John's is an award-winning hospital and with more than 1500 employees, one of the largest job providers in the East Metro Area. On an annual basis, it treats more than 41,000 patients in the emergency department, delivers more than 3,000 babies and performs more than 6,000 surgeries. U.S. News & World Report named St. John's Hospital one of 2011–2012 "Top Metro Best Hospitals in the Twin Cities" and identified St. John's as one of the top hospitals in the country for Urology. This year, the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal named HealthEast Hospitals, including St. John's, one of the "Best Places to Work" in Minnesota for the sixth time.

Mr. Speaker, the comprehensive and state-of-the-art health care services provided by St. John's Hospital are commendable and deserve to be celebrated.

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS WITH COMMUNICATING FOR AGRICULTURE

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, in 1972, Communicating for Agriculture (CA) started as a small group of dairy farmers in Minnesota's 7th Congressional District. Today CA has tens of thousands of agriculture and small business members across the United States, and 4 decades of legislative accomplishments on behalf of their members. From helping to form the first state high-risk pool for the medically uninsurable in Minnesota in 1976, to the first beginning farmer loan program in Iowa in 1980, to forming its own international agriculture exchange program in 1985, to receiving the first Agriculture Apprenticeship designation granted by the U.S. Department of Labor in 2007. CA was founded to promote the general health, welfare and advancement of people in agriculture or small business, and after 40 years of service to rural America, that mission continues to drive CA today.

In 1986, the CA Foundation applied for and received authority from the United States Department of State to sponsor a J-1 training and intern program, allowing the exchange of young people to have a learning experience in agriculture. That year 6 trainees arrived as part of CA Education and Exchange Program (CAEP). Within 10 years, the program grew to become the largest of its kind in the United States. Today, CAEP works with more than 1,000 young people from more than 50 countries in the areas of agriculture, horticulture, enology, equine and turf management, with CAEP international offices in Denmark, Mex-

ico, Columbia, Chile, Uruguay, Brazil, Argentina, South Africa, Hungary, Moldova, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines and China.

Today, the U.S. State Department requires the J-1 Visa program to include a training plan that is agreed to by the CA Member Host, as well as the trainee or intern. Upon satisfactory completion of the program, CAEP awards a certificate of completion, which is taken by the trainee back to their home country where they will begin their career in their chosen field. The CA Foundation also provides opportunities and grants to Americans between the ages of 18 and 28 to have a similar 3 to 12 month placement in agriculture with one of our country partners around the world.

Congratulations to CAEP on 25 years of international agriculture education and exchange leadership and to CA on 40 years of serving rural America.

HONORING HAL STRICKLAND FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO COMMUNITY RECREATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Hal Strickland for receiving the National Voluntary Service Award from the National Recreation and Park Association.

This prestigious award is given to volunteers who work to improve recreation, parks and conservation programs in our communities. With more than three decades of volunteer service with local youth and parks organizations, Mr. Strickland has left a profound and lasting imprint on my community of Fairfax County, VA.

In addition to his career as a civil engineer for the U.S. Forest Service, Mr. Strickland served 14 years on the Fairfax County Athletic Council, including two as chairman. He founded the Chantilly Youth Association, and spent 25 years as president of the community sports league. He served as president of the Greenbriar Civic Association, and for the past 20 years, he has served on the Fairfax County Park Authority Board, where he has served as chairman six times.

He has said that he is most proud of his work on Fairfax County's successful synthetic turf field program. I was proud to partner with Mr. Strickland to launch that effort during my tenure as Chairman of the Fairfax Board of Supervisors. It played a vital component of our anti-gang initiative by providing young people with more year-round outdoor activities. This community collaboration also has expanded field opportunities for Fairfax's many sports leagues. The program now has more than two dozen synthetic fields across the county.

He is also known for his work of preserving green spaces in Centreville and Chantilly, despite the areas' rapid growth. This green space resembles the historic beginnings of the area, when it was a collection of gentlemen horse farms. He has truly influenced the quality of life in Fairfax through his accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Hal Strickland for receiving the National Voluntary Service Award and thanking him for his years of service in our community. Through his dedicated service, we are preserving our history through green spaces and making recreational activities more accessible to all for generations to come.

**MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR SENIOR
CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SPECIAL
WARFARE OPERATOR ROBERT
JAMES REEVES**

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Senior Chief Petty Officer Special Warfare Operator Robert James Reeves who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Senior Chief Reeves was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Senior Chief Reeves was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards including five Bronze Star Medals with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Valor, Combat Action Ribbon, three Presidential Unit Citations, two Afghanistan Campaign Medals, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and other personal and unit decorations.

Senior Chief Reeves is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Senior Chief Reeves an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Senior Chief Reeves' family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

IN HONOR OF EL GRAN COMBO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of El Gran Combo, and welcome the legendary salsa group to Cleveland.

Founded in May, 1962 by Raphael Ithier, El Gran Combo is Puerto Rico's most successful musical group and one of the most popular salsa orchestras across Latin America. The 13-piece salsa group captivates its fans with their Latin rhythms and vocal harmonies. The group has released over 50 albums throughout the years and continues to produce new music and perform live shows throughout the world.

The Puerto Rican Senate has hailed El Gran Combo as the "Ambassadors of Our Music" and in Colombia they are known as La Universidad de la Salsa due to their unique role in launching the career of countless musicians and performers. El Gran Combo has received many awards over the past several decades, including golden albums, a Grammy for Best Tropical Album in 2003, a "Calendario de Plata" in Mexico, a "Golden Combo" in Colombia, a "Paoli Award" in their native Puerto Rico, and an honorable distinction in Spain.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of El Gran Combo as they celebrate almost 50 years of outstanding contributions to the music industry.

**HONORING THE SONOMA COUNTY
INDIAN HEALTH PROJECT**

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleague Rep. MIKE THOMPSON to honor the Sonoma County Indian Health Project on its 40th anniversary, celebrated August 19, 2011.

Sonoma County Indian Health Project was founded in 1971 to provide healthcare to the Native American population residing in Sonoma County. Since its establishment, the Indian Health Project has grown considerably, serving evident unmet needs in our community, and leading to its move into the large, modern healthcare facility it occupies today.

Through its relationship with the California Area Indian Health Service, the Sonoma County Indian Health Project assists in serving not only a large Native American population, but also a non-Indian population lacking sufficient access to care. Hundreds of families and individuals from communities across our region seek care at the facility each year, from traditional medical or dental treatment to nutritional consultation or transportation services for those in isolated areas.

Supported by the Cloverdale, Dry Creek, Lytton, Graton, Manchester-Point Area, and Stewarts Point Rancherias, the Indian Health Project also puts an emphasis on providing its services in a manner that respects and contributes to Indian culture. It is a symbol of the strength and determination of our Native American community and a proud part of what makes our region unique.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join us in thanking the Sonoma County Indian Health Project for its longstanding contributions to the health and welfare of Sonoma County, and in wishing the organization many more years of success.

**SALUTING THE KOREAN WAR VET-
ERANS OF AMERICA: CHAPTER
270—RICHARDSON, TEXAS**

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to recognize before the United

States House of Representatives today a group of over 100 American heroes, the members of the Korean War Veterans of America (KWVA) Chapter 270, on the occasion of the chapter's 10th anniversary.

In June of 1950, North Korea invaded the Republic of Korea, sparking the start of the Korean War. Just days later, President Harry Truman ordered American troops deployed to the Korean peninsula to fight alongside our ally. Nearly 2 million valiant Americans served during the conflict. Yet, because of the war's end in 1953 through an armistice and its historical slot between World War II and Vietnam, many refer to Korea as the Forgotten War.

In September of 2001, a number of Korean War veterans from the Dallas, Texas area joined forces to create a local organization which would "provide a means by which the 'Forgotten War' will never be forgotten." They have fulfilled that mission for a decade now, also working "to respect and honor brothers-in-arms who served during the Korean Conflict and/or afterwards in Korea; to further friendship and respect between South Korea and the United States of America; and to serve fellow veterans in need of aid and assistance."

The chapter's generous members conduct donation drives, repair veterans' wheelchairs and, by the end of this month, will have donated 5,000 hours of their time volunteering at the Dallas Veterans Administration Hospital this year alone.

To my fellow members of KWVA Chapter 270, I consider it a high honor and true privilege to be a part of this first-rate organization. The fact that this group bears my name makes me proud—proud to be a veteran of Korea, proud to be a Texan, and proud to be an American.

God bless you, God bless America, and I salute you!

**HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF NEWSCHANNEL 8**

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 20th Anniversary of NewsChannel 8. This highly regarded news organization has been serving local viewers continuously for 175,320 hours, consistently providing critical local news, community information, local political coverage and emergency updates in its 20 years of existence.

Established on October 7, 1991, NewsChannel 8 was the first independent local news channel in the country. Its innovative zoned delivery of news provides hyperlocal and distinct coverage to Washington, DC, Virginia, and Maryland.

NewsChannel 8 programming is wired into over 15,000 Federal offices in the House of Representatives, Senate, Supreme Court, and the White House, and has become an invaluable resource to all decision makers on Capitol Hill, many of whom are regular guests or contributors to NewsChannel 8's tireless political coverage.

NewsChannel 8 has been dedicated to serving its surrounding communities, providing immeasurable service to the people of the

Washington DC metro area. Serving as a critical outlet for local government officials including Congressional Representatives, Senators, Mayors, County Supervisors, Council Representatives, School Board Officials and Emergency/Public Safety Administrators, NewsChannel 8 is the leader in making sure constituents are well-informed. Additionally, NewsChannel 8 provides a unique forum for state and local political candidates to inform and educate voters.

NewsChannel 8's parent company, Allbritton Communications Company, and its cable partners, including Comcast, Cox and Verizon, are to be commended for forging a local programming and distribution partnership that is the envy of the nation. In honor of their achievements, the House of Representatives shall designate October 7, 2011 as "NewsChannel 8 Day" in recognition of their outstanding public service.

I congratulate NewsChannel 8 on their success in the delivery of informative, first-rate local news.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR BRIAN ROBERT BILL

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Petty Officer Special Warfare Operator Brian Robert Bill who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Chief Bill was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Chief Bill was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including four Bronze Star Medals with Valor, including one for extraordinary heroism, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, two Combat Action Ribbons, two Presidential Unit Citations, Navy Unit Commendation, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Chief Bill is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Chief Bill an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Chief Bill's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. AND MRS. ED AND IRENE MORROW'S 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. and Mrs. Ed and Irene Morrow as they celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on September 1, 2011.

Both Ed and Irene were born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. Ed worked as a Quality Control Analyst for the Defense Department. Ed continues to be active in the community and is a member of the Irish Heritage Club. He also sits on the St. Patrick's Day Parade's parade committee. Irene served as Secretary of the Civil Service Commission for the City of Cleveland under former Mayor George Voinovich and was recently honored by the American Nationalities Movement, which she served as Executive Secretary and Treasurer for more than 30 years. As an inductee of the International Hall of Fame of Greater Cleveland, Irene remains dedicated to the Cleveland community as a board member of Fairview Park and Lutheran Hospitals.

Ed and Irene were married on September 1, 1951. They have six children; Jeffery, Patrick, Martin, Roberta, Lorraine and Christine. Today they also enjoy spending time with their grandchildren; Matthew, Ryan, Nathan, Michaela, Aaron and Justin.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of Mr. and Mrs. Ed and Irene Morrow. May their 60 year union be an inspiration for future generations.

RECOGNIZING MONICA FOSKETT

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Monica Fokett, a vital member of my staff for over the past two years.

Friday, August 12th was Monica's last day serving the people of the Illinois Fifth Congressional District. She has served with distinction since 2009, and has spent the past two years working for her hometown, Chicago, with aplomb and determination.

Monica began her career in public service as a staffer on Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign. Quickly moving up in the campaign's field program, the long hours and experience helped her to develop a strong work ethic and a political acumen that carried over to her role as a Congressional staffer. As a volunteer assisting in my office transition, Monica helped lead the effort to gather and submit the appropriation requests an exceptionally difficult task when reduced to a couple of weeks. Many late nights were spent and caffeine products consumed ensuring the requests were submitted in time.

In addition to helping with appropriations, Monica took the lead in setting up scheduling procedures for the office, handling arts and

culture issues, organizing the Hockey Caucus, and assisting with housing issues. She proved to be passionate about her work and making a difference in people's lives. I am confident she will continue to find success in public service.

Mr. Speaker, not only will we miss her hard work, but we will also miss her presence in the office. With her quick-to-laugh personality, I know my office will, sadly, be a quieter place. I wish Monica the best of luck not only on her future endeavors serving the public, but with her new life and fiancé, Mike Guerra, in New York. I thank her for her service to the Illinois 5th Congressional District.

HONORING J VINEYARDS AND WINERY OF HEALDSBURG

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, Representative MIKE THOMPSON, to recognize and honor J Vineyards and Winery of Healdsburg, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

J was conceived and developed by Judy Jordan, an exuberant, fiercely independent 25-year-old who saw an opening in Sonoma County's wine landscape for a high quality, all-American sparkling wine brand. It was a lofty goal for a product that was first made in an old, ramshackle prune processing barn that routinely flooded when the nearby Russian River overflowed.

From those humble beginnings, J sparkling wines have become some of the finest in the world. The winery's J Vintage Brut is a fixture on high profile wine lists and top hotels around the world. Queen Elizabeth sipped J at the White House. Mikhail Gorbachev spoke of world peace with a glass of J in his hand and J sparkling wines were the official celebratory bubbles of the Academy Awards Governors Ball for four consecutive years.

To produce this remarkable wine, Ms. Jordan and her team rely on ten distinctive vineyard estate properties located throughout the Russian River Valley Appellation. These vineyards have at least twenty different soil profiles, with each vineyard displaying a different soil type and distinctive microclimate. This diversity allows J winemakers to coax the best flavor characteristics from each vineyard.

Ms. Jordan also came to the realization that her vineyards would also be ideal for producing site-specific, cool-climate Russian River Valley varietal wines like Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Pinot Gris in addition to her sparkling wines. These wines were added to the portfolio and have become immensely popular products.

The ten estate wines will be "Certified Sustainable" in 2012 by the California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance. After a number of energy savings initiatives were implemented throughout the winery, J was named a "Green Winery" in 2010.

One of the first wineries to offer food and wine pairings to visitors in the "Bubble Room," J was named "Best Winery Tasting Room" by Sunset Magazine in 2009.

Mr. Speaker, from its humble beginnings, J Vineyards and Winery has become an international success story and one of the linchpins of the Sonoma County wine industry. It is therefore appropriate that we honor them today on their Silver Anniversary.

REMEMBERING A TRUE PUBLIC
SERVANT AND FATHER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sympathy to commemorate the life of a tremendous public servant, Mr. Bryan Coleman.

After graduating from Flint Northern High School in 1988 Bryan attended Mott Community College and then Eastern Michigan University. In 1994 he was hired as a Flint Police Officer protecting the community he so dearly loved. He served on the force admirably for 17 years rising to the rank of sergeant and later becoming a detective.

Detective Coleman was not just known for his work on the Flint Police force. He was known by many as a gregarious and outgoing gentleman. People who knew Bryan called him a "people person," and it did not take long after meeting Bryan to know him. His natural love for life drew many people into his life and for that they are thankful.

Bryan loved life; one of his many loves was the University of Michigan football team. Each fall he spent most Saturdays watching his beloved maize and blue often at the stadium cheering them on. What Bryan loved the most was spending time with his family and his son Brandon. Bryan's love for his son was deep and meaningful. The firm foundation that Bryan created for Brandon will have a lasting impact on Brandon's journey through life. Bryan's commitment to family, friends and loving life will be carried on by all of those who were fortunate enough to know him.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my deepest sympathies to his family and host of friends.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR CHIEF
PETTY OFFICER SPECIAL WAR-
FARE OPERATOR CHRISTOPHER
GEORGE CAMPBELL

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Petty Officer Special Warfare Operator Christopher George Campbell who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Chief Campbell was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Chief Campbell was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including three Bronze Star Medals with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service

Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, two Combat Action Ribbons, two Presidential Unit Citations, Navy Unit Commendation, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Chief Campbell is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Chief Campbell an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Chief Campbell's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

IN HONOR OF 50 YEARS OF SERV-
ICE BY THE LOUIS STOKES
CLEVELAND DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL
CENTER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Louis Stokes Cleveland Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center's Brecksville Campus, as they celebrate 50 years of service to the community's most deserving patients.

For the past 50 years, the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center's Brecksville Campus has provided extended care rehabilitation, general nursing home, center for psycho-geriatric care and a domiciliary for the homeless. This campus has also served as a training facility for the VA's Employee Education System and National Training Center. As part of the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center Transformation, the Brecksville Campus is being consolidated at the Cleveland VA's Wade Park location.

The Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center is dedicated to the quality care of all veterans. It is the fifth largest VA in the country and serves close to 95,000 veterans annually. The Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center was the first VA to receive disease specific accreditation for Inpatient Diabetes Care in 2007 and has also received a special commendation by the American College of Surgeons as a Certified Comprehensive Cancer Program.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring all those who have been instrumental in providing care to the veterans of the Brecksville Campus of the Cleveland Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center for the past 50 years.

TRIBUTE TO ROSA ELIA
MARTINEZ LINEWEAVER

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Elia Martinez Lineweaver, a loving wife, a caring mother, a longtime medical assistant and translator and, along with her husband, John, the co-founder of the Danny Foundation for Crib and Child Product Safety. Sadly, Rose passed away suddenly on September 3, 2011, after a life dedicated to her family and the causes she championed.

Born in Mexico in 1942, Rose came here with her mother and siblings at the age of 5, and in 1961 became a naturalized citizen of the United States. While she was proud of her career as a health care provider, her true passion stemmed from her role as mother to thirteen children.

In 1984, a tragic crib accident left Rose and John's 23-month-old son Danny severely disabled. After this tragedy the Lineweavers formed The Danny Foundation for Crib and Child Product Safety. During its 20 years of international activity, The Danny Foundation created and advocated for safety regulations which defined for the very first time how U.S. crib makers should safely manufacture cribs. Additionally, they pursued legal remedies and sought changes from industry and government in the design, advertising, inspection, use, and sale of infant cribs. Their tireless work over the years has saved untold thousands of infants from injury and even death.

In 2006, Rose received the Jefferson Award for public service for her life-saving efforts, and over the years was honored by notices in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the receipt of personal letters of thanks from the White House and many of my colleagues here in Congress, as well as from state legislators from seven states in which infant crib safety legislation was passed thanks to the Danny Foundation's efforts.

Those who knew Rose Lineweaver will attest to the fact that her true legacy is in her exceptional family: 12 children, 27 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. For those of us who had the privilege of working with Rose and John through the Danny Foundation, we can be thankful for her resilience and determination that created a safer environment for our youngest children. This was truly her gift to all families.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION RE-
GARDING THE USE OF LIBYA'S
FROZEN ASSETS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Libya's frozen assets be used to pay for humanitarian relief and military operations associated with the current conflict in that country.

Since Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi responded to peaceful demonstrations by attacking Libya's own citizens, the United States has been actively engaged with our international allies in thwarting the ability of the Qaddafi regime to visit violence, murder, and destruction on the people of Libya. This past February, the United States imposed economic sanctions on Libya and froze the assets of its leadership, promising to hold Qaddafi, his family, and the government of Libya accountable for its human rights abuses. It is estimated that the value of these assets exceed thirty billion dollars.

On March 19, with the authority of the United Nations, the United States Armed Forces and our coalition partners launched Operation Odyssey Dawn in an effort to enforce Security Council Resolution 1973. That mission has since come under NATO command and is now called Operation Unified Protector. Our Armed Forces have assisted in combat operations including providing intelligence, aerial refueling, targeting, and other aspects of NATO's daily bombardment of Libyan forces loyal to Qaddafi. We have already spent over one billion taxpayer dollars on this effort, with operations costing millions more every day.

When the United States recognized the Transitional National Council as the legitimate governing authority of Libya on July 15, it paved the way for the Council to access some of the frozen assets to use for humanitarian relief and reconstruction efforts. With the Qaddafi regime at an end and the dictator himself on the run and in hiding, the United States will be moving into a posture that puts less emphasis on military operations and more focus on supporting the Transitional National Council's efforts to establish a working government.

The United States should pursue with the Council the viability of using some of those assets to reimburse NATO members for the cost of their military operations in support of the Libyan people. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

CONGRATULATING THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 20th Anniversary of the Republic of Macedonia's independence. On September 8, 1991, the Republic of Macedonia declared its independence—becoming the only nation to peacefully secede from the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In the twenty years since its independence, the Republic of Macedonia has transformed itself into a modern democratic nation that shares the core values of freedom, democracy, and the rule of law with the United States of America. These great strides have put the Republic of Macedonia on the road to full membership in the European Union and NATO. As Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said last year, "The United States is committed to promoting Mac-

edonia's membership in NATO and the European Union, and we will continue to help strengthen Macedonia's democratic institutions in cooperation with your leaders and civil society."

The United States of America and the Republic of Macedonia enjoy a cooperative relationship across a range of economic, cultural, military, and social issues. As the fourth largest contributor per capita in the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan Macedonia has become one of the United States' strongest allies against transnational terrorism. This partnership is lasting and important.

Macedonians have made an impact in the United States, as there are over half a million people of Macedonian heritage in this country. They dedicate their knowledge and skills to public service industries, science, and the arts. I am proud to represent many Macedonians in New Jersey's Eighth Congressional District.

I congratulate the people of the Republic of Macedonia on the 20th anniversary of their country's independence and join the Macedonian-American community in my district and across the United States in celebrating this important occasion.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SPECIAL WARFARE OFFICER JOHN WESTON FAAS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Petty Officer Special Warfare Officer John Weston Faas who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Chief Faas was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Chief Faas was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including four Bronze Star Medals with Valor, including one for extraordinary heroism, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Joint Service Commendation Medals with Valor, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, two Combat Action Ribbons, two Presidential Unit Citations, Navy Unit Commendation, three Afghanistan Campaign Medals, two Iraq Campaign Medals, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Chief Faas is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Chief Faas an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Chief Faas' family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

CONGRATULATING DR. NICK J. BRUNO

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate Dr. Nick J. Bruno for becoming the eighth president of the University of Louisiana-Monroe (ULM). Dr. Bruno began his new position in November of 2010 after 30 years of distinguished service in Louisiana higher education.

A Bayou State native, his career has been dedicated to strengthening the state's education system. Dr. Bruno worked in business affairs for the University of Louisiana system, holding a variety of titles, formerly served as vice president of business affairs at ULM at a critical juncture in the school's history, and also assisted in several capacities at Southeastern Louisiana University.

In addition to a praiseworthy higher education career, Dr. Bruno is regionally and nationally recognized for his consulting expertise in areas relating to financial, organizational, and business affairs.

Dr. Bruno's educational background began at Southeastern Louisiana University where he earned a bachelor's degree in accounting and a master's degree in Business Administration from Southeastern Louisiana University. He later received his doctorate degree in Higher Education Leadership from the University of Mississippi.

Dr. Bruno and wife, Linda, have three children together: one son, Steven, and two daughters, Victoria and Christina. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Bruno, and his family, for his new role as University of Louisiana-Monroe's eighth president.

IN HONOR OF THE WESTSIDE VET CENTER'S FREEDOM CELEBRATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Westside Vet Center's Freedom Celebration, taking place on September 8, 2011.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Westside Vet Center, located in Parma, Ohio, offers a wide range of programs and services to veterans and their families in an effort to ease the transition between military and civilian life. The Vet Center Program began following the Vietnam War when veterans were experiencing difficulties readjusting to civilian life. The goal of the Vet Center program is "to provide a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to eligible veterans in order to help them make a satisfying post-war readjustment to civilian life."

In addition to providing care and counseling to Greater Cleveland area veterans, the Westside Vet Center also hosts a wide array of gatherings and celebrations to honor the service of these brave Americans. Today, the

Westside Vet Center is hosting a Freedom Celebration, an event designed to celebrate the veteran's role in maintaining our freedoms.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the Westside Vet Center's Freedom Celebration, as they commemorate the service of the Greater Cleveland area's U.S. veterans.

TRIBUTE TO BILL MATTOS

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Bill Mattos on being awarded the "Golden Rooster Award" from the California Poultry Federation, and to thank him for his dedication to the agriculture community. This award is a tribute to Bill's professional accomplishments in the poultry industry, as well as his dedicated service and leadership.

Bill Mattos was born and raised on a farm in Stanislaus County. He is an honors graduate of Cal Poly State University in San Luis Obispo where he was named outstanding graduate in journalism (Betty Belle Kemp) and holds a Master's Degree in Agricultural Journalism from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

A former Stanislaus County Supervisor, he worked for the USDA under Secretary Earl Butz and served as a White House intern in the Nixon administration.

Bill is the president of the California Poultry Federation where he manages the affairs of the meat poultry industry with emphasis in governmental relations, public affairs, public relations, animal welfare and marketing. He also works with agricultural and business groups to promote business and industry in California. He travels extensively throughout the West Coast and to Washington, DC to promote California issues.

He hosts a cable television program, "Westside Stories," which features monthly interviews with elected officials, executives with charitable organizations and leaders throughout various Stanislaus County and Merced County communities.

He was the founder and former president of Mattos Newspapers, Inc., where he operated a newspaper and printing company for 30 years.

He is past chairman of the Doctors Medical Center Board of Governors; President of the Stanislaus County Fair Board; past president of the Stanislaus State University Foundation Board, member of the dean's advisory board of the School of Agriculture at the University of California in Davis; former president of the Newman Rotary and the Newman Chamber of Commerce; and former California chairman of the National Newspaper Association.

As a member of the Stanislaus County Fair board for 17 years (appointed by the governor every four years), he has worked extensively on livestock and fair issues over the years.

He lives in Newman and is the father of two daughters, Toni and Natalie.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Bill Mattos for his hard work in the California

poultry industry, and congratulating him upon receiving the California Poultry Federation "Golden Rooster Award."

A TRIBUTE TO NANCY WILSON

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to my dear friend Nancy Wilson, an American treasure. After nearly sixty years of performing, Nancy will officially retire September 10th in Columbus, Ohio where she began her career. I am deeply honored to call Nancy a friend and when I think of her, I am reminded of her sophistication, refinement, poise and grace.

For years Nancy has been a trail-blazing artist whose work incorporated genres like jazz, R&B, and pop music. With a career that ranges from blues to Broadway musicals, she has proven herself to be an inspiration to many and has continually reinvented and refined her sound. Coupled with her engaging and charming stage presence, she has appealed—and continues to appeal—to generations of Americans and world audiences.

Born in Chillicothe, Ohio in 1937, Nancy Wilson discovered her voice while singing in church choirs. When she was 15, she won a vocal contest and consequently starred in her own television show, Skyline Melodies. Later, Nancy was a regular guest on the TV variety shows of Johnny Carson, Andy Williams, Flip Wilson, Arsenio Hall, and others. Also well known as an actress, she has appeared in such television programs as I Spy, Room 222, Hawaii Five-0, The Cosby Show, New York Undercover, and the films The Big Score and Meteor Man. She once commented on her versatility as an artist, "Each song is a little play, a little vignette." Nancy used her voice to address those who deal with the joys and heartaches of love through such songs as Guess Who I Saw Today, Save Your Love For Me, and Like in Love. She was also the host of the noted NPR series Jazz Profiles.

Her extraordinary talents and brilliant career earned her Grammy Awards in 1964, 2005, and 2007; a National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Masters fellowship, the Oprah Winfrey Legends Award, an NAACP Image Award, and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Earlier this year, the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History accepted two of her gowns into its National Collections. I was honored to have Nancy perform at the 1990 Congressional Black Caucus Foundation jazz Concert, entitled Salute to Women in Jazz.

Nancy Wilson has championed many causes, including the Martin Luther King Center for Social Change and the National Heart Association. Nancy has also co-founded the Nancy Wilson Foundation, which takes inner city children on trips to rural America. She has received numerous awards, like the Essence Award and the Paul Robeson Humanitarian Award. She has been awarded honorary degrees from the Berklee College of Music and Columbus Central State College.

Music lovers will truly miss her. There will only be one Nancy Wilson.

RECOGNIZING ARLETTE MERRITT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Arlette Merritt, Executive Director of West Contra Costa County's Early Childhood Mental Health Program, and congratulate her as she approaches her well-earned retirement.

Arlette Merritt's outstanding career in public service was born out of her lifelong commitment to mental health services for the very youngest and most vulnerable children. In focusing on treatment for children ages 0-6, Arlette has made a priceless contribution to her client families and to our community as a whole.

Since becoming Executive Director 28 years ago, Arlette has been instrumental in keeping the Early Childhood Mental Health Program accessible to our region's population. Under her leadership, the Early Childhood Mental Health Program has pioneered early-intervention by developing infant/parent home visiting, preschool mental health consultation, and intensive day treatment for preschool children. Further, this agency provides specialized parenting support groups and critical wrap-around services, in both English and Spanish. During her admirable career, Arlette has molded an outstanding team of professionals who in turn bring these services to 400-500 families a year.

Arlette's rare and exceptional skills have earned her tremendous respect and the gratitude of her colleagues as well as the public at large. She has been a tireless advocate for the expansion of children's mental health services and is nationally recognized as an expert in her field.

I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Arlette Merritt as a true hero in our community and to thank her for her dedicated service to the families and especially the children of West Contra Costa County. While I will truly miss our interaction on issues related to supporting children's mental health, I am pleased to join with her family, friends and colleagues in congratulating Arlette Merritt on a long and highly successful career and wish her every happiness as she enters into retirement.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EUGENE RUTLEDGE FOR YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Eugene Rutledge on his retirement from Flint Community Schools.

Eugene moved to Flint from Gary, Indiana and was educated in the same schools to which he devoted his life. After attending Flint Junior College he graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor's Degree in

Elementary Education. His passion for education can be found in his body of work as well as his thirst for knowledge. While teaching, Eugene obtained a Master's Degree in Reading Instruction from Michigan State University and has done post graduate work at Oakland University.

Mr. Rutledge has been a fixture in the Flint school system for over 66 years as a student, instructor and administrator. He began his career as a social studies teacher, remaining in the classroom for twenty-four years. He left the classroom and took his passion for education to a broader prospective, working as an administrator, focusing on curriculum and instruction for 19 years. While there he mentored new teachers and prospective administrators and served on the Superintendent's Executive Cabinet.

As a man of God, Eugene gathered strength from one of his favorite scriptures. Proverbs 3:5 and 6: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." Everyone in Flint can say thank you for taking the path he has taken and his continued dedication to the City of Flint, Flint Community Schools, and most importantly the children.

Mr. Speaker I would like to congratulate Eugene Rutledge on his retirement. Eugene's dedication to the community and the children is second to none.

HONORING SANDY COVALL-ALVES

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, together with my colleague, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, to recognize Sandy Covall-Alves who is retiring after 30 years in the emergency management field, the last 16 of which was as Emergency Manager for Sonoma County's Fire & Emergency Services Department and the Sonoma County Operational Area. For those 30 years, she dedicated herself to making sure that people in her charge were safe and received the resources they need in the wake of natural disasters.

During her tenure in Sonoma County, Ms. Covall-Alves coordinated the response, recovery and mitigation efforts for the 1995-1999 and 2006 winter storms and floods, the 1996 Cavedale fire, and the 1998 Rio Nido debris flow. In total, she oversaw the implementation of 14 local emergency proclamations, 12 Emergency Operations Center activations, 8 gubernatorial proclamations and 6 events that were designated by the President as national disasters. Our offices appreciated working with her, knowing that she knew how to pull all her connections together for a coordinated response.

Ms. Covall-Alves was also the guiding force in establishing, implementing and coordinating emergency programs for the county, its cities and special districts. Her commitment to improving emergency management did not stop at the county line. She is a founding member and current Chair of the California Operational

Area Coalition (COAC), a forum for information exchange and advocacy on emergency management issues. The COAC's mission is to enhance closer cooperation and collaboration with members of the organization and with the State Emergency Management Agency.

Ms. Covall-Alves began her career in emergency management as a 9-1-1 dispatcher for the Tuolumne County Sheriffs Department. After developing disaster recovery plans for private businesses, she returned to public service with the San Mateo County OES and from there was deployed to the 1994 Northridge earthquake in Southern California as part of the state's mutual aid program. She joined Sonoma County OES in 1995 and quickly became an integral part of the county's response and recovery team.

Mr. Speaker, Sandy Covall-Alves has had a long and distinguished career in serving and protecting the people of the State of California. We wish her well in her retirement as she enjoys time with her husband, Ron Alves, and their three special pets, Beelsey, Mowese and Wilson.

RECOGNIZING ARIANNA MCQUILLEN, RECIPIENT OF A BUICK AND GENERAL MOTORS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Arianna McQuillen, of Fairfax Station, on her selection as a Buick and General Motors Foundation Scholarship Recipient. She has been identified as one of 100 outstanding students from across the United States to receive up to \$25,000 in a renewable scholarship. She plans to attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology and specialize in robotics.

Arianna is very involved in our community, working on projects such as cleaning the Occoquan watershed, planting trees, preparing care packages for soldiers abroad and tutoring young students.

Her academic record is proof that she is a high-achieving student. She studied at Lake Braddock Secondary School, where her interests varied from math and science to art and the environment. She has won many awards in areas ranging from debate to art. She is a National Merit Scholar, a 2010 Beat the Odds Scholarship Recipient, an Advanced Placement Scholar, and a National Achievement Semi-Finalist.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Arianna McQuillen's remarkable achievements and wishing her continued success as she pursues her degree at MIT.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR SENIOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER EXPLO- SIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL KRAIG MICHAEL KALEOLANI VICKERS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Senior Chief Petty Officer Explosive Ordnance Disposal Kraig Michael Kaleolani Vickers who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Senior Chief Vickers was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Senior Chief Vickers was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including four Bronze Star Medals with Valor, two Purple Heart Medals, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, two Combat Action Ribbons, Presidential Unit Citation, two Afghanistan Campaign Medals, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Senior Chief Vickers is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Senior Chief Vickers an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Senior Chief Vickers' family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

IN HONOR OF MR. RANDOLPH BAXTER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in honor of Randolph Baxter as he retires from 26 years as a Federal Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Ohio, and as Chief Judge for the last seven years. In 1996, Judge Baxter was appointed by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals to serve as a charter member of its Bankruptcy Appellate Panel. Primarily appointed to sit in Cleveland, Judge Baxter also heard cases in Akron, Canton, Toledo and Youngstown and has served as a visiting judge in Delaware, New York, Tennessee, Michigan and Florida.

A native of Columbia, Tennessee, Judge Baxter is an honors graduate of Tuskegee University and the University of Akron School of Law. Prior to becoming a judge, Judge Baxter was engaged in the private practice of law before serving as a federal prosecutor with the U.S. Department of Justice. He also served as the Deputy Director, Department of Public

Service for the City of Akron, Ohio, and earlier served as a salary administration analyst with the B.F. Goodrich Company.

Judge Baxter served as an officer in the U.S. Army, receiving the Bronze Star for Valor, among other unit citations, while serving as a tank platoon leader in Vietnam and Cambodia with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. He later achieved the rank of captain and commanded a tank company before resigning his commission and returning to civilian life in 1971.

As a student, Judge Baxter worked summers in the steel mills, earning his way through college. It was perhaps this experience that prepared him for presiding over a motion for a Temporary Restraining Order, TRO, in the LTV Steel bankruptcy case. While the case itself was assigned to another judge in the Northern District of Ohio, the motion for the TRO came when the other judge was not available. Judge Baxter quickly learned the issues behind the motion and heard arguments from all sides. The motion was submitted after workers at the LTV facility in Cleveland realized that there was not enough coke being shipped to keep the blast furnace hot until the sitting judge could hear the merits of the case for shutting down or keeping open the Cleveland steelmaking facilities. If the furnace did not stay hot, it would have been ir-

reparably damaged and Cleveland would have lost the capability to produce primary steel. As the LTV lawyers observed Judge Baxter's reactions to both sides of the argument and came to grips with the tough questions Judge Baxter asked, they asked the judge to adjourn while they negotiated an Agreed Order with my attorneys and the attorneys for the steel workers and the various creditors in the bankruptcy case. The parties negotiated an Agreed Order, LTV complied with the order to keep the furnace hot, and the steelmaking assets were saved. Nearly 10 years later, the blast furnace is now part of Arcelor Mittal and continues to produce steel.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Chief Judge Randolph Baxter, soldier, scholar, lawyer and judge, as he retires from the federal bankruptcy bench and embarks on the next set of journeys in his life.

HONORING DEBRA BROWN
STEINBERG

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge and pay tribute to the

tremendous efforts of Debra Brown Steinberg on behalf of the families of 9/11 victims.

For ten years now, Ms. Steinberg has worked tirelessly as an advocate for these families and to ensure they are treated the same, regardless of their respective citizenship or immigration status. She has played a major role in writing various bills that benefit 9/11 families including New York State's September 11th Victims and Families Relief Act, the September 11th Family Humanitarian Relief and Patriotism Act, and the September 11th Victims Compensation Fund. On a personal note, I have enjoyed working closely with Ms. Steinberg and the Department of Homeland Security to permit eligible spouses and children of 9/11 victims to remain in the United States and ultimately become permanent residents.

In addition, all of Ms. Steinberg's work for these families has been pro-bono and her perseverance in seeing that they are taken care of is extraordinary. On behalf of the 9/11 families, many of which are constituents of mine, I would like to once again honor Debra Steinberg for her commitment to their lives.

SENATE—Friday, September 9, 2011

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, full of compassion and love, Your voice is over the waters, full of majesty, so we give You the glory due to Your Name. As we approach another 9/11 anniversary, with threats of terror in the air, give strength to Your people and bless us with Your peace. Remind us that though we cannot always prevent tragedies, we can choose to respond to them with faith and trust in You.

Lord, bless our Senators in their labors today. Empower them with Your presence, sustain them with Your spirit, encourage them with Your word, and renew them with Your grace. You, O God, are our strength and our sure defense.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK R. WARNER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 9, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will be in morning business. During that period of time, Senators will be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each. There will be no votes today.

I am working with the House to find out what they can work with us on. We know we have the FAA bill, which expires next Friday. The highway bill expires at the end of this month. Those are the two primary issues we are working on, in addition to the FEMA problems we have in Virginia and around the rest of the country. We are going to make a decision today on what we will move forward on, but I need to hear from the House first.

AMERICAN JOBS ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I applaud the bipartisan approach taken by the President last night regarding his jobs act. He described it and described it well. It is really a commonsense plan, and this plan will be a tax cut for middle-class families and even small businesses. It will put laid-off teachers and first responders back to work. It will send construction workers to jobsites around the country to renovate schools and to build roads and bridges. It will also ensure that Iraq and Afghan veterans who have returned from serving their country come home to a job. It will also help Americans who have been unemployed for far too long keep their families afloat while they look for jobs.

Reagan Republicans would have embraced this reasonable, commonsense approach, the so-called American Jobs Act. All the ideas in this legislation have been supported by Democrats and Republicans in years past. Some of the ideas originally came from Republicans.

This jobs plan won't add a single penny to the deficit. In fact, we all know reducing unemployment is the fastest way to reducing the debt.

I urge reasonable Republicans to resist the voices of the tea party and others who would oppose this legislation and root for our economy to fail. It is sad that they do, but they do, and they do it for political reasons. They should see that this proposal is made up of bipartisan ideas, supported in the past by Members of both parties. They must not continue to bow to the tea party Republicans, who are willing to do anything to hurt the President. Instead of hurting the President, they are causing a tea party recession. We cannot allow their radical political agenda to crowd out America's jobs agenda.

The uncertainty of this summer—the fight over whether to default on our financial obligations and a shocking credit downgrade—has rocked an economy that was already shaky. But this fall and this legislation offer us an opportunity to set the American economy back on the right track, and we need to do that.

I look forward to studying the President's bill. The Senate will begin debate on this proposal as soon as possible. I know not every Republican will support this legislation, and I know not every Democrat will support all aspects of the legislation, but it is a good piece of legislation, and we need to work together. I look forward to an open, honest, and respectful debate. So I hope my Republican colleagues will contribute constructively to this process in the coming weeks rather than resorting to the obstructionist tactics which have so dominated Washington for the last 8 months. I hope a new day of compromise is dawning.

REMEMBERING 9/11

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on the eve of September 11, I would ask that we all remember this: The challenges we face as a Nation, whether threats to our security or to our economic security, are the same. Our Nation's security and our economic security are tied together.

This Sunday, my fellow Nevadans and I and the rest of the Nation will join in a remembrance to the tragic events of that fateful day 10 years ago, and we will mourn the thousands of innocent lives lost in New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. We will never forget the events of that Tuesday morning, which dawned so clear. It was a bright blue sky that ended gloomy and dark.

But we should also remember the spirit of unity and determination that blossomed amidst the darkness of that day. In the weeks and months that followed, we were not Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives, red States and blue States, we were Americans. Beneath the partisanship of Washington, that is as true today as it was 10 years ago. It doesn't mean we will not disagree. In fact, the same freedom that allows us to disagree is also the root of our democracy. But it does mean we must work together in the best interests of this great Nation and in the interests of every man or woman who calls America home, no matter how difficult.

Today, the greatest challenge facing this Nation is putting 14 million Americans back to work and returning some

prosperity to our economy. I look forward to tackling that challenge as one Nation. We need to join together in that cause.

Mr. President, would you announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will now be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I yield to the distinguished Senator from Tennessee and without losing my right to the floor, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to make my remarks immediately thereafter.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I certainly appreciate the courtesy of the Senator from Utah. I will be very brief. I will actually be propitious in many ways. I am here at a time when the Senator from Virginia is the Presiding Officer.

Last night there was a focus on a short-term stimulus. I wish to thank the Senator from Virginia and the Senator from Georgia who have led efforts over the course of the last many months to focus on trying to deal with our longer term issues. I think there are many of us in this body, as well as in the House of Representatives, who believe the best way for us to deal with our short-term economic situation is to deal with the long-term structural issues that are affecting our country so much.

So I am here today to express hope and to say I feel a tremendous consensus building. I know the Presiding Officer and I were in a meeting earlier this week where I think there was demonstrated a lot of consensus by Republicans and Democrats in the Senate toward using this supercommittee and encouraging the supercommittee.

There was tremendous optimism expressed about what this supercommittee is getting ready to do. But we wish to encourage them to look at a number of deficit reduction ideas which may be twice or even more than the original charge and, secondarily, to encourage them to use this tremendous opportunity for tax reform, much like was laid out in many of the Bowles-Simpson concepts, and to have Medicare entitlement reform as part of that; and, thirdly—and this is me speaking individually, although I think there is consensus building around this too—to do something longer term as it relates to infrastructure, such as having a 6-year highway bill. I feel that momentum building in the House. I think it exists in the Senate.

The reason I am on the Senate floor today is to say one thing. We have a tremendous opportunity to deal with our long-term issues which will immediately affect our economy now and stimulate it, if we will do that. I hope what we will not do is become sidetracked on issues that are more around the edges, more around the fringe, issues that are short-term in nature. The Presiding Officer, who has created jobs in his lifetime, and I have done the same thing in my lifetime, and I understand it is important to create a long-term environment where people have confidence that we have actually dealt with this country's problems. There is nothing—nothing—that could be more stimulative in the short term than for people to see that this body and the body across the way on the other side of the Capitol have dealt with these issues in an appropriate way.

I am encouraging us to stay focused, to stay focused on the supercommittee, to continue to encourage them to do even more than what is their charge. I think there is a lot of consensus around that, and I am thankful to be a part of that encouragement.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor and thank again the senior Senator from Utah for his tremendous courtesy and certainly his leadership on so many of these issues. I thank the Senator very much.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I thank my colleague. He is one of the more prescient people in this body, and we all care a great deal for him. I appreciate his leadership in this great body.

REMEMBERING 9/11

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I remember September 11, 2001, as if it were yesterday. I was here in my office at my desk when the unthinkable happened. I remember driving to the Senate that morning thinking it was such a beautiful day. It was a crisp fall morning with a remarkable blue sky. Over the years, I have often wondered

how such resplendence could occur amid such evil and suffering. I take solace in knowing that nearly 3,000 innocent victims, including 3 Utahns, hopelessly touched the face of God that day.

Yet since that horrible day, Americans have once again risen to the challenge. As President George W. Bush said 3 months after the attacks:

Our enemies have made the mistake that America's enemies always make. They saw liberty and thought they saw weakness.

But 10 years on, Americans have shown, once again, our resolve can never be broken. When confronted by evil, we will not yield.

I remember on that day I came over here to the Senate, and we were told to evacuate the Capitol. As we walked out—some running as fast as they could—and walked down the steps of the Senate side of the Capitol, I turned around and saw that Senator Helms was back up on the veranda, and he was having difficulties, as he did in his later years, with ambulation, and I walked back up the steps, and he leaned on my arm as we came down the steps and were among the last to leave the Capitol at that time. We were warned there might be a plane flying into the Capitol or into the White House, and it was a matter of great concern to everybody.

But 10 years later, as I have said, Americans have once again shown the resolve that is necessary. We have confronted evil, and we will continue to do so, and we will never yield.

We, as a nation, continue to stand up to this threat and we have done much to overcome it. But we should never become complacent.

As the 9/11 Commission's recent report card on the implementation of its recommendations clearly shows, we have made important advances in securing the homeland, but a lot of work needs to be accomplished.

Some of the most profound changes, and also some of the least understood, have occurred in our intelligence community. For example, the 16 different agencies which constitute our intelligence community are collaborating as never before. Part of that is because of the PATRIOT Act, which requires that type of collaboration. The PATRIOT Act has worked very well, and even though there are some on the far right and the far left who do not accept the PATRIOT Act, I have to tell you it has worked amazingly well in helping us to protect our homeland.

As the Commission pointed out, collaboration in the intelligence community was essential to the success of the raid which killed Osama bin Laden. That was 10 years later, but it sent a message to the world that we are not going to quit until we find these people, root them out, and get rid of them.

In addition, I also believe our Nation is much safer due to the Terrorist Surveillance Program. The Terrorist Surveillance Program enables our intelligence agencies to monitor international communications from al-Qaida. This initiative has been the subject of much debate in Congress. However, the legislative compromise which was reached, I believe, strikes a proper balance by permitting our intelligence agencies to operate in an efficient manner while strengthening the oversight role of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, which has worked amazingly well.

However, the need for improvements still remains. The Commission notes that over the past 6 years we have had four Directors of National Intelligence. As many managers would agree, such leadership changes will disrupt the implementation of any organization's modernization strategy. Yet in the realm of counterterrorism, the slightest misstep could be exploited by our foes to launch another attack.

Other areas which require immediate attention include securing our borders. An important tool in helping us verify the identity of visitors to the United States is our biometric entry system, called US-VISIT. Unfortunately, the security offered by this system is incomplete. As the Commission pointed out, US-VISIT does not yet have a fully operational system to record when visitors leave our Nation. Such a capability is not only useful in tracking terrorists but is also an important capability in stemming illegal immigration.

That is why I have introduced S. 332, the Strengthening Our Commitment to Legal Immigration and America's Security Act. This bill requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to create a mandatory exit procedure for foreign visitors to our country, the United States of America. Unfortunately, my optimism regarding Afghanistan, the planning ground and safe haven for those who plotted the attacks of September 11, has somewhat receded.

The surge of forces has led to great gains in the southern Afghan provinces of Helmand and Kandahar. This is the heartland of the Taliban. According to GEN David Rodriguez, who until recently was our Deputy Commander in Afghanistan, the Taliban "enjoyed near total control" of these areas as recently as 2009. Moreover, our additional forces enabled the implementation of a robust counterinsurgency strategy. This means we had sufficient forces not only to clear an area of the Taliban but to hold it. As a result, we were able to provide security to the local population, assist in the development of the primarily agrarian economy, and train Afghani security forces.

Unfortunately, the President's arbitrary decision to reduce the number of our forces deployed to Afghanistan by

approximately a third, and instructing the reduction to be completed by next summer, only adds to the burden of our forces that remain.

In fact, this summer I was fortunate to host former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, GEN Michael Hayden, at a speaking event in Utah. I found his insight on this matter most illuminating. General Hayden did not quarrel with the notion of reducing the number of troops in Afghanistan. However, he was troubled by the timing of the drawdown. Specifically, the general stated he would have kept the troops in place until the conclusion of the 2012 summer fighting season.

That being said, I have absolute confidence in our new commander, GEN John Allen. He succeeds General Petraeus, with whom I met over there in Afghanistan, and have met on other occasions, and who has done a tremendous singular service for our country. I have great respect for him. But I expect General Allen to be just as good. General Allen was one of the vital catalysts in the Sunni awakening in Iraq. The Sunni awakening and our counterinsurgency strategy are considered by many to be the driving forces for our success during the Iraqi surge. And, of course, we all remember what General Petraeus did there as well. I am confident General Allen will maintain the hard-won momentum our forces have achieved in Afghanistan, despite the reduction in resources.

In addition, our troops will be assisted by an even greater number of Afghan troops. In this month's edition of Foreign Affairs, General Rodriguez wrote that the Afghan Army by the end of 2010 had increased in size to 143,000, which surpassed that year's goal by 9,000 troops. In addition, the Afghan Army "has quickly become one of the country's most respected institutions." The general also writes:

In 2011, 95 percent of all Afghan army units have been partnered with coalition forces, and they are showing steady improvement in providing security and in their ability to independently thwart insurgent attacks.

In conclusion, much has been accomplished, but more remains to be done. The memory of that day—and those we lost—will be forever with us. We must never forget the hard lessons we learned on September 11. We must not become complacent or believe the threat is over or has gone. We have done much to mitigate the threats posed against us, but we always must be on guard for anything in the future.

The hallmark of our democracy consists of the principles of liberty and equality, cherished by our citizens. The terrorists who attacked us on September 11 saw the civic virtues of our peaceful Republic and wrongfully concluded that we were weak. As others have been reminded in the past, it is a mistake to underestimate the courage and resolve of Americans when our

constitutional ideals come under attack or when our lives and liberties are threatened.

Even on that first day, the example of police and firemen charging into burning buildings at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and civilians fighting back above the skies of Shanksville, PA, showed to the world that America had not lost its resolve. To this day, we remain vigilant in our commitment to protect the natural rights to life and liberty announced in our Declaration of Independence and guaranteed by our beloved Constitution.

Ten years have followed since that day, but I remain proud of the example that America has set for the world as it continues its relentless pursuit of those who would kill innocents and plot mass terrorist attacks on civilian populations.

President Roosevelt called the attack on Pearl Harbor "a date which will live in infamy." Similarly, September 11, 2001, remains a day of remembrance and resolve. We will always remember those who were killed that day and the loved ones they left behind, and we resolve to secure justice for those victims by bringing justice to those responsible for the attacks and who continue to plot against us.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to address the Senate as in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FREE-TRADE AGREEMENTS

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, last night we gathered in the House Chamber for a joint session to listen to President Obama speak about our Nation's dire need to get our economy growing more strongly, to create jobs, and to get millions of Americans back to work. All Americans share this goal, even as we may have some disagreements over the best way to do it.

I think one way to create jobs most of us would agree on is opening new markets overseas to American workers, products and trade. U.S. products are the finest in the world, and we must lower barriers that impede free trade. To that end, we heard the President repeat, as he has previously on numerous occasions in speaking to

Congress and the American people, that we must lower barriers that impede free trade. To that end, we heard the President say last night that he wants Congress to pass the three free-trade agreements, with Korea, Colombia, and Panama, that were concluded many years ago. I could not agree more.

Indeed, the International Trade Commission estimates that passing these three trade agreements could increase U.S. exports by \$13 billion, creating approximately 250,000 new jobs.

So Republicans in Congress and many Democrats are ready to pass these trade agreements. I believe if we had a vote on the merits of those agreements they would pass with strong bipartisan support just as previous trade agreements have. The problem is, they continue to sit on the President's desk where they have been since the day he took office. Until he sends those agreements to Congress, there is nothing we can do to pass them.

Why does the President continue to urge Congress to pass agreements that we cannot pass until they are submitted to Congress?

Considering that the President wants these agreements passed, and considering that Congress has the votes to pass them, and considering the overwhelming benefits that each of these free-trade agreements would bring to our workers and our economy, the obvious question, then, is, Why hasn't the President chosen to send these agreements to Congress for final approval?

The answer, I am afraid, has much to do with electoral politics. My friends on the other side of the aisle have long insisted that the price of getting trade agreements through Congress is passage of domestic spending bills geared to assist U.S. workers who have been adversely affected by foreign trade. For this reason, in 2002, Congress passed the trade adjustment assistance legislation that provided short-term support for worker retraining and other assistance. Many Republicans were skeptical about whether this program and others like it achieved their goals. But we went along for the sake of our national interest in expanding free trade.

However, in 2009, without any action taken on our three pending trade agreements, my friends on the other side of the aisle dramatically increased the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program as part of the stimulus bill, raising spending on this program annually by more than \$½ billion.

I might add that the stimulus bill was supposed to be a temporary stimulus. Now my friends and colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to make that increase permanent. In essence, a program that was designed to assist workers who had been adversely affected by free trade was transformed into a domestic slush fund for reasons

that had nothing at all to do with expanding free trade.

What is worse, after repeatedly claiming it supports the free-trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and Korea, earlier this year the White House announced that the cost of its support was reauthorization of the new trade adjustment assistance, with funding not set at the original 2002 level but the 2009 stimulus level.

So here we had a program that had been expanded from its original cost under the dubious guise of a temporary economic stimulus, and then we were told this temporary funding increase, which was designed to expire along with the stimulus, should, in fact, be turned into a permanent domestic spending program.

My friends, this is why Americans are so angry with Washington and with Congress. It is this mentality that has led to the explosion of government spending and national debt in this country, and it is unsustainable.

I acknowledge that expanding trade does temporarily put some of our workers at a disadvantage. I remember being roundly criticized during the 2008 Presidential campaign when I had the audacity to tell Michigan workers the truth—that many of the jobs that had left their State for cheaper labor markets overseas were never coming back.

So I understand that trade can create difficulties for some American workers. I am not opposed in principle to supporting those workers temporarily so they can develop new skills, find new jobs. I don't oppose, nor do I seek to kill, trade adjustment assistance—just to restore it to its original 2002 levels. That said, for a minute let's look closer at how the Federal Government has been going about employment and worker training programs such as this.

Earlier this year, the Government Accountability Office released a study entitled "Multiple Training and Employment Programs: Providing Information on Co-Locating Services and Consolidating Administrative Structures Could Promote Efficiencies." A translation from the bureaucrats is, How is the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program working out? Here is what the GAO reported on Federal employment and retraining programs, including trade adjustment assistance:

The number of employment and training programs and their funding have increased since our 2003 report when we last reported on them. For fiscal year 2009, we identified 47 employment and training programs administered across nine agencies. Together, these programs spent approximately \$18 billion on employment and training services in fiscal year 2009, according to our survey data. This is an increase of 3 programs and about \$5 billion from our 2003 report. Adjusting for inflation, the amount of the increase is about \$2 billion.

They went on to say:

We estimate, based on survey responses, that this increase is likely due to temporary

funding from the Recovery Act for 14 of the 47 programs we identified. In addition to increasing funding for existing programs, the Recovery Act [the stimulus package] also created 3 new programs and modified several existing programs' target population groups and eligibility requirements, according to agency officials. For example, the Recovery Act modified the Trade Adjustment Assistance program by expanding group eligibility to include certain dislocated service workers who were impacted by foreign trade.

So, according to the GAO, many of our multiplying employment and training programs are duplicative of other such programs funded by the Federal Government. But that is not all. The GAO continues:

Based on our survey of agency officials, we determined that only 5 of the 47 programs have had impact studies that assess whether the program is responsible for improved employment outcomes. The five impact studies generally found that the effects of participation were not consistent across programs, with only some demonstrating positive impacts that tended to be small, inconclusive, or restricted to short-term impacts.

I will repeat that last sentence:

The five impact studies generally found that the effects of participation were not consistent across programs, with only some demonstrating positive impacts that tended to be small, inconclusive, or restricted to short-term impacts.

Not only are many of these employment and training programs duplicative, the GAO has found very little empirical evidence to support whether these programs are even accomplishing their intended goals, and what empirical evidence they have found is, I repeat, "small, inconclusive, or restricted to short-term impacts."

Trade adjustment assistance is among these programs. So my question is simple: At this time of crushing Federal debt and increasing fiscal austerity, why should we increase spending on a program that is likely duplicated by other Federal efforts and of which we cannot even say for sure it is working?

The real tragedy is, because our trade agenda has ground to a halt over this disagreement, the people who are suffering most are our workers and America's international economic leadership. The United States may not be doing much to advance free trade, but that is definitely not the case with other countries which are vigorously competing to get their workers and businesses into new overseas markets, often to the detriment of the United States of America. While we stand still, the world is moving past us.

In the 5 years we have failed to ratify the Colombia Free Trade Agreement, U.S. companies have paid more than \$3.2 billion in Colombian import tariffs. That would disappear under the free-trade agreement. Since 2008 the United States has lost more than \$800 million in agricultural exports to countries that trade freely with Colombia. Although less stark, the same story is true with Panama.

The people most disadvantaged by our failure to ratify these trade agreements are U.S. workers. What is more, Colombia, Panama, and Korea are not waiting on us. Our allies are not dependent upon us. They are confidently pursuing their own interests—with us if possible but without us if necessary. Colombia and Panama and many other Latin American countries are concluding their own trade agreements often at our expense. Since 2006 U.S. exporters lost 10 percent of their market share in Panama. From 2008 to 2009, our main agricultural exports to Colombia declined by more than 60 percent. These jobs are going to Europe, Canada, and China, but not because their workers are outcompeting ours but because Washington is forcing our exporters to compete with one hand tied behind their backs.

Indeed, Colombia recently began implementing its trade agreement with Canada, further disadvantaging our workers and what should be a natural market for us. Just this summer, South Korea's free-trade agreement with the European Union took effect.

We are losing ground and we need to get moving on trade immediately. I recognize the cost of doing so again will be Republicans' acquiescence to a vote to reauthorize Trade Adjustment Assistance. The Senate minority leader has repeatedly said he will support holding such a vote. So there is literally no reason why the White House should not send our trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and Korea to Congress for an immediate vote. But as the Republican leader, Senator McCONNELL, has correctly insisted, these trade agreements should not be linked to a reauthorization of Trade Adjustment Assistance at their artificially inflated stimulus funding level.

I would remind my colleagues that in the first speech the President gave to Congress in early 2009, he advocated the passage of free-trade agreements. Again, last night, he mentioned the importance of the passage of free-trade agreements and called on Congress to pass these agreements. Our message back is: Mr. President, send us those agreements. Let us have open and honest debate. Let us have amendments. Let us have votes. But let us move forward. I am confident we can pass these free-trade agreements, but they have to be submitted to Congress. It seems fairly simple. Please, then, Mr. President, don't call on Congress again to pass these agreements unless you send them over to the Congress so we can ratify these agreements.

It is terrible what has happened in Colombia—losing billions of dollars we have had to pay in import tariffs for our goods going into Colombia, which should not have happened. By the way, Colombian goods come into the United States free of tariff because of the Andean trade preference agreements. So

we are now at a disadvantage, where we pay tariffs on American goods going into Colombia but no tariff on Colombian goods coming into the United States. It makes no sense. South Korea—I believe it was last July—ratified a free-trade agreement with Europe. We are losing market share, and we are losing billions of dollars and thousands and thousands of jobs because we have not ratified these agreements.

The only way we can ratify them is for the President to send them over. Send them over, Mr. President. Send them over. Last night, he said: Pass these bills now. I am saying: Send the free-trade agreements over now. I will be glad to debate, amend—with time limits—and pass these free-trade agreements. I am confident there will be an overwhelming majority of bipartisan support for these agreements. We can work out the Trade Adjustment Assistance issue. We can debate and vote on it. But we have to have the agreements before us so we can move forward on it.

The people in my State are hurting. People all over America are hurting, as the President acknowledged at the beginning of his remarks last night. We can act. This is one area where I am confident we could move forward. So let us have those agreements sent over, and let us take them up as our first and most important priority in the coming weeks.

I yield the floor.

REMEMBERING 9/11

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, Father Mychal Judge was a Catholic priest and chaplain of the New York Fire Department. On the morning of September 11, 2001, he rushed to where he was needed—to the World Trade Center. He was administering last rites to a fallen firefighter when he died amid falling debris from the towers. He is listed as victim 0001, the first recorded fatality of the attacks on America.

A photo of an ash-covered firefighter carrying Father Mychal's body from the wreckage would become one of the most enduring photos of the attacks. Five years after his death, a documentary film about Father Mychal was released. It opens with an interview in which he says:

You wonder what your last hour of life could be. Will I be doing something for someone, trying to save a life?

When we think of 9/11, we remember the shock and horror and the crushing grief. But we also remember the courage shown that day by the firefighters, police, and first responders, by the passengers of United Flight 93, and so many others. We remember and honor all those who have continued to sacrifice to keep us safe, especially the more than 2 million members of our military who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Sadly, more than 6,200 of

them have given their lives in these wars, and nearly 46,000 have suffered serious wounds.

We remember clearly the outpouring of compassion and common purpose that united us on 9/11 and for weeks after. Like Father Mychal, people across America reached out to help others in their time of need. Jay Winuk is trying to recapture that spirit of good will on this 10th anniversary of 9/11. Jay's brother Glenn was an attorney in New York and an emergency medical technician with a volunteer fire department. He was at home on 9/11 when the first plane hit. He rushed downtown to help evacuate people in his office building a block from the World Trade Center and then joined rescue efforts in the South Tower. He died in its collapse.

On the first anniversary of the attacks, Jay Winuk launched an effort inspired by his brother's sacrifice. It is called MyGoodDeed. The folks at MyGoodDeed and other organizations are working to inspire at least 1 million Americans to honor the victims and survivors of 9/11 by performing good deeds and charitable service in their memories this Sunday, the 10th anniversary. It would be, they say, the single largest day of charitable service in our Nation's history.

There are service activities of every kind planned for Chicago and cities across America. If you are interested in lending a hand, you can go to www.911day.org. Other Americans in Illinois and across our Nation will spend part of Sunday in prayer and at community gatherings designed to build new bridges of understanding between people from different backgrounds and different faiths. I will be attending one of those gatherings on Sunday. I am sure many of my colleagues will as well.

As Members of Congress, we also have an obligation to honor the victims and heroes of 9/11 in another way. In the early evening of 9/11, Members of Congress came together on the steps of the Capitol and pledged to work together and to support President Bush in fighting terrorism. Three days later, we passed a supplemental appropriations bill to provide billions of dollars to clean up and rebuild the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and to help the victims and their families. That same day, Congress authorized President Bush to use "all necessary and appropriate force" against those who participated in the terrorist attacks.

Soon after that, we approved billions of dollars in aid the airline industry and more billions for the commercial insurance industry. We passed a major stimulus package, including tax cuts, to strengthen our battered economy and help workers who had lost jobs in the attacks. We agreed to put aside our differences on contentious issues and

work quickly, and work together, to help the American people and our economy in a time of crisis.

Today, Americans are living with a different fear than we felt on 9/11. They are concerned about how they are going to support their families. They are worried they might not find another job or lose the job they have. Middle-class families who have seen their home values plummet and their retirement savings halved in the last few years worry about how they will pay for the kids' college and whether they will be able to retire with even a little dignity and security. We need to demonstrate the same urgency and unity in repairing our economy as we showed in recovering from 9/11.

Last night, President Obama came before Congress and laid out a responsible plan to create good jobs in America today, invest in our Nation's future, and reduce our deficit. I hope this Senate will give the President's plan prompt and fair consideration. We can negotiate. We can make adjustments and improvements. We can look at alternative plans. The only thing we can't do is nothing. To debate and delay endlessly while people are losing their jobs and their homes is inexcusable.

Nearly 3,000 innocent people lost their lives on September 11, and nearly 3,000 children lost a father or a mother. On this 10th anniversary of 9/11, I say to my congressional colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans: Let's sort through our differences—honestly, fairly and quickly—and work together to get our economy back on track and Americans back to work. Let's preserve the American dream for the families of 9/11 and for all of America's families. That is how this Congress can honor the victims and heroes of 9/11.

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS DAY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, for the 13th consecutive year, communities across the world today are pausing during the 9th hour of the 9th day of the 9th month to acknowledge International Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day. FASD Day will be observed in my home State of Alaska with ceremonies across the State.

I am grateful that this body is also recognizing Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day with a moment of reflection. For this, I thank my colleagues, especially the senior Senator from South Dakota, TIM JOHNSON, who has joined with me in offering a resolution recognizing September 9, 2011, as National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day. I hope we will continue to pause in the ninth hour of the ninth day each September until fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are eradicated.

FASD is an umbrella term that describes a range of physical and mental

birth defects that can occur in a fetus when a pregnant woman consumes alcohol. It is a leading cause of non-hereditary mental retardation in the United States. Many children affected by maternal drinking during pregnancy have irreversible conditions, including severe brain damage. It is causing permanent lifelong disability.

Unlike thousands of other diseases, FASD is 100 percent preventable. Prevention merely requires a woman to abstain from alcohol during pregnancy. Knowing that it is entirely preventable, it saddens me to think that every year in this country an estimated 1 in every 100 babies is born with FASD. That is about 40,000 infants annually. FASD affects more children than Down's syndrome, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, and muscular dystrophy combined.

All in all, the direct and indirect economic costs of FASD in the United States are estimated to be \$5.4 billion. FASD is found in every community in America. It does not discriminate.

During my time in the Senate, I have given many speeches recognizing FASD day. In each of those speeches, I have talked about Alaska's high rate of FASD. A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention project established that in 2002, Alaska's FASD rate was the highest in the Nation. Among our Native communities, the rate of FASD has been 15 times higher than in non-Native areas in our State. But this year I am proud to report that our statistics have vastly improved.

According to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Alaska Native babies were born with fetal alcohol syndrome half as often around the year 2000 as they were 5 to 7 years earlier. Through a major Federal-State prevention and education effort from 1991 to 1996, and with a second effort from 1998 to 2006, the rate of fetal alcohol syndrome among Alaska Native babies decreased by 49 percent. Alaska's overall rate dropped to 13.5 from 20.0. More work can and should certainly be done, but this is a remarkable improvement for a State with historically the highest rate of FASD.

Mr. President, 40,000 American children each year are born with FASD. But education in prevention, treatment, and research of FASD will save countless future health care costs relating to this devastating but entirely preventable disorder.

I appreciate my colleagues' support of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Day and hope we all remember the innocent babies afflicted with this disorder. I hope we continue to recognize the ninth hour of the ninth day of each September until fetal alcohol syndrome disorders are eradicated.

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001—PM 19

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. Consistent with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the terrorist attacks on the United States of September 11, 2001, is to continue in effect for an additional year.

The terrorist threat that led to the declaration on September 14, 2001, of a national emergency continues. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect after September 14, 2011, the national emergency with respect to the terrorist threat.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 9, 2011.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. CASEY, and Mrs. McCASKILL):

S. 1536. A bill to require disclosure of the physical location of business agents engaging in customer service communications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. INOUE (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1537. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to accept from the Board of Directors of the National September 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center Foundation, Inc., the donation of title to The National September 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 431

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 431, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 225th

anniversary of the establishment of the Nation's first Federal law enforcement agency, the United States Marshals Service.

S. 707

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 707, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to provide further protection for puppies.

S. 1094

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1094, a bill to reauthorize the Combating Autism Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-416).

S. 1239

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1239, a bill to provide for a medal of appropriate design to be awarded by the President to the memorials established at the 3 sites honoring the men and women who perished as a result of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001.

S. 1369

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1369, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to exempt the conduct of silvicultural activities from national pollutant discharge elimination system permitting requirements.

S. 1467

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1467, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to protect rights of conscience with regard to requirements for coverage of specific items and services.

S. 1472

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1472, a bill to impose sanctions on persons making certain investments that directly and significantly contribute to the enhancement of the ability of Syria to develop its petroleum resources, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. INOUE (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1537. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to accept from the Board of Directors of the National September 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center Foundation, Inc., the donation of title to The National September 11 Memorial and Mu-

seum at the World Trade Center, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, on the morning of September 11, 2001, nearly 3,000 people who would lose their lives in the most horrific attack on America since the bombing of Pearl Harbor began their day like it was any other.

Many got dressed and headed for work. Others packed their bags and went to the airport. All would leave their loved ones that morning believing they would be home soon to continue the lives they worked so hard to create.

Instead these innocents were murdered by terrorists at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and in a field in Shanksville, PA. This despicable act forever changed our great nation and the world. Families were shattered, a war began, and the relative peace and security we enjoyed was ripped away.

I recently toured the World Trade Center site in Lower Manhattan and although the rubble has been cleared and great structures are rising from the earth, there is a solemn air that permeates the place.

Despite the bustling crews and the towering cranes stacking metal and shaping the new towers it is still the spot where husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers died in fiery fashion.

Being there reminded me of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the formative years that followed.

I was a boy of 17 when I heard the announcer shout over the radio that Japanese planes were attacking Pearl Harbor. I remember running outside with my father to see the bright red suns painted on the wings of the Zeroes as they raced toward their target amid black puffs of anti-aircraft fire.

I knew at that moment that my country and my life would never be the same. Six decades later that moment came again when I watched passenger jets crash into the side of the World Trade Center.

After Pearl Harbor I put on the uniform and went off to fight for this country as did thousands of my brave brothers from the Greatest Generation. Our nation was shocked into action by the events of December 7, 1941 and a generation of Americans fought and died to shape the new world that came after the bombs fell.

America was awakened in similar fashion on the morning of September 11, 2001 and 10 years later we are still fighting and dying to create a future better than the one we lost that day.

Today, next to the new towers at the World Trade Center site, is the National September 11 Memorial and Museum at Ground Zero. It is a magnificent structure. Two waterfall rimmed pools, situated in the original foot prints of the fallen towers, sit side by side. The names of the fallen are en-

graved in panels that form a railing around each pool.

It is a fitting memorial for those who died but we must honor their memory by telling their story and educating the world about what happened on September 11, 2001.

Yes, it was America that was attacked, but the world changed forever that day and this memorial and museum is much more than a collection of artifacts, it is a symbol of America reborn and a reminder that the world order is always changing.

Today, I rise to introduce a bill that will allow the United States, through the Secretary of the Interior, to take ownership of the lands, the Memorial and the Museum, after the appropriate approvals are secured from the Governor of the State of New York, the Governor of the State of New Jersey, and the Mayor of New York City.

The Department of the Interior will enter into a cooperative agreement with the Board of the non-profit National September 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center, Inc., which may provide technical and financial assistance to the Memorial and Museum relating to its operations and maintenance.

The legislation would authorize appropriations of \$20 million in fiscal year 2013, the first full fiscal year after which the Museum is scheduled to open to the public, and in subsequent years.

All funds appropriated must be matched by non-Federal sources, such as admission fees, gifts and fundraising, with the resulting Federal share being about 33 percent or less of the overall budget of the Memorial and Museum.

It is our duty to help perpetuate this seminal moment in American history.

Let us take responsibility for preserving our past and driving our future by honoring the fallen and their families with this lasting tribute.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1537

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National September 11 Memorial and Museum Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) on September 11, 2001, the United States was attacked and our world was changed forever when terrorists murdered nearly 3,000 innocent people at the World Trade Center, at the Pentagon, and in a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, in the largest terrorist attack ever committed in the United States;

(2) millions of people from every State and every country have visited Ground Zero to pay their respects;

(3) established in 2003, the National September 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, has been dedicated to raising funds for and overseeing the design, construction, and operation of the Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center site;

(4) the Memorial will ensure that future generations never forget the thousands of people who were killed by the terrorist attack on September 11th, 2001, in New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia as well as those who died in the terrorist bombing at the World Trade Center on February 26, 1993;

(5) the Memorial—

(A) will further recognize the thousands who survived the terrorist attacks and all who demonstrated extraordinary compassion in the aftermath;

(B) will ensure, through educational programs, that the history of September 11, 2001, and the implications of that day, continue to be told, especially to the youth of the United States; and

(C) will be a resource to the more than 600 September 11 Memorials being established throughout the United States;

(6) the Memorial is scheduled to open on the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks, while the Museum is scheduled to open in 2012;

(7) it is projected that the Memorial will be one of the most visited venues in the United States, with millions of visitors each year, reflecting the enormous impact the terrorist attacks had on the United States and the world;

(8) throughout the history of the United States, Congress has stepped forward to authorize operating funds, in public and private partnership with private donors, for memorials and museums of national significance;

(9) the Memorial is a true public and private partnership, recognized as a public charity under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

(10) of the funds raised for the Memorial and Museum—

(A) nearly 60 percent have come from over 300,000 private donations; and

(B) 40 percent have come from public sources.

(b) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this Act is to promote the purposes of the Memorial, including—

(1) remembering and honoring the thousands of innocent men, women, and children murdered by terrorists in the horrific attacks of February 26, 1993, and September 11, 2001;

(2) respecting the site made sacred through tragic loss;

(3) recognizing—

(A) the endurance of the individuals who survived the terrorist attacks;

(B) the courage of the individuals who risked their lives to save others; and

(C) the compassion of the individuals who supported the people of the United States in our darkest hours;

(4) ensuring, through educational programs, that the history of September 11, 2001, and the implications of that day continue to be told, especially to the youth of the United States; and

(5) ensuring that the Memorial will be a resource to the more than 600 September 11 Memorials being established throughout the United States.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **BOARD.**—The term “Board” means the Board of Directors of the National Sep-

tember 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center Foundation, Inc.

(2) **MEMORIAL.**—The term “Memorial” means The National September 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center in New York City, New York.

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 4. DONATION OF MEMORIAL.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may accept from the Board the donation of title to the Memorial, subject to—

(1) any terms and conditions that the Secretary and the Board may mutually agree to;

(2) the approval of the donation by the Governor of the State of New York, the Governor of the State of New Jersey, and the Mayor of the City of New York; and

(3) the requirement that title to the Memorial be in a form satisfactory to the Secretary.

(b) **TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may provide technical and financial assistance to the Board relating to the operation of the Memorial.

(2) **CONSULTATION.**—The Secretary may consult with, and seek technical assistance from, the Secretary of Defense, Secretary of Education, Secretary of Homeland Security, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and Administrator of General Services in providing assistance to the Board under paragraph (1).

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act not more than \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2013 and each fiscal year thereafter, subject to the requirement that any funds appropriated to carry out this Act shall be matched with funds from non-Federal sources.

APPROVING THE RENEWAL OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS CONTAINED IN THE BURMESE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2003—Motion To Proceed

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 154, H.J. Res. 66.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to a joint resolution (H.J. Res. 66) approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 154, H.J. Res. 66, a joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

Harry Reid, Richard J. Durbin, Barbara Boxer, Mark R. Warner, Jeff Bingaman,

Daniel K. Inouye, Ben Nelson, Patty Murray, Frank R. Lautenberg, Daniel K. Akaka, John F. Kerry, Ron Wyden, Bill Nelson, Jeff Merkley, Sheldon Whitehouse, Max Baucus, Charles E. Schumer.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote on the motion to invoke cloture occur at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, September 12, and the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2011

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2 p.m. on Monday, September 12; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 4:30 p.m. on Monday, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each; that at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, the Senate would resume consideration of a motion to proceed to the joint resolution regarding Burma sanctions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. There will be a rollcall vote at 5:30 p.m. on Monday on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.J. Res. 66. Additionally, there will be a 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony on Monday on the east front steps of the Capitol. Members will gather in the Rotunda about 10 to 6, so people should be on time for the vote because we will have to close it pretty quickly.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent it adjourn under the previous order following the remarks of Senator WARNER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Virginia is recognized.

HONORING MICHAEL B. SMITH

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I wanted to be afforded this opportunity to address the Senate. I recognize I may be all that is standing in front of the Presiding Officer and the folks who do such a good job of maintaining order in the Senate and adjournment so I will try to make my remarks relatively brief—relatively.

I rise again today to honor another great Federal employee, Michael Smith. As the Director of the Strategic Source Program Office within the Department of Homeland Security, or DHS, Mr. Smith has saved U.S. taxpayers an estimated \$750 million over a 3-year period by merging the buying power of 22 different components within DHS.

Mr. Smith recognizes—which I also recognized as Governor and I know the Presiding Officer did when he was the Governor of the great State of West Virginia—that centralized procurement operations is a critical step to creating efficiencies and savings in government.

As Governor I fostered development of the State centralized procurement system, eVA, and mandated that all of the State's entities use that system for purchases. For example, we were able to reduce what we paid for lightbulbs in Virginia from 38 cents to 23 cents each. That didn't close a \$6 billion shortfall by itself, but we buy a lot of lightbulbs in Virginia, and I know they do in West Virginia as well.

Mr. Smith has taken a similar approach at the Federal level, and his accomplishment was no small feat. After analyzing the purchasing data at DHS, he identified several critical security problems and services that could be consolidated for purposes of purchasing, such as ammunition, uniforms, and communications equipment.

He brought together the program and acquisition staff of 22 DHS components, including the Transportation Security Administration and Customs and Border Protection, to agree to work together. Mr. Smith's supervisors said that he listened to the different needs of the DHS components and was able to lead them to common solutions to meet all their individual requirements under a new contract.

According to Nick Nayak, the DHS chief procurement officer, "Mr. Smith led a new way of doing business where agencies provided a letter detailing their financial and policy commitment to initiative to obtain the business pricing for the government." Mr. Smith's collaborative approach has been so successful that the White House has asked him to introduce his methodology to other larger agencies.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Mr. Smith for his excellent work. I am also proud to recognize him as a Virginian, a Marine Corps veteran, and someone who has dedicated the past 28 years to public service.

REMEMBERING 9/11

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, before I relinquish the floor, I do want to take a couple of minutes on two other items. No. 1, as the Presiding Officer this morning, I heard a number of Senators come forward and recognize, as others have over the last few days, that

we are approaching the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

I am sure all of us here remember where we were that Tuesday morning. I personally recall I was in a campaign for Governor at that point. I had just gotten a haircut and a big debate was 3 days away when I first got the news. Suddenly the big debate didn't seem that terribly important. Within an hour I had been at my campaign headquarters, saw the plane crash into the Pentagon with smoke billowing out.

In the last 10 years I think this country has made remarkable strides in making sure Americans are safer than they were 10 years ago. We have seen a whole new series of collaborations between our intelligence service agencies. We have seen greater collaboration here at home amongst our law enforcement.

As we all come together on Sunday and reflect back on the last 10 years and the horrors that were brought to this country, I hope we will all say a little prayer for those members of our military and those members of the intelligence community for the magnificent work they have done making our country much safer.

I think, as well, as we see reports even today of possible threats, we recognize we can never be 100 percent safe. I remember during my tenure as Governor, within the first year, we in Virginia and the District and Maryland were caught in almost 3 weeks of remarkable terror with what later became known as the sniper incidents. For a lot of that time we didn't know whether this was a possible terrorist incident or was it what it turned out to be, two deranged lone-wolf assassins wreaking havoc across most of the mid-Atlantic.

We need to bear in mind that while we and our government will do everything possible to keep us safe, we also have to rely upon individuals in collaboration with law enforcement as they spot incidents that seem unusual.

But even with that collaboration, there may be times that someone, whether home-grown or foreign, someone, a lone-wolf type assassin or terrorist, could slip through, and I think it is important that, 10 years after that enormous tragedy, we as a people be more resilient. We cannot allow a single act of terror to change the way we live, our freedoms, our civil liberties, because, candidly, there is no way any terrorist can inflict so much individual harm that it can do permanent damage to our country. But if they do spread fear or make us as a people change the way we interact, change the kind respect we have for each other, the respect we have for our freedoms, then they will be more successful than with any single incident of harm.

I know the Presiding Officer and many of the folks who work here and many of the young pages, as we go into

this weekend of reflection—and I hope many of the folks who are listening today—will take a moment and not only reflect back on that 10th anniversary but also do an act of service. I think this is a great time for us as Americans to show service back to our communities.

I know I will be in the Pentagon Sunday morning, where we were hit in Virginia. The Pentagon is a national institution, but we in Virginia are proud it resides in the Commonwealth. I will be in the Pentagon Sunday morning to be with some who lost loved ones on that day. But I will also be doing acts of community service throughout this weekend as well, to make sure we show that great spirit of America.

INVESTING IN AMERICA

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I also wish to take one final moment, and I will be very brief. I want to echo something my colleague from Tennessee said. It is something the Presiding Officer has been very active with over the last few months. We all heard the President last night. Some of us may agree or disagree with all the actions the President laid out. I think there are things we can do as a government targeted to help spur economic growth and job creation that needs to be our top priority.

I do think we have to recognize there is not a single silver bullet, that the major tools the government uses during a period of economic turmoil we have actually already used. The central government can lower interest rates. The government can use federal stimulus. We have used both of those. There can be certain additional things we can do around the edges, but one of the most important things we can do to get this economy restarted is generate confidence, confidence amongst the American consumers and the American people that we in Washington are not going to mess things up any worse, confidence amongst our business community, particularly larger businesses that are sitting on \$2.5 trillion, and they are in a financially better position today than they were back in 2008 when we first experienced the beginnings of the financial crisis, to get that money off the sidelines and reinvest it in America.

One of the most important things we can do—and the President touched upon it last night, but there has been a group of bipartisan Senators that has been working on this for a long period of time—is to recognize that unless we get our long-term debt problems under control, then I don't think we will see the resurgence of confidence this economy and this country needs.

I look forward to working with the President and Members of both parties and targeting investments. I hope, as well, with the Presiding Officer, with

my friend from Tennessee, with my friend, the Senator from Georgia, and others, that we can work with this so-called new supercommittee to urge them to be bold, and that if they will be bold and we put in place over a 10-year frame a long-term deficit reduction plan, I hope we reduce the deficit by at least \$4 trillion, encompassing what we have already done. That plan phased in over a decade will do as much to generate job creation in the short term as any other action. I look forward to that work ahead.

I look forward to reflecting back with all my fellow Americans upon both the sacrifice and tragedy, but also the amazing resilience of the American people in the last decade, and I compliment Mr. Smith and so many federal employees for the work they do.

FALLEN HEROES OF 9/11 ACT

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Banking Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1239, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1239) to provide for a medal of appropriate design to be awarded by the President to the memorials established at the 3 sites honoring the men and women who perished as a result of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1239) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1239

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Fallen Heroes of 9/11 Act”.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the tragic deaths at the World Trade Center, at the Pentagon, and in rural Pennsylvania on September 11, 2001, have forever changed our Nation;

(2) the officers, emergency workers, and other employees of State and local government agencies, including the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and of the United States government and others, who responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and perished as a result of the tragic events of September 11, 2001 (including those who are missing and presumed dead), took heroic and noble action on that day;

(3) the officers, emergency rescue workers, and employees of local and United States government agencies, who responded to the attack on the Pentagon in Washington, DC, took heroic and noble action to evacuate the premises and prevent further casualties of Pentagon employees;

(4) the passengers and crew of United Airlines Flight 93, recognizing the imminent danger that the aircraft that they were aboard posed to large numbers of innocent men, women and children, American institutions, and the symbols of American democracy, took heroic and noble action to ensure that the aircraft could not be used as a weapon; and

(5) given the unprecedented nature of the attacks against the United States of America and the need to properly demonstrate the support of the country for those who lost their lives to terrorism, it is fitting that their sacrifice be recognized with the award of an appropriate medal.

SEC. 3. FALLEN HEROES OF 9/11 CONGRESSIONAL MEDALS.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is authorized, on behalf of Congress, to award a medal of appropriate design, such medal to be known as the “Fallen Heroes of 9/11 Congressional Medal”, to—

(1) the Flight 93 National Memorial in Pennsylvania;

(2) the National September 11 Memorial and Museum in New York; and

(3) the Pentagon Memorial at the Pentagon.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of the presentations referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall strike 3 designs of medals, with such suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to be representative of and in honor of, respectively—

(A) those who lost their lives in the attack at the World Trade Center, including civilians, public safety officers, emergency workers, and the passengers and crew of American Airlines Flight 11 and United Airlines Flight 175;

(B) the passengers and crew aboard United Airlines Flight 93 that was brought down in rural Pennsylvania near Shanksville, Somerset County; and

(C) those who lost their lives at the Pentagon, including the passengers and crew of American Airlines Flight 77.

(2) CONSULTATION.—Before making a final determination with respect to the design of the medals under this subsection, the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Defense and such other parties as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate.

(3) CONTENT OF MEDALS.—The medals struck for purposes of subsection (a) shall be gold medals.

SEC. 4. SALES OF DUPLICATE MEDALS TO THE PUBLIC TO DEFRAY COSTS.

Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the medals struck under section 3, at a price that is at least sufficient to cover the costs thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses. Excess funds from the sales of the duplicate medals will be distributed equally between the 3 memorial sites referred to in section 3(a).

SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDALS.

The medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 12, 2011, AT 2 P.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until Monday, September 12, 2011, at 2 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:30 p.m., adjourned until Monday, September 12, 2011, at 2 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Friday, September 9, 2011

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 9, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CANDICE S. MILLER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Dear God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We give You thanks as well as we begin the fall season of the people's House. Please give the Members of this House hope and wisdom as they confront old problems and unresolved issues. Give them an understanding both of who they were called to be by You, and what they are elected to do by the American people.

Make them trustworthy as they seek what is best for our Nation. Free them from defensiveness toward and suspicion of those with whom they do not share party loyalties or political persuasions. Bind them together in a shared commitment to You, a passionate patriotism, and a deep dedication to find creative solutions in the concerns that confront us and divide us in these times.

May Your blessing, O God, be with them and with us all this day and every day to come, and may all we do be done for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BRADY of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, 10 years ago, I was headed to the courthouse as a judge in Houston, Texas. I was driving my jeep and listening to country western music when I heard on the radio that New York was under attack. Later that day, as most Americans were watching television, as I was later in the evening, I saw those attacks on New York and the Pentagon and how thousands of people, Americans, were running as hard as they could to get away from that terror in the sky.

But there was another group of people, not very many, but they were there. And they were running as hard as they could to get to that terror from the skies. And who were they? They were our first responders—peace officers, Port Authority officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and volunteers. And they rushed into those burning buildings and saved people.

And while today it is just as important that we remember those thousands that died on 9/11, we should also remember those that got to live because America's first responders went into those buildings and saved them.

And that's just the way it is.

REMEMBER, REFLECT, RESOLVE

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, Sunday is the 10th anniversary of 9/11, the day the world changed.

Two hundred and seven names are remembered in the Boston Public Garden 9/11 Memorial. Six were my constituents: Lynn Goodchild; Christopher Zarba, Jr.; Linda George; Robin Kaplan; Dianne Snyder; and Tara Creamer.

Back then, Tony Blair challenged the world to use the unity created in the aftermath of those horrible attacks to create a "community of good." To help the world's most vulnerable; those without schools, food, water, or work without dignity.

We should reflect on how well we have responded to that challenge. We need to resolve to do better and make our country better, and to do more to heal the wounds of the world.

On the first Sunday after 9/11, at an ecumenical service in Worcester, Massachusetts, I said our faith teaches us that love is stronger than hate. I still believe that. Now, more than ever, I believe that is the legacy of 9/11 most deserving of our political will and attention.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S FAILED ECONOMIC POLICIES

(Mr. BRADY of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, the President's jobs message was clear and powerful: Government made America great, and government can make it great again. This misguided view explains why 2 years after the recession supposedly ended, we are still left suffering with a second-rate economy that is being held up to ridicule by the world as our Nation sinks deeper into debt and 22 million Americans can't find work.

I was looking for real leadership—an admission the President's economic policies have failed and a call for a new start, a fresh new direction for this dismal economy. Other than the call for passing the free trade agreements, which the President himself continues to hold up, what America witnessed was a shopping cart of gimmicks to special interest voting blocs paid for by crushing tax increases on the very consumers and job creators we need to get out of this dismal economy.

If you liked the leadership of the last 2 years on the economy, you're going to love this President's jobs agenda.

GETTING AMERICANS BACK TO WORK

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, having spent the last several weeks in Rhode Island with families, small business owners, manufacturers and builders, people in my district are hurting,

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

facing real struggles every single day. The jobs crisis is causing real anxiety and real havoc in their daily lives.

Last night, the President laid out a serious plan to get Rhode Islanders and Americans back to work. The President put forth a jobs plan that reflects many of the priorities I have been working on and have heard during my community suppers, small business tours, and visits with manufacturers. We heard strategies to rebuild American manufacturing and to make it in America again, creating jobs by enacting small business tax cuts, supporting workers by expanding middle class tax cuts, and rebuilding our Nation's roads, bridges, and schools. And providing greater support and job opportunities for returning veterans, the long-term unemployed, and our young people.

The time for taking action to create jobs is now. Americans have endured the crushing consequences of this economic recession for far too long, and there is no time to waste.

TEXAS FIRES

(Mr. FARENTHOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, since December, fires have been ravaging drought-stricken Texas, claiming 2 lives, more than 1,500 homes, and 3.5 million acres of land. My deepest prayers and sympathy go out to the victims of these wildfires. My thanks and appreciation go out to those brave firefighters battling these devastating flames.

FEMA and the White House must help Texas during this time of natural disaster and provide the tools needed to fight these devastating fires. Disasters like these fires is why FEMA was created. Just this week, fires have crept into eight more counties, forcing thousands to evacuate and wait in fear, praying their homes and life savings don't go up in smoke.

I'll do more than pray. The House of Representatives will find the necessary tools to combat this disaster, and I'll push government at all levels to provide the necessary resources for firefighters.

If you live in one of these danger zones, like folks in Bastrop and surrounding counties, please listen to Federal, State, and local officials' warnings and advice. And I will continue to pray for rain and the safety of those involved in this disaster and those in harm's way.

CONGRESS SHOULD DO WHAT'S RIGHT FOR AMERICA

(Mr. WALZ of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a simple message:

Let's stay here and work for America. Last night, the President stood right there and challenged us to do what's right for America. We should do that. But you know what we're going to do? We're going to knock off early at noon today.

The President wasn't allowed to speak on Wednesday because we had important business: we had one procedural vote to allow the Capitol grounds to be used for an event. That is unacceptable. We should stay here and work and git 'er done.

Last night, I brought Lee Hiller to the speech. Lee is a heavy crane operator with the Operating Engineers. He said one thing to me: I've got guys who want to work; they're ready to work; put us to work.

Today, schoolteachers are waking up all across America, getting up early and staying late to educate our children. Nurses are going to work 12-hour shifts curing the sick, and veterans overseas will work long hours protecting this Nation. The least we can do is stay here and do our job.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage Americans all across this country, call their Member of Congress, tell them to git 'er done and work the way they're paid to do. Let's stay here and do that.

□ 0910

LET'S INVEST IN AMERICA

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, last night the President stood here to speak to us. He came to talk about his proposed American Jobs Act.

I'm sure each and every one of us heard what we wanted to, didn't hear what we wanted to, and we took away different things after that speech. But what we all should have heard is that we were hired—I think those words were great—we were hired to do a job. And we must do that job. People are not going to wait 14 months for us to get our act together, especially those who are unemployed.

We should also have heard the cry for the future of our Nation. The President said we must invest in our future. We must become the number one nation again. We cannot let China outbuild us, and neither can we have China and Europe take over manufacturing.

Those are things that we, the United States, have been known for. We must do that. We must invest in ourselves again. We must invest in becoming the number one nation in the world. And we can do that if we are all committed to "Make It In America."

Mr. Speaker, if we cannot put the pride of our Nation before all of us, we will never come together. Let us invest in America.

WORK TOGETHER TO PUT AMERICANS BACK TO WORK

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago, the horror of 9/11 struck this great Nation. But in its aftermath I have never seen this Nation or this Congress so united and so determined to make sure that we protect our citizens and that it does not happen again. We came together with such a strong purpose.

We need to come together again with a strong purpose behind the President's jobs proposal. Fourteen million Americans are out of work. He has a plan. Let's unify, let's work together, and let's put Americans back to work building our crumbling infrastructure, repairing our schools, investing in innovation, education, and working together. We did it after 9/11, that great crisis. We can do it again.

The President has a plan. Let's get behind that plan. If the Republicans have a plan, then put it forth. Let's look at it. Let's work together and put Americans back to work.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1892.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADY of Texas). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 392 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1892.

□ 0915

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1892) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, with Mrs. MILLER of Michigan in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RUPPERSBERGER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I first wish to announce that, subsequent to ordering the bill reported, the committee has modified the classified schedule of authorizations to the bill with respect to the level of funding of certain programs, with bipartisan agreement between myself and my ranking member, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

The classified annex containing the schedule of authorizations is available for review by all Members of the House, subject to the rules of the House and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, under the procedures described in my announcement to the House on Wednesday. The modified schedule of authorizations is and has been available for review to Members for the period of time required by the rules of the House.

Madam Chair, I think this is an important day for the community, certainly rolling into the weekend of the 10th anniversary of that tragic event on 9/11. It is important, it is crucial, that we continue to monitor, to improve, to provide support for our intelligence services who so bravely around the world and here at home serve to protect the United States of America.

The bill before us today is a vital tool for our oversight of the intelligence community's classified activities and is critical to ensuring our intelligence agencies have the resources and authorities they need to do their important work. Passing an annual intelligence bill is vital to keeping the laws governing our intelligence operations up to date. The FY12 bill sustains today's intelligence operations and provides for future capabilities while achieving significant savings.

The U.S. intelligence community plays a critical role in the war on terrorism and securing the country from many other threats that we face. This bill funds all U.S. intelligence agencies, spanning 17 separate agencies, totaling roughly \$80 billion. The bill's comprehensive classified annex provides detailed guidance on intelligence spending, including adjustments to costly programs. It provides oversight and authorization for critical intelligence activities, including but not limited to the global counterterrorism operations such as the one that took out Osama bin Laden; tactical intelligence support to combat units in Afghanistan and Iraq and other places; cyber defense by the National Security Agency; detecting and countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; the R&D, research and development, of new technology to maintain our intelligence agencies' technological edge, including work on code breaking and spy satellites.

The bill also reflects our tough economic times as well, Madam Chair. After passage of the Budget Control

Act, the committee revamped the bill it reported out of committee in May to double its budget savings. The bill is significantly below the President's FY12 budget request and further still below the FY11 authorized and appropriated levels. We accomplished this without impacting the mission. The savings were achieved through a whole series of joint work and effort by many to merge services and find savings that would bring efficiencies, as I said, again, Madam Chair, without impacting the mission of the intelligence services.

The bill curbs unnecessary personnel growth. The cost of additional personnel would squeeze funding for high-tech investments, which is our competitive advantage in intelligence. While the bill denies most of the administration's requested personnel increases, it adds some key positions in high priority areas such as cyber defense. The bill also promotes major operating efficiencies in a number of areas, including data processing, IT, and office leases, finding over \$100 million in savings.

□ 0920

This bill also makes only "best value" investments and shaves \$1 billion from a handful of very large-ticket hardware items and programs that the intelligence community is involved in. The bill protects investments in cutting-edge R&D and redirects \$500 million of savings to invest in some game-changing technologies.

The bottom line is this bipartisan bill preserves and advances national security, and it is also fiscally responsible. Secrecy is a necessary part of our country's intelligence work, so the intelligence committees must conduct strong and effective oversight on behalf of the American people. That oversight is impossible, however, without an annual Intelligence authorization bill. Madam Chair, that's why we stand before you today with a bill that I think this body can be proud of, America can be proud of, and our intelligence community can take to the bank that we're investing in their mission success.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, September 2, 2011.

Hon. MIKE ROGERS,
Chairman, House Permanent Select Committee
on Intelligence, House of Representatives,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROGERS: I write to confirm our mutual understanding regarding provisions in the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 within the jurisdiction of the Foreign Affairs Committee, specifically the preparation of Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statements and a requirement that the Department of State provide information concerning individuals detained at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. We appreciate your agreeing to include the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in the list of

committees to which this information will be submitted.

In order to expedite Floor consideration of this legislation, the Committee will not object to the inclusion of these two provisions and will not mark up the bill. The Committee takes this action with the mutual understanding that the Committee's jurisdiction over this, and similar legislation, is in no way diminished or altered.

The Committee reserves the right to seek appointment to any House-Senate conference on this legislation, and requests your support if such a request is made. I would appreciate your including this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of the legislation on the House Floor.

Sincerely,

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PER-
MANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON IN-
TELLIGENCE,

Washington, DC, September 6, 2011.

Hon. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House
of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROS-LEHTINEN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1892, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012. As you noted, elements of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. I will continue to work with you on these sections and will support the request of the Committee on Foreign Affairs for conferees in any conference that may occur on the bill.

I appreciate your willingness to forego consideration of the bill in the interest of expediting this legislation for floor consideration. I acknowledge that by agreeing to waive consideration of the bill, the Committee on Foreign Affairs does not waive any jurisdiction it may have over provisions of the bill or any matters under your jurisdiction. I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

MIKE ROGERS,
Chairman.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Chair, I rise today in favor of the Intelligence Authorization Act for FY 2012, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

When Chairman ROGERS and I took over leadership of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, we made a commitment to getting back into the practice of passing intelligence budgets. We made a commitment to the men and women of the intelligence community to do what is right—to give our intelligence professionals the resources, capabilities, and authorities they need to keep us safe.

We on the Intelligence Committee have a responsibility to provide effective oversight; to help build up the community, not to tear it down; to hold the community accountable for performance while upholding the Constitution and protecting civil liberties. This is even more important today as we approach the 10th anniversary of

9/11, where close to 3,000 innocent Americans lost their lives.

The bill makes smart choices by trimming where possible, eliminating duplicative efforts, and ensuring we do not affect the current critical capabilities that protect our Nation now and in the future.

The bill aligns our resources with our current threats in a fiscally responsible manner. After the debt debate this last summer, our committee trimmed our budget even further to keep its costs in check. The bill curbs personal growth when appropriate, never affecting the core mission. It invests in new positions for select high-priority needs, such as FBI surveillance officers to keep watch on terrorists, NSA cyber professionals to protect computers from malicious intrusions, and Treasury financial analysts to unravel terrorist plots.

We found major savings in operating costs, pushed down the price of programs through intense oversight, required acquisitions to come in on budget and on schedule, and invested in research and technology to keep our competitive edge. We fully funded the President's major satellite program as well as commercial imagery to ensure our intelligence professionals, the warfighters and our allies have the information they need on the front lines around the world.

Right now, this bill includes two controversial provisions relating to Guantanamo Bay detainees and another making the Director of the National Security Agency a Senate-confirmed position. These provisions garnered a veto threat from the White House. Chairman ROGERS and I worked together to come up with a solution. Today's manager's amendment withdraws the Gitmo and the NSA Director provisions. I encourage all Members to vote in favor of the manager's amendment. If these provisions can be successfully eliminated, I will support this bill and look forward to seeing it become law. This bill will make great investments in space, cyber, and the warfighter.

Republicans and Democrats have worked together with our Senate counterparts to make this a good bipartisan bill. Intelligence is clearly the best defense against terrorism. This is even more important as we approach the 10-year anniversary of the September 11 attacks.

If this bill is signed into law, it will be the third time in 3 years that the Intelligence Committee passed an Intel authorization act. For the 5 years before that, we did not have an Intelligence bill.

With this bill, we are giving the intelligence community guidance and critical direction. We are doing our job. With the passage of the manager's amendment, I believe this is a good bipartisan bill that makes important decisions to protect our families and

communities. I urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON), the vice chair on the Democratic side of the Intelligence Committee.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 1892, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012, as amended by the manager's amendment.

As the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Human Intelligence, Analysis, and Counterintelligence, I am pleased that we were able to work together to bring a bipartisan Intelligence authorization bill to the floor today.

H.R. 1892 will support critical U.S. intelligence capabilities by strengthening funding for our intelligence collection programs, enhancing counterintelligence efforts, and improving upon critical training operations vital to the future of the intelligence community.

This legislation also includes two provisions that I authored. The first provision requires the Director of National Intelligence to compile a threat assessment of foreign drug traffickers that are increasingly turning to public lands in the United States to further their operations.

Last year alone, over 3 million marijuana plants were eradicated on 62 of our national forests. The effect of these illegal drugs' growth has been profound, leading to unacceptable levels of violence and the devastation of our environment and our natural resources. Our public lands have been taken away from us. This is wrong, and it must be stopped.

This threat assessment will examine the ability of law enforcement and the intelligence community to gather, process, and share critical intelligence information regarding the presence of foreign drug traffickers on our Federal public lands. This coordination between the intelligence community and local law enforcement is extremely important.

The second provision that I authored requires the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency to provide Congress with a full report on the events surrounding the May 2011 Osama bin Laden raid. This record, once complete, will provide an official account of a critical point in our country's history.

We are all proud of the intelligence community's extraordinary effort in carrying out the bin Laden operation. I believe it is necessary that we never forget what actually happened in the raid and to be able to recognize the amazing contribution of the intelligence community and this important success.

The historical significance of this mission cannot be understated. That's why we must make a determined effort to document and preserve all that went into this operation so that in the future the history books will be accurate and complete. I would like to just take a moment to thank my friend, a former committee colleague of ours, Representative ESHOO, for her work on this important part of the bill.

Madam Chair, our intelligence community must be prepared for any and all threats. While Osama bin Laden may no longer pose a direct threat to our country's safety and security, the remaining elements of al Qaeda and other emerging terrorist organizations are more determined than ever. It is critical for Congress to pass an Intelligence authorization that furthers our national security, which I believe this bill, with a manager's amendment, will do.

This legislation is necessary, will enhance the capabilities of the intelligence community, specifically our counterterrorism efforts, and will make our Nation stronger.

I urge my colleagues to support the amended bill.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

Mr. KUCINICH. I thank my friend from Maryland.

Madam Chair, I rise in strong support of the dedicated public servants of our intelligence community. Their work to ensure national security is to be commended. However, I must oppose the Intelligence Authorization Act of 2012.

Ten years after 9/11, the United States continues to use its intelligence and defense apparatus in ways that undermine the rule of law at home and abroad.

□ 0930

There are plenty of examples, in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya. In a recent PBS Frontline feature, a top CIA official who was at the agency for over 34 years was quoted as saying, "The Obama administration changed virtually nothing with respect to existing CIA programs and operations."

Last month the Associated Press reported that the New York Police Department was using domestic surveillance methods, in conjunction with the Central Intelligence Agency, to spy on local communities in a way that significantly undermined civil liberties. The United States continues to use drones for targeted assassination under the color of international law.

Earlier this year we rubberstamped three provisions of the Patriot Act that allowed the government to conduct surveillance and demand records from innocent Americans with impunity, even for activities associated

with First and Fourth Amendment rights.

Yesterday, it was reported in *The New York Times* and other publications that Russian heat-seeking missiles “that could be used to shoot down civilian airliners have gone missing from warehouses in Libya.” Now, think about this. Who has control over Libya right now? The CIA, everyone knows this, the CIA was involved in the overthrow of the government of Qadhafi.

Now, whether you agree with the overthrow or not is not the point here. Didn't we know about these weapons warehouses ahead of time?

There was one news report that said there might be as many as 20,000 surface-to-air missiles that could be in jeopardy of being lost, missing, gone to the black market in who knows whose hands, and it's the rebels that are running there now.

And I'm also concerned about that because of the stories about al Qaeda's connection to the rebels from the beginning of the insurrection. Despite the drones, intelligence personnel we have on the ground, and nearly a billion dollars we've already spent in the war on Libya, no one seems to know who took the missiles or who has them. How is this allowed to happen? And who needs to be held accountable?

This is a debate we should be having exactly today over this legislation. What happened to the missiles?

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I have a lot of respect for the gentleman from Ohio. I think on this, unfortunately, his facts were just not correct. It's interesting in the business of intelligence because so much of it is classified that the rhetoric is easy to throw around and the condemnation is easy to heap on the very brave men and women who are following the law that we give them overseas. And I think that's one of the reasons that this administration came to power and said, all of the kinds of things and all the rhetoric around the political campaign just wasn't true. They found that they were following the law. They were comporting with the missions and guidelines and objectives in accordance with the law of the United States. So they are, in fact following the law.

There was no, absolutely no role for the CIA to overthrow the Qadhafi regime. That is just false. So I think we need to be careful about making these assertions that are pretty damning, if you will, that are completely inaccurate. We may believe that happened. I can tell you, on the Intelligence Committee, and my friend, DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER, we watch this closely.

One of the reasons I hope he will change his mind on the bill, Madam Chair, is that we need the ability to have oversight of these 17 agencies. This bill allows us to do it. By having

no bill for 6 years, no authorization bill of any meaning was passed in this House. That's when problems start.

This gets us back to regular order. It gets us back into the business of conducting proper oversight and setting the guidelines in the classified annex, which I would urge the gentleman to come down and review in the House Intelligence Committee, which every Member has the privilege and, I argue, responsibility to do that if that's what they desire to do. It lays out very clear guidelines on spending and objectives and policies.

So I would argue that the gentleman's position is misstated. I understand his frustration. But, again, this gets us back to regular order, and I praise the administration for continuing the programs that we know were put in place under the last administration that are keeping Americans safer today.

With that, Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

Mr. KUCINICH. I honor the chairman's service, and I know of his dedication to our country.

What I'm pointing out is that I think it's time we have the discussion about the role that the CIA had in Libya, which was really no secret, and the fact that these missiles that really we should have known ahead of time where they were, that that should have been the first place we want to guard. All of a sudden we have surface-to-air missiles that can't be accounted for. I think the CIA has to take responsibility for that.

I want to thank the gentleman, though, for the way in which he's conducted the points that he's made.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again, I thank the gentleman for his comments. I too have concerns about weapons systems in Libya. But one of the problems was you can't be against the intelligence services being places to collect information, and then wonder why they're not in a place to get the information that we might need. And that's part of the problem here.

There was no CIA involvement in the regime change, none. That did not happen. I don't know where that got started. That is inaccurate information, and I would be careful about throwing out that the agency was involved in some regime changes. They were not.

We have pressed the agency and the administration to be more aggressive on accounting for and rendering safe weapons systems that are scattered all around Libya. We saw this in Iraq. When the regime uses these weapons caches, not to protect the citizens of its own state but to protect its regime, it becomes much more difficult to get

a handle on it. We ought to be celebrating the agency's work in trying to determine where these systems are and how we render them safe and account for them, and one way we can do that is passing this bill that gives them the resources to do exactly that.

I would hope the gentleman would have a change of heart.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. I just want to confirm, Mr. KUCINICH, I do respect your comments and your point of view, but our role on the Intelligence Committee is oversight. When we can pass bills, we work and oversee all these agencies. And if we find out where there are allegations of a concern, let me know, and we will try to do what we can do to get information. But I know of no situation that we have not been told in the last couple of years, when Mr. ROGERS and I have been working together.

I think it's important for the United States of America to remember this. In my opinion, the best defense against terrorism is intelligence, but it's got to be done the right way and protect civil liberties.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. I respect the gentleman from Ohio's position as well and hope that we can work out those differences as we move forward.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY. I thank the ranking member for his leadership in so many ways before this Congress, and Chairman ROGERS for his lifetime commitment to protecting Americans even as a former FBI agent.

I want to underscore what the ranking member said. The best defense against terrorism is intelligence, and we need to support this bill in every single way. We were reminded of the need for intelligence yesterday when Mayor Bloomberg announced there was a credible threat against New York and Washington. And where did this information come from? It came from the intelligence community.

After 9/11, the 9/11 Commission report said the biggest failure in preventing 9/11 was a failure in our intelligence system. This Congress came together, and I was proud to have worked with and helped author a bill that was the first major reorganization and the most fundamental since 1948, where it brought all 17 agencies together under Homeland Security and one director to gather information to make us safer.

This bill very critically supports the task forces, the joint terrorism task forces that are sharing information and protecting our citizens, and this bill

approaches and focuses on cyber attacks, which are one of the most serious attacks that we have in our country now on the Pentagon and on financial institutions. Foreign countries are hacking into our information systems. This bill addresses that and focuses resources and oversight in that area.

I congratulate this bipartisan effort. I consider it one of the most important bills that we have an opportunity to vote on, and I support it completely.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Chair, I yield 3 minutes to my good friend from Rhode Island, JIM LANGEVIN.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Let me just say how proud I am to support the FY 2012 Intelligence Authorization Act. I appreciate the leadership of both Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member RUPPERSBERGER in crafting this bill. This has truly been a bipartisan effort of which I have been proud to be a part.

I am pleased that this bill includes funding to accelerate implementation of an insider threat detection program, and that's both on the cyber front but also in cases like the Hasan case that was tragically in the news and that occurred not long ago and cost many lives.

This bill basically requires best practices implemented within the Army to be reviewed for inclusion across the intelligence community. That's referring to their insider threat detection program.

In addition, the bill supports critical resources needed for cybersecurity, the broader cybersecurity threat, a threat which demands the attention of our national security specialists and the entire country.

As the successful operation against Osama bin Laden showed us earlier this year, the intelligence community has made significant strides toward working together to counter the most complex threats facing our Nation. This productive cooperation and integration embodies the intent of Congressional intelligence reforms made after the tragic events of 9/11, and I'm encouraged to see this progress in the area of information-sharing.

□ 0940

Yet while the sharing of classified information is imperative to keep our country safe, unrestrained and unregulated access can put our country at great risk. As we have seen from both the damage of WikiLeaks and historical espionage cases, the threat from a malicious insider with the keys to the kingdom is very real. We are far beyond the risk of paper documents being copied and carried out. Today the question is how much information can a potential leaker or spy fit on to a USB drive or a CD.

Although technological advances have strengthened the efforts of our in-

telligence community, they have also increased the risk.

Now, with this serious concern in mind, I'm proud that this bill requires the DNI to review improvements made by the Army's insider threat regulations and consider implementation of these practices across the entire intelligence community.

In addition, the bill accelerates other technical initiatives within the insider threat program. I believe it's imperative that we ensure that our security officers and network administrators have the capabilities in place to protect our most sensitive information.

Now, in view of the enormous resources spent on security clearances, protecting classified information, and securing networks across the globe, it also makes fiscal sense to protect our investment by taking advantage of the auditing software already available today. The access to classified information bears with it significant responsibilities, one that I know that I and my colleagues on the committee take very seriously.

The other serious threats which this bill addresses are the risks posed to our broader cyber networks. Now, I'm proud that it strengthens resources and it furthers the administration's efforts to address the threats of our critical infrastructure. I know that that is something that is also shared by my colleague, Congressman RUPPERSBERGER.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. LANGEVIN. While I applaud the administration's work, I think that we need to go further to raise awareness and work with both public and private sector partners to meet this threat. We cannot afford to continue operating with the massive digital vulnerabilities to not just our sensitive information but also our important intellectual property that makes up the foundation of our innovative economy. Addressing these threats must become a national priority, and we must work quickly to grow our current and future cyber workforce to fill the rising demand for cybersecurity information assurance.

This bill helps secure our sensitive information and vital networks beyond our borders and on the inside because of these important provisions, along with the other merits cited by my colleagues today.

I thank again Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member RUPPERSBERGER for the outstanding bipartisan cooperation we've seen in their leadership and also the other members of the committee. It's a committee that I'm proud to serve on. I thank them and the committee for their work.

I urge Members to support this bill.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. I yield myself the balance of my time.

It took a long time for us to get here today: days of important hearings, analyzing the intelligence community, hours of critical meetings, making important decisions of what to include and not to include in the bill and lots of time pulling it together.

Republicans and Democrats came together to make important choices to do what's right for the intelligence community and for our country. I commend everyone who participated in this effort, especially the bipartisan leadership of Chairman ROGERS and other members of the Intelligence Committee.

I would like to thank both Democrat and Republican staff for the countless hours they spent helping us make this happen. With the passage of the manager's amendment, I fully support this bill and urge my colleagues to do the same. The stakes are too high not to.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland, who is not only a colleague but a friend, in working so diligently over the course of the summer and really at the beginning of this year to reestablish the Intelligence Committee as a force for oversight over the 17 agencies. It is a tremendous amount of money, and it is a tremendous amount of responsibility because most of what we do happens behind closed doors and is classified.

I think working together we have come to one of the best products certainly I have seen since on the committee of the most thorough review from line by line by line of both the National Intelligence Program spending as well as the Military Intelligence Program spending, and we've had very good cooperation because we've cooperated together from the agencies themselves.

There really was a unity of effort here that I think Americans can and should be proud of in an effort to make sure that our men and women who are risking their lives today to protect the United States of America have the resources they need and the commitment on behalf of this Congress and the American people to be successful in their particular mission.

I want to thank the staffs on both committees. For the first time we had joint briefings with both Republican and Democrat staff on the very difficult budget issues that worked sometimes through the process of the Intelligence authorization bill. They briefed at the same table at the same time, which sounds a little—something that should happen more often but it did not and we have reestablished that. We have reestablished the quarterly reviews on all of the programs so that we

have regular and consistent oversight on what happens in the intelligence community. That all wouldn't really have happened without the leadership of Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and his team and my team as well.

There are too many to name who spent countless hours on this particular bill, the leadership team here and all the folks on the Intelligence staff. Honorable mention to Brian Smith, our budget director, who gave a lot of his heart and soul to go through every line and find every penny for us. I know on Mr. RUPPERSBERGER's staff they have sat beside him the entire time to make that happen.

Without further ado, Madam Chair, we'll get to the amendments; but, again, I do think this is a product that reflects the best of what Congress can do when we work together, and the best of the most amazing people in our intelligence community and what they have to offer in the protection of the United States of America.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 1892, The 2012 Intelligence Authorization Act and to congratulate Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member RUPPERSBERGER for their close collaboration on the bill and for their willingness to work together to shape a bi-partisan measure. This legislation demonstrates the Intelligence Committee's continued commitment to honoring the sacrifices and dedication of the public servants who comprise the Nation's intelligence community.

Sunday marks the 10th anniversary of the attacks of September 11th, 2001. Today this body will consider two pieces of legislation directly relevant to that event. H. Res. 391, which expresses the sense of the House regarding the anniversary of the attacks and H.R. 1892.

H.R. 1892, the FY12 Intelligence Authorization Act, authorizes about \$80 billion in funding for the 17 agencies that oversee and conduct the nation's intelligence and intelligence-related activities including the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the CIA, and the National Security Agency, as well as intelligence activities of the Defense Department, FBI, State Department, Homeland Security Department, and other agencies. The Intelligence Committee has written the bill with enhanced oversight and accountability features to better protect the American taxpayer's investment in national security and to prevent the wasting of resources. In that regard, the bill cuts one billion dollars from the intelligence budget without sacrificing the Nation's security by merging services and finding other savings. The bill is fiscally responsible and preserves national security. I support both H. Res. 391 and H.R. 1892 and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

The intelligence apparatus of the country has evolved and improved since the tragic events of September 11th and now collaborates on data collection and analysis in a way that it did not ten years ago. The culture of our intelligence community now has a more open

and inclusive attitude across all platforms from the highest levels of government down to the agent in the field.

The fruits of that successful collaboration were on bold display on May 1, 2011 when a commando team of Navy Seals brought Osama bin Laden to justice during their secret raid on his compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. Due to the concerted efforts, dedication and hard work of our Nation's clandestine services and the people who support them, the U.S. is safer now than it was in the days leading up to the attacks of September 11th.

We meet today in advance of Sunday's anniversary to honor and remember the heroes and victims of 9/11. We also gather to express once again our gratitude to the focused, determined and persistent efforts of the men and women who comprise this Nation's intelligence community for all that they do.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Chair, today I voted against H.R. 1892. Despite of the progress we've made in reforming our intelligence community in size, scope and accountability, today's authorization does not go nearly far enough.

On the eve of the 10th anniversary of 9/11, there is still nothing more important than the security of our people. Unfortunate, there is a clear lack of progress in getting a handle on the sprawling intelligence bureaucracy.

There are 856,000 people with top-secret security clearances in the United States. That's nearly the population of the entire state of Delaware and more than the entire population of San Francisco. In over 10,000 locations scattered across the U.S., there are around 1,200 government organizations and 1,900 private companies that focus on intelligence gathering and on homeland security.

In the wake of 9/11, we opened the funding floodgates to our intelligence community. It has now grown so large and so secretive that we have no idea how much it costs or how many people it employs, let alone understand how much of this work is duplicative. While improvements have been made, Congress needs to not just take a closer look, but reverse this dangerous trend.

With the inability for anyone to really know exactly what's going on, the surge of information isn't always a source of protection, but a potential vulnerability. We can have too much information to use effectively. After all, parts of the bureaucracy were well aware of the threat from Osama bin Laden immediately prior to 9/11.

The problem is not intelligence gathering, which is essential to the security of America. The killing of Osama bin Laden would not have been possible without such efforts. It's simply that since 9/11, the intelligence community has grown so fast, and so secretly, that oversight hasn't kept up.

At a time when we are cutting to the bone essential government services, this is a huge area that is ripe for budget scrutiny and, very likely, budget reduction. This bill has good features, but avoids getting this vast intelligence network under control. That is why I voted against H.R. 1892.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chair, I rise in reluctant support of this bill.

This bill is, by the conventional standards of the House, an appropriate vehicle for meeting

many of the routine needs of the Intelligence Community. However, it completely fails to undertake the kind of probing, large-scale reassessment of the structure, mission, and purpose of our intelligence enterprise in a post-bin Laden era. I regret that Congress has not shown the stomach for the kind of thorough, comprehensive, and brave review of intelligence activities that was undertaken by the Church Committee in the 1970's. Given the events of the last decade, such a review is both long overdue and very badly needed. Despite my strong reservations about what this bill does not but should do, I will support this bill.

□ 0950

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of the Rules Committee print, dated August 31, 2011. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 1892

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the "Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012".

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; Table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

Sec. 101. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 102. Classified Schedule of Authorizations.

Sec. 103. Personnel ceiling adjustments.

Sec. 104. Intelligence Community Management Account.

TITLE II—CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY SYSTEM

Sec. 201. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. Increase in employee compensation and benefits authorized by law.

Sec. 302. Restriction on conduct of intelligence activities.

Sec. 303. Annual report on hiring of National Security Education Program participants.

Sec. 304. Enhancement of authority for flexible personnel management among the elements of the intelligence community.

Sec. 305. Preparation of nuclear proliferation assessment statements.

Sec. 306. Cost estimates.

Sec. 307. Detainees held at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Sec. 308. Updates of intelligence relating to terrorist recidivism of detainees held at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Sec. 309. Submission of information on Guantánamo Bay detainee transfers.

Sec. 310. Enhanced procurement authority to manage supply chain risk.

Sec. 311. Modification of certain reporting requirements.

TITLE IV—MATTERS RELATING TO ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

Subtitle A—Office of the Director of National Intelligence

Sec. 401. Report and strategic plan on drug trafficking organizations and impact on public lands.

Sec. 402. Application of certain financial reporting requirements to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

Sec. 403. Public availability of information regarding the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community.

Sec. 404. Clarification of status of Chief Information Officer in the Executive Schedule.

Subtitle B—Central Intelligence Agency

Sec. 411. Burial allowance.

Sec. 412. Acceptance of gifts.

Sec. 413. Foreign language proficiency requirements for Central Intelligence Agency officers.

Sec. 414. Public availability of information regarding the Inspector General of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Sec. 415. Creating an official record of the Osama bin Laden operation.

Sec. 416. Recruitment of personnel in the Office of the Inspector General.

Subtitle C—National Security Agency

Sec. 421. Confirmation of appointment of the Director of the National Security Agency.

Sec. 422. Additional authorities for National Security Agency security personnel.

Subtitle D—Other Elements

Sec. 431. Codification of Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security as element of the intelligence community.

Sec. 432. Federal Bureau of Investigation participation in the Department of Justice leave bank.

Sec. 433. Accounts and transfer authority for appropriations and other amounts for intelligence elements of the Department of Defense.

Sec. 434. Report on training standards of defense intelligence workforce.

TITLE V—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 501. Report on airspace restrictions for use of unmanned aerial vehicles along the border of the United States and Mexico.

Sec. 502. Technical amendments to the National Security Act of 1947.

Sec. 503. Technical amendments to title 18, United States Code.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES.—The term “congressional intelligence committees” means—

(A) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(B) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term “intelligence community” has the meaning given that term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 401a(4)).

TITLE I—INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2012 for the conduct of

the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the following elements of the United States Government:

(1) The Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

(2) The Central Intelligence Agency.

(3) The Department of Defense.

(4) The Defense Intelligence Agency.

(5) The National Security Agency.

(6) The Department of the Army, the Department of the Navy, and the Department of the Air Force.

(7) The Coast Guard.

(8) The Department of State.

(9) The Department of the Treasury.

(10) The Department of Energy.

(11) The Department of Justice.

(12) The Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(13) The Drug Enforcement Administration.

(14) The National Reconnaissance Office.

(15) The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

(16) The Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 102. CLASSIFIED SCHEDULE OF AUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) SPECIFICATIONS OF AMOUNTS AND PERSONNEL LEVELS.—The amounts authorized to be appropriated under section 101 and, subject to section 104, the authorized personnel ceilings as of September 30, 2012, for the conduct of the intelligence activities of the elements listed in paragraphs (1) through (16) of section 101, are those specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations prepared to accompany the bill H.R. 1892 of the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF CLASSIFIED SCHEDULE OF AUTHORIZATIONS.—

(1) AVAILABILITY TO COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in subsection (a) shall be made available to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and to the President.

(2) DISTRIBUTION BY THE PRESIDENT.—Subject to paragraph (3), the President shall provide for suitable distribution of the classified Schedule of Authorizations, or of appropriate portions of the Schedule, within the executive branch.

(3) LIMITS ON DISCLOSURE.—In carrying out paragraph (2), the President may disclose only that budget-related information necessary to execute the classified Schedule of Authorizations and shall not disclose the Schedule or any portion of the Schedule publicly.

(c) USE OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN ACTIVITIES IN THE CLASSIFIED ANNEX.—In addition to any other purpose authorized by law, the Federal Bureau of Investigation may expend funds authorized in this Act as specified in the Federal Bureau of Investigation Policy Implementation section of the classified annex accompanying this Act.

SEC. 103. PERSONNEL CEILING ADJUSTMENTS.

(a) AUTHORITY FOR INCREASES.—The Director of National Intelligence may authorize the employment of civilian personnel in excess of the number of full-time equivalent positions for fiscal year 2012 authorized by the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a) if the Director of National Intelligence determines that such action is necessary for the performance of important intelligence functions, except that the number of personnel employed in excess of the number authorized under such section may not, for any element of the intelligence community, exceed 3 percent of the number of civilian personnel authorized under such section for such element.

(b) AUTHORITY FOR CONVERSION OF ACTIVITIES PERFORMED BY CONTRACT PERSONNEL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the authority in subsection (a) and subject to paragraph (2), if the head of an element of the intelligence

community makes a determination that activities currently being performed by contract personnel should be performed by employees of such element, the Director of National Intelligence, in order to reduce a comparable number of contract personnel, may authorize for that purpose employment of additional full-time equivalent personnel in such element equal to the number of full-time equivalent contract personnel performing such activities.

(2) CONCURRENCE AND APPROVAL.—The authority described in paragraph (1) may not be exercised unless the Director of National Intelligence concurs with the determination described in such paragraph.

(c) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PERSONNEL.—The Director of National Intelligence shall establish guidelines that govern, for each element of the intelligence community, the treatment under the personnel levels authorized under section 102(a), including any exemption from such personnel levels, of employment or assignment—

(1) in a student program, trainee program, or similar program;

(2) in a reserve corps or as a reemployed annuitant; or

(3) in details, joint duty, or long-term, full-time training.

(d) NOTICE TO CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES.—The Director of National Intelligence shall notify the congressional intelligence committees in writing at least 15 days prior to the initial exercise of an authority described in subsection (a) or (b).

SEC. 104. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for the Intelligence Community Management Account of the Director of National Intelligence for fiscal year 2012 the sum of \$576,393,000. Within such amount, funds identified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a) for advanced research and development shall remain available until September 30, 2013.

(b) AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL LEVELS.—The elements within the Intelligence Community Management Account of the Director of National Intelligence are authorized 777 full-time or full-time equivalent personnel as of September 30, 2012. Personnel serving in such elements may be permanent employees of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence or personnel detailed from other elements of the United States Government.

(c) CLASSIFIED AUTHORIZATIONS.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Intelligence Community Management Account by subsection (a), there are authorized to be appropriated for the Community Management Account for fiscal year 2012 such additional amounts as are specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a). Such additional amounts for advanced research and development shall remain available until September 30, 2013.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF PERSONNEL.—In addition to the personnel authorized by subsection (b) for elements of the Intelligence Community Management Account as of September 30, 2012, there are authorized such additional personnel for the Community Management Account as of that date as are specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a).

TITLE II—CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY SYSTEM

SEC. 201. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated for the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability Fund for fiscal year 2012 the sum of \$514,000,000.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS**SEC. 301. INCREASE IN EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.**

Appropriations authorized by this Act for salary, pay, retirement, and other benefits for Federal employees may be increased by such additional or supplemental amounts as may be necessary for increases in such compensation or benefits authorized by law.

SEC. 302. RESTRICTION ON CONDUCT OF INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.

The authorization of appropriations by this Act shall not be deemed to constitute authority for the conduct of any intelligence activity which is not otherwise authorized by the Constitution or the laws of the United States.

SEC. 303. ANNUAL REPORT ON HIRING OF NATIONAL SECURITY EDUCATION PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS.

Not later than 90 days after the end of each of fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2014, the head of each element of the intelligence community shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report, which may be in classified form, containing the number of personnel hired by such element during such fiscal year that were at any time a recipient of a grant or scholarship under the David L. Boren National Security Education Act of 1991 (50 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.).

SEC. 304. ENHANCEMENT OF AUTHORITY FOR FLEXIBLE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT AMONG THE ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

Section 102A of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 403-1) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(v) **AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH POSITIONS IN EXCEPTED SERVICE.**—(1) The Director of National Intelligence, with the concurrence of the head of the covered department concerned and in consultation with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, may—

“(A) convert competitive service positions, and the incumbents of such positions, within an element of the intelligence community in such department, to excepted service positions as the Director of National Intelligence determines necessary to carry out the intelligence functions of such element; and

“(B) establish new positions in the excepted service within an element of the intelligence community in such department, if the Director of National Intelligence determines such positions are necessary to carry out the intelligence functions of such element.

“(2) An incumbent occupying a position on the date of the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 selected to be converted to the excepted service under this section shall have the right to refuse such conversion. Once such individual no longer occupies the position, the position may be converted to the excepted service.

“(3) In this subsection, the term ‘covered department’ means the Department of Energy, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of State, or the Department of the Treasury.”.

SEC. 305. PREPARATION OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS.

Section 102A of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 403-1), as amended by section 304 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(w) **NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ADDENDUM.**—The Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the heads of the appropriate elements of the intelligence community and the Secretary of State, shall provide to the President, the congressional intelligence committees, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House

of Representatives, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate an addendum to each Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement accompanying a civilian nuclear cooperation agreement, containing a comprehensive analysis of the country’s export control system with respect to nuclear-related matters, including interactions with other countries of proliferation concern and the actual or suspected nuclear, dual-use, or missile-related transfers to such countries.”.

SEC. 306. COST ESTIMATES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 506A of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 415a-1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) by inserting “(A)” after “(2)”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(B) For major system acquisitions requiring a service or capability from another acquisition or program to deliver the end-to-end functionality for the intelligence community end users, independent cost estimates shall include, to the maximum extent practicable, all estimated costs across all pertinent elements of the intelligence community. For collection programs, such cost estimates shall include the cost of new analyst training, new hardware and software for data exploitation and analysis, and any unique or additional costs for data processing, storing, and power, space, and cooling across the life cycle of the program. If such costs for processing, exploitation, dissemination, and storage are scheduled to be executed in other elements of the intelligence community, the independent cost estimate shall identify and annotate such costs for such other elements accordingly.”; and

(2) in subsection (e)(2)—

(A) by inserting “(A)” after “(2)”;.

(B) in subparagraph (A), as so designated, by striking “associated with the acquisition of a major system,” and inserting “associated with the development, acquisition, procurement, operation, and sustainment of a major system across its proposed life cycle.”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) In accordance with subsection (a)(2)(B), each independent cost estimate shall include all costs required across elements of the intelligence community to develop, acquire, procure, operate, and sustain the system to provide the end-to-end intelligence functionality of the system, including—

“(i) for collection programs, the cost of new analyst training, new hardware and software for data exploitation and analysis, and any unique or additional costs for data processing, storing, and power, space, and cooling across the life cycle of the program; and

“(ii) costs for processing, exploitation, dissemination, and storage costs are scheduled to be executed in other elements of the intelligence community, such element shall identify and annotate such costs accordingly.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 307. DETAINEES HELD AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA.

(a) **DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010.**—Subsection (e) of section 552 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2010 (Public Law 111-83; 123 Stat. 2178) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “15 days” and inserting “30 days”;.

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking “such agreement.” and inserting “such agreement and any monitoring assurances provided by such government.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) The agency or department of the United States responsible for ensuring that the agreement described in paragraph (3) is carried out.”.

(b) **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010.**—Subsection (e) of section 428 of the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (division A of Public Law 111-88; 123 Stat. 2963) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “15 days” and inserting “30 days”;.

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking “such agreement.” and inserting “such agreement and any monitoring assurances provided by such government.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) The agency or department of the United States responsible for ensuring that the agreement described in paragraph (3) is carried out.”.

(c) **SAVINGS CLAUSE.**—None of the amendments made by this section shall supersede or otherwise affect the implementation of the following provisions of law:

(1) Section 1033 of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111-383; 124 Stat. 4351).

(2) Section 1113 of the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (Public Law 112-10; 125 Stat. 104).

SEC. 308. UPDATES OF INTELLIGENCE RELATING TO TERRORIST RECIDIVISM OF DETAINEES HELD AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA.

(a) **UPDATES AND CONSOLIDATION OF LANGUAGE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 413 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 506H the following new section:

“**SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE RELATING TO TERRORIST RECIDIVISM OF DETAINEES HELD AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA**

“**SEC. 506I.** (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, shall make publicly available an unclassified summary of—

“(1) intelligence relating to recidivism of detainees currently or formerly held at the Naval Detention Facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by the Department of Defense; and

“(2) an assessment of the likelihood that such detainees will engage in terrorism or communicate with persons in terrorist organizations.

“(b) **UPDATES.**—Not less frequently than once every 6 months, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Secretary of Defense, shall update and make publicly available an unclassified summary consisting of the information required by subsection (a) and the number of individuals formerly detained at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, who are confirmed or suspected of returning to terrorist activities after release or transfer from such Naval Station.”.

(2) **INITIAL UPDATE.**—The initial update required by section 506I(b) of such Act, as added by paragraph (1) of this subsection, shall be made publicly available not later than 10 days after the date the first report following the date of the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 is submitted to members and committees of Congress pursuant to section 319 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111-32; 10 U.S.C. 801 note).

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 506H the following new item:

“Sec. 506I. Summary of intelligence relating to terrorist recidivism of detainees held at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.”.

SEC. 309. SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION ON GUANTANAMO BAY DETAINEE TRANSFERS.

(a) **REQUIREMENT FOR SUBMISSION.**—Not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees and the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate information concerning the transfer or potential transfer of individuals who are or have been detained by the United States at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

(b) **INFORMATION REQUIRED.**—The information required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the sufficiency of the monitoring undertaken by each foreign country to which an individual referred to in subsection (a) has been transferred.

(2) Any written or verbal agreement between the Secretary of State and the government of a foreign country that describes monitoring and security assurances related to such an individual.

(3) Each Department of State cable, memorandum, or report relating to or describing the threat such an individual may or may not pose.

SEC. 310. ENHANCED PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY TO MANAGE SUPPLY CHAIN RISK.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **COVERED AGENCY.**—The term “covered agency” means any element of the intelligence community other than an element within the Department of Defense.

(2) **COVERED ITEM OF SUPPLY.**—The term “covered item of supply” means an item of information technology (as that term is defined in section 11101 of title 40, United States Code) that is purchased for inclusion in a covered system, and the loss of integrity of which could result in a supply chain risk for a covered system.

(3) **COVERED PROCUREMENT.**—The term “covered procurement” means—

(A) a source selection for a covered system or a covered item of supply; or

(B) any contract action involving a contract for a covered system or a covered item of supply where such contract includes a clause establishing requirements relating to supply chain risk.

(4) **COVERED PROCUREMENT ACTION.**—The term “covered procurement action” means any of the following actions, if the action takes place in the course of conducting a covered procurement:

(A) The exclusion of a source for the purpose of reducing supply chain risk in the acquisition of covered systems.

(B) The exclusion of a source that fails to achieve an acceptable rating with regard to an evaluation factor providing for the consideration of supply chain risk in the evaluation of proposals for the award of a contract or the issuance of a task or delivery order.

(C) The decision to withhold consent for a contractor to subcontract with a particular source or to direct a contractor for a covered system to exclude a particular source from consideration for a subcontract under the contract.

(5) **COVERED SYSTEM.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “covered system” means any information system (including any telecommunications system) used or operated by an agency or by a contractor of an agency, or other organization on behalf of an agency—

(i) the function, operation, or use of which—

(I) involves intelligence activities;

(II) involves cryptologic activities related to national security;

(III) involves command and control of military forces;

(IV) involves equipment that is an integral part of a weapon or weapons system; or

(V) subject to subparagraph (B), is critical to the direct fulfillment of military or intelligence missions; or

(ii) is protected at all times by procedures established for information that have been specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order or an Act of Congress to be kept classified in the interest of national defense or foreign policy.

(B) **EXCEPTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUSINESS APPLICATIONS.**—Subparagraph (A)(i)(V) does not include a system that is to be used for routine administrative and business applications (including payroll, finance, logistics, and personnel management applications).

(6) **SUPPLY CHAIN RISK.**—The term “supply chain risk” means the risk that an adversary may sabotage, maliciously introduce unwanted function, or otherwise subvert the design, integrity, manufacturing, production, distribution, installation, operation, or maintenance of a covered system so as to surveil, deny, disrupt, or otherwise degrade the function, use, or operation of such system.

(b) **AUTHORITY.**—Subject to subsection (c), the head of a covered agency may, in conducting intelligence and intelligence-related activities—

(1) carry out a covered procurement action; and

(2) limit, notwithstanding any other provision of law, in whole or in part, the disclosure of information relating to the basis for carrying out a covered procurement action.

(c) **DETERMINATION AND NOTIFICATION.**—The head of a covered agency may exercise the authority provided in subsection (b) only after—

(1) any appropriate consultation with procurement or other relevant officials of the covered agency;

(2) making a determination in writing, which may be in classified form, that—

(A) use of the authority in subsection (b)(1) is necessary to protect national security by reducing supply chain risk;

(B) less intrusive measures are not reasonably available to reduce such supply chain risk; and

(C) in a case where the head of the covered agency plans to limit disclosure of information under subsection (b)(2), the risk to national security due to the disclosure of such information outweighs the risk due to not disclosing such information;

(3) notifying the Director of National Intelligence that there is a significant supply chain risk to the covered system concerned, unless the head of the covered agency making the determination is the Director of National Intelligence; and

(4) providing a notice, which may be in classified form, of the determination made under paragraph (2) to the congressional intelligence committees that includes a summary of the basis for the determination, including a discussion of less intrusive measures that were considered and why they were not reasonably available to reduce supply chain risk.

(d) **SAVINGS.**—The authority under this section is in addition to any other authority under any other provision of law. The authority under this section shall not be construed to alter or effect the exercise of any other provision of law.

(e) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The requirements of this section shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply to contracts that are awarded on or after such date.

(f) **SUNSET.**—The authority provided in this section shall expire on the date that section 806 of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111–383; 10 U.S.C. 2304 note) expires.

SEC. 311. MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **INTELLIGENCE REFORM AND TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT OF 2004.**—Section 1041(b) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 403–1b(b)) is amended by striking paragraphs (3) and (4).

(b) **INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003.**—Section 904(d)(1) of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (50 U.S.C. 402c(d)(1)) is amended by striking “on an annual basis”.

(c) **INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1995.**—Section 809 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1995 (50 U.S.C. App. 2170b) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b); and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “reports referred to in subsections (a) and (b)” and inserting “report referred to in subsection (a)”.

(d) **REPORT ON TEMPORARY PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATIONS FOR CRITICAL LANGUAGE TRAINING.**—Paragraph (3)(D) of section 102A(e) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 403–1(e)), as amended by section 306 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–259; 124 Stat. 2661), is amended by striking “The” and inserting “For each of the fiscal years 2010, 2011, and 2012, the”.

TITLE IV—MATTERS RELATING TO ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

Subtitle A—Office of the Director of National Intelligence

SEC. 401. REPORT AND STRATEGIC PLAN ON DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS AND IMPACT ON PUBLIC LANDS.

(a) **REQUIREMENT FOR REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report on—

(1) the intelligence collection efforts of the United States that assess the threat from covered entities that are currently or have previously used public lands in the United States to further their operations; and

(2) efforts to protect public lands of the United States from illegal drug grows.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the intelligence collection efforts of the United States dedicated to covered entities.

(2) An assessment of any problems that may reduce the overall effectiveness of United States intelligence collection and analysis to identify and protect public lands from illegal drug grows and other activities and threats of covered entities, including—

(A) intelligence collection gaps or inefficiencies;

(B) information sharing practices in the intelligence community and other agencies, including Federal land management agencies; and

(C) cooperation among Federal departments or agencies.

(3) A strategic plan prepared by the Director of National Intelligence that describes actions the appropriate elements of the intelligence community can take to close intelligence gaps related to covered entities, and provide intelligence in support of efforts by Federal land management agencies to counter the use by covered entities of public lands for illegal purposes.

(4) A description of appropriate goals, schedules, milestones, or metrics to measure the long-term effectiveness of actions implemented to carry out the plan described in paragraph (4).

(c) **IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN.**—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Director of National Intelligence submits the report required by subsection (a), the Director shall begin implementation of the strategic plan described in subsection (b)(4).

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **COVERED ENTITY.**—The term “covered entity” means an international drug trafficking organization or other actor involved in drug trafficking generally.

(2) **FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY.**—The term “Federal land management agency” includes—

(A) the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture;

(B) the Bureau of Land Management of the Department of the Interior;

(C) the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior;

(D) the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior; and

(E) the Bureau of Reclamation of the Department of the Interior.

(3) **PUBLIC LANDS.**—The term “public lands” has the meaning given that term in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702).

SEC. 402. APPLICATION OF CERTAIN FINANCIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS TO THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

For each of the fiscal years 2010, 2011, and 2012, the requirements of section 3515 of title 31, United States Code, to submit an audited financial statement shall not apply to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence if the Director of National Intelligence determines and notifies Congress that audited financial statements for such years for such Office cannot be produced on a cost-effective basis.

SEC. 403. PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION REGARDING THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

Section 103H of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 403-3h) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(o) **INFORMATION ON WEBSITE.**—(1) The Director of National Intelligence shall establish and maintain on the homepage of the publicly accessible website of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence information relating to the Office of the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community including methods to contact the Inspector General.

“(2) The information referred to in paragraph (1) shall be obvious and facilitate accessibility to the information related to the Office of the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community.”.

SEC. 404. CLARIFICATION OF STATUS OF CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER IN THE EXECUTIVE SCHEDULE.

Section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to the Chief Information Officer, Small Business Administration the following new item:

“Chief Information Officer of the Intelligence Community.”.

Subtitle B—Central Intelligence Agency

SEC. 411. BURIAL ALLOWANCE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 11 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 403k) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by inserting “AND BURIAL ALLOWANCE” after “GRATUITIES”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c)(1) At the request of a representative of the estate of any officer or employee of the Agency (as determined in accordance with the laws of a State) who dies in a manner described in subsection (a)(1), the Director may pay to such estate a burial allowance.

“(2) A burial allowance paid under paragraph (1) may be used to cover burial expenses, including recovery, mortuary, funeral or memorial service, cremation, burial costs, and costs of transportation by common carrier to the place selected for final disposition of the deceased.

“(3) Each payment made under this subsection shall be—

“(A) in an amount not greater than \$15,000 plus the actual costs of transportation referred to in paragraph (2); and

“(B) in addition to any other benefit that may be due under any other provision of law.

“(4) The Director may annually increase the amount in paragraph (3)(A) to reflect any increase in the Consumer Price Index occurring during the preceding year.

“(5) The Director may pay the burial benefit authorized under this subsection more than once for funeral, memorial, or burial expenses stemming from a single death of an officer or employee of the Agency if the remains of such officer or employee were not recovered, were recovered after considerable delay, or were not recovered intact.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE OF AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ALLOWANCE.**—Section 11(c)(4) of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 412. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS.

Section 12 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 403l(a)) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting “(1)” after “(a)”; and

(B) by striking the second and third sentences and inserting the following:

“(2) Any gift accepted under this section (and any income produced by any such gift)—

“(A) may be used only for—

“(i) artistic display;

“(ii) purposes relating to the general welfare, education, or recreation of employees or dependents of employees of the Agency or for similar purposes; or

“(iii) purposes relating to the welfare, education, or recreation of an individual described in paragraph (3); and

“(B) under no circumstances may such a gift (or any income produced by any such gift) be used for operational purposes.

“(3) An individual described in this paragraph is an individual who—

“(A) is an employee or a former employee of the Agency who suffered injury or illness while employed by the Agency that—

“(i) resulted from hostile or terrorist activities;

“(ii) occurred in connection with an intelligence activity having a significant element of risk; or

“(iii) occurred under other circumstances determined by the Director to be analogous to the circumstances described in clause (i) or (ii);

“(B) is a family member of such an employee or former employee; or

“(C) is a surviving family member of an employee of the Agency who died in circumstances described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of subparagraph (A).

“(4) The Director may not accept any gift under this section that is expressly conditioned upon any expenditure not to be met from the gift itself or from income produced by the gift unless such expenditure has been authorized by law.

“(5) The Director may, in the Director’s discretion, determine that an individual described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (3) may accept a gift for the purposes described in paragraph (2)(A)(iii).”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) The Director, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Government Ethics, shall

issue regulations to carry out the authority provided in this section. Such regulations shall ensure that such authority is exercised consistent with all relevant ethical constraints and principles, including—

“(1) the avoidance of any prohibited conflict of interest or appearance of impropriety; and

“(2) a prohibition against the acceptance of a gift from a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government.”.

SEC. 413. FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICERS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 104A(g) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 403-4a(g)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by inserting “in the Directorate of Intelligence career service or the National Clandestine Service career service” after “an individual”; and

(ii) by inserting “or promoted” after “appointed”; and

(iii) by striking “individual—” and inserting “individual has been certified as having a professional speaking and reading proficiency in a foreign language, such proficiency being at least level 3 on the Interagency Language Roundtable Language Skills Level or commensurate proficiency level using such other indicator of proficiency as the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency considers appropriate.”;

(B) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B); and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “position or category of positions” both places that term appears and inserting “position, category of positions, or occupation”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Section 611(b) of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108-487; 50 U.S.C. 403-4a note) is amended—

(1) by inserting “or promotions” after “appointments”; and

(2) by striking “that is one year after the date”.

(c) **REPORT ON WAIVERS.**—Section 611(c) of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108-487; 118 Stat. 3955) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence—

(A) by striking “positions” and inserting “individual waivers”; and

(B) by striking “Directorate of Operations” and inserting “National Clandestine Service”; and

(2) in the second sentence, by striking “position or category of positions” and inserting “position, category of positions, or occupation”.

(d) **REPORT ON TRANSFERS.**—Not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and on an annual basis for each of the following 3 years, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report on the number of Senior Intelligence Service employees of the Agency who—

(1) were transferred during the reporting period to a Senior Intelligence Service position in the Directorate of Intelligence career service or the National Clandestine Service career service; and

(2) did not meet the foreign language requirements specified in section 104A(g)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 403-4a(g)(1)) at the time of such transfer.

SEC. 414. PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION REGARDING THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

Section 17 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 403q) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h) INFORMATION ON WEBSITE.—(1) The Director of the Central Intelligence Agency shall establish and maintain on the homepage of the Agency’s publicly accessible website information relating to the Office of the Inspector General including methods to contact the Inspector General.

“(2) The information referred to in paragraph (1) shall be obvious and facilitate accessibility to the information related to the Office of the Inspector General.”.

SEC. 415. CREATING AN OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE OSAMA BIN LADEN OPERATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) On May 1, 2011, United States personnel killed terrorist leader Osama bin Laden during the course of a targeted strike against his secret compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

(2) Osama bin Laden was the leader of the al Qaeda terrorist organization, the most significant terrorism threat to the United States and the international community.

(3) Osama bin Laden was the architect of terrorist attacks which killed nearly 3,000 civilians on September 11, 2001, the most deadly terrorist attack against our Nation, in which al Qaeda terrorists hijacked four airplanes and crashed them into the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and, due to heroic efforts by civilian passengers to disrupt the terrorists, near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

(4) Osama bin Laden planned or supported numerous other deadly terrorist attacks against the United States and its allies, including the 1998 bombings of United States embassies in Kenya and Tanzania and the 2000 attack on the U.S.S. Cole in Yemen, and against innocent civilians in countries around the world, including the 2004 attack on commuter trains in Madrid, Spain and the 2005 bombings of the mass transit system in London, England.

(5) Following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the United States, under President George W. Bush, led an international coalition into Afghanistan to dismantle al Qaeda, deny them a safe haven in Afghanistan and ungoverned areas along the Pakistani border, and bring Osama bin Laden to justice.

(6) President Barack Obama in 2009 committed additional forces and resources to efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan as “the central front in our enduring struggle against terrorism and extremism”.

(7) The valiant members of the United States Armed Forces have courageously and vigorously pursued al Qaeda and its affiliates in Afghanistan and around the world.

(8) The anonymous, unsung heroes of the intelligence community have pursued al Qaeda and affiliates in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and around the world with tremendous dedication, sacrifice, and professionalism.

(9) The close collaboration between the Armed Forces and the intelligence community prompted the Director of National Intelligence, General James Clapper, to state, “Never have I seen a more remarkable example of focused integration, seamless collaboration, and sheer professional magnificence as was demonstrated by the Intelligence Community in the ultimate demise of Osama bin Laden.”.

(10) While the death of Osama bin Laden represents a significant blow to the al Qaeda organization and its affiliates and to terrorist organizations around the world, terrorism remains a critical threat to United States national security.

(11) President Obama said, “For over two decades, bin Laden has been al Qaeda’s leader and symbol, and has continued to plot attacks against our country and our friends and allies. The death of bin Laden marks the most significant

achievement to date in our Nation’s effort to defeat al Qaeda.”.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the raid that killed Osama bin Laden demonstrated the best of the intelligence communities capabilities and teamwork;

(2) for years to come, Americans will look back at this event as a defining point in the history of the United States;

(3) it is vitally important that the United States memorialize all the events that led to the raid so that future generations will have an official record of the events that transpired before, during, and as a result of the operation; and

(4) preserving this history now will allow the United States to have an accurate account of the events while those that participated in the events are still serving in the Government.

(c) REPORT ON THE OPERATION THAT KILLED OSAMA BIN LADEN.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, in consultation with other agencies and entities involved in the operation that killed Osama bin Laden, shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a classified report that memorializes such operation including a description of the events leading up to the discovery of the location of Osama bin Laden, the planning and execution of the raid, and the results of the intelligence gained from the raid.

(d) PRESERVATION OF RECORDS.—The Director of the Central Intelligence Agency shall preserve any records, including intelligence information and assessments, used to generate the report described in subsection (c).

SEC. 416. RECRUITMENT OF PERSONNEL IN THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.

(a) STUDY.—The Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, in consultation with the Inspector General of the Central Intelligence Agency, shall carry out a study of the personnel issues of the Office of the Inspector General. Such study shall include—

(1) identification of any barriers or disincentives to the recruitment or retention of experienced investigators within the Office of the Inspector General; and

(2) a comparison of the personnel authorities of the Inspector General with personnel authorities of Inspectors General of other agencies and departments of the United States, including a comparison of the benefits available to experienced investigators within the Office of the Inspector General of the Central Intelligence Agency with similar benefits available within the offices of Inspectors General of such other agencies or departments.

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees—

(1) any recommendations of the Director for legislative action based on the results of the study conducted under subsection (a); and

(2) a description of any administrative actions taken by the Director based on such results.

Subtitle C—National Security Agency

SEC. 421. CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY.

(a) DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY.—Section 2 of the National Security Agency Act of 1959 (50 U.S.C. 402 note) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(b)” before “There”; and

(2) by inserting before subsection (b), as so designated by paragraph (1), the following new subsection

“(a)(1) There is a Director of the National Security Agency.

“(2) The Director of the National Security Agency shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

“(3) The Director of the National Security Agency shall be the head of the National Security Agency and shall discharge such functions and duties as are provided by this Act or otherwise by law.”.

(b) POSITIONS OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY.—The President may designate the Director of the National Security Agency as a position of importance and responsibility under section 601 of title 10, United States Code.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply upon the earlier of—

(A) the date of the nomination by the President of an individual to serve as the Director of the National Security Agency, except that the individual serving as such Director as of the date of the enactment of this Act may continue to perform such duties after such date of nomination and until the individual appointed as such Director, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, assumes the duties of such Director; or

(B) the date of the cessation of the performance of the duties of such Director by the individual performing such duties as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) POSITIONS OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY.—Subsection (b) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 422. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY SECURITY PERSONNEL.

(a) AUTHORITY TO TRANSPORT APPREHENDED PERSONS.—Paragraph (5) of section 11(a) of the National Security Agency Act of 1959 (50 U.S.C. 402 note) is amended to read as follows:

“(5) Agency personnel authorized by the Director under paragraph (1) may transport an individual apprehended under the authority of this section from the premises at which the individual was apprehended, as described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1), for the purpose of transferring such individual to the custody of law enforcement officials. Such transportation may be provided only to make a transfer of custody at a location within 30 miles of the premises described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1).”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO TORT LIABILITY.—Paragraph (1) of section 11(d) of the National Security Agency Act of 1959 (50 U.S.C. 402 note) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) transport an individual pursuant to subsection (a)(2).”.

Subtitle D—Other Elements

SEC. 431. CODIFICATION OF OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AS ELEMENT OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

Section 3(4)(K) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 401a(4)(K)) is amended to read as follows:

“(K) The Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security.”.

SEC. 432. FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION PARTICIPATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE LEAVE BANK.

Subsection (b) of section 6372 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(b)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) and notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, neither an excepted agency nor any individual employed in or under an excepted agency may be included in a leave bank program established under any of the preceding provisions of this subchapter.

“(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation may authorize an individual employed by the Bureau to participate in a leave bank program administered by the Department of Justice under this subchapter if in the Director’s judgment such participation will not adversely affect the protection of intelligence sources and methods.”.

SEC. 433. ACCOUNTS AND TRANSFER AUTHORITY FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND OTHER AMOUNTS FOR INTELLIGENCE ELEMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 21 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 428 the following new section:

“§ 429. Appropriations for Defense intelligence elements: accounts for transfers; transfer authority

“(a) **ACCOUNTS FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE ELEMENTS.**—The Secretary of Defense may transfer appropriations of the Department of Defense which are available for the activities of Defense intelligence elements to an account or accounts established for receipt of such transfers. Each such account may also receive transfers from the Director of National Intelligence if made pursuant to Section 102A of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 403-1), and transfers and reimbursements arising from transactions, as authorized by law, between a Defense intelligence element and another entity. Appropriation balances in each such account may be transferred back to the account or accounts from which such appropriations originated as appropriation refunds.

“(b) **RECORDATION OF TRANSFERS.**—Transfers made pursuant to subsection (a) shall be recorded as expenditure transfers.

“(c) **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—Funds transferred pursuant to subsection (a) shall remain available for the same time period and for the same purpose as the appropriation from which transferred, and shall remain subject to the same limitations provided in the act making the appropriation.

“(d) **OBLIGATION AND EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS.**—Unless otherwise specifically authorized by law, funds transferred pursuant to subsection (a) shall only be obligated and expended in accordance with chapter 15 of title 31 and all other applicable provisions of law.

“(e) **DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE ELEMENT DEFINED.**—In this section, the term ‘Defense intelligence element’ means any of the Department of Defense agencies, offices, and elements included within the definition of ‘intelligence community’ under section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 401a(4)).”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of subchapter I of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“429. Appropriations for Defense intelligence elements: accounts for transfers; transfer authority.”.

SEC. 434. REPORT ON TRAINING STANDARDS OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE WORKFORCE.

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence and the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence shall submit to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate a report on the training standards of the defense intelligence workforce. Such report shall include—

(1) a description of existing training, education, and professional development standards applied to personnel of defense intelligence components; and

(2) an assessment of the ability to implement a certification program for personnel of the defense intelligence components based on achievement of required training, education, and professional development standards.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE COMPONENTS.**—The term “defense intelligence components” means—

(A) the National Security Agency;

(B) the Defense Intelligence Agency;

(C) the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency;

(D) the National Reconnaissance Office;

(E) the intelligence elements of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, and the Marine Corps; and

(F) other offices within the Department of Defense for the collection of specialized national intelligence through reconnaissance programs.

(2) **DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE WORKFORCE.**—The term “defense intelligence workforce” means the personnel of the defense intelligence components.

TITLE V—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 501. REPORT ON AIRSPACE RESTRICTIONS FOR USE OF UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES ALONG THE BORDER OF THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on whether restrictions on the use of airspace are hampering the use of unmanned aerial vehicles by the Department of Homeland Security along the international border between the United States and Mexico.

SEC. 502. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 1947.

The National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 3(6) (50 U.S.C. 401a(6)), by striking “Director of Central Intelligence” and inserting “Director of National Intelligence”;

(2) in section 506(b) (50 U.S.C. 415a(b)), by striking “Director of Central Intelligence.” and inserting “Director of National Intelligence.”; and

(3) in section 506A(c)(2)(C) (50 U.S.C. 415a-1(c)(2)(C)), by striking “National Foreign Intelligence Program” both places that term appears and inserting “National Intelligence Program”.

SEC. 503. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 18, UNITED STATES CODE.

Section 351(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting “the Director (or a person nominated to be Director during the pendency of such nomination) or Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence,” after “in such department,”; and

(2) by striking “Central Intelligence,” and inserting “the Central Intelligence Agency.”.

The CHAIR. No amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text shall be in order except those printed in part B of House Report 112-200 and amendments en bloc described in section 2(f) of House Resolution 392. Each amendment printed in part B of the report may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in part B not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The original proponent of an amendment included in such amendments en bloc may insert a statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD immediately before disposition of the amendments en bloc.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF MICHIGAN

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 112-200.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 5, strike lines 9 through 14 and insert the following:

(3) **LIMITS ON DISCLOSURE.**—The President shall not publicly disclose the classified Schedule of Authorizations or any portion of such Schedule except—

(A) as provided in section 601(a) of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (50 U.S.C. 415c)

(B) to the extent necessary to implement the budget; or

(C) as otherwise required by law.

Page 5, line 17, insert “the Director of” before “the Federal Bureau of Investigation”.

Strike section 307 (page 15, line 1 through page 16, line 18).

Strike section 309 (page 18, line 17 through page 19, line 16).

Page 24, after line 15 insert the following:

(d) **DELEGATION.**—The head of a covered agency may not delegate the authority provided in subsection (b) or the responsibility to make a determination under subsection (c) to an official below the level of the service acquisition executive for the agency concerned.

At the end of subtitle A of title IV (page 30, after line 18), add the following new section:

SEC. 405. TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO FILL VACANCIES WITHIN OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Section 103 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 403-3) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection:

“(e) **TEMPORARY FILLING OF VACANCIES.**—With respect to filling temporarily a vacancy in an office within the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (other than that of the Director of National Intelligence), section 3345(a)(3) of title 5, United States Code, may be applied—

“(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by substituting ‘an element of the intelligence community, as that term is defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act

of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 401a(4)), for 'such Executive agency'; and

“(2) in subparagraph (A), by substituting ‘the intelligence community’ for ‘such agency’.”

Strike section 421 (page 43, line 14 through page 45, line 9).

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent to modify the manager's amendment to include a clarification at the request of the ranking member. The modification is at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the modification.

The Clerk read as follows:

Modification to amendment No. 1:

After the amendment to line 15 of page 24 of the bill, insert the following:

Strike section 401 (page 26, line 12 through page 29, line 6) and insert the following new section:

SEC. 401. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE TO COUNTER DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS USING PUBLIC LANDS.

(a) CONSULTATION.—The Director of National Intelligence shall consult with the heads of the Federal land management agencies on the appropriate actions the intelligence community can take to assist such agencies in responding to the threat from covered entities that are currently or have previously used public lands in the United States to further the operations of such entities.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report on the results of the consultation under subsection (a). Such report shall include—

(1) an assessment of the intelligence community collection efforts dedicated to covered entities, including any collection gaps or inefficiencies; and

(2) an assessment of the ability of the intelligence community to assist Federal land management agencies in identifying and protecting public lands from illegal drug grows and other activities and threats of covered entities, including through the sharing of intelligence information.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered entity” means an international drug trafficking organization or other actor involved in drug trafficking generally.

(2) FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—The term “Federal land management agency” includes—

(A) the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture;

(B) the Bureau of Land Management of the Department of the Interior;

(C) the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior;

(D) the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior; and

(E) the Bureau of Reclamation of the Department of the Interior.

(3) PUBLIC LANDS.—The term “public lands” has the meaning given that term in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702).

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan (during the reading). I ask unanimous consent that the modification be considered as read.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the amendment is modified.

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 392, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Chair, this is the manager's amendment to the bill. These are the last few details that we were able to work out in a bipartisan way to bring the bill to the floor.

The manager's amendment is primarily intended to remove three provisions that have been the subject of a veto threat by the administration. In addition, it makes a number of largely technical clarifications and adds a provision on authority to fill vacancies, a provision that was inadvertently omitted from the Rules Committee's print of the bill.

Madam Chair, as I explained during the general debate, moving this bill forward is critical to ensure comprehensive legislative oversight of our intelligence activities and, just as importantly, intelligence budgeting and spending. While I regret that our efforts to reach accommodation on these provisions, which were originally included in the Senate Intelligence Committee's bill, it is important that we remove these contentious provisions now so that the detailed spending and oversight recommendations in the classified annex can go forward.

The first contentious provision would have required Senate confirmation of the National Security Administration's Director. The other two contentious provisions subject to veto would have required the production of certain State Department cables related to detainee negotiations. While I support the production of these materials, the committees seeking them have other tools at their disposal to obtain them, and the bill should not be held up over that document dispute.

In addition, the manager's amendment includes a clarification to clarify section 310 on mitigating risks in the supply chain to ensure that those authorities cannot be delegated below the level of a service acquisition executive. The change is important to ensure the appropriate level of management is involved in such important decisions. This change reflects the committee's understanding that these acquisition authorities will not be used lightly and that all decisions under this provision will be carried out by responsible senior officials within the intelligence community and coordinated and overseen by the Director of National Intelligence.

Finally, the manager's amendment contains a modification requested by the ranking member to a provision

concerning narcotics trafficking on public lands. The modification is needed to clarify the intended scope of the provision to ensure it is not read too broadly.

With that, Madam Chair, I ask Members to support the manager's amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. I claim time in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Maryland is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Chair, I strongly support the manager's amendment.

The manager's amendment deals with the issues that the chairman talked about. Also, it was our negotiation to resolve certain issues, and that has been done. So I fully support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment, as modified, offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS).

The amendment, as modified, was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. WOLF

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 112-200.

Mr. WOLF. I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 312. ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNTERTERRORISM COMPETITIVE ANALYSIS COUNCIL.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) terrorism and domestic radicalization represent evolving, dynamic, multidimensional threats that necessitate a structured, iterative process to continuously revise plans, operations, concepts, organizations, and capabilities; and

(2) past federal experience in competitive analysis executed by experts drawn from outside the government has helped the intelligence community and policymakers better understand the nature of complex threats to the United States.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Title I of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 401 et. seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“COUNTERTERRORISM COMPETITIVE ANALYSIS COUNCIL

“SEC. 120. (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a council to be known as the ‘Counterterrorism Competitive Analysis Council’ (in this section referred to as the ‘Council’).

“(b) DUTIES.—The Council shall—

“(1) advise the Director of National Intelligence on matters of policy relating to the threats of international terrorism and domestic radicalization based on all-source information;

“(2) prepare a competitive analysis of each national intelligence estimate concerning al-Qaeda and other foreign terrorist organizations and submit such analysis to the Director of National Intelligence and the National Intelligence Council; and

“(3) annually submit to Congress a report in unclassified form, which may include a classified annex, on trends in counterterrorism and domestic radicalization, including a summary of any competitive analysis prepared pursuant to paragraph (2).

“(c) MEMBERS.—(1) The Council shall be composed of eight members appointed by the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate. Members shall be selected on the basis of previous experience with matters of policy relating to international terrorism and domestic radicalization.

“(2)(A) The Director of National Intelligence may not appoint an individual to the Council if such individual has served as an officer or employee of the Federal Government within a five-year period of the date of appointment.

“(B) The Director of National Intelligence may not appoint an individual to the Council if—

“(i) such individual has served as an officer or employee of the Federal Government within a 15-year period of the date of appointment; and

“(ii) on the date of appointment, three of the members of the Council have served as officers or employees of the Federal Government within a 15-year period of the date of appointment.

“(3) The term of a member is five years, and a member may not serve more than two terms, except that a member appointed to fill a vacancy may serve two additional terms after the expiration of the term in which that vacancy occurred.

“(4) Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of a term shall be appointed for the remainder of that term.

“(5) Every two years, the Council shall select a chair and vice chair from among its members.

“(6) To the extent provided in advance in appropriation Acts, each member shall be paid at a rate not to exceed the annual rate of basic pay for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

“(7) Any member of the Council may, if authorized by the Council, take any action which the Council is authorized to take by this section.

“(d) STAFF OF COUNCIL.—(1) To the extent provided in advance in appropriation Acts, the Council shall appoint and fix the compensation of a Director and such additional staff as may be necessary to enable the Council to carry out its duties.

“(2) The Director and staff of the Council may be appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and may be paid without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of that title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay fixed for the Director and staff may not exceed the annual rate of basic pay for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

“(3) In accordance with rules adopted by the Council, and to the extent provided in

advance in appropriation Acts, the Council may procure the services of experts and consultants under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at rates for individuals not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

“(e) ACCESS TO INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION.—(1) The Director of National Intelligence shall transmit to the Council each national intelligence estimate concerning al-Qaeda and other foreign terrorist organizations.

“(2) Upon request of the Council, the Director of National Intelligence shall make available to the Council any intelligence information in the possession of the intelligence community.

“(3) The Director of National Intelligence shall ensure that the appropriate executive departments and agencies cooperate with the Council in expeditiously providing to the members and staff appropriate security clearances in a manner consistent with existing procedures and requirements.

“(f) APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—Section 14(a)(2)(B) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), relating to the termination of advisory committees, shall not apply to the Council.

“(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2017. No amount is authorized to carry out this section for a fiscal year unless the appropriation for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence for such fiscal year is reduced by an amount equal to the amount appropriated to carry out this section for such fiscal year.”

(c) INITIAL REPORT.—The initial report required to be submitted under section 120(b)(2) of the National Security Act of 1947, as added by subsection (a), shall be filed not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 401 et. seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 119B the following:

“Sec. 120. Counterterrorism Competitive Analysis Council.”

Mr. WOLF. I have a modification at the desk, and I ask unanimous consent for its consideration.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the modification.

The Clerk read as follows:

Modification to amendment No. 2:

Strike the entire text of the amendment and insert the following:

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 312. COUNTERTERRORISM COMPETITIVE ANALYSIS COMMISSION.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) terrorism and domestic radicalization represent evolving and dynamic threats to the United States;

(2) biases and group think can prevent intelligence analysts from detecting important changes in such threats that can prevent the detection and prevention of terrorist attacks; and

(3) competitive and alternative intelligence analysis are important tools to prevent biases and group think from resulting in analytical failures and can help the intelligence community and policy makers better understand the nature of complex threats to the United States.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Commission to be known as the “Counterterrorism Competitive Analysis Commission” (in this section referred to as the “Commission”).

(c) DUTIES.—

(1) STUDY.—The Commission shall conduct a study on—

(A) how the elements of the intelligence community use red teams, alternative analysis, and competitive analysis of foreign intelligence to address domestic radicalization;

(B) whether such analysis is timely, objective, based upon all sources of available foreign intelligence, and employs the standards of proper analytic tradecraft; and

(C) the feasibility and advisability of establishing a permanent entity to—

(i) advise the Director on matters of policy relating to the threats of international terrorism and domestic radicalization;

(ii) prepare competitive analyses of national intelligence estimates prepared by the intelligence community and submit such analyses to the Director and the National Intelligence Commission; and

(iii) annually submit to Congress a report in unclassified form, which may include a classified annex, on trends in counterterrorism and domestic radicalization, including a summary of any competitive analyses referred to in clause (ii).

(2) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report containing the results of the study under paragraph (1).

(d) MEMBERS.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—The Commission shall be composed of six members selected on the basis of previous experience with matters of policy relating to international terrorism, intelligence analysis, and domestic radicalization, of whom—

(A) 2 members shall be appointed by the President;

(B) 1 member shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(C) 1 member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;

(D) 1 member shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; and

(E) 1 member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—An individual may not be appointed to the Commission under paragraph (1) if such individual has served as an officer or employee of the Federal Government within a three-year period of the date of appointment.

(3) COMPENSATION.—To the extent provided in advance in appropriation Acts, each member of the Commission shall be paid consistent with the skill and experience of such member at a rate not to exceed the annual rate of basic pay for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(4) ACTIONS OF COMMISSION.—Any member of the Commission may, if authorized by the Commission, take any action which the Commission is authorized to take by this section.

(e) STAFF OF COMMISSION.—

(1) COMPENSATION.—To the extent provided in advance in appropriation Acts, the Commission shall appoint and fix the compensation of a Director and such additional staff as may be necessary to enable the Commission to carry out its duties.

(2) RATE OF PAY.—The Director and staff of the Commission may be appointed without

regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and may be paid without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of that title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay fixed for the Director and staff may not exceed the annual rate of basic pay for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—In accordance with rules adopted by the Commission, and to the extent provided in advance in appropriation Acts, the Commission may procure the services of experts and consultants under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at rates for individuals not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(f) SECURITY CLEARANCES.—The Director of National Intelligence shall ensure that the appropriate executive departments and agencies cooperate with the Commission in expeditiously providing to the members and staff appropriate security clearances in a manner consistent with existing procedures and requirements.

(g) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the Commission submits the report required under subsection (c)(2), or on the date that is 395 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, whichever is earlier.

Mr. WOLF (during the reading). I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the reading of the amendment, as modified, is dispensed with.

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the amendment is modified.

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 392, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. WOLF. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to personally thank Mr. ROGERS and his staff for helping with regard to this amendment with regard to radicalization, and I also want to thank Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Also, as somebody who has served here for a number of years, I want to say that I don't think there have been two finer chairmen and ranking members of the Intelligence Committee since I've been here. I think it's very impressive to see that, and I just want everyone up here, particularly in the country, to know that.

Very briefly, Madam Chair, this amendment deals with radicalization. I won't go into the whole statement, but I will just read several examples of radicalization that have taken place in northern Virginia.

In October 2010, Farooque Ahmed from Ashburn, in my congressional district of Vienna, was arrested for allegedly plotting attacks on the Wash-

ington Metro system, targeting Metro stations to find optimal times to kill as many innocent people as possible.

In July 2010, Zachary Chesser, a graduate of nearby Oakton High School, which is very close to where I live, was arrested in New York en route to join al Shabaab in Somalia. Late last year, Chesser pled guilty to charges of providing material support to terrorists, communicating threats and soliciting crimes of violence, and was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

In November 2009, five American teenagers from Fairfax County, Virginia, were arrested in Pakistan, attempting to join militant Islamist organizations. They have been sentenced to 10 years in a Pakistan prison.

In November 2009, Virginia native Army Major Nidal Hassan attacked Fort Hood in Texas and was charged with the shooting deaths of 13 service men and women and civilians. Hassan was a graduate of Virginia Tech and grew up in Arlington County and Roanoke, Virginia.

In 2004, Abdul Rahman al-Amoudi from Falls Church, Virginia, was convicted on three charges of terrorist financing and conspiring to assassinate Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah and was sentenced to 23 years in jail.

In 2003, Ahmed Omar Abu Ali, a northern Virginia resident and the Islamic Saudi Academy's 1999 valedictorian, was arrested in Saudi Arabia and was later convicted in Federal District Court in Alexandria of conspiracy to commit terrorism, including a plot to assassinate President Bush. He was sentenced to life in prison.

Probably the number one terrorist threat today is Aulahi, who is an American citizen and who went to college on American taxpayers' money. He was with a mosque in northern Virginia, in Falls Church, which used to be in my old congressional district. So this issue of radicalization is very important.

Again, I want to thank the chairman and his staff and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and his staff.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1000

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. I claim time in opposition to the amendment, although I do not intend to oppose it.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Maryland is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. I just want to thank my friend, the gentleman from Virginia, for his involvement in all national security issues. We serve together on the Commerce-Justice Subcommittee in Appropriations and we work together on gangs. So I appreciate your focus on this area to protect the citizens of our country and our district.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment, as modified, offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF).

The amendment, as modified, was agreed to.

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 112-200.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 4 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. HOLT

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in part B of House Report 112-200.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title IV, add the following new section:

SEC. 405. NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE ON THE IMPACT OF REVOLUTIONS IN NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to Congress a national intelligence estimate on the impact of the recent revolutions in North Africa and the Middle East on the security of the State of Israel.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 392, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chair, many have expressed deep concern about the security situation in the Middle East. There are many hopeful signs from the so-called Arab Spring, but there are also concerns about the security of Israel and neighboring States.

Several among us and among my constituents expressed concern some months ago about what would happen with a weakened border between Egypt and Israel. And, as we all know, on August 18 several groups of terrorists killed eight Israelis, wounded several more in attacks along the road leading to Eilat.

This is just one example of what we need to pay attention to in the area. Will Egypt become a staging ground for more terrorist attacks against Israel? Can al Qaeda gain new safe haven in any of the countries undergoing massive political change? We hope not, I would like to think not, but it is important that we have good, solid intelligence assessments of the situation.

My amendment would direct the Director of National Intelligence to submit to Congress within half a year of passage of this law an estimate on the implications of these revolutions for the security of the State of Israel and to report to Congress in a way that is accessible to all Members of Congress on the implications of the so-called Arab Spring and the changes in the countries around the area.

This amendment is for obvious reasons. Israel is an important ally and really is founded on principles of law and fairness and justice, and we want to see those values upheld and extended.

I recognized, in conversations with Chairman ROGERS and the ranking member, that an amendment to this legislation is, perhaps, not the best way to accomplish this. So in a moment I will ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment, giving notice to the Chair, but with the understanding that we will make this same request of the Director of National Intelligence by way of a letter and that we will have available to Members of Congress this estimate of this security situation.

I thank the chairman and the ranking member very much for their cooperation on this. They are fully aware of this, which is partly why it is not necessary to offer an amendment to that effect.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOLT. I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. I appreciate the gentleman for working with us. It is an important issue, and you have our commitment from myself and, I believe, the ranking member to coordinate this particular report.

I appreciate the gentleman's consideration, because it will allow the community to prioritize it. It may take 3 weeks or longer, or 3 weeks shorter than an amendment might call for, but it allows them to adjust according to the demands at the particular time on the intelligence community. For that, I want to thank the gentleman, and I look forward to working with him on the issue.

Mr. HOLT. Reclaiming my time, having served on the Intelligence Committee until this year for a number of years, I am very much aware of the constraints that are sometimes placed on the agencies by lots of reports due on lots of dates.

I look forward to working with the chairman and the ranking member to see that we get this estimate done in the most constructive way.

With that, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the pending amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the amendment is withdrawn.

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. HUNTER

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in part B of House Report 112-200.

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

After section 501 (page 51, after line 18), insert the following new section:

SEC. 502. STRATEGY TO COUNTER IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES.

(a) STRATEGY.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense shall establish a coordinated strategy utilizing all available personnel and assets for intelligence collection and analysis to identify and counter network activity and operations in Pakistan and Afghanistan relating to the development and use of improvised explosive devices.

(2) CONTENTS.—The strategy established under paragraph (1) shall identify—

(A) the networks that design improvised explosive devices, provide training on improvised explosive device assembly and employment, and smuggle improvised explosive device components into Afghanistan;

(B) the persons and organizations not directly affiliated with insurgents in Afghanistan who knowingly enable the movement of commercial products and material used in improvised explosive device construction from factories and vendors in Pakistan into Afghanistan;

(C) the financiers, financial networks, institutions, and funding streams that provide resources to the insurgency in Afghanistan; and

(D) the links to military, intelligence services, and government officials who are complicit in allowing the insurgent networks in Afghanistan to operate.

(b) REPORT AND IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense shall—

(1) submit to the congressional intelligence committees and the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report containing the strategy established under subsection (a); and

(2) implement such strategy.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 392, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Chair, my amendment is pretty simple. It requests that the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense, 120 days after the passage of this bill, submit a plan and execute the plan to develop a coordinated strategy between our intelligence communities and our Department of Defense to go after IED manufacturers and IED transporters between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The majority of improvised explosive devices in Afghanistan come from Pakistan. We know where a lot of those IED manufacturers are, but our DOD is not able to execute the strategy of going after those IED manufacturers and the people that transport them across the border on their own. They need the intelligence community and the 16 agencies which make up that community to be on their side.

More than 80 percent of the explosive devices used against our U.S. troops in Afghanistan have homemade explosives as the main charge and are almost exclusively derived from calcium ammonium nitrate fertilizer produced in

Pakistan. Homemade explosives are also called HMEs.

The vast majority of IED components, including commercial explosives, radio-control triggers, and HME precursors are sourced from and/or transmitted through Pakistan. The continued uncontrolled availability of ammonium nitrate and other HME precursor materials smuggled into Afghanistan from Pakistan is the most significant factor contributing to the Afghan IED problem. Over 70 percent of our casualties in Afghanistan come from these homemade IEDs.

IEDs are also a problem in Pakistan and to the Pakistani people. Since January of 2011, more than 500 people have been killed and over 14,000 people have been injured by IEDs in Pakistan.

The Afghanistan IED threat cannot be defeated without addressing the networks and precursors in Pakistan. To defeat the Pakistan-produced HME-fueled IEDs in Afghanistan, the solution requires integrated efforts and leveraging of the combined authorities, policies, and capabilities of many agencies of our government, coalition partners, and especially the intelligence community.

We need to identify the key facilitators of raw materials supplying the HME pipeline into Afghanistan. We also need to identify specific financial networks and funding streams for these HME networks, as well as identify these key financiers.

That's what my amendment does. It makes the intelligence community and the defense community get together, submit a plan, and execute that plan to work on the same page, because right now there is a severe gap between what the DOD considers its number 1 priority, our defense guys over there, our soldiers and marines on the ground; their number 1 priority is different from the intelligence community's number one priority.

□ 1010

The intelligence community right now goes after high-value targets. They go after the bad guys wherever they may be found, but they need to work together on these IEDs coming over from Pakistan. It's the only way we can defeat them.

With that, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to accept my amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Chair, I claim time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Maryland is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. First, I just want to acknowledge the gentleman's service. You have been on the field. I think IEDs are one of the biggest

threats that we have to our men and women in theater, and I strongly support that we move forward with your amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Chair, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Michigan, Chairman ROGERS.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. I thank the gentleman from California.

This is an important amendment. These are issues we have been working on in committee; and I can tell you, we have been a tad bit frustrated at that lack of coordination. I think it is unfortunate it took this amendment as a part of the Intelligence bill to continue to put pressure on the administration to get their act together on this particular issue. It is an issue we absolutely must solve, not only for the safety and security of the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces in Afghanistan, but also for the greater impact on the war on terror. I strongly urge support of the Hunter amendment.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. CARNEY

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in part B of House Report 112-200.

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Insert after section 501 the following new section:

SEC. 502. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE PRIORITY OF RAILWAY TRANSPORTATION SECURITY.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the nation's railway transportation (including subway transit) network is broad and technically complex, requiring robust communication between private sector stakeholders and the intelligence community to identify, monitor, and respond to threats;

(2) the Department of Homeland Security Office of Intelligence and Analysis maintains a constructive relationship with other Federal agencies, state and local governments, and private entities to safeguard our railroads; and

(3) railway transportation security (including subway transit security) should continue to be prioritized in the critical infrastructure threat assessment developed by the Office of Intelligence and Analysis and included in threat assessment budgets of the intelligence community.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 392, the gentleman from Dela-

ware (Mr. CARNEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware.

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Chair, I rise to recognize the importance of rail security in the effort to access, prepare for, and neutralize terrorist threats to our critical infrastructure. While roughly 1.7 million passengers ride in domestic and international air flights daily, every weekday 34 million Americans ride on trains and transit systems.

We have seen the tragic consequences of attacks to rail and subway systems in Britain, Spain, and India. We know al Qaeda was looking to target American rail systems this year. An attack on our rail system here in the United States would simply be devastating.

Earlier this year, the House adopted an amendment I offered to the fiscal year 2011 Intelligence Authorization Act. There was broad bipartisan support for making rail security an intelligence priority. I continue to believe we must address the security vulnerabilities in our rail and transit systems. Our intelligence community does great work to coordinate with those who own and operate trains and rail lines. In particular, the Office of Intelligence Analysis within the Department of Homeland Security develops a threat assessment for critical infrastructure.

My amendment is a simple amendment. It affirms the importance of assessments and information sharing conducted by intelligence analysts. It expresses the sense of Congress that the intelligence community must continue to prioritize rail security in identifying and preventing terrorist threats.

As a near daily rider of Amtrak myself, I want to know that the United States Government is doing all it can to keep my fellow passengers and rail passengers across the country safe. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment. I thank you for your consideration.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. I claim time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Again, I appreciate the gentleman's concern for rail security. It is an incredibly important issue. I continue to believe, as I did the last go-round, this is not the right place for this. I have agreed not to officially oppose his amendment.

I just want to again remind individuals that this is 17 agencies across the whole spectrum of intelligence work. And for Congress to step in and say rail priority, even if their agency might be satellite oriented, just does not make a lot of sense to me; and I know it won't make a lot of sense to them as well.

Again, I agree that rail security is incredibly important. We have segments of the intelligence community, and I

want to re-emphasize segments, and here in our homeland security, that worry about rail security, and I argue that would be a better place for this amendment. As I said, I will not officially oppose it. I have made no official recommendation. Again, I appreciate the gentleman's position. I will be voting "no," but I would tell the rest of the Members to do what they see fit.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARNEY. In closing, I would like to thank the chair. I appreciate his position on this. I thank him for not officially opposing it and ask for support from everyone in the Chamber.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CARNEY).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Delaware will be postponed.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 8 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. KEATING

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in part B of House Report 112-200.

Mr. KEATING. I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

After section 501 (page 51, after line 18), insert the following new section:

SEC. 502. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING INTEGRATION OF FUSION CENTERS.

It is the sense of Congress that ten years after the terrorist attacks upon the United States on September 11, 2001, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, should continue to integrate and leverage fusion centers to enlist all of the intelligence, law enforcement, and homeland security capabilities of the United States in a manner that is consistent with the Constitution to prevent acts of terrorism against the United States.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 392, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. KEATING. Thank you, Madam Chair; and thank you, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, for allowing me to present this timely amendment to the FY12 Intelligence authorization.

Madam Chair, there are 72 fusion centers throughout the United States, including one in Massachusetts, which is also the home of the sole joint terrorism task force that is housed in an airport. However, as noted yesterday by Mr. Lee Hamilton, vice chair of the 9/11 Commission, during the Committee

on Homeland Security hearing, which dealt with looking back 10 years after 9/11, all 72 fusion centers have varying degrees of quality, and this results in gaps in communication. Gaps in sharing, such as agencies' failure to link information about the individual who attempted the December 25, 2009, airline bombing, prevented him from being included in the Federal Government's terrorist watch list, a tool used by DHS to screen for persons who pose a significant security threat.

This week, the GAO released a report to the Department of Homeland Security recommending that DHS improve its assistance and services to State and local homeland security partners and streamline some of the information-sharing mechanisms.

Furthermore, in July 2011, DHS reported that it established performance measures for assessing its information-sharing efforts. These measures include, for example, the percent of intelligence reports customers rated as satisfactory, enabling customers to anticipate emergency threats.

DHS plans to report on these metrics beginning in fiscal year 2012. While these are positive steps, GAO's work has shown that developing outcome-based performance measures that gauge information-sharing efforts are really necessary to strengthen the accountability of these efforts, and we are still waiting for DHS to implement these steps.

Now, as a former district attorney of over a decade, I understand how critical it is to share information and how not sharing that information enhances and enables critical activity. That, indeed, carries over to terrorists themselves.

□ 1020

This amendment encourages this type of streamlining process by further integrating and leveraging fusion centers to enlist all the intelligence, law enforcement, homeland security capabilities in the United States in a manner that's consistent with the Constitution to prevent acts of terrorism against the United States of America. It was just a few months ago that Secretary Napolitano in testimony before the Homeland Security Committee said that the threat of terrorism is at its most heightened state since 9/11. That's what she's saying now.

So I encourage all Members to vote for this amendment, as well as the manager's amendment, to strengthen this bill and incorporate all the elements of the intelligence community, particularly trying to merge information, enhance sharing of information with State and local officials who have their ear to the ground.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. I claim time in opposition.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Again, I appreciate the gentleman's interest here. I don't know any organization that we established not to operate under the rules and construct of the Constitution of the United States. It is a little bit redundant, in my perspective; and also we deal with these issues through IGs, we do this through congressional oversight, and we deal with this in the classified annex. I would encourage the gentleman to take a look at the classified annex. A lot of the work that we do is to make sure that these organizations are functioning according to rules, regulation, and constitutional law.

I am not going to oppose his amendment. I have no recommendation. I do think, however, it's probably not well placed in this particular piece of legislation.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KEATING. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RUPPERSBERGER).

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. First, I support this amendment. The amendment would include a sense of Congress language to encourage the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Homeland Security to integrate the intelligence-sharing capability of fusion centers and leverage participation from all intelligence, law enforcement, and homeland security agencies to prevent acts of terrorism against the United States.

I thank the gentleman for this amendment, which is very timely as we approach the 10th anniversary of September 11. The Intelligence Committee is holding a series of open hearings in order to acknowledge the progress made in the intelligence and national security community since 9/11 and to identify areas that will need improvement.

One area we will explore is Federal collaboration with first responders at State and local levels. The Bipartisan Policy Center and the former cochairman of the 9/11 Commission, Lee Hamilton, recently issued a report about our national response to 9/11 over the last 10 years. They found that Federal and local information sharing is still not as good as it could be.

The proposed sense of Congress is consistent with the findings of numerous organizations, but our Nation still requires better integration of intelligence. I therefore urge a "yes" vote on the amendment.

Also, I acknowledge the fact you are a former prosecutor. I am a former prosecutor. Our chairman is a former FBI agent.

Mr. KEATING. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING).

The amendment was agreed to.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part B of House Report 112-200 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 6 by Mr. HUNTER of California.

Amendment No. 7 by Mr. CARNEY of Delaware.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. HUNTER

The CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 397, noes 0, not voting 34, as follows:

[Roll No. 695]

AYES—397

Ackerman	Capps	Doggett
Adams	Capuano	Dold
Aderholt	Carnahan	Donnelly (IN)
Alexander	Carney	Doyle
Altmire	Carson (IN)	Dreier
Amash	Carter	Duffy
Andrews	Cassidy	Duncan (SC)
Austria	Castor (FL)	Duncan (TN)
Baca	Chabot	Edwards
Bachus	Chaffetz	Ellison
Baldwin	Chandler	Ellmers
Barrow	Chu	Emerson
Bartlett	Cicilline	Eshoo
Bass (CA)	Clarke (MI)	Farenthold
Bass (NH)	Clarke (NY)	Farr
Benishek	Clay	Fattah
Berg	Cleaver	Fincher
Berkley	Clyburn	Fitzpatrick
Berman	Coble	Flake
Biggert	Coffman (CO)	Fleischmann
Billbray	Cohen	Fleming
Billirakis	Cole	Flores
Bishop (GA)	Conaway	Forbes
Bishop (NY)	Connolly (VA)	Fortenberry
Black	Conyers	Fox
Blackburn	Cooper	Frank (MA)
Blumenauer	Costa	Franks (AZ)
Bonner	Costello	Frelinghuysen
Bono Mack	Courtney	Fudge
Boren	Cravack	Galleghy
Boswell	Crawford	Garamendi
Boustany	Crenshaw	Gardner
Brady (PA)	Critz	Garrett
Brady (TX)	Crowley	Gerlach
Braley (IA)	Cuellar	Gibbs
Brooks	Culberson	Gibson
Brown (GA)	Cummings	Gingrey (GA)
Buchanan	Davis (CA)	Gohmert
Bucshon	Davis (IL)	Gonzalez
Buerkle	Davis (KY)	Goodlatte
Burgess	DeFazio	Gosar
Burton (IN)	DeGette	Gowdy
Butterfield	DeLauro	Graves (GA)
Calvert	Denham	Graves (MO)
Camp	Dent	Green, Al
Campbell	DesJarlais	Green, Gene
Canseco	Deutch	Griffin (AR)
Cantor	Dicks	Griffith (VA)
Capito	Dingell	Grijalva

Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Heinrich
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holt
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
(TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Kucinich
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larsen (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant

NOT VOTING—34

Akin
Bachmann
Barletta
Barton (TX)
Becerra
Bishop (UT)
Brown (FL)
Cardoza
Diaz-Balart
Engel
Filner
Giffords
Granger
Higgins
Holden
Honda
Johnson (GA)
Lewis (GA)
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Marino
McCotter
Miller, Gary
Neal

Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schradler
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stark
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Baca
Bachus
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Biggart
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chandler

Paul
Pitts
Reyes
Sullivan

Thompson (PA)
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters

Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Kucinich
Lance
Landry
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larsen (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Michael

Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (CT)
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Platts
Polls
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Rehberg
Renacci
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Rogers (AL)
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta

NOES—92

Amash
Benishek
Berg
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Broun (GA)
Buerkle
Burgess
Canseco
Carter
Chaffetz
Coffman (CO)
Conaway
Culberson
Davis (KY)
DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Farenthold
Flake
Fleischmann
Flores
Foxy
Garrett
Gingrey (GA)
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Hall
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck
Hensarling
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Labrador
Lamborn
Long
Lummis
Marchant
McClintock
McHenry
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Olson
Palazzo
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Reichert
Ribble
Roe (TN)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ross (FL)
Royce
Schilling
Schock
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Sessions
Shimkus
Smith (NE)
Southerland
Stutzman
Thornberry
Walsh (IL)
West
Westmoreland
Womack
Woodall

NOT VOTING—36

Akin
Bachmann
Barletta
Barton (TX)
Bishop (UT)
Brown (FL)
Cardoza
Diaz-Balart
Engel
Filner
Giffords
Granger
Higgins
Holden
Honda
Johnson (GA)
Lewis (GA)
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Marino
McCotter

□ 1053

So the amendment was agreed to.
The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Madam Chair, on rollcall 695,
I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I
would have voted “aye.”

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. CARNEY

The CHAIR. The unfinished business
is the demand for a recorded vote on
the amendment offered by the gen-
tleman from Delaware (Mr. CARNEY) on
which further proceedings were post-
poned and on which the noes prevailed
by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the
amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIR. A recorded vote has been
demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute
vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
vice, and there were—ayes 303, noes 92,
not voting 36, as follows:

[Roll No. 696]

AYES—303

Ackerman
Adams
Aderholt
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Austria
Baca
Bachus
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Biggart
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Emerson
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gosar
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hastings (FL)
Hayworth
Heinrich
Herger
Hoyer
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holt
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
(TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Kucinich
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larsen (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant

Miller, Gary
Neal
Paul
Petri
Pitts
Reyes

Smith (TX)
Sullivan
Thompson (PA)
Van Hollen
Wasserman
Schultz

Waters
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

□ 1100

Mrs. BLACK changed her vote from "aye" to "no."

Mr. PENCE and Ms. HAYWORTH changed their vote from "no" to "aye." So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Madam Chair, on rollcall No. 696, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. PETRI. Madam Chair, I inadvertently did not vote on the Carney amendment to H.R. 1892. I would have voted for adoption of the amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. AKIN. Madam Chair, on rollcall Nos. 695 and 696, I was delayed and unable to vote. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on both.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Chair, on rollcall Nos. 695 and 696, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on 695 and "aye" on 696.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GRIMM) having assumed the chair, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1892) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 392, reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 1892 is postponed.

COMMEMORATING SEPTEMBER 11

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would ask all present to rise for the purpose of a moment of silence.

The Chair asks that the House now observe a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Commit-

tees on Armed Services, Foreign Affairs, Homeland Security, the Judiciary, Oversight and Government Reform, and Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 391) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the terrorist attacks launched against the United States on September 11, 2001, on the 10th anniversary of that date, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. CANTOR for offering this resolution regarding the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and urge my Colleagues to pass it without delay.

For the families of the over 3,000 victims of the murderous attacks of September 11, 2001, every day is painful. This Sunday marks the tenth anniversary of the events that changed our Nation forever, as violent international extremists struck in the streets of Lower Manhattan, the fields of Pennsylvania, and at the Pentagon.

In addition to making the collective pledge to join together to protect our communities, we should never forget that on September 11, 2001, we saw good rise in the face of evil, and heroes rise in the face of danger. Many ran into the face of danger to help others escape it.

When the day was over, and as we learned that 700 New Jerseyans lost their lives, we witnessed neighbors and friends consoling one another and watched as Americans from all walks of life stood united, side by side waving the Stars and Stripes, and lighting candles to honor those missing or lost.

As America rebounded, we responded to these acts of terrorism with the skill and spirit of our military and our intelligence community. The war we continue to fight abroad began without provocation and without warning. It was not a war of our choosing but it became our priority. It was the slaughter of innocents by people with a twisted sense of religion who play by no rules.

So many of our heroes currently fighting terrorism across the globe put their lives on hold on September 11, 2001, to join the National Guard and Reserve, serve our country, and defend our freedom. They serve side by side as we speak with the active duty military, all volunteers, all dedicated, all courageous, all Americans. We are grateful for their service and sacrifice, and that of their families, each and every day.

May God bless those who continue to defend our freedom, and may God continue to bless America.

I urge adoption of the resolution.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 391

Whereas on September 11, 2001, while Americans were attending to their daily rou-

tines, terrorists hijacked four civilian aircraft, crashing two of them into the towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, a third into the Pentagon near Washington, D.C., and a fourth was prevented from also being used as a weapon against America by brave passengers who placed their country above their own lives;

Whereas thousands of innocent Americans were killed and injured as a result of these attacks, including the passengers and crew of the four aircraft, workers in the World Trade Center and in the Pentagon, rescue workers, and bystanders;

Whereas 10 years later the country continues to, and shall forever, mourn their tragic loss and honor their memory;

Whereas these attacks destroyed both towers of the World Trade Center, as well as adjacent buildings, and seriously damaged the Pentagon;

Whereas these attacks were by far the deadliest terrorist attacks ever launched against the United States, and, by targeting symbols of American strength and success, were intended to assail the principles, values, and freedoms of the United States and the American people, intimidate our Nation and weaken its resolve;

Whereas memorials have been constructed to honor the victims of these attacks at the Pentagon, in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and on the World Trade Center grounds, so that Americans and people from around the world can visit to mourn those lost and to pay tribute to the heroic action and sacrifice of those who have served our communities and our country in the years since the attacks;

Whereas 10 years after September 11, 2001, the United States continues to fight terrorists and other extremists who threaten America and her friends and allies;

Whereas successive Congresses have passed and President Bush and President Obama have signed numerous laws to assist victims of terrorism, protect our Nation, combat terrorism at home and abroad, and support the members of the Armed Forces who courageously defend the United States;

Whereas by the tireless efforts of our intelligence, military, and law enforcement professionals, the United States has been able to significantly degrade the al Qaeda network, by taking into custody or killing senior al Qaeda leaders, operational managers, and key facilitators, and owes a debt of gratitude to the focused and persistent efforts of all those personnel involved in the removal of Osama bin Laden;

Whereas the terrorist attacks that have occurred around the world since September 11, 2001, remind us of the hateful inhumanity of terrorism and the ongoing threat it poses to freedom, justice, and the rule of law;

Whereas United States law enforcement and intelligence agencies and allies of the United States around the world have worked together to detect and disrupt terrorist networks and numerous terror plots since September 11, 2001, and have ensured that no attacks have been carried out on American soil since that day;

Whereas the Nation is indebted to the brave military, intelligence, law enforcement, and civilian personnel serving in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere in advancement of United States national interests;

Whereas thousands of families have lost loved ones in the defense of freedom and liberty against the tyranny of terror; and

Whereas the passage of ten years has not diminished the pain caused by the senseless loss of nearly 3,000 persons killed on September 11, 2001: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes September 11 as a day of solemn commemoration;

(2) extends again its deepest sympathies to the thousands of innocent victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and to their families, friends, and loved ones;

(3) honors the heroism and the sacrifices of United States military and civilian personnel and their families who have sacrificed much, including their lives and health, in defense of their country;

(4) credits the heroism of first responders, law enforcement personnel, State and local officials, volunteers, and others who aided the victims of these attacks and, in so doing, bravely risked their own lives and long-term health;

(5) expresses thanks and gratitude to the foreign leaders and citizens of all nations who have assisted and continue to stand in solidarity with the United States against terrorism in the aftermath of the attacks on September 11, 2001, and asks them to continue to stand with the United States against international terrorism;

(6) commends the military and intelligence personnel involved in the removal of Osama bin Laden;

(7) reasserts its commitment to opposing violent extremism arrayed against American interests and to providing the United States military, intelligence, and law enforcement communities with the resources and support to do so effectively and safely;

(8) vows that it will continue to identify, intercept, and disrupt terrorists and their activities;

(9) reaffirms that the American people will never forget the sacrifices made on September 11, 2001, and will never bow to terrorist demands; and

(10) declares that when Congress adjourns today, it stands adjourned out of respect to the victims of the terrorist attacks.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 1892 will now resume. The Clerk will report the title.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole?

If not, the question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman opposed to the bill?

Ms. HOCHUL. I am opposed to the bill in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Hochul moves to recommit the bill, H.R. 1892, to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

At the end of title III (page 26, after line 6), add the following new section:

SEC. 312. PRIORITIZATION OF FUNDING TO COUNTER THE THREAT POSED BY TRANSNATIONAL DRUG TRAF- FICKING.

In obligating and expending funds authorized to be appropriated in this Act, the head of each element of the intelligence community shall include as a priority activities in support of countering the threat posed by transnational drug trafficking and the protection of United States borders from drug-related crime, violence, and gang-related activity in connection with transnational drug trafficking.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. HOCHUL. My amendment will very simply help the intelligence community prioritize its funding and ensure that we direct it toward securing our borders from many threats—terrorists as well as drug dealers.

I want to be clear that support for my simple amendment, which is a statement of our priorities, will ensure that our intelligence community co-operates fully to protect our borders against terrorists as well as the scourge of drug dealers. If support for my amendment is passed, we can also vote on the underlying bill immediately following. So my amendment does not harm the bill, and I want to make that very clear.

Last night, as we sat in this Chamber, we all became aware of the continued threat that we all face as intelligence reports were coming out about unspecified threats in New York City and in Washington, perhaps putting us in danger. And while the President so eloquently laid out his comments on how we need to get our country back to work and people off the unemployment lines, I will tell you today there are groups of individuals I'd like to see on the unemployment lines—the terrorists and the drug dealers, who are trying to do harm to this country. My amendment is simply a statement of our priorities.

□ 1110

Just 2 days ago in my district in Upstate New York, we had the largest drug bust come over from Canada in our history. It equated to 9 million doses of cocaine that was going to be spread through our community.

Mr. Speaker, that is intolerable. We have got to do more to secure our borders, and we can work harder with our intelligence community and their resources to secure our borders, and that's exactly what my amendment would do.

It is not just the northern border; we all know what's occurring on the southern border. Military operations are being conducted in our country by Mexican drug cartels even as we speak. We have to do more to protect our borders.

The murder capital of the world is not in some Far Eastern country, Middle East. It is miles away from the U.S. border near El Paso, Texas. I have a real problem with that as an American citizen. We need to do more to protect our borders.

As the President spoke last night, we have to do so much more to get our economy going again. Has anyone ever calculated the true cost to our economy of what the drug problem is doing, this illegal drug trafficking that's coming through our borders, what it's doing to our communities on the southern border and on the northern border?

Ladies and gentlemen, we have got to do much more, and my amendment is simply an opportunity. If you support this, it is a statement of saying the intelligence community will make a higher priority of protecting our borders from the drug dealers and terrorists and drug dealers who want to do us harm.

I think this is a simple amendment. Again, support for this will not hurt the underlying bill. We can vote on this amendment and immediately support the bill following.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, this goes to the fundamental heart of why some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle—and I think their intentions are good—but fundamentally do not understand the role and function of the intelligence community to protect the United States of America.

Just as the gentlelady stated, the newspaper reported a very credible threat to the security of the United States and to the violence of the citizens and maybe two prominent cities here on our homeland. So every day somebody gets up around the world with the sole intention of killing innocent Americans in this country through an act of terrorism.

In addition to that, people are trying to penetrate our cybernetworks all over this country, not only for intellectual property, but to cause harm and damage. We have nuclear treaties and nuclear proliferation that we ask and push and nudge our intelligence services to be on top of and not to make a mistake. Don't make a mistake that would result in a catastrophic event anywhere in the world, let alone here in the United States of America.

I know some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle don't want to deal with the hard issues of the border. But taking it from an open, aggressive, build a fence, put more resources on the border, getting serious about policing our southern border to take it into the classified, nobody can see it, see, aren't we doing something, is the wrong thing to do for this country.

We need to stand up for these men and women who we ask every day to protect this country. When you try to divert resources to gang violence from our intelligence services, that sends a very clear signal to America: you don't get it.

I want terrorists caught. I want a great raid on somebody like Osama bin Laden. I want all of the resources of the intelligence community geared to keeping us safe.

We have a Border Patrol; we have National Guard. We have lots of other ways to secure our border. Let's not waste the resources. Let's not give a slap in the face to every member of our intelligence community who is risking their life today to get a piece of information, to take an action that keeps us safe here in the homeland.

I strongly urge the rejection of this misguided amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 145, noes 257, not voting 29, as follows:

[Roll No. 697]

AYES—145

Ackerman	Carson (IN)	DeLauro
Altmire	Castor (FL)	Deutch
Andrews	Chandler	Dicks
Baca	Chu	Dingell
Baldwin	Cicilline	Doggett
Barrow	Clarke (MI)	Ellison
Bass (CA)	Clarke (NY)	Engel
Becerra	Clay	Eshoo
Berkley	Cleaver	Farr
Berman	Clyburn	Filner
Bishop (GA)	Conyers	Frank (MA)
Bishop (NY)	Cooper	Fudge
Blumenauer	Costa	Garamendi
Boren	Costello	Gonzalez
Boswell	Courtney	Green, Al
Braley (IA)	Cuellar	Green, Gene
Butterfield	Davis (CA)	Grijalva
Capps	Davis (IL)	Hahn
Carnahan	DeFazio	Hanabusa
Carney	DeGette	Hastings (FL)

Heinrich	Markey	Ryan (OH)
Higgins	McCollum	Sánchez, Linda
Hinchee	McGovern	T.
Hinojosa	McIntyre	Sanchez, Loretta
Hirono	McNerney	Sarbanes
Hochul	Meeks	Schakowsky
Holt	Michaud	Schiff
Hoyer	Miller (NC)	Schrader
Inslee	Miller, George	Scott, David
Israel	Moore	Serrano
Jackson (IL)	Moran	Sewell
Jackson Lee	Murphy (CT)	Sherman
(TX)	Napolitano	Sires
Johnson, E. B.	Olver	Slaughter
Kaptur	Owens	Smith (WA)
Keating	Pallone	Stark
Kildee	Pastor (AZ)	Sutton
Kind	Payne	Thompson (MS)
Kucinich	Pelosi	Tierney
Langevin	Perlmutter	Tonko
Larsen (WA)	Peters	Towns
Larson (CT)	Pingree (ME)	Van Hollen
Levin	Price (NC)	Velázquez
Lipinski	Quigley	Visclosky
Loeb sack	Rangel	Walz (MN)
Lowey	Richardson	Waxman
Lujan	Roybal-Allard	Welch
Lynch	Ruppersberger	Wilson (FL)
Maloney	Rush	Yarmuth

NOES—257

Adams	Emerson	Labrador
Aderholt	Farenthold	Lamborn
Alexander	Fattah	Lance
Amash	Fincher	Landry
Austria	Fitzpatrick	Lankford
Bachus	Flake	Latham
Bartlett	Fleischmann	LaTourette
Bass (NH)	Fleming	Latta
Benishkek	Flores	Lee (CA)
Berg	Forbes	Lewis (CA)
Biggart	Fortenberry	LoBiondo
Bilbray	Fox	Lofgren, Zoe
Bilirakis	Franks (AZ)	Long
Black	Frelinghuysen	Lucas
Blackburn	Gallegly	Luetkemeyer
Bonner	Gardner	Lummis
Bono Mack	Garrett	Mack
Boustany	Gerlach	Manzullo
Brady (PA)	Gibbs	Marchant
Brady (TX)	Gibson	Matheson
Brooks	Gingrey (GA)	Matsui
Broun (GA)	Gohmert	McCarthy (CA)
Buchanan	Goodlatte	McCarthy (NY)
Bucshon	Gosar	McCaul
Buerkle	Gowdy	McClintock
Burgess	Graves (GA)	McDermott
Burton (IN)	Graves (MO)	McHenry
Calvert	Griffin (AR)	McKeon
Camp	Griffith (VA)	McKinley
Campbell	Grimm	McMorris
Canseco	Guinta	Rodgers
Cantor	Guthrie	Meehan
Capito	Gutierrez	Mica
Capuano	Hall	Miller (FL)
Carter	Hanna	Miller (MI)
Cassidy	Harper	Mulvaney
Chabot	Harris	Murphy (PA)
Chaffetz	Hartzler	Myrick
Coble	Hastings (WA)	Nadler
Coffman (CO)	Hayworth	Neugebauer
Cohen	Heck	Noem
Cole	Hensarling	Nugent
Conaway	Hergert	Nunes
Connolly (VA)	Herrera Beutler	Nunnelee
Cravaack	Himes	Olson
Crawford	Huelskamp	Palazzo
Crenshaw	Huizenga (MI)	Pascarell
Critz	Hultgren	Paulsen
Crowley	Hunter	Pearce
Culberson	Hurt	Pence
Cummings	Issa	Peterson
Davis (KY)	Jenkins	Petri
Denham	Johnson (IL)	Platts
Dent	Johnson (OH)	Poe (TX)
DesJarlais	Johnson, Sam	Polis
Dold	Jones	Pompeo
Donnelly (IN)	Jordan	Posey
Doyle	Kelly	Price (GA)
Dreier	King (IA)	Quayle
Duffy	King (NY)	Rahall
Duncan (SC)	Kingston	Reed
Duncan (TN)	Kinzinger (IL)	Rehberg
Edwards	Kissell	Reichert
Ellmers	Kline	Renacci

Ribble	Schmidt	Thompson (CA)
Richmond	Schock	Thornberry
Rigell	Schwartz	Tiberi
Rivera	Schweikert	Tipton
Roby	Scott (SC)	Tsongas
Roe (TN)	Scott (VA)	Turner
Rogers (AL)	Scott, Austin	Upton
Rogers (KY)	Sensenbrenner	Walberg
Rogers (MI)	Sessions	Walden
Rohrabacher	Shimkus	Walsh (IL)
Rokita	Shuler	Watt
Rooney	Shuster	Webster
Ros-Lehtinen	Simpson	West
Roskam	Smith (NE)	Westmoreland
Ross (AR)	Smith (NJ)	Whitfield
Ross (FL)	Smith (TX)	Wittman
Rothman (NJ)	Southerland	Wolf
Royce	Speier	Womack
Runyan	Stearns	Woodall
Ryan (WI)	Stivers	Woolsey
Scalise	Stutzman	Yoder
Schilling	Terry	Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—29

Akin	Honda	Reyes
Bachmann	Johnson (GA)	Sullivan
Barletta	Lewis (GA)	Thompson (PA)
Barton (TX)	Lungren, Daniel	Wasserman
Bishop (UT)	E.	Schultz
Brown (FL)	Marino	Waters
Cardoza	McCotter	Wilson (SC)
Diaz-Balart	Miller, Gary	Young (AK)
Giffords	Neal	Young (FL)
Granger	Paul	
Holden	Pitts	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Two minutes are remaining in this vote.

□ 1132

Messrs. SCOTT of Virginia, CROWLEY, COHEN, and McDERMOTT changed their vote from “aye” to “no.” So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 384, noes 14, not voting 33, as follows:

[Roll No. 698]

AYES—384

Ackerman	Bishop (GA)	Canseco
Adams	Bishop (NY)	Cantor
Aderholt	Black	Capito
Alexander	Blackburn	Capps
Altmire	Bonner	Carnahan
Andrews	Bono Mack	Carney
Austria	Boren	Carson (IN)
Baca	Boustany	Carter
Bachus	Brady (PA)	Cassidy
Baldwin	Brady (TX)	Castor (FL)
Barrow	Braley (IA)	Chabot
Bartlett	Brooks	Chaffetz
Bass (CA)	Broun (GA)	Chandler
Bass (NH)	Buchanan	Chu
Becerra	Bucshon	Cicilline
Benishkek	Buerkle	Clarke (MI)
Berg	Burgess	Clarke (NY)
Berkley	Burton (IN)	Clay
Berman	Butterfield	Cleaver
Biggart	Calvert	Clyburn
Bilbray	Camp	Coble
Bilirakis	Campbell	Coffman (CO)

Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutch
Dicks
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Heinrich
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes

Hinchee
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holt
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
(TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebach
Lofgren, Zoe
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan
Lummis
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller (TX)
Mulvaney
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent

Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Olver
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quayle
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Robby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schradler
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sutton
Terry

Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton

Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Watt
Waxman
Webster
Welch

West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (IN)

NOES—14

Amash
Blumenauer
Capuano
Duncan (TN)
Filner

Gibson
Kucinich
Lee (CA)
McDermott
McGovern

Miller, George
Moore
Stark
Woolsey

NOT VOTING—33

Akin
Bachmann
Barletta
Barton (TX)
Bishop (UT)
Boswell
Brown (FL)
Cardoza
Conyers
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Giffords

Granger
Holden
Honda
Lewis (GA)
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Marino
McCotter
Miller, Gary
Neal
Paul
Pelosi

Pitts
Reyes
Smith (NJ)
Sullivan
Thompson (PA)
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Wilson (SC)
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Two minutes are remaining in this vote.

□ 1138

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to vote on H.R. 1892, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 because of road closures caused by flooding in and around my home. The roads were impassable, and I regret that I could not be present for votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on final passage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 697 and 698, I was delayed and unable to vote. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 697 and "aye" on rollcall No. 698.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO CORRECT ENGROSSMENT

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of the bill, H.R. 1892, the Clerk be authorized to make such technical and conforming changes as necessary to reflect the actions of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 8, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 8, 2011 at 6:20 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1249.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 9, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 9, 2011 at 9:04 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 67.

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 28.
With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

□ 1140

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from Virginia, the majority leader, Mr. CANTOR, for the purposes of inquiring about the schedule for the week to come.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman from Maryland, my friend, the Democratic whip, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the House will meet at noon for morning-hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business, with votes postponed until 6:30 p.m.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning-hour and noon for legislative business.

On Thursday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes of the week are expected no later than 3 p.m. on Thursday.

On Friday, no votes are expected in the House.

The House will consider a few bills under suspension of the rules on Monday. A complete list of suspension bills will be announced by the close of business this afternoon.

As for the remainder of the week, we have a number of items to consider. We will complete action on H.R. 2218, the Empowering Parents Through Quality Charter Schools Act. We expect to consider an additional FAA extension. We will vote on a resolution of disapproval relating to the President's debt limit increase request. And we will consider H.R. 2587, the Protecting Jobs from Government Interference Act, the first bill in our fall agenda, Mr. Speaker, relating to job creation.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for the information he has given to us.

Can I inquire, as the gentleman knows, when we left for the August break there was a very substantial issue with respect to the FAA. Does the gentleman know whether there will be any policy riders on the FAA bill that comes to the floor? I know there is a reduction in authorized levels, but are there any policy riders in that bridge bill?

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman that we are still in discussions with the other body on the other side of the Capitol, as well as the committee, on exactly the construct of that bill, but do intend to bring that forward next week.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information.

I certainly hope that we can do so. And I am pleased to hear that we are having discussions so that that will not be a matter of contention. As you know, we had 4,000 FAA employees and about 71,000 or so contractor, private sector employees who were laid off for a period of time because of the failure to get agreement with the rider that was included in the bill that we passed over to them. I'm hopeful that we don't have a recurrence of that situation because it would be very harmful not just to those 75,000 people but to the FAA and generally, so I'm hopeful that we can work that out.

The President, Mr. Leader, spoke to us last night about a jobs program. I know that you have made comments with reference to shifting focus from cuts to jobs. We think that's appropriate; we appreciate that observation. But do you have any idea of how soon we may get to the President's proposal on job creation and trying to get our economy growing again? You made some, I think, positive comments and the Speaker has made some positive comments. I think those are welcome. But can you give me some idea, given the President's sense of urgency and I think the sense of the American people of the urgency of trying to create jobs and give them some more resources with which to support themselves and their families, and to invest and to

comprehensively try to staunch the loss of teachers and police and fire personnel that each one of our communities is experiencing?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I would respond by saying, first of all, the President has not sent a text of his bill, and we will be awaiting that. I would also like to respond by saying that the President came last night, and there were several things and proposals within his speech that seemed to reflect some areas that we can both agree on and build towards consensus. I would say to the gentleman that insisting that this body and the two sides here agree on everything is not a reasonable expectation. But I feel, and have said so many times since the President's speech, that this is an opportunity for us to set aside the differences that we have, because good people can differ, and begin to focus on things like allowing for tax relief for small businesses, like allowing for the rollback of regulatory impediments that stand in the way of small business growth. As the gentleman knows, we have put forward a fall agenda that is squarely focused on those two goals: rolling back regulation proposals that are standing in the way of middle class job creation, and affording tax relief for small businesses to create an environment for middle class jobs.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman.

I would hope that we could also have hearings.

I understand the gentleman is correct that the text has not been sent up—I expect that to happen in the very near future, probably, I would hope, before we get back on Monday night—but I would hope that we could start hearings on all segments of that and see that on which we could get agreement. Certainly investing in our infrastructure, investing in our schools, in our highways, critically important, we believe. And I think that will not only create jobs, but it will create jobs that will have a meaningful, positive impact on our infrastructure and our economic competitiveness.

The President mentioned about making it in America. As you know, we have a Make It In America agenda which includes a large number of items, including a manufacturing strategy, the President mentioned. That was one of the few times we all stood very enthusiastically when he mentioned, whether it was making cars or refrigerators or other goods here in America, that having made in America goods was something that I think we all support. So that's part of his agenda as well and certainly our agenda, and I hope our agenda writ large on a bipartisan basis.

If I might ask you, on the front page of The Washington Post today, as you probably saw, is a picture of my district in Upper Marlboro, Maryland,

where there is great flooding as a result of the rains that we have received from Irene. The supplemental for FEMA is coming hopefully from the Senate relatively soon.

I would ask the gentleman: As you know, \$484 million remains in FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund, clearly not enough to meet the disasters. In the aftermath of 9/11, as the gentleman knows, we appropriated such funds as were necessary, and we did so without paying for them because, in fact, they were real emergencies, real pain, real displacement, real dislocation, real costs immediately incurred by people as a result of the disaster—in that case in a terrorist act, but in this case a disaster. Can the gentleman tell me whether or not we will be able to pass, in a relatively accelerated fashion, sufficient resources for FEMA without getting into arguments about how, in the short term, we will pay for them?

We have to pay for things in the long term; I'm for that. But I would ask the gentleman whether or not he would anticipate getting that supplemental done as early as possible—and hopefully a clean supplemental next week if that is at all possible—because we need to respond to the emergencies that confront us.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. CANTOR. First of all, I would say to the gentleman, he knows as well that my district was the epicenter of the earthquake and damage there for that as well as extremely hard hit by the high winds associated with Irene. We had almost 900,000 people out of power. There are still some people out of power. So I understand the situation that people are suffering and we need to get them their relief. The gentleman knows that I share his commitment to making sure that happens. I also applaud the gentleman for saying that, yes, because he has always been, Mr. Speaker, someone who says we have to pay for what we do here.

□ 1150

I don't think that the two are mutually exclusive. I don't and have never said we should be holding up any relief at all for people who need it. I also think we can work together to act responsibly.

The gentleman has been an advocate always for paying for what we do. And so I would say, as to the request as to where and when we were doing the supplemental, we still have not heard from the administration because, as the gentleman knows, there's a process that goes on at the local and State levels to make a determination about the need and to make a determination that the need exceeds the capacities of the local and State governments so as to then turn to FEMA and the Federal Government to come in.

So I say to the gentleman, we need to understand exactly what the costs are

going to be, and we will make sure that we find the money. I will also say that we continue to try and get out of the sort of ad hoc way of appropriating for such emergencies. The fact is in the past that we, in this Congress, have not adequately funded the disaster accounts and have found ourselves caught shorthanded when disaster hits.

As the gentleman knows, part of the debt ceiling agreement included a 10-year rolling average to now be the amount for which we will budget for the disaster fund. Hopefully, that will get us on a much more even keel and allow for the adequate funding of what's needed, both in the short term and long.

But as for the supplemental, we are still waiting for the administration's determination of what is needed. And if it is FY12 monies, we will have the opportunity to roll that into the process of budgeting for the disasters the way we set out to do that in the debt ceiling agreement.

Mr. HOYER. I appreciate the gentleman's observation and also his reference to the head room that we gave in the agreement that was reached in raising the debt ceiling, understanding that there are emergencies that occur and you need head room to deal with those emergencies. I'm appreciative of the gentleman's observation.

I understand as well, I want to acknowledge that his district was hard hit, not only by the earthquake, but by Irene and, I presume, by the rains as well that have compounded that issue.

In any event, I appreciate his willingness to ensure that we do, in fact, get a supplemental that will meet the needs, the immediate needs of those people throughout certainly the Atlantic coast, but in other parts of the country as well. I appreciate and will look forward to working with him on that objective, as I will look forward to working with him on realizing the early passage of a jobs bill which will, in fact, get Americans back to work and get our economy growing, as is essential.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2011

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday next, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BROOKS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I voted against the Intelligence reauthorization act reluctantly. On the eve of the 10th anniversary of 9/11, there's still nothing more important than the security of our people. But I am troubled by a clear lack of progress in getting our arms around the sprawling intelligence bureaucracy.

There are 856,000 people with top security clearance in the United States. Think about it: that's nearly the population of the entire State of Delaware. It's more than the number of people who live in San Francisco.

In over 10,000 locations scattered across the country, there are 1,200 government organizations, 1,900 private companies that focus on intelligence-gathering and homeland security. But, unfortunately, we have an inability for anybody to know exactly what is going on. And the flood of information that is generated by hundreds of thousands of people with opportunities for leaks and mistakes is troubling. It can be a source of vulnerability. After all, parts of the bureaucracy were well aware of the threat from Osama bin Laden immediately prior to 9/11. It's time for us to give this the scrutiny it deserves.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Today we introduced a resolution to honor those whose lives were lost on 9/11. As a Member of Congress, I vividly remember as we rushed from this building and glared at the Pentagon and saw the remains of the plane that had attacked this Nation. From Pennsylvania to Washington, D.C. to New York, our lives were changed as America watched.

Today, as I stand on this floor, I offer my deepest remorse and sympathy to the families who still are in pain, to the first responders whose memories are still glaring in their attempt to find those who were lost and to save what might be left and the pain they have and the health conditions they suffer.

But what I will say to America is that we are still America, strong, patriotic and believing in all that we are, the great diversity that we are. Thank you to the Muslims who are in the Capitol right now providing the gift of life, giving blood. Thank you to the City of Houston that will be honoring those this coming weekend. We will be together because we are America. We will not be deterred.

PROTECTING OUR WATER SUPPLY

(Mr. CLARKE of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, nearly 10 years after the horrific events of 9/11, Americans are still at risk, especially at risk of being poisoned, poisoned by terrorists who would choose to dump large amounts of chemicals into our drinking water supply. So in order to protect the safety of our people, especially Metro Detroiters who drink water from a large municipal water system, today I'm introducing legislation to better secure our municipal water systems all around this country from such a terrorist threat.

REFLECTIONS ON SEPTEMBER 11

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HECK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. HECK. Mr. Speaker, we all have our own stories, personal stories on how 9/11 affected us, where we were, what we were doing. For my generation, I'm sure the day will go down in history as our day of infamy.

My perspective is as a first responder on that day and someone who grew up in New York. I was working for the Department of Defense at the time, leading a counterterrorism medical response organization. And my partner, Paramedic Jason Kepp, was actually conducting some training with the U.S. Park Police over at their aviation facility in Anacostia when they saw a low-flying plane and then heard the loud explosion. Jason quickly jumped on a U.S. Park Police helicopter and was one of the first responders to arrive at the Pentagon and provide aid.

I was traveling and in St. Louis when I turned on the TV that morning and saw the first tower in flames and was watching as the second tower was struck by another aircraft.

□ 1200

I knew that I needed to get back to my office in Bethesda as quickly as possible, a task made more difficult by the fact that aircraft had been grounded nationwide. So I remained on the phone, coordinating my teams, dispatching them to the various sites, and preparing for what might come next.

I carried that out until I made my way back to my office here and then subsequently on my way to New York City.

The tragic events showed us the darkest side of humanity: My drive up the New Jersey Turnpike, along with my partner, Paramedic Kepp, from here to the World Trade Center site, as we drove past the Liberty State Park and looked across the river to see the gaping hole in the New York skyline where the Trade Towers once stood, now a cloud of dust still hanging in the air illuminated by the bright lights

that had been set up for the rescue operation, crossing through the then desolate and closed off Holland Tunnel because all traffic in and out of New York had been stopped. And then the devastation on the scene: The twisted wreckage of what was two of America's tallest buildings, the debris field scattered widely and the coating of pulverized cement that laid on the ground like a blanket of snow.

But it also showed us the brightest side of humanity: The hundreds of people who lined up along West Street every day holding up signs and cheering on the rescuers as they made their way to and from the scene to carry out response operations. The restaurant owners in the area who were closed down for business to the public but opened up to provide hot meals to the rescuers who had previously been eating cold sandwiches and MREs. And the thousands of men and women who came to New York City to help—Red Cross volunteers, medical providers, public safety personnel, construction workers, heavy equipment operators among them.

On behalf of the nearly 3,000 victims of that day—246 on the four planes, over 2,600 in New York City in the towers and on the ground, the 125 at the Pentagon, those numbers including 55 military personnel, 343 firefighters and paramedics from the Fire Department of New York, 23 officers from the New York Police Department, 37 officers from the Port Authority Police Department, and 8 EMTs and paramedics from private sector EMS, I invoke a quote of then-President George Bush:

“Our grief has turned to anger, and anger to resolution. Whether we bring our enemies to justice or bring justice to our enemies, justice will be done.”

I offer my remarks today in memory of Fire Captain Patrick “Paddy” Brown, Ladder 3, an American hero, remembered November 9, 2001, at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, recovered December 14, 2001, from the rubble of the North Tower.

I would now like to yield time to the gentleman from the Empire State, Mr. GRIMM.

Mr. GRIMM. As we approach the 10th anniversary of 9/11, I appreciate an opportunity to recognize those lost in the attacks. I think about our heroic emergency responders, the families of those who lost loved ones, and those, themselves, that never returned on that tragic day.

I was a 9/11 first responder, and I remember it like it was yesterday. I remember the despair, the feeling that it wasn't actually happening. It was surreal. I didn't believe it. But most of all, there was an indescribable look in the eyes of those that were walking away from the pile.

I can tell you without any uncertain terms that, during this time and for the weeks that followed throughout

the rescue and recovery, the vast majority of us turned to prayer, and for many of us it was prayer that got us through dealing with the wreckage and the carnage and the reality that it was not a movie set, it was not surreal. It was, in fact, an attack on America. It was, in fact, a beautiful day where ordinary Americans, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, went to work one day and never came home.

It was during this rescue and recovery that a perfectly intact crossbeam was found among the wreckage, and that crossbeam was believed to have been from Tower One. The cross was lifted out of the pile and was put on display. It became much more than a crossbeam but, rather, a symbol of hope and a symbol of comfort for all of those on the pile and for all of those watching in despair wondering if they would ever see their loved ones again.

There is a lot to be said about 9/11, and it's very visceral, very personal for everyone that was touched by it, but I can tell you that if there was one common thread, one common bond, it was the prayer, the symbol of hope, the feeling that we all came together, and this cross is part of that. This crossbeam, this steel taken from Trade Center One was a part of the story and the journey that all of those involved went through.

And now that crossbeam has been placed in the museum to be memorialized as an artifact to remember everything that happened, but it's under attack by atheist groups that simply want their moment, their spotlight in the news, and that's why I put forth legislation to make it a national monument.

This crossbeam, the steel itself, represents solace at a time of one of the darkest moments in our history. It should be preserved. It is a part of that history. It is a part of the comfort that we sought. And for that purpose, I am very hopeful that my legislation will secure this crossbeam's place at the museum so that we can all remember our Nation's strength and resilience in the aftermath of this attack, and we can move forward as a stronger and better America.

God bless you, and God bless America.

Mr. HECK. I now would like to yield to the gentleman from the Garden State, Mr. LANCE.

Mr. LANCE. Thank you very much, Dr. HECK.

Mr. Speaker, the 21st century began, for all intents and purposes, on September 11, 2001. It did not begin well.

The war against terrorism is among the greatest public policy challenges of our generation. The deceased were casualties of war to the same extent as any person serving on the battlefield. The terrorists made no distinction between members of the Armed Forces and civilians. The terrorists made no

distinction between small children and infants and adults, and they killed their victims at will.

We in New Jersey lost roughly 700 people, second only to the State of New York.

□ 1210

I stated on the floor of the New Jersey State Legislature 10 years ago—and I repeat here today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives—that it will take the genius and the tenacity of a free society to overcome the scourge of terrorism, but overcome it, we shall. We have made much progress in the last 10 years; but, Mr. Speaker, more progress needs to be made.

On December 8, 1941, speaking here in the House of the people, the House of Representatives, Franklin Roosevelt said famously that, no matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory. That is as true today regarding the war against terrorism as it was when Franklin Roosevelt spoke it about World War II so many years ago.

In one of the subsequent stanzas of “America the Beautiful,” Katharine Bates, the author, wrote of thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears. But, of course, that is not true. Human tears are still shed based upon what happened on 9/11, and alabaster cities gleam not as brightly based upon the horrific acts of the terrorists.

At the National Cathedral on September 14, 2001, the President of the United States, George W. Bush, said this: “There are prayers that help us last through the day or endure the night. There are prayers of friends and strangers that give us strength for the journey, and there are prayers that yield our will to a will greater than our own.”

“This world He created is of moral design. Grief and tragedy and hatred are only for a time. Goodness, remembrance and love have no end; and the Lord of life holds all who die and all who mourn.”

The President went on to state at the conclusion of his remarks words that I believe are from St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans. The President said: “As we have been assured, neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth can separate us from God's love.”

Mr. Speaker, this weekend, we honor the memories of those who were lost on 9/11. We also honor the brave first responders to the horrific acts of a decade ago and recall the tremendous heroism and self-sacrifice of so many in New York, at the Pentagon, and on an airplane over western Pennsylvania.

May God bless all of those who died on 9/11 and their families, those who

bravely responded to the tragedy, and those who have ever put on the Nation's uniform to serve and protect us from the dangers we have faced and continue to face.

And, Mr. Speaker, may God continue to bless the United States of America.

Mr. HECK. Mr. Speaker, I would now like to yield to the gentleman from the Keystone State, Mr. MEEHAN.

Mr. MEEHAN. I want to thank my good friend from Nevada, Dr. HECK, for the opportunity to organize this moment for us in order to recognize the significance of this weekend on which ceremonies and memorials all across our country will be held. We will come together as a Nation to honor the thousands of innocent lives that were lost 10 years ago.

There is no doubt that, as the events of September 11 forever changed our Nation, the lives that were lost on that horrific day continue to live in the hearts and the minds of millions of Americans, and people around the world will continue to honor their memory.

I know, for many, for those who knew and lived with people who gave their lives, this is a personal issue as well. For me, it's a remembrance of a very special family, the Bavis family. Mark Bavis was one of the individuals on the plane that went into the World Trade Center. He was a member of the Boston Bruins and was a wonderful young man. These are acts of heroism and courage from that day that will continue to be honored, and our brave first responders who risked their lives to rescue others will certainly be first among them.

You will hear many of us tell stories about the opportunity to be participants in the aftermath of that immediate event. It was a small opportunity—I think, really, it was a privilege—just a few days thereafter to have had the nomination of the President of the United States honored and passed on by the Senate to become the United States Attorney, to go to work in the Justice Department just days after, and to participate in playing a role in the Nation's response to this horrible act of terrorism.

I think of my role as being really quite minimal in respect to, but it became a front seat in the ability to watch so many others who rallied around as a Nation and who, frankly, then went into harm's way with the objective of keeping our Nation safe from the continuing threat of terrorism.

I particularly focus on those warfighters who are bravely overseas now, who are putting their lives on the line, and I focus on the vigilance of the members of our law enforcement and others. The testament of their effect has been that we are a decade later still recognizing, not just their memories, but the reality that we as a Nation have not been similarly attacked.

It is my hope that, not just on this anniversary of 9/11, but every day we will remember the lives lost and those who were left without fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters. Over 3,000 children lost one or both of their parents that fateful day, including 32 babies who were born after 9/11. Their incredible strength and resilience and the courage of their loved and lost is an inspiration, and I trust we as a grateful Nation will keep them all in our prayers.

Mr. HECK. I would now like to yield to my colleague from the House Armed Services Committee, the gentle lady from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER).

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you, Dr. HECK. It is an honor to be here today and to be able to share a few words in memory of what happened on 9/11.

9/11 changed our world forever. It is this generation's Pearl Harbor, and it will live on in infamy. Most of us will always remember where we were when we heard the news of the attack.

I was at home with our then 1½-year-old daughter, who was just finishing breakfast. It was a bright, clear, sunny day in the fall. The doorbell rang. My neighbor was on my doorstep, saying that he'd just heard on the radio that a plane had hit the World Trade Center towers. Thinking it a tragic accident, we turned on the TV and were horrified to watch a second plane crash into the second tower. This wasn't an accident. America was under attack.

The hours after that were surreal as we learned of the attack on the Pentagon, of the brave passengers who intervened on Flight 93, of the airplane trails in the sky that did an about-face, then dissipated—they were no more—as planes were grounded all across this country. We then watched in horror on TV as the towers collapsed and thousands lost their lives.

My neighbor left; and I, like most Americans, turned in prayer to the one who gives comfort, strength and hope during times like this. I held my daughter close, wondering what the future would bring.

□ 1220

Since that time, our men and women in uniform, our intelligence community and our law enforcement have confronted the face of terror head-on and have prevented another attack. For that we are so grateful. We recognize their service and their sacrifice and pray a similar attack never occurs again. This Sunday, we commemorate 10 years since that fateful day. We each will remember the day in our own way, but one theme is prevalent: We will never forget.

We mourn the loss of the lives of thousands of innocent Americans, whose lives were snuffed out in a senseless act of terror. We commend the first responders and volunteers who intervened in the hours and days fol-

lowing the event to get us back on our feet again. We commend their service and their courage, but we must remain vigilant.

Forces of evil still want to kill innocent citizens and snuff out the beacon of freedom and liberty to the world. We will not be deterred. We will continue to uphold the principles of freedom. We will not turn back.

With God's grace, we will prevail and continue to be a beacon of hope for generations to come.

Mr. HECK. I now yield to my friend and member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY).

Mr. CONAWAY. I thank the gentleman from Nevada for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago Sunday our Nation endured one of the worst attacks that it has ever seen. Like so many Americans, I watched in total disbelief at the horrific tragedy that was unfolding on American soil. I stood in shock at the atrocities that were being broadcast live on our television sets. We mourned the loss of life, and we remain concerned about the lives of those trying to save the victims that were in those towers.

These coordinated attacks were not just directed at buildings and people, but at the very fabric of our country. This enemy sought to create mass fear and uncertainty, but their heinous efforts are in vain and were in vain. They attacked men, women, and children. They attacked our military and civilians without hesitation or reservation.

While in our shock, though, we found an American vigilance and strength that has not been seen since World War II. We reaffirmed our commitment to freedom in ourselves and our friends abroad, and that commitment remains strong today.

This unwavering commitment can be seen in every single member of the Armed Forces who proudly wear our uniforms and their strong families. It's seen in our police officers, our firemen, our emergency personnel, and all first responders.

It's actually seen in the Members of this body and those that you and I represent. Our commitment to liberty and freedom is as strong and unwavering in all of us today. Today we remember those who perished and thank those who have laid down their lives to defend us.

We mourn the mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, and the families that were broken and lost that day. We honor those first responders who risked their lives to save their fellow Americans.

We praise the commitment of our servicemembers and their families who continue to keep the fight over there and not at home. We remember how we felt that day and the sense of patriotism that we found.

As Americans today, we look forward knowing that although we face

daunting challenges as a Nation, we have the resolve to meet those challenges. Much has been accomplished since that day. The world is safer and more free but, Mr. Speaker, there is much work that yet remains to be done. Let's renew the patriotism we felt that day and move our Nation forward.

May God bless this great country.

Mr. HECK. I now yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM).

Mr. DENHAM. I thank the gentleman from Nevada for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, in the midst of our Nation's pressing economic troubles and our political disputes, let us all pause for a minute to take a moment and reflect on what happened to our great Nation 10 years ago on September 11.

Americans experienced the most horrific attack in the Western World. On the 10th anniversary of September 11, let us remember the great heroism that came out of this horrible tragedy, the brave first responders, the men and women that serve in the police departments, the men and women that serve in our fire departments, those brave men and women that quickly responded at that horrific time.

Let's also think of the original passengers of Flight 93, those passengers that showed bravery at a very difficult time, the extraordinary action that they took. Let's think of those same service men and women that put their lives on the line every day, put their lives on the line after those attacks, and have continued to put their lives on the line for the last 10 years protecting our country in the wars that ensued after, and the millions of Americans that came together at this tough time, put their differences aside, put their political differences aside, put all of their differences aside and came together as a country.

We can all remember what we felt that day, where we were. I was traveling away from my family. My daughter was 3 years old at the time. I can remember the disbelief as I saw what was happening on TV before my eyes, the sorrow that I felt for the pain that you could see in the faces of those individuals that were wondering whether their family was safe when they went to work that day, the fear that I had as a father and as a husband away from my family, not knowing what was happening in my home State or to my kids.

Then the anger set in. After I found out my family was safe, the anger that I felt that terrorists would attack our great Nation, and then the pride that I felt as America came together, united, the strength of a great nation, understanding that freedom doesn't just come free. To those that attack us, we will fight back, fight back for our freedom and strength as a nation.

I would ask all that remember these stories, the service men and women

that are bravely serving our country, to stand proud, to renew their commitment to what happened that day and let us make sure that America never suffers in that way again.

Mr. HECK. Mr. Speaker, I thank all my colleagues for coming down this afternoon and sharing their feelings and experiences on that fateful day of September 11, 2001. We have heard a range of emotions, each telling their own story on how that day affected them.

I ask that we all take a moment of silence on that day, September 11, 2011, on the 10th anniversary, remembering those nearly 3,000 victims, their families and those affected.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of the tenth anniversary of the tragic events of September 11th, 2001.

First, I would like to take a moment to remember those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks, and offer my sincerest sympathy and prayers for their families and loved ones.

I would also like to honor the many heroes of that day—the brave men and women who risked life and limb to help those in need. Our first responders never cowered in their call to public service, and were joined by perfect strangers in their efforts. It made me proud to see Americans from diverse backgrounds come together in a common sense of purpose, reminding everyone that our diversity is what makes our country great.

However, I am also reminded of the costs of hate, intolerance, and warfare through any means which is why we must reaffirm our commitment to each other as fellow citizens. We must band together to better our communities and strengthen our country.

Though Sunday is the 10th anniversary of the attacks that took the lives of so many Americans, Sunday also serves as the third time our nation commemorates 9/11 as a national day of remembrance and service. And although it is a day to look back and remember, it is also a day to give back to enable us to move forward.

Volunteerism and service have been themes our country has built on for generations. And now is a time for rebuilding and making our country stronger—brick by brick, block by block.

As we continue our efforts as a legislative body to keep our country safe, I urge all of you who can to honor those whose lives were taken on 9/11 by volunteering in your community this Sunday.

I believe, as Members of Congress, it is important to pass this Resolution, but also as citizens it is important we join together with Americans from all backgrounds in a day of service.

I encourage you all to visit www.serve.gov to find a volunteer opportunity near you.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, on this tenth anniversary of the attacks on our country on September 11, 2001, I simply want to pay tribute to the American people, and to our country, and what it stands for: our enduring commitment to the freedoms we cherish, to liberty and democracy, and to our system of government and our way of life.

The attacks on 9/11 against the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon here

in Washington, and over the skies of Pennsylvania, took nearly 3,000 lives. It was the worst attack against the homeland since Pearl Harbor, and a higher death toll was inflicted on 9/11 than even on that date in 1941 "that will live in infamy," as Franklin Roosevelt memorialized for the nation.

On this 9/11, our sole responsibilities are the simple, sacred acts of remembrance and rededication: remembrance of those whose lives were taken, and rededication to our country and its future.

Those who perished will never be forgotten; their names are called out every year. And if anything, American patriotism is stronger than ever.

The 9/11 attacks were directed at our freedoms, our way of life, and modern civilization itself. It was an assault against American leadership in the world, against the ideals that have guided us since the founding of the Republic, and against the rule of law and any sense of morality.

But the fact is that those responsible for 9/11 could never—and will never—defeat the United States of America. No act of terrorism can overcome the spirit of the American people and our pursuit of our destiny.

Our resolve from that terrible day was clear: to pursue and defeat those who perpetrated this evil, and to make sure they can never again threaten the United States of America and those who live here.

As we commemorate the tenth anniversary of 9/11, we must note that the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have now lasted longer than the Civil War and World War II combined. We have suffered substantial casualties—over 6,300 dead and 35,000 injured in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001. The financial cost of the two wars is over \$1.2 trillion—nearly equal to this year's Federal budget deficit. President Bush did not ask the American people for a tax increase to finance these wars, so we have not only a legacy of great human casualties, but also one of immense financial debt.

The American involvement in the war in Iraq is drawing to a close, and I support President Obama's stated intention to remove all American combat forces by year's end.

But I also believe it past time to end our involvement in Afghanistan. We should bring our troops home now. There is nothing more for our forces to achieve there. There are other fronts in the war on terror, such as Pakistan, Yemen, and Sudan, and we need to continue our efforts to combat violent extremists in those countries. But there is no overriding purpose served by continuing military involvement in Afghanistan. Let us leave Afghanistan to its people, and reserve the right to strike at any foe arising from Afghanistan that poses a threat to our country and its people.

As a nation we grieve for those whose lives were so brutally taken on 9/11. We honor their memory, and we support their families. And I hope that all our military forces in Iraq and Afghanistan will be brought home to us very soon.

Mr. HECK. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1230

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL
EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO
CERTAIN TERRORIST ATTACKS—
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC.
NO. 112-52)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. Consistent with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the terrorist attacks on the United States of September 11, 2001, is to continue in effect for an additional year.

The terrorist threat that led to the declaration on September 14, 2001, of a national emergency continues. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect after September 14, 2011, the national emergency with respect to the terrorist threat.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 9, 2011.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BARLETTA (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for September 8 and today on account of severe flooding in his district.

SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION REFERRED

A concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. Con. Res. 28. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service, United States Army, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II; to the Committee on House Administration.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HECK. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 33 minutes

p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, September 12, 2011, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2996. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Shepherd's Purse With Roots From the Republic of Korea Into the United States [Docket No.: APHIS-2009-0086] (RIN: 0579-AD26) received July 29, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2997. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Karnal Bunt; Regulated Areas in Arizona, California, and Texas [Docket No.: APHIS-2009-0079] received July 29, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2998. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Carboxymethyl guar gum sodium salt and Carboxymethylhydroxypropyl guar; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0531; FRL-8880-5] received July 20, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2999. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Funding and Fiscal Affairs, Loan Policies and Operations, and Funding Operations; Investment Management (RIN: 3052-AC50) received August 2, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3000. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulations Supplement; Government Property (DFARS Case 2009-D008) (RIN: 0750-AG38) received July 29, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3001. A letter from the Attorney, Office of General Counsel, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Service's final rule — State Official Notification Rules [Docket No.: CFPB-2011-0005] (RIN: 3170-AA02) received July 29, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3002. A letter from the Attorney, Office of General Counsel, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Rules Relating to Investigations [Docket No.: CFPB-2011-0007] (RIN: 3170-AA03) received July 29, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3003. A letter from the Attorney, Office of General Counsel, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Rules of Practice for Adjudication Proceedings [Docket No.: CFPB-2011-0006] (RIN: 3170-AA05) received July 29, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3004. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes

in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID: FEMA-2011-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-B-1203] received July 29, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3005. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Insurer Reporting Requirements; List of Insurers Required To File Reports [Docket No.: NHTSA-2011-0016] (RIN: 2127-AK90) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3006. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Disapproval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plan Revisions; Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 8-hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard; Wyoming [EPA-R08-OAR-2010-0303; FRL-9441-5] received July 20, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3007. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Revisions to Permits by Rule and Regulations for Control of Air Pollution by Permits for New Construction or Modification [EPA-R06-OAR-2011-0426; FRL-9442-7] received July 20, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3008. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Implementation Plan Revisions; Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 8-hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard; Colorado [EPA-R08-OAR-2009-0809; FRL-9442-1] received July 20, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3009. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plan Revisions; Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 8-hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard; Montana [EPA-R08-OAR-2010-0298; FRL-9440-6] received July 20, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3010. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plan Revisions; Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 8-hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard; Utah [EPA-R08-OAR-2010-0302; FRL-9442-2] received July 20, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3011. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plan Revisions; Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 8-hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Revisions to ARSD Chapter 74:36:09 (PSD); South Dakota [EPA-R08-OAR-2010-0301; FRL-9441-6] received July 20, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3012. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Alternative to Minimum Days Off Requirements [NRC-2011-

0058] (RIN: 3150-AI94) received July 29, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3013. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Standard Format and Content of License Termination Plans for Nuclear Power Reactors [Regulatory Guide 1.179] received July 29, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3014. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Campbellton, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2010-1053; Airspace Docket No. 10-ASW-15] received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3015. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Model FALCON 7X Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0259; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-196-AD; Amendment 39-16730; AD 2011-13-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3016. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model EMB-120, -120ER, -120FC, -120QC, and -120RT Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2010-0546; Directorate Identifier 2009-NM-215-AD; Amendment 39-16659; AD 2011-08-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3017. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Model DHC-8-400 Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0036; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-230-AD; Amendment 39-16729; AD 2011-13-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3018. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Model DHC-8-400 Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0260; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-242-AD; Amendment 39-16731; AD 2011-13-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3019. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Learjet Inc. Model 45 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2010-0802; Directorate Identifier 2009-NM-256 AD; Amendment 39-16733; AD 2011-13-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3020. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300 B4-600, B4-600R, and F4-600R Series Airplanes, and Model C4-605R Variant F Airplanes (Collectively Called A300-600 Series Airplanes); and Model A310 Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2010-1179; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-044-AD; Amendment 39-16736; AD 2011-14-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011,

pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3021. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Model DC-9-81 (MD-81), DC-9-82 (MD-82), DC-9-83 (MD-83), DC-9-87 (MD-87), and MD-88 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2010-1203; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-168-AD; Amendment 39-16738; AD 2011-14-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3022. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Model FALCON 7X Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0152; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-079-AD; Amendment 39-16739; AD 2011-14-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3023. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc (RR) RB211-524 Series Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0624; Directorate Identifier 2010-NE-11-AD; Amendment 39-16724; AD 2011-13-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3024. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Schweizer Aircraft Corporation (Schweizer) Model 269A, A-1, B, C, C-1, and TH-55 Series Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0593; Directorate Identifier 2011-SW-002-AD; Amendment 39-16723; AD 2011-12-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3025. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Model F.28 Mark 0070 and 0100 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0220; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-259-AD; Amendment 39-16721; AD 2011-12-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3026. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Model 737-600, -700, -700C, -800, -900, and -900ER Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2010-0853; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-116-AD; Amendment 39-16720; AD 2011-12-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3027. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Costruzioni Aeronautiche Tecnam srl Model P2006T Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0326; Directorate Identifier 2011-CE-066-AD; Amendment 39-16725; AD 2011-13-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3028. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Restricted Areas R-4401A, R-4401B, and R-4401C; Camp Shelby, MS [Docket No.: FAA-

2008-0110; Airspace Docket No.: 07-ASW-8] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3029. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Helicopter Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; Northeast United States [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0078; Airspace Docket No. 10-AEA-20] received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3030. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Madison, SD [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0135; Airspace Docket No. 11-AGL-4] received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3031. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Lincoln City, OR [Docket No.: FAA-2010-0987; Airspace Docket No. 10-ANM-14] received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3032. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Florence, OR [Docket No.: FAA-2010-0986; Airspace Docket No. 10-ANM-13] received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3033. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Election of Reduced Research Credit under Section 280C(c)(3) [TD 9539] (RIN: 1545-BI09) received July 29, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3034. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Methods of Accounting Used by Corporations That Acquire the Assets of Other Corporations [TD 9534] (RIN: 1545-BD81) received July 29, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[Omitted from the Record of September 8, 2011]

Mr. BACHUS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2072. A bill to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 112-201). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 358. Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means extended for a period ending not later than September 12, 2011.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. DOGGETT (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. REYES, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. STARK, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. KISSELL, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Ms. RICHARDSON, and Mr. LUJÁN):

H.R. 2875. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the reemployment of certain persons following absences from a position employment for the purpose of obtaining medical treatment for certain injuries and illnesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. POMPEO (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CARTER, Mr. HARPER, and Mr. MCKINLEY):

H.R. 2876. A bill to prevent discrimination on the basis of political beliefs by the Environmental Protection Agency in its student programs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. QUAYLE, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT):

H.R. 2877. A bill to prohibit the further extension or establishment of national monuments in Arizona except by express authorization of Congress; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself and Mr. ISSA):

H.R. 2878. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to temporary admission of nonimmigrant aliens to the United States for the purpose of receiving medical treatment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUPPERSBERGER:

H.R. 2879. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require that money and proceeds from gifts given to reduce the public debt are only deposited into the account established for those gifts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TIERNEY (for himself, Mr. HONDA, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, and Ms. WOOLSEY):

H.R. 2880. A bill to establish the Office of the Special Inspector General for Overseas Contingency Operations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WEST (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. BLACKBURN,

Mr. MORAN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. HARPER, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. RIVERA, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. WALSH of Illinois, and Mr. GRIMM):

H.R. 2881. A bill to provide compensation to relatives of Foreign Service members killed in the line of duty and the relatives of United States citizens who were killed as a result of the bombing of the United States Embassy in Kenya on August 7, 1998, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 2875.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution that grants Congress the authority, "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. POMPEO:

H.R. 2876.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 2877.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article IV, section 3, clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 2878.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 4 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. RUPPERSBERGER:

H.R. 2879.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. TIERNEY:

H.R. 2880.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WEST:

H.R. 2881.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution (clauses 12, 13, 14, 16, and 18), which grants Congress the power to raise and support an Army; to provide and maintain a Navy; to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces; to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia; and to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the foregoing powers."

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 26: Mr. BARROW.

H.R. 35: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.

H.R. 104: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 112: Mr. NADLER, Ms. WATERS, and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

H.R. 178: Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 210: Ms. BASS of California, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. GUTIERREZ, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 402: Ms. MATSUI and Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 436: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. LONG.

H.R. 494: Mr. VISCLOSKEY and Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 516: Mr. BONNER.

H.R. 555: Ms. WOOLSEY.

H.R. 607: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 654: Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 674: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. PENCE.

H.R. 704: Mr. ROYCE.

H.R. 721: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.R. 745: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina.

H.R. 808: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 831: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 892: Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 1057: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 1091: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 1093: Mr. DUFFY.

H.R. 1134: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 1161: Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 1175: Mr. COBLE.

H.R. 1182: Ms. JENKINS and Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H.R. 1195: Mr. SCHILLING.

H.R. 1206: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 1236: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1244: Mr. DOLD, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. TERRY.

H.R. 1265: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 1274: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 1327: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mr. MANZULLO.

H.R. 1331: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 1348: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 1351: Mr. KIND, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.R. 1416: Mrs. ROBY.

H.R. 1426: Mr. BOREN, Mr. PETERSON, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. TONKO, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Ms. RICHARDSON.

H.R. 1456: Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 1489: Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 1543: Mr. PETERSON and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 1546: Ms. ESHOO, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. PETERSON, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 1614: Mr. FORBES.
 H.R. 1639: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. LANDRY, Mrs. MYRICK, and Mr. ROONEY.
 H.R. 1645: Mr. KILDEE.
 H.R. 1697: Mr. CRITZ.
 H.R. 1724: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California and Ms. DeLAURO.
 H.R. 1738: Mr. LANCE.
 H.R. 1744: Mr. WALSH of Illinois, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. CARTER.
 H.R. 1756: Mrs. ELLMERS.
 H.R. 1774: Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. DeGETTE, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. FILNER, and Ms. WOOLSEY.
 H.R. 1821: Mr. CONYERS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. POLIS.
 H.R. 1848: Mr. McCaul and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina.
 H.R. 1905: Mr. CAMPBELL and Mrs. DAVIS of California.
 H.R. 1912: Ms. NORTON, Ms. BASS of California, and Mr. ISRAEL.
 H.R. 1936: Mr. MCKINLEY.
 H.R. 2010: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
 H.R. 2019: Ms. WOOLSEY.
 H.R. 2040: Mr. GARDNER, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina.
 H.R. 2071: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
 H.R. 2088: Mrs. LOWEY and Mr. DEFazio.
 H.R. 2106: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas and Mr. McINTYRE.
 H.R. 2137: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. GIBBS, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
 H.R. 2167: Mr. HURT and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 2168: Mr. DEFazio.
 H.R. 2194: Ms. WOOLSEY.
 H.R. 2195: Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. TIERNEY.
 H.R. 2198: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
 H.R. 2204: Mr. LONG, Mr. HULTGREN, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
 H.R. 2223: Ms. KAPTUR.
 H.R. 2299: Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. McHENRY, and Mr. MCKINLEY.
 H.R. 2304: Mr. COBLE.
 H.R. 2307: Mrs. MALONEY.
 H.R. 2310: Ms. WOOLSEY.
 H.R. 2337: Ms. LEE of California, Mr. WEST-MORELAND, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. WOLF, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. COHEN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. NORTON, Mr. COBLE, and Mr. CALVERT.
 H.R. 2437: Mr. POLIS.
 H.R. 2447: Mrs. ELLMERS and Ms. FUDGE.
 H.R. 2471: Mr. TERRY and Mr. ISSA.
 H.R. 2479: Mr. TIBERI.
 H.R. 2497: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
 H.R. 2502: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.
 H.R. 2505: Mr. COURTNEY.
 H.R. 2514: Mr. CAMP.
 H.R. 2524: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
 H.R. 2588: Mrs. HARTZLER.
 H.R. 2593: Mr. HOLDEN.
 H.R. 2655: Mr. BOUSTANY.
 H.R. 2674: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
 H.R. 2738: Mr. TONKO and Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 2752: Mr. RIVERA.
 H.R. 2757: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
 H.R. 2766: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 2790: Mr. TOWNS.
 H.R. 2826: Ms. RICHARDSON.
 H.R. 2829: Mr. CAMP, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. SMITH of Texas.
 H.R. 2848: Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. MARCHANT.
 H.R. 2859: Mr. ELLISON and Mr. KUCINICH.
 H.R. 2860: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
 H.R. 2865: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ROSS of Florida, and Ms. RICHARDSON.
 H.R. 2867: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
 H.J. Res. 13: Mr. ALEXANDER and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.
 H.J. Res. 77: Mr. GOWDY, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. BOUSTANY, and Mr. JORDAN.
 H. Res. 298: Mr. ELLISON, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mrs. MYRICK.
 H. Res. 364: Mr. TONKO, Mr. LONG, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. BASS of New Hampshire, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. REED, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. LATTA.
 H. Res. 378: Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. HANNA.
 H. Res. 380: Mr. CRAVAACK.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

9/11 COMMEMORATION CEREMONY
REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY &
BIKE TOUR

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, September 11, 2001, is a day forever etched into the memory of the American people. On that day 10 years ago, over 3,000 innocent people, including nine Texans, died during the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and aboard Flight 93. We gather at the Farmers Branch Remembrance Service to honor both their memory and the sacrifices of their families. We also renew our commitment to honoring the sacrifice and service of the citizens who risked their lives to help all those impacted on that terrible day. Firefighters, police officers, and first responders saved thousands of victims, and nearly 350 rescue personnel gave their lives in the service of others. It is because of their bravery that many of us knew 9/11 would not be the downfall of our great nation, despite what those who attacked us intended.

While 9/11 is a day of great solemnity, it is also a moment of pride. Our reaction as a country to those events—both during the events and afterward—reveals much about us as a people. Our enemies thought they could break our spirit and crush our will, but they failed to realize our resolve and resilience. As President George Bush said only days later, “America today is on bended knee, in prayer for the people whose lives were lost here, for the workers who work here, for the families that mourn.” They sought to divide us, but they mistook the strength of our convictions for the inability to act and the wisdom of liberty for frailty of arms. And they certainly failed to understand the breadth of our unity and the depth of our commitment to freedom both here and around the world.

As we look back on the 10 years since the attacks, we are reminded that the United States still faces enemies who spread fear and hate through terrorism and brutality. Congress, the Presidency, and the Federal Government have an obligation and duty to protect our nation. We have made great strides since that terrible day, but there is still much to be done. “Stars and Spokes” is a terrific reminder of the resilience of our nation and the ability of the American people to put our differences aside for the sake of our country men and women.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR CHIEF
PETTY OFFICER EXPLOSIVE
ORDNANCE DISPOSAL NICHOLAS
HEATH NULL

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Petty Officer Explosive Ordnance Disposal Nicholas Heath Null who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Chief Null was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Chief Null was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including two Bronze Star Medals with Valor, including one for extraordinary heroism, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals with Valor, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Valor, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, two Combat Action Ribbons, Presidential Unit Citation, two Afghanistan Campaign Medals, two Iraqi Campaign Medals, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Chief Null is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Chief Null an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Chief Null's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF S&C ELECTRIC COMPANY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to S&C Electric Company, an exemplary business and essential community partner, which will be celebrating 100 years of service on September 25.

In 1909, after a dangerous fire at Commonwealth Edison's Chicago Fisk Generating Station, the utility asked Edmond Schweitzer and Nicholas Conrad to create a safer electric switch. In 1911, the men invented the Liquid Power Fuse and founded Schweitzer & Conrad, kicking off a century of job creation and technological innovation.

Today S&C, under the direction of C.E.O. John Estey, is a leader in smart energy solutions for our increasingly complex electric grid. The company has pioneered electric power switching technologies that manage consumer demand aberrations as a result of plug-in vehicles, address peak energy crunches, and integrate clean and renewable energy into utility companies' existing electrical framework. Its commitment to quality has established the company as the industry leader in long-term value. And its commitment to its employees, including a benefits package that provides tuition reimbursement, has kept 350 employees at the company for over 25 years each. These traits will ensure that S&C remains a leader in electric power solutions for the next century.

The next century will compel our country to conserve precious energy resources, create new technologies to enhance efficiency, and incorporate clean energy alternatives. Companies like S&C will be instrumental in that process and will enable the United States to lead the world in energy innovation.

I am proud to count S&C among the companies in my district and its employees among my constituents. I congratulate them on this major milestone, and I look forward to their continued success in the 100 years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ATANACIO
GARCIA OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a truly amazing citizen of our country, Mr. Atanacio Garcia of San Antonio, Texas.

Mr. Garcia has dedicated his entire life to serving the United States of America. At the age of 22, he was drafted into the military and served 8 years, including a stint in Korea and Germany. Upon his discharge, Mr. Garcia returned to Texas and joined the U.S. Postal Service. In addition to working for the Postal Service for 24 years, Mr. Garcia also served in the Texas Air National Guard from March 14, 1963–March 13, 1982.

Since his retirement in 1984, Mr. Garcia has remained steadfast in his commitment to civic duty and civic responsibility, and he has continuously worked to help the people of San Antonio. Mr. Garcia worked to help bring the first public pool to San Antonio's Westside neighborhood, and he has been a constant figure at neighborhood events and local community service projects.

Even after all of these incredible achievements and accomplishments, Mr. Garcia has still felt the need to do even more for his country. Concerned about America's growing debt, he decided to take matters into his own

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

hands. Starting in 2009, Mr. Garcia made a pledge to send \$50 every month to the U.S. Treasury's Bureau of Public Debt in order to pay down our national debt. In order to maintain his monthly pledge, Mr. Garcia uses money he makes from selling aluminum cans that he collects in his neighborhood.

Obviously, we cannot all have the sense of public service and civic duty of Mr. Atanacio Garcia, but it is my hope that we can all strive to be a little more like Mr. Garcia. If lawmakers and corporations were able to embody just a fraction of his willingness to solve problems by putting America first, I do not believe that our country would have the problems that it does.

I want to thank Mr. Garcia for his tireless efforts and dedication to his community and to his country. He is a pillar of the San Antonio community, and an example for citizens across the country. It is truly an honor to represent constituents, such as Mr. Atanacio Garcia, in the U.S. Congress, and again, I would like to ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing this incredible public servant and citizen of the United States of America.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE LINE OF DUTY DEATH GRATUITY ACT OF 2011

HON. ALLEN B. WEST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. WEST. Mr. Speaker, today I rise, with my colleague Congressman BENNIE THOMPSON, to introduce the Foreign Service Line of Duty Death Gratuity Act.

As our nation approaches the 10th Anniversary of the terrorist attacks on September 11th, it is important to acknowledge that the attacks in New York and Washington, DC, were not the first shots fired in this war, but rather just an escalation of previous attacks against the United States.

Over the course of the upcoming weekend, Americans will reflect on the events of 10 years ago. Where were they on that terrible day? What were they doing when the towers fell and when the Pentagon was hit? How did they react when it became apparent that it was a terrorist attack on our country?

The events of that day have guided our Federal Government's approach, and indeed our society's approach, to preventing future attacks in many different ways.

However, there is another significant date—a date that may be less familiar to many Americans. That date is August 7, 1998. I know that for many Americans, if not most, it is difficult to recall what they were doing or where they were that day.

For the Department of State, and for many Foreign Service Officers and members of the State Department family, that date is a defining moment in each of their lives.

On the afternoon of August 7, 1998, over 8,000 miles from Capitol Hill on the continent of Africa, Al Qaeda terrorists set off two simultaneous truck bombs at the entrances to our embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

When the smoke finally cleared, 300 people were dead. Twelve Americans and 40 citizens of Kenya and Tanzania who were working for the United States Government were among those killed. More than 5,000 were injured, and two United States embassies were destroyed.

Although the attacks were directed at American facilities, the vast majority of casualties were local citizens.

Fifteen years earlier, in 1983, a suicide bomber attacked the United States Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon. In that tragedy, sixty people died—mostly embassy staff members and U.S. service members. At that time, it was the deadliest attack on a U.S. diplomatic mission, and is considered by some to mark the beginning of attacks by Islamist extremist groups on the United States.

After the Beirut attack, a Commission was set up under the leadership of former Navy Admiral Bobby Inman. Recommendations were made, funding was provided, and the State Department was charged to replace 77 embassies and consulates that failed to meet basic security standards.

The Commission stated that “a large number of facilities around the world, which once may have represented the optimal site for the conduct of American diplomacy, [should] be replaced by more physically secure sites and buildings. The Panel believe[s] that it [is] essential that a substantial relocation and building program be initiated and carried out with dispatch.” Despite this recommendation from the Inman Commission, a lack of appropriate sites and a lack of funding resulted in the Department completing only 22 of the planned Inman embassies.

By the time of the East African bombings, the Department had only one new embassy under construction. After the 1998 East African attacks, another Commission was set up, again under the leadership of retired Navy Admiral William Crowe. Once again recommendations were made, funding was provided, and the State Department was charged to replace 187 aging and insecure embassies. The State Department worked closely with the Office of Management and Budget and the United States Congress to ensure that a funding commitment was put in place. In response, Congress passed the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act of 1999.

Over the last 13 years, the Department of State's Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations has completed, or has under construction, more than 100 facilities around the globe. Approximately 25,000 federal employees have moved into safer, more secure, and functional facilities overseas. With this latest building program, the State Department has moved one-quarter of all U.S. Government overseas employees into new facilities.

Since the East African bombings, American diplomatic facilities have been attacked over 140 times. Recently, attacks in Belgrade, Serbia; Sanaa, Yemen; Nuevo Laredo, Mexico and many others have been covered on the news. When they happen, these events are breaking news stories, but are often quickly forgotten. The State Department has been fortunate in each of these attacks that the perpetrators of the violence have never breached the hard line of the embassy building.

While the State Department continues to build secure facilities, the 13 years since the East Africa bombings have seen the world become more dangerous. The goal of the Bureau of Overseas Buildings is to construct facilities that provide American diplomats with safe and functional facilities where they can advance foreign policy, and ultimately make the world better, safer and more secure. Until that day comes, however, these Federal employees who bravely serve our nation continue to be at risk of terrorist attack.

Many of the Foreign Service Officers who work in United States diplomatic platforms serve alongside and face the same hazards and risks as our military personnel and intelligence officers.

As Foreign Service employees engage more visibly in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is important that they know that their contributions and sacrifices are as highly valued as those of our military personnel.

The Foreign Service Line of Duty Death Gratuity Act would authorize the Department of State to provide compensation for the families of fallen Foreign Service employees that is comparable to what is provided to the families of fallen military personnel.

Under current law, the surviving family members of an American Foreign Service employee are entitled to one year's salary and the proceeds of their federal life insurance benefit. In contrast, the family of a fallen member of the military is entitled to an enhanced life insurance and death gratuity that was authorized by the United States Congress in 2005. This is a disparity that can no longer be overlooked.

The Foreign Service Line of Duty Death Gratuity Act would ensure that the families of Foreign Service employees receive, at a minimum, a death gratuity equal of \$100,000, matching the benefit provided to military personnel. An enhanced life insurance benefit of at least \$400,000 for Foreign Service employees serving at a recognized danger pay post also matches the benefit available to military personnel participating in combat operations or stationed in combat zones. Foreign Service employees with a higher yearly salary or life insurance payout will maintain their benefits as they exist under current law.

This legislation also recognizes our moral obligation to the families of the twelve Americans killed in the August 1998 Al Qaeda bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya. Many of the surviving family members of that incident have endured significant and continuing financial and personal hardships that serve as a poignant example of the burdens faced by such survivors. These families have been unable to seek damages through the courts as other families in similar situations have because such actions are limited to state-sponsored acts of terror.

Similar legislation has passed the House of Representatives in previous Congressional sessions, but failed to clear the hurdle of the United States Senate. Then-Congressman Roy Blunt (R-MO) continually led this effort over the years, and I am honored to carry the torch during the 112th Congress.

As we approach the 10th Anniversary of the September 11th attacks, we need to recognize

the individuals who died at the hand of a terrorist attack three years before 9/11, and uphold our foremost responsibility to our courageous and dedicated Foreign Service employees and their families.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR
CRYPTOLOGIC TECHNICIAN
PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS
MICHAEL JOSEPH STRANGE

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cryptologic Technician Petty Officer First Class Michael Joseph Strange who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Petty Officer Strange was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Petty Officer Strange was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, and other campaign and unit decorations.

Petty Officer Strange is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Petty Officer Strange an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Petty Officer Strange's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
EVERETT M. WOODEL, JR. FOR
HIS SERVICE AS DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF OHIO'S FIFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OFFICES

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding public servant from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. My District Director, Everett M. Woodel, Jr. of Port Clinton, Ohio left after twelve years of service to Ohio's Fifth Congressional District Offices.

Everett Woodel began his service to Ohio's Fifth Congressional District as a District Representative to the late Congressman Paul E. Gillmor. During his tenure with the late Congressman Gillmor, Everett also filled the role as the Deputy Communications Director. Following the vacancy left by the late Congressman Gillmor, Everett's professionalism and dedication to the constituents and issues of Ohio's Fifth Congressional District made him

an outstanding pick to serve as the Deputy District Director. In 2010, when my former District Director retired, Everett handily took over the position as District Director.

A veteran of the United States Army, Everett has served our country with pride and compassion. As a public servant, I have found Everett to be dedicated to the citizens of Northwest Ohio, not only managing the day to day functions of my district offices, but also demonstrating that the well-being of the constituents of Ohio's Fifth Congressional District is paramount in making this the hallmark of his career with the United States House of Representatives. Everett will continue his commitment to public service as he has accepted a position with the State of Ohio's Industrial Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Everett M. Woodel, Jr. for his roles in Ohio's Fifth District Offices. Our communities have undoubtedly benefited from his years of faithful service. We wish Everett M. Woodel, Jr. all of the best upon his departure as District Director of Ohio's Fifth Congressional District Offices.

9/11 COMMEMORATION CEREMONY
REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, September 11, 2001, is a day forever etched into the memory of the American people. On that day 10 years ago, over 3,000 innocent people, including nine Texans, died during the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and aboard Flight 93. We gather at this Valor Commitment Dedication to honor both their memory and the sacrifices of their families. We also renew our commitment to honoring the sacrifice and service of the citizens who risked their lives to help all those impacted on that terrible day. Firefighters, police officers, and first responders saved thousands of victims, and nearly 350 rescue personnel gave their lives in the service of others. It is because of their bravery that many of us knew 9/11 would not be the downfall of our great nation, despite what those who attacked us intended.

While 9/11 is a day of great solemnity, it is also a moment of pride. Our reaction as a country to those events—both during the events and afterward—reveals much about us as a people. Our enemies thought they could break our spirit and crush our will, but they failed to realize our resolve and resilience. As President George Bush said only days later, "America today is on bended knee, in prayer for the people whose lives were lost here, for the workers who work here, for the families that mourn." They sought to divide us, but they mistook the strength of our convictions for the inability to act and the wisdom of liberty for frailty of arms. And they certainly failed to understand the breadth of our unity and the depth of our commitment to freedom both here and around the world.

As we look back on the 10 years since the attacks, we are reminded that the United

States still faces enemies who spread fear and hate through terrorism and brutality. Congress, the Presidency, and the federal government have an obligation and duty to protect our nation. We have made great strides since that terrible day, but there is still much to be done. This Remembrance Service is a sign that we are moving forward as a nation, and that while we may have bent on 9/11, we shall never be broken.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR CHIEF
PETTY OFFICER SPECIAL WARFARE
OPERATOR JON THOMAS
TUMILSON

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Petty Officer Special Warfare Operator Jon Thomas Tumilson who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Chief Tumilson was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Chief Tumilson was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including two Bronze Star Medals with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, two Afghanistan Campaign Medals, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Chief Tumilson is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Chief Tumilson an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Chief Tumilson's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

IN HONOR OF THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, this anniversary is first, last and always a day of remembrance. The shock and horror of that day has receded. But all of us remember where we were on that morning when passenger jets became missiles, striking the twin towers of the World Trade Center. The mountains of debris left when they collapsed are gone. The Pentagon has long since been restored. The field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania is a burial ground still, where contemplation by those who return is reverent and sorrowful. Two

Utahns were aboard one of the hijacked planes that struck the first tower; another Utahn died at his job in the Pentagon when a third jet crashed into it.

The passing days brought much heartache. Not all Americans lost family members during the terrorist attacks, yet it felt as though we did. In the aftermath, many of us lit candles, mailed donations, flew our flag, and hugged our children more tightly at night as we tucked them into bed. The heroes of 9/11—members of the New York and Port Authority police departments and the New York City firefighters—quickly replaced the frightening images of the hijackers. From across this country, ordinary people put comfortable lives on hold in order to join the rescue and recovery effort. Later on, thousands of men and women from all walks of life stepped forward, donned our country's uniform and took the fight to those who plotted against America. Terrorists tried to break America apart; instead, their actions brought Americans together.

The September 11th attacks triggered American resilience. We worked hard to return to normal—a new kind of normal. As a Nation, we have made ourselves safer and more vigilant—at airports, on trains, on subways, at ports and in cyberspace. We strengthened intelligence and information sharing, we traced the money and shut down terrorist bank accounts, and we foiled al Qaeda. The U.S. and its allies have hunted down, captured or killed over 600 U.S. targets, including the masterminds of 9/11—Khalid Sheikh Muhammad and Osama bin Laden.

Ultimately, it is America's courage and America's values that defeated the terrorists. As British Prime Minister Tony Blair said in an address to Congress, "We are so much more powerful in all conventional ways than the terrorists. In the end, it is not our power alone that will defeat this evil. Our ultimate weapon is not our guns, but our beliefs." This anniversary is but one marker along the way to building on the dream that is our democratic Nation—the land of the free and the home of the brave.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MODESTO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S HARVEST LUNCHEON

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Mr. CARDOZA, to acknowledge and honor the 50th Anniversary of Modesto Chamber of Commerce's Harvest Luncheon.

The first luncheon dates back to 1956 when a Modesto Junior College Scholarship was generated from a lunch honoring the richness of Stanislaus County's agriculture.

In 1961, the Modesto Chamber of Commerce officially became the sponsor of the Harvest Luncheon;

In 1961, Stanislaus County's agricultural production was \$142,031,000;

The luncheon was originally established to showcase local growers and producers and to demonstrate the impact of agriculture in Stanislaus County;

In 1980, Bill Lyons, Sr. offered to donate the beef and "charge" for the luncheon to increase the scholarship dollars for Modesto Jr. College students with agricultural related majors;

In 1996, the Harvest Luncheon Scholarship was renamed to honor two giants in Stanislaus County agriculture, Henry Voss, former Secretary and Claire Berryhill, past Director, of the California Department of Food and Agriculture;

In 2002, Del Monte Foods became a private partnership leader and has since generously donated \$10,000 annually to the Modesto Chamber of Commerce Voss/Berryhill Modesto Junior College Ag Scholarship Program, significantly increasing the amount of scholarship dollars awarded;

With the exception of 1961 and 1963 through 1965, 456 students have been awarded in excess of \$300,000 in scholarships in the past 50 years;

In 2011, Stanislaus County's agricultural production was \$2,572,434,000;

The luncheon is made possible through the generous donations of agribusiness and agricultural producers and processors from throughout Stanislaus County.

The Harvest Lunch/Ag Aware Committee consists of 33 dedicated individuals plus innumerable volunteers who plan for six months and serve in excess of 800 attendees in fifteen minutes.

The tradition of giving thanks for Stanislaus County's bountiful harvest of over 350 agricultural commodities continues to this day.

Mr. Speaker, please join Mr. CARDOZA and me in honoring Modesto Chamber of Commerce on 50 years of sponsoring the Harvest Luncheon so scholarships for agriculture related majors can continue to be awarded. The luncheon is a valuable asset to the community and should be celebrated.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR AARON CARSON VAUGHN

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Petty Officer Special Warfare Operator Aaron Carson Vaughn who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Chief Petty Officer Vaughn was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Chief Vaughn was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Valor, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, two Afghanistan Campaign Medals, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Chief Vaughn is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Chief Vaughn an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Chief Vaughn's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

9/11 COMMEMORATION CEREMONY REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, September 11, 2001, is a day forever etched into the memory of the American people. On that day 10 years ago, over 3,000 innocent people, including nine Texans, died during the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and aboard Flight 93. We gather now at the Carrollton Remembrance Service to honor both their memory and the sacrifices of their families. We also renew our commitment to honoring the sacrifice and service of the citizens who risked their lives to help all those impacted on that terrible day. Firefighters, police officers, and first responders saved thousands of victims, and nearly 350 rescue personnel gave their lives in the service of others. It is because of their bravery that many of us knew 9/11 would not be the downfall of our great nation, despite what those who attacked us intended.

While 9/11 is a day of great solemnity, it is also a moment of pride. Our reaction as a country to those events—both during the events and afterward—reveals much about us as a people. Our enemies thought they could break our spirit and crush our will, but they failed to realize our resolve and resilience. As President George Bush said only days later, "America today is on bended knee, in prayer for the people whose lives were lost here, for the workers who work here, for the families that mourn." They sought to divide us, but they mistook the strength of our convictions for the inability to act and the wisdom of liberty for frailty of arms. And they certainly failed to understand the breadth of our unity and the depth of our commitment to freedom both here and around the world.

As we look back on the 10 years since the attacks, we are reminded that the United States still faces enemies who spread fear and hate through terrorism and brutality. Congress, the Presidency, and the federal government have an obligation and duty to protect our nation. With the Grace of God we have made great strides since that day, but with much left to be done we ask Him to continue to guide us on the path to national recovery.

H. RES. 391, RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution.

This Sunday our nation will commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the terrorist attacks that took place on September 11, 2001. It was a day that changed the way we live and view the world.

It was a difficult time for all of us, but most difficult for the families, friends, relatives and communities who lost loved ones on that day.

In the Boston Public Garden is a memorial to those in Massachusetts and New England who were lost on that day. At the entrance to the memorial is a simple plaque that reads: "September 11, 2001: The people of Massachusetts will always remember our families, our husbands, wives, sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, grandparents, grandchildren, companions, friends and neighbors."

Among the 207 names enshrined in the Public Garden 9/11 Memorial are six from my district in Massachusetts: Lynn Goodchild from

Attleboro; Christopher Zarba, Jr., from Hopkinton; Linda George and Robin Kaplan from Westborough; Dianne Snyder from Westport; and Tara Creamer from Worcester.

Today my thoughts and sympathies remain with their families, friends and loved ones. Many had children, some who are scarcely more than a decade old, others who are now teenagers or entering college. Each had vibrant lives and futures. We carry their memory in our hearts and our thoughts.

I would like to insert the names of all the Massachusetts residents who perished on 9/11.

I think about the future we are called upon to create and build in the next decade, before we reach the 20th Anniversary of 9/11. In the days following the attacks, then British Prime Minister Tony Blair called upon the world to use the sense of unity and human sympathy engendered by the attacks to create a "community for good." While referencing the need to help the African nations reach their full potential, he focused on creating a common purpose to help the world's most vulnerable—the hungry, the poor, women and children; those without education, food, water or dignified work.

I often reflect on how well we as Americans and the international community have responded to that challenge. I look at the famine in the Horn of Africa, and I can see where we

have reached out to Ethiopians and Kenyans and helped them become stronger and more resilient to the shocks brought on by natural disasters and long-term droughts. These investments have kept millions from falling into famine, but there's still more to do.

Right next door, in Somalia, a nation torn by decades of war and instability, tens of millions are facing famine, hardest hit are the children. We need to do more.

I look next door in my own cities and towns, and I find families struggling to put food on the table, as we look at a period of extended unemployment and attacks against state and federal safety-net programs. We need to do more—and we need to do better.

On the first Sunday following the 9/11 attacks, I was at an ecumenical service in Worcester, Massachusetts. I said then that "as our faith teaches us: Love is stronger than hate."

I still believe that.

I still believe that peace-making—an end to poverty and oppression—is a vital part of any global effort to end terrorism once and for all.

I still believe that respecting the basic rights and dignity of all people is the best expression of who we are as America.

And I still believe that this is the future we must recommit ourselves to creating and becoming a reality.

MASSACHUSETTS VICTIMS OF 9/11

RESIDENTS Victim Name	City/Town	State	Location on 9/11/01
Jeffrey W. Coombs	Abington	MA	AA Flight 11
Philip M. Rosenzweig	Acton	MA	AA Flight 11
Madeline Sweeney	Acton	MA	AA Flight 11
Robert Jay Hayes	Ambury	MA	AA Flight 11
Mildred Naiman	Andover	MA	AA Flight 11
Betty Ann Ong	Arlington	MA	AA Flight 11
Joseph Mathai	Attleboro	MA	World Trade Center
Lynn Catherine Goodchild	Attleboro	MA	UA Flight 175
Brian D. Sweeney	Barnstable	MA	UA Flight 175
Charles E. Jones	Bedford	MA	AA Flight 11
Carlos Alberto Montoya	Belmont	MA	AA Flight 11
Paul Friedman	Belmont	MA	AA Flight 11
Edward (Ted) R. Hennessy Jr.	Belmont	MA	AA Flight 11
Jessica Leigh Sachs	Billerica	MA	AA Flight 11
Graham Andrew Berkeley	Boston	MA	UA Flight 175
Eric Samadikhan Hartono	Boston	MA	UA Flight 175
Todd Russell Hill	Boston	MA	World Trade Center
Christopher D. Mello	Boston	MA	AA Flight 11
Rahma Salie	Boston	MA	AA Flight 11
Heather Lee Smith	Boston	MA	AA Flight 11
Michael Theodoridis	Boston	MA	AA Flight 11
Christine Barbuto	Brookline	MA	AA Flight 11
Kelly Ann Booms	Brookline	MA	AA Flight 11
Karleton D.B. Fyfe	Brookline	MA	AA Flight 11
Daniel C. Lewin	Brookline	MA	AA Flight 11
Maile Rachel Hale	Cambridge	MA	World Trade Center
John Charles Jenkins	Cambridge	MA	AA Flight 11
Myra Joy Aronson	Charlestown	MA	AA Flight 11
Christopher M. Morrison	Charlestown	MA	World Trade Center
Dave Bernard	Chelmsford	MA	World Trade Center
Alexander Milan Filipov	Concord	MA	AA Flight 11
Karen A. Martin	Danvers	MA	AA Flight 11
Deborah Medwig	Dedham	MA	World Trade Center
Sonia Morales Puopolo	Dover	MA	AA Flight 11
John Ogonowski	Dracut	MA	AA Flight 11
Antonio Jesus Montoya Valdes	East Boston	MA	AA Flight 11
James Anthony Trentini	Everett	MA	AA Flight 11
Mary Barbara Trentini	Everett	MA	AA Flight 11
Michael Gregory McGinty	Foxboro	MA	World Trade Center
Judy Larocque	Framingham	MA	AA Flight 11
Laura Lee Morabito	Framingham	MA	AA Flight 11
Christine Lee Hanson	Groton	MA	UA Flight 175
Peter Hanson	Groton	MA	UA Flight 175
Sue Kim Hanson	Groton	MA	UA Flight 175
Jane M. Orth	Haverhill	MA	AA Flight 11
Christopher Rudolph Zarba Jr.	Hopkinton	MA	AA Flight 11
Jesus Sanchez	Hudson	MA	UA Flight 175
Jean Destrehan Roger	Longmeadow	MA	AA Flight 11
Brian Kinney	Lowell	MA	UA Flight 175
Garnet Edward (Ace) Bailey	Lynnfield	MA	UA Flight 175
Raymond J. Rocha	Malden	MA	World Trade Center
Ralph Francis Kershaw	Manchester-by-the-Sea	MA	UA Flight 175
Frederick Rimmele	Marblehead	MA	UA Flight 175
William M. Weems	Marblehead	MA	UA Flight 175
Barbara Jean (Bobbi) Arestegui	Marstons Mills	MA	AA Flight 11
Douglas A. Gowell	Methuen	MA	UA Flight 175
Kenneth E. Waldie	Methuen	MA	AA Flight 11
Herbert W. Homer	Milford	MA	UA Flight 175

MASSACHUSETTS VICTIMS OF 9/11—Continued

RESIDENTS Victim Name	City/Town	State	Location on 9/11/01
Lisa Reinhart Fenn Gordenstein	Needham	MA	AA Flight 11
David E. Retik	Needham	MA	AA Flight 11
Paige Farley-Hackel	Newton	MA	AA Flight 11
John Nicholas Humber Jr.	Newton	MA	AA Flight 11
Richard Barry Ross	Newton	MA	AA Flight 11
Amy E. Toyen	Newton	MA	World Trade Center
John (Jay) Corcoran III	Norwell	MA	UA Flight 175
Donald Americo DiTullio	Peabody	MA	AA Flight 11
Natalie Janis Lasden	Peabody	MA	AA Flight 11
Marianne MacFarlane	Revere	MA	UA Flight 175
Capt. Gerald Francis Deconto	Sandwich	MA	Pentagon
Anna Williams Allison	Stoneham	MA	AA Flight 11
Peter Morgan Goodrich	Sudbury	MA	UA Flight 175
Cora Hidalgo Holland	Sudbury	MA	AA Flight 11
Robert Adrien Jalbert	Sudbury	MA	UA Flight 175
Peter el-Hachem	Swampscott	MA	AA Flight 11
Peter Alan Gay	Tewksbury	MA	AA Flight 11
Christoffer Mikael Carstanjen	Turner Falls	MA	UA Flight 175
David DiMeglio	Wakefield	MA	AA Flight 11
Jane Louise Simpkin	Wayland	MA	UA Flight 175
John Brett Cahill	Wellesley	MA	UA Flight 175
Neillie Anne Heffernan Casey	Wellesley	MA	AA Flight 11
Edmund Glazer	Wellesley	MA	AA Flight 11
Patrick J. Quigley VI	Wellesley	MA	UA Flight 175
Mark Lawrence Bavis	West Newton	MA	UA Flight 175
Linda M. George	Westboro	MA	AA Flight 11
Robin Kaplan	Westboro	MA	AA Flight 11
James E. Hayden	Westford	MA	UA Flight 175
Susan A. MacKay	Westford	MA	AA Flight 11
Dianne Bulls Snyder	Westport Point	MA	AA Flight 11
Patrick Currihan	Winchester	MA	AA Flight 11
Kathleen Ann Nicosia	Winthrop	MA	AA Flight 11
Tara Kathleen Creamer	Worcester	MA	AA Flight 11

THOUGHTS ON 9/11 REMEMBRANCE

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday marks the 10th anniversary of the September 11th attacks. I would like to take a moment to recognize Florida International University's series of events in remembrance of 9/11 and share my thoughts on the events that unraveled that fateful September morning.

It has been 10 years since the horror of 9/11, a day that will be forever ingrained in our memories. On that day, America came face to face with an evil the likes of which our shores had never before witnessed. This unconscionable terrorist attack—this barbaric and cowardly act of 19 men—declared war not only on America, but on freedom itself. Nearly 3,000 innocent victims—of all races, religions and ethnicities—lost their lives that morning. Millions more suffered in anguish as the news of the events quickly unfolded on our television sets and radios worldwide.

We were left asking the questions: Why and who? Why would anyone purposefully and mercilessly attack innocent civilians? Who could be so nefarious? In the succeeding years, we received the answers to our questions. We have identified our enemy and we have brought many of them to justice. Though our enemy has been weakened, we must remain steadfast in our resolve and vigilance to ensure that an attack like this will never again be brought upon our citizens. This is the debt we owe to those who perished on September 11th and to all of their loved ones.

For many of us, the memories of that day remain vivid—and wounds remain fresh—yet we gather here today to pay tribute not only to those innocent victims who lost their lives, but to those who gave their lives so that others may live. We gather here to remind the world of the courage and strength of our citizens.

We gather here, united, to remind our enemies that our resolve will not waver; our spirit will never diminish. We gather today to honor the memories of every man and woman lost, and to give them our solemn promise that we will never forget; we will never rest until their lasting memorial is a world of peaceful coexistence.

9/11 PATRIOT DAY MEMORIAL
CEREMONY**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, September 11, 2001, is a day forever etched into the memory of the American people. On that day 10 years ago, over 3,000 innocent people, including nine Texans, died during the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and aboard Flight 93. We gather now, on Patriot Day, to honor both their memory and the sacrifices of their families. We also renew our commitment to honoring the sacrifice and service of the citizens who risked their lives to help all those impacted on that terrible day. Firefighters, police officers, and first responders saved thousands of victims, and nearly 350 rescue personnel gave their lives in the service of others. It is because of their bravery that many of us knew 9/11 would not be the downfall of our great nation, despite what those who attacked us intended.

While 9/11 is a day of great solemnity, it is also a moment of pride. Our reaction as a country to those events—both during the events and afterward—reveals much about us as a people. Our enemies thought they could break our spirit and crush our will, but they failed to realize our resolve and resilience. As President George Bush said only days later, “America today is on bended knee, in prayer for the people whose lives were lost here, for

the workers who work here, for the families that mourn.” They sought to divide us, but they mistook the strength of our convictions for the inability to act and the wisdom of liberty for frailty of arms. And they certainly failed to understand the breadth of our unity and the depth of our commitment to freedom both here and around the world.

As we look back on the 10 years since the attacks, we are reminded that the United States still faces enemies who spread fear and hate through terrorism and brutality. Congress, the Presidency, and the Federal Government have an obligation and duty to protect our nation. We have made great strides since that terrible day, but there is still much to be done. May we be strengthened through the Grace of God as the Coppell firefighters remind us how Americans have always moved forward from national tragedy—together, with our local, state, and national communities, our heads raised high.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR CHIEF
PETTY OFFICER SPECIAL WAR-
FARE OPERATOR JASON RAY
WORKMAN**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Petty Officer Special Warfare Operator Jason Ray Workman who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Chief Workman was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Chief Workman was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including two Bronze Star Medals with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, two Joint Service Achievement

Medals, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, two Combat Action Ribbons, two Presidential Unit Citations, Navy Unit Commendation, two Afghanistan Campaign Medals, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Chief Workman is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Chief Workman an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Chief Workman's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

9/11, WE WILL NEVER FORGET

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, every American old enough to remember September 11th, 2001 will never forget where they were when the Twin Towers fell. Ten years have passed since the most devastating attack America has ever sustained, yet the events of that terrible day defy the very nature of time and history. As a nation, they will always be with us.

They will be with us in the stories of the Twin Towers, where firefighters and office workers alike knowingly gave their own lives so others might live. Of the passengers on Flight 93 who faced certain death with steely courage and foiled the attack on the Capitol. Of the first responders who jeopardized their own physical and mental health to rescue those who could be rescued, and recover the final remains of those who could not. Of the brave men and women who volunteered to serve our nation in its hour of need, and the families that have sacrificed along with them.

These stories must be the legacy of September 11th, told in stone and steel in memorials across this great Nation and in so many Long Island communities. I will be honored to attend remembrances in our area in the coming days where Americans of all ages, and all religious and ethnic heritages, join together to commemorate what drew us together in the aftermath of September 11th and what binds us still.

Mr. Speaker, may the passage of time continue to heal the wounds of that painful day, but may we remember that our nation's darkest hour also stands among our finest.

9/11, We Will Never Forget.

COMMEMORATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 TERRORIST ATTACKS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Ten years ago, our nation experienced unimaginable tragedy when terrorists turned airplanes into weapons and killed thousands of Americans. Although a decade has passed since that horrible day, the wounds of September 11, 2001, are still fresh. We continue to grieve for the men and women who were killed in those brutal attacks. They are not forgotten, and our sincerest sympathies remain with their families and friends.

As Americans, that day has become a critical moment in our shared history. We all remember what we were doing on September 11, 2001; how our own lives paused in the face of national tragedy.

As we mark the tenth anniversary of 9/11, we also pay tribute to the brave public servants—firefighters, policemen, EMTs, and volunteers, who rushed to the scene of destruction that day, many of whom lost their own lives in their efforts to help others. Men and women who, instead of fleeing the danger, ran into the flaming buildings in hopes of aiding survivors. In the days and weeks that followed, men and women came from the Chicago area and other cities and towns across the country to assist in the recovery efforts. These courageous men and women, together with the countless more who have since worked to keep our nation safe, deserve our deepest gratitude.

They also deserve our support. Last December, I was proud to vote in favor of legislation to cover the cost of medical care for the thousands of 9/11 first responders and others who became sick from breathing in toxic fumes, dust, and smoke after their heroic rescue work. This July, the World Trade Center Health Program began providing full medical screening and treatment benefits to eligible World Trade Center responders, recovery and cleanup workers, building occupants, and residents who were directly impacted and adversely affected by the events of September 11, 2001.

And this year, we remember those who were killed that day with the knowledge that Osama bin Laden will never again be able to threaten American families with terror, thanks to the brave leadership of President Obama, the careful work of our intelligence community, and the extraordinary courage of a team of Navy Seals. We can celebrate that in the past decade, al Qaeda has been repeatedly thwarted in its attempts to perpetrate another 9/11-style attack on our American homeland. And while we remain vigilant in the face of ongoing global threats, we cannot and will not live our lives in fear.

In the hours and days that followed the horrific attacks, Americans from all different backgrounds came together in a remarkable display of unity in the face of unspeakable vio-

lence and hatred. In my own community of Chicago, hundreds of people of all faiths—Muslim, Hindu, Christian, Jewish, and Sikh—came together to walk down Devon Avenue. We stood shoulder to shoulder during this difficult time, to remember those who died and to pay tribute to the American values of freedom, equality, and tolerance. We stood together in solidarity, and stated that as a community that we would not allow terrorist attacks to turn us against each other.

Ten years later, we should aspire to rekindle this spirit of unity as Americans. Today, we come together to remember those who were killed, thank those who have served our communities and our nation, and celebrate the resilience of the American spirit.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 692, I missed rollcall 692 on September 7, 2011, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING LEE ROY SELMON

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a Tampa Bay sports and community legend: Lee Roy Selmon. Not only was he a fundamental figure in the sports arena, but he was also a man of exemplary character.

Mr. Selmon began his extraordinary football career at the University of Oklahoma where he was cited as the best player in the university's history, helping the team win two National Championships. When he launched into his professional football career, not only was he chosen first in the 1976 draft, but he was also the first ever draft pick by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. The team had clearly chosen wisely. During his tenure with the Buccaneers, he was named the NFL Defensive Player of the Year, selected for the Pro Bowl six times consecutively, and helped them to two NFC Championship games. In 1995, he was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Though his pro football career ended after the 1984 season, he was instrumental in the founding and development of the University of South Florida's football team. He began his work at USF as the associate athletic director in 1993 and the athletic director in 2001. I am honored to have a USF football helmet signed by Mr. Selmon displayed in my Congressional office. He guided the team from its inception, based out of a trailer on campus, to a fighting force in the Big East.

Many of those who knew him well commented about his gentle demeanor, his modest nature, and his engaging smile. Not only was he a legend in his work, but he also left

a lasting impression on the hearts of those he encountered.

Though he was taken much too soon, his legacy both on and off the field will not be forgotten. Lee Roy Selmon's name will remain memorialized in the Tampa Bay Community, spanning the Lee Roy Selmon Crosstown Expressway and his restaurant chain, but more importantly we can find solace that the person behind the name will remain a guiding influence in the Tampa Bay community.

**MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR CHIEF
PETTY OFFICER SPECIAL WAR-
FARE OPERATOR KEVIN ARTHUR
HOUSTON**

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Petty Officer Special Warfare Operator Kevin Arthur Houston who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Chief Houston was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our Nation. He will be greatly missed.

Chief Houston was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including three Bronze Star Medals with Valor, two Purple Heart Medals, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, two Combat Action Ribbons, two Presidential Unit Citations, three Afghanistan Campaign Medals, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Chief Houston is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His Nation owes Chief Houston an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Chief Houston's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful Nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

**HONORING JERE MELO OF FORT
BRAGG, CALIFORNIA**

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life, civic accomplishments and exemplary public service of Jere Melo, city council member and former mayor of the City of Fort Bragg on the Mendocino Coast. Jere Melo, 69, a personal friend of mine who was tragically murdered on August 27, 2011, leaves a bigger than life swath throughout this beautiful coastal town.

Born and raised in Mount Shasta in northwestern California, Jere Melo received a de-

gree in forestry from the University of California at Berkeley in 1964. He was commissioned in the U.S. Army and served in South Korea and completed six years as a commander in the Army Reserves. In 1966 he moved to Fort Bragg where he worked in the local lumber mill. A much admired and loved father, brother, uncle, and devoted husband, Jere was married to the love of his life, Madeline, for twenty-four years.

Jere Melo is known for using his personable skills to get things done in a cooperative way while all the while pursuing renewable methods to keep jobs in the forests. With his affable nature, ready smile and indefatigable energy, Jere Melo was a gentle giant of a man who used multiple approaches to listening to all sides and resolving problems, thus gaining the respect of many facets of the community.

Jere was the mayor of Fort Bragg from 2000 until 2004 and on the city council for the past 15 years. In addition he has served on the Planning Commission, the Public Safety Committee, the Fire Protection Agency, the League of California Cities and was a leader of the Coastal Cities Issues Group.

For many years, Jere, known as the "grill master" coordinated the cooks for the World's Largest Salmon Barbecue, a benefit for salmon restoration. In 2002, he was honored with a lifetime achievement award by the Redwood Region Logging Conference for his decades of work in and on behalf of the timber industry.

Among his crowning achievements was spearheading the fundraising for the new Timberwolf High School stadium. He was an instrumental and valuable supporter of the Fort Bragg Fire Department. And he delighted animal lovers with his support and work for the local dog park and the animal shelter.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, Jere Melo has earned the admiration and respect of his peers, his community and his family. A gentleman, a forester, a facilitator and someone who easily worked with differing viewpoints, Jere embodied what every citizen wishes from a political representative. He was a friend and colleague whose legacy and contributions are long lasting not only in Fort Bragg but throughout the Northern California coast and timber country. For these reasons, it is appropriate that we honor an extraordinary citizen, Jere Melo.

IRENA AND MIKE MEDAVOY

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my dear friends, Irena and Mike Medavoy, who are being honored with the prestigious Humanitarian Torch of Learning Award by The American Friends of the Hebrew University. Their commitment to philanthropic and humanitarian causes has been of great benefit to children, Israel, and the global Jewish community, and they are well deserving of this recognition.

I know firsthand of the outstanding contributions that Irena and Mike have made in our community. Irena is the Executive Vice-Chair

of Cedars-Sinai Hospital's C.O.A.C.H. program, and dedicates her time to a clinic on wheels that provides free primary health care services for low-income children and their families. She is also the founder of "Team Safe-T," an emergency preparedness program for California's public school system, which teaches age-appropriate emergency information and preparedness skills for students in grades K-12.

Mike, as chairman and co-Founder of Phoenix Pictures, has helped create and produce numerous films, including recent blockbusters, *Shutter Island* and *Black Swan*. He dedicates much of his time to policy issues and is currently a member of both the Council on Foreign Relations and the Homeland Security Advisory Council. He also serves on the advisory board of the University of Southern California's Center on Public Diplomacy. He has authored the bestselling book "You're Only As Good As Your Next One [. . .]" and with co-author Nathan Gardels, he wrote a thoughtful assessment on the impact of the media on U.S. foreign policy, "American Idol After Iraq: Competing for Hearts and Minds in the Global Media Age." Mike has been the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, including the Lifetime Achievement Award (1998) at the Cannes Film Festival, Chevalier of the French Government's Legion of Honor, the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television and Producers Guild of America Vision Award. He was also inducted into the Hollywood Walk of Fame and received a star on Hollywood Boulevard. His intellectual curiosity and sophisticated analysis of current events and history has made him a valued advisor to me on issues I grapple with on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

The Medavoy's have given generously of their time and energy to political, humanitarian and philanthropic causes in Los Angeles. Through their tireless work with many charities and non-governmental organizations, the Medavoy's have made an indelible mark on our worldwide community. Irena and Mike are among the most dedicated and valuable leaders in our society.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in recognizing Irena and Mike Medavoy for their many contributions and to congratulate them on receiving this honor from the American Friends of The Hebrew University.

**9/11 MUSICAL REMEMBRANCE
CEREMONY**

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, September 11, 2001, is a day forever etched into the memory of the American people. On that day 10 years ago, over 3,000 innocent people, including nine Texans, died during the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and aboard Flight 93. We gather now to honor both their memory and the sacrifices of their families. We also renew our commitment to honoring the sacrifice and service of the citizens who risked their lives to help all those

impacted on that terrible day. Firefighters, police officers, and first responders saved thousands of victims, and nearly 350 rescue personnel gave their lives in the service of others. It is because of their bravery that many of us knew 9/11 would not be the downfall of our great nation, despite what those who attacked us intended.

While 9/11 is a day of great solemnity, it is also a moment of pride. Our reaction as a country to those events—both during the events and afterward—reveals much about us as a people. Our enemies thought they could break our spirit and crush our will, but they failed to realize our resolve and resilience. As President George Bush said only days later, “America today is on bended knee, in prayer for the people whose lives were lost here, for the workers who work here, for the families that mourn.” They sought to divide us, but they mistook the strength of our convictions for the inability to act and the wisdom of liberty for frailty of arms. And they certainly failed to understand the breadth of our unity, as embodied in the partnership between Colleyville’s public servants and Heritage High School in putting on this event.

As we look back on the 10 years since the attacks, we are reminded that the United States still faces enemies who spread fear and hate through terrorism and brutality. Congress, the Presidency, and the Federal Government have an obligation and duty to protect our Nation. We have made great strides since that terrible day, but there is still much to be done.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR CHIEF
PETTY OFFICER SPECIAL WAR-
FARE OPERATOR MATTHEW
DAVID MASON

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Petty Officer Special Warfare Operator Matthew David Mason who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Chief Mason was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our Nation. He will be greatly missed.

Chief Mason was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including three Bronze Star Medals with Valor, including one for extraordinary heroism, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Valor, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, two Combat Action Ribbons, two Presidential Unit Citations, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation, two Afghanistan Campaign Medals, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Chief Mason is survived by his family, friends, and teammates.

His Nation owes Chief Mason enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had

such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Chief Mason’s family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful Nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. SHELLEY
ROBERTS’ DECADES OF SERVICE
TO THE BIRMINGHAM COMMU-
NITY HOUSE AND GREATER
SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN COMMU-
NITY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Shelley Roberts, President and CEO of the Community House in Birmingham, Michigan, as she is honored with the Community House’s 2011 Community Service Award.

Ms. Roberts has had a long and illustrious career which has spanned both the public and private sectors. For many years prior to her career in the non-profit public sector, Ms. Roberts was employed as an attorney with Dickinson Wright, beginning as an associate and after much hard work, became an equity partner. After her time with the firm, Ms. Roberts went on to work in development for Orchards Children’s Services and the Jewish Federation of Detroit, before joining the Community House in 1998.

Ms. Roberts’ support of the Community House and its mission extends to well before she joined as its CEO thirteen years ago. Prior to that, she served on its board, undertaking many different responsibilities during her tenure, such as serving as President between 1988 and 1990, where she oversaw the renovation of the Community House and as chair of its Community Advisory and Child Care Advisory Boards.

Under Ms. Roberts’ leadership the Community House has been recognized by many community stakeholders for the work it has done to develop cross-cultural dialogue and foster a healthy, productive community. As President and CEO, Ms. Roberts has continued to emphasize the Community House’s Race Relations Diversity Task Force and 21st Century Leaders program; both are designed to foster cross-cultural dialogue. She has continued to strengthen its scholarship programs which provide students with the ability to further their arts education. Among the awards Community House has received are New Detroit’s Closing the Gap Award and the South Oakland NAACP’s Outstanding Community Award for the Community House’s support of multicultural programs which have furthered interracial dialogue and understanding. Additionally, the Community House has been recognized as one of the “101 Best Places to Work” by Metropolitan Detroit.

While serving in her professional role with the Community House, Ms. Roberts has continued to be an active volunteer leader in the community, investing considerable energy and time into supporting other community agencies

and groups. During her volunteer service, Ms. Roberts has served on the boards of the Alzheimer’s Association, Common Ground and Planned Parenthood. As an active member of her immediate community, Ms. Roberts also served as President of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Roberts’ most current volunteer endeavors include work as a member of the boards of Children’s Home, Big D and YouthVille in Detroit, as well as several organizations involving New Detroit.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that Ms. Roberts is being honored so publicly by the Community House for her many decades of volunteer service, not just to the Community House, but for her work with many organizations across Southeast Michigan. Ms. Roberts’ decades of work have undoubtedly impacted the lives of so many across the Southeast Michigan region and I wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

TEN YEARS AFTER: REMEM-
BERING THE VICTIMS OF 9/11

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, this week our nation paused to mark the 10th anniversary of al Qaeda’s attack on America. When we remember September 11th, we remember our fear, our shock, our disbelief, our grief. We remember images we wish we could forget. We remember loved ones we wish we could visit just once more. We remember how those who lost a family member channeled their grief and anger into a positive force for change.

In retrospect, we know our fears and our reaction to them were exaggerated. We allowed ourselves to become more suspicious and distrustful, more militant, more divided. And yet September 11th was not only among our darkest hours, but also among our finest.

I remember Todd Beamer of Cranbury, who, along with the other passengers on Flight 93, gave his life to prevent another airplane being used as a weapon against the Capitol or the White House. I also remember “the Jersey Girls”—Kristen Breitweiser, Patty Casazza, Lorie Van Auken, and Mindy Kleinberg—who along with other family members successfully fought to have the 9/11 Commission created. These men and women of 9/11—those who died and those who guard their legacy—remind us all what is great and good about our Nation and its people.

Yet I feel hopeful. September 11th was not only among our darkest hours, but also among our finest. Strangers guided strangers away from the collapsing towers. Across the country, lines stretched around the block of men and women waiting to give blood. For at least a moment, we saw our conflicts and rivalries as what they truly are: small and earnest differences among the brothers and sisters of the American family.

Tragedy has a way of bringing people closer together. It doesn’t minimize our differences; it magnifies everything we have in common.

I am hopeful today because I believe that, in spite of all the challenges we face, we still

have so much in common. We still remain capable of such great things. As we remember our grief, I hope we also remember our unity—and realize that we are bound together as tightly today as we were a decade ago.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS TECHNICIAN
PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS
JARED WILLIAM DAY

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Information Systems Technician Petty Officer First Class Jared William Day who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Petty Officer Day was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Petty Officer Day was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, Joint Service Achievement Medal, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, Combat Action Ribbon, two Presidential Unit Citations, two Navy Good Conduct Medals, two Afghanistan Campaign Medals, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal unit decorations.

Petty Officer Jared Day is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Petty Officer Day an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Petty Officer Day's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

SUPPORT OF H. RES. 391, A RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the tenth anniversary of one of the darkest days in American history, I would like to use my time to remember those we've lost, reflect on the lessons we've learned, and consider what we can do as a nation to ensure that an attack of this magnitude never occurs on American soil again.

Mr. Speaker, as America helplessly watched the terrifying images of thick clouds of grey smoke rising from the World Trade Center towers in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, emotions of shock, anger, fear, and tremendous sadness washed over the

body politic. Never having experienced an attack of this magnitude on American soil before, the events which unfolded on 9/11 engendered a profound shift in the way we conceptualize national security and left an indelible impact on the psyche of every American citizen. This was a day that would have a profound impact on the way every American lives, and would shift a large amount of our country's focus and resources toward a new challenge: the Global War on Terror.

In the days after the 9/11 attacks, we were introduced to a man named Osama bin Laden and the organization he led, al-Qaeda. These previously esoteric monikers became ubiquitous terms synonymous with hate, terror, and anger. Yet, despite the dastardly events that unfolded on that day ten years ago, tales of selfless acts of heroism and tremendous bravery in the face of evil—indicative of the American spirit—made us proud and provided a ray of hope in the fog of uncertainty.

Ten years later, it is important to reflect on the lessons we learned from those brave men, women and children who were unjustly taken from us that day. My heart still aches for all 2,819 people we lost in the attacks, including the 343 firefighters and paramedics, 60 police officers, and those on board United Airlines 93, American Airlines 77, American Airlines 11, and United Airlines 175. We remember the bravery of the PDNY and NYPD first responders who courageously ran up the World Trade Center towers, while thousands of others rapidly evacuated. We also remember the remarkable story of those on United 93 who attempted to regain control of the cockpit after their flight had been hijacked by a group of terrorists that pointed the aircraft in the direction of the building where I currently stand.

I would also like to remember those who still suffer, whose hearts still ache over the loss of so many innocent and interrupted lives. My heart goes out to the 3,051 children who lost a parent, and to the spouses, parents and relatives of the victims. Just as we promised shortly after the attacks, we will never forget.

In the days and months following 9/11, we saw the true strength of the American people. It was during these times that people were able to momentarily suspend all political, regional, ethnic, and economic divisions to mourn and seek hope in one another. We healed as a Nation; we grew as a Nation. The petty differences that we so often magnify in our society were put aside and we focused on what we had to do to keep our country moving forward in the face of such adversity.

In the decade since 9/11—thanks to American vigilance, resilience, and resolve—al-Qaeda has been unsuccessful in carrying out another attack on our Nation's soil. Several plots by would-be terrorists trained by al-Qaeda have been foiled by our Nation's intelligence agencies and local law enforcement, including a 2009 plot to bomb New York City's subway and a 2010 plot to place explosive devices on cargo planes entering the U.S.

Our military campaign in Afghanistan successfully overthrew the tyrannical Taliban and significantly hampered the power and mobility of al-Qaeda and its sympathizers. After years of dedicated service by the brave men and women who put country above self in our armed forces, America is safer and Afghani-

stan is now a fledgling democratic society. However, these accomplishments came with a price. Since 2011, the U.S. has spent over \$1.2 trillion on Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. We also paid for these wars with the lives of 6,026 of our bravest young men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country. In my district, we suffered the loss of 12 remarkable servicemen. We remember Long Beach residents: Pfc. Stephen A. Castellano; Sgt. 1st Class Randy D. Collins; Sgt. Anthony J. Davis, Jr.; Sgt. Israel Garcia; Pvt. Ernesto R. Guerra; Pfc. Lyndon A. Marcus, Jr.; Spec. Roberto L. Martinez Salazar; Spec. Astor A. Sunsin-Pineda; Pfc. David T. Toomalatai; Pfc. George D. Torres; and Staff Sgt. Joshua Whitaker, as well as Carson resident Pfc. Daniel P. Cagle of Carson who were all killed in action.

As the troops in the battlefields of Afghanistan begin their withdrawal, we are reminded of the reasons why we entered the war in the first place: to exact justice on those responsible for the attacks on 9/11 and to eliminate their sympathizers' ability to conduct a similar attack in the future. In those two regards, I would argue that we have been extraordinarily successful. Perhaps the most consequential victory of the War on Terror came earlier this year when Osama bin Laden's life was finally ended by a group of Navy SEALs who deftly carried out a covert operation at bin Laden's secret compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. I am extremely thankful for President Obama and his Administration's firm leadership in the effort to bring bin Laden to justice. The sense of victory experienced by Americans after the death of Osama bin Laden was so powerful that it seemed to carry us into a new chapter of the War on Terror, one less concerned with fighting the enemy overseas and one more concerned with protecting our citizens at home.

Therefore, I believe that now is the appropriate time to begin a significant withdrawal of troops from war zones in Afghanistan and other parts of the Arab world. Committing millions upon millions of taxpayer dollars to nation building abroad at a time when millions of Americans are unemployed and struggling represents a fundamental misallocation of resources. While keeping the American people safe should always be our top priority, more resources need to be focused protecting our homeland and educating, training and employing the beleaguered American workforce.

We have come a long way in the past 10 years, and we should be proud of the progress we've made as a nation adapting to a post-9/11 world. However, we still have a long way to go to ensure that an attack similar to those on 9/11 never happen in the U.S. again. As Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communications, I am keenly aware of the improvements that need to be made in order to keep the American people safe. For example, I represent a district that is home to the largest port complex in the nation. Each year, over 350,000 containers of cargo pass through the Port Los Angeles alone. These large shipping containers provide would-be terrorists with an excellent way to get hazardous materials into the country. That is why I am a strong proponent

of working toward the implementation of a 100% container check rule on ports around the nation. This will ensure that cargo entering the U.S. is safe and will provide peace of mind to millions of Americans who reside near our Nation's ports.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that despite some questionable decision making during the previous administration, our country is stronger and safer than ever before. Although we still have a long way to go, the progress we've made in the last decade to secure our homeland from attack by unconventional forces should make everyone proud. Again, my heart goes out to the families of those who were lost during the attacks and to those who lost their lives fighting the perpetrators of those tragic events. While our country must never stop moving forward, we must also never forget. The victims of 9/11 are not forgotten.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR MASTER-AT-ARMS PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS JOHN DOUANGDARA

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Master-At-Arms Petty Officer First Class John Douangdara who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Petty Officer Douangdara was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our Nation. He will be greatly missed.

Petty Officer Douangdara was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including two Bronze Star Medals with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, Army Commendation Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, two Presidential Unit Citations, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Petty Officer Douangdara is survived by his family, friends, and teammates.

His Nation owes Petty Officer Douangdara an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Petty Officer Douangdara's family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful Nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

**9/11 COMMEMORATION CEREMONY
REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY &
MEMORIAL READINGS**

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, September 11, 2001, is a day forever etched into the memory of the American people. On that day

10 years ago, over 3,000 innocent people, including nine Texans, died during the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and aboard Flight 93. We gather now to honor both their memory and the sacrifices of their families as we read from those who saw and studied what happened during and after the attacks. We also renew our commitment to honoring the sacrifice and service of the citizens who risked their lives to help all those impacted on that terrible day. Firefighters, police officers, and first responders saved thousands of victims, and nearly 350 rescue personnel gave their lives in the service of others. It is because of their bravery that many of us knew 9/11 would not be the downfall of our great nation, despite what those who attacked us intended.

While 9/11 is a day of great solemnity, it is also a moment of pride. Our reaction as a country to those events—both during the events and afterward—reveals much about us as a people. Our enemies thought they could break our spirit and crush our will, but they failed to realize our resolve and resilience. As President George Bush said only days later, "America today is on bended knee, in prayer for the people whose lives were lost here, for the workers who work here, for the families that mourn." They sought to divide us, but they mistook the strength of our convictions for the inability to act and the wisdom of liberty for frailty of arms. And they certainly failed to understand the breadth of our unity and the depth of our commitment to freedom both here and around the world.

As we look back on the 10 years since the attacks, we are reminded that the United States still faces enemies who spread fear and hate through terrorism and brutality. Congress, the Presidency, and the federal government have an obligation and duty to protect our nation. We have made great strides since that terrible day, and together we will make more as Irving and her communities work together to support their American brothers and sisters.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE FOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR STEPHEN MATTHEW MILLS

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Petty Officer Special Warfare Operator Stephen Matthew Mills who died August 6th in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. Chief Mills was a patriot and a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice ensuring the security of our nation. He will be greatly missed.

Chief Mills was a highly decorated combat veteran with numerous awards, including three Bronze Star Medals with Valor, Purple Heart Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Valor, three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, two Combat Action Ribbons, two

Presidential Unit Citations, two Meritorious Unit Commendations, Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and numerous other personal and unit decorations.

Chief Mills is survived by his loving family, friends, and teammates.

His nation owes Chief Mills an enormous debt of gratitude. We are honored to have had such an exemplary American fighting for his country.

I wish to extend my condolences to Chief Mills' family, friends, and teammates and hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on his grateful nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

**9/11: FROM A DAY OF TRAGEDY TO
A TRIUMPH OF FREEDOM**

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, like every American, I will never forget where I was on the morning of September 11, 2001. As a Member of Congress from Indiana, that day my duties took me to Capitol Hill and to sights and sounds I will never forget.

I witnessed the U.S. Capitol literally hemorrhaging with people running in every direction. I heard the deafening sounds of sirens all around and thunderous booms of military aircraft going supersonic at low altitude. And I saw the columns of mud-brown smoke billowing out of the Pentagon just across the Potomac River.

As the world watched the towers fall in New York City, I witnessed the aftermath of the first attack on our nation's capital since the War of 1812. It was a day when evil triumphed over good and the cunning plans of the enemies of freedom had their moment. They thought they had unleashed violence sufficient to cow a great nation but they were wrong.

What our enemies intended for harm gave birth to a season of national unity and a new generation of heroes. The unity and call to service appeared almost instantly.

At a time of great national division, it is hard to imagine today what Washington DC was like in the hours, weeks and months following September 11th, but the unity of that day did happen. I was there. I saw it.

In the swirl of events that morning, I knew that Congress would need to convene to provide the authority and resources for our national response. As Capitol Hill police officers urged me to leave the grounds, I asked where I could report for duty and was escorted to the office of the Chief of the Capitol Police where the combined leadership of the House and the Senate in both parties was huddled watching the events unfold on several television screens.

When I arrived in the room, the congressional leaders were standing apart, divided by party and by institutions, but as that fateful morning wore on, things changed. Faced with a merciless attack on our nation, the politics of

the room dissolved. There were no Republicans in that room, there were no Democrats in that room, just Americans.

I watched as leaders set aside every divisive issue before the Congress and made plans to move resources and programs designed to meet the moment with bipartisan resolve. And that unity would animate the work of the Congress for months following the attack.

But the true legacy of 9/11 cannot be found among political leaders of the day, but in the citizen soldiers and public safety personnel who answered that day with courage and selflessness.

To the soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who answered that day with resolve, who did what needed to be done without regard to their own safety, we owe our deepest gratitude. I have prayed with the families and wept at the funerals of Hoosiers who did not shrink from 9/11 but grew into heroes whose names will forever be engraved in the heart of a grateful nation. To our police, fire and public safety personnel who ran in when others ran out, who braved the flames, who followed the leads and who took such actions as were necessary to bring us a decade free of another terrorist event on American soil belongs the credit for this day. This anniversary belongs to the fallen, their families and to all those whose diligence and tenacity brought safety to our families and justice to our enemies.

A common enemy forged common ground and a new generation of American heroes. Today, we rightly pause to remember those who fell on 9/11 and every day since in the War on Terror. But we also pause to celebrate those Americans who, by their service and sacrifice, have made this day of tragedy into a triumph of freedom.

9/11 COMMEMORATION AND EMERGENCY PERSONNEL REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, September 11, 2001, is a day forever etched into the memory of the American people. On that day 10 years ago, over 3,000 innocent people, including nine Texans, died during the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and aboard Flight 93. We gather at the Southlake Baptist Church to honor both their memory and the sacrifices of their families. We also renew our commitment to honoring the sacrifice and service of the citizens who risked their lives to help all those impacted on that terrible day. Firefighters, police officers, and first responders saved thousands of victims, and nearly 350 rescue personnel gave their lives in the service of others. It is because of their bravery that many of us knew 9/11 would not be the downfall of our great nation, despite what those who attacked us intended. It is on their behalf that today we honor Police Corporal Randy Thomas and Paramedic Paul Cook.

While 9/11 is a day of great solemnity, it is also a moment of pride. Our reaction as a

country to those events—both during the events and afterward—reveals much about us as a people. Our enemies thought they could break our spirit and crush our will, but they failed to realize our resolve and resilience. As President George Bush said only days later, “America today is on bended knee, in prayer for the people whose lives were lost here, for the workers who work here, for the families that mourn.” They sought to divide us, but they mistook the strength of our convictions for the inability to act and the wisdom of liberty for frailty of arms. And they certainly failed to understand the breadth of our unity and the depth of our commitment to freedom both here and around the world.

As we look back on the 10 years since the attacks, we are reminded that the United States still faces enemies who spread fear and hate through terrorism and brutality. Congress, the Presidency, and the Federal Government have an obligation and duty to protect our nation. We have made great strides since that terrible day, but there is still much to be done. With God’s Grace America will continue to move forward, never forgetting the tragedy of 9/11 but also never forgetting the strength our fellow country men and women showed in our time of need.

ON THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 9/11 TERRORIST ATTACKS

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 391 and to honor the memory of the nearly 3,000 innocent Americans who lost their lives 10 years ago, in the attacks on September 11th, 2001. Together, as a nation, we grieved with the families and friends who lost loved ones. Then, together, we began to look forward.

Having had more than 150 constituents and friends murdered by al-Qaeda, I have spent much of the past 10 years with family members of the 9/11 victims. These family members do not need a decade or quarter-century mark to remember their loved ones. For them, each of the 3,652 passing days has been a day of remembrance.

Since that day we have made great progress in securing the Homeland. We created the Department of Homeland Security, and established a Director of National Intelligence to better coordinate the Intelligence Community and facilitate information sharing. Today we are safer.

There is still more that can, and should, be done. Ten years after 9/11 Congress has yet to follow through on some recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, including the call for consolidation of congressional jurisdiction of our homeland security efforts and the allocation of sufficient spectrum for the interoperable communications needs of our first responders.

Killing Osama bin Laden was a tremendous victory for us and all who oppose terrorism. Al Qaeda Central has been damaged, but the organization and its affiliates are as dedicated as they have been. They are working to

radicalize and recruit individuals within our own country.

While we may be safer today than we were 10 years ago, we are still in great danger. Al-Qaeda has not given up. It has adapted; its affiliates have grown; it actively recruits from within our own country; and it continues to be an active enemy.

We must not allow ourselves to grow complacent. Although not on the same scale, we have been attacked since 9/11, with many plots thwarted by excellent law enforcement and intelligence work.

We must not forget the lessons we have learned. We must acknowledge how far we’ve come, but we must not forget that we still have far to go before al-Qaeda and its affiliates are defeated and our Homeland is once again safe from this enemy.

We must never forget what happened on 9/11. As we honor the lives of the victims and stand with their families, we also give our gratitude to the first responders who rushed to the rescue and to the men and women of our military and Intelligence Community who risked and, in many cases, gave their lives to keep America safe. In tribute to them, we must pledge to continue to do all that we possibly can to ensure that similar attacks are never replicated.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT GEORGE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SCHERERVILLE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I congratulate Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church in Schererville, Indiana as its congregation joins together in celebration of its 100th Anniversary. The congregation, along with Parish Priest, Very Reverend Dobrovoje, and Parish President, Mr. Ray Vukas, will be celebrating this momentous milestone with a celebratory reception on Sunday, October 23, 2011, at the Halls of Saint George in Schererville, Indiana.

Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church in Schererville is a sister church of Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church in East Chicago, Indiana. The parish was established on October 30, 1911, when a small group of immigrants from Serbia joined together with the goal of preserving Serbian culture and religious tradition. That same year, they obtained the services of a full-time priest and elected their first executive board. The dedication ceremony took place on Saint George’s Day, May 6, 1912. Many of the Serbian families sacrificed and gave of their time to assist in building this tremendous place of worship. The church continued to grow, and in the 1920’s, a small hall and the parish house were built on the church property. In 1949, construction began on a new banquet hall/social center which was completed a year later. Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church became the second Serbian Church in Indiana following the church built in South Bend.

During its existence, Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church experienced many changes

as its membership grew. These changes were not only physical changes to the church itself but also a religious schism within the Serbian Orthodox church that affected its followers. In 1963, a decision from Belgrade regarding the church structure resulted in years of turmoil that divided Serbian Americans and the Serbian Orthodox Church into two groups. By 1970, some of the parishioners who chose to remain under the mother church in Belgrade, Serbia purchased property in Schererville, Indiana for a new church to be built. Within one year, a hall was completed, and by 1980, the new church and parish home were finished. In 1992, the church reunified and what remained from the division were many churches throughout the area spreading Serbian Orthodoxy. The church in Schererville continued to grow, building a hall, a new church, a parish home and a new banquet hall in Schererville.

Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church continues to touch the lives of countless individuals through its compassionate service, especially to those in need. Over the years, the church has come to the aid of Serbian immigrants by providing food, shelter and assistance in finding employment. The church auxiliary group, Circle of Serbian Sisters, along with three other Circles of Serbian Sisters in Northwest Indiana, hold an annual fundraiser called Mothers Against Hunger. This event raises tens of thousands of dollars for Serbian orphans in the former Yugoslavia. The St. George parish also supports donations to other charitable organizations such as the Carmelite Home in East Chicago. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating the Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church in Schererville, Indiana on its 100th Anniversary. Throughout many hardships and trials, the members of Saint George have dedicated themselves to preserving Serbian heritage, tradition, and spiritual beliefs. For their commitment to serving so many in need, the church leaders and congregation are to be admired and are worthy of the highest praise.

TRIBUTE TO BENZEL'S BAKERY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Benzel's Bakery of Altoona, PA. This year, Benzel's is celebrating its 100th year in business. In 1911, Adolph Benzel came to America with a recipe and a dream to make pretzels. The company started off as a one-man operation, everything done by hand. Today this family business is one of the top pretzel producers in the country. Benzel's employs 70 full time workers and makes 35 varieties of pretzels under the brand name Pennysticks Pretzels. The company gives back to the community. They have established a fund with the Central Pennsylvania Community Foundation in honor of Adolph Benzel. The company has also donated \$150,000 for a renovation project at a local theatre. I extend my congratulations to Benzel's Bretzel Bakery and expect another hundred years from this great family business.

COMMENDING DEAN JANEWAY,
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF OPER-
ATING OFFICER OF WAKEFERN
FOOD CORPORATION OF
WOODBIDGE, NEW JERSEY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Dean Janeway, President and Chief Operating Officer of Wakefern Food Corporation. Mr. Janeway is retiring after nearly five decades of service.

Wakefern Food Corporation, headquartered in Woodbridge, New Jersey, is the largest retailer-owned cooperative in the United States. Members of this cooperative operate supermarkets under the "Shop-Rite" banner throughout the Northeast, including several locations in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

Mr. Janeway joined Wakefern in the 1960s as a junior accountant and eventually worked his way to Executive Vice President. He was later named Wakefern's President and Chief Operating Officer in 1995. Under his tenure, Wakefern significantly expanded the corporation serving more localities and employing more people.

Mr. Janeway has been dedicated to giving back to the community. During his tenure, he has directed more than \$24 million in donations to regional food banks. Wakefern has also championed numerous local charities in support of medical research and treatment, fighting hunger, and educating young adults. Mr. Janeway has also been honored by the Special Olympics of New Jersey and the Archdiocese of Newark for his support of charitable causes.

I congratulate Mr. Janeway on his tenure with Wakefern Food Corporation and I commend him for his achievements throughout the years.

ARTS IN EDUCATION WEEK

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, last year this House dedicated the second week of September as "National Arts in Education Week." As a member of the Congressional Arts Caucus, I was proud to co-sponsor the resolution at the time and my belief in the importance of arts education and a robust arts scene for artists and innovators is as strong as ever.

House Resolution 275—introduced by Rep. JACKIE SPEIER—states, in part: "Arts education, comprising a rich array of disciplines including dance, music, theatre, media arts, literature, design, and visual arts, is a core academic subject and an essential element of a complete and balanced education for all students."

In the Eighth District of Washington—the District I represent in this House—the community is blessed with teachers, mentors, and

parents adamant that young people have an opportunity to participate in the arts. It is a joy for me to host an annual Congressional Arts Competition and view the paintings, photographs, sketches, and sculptures students create. I receive support on picking winners in the contest from members of local school boards, parents, teachers, and interested community members. The Competition culminates in an evening of celebration for the young artists and the smiles and pride on the faces of parents, grandparents, friends, and students light up whatever room the celebration takes place.

Professional and amateur arts exist in my District as well. Even during a historically difficult economic time such as this, support for the arts is robust. The support is present because people understand what arts and artists provide: a unique, illuminating, and important perspective on life.

My hope is that this country and this House never lose its belief in the arts. My hope is that we all continue to view arts education and support for the arts as an indispensable part of our culture and the education of our young people. I'm happy in the knowledge that House Resolution 275 dedicates a week to supporting arts in education and I hope this House joins me in spotlighting the arts in the individual districts of the United States.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT
GEORGE SERBIAN ORTHODOX
CHURCH OF EAST CHICAGO

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I congratulate Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church as its congregation joins together in celebration of its 100th Anniversary. The congregation, along with Parish Priest, Reverend Aleksandar Savic, and Parish President, Mr. Svetko Balach, will be celebrating this momentous milestone with a celebratory reception on Sunday, October 2, 2011, at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster, Indiana.

Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church of East Chicago, Indiana was established on October 30, 1911, when a small group of immigrants from Serbia joined together with the goal of preserving Serbian culture and religious tradition. That same year, they obtained the services of a full time priest, elected their first executive board, and began construction of their church. The church dedication ceremony took place on Saint George's Day, May 6, 1912. Many of the Serbian families sacrificed and gave of their time to assist in building this tremendous place of worship. The church continued to grow and in the 1920s a small hall and the parish house were built on the church property. In 1949, construction began on a new banquet hall/social center which was completed a year later. Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church became the second Serbian church in Indiana following the church built in South Bend; and is the fourth oldest original Serbian Orthodox Church in the

United States in which services continue to be held.

During its existence, Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church Parish experienced many changes as its membership grew. These changes were not only physical changes within the parish itself but also a religious schism within the Serbian Orthodox Church that affected its followers. In 1963, a decision from Belgrade regarding the church structure resulted in years of turmoil that divided Serbian Americans and the Serbian Orthodox Church into two groups. Some members of the church in East Chicago left and went on to build a new church in Northwest Indiana. In 1992, the church reunified and what remained from the division were many churches throughout the area spreading Serbian Orthodoxy. Today the Serbian Orthodox Church remains one of the greatest assets for East Chicago.

Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church continues to touch the lives of countless individuals through its compassionate service, especially to those in need. Over the years, the church has come to the aid of Serbian immigrants by providing food, shelter and assistance in finding employment. The church auxiliary group, Circle of Serbian Sisters, along with three other Serbian parishes in Northwest Indiana holds an annual fundraiser called Mothers Against Hunger. This event raises tens of thousands of dollars for Serbian orphans in the former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating the Saint George Serbian Orthodox Church of East Chicago, Indiana on its 100th Anniversary. Throughout many hardships and trials, the members of Saint George have dedicated themselves to preserving Serbian heritage, tradition, and spiritual beliefs. For their commitment to serving so many in need, the church leaders and congregation are to be admired and are worthy of the highest praise.

HONORING THE LIFE AND
ACHIEVEMENTS OF JUDGE J.C.
MCLIN

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a just and wise servant of the people, an even-handed and merciful adjudicator of the law, and a humble and decent man, Judge J.C. McLin. He lost his battle with pancreatic cancer on Sunday, September 4, 2011. Judge McLin was born in Trenton, Tennessee to Reverend Henry McLin and Louise Doaks McLin. After graduating from Rosendwald High School, he attended and graduated from Lane College. He received a master's degree in Education from University of Tennessee at Martin and a law degree from University of Tennessee College of Law. He was commissioned as a First Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps and was honorably discharged in 1975.

Judge McLin's selfless commitment to our community has made a lasting impact on the

lives he touched. After working as an attorney for 25 years, including nine years in private practice, 19 years as a prosecutor and a staff attorney at Memphis Area Legal Services, he was elected to the Shelby County Criminal Court in 2000 where he presided as a judge. In 2004, he was appointed to the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals by Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen, only the second African American to hold a seat on that bench. Judge McLin was noted for his gracious, calm and efficient approach to work. He was also regarded as a fair and hard working judge who served on the bench with great dignity and integrity.

Judge McLin was a faithful member of Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church, where he served as an associate minister. He supported the work of local organizer Stevie Moore to fight youth violence and he founded the Information, Assistance, and Monitoring program which gives criminal offenders a chance to rehabilitate themselves. He served on the board of the Memphis Second Chance Program which aims to help ex-offenders find a job. He leaves behind a legacy of service and faith that will continue to resonate in the Memphis community for many years to come.

Judge McLin was 64 years of age. He is survived by his beloved wife of 42 years, Mollie Jenkins McLin; his sons, Jason and Thebe; his daughter, Monette; his mother, Louise; two sisters, Shirley Drake and Patsy Smith; and a wealth of other family, friends and colleagues who will cherish his memory. His was a life well-lived.

STATEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY FROM JOHN BURTON

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I commend to my colleagues' attention the following statement on the debate over Social Security from John Burton, our former colleague here in the House, the former president of the California State Senate, and the current chair of the California Democratic Party. John has a long and distinguished career in standing up for the economic interests of the middle class and the long-term strength of the American economy.

NO SOCIAL SECURITY CUTS ON THE TABLE

(By John Burton)

Chair, California Democratic Party
Member of Congress 1975-1982
California State Assemblyman 1998-1994
California State Senate President 1998-2004

There has been a lot of pressure from Republicans, the Chamber of Commerce, and newspaper editorials to put everything on the table, including Social Security, in order to deal with the federal deficit. That is a load of baloney.

No way in the world should Social Security be put on the table to deal with the deficit. One thing should be abundantly clear—Social Security has nothing to do with the current budget deficit or any budget deficit for that matter. It is a self-funding program that pays for itself. The program has actu-

ally lent the government money by purchasing U.S. Treasury notes and bonds.

Furthermore, Social Security, as a separate trust fund, was never included in the U.S. budget until President Lyndon Johnson decided to include it to demonstrate that domestic spending had increased even though our military spending went up during the Vietnam War.

The social security system is in sound fiscal shape. It has a surplus that will be present until 2037. There is a great deal of fuss about the fact that benefits paid out of the program would exceed the Social Security tax revenue and the fund has to be tapped to make the difference. That is exactly how the social security trust fund is supposed to work. That's why Congress created it. The bonds in the trust fund earn interest. Therefore the total value of the fund will continue to grow after that day. If nothing else changes, the total payout benefit will not exceed tax revenue plus interest on the bonds until 2024.

Some claim that the trust fund has constantly been looted. Now it is little more than a pile of worthless paper. They are not telling the truth. That paper is in fact a pile of U.S. Treasury bonds, even now considered to be the safest investment in the world. Under the law, the federal government is obligated to pay the bonds held by the trust fund, just as it has to pay interests on other government bonds. The thought that the government would default on its bonds owed to the social security trust fund is a pipe dream.

If there are perceived future problems with the Social Security system, that is a separate issue unrelated to the "deficit crisis" and could be solved in an orderly manner. A point of fact is that if the government pays what it owes the fund, it will be solvent for another 26 years.

If the Social Security issue is "to be dealt with," the easy solution is to raise the payroll tax ceiling, which is now around \$107,000. When the ceiling was set, it was assumed that payroll tax would cover 90% of all wages. When the ceiling was set in 1983, the top 1% of Americans received 11.6% of total income. Today that 1% takes in more than 20% of the total income. If the formula pushes it back up to 90% of all wages envisioned in the 1983 legislation, the ceiling would rise to \$180,000. The long-term social security problem would be solved.

In the meantime, the fund is safe and solvent through four presidential elections. It is solvent for twelve more years, if not twenty-six more years before there are any problems.

COMMEMORATION OF THE ANNI- VERSARY OF THE WARSAW UP- RISING

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission and Co-Chairman of the Poland Caucus, I have long been struck by the way in which history casts both long shadows and rays of light in Poland. I have had the privilege of traveling to Poland, one of America's closest allies, and was overwhelmed by the weight of history when I met with those who are building the Museum of

the History of Poland's choose. Institutions like this are not only critical for Poland's future generations, but for what all of us, around the world, can learn from Poland.

Today, I rise today to commemorate the 67th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising, a courageous act of defiance by the people of Poland against the brutal Nazi occupation during the Second World War.

On August 1, 1944, the Polish Underground began its struggle to liberate Warsaw, to further weaken the collapsing German eastern front and to establish Polish sovereignty in response to the Red Army's advance to the city's outskirts. Despite the courage and fortitude of the Polish people, the Underground could not overcome the Nazis' determination to oversee the complete destruction of the Home Army and the city, bolstered by official orders and a directive that the massacre was to serve as a "terrifying example" to Europe.

More than 200,000 civilians and members of the Home Army were killed in Warsaw over a 63-day period. Between August 5 and August 8, the Nazis murdered more than 40,000 people—overwhelmingly civilians—in the Wola district of Warsaw alone. Survivors, describing the horror of the executions, told of the indiscriminate slaughter of thousands of women and children. Approximately 700,000 Warsaw residents were expelled from their homes and forced out of the city—many sent to death, labor, or POW camps.

Hitler ordered that Warsaw should be razed to the ground; Heinrich Himmler declaring in the most chilling terms that Warsaw "must completely disappear from the surface of the earth." To that end, the Nazis systematically targeted buildings filled with deep meaning for the Poles, including cultural treasures, monuments, palaces, libraries, churches, and the Old Town. By the beginning of October, the Polish capital was reduced to rubble—85 percent of the buildings in Warsaw had been destroyed.

But from ashes come diamonds and, despite this barbaric campaign, the Polish desire for freedom and liberty could not be extinguished—not even by the decades of communist oppression which followed the end of the war. Such courage and resilience continues to define the Polish people.

Today, Poland is a successful democracy and one of our strongest military allies. More to the point, Poland's leadership on issues related to democracy and human rights gives true meaning to the alliance concept of "shared values." Poland has tirelessly support democratic movements in Northern Africa and Eastern Europe, particularly in Tunisia, through democracy activists and transition experts, and Belarus. Poland has served as a regional force in the effort to encourage human rights and democracy in Belarus in the wake of the December 2010 post-election political crackdown, maintaining free media outlets that operate in Belarus and opening Polish universities to students expelled for pro-democracy activities.

On July 1, Poland assumed the six-months rotating Presidency of the European Union. It can only strengthen our transatlantic alliance to have the EU led by a country that has accomplished so much over the past 20 years both political and economically. As it happens,

Poland has one of the fastest growing economies in Europe and is the only EU country not faced with a recession amidst the global financial crisis.

As chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission and co-chairman of the Congressional Poland Caucus, I commend Poland's leadership on democracy and human rights throughout the OSCE region and globally. Polish-American ties remain strong and steadfast because of such dedication to these common values. More than that, however, I have unwavering respect and admiration for the people of Poland, whose courage and determination in the face of so many historic tragedies—of which the Warsaw Massacre is only one example—is a source of continued inspiration.

TRIBUTE TO SIGMA PI PHI FRATERNITY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

In 1904, a small group of top professionals in Philadelphia set out to create an organization that would provide a vehicle for black men of high stature to network and learn the best from one another. These visionaries were Dr. Algernon B. Jackson, Dr. Henry McKee Minton, Dr. Edwin C. Howard and Dr. Richard J. Warrick.

At that time of Sigma Pi Phi's founding, accomplished black men lived and worked in isolation as they were not offered participation in professional and cultural associations organized by the white community. Inequities such as racism, discrimination, segregation, and inequality were rampant throughout the United States. It took the ingenuity and courage displayed by these men based on their shared conditions to form an organization that would not only bring them together in fellowship, but benefit the country they loved for more than a century to come.

To quote Dr. Minton "professional men should have an organization that should be a fraternity in the true sense of the word; one whose chief thought should not be to visit the sick and bury the dead, but to bind men of like qualities, tastes and attainments into a close and sacred union that they might know the best of one another." Members would not be "selected on the basis of brains alone—but in addition to congeniality, culture and good fellowship; that they shall have behind them [at initiation] a record of accomplishment, not merely be men of promise and good education." His fraternity would contain the "best of Skull and Bones of Yale and of Phi Beta Kappa."

Today, the dream of Drs. Jackson, Minton, Howard and Warrick lives on and is stronger than ever. Sigma Pi Phi has over 5,000 members and 126 chapters throughout the United States and the West Indies. Members of Sigma Pi Phi have provided leadership and service during the Great Depression, World War I, World War II, the Civil Rights Move-

ment, and addressed social issues such as urban housing, and many other critical issues affecting all people.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Sigma Pi Phi for their tireless work which has benefited our great nation for more than a century. Our country is a better one because of Sigma Pi Phi and I am proud to honor them today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on September 7, 2011, I was absent from the House and missed rollcall vote 692.

Had I been present for rollcall 692, on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 67, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING HENRY GIVENS, JR.,
PH.D., PRESIDENT, HARRIS-
STOWE STATE UNIVERSITY,
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a native St. Louisan, Dr. Henry Givens, Jr., who has served as president of Harris-Stowe State University since it became a state institution in 1979. He was educated in the St. Louis public schools and earned his baccalaureate degree at Lincoln University in Missouri. He earned his master's degree at the University of Illinois and his Ph.D. at Saint Louis University. His postdoctoral studies in higher education administration were at Harvard University.

Dr. Givens' professional experience in education is both broad and varied. He began his career as a teacher in the Webster Groves School District and became principal of the first prototype of a magnet school in the nation. Before leaving the Webster Groves public schools, he held the post of Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools. Soon after, he became the first African-American to serve Missouri as Assistant Commissioner of Education, which he did for 5 years.

At the request of the Governor of Missouri, Dr. Givens served as interim president at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, MO, during a financial crisis in 1987, while continuing his duties at Harris-Stowe. Such an appointment was without precedent in Missouri public higher education.

Under the leadership of Dr. Givens, Harris-Stowe has greatly expanded its degree programs; has significantly increased its facilities—from one building to seven, and including, for the first time in its long history of over 150 years, the new state-of-the-art William L.

Clay, Sr. Early Childhood Development/Parenting Education Center and the Rev. Dr. William G. Gillespie Residence Hall and Student Center. An eighth new building, a second residence hall, is currently under construction. In addition, Harris-Stowe has opened its first business school satellite campus in South St. Louis; has expanded the University's academic program to include 14 degree offerings in selected applied professional disciplines; has tripled its student enrollment since entering the State System; and has changed its status from College to University, to name a few of its accomplishments.

Dr. Givens has served as Chairman of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Statewide Celebration Commission for Missouri since its inception in 1986 to 2011. Under his dynamic leadership, the State of Missouri now hosts the second-largest celebration in the nation, extending to every corner of Missouri. Dr. Givens was appointed by President Barack Obama to the HBCU Capital Finance Program Advisory Board, and has served in the past and present on local, national, and international groups as a consultant, including the U.S. State Department at its American School in Lima, Peru. In addition, he currently serves on several local, state and national Boards and Commissions. He serves on the St. Louis Regional Convention and Sports Complex Authority board, and on local and national Corporate Boards of Directors, including, U.S. Bank (Regional).

He is a past board member of Laclede Gas/Laclede Group, Peabody Energy, Inc., and Automobile Club of Missouri (AAA). President Givens is affiliated with numerous national and local professional and social organizations, and has received over 125 national, state and local awards and recognitions, including honorary doctorate degrees from Saint Louis University, Lincoln University and Washington University-St. Louis.

Dr. Givens is married to Belma Evans Givens. They have a daughter, a son, and three grandchildren.

ADDRESSING THE HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY IN EAST AFRICA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, good afternoon. Two months ago, this Subcommittee held a hearing on Somalia that revealed the extent of the suffering from what witnesses agreed was the worst drought in the Horn of Africa since the 1950s. Our hearing today is, in part, a follow-up to that July 7th hearing in order to examine the U.S. Agency for International Development's long-term strategy to address humanitarian crises in East Africa, such as the current devastating drought. The need for this continued focus on the region is apparent given the ongoing, disturbing reports that we are receiving about Sudanese attacks on its Blue Nile State that will drive residents into South Sudan and reports of theft of international food aid.

We now know that an estimated 13.1 million people are in need of urgent humanitarian as-

sistance. The United States to date has devoted a total of \$604.6 million in humanitarian assistance funding for the Horn of Africa. At the same time, our government has devoted \$370.7 million in Fiscal Year 2011 to helping the newly independent Government of South Sudan respond to crises largely caused by Republic of the Sudan attacks that have sent people streaming into this young nation.

The drought in East Africa apparently is part of a persistent weather trend in the region, but there is disagreement on the extent to which the La Niña and El Niño weather phenomena will affect weather patterns in East Africa over time. The current La Niña phenomenon, which began in August 2010, results in wetter than normal conditions in Australia and parts of Asia from December to February and drier than normal conditions over equatorial East Africa over the same period, leading to the current drought in the region.

But while drought is one reason for food shortages, it is exacerbated by stagnating agricultural development and unsustainable forms of livelihood. In our July 7th hearing, Nancy E. Lindborg, Assistant Administrator in the U.S. Agency for International Development's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, raised the issue of the long-term need for changes in livelihoods in the region. She quoted a local cattle herder as saying, "We are seeing the end of the pastoral lifestyle as we know it."

In countries across the region, as Lindborg testified, nomads are without water and pasture and unable to migrate safely. Many of them are left without assets or income, and as they migrate out of rural areas to urban areas, they strain an already stressed situation.

There are nomads in Africa from Western Sahara to Sudan. If weather conditions have conspired to end what in some cases are livelihoods developed over millennia, who will work with these pastoralists to develop new ways of surviving? Part of our humanitarian strategy, therefore, must involve working with African governments on developing viable strategies for helping nomads transition into new livelihoods that fit their skills and are sustainable in often resource-poor conditions. In the long run, donors will be increasingly less likely to continue to support people suffering through repeated droughts in the same areas. We must break this cycle now and help them to find durable solutions for the future.

In Somalia, the hardest hit country in the region, the terrorist group al-Shabaab has obstructed the delivery of humanitarian assistance and directly threatened aid agencies. It has also interrogated aid workers and accused them of spying for the West or proselytizing. Maritime piracy and the hijacking of aid shipments have also hindered the provision of aid. By late 2009, threats against humanitarian workers and attacks against aid compounds had driven many international groups out of al-Shabaab-controlled areas; most of the remaining groups left southern Somalia in 2010. The result has been an estimated 2.2 million people in southern Somalia, representing some 60% of those who remain in the country, in need of aid but currently out of reach of most aid agencies.

We face serious questions about how to meet the desperate needs of people like those

living in areas controlled by al-Shabaab. We want to prevent terrorist organizations from benefitting from humanitarian aid, but we must balance this concern with our desire to keep alive those needing food, water and medicine. There has to be a solution that not only prevents aid from going to terrorists, but also prevents the terrorists from perpetrating further violence against their own people by denying them access to life-saving assistance.

Meanwhile, our government is helping the new Government of South Sudan to effectively respond to the expectations of the population for essential services and improved livelihoods, as well as containing the conflicts that are likely to erupt. This new government is learning to handle the normal business of establishing a government even as an estimated 371,455 people have migrated from the North to South Sudan, as well as to Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan States in the Republic of the Sudan and the disputed area of Abyei since October 30th of last year.

Apparently continuing attacks in Southern Kordofan and now Blue Nile State will only continue the flight of thousands of people into South Sudan. Given its troubled relationship with the Republic of the Sudan to the North, our assistance to the new government must build its capacity as a democratically elected institution and help enable it to avoid and address such crises. Empowerment should be our focus as we help this new government take its place among the world's nations.

Drought and other natural disasters and man-made catastrophes due to conflict have been a persistent story in East Africa. In an era of limited resources, we must encourage adapted lifestyles, develop strategies for delivering aid in conflict areas and enable our partner governments to manage crises more successfully. We look forward to hearing from our distinguished witnesses as to how we can move toward achieving these goals.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SEPTEMBER 11TH REMEMBRANCE DAY IN PEORIA, ILLINOIS

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the City of Peoria, Illinois' establishment of September 11th Remembrance Day on September 10th this year. In recognition of the 10th anniversary of the tragedy of September 11, 2001, the citizens of Peoria are dedicating September 10, 2011 to remember those who lost their lives on that day and the brave men and women who, despite the dangers, rushed to help others.

The images of the attacks on September 11th are seared into our national memory. Those who lived through that terrible day, in New York, Washington, DC and Pennsylvania, as well as in cities and towns across the nation, will always remember where they were when they heard that the United States was under attack. Two thousand eight hundred nineteen people lost their lives on that tragic

day, and the citizens of Peoria honor them with this Day of Remembrance.

The tragedy of September 11th will never be forgotten, but neither should the spirit of unity brought about by countless acts of heroism on that day and in the days following; acts of ordinary Americans who found themselves in extraordinary circumstances and answered the call to help. It is in honor of those who died, but also of those who rushed into burning buildings, sacrificed themselves to protect countless others, and came from all across the country to offer assistance that residents of Peoria pause on the Day of Remembrance.

Abraham Lincoln, who once represented Central Illinois in this chamber, said on the battlefield at Gettysburg, "it is from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion." We as Americans renewed our devotion to our national values in the wake of September 11th, values that unite rather than divide us. Through the establishment of this Day of Remembrance, Peoria residents continue their dedication to that same cause. This nation has endured many challenges, but the American people have always joined together to overcome them.

Therefore, in honor of the victims and heroes of September 11, 2001, I recognize Peoria, Illinois' establishment of September 11th Remembrance Day.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF THE LOCAL 537 PIPEFITTERS ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, the Massachusetts delegation moves today to honor the Local 537 Pipefitters Association of Boston, which will be celebrating its Centennial on Saturday, September 10, 2011. It is with pride that we reflect on the many accomplishments of Local 537 members and with appreciation that we commend the organization for its unparalleled service to our great state.

The history of Local 537 is a lesson in perseverance. The Pipefitters have seen decades of prosperity followed by years of declining job opportunities. In response, Local 537 members have become more versatile. They have borne witness not only to the advancements in the technology and materials on which their trade is dependent, but also to the evolution of workers' rights and labor unions. When hard times have fallen, the Pipefitters found work across the continent at the Trans-Alaskan pipeline, across borders to the oil fields of Canada and across state lines to construction jobs in New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Rhode Island—always to return when new opportunities arose at home.

With a membership of over 2,600, the jurisdiction of Local 537 covers Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, and Suffolk counties and extends into Plymouth and Worcester counties. From Boston to Lowell and Salem to Quincy, the work

of Local 537 is visible within the interiors of the very landmarks that make our state and cities unique and recognizable. They have left their mark on the resident halls and academic facilities of Harvard University, Boston College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Boston University; the piping systems in the Deer Island Water Treatment Plant and Weymouth Power Plant; and beneath the bleachers of the stadiums and arenas that house New England's proud sports teams.

Today, Local 537 retains the competitive edge and adaptive spirit of the original plumbers, gas fitters and steam fitters who first organized themselves over a century ago. The Pipefitters are a true Massachusetts institution and we thank the organization for its numerous contributions to the Commonwealth.

CONGRATULATING JULIE YOUNG, RECIPIENT OF THE 2011 HAROLD W. MCGRAW, JR. PRIZE IN EDUCATION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to recognize Ms. Julie Young upon receiving the 2011 Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education. Ms. Young is highly regarded for her hard work and dedication to improving education in this country and for helping to create a smarter, better educated world.

Ms. Young is President and CEO of the nation's largest and most influential virtual program: Florida Virtual School. Her journey began with a love for teaching and a dedication to learning that dates back to childhood. Today, she is passionate about the positive impact that Florida Virtual School has on thousands of families. I have been fortunate to work with Ms. Young as the Florida Virtual School has grown from 77 students in 1997 to its current enrollment of over 130,000 K–12 students.

Ms. Young's interest in combining technology and learning began when she served as a teacher trainer for a partnership between her school district and IBM. That experience also ignited her with the vision to apply proven business principles to education. She interacts regularly with business, education, and policy leaders across the nation to shape the future of learning, and she sees Florida Virtual School playing a significant role.

Ms. Young is also excited about the opportunities online education and blended learning models have provided for the profession. These innovations help to retain great teachers who might have otherwise left the field. She takes particular pleasure in identifying and growing leaders.

In addition to directing the work of 1,500 employees, Ms. Young is a frequent national speaker. She serves on the Board of the United States Distance Learning Association, International Association for K–12 Online Learning, Florida Learning Alliance, Florida TaxWatch Center for Educational Performance and Accountability, Florida Sterling Council Board of Directors, K–12 Blackboard Advisory

Council Member, and Microsoft K–12 Advisory Council Member Assistant. She was also recognized by Technology & Learning Magazine as one of the Top 30 influencers in Ed Tech, along with Bill Gates and Steve Jobs. In 2003, she was inducted into the United States Distance Learning Association "Hall of Fame."

On behalf of the citizens of Florida's 8th Congressional District, I congratulate and applaud Ms. Young for her work. She is most deserving of the 2011 Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education as she inspires others to follow in her footsteps.

HONORING ALICE FINCH LEE ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join with all Alabamians in sending warm personal congratulations to a beloved member of our community, Miss Alice Finch Lee, who celebrates her 100th birthday on Sunday, September 11, 2011. "Miss Alice's" compassion for others is matched only by her determination for justice. Her life-long dedication to civility and fairness is a credit to our state.

Monroeville, Alabama not only wears the crown of literary capital of our state with its ties to such giants of letters as Truman Capote and Nelle Harper Lee, among others, but it is also home to a one-of-a-kind legal lion.

Miss Alice grew up in a tight-knit family accustomed to making a difference. Her father, the late A.C. Lee, was a respected businessman and attorney. He owned the local newspaper, *The Monroe Journal*, while also practicing law. His inscrutable reputation for fairness is believed to have inspired Miss Alice's younger sister, Nelle, in crafting the character Atticus Finch in her world famous novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Miss Alice was a quick study, joining her father at the age of 18 in running the newspaper. It wasn't long before she also acquired an interest in law. Her decision to attend law school, a move strongly supported by her father, was a bold one considering women were not often seen in the legal profession during the 1930's and 40's. Undeterred, she graduated from the Birmingham School of Law and passed Alabama Bar in 1943.

It was Monroeville's good fortune that Miss Alice came back home and partnered with her father in practicing law in her hometown. Joining what is now considered to be one of the oldest law firms in Alabama, Barnett, Bugg, Lee & Carter, Miss Alice made a name for herself as a calm but reliable voice for equality and an advocate for the disadvantaged. Never seeking attention or accolade, she is best known for her uncommon generosity. A recent newspaper profile accordingly dubbed Miss Alice as "Atticus Finch in a skirt."

At the tender young age of 100, Miss Alice still works in her Monroeville law office attending to her clients' needs on a daily basis and giving each the full measure of her attention. When I personally looked in on her last week she was busy reviewing a contract and graciously gave me a few minutes to wish her a happy birthday.

She has been called a trailblazer, a role model and an advocate for what is right. In South Alabama, we are also proud to call her our friend. Miss Alice, on your 100th birthday, we wish you much joy and happiness, with a heartfelt prayer for many more to come.

IN CELEBRATION OF
CONSTITUTION WEEK

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Constitution Week.

Founded in 1890, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a volunteer women's service organization devoted to promoting patriotism, preserving history, and educating future generations. In 1955, DAR petitioned Congress to devote the week of September 17th–23rd for the observance of Constitution Week and to commemorate the signing of the Constitution on September 17, 1787. President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed this resolution into law the following year. This year marks the 224th anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution.

The Constitution is much more than a historic document; it serves as a guide for our country and represents our commitment to the principles of freedom, liberty, and the unalienable rights of every American. It is woven into the very fabric of our great Nation—elected officials take oaths to support and defend it; citizens are free because of it; and our government design and functions exist because of it. Constitution Week provides us with a moment to pause and reflect upon our country's founding and renew our duty to protect and defend the Constitution.

I am thankful for DAR's efforts to promoting Constitution Week and raising awareness about the importance of our Constitution and our Nation's rich history. Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me celebrating Constitution Week.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,685,550,385,913.19.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$4,047,124,639,619.39 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

EULOGY AT THE MEMORIAL
TRIBUTE TO JAMES T. MOLLOY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD a eulogy I delivered for the memorial tribute and ceremony of James T. Molloy, who served as the Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO JAMES T. MOLLOY

Roseann, Amy, members of the Molloy, Straub and Hayden families. Honorable Members of Congress, past and present, distinguished guests and friends of Jim Molloy. To Congressman Jim Stanton, thank you for many years' of friendship to Jim Molloy and organizing this celebration of his life.

Jim Molloy served as Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives for more than two decades. He served under four House Speakers, five U.S. Presidents and thousands of Members of Congress. He introduced and hosted Heads of State, foreign dignitaries and organized more than 71 joint sessions of Congress.

In this, the nation's capitol, a city that Jim Molloy loved and called his second home for more than 40 years, not a more decent, giving and gentle man lived or could be found. He was referred to in many ways here: The Honorable Doorkeeper, James T. Molloy, J.T. Molloy and, as his great friend Speaker Tip O'Neill was often heard saying in a slightly agitated voice, "Molloy get in here!"

There was the time that the Dalai Lama came to Congress to have a personal audience with Speaker O'Neill. The Speaker was delayed and Jim was dispatched to entertain His Holiness until the Speaker arrived. Jim nervously tried to make conversation but the Dalai Lama sat silently, smiling. After a couple of minutes of awkward silence, the Dalai Lama pointed to Jim's wrist and commented on the beautiful watch Jim was wearing. Jim removed the watch and tried to give it to the him. The Dalai Lama humbly declined. Jim persevered insisting that he take the watch as a gift. Holding the watch closer to the Dalai Lama, Jim said it was a cheap credit union watch that only cost \$14, please take it. At that moment, the Speaker walked in the room and said to an aide, "I leave Molloy with the Dalai Lama for 5 minutes and he's begging the man to buy his watch."

While it is his love of the institution and that bellowing voice from the back of the House Chamber to announce the arrival of the President of the United States that we remember. It is his larger than life personality, generous spirit, self deprecating humor and loyalty to his beloved South Buffalo that we will miss.

Jim Molloy was a favorite son of South Buffalo. He was the middle child of Matthew and Catherine Molloy. And along with them and his two sisters, Kathy and Janet, grew up at Bloomfield Avenue in Holy Family Parish. Jim was a Buffalo city school teacher, he worked as a grain scooper along the waterfront, was a second generation Buffalo firefighter and served as 2nd Zone democratic chairman at the age of 27, the youngest zone chairman in New York State.

As Doorkeeper he administered an annual budget of more than \$9 million and supervised more than 400 employees. Jim served as Chairman of the Congressional Federal Cred-

it Union for 36 years. He recruited the best young minds from the nation's most prestigious educational institutions to start their careers right here in the nation's capital, among them: Holy Family and St. Theresa's grammar schools and South Park, Mount Mercy and Bishop Timon High schools. If you came from these schools and your father was a Buffalo Firefighter and had a second front as a grain scooper you received even more special attention and consideration. Someone once said: you know Jim, next to Mercy Hospital on Abbott Road, you might just be the largest employer of South Buffalo people. To which Jim responded, "How many people work at Mercy!"

Jim Molloy's door was never reserved exclusively for the high and mighty, for Kings and Queens. It was a door open to all, through which people of every walk of life could enter the greatest democratic institution, in the greatest nation, in the only world we know. Yes Jim Molloy played gracious host to Presidents and world leaders because he was required to. But he played host to the sons and daughters of union bricklayers and city firemen because he could and wanted to.

I was one of those kids. My Dad was a union bricklayer and local politician. He and Jim grew up on Bloomfield Avenue, my Dad at 74, Jim at 106. They attended Holy Family grammar school together and were steeped in the deep tradition of South Buffalo politics. My dad died of Alzheimer's three years ago. It's a tough disease whose origins are unknown but whose end is certain. But one of the last things my Dad worked for and remembered fully was watching his son sworn in as a Member of the United States Congress. I tell you this because it's really not my story. It's his and his family's and it's the story of my community, and it's Jim Molloy's as well. And the simple idea that one generation makes sacrifices to make way, to open doors, if you will, for the next.

Jim Molloy was with us that day and I was honored to have him celebrating that achievement with my family and friends. Someone there commented that I was the first South Buffalo representative in Congress. I really wasn't though. Jim Molloy will always be the first and greatest Congressional representative Buffalo ever had, and it is through the door that he kept that that opportunity was possible for someone else.

After 34 doorkeepers of the House of Representatives and a tradition dating back to 1789, the new Speaker in 1994 was forced to abolish the position of doorkeeper. I say forced because he knew Jim Molloy could never be replaced.

In a 2005 interview with Tim Russet for NPR's oral history project, Story Corps, Tim and Jim shared recollections of childhood memories in South Buffalo. Tim concluded the interview by saying that the best way to describe Jim was as a good man, who knew everybody, and who was always proud of taking care of his own. That is Jim Molloy's legacy.

That is how he lived his life and that life, in all its goodness and graciousness, has made all of us better.

That is how Jim's friends in Washington, South Buffalo, and across the nation will remember him: as a good man, who knew everybody, and who was always proud of taking care of his own. So today we express gratitude for many things. I give thanks to you and for the opportunity and Honor to be here this morning.

We give thanks to Jim Molloy for the life that he lived, and friendship that he gave,

and only for the people of the country and the community that he loved. And finally we give thanks for a good and generous nation. A good and generous nation that makes Jim Molloy's and all of our stories possible.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 9/11 ATTACKS

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, on this 10th anniversary of the attacks on our country on September 11, 2001, I simply want to pay tribute to the American people, and to our country, and what it stands for: our enduring commitment to the freedoms we cherish, to liberty and democracy, and to our system of government and our way of life.

The attacks on 9/11 against the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon here in Washington, and over the skies of Pennsylvania, took nearly 3,000 lives. It was the worst attack against the homeland since Pearl Harbor, and a higher death toll was inflicted on 9/11 than even on that date in 1941 "that will live in infamy," as Franklin Roosevelt memorialized for the nation.

On this 9/11, our sole responsibilities are the simple, sacred acts of remembrance and rededication: remembrance of those whose lives were taken, and rededication to our country and its future.

Those who perished will never be forgotten; their names are called out every year. And if anything, American patriotism is stronger than ever.

The 9/11 attacks were directed at our freedoms, our way of life, and modern civilization itself. It was an assault against American leadership in the world, against the ideals that have guided us since the founding of the Republic, and against the rule of law and any sense of morality.

But the fact is that those responsible for 9/11 could never—and will never—defeat the United States of America. No act of terrorism can overcome the spirit of the American people and our pursuit of our destiny.

Our resolve from that terrible day was clear: to pursue and defeat those who perpetrated this evil, and to make sure they can never again threaten the United States of America and those who live here.

As we commemorate the tenth anniversary of 9/11, we must note that the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have now lasted longer than the Civil War and World War II combined. We have suffered substantial casualties—over 6,300 dead and 35,000 injured in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001. The financial cost of the two wars is over \$1.2 trillion—nearly equal to this year's Federal budget deficit. President Bush did not ask the American people for a tax increase to finance these wars, so we have not only a legacy of great human casualties, but also one of immense financial debt.

The American involvement in the war in Iraq is drawing to a close, and I support President Obama's stated intention to remove all American combat forces by year's end.

But I also believe it past time to end our involvement in Afghanistan. We should bring our

troops home now. There is nothing more for our forces to achieve there. There are other fronts in the war on terror, such as Pakistan, Yemen, and Sudan, and we need to continue our efforts to combat violent extremists in those countries. But there is no overriding purpose served by continuing military involvement in Afghanistan. Let us leave Afghanistan to its people, and reserve the right to strike at any foe arising from Afghanistan that poses a threat to our country and its people.

As a nation we grieve for those whose lives were so brutally taken on 9/11. We honor their memory, and we support their families. And I hope that all our military forces in Iraq and Afghanistan will be brought home to us very soon.

WOMEN'S BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER: 25 YEARS OF EM- POWERING WOMEN SMALL BUSI- NESS OWNERS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the ground-breaking Women's Business Development Center and the two remarkable women who founded it.

In 1986, Hedy M. Ratner and S. Carol Dougal saw a need: the lack of support for women eager to participate in the business world. Then, through their vision and persistence, they worked to address that need by creating the Women's Business Development Center (WBDC). The goals they set were ambitious to say the least—to accelerate the growth of women-owned businesses and microenterprise ownership, to increase the economic impact of women business owners on families and communities, to build awareness of business ownership as a path to economic self-sufficiency, and to help stimulate policy and system changes to empower women in the economy. Today, 25 years later, the achievements of the WBDC are evident, even as it continues to be an innovative national leader in expanding opportunities for women.

The Center already has helped more than 65,000 women in the greater Chicago area start, improve and expand their small businesses. Its success has spurred the creation of 14 other centers in 6 states. The oldest and largest women's business assistance center in the country, the WBDC is constantly developing and implementing new approaches to help potential and current women business owners. The Center and its amazing staff give women the tools, the needed support and the confidence to know that they can become successful entrepreneurs.

Whether you are a woman with a glimmer of an idea for creating a business or an established woman business owner who wants to take advantage of new opportunities, the WBDC is there to help. The Center provides a full range of programs and services: financial literacy and entrepreneurial trainings, workshops, one-to-one counseling, and capacity building. Its programs include Women's

Business Enterprise, Women's Business Finance, Procurement and Technical Assistance, Child Care Business Initiative, and Latina Business Development.

Hedy and Carol are recognized leaders who have advised business groups and public officials at all levels about ways to help women improve their families' well-being and our nation by creating new business opportunities. I am one of many who have been fortunate enough to receive their advice on ways to improve federal contracting and lending policies and to learn about the barriers that must be torn down so that more women can enter realm of business ownership.

I congratulate Hedy, Carol and the extraordinary staff of the Women's Business Development Center for 25 years of success. I know that they will help many, many more women become business owners and leaders in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SIXTY- SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) on its sixty-second anniversary.

Since its founding in 1949, the ABWA has devoted itself to providing valuable educational, training, and networking opportunities to business women. Alongside three businesswomen from Kansas City, Mr. Hilary A. Bufton, Jr., recognized the important role of women in the American workforce and sought to utilize and develop their knowledge and skills by starting the ABWA. Over the past sixty-two years, the ABWA has flourished into an expansive network with many members in chapters across the nation.

Due to the inclusive nature of the organization, the ABWA has a diverse membership, encompassing women from a variety of professions. The commitment to the professional development of women and harnessing their entrepreneurial spirit and potential has made the ABWA an important and influential organization. Many, including President Ronald Reagan, have recognized their hard work and contributions to the American economy.

I am delighted to express my hearty congratulations to the ABWA as they celebrate sixty-two years of success. Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in recognizing the ABWA.

HONORING AMERICAN NEPHROLOGY NURSES ASSOCIATION KIDNEY DISEASE AWARENESS AND EDUCATION WEEK

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize the high quality health care provided by America's nephrology nurses. The American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) has designated September 11–17, 2011 as Nephrology Nurses Week to help draw attention to the growing health problem of kidney disease and the tireless efforts of the men and women who care for those afflicted by it. I would particularly like to thank ANNA Chapter 504 Northern California which represents the many dedicated nurses in the San Francisco Bay Area and the North and South Bay Areas. These hardworking professionals provide hands-on care for individuals with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), creating essential and personal nurse/patient relationships.

Unfortunately, kidney disease touches many in my home district. Minorities, including African Americans, Hispanics, Asians and Pacific Islanders are particularly affected by CKD because of under-treatment or lack of proper management for diabetes and hypertension, the two major causes of ESRD. Kidney disease afflicts both young and old, but close to

50 percent of those over 65 develop chronic kidney disease.

Those suffering from kidney disease are often people who require our support the most. Nephrology nurses give that support every day in every treatment modality. In caring for patients, nephrology nurses show that they are skilled, knowledgeable, motivated, professional and compassionate. These qualities make a serious difference in the lives of millions of people.

Again, thank you to each of America's nephrology nurses for your dedication, your skills, and the care and comfort you provide every day. You deserve more than just a week's attention each year. I hope that this body will work to support both nurses and patients in the upcoming sessions, and to ensure that those who stand against kidney disease don't stand alone.

TRIBUTE TO DR. EDYTHE M.
ABDULLAH

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2011

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Dr. Edythe M. Abdullah on her investiture as the sixth president of Essex County College. As the first female to lead this 13,000 student institution, Dr. Abdullah has already demonstrated her strong competency in leadership and her knowledge

of academia. Clearly, these attributes contributed to her selection as president following the college's nationwide search for a replacement for President Emeritus, Dr. A. Zachary Yamba.

Dr. Abdullah's impressive background as a college administrator which includes her presidency at Florida State College has allowed her to easily transition to the Essex County College Campus. That experience coupled with her undergraduate degree from Valparaiso University, her Juris Doctorate from the University of Florida and her Leadership Certificate from Harvard University make her very qualified to add her distinctive branding to Essex County College.

Fortunately, for the community at large, Dr. Abdullah understands the unique challenges faced by students with potential but who lack the resources needed to obtain a higher education. Accordingly, she has launched multiple initiatives that will allow Essex County College to address the economic requirements of students while preparing them for the future. In fact, the underlying theme: Changing Lives . . . Building Futures includes actionable processes that are measurable and comprehensive in their scope.

Since her arrival in Newark, Dr. Abdullah has impressed me with her willingness to make tough but necessary decisions. This investiture is a fitting culmination of her obvious dedication to excellence. I am pleased to join her family, faculty, colleagues, students and the Greater Newark community in feting her on this wonderful occasion.

SENATE—Monday, September 12, 2011

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Gracious God, high and lifted up, hallowed be Your Name.

Lord, on yesterday we observed the 10th anniversary of 9/11 and thanked You for Your grace that continues to protect and sustain us. We give thanks at the remembrance of Your holy Name, for You are our hope for years to come. Today, empower our Senators to grow in grace and knowledge of You. With each passing day, may they find themselves more ethically and morally fit. Let Your word be a light for them and a lamp to illuminate the darkness. Lord, use them so effectively on Capitol Hill that justice will reign in our land and world.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 12, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COONS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 4:30 p.m. today. At that time, the Senate will resume consideration of H.J. Res. 66. At 5:30, there will be a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to H.J. Res. 66. At 5:50, Members will gather in the Rotunda and proceed to the 9/11 remembrance ceremony on the east front of the Capitol.

REMEMBERING 9/11

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I remember Tuesday, September 11, very clearly.

Room 219 is where Senator Daschle held his Tuesday morning leadership meeting, which started at 9 o'clock. I was the first Senator in that room. John Breaux of Louisiana came in a short time later, and he said: Something is going on in New York. Flip on the TV. And we did, and there was a tower burning, and we were thinking, how could an airplane run into that tower?

We basically didn't pay any attention to that TV. We turned it off because there was a meeting there. We assembled for a meeting, Senator Daschle called it to order, and just a short time after the meeting was started, he got a note. Somebody came in and took him out, and he came in and said: We have to vacate the building. There is an airplane headed toward the Capitol. So of course we all hurriedly left 219.

I remember that day so very clearly. Senator Nickles was my Republican counterpart, Senator Trent Lott was Senator Daschle's counterpart, and the four of us were taken off the west front of the Capitol to a secret location, where we spent most all the day. The Vice President was there and kept us informed as to what was going on. As we left 219, Mr. President, you could look out the window and see the smoke billowing out of the Pentagon.

It was a very difficult day for all of us. Yesterday, we observed the 10th anniversary of those attacks, but the truth is I remember that day as if it were only yesterday. That day, Osama bin Laden and his radical followers didn't just launch an attack on planes or buildings. They launched an attack on the American spirit. They launched an attack on our freedom and our democracy.

Rather than being crippled by the terrible acts of those madmen, rather than allowing uncertainty and fear to rule us, this Nation was again stronger than ever. And we really did it in one way, and that was by coming together.

The darkness that day reminded us of our collective strength and power. It reminded us that there is nothing we cannot achieve together, as one Nation under God, indivisible, and, of course, with liberty and justice for all. So we pledged to bring justice to the perpetrators of those terrible acts, and we followed through on that pledge with an unfaltering campaign to dismantle al-Qaida and its supporters. This year, our brave Navy SEALs and others gave Osama bin Laden his due. We also pledged to rebuild, and I am very happy to see the proud towers of the new World Trade Center rising from the ashes of Ground Zero.

That doesn't mean the memory of that day is not painful, because it is, especially to those who lost loved ones. Thousands of people lost loved ones. Nothing could ever make up for the loss of a mother or father, son or daughter, brother or sister, friend, or a spouse who was just catching a plane, going to work, or at work on that horrific day. They are the reason we will never forget—ever.

So today, as yesterday, I honor the memory of the thousands of innocent people who died at the World Trade Center, at the Pentagon, on the hijacked planes in New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. I honor the memory of the firefighters who knew the danger they faced when they entered those buildings but went in anyway. I honor the police and rescue workers who rushed to the scene and combed through the debris, some of whom died that day. I honor the many dedicated members of our Armed Forces, our State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and our intelligence community who have sacrificed their lives to keep us safe and keep September 11 from ever happening again.

Today, at approximately 6 o'clock, we will gather on the east front of the Capitol. In looking at the program, I see the final thing that will happen there is one of the military bands and choir will sing "God Bless America." That happened on September 11. Senator Daschle and I had come back, and we gathered on the front of the Capitol. We really were there not knowing what to do; we just wanted to be together. As I remember, Senator MIKULSKI said in her usual voice, which demands attention, "Let's sing 'God Bless America.'" And we did. I don't know how well we sang it, but it was a memorable event. So I will remember that very clearly tonight when we close our recognition ceremony out there on the east front of the Capitol singing "God

Bless America"—something we did 10 years ago.

Mr. President, I honor America's spirit of perseverance and commitment to freedom. May we never forget.

Will the Chair announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 4:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to proceed for 15 minutes in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS pertaining to the introduction of S. 1538 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEDICAL DEVICE TAX

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, we all heard the President speak to a joint session of Congress last week about his jobs bill, which was released this morning. The President indicated he wanted to take his case to the people. I am glad he is doing so. As he travels about the country, I think he will be hearing what many of us heard during the August work period when we were back at home.

As I traveled across the State of Indiana and talked to people from all dif-

ferent categories of industry—small to medium to large businesses—home-owners and other constituents, one thing came through loudly and clearly: I needed to listen to them more than they needed to listen to me. What was on their minds is what I think the President will be hearing about as he travels across the country to talk about his jobs plan because, clearly, on the minds of the American people are jobs and the lack of jobs for many who are struggling through a very difficult time of unemployment. There are students who graduated from college with no place to go. People in middle age are being laid off or terminated, unable to find new work. Clearly, we have a jobs crisis in this country. It has lasted now for some time. We have been in a deep recession. Hopefully, we are coming out of it, but the latest indicators show that things are pretty stagnant. In fact, the latest facts that came forward in the August reports were that job growth is zero. So we have some work to do. We also need to look carefully at the proposal the President brought before us.

Getting back to the central point I am trying to make, what he will hear, I believe, from the American people—at least he will hear it if he stops in Indiana—is there is a great cloud of uncertainty hanging over the future and, because of that, people are holding back on spending and businesses are holding back on hiring. There certainly is not the confidence we have seen in the past. We have seen that confidence indicator drop and drop and drop—confidence in the future that we have our act together, that we are pulling out of this recession, and that we can look forward to a brighter tomorrow because our economy will be growing and we will be adding more jobs. That uncertainty results from a number of factors. Clearly, we have been in a downturn, and we are trying to climb out of that, but there is also uncertainty about what policies will be coming out of Washington that will affect the job creators and will affect consumers as they contemplate decisions regarding how to go forward.

One of those key indicators is the uncertainty over what the Tax Code will bring regarding the taxing of profits or income or revenue that comes into America's companies. I wish to highlight one of those because it is important to the State of Indiana, but I think it also makes the larger point. There are industries that can be an essential part of our future and that can and are providing for essential employment, at higher than average wages with good skill levels, and that hold a lot of potential for our exporting successfully overseas as well as providing necessary products here at home.

One of those industries is centrally located in Indiana—in fact, it is one of our top industries and an industry with

significant growth over the last decade or more; that industry is the medical device industry. Yet the medical device industry, because of its success, was targeted during the formation of the health care plan that was proposed by the President and passed by this Congress in the last session. That bill imposed a tax increase on the medical device industry, even though they did not have a direct relationship with what was trying to be accomplished in the ObamaCare medical plan. Here is an industry that is a world leader, where the United States is a world leader, an industry that brings in substantial revenue, has seen a significant increase in growth, and holds great potential for the future. Yet because there was a search for pay-fors for the health care plan, the administration looked at this industry and basically said: We can draw some taxes and provide some revenues. Their proposal was to achieve \$40 billion over a period of time, all of which would go to help pay for the health care plan. That was reduced through an amendment—or through negotiations—to \$20 billion. Nevertheless, it should have never been included in the first place. It was there for a revenue raiser, and it didn't have anything to do with the particular plan.

Indiana is one of the world leaders in the development of medical technologies that enhance and save the lives of Hoosiers and patients around the world. We have more than 300 FDA-registered medical device manufacturers, employing 20,000 Hoosiers directly and another 28,000 indirectly. There are more than 400,000 workers employed nationwide by this industry. These are jobs that pay, on average, 41 percent higher wages than the State wage rate in Indiana.

Medical device manufacturing has been a thriving industry. It is critical to our State economy and many States' economies, and I will list some of those. States such as California, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Wisconsin, and including my State of Indiana could suffer more job losses if this tax is allowed to go into effect. In fact, a study that has come out produced by the Advanced Medical Technology Association analyzed the potential effect of the health care law's device tax on employment and the medical device industry, and I quote from that report:

... under reasonable assumptions, the tax could result in job losses in excess of 43,000 workers and employment compensation losses in excess of \$3.5 billion. That would be a devastating blow to the industry and, of course, to many local economies.

Beyond that, I have met with these device manufacturers on numerous occasions. Essentially, what they have said to me is: We like working in Indiana. We like the productivity we are getting. But if we continue to be taxed

and regulated to the point where we are no longer competitive in selling our products worldwide, we are going to have to take a serious look at moving our production overseas. They said: We don't want to do this. We want to stay here. But we need to be competitive because you have to understand that a lot of our revenue comes from exporting overseas.

Of course, this is what we want to encourage. Our trade balance is in deficit and the more we can export and the more we have cutting-edge industries that export enhanced products to overseas customers, the better our own economic situation will be here at home.

At a time when 14 million Americans are looking for work and at a time when our country has suffered through 31 consecutive months of unemployment above 8 percent, I think we need to take a close look at the job creators in our country and determine whether the taxation or regulation that is being imposed on them is having a dramatic impact on our ability to provide more jobs. The people I have talked to said it is having the opposite effect.

Senator HATCH has introduced a bill to repeal this tax. It was controversial when it was first brought forward. I think the Congress ought to take a look at this legislation. If we want to provide some job-creating opportunities in America, we need to look at the taxes and regulations that are stifling growth and the ability to hire more people.

I am a proud sponsor of Senator HATCH's legislation to repeal this excise tax. It will, as I said, benefit many States and provide many jobs and prevent jobs from leaving American soil. So I encourage my colleagues in the Senate to join this commonsense legislation and repeal the tax on medical devices. If we want to spur economic growth, it is time we take a closer look at the harmful impacts of policies that are stifling growth. This is one industry—and I hope to highlight more in the future—but one industry that clearly is being penalized for being successful. It is hurting our economy, and it is hurting our ability to provide job growth.

I wish the President well. I hope he listens intently. I hope he hears the same sentiment I heard as I traveled around the State of Indiana. I believe the conclusion is inevitable; that is, taxation, regulation, and the policies coming out of Washington bring uncertainty to the marketplace, and uncertainty to the marketplace affects consumer confidence and affects the confidence of those job creators and employers who are frozen in time waiting to see how all this is going to turn out. They are fearful of hiring more employees because they do not know what the impact is going to be on their payroll and on their expenses, and they are waiting for the next regulation to come

down that might impact their business in a negative way.

We need certainty coming out of Washington, not uncertainty. I am hoping over the next 2 or 3 months, as Congress works to come together with a sensible plan to deal with our deficit, we can enact a good plan for the future in terms of how to deal with our deficit and we can bring some certainty to the future and get our economy back on the right track.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ISRAEL-PALESTINIAN PEACE PROCESS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to express my thoughts and my concerns about an issue of the utmost importance; that is, the Israel-Palestinian peace process.

Tomorrow, September 13, 2011, the General Assembly of the United Nations will commence with its 66th session in New York. Every year, member nations come together to debate and discuss the important issues facing the world at the United Nations General Assembly. While there will be a variety of issues on the agenda this year, I am extremely concerned about one issue specifically.

Over the last several months, Palestinian Authority President Abbas has repeatedly voiced his intention to formally request statehood recognition and full membership in the United Nations. In July, the Arab League endorsed this irresponsible ploy. Regrettably, President Abbas intends to make the formal request during this session of the United Nations General Assembly.

I oppose the decision of the Palestinian Authority to seek a declaration of statehood by the United Nations. The unilateral action of the Palestinian Authority is intended to circumvent the peace process. It is not a good-faith effort to achieve peace in the Middle East but, to me, rather it is a political maneuver.

The United Nations should not be interfering or intervening in this complex process and should refrain from passing unilateral declarations on issues that are part of ongoing direct negotiations by the parties. The decision about borders and statehood should be achieved through a final agreement, an agreement between the Government of Israel and the Palestinians.

The United Nations should refrain from dictating and imposing a final decision on statehood for a territory of one of its own current member nations. To me, this will only make matters worse. It will make this situation worse because the consequences to the peace process are grave.

The ability to move forward with an agreement is weakened and greatly diminished by these types of tactics. The best path to peace is through direct negotiations between the two parties, not through a manipulation at the United Nations. The United States continues to support a two-state solution as a means to ending the conflict. It is based on the belief that it is the only way to achieve a true and lasting peace between these two parties.

Instead of embarking on the time-consuming campaign to gain support in the United Nations General Assembly, the Palestinian leadership should be working directly with Israel on creating a real and sustainable peace agreement.

The request for recognition by the United Nations is part of a terrible emerging trend from the Palestinian Authority. The Palestinian Authority continues to engage in troubling behavior that is contrary to peace.

On May 4, the Palestinian Authority reached an agreement with the terrorist group, Hamas, to create a unity government. It is outrageous that the Palestinian Authority would be willing to unite with a known terrorist group that is infamously recognized for its destructive acts of violence.

Since 1997 Hamas has been designated by the U.S. Department of State as a foreign terrorist organization. Hamas terrorists are responsible for the murders of American citizens. It is also important to note that the agreement between Hamas and the Palestine Authority does not require Hamas to recognize Israel's right to exist, to accept the previous Israel-Palestinian agreements, or to renounce terrorism.

Hamas continues to be fundamentally opposed to a lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. It is apparent there is no path to a peaceful resolution when part of the Palestinian unity government is dedicated to the destruction of Israel.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made this point very clear when he addressed the joint session of Congress on May 24 of this year. He stated, "Peace can only be negotiated with partners committed to peace."

Furthermore, it is completely unacceptable for U.S. assistance to go to the Palestinian Authority when it includes Hamas. The Palestinian Authority received approximately \$500 million in U.S. foreign assistance in fiscal year 2010. Hard-earned U.S. taxpayer funds must not be funneled into the pockets of terrorists.

History shows this is not the first attempt by the Palestinians to use the

United Nations to circumvent peace negotiations and declare statehood. The Palestinians sought to change their status at the United Nations through the World Health Organization. At that time, Secretary of State James Baker publicly warned that he would recommend that the United States stop funding any international organization that changed the Palestinian status as an observer organization.

Americans are keenly aware that a significant portion of the United Nations' budget is paid by the United States. As the biggest financial contributor to the United Nations, the United States contributed almost \$7.7 billion in fiscal year 2010 to the United Nations system. The United States should not be providing funding for an international institution that circumvents an established peace process and that threatens the security of our allies.

The United States and Israel share a long and deep alliance. Israel is a friend and ally and a strategic partner to the United States. Both Israel and the United States understand the values of life, liberty, opportunity, security, and freedom.

Throughout Israel's history, the country has worked to build a democratic nation in the face of severe obstacles. Israel is a shining example of democracy in the Middle East. As Israel faces real danger from its neighbors, the people of Israel continue to show great strength and perseverance as they seek peace.

On May 22, President Obama explained that no vote at the United Nations would create an independent Palestinian State. On May 25, the President expressed his concern about the efforts of the Palestinian Authority to seek statehood at the United Nations and referred to it as a "mistake."

The Department of State continues to reiterate that Israel and the Palestinian Authority need to work out the differences between themselves in direct negotiations. The United States has been very clear that we will use veto power in the United Nations Security Council to block any attempt by the Palestinians for state recognition or United Nations membership.

The Obama administration must use all of its resources to block similar actions in the General Assembly and other United Nations organizations. President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton must press the Palestinian Authority to abandon its erroneous decision and return to the negotiating table with Israel.

It is also imperative that other international leaders understand the implications of these efforts and join the United States in opposing them. Nations must stand together to decry the attempt to circumvent direct peace process negotiations.

The Palestinian Authority must also understand that its actions will have serious implications to the U.S.-Palestinian relations and U.S. assistance. The recent actions of the Palestinian Authority indicate to this Senator that the United States has no choice but to suspend funding assistance to the Palestinian Authority.

Today, I call on Congress to terminate funding assistance to the Palestinian Authority. I believe Congress must also evaluate and significantly cut funding to the United Nations if any change to the status of the Palestinian Authority is approved by the General Assembly.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, President Obama is about to roll out another jobs plan. He talked about it last week. This is 2½ years after the first stimulus bill, which, with interest, amounted to about \$1.2 trillion. His economic advisers have confirmed the fact that this stimulus concept is actually based on the Keynesian economic theory. As our Republican leader noted last week, there are now, unfortunately, 1.7 million fewer jobs in America, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, than there were before the President's first stimulus bill. So the question, obviously, is whether this theory is better in theory than it is in practice.

I wanted to talk today a little about the two different basic theories of economic growth and what you do in a situation of economic downturn, as we have today. How should we be looking at stimulation of job creation and economic growth? The two competing theories, of course, are the Keynesian theory, which I mentioned, and what some have called supply-side economics.

There is no question that the Keynesian theory has been one to which the President's economic advisers generally adhere. It was used to justify the 2009 stimulus program and other programs. For example, the one that sticks out in my mind is the so-called cash for clunkers, but there were other transfer payment government programs, temporary tax credits, and others. But the theory in the cash for clunkers is a good example, which is that in recessionary times, if the government spends money and gives it to people so that they can spend it, that

will therefore stimulate consumption; that business will respond by increasing production, and that will create jobs.

Recently, for example, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said that because of a theoretical multiplier effect under this model, food stamps—government money taken from taxpayers and given to people who are entitled or eligible for food stamps—would actually stimulate the economy by a factor of 1.84; in other words, that \$1 of food stamps would actually generate \$1.84 in economic activity. There are a lot of problems with that theory. The first is that the multiplier effect itself has been discredited as not something that, in fact, actually happens.

A Harvard economist by the name of Robert Barro has explained this, and I will quote from one of his writings:

Theorizing aside, Keynesian policy conclusions, such as the wisdom of additional stimulus geared to money transfers, should come down to empirical evidence. And there is zero evidence that deficit-financed transfers raise GDP and employment—not to mention evidence for a multiplier of two. If [Secretary Vilsack's claim] were valid, this result would be truly miraculous. The administration found the evidence it wanted—multipliers around two—by consulting some large-scale macroeconomic models, which substitute assumptions for identification.

In other words, economists can prove the multiplier in theory with these models, but there is no empirical evidence that it has ever occurred. It is a bit like money growing on trees. The money has to come from somewhere, and, of course, it comes out of the pockets of taxpayers or the government borrows it and it eventually has to be repaid with taxpayer tax dollars.

The second problem is that to the extent one assumes the problem is that Americans are too broke to spend money, the question then is, How can the government make that up for us? Aren't the people the government? Doesn't the government get its money from the people in the form of taxes or, if it borrows, the people's taxes eventually have to pay back the borrowed money. In other words, we have to pay it back later.

Third, people tend to change their spending habits when they know they will have greater consistent income over time, such as when they receive a raise at work. If you give people a one-time payment, the evidence has shown they either save that or they shift future consumption forward. In other words, they may buy something now they were going to buy later. That is where the Cash for Clunkers Program failed. But it doesn't permanently increase their work effort or their incentive to invest, which, of course, is exactly what is needed to jump-start economic growth. The job creators themselves tend to hire when they know they are going to have permanent tax relief or regulatory relief, not just

when they receive a one-time payment for something. That is only good for as long as it lasts, but it doesn't provide the consistent, long-term prospect for income, for example, that they need in order to take the step of actually hiring a person and committing to paying that person over time.

Fourth, the Keynesian theory assumes the government has the foresight to determine or, as President Obama's former National Economic Council chief Larry Summers said of the stimulus, to target which spending programs would best create economic growth, but that rarely happens. The obvious problem with this assumption, of course, is that Congress does not spend taxpayer money wisely. We see time and time again how a well-intentioned piece of legislation gets loaded up with special projects, frequently which are costly to the public and very questionable in their value. That was one of the things that was wrong with the stimulus package itself.

There is an eye-opening new set of working papers that reveals the truth about this. Mercatus Center scholars Garrett Jones and Daniel Rothschild took a look at, among other things, whether Congress did a good job of targeting the stimulus funds at unemployed workers and weak sectors of the economy. They surveyed hundreds of firms that received stimulus funding and gathered more than 1,000 voluntary, anonymous responses from employees and managers to help shed more light on what happened to organizations that received stimulus funds. Here is what they wrote:

Our survey finds no evidence of such [Keynesian] targeting occurring, at least not successfully.

For example, one city was given \$4 million to improve energy efficiency even though a budget shortfall had just forced it to lay off 185 public workers. In another case study, a Federal contractor was instructed to purchase more expensive tiles than he needed for a particular project. The theory was, in that way the government could claim the stimulus money was getting out the door faster. This isn't the way to spur economic growth. And I believe most Keynesians believe that what the government spends its money on matters.

Moreover, the study I referred to also found that less than half of those hired with the stimulus funds were unemployed—about 42.1 percent. Jobs were simply moving from one place to another. The authors of the study wrote:

Hiring is not the same thing as net job creation. This suggests just how hard it is for Keynesian job creation to work in a modern, expertise-based economy.

In other words, while an employer might steal an employee from another employer, that is not the same thing as creating a net new job.

So the bottom line here is there is a major misconception that consumption

fueled by government spending actually creates jobs. It turns out that it doesn't. It just inefficiently moves borrowed money around with a bill that has to be repaid later.

I believe it is also important to remember that economic growth stems from combining three inputs: labor, capital, and technology. These three factors of production result in output we can then consume. This is the beginning of the difference between the Keynesian philosophy and the supply-side philosophy, which focuses on productivity. And what is required for society to be more productive? Labor, capital, and technology. Properly applied, when these three aspects of an economy are well-aligned, the economy can grow, jobs can be produced, and people will consume, but they will be consuming things that have been produced by the businesses of the country. Without labor, capital, and technology, there can be no consumption. I mean, that is obvious. Focusing on policies that stimulate consumption targets the wrong side of the equation. In order to get the economy going, you need to focus on the inputs.

There is an incidental problem here. Stimulating consumption also raises prices, which is exactly what we don't need. When you stimulate input or productivity, you produce more of the quality goods people want, and the prices of those products are down if there is enough productivity. But when you try to stimulate consumption for a fixed number of goods, obviously the price of those goods goes up. There is a fear of inflation in our society today, and that is precisely what this kind of Keynesian stimulus will produce.

This matter of focusing on inputs, as I said, is where the second philosophy of economic growth comes in—supply-side economics, which focuses on productivity. The fundamental principle of supply-side economics is that people work harder and take more risks when there are more opportunities for economic gain and less government intrusion.

Translating this economic philosophy into policy means several things—first of all, reducing government consumption by cutting spending, thus leaving resources in the private sector.

I mentioned food stamps before. The government can only give money to food stamp recipients by taxing the money of someone else or borrowing the money. Eventually, that borrowed money needs to be paid back. How is it paid back? It is paid back by taxpayers paying money to the government, which can then repay its debt. In either event, eventually the money the government spends to stimulate the economy has to come from somewhere, and the only place it can come from is the American taxpayer.

The bottom line is, with Keynesian stimulus spending, there is no free

lunch. The money doesn't materialize out of nowhere. It is not free for the government to inject this money into the economy by giving it to favored groups or to redistribute it to people within our society so they can spend it. That is why this factor some people talk about that we actually get more money back than we put in is wrong in two ways.

First, as I pointed out before, there is no empirical evidence that ever happened. Secondly, eventually, the money has to be repaid or, if it was taxpayer money to begin with, that is \$1 less taxpayer money that that taxpayer has to invest or to consume or, if it is a businessperson, to hire someone in the private business.

The bottom line is, government money isn't free. So the whole premise of Keynesian economics that we get a free dollar someplace and that produces benefits by people then spending it is wrong. How about leaving it in the pocket of the person whom we want to spend it in the first place? Chances are that person can make a more intelligent decision about what he or she needs than the U.S. Government.

Second, as I said here, we are talking about incentives in the marketplace which are based, by every economic study, on long-term policies: long-term tax policies, long-term regulatory policies. An individual small businessman, for example, wants to know what the law will be 2 and 3 and 4 years out before he decides to hire a new employee he is going to have to pay taxes for, whom he is going to have to provide potentially a health benefit for, certainly a salary. If he doesn't think that government policy over that long term is going to enable him to continue to employ the individual, he is not going to hire him in the first place.

Another thing that supply-side economics means is that the worst thing we could do, especially in economic down times, is to raise taxes on anyone but certainly not on the very employers we count on to hire more workers. Who is the first to hire coming out of a recession? It is small business.

So the very people we are asking to hire more Americans to put them back to work are the people who would be impacted by the taxes the President talked about the other night. He is talking about taxing "wealthier Americans." What does that mean? It means people who make incomes above \$200,000, and that happens to be the group that represents the bulk of the small business entrepreneurs in America. Fifty percent of all small business income is paid in those top two income tax brackets on which the President would raise taxes.

So the very people we want to hire more workers, we are going to impose more taxes on; and then we are going to expect them to hire more to reduce unemployment so we can have greater

economic growth? It simply doesn't work that way.

The final point has to do with regulations. More and more, the President seems to be acknowledging that the runaway regulations of his administration are actually beginning to harm business and job creation. This is why he has announced his effort to try to streamline the regulations and get rid of any that don't work; why he withdrew a proposed regulation from the Environmental Protection Agency recently that would have had a very negative impact on business. He is beginning to recognize that his administration is a big wet blanket over businesses these days because of their burden of regulations. We cannot stimulate the economy or job growth with the government imposing more and more costly regulations on American business every day.

The President set up a false choice in his speech the other night. He said: We have to do away with these job-killing regulations. But, he said, I will not do away with the regulations which protect the American people from—and then he named a litany of things he wants to protect the American people from.

Nobody is talking about eliminating all regulations or having unsafe food or unsafe products for little babies and the like. We are not talking about that. We are talking about the issuance of thousands and thousands of pages of new regulations every month by this administration at an extraordinary cost on American business with very little regard for a cost benefit—in other words, how much society benefits versus the cost of these regulations imposed on business.

By the way, when I say the cost imposed on businesses, who pays? Businesses are the people in the business. The consumers end up paying the cost of the regulations which obviously are passed on. So this is, again, another indirect tax on the American people. That is why I said before, no tax—but especially in a time such as this—whether direct or indirect, is a good idea because of the negative impact it has on job creation.

The bottom line of all this is, there are two basic theories. The one theory basically says we can get something for nothing. The government will get money, forget where it gets it. But when it gives it to people, they will spend it. When they spend it, then whatever they spend it on, that producer has to produce more of those things so they will have to hire somebody to make more of them. But that is exactly backward. It doesn't work that way.

The supply-side theory says, first of all, the money didn't come to the government free. It had to be taken out of the private sector. The government either had to tax somebody, so they have

\$1 less to spend, or it gives an IOU, which means eventually the taxpayers have to pay the taxes to repay the IOU. In either case, that is \$1 taken out of the economy. It is \$1 not there in the private sector for an entrepreneur to hire someone or to produce something.

So the supply-side economics says, let's look at the other side of the equation. Rather than focusing on consumption, let's focus on productivity where technology, labor, and capital can produce more, can make a society more productive, more wealthy, where more people can have work, they can have better paying jobs. What they produce has greater value, and people are willing to buy it, as a result of which they put more money back into the economy. That is the cycle that produces wealth, and it is the cycle that has caused economic growth and job creation and wealth generation in this country now for over 200 years.

It begins with the proposition that job growth starts in the private sector, that government doesn't create jobs, that money starts with the people, the taxpayers. They generate the income, and the government gets a piece of that in the way of tax revenue. But the money belongs to the people, not the government. Third, there is no magic when the government somehow gets \$1 in order to redistribute it so somebody can buy something with it. We have to remember where the dollar came from. It didn't materialize out of thin air. It started with a hard-working taxpayer who earned the dollar and then either paid it to the government in taxes or is paying it in taxes to repay a debt that the government incurred in order to borrow money for a stimulus package.

As we think about the President's proposed third or fourth stimulus, however we count it now, I hope we can keep these economic theories in mind: There is no free lunch. There is no free money. Eventually, the taxpayers are who create the wealth and the job creators create the jobs. If we keep those principles in mind, I think we will look a little bit more skeptically on the notion that we can somehow target job creation with yet another stimulus bill and that is going to get us out of our economic woes.

If my colleagues will keep these principles in mind, I think we will make wise decisions and prevent the country from going even deeper into debt and try to focus on the long term so businesses can actually make decisions based upon long-term thinking rather than based upon the ephemeral effects of short-term stimulus.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). The Senator from Wyoming.

REMEMBERING 9/11

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, yesterday marked 10 years since the horrendous

attack of Americans on American soil, but it led to a lot of patriotism and a lot of flags being displayed all over the country.

Over the weekend, I noticed my 3-year-old granddaughter and my 4-year-old granddaughter, when they saw a flag hanging anywhere, said "God bless America."

Throughout the history of the United States, each generation has had at least one iconic moment, one moment in time that served to galvanize the Nation and call each and every American to take on a cause much greater than themselves. Ultimately, the results they were able to achieve served to define who they were as a generation and what they were capable of, both as individuals and as a nation.

For my father, that moment was the bombing of Pearl Harbor. As we watched with growing concern, a terrible evil had taken the whole world to the brink of war. We found we no longer had a choice as to whether we would get involved. We were forced to take action and bring our military might to bear against an enemy that had set its sights on world domination.

As soon as the call went out, brave men and women from all across the country volunteered to serve in our military and to take up arms to defend the rights and liberties we cherish as Americans. They soon proved to be worthy of the task as we once again showed that ours was the greatest fighting force the world has ever known. Thanks to them, the tyranny and oppression that threatened to overwhelm Europe was halted and peace and freedom was once again restored to a war-weary world.

Returning home from the battlefields on which they had served with distinction, our service men and women took up another great challenge and that was to rebuild our Nation and to restore its greatness. Their commitment and dedication to that great mission helped to make the United States what it is today. Thanks to them, their sons and daughters received the greatest gift they could possibly receive, our American way of life. Their actions made it clear that the American dream belongs to everyone, and it can come true, if we are willing to do whatever is necessary to make it happen.

For me and my generation, our iconic moment came with the news that the Soviet Union had launched Sputnik into space. In that brief moment in time, we were once again filled with that same determination as we realized we were in second place in the race for space and in other things. That would never be acceptable or accepted.

In the days after that startling announcement, people of all ages found themselves looking to the skies, wondering if we could answer this daunting challenge. Our curiosity and our ingenuity would again be put to the test as

we all tried to help in the effort to bring about that “one giant step for mankind” that wasn’t to come for several more years.

My friends and I in junior high banded together—although we were all very young—to help. We wanted to learn all we could about rockets so we could become rocketeers or at least we tried our best to be worthy of the title. Once again, we had a difficult goal to reach for, and we were proud to think of ourselves as part of that call to action.

Of course, President John F. Kennedy then issued the challenge to the Nation that we would send a man to the Moon and return him safely to Earth. It sounded impossible, but with American know-how we were able to develop and put into action a plan that made it happen.

When the time came, the world watched with wonder and amazement as Neil Armstrong took those first steps on the Moon and proved once again that whatever goals we set, we always seem to find the tools and talent we need to get the job done.

For my children, their generation’s iconic moment came on September 11, when we were once again cruelly attacked by terrorists who had hijacked several planes and used them to destroy the World Trade Center and part of the Pentagon. It was a moment in time that everyone will long remember for the impact that day and the events surrounding it had on the world and our lives, an impact that continues to be felt.

Even though it was 10 years ago, for almost all of us, the images of September 11 are still fresh in our minds. We can remember where we were when we first heard the news that our Nation was under attack. We can remember how we felt as we watched the Twin Towers fall and the sense of loss as the harsh reality of all the lives that were lost that day became all too real.

There are many lessons learned as we watched the rescue crews, along with our police and firemen, attempt to save as many as they could from the building and then from the wreckage. It was a harsh reminder of how delicate and precious our lives are and how the gift can be taken from us at a moment’s notice.

Yet out of all that was lost, there was the birth of something even greater, something more powerful and enduring. It was the sense of community, this sense of country that bound us together as one Nation, as one American. We stood side by side with our neighbors, our families, and even complete strangers, looking out for one another and helping those in need.

Terrorists thought we were a weak nation that would crumble in the face of violence. Those who wanted to hurt us sent a clear message. Yet we sent another. American flags sprung up in every yard, flew from every building,

and even hung from our overpasses. The powerfully simple message of the Stars and Stripes was our message: We are America and we stand together.

Like those moments before, the morning light the next day brought with it the firm resolve that we would, once again, come together as one to address that attack. Political differences would no longer separate us. Concern for our shared future was so strong it would unite us to face this threat to our well-being. Together, we resolved we would do everything we could to ensure that terrorism would never again take such a terrible toll from our Nation or any other nation.

I remember during that time being at events where ambassadors from around the world offered an outpouring of sympathy and comfort for our grieving Nation. I was touched by their sympathy and care for America. I was also pleased so many countries helped us to follow the money trails which led to the arrest and prosecution of countless terrorists.

In the years since that terrible day, justice has also been delivered by our brave service men and women who have once again answered the call to duty and taken up arms to rid the world of the network of terror wherever it is found. Thanks to their efforts, nations that had never known freedom before now dare to dream of a better tomorrow for themselves and for their children. People who had lived in fear under the tyranny of oppression will now have a say in their shared future as citizens of the world. Those who had known nothing but anguish and despair now have a reason to hope for a better life. The Middle East is still in turmoil as the people reach for freedom and individual prosperity.

C.S. Lewis once said:

God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.

I think it is clear that the pain we felt that day was sufficient to rouse us to all the action as it opened our hearts and our minds to God and each other.

In the days to come, the memories of all we witnessed on September 11 will stay with us and serve as a constant reminder that freedom isn’t free. It often comes to us at all too great a cost. In that spirit we will never forget those who lost their lives that day, their loved ones and all who knew them and called them their friends. For this generation and those who follow, their memory will continue to inspire us to be ever vigilant and constantly on guard at the gates of freedom to ensure that this “one nation, under God, indivisible” will continue to be the home of “liberty and justice for all,” for ourselves, for our children, and for many generations to come.

Let’s remember September 11 and the feelings we had for our country and

each other. May we rekindle the sense of community, country, and world we felt then. May lasting good come out of chaos.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DISASTER FUNDING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if we would pause a few minutes and think about what has gone on in America this year: We have had flooding on the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers and other rivers in the Midwest. To show the power of this flood, on the Mississippi River alone there are 3 million acres underwater—farmland. We have had devastating tornadoes in the South. These tornadoes don’t have names but they have a viciousness that is hard to comprehend. In Joplin, MO, about 200 people were killed. There was devastation. It is believed those winds reached nearly 300 miles an hour. Some say they are the highest recorded winds ever. They eliminated everything in their path.

Wildfires in the South and the West have been extremely harsh. Take Texas alone. Fires have been burning in Texas for the last month. Two thousand homes have been destroyed, burned to the ground. The fires are still present. I heard today that they are about 50 percent controlled.

We now have had Hurricane Irene. The wake of damage from Hurricane Irene hit numerous States, States that usually have no damage, all up the coast. Vermont has no coastline but they were devastated. Hundreds of bridges were washed out in Vermont. Vermont is a sparsely populated State. There are about 600,000 people, I understand, in the whole State, but it has been really hurt. The largest office complex in the whole State, with some 1,700 employees, is out of operation, underwater.

Tropical Storm Lee quickly followed Irene. Tropical Storm Lee has left damage in lots of places. We haven’t been hurt real hard here in the metropolitan area of the District of Columbia. I have been here quite a while and I can never remember it raining for a week at a time, but that is what we just had. It rained basically all last week. The Potomac River is very high, but other States have been hurt worse by Tropical Storm Lee. I don’t remember the exact number of deaths because of Lee, but it is approximately 20. Here in Virginia a 12-year-old boy in his backyard was washed away.

Since the first of this year, President Obama has issued disaster declarations for 48 States and the hurricane season is not over yet. The Commerce Department said this year we have had 10 disasters, each with more than \$1 billion in damage, and \$1 billion is an understatement when you talk about what happened with Irene. They say that will reach \$25 billion, that one storm. That is the most we have had in decades—probably the most ever.

No one should be surprised that the Federal Emergency Management Agency is about broke. As of today, they have a few hundred million dollars left, probably in the \$300 million range. In just the last 2 weeks, FEMA spent almost \$400 million out of the fund for Hurricane Irene and other disasters. That should not be out of that fund. That should be forward funded. So FEMA is dangerously close to running out of money.

To make sure FEMA will have enough money to meet the immediate needs for food, water, and emergency housing for victims of new disasters, on August 28 FEMA stopped approving funding for disaster recovery projects from past disasters. This means funding is on hold to rebuild schools, hospitals, roads, public utilities from past disasters like Katrina, Rita, Gustav, and Ike, the Mississippi River flood of 2008—they are still doing work there to renovate that area—the Tennessee flood of 2010 and tornadoes in Missouri and Alabama of days past. So we have hundreds of millions of dollars that need to be spent in places such as Joplin, MO. They are not spending money there in Joplin, MO. After all they have been through there, no money.

The need is urgent. That is why we are seeking to move to the House-passed revenue measure to serve as a vehicle for disaster relief. The House insists, as they should, that because of our Constitution's Origination Clause, all appropriation measures have to originate in the House. So we had to take a bill—the House bill we have here on the calendar—and that is why we have to move to the Burma revenue measure tonight to allow the Senate to address this disaster assistance.

The Burma sanctions bill is a bill that the Republican leader has been out in front of for ages. He has been the watchdog of this terrible war and adverse nature that is taking place in Burma. He has been out front on this issue, and I appreciate that very much.

Every year we pass these Burma sanctions unanimously. No one opposes them. The only reason anyone might be holding up this Burma sanctions bill is because my friends on the other side of the aisle, the Republicans, do not want to allow the Senate to vote on disaster assistance. Why do we need to do that? How much more specific do I need to be? We need to help communities hit hard by flooding, tornadoes,

hurricanes, and other acts of God. I would think twice if I were one of my Republican friends. I have gone over some of the areas where these tornadoes and these fires and other natural disasters have occurred and this is our only hope of getting help for these States.

The House is indicating they are going to send us a bill, but they are playing around the edges of what needs to be done. We have a bill that was reported basically out of the Senate Appropriations Committee—from Democrats and from Republicans—supporting it. What is needed is about \$9 billion. We want to be in keeping with the Budget Deficit Reduction Act because in there we are allowed \$7 billion. That is the number we are going to put forward tomorrow on this bill. It would be a real shame if we are not allowed to move to this Burma sanctions bill because everyone voting no to proceed to this is voting no on assistance to these States. There is no other way to do it. We are not going to accept some small number the House sends over. We cannot do that. The House is planning on doing some of its usual stuff—I will say that in a positive sense—in sending us a continuing resolution that we must enact by the end of this month, and they want to stick in the funding for FEMA, which is very low. We cannot allow that to happen.

I hope everyone tonight at 5:30 will vote to allow us to go forward on this most important piece of legislation.

I would ask that the quorum call begin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is now closed.

APPROVING THE RENEWAL OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS CONTAINED IN THE BURMESE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2003—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.J. Res. 66, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 66) approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time during the

quorum call I am about to suggest be divided equally between the majority and the minority.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, our country is in a very serious economic crisis. We are told by Mr. Erskine Bowles and Senator Alan Simpson—Erskine Bowles was chosen by President Obama to head his debt commission. They gave a statement to the Budget Committee, on which I am ranking member, that this Nation has never faced a more predictable economic crisis based on the size of our debt. All of us know that.

The American people are angry with us. They cannot believe it is possible we are borrowing 40 cents of every dollar we spend. We are spending \$3.7 trillion this fiscal year ending September 30. We will take in \$2.2 trillion, give or take a few hundred billion. This is not acceptable. We cannot continue.

How did it happen? How is it possible we are borrowing 40 cents of every dollar that goes out the door, increasing the permanent debt of the United States? Well, one way is what is happening now before us on the bill that is being moved today by Majority Leader REID. It would add \$6.9 billion to the FEMA account for emergencies. We just saw the legislation less than an hour ago, maybe 30 minutes ago. Has anybody given any serious thought to that? Seven billion dollars? The general fund budget of the State of Alabama is \$2 billion.

Mr. President, \$7 billion is a lot of money, and we have not looked at it, we have not thought about it. It is above the budget, I guess above our budget numbers. We do not have a budget. Senator REID said earlier this year it would be foolish to have a budget—foolish to have a budget. We are now well over 860 days in this Senate without having passed a budget. Is that another reason we are spending the country into bankruptcy?

Well, I do not think this is an appropriate thing. I strongly oppose adding another emergency debt spending bill where we have not carefully examined every penny of it to make sure it is all necessary and appropriate. No one has seen those numbers and the analysis that would justify it.

I come from a State that was hammered with the worst series of tornadoes we have ever suffered in Alabama. I have been to those communities and

towns and seen those families who have lost all they had, who have lost loved ones and have injured family members. I know we are going to need to have emergency spending for those programs. We have fires in Texas and we also have flooding. We know that.

We have certain money set aside for emergencies already. How much more do we need to spend? I do not know yet. I wish to have some very careful expert analysis done before we announce another \$7 billion.

Forgive me if I am frustrated. I think the American people are frustrated. We went through a continual battle for weeks, months, really, over the debt ceiling. I did not like the way that bill was written. I know we had to face up to it, though, and do some things. So we finally reached an agreement. I did not vote for it in the end. But it was supposed to save \$2.1 trillion to \$2.5 trillion—\$2,500 billion, \$2,000 billion—over 10 years.

Next year—the fiscal year beginning October 1—it would reduce the spending for next year by \$7 billion—the very same amount now the majority leader wants us to throw in on top of that as emergency spending, not within our spending limits, not controlled by our spending limits, wiping out that entire saving for next year.

Add on top of that, the President has now announced he wants to spend \$450 billion more. And do not worry, it will be paid for, he told us in the speech Thursday night. How would it be paid for? Well, we will have this debt committee—I will send them a note and say: You cut another \$450 billion over 10 years. Just promise that you will cut another \$450 billion over 10 years, and I will spend \$450 billion now. That is the way we are heading down the road to uncontrollable debt.

I understand the President has announced he wants to raise taxes on businesses and all by \$450 billion, and we may get a proposal on how to do that today. I do not know. We will see how it turns out. I expect to read it. I would expect the President, if he is serious, would tell us precisely what taxes he intends to increase and how much they will bring in. We have to pass it now, we are told, but we have not seen the legislation, to my knowledge, yet. They promised it today.

This is not, in my humble opinion, sound management. The President of the United States has an Office of Management and Budget. Four hundred, five hundred people work there. He is the superintendent of every Cabinet department in our country. They all work at his pleasure. The subcabinet people work for him. He has the entire agencies he can call on to help produce proposals—the Commerce Department, the Treasury Department—on what taxes to raise and what taxes not to, how much should be brought in.

We have opportunities. The President has the staff to send us a detailed pro-

posal about what kind of emergency spending we ought to be undertaking. I do not know if Senator REID conjured this up among his staff or whether he has gotten a detailed proposal from the House, from the President.

Suffice it to say, I hope my colleagues will not move forward to a bill that contains \$7 billion in new spending above our statutory limits that were passed in this debt ceiling—why? Basically to obviate the need of having a budget.

We need not to be moving to legislation and rushing through that kind of new spending program because that is precisely how it is that day after day, week after week, we have increased spending in this country to the point that it cannot be sustained.

Every witness before the Budget Committee has told us we are on an unsustainable path. I just had occasion to go over the food stamp numbers. I knew the food stamp numbers had been going up. When President Bush left office, we were spending \$31 billion, I believe it was, on food stamps. This year we will spend \$79 billion. President Obama will have doubled spending on food stamps—doubled it—in 3 years, not 4. His first year in office, food stamp spending increased 46 percent.

We need to look under the hood of the engine of this program. We want to be sure poor people have food. We are willing to do that. Everybody is. But at a time of fiscal challenge for our Nation, a time of the largest debt we have ever seen, we have to examine all of our programs. Can we justify those kinds of increases? Can we justify emergency spending that is unthought out and not carefully accounted for? I do not think so. I think we should not go to legislation that seeks to do that, and I would oppose cloture on this legislation if that is what is happening, as I believe it is.

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, as the Senate votes on H.J. Res. 66, a joint resolution to renew the sanctions in the 2003 Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act, it is important to acknowledge that over the past year Burma has undergone a series of changes that may have the potential to point toward a new direction for the country, after years of isolation and repression. On November 7, 2010, Burma held its first election in 20 years. With limited international observation, most will argue that the election was neither free nor fair. Yet it cannot be denied that the election process initiated a new political dialogue in the country, with candidates participating from more than 37 political parties.

The election resulted in a new governmental system and opportunities for engagement. Burma is now in the midst of a key transitional period that has yielded greater opportunities for interaction with government leaders and civil society, and restructuring of

government and military institutions. The release of Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest after the election has also been an important benchmark in this process. Her repeated interactions with government leaders are a significant step forward in encouraging a democratic process and reconciliation within the country.

There are clear indications of a new openness from the government, and the United States should be prepared to adjust our policy toward Burma accordingly. In reauthorizing this legislation, it should be noted that the 2003 Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act gives the President the authority to waive the prohibitions on any or all imports from Burma if doing so is in the national interest of the United States. I am hopeful that there will be opportunities to closely examine any substantive improvements in our relations during this transitional period, and to take advantage of all of the tools at our disposal to facilitate Burmese economic development, political reconciliation, and ultimately greater progress toward democratic governance.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for the joint resolution to renew the import ban on Burma for another year.

I am proud to be joined in this effort once again by Senator MCCONNELL, a true champion for democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Burma.

The House passed this resolution unanimously on July 20 and I urge the Senate to begin action on it now by supporting the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed.

These sanctions expired on July 26 and we should extend them as soon as possible.

We must send a message to the people of Burma that we continue to stand with them in their struggle for a truly representative government.

I have been involved in the struggle for freedom and democracy in Burma for over 10 years.

In 1997, former Senator William Cohen and I authored legislation requiring the President to ban new U.S. investment in Burma if he determined that the Government of Burma had physically harmed, re-arrested or exiled Aung San Suu Kyi or committed large-scale repression or violence against the democratic opposition.

President Clinton issued the ban in a 1997 Executive order and the ban remains on the books today.

In 2003, after the regime attempted to assassinate Aung San Suu Kyi, Senator MCCONNELL and I introduced the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 which placed a complete ban on imports from Burma. It allowed that ban to be renewed 1 year at a time.

It was signed into law and has been renewed one year at a time since then. A renewal of that ban is now before us today.

Since we last debated the import ban on the Senate floor, we have received one piece of good news.

On November 13, 2010, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and leader of the democratic opposition, Aung San Suu Kyi, was released from house arrest.

Her latest detention lasted more than 7, and in total she has spent the better part of the last 20 years in prison or under house arrest.

Her release was wonderful news for those of us who are inspired by her courage, her dedication to peace and her tireless efforts for freedom and democracy for the people of Burma.

Yet our joy was tempered by the fact that her release came just days after a fraudulent and illegitimate election for a new parliament that was based on a sham constitution.

The regime's intent was clear: keep the voice of the true leader of Burma silent long enough to solidify their grip on power using the false veneer of a democratic process.

Neither I, the people of Burma, nor the international community were fooled.

We all know that the last truly free parliamentary elections were overwhelmingly won by Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy in 1990, but annulled by the military junta, then named the State Law and Order Restoration Council or SLORC.

In 1992, this military government announced plans to draft a new constitution to pave the way for a return to civilian rule.

Yet the human rights abuses and the suppression of Suu Kyi and the democratic opposition continued and no constitution emerged.

In 1997, the junta changed its name to the State Peace and Development Council, SPDC, in a vain attempt to put a more positive spin on its oppressive rule and lack of democratic legitimacy in the eyes of its people and the international community.

Again, nothing changed.

The new constitution was drafted in secret and without the input of the democratic opposition led by Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy.

It was approved in an illegitimate referendum held just days after Cyclone Nargis devastated the country in May 2008 setting up elections which eventually took place in November 2010.

It set aside 25 percent of the seats in the new 440 seat House of Representatives for the military.

That is in addition to the seats won in the November, 2010 elections by the Union Solidarity and Development Party, which was founded by the military junta's Prime Minister Thein Sein and 22 of his fellow cabinet members who resigned from the army to form a so-called "civilian" political party.

The constitution barred Suu Kyi from running in the parliamentary elections.

And it forced the National League for Democracy to shut its doors because it would not kick Suu Kyi out of the party.

It should come as no surprise that the military-backed party won nearly 80 percent of the seats in the new parliament.

In addition to preventing Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy from competing in the elections, the regime ensured that no international monitors would oversee the elections and journalists would be prohibited from covering the election from inside Burma.

President Obama correctly stated that the elections "were neither free nor fair, and failed to meet any of the internationally accepted standards associated with legitimate elections."

The National League for Democracy described the elections and the formation of a new government as reducing "democratization in Burma to a parody."

Indeed, the new parliament elected Thein Sein, the last Prime Minister of the junta's State Peace and Development Council, as Burma's new president.

He is reported to be heavily influenced by Burma's senior military leader and former head of state, General Than Shwe.

The names change—the State Law and Order Restoration Council, the State Peace and Development Council, the Union Solidarity and Development Party—but the faces, the lack of democracy, the human rights abuses and the lawlessness remain the same.

So while we celebrate the release of Aung San Suu Kyi, we recognize that Burma is not free and the regime has failed to take the necessary steps to lift the import ban.

As called for in the original Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act, we must stand by the people of Burma and keep the pressure on the military regime to: end violations of internationally recognized human rights; release all political prisoners; allow freedom of speech and press; allow freedom of association; permit the peaceful exercise of religion; and bring to a conclusion an agreement between the military regime and the National League for Democracy and Burma's ethnic minorities on the restoration of a democratic government.

By every measure, the regime has failed to make progress in any of these areas.

We cannot reward the regime for 2,100 political prisoners, the use of child soldiers or the persecution of ethnic minorities. We can't reward the use of rape as an instrument of war or the continued use of torture. And we can't reward the use of forced labor or the wholesale displacement of civilians.

Until the regime changes its behavior and embraces positive, democratic

change, we have no choice but to press on with the import ban as a part of a strong sanctions program.

This must include tough banking sanctions.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again urge the administration to put additional pressure on the ruling military junta by exercising the authority for additional banking sanctions on its leaders and followers as mandated by section 5 of the Block Burmese Junta's Anti-Democratic Efforts Act.

Some of my colleagues may be concerned about the effectiveness of the import ban and other sanctions on Burma and the impact on the people of Burma.

I understand their concerns. I am disappointed that we have not seen more progress towards freedom and democracy in Burma.

But let us listen to the voice of the democratic opposition in Burma on the efficacy of sanctions:

A paper released by Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy in February 2011 argues that sanctions are not targeted at the general population and are not to blame for the economic ills of the country.

Rather, the economy suffers due to mismanagement, cronyism, corruption and the lack of the rule of law.

The best way for the Burmese government to get the sanctions lifted, the paper argues, is to make progress on democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. It concludes:

Now more than ever there is an urgent need to call for an all inclusive political process. The participation of a broad spectrum of political forces is essential to the achievement of national reconciliation in Burma. Progress in the democratization process, firmly grounded in national reconciliation, and the release of political prisoners should be central to any consideration of changes in sanctions policies.

I agree.

So, let us once again do our part and stand in solidarity with Aung San Suu Kyi and the people of Burma.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation and vote yes on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

REMEMBERING 9/11

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, yesterday, Americans across the country gathered to remember the thousands of innocent lives that were taken so cruelly and indiscriminately in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Although a decade has passed, I vividly remember that tragic day. I was right here in Washington when American Airlines flight 77 struck the Pentagon. It was a defining moment for our country. Congress acted swiftly to create a

fund to aid victims of the attacks, and we worked in a bipartisan manner to update our laws to counter these new enemies. In the years since September 11, 2001, the threat that violent extremists pose to America has endured, if not increased. Fortunately, the increased attention to preventing terrorist attacks by both the Bush and Obama administrations has prevented another large scale attack, and foiled numerous plots.

As we remember the victims of the September 11 attacks, and the soldiers and National Guard members who we have lost in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, we should also reflect on the lessons we have learned. In the aftermath of this tragedy, it became clear that turf battles between Federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies, and a resulting lack of information sharing between these agencies, contributed to the failures that allowed the hijackers to enter the country and evade authorities. In addition, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, possessed deficient and outdated technology. It suffered from a woeful lack of skilled translators in key languages, and did not have sufficient numbers of counterterrorism analysts to swiftly absorb and comprehend intelligence information. Each of these factors contributed to the Government's failure to connect the dots prior to the attacks.

Faced with these issues and a new type of threat, our law enforcement and intelligence agencies were forced to adapt. Over the past decade, I have worked to ensure that our Federal agencies have the tools they need to make our borders more secure, improve our intelligence gathering, track down terrorists, and bring them to justice. Having expedited the hiring of translators and armed with upgraded technology, the FBI can now operate and communicate more efficiently. I have also supported efforts to refine government surveillance authority to allow agencies to gather the information they need to prevent additional attacks.

However, along with these expanded authorities, I have also worked to include essential oversight and accountability measures to ensure that these new powers do not go unchecked. The most intrusive surveillance authorities of the USA PATRIOT Act are subject to sunsets, which require Congress to revisit how the authorities have been used. Combined with inspector general audits and public reporting requirements, the American people and Congress can regularly scrutinize the use of these surveillance tools. The importance of oversight and supervision of Government powers to protect civil liberties was important before September 11, 2001, and even more critical after. While I firmly believe in keeping our Nation safe, relinquishing our freedoms

and values will only weaken our ability to fight terrorism.

Ten years after September 11, 2001, the ability of our intelligence community to collect and analyze information has drastically improved. However, despite these improvements, we have vast amounts of information that can become overwhelming and lead to lapses in national security, such as the shootings at Fort Hood and the attempted Christmas Day bombing in 2009. As chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I remain committed to ensuring that we continue to adapt and respond to evolving threats in order to keep this country safe from another terrorist attack, while upholding the rule of law and protecting critical civil liberties and privacy protections.

Although some of the national security policies and tactics of the past decade have caused divisiveness and controversy, President Obama delivered news on May 1, in which all Americans could take comfort. Justice had finally been served to Osama bin Laden for his atrocities. While the death of Osama bin Laden will never bring all of his victims back, we hope that it may help bring closure to all those who still grieve over their loss. The hard work of our brave American service members, who have sacrificed so much, made this mission a success for the benefit of an entire country.

As we commemorate the sacrifices of so many that took place 10 years ago and in the wars since, we must continue to dedicate ourselves to upholding and strengthening the principles and values that define our democratic Nation. That is what distinguishes us from those who attacked us on September 11, 2001, it is what ultimately enable us to defeat them, and it is what people around the world expect from us.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, throughout this past week, Americans are observing the 10th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks on our Nation. As we have properly done so many times since that horrific day, we remember and honor the innocent who perished in the Twin Towers, at the Pentagon, and in Shanksville, PA. We remember and honor the many brave men and women who have sacrificed their lives to defend this great country, from the heroes of flight 93, to the first responders and members of our military and intelligence community. We share in the grief still endured by so many families whose lives were permanently changed by this attack, and we resolve that their sacrifices will not be in vain.

In the wake of 9/11, one question has been asked repeatedly, but has yet to be answered completely: how can we better protect our homeland from another attack? As with so many difficult questions, finding an answer must begin with the acknowledgment that

something went terribly wrong. Many experts, within and outside the government, have studied the intelligence failures leading up to 9/11. Certainly, there were clear warnings that our national security was at risk, including the first World Trade Center attack, the East Africa Embassy bombings, and the attack on the USS *Cole*. We all know those warnings were not heeded, mistakes were made, intelligence was not connected as it should have been, and our policies simply did not reflect the serious threat we were, and indeed still are, facing.

We often hear that, as a government, we have made a lot of progress in preventing another attack. The operation that killed Osama bin Laden showcased the progress that our military and intelligence community have made in working together to neutralize terrorists. Just as the disruption of the plot to attack the New York subway system in 2009 demonstrated the continuing transformation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation from a criminally-focused law enforcement agency to a full member of the intelligence community.

But, our record in preventing terrorist attacks here at home has not been perfect. In 2009, fourteen service-members were killed in attacks on military facilities in Little Rock, AR, and Fort Hood, TX. Christmas Day 2009 brought the attempted bombing of an airplane over the skies of Detroit, an attack that if successful would likely have killed, at a minimum, all 289 people on board. A few months later, disaster was averted in Times Square only because explosives inside a vehicle failed to ignite.

Our successes and failures since 9/11 can teach us a lot about what we are doing right and where we must do better. First and foremost, we must all remain vigilant. I have heard it repeated in recent months, especially since the death of Osama bin Laden, that al-Qaida has been marginalized and they are not the threat they once were. In certain respects, this is accurate, but as we saw just this past weekend with the heightened concern that al-Qaida operatives would attack New York City or Washington, DC, al-Qaida remains a threat. We must also remember that al-Qaida has many facets and none of them are benign. We know that al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula today represents the biggest threat to our homeland and they are continually seeking new recruits, especially among our own citizens and former Guantanamo detainees. Their new status manifested itself with the Christmas Day bombing attempt, for which they immediately claimed responsibility.

Our country faces many different threats, from terrorism to hostile nation states to cyber attacks. We cannot afford to grow complacent or undo the progress we have made. I have heard

too often that the intelligence community “can live with” changes to the PATRIOT Act, the FISA Amendments Act, or other classified authorities that are vital to preventing terrorist attacks. Prior to 9/11, we forced the intelligence community to “live with” many unnecessary restrictions and I believe that is a gamble we can no longer afford to take.

Second, we must ensure that the same mistakes that contributed to the September 11 attacks are not repeated. Following the failed Christmas Day attack, the Senate Intelligence Committee conducted an in-depth review to determine what intelligence there was leading up to the attack. The committee concluded that there were systemic breakdowns across the intelligence community that contributed to the failure to identify the threat posed by the Christmas Day bomber. Senator BURR and I submitted additional views to the report noting that some of the very same intelligence failures identified by the committee were also cited as failures leading up to 9/11, including a lack of aggressive analysis and insufficient technology to facilitate sharing and analysis of information. Compounding our concerns was the fact that the National Counterterrorism Center, NCTC, created in response to 9/11, still did not seem to understand its statutory responsibility to integrate and analyze all terrorism-related intelligence. After so many years—and so much effort to reform the old ways of doing business—repeating the same mistakes is not an option. I am encouraged that, since the committee’s report, NCTC has taken concrete steps towards meeting this responsibility and I am committed to ensuring they continue on this path.

I am also committed to ensuring that we do not retreat from the progress made in improving information sharing. Following 9/11 there were concerted efforts to remove stovepipes within the intelligence community and get the information to analysts who needed it. Unfortunately, some of the old tendencies to restrict intelligence are recurring, particularly amid concerns about Wikileaks. I share the anger about the many leaks of classified information that have jeopardized successful intelligence programs, such as the Terrorist Surveillance Program and the CIA’s interrogation program. But we must be careful not to overreact by restricting access to information that analysts need to do their jobs.

Third, our policies and laws must promote effective intelligence collection, specifically with respect to detainees and foreign intelligence surveillance laws. Since the President ordered the closure of the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay in January 2009, our nation has been without a clear policy for detaining suspected

terrorists. Without such a policy, including one that identifies a facility for holding terrorists captured outside Afghanistan, the intelligence community’s ability to conduct intelligence interrogations is being severely limited. I recognize that there is no one-size-fits-all solution for handling terrorists, but our detention policies must foster full intelligence collection, before any prosecution begins. Yet our default seems to be that terrorists, such as the Christmas Day bomber, should be treated like ordinary criminals, given their Miranda rights, and prosecuted in Federal court, with all the protections enjoyed by criminal defendants. This means the opportunity for any interrogation, much less one that allows for in-depth intelligence questions, may be very short lived.

The bottom line is that the intelligence community cannot conduct effective interrogations without an established policy that includes a place for those interrogations to occur. While the administration maintains its intent to close Guantanamo Bay, I believe the facility there which I have visited and found to be impressive remains the best option for holding terrorists, like Ahmed Abdulkadir Warsame, captured off the coast of Yemen and transferred for prosecution after only 60 days of interrogation. Many of my colleagues, as well as the American people, have made clear that bringing suspected terrorists into the United States is not a good solution. Moreover, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and the other terrorists housed at Guantanamo Bay are not likely to leave there any time soon, especially as the recidivism rate among former detainees continues to rise. But regardless of whether Guantanamo or another facility outside the United States is selected, it is well past time for the President to come up with a long-term detention policy that allows for full and effective intelligence collection. Many of my colleagues and I have been asking for this policy, with no success. Quite simply, our intelligence community cannot afford further delays. Congress must stand ready to pass legislation that ensures our intelligence interrogations of suspected terrorists are not cut short because of arbitrary timelines or potential criminal proceedings.

Congress must also make permanent the remaining provisions in the USA PATRIOT Act and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act that are subject to sunsets. Continually revisiting these laws because of arbitrary sunsets does not facilitate oversight, especially when we know that there have been no intentional abuses of these authorities. Moreover, each time we get into a public debate about how some of our most sensitive intelligence collection authorities are used, our enemies learn that much more about our methods.

We know they pay attention to our laws and readjust their own communication methods in order to defeat our surveillance. This makes the intelligence community’s job that much harder. We cannot expect intelligence analysts to put together vital pieces of information if we do not collect the information in the first place. It is time for Congress to give them permanent tools to do their jobs.

Our Nation, our families, and our communities have suffered tremendously because of the September 11 terrorist attacks. We must not forget that suffering, nor should we ever lose sight of the failures that prevented us from averting this tragedy in the first place. We must remain vigilant. Our Nation is fortunate to be blessed with outstanding men and women in the armed forces and our intelligence community who serve tirelessly to protect and defend us, wherever the threat. We owe them our thanks and our support. As we remember those who have sacrificed so much in this fight against terrorism, we must resolve to do all that is possible to protect and preserve our great Nation and our way of life.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 10th anniversary of September 11, 2001.

This year, like every year that has passed since, our nation reflects back on the horrific attacks that cost the lives of 2,977 men, women, and children in New York, Pennsylvania, and at the Pentagon, and on the brave men and women who have laid their lives down since then in defense of the freedoms and security we so often take for granted.

These coordinated attacks on our Nation had such a profound impact on our society and our world view that we now look at our recent history in two different phases, pre-9/11 and post-9/11. They made us more aware of the threats that we face as a nation, and they woke us up to the cold reality that the things we hold most dear as Americans are the very things that make us a target for terrorism.

However, these attacks and our collective response had a much deeper, more profound impact than that—they brought us together in a way that nothing else has since the Second World War, and they underscored the same spirit that has characterized our Nation and its citizens since America’s founding. It is this spirit that truly sets America apart and makes us unique. It is a sense of perseverance and determination, a loyalty to our fellow Americans, and the willingness to risk it all for what we believe in. This spirit was forged in the fires of revolution, grew strong in the face of adversity, and has defined the character of our Nation since its inception.

These attacks were not just directed at buildings and people. They were meant to hit us at our core, to attack

our very way of life and everything we stand for. They sought to instill fear and doubt in us, but they failed. They sought to intimidate us and disrupt our communities, but they failed. What they did was bind us together in a unified front to stand up to these injustices and push forward with the same spirit and character that the terrorists sought to destroy. We stood together, and in one collective voice said, "We will not be intimidated, and we will not be held down. We are Americans, and we stand together."

Ten years have passed since that fateful September morning, and not an American alive at the time will ever forget the horrors of that day. Those whom we lost will remain in our hearts forever, and images of the aftermath are permanently engrained in our memories. We came together to cope with a national tragedy and were reminded not of those things that divide us, but of those things that unify us. In the wake of tragedy, we found hope.

Though a decade has passed since then, I urge all Americans to look back to the days and weeks that followed 9/11 and remember that sense of unity and patriotism that was so prevalent. Though it is our diversity and differences that, in part, make us such a great and unique Nation, it is our common bonds that make us Americans. Let us put our differences aside and once again focus on those things that bind us, for we are all Americans, and we will forever be one nation under God.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST DENNIS G. JENSEN

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute SPC Dennis G. Jensen and his heroic service to our country. A member of the South Dakota National Guard, SPC Jensen was serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. On August 16, 2011, he died of injuries sustained as a result of a bridge construction accident in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

A 2009 graduate of Vermillion High School, SPC Jensen enlisted in the National Guard's 211th Engineer Company in May 2008. In May 2011, SPC Jensen volunteered to deploy to Afghanistan with the National Guard's 200th Engineer Company. It is a special person who is willing to deploy outside of his unit; SPC Jensen's courage and personal sacrifice is commendable. SPC Jensen's service commendations include the National Defense Service Medal, Global Ar on Terrorism Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, NATO Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, and the Army Service Ribbon.

SPC Jensen will be remembered for his selfless service to our country and his willingness to put the needs of others before his own. He will be deeply

missed by those who survive him: his father Glenn Jensen, mother Christine Bestgen, and sister Melissa Jensen.

SPC Jensen made the ultimate sacrifice for his soldiers and his country. Our Nation owes him a debt of gratitude, and the best way to honor his life is to emulate his commitment to our country. Mr. President, I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my deepest sympathy to the family and friends of SPC Dennis Jensen. He will be missed, but his service to our Nation will never be forgotten.

THIS FOR DIPLOMATS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate THIS for Diplomats of Washington, DC, on its 50th anniversary. Established in 1961, and formerly known as The Hospitality and Information Service, THIS has welcomed diplomats and their families from around the world to the Nation's Capital. Understanding the power of exchange, THIS continues to provide enriching educational, informational and cultural experiences.

In the past year, THIS' 300 volunteers donated 20,000 hours to provide 65 programs and 208 language and cultural exchanges with 1734 diplomats. Programs included seminars on American government; visits to the Supreme Court, White House, Pentagon, Library of Congress, private art collections, performances at the Kennedy Center, as well as a Sports in America series. Language conversation groups included Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Spanish, Turkish, and English.

Diplomats and their families from all over the world speak of how important THIS has been to their adjustment to and appreciation of the United States. Congratulations to THIS for Diplomats and its volunteers around the world on 50 years of service in advocating peace, tolerance, and prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO PETER VAN OOT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is a great pleasure to call the Senate's attention to the economic development contributions of Peter Van Oot, a friend and former member of my staff. Pete, a native of Westminster, VT, has long served his community and our State with dedication and enthusiasm. Through his work with the Brattleboro Economic Development Credit Corporation board, and, more recently, the Green Mountain Economic Development Corporation, Pete has worked tirelessly to create jobs and to promote our local economy. Named Volunteer of the Year by the Northeast Economic Development Association, Pete was recently recognized for his hard work, and I take this opportunity to offer him my congratulations. I ask unanimous consent that an August 8 article highlighting his work, in the

Brattleboro Reformer, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

LOCAL LAWYER RECOGNIZED FOR HIS
COMMITMENT TO ECONOMIC GROWTH

[From the Brattleboro Reformer, Aug. 8, 2011]

(By Josh Stilts)

BRATTLEBORO.—Peter D. Van Oot's said his vision of a healthy community starts with a strong local economy. Because of this commitment and his unwavering focus, which he attributes to his father, Van Oot was named Volunteer of the Year by the Northeast Economic Development Association.

Without access to good paying, secure jobs, the education system falters and it can easily lead to social injustice, he said.

"When mom and dad don't have a job anymore, bad things can happen," he said.

That's why in his 20s, Van Oot dedicated his spare time to establishing outlets for businesses to grow and to figure out ways to draw large employers to the area.

Van Oot grew up in Westminster and said he can remember when there were plenty of jobs and how much happier the residents seemed. After earning his law degree, he returned to the area and began working at Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC and nearly simultaneously started volunteering on the United Way of Windham County board.

"I realized quickly that if we didn't work to shore up the Windham County economy, all the organizations would be for naught," Van Oot said. "Without good-paying jobs and a solid local economy you lose the base of the community."

As unemployment rises, the strains on organizations such as the United Way and Youth Services becomes almost too much, he said.

About a decade ago he shifted his focus and began serving on the Brattleboro Economic Development Credit Corporation board.

"My interest really became how do we bring jobs to the area to fulfill the ones that left and bolster the economy," Van Oot said. "It was a fantastic organization to work with. In the past two years we really did some great work. We've had economic development success with Grafton Cheese's retail store and brining in the Common Wealth Yogurt factory."

Not only do those businesses provide good paying jobs, they're also using Vermont based resources, Van Oot said.

"It really helps to fill the economic gaps," he said. "Like in golf, we need to fill in the divots."

Van Oot said there's a lot of people who have done and are doing what he does but urged younger people to get involved.

"Brattleboro had always been known as a community that had people who were involved in the economy, in rotary clubs and boards like the United Way," he said. "But now it's much more difficult to get younger business people involved in these types of activities."

He added that reaching out to young entrepreneurs has already started to bear fruit.

"Look at what they're doing with the BDCC small business competitions," Van Oot said. "What a great way to get people involved."

Jeff Lewis, executive director of the Brattleboro Economic Development Credit Corporation, said Van Oot was a champion of growing the local economy.

"Pete worked tirelessly to promote economic development in southern Vermont

during his many years in Brattleboro," Lewis said. "His focus and leadership helped the organization create dynamic strategy that addressed widespread economic decline in the region."

Lewis added that Van Oot transformed the board's membership, created a robust public policy, orchestrated annual plan reviews and developed a BDCC CEO council.

"BDCC now annually exceeds its goals for economic development and its own financial stability," Lewis said. "Based on Pete's work with the board, BDCC is now leading a regional strategy project looking to address long-term job and population loss, and the prospective loss of the region's largest employer."

In the last couple of years Van Oot has transitioned from his Brattleboro office to the firm's Lebanon location, and it was there he got involved with another group, the Green Mountain Economic Development Corporation, which is similarly focused on creating community through jobs.

"Pete has brought that same deep level of commitment to his role on the board at GMEDC (that he had in Brattleboro)," said Joan Goldstein, the group's executive director. "Leadership of this type ought to be recognized and I am pleased that NEDA saw it the same way we did."

Van Oot will be presented his award at the NED's annual meeting on Oct. 24 at the Sheraton Hotel in Burlington.

NATIONAL FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS DAY

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize September 9, 2011, as National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day. Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, FASD, is an umbrella term describing the varied range of alcohol-related birth defects that may result from the use of alcohol during pregnancy. The effects of this disorder may involve mental, behavioral, and/or learning disabilities. FASD is the leading known cause of preventable cognitive impairment in America. It is estimated FASD effects 1 in 100 live births each year.

Unfortunately, my State of South Dakota suffers from one of the highest incidences of FASDs in the Nation. While I applaud the ongoing efforts of local organizations, State governments and federal agencies to address the public health threat of FASD, I continue to have great concern about this disorder's impact in South Dakota and across the country.

We must move past the stigma of this devastating disease to truly help those and their families who are affected by FASD get the health, education, counseling and support services they need and deserve. We must also address the tragedy of FASD at the source, by increasing awareness that any amount of alcohol during pregnancy can have heartbreaking, lifelong effects. Education and outreach efforts must continue their focus of ensuring this message is understood by all women of child-bearing age and ensuring access to treatment and counseling

services for those at risk of substance abuse.

One of the most distressing facts regarding FASD is that it is entirely preventable. I have joined my colleagues in the Senate to introduce and pass a resolution designating September 9, 2011 as National FASD Awareness Day. It is my hope these efforts progress towards global awareness of FASD and an end to this destructive disease.

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK AND WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 37th annual National Suicide Prevention Week, which began on September 4 and culminated with World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10. I take this opportunity to reflect on the destructive effects of suicide on families and communities and to raise awareness about the need for an effective national suicide prevention strategy to help communities address this serious public mental health threat. Suicide is a major cause of premature death, and we must do more to prevent it.

The statistics about suicide are deeply concerning. In our Nation, suicide is the 11th leading cause of death for all ages. Among young adults ages 15 through 24, there are approximately 100 to 200 attempts for every completed suicide. Suicide takes the lives of approximately 30,000 Americans each year, and a person dies by suicide almost every 15 minutes. Our Nation's veterans account for 20 percent of suicides and the Army recently suffered a record number of suicides this past July.

In my State of South Dakota, suicide is the fourth-leading cause of death among all South Dakotans and the second-leading cause of death for adolescents and young adults between the ages of 10 and 24. The rate of youth suicide in my State is over three times the national average. These statistics place South Dakota among a group of Western States that consistently has a higher rate of suicide than the rest of the country.

Youth suicide among American Indians in South Dakota is of particular concern. The suicide rate for American Indians ages 15 to 34 is more than two times higher than the national average and is the second leading cause of death for this age group. The suicide rate for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe is among the highest in the world. The loss of young people to suicide is a real crisis. On American Indian reservations in South Dakota, I have seen the catastrophic ripple effect that one suicide can have. Given the alarming occurrence of "suicide clusters" and imitative deaths that have occurred in Indian country in the past, it is impera-

tive to provide support for those at risk.

Substance abuse and violence, two accepted risk factors for suicide, are common on the reservation, and tribe members also face extreme poverty and geographic isolation. During the past few years, I have been encouraged by the increased recognition of the need for suicide prevention programs in tribal areas. Tribes now have more access to funds that will aid in the building of suicide prevention programs. However, we must continue to provide tribes with the resources they need to implement culturally sensitive suicide prevention programs. It is critical to strengthen the social fabric to help improve mental health. Youth suicide prevention programs have helped bridge this service gap, but further investments are necessary to sustain and expand these efforts. Decreasing the number of suicides in Indian country will require increased community awareness, developing effective prevention and intervention methods, and enhancing access to mental health service providers.

Studies indicate the best way to prevent suicide is through early recognition and treatment of depression and other psychiatric illnesses. Depression goes unrecognized in half of the general population and in 80 percent of seniors. Over 90 percent of suicide victims have a significant psychiatric illness at the time of their death. These are often undiagnosed, untreated, or both.

Furthermore, it is necessary to acknowledge the obstacles that individuals at risk of suicide face in accessing treatment. Lack of insurance coverage, limited access to affordable mental health care, as well as cultural stigmas and myths about suicide pose significant barriers to treatment. A serious effort to prevent suicide must break down those barriers and expand access to mental health services nationwide, with a special focus on increased mental health awareness and improving prevention and early intervention methods. In addition, investments in tools to evaluate intervention and prevention methods and training programs for health care professionals are needed to foster the development and implementation of evidence-based and emerging best practices in the prevention of suicide.

National Suicide Prevention Week and World Suicide Prevention Day are reminders that suicide is a preventable cause of premature death that tears families and communities apart, and more can be done to prevent these tragedies. Each day, families and communities across the Nation suffer devastating losses as a result of suicide. It is estimated that for each suicide, seven other lives are altered forever. Every year, approximately 200,000 people become survivors due to this tragic loss of life. Many suicide survivors are

left devastated, confused and weakened by their loss. Friends and family often experience depression, guilt, shock and anger. Unfortunately, there remains a stigma surrounding suicide and mental illness, and victims often shoulder some of the blame.

I appreciate this opportunity to increase awareness about the destructive impact of suicide on America's families and communities and to raise awareness about the urgent need for an effective national suicide prevention strategy to help communities prevent future losses of life.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GARY SONSTENG

• Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I honor Gary Sonsteng and his service to the United States of America during the Vietnam war.

Gary enlisted in the U.S. Navy at the age of 17.

As a boatswain mate second class, Gary was assigned to the U.S.S. Talladega for several years. After a stint in Japan, Gary served on patrol boats in the Mekong Delta in Vietnam for a little over a year.

In 1971, after 6 years of wartime service, Gary quietly returned to his home in Butte, MT, where he worked as a miner and a truck driver for more than 30 years.

Gary is a modest man. He never asked for recognition for his service in Vietnam. And through all these years, that recognition of his valor and service slipped through the cracks.

In working with my office, we discovered that Gary never received the medals he earned decades ago. Gary insists his service was, quote, "nothing extraordinary." I, along with millions of Americans and the U.S. military, see it differently.

Last month, I had the honor of presenting Gary Sonsteng with a Combat Action Ribbon, and a Navy Commendation Medal with a Combat Valor Device. This Navy Commendation Medal is reserved for "sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service."

It was also my honor to present Gary a Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon, an award earned for displaying gallantry and determination under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions.

Last month I also presented to Gary: A Vietnam Service Medal with one silver star and four bronze stars, the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960 Device and Discharge Button.

These six medals are a long overdue addition to the prestigious medals Gary has already received for his service to America: the National Defense Service Medal, the Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon with one silver star, and the Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal.

All of these medals are presented on behalf of a grateful nation. They may be small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism. Sacrifice. And dedication to service.

Gary, I join all Montanans and all Americans in saying thank you.●

RECOGNIZING RAVEN-AEROSTAR EMPLOYEES

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I wish to commend the team at Raven-Aerostar of Sioux Falls, SD, for their service and dedication to excellence in supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Aerostar employees have designed, built, and serviced tethered aerostats for the U.S. military's Persistent Ground Surveillance System, PGSS, since its inception less than 2 years ago, rapidly fielding the first systems for use in the protection of U.S. and coalition troops. This summer, Aerostar deployed three of their own employees to Afghanistan to provide technical support and analysis of current aerostat systems. Pat Thies, Walter Halbleib, and Ryan Casey recently returned safely to South Dakota after having traveled to numerous remote Forward Operating Bases throughout the war zone. During their 6-week mission they traversed Afghanistan with U.S. and coalition forces via fixed-wing aircraft, helicopter, and ground convoy. Their mission was an immediate success as they offered real-time, on-site technical expertise to PGSS operators and maintenance personnel. In addition, they were able to provide instant recommendations to Aerostar engineers in Sioux Falls for improved designs and processes.

Raven-Aerostar is a proven manufacturer of high-performance tethered aerostat systems used in persistent surveillance and communication relays. In Afghanistan, these lighter-than-air blimps hover above military outposts in hostile areas and provide continuous imagery used in the detection of improvised explosive devices, IEDs, and other insurgent activity. Ultimately, Aerostar's products save lives, while also saving money for U.S. taxpayers.

I applaud Pat, Walter, and Ryan on a job well done, and for their dedication. They and their fellow Aerostar employees represent the commitment to service so prevalent throughout our great State of South Dakota.●

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL ENTITLED THE "AMERICAN JOBS ACT"—PM 20

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

Today, I am pleased to submit to the Congress the enclosed legislative proposal, the "American Jobs Act of 2011," together with a section-by-section analysis of the legislation.

The American people understand that the economic crisis and the deep recession were not created overnight and will not be solved overnight. The economic security of the middle class has been under attack for decades. That is why I believe we need to do more than just recover from this economic crisis—we need to rebuild the economy the American way, based on balance, fairness, and the same set of rules for everyone from Wall Street to Main Street. We can work together to create the jobs of the future by helping small business entrepreneurs, by investing in education, and by making things the world buys.

To create jobs, I am submitting the American Jobs Act of 2011—nearly all of which is made up of the kinds of proposals supported by both Republicans and Democrats, and that the Congress should pass right away to get the economy moving now. The purpose of the American Jobs Act of 2011 is simple: put more people back to work and put more money in the pockets of working Americans. And it will do so without adding a dime to the deficit.

First, the American Jobs Act of 2011 provides a tax cut for small businesses, to help them hire and expand now, and an additional tax cut to any business that hires or increases wages. In addition, the American Jobs Act of 2011 puts more money in the pockets of working and middle class Americans by cutting in half the payroll tax that comes out of the paycheck of every worker, saving typical families an average of \$1,500 a year.

Second, the American Jobs Act of 2011 puts more people back to work, including teachers laid off by State budget cuts, first responders and veterans coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan, and construction workers repairing crumbling bridges, roads and more than 35,000 schools, with projects chosen by need and impact, not earmarks and politics. It will repair and refurbish hundreds of thousands of foreclosed homes and businesses in communities across the country.

Third, the American Jobs Act of 2011 helps out-of-work Americans by extending unemployment benefits to help them support their families while looking for work, and by reforming the system with training programs that build real skills, connect to real jobs, and help the long-term unemployed. It bans employers from discriminating against the unemployed when hiring, and provides a new tax credit to employers hiring workers who have been out of a job for over 6 months. And, it expands job opportunities for hundreds of thousands of low-income youth and adults through a new Pathways Back to Work

Fund that supports summer and year round jobs for youth; innovative new job training programs to connect low-income workers to jobs quickly; and successful programs to encourage employers to bring on disadvantaged workers.

Lastly, this legislation is fully paid for. The legislation includes specific offsets to close corporate tax loopholes and asks the wealthiest Americans to pay their fair share that more than cover the cost of the jobs measures. The legislation also increases the deficit reduction target for the Joint Committee by the amount of the cost of the jobs package and specifies that, if the Committee reaches that higher target, then their measures would replace and turn off the specific offsets in this legislation.

I urge the prompt and favorable consideration of this proposal.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 12, 2011.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:50 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1892. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 4:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1249. An act to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1892. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3098. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2,4-D; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 8881-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 7, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3099. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Mandipropamid; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL No. 8886-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 7, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3100. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Novaluron; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 8882-1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 7, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3101. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Dicamba; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 8881-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 7, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3102. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Lipase, triacylglycerol; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 8882-4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 7, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3103. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Chromobacterium subtsugae strain PRAA4-1t; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 8887-4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 7, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3104. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Flubendiamide; Pesticide Tolerances; Technical Amendment" (FRL No. 8870-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 7, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3105. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Findings and Failure to Submit a Complete State Implementation Plan for Section 110(a) Pertaining to the 2006 Fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) NAAQS" (FRL No. 9460-4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 7, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3106. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interim Final De-

termination to Stay and Defer Sanctions, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District" (FRL No. 9462-1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 7, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3107. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plan; Utah; Maintenance Plan for the 1-Hour Ozone Standard for Salt Lake County and Davis County" (FRL No. 9460-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 7, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3108. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Revised Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets for the Charleston, Huntington, Parkersburg, Weirton, and Wheeling 8-Hour Ozone Maintenance Areas" (FRL No. 9462-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 7, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3109. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision to the California State Implementation Plan; Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 9456-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 7, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3110. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Designation of Hazardous Substances; Designation, Reportable Quantities, and Notification" (FRL No. 9460-9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 7, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3111. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interim Final Determination to Stay and Defer Sanctions, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District" (FRL No. 9462-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 7, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3112. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting a legislative proposal relative to eliminating the requirement that the Department of Energy annually update workforce restructuring plans for defense nuclear facilities, and submitting these updates to Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3113. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a petition to add workers from the General Electric Co. in Evendale, Ohio, to the Special Exposure Cohort; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3114. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19-110 "Campaign Finance Reporting Temporary Amendment Act of 2011";

to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3115. A communication from the Secretary to the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on Council Resolution 19-144 "Transfers of Jurisdiction over Portions of Reservation 470 and Lot 811 in Square 1759 Approval Resolution of 2011"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3116. A communication from the Secretary to the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on Council Resolution 19-143 "Transfers of Jurisdiction over Portions of U.S. Reservation 542 and Lot 09 in Square 1772 Approval Resolution of 2011"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3117. A communication from the Executive Director, Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the General/Trust Fund Financial Statements for fiscal year 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3118. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report of the Attorney General to the Congress of the United States on the Administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended for the six months ending December 31, 2010"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3119. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures (180); Amdt. No. 3434" (RIN2120-AA65) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 3, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3120. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures (25); Amdt. No. 3435" (RIN2120-AA65) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 3, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3121. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Amdt. No. 3439" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3122. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Amdt. No. 3438" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3123. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures (253); Amdt. No. 3436" (RIN2120-AA65) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the

Senate on August 4, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3124. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Class D and E Airspace; Fort Huachuca" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0359)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 4, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3125. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Hearne, TX" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0214)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 3, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3126. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Ranger, TX" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2010-1240)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 3, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3127. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Nephi, UT" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0184)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 4, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3128. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Kayenta, AZ" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0393)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 4, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3129. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Grand Marais, MN" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0047)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 3, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3130. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Hannibal, MO" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0046)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 3, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3131. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Air-

space; Staunton, VA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2010-1285)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 3, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3132. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Fulton, MO" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0121)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 3, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3133. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Ava, MO" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0122)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 3, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3134. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Lakeland, FL" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0005)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 4, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3135. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Class E Airspace; Alturas, CA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0403)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 4, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3136. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Class E Airspace; Glasgow, MT" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0362)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 4, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3137. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Class E Airspace; Forsyth, MT" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0516)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 4, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3138. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of Class E Airspace; Talkeetna, AK" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0444)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 3, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3139. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation,

transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of Class E Airspace; Yakutat, AK" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0244)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3140. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Aviation Fuel and Oil Operating Limitations: Policy Memorandum" ((RIN2120-AA64) (ANE-2010-33-7-5A)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3141. A communication from the Attorney, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Houma Navigation Canal, from Waterway Mile Markers 19.0 to 20.0, Southwest of Bayou Plat, bank to bank, Terrebonne Parish, LA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2011-0523)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 7, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3142. A communication from the Attorney, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; San Diego POPS Fireworks, San Diego, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2011-0567)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3143. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Raritan River, Arthur Kill and their Tributaries, Staten Island, NY and Elizabeth, NJ" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2010-1117)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 7, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3144. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones; July Fireworks Displays and Swim Events in the Captain of the Port New York Zone" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2011-0565)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3145. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Fireworks within the Sector Boston Captain of the Port Zone" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2011-0507)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3146. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Truman-Hobbs Alteration of the Elgin Joliet and Eastern Railroad Drawbridge; Illinois River, Morris, Illinois" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG2011-0584))

received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3147. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures (6); Amdt. No. 3437" ((RIN2120-AA65)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 4, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3148. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Policy Clarifying Definition of 'Actively Engaged' for Purposes of Inspector Authorization" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2010-1060)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3149. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Model DHC-8-400 Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0718)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 2, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3150. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A318, A319, A320, and A321 Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0257)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 2, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3151. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Model 747 Airplanes and Model 767 Airplanes Equipped with General Electric Model CP6-80C2 or CP6-80A Series Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2008-0402)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 2, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3152. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; SOCATA Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0530)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3153. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Model FALCON 7X Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0631)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3154. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Adminis-

tration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Cessna Aircraft Company (Cessna) Models 337, 337A (USAF 02B), 337B, 337C, 337D, 337E, T337E, 337F, T337F, 337G, T337G, M337B, F337E, FT337E, F337F, FT337F, F337G, and FT337GP Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0450)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3155. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Superior Air Parts and Lycoming Engines (Formerly Textron Lycoming) Fuel-Injected Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0547)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3156. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Columbus Lawson AAF, GA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0012)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3157. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Part 95 Instrument Flight Rules (30); Amdt. No. 495" ((RIN2120-AA63)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 4, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3158. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Part 121—Activation of Ice Protection" ((RIN2120-AJ43) (Docket No. FAA-2009-0675)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3159. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Restrictions on Operators Employing Former Flight Standards Service Aviation Safety Inspectors" ((RIN2120-AJ36) (Docket No. FAA-2008-1154)) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3160. A communication from the Chief of Revenues and Receivables Group, Office of Managing Director—Financial Operations, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "In the Matter of Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2011" (MB Docket No. 11-76, FCC 11-114) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 6, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3161. A communication from the Deputy Bureau Chief of Staff, Public Safety and

Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementing a Nationwide, Broadband, Interoperable Public Safety Network in the 700 MHz Band" (FCC 11-113) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3162. A communication from the Chief, Broadband Division, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Facilitating the Use of Microwave for Wireless Backhaul and Other Uses and to Provide Additional Flexibility to Broadcast Auxiliary Service and Operational Fixed Microwave Licenses" (WT Docket No. 10-153, FCC 11-120) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3163. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Leased Commercial Access; Development of Competition and Diversity in Video Programming Distribution and Carriage" (WT Docket No. 07-42, FCC 11-119) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3164. A communication from the Satellite Division Chief, International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "The Establishment of Policies and Service Rules for the Broadcasting Satellite Service at the 17.3-17.7 GHz Frequency Band and at the 17.7-17.8 GHz Frequency Band and at the 124.75-25.25 GHz Frequency Band Internationally . . . for the Satellite Services Operating Bi-directionally in the 17.3-17.8 GHz Frequency Band" (IB Docket No. 06-123) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 8, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3165. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Structure and Practices of the Video Relay Service Program" (CG Docket No. 10-51) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 8, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3166. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Gearhart, Madras, and Manzanita, Oregon)" (MB Docket No. 10-118) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 8, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3167. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Television Broadcasting Services; Eau Claire, Wisconsin" (MB Docket No. 11-100) received during recess of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 8, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HARKIN, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, without amendment:

S. 958. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program of payments to children's hospitals that operate graduate medical education programs.

S. 1094. A bill to reauthorize the Combating Autism Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-416).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. KYL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 1538. A bill to provide for a time-out on certain regulations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 1539. A bill to provide Taiwan with critically needed United States-built multirole fighter aircraft to strengthen its self-defense capability against the increasing military threat from China; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 1540. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow credits for the purchase of franchises by veterans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 1541. A bill to revise the Federal charter for the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. to reflect a change in eligibility requirements for membership; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 1542. A bill to amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to extend the child and family services program through fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 1543. A bill to amend chapters 83 and 84 of title 5, United States Code, to address retirement for Pentagon Force Protection Agency officers; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. 1544. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to exempt a certain class of securities from such Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 164

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 164, a bill to repeal

the imposition of withholding on certain payments made to vendors by government entities.

S. 227

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 227, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 265

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 265, a bill to authorize the acquisition of core battlefield land at Champion Hill, Port Gibson, and Raymond for addition to Vicksburg National Military Park.

S. 504

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 504, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 560

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 560, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to deliver a meaningful benefit and lower prescription drug prices under the Medicare program.

S. 576

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 576, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve standards for physical education.

S. 633

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to prevent fraud in small business contracting, and for other purposes.

S. 722

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 722, a bill to strengthen and protect Medicare hospice programs.

S. 743

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 743, a bill to amend chapter 23 of title 5, United States Code, to clarify the disclosures of information protected from prohibited personnel practices, require a statement in nondisclosure policies, forms, and agreements that such policies, forms, and agreements conform with certain disclosure protections, provide certain authority

for the Special Counsel, and for other purposes.

S. 805

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 805, a bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to improve the business and industry direct and guaranteed loan program of the Department of Agriculture.

S. 847

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 847, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to ensure that risks from chemicals are adequately understood and managed, and for other purposes.

S. 866

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 866, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to modify the per-fiscal year calculation of days of certain active duty or active service used to reduce the minimum age at which a member of a reserve component of the uniformed services may retire for non-regular service.

S. 1239

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1239, a bill to provide for a medal of appropriate design to be awarded by the President to the memorials established at the 3 sites honoring the men and women who perished as a result of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001.

S. 1301

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1301, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2012 to 2015 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, to enhance measures to combat trafficking in persons, and for other purposes.

S. 1392

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1392, a bill to provide additional time for the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to issue achievable standards for industrial, commercial, and institutional boilers, process heaters, and incinerators, and for other purposes.

S. 1438

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1438, a bill to provide that no agency may take any significant regulatory action until the unemploy-

ment rate is equal to or less than 7.7 percent.

S. 1454

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1454, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for extended months of Medicare coverage of immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant patients and other renal dialysis provisions.

S. 1465

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1465, a bill to authorize a pilot program on enhancements of Department of Defense efforts on mental health in the National Guard and Reserves through community partnerships, and for other purposes.

S. 1467

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISC) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1467, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to protect rights of conscience with regard to requirements for coverage of specific items and services.

S. 1506

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1506, a bill to prevent the Secretary of the Treasury from expanding United States bank reporting requirements with respect to interest on deposits paid to nonresident aliens.

S. 1507

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1507, a bill to provide protections from workers with respect to their right to select or refrain from selecting representation by a labor organization.

S. 1508

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1508, a bill to extend loan limits for programs of the Federal Housing Administration, the government-sponsored enterprises, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1527

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1527, a bill to authorize the award of a Congressional gold medal to the Montford Point Marines of World War II.

S. 1528

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr.

COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1528, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to limit Federal regulation of nuisance dust in areas in which that dust is regulated under State, tribal, or local law, to establish a temporary prohibition against revising any national ambient air quality standard applicable to coarse particulate matter, and for other purposes.

S. 1530

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1530, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 15, United States Code, to provide for congressional review of agency guidance documents.

S. 1531

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1531, a bill to provide a Federal regulatory moratorium, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 248

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 248, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month.

S. RES. 253

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 253, a resolution designating October 26, 2011, as "Day of the Deployed".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. KYL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 1538, a bill to provide for a timeout on certain regulations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, last month's dire economic news is a call to urgent action to get America working again. In August, our Nation produced no net new jobs. Productivity fell. Home sales fell. Construction spending fell. The manufacturing index declined. Unemployment is stagnant at 9.1 percent, and consumer confidence is plummeting.

Businesses, our Nation's job creators and the engine of any lasting economic growth, have been saying for some time that the lack of jobs is largely due to a climate of uncertainty, most notably the uncertainty and cost created by new Federal regulations.

The Regulatory Time-Out Act, which I am introducing today with 16 of my

colleagues, provides job creators with a sensible breather from these burdensome new regulations. This would give businesses time to get back on their feet, create the jobs that Americans so desperately need, and enhance the global competitiveness of American workers.

Let me make clear that we also need to reform the process for issuing regulations. Earlier this year I proposed the CURB Act, which stands for Clearing Unnecessary Regulatory Burdens. The CURB Act would require agencies to examine the costs and benefits of proposed rules, prohibit them from attempting to set rules through unofficial guidance documents—thus circumventing the public notice and comment period—and provide businesses with relief from first-time paperwork violations when no harm comes from the violation. Senators BARRASSO and ROBERTS joined me in introducing this bill.

Indeed, as I am sure you are aware, many of our colleagues have recognized the need to reform the regulatory process and have introduced their own proposals. The Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee has already held three hearings on regulatory reform this year, and I expect this issue will be a priority for our committee this fall.

But the fact is, our economy cannot wait for Congress to complete an overhaul of the regulatory process. If we want to create more jobs, we must act now. We must send a clear signal to the job creators that we have heard them. That is why I believe we must have a timeout from any significant new regulation that would have an adverse impact on jobs, the economy, or our international competitiveness.

Under my bill, no significant final rule that would have an adverse impact could go into effect during a 1-year moratorium. This timeout would cover major rules costing more than \$100 million per year, and other rules that have been considered “significant” under Executive orders going back to President Clinton and followed by President George W. Bush and President Obama.

Let me give an example of a rule that would be covered by the 1-year moratorium I am proposing. A rule that would be covered by this definition is EPA’s Boiler MACT rule. I am sure the Presiding Officer is familiar with this rule. This one regulation, if it were fully implemented, could cost Maine’s employers alone hundreds of millions of dollars. In fact, as the Wall Street Journal has recently reported, a jobs study just released shows that Boiler MACT, along with other pending air regulations, could cause 36 pulp and paper mills around the country to close, putting more than 20,000 Americans out of work. That is 18 percent of that industry’s workforce. That shows you the potent and terrible impact excessive regulation can have on job preservation and job creation.

And that is just for starters. Once these mills close, the businesses that supply them would also be forced to lay off workers. Estimates are that nearly 90,000 Americans would lose their jobs, wages would drop by \$4 billion, and government at all levels would see revenues decline by a staggering \$1.3 billion.

That is why, along with Senator RON WYDEN, I have introduced a Boiler MACT bill that 24 of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle have already cosponsored. Our bill has been endorsed by 292 employer organizations and individual businesses—292 businesses and organizations representing employers. That shows you how worried our job creators are about the impact of just this one set of rules. Their letter sums up the impact of the Boiler MACT rule very plainly. It says:

These rules place at risk tens of thousands of high-paying manufacturing jobs that our Nation cannot afford to lose.

The Boiler MACT regulations are exactly the kind of significant rules that my Regulatory Time-Out Act is intended to reach. The moratorium applies to rules issued by independent regulatory agencies such as the National Labor Relations Board as well as executive branch departments.

The impact of the regulatory burden under President Obama can be seen in the pages of the *Federal Register*. As my colleagues know, the *Federal Register* is the publication for all Federal regulations. Last year alone, the *Federal Register* expanded by nearly 82,600 pages, a level higher than any year under President Bush. Worse yet, the Obama administration has 144 rules in the pipeline that would each cost the economy at least \$100 million. This is nearly twice as high as the number of such rules that were in the pipeline each year of the Bush administration.

Let me clarify that the legislation I am proposing exempts those rules that are needed in emergencies such as imminent threats to public health or safety, as well as rules that are necessary to enforce our criminal laws, and with respect to military or foreign affairs. I think it is important that I put that on the record.

It also exempts rules that would reduce the regulatory burden, in order to help the private sector create jobs and boost the ability of American workers to compete. Unfortunately, those rules that actually reduce regulatory burdens and promote jobs are few and far between.

Finally, my bill requires that within 10 days of passage, agencies and departments must submit to Congress and to the Office of Management and Budget the list of rules they believe are exempt from the 1-year moratorium. That is important to make sure the intent of the law is followed and that Congress and the administration can exercise appropriate oversight.

The intent of my bill is to lift the cloud of uncertainty that is causing employers to be cautious and to refrain from creating jobs—jobs our economy desperately needs.

During the August recess, I asked employers throughout the great State of Maine what it would take to encourage them to add jobs. To a person, no matter what line of business these employers were in, no matter what the size of their workforce, each one of them replied that Washington needed to stop imposing crushing new regulations; that these job creators needed stable progrowth economic policies; that they needed an end to the uncertainty that was hampering their decisionmaking.

I am pleased that the Regulatory Time-Out Act has been endorsed by the NFIB, our Nation’s largest small business advocacy group, and by the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council. My bill has also been welcomed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which has stated:

American businesses need immediate relief. A “time out” would allow both the regulators and the regulated to take a deep breath and ensure that regulations are not destroying jobs and economic growth.

I agree completely. I will ask that the letters from the NFIB, the SBEC, and the statement by the Chamber of Commerce, be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

I am honored to have the following colleagues as cosponsors of this 1-year regulatory moratorium: Senators ALEXANDER, BARRASSO, BLUNT, BOOZMAN, CHAMBLISS, COATS, COBURN, CORNYN, HOEVEN, HUTCHISON, ISAKSON, KIRK, KYL, MORAN, ROBERTS and THUNE.

I urge all of our colleagues to support the Regulatory Time-Out Act, which is a critical step toward easing the regulatory uncertainty and costs that are keeping our job creators from getting Americans back to work.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that materials of support be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SEPTEMBER 6, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
House of Representatives, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. HARRY M. REID,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
U.S. Senate, Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER; MINORITY LEADER PELOSI; MAJORITY LEADER REID; MINORITY LEADER MCCONNELL: We are writing to express our united and strong support for H.R. 2250 and S. 1392, the “EPA Regulatory Relief Act of 2011,” bipartisan legislation to address the serious concerns that remain with EPA’s

Boiler MACT rules. As they exist today, the final Boiler MACT rules will have serious economic impacts on a vast array of facilities across the industrial, commercial and institutional sectors. These rules place at risk tens of thousands of high-paying manufacturing jobs that our nation cannot afford to lose.

As finalized, the Boiler MACT rules are unaffordable, just as the proposed rules were. The rules are not achievable for real-world boilers across the range of fuels and operating conditions. EPA also has created a presumption that materials commonly used as fuels are wastes subject to the extremely costly and stigmatizing incinerator standards. This would not only impose billions of dollars in unreasonable costs, but it also would cause millions of tons of valuable materials to be diverted to landfills and replaced with fossil fuel—a bad result for the environment.

As EPA has acknowledged, the rules were finalized with serious flaws because EPA was forced to meet a strict court-ordered deadline. The final Boiler MACT rule alone would cost over \$14 billion in capital for the manufacturing sector, plus billions more in annual operating costs. Complying with the incinerator standards could cost several billion dollars more in capital.

Legislation is needed to resolve serious uncertainties and vulnerabilities, including to:

Ensure the rules are stayed for an adequate and certain period, as EPA's current administrative stay is being challenged in court;

Allow EPA adequate time to re-propose the rules and get them right, including time for stakeholders to conduct more emissions testing and to avoid mistakes that occur when rulemakings of this scope and importance are rushed and become vulnerable to legal challenge;

Provide direction and support for EPA to use the discretion it already has under the Clean Air Act and Executive Order 13563 to add flexibility and make the rules achievable;

Clarify that using non-hazardous materials as fuels does not result in boilers being treated as incinerators; and

Give facilities more time to comply with the complex and capital-intensive requirements of the rules.

If enacted, the "EPA Regulatory Relief Act" will provide the much-needed certainty and time for EPA to get the rules right and for businesses that will be investing billions of dollars to rationally plan for the capital expenses. This legislation will preserve jobs and the competitiveness of the U.S. manufacturing sector while protecting the environment.

We urge you to pass this important legislation as soon as possible and send it to the President for his signature.

Sincerely,

A/C Power Colver; AbitibiBowater; Alabama Forestry Association; Alabama Pulp & Paper Council; Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group, Inc.; American Architectural Manufacturers Association; American Chemistry Council; American Coatings Association; American Coke & Coal Chemicals Institute; American Composites Manufacturers Association; American Fiber Manufacturers Association; American Forest & Paper Association; American Foundry Society; American Frozen Food Institute; American Home Furnishings Alliance; American Loggers Council; American Municipal Power; American Petroleum Institute; American Sugar Cane League; American Wood Council.

Amerities Holdings LLC; Anthony Liftgates, Inc.; APA—The Engineered Wood Association; Appleton Papers Inc.; APUs by Rex, LLC; Archer Daniels Midland Company; ARIPPA; Arkansas Forestry Association; Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce; Associated Industries of Arkansas, Inc.; Associated Industries of Vermont; Association of American Railroads; Association of Independent Corrugated Converters; Atlantic Wood Industries, Inc.; Barge Forest Products Co.; Beet Sugar Development Foundation; Belden Brick Company; Belimed, Inc.; Bennett Lumber Company Berco, Inc.

Biomass One, LP; Biomass Power Association; Blue Bell Creameries; Blue Ridge Paper Products; Boise Cascade, LLC; Boise Inc.; Brick Industry Association; Business Council of Alabama; Business Roundtable; Cahaba Timber Co.; California Forestry Association; California League of Food Processors; California Metals Coalition; Canyon Creek Logging; Carolina Cotton Works, Inc.; Cement Kiln Recycling Coalition; Chaney Lumber Co., Inc.; Charles Ingram Lumber Co.; Coast Wood Preserving, Inc.; Coastal Plywood Company; Collins Pine Company.

Colorado Association of Commerce & Industry; Composite Panel Association; Construction Materials Recycling Association; Corn Refiners Association; Council of Industrial Boiler Owners; Cresote Council; Decker Energy International, Inc.; Dietz & Watson, Inc.; Domtar Corporation; Douglas County Forest Products; Eastman Chemical Company; Eaton Corporation; Electric Mills Wood Preserving; Empire State Forest Products Association; Evergreen Packaging; Fibrek; Finch Paper LLC; Flakeboard America; Flambeau River Papers; Florida Forestry Association.

Florida Pulp and Paper Association; Flow-er City Tissue Mills Co., Inc.; FMC Corporation; Forest Landowners Association; Forest Resources Association Inc.; Forging Industry Association; Fowler Post Co, Inc.; Fox River Fiber Company; Genesee Power Station LP; George A. Whiting Paper Company; Georgia Association of Manufacturers; Georgia Paper & Forest Products Association, Inc.; Georgia-Pacific LLC; Glatfelter; Glier's Meats, Inc.; Green Diamond Resources Company; H. W. Culp Lumber Co.; Hardwood Federation; Hardwood Manufacturers Association; Hardwood Plywood and Veneer Association.

Harrigan Lumber Co., Inc.; Hawaii Forest Industry Association; Hesse and Sons Dairy LLC; Hood Industries, Inc.; Idaho Forest Group; INDA, Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry; Indiana Hardwood Lumbermen's Association; Industrial Energy Consumers of America; Industrial Fastener Institute; Industrial Minerals Association—North America; Innovative Pine Technology Inc.; Interior; International Falls Chamber of Commerce (MN); International Paper; J.T. Fennell Company, Inc.; JELD-WEN, Inc.; Jordan Lumber & Supply, Inc.; Kansas City Power & Light; Kapstone Paper and Packaging Corporation; Kentucky Forest Industries Association.

Kercher Industries, Inc.; Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association; Koppers Inc.; Lake States Lumber Association; Land O Lakes Wood Preserving Co.; Langdale Forest Products Co.; L'anse Warden Electric Company, LLC; Leggett & Platt, Incorporated; Longview Fibre Paper and Packaging, Inc.; Louis Dreyfus Agricultural Industries; Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation; Louisiana Pacific Corporation; Louisiana Pulp and Paper Association; LyondellBasell Industries; Maine Pulp & Paper Association; Manufacture Alabama; Manufacturers and Chem-

ical Industry Council of North Carolina; Maple Flooring Manufacturers Association; Maxi-Seal Harness Systems, Inc.; McShan Lumber Company, Inc.

MeadWestvac; Melrose Timber Company, Inc.; Metal Treating Institute; Metals Service Center Institute; Michigan Biomass; Michigan Forest Products Council; Minnesota Chamber of Commerce; Minnesota Forest Industries; Mission Plastics North; Mission Plastics of Arkansas; Mississippi Manufacturers Association; Missouri Forest Products Association; Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association; Mount Vernon Mills, Inc.; Muscatine Foods Corporation; National Association for Surface Finishing; National Association of Manufacturers; National Association of Trailer Manufacturers; National Concrete Masonry Association; National Council of Farmer Cooperatives.

National Council of Textile Organizations; National Federation of Independent Business; National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association; National Oilseed Processors Association; National Solid Wastes Management Association; National Spinning Company; NC Association of Professional Loggers, Inc.; Neenah Paper Inc.; Nevada Manufacturers Association; New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association; Nippon Paper Industries USA Co.; Nisus Corporation; NORA, An Association of Responsible Recyclers (formerly the National Oil Recyclers Association); North American Die Casting Association; North American Wholesale Lumber Association; North Carolina Chamber; North Carolina Forestry Association; Northwest Pulp and Paper Association; Ohio Chamber of Commerce; Ohio Forestry Association.

Ohio Manufacturers' Association; Ohio Municipal Electric Association; Ohio Willow Wood Company; OMNOVA Solutions, Inc.; Oregon Forest Industries Council; Owens-Illinois, Inc.; Pacific Wood Laminates; Packaging Corporation of America; Page & Hill Forest Products Inc.; Partnership for Affordable Clean Energy; Pellet Fuels Institute; Pennsylvania Business Council; Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry; Pennsylvania Forest Products Association; Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association; Peterson Mfg. Co.; Pile Driving Contractors; Association Piney Creek LP; Plum Creek; Port Townsend Paper Corporation.

Portland Cement Association; Possum Tree Farm; Potomac Supply Corporation; PPG Industries; Precision Machined Products Association; Precision Pulley & Idler; Prince Manufacturing Corporation; Railway Tie Association; Rex Lumber, LLC; Rhodia, Inc.; River Trading Company; Rock-Tenn Company; Rosboro LLC; Roseburg Forest Products Company; ROW, INC.; Roy "O" Martin Lumber Company, LLC; Rubber Manufacturers Association; Rudd Company, Inc.; S.I. Storey Lumber Co., Inc.; Sage Automotive Interiors.

Sappi Fine Paper North America; Sauder Woodworking Co.; Scotch Plywood Company, Inc.; Seymour Manufacturing Co., Inc.; SierraPine Limited; Smith Street Mill; Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates; South Carolina Forestry Association; South Carolina Pulp and Paper Association (SCPPA); South Carolina Timber Producers Association; Southeast Wood; Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association; Southern Appalachian Multiple-Use Council; Southern Forest Products Association; Southern Pressure Treaters' Association; SP Newsprint Co.; States Industries, LLC; Steel Manufacturers Association; Stella-Jones Corporation; Streater Dependable Mfg. Co.

Sunbury Textile Mills, Inc.; Tegrant Corporation; Ten-Tec, Inc.; Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Tennessee Forestry Association; Tennessee Paper Council; Texas Association of Manufacturers; Texas Forestry Association; Textile Rental Services Association; The Association for Hose & Accessories Distribution (NAHAD); The Business Council of New York State, Inc.; The Carpet and Rug Institute; The Dow Chemical Company; The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers; The Oeser Company; The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America; Thilmany Papers; Thomasson Company; Thompson Industries, Inc.; Timber Products Company.

TMA; Tolleson Lumber Company; Tradewinds International Inc.; Treated Wood Council; Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association; TrueGuard—wood preservation; U.S. Beet Sugar Association; U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Uniboard USA LLC; Unifi Manufacturing Inc.; USA Rice Federation; Vector Tool and Engineering; Verso Paper Corp.; Virginia Chamber of Commerce; Virginia Forest Products Association; Virginia Forestry Association; Virginia Manufacturers Association; Washington Contract Loggers Association, Inc.; Water Treatment Services Inc.; Wausau Paper; Webb Consultants, Inc.; WEBB Furniture Enterprises Corp.; The Westervelt Company; Weyerhaeuser Company; Window and Door Manufacturers Association; Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce; Wisconsin Paper Council; Wood Machinery Manufacturers of America.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Sept. 6, 2011]

ANOTHER EPA RULE COMES UNDER ATTACK

Just ahead of President Barack Obama's big jobs speech, the American Forest & Paper Association says a pending environmental rule could cost 20,500 jobs or 18% of the industry's workforce.

In a study to be released Wednesday, the group is taking aim at an Environmental Protection Agency rule to cut pollution from factory boilers, saying the regulation will cause 36 U.S. paper and pulp mills to close. The study comes on the heels of a decision by Mr. Obama to jettison another EPA air quality rule related to ozone that industry complained would kill millions of jobs.

The so-called boiler rule has come under sharp attack from both Republican and Democratic lawmakers, as well as industry, which say the regulations would be too costly and difficult to implement. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor included the rule in his list of 10 "job-destroying regulations" that he has vowed to fight.

The boiler rule would affect paper mills, refineries, chemical factories and other facilities that use boilers, such as universities, hospitals and apartment buildings. Boilers are on-site generators that can provide energy for facilities and factories. Bipartisan legislation is now pending in the House and Senate to delay implementation of the rule, with the aim of having EPA reconsider the regulation.

The AF&PA study, conducted by Fisher International, looked at how many mills would be in danger of closing if they had to comply with the new air quality regulations and install new pollution controls. The study found 36 mills would have to close, impacting 18% of the industry's workforce.

Supporters of the rule say the benefits far outweigh the costs and counter job loss claims by saying the new controls being required could provide an economic boost.

"Industry is trying to leverage fears about the economic impact and jobs and ignoring that pollution controls are made and installed here in the U.S.," said Paul G. Billings, vice president of national policy and advocacy for the American Lung Association.

Gina McCarthy, a top EPA official, is expected to testify Thursday before a U.S. House subcommittee about the rule. The agency, which has touted the health benefits of the rule, has delayed issuing final regulations, saying it needs more time for public input. That's frustrated environmental and public-health groups, which say the rules would save lives and help avoid thousands of heart and asthma attacks.

John Walke, clean air director at the Natural Resources Defense Council, said the boiler rule is critical because it will cut mercury and other toxic air emissions from incinerators and boilers at industrial facilities. "The reason it's important is those sectors are one of only a handful that still have not had lawful toxic emission standards adopted for them under the 1990 clean air act amendments," he said.

Donna Harman, president and CEO of AF&PA, said the rule will hurt an already hard-hit sector and said lawmakers and regulators should give the industry more time and impose a less stringent standard.

"We're not asking to not be regulated. We're asking to have a regulation that can be achieved based on the technology that's currently available," she said.

THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS, Washington, DC, September 8, 2011.

Hon. SUSAN COLLINS,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR COLLINS: The National Federation of Independent Business is pleased to support the Regulatory Time-Out Act. This legislation provides small business owners—who create roughly two-thirds of the net new jobs in America—with relief from burdensome regulations for a period of one year.

The bill would impose a one-year moratorium on "significant" new rules—those with a cost of \$100 million or more—from going into effect if those rules would have an adverse impact on jobs, the economy, or America's international competitiveness. These particular rules generally come with considerable uncertainty, which inhibits small businesses from making decisions that would help the economy grow.

A recent study released by the U.S. Small Business Administration showed that the cost of regulatory compliance for the smallest businesses is 36 percent more than their larger counterparts. The study estimates the cost of compliance for small businesses to be \$10,585 per employee per year. Small businesses desperately need the help of Congress to cut red tape.

Importantly, the Regulatory Time-Out Act would not prevent important rules that address imminent threats to human health or safety or other emergencies, or that apply to the criminal justice system, military or foreign affairs. Nor would the legislation prevent rules which foster private sector job creation and the enhancement of the competitiveness of the American worker, or which otherwise reduce the regulatory burden.

The Regulatory Time-Out Act that you have introduced is a prudent step toward providing small business owners with the certainty they need to create jobs for Ameri-

cans. NFIB looks forward to working with you to help ensure that this important legislation becomes law.

Sincerely,
SUSAN ECKERLY,
Senior Vice President, Public Policy.

SMALL BUSINESS &
ENTREPRENEURSHIP COUNCIL,
Oakton, VA, September 8, 2011.

Hon. SUSAN COLLINS,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR COLLINS: On behalf of the 100,000 members of the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council (SBE Council), I offer our strong support for "The Regulatory 'Time-Out' Act." Given the severe fragility of the economy and dismal job growth, placing a one-year moratorium on "economically significant" rules is a commonsense strategy. Even in better economic times, our economy and its competitiveness would suffer under a regulatory onslaught of the current order. Something must be done to counter the untamed and intrusive rule-making coming out of Washington. The "Time-Out Act" is an approach that should warrant bipartisan support.

The torrent of new regulations being proposed by federal agencies is generating significant uncertainty among our nation's small business owners. Furthermore, once finalized, these regulations will impose a substantial burden on entrepreneurs, exacerbating existing financial pressures that are a result of weak sales and higher business costs.

The number of "major" regulations issued last year is unprecedented. Those costing the economy \$100 million or more number 224—an increase of 22 percent over 2009 and the highest number on record. Many of these directly and indirectly impact small business. Quite simply, our economy and small businesses cannot absorb any more costs. As you well know, the disproportionate cost of regulation places a heavy burden on small firms. The "Regulatory 'Time-Out' Act" will help steady the rough economic and policy environment that has so badly shaken entrepreneurs.

The "Time-Out" act provides consideration for rules that address emergencies and imminent threats to human health and safety, as well as those that would enhance the environment for job creation, worker competitiveness or those that reduce the regulatory burden. No one can label this legislation as anything but smart, practical and essential.

Senator Collins, SBE Council appreciates your leadership. Please let us know what we can do to help advance the "Regulatory 'Time-Out' Act" into law.

Sincerely,
KAREN KERRIGAN,
President & CEO.

[From CHAMBERPOST, Sept. 8, 2011]
U.S. CHAMBER WELCOMES SEN. COLLINS'
PROPOSED REGULATORY TIME-OUT BILL
(By Tom Collamore)

The U.S. Chamber welcomes Senator Susan Collins' proposed legislation requiring a regulatory "time-out." American businesses have been overwhelmed by the recent onslaught of burdensome and job-killing regulations. With another 4,257 regulations in the pipeline, American businesses need immediate relief. A time-out would allow both the regulators and the regulated to take a deep breath and ensure that regulations are not destroying jobs and economic growth.

A regulatory “time-out” is one important step in stemming the tidal wave of new regulations. Reforming the regulatory process itself is another. Congress must bring fundamental reform to the rulemaking process, some elements of which have not been modernized in 65 years. We need permanent reforms to the administrative process to ensure regulations are narrowly tailored and impose the least amount of regulatory burden needed to achieve congressional intent, are based on quality data, and will not impede job creation and growth. Reforms must also encourage Congress to exercise its essential oversight over federal agencies to ensure they are carrying out its intent.

We applaud Senator Collins for focusing on one of the most important economic issues facing our economy—overregulation—and look forward to working with her on her regulatory time-out legislation.

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 1543. A bill to amend chapters 83 and 84 of title 5, United States Code, to address retirement for Pentagon Force Protection Agency officers; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Retirement Equity for Pentagon Police Heroes Act, a bill to place Pentagon Police on par with Federal law enforcement officers government wide.

As we remember the tragic events of September 11, 2001, and the bravery of those who rushed into burning buildings as most ran away, it is particularly fitting to recognize the bravery of Pentagon Force Protection Agency Officers with this legislation.

Ten years ago, unthinkable acts of terrorism were perpetrated against America, resulting in the loss of thousands of innocent lives at the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon in Virginia, and the final landing site of flight 93 in Pennsylvania. The men and women of the Pentagon Force Protection Agency were among the first to respond in the chaotic minutes after flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon.

On the morning of September 11, Isaac Ho’opi’i, a Pentagon Police officer from my home state of Hawai’i, rushed into the Pentagon and carried eight people out of the rubble, many of whom were badly burned. Many others made it out of the Pentagon thanks to Mr. Ho’opi’i, who became known as “the voice,” because survivors remember him calling out for those lost in the smoke and debris to crawl towards the sound of his voice. In 2002, Mr. Ho’opi’i was awarded a Medal of Valor for his bravery and quick thinking on that fateful day.

Threats to the Pentagon continue to mount in the time since 9/11. Just last year, an armed gunman stormed the Pentagon, shooting at officers while attempting to enter the building. Officers Jeffery Amos and Marvin Carraway, Jr. were wounded during the shootout, but managed to neutralize the perpetrator, ensuring that no other officers or bystanders were harmed in the process.

Despite their heroic actions and the dangerous nature of their job, Pentagon Police officers do not accrue retirement benefits at the same rate as Federal law enforcement officers. This bill would add Pentagon Police to the list of employees under the Civil Service Retirement System and Federal Employees’ Retirement System who make larger retirement contributions than most Federal employees, and accrue retirement benefits at an enhanced rate. The higher accrual rate is an important recognition that police work is dangerous and physically demanding, so law enforcement officers are required to retire earlier than others.

The time has come to recognize the courage of these brave men and women who everyday protect thousands of military personnel and civilians at the Pentagon.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1543

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Retirement Equity for Pentagon Police Heroes Act of 2011”.

SEC. 2. PENTAGON FORCE PROTECTION AGENCY.

(a) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO THE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—

(A) CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM.—Section 8331 of title 5 United States Code is amended—

(i) in paragraph (30), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in paragraph (31), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(32) ‘Pentagon Force Protection Agency officer’ means an employee appointed to perform law enforcement and security functions under section 2674(b) of title 10 whose permanent duty station is the Pentagon Reservation and who occupies a position in job series 0083, or any successor position, for which the rate of basic pay is fixed in accordance with paragraph (2) of such section.”.

(2) DEDUCTIONS, CONTRIBUTIONS, AND DEPOSITS.—Section 8334 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1)(A), by striking “or customs and border protection officer,” and inserting “customs and border protection officer, or Pentagon Force Protection Agency officer,”; and

(B) in the table contained in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following:

“Pentagon Force Protection Agency officer	7.5 After the date of enactment of the Pentagon Force Protection Agency Retirement Act of 2011.”.
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(3) MANDATORY SEPARATION.—Section 8835(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended in the first sentence by striking “or customs and border protection officer” and inserting “customs and border protection officer, or Pentagon Force Protection Agency officer”.

(4) IMMEDIATE RETIREMENT.—Section 8336 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “or customs and border protection officer” and inserting “customs and border protection officer, or Pentagon Force Protection Agency officer”; and

(B) in subsections (m) and (n), by striking “or as a customs and border protection officer,” and inserting “as a customs and border protection officer, or as a Pentagon Force Protection Agency officer,”.

(b) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—Section 8401 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (35), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (36), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(37) ‘Pentagon Force Protection Agency officer’ means an employee appointed to perform law enforcement and security functions under section 2674(b) of title 10 whose permanent duty station is the Pentagon Reservation and who occupies a position in job series 0083, or any successor position, for which the rate of basic pay is fixed in accordance with paragraph (2) of such section.”.

(2) IMMEDIATE RETIREMENT.—Paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 8412(d) of title 5, United States Code, are amended by striking “or customs and border protection officer,” and inserting “customs and border protection officer, or Pentagon Force Protection Agency officer,”.

(3) COMPUTATION OF BASIC ANNUITY.—Section 8415(h)(2) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “or customs and border protection officer” and inserting “customs and border protection officer, or Pentagon Force Protection Agency officer.”.

(4) DEDUCTIONS FROM PAY.—The table contained in section 8422(a)(3) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“Pentagon Force Protection Agency officer	7.5 After the date of enactment of the Pentagon Force Protection Agency Retirement Act of 2011.”.
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(5) GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS.—Paragraphs (1)(B)(i) and (3) of section 8423(a) of title 5, United States Code, are amended by inserting “Pentagon Force Protection Agency officers,” after “customs and border protection officers,” each place it appears.

(6) MANDATORY SEPARATION.—Section 8425(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking “or customs and border protection officers who” and inserting “customs and border protection officer, or Pentagon Force Protection Agency officers who”; and

(B) by striking “or customs and border protection officer as the case” and inserting “customs and border protection officer, or Pentagon Force Protection Agency officer, as the case”.

(c) MAXIMUM AGE FOR ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT.—Section 3307 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) The Secretary of Defense may determine and fix the maximum age limit for an original appointment to a position as a Pentagon Force Protection Agency officer, as defined by section 8401(37).”.

(d) REGULATIONS.—Any regulations necessary to carry out the amendments made by this section shall be prescribed by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE; TRANSITION RULES.—

(1) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall become effective on the first day of the first pay period beginning at least 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) **TRANSITION RULES.**—

(A) **NONAPPLICABILITY OF MANDATORY SEPARATION PROVISIONS TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.**—The amendments made by subsections (a)(3) and (b)(6), respectively, shall not apply to an individual first appointed as a Pentagon Force Protection Agency officer before the effective date under paragraph (1).

(B) **TREATMENT OF PRIOR PENTAGON FORCE PROTECTION AGENCY OFFICER SERVICE.**—Nothing in this section or any amendment made by this section shall be considered to apply with respect to any service performed as a Pentagon Force Protection Agency officer before the effective date under paragraph (1).

(C) **MINIMUM ANNUITY AMOUNT.**—The annuity of an individual serving as a Pentagon Force Protection Agency officer on the effective date under paragraph (1) pursuant to an appointment made before that date shall, to the extent that its computation is based on service rendered as a Pentagon Force Protection Agency officer on or after that date, be at least equal to the amount that would be payable—

(i) to the extent that such service is subject to the Civil Service Retirement System, by applying section 8339(d) of title 5, United States Code, with respect to such service; and

(ii) to the extent that such service is subject to the Federal Employees' Retirement System, by applying section 8415(d) of title 5, United States code, with respect to such service.

(D) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in the amendment made by subsection (c) shall be considered to apply with respect to any appointment made before the effective date under paragraph (1).

(3) **DEFINITION.**—For purposes of this subsection, the term "Pentagon Force Protection Agency officer" has the meaning given such term by section 8331(32) or 8401(37) of title 5, United States Code (as amended by this Act).

(4) **EXCLUSION.**—Nothing in this Act or any amendment made by this Act shall be considered to afford any election or to otherwise apply with respect to any individual who, as of the day before the date of the enactment of this Act—

(A) holds a position within the Pentagon Force Protection Agency; and

(B) is considered a law enforcement officer for purposes of subchapter III of chapter 83 or chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, by virtue of such position.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 12, 2011, at 4 p.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2011

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 13; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.J. Res 66, the joint resolution regarding Burma sanctions and the expected legislative vehicle for additional FEMA funds; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; finally, that if cloture is invoked on the motion to proceed to H.J. Res. 66, all time during adjournment, morning business, and recess count postcloture and, if cloture is not invoked, a motion to reconsider be considered entered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, if there is no business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order at the conclusion of the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to H.J. Res. 66.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CONRAD. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPROVING THE RENEWAL OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS CONTAINED IN THE BURMESE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2003—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 154, H.J. Res. 66, a joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

Harry Reid, Richard J. Durbin, Barbara Boxer, Mark R. Warner, Jeff Bingaman, Daniel K. Inouye, Ben Nelson, Patty Murray, Frank R. Lautenberg, Daniel K. Akaka, John F. Kerry, Ron Wyden, Bill Nelson, Jeff Merkley, Sheldon Whitehouse, Max Baucus, Charles E. Schumer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.J. Res. 66, an act approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 shall be brought to a close? The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) would have voted "nay."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 33, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 131 Leg.]

YEAS—53

Akaka	Feinstein	Merkley
Baucus	Franken	Mikulski
Begich	Gillibrand	Murray
Bennet	Hagan	Nelson (NE)
Bingaman	Harkin	Nelson (FL)
Blumenthal	Heller	Pryor
Blunt	Inouye	Reed
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Brown (MA)	Kerry	Schumer
Brown (OH)	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Kohl	Snowe
Cardin	Lautenberg	Tester
Carper	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Coats	Levin	Udall (NM)
Collins	Lieberman	Warner
Conrad	Manchin	Webb
Coons	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Durbin	Menendez	

NAYS—33

Alexander	Barrasso	Burr
Ayotte	Boozman	Chambliss

Coburn
Cochran
Corker
Cornyn
Crapo
Enzi
Graham
Grassley
Hatch

Isakson
Johanns
Johnson (WI)
Kyl
Lee
Lugar
McCain
McConnell
Moran

Paul
Portman
Risch
Roberts
Sessions
Shelby
Thune
Toomey
Wicker

Landrieu
Murkowski
Rockefeller

Rubio
Sanders
Stabenow

Vitter
Wyden

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

NOT VOTING—14

Casey
DeMint

Hoeven
Hutchison

Inhofe
Kirk

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 33. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

Under the previous order, a motion to reconsider is entered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 5:58 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, September 13, 2011, at 10 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, September 12, 2011

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 12, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL K. SIMPSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair would now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 9, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 9, 2011 at 1:43 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1239.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day. Please help us to use it well.

We ask Your blessing upon this assembly and upon all to whom the authority of government is given. They return to the Capitol, reminded, as are all Americans, that we honor that day by asserting the values of democratically elected representation. Help them to meet their responsibilities during these days to attend to the immediate needs and concerns of these times in our history.

Watch over this House, and cause Your blessing to be upon each Member that they might serve all the people with sincerity and truth. As we recall a September 12, 10 years ago, when all the Nation stood united, give them the wisdom and patience to place Nation above party as they exercise their duties.

May all that is done within the people's House this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

NEVER FORGET SEPTEMBER THE 11TH IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago, in one of the most tragic moments of our country's history, terrorists hijacked commercial jetliners to murder nearly 3,000 in-

nocent people on American soil. In this darkest hour, the people of our Nation came together to grieve, mourn, and remind each other: We are still one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

On this 10th anniversary of the September 11th attacks, I want to highlight how America's resolve that day was challenged but not broken. In the time since, our Nation has proven the resilience of the American people. The struggle to protect freedom and liberty is one that must be promoted both domestically and internationally—and our great Nation has answered the call.

Let us remember the first responders and our military that have served and are currently serving near and far to protect our freedoms here at home. I will always be grateful for those making a difference by defeating terrorists overseas to protect American families at home.

Most importantly, let us not forget the victims of the September 11th attacks, their families, the memories of that fateful day, and the constant challenges our country faces in winning the global war on terrorism.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CAMPBELL). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 4 p.m.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CAMPBELL) at 4 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

INVESTIGATIVE ASSISTANCE FOR VIOLENT CRIMES ACT OF 2011

Mr. GOWDY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2076) to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify the statutory authority for the longstanding practice of the Department of Justice of providing investigatory assistance on request of State and local authorities with respect to certain serious violent crimes, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2076

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Investigative Assistance for Violent Crimes Act of 2011”.

SEC. 2. INVESTIGATION OF MASS KILLING OR ATTEMPTED MASS KILLING AND OTHER VIOLENT CRIMES.

Title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 530C(b)(1)(L)(i), by striking “2,000,000” and inserting “\$3,000,000”;

(2) in section 530C(b)(4), by adding at the end the following: “The authority to conduct or assist in investigations includes the authority to deploy tactical response, command and control, and other crisis-management assets of the Bureau, as appropriate; and any such conduct or assistance shall be understood presumptively to be within the scope of Federal office or employment.”;

(3) in section 540A—

(A) in the section heading, by striking “Investigation of certain violent crimes;” and inserting “Investigation of certain violent crimes”;

(B) in subsection (a), by inserting “, in the investigation of violent acts and shootings occurring in venues such as schools, colleges, universities, non-Federal office buildings, malls, and other public places, and in the investigation of mass killings and attempted mass killings” after “traveler”; and

(C) in subsection (c), by adding the following new paragraph at the end:

“(4) ‘mass killings’ means three or more killings in a single incident.”; and

(4) in the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 33, by striking the item relating to section 540A and inserting the following:

“540A. Investigation of certain violent crimes.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. GOWDY) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOWDY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their re-

marks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 2076, as amended, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOWDY. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, violent crimes that impact multiple victims in mass shootings in particular are unpredictable and, in addition to sending shock waves through the communities impacted, often test the resources of the State and local law enforcement jurisdictions involved. Regrettably, within our lifetime, there have been scores of mass shootings ranging from restaurants to high schools to universities and churches. No place is safe.

There are no sanctuaries left any more, Mr. Speaker, in our culture. And despite the tremendous training, education, and hard work of the brave women and men in State and local law enforcement, these types of tragedies can test even the most well-resourced law enforcement agencies. Not only is there an active crime scene with victims, there are hundreds of pieces of forensic or ballistic evidence, and the gathering of evidence is taking place sometimes contemporaneous with the search for an assailant.

There is a deep and rich history of cooperation and collaboration between and among law enforcement agencies. This is true at the local level, the State level and, indeed, at the Federal level. Federal law enforcement agencies have unique skill sets, access to resources and equipment and other investigative techniques that can and do assist smaller police departments on a regular basis.

But, Mr. Speaker, currently the FBI does not have the specific statutory authority to assist in all investigations, specifically with respect to the investigation of mass shootings or other violent crimes occurring in non-Federal venues.

H.R. 2076, the Investigative Assistance for Violent Crimes Act of 2011, is a commonsense bill that allows the FBI to provide assistance to State and local law enforcement authorities, if requested, in response to a mass shooting or other mass casualty. This bill addresses when the FBI is asked to assist State or local authorities with mass shootings and mass killings at a public place, such as a shopping mall or a school.

The FBI has traditionally assisted State and local law enforcement authorities, but the statutory authority explicitly granting the FBI jurisdiction is lacking. To be sure, the FBI helps and is willing to help, but the absence of a specific statutory grant of jurisdiction, even jurisdiction by invitation, needs to be resolved.

This bill is not an expansion of Federal authority, and it does not expand

the authority of the FBI. Any assistance from the FBI must be requested by the State or local authority and agreed to by Federal authorities. The FBI will only assist when State or local counterparts ask for help and they agree to provide it.

This legislation, Mr. Speaker, is simple, but it is also critical. State and local authorities often look to the FBI for assistance in handling large, violent crimes, but the FBI must look to Federal law to determine what authority it has been granted by Congress before it can offer assistance.

Accordingly, H.R. 2076 gives the FBI the specific authority to respond to requests for assistance from State and local law enforcement authorities when mass killings or other acts of violence are committed or attempted.

H.R. 2076, Mr. Speaker, was passed out of the House Judiciary Committee by a voice vote with broad bipartisan support. This bill is also supported by the FBI Agents Association, a voluntary professional association currently representing over 12,000 active duty and retired FBI special agents.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I begin by commending my colleague on Judiciary, TREY GOWDY, for introducing this bill and being the sponsor of it. I agree with everything that has been said.

I would like to ask my colleague about a shooting I read about just today—it wasn't a mass killing, but some of these things are so awful—a 17-year-old young girl athlete shot mysteriously. Do you see that that might be a role that we may want the FBI to be able to intervene in if they are invited as well?

Mr. GOWDY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CONYERS. I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. GOWDY. I thank the gentleman from Michigan, and I would tell the distinguished former chairman of Judiciary, I am not aware of a single instance in my 16 years as a prosecutor where the FBI was asked to provide help and didn't do so, and I know that my friend from Michigan would want the FBI to be on solid, legal footing.

So with respect to the shooting that you are referencing—and I fear that I am familiar with that shooting; I believe I read about it, the tragic loss of life of a wonderful high school young lady who happened to be a tremendous basketball player—the FBI agents that I know would gladly help in that case.

And if the gentleman from Michigan wanted to provide a way for the Bureau to help whenever requested, I would be happy to work on that with him.

Mr. CONYERS. I thank the gentleman, and I think this is something

that our community might well want to look into, because the general impression is that crime is going down, and I assume that's accurate, but in some places it isn't. I thank the gentleman for making sure that this assistance from the FBI has a statutory basis, which it hasn't enjoyed until now.

I join with him in providing this assistance as a matter of law, and I urge the passage of the measure.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 2076. This bill will improve the ability of the FBI to assist state and local law enforcement in response to certain types of incidents.

H.R. 2076 would give the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, specific statutory authority to respond to requests from state and local law enforcement authorities for assistance in the investigation of felony crimes of violence that are violent acts, shootings, mass killings, and attempted mass killings.

The FBI does not currently have specific statutory authority to assist in the investigation of mass killings or attempted mass killings occurring in venues such as schools, colleges, universities, non-federal office buildings, malls, and/or other public places.

While the FBI continues to receive requests for such assistance from state and local law enforcement, there is no federal statute that directly provides jurisdiction to the FBI to respond to such requests.

Legislation granting the proposed investigative authority would allow the FBI to provide state and local law enforcement with the assistance requested when the violent act does not appear to otherwise violate a federal law.

State and local law enforcement agencies responsible for investigating mass killings in the workplace or classroom often need the many resources which the FBI is well capable of providing. Further, the general public expects the FBI to be capable of responding when mass killings threaten the safety of our nation's citizens.

There is a need for legislation that grants the FBI authority to respond immediately to requests for assistance from state and local law enforcement authorities when mass killings are committed or attempted.

I commend the gentleman from South Carolina, Representative TREY GOWDY, for introducing H.R. 2076. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2076, the Investigative Assistance for Violent Crimes Act of 2011. This legislation is an appropriate and necessary measure to keep our citizens safe.

Currently the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) does not have statutory authority to assist in the investigation of mass killings or other violent crimes that are carried out in non-federal public places, such as schools and universities. As of now, when the FBI is asked by state and local law enforcement to assist with related investigations, they frequently comply with the request, despite the possibility that in doing so, the responding officers may be found to be acting outside of their jurisdiction.

The Investigative Assistance for Violent Crimes Act grants the FBI specific authority to

respond when asked for help by state and local law enforcement, without expanding the FBI's jurisdiction. The bill allows the FBI to assist in the investigation of violent crimes or mass killings, only when asked to do so.

In recent history the FBI has lent their resources to several high profile investigations. Last September, when an armed intruder entered the Discovery Communications Building in Rockville, Maryland; the FBI SWAT team assisted the Montgomery County Police Department, and FBI investigators processed the crime scene. In 2009, the American Civic Center in Binghamton, New York was the site of a mass killing when an armed subject killed 13 people. The FBI was asked to assist, and lent their Evidence Response Team, Victim Assistance program, and Behavioral Analysis unit. The FBI also assisted in the investigation to identify the student who opened fire at Virginia Technical Institute in 2007.

The FBI lent invaluable support to state and local law enforcement officials on several occasions. However, as the law currently holds, there is no specific statutory authority allowing them to do so. The Investigative Assistance for Violent Crimes Act specifically authorizes, by statute, that which the FBI is consistently asked and expected to do.

This bill is an important measure aimed at increasing the safety and security of the American people. When faced with a mass killing or other violent crime, our state and local law enforcement officials should have access to every necessary resource in order to mitigate the situation, identify the perpetrators, and bring them to justice. In Houston, Texas, where I represent the 18th Congressional District, the FBI reports 22,491 violent crimes in 2010. I know that my constituents would appreciate knowing that their local law enforcement officials have access to the resources of the FBI, should they need them.

As a senior Member of both the Judiciary and Homeland Security committees, I have worked tirelessly to ensure the safety of the American people, and this legislation does just that. I am pleased at the bipartisan manner in which this bill is being considered, and urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2076, the Investigative Assistance for Violent Crimes Act.

Mr. GOWDY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1610

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. GOWDY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2076, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

APPEAL TIME CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2011

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2633) to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify the time limits for appeals in civil cases to which United States officers or employees are parties, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2633

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Appeal Time Clarification Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) section 2107 of title 28, United States Code, and rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure provide that the time to appeal for most civil actions is 30 days, but that the appeal time for all parties is 60 days when the parties in the civil action include the United States, a United States officer, or a United States agency;

(2) the 60-day period should apply if 1 of the parties is—

(A) the United States;

(B) a United States agency;

(C) a United States officer or employee sued in an official capacity; or

(D) a current or former United States officer or employee sued in an individual capacity for an act or omission occurring in connection with duties performed on behalf of the United States;

(3) section 2107 of title 28, United States Code, and rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure (as amended to take effect on December 1, 2011, in accordance with section 2074 of that title) should uniformly apply the 60-day period to those civil actions relating to a Federal officer or employee sued in an individual capacity for an act or omission occurring in connection with Federal duties;

(4) the civil actions to which the 60-day periods should apply include all civil actions in which a legal officer of the United States represents the relevant officer or employee when the judgment or order is entered or in which the United States files the appeal for that officer or employee; and

(5) the application of the 60-day period in section 2107 of title 28, United States Code, and rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure—

(A) is not limited to civil actions in which representation of the United States is provided by the Department of Justice; and

(B) includes all civil actions in which the representation of the United States is provided by a Federal legal officer acting in an official capacity, such as civil actions in which a Member, officer, or employee of the Senate or the House of Representatives is represented by the Office of Senate Legal Counsel or the Office of General Counsel of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 3. TIME FOR APPEALS IN CERTAIN CASES.

Section 2107 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking "order or decree" each place it appears and inserting "order, or decree";

(B) by striking "suit or proceeding" and inserting "suit, or proceeding"; and

(C) by striking “filed, within thirty” and inserting “filed within 30”; and

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) In any such action, suit, or proceeding, the time as to all parties shall be 60 days from such entry if one of the parties is—

“(1) the United States;

“(2) an agency of the United States;

“(3) an officer or employee of the United States who is sued in an official capacity; or

“(4) a current or former officer or employee of the United States who is sued in an individual capacity for an act or omission occurring in connection with duties performed on behalf of the United States, including any instance in which the United States represents that person when the judgment, order, or decree is entered or files the appeal for that person.”.

SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this Act shall take effect on December 1, 2011.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2633, as amended, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the ranking member of the Courts Subcommittee, Mr. COHEN, the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee, and the ranking member of the full committee, Mr. CONYERS, the distinguished gentleman from Michigan, for their having cosponsored the bill.

I introduced the bill, H.R. 2633, at the behest of the United States Judicial Conference. It addresses a small problem that must be fixed or attended to prior to December 1 of this year.

Under the existing Rules Enabling Act, the Judicial Conference may develop changes to existing Federal rules of procedure and evidence. The Supreme Court submits any agreed-upon amendments to Congress no later than May 1 of a given calendar year. The changes take effect on December 1 unless Congress intervenes during the interim.

This year, as part of its rules package, the Supreme Court submitted proposed amendments to Appellate Rule 4 that clarify the treatment of the time to appeal in civil cases involving a United States officer or employee. Because the time to appeal in a civil case is set not only by Appellate Rule 4 but also by section 2107 of title 28 of the

U.S. Code, the Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules has proposed that the Judicial Conference seek legislation to make the same clarifying change to section 2107.

Appellate Rule 4 and section 2107 currently provide that the time to appeal is 30 days for most civil cases, but that the appeal time for all parties is 60 days when the parties to the case include “the United States,” a United States “officer,” or a United States “agency.” The problem is that current law is not clear concerning the applicability of the longer period in cases in which the Federal party is a United States officer or employee sued in an individual capacity. The proposed amendments in H.R. 2633 simply clarify that the longer period applies to such an individual or employee, just as it does to the United States Government or a United States agency.

A lawsuit against a Federal officer or employee under these conditions requires the Federal Government to decide whether to represent that individual. This requires time, as the government must evaluate the case, determine whether an appeal should be taken, and ultimately obtain the Solicitor General’s approval.

The proposed revisions to Appellant Rule 4 are on a glide path to December 1. It’s important to promote the consistency between the rules and title 28 by ensuring that we enact H.R. 2633, which also takes effect on December 1.

The only change to the bill as reported by our committee is the inclusion of “findings” language developed by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The main point of this text is to clarify that the 60-day period applies to cases involving article I litigants, including Members of the House of Representatives and Senators. This addition is entirely consistent with the legislative history of the bill and is fully supported by the Judicial Conference. This will also help to expedite passage of H.R. 2633 by the other body.

Mr. Speaker, this is bipartisan legislation devoid of controversy. It treats Federal litigants fairly under the Appellate Rules and assists the courts in correctly interpreting those rules. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2633, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I begin by congratulating HOWARD COBLE of North Carolina, a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, who is the sponsor of this bill, and agree with him entirely. It was reported by our committee by voice vote and no amendment. His explanation was thorough, and I appreciate his inclination for detail which had us make this important modification of appeal time clarification.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2633, the “Appeal Time Clarification Act of 2011,” as amended.

This noncontroversial legislation simply clarifies the time for filing an appeal in federal civil cases.

It does so by amending section 2107 of title 28 of the United States Code to provide that current or former officers or employees of the United States who are sued in their individual capacities for acts or omissions in connection with the performance of their federal duties are entitled to 60 days from the entry of a judgment, order, or decree to file their appeals, rather than the normal 30 days.

The bill resolves an ambiguity in current law as to whether officers or employees of the United States who are sued in their individual capacities—as opposed to their official capacities—are entitled to the 60-day period.

The amendments made by H.R. 2633 would make it clear that they are indeed entitled to the longer appeal period.

This change would also bring section 2107 in line with a pending revision to Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 4, which also governs the time for appeals in civil cases.

The amendment to Rule 4 was approved by the Supreme Court in April and is set to take effect on December 1, 2011.

H.R. 2633’s amendment to section 2107 will avoid confusion and inconsistency between the two provisions that pertain to the time to file an appeal in civil cases.

Finally, the change made by H.R. 2633 is consistent with the policy that underlies the longer appeal period involving federal parties generally.

If the United States represents a federal party, the government typically needs time to review the case, determine whether an appeal should be taken, and secure the Solicitor General’s approval for that appeal.

The same concern applies when the United States—through the Justice Department or some other federal litigating entity such as the House Office of General Counsel or the Senate Office of Legal Counsel—decides to represent a current or former officer or employee sued in his or her individual capacity.

Therefore, making it clear that the 60-day time period to file an appeal is available in such cases serves that policy goal.

H.R. 2633 was reported by the Judiciary Committee without amendment by voice vote. The version of the bill we are considering today is identical, but for the addition of certain findings made at the Senate’s recommendation.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2633, the Appeal Time Clarification Act of 2011. This legislation provides an important clarification to the law.

Under the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, the law allows 60 days to file a notice of appeal for civil cases if the United States or a federal officer is a party. However, the legislation fails to disclose whether the 60 day period applies to current and/or former federal employees who are sued in an individual capacity.

The Appeal Time Clarification Act of 2011 performs as a means to clarify the discrepancies created by the initial policy. It essentially amends the federal judicial code requirements concerning the time limits for the filing

of appeals to any judgment, order, or decree in a civil action, suit, or proceeding.

According to the Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate, as ordered by the House Committee on the Judiciary, H.R. 2633 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. The CBO estimates that enacting the bill "would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply."

There are no solid concerns that have been raised in the House regarding this legislation. However, the Senate Judiciary Committee has expressed its observation that the bill's language regarding individual capacity lawsuits may be read in such a way as to exclude those cases where the individual is represented by the Senate Legal Counsel or the House Office of General Counsel rather than the Department of Justice (for example, in a lawsuit between the legislative and executive branches concerning executive privilege).

Summarily H.R. 2633 extends the 60 day filing deadline to any civil action, suit, or proceeding in which one of the parties is "a current or former U.S. officer or employee sued in an individual capacity for an act. This amendment provides the government with the time it needs to review the case, determine whether an appeal should be taken, and secure the Solicitor General's approval for that appeal. These same policy reasons apply in a case where the United States—through DOJ or some other federal litigating entity—decides to represent a current or former officer or employee sued in his or her individual capacity.

I applaud my friend from Michigan, Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee for introducing this important legislation to protect past and present federal employees. I urge my colleagues to lend their support to the bill.

Mr. COBLE. I thank my friend from Michigan for his kind words.

Mr. Speaker, I also yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2633, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

EXTENSION OF REDACTION AUTHORITY CONCERNING SENSITIVE SECURITY INFORMATION

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1059) to protect the safety of judges by extending the authority of the Judicial Conference to redact sensitive information contained in their financial disclosure reports, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1059

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF REDACTION AUTHORITY CONCERNING SENSITIVE SECURITY INFORMATION.

Section 105(b)(3) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking "Marshall" and inserting "Marshals"; and

(2) by striking subparagraph (E).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 1059 currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

□ 1620

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I support H.R. 1059 and again thank the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) for having sponsored it. I also thank the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) and the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) for having served as cosponsors.

H.R. 1059 promotes an important goal—providing security for Federal judges. Under the Ethics in Government Act, judges and other high-level judicial branch officials must file annual financial disclosure reports. This requirement increases public confidence in government officials and better enables the public to judge the performance of those officials.

However, recognizing the nature of the judicial function and the increased security risks it entails, Congress also enacted legislation that allowed the Judicial Conference to redact statutorily required information in a financial disclosure report where release of such information could possibly endanger the filer or his or her family.

Those seeking to harm or intimidate Federal judges might use a disclosure form to identify where someone's spouse or child works or goes to school on a regular basis. However, individuals targeting judges for harassment have also been known to file false liens on properties owned by judges and their families. Harassers could use judicial financial disclosure reports to more easily identify such property.

The Judicial Conference delegated to its Committee on Financial Disclosure

the responsibility for implementing the financial disclosure requirements for judges and judicial employees under the Ethics in Government Act. The committee monitors the release of financial disclosure reports to ensure compliance with the statute. In consultation with the U.S. Marshals Service, the committee also reviews and approves or disapproves any request for the redaction of statutorily mandated information where the filer believes the release of the information could endanger the filer or his or her family.

Under the Judicial Conference's regulations, no redaction will be granted without a clear nexus between a security risk and the information for which a redaction is sought. The law has worked well through the years and has been reauthorized twice since 2001. But it expires at the end of this calendar year if we fail to act—an outcome that is unacceptable. Last year, the Marshals Service investigated and analyzed almost 1,400 threats and inappropriate communications to judicial officials—nearly three times as many threats recorded in 2003. There were more than 3,900 "incidents" and arrests at U.S. court facilities in 2010.

Financial disclosures are an important part of maintaining an open and transparent government, Mr. Speaker. But government transparency should not come at the cost of personal security for government officials. Judges and other judicial employees perform important work that is integral to our democratic system of government. In order to preserve the integrity of our democracy, we must protect the integrity of our courts. And that means ensuring the security of judges and other judicial employees from intimidation and threats.

In conclusion, there's no evidence that the law is being abused. I support H.R. 1059 and urge my colleagues to extend the redaction authority permanently.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the chairman of Judiciary, LAMAR SMITH, as well as the subcommittee chair, Mr. COBLE, for swiftly moving this through the Judiciary Committee. I think it has been explained that the redaction of sensitive information for the benefit of members of the judiciary is obvious and important. I am hoping that with my consultation with the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee we would be able to make the permanent feature that HOWARD COBLE has discussed a permanent one and a part of the law as it now exists.

H.R. 1059 gives the Judicial Conference of the United States permanent authority to redact certain sensitive information from public financial disclosures required by the Ethics in Government Act.

This important legislation, which was ordered reported from the Judiciary Committee

by voice vote, deserves the support of the entire House for a number of reasons.

First, H.R. 1059 properly balances the purposes of the Ethics in Government Act with the need to ensure the security of judges, judicial employees, and their families.

The Ethics in Government Act serves to promote ethics and openness in the federal government by reducing the risk of corruption or preventing the appearance of impropriety.

The Act accomplishes this objective by requiring the public disclosure of certain information, including identification of personal financial information, non-governmental sources of income, gifts, property interests, and liabilities.

Unfortunately, the required disclosures can also include critical information about the filer's residence, a spouse's workplace, a child's workplace, or a vacation home. This information has the potential to place individual judges, employees, and their families at risk. The bill's redaction authority is critical to ensuring that this information does not get into the wrong hands.

Second, the risk to the personal safety of federal judges and court employees from disclosure of personal location information is real.

But, without further action, this important protection for judicial security will expire at the end of this year.

And, finally, making this redaction authority permanent will not lead to abuse of such authority.

The federal judiciary has utilized such authority very sparingly.

For instance, there were 17,658 financial disclosure filings between 2007 and 2010. Of those, there were 750 instances where filers requested redaction. Of that number, 645 redaction requests were granted in full, while 70 requests were granted in part, and 35 requests were denied.

Thus, in only 4.2 percent of filings was redaction even requested, and not all of those were granted.

It's clear, based on these statistics, that the federal judiciary exercises considerable restraint in applying its redaction authority in recognition of the need for public disclosure.

The Government Accountability Office similarly reported in 2004 that the judiciary's exercise of its redaction authority provided a measure of security to at-risk individuals, while not substantially interfering with dissemination of information to the public.

Congress first recognized the value of granting redaction authority to the judiciary back in 1998. It has repeatedly reauthorized redaction authority on a temporary basis since then, except for a two-year lapse in 2006 and 2007.

In order to avoid future lapses, this redaction authority should be made permanent.

In closing, I would like to thank Chairman LAMAR SMITH and Subcommittee Chair HOWARD COBLE for moving this important legislation through the committee and swiftly to the floor. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 1059, a bill to protect the safety of judges by extending the authority of the Judicial Conference to redact sensitive information contained in their financial disclosure reports. This legislation will provide a vital safety

measure for judges who have dedicated their lives to serving the public.

As a senior Member of both the Judiciary and Homeland Security committees, I have worked tirelessly to ensure the safety and integrity of those who are members of the judiciary. The Ethics in Government Act requires judges, like Members of Congress and other high ranking public officials to file annual financial disclosure reports. This requirement serves to bolster the confidence of the public in the professional integrity of individuals who serve their community.

Although the intent of the Act is to bolster public confidence in the judiciary it has an unintended consequence inherent in full public disclosure. Full financial disclosure impacts the personal safety of judges, particularly the safety of judges who sentence criminals. Some of the information contained in financial disclosure reports could reveal information which pertains to the schools, workplaces, and homes of judges and their families. This type of information provides easy access to personal information that could be used by an individual to intimidate or harm a judge or her family. In order to mitigate these risks, section 7 of the Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act of 1998 allows the Judicial Conference to redact information found in financial disclosures that would place a judge or their family at risk.

This legislation does not exempt judicial employees and judges from filing financial disclosures. The Judicial Conference's Committee on Financial Disclosures works in coordination with the U.S. Marshals Service to determine the merit of requests for redaction. The Judicial conference reports that between 2007 and 2010, of the 17,658 financial disclosure reports filed, there were only 750 redaction requests, or 4.2 percent of the reports filed. There were 645 redaction requests that were fully granted, and 70 that were partially granted.

This legislation protects judges and their families from those that may seek to harm or intimidate the judge. The majority of redaction requests that were approved contained information that indicated the whereabouts of the filer's family on a regular basis, or the residence at which the filing party lived. H.R. 1059 does not exempt anyone from fulfilling their requirement to file a financial disclosure.

In the 110th Congress, my colleagues and I extended the authorizing section of the Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act twice to ensure continued protection of our judges and their families. The last extension will expire on December 31, 2011, leaving thousands of dedicated public servants and their loved ones vulnerable to harm or harassment.

I applaud my friend from Michigan, the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee for introducing this important legislation to protect judges and judicial employees. I urge my colleagues to lend their support to the bill.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1059.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 26 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1833

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at 6 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.

AMERICAN JOBS ACT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112-53)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committees on Education and the Workforce; Energy and Commerce; Financial Services; House Administration; the Judiciary; Oversight and Government Reform; Rules; Science, Space, and Technology; Small Business; Transportation and Infrastructure; and Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Today, I am pleased to submit to the Congress the enclosed legislative proposal, the "American Jobs Act of 2011," together with a section-by-section analysis of the legislation.

The American people understand that the economic crisis and the deep recession were not created overnight and will not be solved overnight. The economic security of the middle class has been under attack for decades. That is why I believe we need to do more than just recover from this economic crisis—we need to rebuild the economy the American way, based on balance, fairness, and the same set of rules for everyone from Wall Street to Main Street. We can work together to create the jobs of the future by helping small business entrepreneurs, by investing in education, and by making things the world buys.

To create jobs, I am submitting the American Jobs Act of 2011—nearly all

of which is made up of the kinds of proposals supported by both Republicans and Democrats, and that the Congress should pass right away to get the economy moving now. The purpose of the American Jobs Act of 2011 is simple: put more people back to work and put more money in the pockets of working Americans. And it will do so without adding a dime to the deficit.

First, the American Jobs Act of 2011 provides a tax cut for small businesses, to help them hire and expand now, and an additional tax cut to any business that hires or increases wages. In addition, the American Jobs Act of 2011 puts more money in the pockets of working and middle class Americans by cutting in half the payroll tax that comes out of the paycheck of every worker, saving typical families an average of \$1,500 a year.

Second, the American Jobs Act of 2011 puts more people back to work, including teachers laid off by State budget cuts, first responders and veterans coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan, and construction workers repairing crumbling bridges, roads and more than 35,000 schools, with projects chosen by need and impact, not earmarks and politics. It will repair and refurbish hundreds of thousands of foreclosed homes and businesses in communities across the country.

Third, the American Jobs Act of 2011 helps out-of-work Americans by extending unemployment benefits to help them support their families while looking for work, and by reforming the system with training programs that build real skills, connect to real jobs, and help the long-term unemployed. It bans employers from discriminating against the unemployed when hiring, and provides a new tax credit to employers hiring workers who have been out of a job for over 6 months. And, it expands job opportunities for hundreds of thousands of low-income youth and adults through a new Pathways Back to Work Fund that supports summer and year round jobs for youth; innovative new job training programs to connect low-income workers to jobs quickly; and successful programs to encourage employers to bring on disadvantaged workers.

Lastly, this legislation is fully paid for. The legislation includes specific offsets to close corporate tax loopholes and asks the wealthiest Americans to pay their fair share that more than cover the cost of the jobs measures. The legislation also increases the deficit reduction target for the Joint Committee by the amount of the cost of the jobs package and specifies that, if the Committee reaches that higher target, then their measures would replace and turn off the specific offsets in this legislation.

I urge the prompt and favorable consideration of this proposal.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 12, 2011.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 2076, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 2633, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1059, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

INVESTIGATIVE ASSISTANCE FOR VIOLENT CRIMES ACT OF 2011

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2076) to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify the statutory authority for the longstanding practice of the Department of Justice of providing investigatory assistance on request of State and local authorities with respect to certain serious violent crimes, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. GOWDY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 358, nays 9, not voting 64, as follows:

[Roll No. 699]

YEAS—358

Ackerman	Burton (IN)	Davis (CA)
Adams	Butterfield	Davis (IL)
Aderholt	Calvert	DeGette
Akin	Camp	DeLauro
Alexander	Campbell	Denham
Altmire	Canseco	Dent
Andrews	Capito	DesJarlais
Baca	Capps	Deutch
Bachus	Carnahan	Diaz-Balart
Baldwin	Carney	Dicks
Barrow	Carson (IN)	Dingell
Bartlett	Carter	Dold
Barton (TX)	Cassidy	Donnelly (IN)
Bass (CA)	Castor (FL)	Doyle
Bass (NH)	Chabot	Dreier
Becerra	Cicilline	Duffy
Berg	Clarke (MI)	Duncan (SC)
Berkley	Clarke (NY)	Duncan (TN)
Biggart	Clay	Edwards
Bilbray	Cleaver	Ellison
Bilirakis	Clyburn	Ellmers
Bishop (GA)	Coble	Emerson
Bishop (NY)	Coffman (CO)	Eshoo
Black	Cohen	Farenthold
Blackburn	Cole	Farr
Blumenauer	Conaway	Fattah
Bonner	Connolly (VA)	Filner
Bono Mack	Conyers	Fincher
Boren	Cooper	Fitzpatrick
Boswell	Costa	Fleischmann
Boustany	Courtney	Fleming
Brady (PA)	Cravaack	Flores
Brady (TX)	Crawford	Forbes
Braley (IA)	Crenshaw	Fortenberry
Brooks	Critz	Foxx
Brown (FL)	Crowley	Frelinghuysen
Bucshon	Cuellar	Fudge
Buerkle	Culberson	Garamendi
Burgess	Cummings	Gardner

Garrett	Lucas	Ross (FL)
Gerlach	Luetkemeyer	Rothman (NJ)
Gibbs	Lujan	Roybal-Allard
Gibson	Lummis	Runyan
Gingrey (GA)	Lungren, Daniel	Ruppersberger
Gohmert	E.	Ryan (OH)
Gonzalez	Mack	Ryan (WI)
Goodlatte	Maloney	Sanchez, Linda
Gosar	Manzullo	T.
Gowdy	Markey	Sanchez, Loretta
Granger	Matheson	Sarbanes
Graves (MO)	Matsui	Scalise
Green, Gene	McCarthy (CA)	Schakowsky
Griffin (AR)	McCarthy (NY)	Schiff
Griffith (VA)	McCaul	Schilling
Grijalva	McCollum	Schmidt
Grimm	McCotter	Schock
Guinta	McDermott	Schrader
Guthrie	McGovern	Schwartz
Hahn	McHenry	Schweikert
Hall	McIntyre	Scott (SC)
Hanabusa	McKeon	Scott (VA)
Hanna	McKinley	Scott, Austin
Harper	McMorris	Scott, David
Harris	Rodgers	Sensenbrenner
Hartzler	McNerney	Serrano
Hastings (FL)	Meehan	Sewell
Hastings (WA)	Mica	Sherman
Hayworth	Michaud	Shimkus
Heck	Miller (FL)	Shuster
Hensarling	Miller (MI)	Simpson
Herrera Beutler	Miller (NC)	Sires
Higgins	Moore	Slaughter
Himes	Mulvaney	Smith (NE)
Hinojosa	Murphy (PA)	Smith (TX)
Hirono	Myrick	Southerland
Hochul	Napolitano	Speier
Holden	Neal	Stark
Honda	Nugent	Stearns
Hoyer	Nunes	Stivers
Huelskamp	Nunnelee	Stutzman
Huizenga (MI)	Olson	Sullivan
Hultgren	Olver	Sutton
Hunter	Owens	Terry
Hurt	Palazzo	Thompson (CA)
Israel	Pallone	Thompson (MS)
Issa	Pascarella	Thompson (PA)
Jackson (IL)	Pearce	Thornberry
Jenkins	Pelosi	Tiberi
Johnson (IL)	Pence	Tierney
Johnson (OH)	Perlmutter	Tipton
Johnson, E. B.	Peters	Tonko
Johnson, Sam	Peterson	Tsongas
Jones	Petri	Turner
Jordan	Pingree (ME)	Upton
Kaptur	Pitts	Van Hollen
Keating	Platts	Velázquez
Kelly	Pompeo	Visclosky
Kildee	Posey	Walberg
Kind	Price (GA)	Walden
Kingston	Price (NC)	Quayle
Kissell	Quayle	Walsh (IL)
Kline	Quigley	Walz (MN)
Kucinich	Rangel	Waters
Labrador	Reed	Watt
Lance	Rehberg	Webster
Landry	Reichert	Welch
Langevin	Renacci	West
Lankford	Richardson	Westmoreland
Larsen (WA)	Richmond	Whitfield
Larson (CT)	Rigell	Wilson (FL)
Latham	Rivera	Wilson (SC)
LaTourette	Roby	Wittman
Latta	Roe (TN)	Wolf
Lee (CA)	Rogers (AL)	Womack
Levin	Rogers (KY)	Woodall
Lewis (CA)	Rogers (MI)	Woolsey
LoBiondo	Rokita	Yarmuth
Loebuck	Rooney	Yoder
Lofgren, Zoe	Ros-Lehtinen	Young (FL)
Long	Roskam	Young (IN)
Lowey	Ross (AR)	

NAYS—9

NOT VOTING—64

Amash	Flake	Ribble
Benishak	Graves (GA)	Rohrabacher
Broun (GA)	McClintock	Young (AK)
Austria	Cantor	Costello
Bachmann	Capuano	Davis (KY)
Barletta	Cardoza	DeFazio
Berman	Chaffetz	Doggett
Bishop (UT)	Chandler	Engel
Buchanan	Chu	Frank (MA)

Franks (AZ)	Lamborn	Paulsen	Brooks	Goodlatte	McCaull	Scott, Austin	Stutzman	Walsh (IL)
Galleghy	Lewis (GA)	Payne	Broun (GA)	Gosar	McClintock	Scott, David	Sullivan	Walz (MN)
Giffords	Lipinski	Poe (TX)	Brown (FL)	Gowdy	McCollum	Sensenbrenner	Sutton	Waters
Green, Al	Lynch	Polis	Bucshon	Granger	McCotter	Serrano	Terry	Watt
Gutierrez	Marchant	Rahall	Buerkle	Graves (GA)	McDermott	Sessions	Thompson (CA)	Webster
Heinrich	Marino	Reyes	Burgess	Graves (MO)	McGovern	Sewell	Thompson (MS)	Welch
Herger	Meeks	Royce	Burton (IN)	Green, Gene	McHenry	Sherman	Thompson (PA)	West
Hinchey	Miller, Gary	Rush	Butterfield	Griffin (AR)	McIntyre	Shimkus	Thornberry	Westmoreland
Holt	Miller, George	Sessions	Calvert	Griffith (VA)	McKeon	Shuster	Tiberi	Whitfield
Inslee	Moran	Shuler	Camp	Grijalva	McKinley	Simpson	Tierney	Wilson (FL)
Jackson Lee	Murphy (CT)	Smith (NJ)	Campbell	Grimm	McMorris	Sires	Tipton	Wilson (SC)
(TX)	Nadler	Smith (WA)	Canseco	Guinta	Rodgers	Slaughter	Tonko	Wittman
Johnson (GA)	Neugebauer	Towns	Cantor	Guthrie	McNerney	Smith (NE)	Tsongas	Wolf
King (IA)	Noem	Wasserman	Capito	Gutierrez	Meehan	Smith (NJ)	Turner	Womack
King (NY)	Pastor (AZ)	Schultz	Capps	Hahn	Meeks	Smith (TX)	Upton	Woodall
Kinzingler (IL)	Paul	Waxman	Carnahan	Hall	Mica	Southerland	Van Hollen	Woolsey

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Two minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1857

Messrs. ROHRBACHER and GRAVES of Georgia changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 699, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 699, had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 699, my plane flight was delayed. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

APPEAL TIME CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2011

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2633) to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify the time limits for appeals in civil cases to which United States officers or employees are parties, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 384, nays 0, not voting 47, as follows:

[Roll No. 700]

YEAS—384

Ackerman	Bartlett	Bishop (NY)	Goodlatte	McCaull	Scott, Austin	Stutzman
Adams	Barton (TX)	Bishop (UT)	Gosar	McClintock	Scott, David	Sullivan
Aderholt	Bass (CA)	Black	Gowdy	McCollum	Sensenbrenner	Sutton
Akin	Bass (NH)	Blackburn	Granger	McCotter	Serrano	Terry
Alexander	Becerra	Blumenauer	Graves (GA)	McDermott	Sessions	Thompson (CA)
Altmire	Benishkek	Bonner	Graves (MO)	McGovern	Sewell	Thompson (MS)
Amash	Berg	Bono Mack	Green, Gene	McHenry	Sherman	Thompson (PA)
Andrews	Berkley	Boren	Griffin (AR)	McIntyre	Shimkus	Thornberry
Austria	Berman	Boswell	Griffith (VA)	McKeon	Shuster	Tiberi
Baca	Biggart	Boustany	Grijalva	McKinley	Simpson	Tierney
Bachus	Bilbray	Brady (PA)	Grimm	McMorris	Sires	Tipton
Baldwin	Bilirakis	Brady (TX)	Guinta	Rodgers	Slaughter	Tonko
Barrow	Bishop (GA)	Braley (IA)	Guthrie	McNerney	Smith (NE)	Tsongas
			Gutierrez	Meehan	Smith (NJ)	Turner
			Hahn	Meeks	Smith (TX)	Upton
			Hall	Mica	Southerland	Van Hollen
			Hanabusa	Michaud	Speier	Velázquez
			Hanna	Miller (FL)	Stark	Visclosky
			Harper	Miller (MI)	Stearns	Walberg
			Harris	Miller (NC)	Stivers	Walden
			Hartzler	Moore		
			Hastings (FL)	Mulvaney		
			Hastings (WA)	Murphy (PA)		
			Hayworth	Myrick		
			Heck	Napolitano		
			Hensarling	Neal		
			Herger	Nugent		
			Herrera Beutler	Nunes		
			Higgins	Nunnelee		
			Himes	Olson		
			Hinojosa	Olver		
			Hirono	Owens		
			Hochul	Palazzo		
			Holden	Pallone		
			Honda	Pascarell		
			Hoyer	Pearce		
			Huelskamp	Pelosi		
			Huizenga (MI)	Pence		
			Hultgren	Perlmutter		
			Hunter	Peters		
			Inslee	Peterson		
			Israel	Petri		
			Issa	Pingree (ME)		
			Jackson (IL)	Pitts		
			Jenkins	Platts		
			Johnson (GA)	Pompeo		
			Johnson (IL)	Posey		
			Johnson (OH)	Price (GA)		
			Johnson, E. B.	Price (NC)		
			Johnson, Sam	Quayle		
			Jones	Quigley		
			Jordan	Rahall		
			Kaptur	Rangel		
			Keating	Reed		
			Kelly	Rehberg		
			Kildee	Reichert		
			Kind	Renacci		
			King (IA)	Ribble		
			Kingston	Richardson		
			Kissell	Richmond		
			Kline	Rigell		
			Kucinich	Rivera		
			Labrador	Roby		
			Lamborn	Roe (TN)		
			Lance	Rogers (AL)		
			Landry	Rogers (KY)		
			Langevin	Rogers (MI)		
			Lankford	Rohrabacher		
			Larsen (WA)	Rokita		
			Larson (CT)	Rooney		
			Latham	Ros-Lehtinen		
			LaTourette	Roskam		
			Latta	Ross (AR)		
			Lee (CA)	Ross (FL)		
			Levin	Rothman (NJ)		
			Lewis (CA)	Roybal-Allard		
			LoBiondo	Royce		
			Loebbeck	Runyan		
			Lofgren, Zoe	Ruppersberger		
			Long	Ryan (OH)		
			Lowey	Ryan (WI)		
			Lucas	Sánchez, Linda		
			Luetkemeyer	T.		
			Luján	Sanchez, Loretta		
			Lummis	Sarbanes		
			Lungren, Daniel	Scalise		
			E.	Schakowsky		
			Mack	Schiff		
			Maloney	Schilling		
			Manzullo	Schmidt		
			Marchant	Schock		
			Markey	Schrader		
			Matheson	Schwartz		
			Matsui	Schweikert		
			McCarthy (CA)	Scott (SC)		
			McCarthy (NY)	Scott (VA)		

NOT VOTING—47

Bachmann	Holt	Pastor (AZ)
Barletta	Hurt	Paul
Buchanan	Jackson Lee	Paulsen
Capuano	(TX)	Payne
Cardoza	King (NY)	Poe (TX)
Chaffetz	Kinzingler (IL)	Polis
Costello	Lewis (GA)	Reyes
Davis (KY)	Lipinski	Rush
DeFazio	Lynch	Shuler
Engel	Marino	Smith (WA)
Frank (MA)	Miller, Gary	Towns
Franks (AZ)	Miller, George	Wasserman
Galleghy	Moran	Schultz
Giffords	Murphy (CT)	Waxman
Green, Al	Nadler	Yarmuth
Heinrich	Neugebauer	
Hinchey	Noem	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are less than 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1904

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXTENSION OF REDACTION AUTHORITY CONCERNING SENSITIVE SECURITY INFORMATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1059) to protect the safety of judges by extending the authority of the Judicial Conference to redact sensitive information contained in their financial disclosure reports, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 384, nays 0, not voting 47, as follows:

[Roll No. 701]

YEAS—384

Ackerman	Alexander	Austria
Adams	Altmire	Baca
Aderholt	Amash	Bachus
Akin	Andrews	Baldwin

Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Benishkek
Berg
Berkley
Berman
Biggart
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Emerson

Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Flemer
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huiwegen (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
Kingston
Kissell
Kline
Kucinich
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)

Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
LoBiondo
Loebach
Lofgren, Zoe
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan
Lummis
Lungrun, Daniel
E.
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markay
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCauley
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Moore
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Napolitano
Neal
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Olver
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascarelli
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quayle
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Rohy
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney

Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schradner
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner

Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Speier
Stark
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko

Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Webster
Welch
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Woolsey
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

MAKING IN ORDER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2887, SURFACE AND AIR TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS EXTENSION ACT OF 2011

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it shall be in order at any time without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2887) to provide an extension of surface and air transportation programs, and for other purposes; the bill shall be considered as read; the bill shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; and the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIPTON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, September 12, 2011.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: On September 8, 2011, pursuant to section 3307 of Title 40, United States Code, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure met in open session to consider resolutions to authorize five lease prospectuses included in the General Services Administration's (GSA) FY2011 Capital Investment and Leasing Program (CILP) and one lease prospectus included in GSA's FY2012 CILP.

Our Committee continues to work to cut waste and the cost of federal property and leases. The six resolutions approved by the Committee will save the taxpayer more than \$21 million annually or more than \$210 million over ten years. These resolutions ensure savings through lower rents, avoidance of holdover penalties, and efficiencies created through consolidation. In addition, the Committee has included space utilization requirements in each of the resolutions to ensure agencies find ways to shrink our real property footprint.

I have enclosed copies of the resolutions adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on September 8, 2011.

Sincerely,

JOHN L. MICA, M.C.,
Chairman.

Enclosures.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that, pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307,

NOT VOTING—47

Bachmann
Barletta
Buchanan
Capuano
Cardoza
Chaffetz
Conyers
Costello
Davis (KY)
DeFazio
DeGette
Engel
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Gallegly
Giffords
Green, Al
Heinrich
Hinchey
Holt
Jackson Lee
(TX)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lynch
Marino
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Nadler
Neugebauer
Noem
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Payne
Poe (TX)
Polis
Reyes
Rush
Shuler
Smith (WA)
Towns
Wasserman
Schultz
Yarmuth

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Two minutes are remaining in this vote.

□ 1911

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I was unavoidably detained and missed the following votes:

H.R. 2076—Investigative Assistance for Violent Crimes Act of 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

H.R. 2633—Appeal Time Clarification Act of 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

H.R. 1059—To protect the safety of judges by extending the authority of the Judicial Conference to redact sensitive information contained in their financial disclosure reports, and for other purposes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

appropriations are authorized for a replacement lease of up to 147,000 rentable square feet of space for the Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office, currently located at One Penn Plaza, New York, NY, at a proposed total annual cost of \$8,820,000 for a lease term of up to 10 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administration and tenant agencies agree to apply a utilization rate of 138 square feet or less per person as de-

tailed in the Housing Plan contained in the prospectus.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in a utilization rate of 138 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option than can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, *except that*, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
NEW YORK, NY**

Prospectus Number: PNY-01-NY12
Congressional District: 08

Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a replacement lease of up to 147,000 rentable square feet (rsf) for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office (ICE), located at One Penn Plaza in New York City, NY.

The U.S. Customs Service was formerly housed at 6 World Trade Center, which was destroyed during the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The current lease at One Penn Plaza was the result of an emergency relocation executed under a blanket authorization issued immediately after September 11, 2001. The current lease is due to expire September 30, 2011 and since there are no renewal options available, the proposed project will ensure continued housing for DHS-CBP and ICE.

Description

Occupants:	DHS-CBP, ICE
Delineated Area:	Midtown, Midtown South and Downtown Manhattan, NYC
Lease Type:	Replacement
Justification:	Expiring lease (09/30/2011)
Expansion Space:	None
Number of Parking Spaces:	None
Scoring:	Operating lease
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	10 years w/cancellation rights after the 5 th year
Maximum Rentable Square Feet:	147,000 rsf
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$10,097,356
Proposed Total Annual Cost: ¹	\$8,820,000
Maximum Proposed Rental Rate: ²	\$60.00 per rsf

¹ Any new lease may contain an annual escalation clause to provide for increases or decreases in real estate taxes and operating costs.

² This estimate is for fiscal year 2012 and may be escalated by 1.7 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
NEW YORK, NY**

Prospectus Number: PNY-01-NY12
Congressional District: 08

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Solicitation for Offers and other documents related to the procurement of space for which this prospectus seeks authorization. GSA encourages offerors to work with energy service providers to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement.

Authorization

- Approval of this prospectus by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works will constitute authority to lease space in a facility that will yield the required area.
- Approval of this prospectus will constitute authority to provide for an extension of the current lease or interim leases at alternate locations, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
NEW YORK, NY**

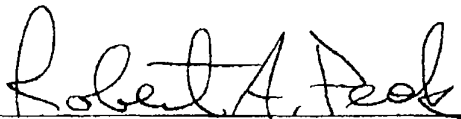
Prospectus Number: PNY-01-NY12
Congressional District: 08

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

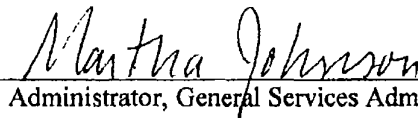
Submitted at Washington, DC, on March 9, 2011

Recommended: _____



Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____



Administrator, General Services Administration

December 2010

House Plan
Department of Homeland SecurityNew York, NY
PN: NY12

Locations	Current			Proposed		
	Usable Square Feet (USF)			Usable Square Feet (USF)		
	Personnel	Office	Total	Personnel	Office	Total
ONE PENN PLAZA						
DHS - Customs and Border protection	400	79,786	87,111	400	79,786	87,111
DHS - Immigration and Customs	110	11,110	12,215	110	11,110	12,215
Total:	510	90,896	99,326	510	90,896	99,326

Current	Proposed
Utilization	
Rate	138

Current UR excludes 19,997 USF of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 19,997 USF of office support space

Special Space	
Break Rooms	800
Mail Rooms	470
Conference Rooms	2,025
Training Rooms	650
Restrooms	450
Total:	4,395

USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY,
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that, pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized to exercise renewal options of up to 531,976 rentable square feet for the Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service and the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, currently located at 5045 East Butler Avenue in

Fresno, CA at a proposed total annual cost of \$15,959,280 for a lease term of up to 10 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administration and tenant agencies agree to apply a utilization rate of 52 square feet or less per person as detailed in the Housing Plan contained in the prospectus.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in a utilization rate of 52 square feet or higher per person.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
FRESNO, CA**

Prospectus Number: PCA-09-FR11
Congressional District: 20

Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) is seeking authority to exercise renewal options of up to ten years for the Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA), currently located in 531,976 rentable square feet of space at 5045 East Butler Avenue in Fresno, CA.

The existing building was originally constructed specifically for IRS, which has occupied the premises continuously since 1971. Currently, IRS is developing a national long-term strategy regarding the functions and space requirements of its national super-centers. One of these super-centers is planned to be located in Fresno, CA, with an approximate proposed occupancy of 2021 or earlier.

GSA is in discussions with the current lessor regarding IRS's continued tenancy at the existing Fresno location. GSA intends to negotiate more favorable terms for the Government's benefit.

Justification

It is in the Government's best interest to exercise the first five-year renewal option and potentially the second five year renewal option or modify and exercise the renewal option(s) to extend IRS/TIGA's occupancy at the existing location, until long-term plans and requirements can be finalized and a future housing strategy proposed. In addition, timely authority is required, since notice to exercise the first five-year option and funding confirmation is due 365 days prior to lease expiration or November 30, 2010.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
FRESNO, CA**

Prospectus Number: PCA-09-FR11
Congressional District: 20

Description

Occupants:	IRS, TIGTA
Current Location:	5045 East Butler Avenue
Justification:	Expiring lease (November 30, 2011) Notice to exercise first option on or before November 30, 2010.
Number of Parking Spaces:	2,641
Expansion Space:	None
Scoring:	Operating Lease
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	10 years
Maximum Rentable Square Feet:	531,976
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$14,862,928
Proposed Total Annual Cost ¹ :	\$15,959,280
Maximum Proposed Rental Rate ² :	\$30.00 per rentable square feet

Authorizations

- Approval of this prospectus by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works will constitute authority to lease space in a facility that will yield the required area.
- Approval of this prospectus will constitute authority to provide an interim lease, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.
- Approval of this prospectus will constitute authority to negotiate lease modification for the renewal option(s).

¹Any new lease may contain an annual escalation clause to provide for increases or decreases in real estate taxes and operating costs.

²This estimate is for fiscal year 2012 and may be escalated by 1.7 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation.

GSAPBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
FRESNO, CA**

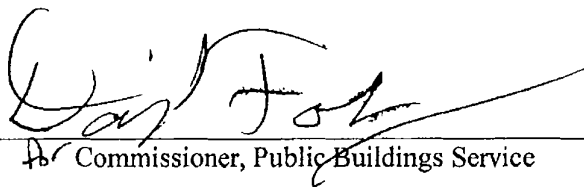
Prospectus Number: PCA-09-FR11
Congressional District: 20

Certification of Need

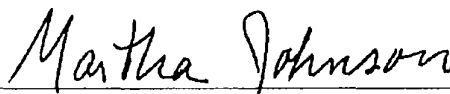
The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on September 10, 2010

Recommended: _____


David Fox
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____


Martha Johnson
Administrator, General Services Administration

January 2010

Housing Plan
Department of the TreasuryFraming, CA
PCA- FR11

Locations	Current						Proposed					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total
5045 E. BUTLER												
Internal Revenue Service	5,161	5,161	340,883	26,624	84,983	452,490	5,161	5,161	340,883	26,624	84,983	452,490
TIGTA	7	7	3,597	0	0	3,597	7	7	3,597	0	0	3,597
Total	5,168	5,168	344,480	26,624	84,983	456,087	5,168	5,168	344,480	26,624	84,983	456,087

Current/Proposed	
Utilization	
Rate	52
	52

Current UR excludes 75,785 USF of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 75,785 USF of office support space

Special Space	
Conference/Training	8,491
ADP	13,907
Cafeteria	20,394
Locker/Shower Room	254
Credit Union	925
Library	1,151
Health Unit	1,589
Security	6,937
Mechanical	13,638
Auditorium	3,207
Loading Dock	2,713
Printer/Copier	4,451
Telecommunications Rm	897
Mail Room	2,274
Break Room	4,155
Total:	84,983

USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that, pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for a consolidation lease of up to 469,000 rentable square feet for the Department of State currently located at several locations in the Washington, DC, metropolitan region at a proposed total annual cost of \$23,000,000 for a lease term of up to 15 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease, except that the Administrator may not enter into any leases other than interim leases that are below pro-

spectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus.

Provided that, the Administration and tenant agencies agree to apply a utilization rate of 156 square feet or less per person as detailed in the Housing Plan contained in the prospectus.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in a utilization rate of 156 square feet or higher per person.

Provided, that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exer-

cised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, *except that*, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-15-WA11

Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a consolidation lease of up to 500,000 rentable square feet of space for the Department of State (DoS). The additional space will allow DoS to consolidate the Bureau of Consular Affairs (CA) and Administration (A/EX) Bureaus. The proposal would bring to one location 1,159 CA staff and 202 A/EX staff, who are currently located in the Harry S. Truman Building and in State Annexes at the following addresses: 2401 E St., NW, Washington, DC; 1111 19th St., NW, Washington, DC; 2100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC; 7500 Boston Blvd., Springfield, VA; 1800 Kent St., Arlington, VA; and 1000 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA.

DoS and GSA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 1987 that committed to consolidating space and personnel in the Foggy Bottom area of the District of Columbia and in Rosslyn, VA. To the extent that it is practicable, DoS requires that the consolidated space be located proximate to HST in order to facilitate telecommunications and data links as well as security and improved daily operations.

The consolidation will allow CA to effectively house its personnel to meet its obligations to the American public and will achieve the following results:

- Increased oversight of passport operations;
- Greater efficiencies of management and operations;
- Increased customer service and passport adjudication efficiency;
- Reduced operation costs;
- Improved CA staff workplace conditions; and
- Reduced overcrowding at current locations.

In addition to the efficiencies of consolidation, CA requires additional space. As a result of several policy and procedure changes over the past seven years, CA has increased staffing and production facilities to meet growing needs.

One major policy change has been the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), which dramatically increased the demand for passports in Fiscal Year 2007 and Fiscal Year 2008 and changed the way that Passport Services does business. Congress mandated WHTI in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 and many of its requirements took effect on January 23, 2007. WHTI requires that all U.S. citizens traveling to other countries present a valid passport or other designated travel document to depart and reenter the United States.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-15-WA11

CA has gone from issuing 10.1 million passports in Fiscal Year 2005 to a record-setting 18.5 million in Fiscal Year 2007. In Fiscal Year 2008, CA issued 16.2 million passports (including 500,000 passport cards); the most recent Gallup projections anticipate 12.7 million issuances (including 1.6 million cards for travel to Canada, Mexico, or the Caribbean) for Fiscal Year 2009. Recognizing DoS's needs, in July 2007, Congress passed the Passport Backlog Reduction Act to enable DoS to respond to critical shortages of passport processing personnel. By collocating the Washington Passport Agency and the Special Issuance Agency with headquarters staff, DoS will be able to provide better oversight of these key offices.

Another substantial policy change has been CA's significantly increased responsibilities as the U.S. Central Authority for both the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-Operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption. From 2005 to present, the staff of CA's Office of Children's Issues has grown from 45 to 75 and additional positions will be needed to continue to meet its obligations.

In addition to the efficiencies created by consolidating nearly all of CA's Washington, DC, staff, relocating the Washington Passport Agency and the Special Issuance Agency, currently located at 1111 19th St, NW, is an extremely high priority due to overcrowding in the current leased building.

Description

Occupants:	Department of State
Delineated Area:	Foggy Bottom
Lease Type:	Consolidation/Expansion
Justification:	Improve operational efficiency and reduce overcrowding
Expansion Space:	211,000 rsf
Number of Parking Spaces ¹ :	25 inside
Scoring:	Operating Lease
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	15 years
Maximum Rentable Square Feet:	500,000
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$9,681,475

¹ DoS security requirements may necessitate control of parking at the location leased. This may be accomplished as a lessor furnished service, under an operating agreement with the lessor, or as part of the Government's leasehold interest in the building(s). Any parking included in the Government's leasehold interest may result in a total proposed annual cost in excess of the amounts indicated above.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-15-WA11

Proposed Total Annual Cost ² :	\$24,500,000
Maximum Proposed Rental Rate ³ :	\$49.00

Energy Performance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Solicitation for Offers and other documents related to the procurement of space for which this prospectus seeks authorization. GSA encourages offerors to work with energy service providers to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement.

Authorization

- Approval of this prospectus by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environmental and Public Works will constitute authority to lease space in one or more facilities that will yield the required rentable area.
- Approval of this prospectus will constitute authority to provide interim leases, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease(s).

² Any new lease may contain an annual escalation clause to provide for increases or decreases in real estate taxes and operating costs.

³ This estimate is for fiscal year 2012 and may be escalated by 1.7 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation.

GSAPBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON, DC

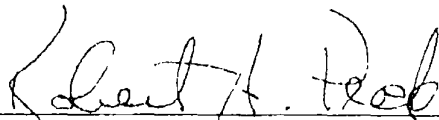
Prospectus Number: PDC-15-WA11

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on May 13, 2010

Recommended



Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved



Administrator, General Services Administration

Washington DC
PDC-15-WA11

HOUSING PLAN
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

December 2009

Locations	Current					Proposed						
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)				
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total
Existing CA Locations												
HST - 2201 C St., NW Wash DC	55	55	10,262			10,262						
SA-01 - 2401 E St., NW Wash DC	480	480	53,127	3,500	2,500	59,127						
SA-13 - 7002 Newington Rd., Lorton VA	-	-	-	4,757	-	4,757						
SA-15 - 1800 Kent St., Arlington VA	51	51	8,891	-	-	8,891						
SA-17 - 1111 19th St., NW Wash DC	225	225	39,452	1,500	16,600	57,552						
SA-21 - 7500 Boston Blvd., Springfield VA	4	4	120	2,636	-	2,756						
SA-29 - 2100 Penn Ave NW Wash DC	344	344	45,728	1,500	3,000	50,228						
Existing VEN Locations												
SA-27 - 1000 Wilson Blvd., Arlington VA	202	202	46,248	1,272	3,393	50,913						
Subtotal	1,361	1,361	203,829	15,165	25,493	244,487						
Proposed Lease(s)												
Consolidated Facility - CA							1,444	1,444	288,800	42,000	367,612	367,612
Consolidated Facility - A/EX							252	252	50,400	1,960	55,763	55,763
Total							1,696	1,696	339,200	43,960	423,365	423,365

Utilization Rate	Current	Proposed
	117	156

Current UR excludes 44,842 USF of Office for support space
Proposed UR excludes 74,624 USF of office for support space

Special Space		USF
Conference/Classroom		11,596
ADP		6,609
SCIF		800
Library		1,200
PPT Public Counter		20,000
Total		40,205

Usable square footage means the portion of the building available for use by tenants' personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building (e.g. auditorium, health units and snack bars). Usable square footage does not include space devoted to building operations and maintenance (e.g. staff support, gear rooms, building supply rooms, rest rooms and lobbies).

Usable square footage means the portion of the building available for use by tenants, personnel and furnishings, and space available jointly to the occupants of the building (e.g., auditorium, health units and snack bars). Usable square footage does not include space devoted to building operations and maintenance (e.g., craft shops, janitor's building, supply rooms, rest rooms and lobbies).

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that, pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for a replacement lease of up to 122,000 rentable square feet of space with 175 secured inside parking spaces for the Federal Bureau of Investigation at a proposed total annual cost of \$3,759,615 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administration and tenant agencies agree to apply a utilization rate of 157 square feet or less per person as detailed in the Housing Plan contained in the prospectus.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in a utilization rate of 157 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, *except that*, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS - LEASE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
CLEVELAND, OH**

Prospectus Number: POH-05-CL11
Congressional District: 11

Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a replacement lease of up to 122,000 rentable square feet (rsf) with 175 secured inside parking spaces for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). FBI currently occupies space at 1501 Lakeside Avenue, Cleveland, OH, under a lease that expires January 31, 2012.

Description

Occupants:	FBI
Delineated Area:	Cleveland, OH, Central Business District
Lease Type:	Replacement
Justification:	Expiring lease, 1/31/2012
Number of Parking Spaces:	175 secured inside
Expansion Space:	None
Scoring:	Operating Lease
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	20 years
Maximum Rentable Square Feet:	122,000
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$5,149,283
Proposed Total Annual Rental Cost ¹ :	\$3,172,000
Proposed Total Annual Parking Cost ² :	\$587,615
Proposed Total Annual Cost:	\$3,759,615
Maximum Proposed Rental Rate ³ :	\$26.00 per rentable square foot

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Solicitation for Offers and other documents related to the procurement of space for which this prospectus seeks authorization. GSA encourages offerors to work with energy service providers to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement.

¹ Any new lease may contain an annual escalation clause to provide for increases or decreases in real estate taxes and operating costs.

² FBI's security requirements may necessitate control of the parking at the leased location. This may be accomplished as a lessor-furnished service, as a separate operating agreement with the lessor, or as part of the Government's leasehold interest in the building.

³ This estimate is for fiscal year 2012 and may be escalated by 1.7 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation.

GSA

PBS

PROSPECTUS - LEASE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
CLEVELAND, OH

Prospectus Number: POH-05-CL11
Congressional District: 11

Authorizations

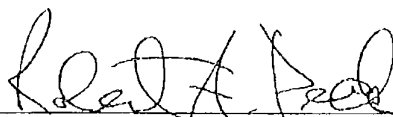
- Approval of this prospectus by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works will constitute authority to lease space in a facility that will yield the required area.
- Approval of this prospectus will constitute authority to provide an interim lease, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

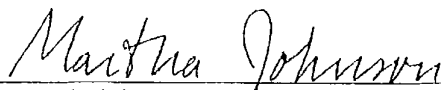
Submitted at Washington, DC, on December 21, 2010

Recommended:



Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved:



Administrator, General Services Administration

POH-05-CL11
Cleveland, OH

Hous. _'lan
FBI

February 2010

Locations	Current						Proposed					
	Personnel			Usable Square Feet (USF)			Personnel			Usable Square Feet (USF)		
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total
LAKESIDE AVENUE BLDG												
1513 - Federal Bureau Of Investigation	300	300	60,858	26,900	21,092	108,850	0	0	0	0	0	0
Replacement Lease	0	0	0	0	0	0	302	302	60,858	26,900	21,092	108,850
Total:	300	300	60,858	26,900	21,092	108,850	302	302	60,858	26,900	21,092	108,850

Current		Proposed	
Utilization			
Rate	158	157	

Current UR excludes 13,389 USF of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 13,389 USF of office support space

Special Space	
Restroom	920
Physical Fitness	2,500
Conference	4,619
ADP	7,963
Clinic/Health Unit	790
Mechanical rooms	500
Secured Storage	500
Break rooms	1,300
Processing Area	250
Mail Rooms	850
Vaults	400
Secured Room	500
Total:	21,092

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that, pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for a replacement lease of 224,000 rentable square feet of space and 428 inside parking spaces to accommodate government-owned and a small number of seized vehicles for the Drug Enforcement Administration's New York Field Division and Northeastern Regional Laboratory at a proposed total annual cost of \$19,090,000 for a lease term of up to 15 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all

tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administration and tenant agencies agree to apply a utilization rate of 77 square feet or less per person as detailed in the Housing Plan contained in the prospectus.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in a utilization rate of 77 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option than can be exer-

cised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, *except that*, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
NEW YORK, NY**

Prospectus Number: PNY-02-NY11
Congressional District: 08

Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a replacement lease of 224,000 rentable square feet (rsf) of space and 428 inside parking spaces to accommodate government-owned and a small number of seized vehicles for the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) New York Field Division (NYFD) and Northeastern Regional Laboratory (NERL).

The NYFD and NERL are separate divisions but work closely together. Direct interaction and consultation between NYFD special agents and the NERL chemist occur almost daily. In addition, DEA stores its highest value drug evidence at the laboratories. Collocating NERL with NYFD provides an increased level of security for the storage of the drug evidence and for the laboratory personnel.

As a result of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the DEA mission has evolved and NERL now supports and works closely with other law enforcement agencies in the fight against terrorist organizations, which are funded in large part by illegal drug activities. These law enforcement agencies include FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force, New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) task force, and Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF). The interaction of DEA with its fellow law enforcement agencies, with which it shares agents and intelligence, is critical to the successful performance of its mission and for this reason; the delineated area for the proposed replacement lease is Midtown South to Downtown, New York City, New York.

Description

Occupants:	DEA
Delineated Area:	Midtown South to Downtown, NYC
Lease Type:	Replacement
Justification:	Expiring lease (6/2/2011)
Number of Parking Spaces:	428 inside parking spaces for government and seized vehicles
Expansion Space:	None
Scoring:	Operating Lease
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	15 years
Maximum Office Rentable Square Feet:	224,000 rsf
Proposed Annual Rental Cost:	\$13,440,000
Proposed Annual Parking Cost:	\$5,650,000 (\$1,100/space/month)
Proposed Total Annual Cost:	\$19,090,000
Maximum Proposed Rental Rate:	\$60.00 per rsf

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
NEW YORK, NY**

Prospectus Number: PNY-02-NY11
Congressional District: 08

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Solicitation for Offers and other documents related to the procurement of space for which this prospectus seeks authorization. GSA encourages offerors to work with energy service providers to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement.

Authorizations

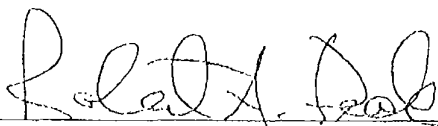
- Approval of this prospectus by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works will constitute authority to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.
- Approval of this prospectus will constitute authority to provide for an extension at the existing location or an interim lease, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

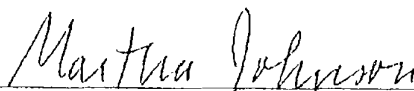
Submitted at Washington, DC, on December 21, 2010

Recommended: _____



Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____



Administrator, General Services Administration

August 2010

Housing Plan
Drug Enforcement Administration

New York, NY
PNY-11

Locations	*Current				Proposed			
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)		Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)	
	Office	Total	Office	Special	Storage	Total	Office	Special
99 10TH AVENUE NY NY	966	966	122,636	14,337	72,255	209,228	966	966
DEA							11,337	75,255
Total:	966	966	122,636	14,337	72,255	209,228	966	966

	Current	Proposed
Utilization	77	77
Rate	77	77

Current UR excludes 48,470 USF of office support space
Proposed UR excludes 48,470 USF of office support space

Special Space	
Laboratory**	30,190
Laboratory vault	3,000
Conference/meeting	5,950
Interview rooms	475
Physical fitness/restrooms	600
Physical fitness	2,700
Training room	10,890
Holding cells	1,100
Evidence vault	9,320
Tech Ops Command	5,430
Fleet Vehicle Maintenance	3,330
Tactical Training	2,270
Total:	75,255

*Current and Proposed reflect a recent re-measurement of DEA's space which will ultimately become the square footage used upon execution of the proposed succeeding lease. Prior to the re-measurement, office space totaled 269,961 rsf.

**Current Lab space totals 27,190 sq ft. Lab is to be expanded by 3,000 sq ft. Note: these totals do not include 3,000 sq ft lab vault.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION
LEASE—1800 G STREET, NW

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that, pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for a replacement lease of up to 294,000 rentable square feet for the Department of State, Executive of the President, Department of Justice, and Department of Veteran Affairs, currently located at 1800 G Street NW, Washington, DC, at a proposed total annual cost of \$14,406,000 for a lease term of up to 15 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administration and tenant agencies agree to apply a utilization rate of 155 square feet or less per person as detailed in the Housing Plan contained in the prospectus.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in a utilization rate of 155 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option than can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, *except that*, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
1800 G STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-11-WA11

Project Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a replacement lease for up to 294,000 rentable square feet (rst) of space for the Department of State (DOS), Executive Office of the President (EOP), Department of Justice (DOJ), and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), currently located at 1800 G Street NW, Washington DC. The four leases covered by this prospectus expire at various times in fiscal year 2011.

EOP occupies 50 percent of the government's space and DOS, DOJ and VA occupy the balance of the space under these leases. EOP's occupancy provides swing space for the renovation of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building (EEOB). EOP's mission requires its staff be located close to the EEOB and the White House Complex.

Description

Occupants:	EOP, DOS, DOJ, VA
Delineated Area:	Proximate to the White House Southwest: F Street West: 19 th Street, NW North: K Street, NW East: 14 th Street, NW Southeast: Pennsylvania Avenue
Lease Type:	Replacement
Justification:	Expiring Leases (2011)
Expansion Space:	None
Number of Parking Spaces ¹ :	75 Inside
Scoring:	Operating lease
Proposed Maximum Leasing Authority:	15 years
Maximum Rentable Square Feet:	294,000
Current Total Annual Cost:	\$9,768,468
Proposed Total Annual Cost: ²	\$14,406,000
Maximum Proposed Rental Rate ³ :	\$49.00

¹ The security requirements of the tenant agencies may necessitate control of the parking at the leased location. This may be accomplished as a lessor furnished service, as a separate operating agreement with the lessor or as part of the Government's leasehold interest in the building.

² Any new lease may contain an annual escalation clause to provide for increases or decreases in real estate taxes and operating costs.

³ This estimate is for fiscal year 2011 and may be escalated by 1.7 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation.

GSA

PBS

**PROSPECTUS – LEASE
1800 G STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC**

Prospectus Number: PDC-11-WA11

Energy Performance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Solicitation for Offers and other documents related to the procurement of space for which this prospectus seeks authorization. GSA encourages offerors to work with energy service providers to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement.

Authorization


- Approval of this prospectus by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works will constitute authority to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.
- Approval of this prospectus will constitute authority to provide interim leases, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Certification of Need

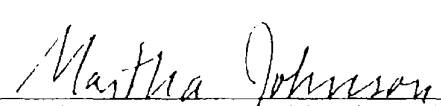
The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on May 13, 2010

Recommended: _____


Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____


Administrator, General Services Administration

There was no objection.

NATIONAL ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY WEEK

(Mr. ROE of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, today marks the start of National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week, and we must renew our efforts to help ensure every American is literate.

Today, 93 million American adults function below a high school level of literacy, lacking the most basic skills needed to compete in the 21st century economy. The unemployment crisis falls most heavily here—14.3 percent of Americans without a high school diploma are unemployed; among high school graduates with no additional education, the rate drops to 9.6 percent.

By supporting efforts to expand literacy, we can extend a hand to individuals and families across America. Making sure adults can read to their child or understand printed material at work isn't just good for them, it's essential for competing in the global economy.

Learning is a lifelong process. It doesn't stop the day you leave school. So let's renew our efforts to promote adult and family literacy both for the good of families and for the good of the country.

RISING FOOD PRICES

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the Fed Chairman, Ben Bernanke, said last week when he was giving his speech that we didn't really have to worry about inflation, that the long-term inflation problem would not get beyond 2 percent. So in case Mr. Bernanke or the administration is paying attention, I'd like to read a few facts to them.

The price of milk has gone up 38 percent since last year. The price of sugar is up 20 percent since last year. The price of corn is up 62 percent since last year. As of August, beef prices grew 13 percent, or 52 cents a pound, since last year—the largest increase in the last 7 years. Gasoline is up 35 percent from a year ago, 98 cents a gallon, and the projected inflation rate is much, much higher than the administration or the Fed says is going to occur.

So I hope that we will stop these Keynesian policies, these socialistic policies, these big-spending policies that are killing the American people.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1161

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my

name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1161.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

CBC HOUR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. This evening, I am again pleased to join my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to talk about jobs for this first hour, and we are really pleased that we're going to be led off this night by our Democratic whip, The Honorable STENY HOYER, the person who has led us in the Make It In America agenda.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentlelady for yielding, and I thank her for her leadership.

I want to thank the Congressional Black Caucus, which has raised this issue to a new height of not only visibility but of hope.

EMANUEL CLEAVER, the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, told a wonderful story in our caucus the other day. He said there was a little boy and his dad, and his dad was reading the paper. The little boy scratched his hand, and as he did so, it obviously hurt. He went in front of his dad, shaking his hand. He walked to and from his father, and his father kept reading the paper. Finally, his father put down the paper and said, "Son, I know you scratched your hand, but there's nothing I can do about it."

And the little boy looked at his dad and said, "You can say, 'Ouch.'"

You can understand the pain that I am experiencing. You can understand the pain that losing a job is causing me. You can understand the pain of a home that is lost because the mortgage cannot be paid. You can understand the pain of a family, living in a home, who has seen the value of that most important asset of theirs dwindle and be reduced so that the mortgage payment they're paying is more than the value of the home in which they live.

The Congressional Black Caucus did two things: It said, "We hear and we say, 'Ouch.' We understand the pain you're experiencing. We feel your pain." But if all we do is empathize and feel pain, that's not enough.

□ 1920

Our President addressed us last week, and he said we can shrug our shoulders and say there are 14 months until the next election, but the people in pain can't wait 14 months.

And that's what the Congressional Black Caucus did. Tens of thousands of people showed up throughout this Na-

tion because somebody offered hope, and not just hope but real deliverables. Jobs were gotten; interviews were set up; training sessions for how you apply, how you dress, how you talk to prospective employers. Those kinds of seminars were given. A difference was made by the Congressional Black Caucus traveling throughout this country.

So I rise to thank the leadership and all the members of the Congressional Black Caucus. I see Mr. DAVIS and Ms. WATERS on the floor with DONNA CHRISTENSEN, and I thank them for their leadership in particular. MAXINE WATERS was an extraordinarily strong voice for saying just that: we feel your pain, and it's not just empathy we're going to give you; we're going to give you the help that we can give.

This President came before us last week and said, ladies and gentlemen, it is time to act. It is time to add to the opportunity for success for putting America back to work, for addressing the mortgage crisis in our country, for putting some more money in the pockets of working men and women in this country, for helping small business grow and expand, making sure as well that we pay for what we buy.

Every commission that has met, the Bowles-Simpson Commission and the Domenici-Rivlin Commission, said, yes, we have to get a handle on this debt and deficit, of which I'm a strong proponent; but in the short term we need to grow the economy because if you do not grow the economy, you will not get the deficit down because you need people working so that they can support themselves and their families and, yes, pay taxes, so that their grandchildren will not be deeply in debt. So I stand indebted to the Congressional Black Caucus for continuing to focus like a laser on creating jobs.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD, another member of the Congressional Black Caucus and leader in our House, the chief deputy whip, is here as well and will be speaking so that in North Carolina and in America we can create jobs, invest in growing our economy, and, yes, give confidence, give confidence to every single individual, every family, and, yes, every business—small, medium, and large; that this Congress will act responsibly to address a challenge, to address the pain that our people are feeling, and to make sure in the long term, as we did in the 1990s, that our country is on a sound fiscal path leading to growth in the economy, jobs for our people, and a stronger and healthier America.

So I am pleased to join the Congressional Black Caucus, thanking them, congratulating them, and saying that I look forward to working with them, not just today, but today, tomorrow, the next day, and the next week until such time as our people are no longer in the pain they now experience.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Democratic whip, for joining us, and

please come back and join us anytime that we're on the floor. And thank you for reminding everyone that the people of this country just cannot wait 14 months to go back to work to take care of their families.

At this time I would like to yield to Congressman DAVIS from Illinois.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Let me, first of all, thank you, my classmate, DONNA CHRISTENSEN. We got here about the same time, and it seems as though the longer we're here, the more alike we think. So I want to thank you for your leadership.

I also want to commend the Congressional Black Caucus because we have just completed what I will call a very successful tour, a tour where some people were able to actually obtain jobs, where other people were able to renew their faith and hope that out there somewhere waiting for them is a job.

As the minority whip talked about pain and frustration, it reminded me that there are thousands of people in my congressional district who are experiencing that pain just as there are millions across the country.

I dug out an old record of mine the other day. I was going through my collection, and there was a fellow singing a song about getting a job. He says, Every morning about this time, she brings my breakfast to the bed, crying, "Get a job." He says, When I read the paper, I read it through and through, trying to see if there is any work for me to do—get a job.

But he kind of ends by saying, It was difficult to get a job that did not exist. It was difficult to get a job that he couldn't find.

So I was pleased a few nights ago when a job plan was articulated and presented. That's a very simple kind of plan in a sense. I couldn't find much controversy. I couldn't find much that one couldn't buy no matter which side of the aisle they were on, no matter what their political stripes.

I mean, who can argue with rebuilding roads and bridges and highways and giving people the opportunity to just ride on roads that are not bumpy or to ride on streets that are not filled with potholes—meaningful kinds of work that anybody can know is an investment and is not any kind of giveaway?

Who can argue with unemployed teachers getting an opportunity to work? Who can argue with small businesses being able to receive incentives if they hire people who have been unemployed for more than 6 months? Who can argue with that? I don't think anybody that is serious could argue with any of that.

So jobs must be found. Jobs must be had. And I am pleased to join with my colleagues to say that we must turn around that there are no jobs so that the guy can sing, I got a job, I got a job.

Thank you, Congressional Black Cau-

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, DANNY.

This morning I was with the postmasters at their convention, and they're facing some difficulties and are having to downsize. And those are some jobs that we know that you and ELIJAH CUMMINGS, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, ED TOWNS, and LACY CLAY have been working to protect; and we thank you for that.

At this time I yield to the gentlewoman from California, Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS.

□ 1930

Ms. WATERS. Thank you very much, Congresswoman CHRISTENSEN. I would like to thank you for taking this time this evening so that we could focus on this issue of jobs. It's extremely important.

I would like to thank STENY HOYER for coming to the floor to recognize the work that we are doing, to increase job opportunities for people in this country.

The Congressional Black Caucus is to be commended because they heard the cry. They felt the pain of so many people out there who have lost their jobs, who do not know how they are going to pay their mortgages, who do not know how they are going to provide for their families.

So despite the fact that the Congressional Black Caucus organized and introduced over 40 bills dealing with this issue, the Congressional Black Caucus decided to do something more, recognizing, yes, that we have a public policy responsibility, that's why the 40 bills. But beyond that what else could we do?

So the Congressional Black Caucus took to the streets and went out into America and hit five cities: Cleveland, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; Atlanta, Miami, and then my city of Los Angeles. And what we saw was mind-boggling. Even though we understood that 16.7 percent is a huge number for people to be unemployed, we did not realize the thousands upon thousands of people who really were hurting out there.

They came. They came by the thousands in every city that we were in. They were young, they were middle-aged, they were the unemployed, they were people who had been looking for jobs for over a year. And it was awfully painful to see all of these young college graduates who happened to be African American, who went to school, graduated, and looked forward to going to their job, who had no jobs. And so we saw it firsthand.

In my own city of Los Angeles where we organized one of these job fairs, there were over 10,000 people who showed up. Luckily, we had a venue, the Crenshaw Christian Center, where they had a dome, a faith dome. They could hold 10,000 people, and people didn't have to stand in line.

In Atlanta people got ill standing in line 3, 4 hours trying to get connected. The employers are to be commended. They came and they listened, they interviewed, they took applications, they assisted people in learning how to get an opportunity with their companies. We would like to thank all of those employers who participated with the Congressional Black Caucus in trying to help connect people with jobs.

We have to continue with this push for jobs. The press has done a relatively good job of shining a light on the devastation that's going on in these African American communities. We support all people getting an opportunity for jobs, but we must target our resources to those communities that are most in need.

We are talking about rural communities where there's unemployment and poverty, and we are talking about these urban areas. We believe that the resources must be targeted, the attention must be paid, not only to the entire population in this country of unemployed, but those areas that are absolutely suffering.

We need to continue to do this. And while the white unemployment rate stayed the same last month, black unemployment increased by 4 percentage points to 16.7 percent. Today in The Wall Street Journal they noted that black teenage unemployment is bordering on 50 percent. Fifty percent.

These figures don't even take into account the discouraged workers, involuntary part-time workers, and underemployed workers. Moreover, let me just tell you about the wealth gap. It is at its largest levels in more than a generation.

The median wealth of white households is 20 times that of black households and 18 times that of Hispanic households, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of newly available government data from 2009.

These lop-sided wealth ratios are the largest since the government began publishing such data in 1984 and roughly twice the size of the ratios that had prevailed between these three groups for the two decades prior to the Great Recession that supposedly ended in 2009.

The median wealth of white U.S. households in 2009 was \$113,149 compared to \$5,677 for blacks and \$6,325 for Hispanics.

The percentage of African Americans with no wealth has increased. About 35 percent of black households and 31 percent of Hispanic households had zero or negative net worth in 2009, compared with 15 percent of white households.

So while unemployment and the housing crisis is impacting everyone, it is hitting minority communities the hardest. That is why we must continue to push. I am so pleased that the President presented a huge opportunity to focus on job creation, and so now the devil is in the details.

It must be targeted. The public policies must take into consideration targeting these efforts so that these resources are put where its most needed. The Congress must have hearings and markups for the American JOBS Act. We must work together to ensure that its stimulative investments are protected and strengthened through greater targeting.

Our entire jobs-creation agenda can't simply be the tax cuts alone. We need to focus infrastructure repair in the communities with the bridges, roads and sewer systems that are most in need.

We need to rebuild schools in urban and rural areas that have long been neglected.

We want housing, a national housing trust fund to produce, rehabilitate, preserve, and operate rental housing in areas where our homeless veterans and seniors are concentrated.

We need targeted aid to the unemployed, who are the most likely to spend their money and stimulate the economy. If we do not pursue targeted public policy, I predict that the African American unemployment will hit 20 percent. The American economy will never be stable if we have one segment of our population, particularly a segment as large as the African American population, that faces a systemic jobs crisis.

So, again, my appreciation and my thanks to our chairman, EMANUEL CLEAVER, and to the entire Congressional Black Caucus for having the courage to step up and make this a priority issue, not only for our caucus but for their Congress and for their country. We cannot sit idly by in silence and watch what is happening as this devastation is continuing in these communities.

Thank you one more time for allowing us to be here this evening.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Congresswoman WATERS. We want to thank you for your leadership in leading the jobs task force for the CBC and for being such a strong voice for those who are continually being left out and left behind.

At this time I would like to yield to the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Let me thank you, Congresswoman CHRISTENSEN, for all of your work, not only here in the House of Representatives, but what you do for the Congressional Black Caucus all across America.

What hasn't come out tonight is you are actually the first vice chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, and you work so hard for all of us and we want to thank you very much. We want to thank you for convening this Special Order tonight. You work so hard to make it happen.

I also want to extend my appreciation to Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, who worked so tirelessly to

help make successful the tour that we had a few weeks ago. She and her staff worked so very hard, and I want to publicly thank them for all that they did.

I had intended to go to two of the five events, but because of Hurricane Irene in my district, I did not make it to Los Angeles, but I did go to the first one. I was there in Cleveland with Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE when we had the jobs fair and the town hall meeting, and it made such a powerful impression on me for us to get up that morning and to drive over to the community college and to see thousands of people lined up trying to get an interview for a job.

There was no question about it that these people were sincere, they were jobless through no fault of their own. Many of them told us that they had been jobless for more than 2 years, and they were standing in line hoping to get an opportunity to be interviewed by some of the fine companies that had come with the jobs in hand.

So I want to encourage us to continue our work. We have so much work to do. The national unemployment now is 9.1 percent and African American unemployment is at least 16.7 percent and probably more. As Congresswoman WATERS said a few moments ago, among African American youth the number now approaches 50 percent, and so we have work to do.

The President has announced a very bold jobs plan that I hope that we can come together on as a Congress, both Democrat and Republican, House and Senate. I hope that we can come together and pass that package, the complete package, in just a few days because the American people are demanding that we do it.

□ 1940

We have a deficit panel that has now begun its work, 12 Members equally divided between Democrats and Republicans, half from the Senate and half from the House; and we are hoping and praying that deficit panel will be able to come together and present bold ideas to this Congress by November 23 so that we can demonstrate to the American people that we are serious about trying to create jobs.

But you know, Congresswoman, we as a Congress cannot do this alone. We as the CBC cannot do this alone. We have got to have shared sacrifice from people all across America, and that includes America's corporations. I have been disturbed over the last few days that America's companies are sitting on more than \$2 trillion in retained earnings, and that is so disappointing.

So when we talk about creating jobs, American corporations have a responsibility, too, to put people to work and to start spending and investing in their own companies. So we go forward now, and we have a lot of work to do. We

have a short term, as the minority whip said a few moments ago, and he is absolutely right; and I want to thank STENY HOYER for his willingness to come to the floor tonight and to make the statements that he made. But we must have a short-term solution and a long-term solution. In the short term, we have to create jobs and we have to grow the economy. We have got to help businesses innovate, and we've got to improve the infrastructure so we can start getting more revenue from American workers. And, hopefully, in the long term we can begin to pay down the deficit.

So thank you for allowing me to come to the floor tonight and thank you for your leadership, and I thank the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus who works tirelessly. I don't know when he goes to Kansas City. He is from Kansas City, Missouri, and a good friend of all of ours. I don't know when he rests. He is our tireless leader. I understand that he may be next in the queue to speak, and I will eagerly await the statements from our chairman.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Congressman BUTTERFIELD, and thank you for pointing out the fact that America's corporations are sitting on billions of dollars. They have an obligation. As I understand it, they claim there is uncertainty, and so they are holding onto their funds. But there can't be any more uncertainty in our corporations than in the families around this country who are hurting because they need a job.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Without question.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you again, Congressman BUTTERFIELD, for joining us. At this time, it is my pleasure to yield to the leader of our Congressional Black Caucus, Reverend EMANUEL CLEAVER. And thank you so much for your work and reminding this Congress and this country on the importance of job creation for America's families and for leading us on that tour over the August recess.

Mr. CLEAVER. I thank the vice chair of the CBC. And to follow Congressman G.K. BUTTERFIELD, who I think hit on all of the proper and necessary areas of concerns, it has been written that ours will be the last generation in this country to experience surpassing the previous generation, that our children will not achieve what we have achieved and the jobs are not there. And while the individuals who have written about this and presented research on it are certainly brilliant and wise, I will gently rebuke them and disagree with their prediction.

I am not in any way willing to accept the fact, the fatalism, that the United States will inevitably fall to number two in the world behind China. Yesterday there was a news story that said at best there will be two superpowers

equal in terms of influence and their economies: China and the United States.

This Nation that placed men on the Moon, this Nation that creates a new technology almost hourly should never surrender its place in the world to any other nation. And, further, I don't think that it is in our best interest to even give a hint that we believe that we can't continue to create jobs for the next generation.

The jobs tour that we had during the month of August was eye-opening and Earth-shattering. When we walked from our cars inside the Cleveland State University place where we held the jobs fair, there were people who had been in line since 5 a.m. that morning. And so it always troubles me to hear people say, and say baselessly: Well, you know, some people don't want to work. So 5 a.m. in the morning, standing in line. And at best, of the 5,000 or 6,000 people who were there, we only had about 2,000 jobs. But people stood patiently in line.

One of the things that happened that I think some of you may already know about who are in the CBC, an Anglo gentleman, and there were people from every race in every city, but this particular gentleman caught my attention because he said: Look, I listen to black radio. He said, I just like R&B and I heard about the jobs fair and I thought I'd come over since I'm unemployed. And he said, Is it all right? And of course our position is, has been, and shall always be, one of including everybody, particularly in a time of crisis. But even if we're not, that is what we would want. And so he remained in line. I'm not sure what happened, whether he was one of the successful applicants or not.

The point I want to make is that the pain that is being experienced in this Nation is not just being experienced by African Americans. It is true that our numbers are higher, but our numbers are higher for a variety of reasons. Number one, African Americans historically have tried or sought employment in government. One of the reasons Washington, D.C. is predominantly black is because African Americans from the South came to Washington by the tens of thousands because it was believed that if you could get to the capital of the United States, you would experience far less bigotry and discrimination. And so by the thousands they came to Washington.

The same thing holds true with government. African Americans have sought employment with State, local, and the Federal Government. So every time people read in the paper or cheer that some State laid off 200 or 300 people, they need to understand that those are 200 or 300 real human beings, and chances are also great that they are disproportionately minority. So that is one of the reasons why our numbers are swelling like they are.

But also I think we have got to realize that there are some other factors through no fault of people who are unemployed. I served as mayor of Kansas City, Missouri, from 1991 until 1999, two terms, 8 years. One of the things we always had to fight was expanding. Urban sprawl is what it is called sociologically. Kansas City is a city that stretches 322 square miles. To show you how large that is, you can place the entire city of San Francisco inside the city limits of Kansas City 30 times, or the city of Washington, I think it is like 42 times. It is a huge city.

Now while many politicians brag about that, the truth of the matter is we stretched out our resources. One of the things I learned during the jobs fairs—we started out in Cleveland, went to Detroit; left Detroit and went to Atlanta; left Atlanta and went to Miami; left Miami and went to Los Angeles—and there is one thing that was present at all of those that this Congress needs to deal with and it is this: the jobs that were brought to our fairs were not new jobs. The truth of the matter is they were jobs that already existed except they were in the suburbs.

And so as the cities have expanded, the jobs have moved to the suburbs. And so we cannot speak of creating jobs without dealing with the issue of transportation. There's an inextricable connection between jobs and transportation: how do you get people in the highest unemployment areas to the areas where the jobs are.

□ 1950

For those who live on the eastern seaboard, you have a little better situation because you have, as we do in Washington, the Metro. But when you start moving toward the western part of the United States, or the Caribbean, there is no mass transportation that is as effective as it is on the east coast. Therefore, if jobs are in suburban Kansas City and people who live in the urban area are unemployed and do not have a car and do not have any way of getting to the jobs, there is no way they can get there. Remember, Kansas City is a city of 322 square miles, which means that people could need to go essentially 30, 40, 50 miles to get a job.

Now, let me also say that nothing has been discussed thus far dealing with transportation. The jobs bill is seeking to have what I think most of us would support, which would be some kind of transportation bank where it would end up that the government would put money in and hopefully the private sector would come in and we would be able to get these infrastructure jobs going. But the amount of money that is being discussed is woefully inadequate, and there's probably little chance that we're going to be able to create any new mass transit programs in the country. In fact,

UMTA, the Urban Mass Transit Administration, is broke virtually broke. So there's very little in the way of help coming forth.

Now, there's some politics involved, and we're all in the political environment. And the people at home may not even understand what's going on.

Tragically, I have watched our country move to a state where people are constantly angry. They're being told to hate their government, and then both sides of the aisle use inappropriate language to discuss things with the other side of the aisle. It's continuing to ratchet up, and it's getting worse and worse. And the people around the country are not only participating in it, they are encouraging it.

This is the United States of America. My hope and my dream is that this Nation will be around for my children and my grandchildren. But I'm telling you that what our children are seeing is not a pleasant sight because they are looking at a Nation that is becoming more and more divided. You can't look at television or radio without this constant attack, attack, attack, and it's just sickening to see this.

As we're moving into an election cycle, we're going to see "thermal nuclear" campaigns. And the American public needs to come to grips with the fact that if people will run a nasty campaign where all they do is attack, chances are when they come to Congress they're going to do the same thing. And the more we bring people in here who come for the sole purpose of fighting against the other side, the less business we're going to take care of for the people of this country.

I said last week there are some people who'd like to defeat the President of the United States. Fine. Campaign against him. Get your spouse, your children, your grandchildren, your friends, and everybody. Vote against him. If you can vote twice, vote twice. Do everything you can to defeat the President. But right now, vote for the American public. Fight him later. Vote now for the American public.

And the American public is in trouble. We've got to create opportunities for jobs to grow and develop or we're going to find ourselves faced with a new normal, a new normal where unemployment is considered normal at 8 percent rather than 3.5 percent, which is what our predecessors decided that we're going to keep unemployment at, 3.5 percent. So we can't allow this to happen. I think we've got to fight against it. But, more than that, what we've got to do is quit fighting each other. Nothing is going to happen worth anything if we're fighting each other.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CLEAVER. I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. CLEAVER, you brought up the subject of infrastructure in your remarks. That's a very important conversation that we've got to have in this country. You have served 8 years as mayor of a major city. Would you again speak to the importance of infrastructure and what it can mean to job creation and economic development in communities all across America?

I'm from a rural community. I have 88 small cities and towns in my district and they don't have access to money to build infrastructure. The infrastructure bank that you made reference to would just bring new life to rural communities. I know you served as a mayor. Just talk about the relationship between infrastructure and job creation.

Mr. CLEAVER. What is generally said is that you get, four to one, jobs to money spent if we do infrastructure projects, and those jobs are long lasting.

Now, most of the infrastructure in this country is in decrepit condition. Most of the storm water sewers, wastewater sewers in cities around the country are over a century old. Roads are collapsing. Our bridges are collapsing. We saw in Minnesota 2 years ago what happens when we neglect our own infrastructure.

And the worst thing about it, Congressman BUTTERFIELD, is that we're building roads and bridges right now in Iraq, new roads and bridges and schools in Iraq right now. I'm just a dumb Methodist preacher, but something doesn't add up. We're doing all of this in Iraq and our roads are crumbling?

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. And we have American workers ready to do the work if we can create the opportunities.

Mr. CLEAVER. And we can with the infrastructure bank. But we've got to put enough money in the bank to attract the private sector dollars. And that's a part of the President's plan, and hopefully people will buy into it. But I don't think we have a lot of time to waste. Americans are sitting around now hoping, many of them even praying, that we will do something to help them out of the economic doldrums in which they find themselves.

So, I appreciate the opportunity to come and share tonight in this discussion because I think people around the country who are watching this need to know at least there are some people in Washington who are looking out for their best interests. And I think, based on what we're doing, we are part of it. I'm not going to suggest that other folks are not interested in helping folks. They are. I'm saying that sometimes, maybe even unintentionally, we allow political ideology to trump anything and everything else, and at some point we ought to be more Americans than we are Democrats or Republicans.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Chairman CLEAVER, and thank you for the perspective that you always bring to these discussions, helping us to focus on the important issues, sometimes the underlying issues that often get overlooked.

Yesterday and today, we've taken time out of our daily routine to remember the over 3,000 people who went to work on a bright, sunny morning and whose lives were snuffed out in three dastardly acts of terrorism. We remember and honor them and their families and the first responders who returned to help and also met their death on September 11, 2001. We pay tribute also to the men and women of our Armed Forces who lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, continuing our fight against al Qaeda and other terrorist groups, and those who are still there protecting us and the world from attack.

Today, I had the honor of addressing our postmasters at their annual convention and remembered Thomas Morris, Jr., and Joseph Curseen, who died after being exposed to anthrax sent in the mail in the weeks after as they worked at the Brentwood postal facility here in Washington. We didn't look at those who died or talk about those who died as Republicans or as Democrats or Independents. They were workers in both the public and private sector, who some groups today are trying to pit against each other. We honor them all and their families for their sacrifice.

Tonight, we've been focusing on the workers that remain with us, but most especially we are singling out for our attention—to the attention of this Congress and for all Americans—those who have no job and for whom, until now, it had appeared as though there would be no legislation to come to their aid. But thanks to our great President, there's now a bill before us, and we're calling on both bodies to pass it as soon as possible and without taking it apart. The 1.9 million jobs and the 2 percent economic growth projections are dependent on those two things—that we pass it promptly and that we pass it intact.

Most importantly, as President Obama said, and all of us know, the American people cannot wait 14 months until after the next election. They have already been hurting too long and they need those jobs. They need our help today.

□ 2000

As you heard, the Congressional Black Caucus did not wait either. We felt the pain and anxieties in our communities and communities across the country and used our August recess to partner with the private sector and some government agencies to bring jobs that are needed so desperately into our communities now. People of

all ages, all educational backgrounds and levels came out in the thousands everywhere that held those job fairs.

Mr. Speaker, the people of this country are crying out to us to put them back to work, to allow them to make it in America and to be able to take care of their families and our Nation once again. Sure, there are things in the President's draft bill that some of us are not particularly fond of that we're willing to accept for the integrity of the entire package and for the good of our country. And others, like Social Security and Medicare, we accept the President's goals and hope that we can work with him to achieve them through any alternative measures wherever our approaches might differ.

The ladies in the markets in the Caribbean at home in the Virgin Islands used to what we call "marry" different fruits and vegetables for sale. You had to buy the two of them, whether it was limes and peppers or yams and okra, you had to buy the two; the vegetables were married. The purpose of that, of course, was to get everything sold by tying something everyone wanted to something that might not be as popular. Now I know that was not our President's approach, but he did put together a package that could best appeal to us so that we could all come together and buy it as a package. And so, Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, that is exactly what we should and must do.

Creating jobs and stimulating our economy is critical not just to our present, but to our future. This is not an issue that's about the President, and it ought not to be about the next election. Neither is it about the CBC or Members of Congress, or about Republicans or Democrats or Independents. It's about the welfare and the well-being of the American people and of our country, which I know all of us care about.

We are in a crisis. In crises, people always come together to the aid of each other, as we did on 9/11/01 and in the weeks and months after. So it's our hope and prayer that this Congress can do the same thing now.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I yield back the balance of our time.

GOP JOBS OFFENSIVE: ROLLING BACK JOB-KILLING REGULATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, last week we were here talking about jobs. This week, we need to talk about jobs again because, quite honestly, the problem the United States has is we have to get our people back to work.

These fine folks who just had the hour before us, they were talking about

jobs, talking about the ability to get a job. I thought it was an interesting discussion. We are all concerned about jobs, and we all have different views of how this should be done.

The President laid out a broad agenda for another stimulus bill that he believes will cause us to have new jobs. He's going to deliver that I think today in writing so we can all sit down and look at it and analyze just exactly what it actually says so we can figure out how much of that will create jobs, and if there is a disagreement, we will at least know what we disagree with.

But the bottom line is there are some things that are basic. People take their money and they invest their money when they feel like, A, it's going to make them money, and B, they can feel relatively safe that the future that they envision is the future that's going to actually happen. You've got to look down the road in any organization and get yourself a perspective of just what it takes to make your business or your operation thrive and go forward. And there are some basic things you want to know. You want to know, basically—let's say you're doing a 5-year plan. Over the next 5 years, there are some simple things you would like to know: What are my taxes; what taxes am I going to have to pay on my business? What regulations are going to affect my business, and are they going to change? What is the source of money to borrow or invest in my business if I want to expand? Let's say I want to put a new assembly line in my factory, or I need a new building for my business to grow and put my employees in. Am I going to be able to finance that building? Am I going to be able to come up with the mortgage money to be able to do that? Can I envision a pathway to income that will support that mortgage and the paychecks for those people that I'm going to hire to run my business with me, to operate the business? These are not mind-shattering things. This is very simple stuff.

If you were starting a lemonade stand, you would have to make some kind of projection on a lemonade stand to figure out whether you were just going to sell lemonade today, or maybe you could sell it all week if you're a little kid. But you've got to know what the playing field is about.

Tonight I'm going to talk about the same thing we talked about last time, something that may be unintended consequences. It may be a different agenda of a different view of the world, or whatever you want to call it, but there are very, very onerous regulations that are popping up now on a basically daily basis that are surprising people and industry around the country. The one that is a front-page headline and will be the subject of legislation I believe this week in Congress is on this board right here. And Congressman TIM SCOTT of South Carolina has a

bill to block this regulation, this action by one of our regulatory authorities, the National Labor Relations Board.

The National Labor Relations Board has filed a complaint against Boeing to prevent them from building a new aircraft plant in South Carolina. Boeing currently has a large complex of production in Seattle, Washington—or somewhere in Washington, I think it's Seattle—Puget Sound it's called. The problem that the National Labor Relations Board has with the South Carolina site—which is not going to displace, to my knowledge, any of the union employees that are at Puget Sound, but it's a new factory with new employees. But because this factory is in a right-to-work State, where a person doesn't have to join a union in order to get the salary and benefits that the company pays, the National Labor Relations Board has filed suit against Boeing to prevent them from hiring these people and opening this plant.

Now at a time with over 9 percent unemployment—close to 10 percent in some estimates—and as you heard, in some communities, the African community, 16 or 18 percent unemployment, in the Hispanic community, the very same kind of numbers for the Hispanic community, why would a board in Washington, D.C., the National Labor Relations Board, why would they want to say to a company which has made a financial determination that the wise place for them to build their next factory is in the great State of South Carolina, but because they are not a union State, they say, no, we're not going to let you build it there? When did it become the government's job to have regulatory authorities telling people where they could and could not build a plant based solely on union membership? This is very, very onerous. It's very, very unfortunate.

Without any argument pro or con toward union membership, this State—which is a sovereign State of our Nation—has chosen to have right-to-work laws, which means you don't have to join the union to go to work. Other States choose to have union laws, and closed shops, which means that you can't work in a place unless you join the union. Whether you like one version or the other depends on where you stand, but the facts are that in this country we have both union shops and right-to-work States, and I don't think the government should be picking winners and losers.

□ 2010

I think it's inappropriate for the government to be picking winners and losers. So that's why TIM SCOTT is bringing a bill to the floor this week, I believe it's this week, to discuss this very issue and, basically, restrict the National Labor Relations Board from hav-

ing the power to do something like this, because this is not appropriate. The National Labor Relations Board's job is to develop the relationship between labor and management. It's not a guarantee of union membership. The reason we're talking about this, first and foremost is this is the current event in regulations and government interference in a company's business.

And by the way, what is a corporation?

This is something I'm always amazed by. The minute you said the words "Boeing Corporation," it's like they become something, some giant something, and like it's one rich man someplace that owns Boeing. If you own a 401(k), if you have a retirement plan, if you are involved in even the government investment plan that we have for our Federal employees, there's a pretty good chance you might own Boeing stock. Your plan might own Boeing stock.

So what is that corporation? Well, it's you, if you own Boeing stock, because the owners of that company are the people who own the stock. So we need to realize that it's not one or two rich people that own Boeing. It is a multitude of Americans who have invested a small part of their paycheck in buying a share or 10 shares or a million shares, whatever they can afford, of Boeing stock.

So we've got this concept that came out of the sixties, it's don't steal from the individual, but steal from "the man." In criminal law where I've spent much of my life, that was always an amazing thing for me. "The man" seemed to be anybody that you didn't know. But it certainly was the corporations.

And, yet, an awful lot of people have their life savings invested in companies like Boeing, like Shell Oil Company, like Exxon, like United States Steel, if they still exist, I don't know whether they do or not, like Continental Airlines, like American Airlines, like Union Pacific Railroad. Those are all owned by people. People own those corporations.

Why should the National Labor Relations Board tell the representatives of the people that own Boeing stock that they can't be in South Carolina because it's not a union shop?

I don't think they should. I think this bill will pass out of this House and, hopefully, will get the support of the President and the realization by the Democrats over in the Senate that this is an important thing and a very bad precedent for the government to be picking winners and losers.

So we started with this board. Now, I talked about my bill that I have, which we may or may not take up. First off, let me tell you something we've been doing. The Congressional Review Act is in existence at this time, and it allows

Congress to review every Federal regulation issued by the government agencies and, by the passing of a joint resolution, overrule those regulations.

Federal agencies shall, that means they must, submit to each House of the Congress, that's the Senate and the House, to the Comptroller General a comprehensive report on any major proposed rule. Congress has 60, and that's legislative days, to pass a joint resolution of disapproval of any rule. The Senate must vote on a Congressional Review Act resolution of disapproval.

So there is a tool to actually disapprove of some of these rules that we're going to be talking about tonight, and we're going to be using that tool. We've already started using it. We're going to continue to use it, so I'm going to put it down here at the bottom so we'll remember we've got a tool.

People have asked me why I put a bill forward that would be so general as to say let's have a general regulation moratorium on all regulations until 2013. Let me read you some—this is not an original idea by JOHN CARTER, that's me. This is some regulations that come, some articles out of some newspapers. Let me just read you a couple of them.

The Detroit News: The flood of Federal regulations coming out of the Obama administration add costs, stifles economic growth and limits job creation. Growth is a smarter way to generate additional taxes from businesses than raising the rates and thus the operating costs. The former approach creates jobs. The latter kills them.

The business community is also warning that a flood of Federal regulations will limit growth and job creation. Obama should suspend implementation of any regulation with the potential impact on the economy until the unemployment rate falls below 6 percent.

The Environmental Protection Agency, in particular, must be throttled. The EPA's war on coal affects power plants that provide roughly half of the Nation's electricity. In Michigan, DTE energy says that the new rules will take 20 percent of its capacity off line within 3 years. Without an assured supply of energy, companies will not invest in new facilities.

That's the clip from the Detroit News.

The Wall Street Journal: Business leaders, "Stop the Implementation of Job-Destroying Regulations." Many of their suggestions are familiar. The CEOs want lower corporate taxes in the U.S., which has among the highest corporate rates in the world, and a moratorium or a rollback of business regulations.

"The government needs to be a better partner with the business world,"

says Magellan Health Services CEO Rene Lerer, echoing a sentiment expressed by many. James Turley, Chairman and CEO of Ernst Young, "Remove government regulatory policy uncertainty through 2013 by halting initiation or implementation of regulations when such regulations could hurt jobs or economic growth."

So that's just two quotes out of the newspaper. There are more here. But the point of that being is that the people who create jobs, the job creators are the small and mid-sized businesses of this world, and the big businesses for that matter. But the real generator is the small businessman in America. Over 90 percent of all the jobs held by anybody in this country, those people work for small businesses.

Now, what's a small business?

Well, the other day we had, sitting up here listening to the President's speech, we had a franchise holder for McDonald's franchises. McDonald's hamburger place is a small business, as it belongs to a person who has purchased the franchise for that business.

We had another man with Sports Cuts, which is a haircut franchise. And these are individual people who get a national name, and a national product, and they pay money for that, for the right to use that national name and national product, but they are a small business, usually run but one or two individuals. And they're telling us the uncertainty of regulatory procedures of the Federal Government is making their job untenable.

I'm joined here by my good friend from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO). I think he might have something to say about this. DON, would you like to take the mike? I'll be glad to yield you whatever time you'd like to have concerning regulations and how you see them affecting folks in your part of the world.

Mr. MANZULLO. Thank you, Judge CARTER, for the opportunity to be with you this evening.

I spend, as you know, most of my time working on manufacturing issues. Our congressional district in the northern part of Illinois is home to over 2,000 factories, and McHenry County, in particular, is home to some of the most high-tech plastic companies in the world.

The President, last week, spoke before Congress and talked about regulations, and he said that every rule should meet the so-called common-sense test.

□ 2020

Regulations should protect people from environmental health hazards and unsafe workplace practices. There's no disagreement on that. We all agree on that. But overregulation has a tendency to destroy jobs.

For example, the Department of Health and Human Services, under the

directive of the National Toxicology Program, has labeled, recently, styrene as a human carcinogen that causes cancer. Now, styrene is the basic ingredient that is used in plastic composites. About 90 percent of the composites contain that and about 50 percent of other plastic resins for other uses.

And some of the uses for products with styrenes, they're used in packaging and disposables under polystyrene plastic resins, food trays, egg cartons, furniture, office fixtures, equipment covers, mail trays. In fact, the plastic that is oftentimes used on electronic equipment, refrigerator components, liners, air-conditioning parts in housing, toys, high-tech products, consumer electronics, major appliances, insulation, floor backing, pipe and siding, computer monitors, IV connectors, syringes, stereo covers. You can see that it's almost anything that is used in manufacturing. And the fiberglass tubs, showers.

Mr. CARTER. If the gentleman will yield, I believe this board is made out of that styrene. This is what we call plastic board.

Mr. MANZULLO. It could very well be.

Mr. CARTER. If you look at it, it probably is made out of styrene.

Mr. MANZULLO. So that just demonstrates, Judge, the fact that styrene is so pervasive in all of our consumer products.

Now, what has happened is the National Toxicology Program said that styrene is a carcinogen. They looked at a couple of studies, did a very, very poor job in looking at the history and the other studies available. In fact, the European Union and Canada came to the opposite conclusion and said that there's nothing wrong with styrenes, that it does not cause cancer.

What we're trying to do is get the National Academy of Sciences, which is widely regarded as the final word in these scientific matters, to conduct an independent study on styrene.

Now, if nothing happens and styrene remains on this list of something that's "likely to cause cancer," it could end up destroying hundreds of thousands of jobs in America. Let me give you an example.

The company that makes all the plastic utensils for McDonald's, that company uses styrenes. And what we see developing here are insurance companies that are taking a look at the plastic companies that use styrene, and they're becoming very nervous over the fact that the government is taking a position that, without good case study, styrene is a carcinogen. So insurance companies are starting to balk at insuring the companies that use styrene.

Lawyers have already met examining the best way that they could bring the class action lawsuits for all of these products that contain styrenes. And what could end up happening is, because of the regulations that will come

down from the Federal Government, the government will say, well, in its finished product, there's nothing wrong with a product involving styrenes, but in the manufacturing of it, that's where the problem is. We could lose hundreds of thousands of jobs. Our plastics industry could be destroyed.

Now, these are the types of things that absolutely do not make sense, where, because of the jungle of rules that the Federal Government has that makes it very difficult to get in a counterargument, where people make decisions not based upon a cost analysis but based upon a couple of studies here and there as opposed to volumes of studies that have gone on examining whether or not styrenes are a carcinogen, we could lose the plastics industry in America. Those jobs could easily go overseas all because of poor science on the part of the regulators.

Regulation in America is out of control. And I work not only with the styrene industry but the people that are involved in foundries, where regulations are underway that if they're not done correctly—you could take a look at the silicas and say even though silicas are a problem, we know that if the regulations are done improperly, we could lose the foundry industry in this country.

America is great because of our manufacturing background. America will only recover from this economic crisis when the manufacturing jobs are secure and come back. That's why we've been pleading with HHS, saying, You don't understand, the Department of Health and Human Services, the impact of the poor decision that you have made with regard to these styrenes.

We could go on to other products from other manufacturers, and it's a slew. You have, up there on the chart, the scissors cutting the red tape. The red tape is so thick it would take a blowtorch to go through it, or some kind of a chopper or buzz saw, besides the scissors on it.

So I share with you the deep concern over the people who are losing jobs in America today because of overregulation by the Federal Government.

Mr. CARTER. Recapturing my time, I thank my friend and say that I hope that all of those Members of this House and others that might be listening heard you say America could lose this industry. You didn't say that the world would lose this industry because, quite honestly, once again, a great industry that produces good-paying jobs will, all of a sudden—not because of taxes or not because of high labor costs, which are a lot of the arguments we get—a new factor, the regulatory industry, drove this prosperous industry out of our country because of possibly voodoo science that they didn't investigate enough. They've got a concept, and they stick to that concept on their science arguments and they don't go

outside the scope of their view of the world.

They're going to shut down an industry. But are we going to stop making plastics? No. The world's not. Just the United States is going to stop. And then people say, Why are all of these jobs offshore?

It's not just the cost of labor that drives people offshore. Our regulatory agencies have as much to do with that as anything there is out there.

The President made a joke recently where he said he found out that all shovel-ready jobs are not shovel-ready jobs. Well, let me tell you. I haven't checked all of those jobs he's talking about, but I'd be willing to bet you that there's either an endangered species or, in some form or fashion, the Environmental Protection Agency is in between the shovel taking the first load of dirt on a project and somebody trying to get a project done, because it's the agencies that are shutting down our highways. They're shutting down our bridges. They're shutting down our sewer projects, our water projects, and sometimes for very bizarre reasons.

Mr. MANZULLO. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CARTER. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. MANZULLO. Look at the Keystone pipeline coming down from Canada to Texas, which branches, really, into central Illinois. It's been tied up by the EPA and other regulators for 3 years. We're looking at 20,000 new jobs. I think it's a \$5 billion to \$8 billion project. That doesn't count the people that make the pizzas, the people that make the shoes.

I was talking to a shoe salesman, Red Wing shoes that are mostly made in America, and those are the industrial shoes. And I said, How's business?

He said, DON, when manufacturing is down and construction is down, my sales of shoes are down.

And so it continues. It's not just the actual cost of the impact to that particular entity, the particular construction site, the particular regulation, but all of the peripherals that come as a result of it. Those are the things that destroy our economy.

□ 2030

Mr. CARTER. Reclaiming my time to just continue this conversation, I think it's very interesting what you said about the pipeline. That pipeline is bringing heavy crude from Canada to the United States to be refined. Now, let's just point out that it was in *The Wall Street Journal* sometime this week, as I read it this week, that Alberta, Canada is just exploding. Everybody has got these great jobs because they are going forward, their environmentalists are staying out of the way, and they're developing this heavy crude industry, this tar they've got

there, tar sands; and that's what we're shipping down here to be refined in this proposed pipeline, down to where the market is in the United States. Canada is one of our largest, if not the largest single, exporter to the United States of petroleum products.

Now, what's interesting about this picture is that same field that's across that imaginary line in Canada is also down in North Dakota, and we know it's there. It's in Montana, and we know it's there. And it's probably in a lot of other places that are called "public lands" in this country right now. Those are lands held by the Federal Government. They own those lands.

Now, what does that mean? That means that they're not letting the drilling going on or the exploration going on on our land for the same petroleum products that we're buying from Canada and building a pipeline to ship down here. Why? EPA and others, regulators and bureaucrats, are preventing the development of those products. Now, it all goes back to the global warming or climate change argument or whatever this whole big umbrella is over this whole idea.

But you wonder why there are no jobs; 250,000 jobs have been created in Alberta, Canada in the last 18 months. 250,000 jobs all to do with that oil. Right across the border, we could be doing the same thing.

Mr. MANZULLO. And it's not just oil; it's natural gas.

Mr. CARTER. It's natural gas. And I will tell you something else. I was just down in San Antonio meeting with some friends down there. One of them is a banker, and he said, Go to south Texas. Man, you should see what's happening in south Texas. Besides the oil and gas we'd already found many years ago down there, they have now found out that there is shale oil and shale gas down in the ground, amazing deposits down there. They're going to have to be using the fracking system to get it out.

But already they're building hotels in towns that only have 8,000 people in them. They're building four-story hotels. Why? Because for the foreseeable future, working men and women are going to be in those hotels, because they've got a job there, until they can find a place to live. Builders are already looking at developing subdivisions, and the people who sell work boots are selling work boots in south Texas. And all those periphery things that come off of that discovery and that development of that discovery create thousands and thousands of jobs.

It multiplies as it goes, just exactly as you were describing, Mr. MANZULLO; and that's the exact kind of progression that will bring this country back if we let those folks continue to manufacture.

I guarantee you there's not a person that's watching this or listening to

this or who is in this Chamber that there's not somewhere almost within their reach something that's made out of styrene that you've just been describing to us. It is almost as abundant as wood. In fact, if you remember the old movie "The Graduate," what was the advice the guy gave the kid? "Plastics." That's the future: plastics.

Well, we're in that future now, and it is the future. In fact, one of the reasons we have such an outstanding medical world that we live in is we're not having to rewash and sterilize metal and glass instruments. We're making all of our instruments out of this plastic with that styrene in it, and then we're throwing them away. They're disposable. We're making them at a price where we can dispose of them for health purposes, which has changed the lives of many thousands and thousands of Americans in this country every single day, the health pluses of having that product on the market.

But with the government's interference, we will be getting it from China or India or who knows where. But it won't be from here, and no American will have a good job on that. It's almost criminal.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. MANZULLO. Plus we would end up losing the people that made the machine tools, the actual molds, the dyes for the injection systems and other types of systems and molding systems that are used in the manufacture of these plastics.

I appreciate Congressman CARTER's yielding to me to explain this styrene issue, and I look forward to the rest of his presentation.

Mr. CARTER. I thank you for joining me. And if you would like to stay, we'd love to have you.

Going back to another quote: CNBC, CEO: "From a regulation standpoint, government just needs to get out of the way. We asked several CEOs leading up to the speech what bold steps Obama could take to reduce the 9.1 percent unemployment rate. John Schiller, chairman and CEO of Energy XXI, said, 'If the government would get out of the way, from a regulation standpoint, and let us, XXI, do what we do good, you'll see us continue to hire and grow this economy. I think that's a message from across the board,' said Schiller."

From the Washington Examiner: "If President Obama was serious about boosting job creation, he would stop his administration from creating even more regulatory uncertainty. This is the President who once blithely quipped, 'You know, the business community is always complaining about regulations.'

"But Friday's decision can only be viewed positively if it is indeed a first step. There are still six other proposed regulations from the EPA that would cost the economy dearly. According to the EPA's own estimates, the cost to

small businesses for obtaining carbon emission permits alone would be \$76 billion per year, not including the hundreds of billions of dollars in widespread economic damage from higher energy prices. If Obama really wanted to remove 'regulatory uncertainty' from the economy, he would use his Thursday jobs speech"—that was last Thursday—"to announce that he is ordering EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson to halt all of her agency's work on global warming regulations."

Now, these are just some quotes from some of the media out there that are talking about job creation. I'm for a moratorium. We'll see if we can get that done.

Red tape reality: the White House promises to save \$10 billion in 5 years. The White House just put forward \$17.7 billion in regulations in only 2 months.

The next chart, this is something we call the TRAIN Act. The purpose of the TRAIN Act is simple: Transparency in Regulatory Analysis of Impacts on the Nation, TRAIN. These guys sit up late at night to figure out how they can have an acronym to cover whatever they're doing. But this is very simple: TRAIN delays MACT and CSAPR—these are two huge rulemaking issues which I will tell you about in just a minute—until the full impact of the Obama administration's regulatory agenda has been studied. They basically say 1,000 power plants are expected to be affected. The annual electricity bill increases in many parts of the country from 12 to 24 percent.

Now, what is this? The administration's new Maximum Achievable Control Technology standards and Cross-State Air Pollution Rule for utility plants will affect the electricity prices for nearly all American consumers. A total of 1,000 plants are expected to be affected. Middle class Americans can expect their bills to go up between 12 and 22 percent.

□ 2040

Mr. SULLIVAN is saying, look, let's make an economic analysis before you actually impose these regulations, see what it's actually going to do. How is it going to hurt the individual consumer, and how, by the way, is it going to hurt the act of ability of people to get a job?

If you are going to shut down in some instances up to a third to half of power plants, because they are either coal emission power plants or because they've got boiler issues that have got to be dealt with, then what happens? You are talking about people's jobs, getting laid off. When it comes to coal-powered plants, there are some places where the majority of the electricity in the Midwest, for instance, is coal power.

Now if you are going to shut down coal-powered plants to make them retool for new regulations, here is an in-

teresting thought: They have already retooled to put scrubbers on these things three or four times. It's another set of retooling on top of the retooling before the retooling and the other retooling. When they get to this thing they find at some point the guy is going to say, my gosh, I have had about all of this regulation I can stand.

I am going to tell you an amusing story, but it's true. When I was a young lawyer I worked for the Agriculture Committee of the Texas House of Representatives as their lawyer, and we had a hearing one day about new Federal regulations on sausage manufacturers.

Now in Texas our heritage has a lot of folks from the sausage manufacturing parts of Europe. We have Germans, we have Czechs, we have Swedes, we have Norwegians, we have a lot of people who in their old country, they made sausage. And so we have lots and lots of small sausage operations in Texas. Almost every town you go to in Texas, some butcher shop somewhere is making their own best sausage made in Texas.

You can go to our grocery store and you will see sausage that's produced—I am just talking about Texas now—in multiple cities all over the State. Most of them are small towns.

Now, this is a true story. We were having testimony about new government regulations concerning the manufacture of sausage by small businesses. They brought a man in who was in a prison uniform from the State prison in Huntsville and they put him on the stand.

They said, why are you here? He said, well, my brother and I, we made the best sausage in east Texas. But this guy came in our office and he says, I've got these regulations here. You're not going to be able to make this in your butcher shop anymore. You're going to have to redo your butcher shop.

He gave us a list of stuff we had to do. We took it to our banker. He said, you boys have got the best sausage operation in east Texas. I'll loan you \$25,000, you can fix your place up. So they put in tile floors with drains, and they put in different butcher blocks, this, that, and the other. He said, we borrowed \$25,000.

About 8 months later that same old boy came through the door and said, I've got some bad news for you, gentlemen. We've got new regulations. All that stuff you had to do last time, it's not good enough. Everything has got to be stainless steel. You've got to have a cement floor with a power drain in it. You've got to have certain kinds of saws.

So me and my brother, we went to the banker and we said, hey, what are we going to do? He said, well, that's another \$50,000 but you're good, you've got a great business. I'm going to loan you that \$50,000. You boys do the work.

So we did the work, and it was working great. We were manufacturing sausage. We still made the best sausage in east Texas.

Then that same old boy came walking in our door, and he said, I got bad news for you, boys. And that's when I shot him.

Now, that's a true story, and he was serving time for manslaughter in a penitentiary for shooting that regulator. I am not in any way advocating shooting regulators. I am telling you how frustrated a small businessman can get just for regulations on the manufacture of sausage in his hometown butcher shop.

Now, think how frustrated an employer gets whether a regulation causes him to lay off one-third of his workforce to afford to do what he is doing. This is the whole concept of why regulations have to be so carefully planned and done, and you have to have good studies done as to the economic effect, as JOHN SULLIVAN, my friend from Oklahoma, has brought before this House.

This is called the Environmental Protection Agency Regulatory Relief Act. This has to do with Boiler MACT, hospitals, factories, colleges, thousands of major American employers use boilers that will be impacted by the EPA's new Boiler MACT rules. These new stringent rules will impose billions of dollars in capital and compliance costs, increase the cost of many goods and services, and put over 200,000 American jobs at risk.

The American forest and paper industry, for example, will see an additional burden of at least \$5 billion to \$7 billion. MORGAN GRIFFITH of Virginia has this bill which provides a legislative stay of the four interrelated rules issued by the EPA in March of this year. This legislation would also provide the EPA with at least 15 months to re-propose and finalize new regulations that are achievable and do not destroy jobs, and provide employers with the ability to extend compliance on these rules.

These rules, as they stand, are business-killing rules today; 200,000 people will lose their jobs if these rules are implemented. This will be brought up in October, around the 3rd of October, in that week, to basically put a hold on these job-killing regulations.

The President himself said we need to examine regulations and see how they are going to kill jobs. Well, here's one right here, Mr. President; 200,000 jobs at a minimum will be lost, maybe forever, and cost us \$5 to \$7 billion in just one industry.

Now, that's money, that is capital that has been put into a different project than building and expanding your business. That means instead of hiring people you are laying off people.

Now, why in the world, in the environment where we have 9 percent, 9.1

percent unemployment, we have been teetering around 10 percent now for almost a year, why in the world would we want to have these people who work for us in the government—they are not elected, they are appointed people, they are hired, just like anybody else—that are out there thinking up ways to shut off people, good, honest hard-working men and women, in this country's jobs because of some concept they have on making an improvement.

Let's make improvements. Let's keep our environment clean, but let's do it in a way that remembers that we are part of the environment too.

Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has approximately 15 minutes remaining.

Mr. CARTER. This is something I have worked on. I have worked on it now for almost 6 months. This is cement, and JOHN SULLIVAN, who has been working with us on this, is bringing this up that week of October 3.

The Cement MACT and two related rules are expected to affect approximately 100 cement plants in America. Now, when we say cement we are talking about a process that makes that powdery gravel and sand that, if you go to the—I won't advertise for anybody—but if you go to one of these stores that sells stuff for construction, you will see these sacks of stuff that say something "crete"—"cement crete" or something like it. And in that sack is a bunch of stuff, and you add water to it, you make concrete. Gardeners use it, everybody uses it.

On a bigger scale you pour slabs for foundations for buildings. On an even bigger scale you put special reinforced steel in the cement pour, the concrete pour, and you make pre-stressed concrete walls which most of our big buildings in this country and around the world are built with. In fact, concrete is the number two building material in the world. The number one building material in the world is water.

Of the elements that are used in building things, Portland cement is number two, and it's the process that makes the powder that binds it to make concrete.

□ 2050

Now, this is our process. We discovered it. We did it. We originated the prestressed concrete that many of these buildings here in Washington, D.C. that aren't marble are built out of. And yet our regulatory process has the potential to drive anywhere from a third to a half of all the cement manufacturers, the people that make the powder that binds the concrete, out of the country.

Now, we are doing it for the good of the environment. Right? Well, we have scrubbers on our cement plants, and we have lots of things that we have

cleaned up in our cement process. But our competitors in China and India have nothing. I mean, zero. They don't have anything to do with cleaning up the environment. So is it really going to clean up the world's environment, all the way around the world environment, by taking it away from a place that does it right and putting it in a place that does it wrong? A \$7 billion industry could cost as much as \$5 billion to fix these regulations. Put a pencil to that. I mean, they are worth \$7 billion, and \$5 billion more has to be put into it.

And the only solution that many of them see is just close down the plants in the United States, fire the people that are there. Hello? What kinds of jobs are these? The lowest paid man that works at a Portland cement factory makes around \$65,000 a year, a laborer. And then the technicians get up into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. These are not minimum-wage jobs; these are the kind of jobs that every American dreams about, the kind of job that every family dreams is the basis of their family.

And because of the regulatory analysis of some people, they have decided that they are going to impose regulations that basically drive these people off to Mexico or to China or to India. And they bring up issues like mercury. But studies, their own people's studies, show that the majority of the mercury that is in the air right now in the United States comes from China and India because they don't clean things up over there, and it blows over here from China and India. So we are going to make it better by sending more over to China and India? I don't think so.

But what about the American jobs that are here. What if they let these people thrive. If they thrive, building materials stay reasonable. We don't have to ship building materials from China to build our next house, to pour our next concrete slab. And so what happens, the price of everything goes up. Can we afford that next house? Who knows. This is what regulations do. It is a compounding effect that costs us jobs.

I see one of the smartest men in Congress here, Mr. GOHMERT, over there. Is he here to talk on a different subject? I know he is smart enough to talk about this if he wants to. LOUIE is one of my colleagues from Texas, and I'm proud to call him my friend.

Let's go to the next chart. We don't have a board for this, but let me say something. I'll tell you about south Texas and the jobs that they are creating down there. Just to give you an example of how excited people are about that find of natural gas in south Texas—and now remember, Texans are oil and gas people. Remember this, too: when Texas came into the Union as a country, we had a special treaty which let us keep our public lands. So the

Federal Government doesn't tell us what we do with our land in Texas because we own our public lands. And all of this land that is going to be drilled on in south Texas is owned by people, not by the Federal Government. So they can't keep us from leasing our land out to drill these wells.

Now, they can keep us from using the process it takes to break up that shale to capture this gas, and that's what they're trying to do. Now, we created an Energy Department in this country, I forget, 30 years ago. And its goal was to make us energy independent in our lifetime. Well, I don't know whose lifetime it was, but some of those people are already dead, because the truth is we are further from being energy dependent than the day that they created the Energy Department. Way further.

At that time, less than 30 percent or 40 percent of our oil and gas came from overseas. Now we are in the 80 percentile range. Now, why in the world when we know that we've got it and we know we're going to use it, we have to use it, why would we keep buying it from Saudi Arabia and other places like Venezuela that hate us? Why don't we just get what we've got? Go down there and get what we've got. Out in the gulf and in south Texas and in the great State of Pennsylvania, where they've got a huge shale gas find, ask those people how they like their shale gas. They love it; 25,000 jobs have been created in that part of Pennsylvania in the last year and a half. The same shale goes into New York, and it is going other places. So there are jobs that get created by this.

But here is another peripheral thing. Because there is no place to stay in south Texas—it is just a bunch of little bitty towns down there—big hotel firms are coming down there and building hotels down there because they see this as a long-term operation down there, and it is worth investing and building hotels and motels so the people working down there will have a place to stay.

What comes with that, restaurants. And what comes with that, washaterias, and all of the other things that you need to help people grow. And then when people settle, what is the first thing that they are looking for, an apartment or a house to live in. They get tired of staying in a hotel.

One company, I won't use their name, one company went down to south Texas and leased a whole eight-story hotel for 2 years. That's how convinced they are this is going to be an economic boom in south Texas.

Why would we ever want to stop that. And yet there are people who are continuously bombarding this industry and saying that this terrible shale fracking process is poisoning the water supply. But there is no evidence, real evidence that proves that.

By the way, anybody that tells you that they smell it in their water

doesn't know what they are talking about because natural gas doesn't smell. It smells in your house because they put a chemical in there that makes it smell so you know when your gas is leaking. But it doesn't smell when it comes out of the ground.

I worked in that industry as a kid. I had the crummy job of actually digging up one of those smell machines that puts the smell in natural gas, and I could testify under oath, it's the foulest-smelling thing that you ever saw, but they have a machine that puts it into your gas so you can smell it when it goes into your home. There are a lot of people who are just being crazy over some of these issues.

Look at this, coal. First, I was talking tonight at supper with one of our Members from Kentucky, and he said they've issued two coal mining permits in the last 2 years, I think he said. And they are one of the largest coal-mining areas in the entire country. They are doing everything they possibly can to kill the coal industry. And yet we have an abundance of coal, and cleaning up the coal process has been the goal of the coal industry and the manufacturing world. We have some States like Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, those States along the Ohio River, and many of the States on the east coast, and even this city have coal power plants. In fact, in some places the predominant power plant is the coal power plant.

Now, if they shut those down and take them offline, how are we going to have enough electricity for everybody? We already worry about brownouts and blackouts if we have hot weather. How are we going to have enough electricity if we're going to take away the natural resources?

And who's going to take it away? A vote of this Congress? No. We've had that vote, and it didn't happen. A guy who works for the government that sits in his little office in a cubicle and decides that he doesn't think we ought to have coal, should he and a group of people be able to write a regulation that shuts down a whole industry based on possibly bad science? That's a question we have to ask ourselves. And do we all want to sit around in the dark as we ponder because if we shut off what we use to power our power industry, we won't have any electrical power. This is for the residuals. I guess it's the ash, is the best word I can say.

□ 2100

Now, what in the world is anybody worried about coal ash for? Well, I think everybody in this room, if they don't have sheetrock in their house, there's something probably strange about it, because most everybody has what we in our part of the world call sheetrock. Now, up here they may call it wallboard or something else. Well, part of the component of sheetrock is coal ash. And yet this bill creates an

enforceable minimal standard that allows coal ash to be used in the products it's being used in with appropriate studies. If they do the pending rules for coal ash, there's another thousand jobs that's going to be lost.

So just in our talk tonight there's 300,000 jobs.

We're almost through this stuff, but there's plenty more. I've just got 10 of the hundreds that have been passed, in just the last 2 months, of new regulations. These are just 10. But in these short 10, now we're at over 300,000 jobs lost when these regulations go into effect.

Most of these are current events. This will happen before the end of the year or certainly before the middle of next year. So, as we are trying to create jobs, we're losing them as fast as we can create them. And why? Because of the regulations.

Now, we can regulate without shutting things down. There's a smart way to do things and there's a stupid way to do things. Let's do it the smart way. Let's get the politics—and by "politics," I mean the environmental politics—out of this process and let's get off to where we need to be. And that is: What do we need, how do we accomplish it, and how do we keep working while we do it? If we can do that, which is certainly not flying to the Moon. It's less complicated than that. If we can do that, we can start solving the job problem we've got in this country because we can put people back to work.

I'll give you one final example that we don't have a board on. I talked earlier about people who have franchises. If you wanted to buy a McDonald's hamburger franchise for your hometown—I don't know what it costs, but it's not cheap because it's a money-making business. And when you bought it, you would be a small business owner. You would own one McDonald's store. I think that would be a pretty good definition of a small business owner.

Now, we have written a regulation—there's more pages in that regulation than there are chairs in this room—called the Dodd-Frank bill. It regulates the financial industry. As a result of the Dodd-Frank bill, if you had the ability and the creditworthiness to get the money, to borrow the investment money and put up some of your own to buy a McDonald's franchise, the Dodd-Frank bill has put so many regulations on these folks that the availability of capital—and "capital" is not a dirty word; "capital" is another word for investment money—availability of capital for these small businesses is almost impossible.

And yet our banks are overflowing with capital. It's not that they don't want to make loans. It's, first, small business men are scared of this environment and they don't want to borrow. But if they do want to borrow, the

regulations have made it so difficult, they give up and they don't borrow the money. Bankers don't make a living if somebody doesn't borrow the money. That's how they make a living.

So, everything in our economy is interrelated and tied together. As we talk about small business, it is the driving force for the American economy. If you keep small business from creating new jobs, you keep our economy from growing. These regulations and others we'll talk about in the future are just that—job-killing regulations. And if they've killed existing jobs, they're certainly not going to be helpful in creating new jobs.

I yield back the balance of my time.

REMEMBERING 9/11

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALBERG). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. As always, it is an honor to speak on this floor where so much history has been made, where, after Pearl Harbor, President Franklin Roosevelt stood here in this Hall and announced that was a day that would live in infamy. There have been some great Americans from different walks of life, ages, races who do great things in this Hall. Sometimes we have to take a look and have some time of self-examination; and 9/11—yesterday, 10 years after the worst attack in American history on our soil—is a good time to really take inventory of where we are, what have we learned, what have we done.

We know that we have five who helped organize 9/11. They're being held at Guantanamo Bay. The man who acknowledges his role—and most say he was the leader, the instigator—Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, is there, a very smart man. He can still be smart and be crazy. A very smart man.

At a lengthy hearing during which he was interviewed by the judge in the military commission trial down at Guantanamo Bay—I've been there a couple of times. The design of that courtroom is absolutely ideal for the kind of trial that was to take place there of those five defendants, but they announced they intended to plead guilty back in December of 2008. That was before the new administration, including our Attorney General, Eric Holder, indicated that we wanted to give them a trial in New York City, itself. We wanted to bring those people to the heart of Manhattan, where some estimated it would cost not merely millions but potentially hundreds of millions for the security to have that trial there.

And the fact was they had already announced they were going to plead guilty. Khalid Sheikh Mohammed made very, very clear in a lengthy

interview there in court—it's on the record, and we have the verbatim interview. He, under oath, such as it was, admitted enough detail. It was very clear this man was behind the killing of thousands of Americans on 9/11.

He is smart enough that he did his own translation and filed his pleading in response. The judge in the case before this administration took over was kind enough to declassify this pleading, and it can be found on my Web site at gohmert.house.gov. It can be found in a number of places. The things he says are extraordinary. Of course, he blames the United States.

But just in case there are people, Mr. Speaker, that wonder do we really have the right guys that organized, planned, plotted to kill innocent fathers and mothers and children there at the World Trade Center, at the Pentagon, and, yes, apparently even here at our Nation's Capitol that some say is the most recognized building in the entire world, well, he says—and he quotes from the Koran.

Thank God, most Muslims do not believe "jihad" means what the radicals believe. But make no mistake, just as it was in Afghanistan when the radical Islamists—the Taliban—took over Afghanistan, moderate Muslims were at risk because, to some like the Taliban, if you don't believe in Islam and the Koran exactly like they do, then you're eligible for a capital offense.

□ 2110

You can be put to death. You're not a proper believer. You could be cast aside as an infidel.

So moderate Muslims are every bit as much at risk—even more so at times—than the rest of us infidels, according to the likes of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed.

He quotes from the Koran in his pleading. It says: "In God's book, verse 9, Al-Taubah, Then fight and slay the pagans wherever you find them, and seize them and besiege them, and lie in wait for them in each and every ambush."

Down at the bottom of page 4 of his pleading, he says: "We do not possess your military might, not your nuclear weapons"—and parenthetically, I would interject, not yet. Iran is working on that, and certainly we can expect the terrorists will have the nuclear weapons once Iran has them.

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, on behalf of himself and the other codefendants, said, "Nevertheless, we fight you with the almighty God. So if our act of jihad and our fighting with you cause fear and terror, then many thanks to God because it is him that has thrown fear into your hearts, which resulted in your infidelity, paganism, and your statement that God had a son and your Trinity beliefs."

Now, according to Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, a radical Islamist, the mere

belief or statement that God had a son or that there is a holy Trinity is a capital offense worthy of the death penalty because you have associated some other person or entity with God.

Then he quotes from the Koran. He says, God stated in his book, verse 151, Al-Umran: "Soon shall we cast terror into the hearts of the unbelievers for that they join companies with Allah, for which he has sent no authority. Their place will be the fire, and evil is the home of the wrongdoers." So once again, in his own legal pleadings, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, on behalf of himself and four other codefendants, makes clear he felt like they were justified in inflicting capital punishment on what those of us who are somewhat sane in the world would say was an act of hatred, an act of war, an act worthy of the death penalty, itself.

He goes on. There's quite a bit here in his six-page pleading, but he quotes from the Koran again: "God has stated in his book, verse 14, Al-Hashir, They fight not against you even together except in fortified townships or from behind walls. Their enmity among themselves is very great. You would think they are united, but their hearts are divided. That is because they are a people who understand not."

He's right about that. As we have people who have tried to stand up and say these guys are thugs, they're hateful, they're evil, they deserve the death penalty for what they have admitted under oath in court that they did, they deserve the death penalty, we have people running around saying, no, no, no. Let's give them a show trial. Let's spend hundreds of millions of dollars to give them a show trial so they can spew their venom and their hatred out on all of the airways. That's not what they deserve.

Under our system of justice—and people need to understand, Mr. Speaker, we go by the Constitution. And there is only one Court created in the Constitution that is not created by the United States Congress, and that is the Supreme Court. As my constitutional law professor used to make very clear, David Gwinn, he would say, if Congress has the power to create every court in the country, they have the power to dissolve them. They are congressionally created courts. Only the Supreme Court is a court they can't mess with the jurisdiction; that's set aside for them in the Constitution.

We have the power under the Constitution to set up military commissions, tribunals. The Bush administration made a mistake in initially trying to set up a military commission on its own. That was not constitutionally appropriate. The Constitution gives that power to Congress. So once that was struck down, then we did it here in Congress in 2006. Of course, it included some mean-spirited, nasty words about people like Khalid Sheikh Mohammed,

who rejoiced at the terror Americans had on 9/11.

They felt like “enemy combatants” was just too mean-spirited to call such a wondrous creature like Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. Let’s be kinder and gentler with our treatment of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. So in 2009, the Democratically controlled House and Senate passed an amendment. We watered down “enemy combatant.” It was just so harsh about these fine people. They are now called officially “unprivileged, alien, enemy belligerents.” And I hope they don’t take offense of being called “enemies”; but since they call us their enemies, then perhaps it’s not too harsh.

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, in his pleading, goes on. He says, “We will make our materials available to defend and deter and egress you and the filthy Jews from our countries.” Yeah, this wonderful creature, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, has a real love for our Jewish friends both in the United States and Israel and around the world. What a good guy. I hope we didn’t offend him by calling him an “enemy belligerent” or an “enemy combatant.”

But he said, “God has ordered us to spend for jihad in his cause. This is evident, he says, in many Koranic verses. He goes on, and he says, “We ask to be near to God. We fight you and destroy you and terrorize you. The jihad in God’s cause is a great duty in our religion. We have news for you. The news is—” these are Khalid Sheikh Mohammed’s words “—you will be greatly defeated in Africa and Iraq, and America will fall politically, militarily, and economically. Your end is very near, and your fall will be just as the fall of the towers on the blessed 9/11 day.

“We will raise from the ruins, God willing. We will leave this imprisonment with our noses raised high in dignity as the lion emerges from his den. We shall pass over the blades of the sword into the gates of heaven.” He said, “So we ask from God to accept our contributions to the great attack, the great attack on America, and to place our 19 martyred brethren among the highest peaks in paradise.”

“Unprivileged, alien, enemy belligerent,” according to the Democratically controlled House and Senate, 2009. He’s not an enemy combatant; he’s an unprivileged enemy belligerent who wants to destroy America.

Now I know there are many Christians that I’ve heard from who are really torn over this issue of how a Christian should respond to hateful, evil attacks as we experienced on 9/11.

□ 2120

Some say, well, Jesus talked about turning the other cheek. Indeed he did. His Beatitudes that he gave in his Sermon on the Mount make clear that war is not something an individual is supposed to declare on another individual.

And I don’t try to impose my religious beliefs on somebody else, but it’s important to have these discussions since we, for a little while longer, have the freedom of speech and freedom of religion even if we’re not radical Islamists. So for a little while longer we can discuss this publicly.

Anyone who believes the New Testament has to believe the book of Romans as well. And when you get to Romans 13:4 and it says, if you do evil, be afraid, it says, for our government is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil be afraid, for our government does not bear the sword in vain. Our government is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.

Those of us who believe all that’s in the New Testament also believe Jesus’ words that God does work things all together for good for those who love the Lord and are called according to his purpose.

I don’t know what all good things will come from this act of sheer evil and hatred on 9/11, that much hate that could bring down that many people and that much in the way of structure on the heads, on the bodies of innocent men and women, but I do know we should learn lessons.

This government, whether you’re a Christian, a Muslim, whether you’re of the Jewish faith, whatever your faith, you have to understand, there needs to be a government in order to maintain order in society because this is not a perfect world and people are not perfect, and there will always be people bent on evil, bent on no good, and people who want to live in peace have to have governments in order to keep them safe as safe can be in a world where people exist who want to do evil.

Jesus did say, Blessed are the peacemakers, but he also said, you know, if you say Racca, which was a crime back then, an offense, you’ll have to answer to the courts. He anticipated there had to be an orderly government where people had to answer for their offenses and crimes against others.

This is the government. We, the people of the United States, are the government, and every couple of years, there’s a hiring day when people are supposed to examine the resumes, examine the backgrounds of those applying for the job to be servant. It’s a hiring day. And we have a huge percentage of people who don’t come out and even participate even though they’re the government and they’re supposed to hire servants to come in here and do the job of protecting them. That’s the government’s role.

On 9/11, we had people who did evil. If you believe Romans, they should be afraid. And there is nothing prohibitive in our United States Constitution of someone who is an enemy of the United States, is not an American citizen, being tried in a military commission or

tribunal as long as it’s set up by the Congress. There is nothing unconstitutional about that no more than there is anything unconstitutional about the U.S. Government trying people in the United States military under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. There’s nothing inappropriate about that under our Constitution. That’s why, in my 4 years in the Army, people I knew were court-martialed, and they were tried under those rules that would not meet the requirements for someone who was not in the military.

But the Constitution anticipates different people in different circumstances could have different types of trials. Nothing unconstitutional about that. And someone who is a foreign enemy of the United States, who commits, participates, aids, abets, encourages an act of war against the United States is worthy of being tried in a military tribunal, a military commission, and he’s worthy of being put to death if capital punishment is the judgment of the tribunal or the commission.

What is not worthy is people coming in and intervening when defendants who were responsible, admittedly, over and over, for killing 3,000 Americans, and they’re ready to plead guilty, they are pleading guilty, and they come in and say, Oh, not so fast. We want to give you a pulpit to spew your venom and hate and pay lots and lots of money.

That’s not worthy of this government. That’s the way you lose countries, when people will not stand up when they are the government and defend the people they are charged with defending.

Our role is to provide for the common defense against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and that means people like Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and others who would try to destroy this country and our freedoms. It should not happen.

Do we wonder, some people say, well, it’s so inappropriate to talk about Christianity at all. The Founders, we’re told sometimes, they never meant for that kind of thing to go on. Well, let’s see.

I know, in my 4 years in the Army, I never had an officer who ordered that it was a violation, and it was a violation of his orders, to take God’s name in vain. We’d have had a lot of people being court-martialed if that had been the case back when I was in. And I imagine that’s true today.

But Washington felt that we could not expect God to bless us and protect us and to help in the revolution if we were taking his name in vain, or soldiers were at the same time they were asking for his blessing. Washington said so many things. But he also ordered, this is an order of May 2, 1778, to the troops at Valley Forge, Commander-in-Chief, and these are Washington’s signed orders:

Commander-in-Chief directs that divine service be performed every Sunday at 11:00 in each brigade which has a chaplain. Those brigades which have none will attend the places of worship nearest to them. It is expected that officers of all ranks will, by their attendance, set an example for their men. While we are zealously performing the duties of God, citizens and soldiers, we certainly ought not to be inattentive to the higher duties of religion. To the distinguished character of patriot, it should be our highest glory to laud the more distinguished character of Christian.

And he did capitalize the word "Christian."

We're not advocating that everybody in America should be a Christian, because we have freedom to do whatever we wish—worship, not worship. But it is not right to try to rewrite history to say the things that happened did not happen, the things that we were founded on did not happen.

Jefferson and Madison both attended church just down the hall each Sunday they were in Washington, D.C., at the biggest church in the District of Columbia, held in the House of Representatives.

Thomas Jefferson not only did not think it was inappropriate or unconstitutional to have a nondenominational Christian worship service in the House of Representatives, but he often had the Marine Band come play hymns for their worship services. He's the guy that coined the phrase, "separation of church and state."

When you hear someone say there's a wall of separation that the Constitution says we must have, that the Constitution says we must have separation of church and state, you know, you may be dealing with an intelligent person, but you're dealing with an ignorant person, because those things are not in the Constitution. They were in a letter written to the Danbury Baptists by Thomas Jefferson.

□ 2130

How about John Quincy Adams? He wrote this September, 1811: "So great is my veneration for the Bible and so strong my belief, that when duly read and meditated on, it is of all books in the world that which contributes most to make men good, wise and happy—that the earlier my children begin to read it, the more steadily they pursue the practice of reading it throughout their lives, the more lively and confident will be my hopes that they will prove useful citizens of their country, respectable members of society."

And that's a man who believed he was called to run for the House of Representatives after he was defeated for a second term for President.

Or how about this general order: "President, Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, desires and enjoins

the orderly observance of the Sabbath by the officers and men in the military and naval service. The importance for man and beast of the prescribed weekly rest, the sacred rights of Christian soldiers and sailors, a becoming deference to the best sentiment of a Christian people, and a due regard for the Divine Will demand that Sunday labor in the Army and Navy be reduced to the measure of strict necessity."

By the way, this was Abraham Lincoln, his order as Commander in Chief. He said: "The discipline and character of the national forces should not suffer nor the cause they defend be imperiled by the profanation of the day or name of the Most High.

"At this time of public distress," adopting the words of Washington in 1776, "men may find enough to do in the service of God and their country without abandoning themselves to vice and immorality."

Abraham Lincoln also in 1863 said this: "We have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand that preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.

"Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us. It behooves us then to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins and to pray for clemency and forgiveness."

We have such a rich heritage. But we need to understand where we come from if we're going to understand where we're going.

How about Franklin D. Roosevelt's prayer on June 6, 1944, D-day, when he knew thousands of Americans were being killed on the beaches of Normandy. And he led the Nation in prayer over the radio, an emotional prayer it is. It can be found online without a problem.

Jefferson's memorial shows this quote: "God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a Nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect our God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever."

I don't know what good God will work from the evil terror of 9/11. But I know something I saw on 9/11 and on 9/12, and this is the 10th anniversary of the day we came together as a Nation like I'd never seen before.

I went into the Army on active duty after Vietnam was over. It was not a good time to be in the military at all. We were sometimes ordered not to wear our uniforms off-post at Fort

Riley, occasionally Fort Benning, because of violence that could be inflicted on military members if they were caught by themselves. It was not a good time. I've been spit on in uniform. It was not a good time to be in the military.

I really didn't think I would ever see the level of patriotism again that people saw after World War II.

And then came 9/11. And people in this country that had called police and law enforcement "pigs"; people who had been irritated and angry at fire department personnel because they were slowing things down, getting in the way; people who were upset with ambulances and EMTs for getting in their way; people who were upset with the military had a new profound appreciation like could never have happened without those evil men committing those acts of hatred.

That night of September 11, 10 years ago, I went to a church I was not a member of, and we prayed—people from all walks, all ages, all races—we prayed together. We held hands. We asked God for protection like the children of Israel did when they knew they had no other place to turn but than the God Jehovah.

And the next day in our town square, like thousands and thousands of town squares around America, we gathered, we prayed, we spoke, we sang "Amazing Grace," we sang "God Bless America. That is a prayer. We held hands. And it hit me: Martin Luther King, Jr., had a dream of some day seeing people judged for the content of their character, not the color of their skin. And as I held hands and looked around at all of these hundreds of people in our town square holding hands and being of one heart, it hit me—a small glimpse of the dream he had. And it's beautiful.

That day there were no Euro-Americans, there were no Anglo-Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans. There were no hyphenated Americans 10 years ago today. We were Americans. May God grant that we will return to that sense of unity and purpose once again.

I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BARLETTA (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of severe flooding in his district.

Mr. CAPUANO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for Sept. 12 and 13 on account of a death in the family.

Mr. HOLT (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of pressing business.

Mr. MARINO (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of severe flooding in his district.

Mr. PAULSEN (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of personal reasons.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1239. An act to provide for a medal of appropriate design to be awarded by the President to the memorials established at the 3

sites honoring the men and women who perished as a result of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, the Committee on Financial Services.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1249. An act to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 38 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, September 13, 2011, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the first and third quarters of 2008 pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.☐											

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY, Mar. 31, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. <input type="checkbox"/>											

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY, Sept. 30, 2008.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3035. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fluoxastobin; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2010-0725; FRL-8884-4] received August 15, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3036. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Metconazole; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2010-0621; FRL-8882-7] received August 15, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3037. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Thiamethoxam; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0481; FRL-8874-9] received August 15, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3038. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Tetraconazole; Pesticide

Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2010-0583; FRL-8885-1] received August 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3039. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Rules of Practice and Procedure (RIN: 2590-AA14) received August 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3040. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Demonstration Programs—National Technical Assistance Projects to Improve Employment Outcomes for Individuals with Disabilities received August 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3041. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Clothes Dryers and Room Air Conditioners [Docket Number: EERE-2007-BT-STD-0010] (RIN: 1904-AA89) received August 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3042. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services,

transmitting the Department's final rule — Responsibility of Applicants for Promoting Objectivity in Research for which Public Health Service Funding is Sought and Responsible Prospective Contractors [Docket Number NIH-2010-0001] (RIN:0925-AA53) received August 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3043. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Cardiovascular Devices; Classification of Electrocardiograph Electrodes [Docket No.: FDA-2007-N-0092] (Formerly Docket No.: 2007N-0308) received August 8, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3044. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) [EPA-R09-OAR-2011-0545; FRL-9447-4] received August 15, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3045. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation

of Implementation Plans; New York Reasonable Further Progress Plans, Emissions, Inventories, Contingency Measures and Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets [EPA-R02-OAR-2010-1058; FRL-9453-2] received August 15, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3046. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Infrastructure State Implementation Plan Requirement to Address Interstate Transport for the 2006 24-Hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS [EPA-R03-OAR-2010-1027-FRL-9457-2] received August 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3047. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-2011-0412; FRL-9455-3] received August 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3048. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Change to the Reporting Date for Certain Data Elements Required Under the Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gases Rule [EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-0929; FRL-9456-3] (RIN: 2060-AQ80) received August 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3049. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule Revising the California State Implementation Plan, South Coast Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2011-0537; FRL-9457-6] received August 15, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3050. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Minnesota; Rules Update [EPA-R05-OAR-2008-0448; FRL-9450-1] received August 10, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3051. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans North Carolina: Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Nonattainment New Source Review Rules [EPA-R04-OAR-2005-0534-201113; FRL-9449-8] received August 10, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3052. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Protocol Gas Verification Program and Minimum Competency Requirements for Air Emission Testing; Corrections [EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0387; FRL-9450-7] (RIN: 2060-AQ06) received August 10, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3053. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Fed-

eral Implementation Plan for Interstate Transport of Pollution Affecting Visibility and Best Available Retrofit Technology Determination [EPA-R06-OAR-2010-0846; FRL-9451-1] received August 10, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3054. A letter from the Division Chief, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Segregation of Lands-Renewable Energy [WO 300-1430-PQ] (RIN: 1004-AE19) received August 9, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3055. A letter from the Chief, Division of Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Public Sales [WO-350-05 1430 PN] (RIN: 1004-AD74) received August 9, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3056. A letter from the Chief, Division of Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Geothermal Resource Leasing and Geothermal Resources Unit Agreement [WO-310 9131 PP] (RIN: 1004-AD86) received August 9, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3057. A letter from the Chief, Endangered Species Branch of Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Endangered Status for *Ipomopsis polyantha* (Pagosa Skyrocket) and Threatened Status for *Penstemon debilis* (Parachute Beardtongue) and *Phacelia submutica* (DeBeque Phacelia) [FWA-R6-ES-2010-0015] [MO 92210-0-0008 B2] (RIN: 1018-AV83) received August 5, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3058. A letter from the Acting Chief, Endangered Species Branch Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status for the Cumberland Darter, Rush Darter, Yellow Cheek Darter, Chucky Madtom, and Laurel Dace [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2011-0027] [MO 92219-0-0008 B2] received August 5, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3059. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Harlem River, New York City, NY [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0509] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3060. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; 2011 Seattle Seafair Fleet Week Moving Vessels, Puget Sound, Washington [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0505] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3061. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zones; Sector Southeastern New England Captain of the Port Zone [Docket No.: USCG-2010-0803] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3062. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmit-

ting the Department's final rule — Safety Zones; Annual events requiring safety zones in the Captain of the Port Lake Michigan zone [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0264] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3063. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; BGSU Football Gridiron Classic Golf and Dinner Fireworks, Catawba Island Club, Port Clinton, OH [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0372] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3064. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30797; Amdt. 3438] received August 24, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3065. A letter from the Senior Program Monitor, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Model DHC-8-400 Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0718; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-117-AD; Amendment 39-16756; AD 2011-15-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 23, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3066. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A318, A319, A320, and A321 Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0257; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-122-AD; Amendment 39-16741; AD 2011-14-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 23, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3067. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Model 747 Airplanes and Model 767 Airplanes Equipped with General Electric Model CF6-80C2 or CF6-80A Series Engines, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3068. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Launch Safety: Lightning Criteria for Expendable Launch Vehicles [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0181; Amendment No. 417-2] (RIN: 2120-AJ84) received July 29, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3069. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Activation of Ice Protection [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0675; Amendment No. 121-356] (RIN: 2120-AJ43) received August 24, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3070. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Restrictions on Operators Employing Former Flight Standards Service Aviation Safety Inspectors [Docket No.: FAA-2008-1154; Amendment Nos. 91-325, 119-5, 125-61, 133-14, 137-16, 141-16, 142-8, 145-29, and 147-7] (RIN: 2120-AJ36) received August 24, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3071. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A330-200 and -300 Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-1212; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-167-AD; Amendment 39-16732; AD 2011-13-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3072. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Hazardous Materials Safety, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hazardous Materials Transportation: Revisions of Special Permits Procedures [Docket Nos.: PHMSA-2009-0410 (HM-233B)] (RIN: 2137-AE73) received July 27, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3073. A letter from the Director, Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program (RIN: 2900-AN73) received August 22, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

3074. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Discontinuance of High-Low Method for Substantiating Travel Expenses [Announcement 2011-42] received July 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[Omitted from the Record of September 9, 2011]

Mr. BONNER: Committee on Ethics. In the Matter of Todd Poole (Rept. 112-203). Referred to the House Calendar.

[Submitted September 12, 2011]

Mr. SMITH of Texas: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 963. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide immunity for reports of suspected terrorist activity or suspicious behavior and response (Rept. 112-204). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 1852. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize support for graduate medical education programs in children's hospitals (Rept. 112-205). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII the following actions were taken by the Speaker:

The Committee on Ways and Means discharged from further consideration. H.R. 358 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Pursuant to section 3101A(c)(2) of Title 31, United States Code:

H.J. Res. 77. Relating to the disapproval of the President's exercise of authority to increase the debt limit, as submitted under section 3101A of title 31, United States Code, on August 2, 2011.

Committee on Ways and Means discharged from further consideration. Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 2882. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to accept from the Board of Directors of the National September 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center Foundation, Inc., the donation of title to The National September 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky (for himself and Mr. DOGGETT):

H.R. 2883. A bill to amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to extend the child and family services program through fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself, Mr. DICKS, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 2884. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to extend the deadline for the payment to be made by the United States Postal Service in 2011 in connection with the financing of future health benefits for retirees; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. TERRY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, and Mrs. MYRICK):

H.R. 2885. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to make mandatory and permanent requirements relating to use of an electronic employment eligibility verification system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 2886. A bill to prioritize the payment of pay and allowances to members of the Armed Forces and Federal law enforcement officers in the event the debt ceiling is reached or there is a funding gap; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Armed Services, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MICA (for himself, Mr. CAMP, Mr. PETRI, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, and Mr. RAHALL):

H.R. 2887. A bill to provide an extension of surface and air transportation programs, and

for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCHOCK (for himself and Mr. BOSWELL):

H.R. 2888. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow credits for the establishment of franchises with veterans; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCCOTTER:

H.R. 2889. A bill to reform Social Security by establishing a Personal Social Security Savings Program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CLARKE of Michigan:

H.R. 2890. A bill to expand homeland security at public water systems and treatment works by allowing the Secretary of Homeland Security to include these facilities in the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FINCHER:

H.R. 2891. A bill to delay implementation of the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule of the Environmental Protection Agency; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FINCHER:

H.R. 2892. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to suspend the capital gains tax for 10 years for taxpayers other than corporations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey):

H.R. 2893. A bill to prohibit Foreign Military Financing program assistance to countries that vote in the United Nations General Assembly in favor of recognizing a Palestinian state in the absence of a negotiated border agreement between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 2894. A bill to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration to provide assistance to firefighting task forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California:

H.R. 2895. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for a temporary agricultural worker program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, Energy and Commerce, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PAYNE:

H.R. 2896. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 369 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Jersey City, New Jersey, as the "Judge Shirley A. Tolentino Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. POMPEO (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. GRAVES

of Missouri, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. LONG, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. FLORES, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, and Mr. BARROW):

H.R. 2897. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to prevent the dissemination to the public of certain information with respect to noncommercial flights of private aircraft owners and operators; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. RIBBLE (for himself, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. BENISHEK, and Mr. LONG):

H.R. 2898. A bill to provide that no agency may take any significant regulatory action until the unemployment rate is equal to or less than 7.7 percent; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROHRABACHER (for himself, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mr. FORBES):

H.R. 2899. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to ensure open and free journalism access in the People's Republic of China by establishing a reciprocal relationship between the number of visas issued to state-controlled media workers in China and in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. EDWARDS (for herself and Mr. CONYERS):

H.J. Res. 78. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to clarify the authority of Congress and the States to regulate the expenditure of funds for political activity by corporations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 2882.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 1, 17, and 18.

By Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky:

H.R. 2883.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, to "provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States."

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 2884.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. SMITH of Texas:

H.R. 2885.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 4 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 2886.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States

By Mr. MICA:

H.R. 2887.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1, Clause 3, and Clause 18.

By Mr. SCHOCK:

H.R. 2888.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress as stated in Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. McCOTTER:

H.R. 2889.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

Sixteenth Amendment

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

By Mr. CLARKE of Michigan:

H.R. 2890.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. FINCHER:

H.R. 2891.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. FINCHER:

H.R. 2892.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 2893.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 2894.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

By Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California:

H.R. 2895.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Legal Agricultural Workforce Act is authorized by the Commerce Clause of Article 1 Section 8.

By Mr. PAYNE:

H.R. 2896.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and

among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. POMPEO:

H.R. 2897.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 and Clause 18.

By Mr. RIBBLE:

H.R. 2898.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. ROHRABACHER:

H.R. 2899.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the US Constitution: "To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States."

By Ms. EDWARDS:

H.J. Res. 78.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article V of the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 23: Mr. GERLACH and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 25: Mr. LEWIS of California.

H.R. 104: Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina.

H.R. 157: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 178: Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 329: Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 333: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H.R. 361: Mrs. ELLMERS and Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 365: Mr. SCHOCK and Mr. WEST.

H.R. 402: Ms. SPEIER, Mr. RICHMOND, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

H.R. 409: Mrs. NOEM and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H.R. 431: Mr. GUINTA.

H.R. 452: Mrs. BIGGERT.

H.R. 458: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 459: Mr. CAMP, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Mr. ROONEY.

H.R. 494: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 539: Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 642: Mr. CASSIDY.

H.R. 645: Mr. ROYCE and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.

H.R. 687: Mr. REICHERT.

H.R. 721: Mr. ELLISON and Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 733: Mr. KILDEE, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. HANNA, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 743: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H.R. 750: Mr. GOWDY, Mr. MULVANEY, and Mr. BUCHSHON.

H.R. 758: Mr. FLAKE.

H.R. 812: Mr. LOEBBACH.

H.R. 822: Mrs. BIGGERT.

H.R. 853: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 854: Mr. COBLE.

H.R. 878: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 886: Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. REICHERT, Mrs. ADAMS, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 912: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 959: Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 973: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 997: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 1025: Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. HARPER, and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H.R. 1041: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Mr. FLORES.

H.R. 1120: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

H.R. 1179: Mr. LATTA, Mr. PENCE, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. LUTKEMEYER, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. LONG, and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.

H.R. 1187: Ms. RICHARDSON.

H.R. 1193: Mr. ROSS of Florida.

H.R. 1206: Mr. MARCHANT and Mr. BUCSHON.

H.R. 1236: Mr. GARDNER and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H.R. 1244: Mr. REHBERG.

H.R. 1254: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 1265: Mr. SCHOCK and Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 1269: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 1281: Ms. JENKINS.

H.R. 1283: Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 1351: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana.

H.R. 1370: Mr. FORBES, Mr. POMPEO, and Mr. BUCSHON.

H.R. 1380: Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 1386: Mr. PETERSON and Ms. WOOLSEY.

H.R. 1417: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. TOWNS, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 1419: Mr. KUCINICH and Ms. WOOLSEY.

H.R. 1449: Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 1459: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.

H.R. 1477: Mr. TOWNS and Ms. HIRONO.

H.R. 1489: Ms. PINGREE of Maine and Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 1501: Mr. RUNYAN.

H.R. 1505: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 1558: Mr. CASSIDY.

H.R. 1574: Mr. CRITZ.

H.R. 1633: Mr. REHBERG, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BOREN, and Mrs. BLACK.

H.R. 1656: Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 1681: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.R. 1711: Ms. HIRONO.

H.R. 1738: Mr. LOEBSACK and Ms. HIRONO.

H.R. 1744: Mrs. BIGGERT.

H.R. 1780: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H.R. 1792: Mrs. MALONEY.

H.R. 1815: Mr. LEWIS of California and Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 1830: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.

H.R. 1834: Mr. LANKFORD.

H.R. 1842: Mr. SIREN, Mr. SHERMAN, and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 1845: Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 1855: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 1861: Mr. HULTGREN and Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 1865: Mr. CALVERT and Mr. NUNNELEE.

H.R. 1897: Ms. WOOLSEY and Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 1916: Mr. SABLAN, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. NEAL, and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 1941: Mr. ACKERMAN and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H.R. 1946: Mrs. ROBY and Mr. BOREN.

H.R. 1966: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 1985: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 1994: Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 1997: Mr. COBLE and Mr. NUNNELEE.

H.R. 2002: Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 2005: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. JENKINS, and Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 2016: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H.R. 2033: Mr. DOYLE, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 2077: Mr. TERRY and Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 2089: Mr. HULTGREN.

H.R. 2102: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 2104: Mr. ALTMIRE.

H.R. 2121: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 2139: Mr. PETERSON, Mrs. ROBY, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. HIMES, Mr. CRAWFORD, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. HUIZENG of Michigan, Mr. PETRI, and Mr. THORNBERRY.

H.R. 2140: Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. COOPER, and Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 2145: Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. LONG, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 2164: Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 2224: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.

H.R. 2245: Mr. LANGEVIN and Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 2250: Mr. GARDNER, Mr. TIPTON, and Mr. ALTMIRE.

H.R. 2257: Mr. GERLACH, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. GUINTA.

H.R. 2273: Mr. TERRY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Mr. NUNNELEE.

H.R. 2342: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 2401: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. NUNNELEE, and Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 2407: Mr. HEINRICH.

H.R. 2414: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska and Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 2429: Mr. FORTENBERRY and Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 2447: Mr. COBLE, Mr. BOREN, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 2457: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mr. TIBERI.

H.R. 2471: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 2492: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 2497: Mr. NUNNELEE and Mr. GUINTA.

H.R. 2513: Ms. MOORE, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

H.R. 2514: Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

H.R. 2517: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H.R. 2530: Mr. BACHUS, Mr. DUFFY, and Mr. DICKS.

H.R. 2543: Ms. WOOLSEY and Mr. STARK.

H.R. 2554: Mr. STARK.

H.R. 2559: Mr. CARNAHAN.

H.R. 2607: Mr. STARK and Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 2617: Ms. WOOLSEY and Mr. STARK.

H.R. 2645: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 2649: Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 2659: Mr. HINCHEY and Ms. WOOLSEY.

H.R. 2671: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 2675: Mr. BOSWELL.

H.R. 2679: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California and Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 2681: Mr. TERRY, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. FORBES, Mr. COBLE, and Mr. NUNNELEE.

H.R. 2697: Mr. GARRETT and Mr. AKIN.

H.R. 2705: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. WOOL-

SEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. MORAN, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 2706: Mr. ALEXANDER and Mr. COBLE.

H.R. 2722: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut and Mr. VISCLOSKEY.

H.R. 2754: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.

H.R. 2787: Mr. PETERSON and Mr. PAUL.

H.R. 2796: Mr. TIPTON and Mr. BUCSHON.

H.R. 2810: Ms. JENKINS.

H.R. 2815: Mr. COBLE.

H.R. 2833: Mr. GOWDY, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. HURT, Mr. YODER, Mr. PAUL, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mrs. ADAMS, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. TERRY, Mr. HARPER, Mr. NUNNELEE, and Mr. MULVANEY.

H.R. 2834: Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. POSEY, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. GIBBS, and Mr. HULTGREN.

H.R. 2854: Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. MACK, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. ISSA, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. LUCAS, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. FLORES, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. GUINTA, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. HECK, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. WEST, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. HALL, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. NUGENT, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. REED, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. KINGSTON, and Mr. WEBSTER.

H.R. 2864: Mr. REHBERG, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. SHULER, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. FORBES, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. MCKINLEY, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. REED, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. TERRY, and Mr. BOSWELL.

H.R. 2865: Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. YODER, and Ms. JENKINS.

H.R. 2881: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida and Mr. WOLF.

H.J. Res. 69: Mr. CLEAVER, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Ms. BORDALLO.

H.J. Res. 77: Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. FORBES, Ms. BUERKLE, and Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H. Con. Res. 39: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri and Mr. ROYCE.

H. Res. 98: Mr. GOWDY and Mr. ROKITA.

H. Res. 137: Mr. MATHESON.

H. Res. 332: Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California.

H. Res. 394: Mr. WEST and Mr. MCKINLEY.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 1161: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO KIMBERLY KOPP

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Kimberly Kopp, a loving mother of four children, and the wife of Colorado State Senator Mike Kopp. Over the past two years, Mrs. Kopp battled cancer, leaving her family, her friends, and her community with examples of courage and grace.

In 1994, Mrs. Kopp married her husband, Mike, whom she met at North Central University in Minneapolis, Minnesota. One year later, she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Christian ministry. For several years, she and Mike worked for various nonprofit Para church ministries in New Mexico and Arizona, eventually landing in Colorado. For years, she and her husband served the communities they lived in, offering hope and assistance through their work and personal lives.

On August 30, 2010, Mrs. Kopp was diagnosed with a rare, recurring form of cancer. For nearly a year, she battled courageously. On July 20, 2011, Mrs. Kopp passed away.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to recognize Kimberly Kopp and the life she lived. Her life is a testament of grace, honor, and courage. She will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO CARLA STEELE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carla Steele for her extraordinary life and distinguished career as both a police officer and emergency medical technician for the fire department in Hayden, Colorado. Her zeal for learning helped her serve the community of Hayden with integrity and excellence.

Ms. Steele began her career as a police officer in August of 1995, after graduating from the police academy. For five years she served in many capacities as a reserve officer until becoming a full-time officer in October of 2000.

As a full-time officer, Ms. Steele was respected throughout Hayden by both her fellow officers and members of the community. For nine years, she devoted herself to the Hayden Police Department, working closely with the Sexual Assault Response and Domestic Violence teams. Her fellow officer, Hayden Police Chief Gordon Boosco said she was "wonderful to work with," and that he would be willing to go into any situation knowing Carla was with him.

The police department, was not the only avenue Ms. Steele used to serve the community

of Hayden. In the fall of 1995 she started EMT courses at Colorado Northwestern Community College with Hayden Fire Chief Bryan Rickman. On June 13, 1996, she joined the Hayden Fire Department as a volunteer EMT, a position she loved.

For 15 years, Ms. Steele served both the Hayden Police Department and Fire Department, devoting her career to a life of service. On July 29, 24 days before her 49th birthday, Carla Jean Steele was tragically taken in a traffic accident.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to recognize Carla Steele. Her integrity and excellence as a public servant had a deep impact in the community of Hayden, Colorado, and she will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO HOTCHKISS HIGH SCHOOL

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hotchkiss High School engineering team for their award winning project, the Caboose, which won first place in the Junior Engineering Technical Society and Ability One National Engineering Design Competition in Washington, D.C. last February.

The engineering team was made up of Hotchkiss High School seniors Brandon Duval, Isaac Fisher, Zachary Larmer, Cody Spiker, Ryan Spor and junior Dave Murry. Through hard work and bright innovation, this team beat over 300 other high school engineering teams throughout the nation.

The team's project, the Caboose, is designed to help a person who uses crutches to wheel their luggage behind them when traveling. The team's inspiration came from Hotchkiss local Paul Larmer, who is also the father of one of the members. After many interviews, the team and Mr. Larmer, along with Hotchkiss Physics Professor, Richard Hypio, concluded that transporting luggage through crowded airports is one of the more inconvenient parts of travelling while on crutches. So the team went to work.

After many designs and several prototypes, the team developed a hands-free system to carrying luggage while on crutches, which later became their award-winning project, the Caboose. Currently, the team is working to have the Caboose patented and be placed in the market.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Hotchkiss High School engineering team. Through hard work and the innovative spirit that has made America great, this team has created a marketable product that will hopefully continue to help many Coloradans and Americans today.

REMEMBERING 9/11

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, we all remember ten years ago on September 11; where we were, and what we were doing when we learned of the terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers and Pentagon.

We all felt fear and confusion at the images of horror we saw on the news. But this is America. What makes this country great is the courage and bravery that emerges during our darkest times. Later that evening, the President recited the 23rd Psalm in his address to Americans:

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil for you are with me."

A few months after 9/11, I was working with a small group of volunteers in a Red Cross shelter next to Ground Zero in New York. We were filling a simple role—serving eggs and providing blankets to those conducting the cleanup. It was a round the clock task and when the police, firefighters and construction workers needed to come in from the freezing weather, some would come in and attempt to rest. The scene was grave. Rubble that had been a pile was slowly turning into a pit as more was removed and cleaned up each day. Remains of victims were still being unearthed. But playing this small part in the healing process galvanized my desire to work in service to our communities. Like many Americans, my love and respect for our country and her citizens soared.

We take this ten year anniversary of the September 11 attacks to offer our heartfelt gratitude to our first responders, and the men and women of our military, who stepped forward to respond to this tragedy. And we remember those who have died for our country. May we also never forget the demonstrations of bravery or the spirit of service that resulted from 9/11.

ON RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF THE WEST BLOOMFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor public safety workers across Michigan's Ninth Congressional District, the State of Michigan and our Nation as we remember the tragedy that befell our country 10 years ago on September 11, 2001.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

The brutal attacks of September 11, 2001 are no doubt etched into the minds of every American, as they are in mine. I recall the disbelief, the shock and the horror we felt as we saw our Nation rocked to its core and saw thousands of innocent Americans lose their lives in New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington in acts of deliberate and horrific violence. It was an assault, the likes of which had never before been carried out on our homeland.

Yet, in the face of overwhelming tragedy, we witnessed the enduring resilience and unwavering determination of the American spirit as our public safety personnel thrust themselves into unimaginable danger to save the victims. Indeed, our public safety personnel, overcoming fear, in a moment that embodied their sense of service and professionalism, rose to meet a challenge that none before them had ever faced. And on that day, some of our brave firefighters, first responders and police, made the ultimate sacrifice as they gave their lives in the fulfillment of their duty to protect the communities they served.

In this poignant display of their bravery, their courage and their resolve, we are reminded that our public safety personnel willingly and fearlessly put their lives on the line every day to ensure our wellbeing.

The men and women of the West Bloomfield Fire Department in Oakland County, Michigan carry within themselves these same virtues. The 86 employees that comprise the department have made protecting the residents of West Bloomfield and its surrounding communities their professional responsibility. It is a tribute to the dedication and professionalism of the West Bloomfield Fire Department that it is being honored with a piece of steel from the World Trade Center. I know this dedication ceremony will serve as a constant reminder to the communities served by the first responders of West Bloomfield's Fire Department that their vigilance and sacrifice make our lives safer every day. I commend and recognize the families and individuals who have made this dedication possible.

Mr. Speaker, the service and sacrifice of our public safety personnel make them true American heroes. On the tenth anniversary of September 11, 2001, I rise with my colleagues and stand with my constituents in honoring the commitment and sacrifice made by our family, friends and neighbors who hear the call to serve the public as police, firefighters and first responders—they are truly emblematic of the great strength of our Nation.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,711,737,198,477.91.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$4,073,311,452,184.11 since then. This

debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

ON RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF THE BIRMINGHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor public safety workers across Michigan's Ninth Congressional District, the State of Michigan and our Nation as we remember the tragedy that befell our country 10 years ago on September 11, 2001.

The brutal attacks of September 11, 2001 are no doubt etched into the minds of every American, as they are in mine. I recall the disbelief, the shock and the horror we felt as we saw our Nation rocked to its core and saw thousands of innocent Americans lose their lives in New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington in acts of deliberate and horrific violence. It was an assault, the likes of which had never before been carried out on our homeland.

Yet, in the face of overwhelming tragedy, we witnessed the enduring resilience and unwavering determination of the American spirit as our public safety personnel thrust themselves into unimaginable danger to save the victims. Indeed, our public safety personnel, overcoming fear, in a moment that embodied their sense of service and professionalism, rose to meet a challenge that none before them had ever faced. And on that day, some of our brave firefighters, first responders and police, made the ultimate sacrifice as they gave their lives in the fulfillment of their duty to protect the communities they served.

In this poignant display of their bravery, their courage and their resolve, we are reminded that our public safety personnel willingly and fearlessly put their lives on the line every day to ensure our wellbeing.

As is the case with their brothers and sisters across the Nation, these virtues are embodied by the first responders of the Birmingham Fire Department in Oakland County, Michigan. Last year they responded to over two thousand emergencies ranging from fires to motor vehicle accidents and hazardous material spills. With 32 employees, the department has worked vigilantly on daily basis to ensure the safety of Birmingham residents. And in honor to their service, I know the steel from the World Trade Center which is being presented to the department, will remind us all of the unwavering commitment they have made to our community. I commend and recognize the families and individuals who have worked hard to make this dedication possible.

Mr. Speaker, the service and sacrifice of our public safety personnel make them true American heroes. On the tenth anniversary of September 11, 2001, I rise with my colleagues and stand with my constituents in honoring the commitment and sacrifice made by our family, friends and neighbors who hear the call to

serve the public as police, firefighters and first responders—they are truly emblematic of the great strength of our Nation.

HORSESHOE RIVERBEND FESTIVAL

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, every second weekend in September, Wayne County's population doubles as citizens and visitors alike attend the Horseshoe Riverbend Festival. Located on the banks of the Tennessee River in historic Clifton, Tennessee, this three day Festival celebrates the musical heritage championed in this great state.

Sponsored by the Clifton Rotary Club, the Horseshoe Riverbend Festival brings not just music, memories, and fireworks for those in attendance. More than those, the three day event raises support for charitable needs both at home and abroad. Gathering musicians with crafters and families with friends, the Horseshoe Riverbend Festival celebrates the great traditions of Tennessee.

I congratulate all those whose hard work and dedication to the City of Clifton have brought another year of success for the Festival. Tied together with the love of music and community, I ask my colleagues to join with me in celebrating the music, the local artisans, and the 29 years of service that comes from the Horseshoe Riverbend Festival.

ON THE OCCASION OF DEDICATING OAKLAND COUNTY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT'S NEW "GREEN" TERMINAL

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the leaders of Oakland County on the completion of Oakland County International Airport's new "green" terminal. This impressive accomplishment will undoubtedly enhance the service the airport provides to residents and businesses across Southeast Michigan. As a believer in the idea that economic development can be environmentally balanced, I am pleased to have advocated for national support of this project, which received federal resources to make this new terminal a reality.

Following its construction in 1928, the Oakland County International Airport, OCIA, has been a symbol of the forward-thinking economic vision and entrepreneurial spirit upon which the county was founded. In 1930, as a first-in-the-nation event, the OCIA was certified with an A-1-A rating from the U.S. government and has since been an important component of the local economy.

Today, the OCIA continues to play a significant role in the ongoing development of Southeast Michigan's economy. On an annual basis, the airport generates over \$150 million

in revenue which supports the operations of Oakland County and the broader region. In 2010 alone, the airport served over a half a million passengers and pilots. With almost 120,000 departures and landings annually, the OCIA was the nation's twelfth busiest general aviation facility in 2010.

In keeping with its status as a symbol of Oakland County's economic progress and forward-thinking vision, the new terminal for the OCIA has been LEED-certified by the U.S. Green Building Council—the first airport in the nation to achieve this distinction. Among its “green” features, the new terminal at OCIA boasts use of wind, solar and geothermal energy systems, which drastically reduce the environmental impact and cost of operating this regional economic engine. Additionally, the terminal includes recharging stations for electric vehicles and not only showcases the use of recycled materials in its construction, but also demonstrates recycling of rainwater for landscape irrigation use on the building's “living” wall.

Mr. Speaker, this latest first-in-nation accomplishment of the Oakland County International Airport is truly a remarkable milestone and as a lifelong Oakland County resident, it is a source of great pride. This “green” terminal is not only a realization of Oakland County residents' continuing commitment to build a better future, but is also a model for the nation of the success that comes from the merging of economic development and environmentally sound building strategies.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF COLONEL JAMES C. MILLER FROM THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AND OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Colonel James C. Miller on the occasion of his retirement from a long and outstanding career in the United States Air Force and the Oregon Air National Guard.

Colonel Miller began his career in the Air Force through the ROTC program at Central Washington University in 1984. Early in his Air Force career he qualified as a pilot in the T-37 and the F-15 Eagle aircraft and served honorably throughout the United States. In 1999 he became a member of the Oregon Air National Guard as an instructor pilot in the Fighter wing at Kingsley Field, Oregon, and has since served in numerous jobs of increasing responsibility at Kingsley Field. Throughout his career in the Air Force, he became an accomplished pilot, exceeding 4,300 flying hours in the F-15 Eagle.

Colonel Miller most recently served as the Commander of the 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field. During that tour of duty his exceptional leadership and tenacious dedication to duty to both the State of Oregon and the United States of America resulted in an outstanding set of accomplishments.

He commanded over 800 airmen, oversaw over \$20 million annually in operating costs,

and orchestrated over 44,000 Class A accident-free flying hours. Under his leadership the wing accepted 19 new aircraft and converted the aircraft to new engines in only five months, while maintaining the highest mission capable rate in the Air Force.

Colonel Miller's visionary leadership was instrumental in the establishment of Kingsley Field as the Air National Guard's premier F-15 training unit and the Wing's selection as the sole F-15 fighter training unit in the U.S. Air Force.

Colonel Miller served his community as well as his military mission. He spearheaded the efforts of the most successful series of Combined Federal Campaigns in Kingsley Field history, raising more than \$500,000 for local non-profit agencies. He re-invigorated the Kingsley Field Military Affairs Committee, directly involving local civic and Chamber of Commerce leaders in supporting Kingsley Airmen. He created the “Pilot for a Day” program, allowing local underprivileged and challenged youth to experience what it's like to be an Air Force pilot.

Throughout his long career, Colonel Miller served his country and his state honorably, and, on behalf of the people of Oregon's Second District, I want to thank him for his service.

ON THE OCCASION OF DOKKA FASTENERS' GRAND OPENING IN AUBURN HILLS, MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dokka Fasteners Inc. as the company commemorates the grand opening of its new facility in Auburn Hills, Michigan.

Dokka Fasteners is a company with over a century of experience in manufacturing precision quality bolts and studs for use in construction and energy development. Most recently, the company has expanded its focus to include production of bolts for alternative energy production systems, such as wind turbines. Over the company's history it has developed the expertise to create a precision process, certified by the International Organization for Standardization, which results in a 100 percent traceability of its materials and a consumer confidence that has made Dokka a leader in its field.

Dokka Fasteners' investment in Michigan is well poised to take advantage of a state whose leaders, from the local level to the federal level, are engaged in a concerted effort to develop Michigan as the center of knowledge, manufacturing and infrastructure of the next generation of energy production. As a commitment to developing alternative energy, state leaders passed a renewable portfolio standard which requires Michigan to produce at least 10 percent of its energy from alternative sources by 2015. As Oakland County's Representative to Congress, I am pleased to have supported multiple national efforts to develop our nation's alternative energy industry and nurture companies that are developing the vital information

and infrastructure bases which are necessary to achieve those goals.

Dokka Fasteners' investment in the City of Auburn Hills, Oakland County, and Michigan speaks to the progress Oakland County and Michigan are making in the fight to become the leaders in alternative energy production. The company's facility will house a state-of-the-art quality inspection laboratory and will be the first hot-forming fastener manufacturing plant to open in the United States in over 40 years. Dokka's choice to develop their products in Michigan represents a multi-million dollar investment in our local economy which will create nearly 100 new jobs and will aid the Southeast Michigan region as it continues to develop its alternative energy portfolio.

Mr. Speaker, the grand opening of Dokka Fasteners' new facility in Auburn Hills is a testament to our local, state and national commitment to strengthen our development of alternative energy. It is with the hard work of companies like Dokka that America will be able to approach a clean energy future with the knowledge and production capabilities necessary to achieve our goals.

HONORING PETER DOUGLAS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of an exceptional man and public servant. Peter Douglas has dedicated his life to defending our natural heritage and promoting conservation along the California Coast. Rarely does a single man cast such a long and positive shadow over our state; but as an architect of the California Coastal Commission, and as its longest-serving Executive Director, Douglas's contributions are truly incalculable. His retirement in November 2011 will mark the end of a proud era in the history of our environmental movement.

Peter Douglas has long been a passionate fighter for a just cause. As a Jewish child born in Berlin in 1942, Douglas's early life was imbued with a special sense of purpose. Douglas eventually immigrated via Mexico to California, where he attended the University of California at Los Angeles, graduating with a law degree in 1969—months after the Santa Barbara oil spill, and just as the national environmental movement was beginning to make significant strides.

Douglas wasted little time in putting his passion for public service to work, throwing his energy and expertise into the California campaign for 1972's Proposition 20. Douglas was key in drafting the language for the voter-approval initiative that created one of the country's most powerful land-use agencies, overseeing development across California's entire Coastal Zone. In 1985, he became the third Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission, a position he has held to this day.

Under Douglas's tenure, the Coastal Commission has become a formidable instrument for ensuring that all Californians' voices are heard in development decisions affecting our

unique coastal environment. Douglas has helped to expand public access to our beaches, limit private encroachment on public lands, and prevent the spread of pollution throughout our fragile ecosystem. His work has ensured that our coast remains above all a public landmark, inclusive of any individual who wishes to enjoy the same unspoiled natural wonder that has inspired others for generations.

Countless organizations have acknowledged the impact Peter Douglas has made as an environmental pioneer. He is the recipient of awards from groups as varied as the National Resources Defense Council, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Sierra Club, the Environmental Defense Center, the California State Legislature, and the National Coast Trail Association. He was the first recipient of the Julius A. Stratton "Champion of the Coast" Award, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has named him a National Marine Sanctuaries Environmental Hero. Douglas has also participated in an advisory role on President Clinton's U.S. Panel on Ocean Exploration, the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Science and Policy for the Coastal Ocean, and many others.

Throughout my tenure in the House of Representatives, I have had the special honor of calling Peter Douglas a constituent and a friend. A longtime resident of Marin County, Douglas has been a powerful advocate for the priorities that Marin residents hold dear and a staunch promoter of my legislation to extend federal Marine Sanctuary protection to the Sonoma coast. He has also had a hand in public service at the local level, co-founding community nonprofits and co-chairing one of California's first successful campaigns to enact a parcel tax to support local public schools.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing a man who has made immense contributions to our environment, a man whose tireless advocacy has expanded the meaning of the public good. Peter Douglas's work has encouraged us to celebrate and protect the richness of our natural surroundings, and his legacy lives on in the unrivaled beauty of the coastline that defines California.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE
FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE OF MICHIGAN'S
SIXTH ANNUAL
WALK4FRIENDSHIP

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Friendship Circle of Michigan as it holds its sixth annual Walk4Friendship.

Founded on the noble ideal that every person, regardless of physical and mental ability, deserves to have a loving and supportive environment, the Friendship Circle has become an important support network for individuals with special needs and their families.

In its seventeen years of existence, the Friendship Circle has expanded to cover more than eighty locations across twenty-two states and seven countries. Annually, over twenty-five hundred students with special needs in

the metro Detroit area benefit from the specialized learning environment the Circle provides.

While there are many benefits to the Friendship Circle's members that are intangible, there are many numbers that sum the critical support it provides. Nine, the number of essential life skills which are taught to circle members at two hundred schools over fifty-four districts across Southeast Michigan. Seventeen, the number of customized lessons which are used to teach circle members important life skills. Eleven, the number of real-life environments at the Friendship Circle's Weinberg Village where members can practice and perfect their lessons to become productive members of the community. Nine-hundred, the number of volunteers in the metro Detroit region who have devoted time in 2011 to continuing to make the Friendship Circle's mission possible. And most importantly, one, the founder of Friendship Circle, Rabbi Levi Shemtov, whose bold vision, righteous determination and commitment to his article of faith have made this program possible.

This year, as the Friendship Circle celebrates its sixth annual Walk4Friendship, we are reminded that our Nation is only as strong as the most vulnerable among us. With over five thousand participants expected this year, this 5k walk will continue to raise much needed resources and continue to raise the awareness community necessary to ensure that the Friendship Circle and its mission will endure.

Mr. Speaker, the Friendship Circle, along with its thousands of supporters in Southeast Michigan, has done so much to strengthen the lives of individuals with special needs and provide crucial support to their families. I am so pleased at the continuing success of the Friendship Circle in fulfilling its mission and look forward to continuing my work with it and its members as we move forward.

MARKING THE 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, the 21st Century began, for all intents and purposes, on September 11, 2001. It did not begin well.

The war against terrorism is among the greatest public policy challenges of our generation. The deceased were casualties of war to the same extent as any person serving on the battlefield. But the terrorists made no distinction between members of the armed forces and civilians. The terrorists made no distinction between small children, infants and adults. They killed their victims at will.

We in New Jersey lost roughly 700 people, second only to the state of New York. I stated on the floor of the New Jersey State Legislature 10 years ago and I repeat here today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives that it will take the genius and the tenacity of a free society to overcome the scourge of terrorism, but overcome it we shall.

We have made much progress in the last 10 years, but Mr. Speaker, more progress needs to be made.

On December 8, 1941, speaking here in the house of the people, the House of Representatives, Franklin Roosevelt said famously that "No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory."

That is as true today regarding the war against terror, as it was when Franklin Roosevelt spoke it about World War II so many years ago.

In one of the subsequent stanzas of "America the Beautiful" the author, Katherine Bates, wrote of "Thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears," but of course that is not true. Human tears are still shed based upon what happened on 9/11 and alabaster cities gleam not as brightly based upon the horrific acts of the terrorists.

At the National Cathedral on September 14, 2001, the President of the United States, George W. Bush, said this: "There are prayers that help us last through the day or endure the night. There are prayers of friends and strangers that give us strength for the journey, and there are prayers that yield our will to a will greater than our own. This world He created is of moral design. Grief and tragedy and hatred are only for a time. Goodness, remembrance and love have no end, and the Lord of life holds all who die and all who mourn."

The President went on to state at the conclusion of his remarks words that I believe are from the St. Paul's Epistle to Romans. The President said, "As we have been assured, neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor powers nor things present nor things to come nor height nor death can separate us from God's love."

Mr. Speaker, this weekend we honor the memories of those who were lost on 9/11. We also honor the brave first responders to the horrific acts of a decade ago, and recall the tremendous heroism and self-sacrifice of so many in New York, at the Pentagon and on an airplane over Western Pennsylvania.

May God bless all of those who died on 9/11 and their families, those who bravely responded to the tragedy, and those who ever put on the Nation's uniform to serve and protect us from the dangers we have faced and continue to face.

And, Mr. Speaker, may God continue to bless the United States of America.

TO COMMEMORATE THE LEADERSHIP OF RACHEL YOSKOWITZ AT JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES OF DETROIT

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate my friend, Mrs. Rachel Yoskowitz, as she departs from Jewish Family Services of Detroit and for her lifetime of work and advocacy in the realm of public health.

Rachel has had a long and auspicious career with a record of strengthening public health and wellness, not only in the greater Detroit area, but across the country. Her decades of work in the field of public health span

every niche of that realm, from instructing healthcare professionals, to directing non-profit health-related advocacy groups, to directing state public health programs. Over this time she has cultivated a breadth and depth of knowledge which have made her a leader in the public health arena taking part in the state and national task forces, crafting and implementing statewide programs for adolescent health during her time with the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services and writing many successful public and private grants to develop sustainability of programs she has created.

During her time in Southeast Michigan, Rachel has worked primarily with Jewish Family Services, an agency of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit. For the first 10 years she directed the Immigration and Citizenship program at JFS. Under her direction, JFS assisted recently arrived immigrants with assimilation and acculturation into metro Detroit, particularly senior citizens. Additionally, the program provided continuing support to new residents in all stages of the immigration process.

In 2004, Rachel began work on Project Chessed, a referral network designed to connect medically uninsured adults in Detroit's Jewish community with donated and low-cost health care resources to avoid inappropriate and costly visits to hospital emergency rooms. Project Chessed provides a developed network that links patients to a complete host of services, from diagnosis and treatment by physicians and larger public health institutions, to affordable prescription drug access. This program has served as a model for other communities in Southeast Michigan and across the Nation. Through Project Chessed, Rachel has had a direct impact on one of the greatest inefficiencies and inequalities of our time—access to quality, affordable healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Rachel's decades of work on behalf of countless Americans across so many communities. I know her work in Southeast Michigan with Jewish Family Services and the Jewish Federation has greatly assisted many of my constituents and that her departure will be deeply felt by those who have benefitted from her commitment, passion and professionalism. I wish Rachel and her husband, Rabbi Herb Yoskowitz, many more years of productive service to the community as she moves into the education sector where her righteous deeds will continue to impact so many lives.

IN HONOR OF JANE J. SCHWAGER
OF FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jane J. Schwager, in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the state of Massachusetts in the area of substance abuse and recovery, and to commend her for over fifteen years of dedicated service to her community.

Jane was born in Clifton Heights, PA to Ron and Peg Lanoie. As both of her parents dedi-

cated much of their lives to the service of their country, with Ron serving in the United States Coast Guard, USCG, for 30 years and Peg working for the Civil Service for over 25 years, Jane grew up knowing service to one's community was important.

Jane has 2 children, Michael and Magdalene Tiapula, and is married to Jim Schwager. Jim and Jane currently reside in Worcester where they are raising their 3 year old granddaughter, Alysia.

In 1994, Jane began her work for the Early Intervention Program for children with disabilities. Eventually, Jane worked for the South Middlesex Opportunity Council, SMOC, and she continued her advocacy in the substance abuse field by participating in various treatment programs including the Meadows Program, the New Beginnings Program at Bethany Hill, and the Marlboro/Hudson Sober Housing. Using her own resources, Jane purchased a building in Worcester in 1999 and opened the J&J Sober House, a 10 bedroom house for men in recovery, which she continues to run to this day. The following year she was named as the program director at the Serenity House in Hopkinton, MA. Subsequently, in 2003, Jane became an adjunct faculty member and practicum supervisor for the Alcoholism/Chemical Dependency Treatment Program for UMASS Boston after obtaining her Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LADC) 1 certification.

Jane's approach to recovery from addiction is rooted in her commitment to helping people obtain another chance in life. Jane employs a balanced approach of compassion and "raw reality" that acknowledges each participant's strengths while recognizes the struggles and trauma that often pervades participants' histories. It should also be noted that she is currently overseeing the SMOC Rhodes to Recovery Program in Millbury, MA.

Her deep commitment to each and every one of the thousands of participants that have come through the doors of her program is constantly displayed through her compassionate actions. It is a tribute to Jane's commitment that she continues to empower recovering addicts to achieve their goals, dreams, and ultimately repair their broken lives.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to join with the family, friends, and contemporaries of Jane J. Schwager to thank her for her remarkable service to her state of Massachusetts, and to thousands of substance abuse victims.

ON THE OCCASION OF HEAT AND
FROST INSULATORS AND ALLIED
WORKERS LOCAL 25'S 100TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate with the brothers and sisters of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers Local 25 as they celebrate the Local's 100th Anniversary.

As a part of organized labor, the members of Local 25 have been a voice in the chorus

of a movement that has done much to ensure that today we are closer to knowing that a fair day's work equals a fair day's pay, that our work environment is safer than it has ever been and that when unexpected challenges strike, our jobs will be protected. Throughout our history, Local 25 and other locals across the labor movement have been at the forefront of protecting the rights of working Americans. Indeed, it is thanks to the aspiration, dedication and determination of working men and women and the labor movement that our Nation has given rise to a strong and dynamic middle class—the core of our vibrant economy. As a key force in these continuing endeavors, organized labor is the great fulcrum by which the gains of our economic success are enhanced.

As the members of Local 25 celebrate a truly tremendous milestone, 100 years of service to working men and women across Southeast Michigan and beyond, we are reminded that those benefits which we see today are a product of their struggles and their triumphs. Brought into reality by the hard work and determination of George Martens, Thomas Beasley and Nathan Metcalf, the Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers Local 25 has been emblematic of the efforts of organized labor.

Following its creation 1911, the Local 25 advocated for the fair treatment and pay of its members and like many of their brothers and sisters, saw great success as minimum wage laws and fair labor laws were implemented and successfully defended. In 1950, Local 25 setup its first health and welfare fund to protect its members. Just six years later, the local created a pension fund and the following year insured that its members who had worked hard their whole life would have dignity in retirement.

As an advocate for safer working environments, in 1960, Local 25 took a leadership role in protecting its members from the harmful side effects of asbestos. As time pressed on, Local 25 pioneered the supplemental unemployment benefit fund in 1969, insulating its hard working members to be from work loss in slow economic times.

In its many evolving roles, Local 25 took on the role of educator to both current and aspiring members. In 1977 Local 25 created its apprenticeship and training programs, to educate new members and continue the education of its current members. Through this work, Local 25 has established a professional craftsman code of conduct which it uses to uphold its high standards of quality.

Mr. Speaker, I know in the years ahead that we will continue to see the rise of new challenges and opportunities. Thanks to hard work and dedication of working men and women, like those of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers Local 25, I am confident we will continue to rise above those challenges and embrace new opportunities that will benefit all Americans. Local 25's 100th Anniversary is truly an auspicious occasion and I wish its leadership and members many more years of success.

USS "O'BRIEN" DD725

HON. RANDY HULTGREN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor all the World War II veterans, but especially our distinguished guests from the Honor Flight Chicago program. This noble program enables hundreds of Veterans from the Chicago area to come visit the memorial built to honor their great service and courage, and I have the great privilege of welcoming them to Washington DC.

We all have a special appreciation for our veterans because we know the sacrifices they made to protect us and bring peace to a world ravaged by war. These servicemen answered our nation's call during one of its greatest times of need. These brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them our deepest gratitude and thanks for protecting and ensuring our future.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorial. I am proud to submit the names of these men for all to see, hear, recognize and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing thanks.

Charles Anderson	Venice Anderson	James Anderson
Sam Lucas	Roy Anderson	May Anderson
Louis Beiriger	Laurain Beiriger	Edward Berry
Fran Berry	Norma Berry	Christine Roberts
David Bish	Elaine Bish	Tracy Bish
Lucile Slattery	Avon Blevins	Vivian Blevins
Patti Bortz	Stephanie Bortz	Jay Braxton
Edward Jones	David Caesar	Trevelon Caesar
Johnny Carlisle	Sarah Carlisle	Rubin Castillo
Patricia Castillo	Leo Chrostowski	Valita

		Chrostowski
Bill Clark	Dianne Brady	Joe Clark
Rose Clark	Bill Clawson	Pauleta Clawson
Malcolm	Nancy Creighton	Hoke Culbertson

Creighton		
Bea Culbertson	Ron Dotseth	Betty Dotseth
Jay Elshoff	Kathleen Elshoff	Charles
		Emanuele
Justus Ghormley	Harold Fuquay	Ann Fuquay
Floyd Gilmore	Janice Gilmore	Judy Daniel
Cindy Tester	Graig Godin	Sue Hayes
Edward Gore	Vanita Gore	William Hansen
Kristin Hansen	David Kedrowski	Sandie Kedrowski
Lawrence Klecha	Kathy Klecha	James Lamborn
Marilyn Lamborn	Gregg Lebert	Joy Lebert
Vernon Lewis	June Attaway	Ronald Litchy
Beverly Litchy	Herschel	Eva Luckinbill

	Luckinbill	
Ray Madrid	Betty Madrid	Ladd McCarnan
Patty McCarnan	Kayla Feld	Denise Mire
Patrick Patterson	Rebecca Grace	George Padilla
Cecilia Padillo	Robert Prentiss	Dianna Tetrick
Joseph Ransom	Opal Ransom	Nicholas Rightor
Susan Mire	James Robbins	Barbara Robbins
Thomas Rowley	Rosemary Rowley	Bill Sasser
Nell Sasser	Dennis	Maria Chu

	Schechinger	
Mario Silva	Armeda Silva	Ron Parsons
Patsy Parsons	Gary Sprenkle	Kay Sprenkle
Carl Vance	Margie Vance	Doug Ward
Theresa Ward	Phil Wilkes	Janice Wilkes
Charles Williams	Charlene Williams	John Yeager
Cynthia Yeager	Dennis Yepson	Nancy Yepson

Glen Zuhlke
Marilyn MichaelsJudy Gagnon
Cindy Santoro
John PriceDave Zuhlke
Patrick
Sweetland
Kenneth Shoffer
Heber Dunkel
Al DoeringTerry Michaels
Shirley
Sweetland
Ron Santoro
Robert F. Dorr**AMERICA'S ENERGY
INDEPENDENCE ACT****HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill of great importance to families living on a budget. The recent overreaching regulations placed on energy and utility companies hinder America's economy while causing increases to families' utility bills. Families need certainty that their energy needs will be met and their energy costs will remain low. The Cross-State Air Pollution rule finalized by the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, on July 6, 2011, will lead to increases in energy prices for families and prohibit jobs. Also, these regulations and rules were just recently updated in 2005.

America leads the world in providing safe, reliable energy to families. In order for America to continue to prosper, the regulatory process must follow common sense and not be unduly burdensome.

That is why I am pleased to introduce the America's Energy Independence Act, which prevents the EPA from implementing the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule for ten years. Simply put, this regulation will have a significant negative economic impact of \$2.4 billion dollars a year which will lead to job loss, a reduction in energy outputs, and an increase to family's utility bills.

At a time when families are struggling to make ends meet, the last action the Obama Administration should take is another multi-billion dollar regulation that will kill jobs and increase costs. It is imperative that we keep the flow of energy high and the cost of utilities low.

Creating a stable regulatory environment, where the balance between the costs to families is balanced with the benefit of the regulation, allows families to have certainty that any new rules and regulations that are finalized will have their best interests in mind.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House (and Senate) to support me in passing the America's Energy Independence Act and bring stability and balance to the regulatory process.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
MR. CHARLES T. MANATT****HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Charles "Chuck" T. Manatt, California lawyer, banker and political visionary

who recently passed away at the age of seventy-five.

Manatt was born on June 9, 1936 in Chicago, Illinois to William Price Manatt, and Lucille Taylor Manatt. Although born in Chicago, he grew up in Audubon, Iowa, helping his father care for the family farm. He was an Eagle Scout and a member of the Future Farmers of America. Following high school, Manatt attended Iowa State College, where he met fellow student Kathleen "Kathy" Klinkefus.

On December 29, 1957 Chuck and Kathy married and moved to Washington, DC where Chuck attended the George Washington University School of Law. Three years later, the couple moved again to Los Angeles where he founded a law firm with his long-time friend and colleague, Thomas Phelps. The start-up began as a six-man group of savings and loans lawyers and swelled to more than 100 lawyers by the early 1980s. Today, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP has over 350 in offices in New York, California and Washington, DC.

While in Los Angeles, Mr. Manatt also began to forge relationships with several of the Democratic National Committee's most influential leaders. In the aftermath of the 1980 elections, when Ronald Reagan was overwhelmingly elected to the White House, Chuck, who had been DNC finance chairman, openly campaigned for the position.

In 1981, Mr. Manatt claimed Chairmanship of the Democratic National Committee. He reinvigorated the party. On the eve of the 1984 Democratic convention in San Francisco, presidential nominee-in-waiting Walter Mondale tried to replace Manatt with Carter administration official, but backed off after an internal outcry. That year, Ronald Reagan handily secured the Presidential nomination, but Manatt and the Democrats fared better in 1992, when he was co-chairman of Bill Clinton's presidential campaign. Clinton went on to win the Presidency and later appointed Manatt as ambassador to the Dominican Republic, where he served from 1999-2001.

During the course of his prestigious career, Manatt served on the boards of the Mayo Foundation, the National Museum of American History, the Wesley Foundation, the National Legal Center for the Public Interest and the National Endowment for Democracy. He was also the founding chair of First Los Angeles Bank, was elected chair of the California Bankers Association, served on the board of directors of FedEx Corp., and was a member of the board of directors of Oak Value Management, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise and join me in paying tribute to the life of Charles Manatt as we offer our condolences to his family and celebrate his memory.

INVEST IN AMERICA ACT**HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue of great importance to individuals as they save for retirement and to assist companies to have the capacity to create

jobs. The tax burdens placed on families and businesses hinders job creation, job retention, and innovative breakthroughs in technology.

The capital gains tax placed on families and family businesses creates less employment, produces less investment. Thus, making America less competitive in the global economy, and is just another example of how our tax code unfairly punishes innovation and wealth creation.

That is why I am pleased to introduce the Invest in America Act, which reduces the capital gains tax rate to zero for ten years for families, investors, and collectors. Simply put, my bill will create stability in the economy by allowing families and businesses to plan for the future. Lower taxes create a stable economic environment will encourage innovations, breakthroughs, and job creation by providing much needed capital to businesses and entrepreneurs. Lowering the cost of future consumption encourages more Americans to invest and create wealth.

Many countries, such as Germany, have no capital gains tax at all. At a time when the burdensome tax code and regulations are driving American businesses to be less competitive globally reducing the capital gains rate here at home would spark American investment and increase our competitiveness globally. Bottom line, we need a streamlined tax code that is fairer, flatter, and simpler that encourages investment and wealth creation in order to get this country moving and working again.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House (and Senate) to support me in passing the Invest in America Act and bring stability to the American economy.

IN RECOGNITION OF FLUETSCH AND BUSBY

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fluetsch & Busby Insurance, celebrating 100 years of quality service to the residents of Merced County.

Fluetsch & Busby was founded in 1912 by H.S. Shaffer, grandfather to Peter Fluetsch and great grandfather to Doug Fluetsch and Jeannie Fluetsch Bliss, the current proprietors. Mr. Shaffer was an insurance agent, realtor, District Attorney and Superior Court Judge for Merced County. The Shaffer Building still stands on the corner of "M" and Main Streets as a tribute to this prominent local citizen.

In 1934, the Shaffer Insurance Agency was changed to the Fluetsch & Shaffer Insurance Agency by second generation business owner, John J. Fluetsch. Then, in the 40's, John changed the name to Fluetsch Insurance Agency. Soon thereafter, Ralph Busby joined the company in 1949 after graduating from UC Berkeley.

Peter Fluetsch, joined the insurance company in 1955 after graduating from Menlo College and in doing so, became the third generation to work for the family business. Peter married the beautiful Catherine Bacciarini and together they raised 5 children while Peter and

Ralph Busby continued to build the agency. Peter was an active member of the community who spent forty-two Decembers riding around the county dressed as Santa Claus delivering candy to disabled children.

After John Fluetsch passed away in 1966, the name was changed to Fluetsch & Busby Insurance Agency. Today, Fluetsch & Busby Insurance is a thriving business led by the fourth generation, Doug Fluetsch and his sister Jeannie Fluetsch Bliss. They are proud to continue the family legacy of business integrity, success and caring for our community. They support many community organizations including the Merced High Key Cub, Mercy Medical Center Foundation, Kiwanis Club, Merlock Athletic Association, the MERCO Cycling Classic, SCORE, United Way, the Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce, the Merced County Chamber of Commerce, the Citizens for the Betterment of Merced County, Merced Boosters, Boy Scouts of America and many others.

I would like to join my colleagues in congratulating Fluetsch & Busby Insurance for 100 years of success and dedication to the residents of Merced County.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday our Nation commemorated the tenth anniversary of one of the darkest days in our history. On September 11th, 2001, we were attacked by foreign terrorists who claimed the lives of 2,977 Americans, including 411 of our Nation's bravest first responders. We mark this occasion not only by remembering those that were lost that day, but also by recognizing the incredible displays of heroism, courage and selflessness that we witnessed.

On this day, more so than any other day of the year, we must put away our partisan differences and come together as Americans for the good of our country. There are many lessons we have learned from the attacks, and much work remains, not only to secure our country, but to repay the debt to those who sacrificed so much on that day and those that followed.

We must be committed to defending our Nation from another attack. Protecting our citizens must be the number one priority of all public servants, and we must never lose sight of this mission. We must be committed as a Nation to stand behind our country's first responders. The heroic cops, firefighters and other emergency personnel who lost their lives on 9/11 should not just merely be commemorated, but in fact their memories should spur us towards making our Nation stronger and safer.

The Eighth Congressional District is only 20 miles from Ground Zero, and I was honored this weekend to attend several ceremonies commemorating the occasion. One ceremony took place at the September 11th Memorial at the Eagle Rock Reservation in Essex County, which overlooks the Manhattan skyline, and

was where many of my constituents gathered after the attacks to bear witness to the tragedy. Many of the wounds of September 11th will heal over time, but we will never forget the heroism we witnessed, the lessons we learned, and the redemption the American people earned through our own strength.

In closing I would like to enter into the RECORD the names of the forty Americans from my district that lost their lives on September 11th, 2001. We will continue to pray for those we have lost but also hold our heads up high to meet the challenges that are still to come.

Cesar A. Alviar, 60
John E. Bulaga Jr., 35
John A. Candela, 42
Lt. Robert D. Cirri, 39
Robert J. Coll Jr., 35
Michael L. Collins, 38
Caleb Arron Dack, 39
Luke A. Dudek, 50
Antoinette Duger, 44
John Ernst (Jack) Eichler, 69
Edgar H. Emery Jr., 45
William J. Erwin, 30
Christopher Faughnan, 37
Harvey J. Gardner III, 35
Barry H. Glick, 55
Emeric J. Harvey, 56
Zuhtu Ibis, 25
Donald T. Jones, 39
Howard L. Kestenbaum, 56
Dorota Kopiczko 26
Franco Lalama, 45
David S. Lee, 37
Kenneth P. Lira, 28
Ming-Hao Liu, 41
Joseph P. McDonald, 43
Craig D. Montano, 38
Robert M. Murach, 45
Edward C. Murphy, 42
Catherine A. Nardella, 40
Ehtesham U. Raja, 28
Stephen Louis Roach, 36
Leo A. Roberts, 44
Marsha A. Rodriguez, 41
Linda Rosenbaum, 41
Daniel Rosetti, 32
Norman Rossinow, 39
John P. Skala, 31
Jennifer M. Tino, 29
Francis Joseph Trombino, 68
Jorge Velazquez, 47

HONORING THE KEARNEY LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAM

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Little League baseball team from Kearney, Nebraska. This team, with 13 talented young men and 3 patient coaches from the Third District of Nebraska, recently excelled in tournament competition and made history along the way.

Managed by Mike Koski with help from assistant coaches Gary Barth and Doug Holtmeier, the Kearney Little League team became the first Nebraska team in Little League

history to compete in a regional championship game. With their second place finish in the 2011 Midwest Regional Tournament, the boys from Kearney finished the post-season with 8 wins and 4 losses, scoring 99 runs and allowing just 41 runs in 65 innings of play.

The skilled members on the 2011 Kearney Little League baseball team were Brant Barth, Ben Dinkel, Jack Herges, Carter Hollis, Brady Holtmeier, John Husmann, Ryan Koski, Tyler Mestl, Cam Moore, Eric Pacheco, Jared Wegner, Christian Westesen, and Creighton Westesen.

The Kearney Little League team embodied the Nebraska spirit both on and off the field. The team was committed to working hard, playing together as a team, and never quitting. These young men made the city of Kearney, Buffalo County, and the state of Nebraska proud with their character, sportsmanship, and passion for the game.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the exceptional talent and dedication of the Kearney Little League baseball team.

COMMEMORATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, we as a Nation commemorated the 10th anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Like all Americans, I spent a great deal of time thinking about where I was on that sunny Tuesday ten years ago. I was sitting in my office at the Rules Committee on the third floor of the Capitol when the first plane hit the north tower of the World Trade Center. I remained there until 10:30 a.m., when a full evacuation of the Capitol was imposed.

During that time prior to the evacuation, I watched the news coverage of the planes that hit the south tower of the WTC and the Pentagon. I later heard the news of Flight 93, which crashed in a field near Shanksville, PA. Knowing what we know now of the hijackers' intentions, this treasured building and the lives of all of us who were here that morning were preserved because of the heroics of the passengers of Flight 93.

I had the privilege of spending last Saturday in Shanksville with the families of those brave men and women. It was their loved ones' sacrifice that saved the lives of so many here in the Capitol that day. They also saved what has become the world's most recognizable symbol of democracy. I cannot think about that tragic day without thinking of the words inscribed on walls of the Capitol, just above the door to the Sergeant at Arms' office: "We have built no temple but the Capitol; we consult no common oracle but the Constitution."

It was my belief that this hallowed structure was as untouchable as the democracy it represents that led me to remain here, even as planes crashed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon that day. Last week, a reporter questioned me, somewhat incredulously, as to how I could have been so naïve as to remain in my office that morning. I re-

plied that we were all naïve that day. We learned in the most painful and tragic way possible that we were not untouchable; but we also learned, and have been continually reminded ever since, that as long as brave men and women are willing to fight for this country, we will continue to endure.

With this truth in mind, I submit for the RECORD the following poem written by Albert Caswell, who was also here in this building that morning ten years ago.

LIVES IN THE DISTANCE—IN MEMORY AND IN HONOR TO THE HEROES OF FLIGHT 93 ON THIS THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

Lives In The Distance . . .

Lives . . .

In The Distance . . .

While, traveling the miles . . .

From down here on earth, rising up through the clouds . . .

reaching Heaven in style!

As a non stop flight, with its destination in sight . . .

as up towards Heaven, arrives . . .

with such fine heroes the while . . .

For no one so here, upon this our Mother Earth . . .

Throughout all of the miles, has no day so promised, until death . . . from conception to birth!

As each new day, is but a fine gift . . . as one to be ever so lived . . .

while, taking stock in its true worth . . .

For no man or woman, nor even a child . . . may so know of this,

his or hers one last final moments here upon Earth!

As on a bright beautiful fall morn . . .

As all of those magnificent heroes, of flight 93 were so to our nation to be born!

As now stands alone, with the greatest of all American heroes they own . . .

As their titles now worn . . .

For their great gift of life, for their most gravest of all sacrifice . . .

while, Saving Lives In The Distance . . . forever lives on!

For as long as Mankind . . . For as since the very beginning of time,

as one so surely finds . . .

As a struggle which spans, of Good vs Evil . . .

as our Lord's chosen people, who have so fought the darkest of all evils . . .

Just like Angels on earth . . . while, all showing their worth . . . as these most hallowed of heroes,

were all so to find the courage!

While, up on a plane . . . in the face of the darkest of all evils,

our Lord's chosen people upon flight 93 together so came . . .

For when it was time, and innocent life so lay on the line . . .

these most brilliant heroes so cried, "let's roll" . . . as the light so remained!

All in a few defining moments of truth, these brave hearts gave to all such the proof . . .

as why now we so ever honor their names!

For once they heard the news, To Save Precious Lives In The Distance . . .

was but their most sacred of all gifts they so to choose!

As one heroic band of sisters and brothers were so to stand, as like none others . . .

together enjoined, as they were not to lose!

As our Lord had stepped in, slowing the plane . . . as his Angels on earth,

could buy that most precious time that they so needed to use!

As they said their final hellos, and those most poignant last tearful goodbyes!

While, talking to their loved ones on their phones . . .

as upon their most magnificent faces, their tear drops now lie!

While, summing up all of their courage . . . as their finest of souls were not so to be discouraged, as all so stood ready to die!

For there is no greater gift, nor a more so sacred offering as all of this . . .

than one's life! Moving forth, with our Lord at their sides!

Now, as I look up at our nation's dome on each new coming day . . .

As there in that moment, as out upon my way . . .

as I stop to reflect, as I find the time to pray . . .

For it was me who so stood on that rotunda floor, when on that fateful morning . . .

sure death but lay, only miles away!

All because of them, my sweet daughter Jennifer still has her best friend . . .

What greater gift, but than my life they so saved?

In life, heroes come in all shapes and sizes . . .

But, it's what lies deep down within one's heart as where their great courage rises!

Armed with but just their undaunted courage and faith, as these brave hearts were so not to be denied!

As I ask you now, how can any woman or man . . . in the midst of such evil so stand?

Could we, such the courage realize?

In this our most precious land of the free!

These brave heroes on this morning so shone so brilliantly, as forever etched in their great legacies!

As these selfless souls, so sacrificed . . . doing what was so right!

For Lives In The Distance, their own fine lives did so concede!

And still on this day, their fine lessons of life . . .

I shall never forget! Remembering them, on my knees as I pray.

And to all of those brokenhearted families, on this your saddest of days . . .

To the husbands, wives, sons, daughters, mothers and father's alive . . .

who now must so live without and so cry!

To the ones, who now live with such holes in their hearts . . .

as your anguish and pain, so forevermore so mounts!

As we pray on this day, asking our Lord to bring peace on your way . . .

knowing what your loved ones were so all about!

Not to witness another sunrise . . .

not to watch your child grow up to be old and wise,

or wake in the morn to see the joys of life comprised!

Or grow old with your loved ones at your side,

as throughout the years arriving at the true meaning of where life so lies . . .

As all of this is gone, as your heartache lives on . . .

while, into a future your faith shall be repaid in our Lord's eyes . . .

And when your child so asks you why?

With your arms all around them, wiping their tears from their eyes . . .

Tell them all about their most magnificent Moms and Dads . . .

Aunts, Uncles, Brothers and Sisters who will never die!

Tell them all about their most incredible faith, and about their greatest of all gifts . . .

Saving Lives In The Distance, so others may rise!

In Washington . . . because of them, The greatest symbol of democracy still shines . . .

even brighter in the midday sun which now lies!

All because of their most sacred sacrifice . . . as flight 93,

brought us our first victory in this tragic war against terrorism to be won!

Now, high atop our Capitol this very day, The Statue of Freedom sheds a tear . . .

for all of those who did what must so be done!

A Life Saved In The Distance . . . What a most precious gift this is!

As in the coming years, maybe we shall all so witness!

Perhaps a Rembrandt, or a Dr. King . . . or even perhaps a woman who might so save the world from all of this is!

Only time can tell, for only our Lord knows so very well . . .

for our futures do not occur by circumstance!

Never forget this!

As out in the distance we find . . . are all of those most precious moments in time, as before us defined!

As Good so faced Evil, as the most selfless of all people . . .

as our Lord's Angels on earth, were so to shine!

While, Saving Lives In The Distance . . . as upon our Lord's face his tears drops so lie . . .

watching his new Angels in Heaven arrive!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following remarks regarding my absence from votes which occurred on September 9, 2011. I attended the funeral at Arlington National Cemetery for retired Colonel Charles P. Murray, Jr., a Medal of Honor recipient and American hero of World War II, as well as a personal friend.

Listed below is how I would have voted if I had been present: roll Number 695—"aye"; roll Number 696—"no"; roll Number 697—"no"; roll Number 698—"aye."

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM TAYLOR WATSON, III

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, recently my District lost one of the most impressive men I have ever known.

William Taylor Watson, III passed away on July 19, 2011. I knew Bill personally for many years and considered him a good friend.

Born in Nashville and educated at Vanderbilt University, Bill's career as a businessman

spanned 64 years and included many great accomplishments.

He was a leader and expert in finances, once overseeing some of the largest financial portfolios in the Nation.

Bill was also an active member of several churches, and I know his faith in God played a prominent role in everything he did.

Bill always said, despite his impressive life and great career successes, that his family was his greatest joy. I extend my condolences to his wife, Mary; daughter, Mary Pierson Gibson; sons, William T. Watson, IV and George Fitch Watson; and brother, Robert Watson. I know they will miss Bill greatly.

I have nothing but the greatest respect for any person who serves in the military, especially during a time of war. We use the word hero way too often these days, but Bill was truly an American hero.

Following his time at Midshipman's School at Northwestern University, where he graduated with high honors, Bill had his pick of top positions in the Military. He could have chosen a career in the safety of Washington, D.C., working inside the Navy Department; instead, he chose the most dangerous job in the military—Underwater Demolition Team frogman, the predecessor to the Navy SEALs.

Bill's son, Bill Watson IV, recently contacted me to share this story as it was told in an editorial written about is father and published in the June 1, 1944, edition of The Sewanee Purple.

Mr. Speaker, this piece, which is reprinted below, shows the true character of Bill Watson better than anything I could express, and I bring it to the attention of my Colleagues and other Readers of the Record.

[From the Sewanee Purple, Jun. 1, 1944]

EDITORIAL

. . . the greater therefore should our courage be.—Henry V

On May 10th, a class of Midshipmen graduated from Northwestern University Midshipman School. Its members were commissioned Ensigns in the United States Naval Reserve. William Taylor Watson, III, of Nashville, graduated fifth in that class of fourteen hundred. He had attended Vanderbilt University, and was stationed at Sewanee in the V-12 Unit from July until November last year. To those who knew him, it was not surprising that he led his class.

At the time of his graduation, Admiral King had asked the Northwestern Midshipman School for a newly commissioned Ensign to take abroad his flagship, in order to see the calibre of the men the Midshipman School was turning out. There was a post in Washington, in the Navy Department, which Northwestern was to fill—and it would take a good officer to fill it. Both of those assignments were offered to Billy Watson. He turned them both down. He was given his choice of any assignment he wanted on active duty.

He chose what the Navy terms "demolition". Only volunteers are accepted for this work. It is a dirty job. The men in demolition ride small rubber rafts, in through the surf to the beaches, where an amphibious attack is to be made. A hundred yards from shore, the demolition men start to swim. They search the beaches, locating mines, clearing paths through them, and destroying any explosives which would interfere with a landing. Then they swim back to their little rubber rafts, and paddle away—if they can.

The choice that Watson made of course caused a good bit of comment. We heard one emptyheaded fool laugh at it; to this person it seemed a ludicrous choice!

There was a bright red haze in front of us for a long time afterwards. Speech came very hard, for there was no fitting answer to that sort of statement. The whole vital issue of the war seemed to be tied up in that little incident. On the one hand, was a man who had the same high ideal that kept the Spitfires flying in the battle of Britain—that kept the Russian line together before Moscow—that pervaded—and kept the courage up—in the soul shattering defeat in the South Pacific Withdrawals.

On the other hand—well—you name it. It doesn't print very well.

To William Watson, we can say only a part of what we feel by giving him a deeply respectful and admiring salute—for his nobility, his courage, and his superb action in accepting his individual responsibility.

AMERICA'S STRENGTH THROUGH DIVERSITY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend of the Tenth Anniversary remembrances of the attacks of September 11th, I saw the strength and diversity of the people across the Midlands of South Carolina which is underestimated by our evil enemies.

The diversity of America by heritage, race, religion, gender, and politics makes America strong.

At the request of President Mary Peña, I spoke to the Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia citing the special contribution of Filipino-Americans for over 100 years in defense of America into the Global War on Terrorism.

For our family, this September 11th began with participation in the Memorial Service sponsored by the West Metro Rotary Club, West Metro Chamber of Commerce, Lexington School District Two, and Pine Press Printers at the West Columbia River Walk Amphitheater. The passionate patriot Joe Pinner presided over tributes to our military, military families, and first responders highlighted by Sheriff James Metts and Irmo Fire Chief Mike Sonefeld.

Proof of the resolve of the New Greatest Generation was the Change of Command Ceremony of the Headquarters Support Company of Sumter's 351st Aviation Support Battalion. Before a fully staffed complement of all volunteers, Cpt. Julian D. Wilson relinquished command to Cpt. Michael W. Jones. Wilson had enlisted in the S.C. Army National Guard in December 2001 in the tradition of service as the namesake of Marine Major Julian D. Dusenbury who was awarded the Navy Cross for his successful capture of Shuni Castle on Okinawa in April 1945. Both Captains are symbols of military families with Cpt. Jones supported by his wife Terry and their six children, Michael, Jr., Megan, Nathaniel, Summer, Shan, and Brooke and Cpt. Wilson encouraged by his wife Joy and son Julian, Jr.

As a 31-year veteran of the Army Reserves and the S.C. Army National Guard, I have

never been prouder of their committed members and their capabilities for domestic and overseas service. Due to the success of America's military more countries today have been liberated from totalitarianism in the history of the world living in freedom and democracy from Estonia to Thailand and South Korea to Bulgaria.

Due to the vision of Dan Hennigan, a 9/11 First Responders Remembrance Memorial featuring two New York World Trade Center steel beams were unveiled at the base of the State House in front of the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center with Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin and Governor Nikki Haley.

At the Remembrance, it was very appropriate on the front row of special guests were Hampton and Jane Caughman, proud parents of SPC Thomas W. Caughman who was killed June 9, 2004, Iraq. SPC Caughman was mature beyond his age concluding his letters with the adage, "Freedom is not free." He understood we were in a long war to protect American families at home.

The weekend concluded with a moving Service of Remembrance at Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church named in recognition of the community's original German Swiss farming settlers. Heartfelt leadership was provided by pastors Dr. Jim Glatz, Dr. Helen Harrison Coker, and Dr. Bill Johnston. Dr. Glatz recounted the extraordinary heroism of Todd Beamer on Flight 93. After reciting together The Lord's Prayer with air phone operators, Beamer stated to his comrades the immortal "Let's Roll," which successfully stopped the jihadists from their murderous destruction of the U.S. Capitol Building. This was the first successful counterattack in the Global War on Terrorism. The service was enhanced by a Color Guard of the Lexington Police Department along with the Lexington County Choral Society and the Lake Murray Symphony Orchestra.

The positive message of Dr. Glatz was clear that the American people will prevail with faith, hope, and love.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops, and we will never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, as Congress marks the 10 year anniversary of the September 11th attacks, I rise to mourn the loss of the thousands of innocents who perished and to honor the selflessness of those who sacrificed so much to protect us, both on that day and in the decade since.

In recent months, much of our national conversation has fixated on what's wrong with America: spiraling debt, soaring unemployment, a poisoned political climate, and perhaps most troublingly, the undeniable sense that we are an increasingly divided people.

Indeed, our country is beset by a crisis of confidence, with faith in our institutions, our

leaders and ourselves seemingly at all-time lows.

Coming at this moment of doubt and insecurity, it is my hope that the 10th anniversary of the September 11th attacks can offer the American people a potent reminder of the defining qualities we revealed in that moment of extreme tragedy: our willingness to sacrifice, our unwillingness to submit or surrender and ultimately our solidarity in the face of great pain and staggering loss.

Ten years ago in New York, as the towers were falling and thousands were fleeing, firefighters and police officers disregarded the dangers and rushed to save the victims.

In the skies above Pennsylvania, a courageous group of passengers fought back against the hijackers and ultimately brought down their own plane, dying so that others might live.

And across America, thousands of young men and women who watched the events of that day unfold on their TV screens decided to enlist, placing themselves in harm's way to keep our country safe.

9/11 was a moment when the American people were tested as never before and yet emerged unbeaten and unbowed. Through our grief, we were united in asserting that the American way of life would go on.

I believe our country's heroes on that day offer up a powerful example to our country's leaders ten years later.

Let us continue to cultivate the spirit of service that motivated the firefighters who responded and the soldiers who enlisted.

Let us use this opportunity to rediscover the togetherness that marked our response to the horrors we witnessed, finding the inspiration to set politics aside and begin solving the problems that matter.

Finally, let us honor the memories of all those who died on that day by working to ensure that America remains a country worthy of their sacrifice.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF OFFICER JUSTIN SOLLOHUB

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to recognize the life of a proud American hero, Anniston Police Officer Justin Sollohub.

Officer Sollohub of Jacksonville died August 25th due to injuries sustained while on duty.

Like others who have lost their lives serving their communities in the line of duty, words simply cannot express the sense of sadness we all have for Officer Sollohub's family, and the gratitude we feel for his service to the community. He was a selfless servant for the Anniston area, and he will be missed.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his willingness to serve and protect our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the House's remembrance at this mournful occasion.

RECOGNIZING PROFESSOR MITCHEL RESNICK

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Professor Mitchel Resnick for receiving the Harold W. McGraw, Jr., Prize in Education. He is a Professor of Learning Research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Lab, developing new technologies and activities that help children and adults engage in creative learning experiences.

Professor Resnick co-founded the Computer Clubhouse project, an international network of more than 100 after-school learning centers available to young people from low-income communities. It increases their access to technology, which can help improve their educational experience and better prepare them for the workforce. The Computer Clubhouse network has a strong global presence, with over 30 locations in countries as diverse as Mexico, Hungary, Israel, the Palestinian territories, India, and South Africa. It also still proudly serves Massachusetts youth, with a particular emphasis on reaching out to the many communities of Boston.

Professor Resnick's Lifelong Kindergarten research group developed the Programmable Bricks technology which helps children build and program their own robots. His research group also cultivated the Scratch programming environment and online community. It gives young people the tools they need to create their own stories or games and share their work with others online. Professor Resnick has worked for years to make technology fun and accessible—reaching out to students and helping them succeed in the classroom.

Professor Resnick earned his degree in physics from Princeton University. He then went on to MIT where he earned an MS and PhD in computer science. In 2010, Professor Resnick was awarded the Kids@Play prize as the top "Digital Pioneer for Kids." He was also named one of the 30 "most influential people affecting the advancement of technology in education" by Tech & Learning magazine.

I congratulate Professor Resnick on his latest accomplishment and on all of the innovative work he has done over the years. I look forward to his continuing contributions to children's education.

HONORING BROOKLAWN'S 9/11 MEMORIAL AND MONUMENT OF THE DELAWARE VALLEY

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brooklawn's 9/11 Memorial and Monument of the Delaware Valley. This monument is a special tribute to the victims and heroes of September 11th and a symbol of the spirit and courage of the American people.

Construction of the monument would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of Brooklawn Police Captain Steven Saymon, who bravely responded on 9/11. Capt. Saymon designed the monument and collected the artifacts for the display. The efforts and contributions of local businesses and volunteers too numerous to mention were also invaluable. Their selflessness allowed the monument to be constructed without a penny changing hands.

Completed in just five weeks, the monument features the only local display of artifacts from all three sites: a four ton beam from the World Trade Center; a granite block from the Pentagon wreckage; and soil from the Flight 93 crash site in Pennsylvania. These relics serve as a reminder of the lives lost on that tragic day and the unity shown by American citizens.

Mr. Speaker, the citizens behind the 9/11 Memorial and Monument of the Delaware Valley should be recognized for their efforts and dedication in building this tribute to the memory of the tragic events of 9/11. This monument shows the lasting gratitude of the American people to those who gave their lives on that day. I encourage all of my constituents to visit this memorial, and to reflect on that tragic day, 10 years ago.

ON INTRODUCING THE CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES IMPROVEMENT AND INNOVATION ACT

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 12, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act.

The Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act is bipartisan legislation that extends and makes modest adjustments to the Child Welfare Services and the Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs that both expire September 30th of this year. Although only a small part of all federal child welfare funding, these programs help ensure that children can remain safely with their own parents or be supported by other caring adults when necessary.

The bill reflects agreements between Republicans and Democrats on the House Ways and Means Committee, as well as with our colleagues on the Senate Finance Committee, for reauthorizing these programs. The bill is bipartisan and bicameral, and draws on the findings of several hearings we have had in the Human Resources Subcommittee this year on child welfare issues. Further, this bill does not increase spending or raise the deficit. When the American people ask us to work together across party lines to craft meaningful legislation that is fully paid for, this is the type of bill they have in mind.

In addition, this bill would renew authority for the Department of Health and Human Services to approve child welfare waivers. These waivers have been a valuable tool for States seeking to test new ways of helping children at risk of abuse and neglect, and the renewal of this authority will allow innovation to continue.

This bill adds important transparency and accounting requirements, and does not increase spending or deficits. This bill also requires that States establish common data standards to improve information sharing, which will improve the efficiency of the programs while allowing States to better coordinate services for children and families.

I thank the Ranking Member on the Human Resources Subcommittee, Mr. DOGGETT of Texas, for introducing this legislation with me, and for his efforts to move it forward and thus better serve children and families across the country.

I urge all my colleagues to support this important legislation.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 13, 2011 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 14

- 9:30 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Securities, Insurance and Investment Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine emerging issues in insurance regulation. SD-538
- 10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine securing the pharmaceutical supply chain. SD-430
- Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, "Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act of 2011". SD-342
- Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the "Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act", focusing on renewing the commitment to victims of human trafficking. SD-226
- Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine moving intercity passenger rail into the future. SR-253

11:15 a.m.
Appropriations
Financial Service and General Government Subcommittee

Business meeting to markup proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2012 for Financial Services and General Government. SD-138

2 p.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Housing, Transportation and Community Development Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine new ideas for refinancing and restructuring mortgage loans. SD-538

Armed Services
Personnel Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine general and flag officer requirements. SR-232A

2:30 p.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
Business meeting to markup proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2012 for Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies. SD-192

SEPTEMBER 15

9:30 a.m.
Budget
To hold hearings to examine policy prescriptions for the economy. SD-608

Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Gregory Howard Woods, of New York, to be General Counsel, David T. Danielson, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and LaDoris Guess Harris, of Georgia, to be Director of the Office of Minority Economic Impact, all of the Department of Energy. SD-366

10 a.m.
Finance
To hold hearings to examine tax reform options, focusing on promoting retirement security. SD-215

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine the future of employment for people with the most significant disabilities. SD-106

Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 1151, to prevent and mitigate identity theft, to ensure privacy, to provide notice of security breaches, and to enhance criminal penalties, law enforcement assistance, and other protections against security breaches, fraudulent access, and misuse of personally identifiable information, S. 1408, to require Federal agencies, and persons engaged in interstate commerce, in possession of data containing sensitive personally identifiable information, to disclose any breach of such information, S. 1535, to protect consumers by mitigating the vulnerability of personally identifiable information to theft through a security breach, providing notice and remedies to consumers in the wake of such a breach, holding companies accountable for preventable breaches, facilitating

the sharing of post-breach technical information between companies, and enhancing criminal and civil penalties and other protections against the unauthorized collection or use of personally identifiable information, H.R. 2480, to amend title 5, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Administrative Conference of the United States for fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2014, and the nominations of Edgardo Ramos, of Connecticut, Andrew L. Carter, Jr., and Jesse M. Furman, all to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, and James Rodney Gilstrap, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

SD-226

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine disaster recovery, focusing on evaluating the role of America's small business in rebuilding their communities.

SR-428A

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine tribal transportation, focusing on paving the way for jobs, infrastructure, and safety in native communities.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine improving financial accountability at the Department of Defense.

SD-342

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

SEPTEMBER 20

9:30 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine intelligence community contractors, focusing on striking the right balance; to be immediately followed by a closed hearing in Senate Security Conference Room 1.

SD-342

SEPTEMBER 21

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentation of The American Legion.

SDG-50

2 p.m.

Judiciary

Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Google, focusing on consumers and competition.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine a recently released report by the National Park Service, focusing on "A Call to Action Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement".

SD-366

SEPTEMBER 22

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the "Tribal Law and Order Act" one year later, focusing on improved public safety and justice throughout Indian country.

SD-628